

The Magazine of the Battlefields Trust

BATTLEFIELD

PROMOTING OUR BATTLEFIELD HERITAGE

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VOLUME 19 / ISSUE 4 / SPRING 2015

The Sealing of **Magna Carta** and Related Battles



100th Anniversary of **Gallipoli**

200th Anniversary of **Waterloo**

Time to Talk with **Michael Jones**



NEWS • WALKS • TALKS • REVIEWS • EVENTS • BOOK REVIEWS





The Agincourt Archer

On 25 October 1415 Henry V with a small English army of 6,000 men, made up mainly of archers, found himself trapped by a French army of 24,000. Although outnumbered 4 to 1 in the battle that followed the French were completely routed. It was one of the most remarkable victories in British history.

The Battlefields Trust is commemorating the 600th anniversary of this famous battle by proudly offering a limited edition of numbered prints of well-known actor, longbow expert and Battlefields Trust President and Patron, Robert Hardy, portrayed as an English archer at the Battle of Agincourt. The prints are A4 sized and are being sold for £20.00, including Post & Packing.

This is a unique opportunity; the prints are a strictly limited edition, so to avoid disappointment contact Howard Simmons either on email howard@bhprassociates.co.uk or ring 07734 506214 (please leave a message if necessary) as soon as possible for further details.

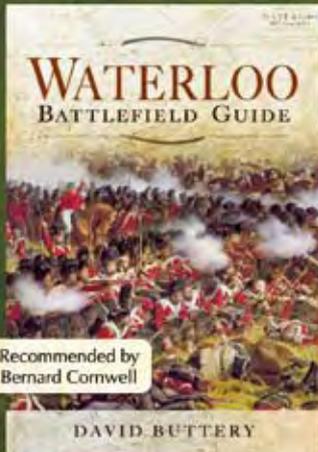
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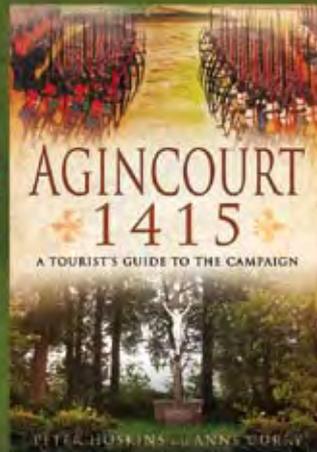
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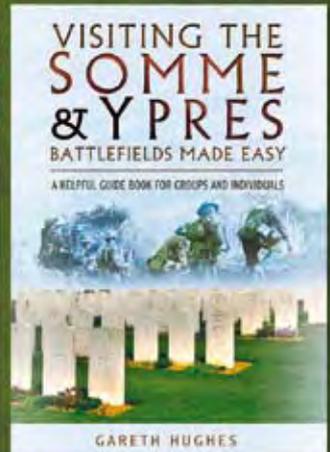
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Protecting, interpreting and presenting battlefields as historical and educational resources

Spring 2015



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Cover photo - King John's Tomb by Janice Bridgen

Editors' Letter

Welcome to the spring 2015 issue of *Battlefield*. At exactly 11.20 a.m. on Sunday 18 June 1815 the artillery batteries of Napoleon's army opened fire on the Duke Wellington's combined army of British, Dutch and German troops who held a defensive position close to the village of Waterloo. French attack after attack failed and when Blucher's Prussian army unexpectedly appeared on Napoleon's right flank he faced disaster. By 9.00 p.m. the French army had been completely routed. In one incredibly bloody afternoon, after 25 years of almost continual warfare, the fate of Europe was finally resolved for the next hundred years. There are few moments in history which are as dramatic or significant.

Graeme Cooper has been studying this iconic battle for years and we are fortunate in having an article from him to commemorate the 200th anniversary.

Waterloo isn't the only anniversary we have to commemorate. In April 1915 a huge Anglo-French invasion force landed troops on the Gallipoli peninsular in an unsuccessful attempt to force the Dardanelles. As Michael Mannix reminds us in his fascinating article, the allies were sailing over the same waters as the heroes of Ancient Greece more than 30 centuries earlier when they set out to attack the fabled city of Troy. Gallipoli is probably the most controversial campaign of the First World War. It's an argument which still is unresolved, but what isn't in dispute is the incredible courage and sacrifice of the soldiers on both sides of the campaign. Three countries – Australia, New Zealand and Turkey – all view the tragic Gallipoli campaign as a major milestone in their development towards nationhood and revere that rocky peninsular as hallowed ground.

In June 2015 we are also celebrating the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta, the oldest constitutional document in the world and the first significant step in a process which would eventually make Britain a democracy. However, it is a mistake to assume that the meeting at Runnymede in June 1215 really resolved anything. As Emma Horsfield explains in her article it led directly to the First Barons' War and it was only after two years of fighting that Magna Carta was accepted.

Harvey Watson & Chris May

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Article Submissions

Ideas for articles are welcomed. To ensure that articles are not duplicated please contact us to discuss your ideas before putting pen to paper. If you are sending in news items and details of events please note the following copy deadline:

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Breaking news on the Battlefield of Barnet

The Battle of Barnet, fought just north of London in 1471, was a key battle in the Wars of the Roses (1455–87). The battle saw the death of Warwick the 'Kingmaker' and some innovative tactics, being one of the earliest battlefields where handguns were used in large numbers. The battlefield is, therefore, of high historical and archaeological significance and has been included on the Register of Historic Battlefields by English Heritage in recognition of its national importance.

Two recent developments will have an impact on the battlefield. The first is a proposal by Old Fold Manor Golf Club, which occupies much of the designated battlefield, to remodel their grounds. This represents a potential threat. However, discussions are underway with the Club involving local residents and amenity societies as well as the Battlefields Trust to ensure that if this occurs the work is done as sensitively as possible and essential archaeological studies are carried out beforehand. Any finds will be displayed in the Barnet Museum and appropriate interpretation panels will be put in place as necessary.

The second is a very exciting development in that the Barnet Battlefield Partnership, comprised of local community groups led by Barnet Museum and the Barnet Society supported by the Battlefields Trust and Centre for Battlefield Archaeology at Huddersfield University, has secured funding to carry out a systematic archaeological study of the total



Members of the Battlefields Trust inspecting the Monument to the Battle of Barnet 1471

battlefield area. The approach will be based on that so successfully used at the 1485 battlefield of Bosworth, which has been so much in the news recently. The project will be overseen by Dr Glenn Foard who previously led the archaeological work at Bosworth.

This work which will take place over the next two years – a launch event is planned for 9 May – will help to locate securely the extent of the actual historic battlefield and therefore help to ensure its proper conservation and interpretation. A set of proposals to further develop community involvement in the process and create a proper battlefield educational and interpretation centre as part of Barnet Museum is now under discussion with the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Watch this space for more news and updates from this exciting new project!!



Which side will you choose?

Launch looms for first **UK centre devoted to deadly British Civil Wars**



It was Britain's deadliest conflict and one which shaped our modern world. Now the UK's first-ever National Civil War Centre – a flagship project



Proposed Civil War exhibition Newark



by Newark and Sherwood District Council – will open on 3 May 2015.

The £5.4 million attraction, backed by £3.5m from the Heritage Lottery Fund, will be based in Newark’s magnificent Grade II* Old Magnus Building, originally a Tudor grammar school. It is expected to attract over 60,000 visitors a year.

During the British Civil Wars Newark was held by the Royalists and endured three sieges, the last of which in 1645–6 caused terrible suffering. A treasure trove of previously unexamined papers found in archives, including period invoices, petitions and accounts, gives a vivid insight into how ordinary people coped. Together with state-of-the-art technology and hundreds of relics, this new material will be used to create a unique museum experience.

Newark’s story has also inspired another innovation – an augmented reality National Civil War Trail. This £300,000 project will tell the epic tale using a newly-designed app for smart devices. Featuring lavishly filmed costumed scenes shot at locations across Newark, it will encourage visitors to explore key Civil War sites.

Michael Constantine, Business Manager at the National Civil War Centre, said: ‘The British Civil Wars laid the foundations for our modern state. Yet for many it is an unknown episode. We want to change that. It was a cruel conflict, not a joust between gentlemen and claimed a dreadful slaughter.’

The final siege of Newark saw it sealed off by over 16,000 troops. Typhus and plague broke out and the population swelled to 6,000. One-third of the inhabitants died. Despite this, the Royalist garrison refused to surrender. The six-month stand-off ended in May 1646 on the order of King Charles, who surrendered to the Scots army assailing Newark. Half-starved, 1,800 Cavaliers marched out, leaving behind a huge cannon known as ‘Sweet Lips’, named after a prostitute who catered for both sides.

Further information
Opening times are 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. daily. Price: £7 adults and £3 children. Concessions £6.
The National Civil War Centre app is available for free download from Google Play and itunes.

National Civil War Centre: <http://nationalcivilwarcentre.com>
Twitter: @civilwarcentre
Facebook: www.facebook.com/NationalCivilWarCentre

Help the nation celebrate its liberties with a LiberTea

Sunday 14 June 2015, 3.00 p.m.

In 2015 the Houses of Parliament will be commemorating two important anniversaries: the 800th anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta and the 750th anniversary of what is widely recognised as England’s first parliament, the Montfort parliament.

Throughout this momentous year, Parliament will bring these anniversaries to life through a year-long programme of public engagement across the UK, entitled Parliament in the Making. Communities and individuals of all ages will be encouraged to come together to mark and remember the movements and moments

that tell the story of the UK’s democratic heritage.

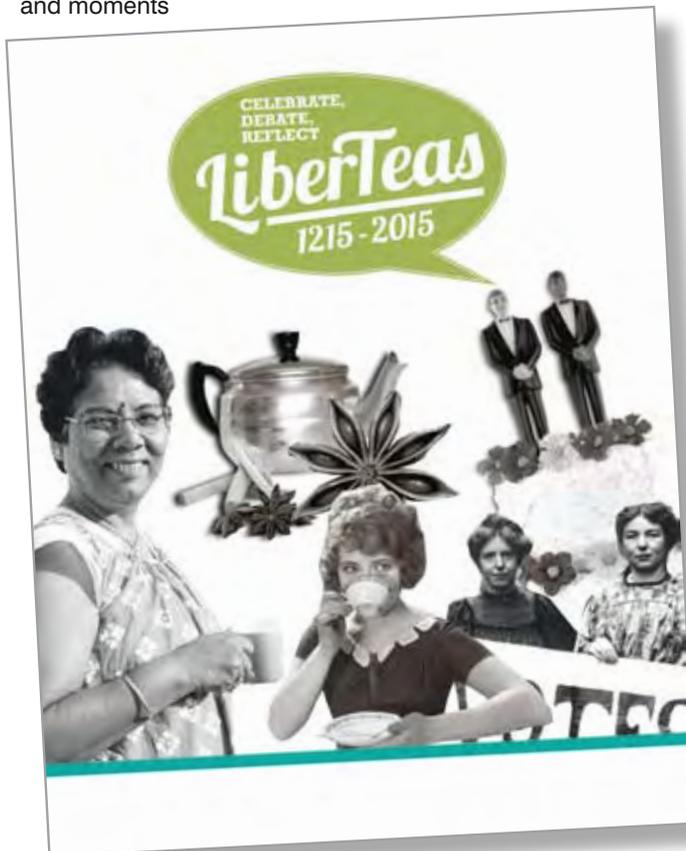
As part of this, on Sunday 14 June at 3.00 p.m., Parliament and the National Trust are asking the nation to take part in LiberTeas. To coincide with the 800th anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta, take a moment to celebrate, debate and reflect on those rights and freedoms which we can very often take for granted but which people throughout history have campaigned to make happen or fought to preserve.

If there is a liberty, right or representation you are passionate about you can get involved! Perhaps something related to your interest in and support of Battlefields? There are lots of ways you could take part – from organising a lecture or debate, to arranging an afternoon tea for friends at home, or bringing your community together through a street party, parade or picnic in the park. LiberTeas events can be anything you want, so long as at 3.00 p.m. you include the tea moment!

The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers will also be organising a national peal of bells at 3.00 p.m., after which the nation will pause to remember all those people whose passion and dedication has fostered the liberties that we enjoy today, as well the value of the rights that they engendered.

There will be a large-scale LiberTeas event on Runnymede Meadows on the actual anniversary, 15 June, hosted by the National Trust.

www.liberteas.co.uk



Oldest cannon-ball found at Northampton



A lead ball, believed to be the oldest surviving cannon-ball in England, has been found at Eagle Drive on the site of the 1460 Battle of Northampton.

The battle was fought between Yorkists and Lancastrians on 10 July 1460 in the area now known as Delapré Park. The 50–60 mm diameter ball was originally found on farmland in the area of Eagle Drive, Northampton, part of the English Heritage registered battlefield. The ball was actually found several years ago by the late Stuart Allwork, but had been believed lost until last year. Since its rediscovery the cannon-ball has been subjected to detailed analysis by Dr Glenn Foard, one of the UK's leading experts on medieval artillery and noted battlefield archaeologist from Huddersfield University. Dr Foard also led the team that found the true site of the Battle of Bosworth. Dr Foard has concluded that 'It is highly likely that the projectile was fired during the battle in 1460.'

The ball itself has suffered massive impact damage from at least two bounces, and one gouge still contains small fragments of Northampton Sand and Ironstone. The area in which it was found is not only part of the 1460 battlefield, which contains large and well-preserved areas of the medieval field system over which the battle was fought, it is also the site of a Roman villa or settlement and a possible Neolithic cursus of national importance is nearby. Indeed, a number of other important finds from the Stone Age have also been found in the area.

Mike Ingram, medieval historian, author and chair of Northampton Battlefield Society said 'This is a find of national significance and confirms the battle as one of the earliest in England where cannons can be shown to

have been used. It also shows that the Eagle Drive area of the registered battlefield is crucial to the understanding of the whole site.'

Northampton sculptures

From March until the end of August, six full-size wooden statues of medieval knights will be dotted around the centre of Northampton to create 'A Knights' Trail', with each of the knights from the 13th, 14th and 15th centuries related to important dates from the town's past.

Sealing of the Magna Carta in 1215

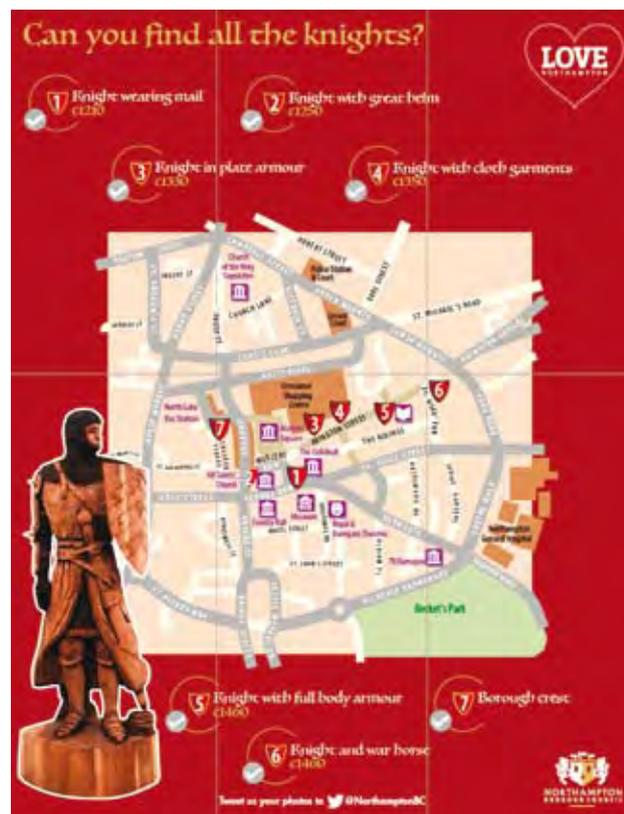
Second Barons' War in 1264

Start of the Hundred Years' War in 1337

Last parliament held at Northampton Castle in 1381

**Battle of Northampton in 1460
(Two knights – one mounted)**

Copies of the trail can be downloaded at <http://lovenorthampton.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/knights-map.pn>





Reburial of **Richard III**

On Thursday 26 March 2015 the mortal remains of Richard III, the last Plantagenet king, were reburied in Leicester Cathedral, some two-and-a-half years after they were discovered beneath a car park in the city.

The previous Sunday, his remains had been taken on a seven-hour procession through Leicestershire before being handed over to the Church authorities by the University of Leicester. His coffin went from Fenn Lane Farm, where it is now believed that Richard died, through the villages of Dadlington and Sutton Cheney to the Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre, and then on to Market Bosworth before making its way through the streets of Leicester to its final destination in the Cathedral.

Many thousands had lined the route to witness this unique experience and over the following three days over 20,000 people filed past his coffin to pay their respects.

The service on the Thursday was a once-in-a-lifetime event, the re-interment of a medieval monarch, and a fitting close to the search for King Richard III.





4 March 2015

All the signatories of last year's Accord, calling for the establishment of the Scottish Battlefields Trust, were called back for a progress report at the Scottish Storytelling Centre in Edinburgh on 4 March. The new Trust confirmed that its objectives are the enhancement of promotion, interpretation and protection of Scotland's battlefield assets, and that its aims are to work with individuals, societies and communities across Scotland to further those objectives in the years to come.

Herbert Coutts, who chaired the 4th Biennial National Battlefields Symposium on 24 October 2014 which reached that Accord again took the chair and called on Arran Johnston, Acting Director, to give his Report.

The basics have been set in place for the Trust, now incorporated as a not-for-profit trust, guaranteed by its individual members. Formal application has been made to Scotland's Office for Charities [OSCR] for registration there and the Royal Bank of Scotland selected as bankers.

The Scottish Battlefields Trust is open to all who support its objectives on payment of an initial Guarantee of £10 and Annual Subscription of £20. By the

end of the meeting on 4 March some 16 Members had been elected by the Trustees. The National Trust for Scotland has stated publicly that it is wholly in support of the initiative. The Trust will also have an Affiliated Organisations category although it will not be a voting membership grade. Nominations for patrons are also being sought, who will be invited to join the Trust's Committee of High Patronage. The current Duke of Somerset, whose ancestor led the English army at Pinkie in 1547, has already agreed to join.

An immediate decision was taken to transfer responsibility to the Trust of the biennial National Battlefields Symposium series, initiated by the Battle of Prestonpans [1745] Heritage Trust in 2008 with support from the Heritage Lottery. This conference will now rotate around the Scottish battlefield communities, starting in 2016.

Volunteers have been found to fill all the key officer roles by co-option until the 1st AGM which will be in spring 2016, and a website is being developed. Arran Johnston was confirmed by the Trustees as the Foundation Director subject to confirmation at the 1st AGM when all Trustees and Officers will be subject to review and re-election. Expressions of support have already been received from the Civil War Trust in the USA, and that emerging friendship will be further nurtured. It was unanimously accepted that the trust will seek to maintain a strong relationship with The Battlefields Trust, which has formally expressed its support for the endeavour.

Cairn in memory of Battle of Prestonpans



The next and 4th Meeting of the Trustees will be held in Prestonpans on 16 April at 8.00 p.m. at The Prestoungrange Gothenburg, 227/ 229 High Street, Prestonpans. Any Members are welcome to attend.

Website <http://www.scottishbattlefields.org>

A Facebook page has already been initiated to enable all to keep up-to-date at <https://www.facebook.com/scottishbattlefieldstrust>

Membership details are available from the Secretary at burgess@prestoungrange.org or the Director at arranjohnston@hotmail.com



A timeline of Scottish major periods of conflict. Photo by Tony Marsh for the Scottish Battlefields Trust

Places to Visit

Lincoln



The castle, built from the Conquest period onward, initially of motte-and-bailey form with a stone-walled bailey added in the mid-twelfth century, is unusual in having two mottes. For the last ten years Lincolnshire County Council has invested heavily in restoring the site; with our guide Margaret Powell playing a major role in both the archaeology and reconstruction.

It was through that gate that relieving forces entered before they erupted into the city to attack the besieging French and baronial forces on 20 May 1217. Led by the 70-year-old William Marshal, they bowled the enemy back down the hill, where the surprised knights were trapped in the Bar Gate and almost all taken prisoner. This ended the war in one stroke (although the French attempted a naval invasion, defeated at sea off Sandwich in August), with the huge number of ransoms taken leading to the battle being known as Lincoln Fair. These spoils of war were the main point of combat between chivalric warriors,

area in The Vault, a strikingly modern design in the basement of the Victorian prison. Carved in the wall on the stairwell is the full text of the charter with its main clauses picked out in gold. Not only has heritage interpretation been greatly enhanced, but it provides the city with a group of tourist attractions rather like York, including the Roman fortress and city upon which the medieval layout is based.

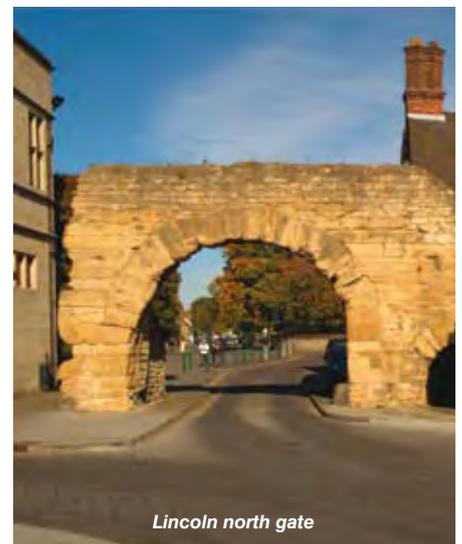
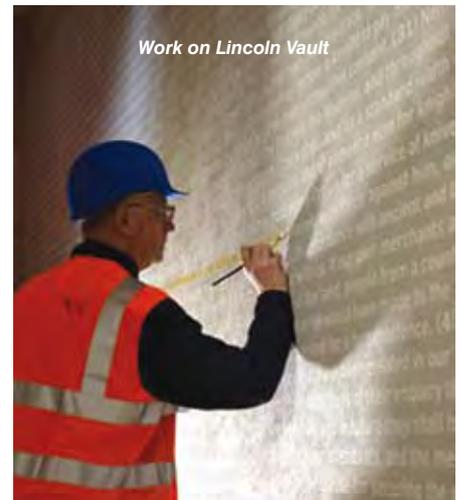


Lincoln Castle

Most significantly, it is now possible to walk the wall circuit of the 6-acre site and access all the towers. The extensive tree growth which concealed and threatened the walls has been removed. Also, the West Gate, crucial to the events of 1217, has been excavated and restored to its former glory.

death in knightly combat being unusual, therefore the only French notable to be killed was much regretted by his opponents!

Lincoln's copy of Magna Carta is now being given a magnificent new display



Lincoln north gate



Battle of Lincoln



Battle of Sandwich



The Sealing of Magna Carta

and Related Battles *By Emma Jane Horsfield*

Originally issued in 1215, 'Magna Carta' ('Great Charter'), influenced by the Charter of Liberties from 1100 under Henry I, is still considered one of the most pioneering documents in the history of democracy. But what led to the sealing of this document by King John? And why did 25 barons force him into the agreement?

John, a largely unpopular ruler, was never expected to inherit the throne, being the fourth of Henry II's sons to survive infancy. In 1177 his father made him Lord of Ireland, sending him there to create alliances and establish the English sovereign's dominance. However he returned to England in disgrace after insulting the local lords and wasting his father's money, the latter being subsequently one of his major shortfalls as king.

Richard I (The Lionheart), who had inherited the throne after Henry II's death, died after a ten-year reign, naming his nephew Arthur of Brittany, as heir, thus meaning John (Richard's brother) was not the only one with a claim to the throne. John, realising he needed the approval of the French King Philip Augustus, employed bribe tactics, relinquishing former English-ruled Anjou territories to the French.

However, despite this, after a disagreement concerning John's marriage to Isabella of Angouleme, Philip chose to declare Arthur the true ruler of Anjou. Momentarily victorious at the Battle of Mirabeau in 1202, John was eventually defeated, leaving Philip to summon all his French holdings. He received great condemnation from French lords for his barbaric treatment of prisoners and is also reputed to have murdered his nephew Arthur.

After his wife voiced her opinion on this



Emma Jane Horsfield

belief, William de Braose, 4th Lord of Bramber, although previously held in high royal esteem then fell from favour and was forced to flee to France. English nobility did not feel comfortable with this exile and the treatment of de Braose and were tired of John's fickle attitude towards the barons. These events along with the accusations of his lecherous behaviour towards the barons' wives and daughters, and his exploitation of the Church's wealth, led to the widespread



The arms of the 25 Magna Carta Barons

judgement that he was a weak and selfish leader who could not be trusted.

He had also wasted a great deal of money over of his futile actions in France. When John raised taxes again to recoup some of the money wasted and income lost, the already disgruntled barons decided enough was enough. They had become seething with discontent at their king's apparent belief that he was above the law, and war proved imminent and inevitable.

Subsequent to the Norman Conquest in 1066, the king of England had become the most powerful ruler in Europe; however in 1209 King John was ex-communicated by Pope Innocent III because of a dispute over the appointment of the Archbishop of Canterbury. This meant that John also fell from favour with the English people who were very concerned about being ostracised by the Church.

Twenty-five discontented barons, motivated by the desire to protect their property and rights, were led by Lord of Dunmow Castle, Robert Fitzwalter (who had an alleged history of grudges and disaffections against John), and summoned the king at Runnymede on 15 June 1215 where he was presented with a document which had been formulated to limit the powers of the monarch.

The barons offered King John their allegiance if he agreed to its terms and, although John put his royal seal to what was entitled 'The Articles of the Barons', this action should not be viewed as a sign of surrender, as it was really just a stalling tactic. The ethos of the document was concerned with 'the law of the land' rather than just the mere will of the king, with Clause 61 giving the barons the collective right to seize the king's castle and possessions should he fail to adhere to the charter. The king had to take an oath of loyalty to the committee of barons but he had no intention of honouring the Charter, declaring it null and void as soon as the barons left London. As a result, England was then plunged into a civil war, known as the First Barons' War.

After John's deceit, the barons offered the throne to the maternal grandson of the late Henry II, King Phillip Augustus's son, Louis, who was encouraged to invade England to seize control from John. It should be said that this proposed action was not supported by King Phillip or by the Pope, with the latter returning his support to John.

As part of the terms of Magna Carta, Stephen Langton, the Archbishop of Canterbury, had been given control of Rochester Castle, but on 11 October 1215, on their way from Dover to London, it was besieged by John and his forces. The castle was under the protection of troops sent by the rebel barons but while they awaited reinforcements, John burned the bridge over the Medway which would have been their route in.

Ousting Langton he took anything of value from Canterbury Cathedral, while ordering its citizens to produce as many pickaxes as possible to support the king's forces in gaining entry and control over Rochester. The king's army first took control of the Bailey and the defenders withdrew to the Keep. The king then had miners dig beneath the south-east corner of the tower and wooden supports were set alight, using pig carcasses, causing the whole corner of the Keep to collapse. Rebel forces still managed to hold out and retreated behind the Keep's cross wall until winter began to set in. Some rebels were permitted to leave the castle and John threatened to execute them. However in consideration of possible future repercussions he was advised not to do so, but as a demonstration of his power he had their hands and feet severed instead.

By 30 November the castle was being overpowered by starvation rather than invasion and was successfully captured by John, with the remaining barons taken away and imprisoned in various towers including Corfe Castle.



The Magna Carta Memorial

By the time Louis arrived at Kent in May 1216 the French prince met very little resistance as John had fled to Winchester. Louis was welcomed by the rebel barons who, at St Paul's Cathedral, quickly proclaimed him king of England. He was not crowned however and his strategy of not first taking control of Dover, the key to England's door, would soon backfire. Although John had already successfully taken control of



the North of England and the Midlands, where he had created mass slaughter, not taking London would prove costly.

The remaining barons supportive of John were furious at this retreat and at this point the future of England hung

truly in the balance, with a threat of a repeat of the Norman Conquest of 1066.

Louis attacked Dover in July but by this time opposition led by Hubert de Burgh, was well prepared. Aside from Dover, the only other stronghold to withstand Louis' invasion was Windsor, where despite sustaining a great deal of damage to the lower walls, 60 loyalist knights defended the castle for two months, during which time uprisings were also happening elsewhere. William of Cassingham was also leading the resistance forces in Kent, of which Louis had previously gained control.

On 14 October 1216, after three months of trying to conquer Dover Castle and being repelled, with most of his forces diverted from other areas, Louis called a truce and returned to his stronghold in London. However at Newark Castle, in a bizarre twist of fate and arguably doing his country a great service, John fell ill and died from dysentery. Subsequently his son became his successor, Henry III. As Henry was only 9 years old, his regent, William Marshal, 1st Earl of Pembroke, signed the re-issued 1216 Magna Carta in his name, which had had many items removed, including the aforementioned Clause 61. Marshal also urged former enemies of the late king to not blame the new king for his father's mistakes.

Gradually Marshal engaged in negotiations with the barons, convincing them to switch sides to Henry. In December 1216 Louis took the castles at Hertford and Berkhamsted but in returning to France for reinforcements he suffered heavy losses in the south in early 1217, losing a large part of his forces near Lewes.

As most of the French troops were concentrated at Dover, this allowed those at Lincoln to be easily defeated by Marshal and Henry's supporters, in a battle on 20 May 1217, which became known as the Second Battle of Lincoln. Lincoln's citizens were still loyal to Louis so the city was 'sacked' by Henry's



King John granting the Magna Carta



Church), 13 (Granting cities and towns free liberties and customs), 39 (The right to a jury and a fair hearing), and 40 ('To no one will we sell, to no one will we refuse or delay, right or justice') – still being in force today.

From at least 40 originals of the charter, only four remain, one held in Lincoln, two in London and the other one in Salisbury. However there are also a number of later copies available in other locations for public viewing. The US Constitution was formed from basic principles taken from Magna Carta and these principles were used as justification in the defence of liberty in the American Civil War.

Contrary to popular belief, for the most part the Charter did not limit the powers of the king in the Middle Ages, but it can be seen how democratic societies today developed because of rights established by Magna Carta. It can also be said that King John's unintended legacy, Magna Carta, is a direct, successful and powerful result of his weakness and failure, securing basic international human rights that live on in the democratic societies of today.

forces and a number of barons and knights were captured. This whole battle and defeat lasted just six hours.

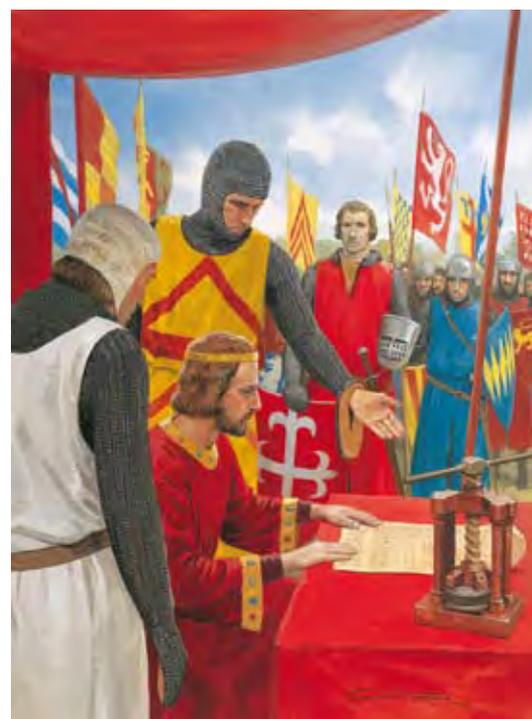
August 1217 saw the Battle of Sandwich, surprisingly a little-known battle considering that it could be placed on equal scale with the defeat of the Spanish Armada. Arguably England's first decisive naval victory, this event signalled the climax of the civil war. After abandoning his vows, monk turned 'professional pirate', Eustace ('The Mad Monk'), who had been previously chased out of England for his allegiance to Louis, now equipped the French fleet with supplies, taking command with Robert de Courtenay of what consisted of 11 troop ships and a further 70 supply vessels. Opposing the French was Philip D'Aubigny with the English fleet; which consisted of no more than 40 vessels with the flagship commanded by Hubert de Burgh. Intercepting the French before they could land, archers, assisted by their up-wind position, fired arrows before the French had a chance to defend themselves. After this ambush the survivors were killed or thrown into the sea, including Eustace who was beheaded. Realising the English had control of the Channel, the remaining ships returned to Calais. The battle was a disaster for the French cause and this

led to ultimate victory for Henry and the English.

At Kingston-Upon-Thames, in September 1217 following 18 months of war Louis abandoned his fight for the English throne. The peace treaty of Lambeth was signed; thus ending the First Barons' War campaign. Barons who had supported Louis were forced to pay him off with a significant sum to return home, in return for clemency. Windsor Castle, which had been badly damaged during the civil war was also quickly repaired by Henry's rule (much of the new defences he built there still survive today).

After the chronic failed rule of John, his son Henry III reigned for 56 years, the longest reign of any monarch in the medieval period. By his death in 1272, Magna Carta had become a settled element of English law, although not without a Second Barons' War.

The original version of Magna Carta, which was reissued in 1216, 1217 and 1225, became law in 1297, with some clauses – 1 (Concerning the free rights of the



King John sealing Magna Carta by Graham Turner
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100th Anniversary of Gallipoli

by Michael Mannix

Alexander the Great was an early battlefield tourist. The Macedonian conqueror is known to have made a sacrifice to Poseidon, the protector of the Trojans, before disembarking and setting foot in what is now Turkey, and then climbing up the hill to what he assumed to be remains of the fabled city of Troy.



The Landing at Anzac Cove, Gallipoli, 25 April 1915 by David Rowlands www.davidrowlands.co.uk

Modern history credits the pioneer archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann with the rediscovery of Troy, but whether or not the modern Hisarlik is ancient Troy remains an issue for debate, but when Alexander visited the place in the fourth century BC he had no doubt that the great mound, still visible from the Trojan ruins was the funeral pyre of Achilles, King of the Myrmidons and slayer of Hector.

An even earlier visitor to Hisarlik was another conqueror, King Xerxes of Persia, also compelled by the allure of the famous legend of siege and slaughter. Julius Caesar made the same ascent in 48 BC, finding no magnificent ruins, only thorny scrub, much to his disappointment. All three conquerors would have gazed down on the sight below them, the Dardanelles or Hellespont, that narrow sleeve of water which divides Europe from Asia.

Today that same view includes the Helles Memorial, protruding from the far shore, which lists the names of 21,000 British and Indian soldiers and sailors who died in the area during the Gallipoli Campaign, fought where the legendary Priam once ruled.

Less well-known, but no less heroic than Achilles or Caesar was Lt. Col. Eric Robinson of a Royal Marine landing party, who blew-up enemy anti-aircraft and other guns sited on the Achilles Mound in 1915. Robinson was awarded one of the Gallipoli Campaign's early Victoria Crosses.

Today's tourists at Troy arrive with few doubts about the identity of the ruins, although the Homeric city has suffered greatly from levelling in antiquity and from Schliemann's reckless excavations. A replica wooden horse serves to remind visitors of the final fate of Priam's kingdom. Horse apart, modern Troy

has adopted a dignified stance towards vacation marauders, and the ritual of having your holiday happy-snap taken while aboard the reimagined horse is almost irresistible.

According to Homer, it was King Agamemnon who led the Greeks during their ten-year siege, but in 1915 another Agamemnon would arrive and eventually conquer. This Agamemnon was a battleship, displacing over 16,000 tonnes and completed in Britain in 1908. It was aboard HMS *Agamemnon* that the Ottoman Empire would be finally dissolved when that defeated state signed away its imperial sovereignty and control over the forts which had defied the might of the British and French Empires between February 1915 and January 1916.

Homer's two epic poems, the Iliad and the Odyssey, lie deeply embedded





in European cultural DNA. Religious texts aside, Homer's account of an amphibious attack by Europeans on an Asiatic power remains a core theme for our understanding of Greco-Roman civilisation.

There is some irony in the fact the 1915 battles along the Dardanelles waterway have given three modern-day countries, Australia, New Zealand and Turkey itself, definitions of themselves which are every bit as virile and muscular as the idea of the Trojan War had within the cultural consciousness of the Ancient Greeks, and their later Roman imitators. Even the name of Britain itself was regarded during medieval times as a derivative form of the Trojan Brutus.

The classically educated British officer-class of the Great War was quick to recognise parallels between themselves and the Homeric heroes of ancient times. One of these was the poet Rupert Brooke, who became one of the first casualties of the 1915 campaign, dying after an insect bite. He wrote:

*Achilles in the darkness stirred...
And Priam and his fifty sons
Wake all amazed and hear the guns,
And shake for Troy again*

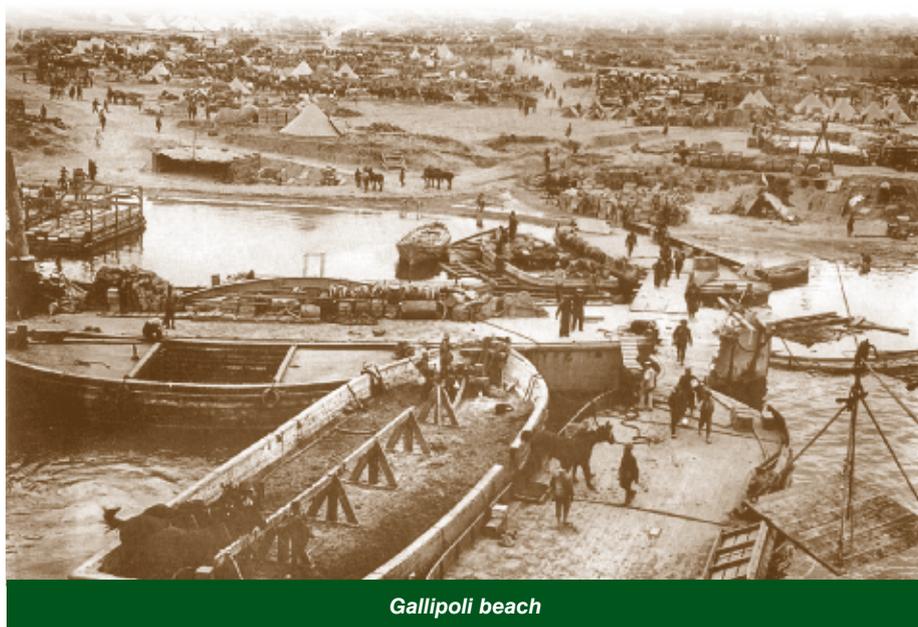
Less romantically, one cause of tension between Britain and Turkey (then the Ottoman Empire), was an incident which occurred far away in the dockyards of

Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Armed British troops seized two newly constructed battleships almost under the noses of their intended Turkish crews. Turkish pride and security were both threatened by the seizure. To bolster the Turks and cement an alliance, Germany made good the losses, evading the Royal Navy and sailing the warships *Goeben* and *Breslau* through the Dardanelles to replace the two vessels which the British had suddenly appropriated for their own purposes.

It remains commonplace for those seeking to blacken the name of Winston Churchill, then First Lord of the Admiralty, to cast him as the initiating villain of the Gallipoli debacle. He was certainly an enthusiast, but the plan in some form was over 100 years old, and had been partially put into effect during the Napoleonic Wars.

Forcing the Turks into submission by pounding their capital city from the sea was not a new idea. In 1807 Nelson was dead, but despite the vanquishing of the French fleet from the Eastern Mediterranean following the Battle of the Nile, local politics necessitated an attack on Constantinople (the name Istanbul was generally adopted in 1930), then allied to Napoleon Bonaparte.

The 1807 attack, like the opening of the 1915 attack, was conceived as a naval operation. Ottoman gun positions defending the Dardanelles were silenced by British marines, and Admiral John Duckworth and his flagship, HMS *Royal George*, were able to by-pass the same



Gallipoli beach



forts which would repulse the steam-powered warships of 1915. Duckworth managed to fight his way to Constantinople, advantaged by the depletion of Turkish forces during the month of Ramadan, but Duckworth failed to open fire on the city and withdrew. Duckworth was never forgotten, and as Balkan tensions arose in the 20th century, a contingency plan was drawn-up by the Royal Navy in 1906 and rejected, but then reappraised in detail by Greece.

Constantinople remains the only city in the world to straddle two continents; but it was not quite unique among First World War capital cities in that it was vulnerable to attack by naval artillery. Military planners in London and St Petersburg faced the same problem, but there was an assumption prevailing in London, that the impact of a raid on Constantinople would tear the Ottoman Empire apart. How and why this political implosion would automatically follow was never explained.

Long after the destruction of Troy and the silting process which robbed the location of its strategic maritime advantages, the passage between the Mediterranean and Constantinople remained a natural choke point for Black Sea traffic. In 1914 the choke was on British and French links with their ally Russia, and while Bulgaria remained



Cape Helles landing

neutral, the Dardanelles was the only conduit between Austria-Hungary and Turkey.

To Churchill and others, including Lord Kitchener and future Prime Minister David Lloyd-George, a knockout blow against the Ottomans using warships considered too slow for North Sea fleet manoeuvres made perfect sense. After all, the Turks had already attacked the Suez Canal and posed a threat to the British Empire, but they would no doubt collapse into factional chaos if Constantinople was shelled. Any Balkan players contemplating an alliance with Germany would surely join Britain and France, as the Ottoman Empire disintegrated. Romania, allied to Russia, Serbia and Greece could, if the Dardanelles strategy worked, topple Franz-Josef himself in Vienna. With stalemate on the Western Front, Gallipoli became (arguably), the most important campaign of 1915.

The 'ships only' plan was a complete failure. A little Turkish minelayer, the *Nusrat*, was responsible for the sinking of three battleships which attempted to force the passage as the waterway

narrowed to a distance of about a mile. Mobile Turkish artillery was almost impossible to spot accurately by the Royal Navy and the spotter-plane technology of the time proved to be as inadequate as the minesweeping plan.

The only way to eliminate the Turkish defences was to send the Army to clear the barren Gallipoli Peninsula of forts, artillery positions and land-based torpedo defences. On 25 April 1915, with the 'ships only' plan shelved, inadequately prepared British and French armies landed on both shores of the Dardanelles. The British suffered appallingly as the attack at Cape Helles went disastrously wrong. On the north-west coast of the same peninsula, Australians and New Zealanders landed on the wrong beach, now known as Anzac Cove. Below Troy's ruins the French fared better, but the French contingent was a diversionary force, and was quickly transferred to the defence of Helles.

A combination of inept attempts to push inland and murderous Turkish counter-attacks, meant that by the time of the third battle for the small town of Krithia



HMS Majestic sinking 27 May 1915

Australian troops charging at a Turkish trench.



had taken place in August 1915, the Allies were bogged down in a trench-war stalemate. When a new beachhead was established using fresh troops at Suvla Bay on 6 August 1915, the same slaughter, muddle and chaos ensued as the summer heat added flies and pestilence to the terrifying experience of entrapment.

One of the attractions of the original ship-only attack-plan was that it did not divert troops from the Western Front, but by August it was clear that the Gallipoli campaign was not only a drain on resources but that, if prolonged, it might turn into a defeat.

Evacuation in December and January was ironically brilliantly executed, and in the century which has almost passed since the last units of the British Army sailed away in January 1916, the Gallipoli Campaign has been pored over by military strategists, historians, hack writers and film directors.

Archaeological findings depicting the Trojan Horse prove that a myth-making process based on events on the shores of the Dardanelles had been activated even before the intervention of Homer (the poet's existence is also disputed), and will doubtless continue well past the current centenary commemorations.

Since 1956, Alan Moorhead's book *Gallipoli* has been regarded as the key work on the subject, but more recently, Canadian Professor Tim Travers, publishing in 2001, and others have looked at the campaign again and have incorporated more information and insight from the Ottoman point of view.

Edward J. Erickson, a former US Army colonel turned academic, produced an in-depth analysis of the Ottoman perspective in 2010. The Imperial War Museum's resident expert, Peter Hart, published *Gallipoli* in 2011, a work which has arguably superseded Moorhead's famous work of the same name.

Erickson has replaced traditional British notions of a campaign characterised by serial mistakes made by failing British officers with an interpretation which highlights the aggression shown by Ottoman commanders and the mobility of the Ottoman forces operating 'consistently inside the British decision cycle'. Erickson gives credit to the Ottomans themselves for making the crucial decisions 'with or without German advice and assistance' which turned the campaign in their favour.

Older British accounts tend to ignore the fact that the Ottomans had fought invading Bulgarians on the Gallipoli Peninsula as recently as 1913. Their recent experience had prompted the digging of prepared positions, army reorganisation and a programme of gruelling route marches which allowed the Turks to reinforce the high ground above landing positions while the British were still off-loading their baggage and munitions. As a European, the role of German General Liman von Sanders may also have been exaggerated, to the detriment of senior Turkish officers.

Hart prefaces his recent book with the words 'Gallipoli! It was a lunacy that never could have succeeded.' With hindsight, readers who have read various accounts of the campaign over the years can judge for themselves whether the invasion was a 'British failure' or less enigmatically an outright Turkish victory.

The Australian myth-machine has not been idle since Keith Murdoch's not always accurate or unbiased reports reached home. According to newspaper editor and author Max Hastings (reviewing Peter Fitzsimmonds' new book *Gallipoli* earlier this year) 'almost everything Australians believe about the First World War is untrue', he wrote, adding that: 'Some [Australians] feel so passionately proprietorial about the place that they resent the presence of British representatives at local ceremonies.'

Interest in the fighting at Gallipoli has been sustained for a century, but the peninsula itself remains rugged and relatively under-developed; therefore



Australian troops in the trenches.



Interrogation
of Turkish
prisoners



much of the battlefield remains unchanged. The Turkish tourist industry has embraced in full the advantages offered by cheap air transport, but visiting Gallipoli still poses formidable issues for the modern traveller.

This author recommends the advantages of package deals offered by British operators or by coach from various operators in Istanbul. Taken as a single deal, a package which includes Gallipoli and Troy is a not-to-be-missed historical and cultural highlight of any lifetime. For Australians and New Zealanders as well as Turks, Gallipoli has become a place of nationalist pilgrimage. The Australian Government was so overwhelmed with requests to attend official commemorations that it was forced to ballot would-be participants.

Peter Hart includes a three-day itinerary in his recent book, and warns of the prickly vegetation and recommends a 'common sense' approach which includes carrying plenty of water and a mobile phone. Mr Hart told *Battlefield*: 'For your first visit – and most visitors go back – it is best to go on a guided walking tour.'

My own one-day whistle-stop excursion was simply not long enough, although all three peninsula beachheads were either visited or viewed from the nearby heights. Accommodation was booked for me on the southern shore of the Narrows at Canakkale, an excellent starting point for Gallipoli and Troy. Hart also suggests Eceabat as an entry point. There is a second replica of a Trojan Horse at Canakkale and a full-sized replica of the *Nusrat* at one of the Turkish fortresses nearby.

The only British warship still in existence and present at Gallipoli will open for viewing in August, at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard on the 100th anniversary of the Suvla Bay landings, after years of restoration. The monitor HMS *M33*, once known as HMS *Minerva*, and designed on the back of an envelope by Churchill himself, is a remarkable survival, the only other surviving warship of the period being the cruiser HMS *Caroline* (opening for visitors in 2016 for Battle of Jutland commemorations). The original

minelayer *Nusrat* (its name means help of God) has also been restored and is now proudly displayed in Tarsus, not far from the Syrian border.

It has been impossible to compress the horrors of the Gallipoli expedition in a short article, so a list of the enormous casualties for the campaign must suffice. Total Ottoman and German casualties may be in the order of 250,000 with perhaps 65,000 dead. Britain itself lost over 73,000 dead and wounded from a total of over 115,000 from the British Empire and Commonwealth. France and its overseas soldiers, mainly Senegalese, lost about 27,000 men.

Selected reading:

- E. Erickson, *Gallipoli: The Ottoman Campaign* (Pen & Sword 2010)
- P. Hart, *Gallipoli* (Profile Books, 2011)
- T. Travers, *Gallipoli 1915* (Tempus, 2001)
- M. Wood, *In Search of the Trojan War* (BBC, 1985)

Memorial at Anzac Cove

'THOSE HEROES THAT SHED THEIR BLOOD AND LOST THEIR LIVES... YOU ARE NOW LYING IN THE SOIL OF A FRIENDLY COUNTRY. THEREFORE REST IN PEACE. THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE JOHNNIES AND THE MEHMETTS TO US WHERE THEY LIE SIDE BY SIDE HERE IN THIS COUNTRY OF OURS... YOU, THE MOTHERS, WHO SENT THEIR SONS FROM FARAWAY COUNTRIES WIPE AWAY YOUR TEARS; YOUR SONS ARE NOW LYING IN OUR BOSOM AND ARE IN PEACE, AFTER HAVING LOST THEIR LIVES ON THIS LAND THEY HAVE BECOME OUR SONS AS WELL.'

Ataturk 1934



Gallipoli Memorial at Anzac Cove
by Ataturk



200th Anniversary of Waterloo

by Graeme Cooper

So what was the endgame at Waterloo?

A Waterloo Legacy – ‘Soon after the battle there sprang up among the peasants of the locality a new and lucrative trade of guides, relic vendors, and stick cutters; all noisy and wrangling rivals, and all able and just too willing to expose and cry down the pretensions of any one of their number who should put up an unfounded claim for the purpose of procuring an undue and more highly-paid share of the gains.’

J S Noldwritt – circa 1820 Hon Sec Walworth Literal and Scientific Institution



The 33rd Regiment of Foot forms a square to repulse attacks by French cavalry. In the background is the burning farmhouse of La Haye Sainte. By military artist David Rowlands. For further examples of David's work visit www.davidrowlands.co.uk.



Sergeant Major Edward Cotton fought in and survived the Battle of Waterloo as a private in the saddle with the 7th Hussars. After the war he resided in Mont St Jean and gained notoriety by guiding nobility and royalty around the battlefield. As a disciple of Cotton's guiding craft I offer this article to our Trust membership for the reader to decide 'What was the endgame at Waterloo?' My take on the campaign endgame is based on my experiences as a Waterloo Guide having walked the campaign battlefields and delved into the battle history.

On Guiding

Barring party spoilers such as a broken-down coach or vicious inclement weather, the quality of any battlefield tour is solely down to the ability of the guide who leads it. The guide is challenged to engage the guest with passion and 'cordite' of the battle or action with what he or she believes is the truth. On that delivery, and with a constant awareness of the need for customer care, the guide and tour experience is judged. After Waterloo I suspect Cotton



Charge of the French Cuirassiers



identified and adhered to that same ethos, the ethos that Dr Chris Scott designed for the highly coveted Guild of Battlefield Guides Validation programme which all 'Badged Guides' of the Guild have experienced, passed and hugely benefit from today.

On Waterloo

Waterloo is a story of such magnitude, not only of the leaders, but also of the men themselves. It is a story of their lives, their families, their fears, their heroism and, for many, their ultimate sacrifice on that fateful June Sunday in 1815.

Henri Nieman of the 6th Uhlans wrote: *'At about 9 o'clock in the evening the battlefield was almost cleared of the French army. It was an evening no pen is able to picture: the surrounding villages yet in flames, the lamentations of the wounded of both armies, the singing for joy; no one is able to describe nor find a name to give to those horrible scenes.'*

From its dishevelled start to its electrifying end, the Waterloo campaign fascinates in its intensity. It endured four great battles in as many days, the climax of which, dramatic by any standard, saw the defeat of an empire and ended the dreams and ambitions of the greatest soldier of modern times. The feat of arms at Waterloo changed the course of European history when Bonaparte pitted his military brilliance and charisma against the dogged determination of the loyal Blücher and the tactical skill and stamina of Wellington, in an effort to decide the fate of Europe.

This great military gamble unfolded 200 years ago in a small valley 11 miles south of Brussels. With five gross errors of judgement and two incredible chance decisions, amid 115,000

casualties, we discover that at the campaign's unbelievable end, soldiers in multicoloured coats, amidst the fog of war, did not know whether they had won or lost. So what did happen at Waterloo?

On Napoleon



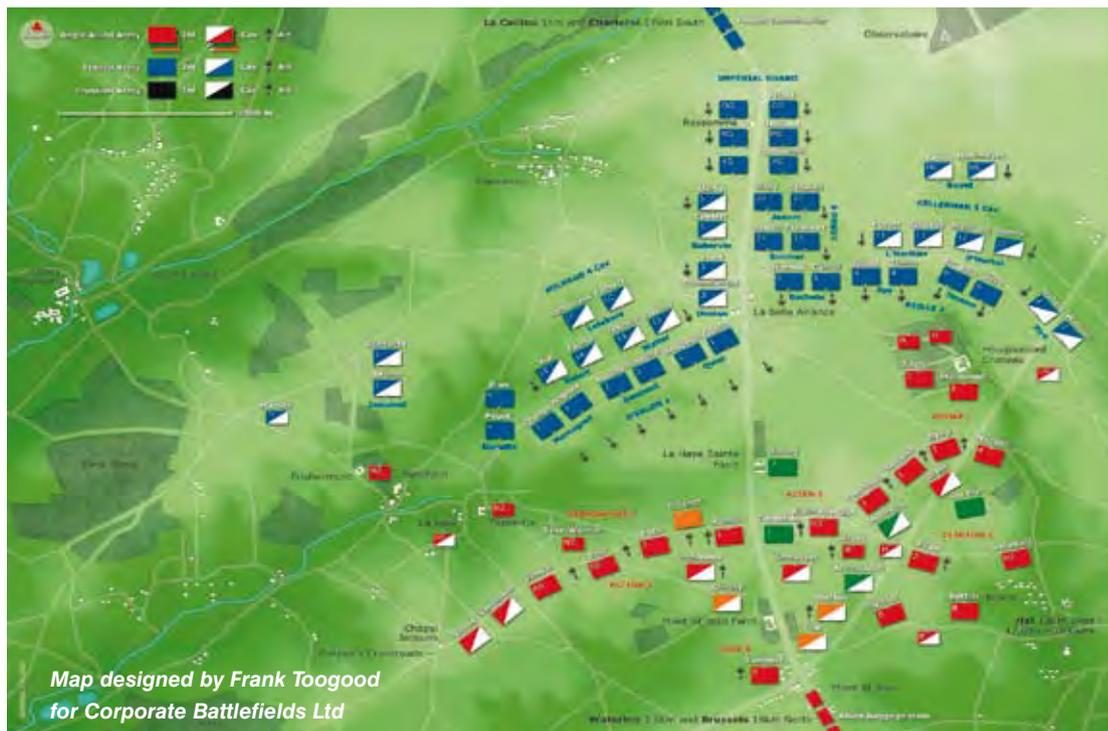
This Corsican genius fights 49 battles and only loses 7 and none of those losses were snowball fights at school where every boy wanted to be on his side. Napoleon met his Waterloo for several reasons.

First, we know Napoleon's poor health contributed to his downfall. Madam Leporeg, Beaumont's postmistress, was

summoned to him on the night before the campaign began to explain the state of the roads north to the River Sambre. After a long time with the Emperor she was so enthused having met the great man that she spent all night writing letters to her relatives in which she described Napoleon's stress, tiredness and unhealthy appearance although she highlighted that he was very animated and eager for information.

Secondly, Napoleon's mind throughout the campaign was focused on the political situation in Paris. So much so that following his last victory at Ligny he summoned his officers to Brye where his main point of address was what they thought was happening in Paris. Meanwhile the Prussians had made a clean break towards Wavre. Another indication of the political stress the Emperor endured was evident when at Waterloo during the early part of the battle he spent several hours at Lower Rossomme writing letters to Paris whilst leaving the brave Marshal Ney in command.

Thirdly, on the ground Napoleon's senior staff officers were merely a second XI team and even then these leaders were in unsuited appointments. For example, Soult, a cavalry officer, was appointed





Chief of Staff. Apart from Davout, who remained in Paris, his trusted commanders from the past had largely not supported his cause. To compound matters, earlier he had lost Bertier his trusted and long-time Chief of Staff who had that knack of understanding the Emperor's mumblings.

Fourthly, and perhaps most damagingly, he conveyed an air of arrogance and would not listen to his senior officers. At his breakfast on 18 June at La Caillou he addressed his senior staff. *'The enemy army exceed ours by nearly a quarter but the odds are in our favour nine to one. Because you have been beaten by Wellington you think him a great general. I tell you that Wellington is a bad general, that the English are bad troops and that this will be a picnic.'* Such was the over-confidence that had spread through the Army that when the Imperial Guard attacked at the end of the battle they did so with their parade uniform in their backpacks for their victory parade in Brussels that night.

On Wellington



Wellington was aloof, arrogant and disliked by a proportion of his men. However, whenever he appeared on a battlefield they felt confident as they knew he had never lost whilst in command. Wellington wrote to his brother referring to the deciding factor at Waterloo as being the infantry, *'the best instrument I had'*.

The French Marshal Bugeaud endorsed

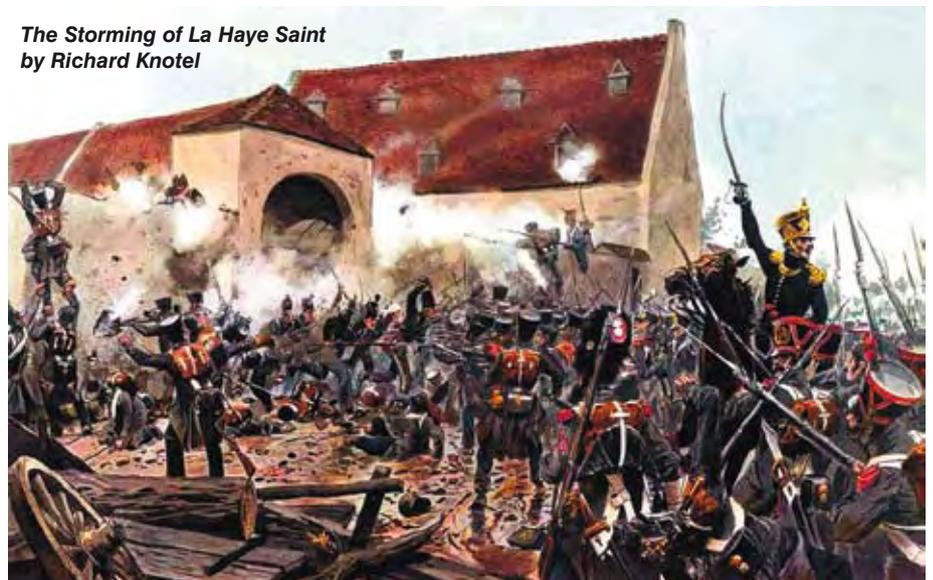
this and wrote about his experiences of facing Wellington's infantry in line during the Peninsular War. He wrote:

'At 300 yards the redline remained silent and still. They then made a quarter turn with muskets going up to the ready and an indefinable sensation nailed to the spot many of our men, who halted and began to open a wavering fire. The enemy's return, a volley of simultaneous precision and deadly effect, crashed upon us like a thunderbolt. Decimated by it, we reeled together. Then three formidable "Hoorahs" terminated the horrible silence of our adversaries. With the third they were down upon us pressing us into disorderly retreat.'

With regard to Wellington's ability as a leader the French General Foy wrote in his diary six days after the 1812 Battle of Salamanca:

'This battle is the most cleverly fought, the largest in scale, the most important results, of any of that the English have won in recent times. It brings up Lord Wellington's reputation almost to the level of that of Marlborough. Up to this day we knew his prudence, his eye for choosing good positions, and the skill with which he used them. But at Salamanca he has shown himself a great and able master of manoeuvring. He kept his dispositions hidden nearly all day: he allowed us to develop our movement before he pronounced his own: he played a close game: he utilised the oblique order in the style of Frederick the Great.'

**The Storming of La Haye Saint
by Richard Knotel**



On Outcome

So what was the outcome on that bloody Sunday afternoon?

Napoleon's brother Jerome Bonaparte in the letter to his wife Catherine describing the end of the battle wrote:

'By some fateful chance, the guard attack failed! The Garde were brought back ... we had to beat a retreat, but there was no longer time. The Emperor wanted to get himself killed. We were in the midst of balls and of enemies. Wellington had a totally fresh cavalry force which he released into the plain at 8 pm. At 9 pm a terrifying panic seized the army; at 10 pm it was in rout The Emperor was carried away. No one gave orders and we ran until south of the River Sambre.'

My Take

Without the Prussians' intervention the Allies would not have seen victory at Waterloo. However without Wellington's leadership and staying power there would never have been a battle for the belated Prussians to save. Verdict on Waterloo ... *'Truly an Allied victory'*.

My Endgame

In the summer of 2013 I led a tour to Waterloo. Frank and Hazel Newton joined the tour with the intent of seeing



Farmhouse of La Haye Sainte



Cimetière_de_Bruxelle



Captain Lloyd's Battery, Royal Artillery under attack from French Cuirassiers. Captain Lloyd was mortally wounded. By military artist David Rowlands. For further examples of David's work visit www.davidrowlands.co.uk.

where their ancestor had formed up in the saddle with the heavy cavalry of the Royal Horse Guards (Blues).

Three weeks later I received a phone call from Frank thanking me for the tour. He asked me how many years I had been touring Waterloo. I looked into my life diary to discover it had been 40 years. Frank then said 'Graeme, did you know that your great, great, great grandfather Private John Cooper had

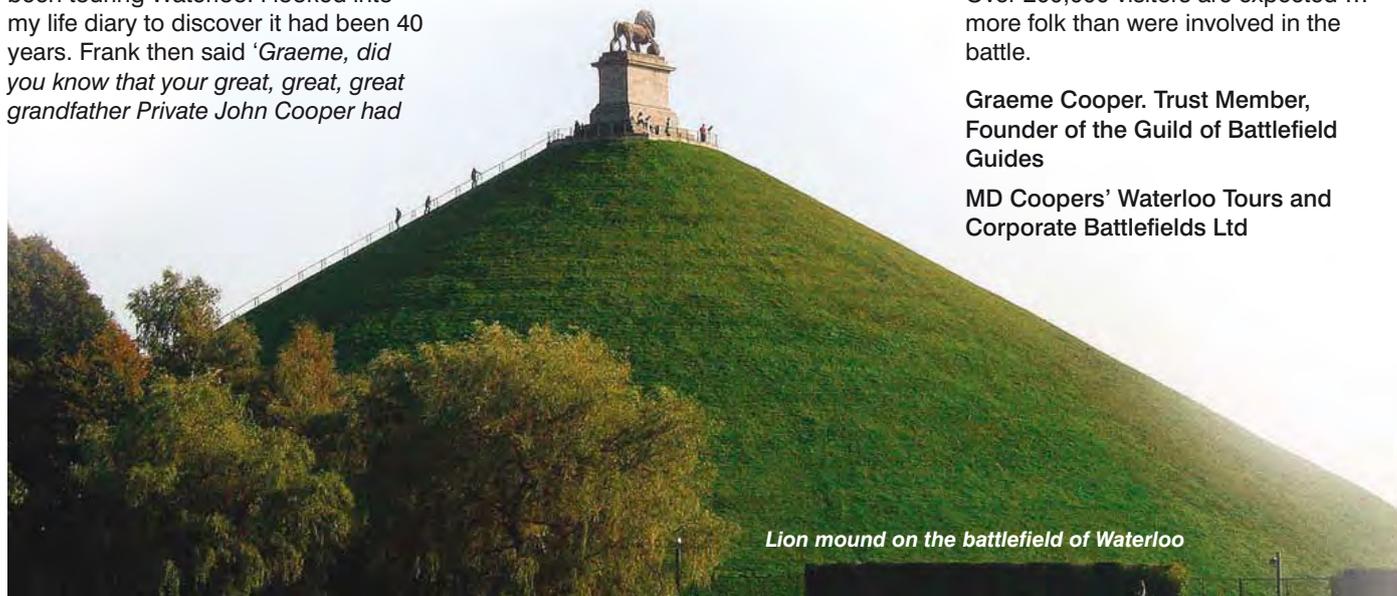
fought at Waterloo in the 7th Hussars and survived?' I was stunned. To think I had been going to Waterloo since 1972 and had never known that my ancestor had saddled up alongside the first Waterloo Guide ... Private Edward Cotton.

Waterloo 200th Bi-Centennial Commemorations

If you are going to the Waterloo 200th Bi-centennial commemorations I trust you will enjoy the experience for I think our generation will not see its like again. Over 200,000 visitors are expected ... more folk than were involved in the battle.

Graeme Cooper. Trust Member, Founder of the Guild of Battlefield Guides

MD Coopers' Waterloo Tours and Corporate Battlefields Ltd



Lion mound on the battlefield of Waterloo



Book Reviews



The Magna Carta Chronicle

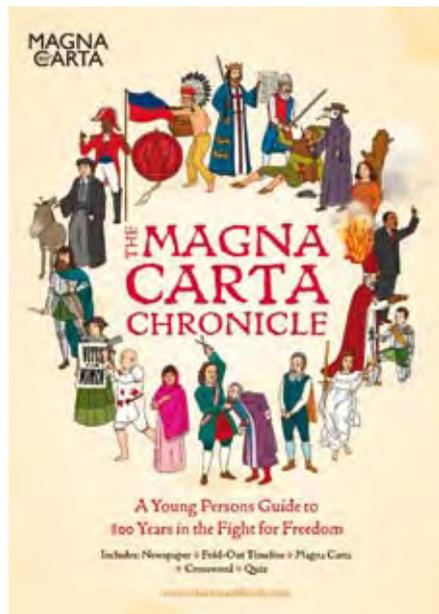
By Christopher Lloyd

Published by What on Earth

Publishing Ltd, April 2015

Paperback: 32 pages ISBN-10:

0993019919



The Magna Carta Chronicle is described as a Young Person's Guide to 800 Years in the Fight for Freedom. Well illustrated, it charts the fight for freedoms from the sealing of Magna Carta by King John in 1215 to the present day. It consists of about 40 newspaper articles, and features a 2-metre wall chart. The other temptation is a faithful copy of Magna Carta, plus a special guide.

The chronicle is the brainchild of Christopher Lloyd, a flamboyant and colourful character, who turns up wearing a black magician's cloak. What on Earth Publishing is a new venture, which has produced a number of similar format books that chart the development of man's history on the planet and the evolution of life itself. It has an unusual combination of elements. The newspaper pieces are a kind of daily tabloid reportage of Magna Carta incidents. It would be good to have a little more on the historic events around the time of the Barons' Wars, and the emergence of Simon de Montfort. The French invasion and medieval battles deserves perhaps greater coverage as a series of dramatic events, ending with the French rout at Lincoln Castle.

There is no doubt that the illustrations will grab the attention of younger

readers. It is intended primarily as a souvenir for young people on the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta. The combination of newspaper articles, timeline and quiz provide a great way for young people to explore these stories of how our freedoms were won over the centuries. The Chronicle is strongly endorsed by Sir Robert Worcester, Chairman of the Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Committee, and with whom the Battlefields Trust works closely. It needs to stand the test of time, and we hope to promote it widely.

Review by Edward Dawson

Magna Carta: The Making and the Legacy on the Great Charter

By Dan Jones

Published by Head of Zeus Ltd

192 Pages £14.99



The 800th anniversary of Magna Carta has produced a plethora of publications seeking to explain its significance to a variety of audiences, including many aimed at children. At first glance this book looks like one of the latter, but it is actually a more sophisticated piece altogether. It is very nicely produced and well-illustrated, with 30+ pages of pertinent full-colour pictures. It has a simple but elegant structure, taking the reader from the accession of Henry II in 1154 through to 1215 in nine chapters and with a tenth on the afterlife of the Charter. Almost half the book is composed of appendices: one on the text, the second on the men of Magna Carta, a third on its enforcers and the fourth providing an 800-year timeline (mostly the first 100 years) outlining its impact.

By setting King John's reign in the context of the fortunes of the Angevin Empire established by his forceful father (which stretched from the Scottish Borders to the Pyrenees and encompassed almost two-thirds of modern-day France), the author explains that not all John's problems were of his own making. However, he does not mince his words about the king's incompetence: 'People loathed John ... a cruel and unpleasant man, a second rate soldier and a slippery, faithless, interfering king.' He is not about to get a Richard III-type rebranding here! The book is written in similar lively prose throughout and is an excellent read. Dan Jones is a telegenic young historian with an eye for a hot topic, and he certainly knows his subject. I recommend this book as a good general introduction to the subject suitable for any enthusiastic amateur historian aged from 12 years up.

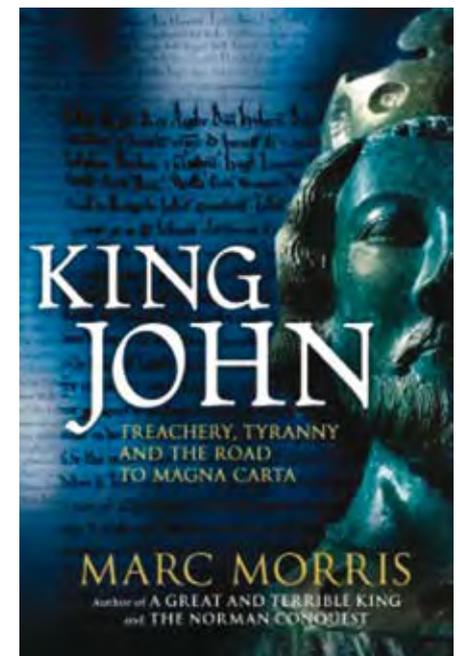
Review by Dr Matthew Bennett

King John: Treachery, Tyranny and the Road to Magna Carta

By Marc Morris

Published by Hutchinson

400+ Pages Unpriced



This review is based on a proof copy sent on the advice of the author, which is still lacking illustrations, indices and the scholarly apparatus. Marc Morris is



well known for his accessible studies on medieval history with a best-selling biography of Edward I and a recent study of the Norman Conquest; he also presented a well-received TV series on castles.

His approach to John's reign is individual, beginning with the crisis year of 1203, as Chateau Gaillard – Richard I's great castle on the Seine – was besieged by the French, before returning to review the growth of the English cross-Channel empire in the twelfth century. He then resumes a chronological track for the rest of the book. He provides a clear and authoritative survey of events well-grounded in original sources. With twice the space of the Jones book he is able to go into much more detail of political events – further evidence, were it needed, of John's cruelty and duplicity. Morris has a good understanding of military activity, and describes it well, so it is a pity that the book ends in a bit of a hurry, with only a cursory study of the events after John's death in October 1216. Battlefields Trust members might wish for more on the battles of Lincoln and Sandwich in 1217; but this is one of the problems of writing history as biography and why the Magna Carta Wars have not been accorded their full significance until now.

Review by Dr Matthew Bennett

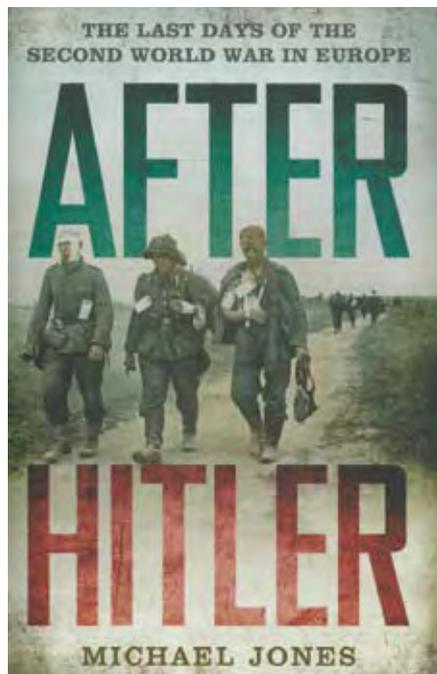
After Hitler: The Last Days of the Second World War in Europe

By Michael Jones

Published by John Murray, 2015
372 pages, incl. Maps and illustrations.

Those unfamiliar with the final days of the Second World War might be forgiven for thinking that, with Hitler's death, all was over bar the shouting. This compelling book illustrates clearly that this was not so. Michael Jones is a prolific author and readers may be familiar with his books on Bosworth and Agincourt. More recently he has turned to the Eastern Front. This book tells the story of the last ten days of the war from Hitler's suicide on 30 April 1945 to VE Day on 8 May.

Hitler's mantle was inherited, perhaps to the surprise of Goering and Himmler, by Admiral Dönitz. Goebbels had killed himself the following day. Jones regards



Dönitz's influence as pernicious and feels that his role after the Führer's death is underestimated. Certainly he was a loyal, fanatical Nazi and could not accept the Allied requirement for unconditional surrender. On 25 April when the question was raised of a surrender to save lives, Dönitz would not hear of it. On 27 April when Berlin was all but lost, he sent 900 naval cadets there to assist in the defence. With neither training nor experience they suffered horrific casualties to no purpose. On 1 May, Dönitz broadcast to the German people to announce Hitler's death, giving the impression that he had died heroically in battle. Jones considers that he was lucky to escape the noose at Nurnberg.

Berlin fell on 2 May and the accounts of the Russian entry into the city are interesting as is Jones' coverage of the Russians elsewhere where there was fierce resistance, such as at Breslau – fear of surrender to the Red Army became a Nazi obsession.

Those final days still evoke horror and despair – liberation of the concentration camps, desperate efforts to feed starving populations in northern Holland and floods of German refugees heading west to avoid the Russians. Montgomery's HQ on Lüneberg Heath and the great showman's arrangements for the German surrender on 4 May are well covered. The story of the German surrender delegation in Rheims on 7

May and another ceremony, further east in a Berlin suburb, on 8 May, with the Russians in the chair, may be less familiar. The machinations by all sides in between these various ceremonies make fascinating reading.

It is not widely known that, whilst Britain was celebrating VE-Day on 8 May, it would not come for the Russians until 9 May. Despite the formal surrenders, in several places the fighting continued. Jones tells us about the uprising in Czechoslovakia and the extraordinary events which led to the rescue of Prague by the Russians. The war also continued in Latvia, where 200,000 Germans and a Latvian SS Division, under the command of another fanatical Nazi, held out under appalling conditions. The continuation of the fight defied any explanation other than a remarkable devotion to Hitler's memory and an implacable hatred of the Russians. Even Stalin couldn't understand the reason for the continued resistance and began to think that it was some kind of plot by the Western Allies to maintain post-war influence in the Baltic.

Mistrust between Western Allies and the Soviet Union was evident as the human and political implications of the Yalta Agreement on the post-war division of Europe emerged. Jones deals deftly with these complex issues. As he says, 'the ten days after the death of Hitler heralded a flawed triumph for post-war Europe. For some, suffering and injustice continued. Others struggled to make sense of what they had experienced'. Most fears, however, were put aside for the time being in the general relief at the final defeat of the Nazi menace.

What Jones has done, to very good effect, is to draw many intricate threads together with a perceptive narrative that unfolds chronologically. His researches have taken him far and wide, including Berlin, Prague and Moscow. In the process he has unearthed some superb personal accounts, many of which appear to be new. At each stage the accounts are supported by thoughtful and interesting analysis. A fascinating book.

Review by Christopher Newbould

Christopher Newbould is the Chief Guide of Spirit of Remembrance – www.spiritofremembrance.com



Time to Talk



with Michael Jones



Dr Michael Jones is a well-known military historian and lecturer who has written a series of books on 15th century warfare and the Second World War. His latest books include *The Kings Grave: The Search for Richard III* and *After Hitler: The Last Days of the Second World War in Europe*.

Michael, when did you realise that your interest in history could be more than a hobby and you could make a living out of it?

I have always loved history, and especially military history, ever since I was a child – and in terms of my career, I am fortunate enough to have been able to make a living out of it. I did my BA and PhD at Bristol University and after finishing my doctorate went straight into teaching. I now work freelance as a writer, presenter and battlefield tour guide. So I am lucky enough to find in my work something which I enjoy and continue to be fascinated by. I am intrigued by the human stories that lie behind the great campaigns and battles of history – and what motivates people to fight in the most difficult of circumstances.

The majority of your books are either about the Second World War or the Wars of the Roses. What is it that so fascinates you about these periods?

I studied under Professor Charles Ross at Bristol University – and that is where I got my interest in the Wars of the Roses. I found Charles an inspiring teacher – and the clarity of his approach guided me through a complicated but fascinating period in our history. It is an interest I developed further in books on Margaret Beaufort, the mother of Henry VII; on the battle of Bosworth; *The Women of the Cousins' War*, which I wrote with Philippa Gregory and David Baldwin; and, most recently, in co-authoring *The King's Grave: The Search for Richard III* with Philippa Langley. I should add that I did my thesis on the latter stages of the Hundred Years War. I have led many historical tours on this topic and have also written a battlefield guide to Agincourt.

It was through my tour guiding work that I got a chance to lead battlefield tours of the Second World War's Eastern Front, and to meet some of the veterans who fought in this brutal conflict. I developed a concept with the company I worked for, bringing in veterans to put across their personal experiences of combat – particularly at the battles of Kursk and Stalingrad. And it was through this work that I then began to write about the Eastern Front myself, in books on Stalingrad, the siege of Leningrad, the Moscow campaign and a broader survey, *Total War: From Stalingrad to Berlin*, which tries to evoke the war experience of the ordinary Red Army soldier. It is from this background that *After Hitler* arose, a book about all the great powers involved in the last days of the Second World War in Europe, in which I try to present a fairer view of the Soviet Union, whose actions were sometimes viewed with considerable suspicion by its allies – the United States and Great Britain – as that terrible war drew to its close.

Christopher Newbould reviewed your most recent book, 'After Hitler: The Last Days of the Second World War in Europe'. He found it a fascinating account about the little-known period of some 10 days between Hitler's suicide and Germany's final surrender. He was wondering how you discriminate between and evaluate accounts of eye-witnesses recorded at the time and those from interviews many years later?

It is a real privilege to work with veterans of some of the great battles of the Second World War, and yet veteran testimony, like all historical sources, has to be handled carefully and critically. Ideally, one wants to use this material in conjunction with more contemporaneous material, whether personal – war diaries and letters – or documentary – the army records of the units involved in the fighting. This contemporaneous material can establish a framework to gauge the reliability of such testimony and use it to its best effect. But I think it is also important to build up an emotional rapport with veterans – and this rapport, and the trust it creates, helps bring their stories more fully to life. In this sense oral testimony, unlike diaries or letters, is a living thing – for example, a veteran may often remember episodes with remarkable clarity once he returns to the location where he actually fought. Sometimes this form of recollection is exceptionally vivid. As a former Red Army soldier stood with us on the forecourt of Stalingrad's Tractor Factory and showed how he chained his gun to the iron gates as he and his comrades desperately tried to stop the Germans breaking through to the Volga, it seemed as if we had travelled back in time and were actually there.

What are you planning for your next project?

I am now returning to the Hundred Years War and writing a new book, *24 Hours at Agincourt*, which will come out in time for the 600th anniversary of the battle. Much valuable and important research has been done on Agincourt in recent years, and the book aims to bring this extraordinary clash of arms alive for the ordinary reader. It uses eye-witness testimony, preserved in the chronicles, alongside documentary sources to portray the dilemmas facing the commanders and the visceral experience of the ordinary combatants.

Dr Michael Jones
Fellow of the Royal Historical Society
and Member of the British Commission
for Military History



Walks, Talks & Special Events



● Friday 1 May–Sunday 3 May 2015

Battlefields Trust Annual Conference

The Battlefields Trust Annual Conference and AGM will be held in Oxford 1–3 May 2015.

For further details visit the 'Events' section of the Battlefields Trust website.

● Saturday 2 May–Monday 4 May 2015

Battle of Tewkesbury 1471: 'Armour at the Abbey' Exhibition

The Tewkesbury Battlefield Society are holding their annual exhibition of arms and armour at Tewkesbury abbey. For further details email Steve Goodchild on mansscourt@orpheusmail.co.uk

● Thursday 7 May 2015

100th anniversary of the sinking of the Lusitania



Our image of the First World War is dominated by the Western Front and the slaughter in the trenches. It is easy to forget that Britain came close to being defeated because a new weapon, the German submarine, or U-boat, came close to cutting Britain's vital life lines with the rest of the world. Battlefields Trust Chairman, Frank Baldwin, will be marking the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the liner, Lusitania, off the coast of Ireland by leading a walk looking at the ships and naval memorials from the First World War. Meet at Tower Hill tube at 6.30 p.m. and disperse at the Embankment Tube 9.30 p.m. For further details contact chairman@battlefieldstrust.com or ring Harvey Watson on 01494 257847.

● Sunday 10 May 2015

The defeat of the sons of Harold in

1069. Appledore, Devon.

Although King Harold had been defeated and killed at Hastings in 1066, resistance to the Norman Conquest continued for many years. In 1069 the sons of Harold landed at Appledore in Devon with a fleet of 64 ships and an army of Irish/Norse raiders. They were quickly defeated. Local historian Nick Arnold has done extensive research on the invasion and will be leading a walk across the site of the probable battlefield.

Meet at Appledore Library (postcode EX39 1QS) at 11.00 a.m. Sunday 10 May 2015. Please notify the organisers in advance if you plan to attend. For further details contact Malcolm Eden on 07925 064086 or email bigmaldevon@aol.com

● Sunday 10 May 2015

The Battle of Edgcote 1469

Harvey Watson will be leading a 3–4 mile (approx.) guided walk across the site of one of the least famous – but most pivotal – battles in the Wars of the Roses. We will start at 1.30 p.m. from the Chipping Warden Parish Church, Chipping Warden, Banbury, Oxfordshire, OX17 1JZ (thus allowing for an optional spot of lunch at the pub beforehand). The battle site is currently threatened by the proposed High Speed Rail link, so this is an opportunity to view this beautiful valley in its current state. The route will be a mixture of roads, footpaths and fields so bring suitable footwear, and a rain jacket in case of inclement weather. Contact Harvey Watson on 01494 257847 or email chairman@battlefieldstrust.com for further details.



Battle of Edgcote information guide

● Saturday 16 May 2015

Talk at Banbury Museum: 'Finding Bosworth: The Search for the Battle that Killed a King' – 2.30 p.m.

Internationally renowned battlefield

archaeologist Glenn Foard talks about the detective work involved in the rediscovery of the battlefield at Bosworth, the site of King Richard III's death. Learn more about the battle, its archaeology and why a small silver brooch probably marks the place where King Richard was killed. To book tickets contact the Banbury Museum on 01295 753752. The Museum is located in Spiceball Park Road, Banbury, OX16 2PQ.

● Saturday 16 May 2015

Battle of Lewes 1264

The Battle of Lewes on 14 May 1264 had a significant impact on parliamentary democracy. Simon de Montfort and the rebel barons defeated the army of Henry III leading to De Montfort running the country in the name of the king. In January 1265 he summoned a Parliament which included burgesses for the first time and is considered the first representative Parliament.

The walk is organised in conjunction with Sussex Archaeological Society and will be led by Michael Chartier (Chair of SAS) and John Freeman who were both on the Steering Group of the 750th Commemoration Committee in 2014.

Parking is in the town car parks (John can email/post a map). Meet at 11.00 a.m. at Lewes Castle entrance – 169 High Street, Lewes, BN7 1YE. The Castle opens at 11.00 a.m. and we suggest a visit (£7.00 entrance fee). It offers views towards the battlefield and was Prince Edward's (later Edward I) base. We then will be proceeding to the Priory (Henry III's base).

Lunch can be taken in a café/pub at approx. 1.00 p.m.

After lunch drive to the car park at the west end of the town at St Anne's Crescent, BN7 1UE to start the battlefield walk at 2.00 p.m. Mike and John will lead the group up onto Landport Downs. The distance of the walk is approx. 2 miles with excellent views over the town, with a return to cars at approx. 4.30 p.m.

For further details please contact John on 07957 829997 or email him at johnfreeman11@hotmail.co.uk

● Sunday 17 May 2015

Runnymede 1215

2015 marks the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta, the oldest constitutional





The Magna Carta Memorial

document in the world. Harvey Watson will be leading a walk and explaining the significance of a site that has been described as 'the very soul of England'. A brisk 1 km walk leads to the top of Coopers Hill, where there is the Commonwealth Air Forces Memorial, one of the largest and most impressive memorials to the Second World War to be found anywhere in the British Isles. On the walls of the memorial there are the names of over 20,400 airmen lost on active service over the Atlantic, North Sea, British Isles and North-west Europe, and who have no known grave. Meet outside the National Trust tea rooms at 10.30 a.m. (post code TW20 0AE). Contact Harvey Watson on 01494 257847 for further details.

● Sunday 31 May 2015

First Battle of St Albans 1455

Dr Peter Burley and Mike Elliott will be leading a walk around medieval St Albans and following the course of the crucial First Battle of St Albans which marked the start of the Wars of the Roses. Meet at the 'Boot Inn', 4 Market Place, AL3 5DG, at 1.00 p.m. for lunch. The walk will start outside the pub promptly at 2.00 p.m. If you are coming to St Albans by train contact Dr Peter Burley on 01727 831413 and rendezvous in the Station Booking Hall at midday.

● Sunday 14 June 2015

Naseby Weekend to mark the 370th anniversary of the battle

● Saturday 20 June 2015

Guided walk at Northampton Castle and Battle of Northampton 1264

Join with the Northampton Battlefield Society, Friends of Northampton Castle and The Battlefields Trust to discover the site of Northampton Castle and learn about the 1264 Battle of Northampton during the Second Barons' War. Meet at Hazelrigg House, Marefair, Northampton NN1 1SR (close to St Peters Church) at 2.00 p.m. Contact Mike Ingram, email mikeingram2000@yahoo.co.uk or ring 07738 908 808 for further details.

● Saturday 4 July 2015

Battle of Northampton 1460 Commemoration

To commemorate the 1460 Battle of Northampton during the Wars of the

Roses, there is a foot tournament at Delapre Abbey, Northampton followed by a walk over the site of the battle. The tournament starts at 11.00 a.m. and the walk at 1.30 p.m. from Delapre Abbey. For further details contact Mike Ingram, email mikeingram2000@yahoo.co.uk or ring 07738 908 808.

● Sunday 5 July 2015

Battle of Cropredy Bridge 1644

Join the Trust and Anthony Rich for a Sunday afternoon walk to visit this most modern of civil war battles. Was the Royalist press right to report that 'Wilmot's service this day was very eminent'? Or was he guilty of 'supine negligence', as Lord Digby suggested? Why did the house quite literally fall in on Sir William Waller? And how did that old Presbyterian react to the secret honey trap set by a mysterious Royalist lady? All will be revealed (well maybe not quite as much as the Royalist Shady Lady was hinting at!). Meet at 2.00 p.m. at Cropredy Church, Cropredy, Near Banbury. Confirm attendance and check for programme changes with Anthony Rich, 0121 249 9292 or email anthonyrich@virginmedia.com

● Thursday 9 July 2015

St Albans, Magna Carta and the Barons' War

A summer evening walk exploring medieval St Albans and its role in the creation of Magna Carta and the Barons' War. The walk is being organised by the Museum of St Albans and is being led by the Battlefields Trust's National Coordinator, Dr Peter Burley. The walk will be about 2 miles in length and take about 90 minutes. It will start at 7.00 p.m. (and finish) at the Museum of St Albans in Hatfield Road, AL1 3RR (NOT the Roman Museum in Verulamium). It is

almost entirely on roads and pavements, so the going should be easy. However, Peter warns that the last time he led a summer evening walk on this route it turned out to be in a monsoon! Further information and booking details will be from the organiser Elizabeth Adey at elizabeth.adey@stalbens.gov.uk

● Friday 10 July 2015

Battle of Northampton memorial walk

To commemorate the 555th anniversary of the 1460 Battle of Northampton there is a walk over the site of the battle commencing from Delapre Abbey at 6.30 p.m. For further details contact Mike Ingram email mikeingram2000@yahoo.co.uk or ring 07738 908 808.

● Saturday 18 July 2015

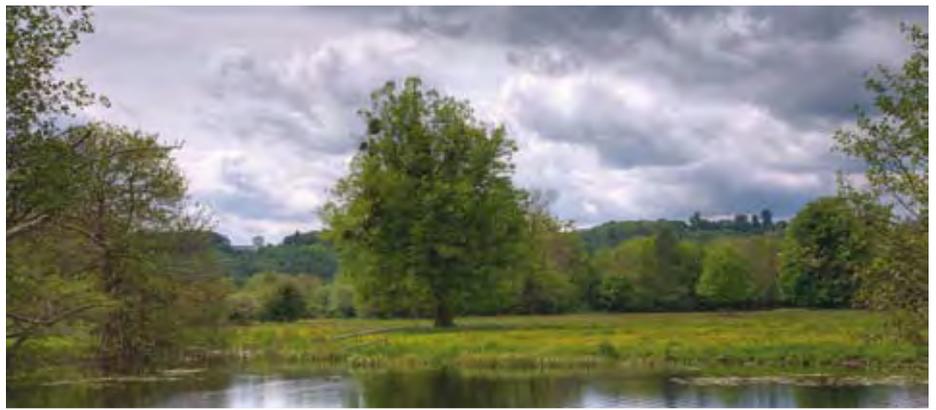
Skirmish Hill, Melrose, Scotland 1526

A guided walk by Melrose Historical & Archaeological Association covering sites associated with this action in July 1526 when Walter Scott of Buccleuch with 800 riders challenged the Earl of Angus over the custody of the 12-year-old King James V. The walk takes in Darnick Tower where the boy king watched the action from the battlements, also the 'Turn Again Stone' marking the spot where the retreating followers of Buccleuch killed the pursuing Kerr of Cessford.

Meet in front of Melrose Parish Church at 2.00 p.m. For further details contact Ian Skinner on i_skinner@btinternet.com or ring 01835 822823.

● Saturday 18 July 2015

The East Anglian Branch of the Battlefields Trust presents: 'Events that Made England: Anniversaries of Revolting Barons and French Conquests'.



Magna Carta Isle



Norwich Castle Museum and Art Gallery. A study day looking at the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta, the Battle of Evesham, the Battle of Agincourt and the Battle of Waterloo. For further details contact Annmarie Hayek on annmarie@talktalk.net or ring 01603 664021.

● **Friday 31 July–Monday 3 August 2015**

Battle of Agincourt Conference, 'War on Land and Sea: Agincourt in Context'

2015 marks the 600th anniversary of the Battle of Agincourt. A major international conference will be held at the University of Southampton between Friday 31 July and Monday 3 August 2015, entitled 'War on Land and Sea: Agincourt in Context'. There will be discount rates for members of The Battlefields Trust. The conference will cover many different aspects of medieval warfare, including the culture of war, the 'hardware' (armour, weaponry, fortifications, ships), armies and navies. There will also be special public events. The conference coincides with the anniversary of the plot to kill Henry V on 1 August ('the Southampton Plot'). The expeditionary army gathered in Southampton and its environs, and sailed from the port in mid-August. The city of Southampton still has town walls surviving from this period. There will also be a visit to the Royal Armouries' collection of artillery at Fort Nelson. Further information and calls for papers will be sent out in due course via a website. This will also contain an Agincourt Who's Who, developed from the Medieval Soldier project (www.medievalsoldier.org), and other interesting Agincourt-related material. In the meantime do email agincourt@soton.ac.uk to ensure that your interest has been logged and to be informed of other exciting events planned for the anniversary in 2015 by the Royal Armouries and other organisations. For further information contact Anne Curry at a.e.curry@soton.ac.uk

● **Saturday 1 August–Friday 14 August 2015**

750th anniversary of the Battle of Evesham 1265

The Simon de Montfort Society are

commemorating the 750th anniversary of the death of Simon de Montfort at the Battle of Evesham and the creation of the first English Parliament.

● **Saturday 1 August 2015:**

'Commemoration & Democracy Day' when the Speaker and other parliamentary officials will lay wreaths in Abbey Park.

● **Tuesday 4 August (evening), 2015:**

Keynote lecture by Professor David Carpenter (a Patron of the Simon de Montfort Society).

● **Saturday and Sunday 8–9 August**

2015: Medieval Festival weekend on Crown & Corporation Meadows.

To include a re-enactment of the battle of Evesham 1265, craft fair and demonstrations, 'living history', music and much food and drink. A wargaming event organised by Daniel Faulconbridge (editor of 'Wargames Illustrated') will also be held over this weekend.

● **Monday 10 August 2015:** Buffet supper at the Evesham Hotel followed by a talk by Katherine Ashe, the American author of the four-volume 'novelized history of Simon', provisionally entitled 'Why Simon Truly Was the Founder of Parliament'. (Supported by the Mortimer History Society.)

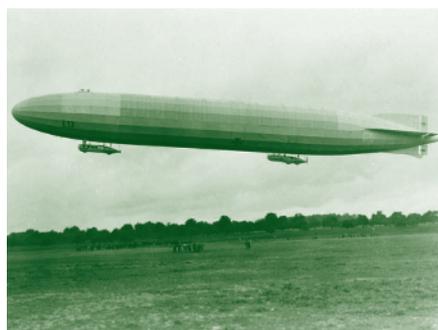
● **Wednesday 12 August 2015:** Historical walkabout around the town and battlefield.

● **Friday 14 August 2015:** Supper at Abbey Manor and talk (provisionally about Simon and the Abbey) by Dr David Cox (also a Patron of the Simon de Montfort Society). Courtesy of Mr and Mrs John Phipps.

For further details email Clive Bostle at bostle@waitrose.com

● **Tuesday 8 September 2015**

Zeppelins over London



In the autumn of 1915, on the nights of 8–9 September and 13–14 October the Germans managed to achieve two of the most spectacular and destructive zeppelin raids ever to be carried out on London. To mark the 100th anniversary David Warren, who has studied the air raids of the First World War in depth, will be leading a walk and telling the story of the two raids. Meet at the Bedford Hotel, Southampton Row, at 6.00 p.m. The walk will take approx 2.5 hours and is a distance of 1.5 miles.

Contact Harvey Watson on London.southeast@battlefieldstrust.com or 01494 257847 for further details.

● **Saturday 19 September 2015**

'Legionaries and Knights: Perspectives on the Roman and Norman Military Machines'

An afternoon seminar held by the East Anglia region at The Assembly House, Norwich, featuring novelists Anthony Riches, James Aitchinson and others to be confirmed. Cost: £15. Further details will be available nearer the time. All enquiries to annmarie@talktalk.net or 01603 664021. It is essential to check with Annmarie before attending.

● **Saturday 2 October–Sunday 3 October 2015**

Joint Midlands & Marches Regions 15th-century tour

We are planning a self-drive tour in the Herefordshire/Shropshire Marches, focusing on the events leading Henry IV to Shrewsbury and the early stages of the Wars of the Roses. We hope to coordinate lifts and transport. Join us for all of it, or just the bits as you choose. Programme to be confirmed but likely to be based on Saturday morning, Mortimers Cross (1461) (mid-morning start); Saturday afternoon, Pilleth/Bryn Glas (1402) and possibly Wigmore Castle or Ludford Bridge (1459). Overnight in Ludlow. Sunday morning, Ludford Bridge (unless covered on Saturday) and Shrewsbury (1403). Sunday afternoon, Blore Heath (1459). If interested please contact Anthony Rich, 0121 249 9292 email anthonyrich@virginmedia.com

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