

THE FRONT LINE

Edition: 68

THE WGG'S FIRST WORLD WAR NEWSPAPER **October 1918**

FOR HISTORY MATTERS

TURKEY DEFEATED!!

Second Central Power Surrenders: is the End is now in sight?

The government and people of Turkey have agreed to cease the aggression with the Allies! This news surely marks the beginning of the end of this War, as without the ferocity of the Ottomans, surely the German and Austro-Hungarian forces will begin crumble and dissolve. The Ottoman Marine Affairs Minister, Rauf Bey, boarded the HMS Agamemnon in the early morning, joined by our own distinguished Admiral Somerset Arthur Gough-Calthorpe to prepare for the official signing of the armistice. Prime Minister, David Lloyd-George has been in talks with our allies the United States, France and



The main signatories of The Armistice of Mudros: Rauf Bey, Ottoman Marine Affairs Minister (left) and our own Admiral Somerset Gough-Calthorpe.

Italy concerning the Turkish Armistice. The wit and charm of the Prime Minister, as well as the desire to regain solidarity with our newest comrade, helped the negotiations run smoothly throughout the day.

Minister Bey, on behalf of the people of Turkey, also reportedly expressed his desire to end the barbaric nature of this conflict, and to help restore international peace to the world at war.



The fleet of British and Imperial forces gathers in Mudros Harbour for the signing of the historic armistice.

In the Armistice of Mudros the Turks have agreed to surrender all of their garrison forces outside Anatolia, and allowed the Allies the right to control the Straits of the Dardanelles and Bosphorous. In the event of any further disorder, the Allies may occupy any Turkish territory, and the entire country has been demilitarised. Any resources may be consumed by the Allies and borders with Russia are to be restored immediately. By having the Turkish surrender which followed on from Bulgaria's defeat last month, we are yet again one step closer to end the loss of lives in this war, and we forge a stronger connection with our allies, wherever they may be.

Reporter: Anika Chauhan



‘ONE OF THESE MILLIONS’

Part 22 – The Final Chapter!

On 16 August Paul Hub wrote to Maria, ‘We have lost our forward positions and need to dig new trenches. Tommy hasn’t attacked for a few days, not here anyway, but if I allowed myself to think of the losses we have suffered I would have gone crazy by now. I will see how it goes. Hopefully we can grind our way out of defeat.

Late the following night he wrote again to Maria, ‘I almost forgot to write to you today. That has never happened before. I usually find some quite time for you. I’m always uneasy when I can’t, because I really don’t want anything to come between us. We were shot at today and unfortunately one of my men was killed, torn apart from a direct hit. The shelling is really horrible, sometimes just one constant bombardment. As the dugout shakes I think of how peacefully you sleep in your beds back home. Last night was very noisy. There were constant explosions around the dugouts and more shooting this morning when one of our men went too close to Tommy. You seem to be very busy, judging from your letters. My parents must be so happy to have your help. Please remember what I said in my last letter.’

This letter was the last that Maria would ever receive from him.

On 26 August, after furious fighting, the village of Maricourt fell to the British. Paul Hub and his exhausted troops were being relieved and were pulling back towards a slope of the Somme valley. They had paused for the distribution of rations when a direct hit from a shell caused severe shrapnel wounds to Paul’s head and legs. He died soon afterwards. For the third time, Paul’s parents were left to mourn the loss of a son.

Maria Thumm, who for four years had begged her fiancé to marry her, was now a widow after just ten weeks as a wife. Paul Hub’s body was exhumed from a temporary grave at Maricourt after the war and moved to the German military cemetery near Péronne, on the Somme, but the location is unknown. Neither at the German military cemetery in Rancourt nor in nearby

Fricourt does Paul’s name appear on the lists of dead soldiers.

Maria remained childless and never remarried in the half-century she lived without him. After the war she became a nursery-school teacher in Reutlingen, Cannstatt and

Stuttgart. She died in 1963 at the age of seventy-three.

These edited letters come from Neil Hanson’s book ‘The Unknown Soldier – The Story of the Missing of the Great War’. He writes of an American, a Briton and a German, whose bodies were never found, and the creation of the Cenotaph.

Contributor: Mr Hinsley

EDITOR’S NOTE:

The Front Line Editorial Team would like to thank Mr Hinsley for his long term commitment and support of The Front Line! We are sure we speak for all our readers when we say Paul Hub’s story has been a fascinating and captivating segment of the paper, and we are so grateful for all his contributions.



U.S. MUNITIONS DISASTER!

Threat to Western Front Supplies

On the 4th of October disaster struck the state of New Jersey, USA, and a massive explosion occurred at the T.A. Gillespie Company Shell Loading Plant. With subsequent explosions lasting throughout the night, and fires raging for the following three days, this munitions disaster is one of the worst in American history.

The circumstances surrounding this event are still somewhat unclear, but it was 7.36pm on the Friday night that the first fire began in building 6-1-1, triggering the explosions and further destruction. The blasts were widespread, devastating the local towns of South Amboy and Morgan, and even breaking windows over 20 miles away in Manhattan. Firefighters did arrive on scene, but given that the fire had severed the water mains and that the hydrants between buildings were igniting, there was little that could be done, and so it was a full three days until the explosions finally ceased. The Coastguard led most of the rescue efforts, particularly on the second and third day, and their heroism and courage in the face of such a disaster has been widely praised and commended. It is with regret however that two men of the Coastguard did lose their lives in their rescue efforts. Their sacrifice will not be forgotten and it is with certainty that they, along with their colleagues, will be rewarded by the state; perhaps with the Navy Cross.

The death toll has been estimated at 100 employees, with hundreds more injured. Local residents have all been asked to evacuate, and the state of New Jersey estimates that 62,000 have now been displaced by the explosions. It is even being reported that amongst the now homeless community of Middlesex County, New Jersey, there is an epidemic of influenza which over 200 people have subsequently died from. It seems that for this local community there is no end to their suffering, and the events of this October will long scar their memories.



Top: Residents of South Amboy and Morgan evacuate after the explosion Bottom: Men stand in a massive crater left behind by the explosion

In addition to this deep personal loss, on a largerscale it has impacted the American war effort. Of the 30 million lbs of explosives, 12 million lbs were destroyed and over 30% of the 1 million shells were detonated. This translates to a loss of \$18 million, and crucially up to 6 months of supplies for the Western Front in France. A great disappointment for the Allies, but this is not too significant a loss. More can be made!

There has been some speculation of German sabotage, but local authorities have reiterated their belief that this was a singular, accidental occurrence and have reassured New Jersey that there is no evidence to suggest German spies are amongst them.

Reporter: Emily Turvey



THE FRONT LINE RECOMMENDS:

With October half-term fast approaching, here are some WW1 related museums, exhibitions and films to keep you busy!

1. Imperial War Museum, London

Their atrium and First World War Galley opened just in time for the centenary of WW1 featuring over 1300 objects and a 'Trench Experience'.

Personal stories are explored through the display of specific artefacts bringing you closer to the war on a personal level. For example, an officer's leather glove shrunk by the effects of poisonous gas.

This exhibition is a perfect way to look at the whole length of the war in an interactive and immersive way!



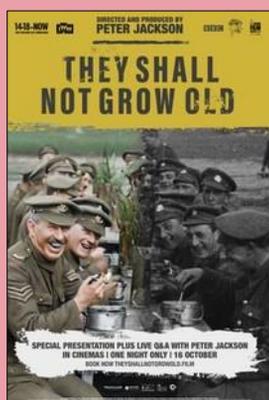
2. RAF Museum, London

The Royal Air Force Museum is the only to fully explore the role and importance of the RAF during the First World War. The 'First World War in the Air' exhibition specifically explores how the RAF helped defeat the enemy. In 1914 the Royal Flying Corps numbered just 1,500 people. By 1918, when the Royal Air Force was created, this had grown to more than 205,000. Many personal artefacts including medals, letters and uniforms will be displayed alongside the finest collection of First World War aircraft bringing the stories of WW1 pilots to life

3. "They Shall Not Grow Old"

A film by Peter Jackson

Run (don't walk!) to your nearest cinema that is showing this wonderful documentary on WW1. Footage (from Imperial War Museum Archives) has been colourised, converted to 3D and



transformed with modern production techniques to present never before seen detail., transforming our visual understanding of the war as never before. As well as combining footage with BBC and IWM interviews of WW1 servicemen, director Peter Jackson used professional lip-readers and actors to recreate the conversations captured on the original film.

Reporter: Eleanor Gontier

THE FRONT LINE REMEMBERS 'LEST WE FORGET'

ROBERT N. HODGSON

In remembrance of Robert Nelson Hodgson. He was a Private in the 1st Northumberland Fusiliers. He died on 8th October 1918, age 19.
He attended WBGS from 1910 – 1912.

SIDNEY F. DAWES

In remembrance of Sidney Francis Dawes, a 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Garrison Artillery. He died at age 22 on 9th October 1918.
He attended WBGS from 1903 – 1908.

EDWARD B. STOTT

In remembrance of Edward Bleackley Stott, a private in the 5th Royal Warwickshire Regiment. He died at age 18 on the 12th October 1918.
He attended WBGS from 1912 – 1915.

EDWARD O. GOSS

In remembrance of Edward Oliver Goss, a 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal West Surrey Regiment. He died, age 25, on 14th October 1918.
He attended WBGS from 1905 – 1909.