

COMMEMORATION OF THE CENTENARY OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR:

HISTORICAL INTERPRETATION GROUP – FOURTH MEETING

14:00 – 15:30, Tuesday 14 October 2014

Video Conference:

Room 20, Welsh Government office, Rhodfa Padarn, Aberystwyth
Cinema, Welsh Government office, Cathays Park (CP2), Cardiff
VC Room, Welsh Government office, Penrallt, Caernarfon

Present:

Cardiff:

[St Cyres School Official 1] ([job title redacted] St Cyres School, Penarth)
[Swansea University Official 1] (Swansea University)
[RWF Trust Official 1] Royal Welch Fusiliers Trust
[British Army Official 1] (160th (Wales) Brigade, British Army)
[Ballista Digital Official 1] (Ballista Digital)
[Welsh Government Official 1] (Welsh Government)

Aberystwyth:

[NLW Official 1] (Retired [job title redacted] – National Library of Wales)
[Aberystwyth University Official 1] (Aberystwyth University)
[NLW Official 2] (National Library of Wales)
[NLW Official 3] (National Library of Wales)
[Welsh Government Official 2] (Welsh Government - minutes)

Caernarfon:

[AC-NMW Official 1] ([job title redacted] National Slate Museum)
[Bangor University Official 1] (Bangor University)

Apologies:

Professor Sir Deian Hopkin (First Minister's Expert Adviser on the First World War)
[British Council Official 1] (Chair, British Council)
[Aberystwyth University Official 1] (Aberystwyth University)
[WFA Official 1] (Chair, Western Front Association, Gwent Branch)

1. Welcome and minutes of previous meeting

In the absence of Sir Deian Hopkin, St Cyres School Official 1] deputised as chair and welcomed group members to the meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed with no amendments.

2. Update on the Wales at War Educational App - [Ballista Digital Official 1]

The chair introduced [Ballista Digital Official 1] from Ballista Digital who updated the group on the Wales at War Educational App. He explained the two main parts of the app:

- *The Welsh Schools Educational Project 1914-1918* a learning pack and
- *Wales at War*, this will enable schoolchildren to research names on Welsh War Memorials – schools can choose a name from their local war memorial and build a biography around it. This will include all war memorials in Wales, both those in towns and villages and also memorials inside public buildings such as Post Offices and railway stations.

The National Library of Wales is leading these Educational projects, bilingual apps are available with both content of the App and input from schools being bilingual. The biographical content will be interwoven, running alongside the historical content, thus providing a bilingual digital legacy for educational purposes.

The Beta testing period will take place in a cross-section of schools - mainly Secondary schools but with the potential for Primary school years 5 and 6 to be involved. The prototype will be launched in mid November 2014 with distribution to schools at the end of January 2015 and a wider distribution in mid April 2015.

The chair thanked [Ballista Digital Official 1] for an interesting and informative talk.

3. Report on the recent meeting to discuss possible events to commemorate the Welsh at Gallipoli - [St Cyres School Official 1]

The chair updated the group on the meeting held on 12 September 2014 to discuss the commemoration of the First World War Gallipoli Campaign. He referred to [RWF Trust Official 2] presentation on the Welsh at Gallipoli and emphasised the need to acknowledge the Welsh influence at Gallipoli.

Suggestions made at that meeting included holding exhibitions on the Gallipoli theme, a church service to be held at Llandaff Cathedral and possibly a Remembrance Service to be held in North Wales at Bangor or St Asaph.

Commemorative events and an action plan are to be discussed further at the next meeting on 04 December 2014.

4. Christmas Truce Project – [RWF Trust Official 1]

[RWF Trust Official 1] updated the group on the Christmas Truce Project. The exhibition opened in Wolkenstein on 2 August and will remain there until 17 October. It will then be hosted at Ploegstreet from 20 October to 15 November, then moving on to Armentières on 26 November.

In Wales, the project will be launched at Bodelwyddan Castle on 10 January 2015 and the exhibition will remain at Bodelwyddan from 15 January 2015 until 10 March 2015, followed by a smaller exhibition at National Museum Cardiff.

A series of events will be held in the week beginning 16 December 2014 including a football match between the Royal Welch Fusiliers and the German Army.

There will be a digital legacy for educational purposes.

5. Historical Conference – [Swansea University Official 1]

[Swansea University Official 1] informed the group that following discussions regarding holding a First World War conference in 2016, funding is now available to be applied for to hold 5 conferences over 18 months from September 2015. He has suggested Swansea as one venue for holding a conference themed *Work and Play* and involving the local football and rugby clubs, to look at different ways sports clubs were involved in the First World War.

This leaves an opportunity for the organisation of a First World War conference, possibly in 2018.

6. Any Other Business

Initial discussion and planning for commemorative events in 2016 is underway. The National Theatre and the National Opera have an impressive 10-day programme of entertainment planned.

[British Army Official 1] Secretary South Wales Branch of Royal Welch Fusiliers (RWF) Association informed the group that the main Welsh focus of the RWF in 2016 will be the commemoration of Mametz. There will be a Commemoration at the Mametz Memorial on 07 July 2016, followed by commemorations at a number of other locations on 8, 9 & 10 July, with speakers and exhibitions. [Name redacted] is to speak about Llewelyn Wyn Griffith and [St Cyres School Official 1] will speak about his book. There will be an App to run alongside the main commemoration.

7. Date of the next meeting

Welsh Government officials to circulate suitable dates for the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 2:45pm.

[Welsh Government Official 2] (Welsh Government - minutes)

October 2014