

# TEVERSAL

THE WAR YEARS

1914-1918



Researched by Lynn Henstock for

Teversal Heritage Group

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## **FOREWORD**

Teversal Heritage Group are pleased to publish an account of life in the village of Teversal during the Great War 1914-1918.

The booklet offers a fascinating insight and describes the events, the consequences and the effects of war on this rural community.

It tells of the men who left the village to fight for their King and country. Some would not return, others were wounded in battle, their lives and the lives of their families changed forever.

The story also tells of the generosity and kindness shown by Elizabeth, Dowager Countess of Carnarvon and the men, women and children of Teversal and highlights their considerable contribution to the war effort.

*Teversal Heritage Group would like to thank the following people for their assistance and use of their material in this booklet: The Earl of Carnarvon, Somerset Archives, Jan Jenkins, Hilary Greensmith, Lynne Weston and Sutton library.*

### **TEVERSAL HERITAGE GROUP**

Teversal Heritage Group was formed a few years ago by a small group of volunteers who wished to preserve the history of Teversal for future generations by collecting information, photographs, testimony and records of the area. Their ultimate aim is to create an archive of material that can be made available to the public and become a resource for future generations.

Using material collected the Group creates DVD's, booklets such as this, and maintains a poster display for visitors within Teversal Manor Room. Open days and other public events also provide an opportunity for material to be put on show.

The Group meets quarterly and in between works mainly in a virtual manner through email contact unless there is a shared project. Anyone is welcome to join the Group. It is an excellent way of becoming part of the community and learning more about Teversal, which is such a special place.

## 1914

In 1914, before the start of the war, life in Teversal had remained unchanged for many years. Farming had always been the predominant industry but since 1870 two collieries had been sunk in Teversal and coal mining then employed many from the village and beyond. The railways had reached Teversal and the village had been connected to the rail network of Great Britain.

Elizabeth, the Dowager 4<sup>th</sup> Countess of Carnarvon had inherited the Teversal estate after the death of her husband in 1890 together with property in Bretby, Mayfair and Portofino (Italy) - and she spent her time between these places. She took a keen interest in Teversal and knew her tenants by name.

However, in the summer of 1914, life in Teversal was set to change with the onset of the Great War, also known as the 1914-1918 war - and after the start of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War it became known as World War 1.

The assassination of Arch Duke Franz Ferdinand of Austria on 28<sup>th</sup> June 1914 in Sarajevo by a Serbian nationalist triggered a series of events which resulted in conflict between the major powers throughout Europe. Germany declared war on France on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1914 and moved towards the French border by invading neutral Belgium. This action led Great Britain to declare war on Germany on 4 August 1914 in response to the violation of Belgian neutrality.

### BELGIAN REFUGEES IN TEVERSAL

Germany invaded Belgium attempting to capture Paris quickly by catching the French off guard. The Belgian Army resisted, but the 'rape of Belgium' as it became known, saw cities burned and civilians murdered. Belgian refugees, many of them children, fled these atrocities and began arriving in Britain. Over the course of the war more than 250,000 arrived. 'Receiving centres' were set up by the War Refugee Committee and thousands of Britons offered accommodation to the Belgians, including the people of Teversal.

Lackby Ave 25<sup>th</sup> 11/14

Mr Allen  
 Dear Sir, I have heard of  
 Houlets Belgians coming into  
 England. If you deem it will be  
 agreeable to our Lady, I will  
 give up my unoccupied parlour  
 and bed room over it, with  
 pantry. To any one or two females  
 for an invalid with a wife or nurse  
 I shall only be so glad for Her  
 Ladyship to do with them as she  
 thinks well under these awful  
 times. I am grieved I cannot  
 do more to help our brave men  
 and Lady Carnarvon's  
 unlimited kindness.

Please apologise for all  
 my omissions!

Yours truly  
 C.S.A. Bower

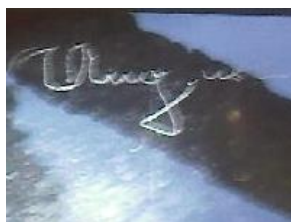
This letter quotes one resident, Mr C.S.A Bower from Fackley, who wrote to the Teversal Estate Office and offered his unoccupied parlour, pantry and a bedroom to any one or two females - or an invalid with a wife or nurse - and asked her ladyship to do with the rooms as she thinks well under these awful times.

of Carnarvon

Image by kind permission of the Earl

Lady Elizabeth Carnarvon lent the Manor House for use as a convalescent home for soldiers and sailors wounded in the war. A voluntary aid class was formed for those who wished to help in that Home.

Several signatures were scratched into the glass of the windows of the drawing room in Teversal Manor whilst the Belgians were in residence and can still be seen - as can the rope marks in the banister at the top of the service stairs, said to be the results of abseiling servicemen!



Photographs by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Marples of Teversal Manor

A letter to Lady Elizabeth Carnarvon from John Allen who managed the Teversal Estate office in November 1914 discusses the Belgians staying at Teversal.

*Estate Office, Teversal, Notts*

4.11.14

*The Dowager Countess of Carnarvon*

*My Lady*

*...The Belgians are very well and happy, they have all they require... When I went to Mansfield market on Monday I took five Belgians with me and took them to the hospital to see the wounded Belgian soldiers. Mr Hack sent a refugee who was in his hospital in Ostend. People in the neighbourhood are very kind to them. Mr McCullen had seven to tea on Saturday and Dr Martin took some for a motor ride on Sunday and afterwards to tea. Hickson the chemist and Mr Hack are exchanging notes on chemistry and Norman King is giving them English lessons this evening.*

*I hope Mr Herbert is well and getting strong*

*I remain your ladyship's obedient servant*

*John Allan*

*by kind permission of the Earl of Carnarvon*

The opposing sides in the Great War were **The Central Powers** - made up of Germany and Austria-Hungary, joined later by the Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria against **The Allies** – made up of Great Britain, France, Russia and Italy. Many other countries around the world, including the US and Japan, became involved as the war progressed.

Many men from Teversal enlisted voluntarily for military service. From our parish magazines covering the years of 1914-1917 and other sources we have a list of all known men of Teversal who served in First World War. We apologise for any omissions as unfortunately about 60% of the soldiers' Service Records were irretrievably damaged or lost

completely during enemy bombing during the Second World War - so the exact number of serving British soldiers is therefore not known.

The main theatre of war was known as the 'Western Front' and was situated in Northern France and Belgium where the German army met the French and allied armies. The terrible casualties sustained in open warfare meant that soldiers on all fronts had begun to protect themselves by digging trenches. Both sides dug in along a meandering line of fortified trenches, stretching from the North Sea to the Swiss frontier with France. Many battles were fought on the Western front, including the battles of Marne, Verdun, the Somme, Ypres and Passchendaele. The name 'Flanders Fields' is particularly associated with battles that took place in the Ypres Salient.

World War 1 trenches were dirty, smelly and often flooded. Life in the trenches meant living in fear of rats, lice and diseases such as cholera and trenchfoot. There was the constant fear of enemy attack and gas poisoning.

In August 1914 St Katherine's Church in Teversal began a weekly collection for the Teversal Church War Relief Fund. Most of the money raised was used to pay for material for garments. The teachers and schoolchildren, helped by others, knitted woollen comforts for the soldiers and sailors including mittens, mufflers, socks, body belts, helmets and wristlets. Some money was sent to the Refugees War Relief Fund and some to the British Red Cross.

Lady Carnarvon lent a room in the stable yard at the Manor House to be used as a War Reading Room, opening daily except Sundays, between 8am – 9pm. It was supplied with daily papers and war literature available to any parishioner for one penny a week.

***Letter dated 22 November 1914***

*Dear Sir, I am just dropping you a line to thank you for the pair of mittens which I have received. I can assure you that they have come in handy as we have had a lot of frost and snow of late. We have been out here from the first and our clothes have had a lot of knocking about so that we appreciate the kindness of people that have sent us warm clothes out.*

*Thanking you again for your kindness*

*I remain your sincere friend*

*Tom Barrett*

Many letters of thanks were received from grateful soldiers and sailors. School headmistress Miss Clarke received letters of thanks for parcels of knitted items and clothing sent to the Church of England Waifs and Strays Society.

Money was collected in church during December 1914 to send Christmas presents to Teversal soldiers and sailors.

**As the men of Teversal enlisted for service in the King's army their names were reported in the parish magazine**

Frederick Froggatt – Notts and Derby Regiment

William Machin – Notts and Derby Regiment

R Morley – Notts and Derby Regiment

John Redshaw – Royal Marine Light Infantry

William Tagg – Notts and Derby Regiment

J. P. Wardle – Notts and Derby Regiment

Albert V. Wells – Notts and Derby Regiment

William Winterbottom – Notts and Derby Regiment

The parish magazine reported on weather conditions, temperatures and rainfall throughout the year. There was mention of a good seed-time in spring and early autumn with the bulk of the hay and corn harvested in good condition – things relevant to a farming community even during wartime.

It was also reported that thanks had been given to those who provided holly and decorated the church, showing that Christmas would still be celebrated despite the war.

## **1915**

Frederick Lowe is serving with the 5<sup>th</sup> Lancers

Sidney Renshaw of Newbound Mill joined the Kings Royal Rifle Corps

Many letters of gratitude continued to be received from organisations including ‘The Ladies Emergency Committee of the Navy League’, ‘Lady Fremantle’, ‘Lady French’, ‘The YMCA War Emergency Fund’ and many individuals who had received garments also sent letters of thanks.

Lady Carnarvon travelled to Egypt in March 1915 and began working in Alexandria.

Samuel Lowe joined the Army Service Cycle Motor Transport Corps

Sidney Froggatt, Alfred Froggatt and Alexander Grant joined the Sherwood Foresters

Stanley Grant joined the Army Transport Corps

Morris Lloyd joined the Lincoln Territorials

Horace Millington joined the Notts and Derbys Territorials

William Adams went into training for the Royal Navy at the RN Barracks at Shotley Harwich

There was news in June that Private John P Redshaw was wounded - though not seriously injured. He was serving in the Chatham Battalion, RMI, in the Dardanelles.

John (Johnny) Allan, who before enlisting had worked for Lady Carnarvon in the Teversal estate office had been wounded and was recovering in hospital. Willy Allen, his brother, had replaced him as estate manager. A letter from Lady Carnarvon to Willy confirmed that she had visited Johnny and he would soon be out of hospital.

Pte Willy Allan was reported as being in the military hospital in Alexandria with a wounded leg and was recovering rapidly.

Sgt T W Machin joined the 1<sup>st</sup> battalion Northampton regiment and was serving in France.

Pte W Grant was a storekeeper at the Base at Alexandria.

Corporal J Grant was serving with his regiment in the 'Dardanelles'.

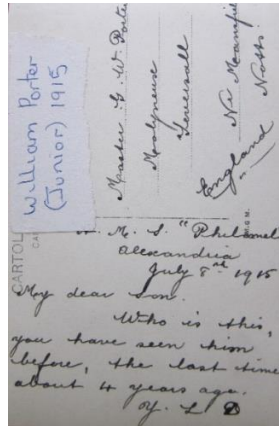
**The Dardanelles** is a narrow strait and internationally-significant waterway in north-western Turkey that forms part of the continental boundary between Europe and Asia. The British and French forces launched an ill-fated naval attack on Turkish forces in March 1915 hoping to take control of the strategically vital strait.

The failure of the campaign at the Dardanelles, along with the campaign that followed later that year in Gallipoli, resulted in heavy casualties. The battle of Gallipoli was a joint British Empire and French operation involving Australia and New Zealand troops (ANZAC) and was mounted to capture Constantinople, the capital of the Ottoman Empire and to secure a sea route to Russia. The attempt failed with severe casualties on both sides.

The invasion plan was devised by Winston Churchill based on faulty intelligence which had been supplied by T E Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia). Churchill had reasoned that a naval attack with a token army force would be sufficient but he was disastrously wrong and by December 1915 when they were forced to retreat the British had suffered 205,000 casualties with over 43,000 killed. There were many ANZAC (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps) and French losses too. Turkish losses were estimated at 250,000 casualties with 65,000 killed.

Several men from Teversal were involved in this conflict and many were injured. They were taken to Alexandria in Egypt on hospital ships and here Lady Carnarvon was helping to look after the casualties.

William Porter of Teversal had joined the Royal Navy many years before the start of the Great War and had achieved the rank of chief petty officer. This photograph postcard was sent to his son George William Porter from HMS Philomel in Alexandria on 8<sup>th</sup> July 1915.



*Photograph of William Porter courtesy of Jan Jenkins (grand-daughter)*

**HMS Philomel** had the distinction of being the first ship commissioned into the New Zealand Naval Forces. The ship spent most of World War One in the Middle East, mainly in the Persian Gulf as part of a Royal Navy force protecting British interests and ensuring the continued supply of oil from the region and the safety of the Suez Canal.

Private W Grant was a store-keeper at the base in Alexandria.

Sidney Froggatt, Alfred Froggatt and Alexander Grant of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Sherwood Foresters volunteered and sailed to join the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion Sherwoods in September 1915 as part of the Expeditionary force in the Dardanelles.

W Adams went into training for the Royal Navy at the Royal Navy barracks at Shotley, Harwich.

The residents of Teversal heard of the death of Lady Gwendoline Herbert in October 1915. When she was younger she had spent several months each year at the Manor House in Teversal with her mother the late Henrietta, Countess of Carnarvon.

News was received in October 1915 that Sgt T W Machin had received a compound fracture of the arm through a bullet wound in the action when the Hohenzollen Redoubt was captured and he was recovering in the Warrington hospital. The '**Hohenzollern Redoubt**' was a defensive strongpoint of the German 6<sup>th</sup> Army on the Western Front.

On the same day John Robert Mosley sustained injuries from gas poisoning and a fall of earth in the trenches. He was recovering in the Balden Lawn military hospital at Brockenhurst.

Geoffrey Harry Machin, brother of Thomas W Machin, joined the Royal Army Medical Corps and left Aldershot in February for overseas service.

## **1916**

Letters of thanks from grateful servicemen for gifts of garments and cigarettes were received

*Dear Friends,*

*I am writing to thank you for all the presents you were so kind as to send out to me, and I can tell you that the parcel could not have come at a better time, for we had not hardly a single cigarette in the whole camp... we came out for a few days' rest, but we are now in action again and expect to be till it is all finished. I think the end will come sooner than some expect, but it will be a great struggle, but we shall win, we have so much faith in victory... thanking you all for what you have done.*

*I am, yours truly*

*Private H R Bloxham*

Geoffrey H Machin RAMC left Aldershot for foreign service in March.

Francis Henry Whitton of New Houghton married Annie Eliza Lowe of Norwood at Teversal church on 13<sup>th</sup> February 1916. Their daughter Francis Annie was baptised on 9<sup>th</sup> August that year.

The children of Teversal continued to produce garments and in May sent 12 pairs of socks to Lady Victoria Herbert (step daughter of Lady Carnarvon) for British prisoners in Germany.

### **Teversal schoolchildren in 1916**



*Louie Chambers - Eric Chambers sister - is 2<sup>nd</sup> row from back and 5<sup>th</sup> from left*

W Adams had commenced wireless training at Shotley and after qualifying for service at sea he volunteered for submarine service. After training on HMS Vernon he went to sea in August 1916.

Francis Whitton died in action on 15<sup>th</sup> October 1916 aged 21. He is buried at the military cemetery in Armentieres and is remembered on the Mansfield memorial.

In September 1916 Sgt T.W. Machin received a commission in the Royal Engineers, Mining Section.



Royal Engineer tunnelling companies were specialist units of the Corps of Royal Engineers formed to dig attacking tunnels under enemy lines. Their job was not to charge over the top of the trenches into 'No Man's Land', but to sink explosive-packed tunnels deep beneath it - perhaps the most terrifying war along the Western Front. By mid-1916, the British Army had around 25,000 trained tunnellers, many volunteers taken from coal mining communities including Teversal.

T.W.Machin

Lance corporal A Grant was in the Fort Pitt Military Hospital at Chatham in November - his leg having been fractured by shrapnel

It was reported that in December J. R. Swallow ASC had been in France for some weeks and his brother H. C. Swallow had also been sent to France.

S Renshaw was in hospital in Southwell. He was recovering from a severe attack of fever contracted in Salonika

The parish magazine reported that on December 22<sup>nd</sup> every child at Teversal school received a present from Lady Carnarvon.

## Egg collection

A national egg collection initiative had been launched in November 1914 and the children of Teversal became involved in this - with almost 500 eggs collected during the month of July 1916.

The donors were encouraged to write their name and address on the eggs together with a message for the wounded soldiers. More than 250,000 eggs per week crossed the channel.

Between 1914 and 1918 over 41 million eggs had been collected, of which no fewer than 32 million had been despatched to the Base hospitals in France and Belgium. It was reported that 'the morale-boosting aspect of the receipt of a fresh egg cannot be over-emphasised'.

It was estimated that an egg was placed in front of a wounded serviceman, even in France, within three days of being laid.



## 1917

By 1917 the demand for coal had increased as it was needed to fuel the fires for ships, coke ovens, industry, gas works, power stations, munitions for war etc. Many skilled miners from Teversal and Silverhill collieries had joined the forces and fewer stalls were being worked now. The Government had taken over the running of the mines and mineral resources in February 1917 due to the War. The mining industry passed from the Home Office into the hands of the Board of Trade by a regulation made under the Defence of the Realm Act. A 'War bonus' had been introduced and there were further increases on earnings to encourage productivity.

A V Wells was appointed a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the 2/6 Sherwood Foresters, Notts and Derbys Regiment

Donations of food continued to be given by the people of Teversal and a list of 66 names of local people was published of people who had sent groceries for the Mansfield hospital.

The Secretary of the National Committee for Relief in Belgium sent a letter conveying thanks to the Teversal schoolchildren for their donation towards feeding the starving children in Belgium.

The death of Horace Cecil Swallow, aged 19 was announced in June. He was killed in France whilst joining in a charge on the enemy.

Sgt J Grant 9<sup>th</sup> Sherwoods was promoted to CQMS (Company Quartermaster Sergeant)

Frank Hallam was killed in action on 29<sup>th</sup> May. He was attached to the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Worcestershire Regiment and had been in action for 8 weeks.

W Adams was promoted to the rank of ordinary telegraphist

Percy S Spick RFE received a shrapnel wound in France and was recovering in hospital at Weaste, Manchester

John Robert Swallow, who was serving with the Labour Battalion in France, was killed by a shell.

George Robert Mosley was in hospital at Weaste, suffering from a broken arm and other injuries caused by the explosion of a trench mortar.

Herbert Ball was wounded in France and was being treated at the base hospital

Lady Carnarvon was appointed the Food controller for the district and under her organization a Home Craft Association was formed. Meetings were held in the Manor Room every Tuesday at 7pm and lectures on 'War Economy Cookery' were given once a fortnight.

At the end of 1917 people began to fear that the country was running out of food. The government created propaganda campaigns encouraging people all over the country to start growing their own food. A Teversal Co-operative Gardening Association was formed and had 38 members. Their objective was to buy seed in large quantities and get the best quality at a reduced price.

## **1918**

*The parish magazines had been a rich source of information giving insight into life in the parish of Teversal throughout the war. No copies could be found for 1918 and we can only assume that none were printed because of the austerity and shortages by this stage of the war.*

Panic buying led to food shortages and so in January 1918, the Ministry of Food decided to introduce rationing. The first item to be rationed was sugar in January 1918, but by the end of April 1918 meat, butter, cheese and margarine were added to the list.

Frederick Froggatt of 15<sup>th</sup> battalion Sherwood Foresters was killed in France on the 12th April 1918 aged 21 years. He was believed to have been killed by a stray shell, though his body was not recovered.

## Teversal schoolchildren gardening at Graystones (The Chantry)



*Photograph showing Teversal schoolchildren 'digging for victory' during the 1914-1918 war. They are in the garden at Graystones (the Chantry) with two of the teachers Miss Clarke and her niece Miss Hartshorne who both lived there.*

**World War One ended at 11am on the eleventh day of the eleventh month, in 1918.**

Germany signed an armistice that had been prepared by Britain and France and all nations had agreed to stop fighting while the terms of peace were negotiated.

On June 28<sup>th</sup> 1919 Germany and the Allied Nations (including Britain, France, Italy and Russia) signed the Treaty of Versailles which formally ending the war.

## KNOWN TEVERSAL MEN SERVING IN WW1 (alphabetical)

\*Men who died in WW1

Adams Douglas William

Allan J.

Allan W.

Ball Herbert

Ball Lewis

Barker Edward [born Teversal \(Bradford mem\)](#)

Barrell William Henry

Beck Arthur

Bryant Ernest Winslow

Bryant Wilfred Ernest

Froggatt Alfred

Froggatt Frederick \*

Froggatt Sidney

Grant Alexander

Grant John

Grant Stanley

Grant William

Hallam Frank \*

Lloyd Morris

Lowe Frederick Henry

Lowe Samuel

Machin Geoffrey Harry \*

Machin Thomas William

Millington Horace

Morley R.

Mosley George Robert

Porter William

Redshaw J.

Renshaw Sidney

Roper Allen Charles Brooks\*[born in Teversal \(Sutton memorial\)](#)

Rutland Arthur

Saunders Wilfred

Saunders Joseph

Sharp Alma

Spick Percy S.

Swallow Horace Cecil \*

Swallow John Robert \*

Tagg Charles Frederick

Tagg William Henry

Wardle J. P.

Wells Albert V.

Whitton Francis Henry [\\*\(Pleasley memorial\)](#)  
- married Annie Lowe of Norwood, Teversal

Winterbottom W

Information taken from St.Katherine's Monthly Magazines (1914-1917), Absent Voters List 1918 and other sources. We apologise for any omissions of those serving in WW1 as many official records (about 60%) were lost as a result of enemy bombing of the War Office repository in 1940. The exact number of serving British soldiers is not known because of the loss of these records. We would be pleased to hear from any-one who can add other names.

## Men of Teversal who died in the Great War

**Horace Cecil Swallow** -1st Battalion Kings Own Scottish Borderers, formerly South Staffs. Horace enlisted at Stanton Hill and was killed in action in France aged 20. He was buried at Arras on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1917 he is commemorated on the Arras memorial, Pas de Calais, France

Horace Cecil went to France in December 1916 and was killed in a charge on the enemy. He joined the KOSB in May 1916 and was serving in France less than 6 months later. He was the first Teversal lad who lost his life fighting for king and country. A quote from records states *'His father and his family have the hearty sympathy of all the Teversal people. Their only consolation is knowing that he died doing his duty bravely'*.

**John Robert Swallow** –4<sup>th</sup> York and Lancs, transferred to Labour Corps 31<sup>st</sup> Company, formerly Lincs regiment. John Robert enlisted at Derby and was sent to France where he was killed on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1917 aged 21. He is buried at the Ypres Reservoir cemetery in Belgium.

The Swallow family had moved to Teversal in 1898 when John and Horace's father became a farmer at Stanley Grange farm. The brothers worked on the farm prior to enlistment. Their father was a sides-man at Teversal church and their sisters, often referred to as the 'Misses Swallow', regularly donated flowers to decorate the church.

**Frank Hallam** 4<sup>th</sup> Battallion 4<sup>th</sup> Worcester Regiment. Frank was born at Whiteborough and was killed in action on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 1917, aged 19 years, and is remembered on the Arras memorial, Pas de Calais France

**Frederick Froggatt** 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion Sherwood Foresters. Frederick was killed on the 12<sup>th</sup> April 1918 aged 21 years and is remembered on the Pozieres memorial in Somme, France. He died at Avaluy Wood in the Ancre valley and is believed to have been killed by a stray shell - though his body was not recovered.

**Geoffrey Harry Machin** Royal Army Medical Corps No 1 General base Hospital. He served both in France and Mesopotamia (Iraq) and his illness necessitated him being brought to the Royal Victoria Military Hospital, Netley where he died on 5<sup>th</sup> January 1919. Geoffrey must have seen the most appalling injuries both on the battlefield and in the field hospitals and it was not surprising that he was both traumatised and exhausted by what he had witnessed. Geoffrey's body was brought back to Teversal and he was buried in the family plot. The grave is marked by a Commonwealth War Graves headstone and lies on the north-east side of the church.

## **WORK OF THE CARNARVON FAMILY DURING WW1**

**Elizabeth, Dowager 4<sup>th</sup> Countess of Carnarvon** (she was always known as Elsie) was a well-known figure in Egypt during the Great War yet her fine contribution to nursing and hospital administration are largely overlooked.

After having cleared her mission with the Foreign Office, she left England on 28<sup>th</sup> March 1915 on the *SS Persia* arriving at Port Said on 7 April. She was met by her eldest son Aubrey and his wife Mary (Vesey), the latter becoming a strong ally of Elsie during this period of working in a convalescing hospital.

From her diaries and correspondence, we can glean an insight into the provision of nursing care to the wounded troops onboard hospital ships coming into Alexandria from the beaches of Turkey. She was given special powers of visiting all hospital ships and acted as liaison officer between the hospitals, the ships and the stores providing much needed comforts to the wounded. She also personally arranged for a party of twenty-four nurses to be dispatched from England to work in Egypt.

One commentator remarked "Lady Carnarvon is a charming, very energetic lady who simply lives to help the soldiers - she is a power in the land."



The teams led by Elsie tended the wounded and helped with their recuperation and despite the overcrowding and the dreaded dysentery they did everything for the well-being of the troops to enhance their return to fitness. A letter in The Royal Archives at Windsor Castle sings her praises for heroically battling to save the lives of soldiers in Egypt.

*Lady Elizabeth Carnarvon (Elsie) shown in Egypt with General Maxwell 1915-1916*

*Photograph reproduced by kind permission of Somerset archives*

### **Lady Carnarvon and Vocal Therapy**

‘Elsie’ saw at first hand the effects of war which were both physical and mental – the shell-shocked victims were desperate cases. She pioneered a treatment called ‘Vocal Therapy or Music Therapy’ - a method of helping to heal a patient’s emotional and physiological disorders using music and song. This eventually had the effect of helping to restore speech. One record says: *It is heart-breaking to watch a shell-shock case. The terror is indescribable. The flesh on their faces shakes in fear, and their teeth continually chatter. Shell-shock was brought about in many ways; loss of sleep, continually being under heavy shell fire, the torment of the lice, irregular meals, nerves always on end, and the thought always in the man’s mind that the next minute was going to be his last.*

**Aubrey Herbert** (1880-1923) the eldest son of Lady ‘Elsie’ Carnarvon and half-brother of the 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Carnarvon, was a soldier, MP, traveller, diplomat and friend of T E Lawrence. The Scottish author, John Buchan, another close friend of Aubrey, fictionalised him in his “Greenmantle” novels.

Aubrey’s fascinating war journal, “*Mons, Anzac and Kut*” reveals many daring exploits.



Aubrey Herbert joined the Irish Guards at the outbreak of war in 1914 but was wounded at the battle of Mons and subsequently spent time recuperating in London with his half-sister, Lady Victoria (Vera) Herbert as well as being a patient at Highclere Military Hospital run by his half-brothers’ wife, Almina. After briefly convalescing in England he was proposed for service in military intelligence.

*Aubrey Herbert*

He was attached to the intelligence service in Cairo in January 1915. He led missions relating to Albania, voluntarily returned to Anzac after the evacuation to stay with the rear guard and negotiated terms with the Turks at Kut-al-Amara where he worked with T E Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia).

He became a liaison officer with the Italian army in 1916 and in 1917 was in charge of the British Adriatic Mission. He ended the war as Head of the British Mission to the Italians in Albania with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

**Mervyn Herbert** (1882 –1929), the youngest son of the 4th Earl and Countess of Carnarvon was in the Diplomatic Service and served in embassies and delegations in Madrid, Cairo and Rome. In 1916 he was promoted to become a second secretary.

He became a diplomat at the British Embassy in Cairo in 1916.



*Photograph taken in Egypt 1915-1916 left to right Lord Anglesey, Mary (Aubrey Herbert's wife), **Mervyn Herbert**, Major Avery and Lady 'Elsie' Carnarvon*

*Photograph reproduced by kind permission of Somerset archives*

### **Other members of the Carnarvon family and their work during WWI.**

Mary Herbert, who was Lady Carnarvon's daughter-in-law and the wife of Aubrey, was involved in nursing in Egypt

Victoria Herbert, Lady Carnarvon's step-daughter started the Scheme for British ex-prisoners of war just after the beginning of the Great War. She began to send parcels of food, tobacco and other comforts to military prisoners in Germany. She also managed to get many individuals 'adopted' by benevolent persons at home.

Lady Almina Herbert - the 5th Countess of Carnarvon - transformed Highclere Castle into a military hospital. The socialite- countess-turned nurse personally tended to wounded soldiers, sent progress reports home to their families, and spent a considerable chunk of her personal fortune equipping the hospital and its operating room.

## Memorial tablet in St Katherine's Church

A marble tablet commemorating the fallen of the Great War was erected at Teversal parish church by public subscription on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1920. It was unveiled by Lady Carnarvon and dedicated by Rev G E Eaton in the presence of a large assembly including discharged soldiers and relatives of the men who died.



## **Recreation ground tablet**

After the war Lady Carnarvon donated the recreation ground to the people of Teversal. It was a lasting memorial to all the men of Teversal who fought in the Great War and an inscribed tablet was erected there.

The tablet became very weathered over the years and the inscription almost impossible to read.



In 2014, exactly 100 years after the start of the Great War, a new granite tablet was commissioned by Ashfield District Council and with the help of Teversal Heritage Group and Friends of Teversal was inscribed with the same words. The tablet can be seen at the recreation ground on Peartree Lane.

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