



# Battledress Times

The General Newsletter of the Herts at War Project

Comments & copy to ([jontywild@hertsatwar.co.uk](mailto:jontywild@hertsatwar.co.uk))

April 2026

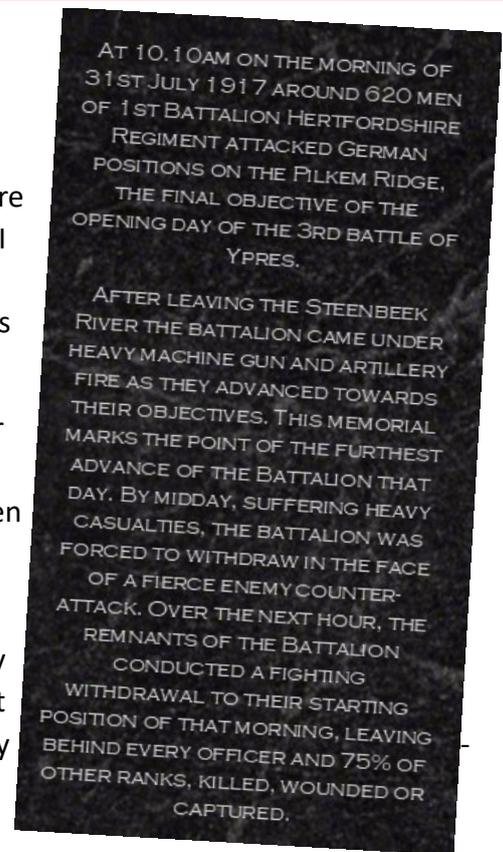
## Battlefield Tours – 2026/27

It is the time of year again, when many of us start looking forward to upcoming tours, and maybe planning some more.

The first I am on is in April - our joint tour with our friends the Hertfordshire Constabulary Great War Society: 'TO THE END OF THE WESTERN FRONT'. I have never visited the Swiss end of the Western Front, so I am especially looking forward to that and, of course, meeting those travelling from Herts At War and old friends from the HCGWS.

Then I am lucky enough to be travelling out again in June for a six-day tour with the Not So Quiet on the Western Front Podcast Team, led by Dan Hill and Dr Spencer Jones. If you want to learn more about the Great War, then I strongly recommend this free podcast and staggeringly they have now reached the milestone of their 120th episode.

Further out (2027) we have one for you to think about. We are tentatively beginning to think about a return to Belgium and St Julien around the 31st July for the 110th anniversary of the Hertfordshire Regiment's blackest day you may remember the tour we ran in 2017 when we unveiled the memorial ([See - St Julien](#)). We really need an indication of interest before we get too far into the organisation, so if this is something that might be of interest you, please let us know at one of the talks or by emailing me ([jontywild@hertsatwar.co.uk](mailto:jontywild@hertsatwar.co.uk)) – don't worry, this is just a registration of potential interest without any commitment.



## Our Talks

Our brilliant Talk Team is continuing to organise the monthly talks in Welwyn, and I know they are pleased to see an increasing audience and a healthy level of donations, but especially the enthusiasm and interest there is for these talks. From the Project's point of view the donations are critical to meeting the costs of the hall hire, refreshments and speakers. We have limited funds, so it is important that these are met, and hopefully exceeded, in order to contribute to our other project costs (website, database etc. etc.). We only have two sources of income, talk donations and membership, I would not only encourage you to come to the talks and donate, but also to consider supporting the Project by become a paying member (just £20 visit [Membership](#), where you can find more information. Alternatively, a 'one off' donation of any amount can be made via [Donation](#) or just give a bit extra at one of our talks.

The forthcoming programme is:

- 16 April 2026 Paul Johnson - "Encounter With Valour" - The Story of One Woman and Two Hertfordshire VC's
- 21 May 2026 Andy Stuart "WW1 in the Far East. China, Japan and Russia"
- 18 June 2026 Ian Castle - "Wild Hawk Hunting" - Rex Warneford – the first Zeppelin VC
- 17 Sept 2026 Damien O'Dell - 'Bedfordshires War'
- 17 Dec 2026 Jim Nicolson - "Princess Mary's Christmas Tins"

The gaps will be filled shortly! And we would all like to thank everyone who attends. and especially those who donate, for helping make the talks such a success - visit: [Events](#) for updates.



## Research Progress

It would not be right to report progress without beginning with a huge thank you to our researchers who should get all the credit. They are reduced in numbers from the heady days of the centenary but nevertheless we still see great progress. Thank you to all of them and please do consider joining their ranks in any capacity, all help required will be given.

So where are we currently? The biographies are graded 1 to 5, 5 being the best and we aim for grades 3 or 4. I last reported on these in November 2025 and the progress for WW1 war dead is given in the following table.

The main thing to take from this is the healthy increase in quality – especially 4s. Perhaps another thing to explain is the overall increase in numbers – in this case it is mostly explained by new memorials being identified, e.g. a photograph of a London Colney Orphanage Memorial was received which added 18 new names.

The Project will always need help with research and that can be in many forms, so if you are interested please get in touch, but some of the more general help required is detailed below:

Grade	Nov 25	Mar 26
0	839	859
1	2,907	2,661
2	1,447	1,427
3	1,957	1,943
4	5,250	5,601
5	99	100
Ungraded	138	0
Total (men & women)	12,499	12,591
With a biography	93%	93%
3s and above	5,487 (43%)	5,701 (45%)

## Memorial Photographs:

There are still some unphotographed memorials - although most now have been - but there are two 'big' locations that we are not really progressing because of lack of photographs. These are Watford and Barnet with its various composite locations. So, if you are able to provide photographs, or obtain any, please contact me for details, and also see below.

**Watford/Watford Fields:** Whilst thanks to the generosity of the original researchers we have good quality biographies, however I really need to check that all the names are listed and that they are correctly attributed to the respective memorials, and I cannot do this without decent photographs. I think that there are about 40 memorials spread across 30 locations plus headstones in cemeteries. No one would be expected to do them all, but I can provide details if you can help in anyway?

**Barnet:** Let's say 'Barnet' is a challenge! It seems to encompass various names, some of which have changed over the years, and I think all of which were in Hertfordshire in 1914. My current list is:

*Barnet, Chipping Barnet (was High Barnet or the other way round!), East Barnet (also known as New Barnet?), Friern Barnet (also known as Little Barnet?), Colney Hatch, Barnet Common (also known as West Barnet?).*

Clearly there is a lot to do here, and that would be so much easier to sort out if I had good photographs of the memorials, and the names on them. I think that there are about 35 memorials spread across 24 locations, including 3 schools plus headstones in cemeteries. Again no one would be expected to do them all, but I can provide details if you can help in anyway?

**Mystery Photographs:** Does anyone recognise either of these memorials and know where they are located?

