

London Pride: The London Regiment in Peace and War 1908-1920

Synopsis and Outline of Chapters

Overview

This is a planning document for the creation of an edited volume of between 15 to 25 academic essays on all aspects of the London Regiment from its formation in 1908 to its disembodiment in 1921/2. Helion & Co. have agreed to publish this collection sometime in 2019/2020. This document aims to:

1. Set out proposed essays and their detail in the five themed sections. This is to (a) identify authors, (b) prevent duplication of the subjects in papers and, (c) help co-ordinate the commissioning, drafting and collation of content.
2. Set out the structure and themes of the volume for prospective authors to get an idea of style, substance and size of the proposed publication.
3. Suggest possible authors against potential subjects. This is done as a 'brain dump' on a speculative basis and people may wish to participate, withdraw or suggest an alternative topic/title.

This document will be updated and placed on the website as things develop so help co-ordination of this very complex undertaking.

Why the London Regiment?

The London Regiment was highly unusual in the ORBAT of the British Army during the Great War.

First, it had no Regular battalions: all battalions were Territorial Force (although the first four were affiliated to the other City of London regiment, the all-regular Royal Fusiliers).

Secondly, each battalion was regarded as a corps in its own right. In other words, each battalion was effectively its own regiment with its distinct badges, uniforms and traditions reflecting their very different lineages from their predecessor Volunteer battalions.

Thirdly, its sheer size reflected that it drew from the largest metropolis in the British Empire: it was able to provide the infantry battalions for four of the divisions which saw overseas service during the Great War, namely the 47th, 56th, 58th and 60th Divisions. In total, it raised a record 88 battalions during the war.¹

Fourthly, the London Regiment has received little academic attention. For example, only two academic works on the London Regiment have been produced.²

Fifthly, the London Regiment was an integral part of metropolitan London's history and involvement in the Great War as 80% of the Regiment's men were London residents.³

Scope

The proposed book is a collection of scholarly essays which cover aspects of the London Regiment of The Territorial Force (TF) in the period under study. The essays will all take a comparative approach, either of individual battalions in the Regiment, or of the London TF Divisions. The essays are all topics which do not fit easily within the scope of a traditional or academic battalion or divisional history. Several essays are based around classes of records at the National Archives or the London TF Association records which have been little, if ever, used by historians to date. The essays will therefore shed new light on the history of the London Regiment and the TF in general. There are also two proposed appendices of a statistical and methodological nature.

One chapter is written and published, several others have been partially written to varying degrees. Contributors/authors are identified below: Charles Fair (CF) and Tom Thorpe (TT). [Research and writing that is already in progress is indicated below in blue text. Some possible authors/collaborators for specific chapters have also been identified.](#)

Certain battalions and divisions will feature more frequently than others. CF has carried out extensive research into the 19th London Regiment (St. Pancras) and by extension into the 47th and 60th Divisions. TT has been focusing on the 13th London Regiment (Kensington) and the 56th Division. This will ensure good coverage of both working and middle class battalions and avoid an 'availability bias' to the already well documented 'class' battalions such as the 14th (London Scottish) and 15th (Civil Service Rifles). Recent or forthcoming histories of the 56th (Matthew Brosnan's forthcoming book and Alan Macdonald's published book on the 56th Division at Gommecourt) and 58th Divisions (David Martin's new book) will facilitate divisional comparisons.

At the battalion level, it is expected that the papers will focus on the 'normal' infantry battalions, numbers 1 to 24. The 25th Londons (London Cyclists) and 28th Londons (Artist's Rifles), given their unique roles and histories are likely to feature only tangentially e.g. in regards to transfers and officer training.

¹ E.A. James, *British Regiments 1914-1918* (Dallington, 1974), Table C.

² M. Jones, 'The London Regiment, 1908-18' (MPhil, Birmingham University, 1999). T. Thorpe, 'The extent, nature and impact of military group cohesion in London Regiment infantry battalions during the Great War' (KCL, 2016), in press.

³ A. Gregory, 'Lost generations: the impact of military casualties in Paris, London and Berlin', in J. Winter & J. Robert (eds), *Capital Cities at War* (London, 1997), p.63.

However, our collective 'blind spot' in terms of the battalion level analysis concerns the battalions based in south London i.e. the 20th to 24th Battalions inclusive.

We would aim to have a Foreword, either by Prof Ian Beckett or Bill Mitchinson.

Draft

Author guidelines

Below are terms and conditions for people choosing to submit article.

1. Articles are no longer than 10,000 words including footnotes.
2. Submissions cover a specific military, social, cultural or historical aspect of a battalion(s) and are referenced.
3. Papers for inclusion are submitted by 1.6.2018.
4. The editors reserve the right to amend and edit articles to reduce duplications, obvious errors and other minor issues (e.g. offensive language).
5. Articles comply with the style and referencing guide set out at [\[link\]](#)

Anything else?

Part 1: Peace

1. Creating the London Regiment

The creation of the London Regiment from its predecessor Volunteer battalions was not without controversy. For example, the Inns of Court and HAC refused to use their designated numbers of 26 and 27. Some Volunteer battalions were merged and disbanded. Other issues arose around terms of service, uniforms, badges and insignia. This paper will look at the sometimes painful process of creating the London Regiment. It will draw particularly on national and local newspapers where many of these issues were discussed.

Author: Bill Mitchinson?

2. Prewar recruitment in the London TF 1908-1914

The London TF consistently had the lowest level of pre-war recruitment of any TF district in Great Britain. The paper looks at the particular challenges faced by TF units in London as well as some attempted but unsuccessful solutions. This is set in the broader context of the Haldane Reforms and the ongoing conscription debate.

Author: CF - An initial draft has been written based on the minutes of the Recruitment Committee of the County of London TF Association. However, it could be improved by the addition of material from newspapers, and more statistics/analysis from WO 114. (It might also be possible to add some material from the City of London TF Association, though its minutes are less detailed than for the County.)

3. Drill Halls and the London Regiment

The drill hall is the most visible manifestation of the TF in today's cityscape. Many still stand, although few are still in military use today. The location of the hall influenced the catchment area of the unit, and by extension the class character of the unit. This paper will look at the role and function of the drill hall, as well as issues of funding and ownership. The majority of drill halls dated from the Volunteer era. They were often funded by public subscription and the ownership varied from unit to unit. (A specific hall could be owned by one or more of the Borough, a local landowner, the unit, and the TF Association). This complexity caused problems when the TF was established in 1908. Some volunteer-era drill halls were not fit for purpose for their new TF unit, or were in the wrong place, so had to be sold off.

It would be useful to include a map showing the locations of London's drill halls in 1914 as well as a table listing their addresses and fate/present day use.

Author: CF - A first draft of this paper is in progress and draws on unit histories as well as examination of the Ordnance Survey 1:1,250 map series (series of mid-1890s and c. 1914) as well as the London County Council Bomb Damage maps to paint a picture of the development of London's drill halls. Many of the surviving buildings have been visited.

*This paper requires more primary research than some of the other proposed papers as the TF Association minutes are not sufficiently comprehensive at the unit level. We would need to look at regimental records, local papers and the *Territorial Force Gazette*.*

Bill Mitchinson wrote about drill halls in 'England's Last Hope' and drew mainly on the TF Association minutes. Bill may be willing to review or co-write this paper. A great deal of material

has been collected by the ongoing Drill Halls Project <http://www.drillhalls.org/>. The site's owners Gwyn Roberts and Graeme Fisher are likely to be supportive.

4. Sport and the London Regiment

Prowess in sport was an important contributor to the reputation of a battalion. Sports teams could help attract recruits to a battalion, but this mainly applied to the 'class' battalions. Rifle clubs and competitions at Bisley, marches to Brighton.

Sport in the TF is reported in the *Territorial Service Gazette*

Author: tbc

5. The Prewar Camps of the London Regiment

This short paper will describe the nature and role of the TF annual camps. Annual camps – particularly those near the sea – were helpful for recruiting purposes, but this could produce a tension with the need to attain military efficiency. The paper will take as a case study the camps of the 19th London Regiment from 1908 until the one that was aborted in August 1914. There is some material in *Memories, the Journal of the 19th London OCA*. In addition there is attendance/classed efficient data in WO114 which enables comparative analysis with other London TF battalions. There is also some commentary about TF camps in Hansard, the press, *Territorial Service Gazette*, letters of Repington etc. Ideally we would aim to include material on how camps were viewed by the public (e.g. good discipline etc.) which would need to draw on reports in local papers.

Authors: CF/TT ?

6. Pre War Social Composition of London Regiment and its War Time Impact.

This article develops Paul Reed's *Stand To!* article on Saturday Night Soldiers¹ to examine in more detail the social background to London Regiment units and what this meant in terms of societal perception, how units functioned, how they perceived themselves and pre-war recruitment. It also considers how their pre-war influence and social composition affected their ability to select their own recruits and replacements during the war.

Authors: TT/CF- Some elements of this paper have been covered by CF in 'The Changing Character' below as well as by TT in his PhD thesis.

Part 2: War – Recruitment, Expansion and Transition

7. The Changing Character of the London Territorial Force 1914-18: The case of the 19th (County of London) Battalion, The London Regiment (St. Pancras)

Author: CF - This paper has been published by the Haig Fellowship and runs to over 14,000 words. It may need to be split or reshaped given the content of the other proposed papers.

8. 2/HAC in the Great War

¹ London's Saturday Night Soldiers: The London Regiment in Peace and War, 1908-1918", *Stand To!*, Sept 1995 pp.15-19

Content tbc

Author: Michael Orr, based on his BCMH paper delivered on 1.4.2017.

9. 21st London in the Great War

Content tbc.

Author: Dr Gavin Hughes

10. Jewish and Masonic recruitment to the London Regt 1914-1918

This paper shows how the nature of the individual battalions of the London Regiment varied with the number of Jewish officers and other ranks. The paper is based on an analysis of over 3,000 Jewish officers and other ranks listed in the *British Book of Jewry* as serving with the London Regiment. It shows how the geography of working class Jewish residence in London was reflected in different numbers of Jewish other ranks in each Battalion. The 17th Londons (Poplar & Stepney) had the highest number of Jews serving in the ranks. However, the 19th Londons had the highest number of Jewish officers which reflects that unit's proximity to the community of established middle class Anglo-Jewry in North London. The paper is set in the context of Jewish employment and philanthropy. Many Jewish officers were involved with the Jewish philanthropic organisations of the East End and were often also members of Masonic Lodges. The paper also includes an analysis of over 250 Masons who were killed whilst serving with the London Regiment and shows how certain lodges had direct links with specific battalions of the Regiment. It concludes by showing how the numbers of Jewish and Masonic other ranks can be used as indicators of the class structure of a given Battalion of the London Regiment.

Author: CF - An initial draft of this paper is underway but it may need to be integrated with 'The Changing Character' above and perhaps split differently.

11. The London Irish in the Great War

Exact content tbc.

Author: Stephen Sandford, who is drafting a history of the London Irish.

12. The 8th Battalion London Regiment and the 8th Battalion Royal Fusiliers

This article would compare the wartime command culture and unit ethos London TF unit and New Army unit raised in London.

Author: Charles Messenger, he has written battalion histories of both units.

13. 24th Londons in in the Great War

Content tbc.

Author: Marietta Crichton Stuart based on her talk.

14. The POR in the Great War

Exact content tbc.

Author: Duncan Barrett based on his book Post Office Rifles.

15. The 'Transfer' Controversy: Parliament and the London Regiment

This paper was published in Stand To! No. 33, Winter 1991 and draws on the debates recorded in *Hansard*.

Author: Bill Mitchinson. He may wish to edit and update this paper.

16. The Reconstitution of 169 Brigade: July – October 1916

This paper was published in Stand To! No. 29, Summer 1990 and looks at how 169 Brigade was reconstituted as part of the reformed 56 Division in early 1916.

Author: Bill Mitchinson. He may wish to edit and update this paper.

17. The Six Week Myth: The Reality of Length of Front Line Service by Officers and Men

It has been argued that the average subaltern lasted an average of six weeks in the trenches before being wounded or killed during the Great War. A recent book looking at junior officers bore this title and this figure has largely been accepted as a truth by the public and some academics. This paper seeks to look at the actual time that officers and men spent in the trenches and what their fate was. Analysis of the 225 officers who served in the London Rifle Brigade suggests they served an average of 178 days before being wounded, killed, transferred or leaving due to sickness. The length of time that an officer served with his unit increased from an average of 97 days in 1915 to 243 days in 1918. Using medal records for the 1/13 and 1/19 an analysis will be conducted to plot the average length of privates and NCOs. This paper will consider the implications of the times for unit cohesion, the learning curve and also officer/man relations.

Author: TT has covered some aspects of this paper as part of his PhD thesis. CF can draw on data for the 1/19th Londons.

Part 3: War – Operational Performance and the Learning Process

18. Trench Raids by the 47th, 56th, and 60th Divisions on the Western Front

Trench raids were an important element of the 'Learning Process' for the majority of units and those performed by units in these three divisions are well documented. The paper would aim to show how trench raids helped to upskill units and formations in order to ready them for major offensive operations. Also, it would seek to assess the impact that trench raids as against patrols contributed to doing this. For example, each of the three Brigades of 47th Division carried out a trench raid in late June or early July 1916, a few weeks before the Division went into action on the Somme.

Author: TT has drafted a paper on the raids carried out by all units in the 56th Division. CF has used the location of trench raids by the 47th and 60th Divisions as stands on battlefield tours and has started to draft a paper.

19. 1/25th Cyclists in the Great War

Exact content tbc.

Author: Simon Parker-Galbreath based on his website <http://www.25thlondon.com/>

20. 58th Division in the Great War

Exact content tbc.

*Author: Martin Duncan based on his book *Londoners on the Western Front: The 58th (2/1st London) Division in the Great War.**

21. 56th Division in the Great War

Exact content tbc.

Author: Mathew Brosnan, based on his DPhil on the 56th Division's operational experience.

22. The 60th Division and the Learning Curve in Salonika

This paper examines the six months that 60th Division spent in Salonika from December 1916 to June 1917. Its time on that front allowed it to gain experience of open warfare where one battalion might hold as much as three miles of front line and a reconnaissance patrol might cover as much as ten miles during the night hours. The paper argues that this valuable experience in a low risk environment enabled it to perform at a high level when it transferred to Palestine, and that this Division made the transition between theatres more effectively than a Western Front division would have done. It also argues that following the 'Indianisation' of the Division in June 1918, the nine battalions that were transferred to the Western Front were exceptionally well trained for the open warfare of the 100 days. This paper would be illustrated by maps and photos of the ground as it appears today.

Author: CF - This paper has been presented several times to the WFA and Salonika Campaign Society and an initial written draft has been started.

Part 4: War – Command and the London Regiment

23. Divisional Reputation and Generalship in the London TF Divisions

This paper will study perceptions of the London TF Battalions and the respective TF Divisions, and show how the latter were influenced by perceptions of their respective GOCs. For example, General Sir Ian Hamilton wrote with glowing praise of certain London TF Battalions when he inspected them in his role as Inspector General Home Forces in late 1914. Other Generals were positively influenced by the direct command that they had had of the TF e.g. Monro (GOC 47th Div c. 1912-14) and Maxse (GOC 5th London Infantry Brigade, also pre-war). Kitchener notably had had little, if any contact with the TF prewar and this ignorance may go some way to explaining his hostility to the TF. This paper would include some reference to pre-war reputation of the TF e.g. of the 14th Londons (London Scottish).

The 47th Division could possibly lay claim to having been considered an 'elite' division in 1915 given its success at Loos (see references in books by Griffith and Duffy). However, its reputation

appears to have waned in 1916, culminating in the sacking of its GOC, Maj-Gen Sir Charles Barter for 'wanton waste of men' after the Division captured High Wood in September 1916. Barter's own reputation had not been high amongst his superiors with Haig, Wilson and Horne all making derogatory remarks about him in their personal papers. Despite his replacement by Maj-Gen Sir George Goringe, the Division appears to have been so little trusted that it served in the Ypres Salient for the first 10 weeks of the Third Ypres campaign without once being ordered to go over the top as part of a major offensive operation. Its role had been reduced to merely holding the line as part of II ANZAC Corps. However, the Division could be considered to have redeemed itself in 1918.

In contrast, the reputation of 60th Division, a second line TF division which did not go to France until June 1916, appeared to have climbed steadily culminating in its role in Palestine where it received high praise from Allenby.

Authors: tbc – CF, Peter Simkins ?

24. Brigade Command in the London TF Divisions

This paper will study the careers of those officers who held command of the infantry brigades or were Brigadier-Generals RA in the London TF Divisions. In the 47th Division alone they included fatal casualties (Brig-Gen Nugent GOC 141st Inf Bde, kia May 1915) and future divisional commanders (Brig-Gen W Thwaites, GOC 141st Inf Bde, later Maj-Gen GOC 46th Division). In addition, a number of London TF officers went on to hold command as Brigadiers in the Division. These included Brig-Gen Mildren (GOC 142nd Inf Bde) and Brig Gen Spedding (BGRA 47th Division). In addition, some London TF officers went on to command brigades in other divisions, including the architect Major AB Hubback 19th London who went on to command 63rd Inf Bde (37th Division) in 1918 and 5th London Inf Bde 1920-24.

Authors: This may be a paper for John Bourne or Peter Simkins given their research interests in this area.

25. Staff Officers of the London TF Divisions

Staff officers had a massive influence on the combat effectiveness and interior economy of their formations, but have received little attention from historians. This paper will look at the Staff Officers of the various London Divisions and will look at their war service and backgrounds. In particular it will aim to identify whether the staff officers were regular or TF officers and whether there was variation between G, A and Q branches. This paper is likely to follow similar lines of enquiry to Paul Harris' recent PhD on G branch staff officers on the Western Front.

Author: Paul Harris ?

26. Commanding Officers

The character of a battalion was to a large extent determined by the leadership style of its Commanding Officer (CO) and his relationships with his officers, RSM, chaplain and RMO. COs were mainly regular officers, but many capable Territorials ascended to battalion command. This paper will look at those officers who commanded a battalion of the London Regiment on active service by analysing a database. This will give an understanding of their military career, education, age, tenure, profession etc. For example it is believed that the average age of a CO declined as the war progressed. Additional insight into their character will be drawn from battalion histories, regimental journals, letters and memoirs. This paper is likely to draw particularly on the 1/13th and 1/19th battalions.

Author: Peter Hodgkinson

Part 5: War - Morale and Motivation

27. King, Kith or Kin? Why London Men Fought.

This article examines why men of the London regiment men joined up, why they fought and why they continued to fight. It examines the role of discipline, 'buddy' relations, officer leadership, patriotism and societal pressure in making men fight. It also considers if there were any particular factors related to London men (e.g. impact of Zeppelin and Gotha raids).

Author: TT has covered some aspects of this paper as part of his PhD thesis.

28. Personal Replacement System: Contributing to Esprit des Corps?

This paper looks at how the London regiment battalions were supplied with new drafts to replace casualties. It looks at where these were sourced from, how officer and other rank reinforcements were allocated to units and what impact these had on unit composition, esprit de corps and unit and group cohesion.

Author: TT has covered some aspects of this paper as part of his PhD thesis. CF will be able to draw on elements touched upon in 'The Changing Character' above and the 19th London database.

29. Sickness and Ill Health in One War Time London Regiment Battalion.

This paper examines the levels of sickness in one London Regiment unit from February 1916 to the Armistice. The war diary of the 1/16th London Battalion (Queen's Westminster Rifles) records the daily sickness levels in addition to those wounded and killed. This gives a unique record on patterns and dynamics of ill health in one unit. This paper will examine the major causes of ill health (e.g. VD), whether men reporting sick could be linked to morale (e.g. incidents of self-inflicted wounds) and how developments in army medical services influenced the levels of ill health.

Author: TT has covered some aspects of this paper as part of his PhD thesis. CF also has monthly sickness levels for all units of 47th Division based on A&Q returns.

30. Concert Parties of The London Divisions

The London Divisions had a number of concert parties. All four divisions had their own concert parties - such as *The Follies* of the 47th Division – and some brigades or units had additional parties of their own. These are listed in JD Fuller's *Troop Morale and Popular Culture* (Oxford, 1990). Some performers had pre-war careers in theatre and music hall. Others would go on to post-war careers in the theatre as result of their concert party experience. Concerts contributed to the maintenance of morale and references to concert parties abound in letters and diaries.

Author – Kate Wills (Northants WFA) is the expert on concert parties and has an extensive database of parties and performers

This paper could potentially be extended to include trench journals of the London Regiment and London Divisions. It is not known how many existed, or what survives today, but extensive

holdings of trench journals are held by the Wellcome Collection and the University Library at Cambridge.

31. Psychological casualties of the London Regiment/Shell Shock in the London Regiment

Dr. Stefanie Linden is a Consultant psychiatrist and medical historian with a particular interest in human reaction to psychological trauma and adversity. After studying the link between transient psychotic experiences and stress during the Religious Revival in North Wales at the beginning of the 20th century, and psychotic experiences of women after childbirth, she completed a PhD at King's College London on post combat reactions in soldiers of the Great War. Dr. Linden's work is based on medical case records, and she has analysed all military admissions to the National Hospital at Queen Square during WW1 and also records of traumatized German soldiers admitted to the Charité in Berlin and the Jena Military Hospital. She argues that cultural factors play a crucial role in the expression and understanding of mental illness. Stefanie Linden is author of "They called it Shell Shock" (Helion, 2017) and currently holds a post as Clinical Lecturer at Cardiff University.

This chapter focuses on those soldiers from the London Regiment who were admitted to the world-leading neurological hospital at Queen Square which also became a specialist centre for shell shock treatment during the First World War. These are some of the best documented shell shock cases of the Great War. Some soldiers of the London Regiment received pioneering treatment by Dr Lewis Yealland who discussed some of these cases in his controversial wartime book "Hysterical disorders of Wartime". Drawing upon individual histories from soldiers of the London Regiment, this chapter illustrates the often devastating and long-term consequences of combat trauma for their mental health. It also shows how these London-based soldiers could never get away from the war stage. Even when on home leave in London, they were constantly reminded of the war, and the use of zeppelins and airplanes to attack civilian populations challenged the idea that the home front and war front were naturally separated.

32. Discipline in the 47th Division

A complete list of all Field General Courts Martial carried out in the 47th Division exists in class WO 154 (extracts from 47th Division A&Q War Diary). This paper would involve a thorough analysis of this data, comparing FGCMs to the operational activity of the Division, as well as looking at the differences between units in the Division. This data would also be compared to data in Tim Bowman's PhD thesis/book in order to assess whether the 47th Division's disciplinary record was better, about the same, or worse than other formations.

Author: CF, this may be something that could be worked on by students at QMUL. Also Tim Bowman

Part 6: Peace

33. Old Comrades Associations of the London Regiment

This paper would look at the formation of the OCAs of the London Regiment from as early as late 1916. It will look at their growth, roles (e.g. as providers of welfare, as unofficial employment exchanges), activities (e.g. dinners, sports, commemorative events, battlefield tours etc.) and publications. Particular reference would be made to the OCAs of the 13th and 19th Battalions given that we have complete runs of their respective journals. (A couple of paragraphs about the 19th London OCA were written for 'The Changing Character' above: these may need to be taken out as they may be more appropriate in this paper.)

Authors: TT and CF

34. Commemoration in the East End of London

Author: Prof. Mark Connelly based on his PhD.

35. Memorials to the London Regiment in London

This paper will study the memorials to the different Battalions of the London Regiment that exist in London. These range from memorials inside drill halls (6th, 14th, 18th Londons), memorials inside local churches (19th Londons) and memorials that exist outside in the community (12th, 20th, 21st Londons). The paper will look at their different forms, the process by which they came to be built e.g. the degree of involvement of the local community. It would also touch on the one memorial which covers all Battalions i.e. The London Troops memorial at the Royal Exchange.

Authors: approach Dan Todman, QMUL – this may be a project suitable for his students

36. Writing the war: a review of post war battalion histories.

Most London Regiment units produced battalion histories of their service. Each varied considerably in format, style and how each unit sought to present themselves.

Author: TBC

37. Postwar fictional writing and the London Regiment

This article would examine how the service of soldiers who served in the London Regiment, such as Henry Williamson, Arthur Gristwood and Joseph Steward, formed the basis for literary accounts published after the war.

Author Jules Lynne?

38. Postwar Reconstruction of the London TF

This short paper would look at the recruitment of the London TF on the reconstitution of the London TF in 1920. Issues such as the perceived poor treatment of the TF wrt the New Armies during and after the war (e.g. over medals) are believed to have had an impact of recruiting. Recruitment statistics for the 19th Londons are available in *Memories*.

Author: CF

39. Conclusion

This is likely to expand on some of the concluding points made in 'The Changing Character' above – such as the TF being the 'original pals' – as well additional points drawing together threads from the various papers. It may be better to have this chapter as an Introduction instead.

Authors: TT/CF

Appendices

40. The London Absent Voter Lists as a source for understanding enlistment into London TF Battalions

The AVLs for the London Boroughs (published in Oct. 1918) provide a rich source of data for understanding the geography of enlistment and the origins of servicemen of all services at the end of the war. AVLs survive for around three quarters of the Boroughs of London as they were defined in 1914-18. This paper will discuss the AVLs as a source, looking at their strengths and shortcomings. It will describe how, when combined with other datasets (e.g. next of kin data from the CWGC, MIC database etc.), these shortcomings can be addressed. There is a longer term potential to link AVL data to data from the 1903 Booth Survey and the censuses of 1911 and 1921 in order to assess AVL entries on the basis of their socio-economic class.

Authors: CF - Analysis and mapping of men who are recorded as serving with the 19th Londons has already been done by CF for the Borough of St. Pancras (where the largest number are concentrated) as well as a number of other boroughs where the AVLs have been reviewed. This has been presented as paper on the methodology. TT has started similar analysis for the 13th Londons.

41. A statistical ranking of the London TF Battalions based on indicators of their class structure

By using a statistical technique (either Pearson's Ranking Correlation or Spearman's Ranking Correlation) we will look at three indicators of class and compare how the battalions rank on them: 1) number of men commissioned from the ranks 2) number of Jewish other ranks 3) number of Masons in the other ranks who died in the war. For the first two indicators the hypothesis is that the higher the number the more middle-class the battalion. For the third indicator the hypothesis is that the higher the number the more working class. We would therefore expect the first two to be positively correlated with each other, but negatively correlated with the third.

This will allow us to rank the battalions on a scale from 'most middle class' to 'most working class'.

Author: CF

Charles Fair and Tom Thorpe

April 2017