

## Lest We Forget – The Story

**Day 1:** The Lest We Forget story begins with the group in the Coventry City Archives and Research Centre. Damien Kimberley of Coventry Archives introduced the group to the World



War 1 material from Coventry which is quite substantial, using the microfiche machines and how to research stories. The group found many areas of interest to pursue from women working in the factories as munition works (Canary Girls), Pictures and Roll of the Fallen with photos of the 2587 Coventry men killed during the war. Through to the various military vehicles, motorbikes, planes and munitions manufactured in Coventry.

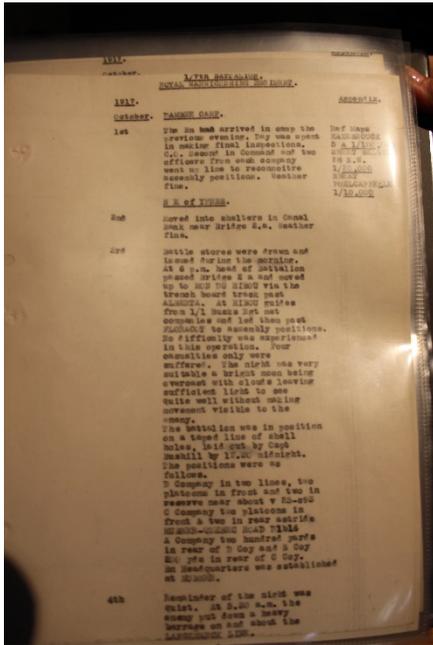
Lorraine was investigating hurried marriages before men went to the front, Lucy found a family whose five brothers were killed during the war. Sue investigating National Baby Week and women working in the factories and their empowerment and its ramifications. The Emma's looking the history of the War Memorial Park.



**Day 2:** Our visit to the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers (The Royal Warwickshire's) museum to research the regiments involvements the battles of 1917, especially The Third Battle of Ypres or Passchendaele, focussing on the events of the 4<sup>th</sup> October when Private Arthur Hutt was awarded the V.C. for his bravery and actions on that day.

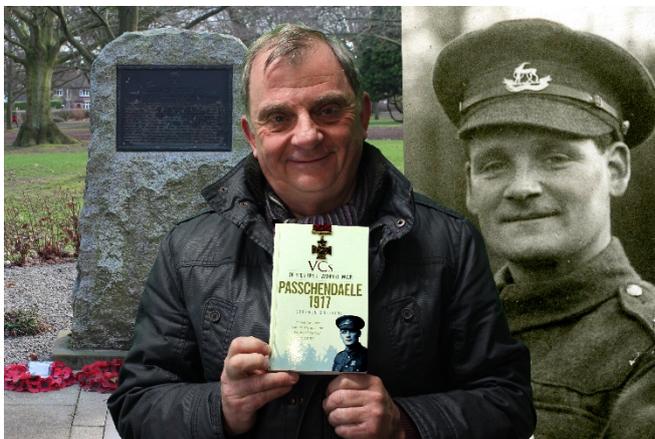
The group also learned that in 1914 there was 8 battalions in the regiment rising to 31 by 1915. The group also looked some of the 80 volumes of the Roll of Honour especially the second volume which contained the names of the Warwick's who had fallen.





We also looked at the original War Diaries records of reports of action from 1/7 Battalion. The entries of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1917 the entries are just a small paragraphs describing the weather and arriving in camp and moving to general shelters near the N.E of Ypres. But when we come to the 3<sup>rd</sup> / 4<sup>th</sup> October the entries become quite detail and long. This is the day we are interested as this was the day Arthur Hutt through his bravery took command of his platoon and charged a machine gun post killing the officer and three other Germans and capturing 30 others. He then moved back with a wounded comrade and under heavy fire firing at the enemy to cover his comrades. When back in the trenches he went out 4 times to collect and bring back more wounded. He was awarded the Victoria Cross for this brave action.

**Day 3:** The War Memorial Park, Coventry to meet with Jo and Louise from Coventry City Council to find out the history of the park and how it commemorates the fallen from WW1 to the present day. The group explored the park looking at the memorial tress planted to the fallen, went inside the Chamber of Silence to view the Roll of the Fallen and the visitor centre where Jo and Louise showed us their displays to the fallen and gave a talk on the history of the park.



In the afternoon Steve Taylor, Arthur Hutt's grandson came in to the museum to give a talk about his grandfather and show his medals and memorabilia that he found in shoe box in the wardrobe of his grandmother's house. Steve's visit really brought to life the story of Arthur Hutt and his comrades. We got him to read out his Grandad's citation awarding him the V.C. This was very powerful seeing history come to life.

**Day 4 / 5:** More research and film planning. The group are introduced to film planning as in scripts and story boarding. Eric brought in his Gramophone and played "Sister Susie Sewing Shirts for Soldiers, a song from the Great War. It was fantastic to see the expression on the young ones faces when he did this, as they had never seen a Gramophone before.



Martin Roberts head curator in the Herbert came and talked about how to curate an exhibition and show us objects and articles from the Herbert's WW1 exhibition. The group loved the original can of Bully Beef and Hard Tack biscuit.

**Day 6:** A visit to the Coventry Transport Museum to meet with Liz Chard-Cooper head curator and Chris Strawbridge who talked about the types of military vehicles, planes, motor bikes and munitions made in the city. Many of the soldiers had never seen a motor bike or car before the war. The original Rudge motorbike which was known as very reliable and easy to repair for communications messengers and these messengers after the war bought old ex-army motorbikes like the famous Trusty Triumph so they could take their sweethearts biking in the countryside.



Chris introduced us to an amazing original WW1 Maudslay 3 ton lorry which the museum volunteers restored over 8 years. Between 1915 and 1917 Maudslay built over 1450 of these Lorries. It took 3 men to start it, one on the retard and accelerator in the cab, a second to spray neat fuel into the carburettor and a third to crank the starting handle.



The Lorry was found in Scotland with a Fairground family and was just a chassis and engine in very poor condition. This model saw service with the RFC in Montrose, Scotland and was used as a general utility transport for the trainee pilots and observers.

Restoration required all of the parts having to be patterned and cast and remade with local engineering firms. They had no plans so had to reference photos for the restoration project.



**Day 7/8:** These days were spent discussing and planning the structure of the film along with its content. The group was working hard now and everybody was producing either pieces of creative writing, poems, animated slideshows, or working on their piece to camera.



**Day 9:** National Memorial Arboretum visit was one of the most important of our trips. In the 150 acre landscape site sits over 300 memorials to the people who served and continue serve their country. The Landscapes of Life exhibition was a revelation for the group, as we are asking the question Lest We Forget – How Do We Remember? This interactive exhibition explained how and why we remember.



The group was very impressed. We had to shoot a couple scenes in the Arboretum, Emma reciting to camera a verse from Nick's poem A Long Way from Home and Alan's "Shot at Dawn" piece at this on rainy and windswept day.

**Day 10 / 11:** Shooting the storyboard and various scenes, interviewing museum visitors and stopping people on the street for quick VOX interviews about WW1 and the Memorial Park.



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