

## Guernsey, World War1 and the Battle of Cambrai



2017 will see one of the most significant anniversaries of Guernsey's involvement of the Great War. The island commemorates the Battle of Cambrai where Guernsey's Battalion, the Royal Guernsey Light infantry, suffered 327 casualties and 667 wounded or missing from 2,280 Guernseymen who set out to fight on the Western Front.

The Battle and the losses had a huge impact on Guernsey at the time and for decades to come. Guernsey is rich with resources that can be used to describe the impact. An example is the excellent article written by local historian, Liz Walton: [lost generation](#)

Arrangements are now being made to commemorate the departure of the RGLI to France at the beginning of June and the actual battle in November.

After completing its basic training in Guernsey the battalion left the Island for England on 1st June 1917 for advanced training at Bourne Park camp near Canterbury. After advanced infantry training the battalion sailed for France on 26th September. This was a hugely significant event for the island and the community of Guernsey is now looking to commemorate with an anniversary parade and we are looking for 1000+ young people to be involved

### Royal Guernsey Light Infantry Commemoration Parade 4<sup>th</sup> June 2017

All youth organisations including schools and sports clubs will be invited to join in the parade. Initial details are:

- 9.30-10.00am assemble at Belvedere Field, Fort George
- 10.00am Parade marches into St Peter Port using the following route:
- Val de Terres/ Colborne Road/La Charroterie/Rue du Pré/The Bordage/Fountain Street/Church Square/High Street/Le Pollet/North Plantation/St Julian's Pier (White Rock)

Over the next few months we hope to circulate additional information including reference to materials that outline the impact that Cambrai had on Guernsey.

At this early stage we are simply looking for a general commitment to involvement in the project. If your organisation would like to be involved please contact:

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