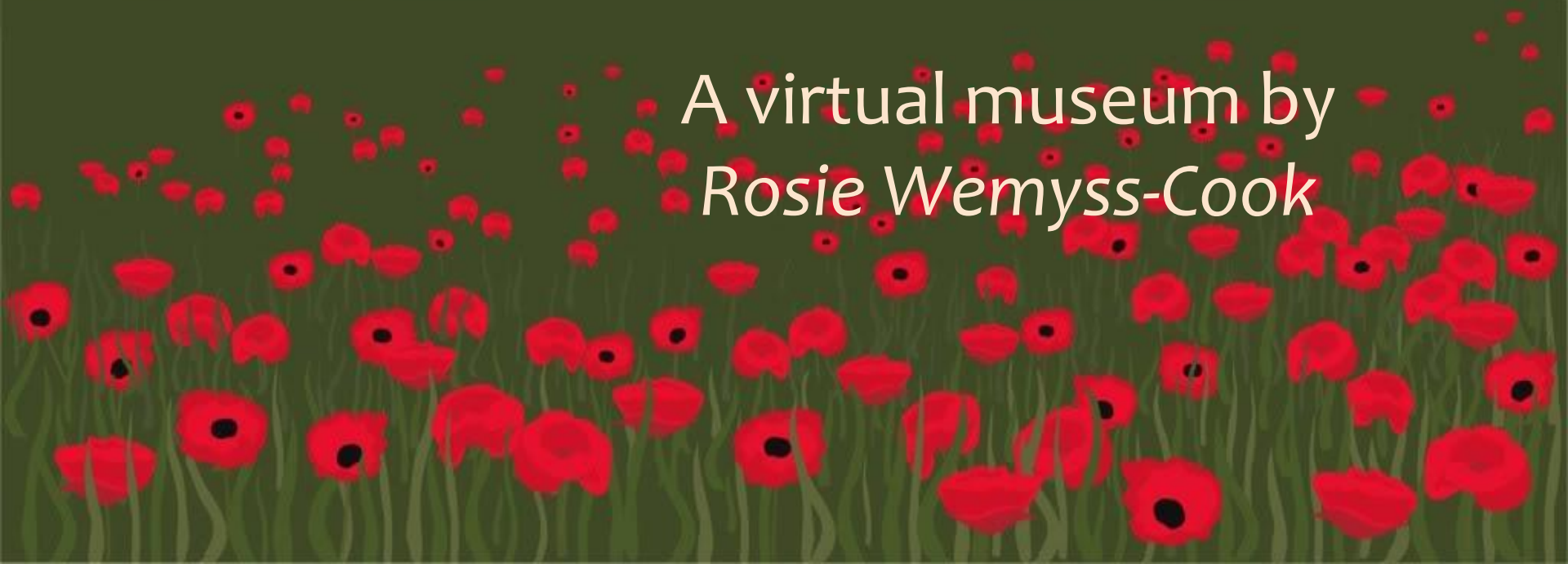




# THE FIRST WORLD WAR

A virtual museum by  
*Rosie Wemyss-Cook*



# Welcome to a museum of the First World War

Welcome to my World War 1 museum.

I would like to tell you the story of my Great Great Grandfather. On the right is a photograph that we have of him in 1916 as he left England

His name was Robert Edward Bird. He was born in Battersea, London in 1892.

He worked for the London Transport until he was called up to fight in 1916.

Initially he joined the Royal Buckinghamshire yeomanry, but was trained as a telephonist and transferred to the Royal Garrison Artillery.

I am very lucky that we have Robert's diary of the war along with many other artifacts including his medals.

This is the story of his war.





# Call up.

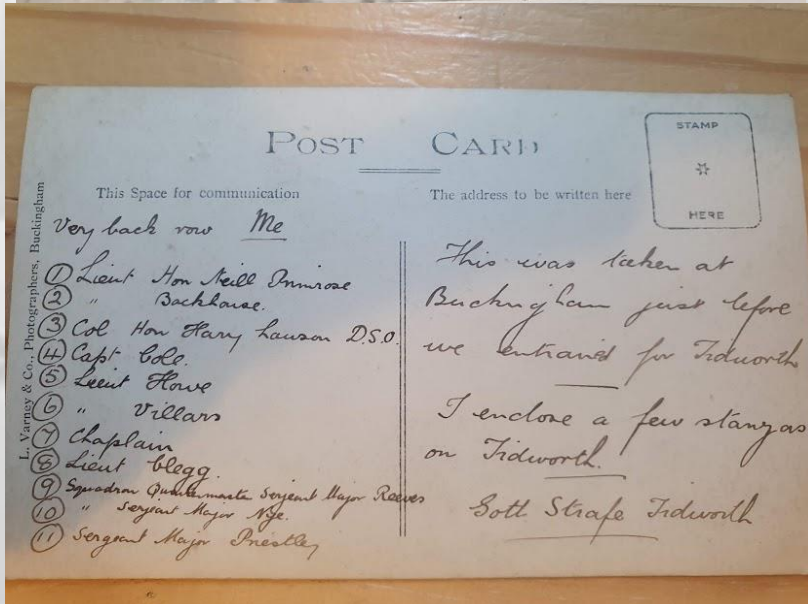


Here is a postcard we have. At the top is a newly formed company of the Royal Buckinghamshire Yeomanry. A small arrow points to where Robert Bird is standing.

Robert labelled with numbers and named the officers and sergeants on the back of the postcard.

Below is the same road today.

- Men did not always serve in regiment's that were local to them.
- As more men joined the army, regiments grew.
- Men with special skills were sent where their skills were useful.
- Soldiers did not always stay with their regiment. Soldiers moved around depending on where they were needed.



# Specialists in the army.



Robert Bird was transferred to the Royal Garrison Artillery. This photograph is of him when he was trained as a Telephonist and signalman.

He is on the far left of the front row.

He had to learn how the new invention of the battlefield telephone and morse code.

- At the front are three battlefield telephones and coiled cables
- There are lamps on tripods for sending morse code signals.



# New technology



On the left a WW1 telephone used in the trenches. Radios were still not available so long cables had to be strung between the trenches and headquarters.

Below is an image of some soldiers using a battlefield telephone.

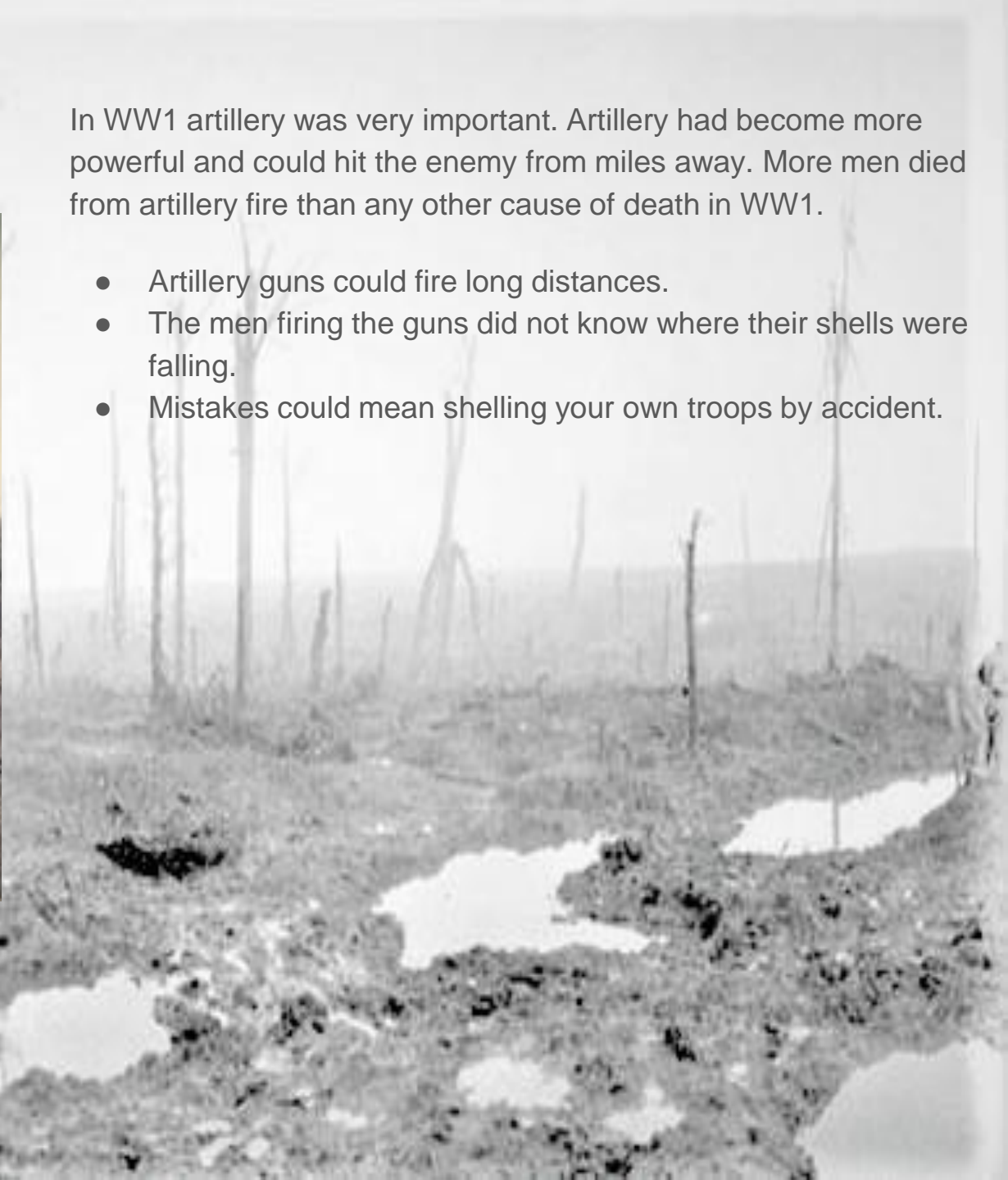
- These were really high tech in WW1 and were vital to spread information to soldiers and to commanders.



# The artillery

In WW1 artillery was very important. Artillery had become more powerful and could hit the enemy from miles away. More men died from artillery fire than any other cause of death in WW1.

- Artillery guns could fire long distances.
- The men firing the guns did not know where their shells were falling.
- Mistakes could mean shelling your own troops by accident.





# Artillery spotters



This photo shows an artillery spotter. Spotters had a very dangerous job. They had to go out into no man's land with a telephone and tell the guns where their shells were landing.

- Robert Bird was a spotter during WW1.
- On many occasions he hid with his telephone and helped his guns hit their targets.
- The job was very dangerous and he saw some important battles.
- One of the last battles he was in was Passchendaele.

# A shared experience

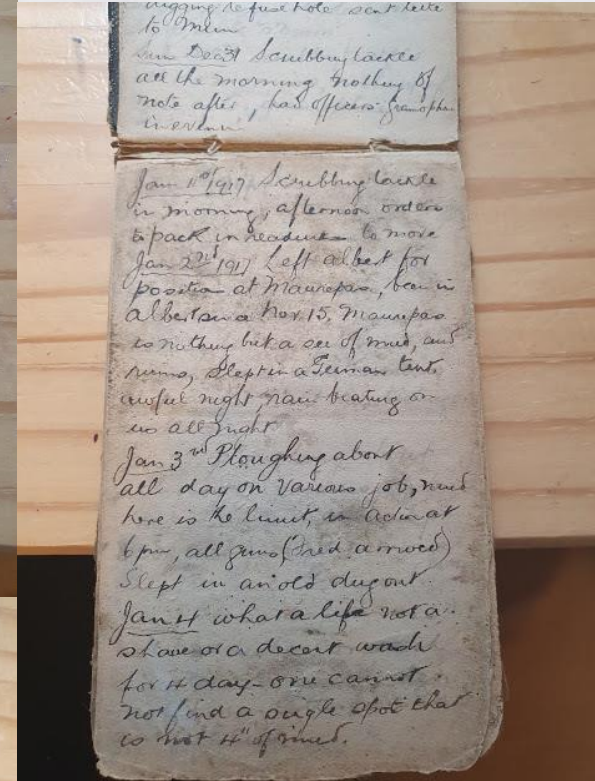
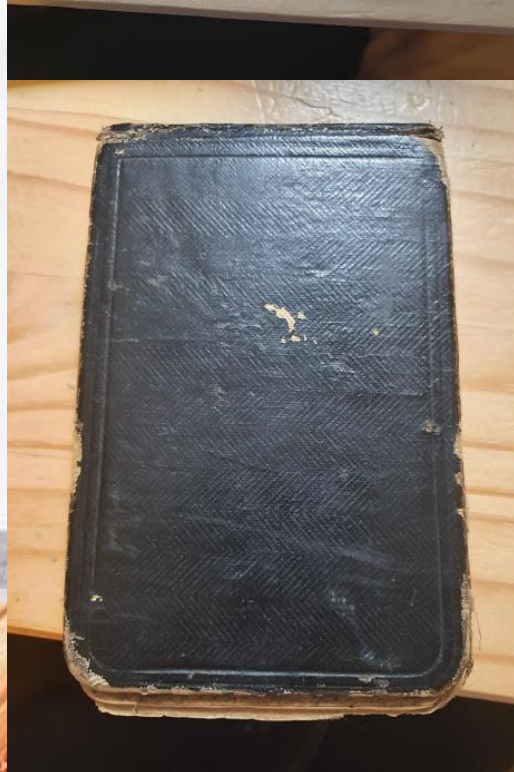
Not every soldier carried a rifle.

Some were mechanics, doctors, nurses, secretaries, telephonists and cooks.

All of these men and women were in danger and they all shared the same fears and saw the same horrors.

This is a photo of Robert's actual medals from the war and this is his diary.

Robert's diary has taught me that the war was not all about trenches and the war was fought in lots of ways.



Robert wrote an entry for almost every day he was at war.