

There may be some readers who remember a classic night at the Museum in the winter of 1985 when 'The Harborough Boys' exhibition was launched. It was based on the photographs and information Sam Mullins and I had collected about men from the town who had served in the First World War. It was an exciting evening. If my memory is correct about a hundred people attended and the space was crowded. Sam did me the honour of publicly thanking me for the work I had done, but rounded off his remarks by announcing that I was writing a book about the subject. It was the first I knew about it!

You may be forgiven if, after all these years, you thought the book had been forgotten or abandoned. But it hasn't. It's just that the amount of work involved in both research and writing is immensely time-consuming and, during my teaching life I could only complete

serious work during school holidays and progress was slow. So where am I? Where have I got to? At the moment the book is twelve chapters and eighty thousand words long! I have reached the middle of 1917, still have 1918 to research and have much editing to carry out to keep the final length to somewhere around 100,000 words. One of the problems I have found in writing about such a vast topic as this has been the amount of research required to write very little. For instance, I discovered that a large number of men were casualties of an assault

on the village of Bazentin-le-Petit on the night of the 14th July, 1916, an attack carried out by the 110th Infantry Brigade, the 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th battalions of the Leicestershire Regiment. After two days spent studying the battalions' war diaries at Wigston, a day at the Imperial War Museum Book Department studying the Official History and a visit to the battlefield where I discovered the exact location of the action, I ended up with one paragraph and two photographs.

However, the work continues and I do hope to finish in the not too distant future. Sam Mullins, who I am still in touch with, has volunteered to do some editing and I wonder if he knows what he has let himself in for. In the meantime, I have put a site about the project on the World Wide Web. If you have access to the Internet you might like to look it up (it gets between forty and fifty visits a day) and the address is: <http://www.harboro.ndirect.co.uk/Index.htm>.

'The Harborough Boys'

- Progress

Barry Summers



MEMBERS OF 'E' COMPANY
PHOTOGRAPHED DURING
TRAINING IN LUTON, PROBABLY
SEPTEMBER 1914.
TWO OF THEM ARE EVIDENTLY
NEW RECRUITS AS THEY HAVEN'T
HAD CAP BADGES ISSUED.
THIS PICTURE WAS TAKEN IN
BELMONT ROAD WHERE MANY
OF THE MEN WERE BILLETED.

BACK ROW: L TO R:
PTE. E (JOSIE) WILSON;
PTE. GEORGE KELLY;
PTE. HARRY ALLBRIGHT;
PTE. W. GARNER;
PTE. J. PLANT;
PTE. D. (DENNY) SULLIVAN.

FRONT ROW: L TO R:
PTE. H. BOSWORTH;
PTE. W. SMITH;
PTE. ALBERT ARCHER.
THE BOY GAZING OUT OF THE
WINDOW IS UNKNOWN!

