

## Bugbrooke in the First World War

### Philip Campion's War

In 1919 Philip Campion recorded his experiences in the Great War under the title "The Experiences of a Yeoman 1914 – 1918". Running to 17 typed pages this document is a remarkable account of the adventures of one son of Bugbrooke in that terrible conflict. The most common image we have of the First World War is of the western front in France. However Philip Campion's war took him elsewhere: through the Mediterranean to Egypt, Gallipoli and Palestine. Twice he was to be torpedoed whilst aboard troop ships. He was to be stricken with dysentery; and he was to survive many ferocious battles.

However the winter of 1914/15 saw him in Norfolk. This was not just for training (though there was plenty of that). At this stage of the war there was real fear of a German invasion, and the young Philip recalls spending bitterly cold nights on the edge of the cliffs between Sheringham and Cromer – "and the spies we thought we saw; one fellow stuck his bayonet into a sand box on the Golf Links." Philip and his fellows of the Warwickshire Yeomanry spent their Christmas Eve sleeping on the straw by their horses which were saddled up and ready to move if necessary.

The account of how Philip came to join the Warwickshire Yeomanry was given in David Marshall's article in the October issue of LINK. We shall be following trooper Campion's later experiences as they unfold over the centenary period. If you wish to read the whole of his memoir it is available as a pdf on the LINK website.

*Philip Campion was born in 1895. He is the grandfather of Margaret Raymond of Home Farm.  
Jim Inch for the 100 Years Project*

