

2013 AUTUMN CONFERENCE

# 1914 ~ 1918 99 YEARS ON

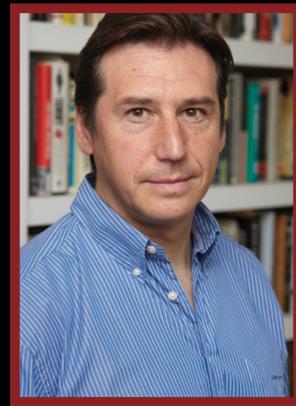


**SATURDAY OCTOBER 19th 2013  
UNIVERSITY OF WORCESTER**



**JEREMY BANNING**  
**THE BATTLE OF**  
**ARRAS 1917**

- 12.00 Doors open
- 1.00 **'The Battle of Arras'**  
by Jeremy Banning,  
WWI expert on  
'Who Do You Think  
You Are' TV series
- 2.15 Tea break and view the  
display stands
- 3.15 **'Boy Soldiers of the  
Great War'** by  
renowned author  
Richard Van Emden
- 4.30 Conclusion



**RICHARD van EMDEN**  
**BOY SOLDIERS OF**  
**THE GREAT WAR**



Worcestershire  
& Herefordshire  
Branch

- At the University of Worcester, Henwick Grove, Worcester, WR2 6AJ
- Secure 'pay & display' parking will be available at £1.00 per vehicle
- Conference takes place in Room EE1057 - signposted from the entrance
- University restaurant open 2.15 - 3.15 - wide range of drinks and snacks
- Tickets on sale now - just £10.00 per delegate (Cut-off date 27 Sept)
- Book now - Contact 01905 774797 or [whb.wfa@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:whb.wfa@hotmail.co.uk)

**Hosted by the Western Front Association, Worcestershire & Herefordshire Branch**

# 2013 AUTUMN CONFERENCE



## CONFERENCE DETAILS

**JEREMY BANNING** is a military historian and researcher specialising in the First World War, particularly the Battle of Arras and underground tunnel warfare.

He has collaborated on a number of books as well as acting as principal researcher for many others as well as radio and television programmes. In 2012, he showed Hugh Dennis around the battlefields for the BBC's 'Who Do You Think You Are?' and has also worked on various 'Time Team' Specials.

He is a founder member of the La Boisselle Study Group – a detailed archaeological and historical investigative organisation and recently worked on the BBC's 'The Somme: Secret Tunnel Wars' broadcast in May 2013 which focused on military mining and tunnel warfare at La Boisselle. Jeremy provides a variety of services to schools in association with English Heritage.

([www.jeremybanning.co.uk](http://www.jeremybanning.co.uk))

### THE BATTLE OF ARRAS 1917

Initially planned to draw enemy reserves away from the French Army's 'Nivelle Offensive' 80 kilometres to the south, this was part of an Allied attempt to 'end the war in 48 hours'. The battle commenced on 9th April 1917 and, by its conclusion just over five weeks later, was responsible for some of the British Empire's costliest fighting of the entire war. In this talk, Jeremy tells the story of the battle; its planning, strategy, objectives and outcome. He also investigates the costly French actions which took place there two years earlier and looks at the political, strategic and logistical situation facing the Allies in Spring 1917

**RICHARD VAN EMDEN** has interviewed 270 veterans of the conflict and has so far written twelve books on the subject. His latest, 'The Quick and the Dead: fallen soldiers and their families', is due out now.

Richard also researches, produces and directs television programmes about both World Wars, including the award-winning *Roses of No Man's Land* and *Veterans*. His television programme *Shooting the War*, was broadcast on BBC4 in 2010, and he has also appeared as an expert on programmes such as *The Boy Soldiers of the Great War* (Channel 4), and most recently *The Real War Horse* on the History Channel.

He also co-authored veteran Harry Patch's best-selling biography *The Last Fighting Tommy*. They were great friends, and Richard went back to Ypres with Harry several times

([www.richardvanemden.com](http://www.richardvanemden.com))

### BOY SOLDIERS OF THE GREAT WAR

Based on his book of the same name, Richard's talk tells the astonishing tale of the many under-age volunteers who enlisted, fought and (in many cases) died in Britain's armed forces in the maelstrom of the Great War. He discusses the boys themselves, their parents, their officers, the War Office, the small group of MPs who fought so hard to get the boys 'out of the firing line'. Calling on interviews with some of those who survived, interspersed with extracts from memoirs and letters written to and from the front line, Richard builds a picture of what the experience was like for soldiers who were, in reality, no more than children.

## BOOKING INFORMATION

This conference is open to all members of the WFA and members of the public. To book in, simply contact **01905 774797** or e-mail **[whb.wfa@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:whb.wfa@hotmail.co.uk)**

Looking forward to seeing you there.



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