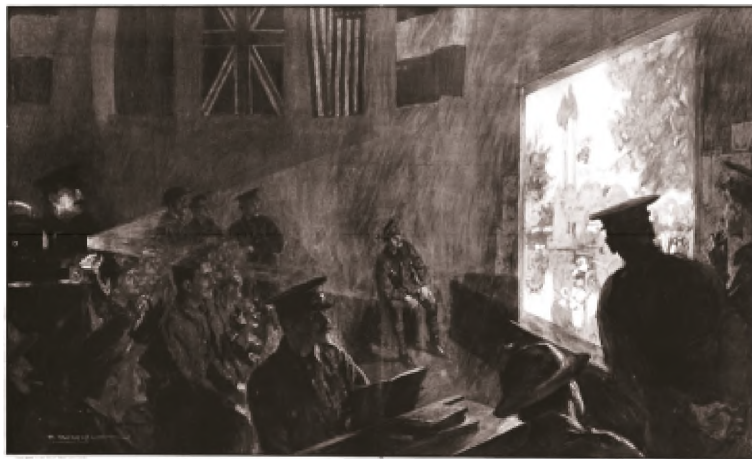


REMEMBERING WW1

Lindsay Lambert

At the end of last year I bought this print of 'Mental refreshment for our fighting men: a lantern lecture in a YMCA hut' that appeared in *The Graphic* of 10 November 1917. It seemed appropriate as Remembrance Day has just passed and it touched on my family's history. My paternal grandfather and great-uncle, twins, both served in WW1. Grandpa was badly wounded at the Somme and spent a year in hospital. He met my grandmother there – she had run away from home in Birmingham to join the army as a nurse. Uncle Gus died at Vimy Ridge. A sniper picked off an officer and, when Gus tried to help the fellow, the same sniper shot him in the head.

The twins were from London. Grandpa came to Canada in 1912 to work as a hired hand on a farm in Saskatchewan and Gus followed in 1913. Both Tony and Gus Lambert were trained artists – my great-grandfather George Lambert was a portraitist and illustrator as well as a painting restorer and honorary Curator of Arts at Westminster Cathedral in London.



MENTAL REFRESHMENT FOR OUR FIGHTING MEN: A LANTERN LECTURE IN A YMCA HUT

Uncle Gus sent wonderful illustrated letters home, showing his life in Saskatchewan. If he had survived he had a job offer to be cartoonist for the *Saskatoon StarPhoenix* newspaper. His death devastated Grandpa who returned to Canada and settled in Alberta. He did nothing further with his art skills except make drawings to amuse children in the little town of Aldersyde.

Another WW1 show ... and help needed

Lindsay Lambert writes: "I found this photograph of the projectionist with his cinematograph (right) on eBay and subsequently learnt that it was published in *The Illustrated War News*, April 12, 1916 (Part 88, p. 7), with the following caption and text:

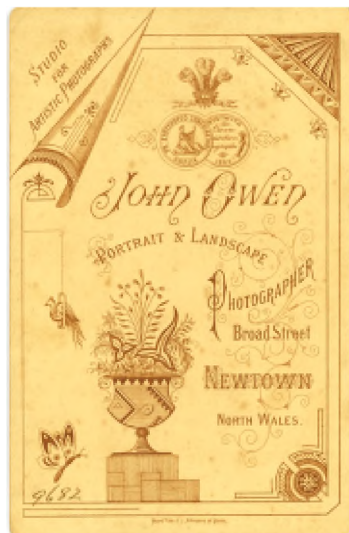
The Cinematograph in War, An official operator with the French Army showing films among troops in Northern France.

The French War Office, like our own, uses the cinematograph for representing incidents of the war. Here we see an official operator, attached to the French Army in the north, working the lantern apparatus with which he is displaying films to an audience of French soldiers. Similarly, the British Army films are shown at the front before being authorized for reproduction on screens at home. A Reuter message from the British headquarters stated: "A large number of officers assembled last night to witness a première of cinema pictures which will shortly be released ... At one period in a certain operation the announcement is thrown upon the screen. At this point the operator had to take cover from German shells." [Official French Army Photograph; supplied by Newspaper Illustrations]



The projectionist and his cinematograph

"I found this cabinet photograph (below) of the magic lantern troupe and triunial lantern on eBay as well. I asked the seller if he had any further information about it. He replied 'If it helps, the photo came originally from Chirbury Hall in Shropshire.' If anyone has any information about the troupe I would be very interested. Another recent acquisition, the postcard (right), I have managed to identify thanks to the *Lucerna* database."



If anyone can help Lindsay Lambert identify the people in the troupe, please get in touch with him via [TML](mailto:TML.editor@magiclantern.org.uk).
(editor@magiclantern.org.uk)

The magic lantern troupe and triunial lantern – front and back



The showman with the biunial. It is signed 'James W. Garbutt' and the address: 42 Mexborough Drive, Leeds. Telegrams: 'Lanterns, Leeds'. The reverse is a standard 'Pictorial Post Card'. *Lucerna* identifies him as a lanternist and slide maker – and later photographer – from Leeds (1864-1917) but does not list this address.