



## Tales from the Boards *Author: Geoffrey Haskins (40-43)*

Continuing a series of tales culled from research into names inscribed on the Memorial and Honours Boards now located in the Conway Chapel at Birkenhead Priory. All the information has come from the public domain, including various web-sites and publications. Other sources are the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and London Gazette, together with numerous Associations and specialised sites.

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### U B Burke (08-09) - A Conway Soldier and a Mystery Solved?

Our World War Two Honours Board shows **U B Burke** listed under 'KBE'; painstaking research indicates that there may have been an error, or even two errors. Conway's records show Ulick Bernard Burke as joining Conway in January 1908, departing December 1909. Indeed, the handwritten name *Ulick* was mistakenly transcribed as *Wick* by one researcher, but it is safe to say we have got the right name for this Old Conway, born 24th April 1895 in Plymouth. Time now to dive into the depths of the London Gazette; such an unusual name should make the search simple.

There are plenty of entries for one Ulick Bernard Burke, starting in Gazette 28831 in May 1914 when he was described as 'late Cadet, Plymouth College Contingent, OTC to be 2nd Lieutenant (Probationary) in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battn. The Devonshire Regiment'. *(Photo right shows: Officer [not named] of the Devonshire Regt 1914 [Star & Garter web-site])* He had joined the 'Terriers' and was about to

have a busy war as an infantry officer. In March 1915, he is Gazetted with a regular commission, and progresses thereafter until April 1920 when we see Lieutenant U B Burke MC placed on the half pay list on account of ill-health caused by wounds. Gazette 30813 of 23rd July 1918 quotes his citation for the award of the Military Cross:

*'For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When the line had been broken and the enemy were advancing, a battery of guns were in imminent danger of being surrounded. Realising the situation, he quickly collected a small party of men and rushed to save the guns. Although lying in the open and in full view of the enemy, by his courage and leadership he organised the party, and by the use of rifle and a Lewis gun he kept the enemy off until the guns were limbered up and got away.'*

