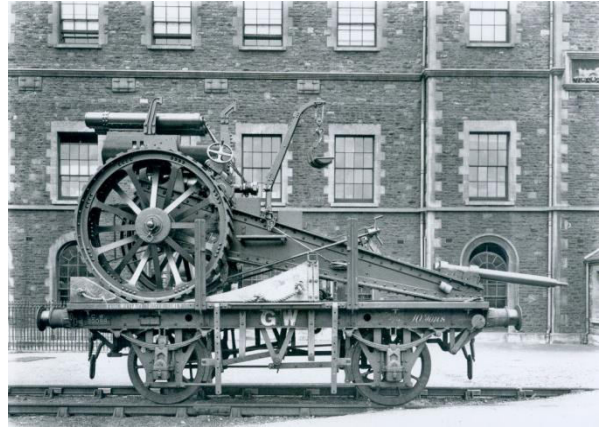
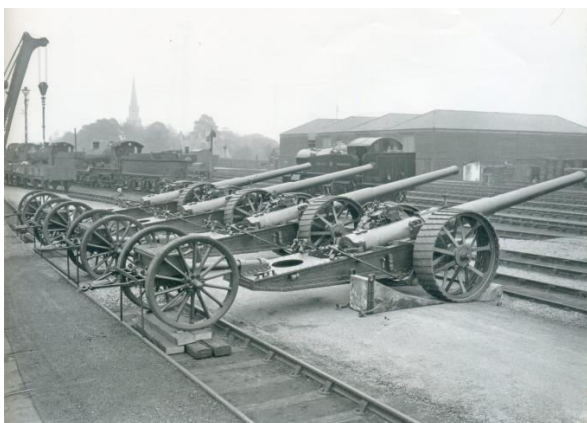


The Big Guns are coming to Swindon !

On Wednesday 24th October a full sized replica WW1 8inch Howitzer will hit the streets of Swindon, hauled by a steam traction engine. This type of gun was built just over a hundred years ago at the famous GWR locomotive works in Swindon, and was recorded by the GWR publicity department with photographs in and around the works.



The object of the tour is to raise awareness of the importance of this year's 100th anniversary of the end of WW1, with opportunities for people to donate to SSAFA – the Armed Forces charity, (formerly the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association) which has been helping servicemen and women since the Great War. Donors can also pick up a certificate based on one given to all Swindon service personnel at the end of the war. While on the route, attempts will be made to recreate some of the GWR photographs at locations as near as possible to the original ones.



The route will be from Lotmead Farm as follows: Dorcan way, Drakes Way, Magic Roundabout, County Road, Great Western Way, Bridgemead, Penzance Drive, The Weighbridge Brewhouse, Mannington, Wootton Bassett Road, Westcott Place, Park Lane, Church Place,(St Marks), UTC (to meet the students), Daniel Gooch Place, Station Road, Great Western Way, Kemble Drive, STEAM Museum.

Further information:

The Howitzer (kindly loaned by the *Great Dorset Steam Fair Ltd.*), will be towed by a Burrell traction engine built in 1901, crewed by Colin & Ian Hatch. A second engine will tow the support trailer with coal and water supplies sufficient for the day. This will be a Clayton & Shuttleworth built 1914, crewed by Rob Johnson (owner) and Pete Tye. These engines are typical of the period where engines of this type were commandeered into War Department service at home and abroad. Travelling speed 5 mph.

Timings : (estimated)

Depart Lotmead Farm at 8.30 am.

Magic Roundabout at 9.30 am.

Photographic stop in Penzance Drive near Outlet West car park 10.30 am.

Meet the public stop at the Weighbridge Brewhouse Penzance Drive 11.00 am. (Iconic GWR building)

Depart Weighbridge 12 noon.

St. Marks Church for brief photo stop 1.00 pm

UTC (University Technical College) stop to meet the students 1.15 pm

Depart UTC 2.00 pm

Transfer bridge roundabout, 2.30pm, the engine towing the Howitzer will proceed back on to the Great Western Way and travel to STEAM museum, (3.15 pm). The second engine with support trailer will travel to Lotmead.

The Howitzer & Burrell will remain at STEAM to be on show at the Swindon Beer Festival, 25th to 27th October. The replica Works Hooter mounted on the roof of STEAM will be powered by the boiler of the Burrell during these dates.

Any help you can give to the publicity for this SSAFA fundraising would be very much appreciated.

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/swindon-great-war

Contact:

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Builder of the GWR 175 replica Works Hooter at STEAM.