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**NOT JUST A NAME**

**ALRESFORD, HAMPSHIRE AND DISTRICT**

**20th CENTURY DEATHS IN THE ARMED SERVICES**

TO THE GLORIOUS MEMORY OF THE MEN  
OF ALRESFORD WHO MADE THE SUPREME  
SACRIFICE IN THE GREAT WAR 1914 - 1918  
THIS MEMORIAL IS ERECTED BY THEIR FELLOW  
TOWNSMEN WHO ACKNOWLEDGE WITH PRIDE  
AND LASTING GRATITUDE ALL THAT HAS BEEN  
GAINED BY THEIR PATRIOTIC DEVOTION.

ASLETT THOMAS HENRY  
Pte 12 Wiltshire Regt  
BALDWIN HE  
Pte 12 Somerset Regt  
BAKER KINGS  
Lieut. R  
BENHAM JAM  
L/Cpl 9th W  
BENHAM ARTHUR  
Pte 9th W  
BENNETT  
Pte 9th W  
BLAKE  
Rtn 9th W  
BLAKE  
Pte 9th W  
CHO  
Pte 9th W  
CLARK  
Pte 9th W  
COLL  
Pte 9th W  
COUSE  
2nd Lieut  
CRO  
Le  
CRO  
Cpl  
CUI  
Sergeant  
Cpl  
ETHER  
S  
ETHER  
Pte 9th W  
GARD  
Pte 9th W  
GARDINER  
Pte 9th W  
GIBBS RICHARD  
C  
Rtn 9th W

HODGSON EDWARD  
Ship's RN, HMS Invincible  
HODGSON JOHN  
Dorset Regt  
ON W H  
Dorset Regt  
ERNEST R  
K.R.R.  
LEONARD  
British Band  
R C L  
IN  
Brigade  
ARD  
R D  
Rfs  
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BY  
**GLENN GILBERTSON**

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Alresford, Hampshire and District  
20<sup>th</sup> Century Deaths in the Armed Services

By

GLENN GILBERTSON



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By

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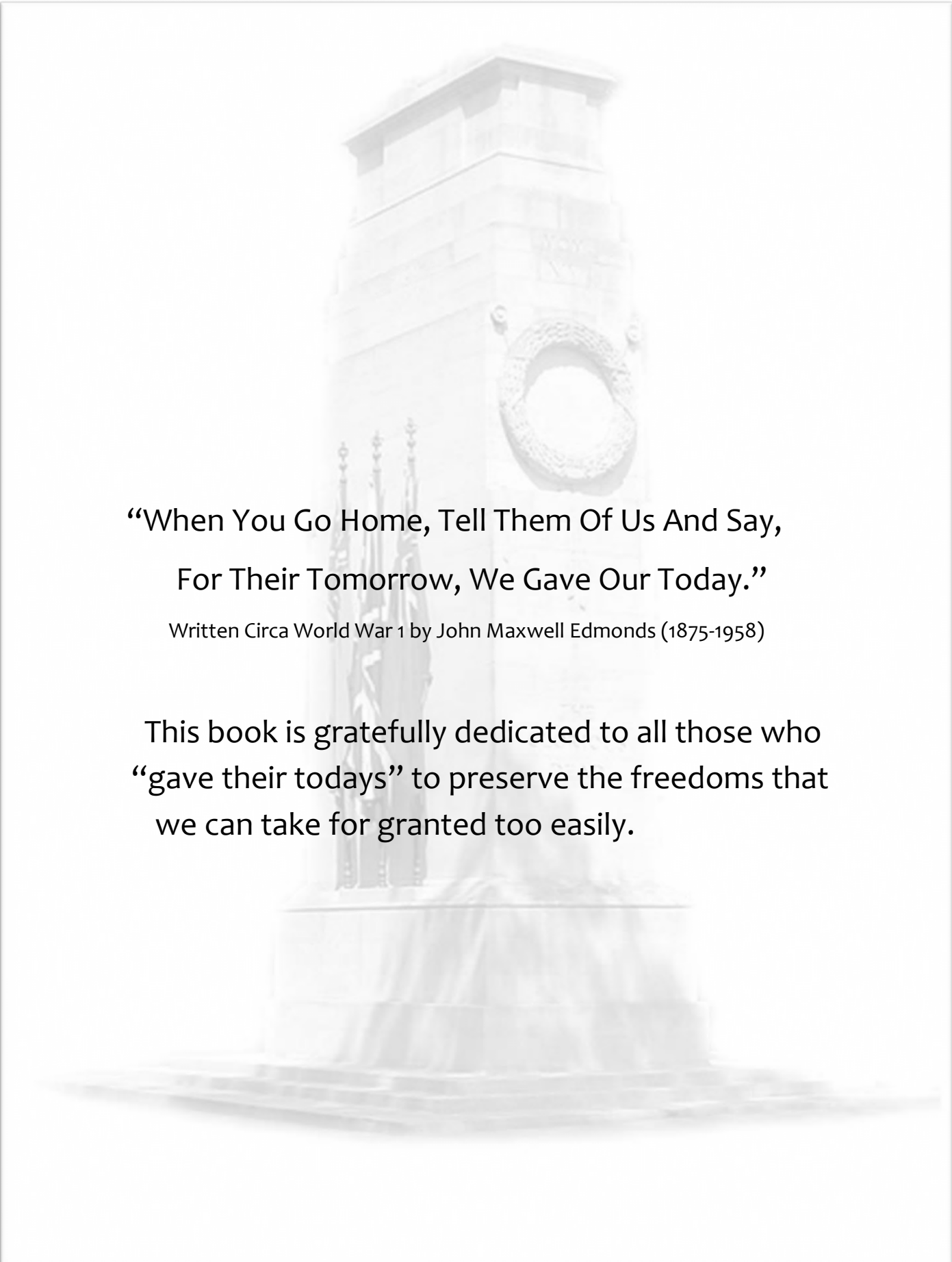
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Alresford Historical and Literary Society



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“When You Go Home, Tell Them Of Us And Say,  
For Their Tomorrow, We Gave Our Today.”

Written Circa World War 1 by John Maxwell Edmonds (1875-1958)

This book is gratefully dedicated to all those who  
“gave their todays” to preserve the freedoms that  
we can take for granted too easily.



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## FOREWARD

Glenn Gilbertson has rendered a signal service to our community in compiling this comprehensive record of those who died in service during the Great Wars, which twice in the lifetime of our fathers and grandfathers wrought such devastation. As a highly professional historian, Glenn confines himself to amassing the facts, but the sheer scale of the losses – as detailed in his Introduction - stirs the emotions. Official records are necessarily bald and bare, but as one leafs through these pages one cannot avoid picturing the horror of death in the squalor of the trenches or in the terror of a burning aircraft. We gain a sense also of the anguish felt in the homes of our town and villages during those dreadful years.

The publication of this record is timely, not just because we have reached the end of a century since the worst of wars began but also because memories inevitably are fading, those with direct experience grow fewer, and records decay and are lost. Just in time, we have the most complete account ever compiled of the lost generations who figure on our memorials, and many who have no memorial. They, and the men and women who survived service in those terrible times, did not just save us from what might have been; in a real sense they made us what we are. They have been in danger of being forgotten.

Our Historical and Literary Society flourishes now as never before. Glenn Gilbertson is the leader of the small band of enthusiasts who have raised it to the level at which it is possible to contemplate a prestigious publication of this sort. Thanks to him, and to them, we shall approach each Memorial Sunday able to chorus with a new conviction ‘We will remember them’.

Peter Pooley CMG

Honorary Vice President

Alresford Historical and Literary Society



## Author's Introduction and Acknowledgements

The idea of this book was triggered by a visitor to the Alresford Watercress Festival, at which Alresford Historical and Literary Society had a stand. The stranger said that he had seen the war memorial in the parish church, and asked if there were any interesting stories about the casualties. It was humbling to realise that we knew very little about our local war dead, surprising to find that the local history books recorded scarcely more than names and upsetting that therefore those who had lost their lives had not been properly honoured.

The project started, and the decision was taken to include the local villages of the SO24 (Alresford) postal district. Before starting, it had never occurred to me to think about how the names for the war memorials were collected; I had a vague idea that “the authorities” would be responsible. I discovered that in about 1917 ad hoc committees started to form to consider if war memorials, not generally a tradition previously, should be created and to raise the necessary money. Many different schemes were proposed, ambition frequently being foiled by financial reality. (The 1919 proposal to blow up buildings at the junction of St Cross Road, the High Street and Jewry Street in Winchester to create an Italianate plaza and roundabout as an impressive memorial, cure the already-apparent traffic congestion, employ demobbed sappers and use up surplus explosives was particularly ambitious). When agreement was eventually reached, often years after the war, appeals were made by the committees for information about casualties to be commemorated. My researches revealed that some names appeared on more than one memorial and some local people did not appear at all. Some committees felt that name, rank and branch of service should be recorded, but others that only names or names and initials were appropriate as “all are equal before the Lord”. Another issue that I had not appreciated was that, after the Imperial War Graves Commission was established in 1917, one body of opinion held that the fallen should not be repatriated but buried as brothers in a garden with standard headstones, but others felt keenly that the last thing that a family could do for their lost son was to arrange their own burial with an individually chosen memorial. In 1920 the former choice prevailed, and now we recognise the familiar and impressive Commonwealth War Graves Commission sites. The History of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission is told at [http://www.twgpp.org/downloads/About\\_the\\_CWGC.pdf](http://www.twgpp.org/downloads/About_the_CWGC.pdf).

The decision was therefore taken to include in this book not only those whose names appear on the local war memorials but also anyone, in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, who had a “roll of honour” obituary notice in the village reports of the local newspaper the *Hampshire Chronicle* or could be identified by any other means. Several have been identified from outside the Commonwealth War Grave Commission’s recorded years of 1914-1919 and 1939-1947, but none later than the Korean War; I hope that no-one has been missed, but regret that a few could not be identified.

The availability of WW1 service records online at [ancestry.co.uk](http://ancestry.co.uk) has made the researcher’s life much easier. Where available, they give a complete picture of a man’s career, and the attestation pages contain a wealth of personal and family information. For instance, the medical examinations recorded a surprising number of agricultural labourers presenting with hernias, and for the first time the government obtained a picture of the poor health of much of the working population – but that is a topic for another work. Many of the entries

in this book state “personal service record not available”; in 1941 the records were stored in a building in Bermondsey, S.E. London which was bombed in an air raid, and only about 20% survived the subsequent fire.

Where possible, Regimental War Diaries have been consulted. In quieter times these were usually written daily by a junior officer, but when in action a summary was written shortly afterwards. Being individually composed, the quality and level of detail is very variable. It is upsetting to 21<sup>st</sup> Century sensibilities that the most trivial incident to an officer was usually carefully recorded, while other ranks were rarely named unless being proposed for a gallantry reward. Nonetheless they have been very helpful in finding out about our soldiers' lives and deaths.

Many books about war dead include only basic details of name, rank, date of death and place of burial or memorial. The title of this work reflects a desire to tell more; where possible not only to record what happened but also to find out as much as possible about these men's lives and interests, for

‘ .... Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, .....’ (J.McCrae)

As this is being written the UK is preparing for the commemoration of the centenary of the start of the First World War. It is salutary to consider the cost of that conflict to an area like ours. To take just Ovington as an example, the nearest census to 1914 was that of 1911, which gave a village population of 137. Of the 137, 58 were men, of whom 30 were aged 10 - 40. The *Hampshire Chronicle* of 16.01.1915 reported that by the end of 1914 16 men were in uniform, of whom 6 had volunteered for service after the outbreak of war. 4 of the first group and 1 of the latter, plus 1 more for a total of 7 had been killed by the end of the conflict, representing nearly a quarter of the men expected to be of child-raising age. Overall figures for Great Britain (from website <http://europeanhistory.about.com/cs/worldwar1/a/blww1casualties.htm>) record over two wounded for each killed (1,663,000:703,000) – implying that about 14-15 of the men of Ovington would have been wounded. Even Great Britain's 44% killed and wounded of those who served pales in comparison with the 54% of Germany or the 75% of the French Empire – the figures for Alresford's Norman twin town Briquebec are included in Appendix 1.

It is a pity that more photographs have not surfaced, but I hope that this work may do something to keep alive the memory of those who lost their future.

I am very grateful to all those who have helped with information, especially Dave Pullinger for his enormous efforts to locate relatives of Cheriton casualties and provide local information. Peter Mercer's memories of 1930's childhood in Alresford were invaluable. I have been thankful for all the photographs and documents provided by relatives, and hope that I have properly acknowledged them all in the appropriate place. It became obvious that some family memories stir strong emotions even after so many years, so I also hope that relatives will feel that their loved ones have been properly honoured.



Professor Brian Tippet has given invaluable advice and support to this novice author, and members of the *Alresford Articles* editorial team have been generous with their time spent proofreading, as has John Shaw.

This is not presented as a history of warfare in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, so I have not included a general bibliography. Appropriate references are included within the text rather than as page- or end-notes to make for easier reading, and I hope that the cumulative effect will give some sense of what was demanded of our servicemen.

The Society is grateful for a 'Hampshire Commemorates' Grant from Hampshire County Council that has enabled us to include colour illustrations on inner pages.

Lastly, I am grateful to my wife Jo for her support, not complaining too much about the time taken over four years to produce this work. How thankful we are that our children did not have to be called on to be put in harm's way.

Glenn Gilbertson,  
New Alresford 2014

### **Glossary of Abbreviations:**

A/Capt	Acting Captain
A/Cpl	Acting Corporal
A/L Cpl	Acting Lance Corporal
ACC	Army Cycling Corps
ADC	aide-de-campe
ADS	Advanced Dressing Station
AIF	Australian Imperial Force
AM	Airman
AMC	Armed Merchant Cruiser
A/Tk	Anti-tank
ATR	Anti-tank Regiment
Bde	Brigade
BEF	British Expeditionary Force
Bn	Battalion
Brig	Brigadier
BSRU	Base Signals & Radar Unit
Bty	Battery
CCS	Casualty Clearing Station
CEF	Canadian Expeditionary Force
CERA	Chief Engine Room Artificer
CFS	Central Flying School
CMG	Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George
CO	Commanding Officer
C of E	Church of England
Coy	Company (Four platoons, about 200 men)
CSM	Company Sergeant Major
CQMS	Company Quarter Master Sergeant
CWGC	Commonwealth War Games Commission ( <a href="http://www.CWGC.org">www.CWGC.org</a> )

DCLI	Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry
DCM	Distinguished Conduct Medal
Div	Division
DLI	Durham Light Infantry
DoW	Died of Wounds
DSC	Distinguished Service Cross
DSO	Distinguished Service Order
EEF	Egyptian Expeditionary Force
FAA	Fleet Air Arm
F/O	Flying Officer
F/Sgt	Flight Sergeant
FTS	Flying Training School
G/Capt	Group Captain
Gdsmn	Guardsman
GHQ	General Headquarters
GOC	General Officer Commanding
GRO	General Register Office <a href="http://www.gro.gov.uk">www.gro.gov.uk</a> . The registers are compiled quarterly, in March, June, September and December. Therefore, for instance, a birth record quoting 'March 1898' would refer to a birth registered in January, February or March 1898, but which might have occurred in December 1897 if registration was tardy.
GRT	Gross Registered Tonnage
HAC	Honourable Artillery Company
HE	High Explosive
HLI	Highland Light Infantry
HMHS	His Majesty's Hospital Ship
HMS	His Majesty's Ship
HMSub	His Majesty's Submarine
Inj	Injured
IWM	Imperial War Museum
JG	Jagdgeschwader (Fighter Wing – about 90-120 aircraft)
KIA	Killed in Action
KG	Kampfgeschwader (Bomber Wing – about 90-120 aircraft)
KMS	Kriegsmarine Schiff (German Navy Ship)
KOSB	King's Own Scottish Borderers
KOYLI	King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry
KRRC	King's Royal Rifle Corps



LAA	Light Anti-aircraft
L/Cpl	Lance Corporal
L N Lancs	Loyal North Lancashire Regiment
Lt	Lieutenant
Lt Col	Lieutenant Colonel
LOC	Line of Communications
LRB	London Rifle Brigade
MBE	Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire
MC	Military Cross
MEF	Mediterranean Expeditionary Force
MG	Machine Gun
MGC	Machine Gun Corps
MIC	Medal Index Card
MID	Mentioned in Despatches
MM	Military Medal
MV	Motor Vessel
NCO	Non-commissioned Officer
NJG	Nachtjagdgeschwader (Night Fighter Wing)
OBE	Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire
OBLI	Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry
OIC	Officer in Charge
OTC	Officer Training Corps
OTU	Operational Training Unit
Ox & Bucks	Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry
PO	Petty Officer
P/O	Pilot Officer
Pte	Private
QRWS	Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment
QWR	Queen's Westminster Rifles
RAAF	Royal Australian Air Force
RAC	Royal Armoured Corps
RAF	Royal Air Force
RAMC	Royal Army Medical Corps
RAOC	Royal Army Ordnance Corps
RASC	Royal Army Service Corps
RB	Rifle Brigade
RCAF	Royal Canadian Air Force
RE	Royal Engineers
Regt	Regiment
Rev	Reverend

RFA	Royal Field Artillery (served alongside the infantry)
RFC	Royal Flying Corps
RGA	Royal Garrison Artillery (controlled by Army HQ & held the heaviest guns)
RHA	Royal Horse Artillery (served alongside the cavalry)
RMA	Royal Marine Artillery
R Mil Coll	Royal Military College
RMLI	Royal Marine Light Infantry
RMS	Royal Mail Ship
RN	Royal Navy
RNAS	Royal Naval Air Service
RND	Royal Navy Division
RTR	Royal Tank Regiment
RWK	Royal West Kent Regiment
S/Ldr	Squadron Leader
SMS	Seiner Majestäts Schiff (His Majesty's Ship of the Imperial German Navy)
Sqn	Squadron (about 12-18 RAF aircraft)
SS	Steam Ship
T/Capt	Temporary Captain
T/Lt	Temporary Lieutenant
TF	Territorial Force
Tpr	Trooper
VC	Victoria Cross
VDK	Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge (German War Graves Commission)
VR	Volunteer Reserve
WAG	Wireless Operator/Air Gunner
W/Cdr	Wing Commander
W/O	Warrant Officer
W/Op	Wireless Operator

German Luftwaffe unit designations are expressed as e.g. 7/KG 55, which would represent 7 Gruppe of Kampfgeschwader 55. A Gruppe, normally based at one airfield, was made up of 3-4 Staffeln, each of about 12 aircraft (the equivalent of an RAF Squadron). Bomber aircraft would carry a four-character code on the fuselage; e.g, the Heinkel 111 G1+MR on p.308 would have carried G1 for KG 55 to the left of the cross, and to the right M as the individual aircraft and R for 7 Gruppe. In this case all but the M had been overpainted when the undersides were painted black with a change to night bombing. W.Nr. 2806 was the werke nummer - the manufacturer's airframe serial number.

RAF aircraft used a two-character code for the squadron on one side of the fuselage roundel and an aircraft-in-squadron designator on the other; e.g. the Lancaster ED831 WS-Y on p.17 bore WS for 9 squadron and Y as the individual aircraft-in-squadron letter. Sometimes the squadron codes were changed in an attempt to confuse the enemy. ED831 was the airframe serial number.

# BEAUWORTH



Population in 1911: 164; 7 casualties.

## WORLD WAR 1

**GOUGE, CHARLES HENRY**, Private 8843, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Hampshire Regiment. Died 02.09.1918, aged 28. Commemorated on Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Pas de Calais, France, Panel 6. (CWGC)

Killed in action. Eldest son of Henry and Jane Gouge, of Bramdean. (*Hampshire Chronicle* 21.09.1918)

Born in Fordingbridge, Hampshire. Enlisted in Beauworth. Formerly 9006, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment. (UK, *Soldiers Who Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)  
Service record not available.

Between August 28<sup>th</sup> and September 3<sup>rd</sup> 1918, 1<sup>st</sup> Hampshire successfully broke through the Drocourt-Queant line by the River Sensée at a cost of about 100 casualties. (*The Royal Hampshire Regiment*, vol.2, 1914-1918, Atkinson, C.T., University Press, Glasgow, 1952)

1891 Census records Charles as 10 months old, his mother Ellen and birthplace Alderholt, Dorset. The family were living in Chilcomb, Hampshire, his father a cowherd. Henry Gouge had married Ellen Andrews in Alderholt, Dorset February 27<sup>th</sup> 1890 (Parish Register), but Ellen died in Fordingbridge, Hampshire in 1892 (Free GRO Death index, July Quarter 1892). Subsequently Henry married Jane Sawyer in Alresford in 1895 (Free GRO Marriage Index, July Quarter 1895). 1911 Census records Charles as unmarried, working as a farm labourer and living with his father, stepmother, two brothers and a sister in Hamilton Cottage, Beauworth. His father is recorded as a cowman.

**TWO BROTHERS**, not on the Beauworth memorial:-

In the 1901 Census they are resident in Sprouston, Roxburghshire, Scotland, their parents, William and Maggie both Domestic Gardeners. Also in the household were brother William (11) and sisters Jane P (7) and Isabella R (2).

Both joined the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force on 11.11.1915 in Beadle, Saskatchewan, Canada, describing themselves as farmers and giving their denomination as Presbyterian. Their next of kin was given as William Inglis of North Lodge, Beauworth, Alresford, Hampshire. (Attestation papers)

**INGLIS, ANDREW**, Private 472598, 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Canadian Infantry (Saskatchewan Regiment). Died 12.05.1917, aged 25. Son of William and Maggie Ann Inglis, of Lynton Mains, Ashkirk, Hawick, Scotland. Buried in Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey, England, IX.E.14. (CWGC)

Sailed from Glasgow to St Johns, New Brunswick, Canada, arriving on 20.03.1913. (*Canadian Passenger Lists, 1865-1935*)

Born 09.08.1891 in Kelso, Roxburghshire, Scotland. 5' 9½", chest 35", dark blue eyes and light brown hair. (Attestation papers)

'The Battalion was in reserve in the Souave Valley on 12.05.1917, but had recently taken part in the famous Battle of Vimy Ridge, with casualties from 4<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> May of 2 officers killed and 6 wounded; other ranks 34 killed, 117 wounded and 4 missing.' (Battalion War diary). Andrew died in King George Hospital, Lambeth, of a gunshot wound to the spine and pyelonephritis (death certificate), wounds presumably received in the Vimy Ridge action.

**INGLIS, JOHN ROBERT**, Private 472597, 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Canadian Infantry (Saskatchewan Regiment). Died 18.01.1917, aged 21. Son of William and Maggie Ann Inglis, of Lynton Mains, Ashkirk, Hawick, Scotland. Buried Villers Station Cemetery, Villers-au-Bois, Pas de Calais, France, VII.A.1. (CWGC)

Born 30.07.1895 in Kelso, Roxburghshire, Scotland. 5' 11½", chest 35", blue eyes and brown hair. (attestation papers)

Beauworth - ...Great sympathy is felt for Mr and Mrs Ingles [sic] and family, of this parish, in their sad bereavement at the loss of their youngest son, Private John Ingles. Deceased, who was only 21 years of age, emigrated to Canada some four years ago to join his elder brother. At the outbreak of war they both joined the Canadian's 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion, and came over with the Battalion last spring. After a short stay in England they were transferred to France. On January 18<sup>th</sup> deceased was working a machine gun, when he was shot through the head by a sniper, death being instantaneous. Private Andrew Ingles was close by when his brother fell, and was also able to be present at the burial in France. A letter from the chaplain has been received by the deceased's parents saying how much he was

beloved by his comrades, his character being an incentive to all those around him.  
(*Hampshire Chronicle* 03.02.1917)

Front Line 18-1-17 11 p.m. Situation today was fair. Little trench mortar activity by the Hun. The Battalion was relieved tonight, and same was carried out without incident and completed by 11 p.m. The majority of the Battalion were on various work parties. One casualty was suffered today, namely No. 472597 Pte. J.P.Inglis. Killed by a sniper's bullet. (Battalion War Diary)

**KING, FREDERICK REGINALD HUGH**, Gunner 198406, 7 Reserve Brigade Royal Field Artillery. Died 24.02.1917, aged 21. Buried Beauworth (St. James) Churchyard. (CWGC) For some time clerk to the church. (Church memorial)

Service record not available. His death certificate records the cause of death, at Frensham Hill Military Hospital, as tuberculosis of the lung (17 days). His civilian occupation is recorded as farmer of Windmill Farm, Beauworth.

1911 Census records his birthplace as Soberton, Hampshire. He was living with his father, Frederick George and mother, Anne Hardy, at Windmill Hill, Beauworth. His father was a farmer, and Frederick is listed as a farmer's son working on the farm.

## **TWO BROTHERS:**

**SLOPER, CHARLES THOMAS**, (C.J. on War Memorial), Lance Corporal 7910, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Killed 01.07.1916. Commemorated Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France, Pier & Face 7C & 7B. (CWGC)

Born Eastend, Berks. Enlisted Larkwhiles, Hampshire. Killed in Action. (*UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*). Personal Army Record not available.

1<sup>st</sup> July 1916 was the first day of the Battle of the Somme. The Hampshire's objective was the very strong Ridge Redoubt, north of Beaumont-Hamel. The 1<sup>st</sup> Hampshire, following the East Lancashire on the 11<sup>th</sup> Brigade's right, went forward at 7.40 a.m., before which the East Lancashire had already been almost wiped out, less by the barrage than by the deadlier machine guns in Ridge Redoubt ... mowing the attackers down wholesale. ... Plunging forward into the deadly hail of fire they fared no better than their predecessors, gallantly as they advanced....the majority of the Hampshire were brought down at or short of the wire....The 1<sup>st</sup> Hampshire indeed had their worst experience of the war (losing) eleven officers and 310 men killed and missing, 15 officers and 250 men wounded. (*The Royal Hampshire Regiment, Vol.2, 1914-1918, Atkinson C.T., University Press, Glasgow 1952*)

1901 Census shows birth in about 1887 in Cogbourne St George, Wiltshire, living in St. Mary Bourne, Whitchurch, Hampshire with parents Frank and Mary Ann Sloper (née Caswell) – father a carter on a farm. 1911 Census lists him as an unmarried domestic gardener, boarding at 65, Hursley, Nr. Winchester.



**SLOPER, FRANK ERNEST (“ERNEST”)**, Private 32850, 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment (“The Birmingham Pals”). Died 25.10.1917, aged 23. Commemorated on Tyne Cot Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, Panel 23 to 28 & 163A. (CWGC)  
Killed in action. Dearly loved son of Mr & Mrs Frank Sloper, late of Beauworth. (*Hampshire Chronicle* 08.12.1917)

Born Milton Hill, Berks. Enlisted Alresford. Formerly 18534, Hussars. Killed in Action. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)  
Personal Army Record not available.

5<sup>th</sup> October 1917 was the day before the launch of the Second Battle of Passchendaele, in which the Battalion was to assault Polderhoeck Chateau.

23<sup>rd</sup> October: Relieved 14th Division in the front line, which was as they had left it, except for one thing, there was now more mud. As the author of the Divisional history put it, conditions were “indescribable”. It had rained virtually every day since the 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

Concentrating on Polderhoek, this time the attack would be carried out by three battalions of 13 Brigade; the 14th and 15th Royal Warwicks and the 1st Royal West Kents. The 2nd KOSBs were in support. As before, the vicinity around 'Bedford House' would be the forward dump for the transport departments of various battalions, and the place where the men had their last hot meal before going up the line. In the War Diary of the 14th Royal Warwicks there is a comment relating to the Transport section, where the author does not pull his punches: '2 ranks wounded & 1 missing — probably blown to bits.' This unfortunate young man was nineteen year old Private John Williams (No.19288 from Horseley Heath, Tipton). Private J E B Fairclough of the 14th Royal Warwicks recalls the return journey up to the front line in the battalion history:

'Since our last tour there had been no improvement in the general conditions; it had rained incessantly for the whole of October and the ground steadily got worse. The route to the trenches was extremely bad and caused much fatigue, mud in places being over the knee. All round were visible signs of heavy losses of mules and horses, and the duckboard tracks were receiving constant attention from enemy artillery. On one occasion a shell was seen to drop on the track in front of a horse and limber. The horse was wounded and plunged off the track with the consequence that horse, limber, and driver were quickly swallowed up in the mud and lost.'

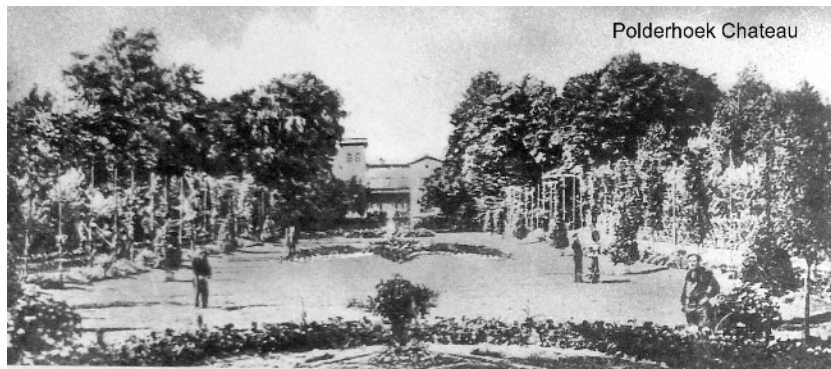
In agreement with Private Fairclough, the battalion War Diary for this period also describes the awful state of the ground with one simple statement which says it all, 'heart-breaking'. To make matters worse, low flying German aeroplanes made a habit of strafing troops making their way along the meandering duckboard tracks. By 23.00 on the evening of 24 October, 13 Brigade had relieved 42 Brigade of the 14th Division. The following day was spent by Company Commanders and senior NCOs in reconnaissance of the German front line defences and the ideal locations for assembly areas where the battalions could form up prior to the attack starting, which would be taped out when darkness fell. Around 04:00 on 26 October the attacking troops made their way to the taped lines and assembled in their order of waves. This was approximately 100 to 150 yards west of Polderhoek Wood. The 14th Royal Warwicks' objective was the chateau and ground approximately 300 yards to the east and south of it. The left flank was to be taken care of by the 15th Royal Warwicks, whilst the 1st Royal West Kents had the

impossible task of wading through the quagmire along the valley of the Scherriabeek to cover the right flank. Apart. From the 5th Divisional Artillery, two additional divisions of artillery were attached, and “to show we meant business machine guns were placed every ten yards to give covering fire over the heads of our attacking troops. ....”

Although the ruins of the Chateau were initially taken, by mid-morning “... all the Lewis guns and the majority of the rifles were unable to fire; they were choked with mud, even the cartridges in the men’s pouches were covered with slime. In some parts of the battlefield men were sinking waist deep in the going.” In the circumstances there was no alternative but to fall back. “By 11.30 it was all over, 13 Brigade were in the same position they had started from. ...

Casualty figures were high... Between 24<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> October 15<sup>th</sup> Warwicks lost 79 killed, 7 died of wounds and 114 wounded. .. the majority of those killed had no known grave. (*Birmingham Pals, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalions of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment*, Carter, T., Barnsley, Pen & Sword Books, 1997, ISBN 0-85052-547-0)

Polderhoeck Castle, pre-war and in 1917 (from [www.ypres-1917.com](http://www.ypres-1917.com)):



Unsurprisingly, the chateau was not rebuilt after the war - the site is now an industrial estate.

1901 Census shows birthplace Woodham, Hampshire, living in St. Mary Bourne, Whitchurch, Hampshire, with parents Frank and Mary Ann Sloper – father a carter on a farm.

1911 census shows birthplace as East Woodhay, Hampshire. Like his father and younger brother Edward William he was working as a carter on a farm, living together with his parents and three sisters in Beauworth.

## WORLD WAR 2

**SAMS, JOHN HAMILTON.** Flying Officer (Nav/Bomber), RAFVR.10654, 9 Sqn RAF  
Died 26.6.1943 age 27. B.A. (Oxon). Son of Henry Hamilton Sams, and of Ivy Maud Sams, of High Greendowns, Beauworth & Alresford House. Buried Amsterdam New East Cemetery, Netherlands, Plot 69, Row B, Coll. Grave 15. (CWGC).

Born in Christchurch, Hampshire 1916, mother's maiden name Cameron (GRO Birth Index, June 1916). Son of a preparatory school headmaster who was a British subject born in Indiana, USA (1891 & 1901 Censuses).

9 Sqn. was flying Avro Lancaster bombers from Bardney, Lincs. 25/26 June 1943:- 473 aircraft ordered to Gelsenkirchen - 214 Lancasters, 134 Halifaxes, 73 Stirlings, 40 Wellingtons and 12 Mosquitos. This was the first raid to the city since 1941, when it had been one of Bomber Command's regular 'oil targets', although, being in the middle of the Ruhr, this town had often been hit when other targets were attacked. 30 aircraft - 13 Lancasters, 7 Halifaxes, 6 Stirlings and 4 Wellingtons - were lost, 6.3 per cent of the force. The raid was not a success. The target was obscured by cloud and the Oboe Mosquitos, for once, failed to produce regular and accurate marking since 5 of the 12 Oboe aircraft found that their equipment was unserviceable. (*Bomber Command War Diaries*)

Avro Lancaster B.III ED831 Information:



'.. Airborne 22:30hrs 25<sup>th</sup> June 1943 from Bardney. Shot down by a night-fighter and crashed at 02:19hrs 26Jun43 into the IJsselmeer off Hoorn (Noord Holland). All are buried in various Dutch Cemeteries. F/O Sams, whose body was washed ashore 5th July 43, was a graduate from Oxford University, and had reported to the Squadron from 1660 HCU on the day of the operation and was flying as second pilot. S/L A.M. Hobbs DFC RNZAF KIA, F/O J.H.Sams (P2) KIA, Sgt F.W.Sanderson KIA, Sgt K.G.Mott KIA, Sgt C.P.King KIA, Sgt E.C.Bishop KIA, Sgt W.C.Rowlands KIA, F/S W.Slater KIA ..' ([www.lostbombers.co.uk](http://www.lostbombers.co.uk))

# BIGHTON

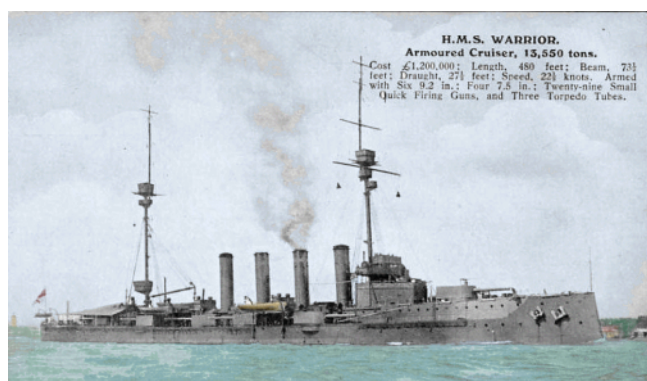


Population in 1911: 200; 6 casualties.

## PRE WORLD WAR 2

**BURGESS, GEORGE**, Chief Engine Room Artificer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class 269107, R.N. , H.M.S. Warrior. Died 31.05.1916, aged 38. Son of Benjamin and K. Burgess, of Sutton Wood, Bighton, Alresford, Hampshire. Commemorated on Plymouth Naval Memorial, Devon, England, Panel 14. (CWGC)

Born 16<sup>th</sup> December 1875, Weymouth, Dorset. A fitter and turner, enlisted, for 12 years, 11<sup>th</sup> October 1897 at Devonport. Height 5' 4½", brown hair, hazel eyes and a fresh complexion. No distinguishing marks. Re-enlisted 11<sup>th</sup> October 1909. After serving on many ships, joined H.M.S. Warrior on 1<sup>st</sup>. July 1913, and was advanced to C.E.R.A. 1<sup>st</sup>. January 1916. (Personal Naval Record)





HMS *Warrior* was a Duke of Edinburgh class armoured cruiser of the Royal Navy. She was launched on 25 November 1905 at Pembroke Dockyard and completed on 12 December 1906. On completion, she served in the Home Fleet until 1913, when she was transferred to the Mediterranean Fleet. She was involved in the pursuit of Goeben and Breslau at the outbreak of the war. *Warrior*



*Picture Rowehistory.blogspot.com*

joined the Grand Fleet in December 1914. At the Battle of Jutland, she was part of the ill-fated 1st Cruiser Squadron under Rear Admiral Sir Robert Keith Arbuthnot. Three of the four ships in the squadron were sunk during the battle, including *Warrior*. On 31 May, starting at 18:05, she came under fire from the German battlecruisers while attacking German light cruisers. She was initially badly damaged by gunfire, and had her engine room wrecked and flooded. She was taken in tow by the seaplane tender HMS *Engadine* who took off her surviving crew of 743. She was abandoned in a rising sea at 08:25 on June 1st when her upper deck was only 4 feet (1.2 m) above the water, and subsequently foundered. ([www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org))

**MOON, EDWIN ROWLAND, D.S.O & Bar.** Squadron Leader, RAF. Died 29.04.1920, aged 33. Chevalier of the Legion of Honour. Son of the late Edwin Wade Moon, and of Mrs E. T. Sims (formerly Moon); husband of Isabel M. Moon, of 3, Cecil Court, Tunbridge Wells. Born at Southampton. Buried in Southampton Old Cemetery, Hampshire, England, 69 K 68. (CWGC)

1911 Census shows Edwin, an unmarried company secretary, living at his parents' home – “Fairview”, Bassett, Southampton. A visitor that night was Isabel Madeline Waldron, a painter (artist) working on her own account – later Edwin's wife.

Eric Rowland Moon managed the family marine business (Moonbeams Ltd., Royal Pier Gates, Town Quay, Southampton) and, in 1909, began the construction of his first aircraft. This was a 'Demoiselle type', known as Moonbeam Monoplane No.1. This had flown by early June 1910, as Moon wrote to 'Flight' to tell them about it. It is believed that these early flight trials took place from fields near Fawley.



A second monoplane, Moonbeam Monoplane No.2, may well have been a development of No.1: certainly there is evidence to suggest that the same fuselage was



used. This had a 24 feet wingspan, weighed 260 lbs, and was powered by a 20hp JAP 4 cylinder engine driving a 6 feet diameter prop. No.2 was flown from fields at Beaulieu, Ower and North Stoneham, Eastleigh. (*British Aircraft Before the Great War, by MH Goodall & AE Tagg, Schiffer*)

Moon was commissioned in to the RNAS and served in East Africa, serving with 8(Naval) Squadron, flying a Short 827 floatplane from Merchant Seaplane Carrier *Himalaya*. He was awarded the DSO and bar, the citations for which are:



Flt Lt RNAS (London Gazette 15.6.1917)

‘Since April, 1916, has carried out constant flights over the enemy's coast, including reconnaissance, bomb-dropping and spotting for gunfire in all weathers. Has shown great coolness and resource on all occasions.’

Sqn Cmdr. (London Gazette 16.3.1918)

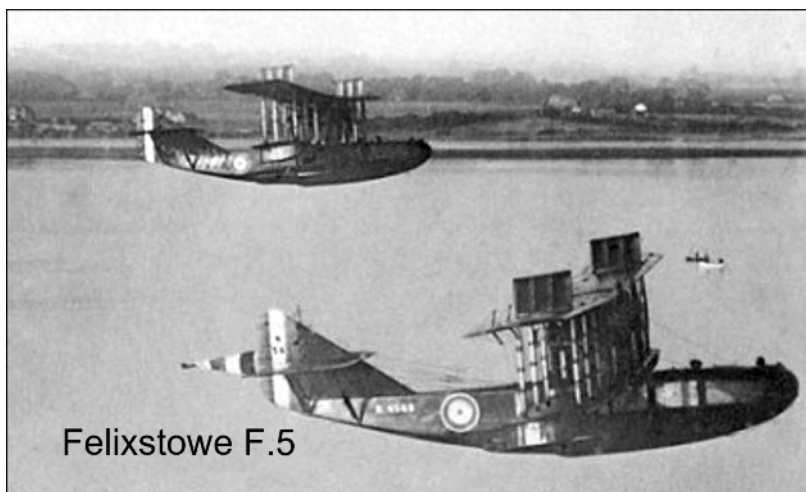
‘In recognition of the resource and gallantry displayed by him in the following circumstances: On 6 January 1918, whilst on a reconnaissance flight over the Rufigi Delta with Commander the Honourable Richard O B Bridgeman, DSO, RN, as observer, he was obliged by engine trouble to descend in one of the creeks, where it became necessary to destroy the seaplane to avoid the possibility of it being captured. For three whole days the two officers wandered about the delta in their efforts to avoid capture and to re-join their ship. During this time they had little or nothing to eat, and were continually obliged to swim across the creeks, the bushes on the banks being impenetrable. On the morning of 7th January they constructed a raft of three spars and some latticed window frames. After paddling and drifting on this for the whole of the 7th and 8th January, they were finally coursed out to sea on the morning of the 9th, when Commander Bridgeman, who was not a strong swimmer, died of exhaustion and exposure. In the later afternoon Flight Commander Moon managed to reach the shore, and was taken prisoner by the Germans. He was released from captivity on 21st November 1917. He displayed the greatest gallantry in attempting to save the life of his companion.’ These awards were both in relation to action against the light Cruiser *Königsberg* which was hiding in the Rufigi Delta.

Moon was made a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour by the French.

In August 1919 Moon was the pilot of the Felixstowe Fury when it crashed. Moon was among the six crew who were rescued. Unfortunately the wireless operator was drowned.

In April 1920 Squadron leader Moon was killed in the crash of a 230 squadron flying boat (Felixstowe F.5 N4044) on a routine training flight from Felixstowe.

Under supervision of Moon, who was CO of Felixstowe, the 'boat carried five officers and an airman and the training consisted of practise landings on the sea'. About an hour after leaving Felixstowe the flying boat suddenly spun in to the sea from 1,700 feet. Moon was demonstrating the 'boat's gliding ability when a 'sudden bump was felt on the tail and the flying boat became unmanageable'. The flying boat was too low for Moon to recover and it struck the water on a fairly even keel. Unfortunately the force of the impact submerged the aircraft and it



broke up on partially resurfacing. Four of the crew, including Moon, were drowned. Moon's body was taken to his home at Bassett, and then taken on a gun carriage to the cemetery chapel. The band of the RGA, Portsmouth, played the Funeral March. Detachments from Calshot and Felixstowe were in attendance, including Lt Pakenham Walsh who was a survivor of the crash. Rev G H Collier, chaplain to the RAF, officiated. (*The Solent Sky: A local history of Aviation from 1908 to 1946 with special reference to Southampton (Eastleigh) Airport*, Peter T New)

**NORGATE, PERCY DOUGLAS, ("Douglas")**, Gunner 153118, 233 Siege Battery Royal Garrison Artillery. Died 10.08.1918, aged 38. Son of the late Mr and Mrs Michael Norgate, of Bighton, Hants; husband of Annie Elizabeth Norgate, of 46, Andover Rd., Winchester. Buried in Valenciennes (St. Roch) Communal Cemetery, Nord, France, V.E.20. (CWGC)  
Army Service Record not available.

Born 1879 (*England & Wales, Free Birth Index, 1837-1915, Dec 1897*)

' .... died in hospital at Valenciennes of intestinal catarrh on August 10<sup>th</sup> 1918. Deceased, who was 39 years of age, was very well known in Winchester, having been for some years the manager of the local branch of Messrs' Lipton Ltd., with which firm he had been for 20 years. He was the only son of Mr & Mrs Michael Norgate of "The Nap", Bighton. For some time he was a prisoner of war in Germany, having been captured on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 1918, and sent to the p.o.w. camp at Gustrow, Germany...' (*Hampshire Chronicle* 22.03.1919)

P.D. Norgate and sisters at the Knapp



1881 & 1891 Census record birthplace and residence as Bighton, living with parents Michael (blacksmith) and Elizabeth (schoolmistress).

1901 Census shows him, a grocer's assistant, boarding in Southampton.

1911 Census records him as 'Douglas Norgate', single, a Grocery manager boarding at 37 Sussex Street, Winchester.

Married to Annie Barnett in Winchester in 1915, they had a son, John Owen Norgate, born 7<sup>th</sup> May 1916, who died unmarried in 1991.

"... By deduction, it appears that the "D. Norgate (son)" mentioned in Elizabeth Sophia's obituary must indeed be (Percy) Douglas. This means that May, 1915, predated his departure as a soldier in the army fighting in World War I.

Jessica Jeavons Turner says in her history that poor Percy Douglas 'marched off to war leaving his two-year-old son' (John Owen Norgate). Little John should have turned two in May of 1918, so, if the chronology is correct, his father could indeed not have served long as a soldier before tragically falling.

A war-time story that Jessica and her family could never erase from their minds was of a note Percy Douglas concealed under the stamp on a letter home, which read: 'Please don't throw out the bacon rinds.' 'This was a reference to the rather tough rind that typically would still be attached to sliced bacon when sold and which the housewife would cut off and discard before cooking the bacon. Agonizing implications there.' (Alipack family memoir)

**WHATLEY, EDWARD**, Rifleman 202678, 1<sup>st</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Hampshire Regiment.

Died 02.11.1917, aged 19. Son of Mark and Emily Whatley, of Dean, Bishop's Waltham, Hampshire. Buried in Deir el Belah War Cemetery, Palestine D.61 (CWGC)

Died of wounds (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)

Army Service Record not available.

Third Battle of Gaza



As part of the Third Battle of Gaza, 8<sup>th</sup> Hampshire attacked and held Burj Trench and Redoubt, but further advance proved unsustainable. From November 2<sup>nd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> 'Casualties had been heavy, for resistance had been stiff... a third of the officers and men in action ... the attack had achieved its object and the way to Palestine now laid open.' (*The Royal Hampshire Regiment*, vol.2, 1914-1918, Atkinson, C.T., University Press, Glasgow, 1952)

Born middle of 1898 (*England & Wales, Free Birth Index, 1837-1915, July 1898*)

The 1911 Census shows Edward as a schoolboy, born in Armsworth, Old Alresford. The family were living at Lodge Cottage, Upper Lanham, Old Alresford. Father Mark was a farm shepherd, and Edward had three older brothers and two younger sisters.

## WORLD WAR 2

On the memorial at Boxgrove Priory, Sussex:

**SHIPPAM, FRANK NORMAN**, Captain 180207 Royal Sussex Regiment, attached to 1/7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Middlesex Regiment Died 10.07.1944 at Caen, Normandy, aged 30. KIA. Son of Frank and Mary Shippam, husband of Elizabeth Mary Shippam (née Usher) of Bighton, Hampshire. Mentioned in Despatches. Educated at Malvern College and Peterhouse, Cambridge. Buried in La Delivrande War Cemetery, Douvres, Normandy, VII.A.2. (CWGC, additional info. [www.roll-of-honour.com](http://www.roll-of-honour.com))

Father of Jimmy and Michael. (*England, Andrews Newspaper Index Cards, 1790-1976*)

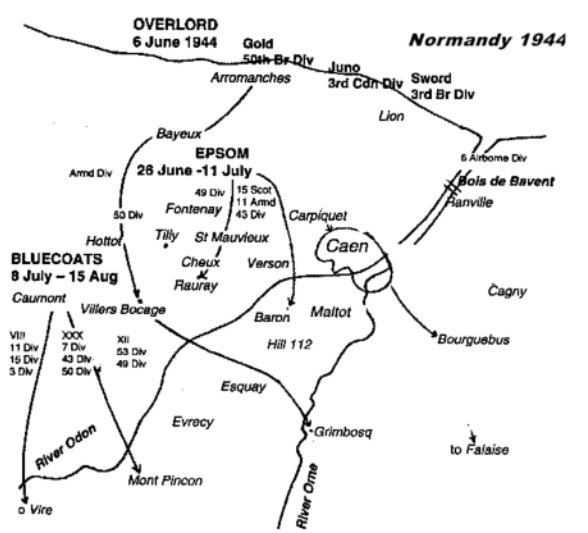
1/7 Middlesex was machine-gun battalion attached to 43 (Wessex) Division.

### The Battle For Hill 112 10 July 1944.

The capture of Caen and Carpiquet at the same time was followed immediately by renewed attacks west of the city in order to capture the high ground between the Odon and the Orne, to encircle Caen from the south, and above all to continue to engage the main German force so it could not block an American breakout to the south. This time the attack was on a broader front with no fewer than six divisions: the 49th and 50th attacked south to Hottot, the 59th attacked south to Noyers, the 15th Scottish was to attack Evrecy, an objective of EPSOM, followed by the 53rd, and in the first attack the 43rd Division was to capture Hill 112 and Maltot on 10 July.

The 43rd Division already held a bridgehead across the Odon, which it had taken over from the 15th Scottish and the 11th Armoured Divisions when Epsom was terminated on 30 June. Since then it had held the panzer divisions that surrounded it on three sides, though the bridgehead was less than a mile wide, consisting of little more than the banks of the Odon and including Death Valley, so called because of the casualties from mortar bombs that burst in the narrow gorge of the river with its steep slate walls.

Hill 112 was an unimpressive stretch of country covered with wheat two or three feet high, and with a few wooded copses and several villages on its slopes. From this elevation the entire valleys of the Odon and Orne could be seen, and the Germans said, "He who controls Hill 112 controls Normandy." Certainly they clung to it desperately, and when they were driven off counter-attacked at once to regain possession. Between 29 June, when the 9th and 10th SS Panzer Divisions regained the hill, and 23 July, when they were driven from



Maltot, the area around Hill 112 changed hands many times and thousands of Allied and German troops were killed or wounded on its bloody slopes. The 43rd Division alone lost more than 2,000 men in the first 36 hours of operation JUPITER to regain Hill 112. It was reported that the Odon River was dammed with corpses.

The attack began before dawn on 10 July with an impressive artillery barrage. By 0630 hours 129 Brigade - 4 and 5 Wilts. and 4 Som. LI - had advanced through the waist-high wheat sprinkled with poppies. They reached their objectives at the crest of the hill, although for several hours fierce close-quarter battles continued in the wheat where SS troops manned concealed machine-gun nests and refused to surrender even when wounded. The task of 130 Brigade was to capture the villages of Eterville and Maltot, after which 214 Brigade was to exploit with an armoured brigade to the Orne. From a firm base provided by 5 Dorset, 4 Dorset launched a successful attack on Eterville, and at 08:15 hours 7 R. Hamps. attacked Maltot, initiating what has been called "a battle of shattering intensity even by the standard of Normandy." SS panzer troops supported by dug-in and concealed Tiger tanks held an almost impregnable position, and even when the R. Hamps. were reinforced by 4 Dorset no progress could be made. Among the many casualties were five company commanders. From Eterville 5 Dorset and 7 SOM. LI held off savage counter-attacks, as did 5 Wilts. and 4 Som. LI during the day. By 15:00 hours it was clear that a fresh attack on Hill 112 was needed, but of the 214th, the reserve brigade, two battalions had already been committed, leaving only 5 DCLI. The CO was 26-year-old Lieutenant-Colonel James, who had been in command only 14 days, since the former CO had been killed in the first attack at Mouen on 27 June. With 4 Som. LI as a firm base 5 DCLI launched an attack at 22:30 hours with two companies up. The crest of the hill was reached and the battalion consolidated in a wood, which was later called Cornwall Wood, in time to meet savage counter-attacks from the 9th SS Panzer Division. In fighting that continued all night, 10 counter-attacks were beaten off, but when Lieutenant Colonel James was killed and most of the officers and NCO's killed or wounded, the remnants of the battalion withdrew. The CO of 4 Som. LI formed the survivors into two companies and sent them back to the wood for what has been called "the death struggle of 5 DCLI."

The final overwhelming attack left about 75 survivors, approximately 10 percent of the original strength of the battalion.

(<http://www.hill112.com/battle.htm>)



Picture [www.swindonweb.com](http://www.swindonweb.com)

**WATTS, EDWARD CHARLES, (“TED”),** WO 2 (BSM) 797221 13 (Honourable Artillery Company) Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery. Died 13.04.1945, aged 35. Second son of the late Mr & Mrs H.C. Watts, of the Bungalows, Brighton. (*Hampshire Chronicle* 28.04.1945). Buried in Hamburg Cemetery, Germany, 2A.E.2. (CWGC)

The 1911 Census reveals Edward living at 56, Wales Street, Winchester with his parents Henry (a Corporation Carter) and Gertrude Watts, brother and three sisters.

The Honourable Artillery Company (HAC) is the oldest surviving regiment in the British Army, and the second most senior in the Territorial Army.

The 13th HAC Regiment of Royal Horse Artillery (equipped with Sexton self-propelled guns) fought in Normandy and the Netherlands and across the Rhine into Germany as part of 11th Armoured Division. The Company also provided a Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment and two Heavy Anti-Aircraft Batteries. Over seven hundred members of the Company lost their lives during the Second World War.

In early April 1945 11th Armoured crossed the canal of Osnabruck on a captured bridge, it then moved towards Weser, reached by leading elements near Stolzenau on April 5th. One week later, the 11th Armoured liberated the concentration camp of Bergen-Belsen. A local agreement with German commanders made it possible to declare the neighbourhoods of the camp open area, and the fighting moved northeast. ([www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org))



Photo <http://panzerfaust.ca/AFV%20interiors/sexton1.html>

Niece Margaret Hebberd remembers “Uncle Ted” as the nicest, kindest man that you could meet; fond of children and dogs. His death was a sad accident – travelling west to go home with many others in a Sexton (which would have had an open top), he was struck by a falling tree. His brother Gus was in the same column a short distance ahead. (*Unpublished interview with the author*).



# BISHOPS SUTTON



Population 1911: 439; 23 casualties.



## PRE WORLD WAR 2

**ABRAHAM, ALFRED JAMES**, Rifleman B/1219, 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion Rifle Brigade (The Prince Consort's Own). Died 16.06.1915, aged 25. Son of Alfred Phillip Abrahams, of Lacklands Cottage, Bishops Sutton, Alresford, Hampshire. Commemorated on Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Panel 46-48 & 50. (CWGC). Killed in Action. Enlisted in Winchester. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)  
Army Service Record not available.

Alfred's father was born in Eling, Hampshire in 1856. His mother was Ann Kate Boffey born in Andover in 1860. They married in 1880 in St George's, Hanover Square, London. A daughter, Catherine Augusta Abraham was born in Eling, Hampshire in 1880 but died in 1901.

(<http://trees.ancestry.co.uk/tree/15467765/person/267155555>)

Alfred James was baptised with his twin brother Richard Charles on 29.07.1890 in St Saviour, Chelsea; his father's address given as 116 Walton Street and his occupation as butler. (London, *England, Births and Baptisms, 1813-1906*)

On 16<sup>th</sup> June 1915 9th Battalion took part in an attack on German positions at Bellewarde. After initial successes heavy losses from artillery and machine gun fire meant that only some of the ground gained could be held. (<http://www.ramsdale.org/hooge.htm>)

'Father was gardener to General Markham of Bishop's Court, Bishop's Sutton. Deceased ... was one of the first to join up when the recruiting meeting was held last September, and although he had just accepted a good situation he gave it up, considering it was his duty to join the Army.....' (*Hampshire Chronicle* 26.06.1915)

**AVERY, ARTHUR JACK**, Private 33058, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment. Died 05.02.1918, aged 19. Son of Mrs Jessie L. Avery, of Bishop's Sutton, Alresford, Hants, and the late George Avery. Buried Grevillers British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France, X.E.3. (CWGC)

'Died of wounds ... at a casualty clearing station in France' (*Hampshire Chronicle* 09.02.1918)  
Enlisted in Alresford. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)  
Army Service Record not available.

On 1 December 1917, the 25th Division (of which the Battalion was part) moved by train to Achiet le Grand and moved to relieve 3rd Division south of Bullecourt. It remained in this position, carrying out much work in digging a continuous front trench system, until relieved on 13 February 1918. (<http://www.1914-1918.net/25div.htm>)

Born in Bishops Sutton, (*England & Wales, Free GRO Birth Index, Dec 1898*)  
1911 Census shows Arthur, a schoolboy, living in Bishops Sutton with his parents and younger sister. His father George was a Domestic Groom. George's death was recorded in the Alresford District in the September quarter of 1912.

**COOPER, CHARLES.** Driver 604449, Royal Engineers. Died 20.03.1920, aged 19. Son of James and Eliza Cooper, of Mill Lane Cottages, Bishop's Sutton. Buried in Bishops Sutton (St. Nicholas) Churchyard, North Side. (CWGC) (Not on war memorial)  
Service record not available.

1911 Census records him as born in Owslebury, Hampshire about 1899, his father working as a carter on a farm.

Cause of Death, at Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot was Influenza and Pneumonia. (Death Certificate)

**CURTIS, HENRY GEORGE,** Private 23471, 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Died 23.09.1917, aged 19. Son of Henry and Alice Curtis, of Bishops Sutton, Alresford, Hampshire. Commemorated on Tyne Cot Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, Panels 88-90 & 162. (CWGC)

1911 Census records Henry's birth as being in Chilbolton, Hampshire in about 1898. He was living at home with his parents (father a carter), four brothers and two sisters.  
Enlisted in Alresford. Killed in Action. (UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919)  
Born in the middle of 1897. (*England & Wales, Free GRO Birth Index October 1897*)  
Personal Service Record not available.

As part of the Third battle of Ypres, on the evening of 22nd September 1917 14<sup>th</sup> Hampshire relieved the remnants of 15<sup>th</sup> Hampshire in newly captured positions east of the Basseville Brook; from there they were due to attack 'Tower Hamlets defended locality' on September 26<sup>th</sup>. From the 22nd September the 14<sup>th</sup> Hampshire 'had two trying days in line .... The approaches to our advanced positions were exposed to snipers and to machine-gun and artillery fire, and the battalion had been heavily shelled while consolidating a rather imperfect line, having (two officers) wounded with 25 men, six others being killed. ..' (*The Royal Hampshire Regiment, vol.2, 1914-1918, Atkinson, C.T., University Press, Glasgow, 1952*)

**DOLLERY, FREDERICK HENRY,** Lance Corporal 1896, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Sussex Yeomanry. Died 20.12.1915, aged 23. Younger son of William Albert and Ada E. Dollery, of The Cloisters, Bishops Sutton, Alresford, Hampshire. Commemorated on Helles Memorial, Turkey, Panel 20. (CWGC)

Born Bishop's Sutton. Residence Brighton (*misprint for Bighton?*), Enlisted Alresford. Regiment Household Cavalry and Cavalry of the Line (incl. Yeomanry and Imperial Camel Corps). (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*). Army Service Record not available.

The 1/1st Sussex Yeomanry in 1914 were part of the 1st South Eastern Mounted Brigade, 1st Mounted Division. August 1914: moved with the brigade to Canterbury 24 September 1915: dismounted, the brigade sailed on the 'Olympic' from Liverpool to Gallipoli, landing at Cape Helles on 8 October 1915 and coming under orders of 42nd (East Lancashire) Division. Within days of the landing the Regiment reported many men suffering from

enteritis. While at Gallipoli they spent time in the trenches at Border Barricade and Fusilier Bluff. Fusilier Bluff was the foremost British position at Helles and marked the apex of the line, with its flank resting on the cliffs overlooking the Aegean. As the evacuation of the Anzac-Suvla sector went ahead (from 19<sup>th</sup> December) undetected by the Turks until the troops had all left unscathed, it became necessary to make the enemy believe that the Helles sector was still held strongly.... aggressive patrolling from early on in December. Along with the rest of the Army they were evacuated, leaving the peninsula on December 30, 1915.

([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sussex\\_Yeomanry](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sussex_Yeomanry),  
<http://www.gallipoli-association.org/content/men-of-gallipoli/gallipoli-vc's> & <http://www.1914-1918.net/sussexyeo.htm>)

1901 Census gives his father's occupation as jockey.

In 1911 Frederick was working as a drapery assistant, boarding in East Grinstead, Surrey. (1911 Census)

**TWO BROTHERS**, not on the Bishops Sutton War Memorial. In the 1901 census they are both shown as born in Bassett, Southampton, their father a domestic gardener:

**HALLETT, HAROLD**, Corporal 241232, 2<sup>nd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Died 10.04.1918, aged 29. Son of John and Laura Hallett, of Yew Tree Cottage, Old Bursledon, Southampton. Commemorated on Jerusalem Memorial, Panels 28 & 29. (CWGC)  
Also named on the Bassett, Southampton war memorial.

‘..... Mr & Mrs Hallett, of “Summerlands”, Bishop’s Sutton (and formerly of “Ardnave”, Bassett), have received news on Monday that their youngest son, Harold, has been missing since the heavy fighting in Palestine on 10<sup>th</sup> April. He enlisted in the 2<sup>nd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Hampshire Territorials at the outbreak of war, and left for India shortly afterwards. His eldest brother was killed in action in November last year.’ (*Hampshire Chronicle* 11.05.1918)

The fighting on 10<sup>th</sup> April 1918 was the assault on Berukin, which was partially successful. The Hampshire's losses were severe – 4 officers and nearly 50 men killed or missing and 9 officers and 90 men wounded. (*The Royal Hampshire Regiment, vol.2, 1914-1918*, Atkinson, C.T., University Press, Glasgow, 1952)

In 1911 Harold was working as a Grocery Traveller, boarding at 39, Oak Bank Road, Itchen, Southampton. (1911 Census)

**HALLETT, JACK**, Private 85420, 119<sup>th</sup> Company, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry). Died 23.11.1917, aged 32. Husband of Edith Mary Hallett, of 'Cambrai,' 40 Sandford Rd., Aldershot. Commemorated on Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, Nord, France, Panel 12 & 13. (CWGC) Enlisted Southampton, Killed in Action. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919*)

Jack's attestation papers are dated 7<sup>th</sup> December 1915, and were signed in Winchester. His address was given as 35, North Cole Road, Bournemouth, and his occupation as labourer rigger. Fresh complexion, grey eyes, light brown hair. Height 5' 4", chest 35", expansion 3". His marriage to Edith Mary Laishley was at St Bartholomew's, Winchester 21<sup>st</sup> October 1908, and daughters Ethel Sybil born 17<sup>th</sup> October 1910 and Dorothy Irena 21<sup>st</sup> January 1915.

23<sup>rd</sup> November was the date of a British attack on Bourslon Wood. Fighting was heavy, but 'The astonishing valour and tenacity displayed by all units of the 119th Infantry Brigade in the face of extremely heavy shelling and continuous counter attacks, the valuable aid rendered by the Scots Guards and Dismounted Cavalry enabled the 119th Infantry Brigade to hold the important tactical position BOURLON WOOD until handed over to the 62nd division on the night 25/26 November 1917.' (Report of Major H.P.B.Gough, [http://www.17thwelsh.ukf.net/Nov\\_17\\_Pages/Nov\\_17\\_Gough\\_BourslonWood.htm](http://www.17thwelsh.ukf.net/Nov_17_Pages/Nov_17_Gough_BourslonWood.htm))

In 1911 Jack was working as a butcher manager, living with his wife and baby daughter at 'Rosedale', Foundry Lane, Southampton. (1911 Census)

**IVENS, ALFRED WILLIAM**, Lance Corporal 18380, 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Died 14.09.1916, aged 21. Son of Henry and Hannah Elizabeth Ivens, of 15, Manor Park Avenue, Copnor, Portsmouth. Buried in Bulls Road Cemetery, Flers, Somme, France, II.H.5. (CWGC)

In 1911 Alfred, born in Bishops Itchington, Warwickshire about 1896 was working as a baker's assistant and living with his parents. (1911 Census)

The Battle of Flers – Courcellette was the first action for the 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion, and the first use of the new secret weapon, the tank. The Battalion was part of the 41<sup>st</sup> Division.

## **The Battles of the Somme:**

### **Battle of Flers-Courcellette, 15 - 22 September 1916**

From early August Haig had steadfastly envisaged a large scale breakthrough offensive timed for mid-September.

Fourth Army's eventual plan required an attack by 11 Divisions, supported by tanks, on a front of 12,000 yards, facing Courcellette in the north, to Lesbœufs and Morval in the south - the area pin-pointed for penetration and cavalry exploitation.

An intense preliminary bombardment began on 12 September and at 6.20am on Friday 15 September the advance began in mist and smoke. XIV Corps attack, on the extreme right, where hopes of breakthrough were pinned, fared badly; 56th Division and 6th Division lost heavily as tanks and artillery support failed to neutralise vital defensive positions; the Guards Division, amidst much confusion, advanced north-east of Ginchy some 2,000 yards but ended up short of its final objectives. XV Corps, in the centre, had better success and its Divisions made the greatest advances; tanks played a vital role especially in support of the 41st and New Zealand Divisions for the capture of Flers. Further to the left III Corps made progress but at a heavy cost; 47th Division suffered badly clearing High Wood, but the adjacent 50th Division was by nightfall close to the German third position. 15th (Scottish) Division captured, with minimal tank support, all its objectives (including Martinpuich) and on the extreme left of the attack 2nd Canadian Division (Reserve Army) was in Courcellette by evening.

Despite some notable successes the day's principal objectives were not gained; there was no dramatic breakthrough. Costly attacks continued over the next few days affecting some small gains; but over a week was to elapse before a renewed major assault could be made on Lesbœufs and Morval. (CWGC)

With Ginchy and Guillemont taken and useful gains of ground made in Delville Wood and on our right, preparations for the big attack, now fixed for September 15th, could go forward. Several fresh Divisions were now available, among them the Fortv- First, which was to attack from Delville Wood, having on its flanks the Fourteenth Division (right) and the New Zealanders (left); eighteen of the new secret weapons, later known as ' tanks ', were to work with it.



Picture IWM\_Q\_5514 via [www.mapleleafup.ca](http://www.mapleleafup.ca)

The 122nd Brigade was on the Division's left with the 15th Hampshire (right) and 18th K.R.R.C. (left) in the leading line, their objective being Flers Trench, just South of Flers, where the supporting battalions, the 11th R.W.K. and 12th E. Surrey, would go through them and tackle Flers itself. In moving up over-night into its assembly position the battalion had been heavily shelled, and before Zero (6.20 a.m.) it had lost Captain Carrington of C Company and two platoon commanders, 2/Lts. Baddeley and Parry, while ration parties had suffered severely on the way up to the line. Advancing at Zero behind an excellent barrage, with seven tanks to help them, the Hampshire were quickly into the German front line, Tea Support, which was badly damaged, though its defenders fought hard before they were overpowered. Unluckily machine-guns on the left had done considerable damage before they were silenced; two more company commanders, Captains Stapleton and S. Thompson, being killed. One troublesome machine-gun was put out of action by a private who worked along a trench until close up and then shot down the whole team, and Lance Corporals Heath and Steer each rushed a machine-gun and disposed of it and its crew. Some dug-outs had to be cleared, but smoke bombs were used to good effect. Pushing on again, the Hampshire mastered the Switch Line also, where they met more opposition, which they soon overcame, taking many prisoners,' though casualties were mounting up. Here several dug-outs had to be cleared but the advance to Flers Trench went forward according to schedule, the 11th R.W.K. now reinforcing and going forward with the Hampshire. Flers Trench was full of Germans, but they were readier to bolt or surrender than to fight, being evidently terrified by the tanks, whose machine-guns had proved very effective, though most of them were already out of action, owing mainly to engine-trouble and other mishaps. From Flers Trench a much disorganized advance was made into Fiers, most of the officers had already fallen and few were left to control the men or to keep the 15th Hampshire in hand to consolidate their proper objective, and Hampshires and R.W. Kent went forward together with all formations broken up. On the outskirts of Flers a field gun in a house at a cross-roads gave trouble, till a tank arrived, ' spitting fire from its guns ', and disposed of it, Germans who tried to meet the tank with bombs finding to their surprise that the bombs did more harm to the throwers, fragments rebounding from it. Three tanks were already out of action, but this one now headed the entry into Flers, while three others worked along its Eastern edge. The sight of them was too much for the Germans, Flers was quickly cleared, and parties, pressing on beyond the village, reached the third objective, some of the 15th under 2/Lt. Menzies-Calder collecting over 20 prisoners on their way. But, when it came to consolidating beyond the village, the lack of officers and senior N.C.O's proved a serious trouble: with hardly anyone to take charge few men had any idea what to do, and when the Germans began to shell the captured positions some men drifted back into Flers and for a time the situation was critical, though parties of all battalions hung on North of the village and dug themselves in. Colonel Cary-Barnard and battalion head-quarters had by now come forward to Flers Trench, where a defensive position was consolidated and stragglers rallied, captured machine-guns being placed in position to strengthen the defence. Little news came back, and that most confused, reports

that Flers had been evacuated conflicting with others that the third objective was still occupied, 2/Lt. Hall and Corporal Mordin were indefatigable in obtaining accurate information, and eventually about 30 men under 2/Lts. Smith and Menzies-Calder were discovered digging beyond the village, as was also a separate party under 2/Lt. Tollemache, who had been wounded, while 2/Lt. Hall, having collected some men, took them forward to the third objective and dug in there. C.S.M. Smith also, though wounded, collected another party and consolidated a post, holding on all day until relieved at dark.

Heavily as Flers and all our advanced positions were being bombarded the Germans never succeeded in regaining ground here, though they brought up large reserves and during the forenoon made several efforts to advance on Flers without success. Some of the 124th Brigade had come up into line East of Flers and secured the right flank, on the left touch was obtained with the New Zealanders,' while the Brigade Major of the 122nd Brigade, Major Gwyn Thomas, did much to organize the line North of the village, where Box and Cox and the Hog's Head, some trenches used for bombing practice, were occupied and consolidated, and towards evening two quite substantial counter- attacks, mainly against the 124th Brigade, were repulsed by rifle fire.

After dark the 123rd Brigade took over at Flers and the 15th Hampshire, considerably reduced in numbers, could get back to York Trench in reserve. Eight officers and 97 men were killed and missing and three Officers and 197 men wounded, out of the 18 officers and 557 other ranks in action, but hard as it had been hit the battalion could congratulate itself on its first battle, the capture of Flers was much to its credit, the advance here, of over 2,000 yards, being the furthest made anywhere along the front. (15<sup>th</sup> Battalion War Diary)



( Picture <http://www.somme-1916.com/flers.htm>)



**JONES, B** Nothing known. No Jones family appears in the 1911 Census for the Alresford District. None of the 1901 census, "Soldiers Who Died in the Great War", Hampshire Chronicle or the CWGC provide a matching B. Jones. Is it B for Bill? Is it **Jones, William**, Private 9314, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Died 01.07.1916. Born Micheldever, Hampshire; commemorated on Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France, France, Pier & Face 7C & 7B?

1<sup>st</sup> July 1916 was the first day of the Battle of the Somme. The Hampshire's objective was the very strong Ridge Redoubt, north of Beaumont-Hamel. "The 1<sup>st</sup> Hampshire, following the East Lancashire on the 11<sup>th</sup> Brigade's right, went forward at 7.40a.m., before which the East Lancashire had already been almost wiped out, less by the barrage than by the deadlier machine guns in Ridge Redoubt ... mowing the attackers down wholesale. ... Plunging forward into the deadly hail of fire they fared no better than their predecessors, gallantly as they advanced. ... the majority of the Hampshire were brought down at or short of the wire....The 1<sup>st</sup> Hampshire indeed had their worst experience of the war (losing) eleven officers and 310 men killed and missing, 15 officers and 250 men wounded." (*The Royal Hampshire Regiment, Vol.2, 1914-1918, Atkinson C.T., University Press, Glasgow 1952*)

**LACEY, CHARLES HEDLEY**, Rifleman B/1215, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Rifle Brigade (The Prince Consort's Own). Died 02.07.1916, aged 26. Son of Charles and Ellen Lacey, of 14, Dragon St., Petersfield, Hampshire. Buried in Faubourg D'Amiens Cemetery, Arras, Pas de Calais, France, I.E.19, (CWGC)

1891 Census shows him living at Godsfield Farm, Old Alresford, where he was born, living with his parents, father an agricultural labourer.

By 1911 he is recorded as Hedley rather than Charles, still living with his parents but now at Manor Terrace, Durley, Bishops Waltham, Hampshire. Both he and his fathers were carters on a farm. (1911 Census)

His Army record shows him attesting in Winchester on 31<sup>st</sup> August 1914, unmarried, living in Bishop's Sutton with his father, working as a carter. Height 5'7", chest 36", 144 lbs., physical development very good. .Dark complexion, Blue eyes, dark brown hair and a scar on his right thigh. Died of wounds.

ROCLINCOURT 1st July Saturday

Fine day, fairly quiet until 10.50pm when the enemy exploded a mine under trenches no 113 and 114, K2 Sector, and at the same time opened a heavy artillery fire with 5.9, 4.2 guns and 77mm trench mortars, vane bombs, etc. on the front and communication trenches. The enemy came out of his trenches, and also a party came close to our trench on the N side, at the same time another party of enemy entered trench no 115 and bombed two dugouts which were empty. This party was turned out by bombers. A party of bombers under 2nd Lieut COOKE was sent out to the N Side of the crater and at the same time CAPTAIN RIXON took another party to the W Side and turned out the enemy. 2nd Lieut COOKE then worked his way round the far li and was reinforced by another party of bombers and held the far lip. Captain RIXON then sent up a Lewis Gun, under

2nd Lieut CE SCOTT to assist 2nd Lieut COOKE. Working parties were then organised to open communication with the crater and a breastwork was built for the men holding it, and by daylight these parties had made the position possible to hold. Much credit is due to the prompt way reinforcements were brought up with shovels and sandbags. This work was done under heavy fire from machine guns and trench mortars, under parties in charge of 2nd Lieut FG SCOTT, 2nd Lt RG HARDY, and 2nd Lieut MT SAMPSON. All the officers, NCOs and men worked extremely well and with great coolness.'

2nd July Sunday

The above description is taken from the memorandum on the subject of the crater sent to HQ 41st Inf Brigade by Lt Colonel GREEN and it continues as follows –

'I consider that great credit is due to Captain RIXON who was in the front line trenches at the time of the explosion, for his prompt action in immediately organising a counter attack under very difficult circumstances and to 2nd Lieut COOKE and the bombers for seizing and holding the far lip of the crater under a very heavy shell and machine gun fire' At 4.0am the enemy shelled the new crater with a large trench mortar.

Casualties were as follows –

2nd Lieut RM ROGERS reported missing. 2nd Lieut ROGERS was in the crater before 3.0am and was then seen in BOGEY trench going toward C Company's HQ. He was seen after that, search parties were immediately organised but were unable to discover anything. At night the ground outside the trenches round the crater was thoroughly searched but nothing could be found.

2nd Lieut RL HARDY bullet wound in the right shoulder serious – 2nd Lieut MT SAMPSON wounded by trench mortar in head and back – not serious. 2nd Lieut CE SCOTT slightly wounded in legs & back, remains at duty. Eight OR killed and 25 OR wounded, 8 OR missing. Sergeant Stone and Sergeant Richardson of C Company were both killed. The mine did not go up where the tunnelling company had said it would, consequently one of our own posts was blown up with it, it was also a far larger mine than had been expected – 160ft across – probably the largest mine ever blown up on the British front. The 8th Btn Rifle Brigade and the 7th Btn KR Rifles assisted by sending digging parties with sandbags, picks and shovels, wire etc. Two Vickers machine guns under the Brigade Machine Gun Company were sent immediately to the flanks of the crater. Two shifts of 60 men each came up at night from 7th Btn KRRC but are unable to do much work due to continuous trench mortaring of the enemy. We have 3 killed and 8 wounded during this night of 2nd/3rd all working near the crater." (*Regimental War Diary*)



Picture via faurillon.com

**MARRINER, THOMAS HERBERT**, Private L/8168, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, The Queen's (West Surrey) Regiment. Died 31.10.1914, aged 28. Husband of Maud Marriner, of School Terrace, Warnford, Bishop's Waltham, Hampshire. Commemorated on Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium, Panels 11-13 & 14. (CWGC)

Born in Alton, Hampshire. Residence Guildford, Surrey. Enlisted in Bishops Sutton, Hampshire. Killed in action. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919* – surname spelled Mariner).

#### BATTLE OF GHELUVELT

In trenches East of Gheluvelt

31st

7. a.m. Before dawn an attack was made on C, B & the K. R.R's but was repulsed. The enemy dug in within

300x of our lines & occupied the trenches vacated by 2nd Battalion at 7am. Our lines were subjected to a very heavy bombardment which our guns were unable to reply to. The enemy worked their way into the orchard at (3), & the platoon of K.R.R.

supported by 1 platoon Queen's under Lt. Tanqueray were driven out. Col. Pell D.S.O. ordered a counter attack but the attempt by the K.R.R. failed, thus the enemy got the orchard within 150 yds. of our line. Major Watson went back for assistants but none were available & he then returned to find Col Pell wounded & he assumed command.

We were holding our own when B Coy about 10 .am. were driven out of their trenches by machine gun fire from both flanks & the reserve (2 platoons K. R. R.) were sent for but could not be found.

It is believed they moved towards D Coy without orders. Soon after this Capt. Creek sent a message to say that he had heard the Welch had evacuated their trenches but he was quite all right & could hold on.

11. am Major Watson went to A Coy to arrange a counter attack in the event of the enemy coming in from (1), & himself moved up to the ridge to see how the left was getting on, when there he met a second messenger from D Company The situation then appeared to be thus - Germans about C Coy's trenches (no report could be got from this coy) B Coy trenches evacuated & men retiring from farm (1) with the Germans entering it.

Orders were sent to D Coy to retire but before the order arrived the Germans were seen in the village behind D Company This orderly came back and said that the Germans were surrounding them. Major Watson & Lt Boyd then reformed what men they could about the houses at (4) and the few men of K. R. R. went back to rally on their Battalion As the Germans were now in the village the above rallying party moved towards the K. R. R. who were then actually moving back, owing it is said to a report that hostile machine guns were being brought up to enfilade them. There was thus nothing close by to rally on. The L.N.Lancs. Also moved back in their turn.

11.30 am.

Major Watson & Lt. Boyd then rallied the men of different regiments & put them into trenches in K 20(b).

The Guards of 2nd Div. recaptured GHELUVELT during the afternoon but the line of trenches was reconstructed on the W side of the village, about 20 men only were

collected & the remainder were either wounded or missing. It afterwards appeared that very soon after Maj. Watson left the farm that the Germans entered it.

1 machine gun

1 S.A.A. Carts

2 Tool carts - all captured.” (Battalion War Diary).

See illustration p.296.

A farm labourer in 1911, Thomas (surname Mariner) was living with his uncle and widowed mother at Warnford, Bishops Waltham. (1911 Census).

Army Service Record not available.

**MONEY, CHARLES HENRY**, Corporal B/2165, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Rifle Brigade (The Prince Consort's Own). Died 07.11.1918. Buried Cross Roads Cemetery, Fontaine-au-Bois, Nord, France, II.C.23. (CWGC)

“ ... second son of Mr & Mrs James Money, of Manor Farm, Bishop's Sutton, was killed by shell fire four days before the signing of the armistice. Deceased was 24 years of age. Much sympathy is extended to Mr and Mrs Money in their bereavement.

Born in Bishop's Sutton. On enlistment for three years in Bishop's Sutton, 1<sup>st</sup> September 1914, was aged 20, unmarried and employed as a cowman. Church of England, 5' 6", 128lbs., chest 36", large scar on right buttock. Brown eyes and hair. (Personal Soldier's Record)

7<sup>th</sup> November 1918 'The enemy was shelling the road leading from where the Battalion was situated to St Waast very heavily and was also searching for our guns. At 06:00 hours the Battalion carried out an attack on St Waast with a very heavy artillery barrage and by 09:00 hours the final objective had been reached with only one casualty. No enemy was encountered. The 72<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Brigade continued to advance and the Battalion went into billets about 14:00 hours at Bavai-Louvignies.' (*The Rifle Brigade Chronicle for 1919*, Verner, W., London, John Bale, 1920)

“A bell ringer”. (*Hampshire Chronicle* 01.03.1919)

The 1901 Census reveals Charles' parents as James (a yardman at a farm) and Sarah Money, Living at Sutton Farm, Bishops Sutton.



**PADWICK, WILLIAM EDWARD**, Rifleman B/1220, "B" Company, 9th Battalion, Rifle Brigade. Died 25.09.1915, aged 24. Second son of John and Emily Padwick, of Mill Cottage, Bishop's Sutton, Alresford, Hampshire, husband of the late Mabel Padwick. Commemorated on Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium, Panels 46-48 & 50. (CWGC) Attested for three years' service in Winchester 31.08.1914 in Winchester. 5'8", 135 lbs. Chest 36", expansion 2". Physical development very good. Fair complexion, blue eyes and dark brown hair. Church of England. Next of Kin his wife Mabel (nee Russell) of Common Farm, Bishops Sutton. At the time of his death he had two brothers and three sisters. Posted to the B.E.F. in France 21.05.1915. Killed in Action. (Army Service Record)

September 1915: During the Second Battle of Ypres, the 9th was in Railway Wood, left sector. On the 25th they took part in a very costly attack by the 14th (Light) Division on the Bellewarde Farm position, the task allotted to the Battalion being to seize and hold the enemy trenches. Although two lines of German lines were taken, they were soon lost. (Obituary of Lt. C.H.N. Scholey, 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Rifle Brigade, of whose company only one N.C.O. and six men returned to the British lines).



Picture via [www.britishempire.co.uk](http://www.britishempire.co.uk)

In 1911 William was working as a carter, living with his parents, two brothers and three sisters. He was born in Bishops Sutton about 1892. (1911 Census)

**PASSINGHAM, CHARLES JAMES**, Driver 71806, 44<sup>th</sup> Battery, 13<sup>th</sup> Brigade, Royal Field Artillery. Died 13.03.1917. Buried in Amara War Cemetery, Iraq, XIII.E.6. Amara was a hospital centre. (CWGC) Enlisted in Winchester. Died. (UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919) Army Service Record not available.

13<sup>th</sup> Brigade was part of the 7<sup>th</sup> (Meerut) Division, Indian Army, which transferred from the Western Front, arriving in Mesopotamia in December 1916.

Amara was occupied by the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force on 3 June 1915 and it immediately became a hospital centre. The accommodation for medical units on both banks of the Tigris was greatly increased during 1916 and in April 1917, seven general hospitals and some smaller units were stationed there. (CWGC)

Born about 1894 in North Mundham, Sussex, the son of George (a carter on a farm) and Elizabeth Passingham. In 1911 he was living with his parents, grandmother, brother and sister at North Side Farm, Bishops Sutton. Charles was also working as a carter on a farm. (1911 Census)

**POTTER, HAROLD**, Lieutenant, 3<sup>rd</sup>. Battalion, attached 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, East Surrey Regiment. Died 09.04.1917. Son of Robert Potter, of Bishop's Sutton, Alresford, Hants; husband of Lillie Rudland Potter, of 5, Mortimer Mansions, Mortimer St., Cavendish Square, London. Buried Faubourg D'Amiens Cemetery, Pas de Calais, Arras, France, VII.G.19 (CWGC)

... killed in the severe fighting round Arras on Easter Monday, was a son of the late Robert Potter, of Bishop's Sutton, and Mrs Potter, the Avenue, Alresford, and also a brother of Mr Percy Potter (Messrs' Collis & Potter, Corn and Seed Merchants) of Broad Street, Alresford. In October following the outbreak of war (prior to which he was a stockbroker in London) he joined a Public Schools' Battalion, and went to the Front as an N.C.O. He was subsequently given a commission, and returned to the Front last summer. Captain Potter was 38 years of age and leaves a widow and two children ... Mrs Harold Potter has received a letter from Captain E.F.W. Leach, a brother officer in the deceased's regiment, in the course of which he states: "I am most extremely sorry to have to tell you of the death of your husband. He was killed instantaneously by a traversing machine gun, when in a shell hole, which he had reached after taking five lines of German trenches. He and his Company had done most magnificent work in the attack, which .... took place outside Arras on Easter Monday. He was buried in the British Cemetery in Arras by an officer and some men of his Company. We are all most grieved at his loss, as he was much liked by his Company and all the officers of the Battalion... The late Captain Potter was educated at Trafalgar House School, Winchester. (*Hampshire Chronicle* 28.04.1917)

**SHEPPARD, John**, Private 11455, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Coldstream Guards. Died 28.09.1915, aged 30. Son of Mrs D. Sheppard, of 91, Ham Road, Worthing; husband of Bertha Mary Sheppard, of 5, Hope Cottages, Milton Road, Dunton Green, Sevenoaks, Kent. Commemorated on Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France, Panel 7 & 8. (CWGC) Born in Bishop's Sutton. Residence Worthing. Died. (*UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*) John would have been a casualty of the Battle of Loos. Personal Army Record not available.

1901 Census shows a John Sheppard, aged 12, living with parents David and Harriett Sheppard in Church Lane, Bishop's Sutton (father a journeyman baker)  
By 1911 John was married with two daughters, working as a Market Gardener's Assistant and living at 91, Ham Road, East Preston, Worthing, West Sussex. (1911 Census)



Picture via  
[www.1914-1918.net/bat.13](http://www.1914-1918.net/bat.13)

**WILLIAMS, A.,** Rifle Brigade (Hampshire Chronicle 19.12.1914). Is this Albert, Rifleman S/9150, Depot, Rifle Brigade. Died 27.07.1916, aged 43. Buried in Winchester (West Hill) Old Cemetery, 16299 ?

“S/9150 Rifleman Albert Williams, Rifle Brigade. Came from Southampton early August 1914, employed at the Rifle Record Office. Died Royal Hampshire County Hospital July 27<sup>th</sup> 1916.” (Hampshire Chronicle 05.08.1916)

Cause of death epithelioma of tongue and bronchopneumonia. A dockyard clerk, resident at 90, Sussex Street, Winchester. (Death certificate)

Neither the CWGC nor “Soldiers Who Died in the Great War” sites show another A. Williams, Rifle Brigade with a Hampshire connection. Neither the 1901 or 1911 Census’ show a Williams in Bishop’s Sutton. No other A. Williams has his death reported in the Hampshire Chronicle of the time.

**WINTERBOTTOM, MOSES WILLIAM,** Air Mechanic 1<sup>st</sup> Class 200689, RAF. Died 23.10.1918, aged 25. Husband of Mary Eliza Winterbottom, of York Buildings, Bishop's Sutton. Buried in Bishop's Sutton (St. Nicholas) Churchyard, N.E. of Church (CWGC).

Cause of death, at Fulham Military Hospital, influenza and pneumonia (both four days). (Death Certificate)

‘A recruit, a direct entrant into the RFC 17.06.1913. As 2AM, Airship detachment earned a 1914 star & bar. He transferred to the RNAS 18.10.1914 as no. 689 1AM. Chief Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class (Engineer) 01.08.1916. He was No. 200689 Chief Mechanic (Winch Driver & Fitter) in April, 1918 RAF Muster Roll.’ (“A Contemptible Little Flying Corps”, McInnes, I, ISBN 10: 0948130989)

In 1911 Moses was living with his mother and sister in Saxilby, Lincolnshire, and working as a Turner’s Apprentice. He was born in Sheffield, Yorkshire. (1911 Census)



## WORLD WAR 2

### Two brothers:

**CURTIS, ERNEST**, Sapper 1865867 11 Field Coy, Royal Engineers. Died 29.05.1940 age 32. Fifth son of Henry & Alice Curtis of Bishops Sutton. Commemorated on Dunkirk War Memorial, Nord, France column 24. (CWGC)

Born in Bishop's Sutton about 1909, his father a carter. (1911 Census).

*Hampshire Chronicle* 23.06.1940:

In proud and ever loving memory of my dear Brother, Driver Ernest Curtis, Royal Engineers, who lost his life on HMS Wakeful in the evacuation of Dunkirk May 29<sup>th</sup> 1940.



### HMS WAKEFUL (H88) (May 29, 1940)



British destroyer torpedoed 13 miles north of Nieuport by German E-boat S-30. The Wakeful (Cdr.R.L.Fisher) had taken on around 700 men from the beaches at Dunkirk, an operation that had taken eight hours. Heading north and for home she was hit by the E-boat's torpedo. It was 12.40pm when the missile struck amidships on the starboard beam. Another destroyer, HMS Grafton, moved in to help but was hit and damaged by a torpedo from the same E-boat. HMS Comfort now approached but was fired upon by the Grafton who mistook her for a German ship. The Comfort finally sank. After the torpedo struck the Wakeful she reared up from the water and broke in two. Fifteen seconds later the ship sank below the waves. Other ships nearby picked up 25 survivors but for over 600 men below deck, the end came swiftly. The Wakeful lies 17 metres under the surface and is designated as a war grave. In 2001 the destroyer's nameplate and crest were recovered and presented to the Royal Naval Museum in Portsmouth. ([members.iinet.net.au/~gduncan/maritime-2.htm](http://members.iinet.net.au/~gduncan/maritime-2.htm)).



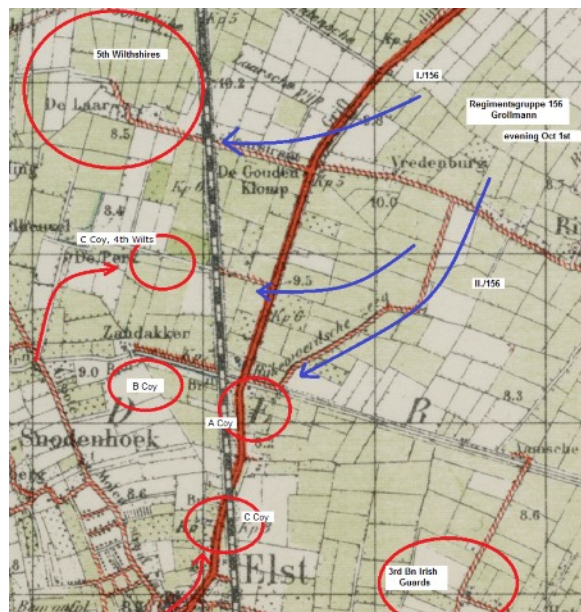
**CURTIS, LESLIE.** Private 1682469 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Wiltshire Regiment, died 02.10.1944 aged 24. Youngest son of Henry & Alice Curtis of Bishop's Sutton. Commemorated on Groesbeek Memorial, Gelderland, Netherlands, Panel 5. (CWGC)

Born in Alresford in 1920, mother's maiden name Guyatt. (GRO Birth Index 1916-2005)

On 20 September 1944, the 4th and 5th Battalions entered the Netherlands. The 4th Battalion seized Elst (between Nijmegen and Arnhem) and dug in there on 25 September. The 5th Battalion moved to the north to De Laar (which is now a suburb of Arnhem).

These battalions were then involved in heavy fighting in various places in the pasture where the new suburb of Schuytgraaf is now located. There was especially heavy fighting at the railroad crossing on Laarstraat and at the farm called 'De Laar.' From 27 September to 5 October, their positions were under constant fire from German artillery.

German tanks and armoured cars set out from Elden for the strategically vital railroad crossing on Laarstraat (the eastern side of what is now Stratenmakersveste). During the night of Monday 2 October, these units launched a particularly heavy attack, which involved man-to-man fighting. The Laar farm was partly burnt down. The 4th and 5th Battalions ultimately held their positions, but by the time they were relieved by units of the US Airborne Division on 5 October, the two battalions had lost more than 70 men.



(<http://wiltshire.greatbritishlife.co.uk/article/wiltshire-regiment-monument-unveiled-20745/>)

The Wiltshire Monument was designed by Tirza Verrips in the form of a series of steel waves made. The waves represent the long road that the men of the 4th and 5th Battalions of the Wiltshire Regiment took, following their landing at Normandy (D-Day). The waves also symbolise the continuing waves of German forces that assaulted the Regiment's positions from the east. At its base is the Roll of Honour. The monument stands on Marasingel 19, in the suburb of Schuytgraaf, in Arnhem, at the site of the former farmhouse 'De Laar'.



(Map & pre-war photo

<http://ww2talk.com/forums/topic/49363-nijmegen-bridgehead-iiss-pz-corps-counterattack-in-october-1944/>)

## **GROVES, JACK LAWSON, DFC, Flight Lieutenant (Pilot Instructor) RAF. 42305**

Died 21.06.1942 aged 24. Son of Claud Albert & Ethel Maud Annie Groves and brother of Gabrielle, of Mill Cottage, Bishop's Sutton. Buried Croydon (Mitcham Road) Cemetery, Surrey, UK, Plot C.C., Grave 27575. (CWGC)

Hampshire Chronicle 27.06.1942:- "... Flight Lieutenant Groves, who was 24 years old, was accorded the Distinguished Flying Cross in January this year for displaying a fine flying spirit and exceptional keenness. At that time he had destroyed six enemy machines, three of them during the campaign in Greece. He had been actively engaged in operations for nearly two years" ([www.geocities.com/raf\\_112\\_sqdn](http://www.geocities.com/raf_112_sqdn))

From [http://surfcity.kund.dalnet.se/commonwealth\\_groves.htm](http://surfcity.kund.dalnet.se/commonwealth_groves.htm) :

### **Biplane Aces from the Second World War**

Jack Groves was born in St Margaret's, Middlesex, on 22 April 1918, and was educated at Temple College, 1929-35.



He then worked as a clerk with the National Provincial Bank in the City of London until May 1939, when he attended an elementary flying course at Civilian School, Perth (11 E & RFTS).

He was commissioned in the RAF on 8 July 1939, completing his training with 4 FTS, Habbaniya, Iraq, qualifying as a pilot on 24 November 1939.

In February 1940 he attended a navigation course at the Navigation Training Squadron, which was located at 102 MU, Abu Sueir, before going to the Training Unit Reserve Pool for operational training in June 1940, and then to 112 Squadron in July 1940.

He accompanied the unit to Greece early in 1941.

He left the squadron for HQ, Middle East, on 1 May 1941.

Later he returned to 112 Squadron where he became a Flight Lieutenant on 6 October 1941.

He was ill for a period from December 1941-February 1942, during which time he received his DFC on 30 January 1942.

At the start of April 1942, having meanwhile returned to the UK, he joined 30 MU, Sealand, as a test pilot, but on 16 May he was posted to 59 OTU, Crosby-on-Eden, as an instructor.

On 21 June he became lost in unexpectedly very bad weather conditions whilst on a flight in Hawker Hurricane I P3170, and crashed into the sea in Doone Bay, near Kirkcudbright, Scotland, losing his life. The cloud layer had come down to sea level, and another Hurricane of the same unit damaged its propeller that day by flying into unseen ground. (P3170 accident card)

At the time of his death Groves was credited with 4 biplane victories of a total of 6:

Kill no.	Date	Number	Type	Result	Plane type	Serial no.	Locality	Unit
	20/02/41	1	G.50 (a)	Damaged	Gladiator II		Berat	112 Squadron
1	28/02/41	1	CR.42 (b)	Destroyed	Gladiator II		Tepelene-coast	112 Squadron
	04/03/41	1/4	G.50 (c)	Shared destroyed	Gladiator II		S Valona	112 Squadron
	04/03/41	1	G.50 (c)	Damaged	Gladiator II		S Valona	112 Squadron
	09/03/41	1	BR.20 (d)	Probable	Gladiator II		E Valona	112 Squadron
2	09/03/41	1	MC.200 (d)	Destroyed	Gladiator II		E Valona	112 Squadron
3	13/03/41	1	CR.42	Destroyed (e)	Gladiator II		Bousi	112 Squadron
4	13/03/41	1	CR.42 (e)	Destroyed	Gladiator II		Bousi	112 Squadron
	13/03/41	1	CR.42 (e)	Damaged	Gladiator II		Bousi	112 Squadron
	14/03/41	1	G.50	Probable (f)	Gladiator II		N Tepelene	112 Squadron
	03/10/41	1	Bf109	Damaged	Tomahawk IIb	AK451	W Sofafi	112 Squadron
5	12/10/41	1	Bf109E	Destroyed	Tomahawk IIb	AM444	Sheferzen	112 Squadron
6	12/10/41	1	G.50	Destroyed	Tomahawk IIb	AM444	Sheferzen	112 Squadron

Biplane victories: 4 and 1 shared destroyed, 2 probables, 2 damaged.

TOTAL: 6 and 1 shared destroyed, 2 probables, 3 damaged.

Sources:

*Ace of Aces: M T StJ Pattle - E C R Baker*, 1992 Crécy Books, Somerton, ISBN 0-947554-36-X

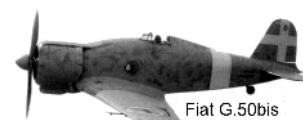
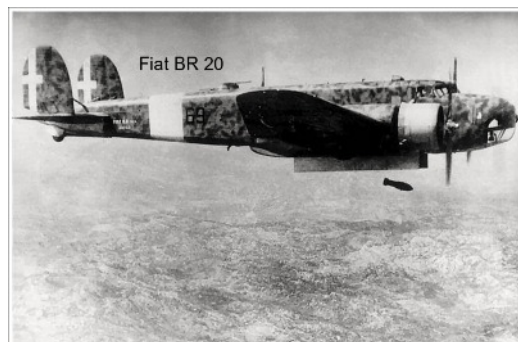
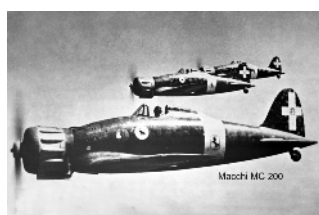
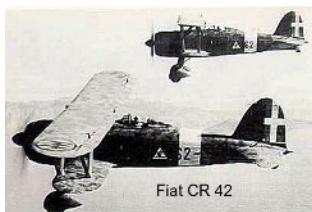
*Aces High - Christopher Shores and Clive Williams*, 1994 Grub Street, London, ISBN 1-898697-00-0

*Aces High Volume 2 - Christopher Shores*, 1999 Grub Street, London, ISBN 1-902304-03-9

*Air war for Yugoslavia, Greece and Crete - Christopher Shores, Brian Cull and Nicola Malizia*, 1987 Grub Street, London, ISBN 0-948817-07-0

*Shark Squadron - The history of 112 Squadron 1917-1975 - Robin Brown*, 1994 Crécy Books, ISBN 0-947554-33-5

The enemy:-



Images via Wikipedia

Piloted by Jack Groves:-



Gloster Gladiator II 112 Sqn. R.A.F. Greece 1941



Curtiss Tomahawk IIb 112 Sqn. RAF 1941



Hawker Hurricane



**STEELE, JAMES**, Flight Lieutenant (Pilot) 127895 RAFVR, 76 Sqn. RAF. Died 03.11.1943 aged 20. Son of Sqn-Ldr. Robert Steele and Norah Esme Steele, of Crawley, Hampshire. Buried in Harrogate (Stonefall) Cemetery Sec C, Row D, Grave 10 (CWGC). 76 Sqn. was flying Handley Page Halifax B.V bombers from Holme-on-Spalding Moor, Yorks. (Also on Kilmeston Memorial).

Handley Page Halifax B.V (Special), 76 Sqn. RAF, late 1943



From *"To see the Dawn Breaking – 76 Squadron Operations"*, Chorley, W.R., 1981, ISBN 0 9507467 0 3:



Aircrew standing beside Halifax B.V DK204 MP-L, 27 July 1943

Flight Lieutenant Jimmy Steele is in the middle of the group, wearing a peaked cap.  
(Both pictures N.Bennett)



Flight Lieutenant Jimmy Steele takes off for Kassel, 22 October 1943

Dull, misty weather heralded the start of November 1943. At Holme there were no operations until the 3rd, when crews were briefed for an evening attack on Dusseldorf.

For Sergeant Fred Hall, a navigator, the day had started quite normally:

In the morning I met the rest of the crew at the Met lecture, after which I went out to our new aircraft and made my usual inspection. From there I went back to the Navigation Section to prepare maps and charts as we had been told we were on operations that night. The rest of the lads went about their business and after an early lunch, I returned to the billet to change into my flying clothes. There were no signs of the rest of the crew, so I presumed they had taken the aircraft up on a local air-test. It was a reasonably pleasant day, but from a flying aspect the weather was not so good. A thickish haze persisted, mixed with several areas of very low cloud and I was aware that all the aircraft seemed to be having difficulty in landing. However, I attended the navigators briefing and I can remember thinking Dusseldorf would be our first really short trip. Such thoughts were still running through my mind when I went to collect my parachute and was told my crew had crashed. The aircraft was Handley Page Halifax V LK681, coded MP-A.

It transpired that his pilot, Flight Lieutenant Jimmy Steele, had, as assumed by Fred Hall, taken off on a local flight. No doubt, bearing in mind he would not be flying far from the Base area, he decided to leave his navigator working on his charts, but he did take a young lady scientist, Miss Dorothy Robson B.Sc. Miss Robson was a familiar figure at Bomber Command stations, her work in the Instrument and Photographic Department at Farnborough necessitating her frequent trips to the bomber-bases. By late 1943, Dorothy Robson was acknowledged to be a leading expert in the functions of the "Mk XIV bomb-sight" and such was her enthusiasm and awareness (as described by Professor P M S Blackett and Dr. Braddick.) in making certain the equipment was correctly installed, she often flew on air-tests checking the bomb-sight in operational aircraft. There can be no doubt that she was so engaged during the late morning of the 3rd when in hazy weather Jimmy Steele took-off from Holme for a local air-test. No one will ever know for certain what went wrong during the flight, but around midday reports reached the airfield that a Halifax was down near Enthorpe, northeast of Market Weighton. Rescue services were soon at the crash-site, though there was little hope for any of the crew. Three had been killed outright, Flight Sergeant Roy Brawn RAAF the mid-upper gunner was pronounced dead within minutes of his admission to hospital, while Jimmy Steele and Flight Sergeant Harry Welch RCAF died the following day. Alive when lifted gently from the shattered remains, the vivacious Miss Robson, who was just twenty-three years of age, lived until the 5th. Her wish, expressed a few weeks before in a talk with her father, that her ashes should be scattered from the air was reverently complied with.



Dorothy Robson  
(photo via [www.peopleatwar.org.uk](http://www.peopleatwar.org.uk))

# KOREAN WAR

**SHEPPARD, ANTHONY JOHN ("TONY")**, Pte 22198632, 1 Battalion Gloucester Regt died 26.04.1951. Commemorated on Gloucester Memorial, Joeksong, South Korea.

Born 1931, registered in Alresford. (Free GRO Birth Index September 1931)

'A jolly lad, who worked at the *Eureka* fish shop as an errand boy. Everybody liked him, he was always most helpful and nothing was too much trouble'. (Bill Brixey)

The battle in which the Regiment earned the name 'The Glorious Glosters':

## GLoucesters HARD HIT IN 4-DAY BATTLE

From Denis Warner Daily Telegraph special Correspondent, U.N.Command H.Q., Tokyo, Saturday morning –

Detailed accounts are now available of the four-day stand on the Imjin River front in West Korea by troops of the British 29th Brigade. They were given by survivors of the Gloucester battalion who have been trickling back to the United Nations line.

The Gloucesters' losses in the engagement, the most desperate fought by British troops in Korea, are officially described as very heavy. Less than a company have so far returned, but hope is still held for a good many of the remainder. The British stand upset the Chinese timetable, but last night the Communists were reported about 10 miles from Seoul. One enemy column was fighting round Uijongbu, and the second south of Munsan - both on direct roads to the capital. Captain M.G. Harvey, of Portsmouth, led the first detachment of 50 of the Gloucesters to safety late on Thursday. With ammunition spent and equipment discarded, his dust-stained group of men brought only their rifles, which they had refused to throw away.

The Gloucesters' ordeal began on Sunday night, when Communist bugle-calls on the west bank of the Imjin River announced the beginning of the spring offensive. Forward patrols on the east bank watched the Chinese form up. Artillery temporarily broke the Communist formations. Survivors said it was moonlight and they could watch the shells falling, but the Communists reformed and began to wade the river in hundreds. Many died in the river from the small-arms fire of the forward patrols, who withdrew only when their ammunition was spent. On the high ground overlooking the river the battalion awaited the attack.

## BRITISH HOLD FIRE

Chinese Withdraw - The men held their fire until the Communists were moving up slopes, then let go with mortars, heavy and light machine-guns, rifles, sub-machine-guns and grenades. In face of this concentrated and sustained fire the enemy swung to the flanks. In the darkness before dawn the Chinese consolidated in preparation for a daylight attack. It came at dawn, but the Gloucesters, as they were to do many times in the succeeding days, held their ground. By nine o'clock it was almost victory. The Chinese withdrew, leaving hundreds of dead behind. During the afternoon, however, infiltrators moved deep into 29th Brigade territory and cut the Gloucesters' lines of communications. Machine-gun posts, reinforced by platoons of infantry stopped all movement along the road to the rear.

At night came the second major attack. It came from both left and right flanks and the Gloucesters moved to a hill where they formed a tight all-round perimeter which was now attacked from all sides.





## SUPPLIES LOW

Planes Drop Ammunition - Daylight enemy attacks continued all Tuesday, but supplies had become low. That night low-flying American planes parachuted to the heroic battalion desperately needed small-arms ammunition, but only enough food for one can of rations to each man.

On Wednesday the troops heard a tank relief column on its way and the Chinese began to show understandable reluctance to come to close quarters. But late that day the



(photo via [www.glostern.org](http://www.glostern.org))

commander, Lieutenant- Colonel J.P.Came, told his company commanders that the situation was desperate and companies were ordered to fight their way out. The battalion bugler sounded Reveille and, said Captain Harvey; it had a wonderful effect upon morale. The Gloucesters started cheering. Colonel Came, his chaplain and doctor stayed with battalion H.Q. They planned to be the last to leave the hill and thus give the companies the best chance to begin withdrawal.

## TANKS OPEN FIRE

Plane Corrects Error - Captain Harvey and his men went north for a mile before turning west and then south. When they were still a mile from United Nations lines they ran into a heavy Communist ambush.

The troops scattered into ditches and paddy-fields and wormed their way on their stomachs before the Communists supplemented their machine-guns with mortars. Even this was not the end of their misfortunes. American tank crews sent to the rescue thought the ragged soldiers coming along the hills were Chinese and opened fire.

A low-flying spotter plane saved this situation. Troops stood up and waved to the pilot when he flew over them and the plane in turn dropped a message to the tanks to hold fire. When the tank turned their guns on the Communists the Gloucesters got to their feet and ran, waving and shouting, across the paddy-fields to their rescuers. To-day they are now safely behind the lines, watching and waiting for their friends to arrive. In ones, twos, and small groups they are beginning to come back. One small group of the Gloucesters, led by 2nd Lieutenant David Holdsworth, of Lych Gate, Wirral, Cheshire, walked back to the Allied lines with South Korean soldiers.

Along the whole front yesterday there was little indication that the tremendous casualties inflicted by the United Nations air and ground forces had yet begun seriously to affect the Communist offensive. The advance south is no lightning thrust but it is making steady progress.

The South Korean Government ordered the evacuation of Seoul for the third time as the noise of guns from the battle raging around Uijongbu, only 11 miles north, could clearly be heard in the city.

Reports from Seoul said that 400,000 civilians had begun the desperate trek south across the Han River. Ground haze restricted United Nations air support during the day.

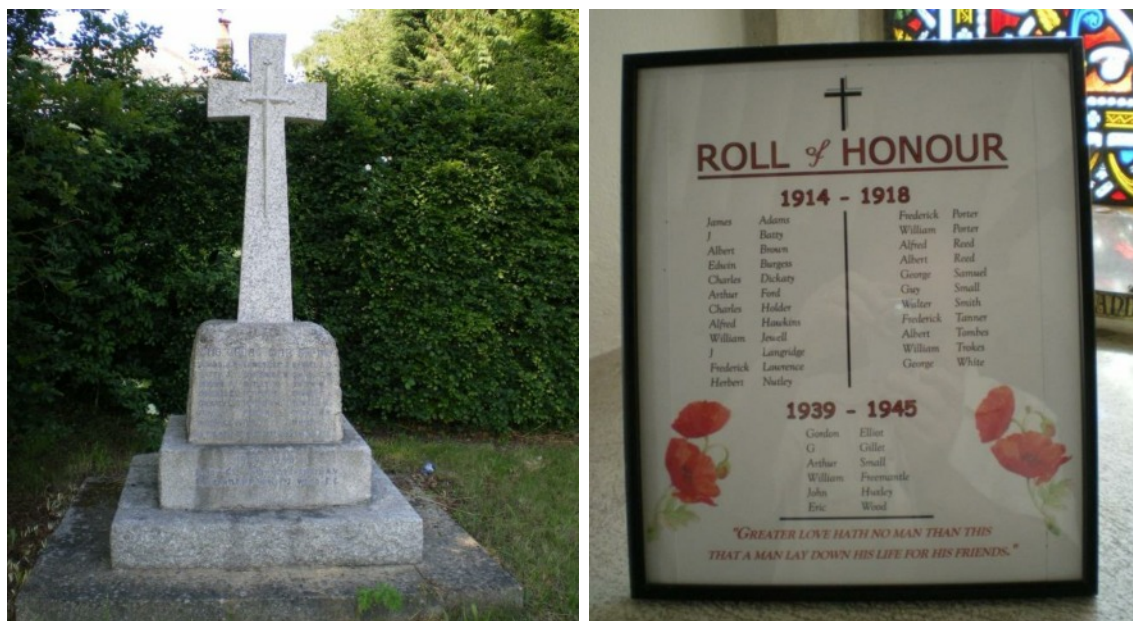
Heavy fighting was reported south of Munsan, where the second finger of the Communist drive to Seoul also made some progress.

On the eastern front the allies abandoned Yanggu, the last important centre they held in North Korea. Lieutenant-General Van Fleet, Eighth Army commander, visiting the front yesterday, predicted that his forces would hold the Communists North of the Han River."

(*The Daily Telegraph*, 26th April 1951)

Tony's pal Roy Harris (see p.182) was also lost in this action.

# BRAMDEAN AND HINTON AMPNER



Population in 1911: 243; 34 casualties.

## WORLD WAR 1

**ADAMS, JAMES HENRY**, Lance Corporal 12379, 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps. Died 02.04.1918 (*Hampshire Chronicle* gives 29.03.1918), aged 21, near Le Quesnel. Eldest son of Mr & Mrs John Adams, Slys Farm, Bramdean, late Stone Head, Bramdean. Commemorated on Pozieres Memorial, Somme, France, Panel 61 to 64. (*CWGC & Hampshire Chronicle* 28.06.1919)

(11 Battalion) "Withdrawn from Vaux from 22<sup>nd</sup> March. April 1<sup>st</sup> sent up to Rifle Wood in support of the cavalry. 8pm withdrawn to Quevaulliers, and arriving at dawn went into good billets." (*KRRRC Chronicle*, 1918). This implies that Cpl Adams died of wounds.

Enlisted at Gosport for 12 years on 15<sup>th</sup> March 1915, giving his occupation as shepherd. Born 4<sup>th</sup> December 1896 in Soberton, Hampshire. (Enlistment Attestation)

**BATTY, JAMES**, Private 18416, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Hampshire Regiment. Died 13.08.16. Buried in Blackburn Cemetery, Lancashire, England, K.C.E. 13303. (*CWGC*); the only casualty listed with a Hampshire connection, but is this the correct person? Born & Enlisted Blackburn, residence Gosport. Died of wounds. (*UK, Soldiers Who Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)

1901 Census records born abt. 1885, a servant in Witton St. Mark, Lancashire. By 1911 he was a foreman gardener in Brancepeth Gardens, Durham. (Census)  
Army Service Record not available.

It is likely that James was wounded in the Battle of Albert, 1 - 13 July 1916, the first phase of the battle of the Somme.

In this opening phase, the British assault broke into and gradually moved beyond the first of the German defensive complexes on the Somme. Success on the first day in the area between Montauban and Mametz led to a redirection of effort to that area, for the initial attack was defeated with huge losses north of Mametz. There was a stiff fight for Trones Wood and costly, hastily planned and piecemeal attacks that eventually took La Boisselle, Contalmaison and Mametz Wood. (<http://www.1914-1918.net/bat15.htm>)

**BOND, HENRY SIDNEY**, Private 241855, 1/6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment.

Died 15.06.1918, aged 34. Son of William and Hannah Bond, of *The Inwoods*, Bramdean, Alresford, Hampshire Buried in Magnaboschi British Cemetery, Italy, III.B.3 (CWGC)  
Army Service Record not available.

Born in Irnham, Lincolnshire, in 1911 Henry was living at "The Inwoods" with his parents, younger brother and two sisters. Father and sons were working as gamekeepers. (1911 Census)  
Second son of Mr & Mrs Bond: killed in action. (*Hampshire Chronicle* 13.07.1918)

The front was comparatively quiet until the Austrians attacked in force from Grappa to Canove in the Battle of Asiago (15-16 June 1918). The Allied line was penetrated to a depth of about 1,000 metres on 15 June but the lost ground was retaken the next day and the line re-established. Between June and September, frequent successful raids were made on the Austrian trenches. (CWGC)



Not on Bramdean War Memorial.

Photo via [www.retronaut.com](http://www.retronaut.com)

**BROWN, ALBERT**, National Reserve. Died 02.04.1917. Buried in Bramdean (SS

Simon and Jude) Churchyard, Hampshire. "...At the outbreak of war Mr Brown, a member of the National Reserve, was recalled to the colours and served his country in various capacities until the latter end of 1916, when he was invalided home suffering from consumption. Unfortunately the disease took a rapid course, and Mr Brown passed away at his home on Monday morning the 2<sup>nd</sup>. He was a comparatively young man, being in his fortieth year. He leaves a widow and four young children, unfortunately unprovided for. The funeral was an impressive one....." (*Hampshire Chronicle* 14.04.1917)

Born in Tisted, in 1911 Albert was living in Wood Lane, Bramdean with his wife Sarah, daughter, three stepsons and two brothers. The adult men were all working as farm labourers. (1911 Census)

Army Service Record not available.

**BURGESS, EDWIN C, D.C.M.,** Sergeant 455, 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion, London Regiment (Queen Victoria's Rifles). Died 16.10.1915. Buried in Carnoy Military Cemetery, Somme, France, L.4. (CWGC).

Also named on the London Stock Exchange War Memorial – recorded as a clerk at the exchange.

DCM award “For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1915, in searching for and tending wounded under heavy shell fire, and remaining in a barn which was being heavily shelled till all the wounded had been got out.” (Citation 30.06.15)

Army Service Record not available.

1911 Census showed him as born in Upham, Hampshire about 1869. Living in Beauworth, his occupation was farm labourer; he had been married to Annie for 14 years, and had two sons and two daughters. Annie's maiden name was Goodall, and the couple married in Alresford in 1896.

**DICKATY, CHARLES CHRISTOPHER,** Private 17707, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Grenadier Guards. Died 16.01.1916, aged 23. Son of John and Essie Dickaty, of Bramdean, Alresford, Hampshire. Buried in Merville Communal Cemetery, Nord, France, VI.G.2. (CWGC) Died of wounds. (*UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*).

Army Service Record not available.

“.... deceased .... had been previously wounded at Loos, but had recovered, and was on sentry over a machine gun when he was shot through the head and so met with a painless death. He was a stalwart and smart young fellow, and from letters which his father has received was evidently as popular in his regiment as in his native village.

Mr Dickaty is himself a veteran and went through the Zulu War with the King's Royal Rifles, from which he retired with the rank of sergeant; he was also granted the medal for long and meritorious service. He still has four sons on active service, and a daughter is a nurse in a military hospital in Portsmouth. At the outbreak of war he offered his services, for which he was thanked, but informed that probably at his time of life he would find the duties too strenuous. It cannot be out of place to mention the excellent work that he has done since he left the regiment, where he was Sergeant-Instructor of Infantry. When the late Lord Roberts advocated the training of young men in the use of the rifle, Mr Dickaty started a rifle club, in which he received the cordial support of all classes, and up to the present time has continued to teach all who would learn to shoot. There are few of the many men who have joined up in this neighbourhood but have received his valuable tuition.” (*Hampshire Chronicle* 26.02.1916)

Born in Hinton Ampner, in 1911 Charles was living at home with his parents, brother and sister and working as a Bricklayer's labourer. (1911 Census).

**FORD, ARTHUR**, Private 13914, 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Died 07.12.1915, aged 20. Youngest son of Mr & Mrs Edwin Ford, of Brockwood, Alresford, Hampshire. Commemorated on Doiran memorial, Greece. (CWGC)  
Enlisted Winchester. Killed in Action. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*).  
Army Service Record not available.

The Battle of Kosturino took place over December 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> 1915. The Bulgarians attacked in force, their artillery proving especially effective against inadequate British trenches. The British were forced to yield ground, despite inflicting great losses on the enemy. The Hampshire lost 183 killed and missing and 106 wounded. (*The Royal Hampshire Regiment, Vol.2, 1914-1918*, Atkinson C.T., University Press, Glasgow 1952)



Frederick Burgess (p.72) & Albert Stevens (p.76) were killed in the same action.

Born in Preston Candover, in 1911 Arthur was living with his parents, elder brother and sister at Brockwood. Arthur was working as an odd boy on a farm, his father and brother both carters. (1911 Census)

**HAWKINS, ALFRED, ("Ben")**, Private 25394 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Hampshire Regiment  
Died 29.03.1918, aged 38. Son of John & Annie Hawkins, of Hinton Ampner, Hants; husband of Edith Hawkins of Arthur St., Aldershot, Hampshire. Buried In Wimereux Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France, IX.A.3. (CWGC)  
"Ben". Left a daughter, Mabel (*Hampshire Chronicle* 20.03.1919)  
Died of wounds (gassed and shelled) (*Hampshire Chronicle* 20.04.1918)  
Army Service Record not available.

The German's last great offensive took place in March 1918. On 28<sup>th</sup> march, as part of 4<sup>th</sup> Division, 1<sup>st</sup> Hampshire was occupying trenches outside Fampoux near the Scarpe. Their successful defence against a furious assault was a turning point of the battle. "Several battalions of the Fourth Division had lost heavily, the Essex had been nearly wiped out, but the Hampshire had fared none too badly: they had (four officers) and 39 wounded, .. (two wounded officers) and 85 men missing, (three officers) and 81 men wounded, but they could reckon themselves fortunate to have lost no more in doing so much. They could feel entitled to be well satisfied with the day's achievements." (*The Royal Hampshire Regiment, vol.2, 1914-1918*, Atkinson, C.T., University Press, Glasgow, 1952)

The 1881 Census recorded Alfred's birth in Hinton Ampner, and his father's occupation as carter on a farm. By 1911 Ben was a domestic gardener in Littleton, Winchester. (1911 Census).



**HOLDER, CHARLES GEORGE, M.M.,** Private 38551, 2nd Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment Died 11.06.1918, aged 19. Son of William Henry and Alice Holder, of Yew Cottage, Hinton Ampner Alresford, Hampshire. Commemorated on Soissons Memorial, Aisne, France. Army Service Record not available.

Born in Hinton Ampner in 1898 (PRO BMD index)

In 1911 Charles was living at the above address with his parents (father a Carman), two brothers and two sisters. (1911 Census).

The award of the MM was recorded in the Regimental War Diary on 30.06.1918. On that date two officers and six men were decorated for “gallantry and devotion to duty near Villers-Bretonneux between 22<sup>nd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> April 1918”. The Germans had attacked Villers-Bretonneux, breaking through the British lines on 24.04.1918. Counter attacks the next day cut the Germans off, and their advance had reached its most westerly point. The Australian Infantry took particularly heavy casualties, and what became known as the Second battle of Villers-Bretonneux was notable for the first ever tank vs. tank action.

Killed in action 11.06.1918 (*UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*). On that date the Battalion was holding the line in the Bois de Eclisse (Regimental War Diary).

**LANGRIDGE, J.** Nothing known.

There is no Langridge family recorded in the parish in the 1901 or 1911 Census.

A casualty search in Commonwealth War Graves Commission records produces 14

Langridges with an initial J. All of these show relatives elsewhere than Hampshire except:

**Langridge, J.,** Private 110, Australian Infantry, AIF. Died 29.07.1918. Commemorated Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, Somme, France (CWGC). No relatives are recorded for this soldier, so it is not impossible that he had Bramdean connections but had emigrated. It may also be that the name on the memorial is inaccurate.

**LAWRENCE, FREDERICK WILLIAM,** Sergeant 306186, 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Hampshire Regiment. Died 24.02.1917. Commemorated on Basra Memorial, Iraq, Panel 21 & 63. (CWGC) Residence Fordingbridge. (*UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*) Army Service Record not available.

“... must be presumed as killed in Mesopotamia on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 1917. Pte. Lawrence had previously been posted as wounded and missing on that date. He was the elder of two brothers, and volunteered for service when working as a gardener at Mr Dutton’s at Hinton Ampner House. His younger brother is serving in the 17<sup>th</sup> Lancers in India.” (Hampshire Chronicle 16.02.1918)

The fighting on 24.02.1917 was a British advance to the Tigris following the Second Battle of Kut.

Born in Hinton Ampner about 1893, in 1911 Frederick, a Domestic Garden Labourer, was living at Hinton Hill, Hinton Ampner with his parents (father a Domestic Gardener), brother and sister.

**NUTLEY, HERBERT WILLIAM, (“Bert”)**, Private 4258, 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F. Died 11.04.1917, aged 26. Son of William Charles and Rose Emily Nutley, of Avington Farm, Winchester, Hampshire. Born at Hinton Ampner, Alresford, Hants, England. Commemorated on Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, Somme, France. (CWGC)

Born in Beauworth, in 1911 Bert was living in Hinton Ampner with his parents, four younger brothers and two younger sisters. He and his father were working as Agricultural Engine Keepers. (1911 Census).

The First Battle of Bullecourt was fought as part of the British 1917 spring offensive north and south of Arras. These operations were undertaken to support a major attack further south by the French under General Robert Nivelle.

The usual practice was to use a preliminary artillery bombardment to cut the enemy wire ahead of an infantry assault. But this time it was decided to have twelve British tanks lead the Australian infantry.

On 11 April 1917, soldiers of the Fourth Division were in position east of the village of Bullecourt but by 4.30 am only three tanks had reached their positions. Some Australian units now advanced while others waited for the tanks. Early-model tanks were slower than a walking man, their steel was thin and deadly shooting by German artillery meant none reached the wire before the Australian infantry. Only one tank reached the first trench captured by the Australians and all of them had been knocked out by 7 am.



Despite the failure of the tanks, both the German front line and support trenches were entered and an advance was made towards Reincourt village. At 7.15 am, Captain Harry Murray, 13th Battalion (New South Wales), sent back a message saying that ‘with artillery support we can keep the position till the cows come home’. Five minutes later, seeing German troops moving near Riencourt, Murray fired the SOS signal for artillery support. The signal was repeated 17 times during the morning but there was no answering barrage. Owing to exaggerated reports of Australian success, mainly from air and artillery observers, higher-level staff members believed that the advance was proceeding and not being held up. Therefore the artillery was not allowed to fire and the Germans were able to move in to counter-attack with impunity. At the same time German machine-guns were sweeping the open spaces in front of, and at the rear of, the Australian positions.

The Australian supplies of grenades were soon exhausted and the attempt to link the trenches held by different battalions was abandoned. The Germans gradually drove the Australians back and by 11.30 am it was clear that the captured trenches could not be held. With German fire sweeping the escape route, Harry Murray told his men: ‘It is



either capture or go into that'. Many tried but only a few returned. Murray was one of the few.

An hour later, the last of the Australians made their withdrawal. These men were helped by artillery which had finally been allowed to fire in support. At the First Battle of Bullecourt the Australian infantry had managed to seize, and temporarily hold, a strongly fortified section of German line without any of the normal artillery support. However, this abortive attack cost 3289 casualties and made the Australian infantry extremely sceptical about the battlefield value of tanks.

([www.ww1westernfront.gov.au/battlefields/bullecourt-11-april-1917.html](http://www.ww1westernfront.gov.au/battlefields/bullecourt-11-april-1917.html))



Bullecourt after the battle

Pictures <http://www.diggerhistory.info/pages-battles/ww1/france/b->

**TWO BROTHERS**, sons of George Henry and Mary Ann Porter, who lived at Brookwood Dean, near Alresford. (Hampshire Chronicle 05.06.1915):

**PORTER, FREDERICK**, Lance Corporal 9476, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment.

Died 02.05.1915, aged 22. Commemorated on Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium, Panel 35. (CWGC)

Enlisted in Bordon, Hampshire. Killed in Action. (UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919)

Army Service Record not available.

Born 1892 in Hinton Ampner, in 1911 Frederick was working as a Horse Driver on Works and living with his parents (father a cowman), two younger brothers and three younger sisters at Brockwood Dean. (1911 Census)

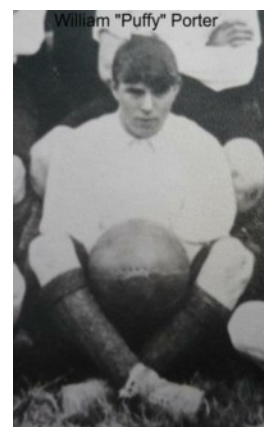
2<sup>nd</sup> May 1915 was during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Ypres.

The battalion was holding trenches between St Julien and Berlin Wood. "May 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> saw the enemy's shell fire increasing in intensity, adding another 50 to the battalion's casualty list" (*The Royal Hampshire Regiment, Vol.2, 1914-1918*, Atkinson C.T., University Press, Glasgow 1952)

**PORTER, WILLIAM**, Private 8064, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Died 28.04.1915, aged 26. Son of George Henry and Mary Ann Porter, of 9, Alfred St. Southampton. Native of Hinton Ampner, Alresford, Hampshire Commemorated on V Beach Cemetery, Turkey, Special Memorial B.81. (CWGC)

Killed in action. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)  
Army Service Record not available.

Born in Warnford, Hampshire, in 1911 William was already serving with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment in Wynberg, Cape of Good Hope, South Africa. (1911 Census)



Picture from Mr J. Young.

“8<sup>th</sup> April 1915 was the date of the First Battle of Krithia – an attempt to capture a village which had been virtually undefended during the Gallipoli landings on 25<sup>th</sup> April. The attack failed, at a cost of 3,000 casualties of the 14,000 Allied troops taking part.” (CWGC) 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion had made some good progress, but a strong counter attack drove back the troops on either flank, and “the Hampshire found themselves under fire from both flanks... With ammunition failing .... and many men without water or rations, the position was untenable in the face of the continuous Turkish pressure and their heavy fire, and eventually about 5 pm it was vacated by order, the troops falling back approximately to their starting line... The Battalion’s casualties had been heavy, 100 men killed and missing and 250 wounded. (*The Royal Hampshire Regiment, Vol.2, 1914-1918*, Atkinson C.T., University Press, Glasgow 1952)

**TWIN BROTHERS**, recorded in the 1911 Census born in Gosport, Hampshire in about 1896, living with parents Daniel and Salina Reed (father a carter on a farm), two older brothers and a younger sister, in Bramdean, Hampshire.

REED, ALBERT, - named in error on the “Roll of Honour” in Bramdean Church, while Frank is not. The brothers’ initials are correctly recorded as A. and F. on the war memorial.

**REED, ALFRED**, Driver 1461, “B” Battery, 84<sup>th</sup> Brigade, Royal Field Artillery. Died 01.08.1917. Buried in Bleuet Farm Cemetery, Belgium, I.H.18. (CWGC)  
Killed in Action (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*). Bleuet Farm, near Ypres, was used as a dressing station. The British assault starting the Battle of Passchendaele had commenced on 31.07.1917.  
Twin son of Mr & Mrs D. Reed of Holly Cottages, Bramdean. (*Hampshire Chronicle* 11.08.1917)  
Army Service Record not available.

In 1911 Alfred was working as an under-carter on a farm (1911 Census)

**REED, FRANK**, Bombardier 1292, Royal Field Artillery. Died 21.09.1918, aged 23. Son of Mr and Mrs D. Reed, of Holly Cottages, Bramdean, Alresford, Hampshire. Buried Niederzwehren Cemetery, Germany, I.C.2. (CWGC)  
Army Service Record not available.

... has been missing since May 27<sup>th</sup>. He joined the colours with his three brothers at the outbreak of war, and has seen much heavy fighting during his three years in France. He was home on leave only a short time ago... (*Hampshire Chronicle* 20.07.1918)

“..... Died while a prisoner of war at Darmstadt Hospital. He was formerly reported missing as from May 27<sup>th</sup> last ... Bombardier Reed, who was 23 years of age, joined up in August 1914, his battery being attached to the 50<sup>th</sup> Division, and had seen much heavy fighting, he having been in France for over three years. His twin brother, Alfred, was killed in action on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1917. There are still two other sons of Mr and Mrs Reed serving. Much sympathy has been expressed to them in the loss of their twin sons.” (*Hampshire Chronicle* 07.12.1918)

In 1911 Frank was working as a Hall Boy. (1911 Census)

The *Hampshire Chronicle* of 05.07.1919 contains two contrasting “In Memoriam” notices for the twins:

“Reed – in fond and loving memory of my two darling twin brothers, Alf, killed in action in France August 1<sup>st</sup> 1917, and Frank, died a prisoner of war at Darmstadt, Germany, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 1918. Never forgotten by their sorrowing sister Nellie.

Reed – In fond and loving memory of our darling boy, Alfred (“Alf”), the dearly loved twin son of Mr and Mrs Reed, Bramdean, who fell in action somewhere in France August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1917, aged 22. From his loving Mum, Dad, Sisters and Brothers.”

One wonders what the family dynamics were to result in such different notices.

**SAMUEL, ARTHUR GEORGE**, Private G/49777, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Queen’s (Royal West Surrey Regiment). Died 11.04.1917, aged 19. Son of Mr and Mrs F. Samuel, of New Pond, Hinton Ampner, Alresford, Hampshire. Buried in Bully-Grenay Communal Cemetery, British Extension, Pas-de-Calais, France, II.D.10. (CWGC)  
Born Haines, Bedfordshire, Residence Haywards Heath, Sussex, enlisted Lindfield, Sussex. Died of wounds. Formerly 11538, Royal Sussex Regiment (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War* 1914-1919)  
Army Service Record not available.

11<sup>th</sup> April 1917 – a shell hit a D company billet; 4 men killed, 8 wounded. (Regimental War Diary)

1901 Census shows him named George, living in Exton, Hampshire, with his parents Frederick (a gamekeeper) and Margaret, his birthplace Old Warden, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire. By 1911 the family had moved to Hinton Ampner, Frederick still a gamekeeper. The 13 year old son is recorded as Arthur, a schoolboy.

**SAVAGE, ARTHUR ROBERT**, Able Seaman J/23935, H.M.S. Black Prince. Died 31.05.1916, aged 18, in the Battle of Jutland. Son of A.F. Savage, of Bramdean, Alresford, Hampshire, late of Bradley, Micheldever. Commemorated on Portsmouth Naval Memorial, panel 13. (CWGC & *Hampshire Chronicle* 08.07.1916).

In 1911 Arthur, working as a Telegraph messenger, was living with his parents and two younger sisters at Lodge Cottage, Ropley Dene, Alresford, Hampshire. His father, also recorded as Frederick, was working as a Domestic Gardener. (1911 Census).

Born 29 August 1896 in Dorchester, Dorset. Enlisted for 12 years on 29<sup>th</sup> August 1914 at Portsmouth. Occupation Garden Boy. Height 5' 2", chest 33½", brown hair, grey eyes, fresh complexion with scars on nose. (Naval Personal Record)

Not on Bramdean Roll of Honour or War Memorial. Mentioned as being on the Ropley Roll of Honour in 1916 (*Hampshire Chronicle* 04.11.1916), but his name is not on Ropley War Memorial.

**HMS Black Prince** was a Duke of Edinburgh class armoured cruiser of the Royal Navy (RN)



during World War I. At the beginning of the war, the *Black Prince* was one of the four armoured cruisers serving in the First Cruiser Squadron commanded by Rear- Admiral Ernest Charles Thomas Troubridge. She participated in the Pursuit of Goeben and Breslau.

As a member of Rear Admiral Sir Robert Keith Arbuthnot's First Cruiser Squadron, the *Black Prince* participated in the Battle of Jutland,

where she was sunk with heavy loss of life. The circumstances under which she sank were mysterious for some years after. During the battle, the ship lost contact with the rest of the British fleet, sending off a wireless signal at 8:48 to report a submarine sighting. As the British had lost contact and did not see the ship destroyed, they were unsure as to whether a submarine or surface ship was responsible for sinking the *Black Prince*.

Recent historians, however, hold to the German account of the ship's sinking. (Retrieved from "[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS\\_Black\\_Prince\\_\(1904\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Black_Prince_(1904))")

The cruiser *Black Prince* which, at the first meeting of the two main fleets had followed her flagship, *Defence*, into action and been roughly handled at the time that *Defence* had been blown up and *Warrior* disabled, had been left behind by the Grand Fleet's turn to the southward after deployment. For some reason which will never be known, she was still at this time far astern of and out of touch with the British fleet; but when a line of battleships was dimly seen ahead, it was no doubt thought that they were the British squadrons. Course was altered to close them. At a bare half-mile range, the German recognition signal flashed out. The horrified Captain Bonham, swung his ship away in a desperate effort to escape, but it was too late.

In the battleship *Thuringen* the same deadly efficient night action procedure that had been displayed at the head of the line went into play. Brilliantly lit by half-a-dozen searchlights, the *Black Prince* was raked from stern to stem by a tornado of shells and lay a helpless wreck before she could even fire a shot in reply. As she drifted down the German line, ship after ship opened up on her, *Thuringen*, *Ostfriesland*, *Nassau* and, finally, as the fleet flagship *Friedrich der Grosse*, added her quota, the *Black Prince* met the same end as the *Defence*, blowing up with a tremendous explosion, vanishing with all hands..... (extract from “*Jutland*”, Capt. D. MacIntyre, 1957, via [www.northeastmedals.co.uk/britishguide/jutland/hms\\_black\\_prince\\_casualty\\_list\\_1916.htm](http://www.northeastmedals.co.uk/britishguide/jutland/hms_black_prince_casualty_list_1916.htm))

**SMALL, GUY WILLIAM**, Private 515122, 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion, London Regiment (London Scottish). Died 16.08.1917, aged 27. Second son of Mr and Mrs H. Small, of Hinton Ampner; husband of Florence E. Small, of Hinton Ampner, Alresford, Hampshire. Buried in Perth Cemetery (China Wall), Belgium, I.K.38 (CWGC) “China Wall” referred to a nearby communications trench known as the “Great Wall of China”. Enlisted in Winchester, killed in action (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)  
Army Service Record not available.

The Brigade was on the right of the line, close to the Menin Road, in the Battle of Passchendaele. They had been made up to strength, and all but three platoons had their own piper. However, their “attack on 16<sup>th</sup> August was not a success. Minor advances were made on the left, but in the centre and right the attack was held up. Short of manpower, the Germans had adopted new tactics. Their front line was now only lightly defended, enabling the real fight to take place in the second, which was studded with well-placed and mutually supporting pillboxes, armed with machine guns and strengthened with belts of barbed wire.” (*The London Scottish in the Great War*, Lloyd, M, Barnsley, Pen & Sword Ltd., 2001). The 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion was in reserve at Zillebeke Pond, but at 11:00 were ordered to advance to trenches at Halfway House. During this move “a carrying party was badly caught in (a) bombardment, received a direct hit, and lost an officer seriously wounded, and of other ranks eleven killed and ten wounded.” (*The London Scottish in the Great War*, Lindsey, J, London, Regimental Headquarters, 1926). Divisional losses were so great that they were replaced that night.

Born in Hinton Ampner, in 1911 Guy, a dairyman and pig dealer, was living with his parents, an older and a younger brother. His father Harry was landlord of the “Jolly Farmer”. (1911 Census)

Guy William Small was born in 1889 in Hinton Ampner, son of Harry and Caroline Small. He married Florence Helen Freeman in 1914 in Cheriton. (Roger Small)

Probate was granted 31.01.1918 in London to Florence Ellen Small, widow and Charles Dismore Small, wine merchant. Effects £818.13s. Home address the “Jolly Farmer”, Hinton Ampner. Charles was Guy’s older brother.

W.H.A. Groom's *Poor Bloody Infantry - a memoir of the First World War* (ISBN 07183 0384 0384 9; published by William Kimber, London. 1976) gives an account of the author's service with the 5th Battalion, London Rifle Brigade. He gives a very graphic account of the L.R.B.'s

involvement in the fighting on the 16th August 1917 in the area of Glencorse Wood from the infantryman's viewpoint (My Grandfather was Killed - Groom dedicated his book For the Grand children of my generation - in this battle see:

<http://1914-1918.invisionzone.com/forums/i...pid=619447>& hence the interest).

Groom wrote the following:

*Then we were off at a slow walk, picking our way over the churned up earth. The ground made it impossible to continue in line and soon we were filing our way over obstacles and flooded shell holes. I remember jumping over a narrow trench filled to the brim with dead Germans and thinking just at that moment that they were tidier than us as they collected theirs. After hammering the front positions for a scheduled number of minutes according to the width of No Man's Land, a creeping barrage lifts at about twenty to thirty yards a minute, depending on the nature of the terrain and the first wave of attackers must be close enough to the barrage so that the Germans who must take cover from the devastating shell fire have no time to reorganise. Inevitably the front waves of advancing troops have quite a number of casualties from their own shells. Today the barrage seems to lift quite slowly which was just as well because it was impossible to move quickly and hawky bits seemed to be splashing into the marshy ground all around, but none hit me. The German counter-barrage started almost immediately with ours and we learned afterwards that this quick reply was due to the fact that the whole plan of our attack had been betrayed. ....*

*... Further on, I remember a group with an officer firing at the distant advancing Germans over tree trunks, the officer was waving his revolver and saying in the old heroic tradition that he would shoot the next man who fell back. We took no notice - it was damned silly - there wasn't a hope in hell of holding an isolated position in that wood with an attack on our right and no support on our left. The attack on Glencorse and Polygon woods had been a complete failure. The counter attack of the Germans had been mounted so quickly that it was unbelievable, but we did not know then that the Germans knew beforehand the full plan of the attack.*

After withdrawal Groom's account continues (Walker, the Major mentioned below, will not be his real name as Groom stated in an earlier chapter, My Original notes on events did not include the name of individuals and as after lapse of time some names cannot be remembered, all the names have been altered.):

*.....Later in the day we were paraded to hear a pep talk from Major Walker, the second in command, as our Colonel had been wounded. We had the usual blah-blah about doing it again if called upon and the surprising information that our lack of success was primarily due to the fact that a sergeant of the Welsh Fusiliers employed as a clerk at G.H.Q. had been returned to the line for disciplinary purposes and had deserted to the Germans, taking with him the plan of the attack. At first we thought it was just a yarn to excuse or costly defeat but then we remembered the shells that dropped amongst us, and slaughtered the reserves behind us, at the very moment our barrage opened. This counter-barrage was too quick and the counter attack from the right flank of Glencorse Wood was also remarkably quick. Also I remembered that there was no one moving on our left when we were on the edge of the wood and shells and machine guns must have stopped that attack.*

Fifty years later the Daily Telegraph printed a letter from G.E. Mackenzie, Minister of Kirkhope, late of 153rd Brigade R.H.A., an extract of which is as follows:

*... but that day something inexplicable happened. Within one minute of zero hour and the opening of our barrage it was replied to by artillery on the entire enemy front facing us. Our infantry were simply mown down by shellfire. The reason for this unparalleled readiness on the part of the Germans was only revealed when forty eight hours later I reported back to the battery. There I was shown a report captured from a German dugout in the front line which had been translated and circulated by our G.H.Q. The night before, (August 15th) a sergeant of the Welsh Fusiliers who had been employed as a clerk at G.H.Q. and had been returned to the line for disciplinary purposes had treacherously deserted to the enemy taking with him not only information of tomorrow's attack, but also a copy of the map on which was indicated the position of every battery on that section of the British front.*

*However, apart from that, I doubt very much whether the attack would have succeeded. The objective, an advance of over a mile, was much too far away to cope with the devastating pill box defence and the new tactic of immediate counter attack. Lessons were learnt which were put into practice on September 20th when the woods were captured and when there was much more intensive artillery preparation on a shorter front and with the first objective only half a mile away instead of over a mile.*



Zillebeke Pond



Pictures via Australian War Memorial





**SMITH, WALTER**, Private 25215 14<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Died 26.09.1917, aged 37. Son of William & Eliza Smith, of Wood Lane, Bramdean, Alresford; husband of Flora Elizabeth Smith, of Hill View, West Meon, Petersfield. Commemorated on Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium, Panel 88 to 90 & 162. (CWGC)  
Born Hinton Ampner, Residence Winchester, Enlisted Bramdean. Killed in action. (UK, *Soldiers Who Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)  
Army Service Record not available.

In 1911 Walter, working as a labourer, was living in Hinton Ampner with his wife, five sons and a daughter. (1911 Census).

14<sup>th</sup> Battalion attacked "Tower Hamlets" defended locality and Tower Trench on 26<sup>th</sup> September 1917, during the Third Battle of Ypres. The attack started at 05:50 over boggy ground and was met with heavy fire. By the end of the day "Losses had been fairly heavy, ...four officers ...and 75 men killed or missing, 9four officers) and 118 men wounded but the battalion could feel that it had achieved something substantial despite great difficulties." (*The Royal Hampshire Regiment, Vol.2 1914-1918*, Atkinson C.T., 1952, Glasgow, the University Press)

**STACEY, FRANK**, Lance Corporal 574712, 2<sup>nd</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> Battalion, London Regiment. Died 08.12.1917. Commemorated on Jerusalem memorial, Panels 47 to 53. (CWGC)  
Residence Bow, enlisted in Saffron Walden. Killed in Action (*Soldiers Killed in the Great War*)  
Army Service Record not available.

"... of the Civil Service Rifles, ... killed in action in Egypt on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Deceased, who was the second son of Mr & Mrs Noah Stacey, of 12, Westgate-lanes, Winchester, joined up two years ago in October last, and spent his training at Hazeley Down Camp. He proceeded to Salonika with his regiment, and from there to Egypt. Prior to joining up he was a gardener in the employ of F.G.O. Stewart, Esq., of "Oakwood", Otterbourne. Three years ago he married a daughter [Ella] of Mr & Mrs Caleb White, of Joan's Acre, Hinton Ampner. Lance Corporal Stacey was 30 years of age." (*Hampshire Chronicle* 05.01.1918)  
(Not on Bramdean War Memorial)

In 1911 Frank, a Domestic Gardener, was living with his parents (father a jobbing gardener), sister and two younger brothers in Westgate Lane, Winchester. His birthplace was given as Winchester. (1911 Census)

**TANNER, FREDERICK JAMES, ("Fred")**, Private 204885, 15<sup>th</sup> (Hampshire Yeomanry) Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Died 02.10.1918, aged 25. Youngest son of Walter George and Mary Ann Tanner, of Bramcot, Bramdean, Alresford, Hampshire. Buried in Hooze Crater Cemetery, Belgium, XVIII.F.1. (CWGC)  
Born Hinton Ampner, Residence Winchester, enlisted Bramdean. Died of wounds. (UK, *Soldiers Who Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)  
Army Service Record not available.

‘... .... He is reported to have been in action, east of Ypres, on October 1<sup>st</sup>, and during very heavy shell fire was severely wounded. He died of his wounds the next day, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Deceased, who had seen much active service, both in Italy and France, was only 25 years of age, and was well liked by all who knew him. A letter has been received by Mrs Tanner from the Chaplain to the 15<sup>th</sup> Hampshires, expressing his sympathy to the family in their sad loss. The letter says: - “All who knew Private Tanner out here speak very highly of his sterling qualities. He was always ready to help those in need.” A Corporal also writes to say:- “... they have lost one of the best of pals”. The late Private Tanner was the youngest of three sons of Mr& Mrs W. Tanner, who have served in this war. The eldest is still in France, after four years’ service, and the second has just returned home from Germany after being a prisoner for nine months.’ (*Hampshire Chronicle* 14.12.1918)

The action was an assault on the village of Gheluwe. Among the casualties on October 1<sup>st</sup> C.O Lt Col, Puttick and Adjutant Captain Wigmore were wounded. “The 15th’s attack had ... met stubborn opposition. ... coming under sharp fire from the direction of Wervicq ... Casualties had been heavy, Captain Reynolds and 33 men killed or missing, eight officers and 120 men wounded, but the 15th had taken a heavy toll of the enemy, capturing a dozen machine guns and many prisoners.” (*The Royal Hampshire Regiment, Vol.2 1914-1918, Atkinson C.T., 1952, Glasgow, the University Press*)

(When the attack on Wervicq resumed on the night of 13/14<sup>th</sup> October one of the victims of British gas was Adolf Hitler.)

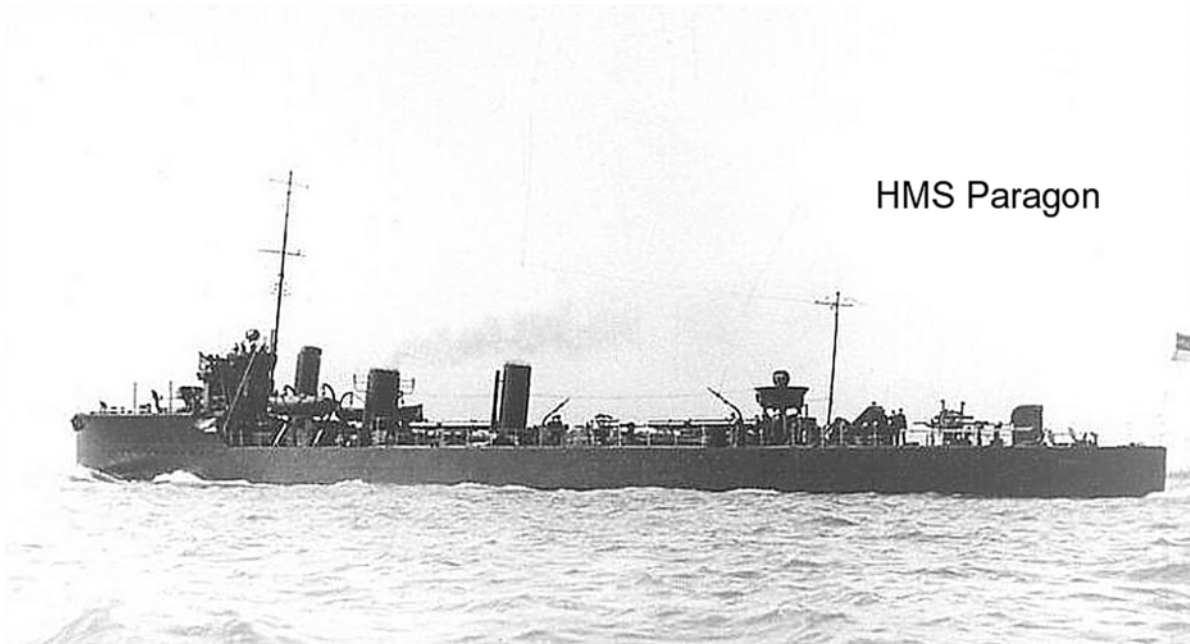
Born in Hinton Ampner and working as an Under Gardener, in 1911 Frederick was living in Bramdean with his parents, an older brother and a younger sister. (1911 Census).

**TOMBES, ALBERT**, Lance Corporal 200718, 2/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Hampshire Regiment Died 08.10.1917. Buried in Deir El Belah War Cemetery, Palestine D.19.  
Tombs, Albert, Lance Corporal 200718 2/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Born Ranmoor, Yorkshire. Enlisted Alton, residence Hamilton Camp, Hampshire Died of wounds. (*UK, Soldiers who Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)  
Army Service Record not available.

2/4<sup>th</sup> Hampshire had arrived in Deir el Belah in mid-August 1917. Their first action was to “beat off a Turkish patrol on 20<sup>th</sup> September while its own patrols were active and several encounters occurred. On October 7<sup>th</sup> a detachment... acted as a left guard in a highly successful raid by the Somerset and 3/3<sup>rd</sup> Gurkhas, though Turkish retaliation inflicted several casualties, mainly in A Company, which was in support.” (*The Royal Hampshire Regiment, Vol.2, 1914-1918, Atkinson C.T., University Press, Glasgow 1952*)

In 1911 an Albert Edgar Tombs, Hairdresser, born in Yorkshire about 1895, is recorded living in Rotherham, West Riding, Yorkshire. His father Albert, a coachman, was born in Wiltshire, his mother Sarah Ellen in Gloucestershire (1911 Census)

**TROKE, WILLIAM HORIE**, Ordinary Seaman J/49681, R.N., H.M.S. Paragon. Died 17.03.1917, aged 24. Son of William James and Jane Troke, of Hinton Hill, Hinton Ampner, Alresford, Hampshire. Commemorated on Portsmouth Naval memorial, Panel 25' (CWGC). Born 24<sup>th</sup>. April 1892 in Alresford, Hampshire. Enlisted on 9<sup>th</sup>. February 1916, for the duration of the hostilities, in Portsmouth. Occupation fitter's mate. Height 5' 5", chest 37", brown hair, blue eyes, fresh complexion. (Naval Personal Record)



*British Navy, destroyer; 1913; Thornycroft & Co.; 917 tons; 265-2x26-5x10-2; 22,500 i.h.p.; 31 knots; turbine engines; Yarrow boilers; three 4 in. guns, 2 Torpedo Tubes.*

The destroyer *Paragon*, Lt. Bowyer, was patrolling the submarine barrage in the Straits of Dover on the night of March 17th, 1917, in company with the *Laertes*, *Laforey* and *Llewellyn*. At about 10.50 p.m. a German destroyer force led by Cmdr. Tillessen steamed into the Straits with the object of breaking the barrage. The first ship to encounter them was the *Paragon*, which was torpedoed and overwhelmed with gunfire when in the act of flashing her challenge. She was hit by a torpedo and gunfire and broke in half within eight minutes and sank. Some of her own depth charges exploded killing some of the survivors; only ten of her complement of 77 being picked up. The *Llewellyn*, which came on the scene in time to rescue the few survivors, was also torpedoed but, fortunately, did not sink.

**Diving:** The wreck is incredibly intact and proud for a destroyer standing 6m proud with the top at 23m with a max depth of 29m to the seabed. The bow is blown off roughly level with the forward gun turret and is apparently some 250m away on the seabed. There are lots of areas you can look into and although there is quite a bit of netting and fishing line on it, it's all easy to avoid. The seabed is sand and shingle and the wreck is bow end into the current so no silt. ([www.canterburydivers.org.uk/wrecks.htm](http://www.canterburydivers.org.uk/wrecks.htm)).

In the 1911 Census William, a labourer, is living with his parents (father a farm labourer) and two stepbrothers in Hinton Hill, Alresford, Hampshire.

**WHITE, GEORGE (“Jum”)**, Private 3201, 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment.

Died 11.08.1916. Buried in Amara War Cemetery, Iraq, XV.C.3.

Born in Kilmeston, Alresford, Hampshire. Enlisted Winchester. Died. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)

Army Service Record not available.

“in memory of our dear (Jum) Private G. White, 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Hampshire Regiment, who died in Mesopotamia August 11<sup>th</sup> 1916. From his loving Mum, Dad, Sisters and Brothers, “Joan’s Acre”, Hinton Ampner.” (*Hampshire Chronicle* 09.08.1919)

In August 1916 the Battalion was guarding the Northern end of the Es Sinn line.

In 1911 George, born about 1888, a farm labourer, was living with his parents George (farm labourer) and Fanny at Drove Cottages, East Worldham, Alton, Hampshire. (1911 Census)  
Also on Kilmeston Memorial.

**WILLIAMSON FRANK**, Lieutenant, 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, attached 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion London Rifle Brigade. KIA 24.03.1918, aged 33. Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Bay 9, & Liss, Hampshire war memorial.

“Eldest son of Matthew & Eleanor Williamson of “Oaklands”, East Liss. He was particularly well known to many in the vicinity of Woodlands Farm, Bramdean, & the utmost sympathy will be felt for his parents.” (*Hampshire Chronicle* 13.04.1918).

In the 1891 and 1901 Census’ the family is recorded at Woodlands Farm, West Meon, father Matthew Williamson a farm bailiff. Frank’s birthplace Penrith, Cumberland. By 1911 Frank was a Distiller’s Brewer, living at 153, Campbell Street, Bromley-by-Bow, London. Nicholson’s Gin Distillery was based in London and the Nicholson family had a country seat in Privett, Hampshire – could that be the London connection?

*In March we returned to the Couillet Wood sector, and on the 21st had our first experience of the anxious times experienced by the Allies during the Spring of 1918. Shortly after day-break, while in camp in Havrincourt Wood, we were aroused by a violent bombardment. A dense gas and smoke cloud passed through the Wood as we moved to our battle positions. On the way up Lt. Lintott, L.R.B. (formerly an Artist Sergeant), was killed. The next night we were ordered back to Havrincourt Wood as the enemy had gained a considerable amount of ground on our right (the Fifth Army Front). During the withdrawal, Lt. J. I. Royds was killed in Trescault. We started to dig in, but the next morning were retired to a defence line east of Ytres. There we again made ready to fight a rear-guard action, but we were again disappointed as we were directed to withdraw on a line Ytres Bus-le-Transloy.*

That night the whole Brigade withdrew into Ytres, and as communication with both Brigade and Divisional H.Q. was lost, a meeting of all the C.O.'s in the Brigade was called, and it was arranged that the Brigade should form a defensive flank extending East- West, to conform with the withdrawal of the 2nd Division on our left. The Brigade was then taken over by Lt.-Col. Collings Wells of the 4th Bedfords, who for his good work during the withdrawal was awarded the V.C.

We moved to our new position about midnight, the route taken leading us past the vast ammunition and petrol dump which was being destroyed. Here a shell splinter from the dump wounded Major Lathom, who was carried back to Beaulencourt. C Co., under Lt. Eric Willis, was also unfortunate in running into a Boche M.G. post and suffering severe casualties. Good work was done by Sergt. A. Coviello, who succeeded in penetrating the enemy lines in rear of us and establishing communication. Next morning the retirement continued through Barastre with heavy casualties (amongst whom was Lt. Dow, our American M.O.) to Beaulencourt, where we found Brigade H.Q. Then back through Gueudecourt, Flers, Bazentin-le-Grand, Bazentin-le-Petit to Courcellette, and the next day's trek took us through Pozieres to Thiepval. On the slopes in that neighbourhood we had an opportunity of checking the Boche, great work being done by a Lewis Gun team, for whom the Brigade Major was spotting. During the night orders came to cross at Authuille to the west bank of the river before daybreak, when the R.E.'s were to destroy the bridges. On reaching the other side we found the 12th Division waiting to take over from us. To celebrate the conclusion of our long innings, Battalion H.Q. indulged in a game of stump cricket which was rather spoilt by the arrival of a Hun H.V. shell. It ruined the pitch and scattered the field, but fortunately no one retired hurt. We then marched through Martinsart to Englebelmer, and the same evening moved to Millencourt for an attack on another Divisional front on the outskirts of Albert. This attempt to dislodge the Boche proved fruitless and resulted in somewhat serious casualties, chief among which was the loss of Lt. Eric Willis.

The Battalion was then withdrawn (via Senlis and Mailly Maillet) to Forceville for a complete rest over Easter. Our total casualties during the retirement amounted to 17 officers and 300 other ranks.

([http://www.archive.org/stream/regimentalrollofoohighiala/regimentalrollofoohighiala\\_djvu.txt](http://www.archive.org/stream/regimentalrollofoohighiala/regimentalrollofoohighiala_djvu.txt))



*Black Horse Shelters beside the River Ancre, 150 yards south of Authuille and 1½ miles south of Thiepval, in which the 15th H.L.I. spent rest periods before the Battle of the Somme, 1916.*

Picture [www.1914-1918.invasion.com](http://www.1914-1918.invasion.com)

## WORLD WAR 2

**ANDREWS, WILLIAM GEORGE**, Guardsman 2662705, 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Coldstream Guards. Died 21.02.1945, aged 33. Buried in Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Germany 47.F.18. (CWGC). Not on Bramdean War memorial.  
“In loving memory of my dear husband .... Reported died of wounds in enemy hands ... Cis & Mum, Bramdean.” (*Hampshire Chronicle* 23.02.1946)

Birth registered in Southampton (England & Wales Birth Index March 1913); his parents were George H Andrews and Fanny E B née Prince.

(<http://trees.ancestry.co.uk/tree/12065027/person/155355117?ssrc=>)

Married Elsie L Clark in Romsey 1941. (England & Wales Marriage Index March 1941)

The beginning of 1945 saw the 5th moving back to the Nijmegen area for operation 'Veritable'. Elements of the division, including the 5th, launched attacks on Mull with fierce fighting punctuated by heavy artillery barrages (known as stonks) on the advancing guards. After victory here, the 5th was rested in Schule from the 23rd of February to the 3rd of March. ([www.5bcg.co.uk/historyofthe5th.htm](http://www.5bcg.co.uk/historyofthe5th.htm))

**ELLIOTT, GEOFFREY GORDON**, Corporal, 14569827, 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Hampshire Regiment. Died 03.10.1944, aged 19. Son of Stanley Charles and Annie Elliott, of Hinton Ampner, Hampshire. Buried in Mook War Cemetery, Netherlands I.D.17. (CWGC)  
Birth registered in Alresford, his mother's maiden name Lawrence. (England & Wales Birth Index March 1925)

From [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com):

15th September 1944 the 7th Battalion joined 130th Brigade for operation “Market Garden” – the Arnhem Operation. On 20th September the 7th Battalion moved through Eindhoven to Grave. The 7th Battalion was tasked with defending the southern end of the two large bridges over the Waal. On 23rd September the 7th Battalion was sent into the line, fighting west of the bridges in the Valburg-Elst area.

The 7th Battalion then moved to the “Island” and stayed there until 4th October, before moving to the Gromsbeek-Mook area on the Dutch-German border.

**FREEMANTLE, WILLIAM FREDERICK**, Gunner 1718349, 362 Battery, 110 Lt. A.A. Regiment, Royal Artillery. Died 31.10.1942, aged 32. Son of Walter and Harriet Freemantle; husband of Gladys Dorothy Freemantle, of Bramdean, Hampshire. Buried in Bramdean (SS. Simon & Jude) Churchyard. (CWGC)

Born in Alresford in 1910, son of the landlord of the “Horse and Groom” inn. (1911 Census)  
His mother's maiden name was Harriet Selina Ebbs.

(<http://trees.ancestry.co.uk/tree/13616402/person/13565921327?ssrc=>)

Hampshire Chronicle 07.11.1942:

“Death of Gunner W.F. Freemantle – We regret to record the death of Gunner William Frederick Freemantle, of the Royal Artillery, second son of the late Mr W. Freemantle, and Mrs Freemantle, late of Alresford, who was killed by enemy action in October. Gunner Freemantle joined H.M. Forces some two years ago, and was very highly respected by all ranks of the Battery in which he served. He leaves a widow and three sons to mourn their loss.”

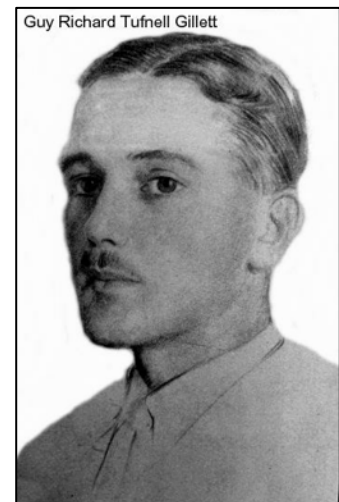
Killed in air raid on Coventry (memory of P.J. Bennett).

**GILLETT, GUY RICHARD TUFNELL**, Major, 49829, Royal Artillery, Died 29.11.1942, aged 31. Son of Col. Charles Richard Gillett, DSO, and of Gwynne Eveline Dykes Gillett (nee Keate) of Camberley, Surrey; husband of Alatheia Rachel Constance Gillett, of Bramdean, Hampshire. Buried in Catterick Military Cemetery, C.E. section, Grave 269. (CWGC)

Married Alatheia Rachel Constance Talbot-Ponsonby in Petersfield, Hampshire on 15.06.1935. They had two daughters, Aurea and Julia. (<http://trees.ancestry.co.uk/tree/31393296/person/13903986924?Src=>)

Died “as a result of a motor accident.” (Times 04.12.1942)

*“played cricket and hockey for Wellington and became a Prefect before he went on to the R.M.A. He saw service in Gibraltar and Ceylon and was a captain before he came back to England in 1940. Passing through the Staff College, he was appointed Brigade Major, R.A., 79th Armoured Division. Gillett died on active service from the consequences of an accident encountered on duty ...”*  
(Wellington Roll of Honour 1939-1945, Wellington School 1949)



**HUXLEY, JOHN**, Lance Corporal T/100856 Royal Army Service Corps. Died 06.07.1943, aged 38. Son of John and Margaret Huxley, husband of Clarrie Huxley, of Bramdean, Hampshire. Buried in Heliopolis War Cemetery, Cairo, Egypt, 5.E.2 The cemetery at Heliopolis was opened in October 1941 for burials from the many hospitals in the area coping with the wounded and sick, mainly from the Western Desert campaigns. (CWGC).

Born in Newton, Cheshire, son of a domestic chauffer. (1911 Census)

Married Clarrie Turner, registered in the Wirral, Cheshire. (England & Wales Marriage Index, June 1932)



**LEE, EDMUND FREDERICK**, Chief Petty Officer Writer, P/MX49430 RN. Died 26.04 1947 aged 33. HMS Victory. Son of Edmund & Helen Lee, husband of Lucy Barbara Lee, of Bramdean. Buried in Bramdean (SS. Simon and Jude) Churchyard. (CWGC)  
Cause of death Military Tuberculosis. (Death Certificate)

Born in Petersfield, Hampshire, registered June 1914, mother's maiden name Hammond. Married Lucy Barbara Marriner in Winchester in 1938. (England & Wales Marriage Index, June 1938)  
Father of Hazel E Lee, born late 1939 and Nigel E Lee born mid 1947 in Gosport.

**SMALL, ARTHUR VICTOR, ("TOM")**, Gunner, 1467379, 80 Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery. Died 17.11.1943, aged 25. Son of Harry and Alice Small, of Bramdean, Hampshire. Buried in Thanbyuzayat War Cemetery, Myanmar B3.W.3. (CWGC)  
Died of beri-beri as a prisoner of war of the Japanese. (Hampshire Chronicle 03.11.1945).

Arthur's birth was recorded in Alresford, his mother's maiden name given as Hoidge (England & Wales Birth Index December 1918). His father was a carpenter. (1911 Census)

Before the war Tom worked for Mr. Petts' stables in Fox Lane, Bramdean. (Peter Mercer)

80 Anti-Tank Regiment was part of the 11th Indian Infantry Division, which formed on 15<sup>th</sup> September 1940 and was part of Indian III Corps in the Malaya Command during the Battle of Malaya, fighting in the battles of Jitra, Slim River and Singapore. It was commanded by Major-General Murray-Lyon until 24 December 1941 when he was fired by Lieut.Gen. Arthur Percival and replaced by Brig. A.C.M. Paris and then Maj.Gen. Billy Key. This division suffered such heavy casualties during the early stages of the Battle of Malaya that the 1st Leicesters and the 2nd East Surreys were forced to amalgamate, becoming the British Battalion and the 6th and 15th Infantry Brigades were also amalgamated becoming the 6th/15th Indian Infantry Brigade.

The 11th Indian Division surrendered in Singapore to the Japanese on 15 February 1942, along with about 130,000 other British and Commonwealth soldiers.([www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com))

The notorious Burma-Siam railway, built by Commonwealth, Dutch and American prisoners of war, was a Japanese project driven by the need for improved communications to support the large Japanese army in Burma. During its construction, approximately 13,000 prisoners of war died and were buried along the railway. Thanbyuzayat is one of three cemeteries into which the burials (except for repatriated Americans) have been concentrated. An estimated 80,000 to 100,000 civilians also died in the course of the project, chiefly forced labour brought from Malaya and the Dutch East Indies, or conscripted in Siam (Thailand) and Burma (Myanmar). (CWGC)



**WOOD, ERIC CEDRIC**, Lance Bombardier, 851858, 7 Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery. Missing, presumed killed at sea, 29.05.1941, aged 24, off Crete. Son of Mrs G. Fuller, of Bexhill-on-Sea. Commemorated on Athens Memorial, face 2. (CWGC)

Hampshire Chronicle 11.03.1944:

WOOD – In ever loving memory of my dearest Eric's birthday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, who was presumed killed at Crete, May 1941. "Always in my thoughts, Darling" From his loving sweetheart, Irene, Brockwood Park nr. Alresford.

Hampshire Chronicle 27.05.1944 WOOD – in ever loving memory of dear Eric, L/Bdr E. C. Wood, Royal Artillery, presumed killed at sea May 29<sup>th</sup> 1941, at Crete. "Not just today, but every day." From Mother, Fred & Sam, also Auntie & Uncle & family, North Lodge, Hinton Ampner.

Born in Kensington 14.03.1917, son of Clara Gertrude V Wood. (UK, Army Roll of Honour, 1939-1945 & England & Wales Birth Index)

Clara G V Wood's marriage to Samuel Fuller was registered in Battle, Sussex. (England & Wales, Marriage Index September 1934)

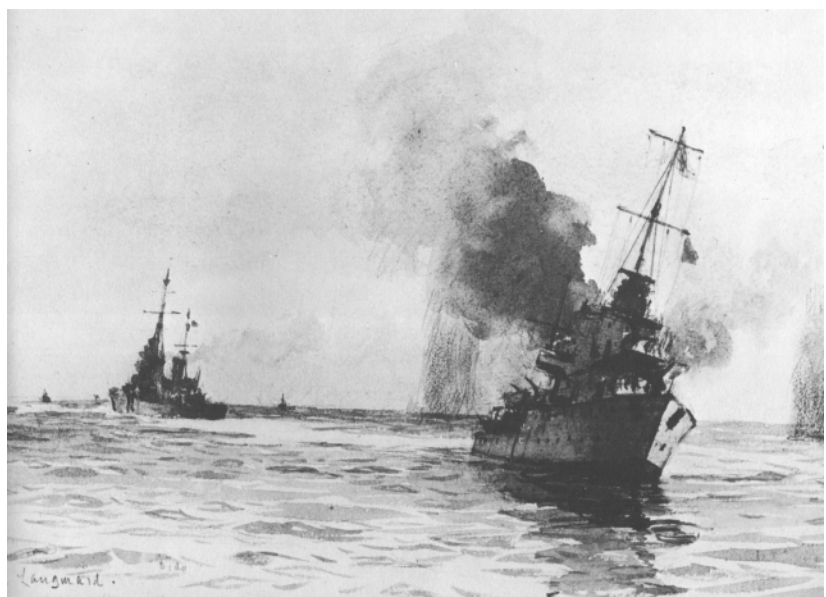
The 450 Officers and Men of 7 medium Regiment had no artillery equipment, so were armed as infantry. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Crete\\_order\\_of\\_battle](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Crete_order_of_battle)).



The major evacuation ship loss on 29.05.1941 was the destroyer HMS Hereward (Lt. William James Munn, RN ), which was bombed and sunk by German Ju-87 (Stuka) dive-bombers north-north-east of Plaka, Crete in position 35°20'N, 26°20'E. 75 dead, 91 survivors. All survivors were taken prisoner.

(<http://www.uboot.net/allies/warships/ship/4401.html>)

HMS Hereward turns back to be beached as the rest of the squadron sail to Alexandria. From a painting by Rowland Langmaid via *Destroyer at War*, Haines, G., ISBN 1-85648-1-74-3



# BROWN CANDOVER



Population in 1911: 178; 8 casualties.

## WORLD WAR 1

**BURGESS, FREDERICK WILLIAM**, Private 10047, 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Died 07.12 1915, aged 36, at Salonika. Youngest son of the late William and Ann Burgess of Brown Candover. Commemorated on Doiran Memorial, Greece. (CWGC) (Not on the War Memorial)  
Residence Winchester, Enlisted Chichester, Sussex. Killed in Action. (*UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)  
Personal Military Record not available.

The Battle of Kosturino took place over December 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> 1915. The Bulgarians attacked in force, their artillery proving especially effective against inadequate British trenches. The British were forced to yield ground, despite inflicting great losses on the enemy. The Hampshire lost 183 killed and missing and 106 wounded. (*The Royal Hampshire Regiment, Vol.2, 1914-1918*, Atkinson C.T., University Press, Glasgow 1952)

Arthur Ford (p.53) & Albert Stevens (p.76) were killed in the same action.

Born in Brown Candover 1879. Frederick's father William was a farm labourer and carter. (1891 census). By 1911 Frederick was a stable carter in Abbots Worthy, Winchester. (Census)

**KENNARD, SIDNEY RUSSELL**, Private 68336, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion the Devonshire Regiment. Died 25.08.1918, aged 19. Son of Harry and Lily Kennard, of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Born at Collingbourne Ducis, Wiltshire. Buried in Achiet-le Grand Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas-de-Calais, France, III.H.26. (CWGC)  
Residence Basingstoke, Killed in Action. (*UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)  
Personal Military Record not available.

Sidney's father was Clerk of Works at the War Department. (1901 Census)  
In 1911 Sidney was a pupil boarder at "Inglehome", Bishopwood Road, Highgate, Middlesex.

The Battle of Bapaume started in thick fog on 21<sup>st</sup> August 1918. The 1st Battalion was to advance to take "Brown Line" just short of Achiet-le-Petit then advance to the Arras- Albert railway and secure the "Red Dotted Line" on the slopes beyond. Success was achieved, advancing fourteen miles to the end of August, but at a cost to the Battalion of 5 officers and 40 men killed, 13 officers wounded and over 200 wounded. (*The Devonshire Regiment 1914-1918*, Atkinson, C.T., Exeter, Eland Brothers 1926)

**KNIGHT, WILLIAM CONROY**, Private PLY/1717(S), Royal Marine Light Infantry, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Royal Marine Light Infantry, R.N. Division. Died 26.10.1917, aged 19. Son of James and Emily Knight, of Woodbine Cottage, Selborne Alton, Hampshire. Commemorated on Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium, Panel 1 & 162A. (CWGC)

Enlisted 10/11/16 age 18; Embarked RM Brigade 19/1/17; Draft for BEF 17/3/17, joined 2nd RM Battalion 9/4/17-27/4/17 to Hospital, ICT left foot (wounded, Barbed Wire), rejoined 2nd RM Battalion from Base Depot Calais 1/7/17-26/10/17 DD. (Jack Marshall, comp... *Great Britain, Royal Naval Division Casualties of The Great War, 1914-1924* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: The Generations Network, Inc., 2008. Original data: Jack Marshall, comp. *The Jack Clegg*

Born in Brown Candover, in 1911 William was living at 36, Brown Candover with his parents James (a carpenter and wheelwright) and Emily, two older brothers and a younger sister.

The Royal Naval Division in the third battle at Ypres in 1917:

On 31 July 1917 the British army launched the third battle at Ypres, also called the battle for Passchendaele, after the village where the assault was finished. Haig thought he could finally force a breakthrough, and deployed every available division from the British Empire to achieve that goal. The offensive was larger than the battle at the Somme in 1916.

The German defensive position east of Ypres consisted of a number of lines, including *Flanders I, II and III Stellungen*. The position bent, but did not break. The commander of the Fifth Army, General Hubert Gough, was replaced in September by General Herbert Plumer of the Second Army, but he too failed to deliver the much desired breakthrough for Haig.

The shot up ground and copious rainfall turned the battlefield into a huge quagmire.



British, New Zealand and Australian divisions literally fought themselves to death here. By late October, the Canadian corps of General Arthur Currie, under protest, would launch a final attempt to conquer Passchendaele village. This part of Third Ypres is known as the second battle of Passchendaele and lasted from 26 October until 10 November 1917. The Canadians would attack in three steps, progress 500 metres in every stride, and then pull in the artillery.

The *Royal Naval Division* was tasked to attack alongside the Canadians. The division was to cover the left flank of the Canadian advance. Much like at the Somme, the division was deployed in the final phase of a battle in a quagmire. And like at the Somme the sailors had to endure mocking asides that they, in view of the conditions, would be completely at home. Richard Tobin of Hood battalion describes the scene:

‘Then, when you got up to the Front, there was no front line to speak of, just a series of posts scraped in the mud. A machine-gun crew here, a few riflemen there, further on a Lewis-gun crew.’

On 26 October at 5.40 am, the Canadian divisions launched the attack for Passchendaele. The first battalion of marines and the Anson battalion of the 188th Brigade attacked at the same time. Like during previous days, it was raining. A few hours later, Anson battalion took Varlet Farm, a reinforced German position midway between Poelkapelle and Passchendaele.

The area had to be fought over metre by metre in the following days. The mud-bound fights east of Varlet Farm symbolise in miniature what the whole Third Battle at Ypres had been like. Mud in which men would sink and drown. Mud which clogged guns and machine guns, rendering them useless.

On October 30th, the second step was taken and the 190th Brigade attempted, with regular army soldiers, to proceed through the mud towards the Paddenbeek River.

One of those battalions was the 1/28th (County of London) Battalion, better known as *The Artist's Rifles*. It was their baptism of fire in the war. Of the 470 men who went on the attack, 350 became casualties, of whom 170 fatalities. Most of these were never

found, and their names are listed with the missing on the *Tyne Cot Memorial*. (<http://www.wereldoorlog1418.nl/RND-Royal-Naval-Division/index.html>)



**MATON, FREDERICK**, Rifleman 331065, 1<sup>st</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Hampshire Regiment. Died 19.04.1917, aged 23. Third son of George and Laura Maton, of New House, The Grange, Alresford, Hampshire. Commemorated on Jerusalem memorial, Panels 28 & 29. (CWGC) . Also, with brother John, on Northington Memorial. Enlisted Winchester. Killed in Action. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*) Personal Military Record not available.

“... Previously to enlisting he was employed on the estate of Lord Ashburton, and was well known in the district.” (*Hampshire Chronicle* 12.05.1917)

19<sup>th</sup> April 1917 was the end of the Second Battle of Gaza – a “disastrous reverse. It finished all thoughts of any further advance by the E.E.F., until much more artillery and substantial reinforcements could arrive. The 8<sup>th</sup> Hampshire, with 23 officers and 746 other ranks in action, had lost even more heavily than at Suvla... (9 officers) and 220 were killed and missing, 3 officers and 28 men were taken prisoner and (10 officers) and 298 men had been wounded.” (*The Royal Hampshire Regiment, Vol.2, 1914-1918*, Atkinson C.T., University Press, Glasgow 1952)

Total British casualties were heavy: 6,444 men, with Turkish losses under a third of that figure. C.in C.Murray relieved Dobell of command, with cavalry General Chetwode taking his place. Nevertheless shocked officials in London took the opportunity to purge the high command with Murray himself being recalled to London.

In his stead was sent Sir Edmund Allenby, who regarded his redeployment from the Western Front to Palestine as a sign of failure (he was never on easy terms with BEF C.in C. Sir Douglas Haig ). However, Allenby engineered a spectacular revival of his and his army's fortunes in a series of comprehensive British victories in Palestine beginning with triumph at the Third Battle of Gaza in October/November 1917.

Born 1894 in Martyr Worthy (England & Wales, Free Birth Index April 1894). In the 1901 Census Frederick was recorded as living at New House Farm, Northington, with his family – his father a carter on the farm. His mother was Emma Laura née Perry.

**SIMPSON, WILLIAM**, Private 6851, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Died 12.12.1914. Buried Lancashire Cottage Cemetery, Hainaut, Belgium, I.C.11. (CWGC, identity confirmed *Hampshire Chronicle* 19.12.1914) Born in Ropley, Hampshire. Residence Tichbourne, Hampshire, enlisted Winchester, Hampshire. Killed in Action. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*) Number 6851 implies that William joined the Regiment about 1903. (<http://armyservicenumbers.blogspot.co.uk/2012/02/Hampshire-regiment-1st-2nd-battalions.html>), and he went to the Western Front 23.08.1914 (medal roll). Personal Military Record not available.

In mid-December the Hampshire was holding trenches in front of Le Gheer. “Bad weather was more troublesome than the enemy, even constant pumping could not prevent the trenches from being flooded ... even when temporarily free from water were knee-deep in slush. The position was enfiladed by a German salient called “The Birdcage”, and snipers caused the majority of the battalion’s 50 casualties at this time. (*The Royal Hampshire Regiment, Vol.2, 1914-1918*, Atkinson C.T., University Press, Glasgow 1952)



**STEVENS, ALBERT**, Private 15813, 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Died 07.12.1915, aged 31. Son of George and Sarah Stevens; husband of Louisa Ann Stevens, of Crawley, Winchester. Born at Crawley, Winchester. Commemorated on the Doiran Memorial, Greece. Enlisted in Crawley, Hampshire. Killed in Action. (*UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)  
Personal Military Record not available.

Born in Compton about 1884, in 1911 Albert was working as a shepherd at new Barn Farm, Crawley, Winchester, Hampshire. (1911 Census)



In October 1915 a combined Franco-British force of some two large brigades was landed at Salonika (today called Thessalonika) at the request of the Greek Prime Minister. The objective was to help the Serbs in their fight against Bulgarian aggression. But the expedition arrived too late, the Serbs having been beaten before they landed. It was decided to keep the force in place for future operations, even against Greek opposition. The Greek Chief of the General Staff in Athens had told them " You will be driven into the sea, and you will not have time even to cry for mercy" (Some Greek factions, including King Constantine, were pro-German). The outcome of the Gallipoli campaign was in the balance and most shipping in the area was involved so they really had no choice. In December 1915 the British element fought a battle at Kosturino, north of Lake Doiran, after withdrawing from Serbia ...  
(<http://www.1914-1918.net/salonika.htm>)

The line held by the 10th (Irish) Division, was in savage hill-top barren-rock country without vegetation. By the end of November, the weather conditions became worst. The exposed infantrymen suffered from cold rains and a raging blizzard. Furthermore, their health was already undermined by the unhealthy hot climate during the Gallipoli peninsula. By the end of November, already 1,656 men had been evacuated, many of them to be hospitalised with frostbite.

Very little fighting occurred until December 4, when it became clear that the Bulgarians had received reinforcements as their artillery fire became better directed and more concentrated. On December 6 and 7 they attacked and took *Rocky Peak*, taking 30 British prisoners. From here they had a good position to shell the British lines.

On December 8, the Bulgarian Army launched an all-out attack. General Mahon tried to coordinate his defensive operations with the retreating French Army to his left, but the enemy forces were too strong, about 4 times the size of the British. As newly arrived forces in Saloniki could not reach the front soon, because of bad roads, there was no alternative but to withdrawal. The Irish Division (of which 10<sup>th</sup> Hampshire were part) withdrew in good order. Their casualties were about 1,500 men and eight guns.

By December 12, all allied forces had withdrawn into Greece. The Bulgarian Army was not allowed by the German High Command to enter Greek territory, as they still hoped that Greece would enter the war on their side. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Kosturino](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Kosturino))

Frederick Burgess (p.72) & Arthur Ford (p.53) were killed in the same action.

## WORLD WAR 2

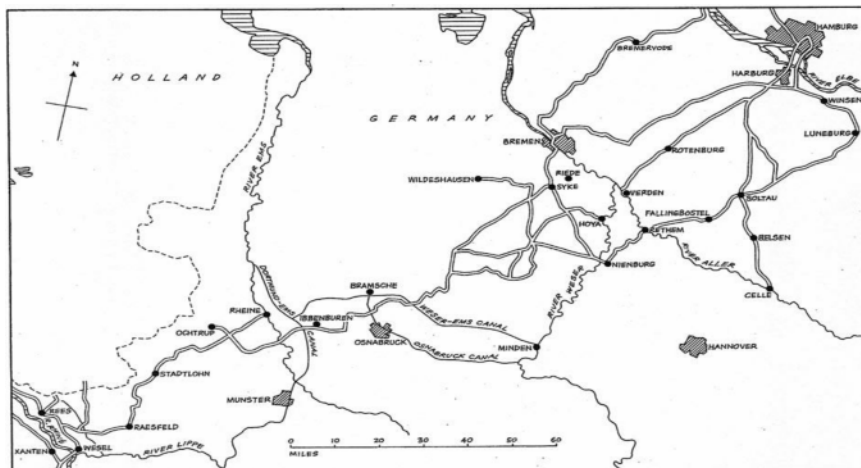
**TROUP, IVAN GORDON**, Lieutenant 295902 11<sup>th</sup> Hussars, Royal Armoured Corps. Died 28.03.1945, aged 21. Son of Lindsey Gordon Troup OBE (Executive Officer of the Hampshire War Agricultural Committee) and Ania Troup, of Winchfield, (*Candover Park, Brown Candover – “Times”, 06.05.1945*) Hampshire. Buried in Reichswald Forest War Cemetery 46.F.5 (CWGC)

“... educated at Radley and Cambridge University, volunteering at the age of eighteen for the Army, and leaving his course at the University to join the Royal Armoured Corps. After he had passed through Sandhurst he was commissioned to the Hussars and served with them in North West Europe, being wounded in July last. He was sent back to an English hospital, and after he had recovered rejoined his unit. Lt. Troup was a very fine athlete, and excelled at rugby and tennis; he was also an excellent sporting shot. .... (his only sister) Leila is serving in the WRNS. (*Hampshire Chronicle 07.04.1945*)

From [www.btinternet.com/~ian.a.paterson/battles1945.htm](http://www.btinternet.com/~ian.a.paterson/battles1945.htm):

### Operation Plunder

For this operation, the Division was to cross at Xanten and Wesel, behind the assault forces, once Bailey Bridges has been slung across the river. The Division was then to move eastwards towards its final objective, the City of Hamburg, just 190 miles away.



The initial assault took place on the night of 23rd/24th March, with the guns of 3rd and 5th RHA supporting the attack at Wesel. Three days later on the morning of 27th March 1945, 11th Hussars led the Division across the Rhine. The advance force was made up of 11th Hussars, a battlegroup of the Inniskilling's, 9th DLI, in Kangaroo armoured carriers, 'A' company 1st Rifle Brigade, 'K' battery 5th RHA, 4th Squadron RE and flail tanks from the Lothian and Border Yeomanry. There was now a change of strategy for the Division, as since leaving the Desert it had been led by the infantry, but now 11th Hussars were to lead followed by the infantry and engineers.

There were broken gliders from the airborne assault everywhere, along with signs of the recent fighting everywhere. On 28th March, the Rifle Brigade and 5th RTR began to clear woods and villages in the area, supported by the 25-pdrs of the RHA. In Normandy the main hazard to the armour had been the 88mm gun and Tiger tank, in Holland it had been minefields, but now in the 'Fatherland' itself it was the cheap Panzerfaust that caused the most problems.

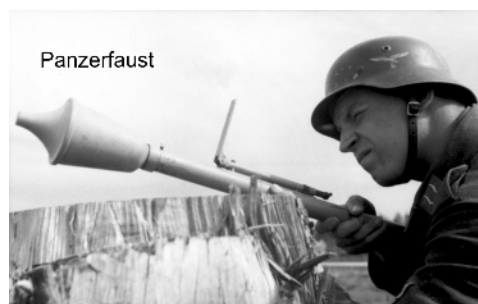


Photo Bundesarchiv, Bild 101I-672-7634-13 Hoepner / CC-BY-SA

The 7th Armoured Division now advanced on three lines, with 1st RTR going east to Heidon, then north to Ramsdorf, while 5th RTR went towards Borken, north of the Raesfeld-Brunen road. In the centre the Inniskilling's and DLI were sent to tackle Borken from the south. Progress was slow with poor tracks through thick woods containing German Paratroops, armed with Panzerfausts. Brunen was defended by machine guns, Panzerfausts and anti-tank guns, with the bridge blocked by bomb rubble. 'A' Company, 9th DLI occupied the village and then laid an ambush, with their commanding officer (Major Stephen Terrell) acting as 'traffic policeman', by directing the Germans into his own ambush. This netted twenty prisoners, including a German paymaster with 80,000 Deutschmarks with him.

'A' Company, Rifle Brigade, captured the next village, Raesfeld and later on Gemen, 10 miles from the bridgehead, was cleared by 9th DLI on the night of 28th/29th March. By now 11th Hussars had probed the outskirts of Borken, losing two armoured cars in the process. By nightfall, 5th RTR were in the town centre, which was a shambles taking 90 prisoners.

#### **11<sup>th</sup> Hussars War Diary, 28.03.1945:**

##### **B Sqn.**

At first light three Tps were despatched along the CL and on to capture RAESFELD. At approx 1130 hours RAESFELD was captured and the patrols were able to fan out. 4Tp took the northern route to BORKEN. Light A/Tk guns and Infantry were encountered but were dealt with by the Skins and at last light BORKEN was in our hands.

5Tp Lt Sivewright in the centre made little progress due to bad going and was recalled. 2Tp Lt Troup advanced to 393535 stopping up odd groups of Infantry on the way. At this point he ran into an 88mm A/Tk gun, possibly a Jagdpanther and unfortunately was put out of action. His car was brewed up and the Tp Sgt's car damaged. Casualties suffered were; Lt Troup killed, Cpl Mayes, Cpl Sykes, LCpl Oliver, Tpr Gray, Tpr Quantrill and LCpl Clarke wounded.

1Tp went out immediately to give assistance. He was soon on the spot and decided against taking his cars across open ground and so went forward on foot with his Scout sect and succeeded in moving all the wounded who had been well controlled by Cpl Sykes. Lt Young then went back to search for Lt Troup but found he was still in his car which was on fire. 1Tp then carried on with the patrol and made contact with 1st RTR who were also directed on HEIDEN. At last light a night attack was staged by 1st RTR and the town was in our hands. During the day 60 PoW were taken. Tps were called in at last light to SHQ except 4Tp who remained with A Sqn for the night and rejoined the next morning.

([www.desertrats.org.btinternet.co.uk/artefacts2.htm](http://www.desertrats.org.btinternet.co.uk/artefacts2.htm))

The 11<sup>th</sup> Hussars were equipped with Daimler Dingo armoured scout cars.



hsfeatures.com



Wikimedia Commons photo.

# CHERITON



The stained glass in the four stone windows in the North and South aisle walls of the Nave of St Michael and All Angel's Church was installed by Mrs Mary Augusta Phipps Egerton in memory of four nephews killed in the First World War. They depict the knightly virtues with figures of Duty, Courage, Loyalty and Honour each bearing the face of one of her nephews. Accompanying the figures are scenes from the Bible, the Saints and the legends of King Arthur, with the badges of their schools and regiments. The nephews were Basil Christy, Stephen Christy, John Egerton and Geoffrey Pratt.

Population in 1911: 690; 31 casualties.

## PRE WORLD WAR 2

**BATTEN, THOMAS.** Private 3749, 6<sup>th</sup> Dragoon Guards, South Africa Field Force. Died Orange River 09.03.1900, aged 18. (Memorial tablet in Cheriton Church & UK, *Casualties of the Boer War*).

Tom Owen Batten's birth in Northington, Hampshire was registered in the September Quarter of 1880. His parents were Joseph Russell Batten (a cowman) and Matilda née Parrock. In the 1901 census Joseph and Matilda were recorded as living in Cheriton, Joseph working as a carter for a farmer.

**BOWMAN, ARTHUR**, Nothing known. No Bowman family was recorded in the Alresford area in the 1901 or 1911 Census. The CWGC records do not reveal any Cheriton connections.

Not recorded as a Cheriton man serving in 1914 (*Hampshire Chronicle* 05.12.1914)

Although his name appears on the Memorial Tablet in the church, it is not recorded on the War Memorial in the village centre.

**BUNCE, ARTHUR ALFRED**, Driver 58926, 104<sup>th</sup> Battery. 22<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, Royal Field Artillery. Died 20.09.1916. Commemorated Loos Memorial, Pas-de-Calais, France, Panel 3. (CWGC)

**Is this the right record?** There is no Bunce family in Cheriton in the 1911 census.

Not recorded as a Cheriton man serving in 1914 (*Hampshire Chronicle* 05.12.1914)

Although his name appears on the Memorial Tablet in the church, it is not recorded on the War Memorial in the village centre.

Served in the Royal Horse Artillery, then Royal Field Artillery. Enlisted Mill Hill, London NW. Killed in Action. (UK, *Soldiers Killed in the Great war, 1914-1919*)

20<sup>th</sup> September was the day before a great bombardment started the Battle of Loos.

Son of Arthur (a goldsmith) and Elizabeth Bunce, born in Islington in 1891. (1901 Census & England & Wales Free BMD Birth Index, 1837-1915, Dec 1891)

By 1911 Arthur had become a driver in the 95<sup>th</sup> battery, Royal Field Artillery, based at Tempe, Orange Free State, South Africa (Census)

**TWO BROTHERS**, sons of Henry Edmund Christy, a partner in a firm of tweed manufacturers, and Ethel May née Phipps-Hornby.

**CHRISTY, BASIL ROBERT FRANCIS**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Coldstream Guards. Died 03.10.1916. aged 19. Younger and only surviving son of Henry E. and Ethel M. Christy, of Lordington, Emsworth, Hampshire. Buried in Grove Town Cemetery, Meaulte, Somme, France, I.M.3. (CWGC)

"..... died on October 3<sup>rd</sup> from wounds received in action on September 29<sup>th</sup>. ..... He was educated at Cheam School and Eton College, where he became President of the Eton Society, played in the Eleven, 1914-15, was Keeper of the Field, and had his Five Choices. He was in the Officers' Training Corps, and on leaving Eton, he joined the Coldstream Guards in March last, and went to France on August 29<sup>th</sup>. His Captain, on writing of him when he was wounded, said 'I hope he will soon be all right again as he is just the sort of fellow we are in need of in the Brigade of Guards'." (*Hampshire Chronicle* 14.10.1916)



Photo of Basil Christy, 1915 (Courtesy Eton College)



**CHRISTY, STEPHEN EDMUND FELL**, Lieutenant, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Irish Guards. Died 12.07.1916, aged 20. Elder son of Henry E. and Ethel M. Christy, of Lordington, Emsworth, Hampshire. Buried in Ypres Reservoir Cemetery, Belgium, I.D.79. (CWGC)

“... educated at Cheam School and Eton College, went to the Royal Military College, Sandhurst in September 1914, and joined the Irish Guards in January 1915. He went to the Front in June, and was wounded the following December, promoted in April 1916 to Lieutenant, and killed in action on July 12<sup>th</sup> 1916. He was much beloved by all in his Regiment, and his Colonel wrote of him: “He was as valuable an officer as any in the whole battalion, always fearless and cool, and no one will miss him more than I. He was a great boy with a great heart”.” (*Hampshire Chronicle* 14.10.1916)



“ Broken and filthy banks of the Canal South of Ypres.... 11<sup>th</sup> July Relieved 2<sup>nd</sup> Grenadiers on a broken and marshy front between Buffs Road and Forward Cottage with the Battalion Headquarters near St Jean and 3<sup>rd</sup> Coldstream on their left. They were shelled during relief, when Lt. Christie, who, but a little while before, had just escaped a sniper’s bullet through a loophole, was killed. (*The Irish Guards in the Great War – the First Battalion*. Kipling, R. Staplehurst, Spellmount Ltd. ISBN 1-873376-72-3)

**COLLIS, ROBERT WILLIAM**, Corporal Z/227, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Rifle Brigade. Died 10.06.1915, aged 22. Son of Robert and Emma Collis, of Lower Green, Hawkley, Liss, Hampshire. Buried in La Brique Military Cemetery No. 2, West Vlaanderen, Belgium, I.M.38. Army Service Record not available.

Residence Hawkley, Hampshire, Killed in Action. (*UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)

Born in 1893 in Woodmancote, Hampshire, one of six children of Robert Collis, a groom, and Emma née Godwin (1901 Census). By 1911 Robert was a footman at Hawkley Vicarage, Hampshire. (Census)

A memorial plaque was placed in Hawkley Church, which reads ‘To the memory of Robert Collis of this Parish, acting Corporal 3rd Battalion Rifle Brigade killed in action near Ypres June 10, 1915. For 8 years faithful servant of the Rev Lionel Corbett, sometime Vicar of Hawkley, who deeply mourns his loss and by whom this Tablet is placed here in affectionate remembrance. "Glad did I live and gladly die, and laid me down with a will."



"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Although none of the above documents show a Cheriton connection, personal service records show that Robert’s elder brother Arthur married in Cheriton in 1918 and gave his residence as Cheriton on discharge from the Army in 1919.

The 3rd Battalion War Diary summarises the period without giving a daily report; there was not a large set-piece battle on 10th June. Casualties of other ranks are not mentioned. Nonetheless the entries give a flavour:

At the end of May we left ARMENTIERES arriving at the Ypres salient on June 4th. ... The next two months we spent in trenches at LA BRIQUE, going out occasionally in billets in the woods at 'A30' between VLAMERTINGHE and POPERINGHE. No one who has ever been to YPRES wants to go there again and the battalion had its fair share of this unpleasant spot. At first it was a not unwelcome change from ARMENTIERES, as one rifleman remarked his first day in the LA BRIQUE trenches 'It's all right, there is a bit of life about the place'. ... After a month or so at LA BRIQUE when we had more shelling than most of us cared about, we should all have been glad of a change to any other part of the line. Such names as FORWARD COTTAGE, CROSS ROADS FARM, HILL TOP FARM will ever remind us of something unpleasant.

**EGERTON, JOHN FREDERICK**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps, Died 03.04.1916, aged 19. Son of the Right Honourable. Sir Edwin Egerton, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., &c., and Olga Egerton Princess Olga Lobanow de Rostoff. Buried in Doullens Communal Cemetery Extension No.1, Somme, France, II.A.2. (CWGC)

".... the only son of the Right Honourable Sir Edwin Egerton, formerly ambassador at Rome, and Lady Egerton, who is the daughter of Nicholas Lobanov Rostowski, of Lobanov, Russia. 2nd.Lt. Egerton was born in 1896, and was an undergraduate at Christ Church, Oxford, where he matriculated in 1914. He was gazetted to the King's Royal Rifles in December, 1914. (*Hampshire Chronicle* 15.04.1916)



"2nd April Sunday

Two of our ball-grenades fired from the West Bomb-thrower provoked heavy retaliation with vane bombs. Our catapult unfortunately broke; the STOKES trench-mortar was called upon for retaliation. After one or two rather alarming experiments the final shots reached the German trenches & drew a rapid series of whizzbangs upon Coy HQs. This is the first time the vane bomb has been fired since our guns registered on it a week ago. As work on the chalk mound opposite I.65 N of the Railway still continued our guns fired salvoes of shrapnels over this spot during the night. Lewis gun fired at it intermittently. A stray bullet hit 2nd Lt EGERTON on patrol early in the evening. He had only just returned from acting as ADC to the GOC 46th Division & would probably have joined the mission before long. He was right on the German wire, but his company fetched him in.

3rd April Monday

D Coy relieve A Coy in BLANGY after listening to a lecture on the intricacies of the line by Major CRUM. The party for leave is cancelled at the last moment owing to the port of



HAVRE being closed. Much more rifle-fire than usual was noticeable during the early morning; stray shots continually poured over the road and one man was hit near the station. The Germans opposite BLANGY were evidently nervous & fired constant Very Lights. 2nd Lt Egerton died at 10.45pm at the 42nd CCS DOULLENS. The battalion has lost a very keen & capable, as well as popular officer.

4th April Tuesday

Snipers report a new loophole in the wall opposite SCARPE corner, they fired at various loopholes which the enemy may use, but observed no movement in their lines. During the early part of the evening our LEWIS guns scattered two parties working S of the railway. Funeral of 2nd Lt EGERTON at Doullens attended by 2nd Lts HILL & HARDY.” (Regimental War Diary)

**FITT, JACOB CLIVE**, Private 8876, 22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment). Died 17.02.1917 aged 20. Son of Jacob William and Ivy Nellie Fitt of 4, Cholmeley Park, Highgate, London. Enlisted 1914. Buried in Regina Trench Cemetery, Grandcourt, Somme, France, IV.F.8. (CWGC)  
Born in Fulham, London, residence St. Paul's, London, enlisted Highgate, London. Regimental no. 6876. Killed in Action 17.02.1917. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*) Service Record not available.

There were two separate attacks by 2nd Division on 17th February 1917.

The overall objective of the planned attack was to capture Hill 130 and advance the line to put pressure on the German salient at Serre, with a more strategic element of drawing Reserves away from the French offensive actions promised for the Spring.

99th Brigade were part of the main attack entrusted with the capture of Hill 130 between the East Miraumont Road and the West Miraumont Road. To their west 54th Brigade of 18th Division attacked the gulley known as Boom Ravine. The Brigade attacked a front of 500 yards. The three objectives of 99 Brigade were:

1. Grandcourt Trench
2. South Miraumont Trench
3. The main road beyond Hill 130 between Petit Miraumont and Grandcourt.

The attacking battalions were the 23rd Royal Fusiliers and the 1st KRRC. Half of 22nd RF provided close support as moppers up. The 1st Royal Berkshires and the rest of 22nd RF were used as carrying parties.



*Winter on the Somme by Frank Crozier*

Lance-Sergeant Frederick Palmer of the 22nd Royal Fusiliers won his VC at this action. (<http://www.arrse.co.uk/military-history-militaria/168198-list-royal-fusiliers-battalions-great-war.html>)

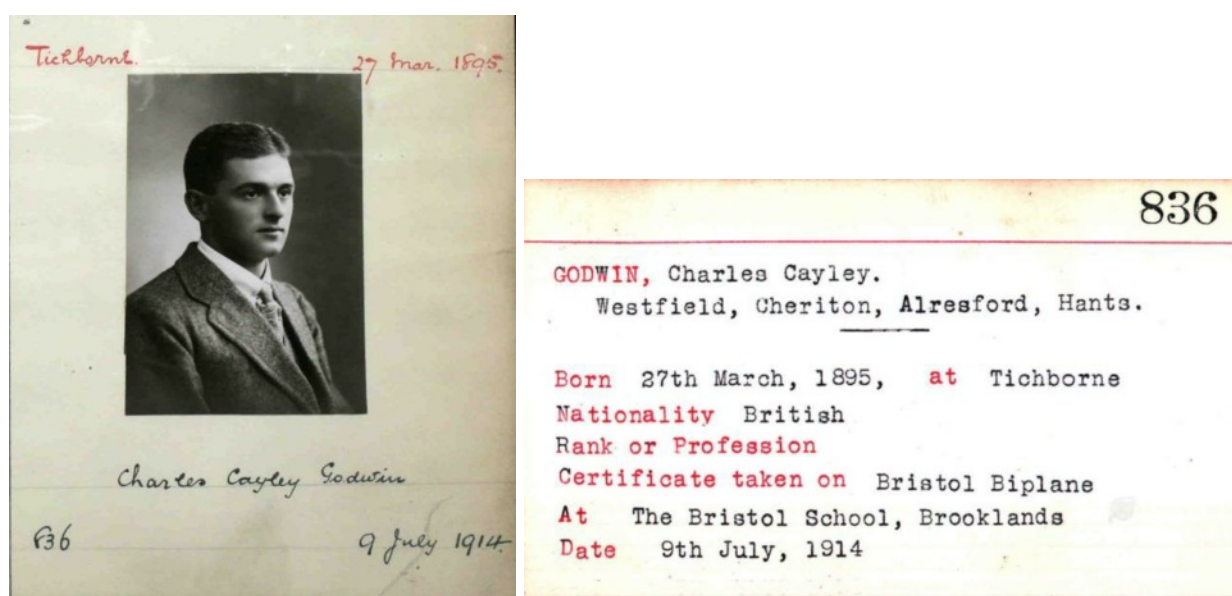
Recorded in 1901 as the son of Joseph W. (Salesman, Spice Merchant) and Ivy N. Fitt, living at 7, Dorncliffe Road, Fulham, London. Joseph was born in Cheriton about 1869. (1901 Census). The memorial to Henry Fitt in Cheriton Parish Church lists his “three sons Jacob William 1863 – 1919, Harry Hughes 1871 – 1906 and Arnold, 1876 – 1889, and his grandson Jacob Clive Fitt born 1896, Killed in Action in France 1917” – but not Joseph!

**FLETCHER, ERNEST.** Private 5171, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment, South Africa Field Force. Died in Bloemfontein 20.05.1900, aged 20. (Memorial tablet in Cheriton Church & UK, *Casualties of the Boer War.*)

Born in West Meon, Hampshire in 1880, son of Charles (a shepherd) and Ellen Fletcher. In 1881 they were living in Spring Gardens, Tichborne, Alresford, Hampshire. (1881 Census)

**GODWIN, CHARLES CAYLEY,** 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, 1 Squadron RFC. Died 17.10.1916, aged 19. Buried in Pont-du-Hem Military cemetery, La Gorgue, Nord, France, IV.G.1. (CWGC). Son of William and Daisy Godwin of Westfield Farm, Cheriton, born in Tichborne 27.03.1895.

An early aviator – this is the record card of his Royal Aero Club Certificate:



“Cayley Godwin landed an aircraft on Westfield Farm before the war. He was in one of the first five RFC aircraft deployed to France in 1914. (Family memoir of M.Godwin).” However, the Hampshire Chronicle of December 1914 records Cayley Godwin as having joined the forces after the start of the war, so he would not have been serving when the RFC first deployed to France. Confusion due to his being a member of No. 1 Squadron RFC? Embarked 17.09.1915. Wounded in the right arm by shellfire 06.03.1916, repatriated 13.03.1916 to “Lady Carnarvon’s Hospital”. [Sic] (Presumably Highclere Castle?) Posted to 1 Sqn RFC 07.10.1916. (Casualty Card)

17<sup>th</sup> October 1916 was a fine day, with a high level of air activity. Nieuport 20 A259 of I Sqn, RFC was lost whilst engaged on escort duties, probably by Anti-Aircraft fire. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. C.C.Godwin & Lt.P.C.Ellis KIA. (“The Sky Their Battlefield”, T.Henshaw)



Nieuport 20, 1 Sqn RFC October 1916

**HARFIELD, HENRY JAMES**, Private 37545, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Worcestershire Regiment.

Died 31.07.1917. Commemorated on Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium, Panel 34.

(CWGC)

"... killed in action ... the dearly loved adopted son of W. & H.H. Harfield, of New Cheriton, Alresford, aged 25)

Born about 1891 in Exton, Hampshire, in 1911 Henry, a general labourer, was living with his uncle and aunt, William (a traction engine driver) and Hannah Harfield in New Cheriton. (1911 Census)

Service Record not available.

Also on Kilmeston Memorial.

On the 26th July 1917 the 1st Battalion Worcestershire Regiment moved forward from their billets in Ypres to dugouts at "Halfway House." Thence on the next evening the Battalion moved up along the Menin Road to the line, and took over the trenches immediately south of the Road at Hooze.

The British artillery had steadily increased their fire during the weeks preceding the attack, and in face of that fire the German front-line trenches had been almost evacuated. Patrols sent out by the 1st Battalion Worcestershire Regiment on the next two nights reported very few of the enemy in the trenches in, front.

#### THE BATTLES OF YPRES 1917

(This is the official title for the whole series of battles from July 31st till November 10th. The first phase — July 31st to August 2nd is officially termed the "Battle of Pilckem Ridge")

During the night of 30th/31st July 1917, the whole Ypres Salient was crowded with troops filing forward into their assembly positions. The companies of the 1st Battalion Worcestershire Regiment got out of their trenches and formed up behind them in attack formation. The 2nd Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment came up from support and took over the left hand sector of the Brigade front, astride the Menin Road. The attack was to be made north-eastward, slantwise across the Road towards Westhoek. Behind them, the 3rd Battalion Worcestershire Regiment marched forward that night from their camp beyond Reninghelst (near Hoograaf Cabaret - The 3rd Battalion Worcestershire Regiment had moved to that bivouac from "Halifax Camp" on December 24th.) to bivouac in reserve near Belgian Chateau, west of Ypres.

During the night of the 30th/31st July 1917, the British guns redoubled their fire, and as the first light of dawn broke the sky (3.50 a.m.) the gun-fire rose to intensity and along the whole front of the Salient the British infantry went over the top." The great attack had begun. "



**Front line trenches in Sanctuary Wood  
from which the 1st Battalion Worcestershire Regiment attacked on the 31st July 1917**

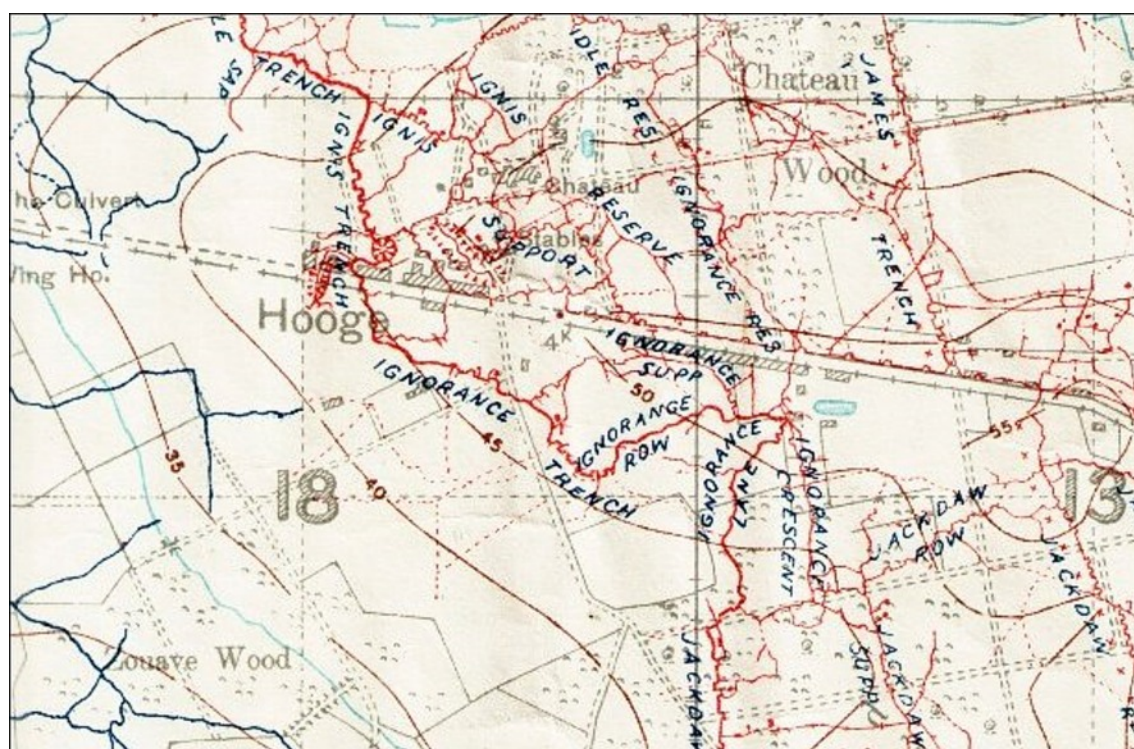
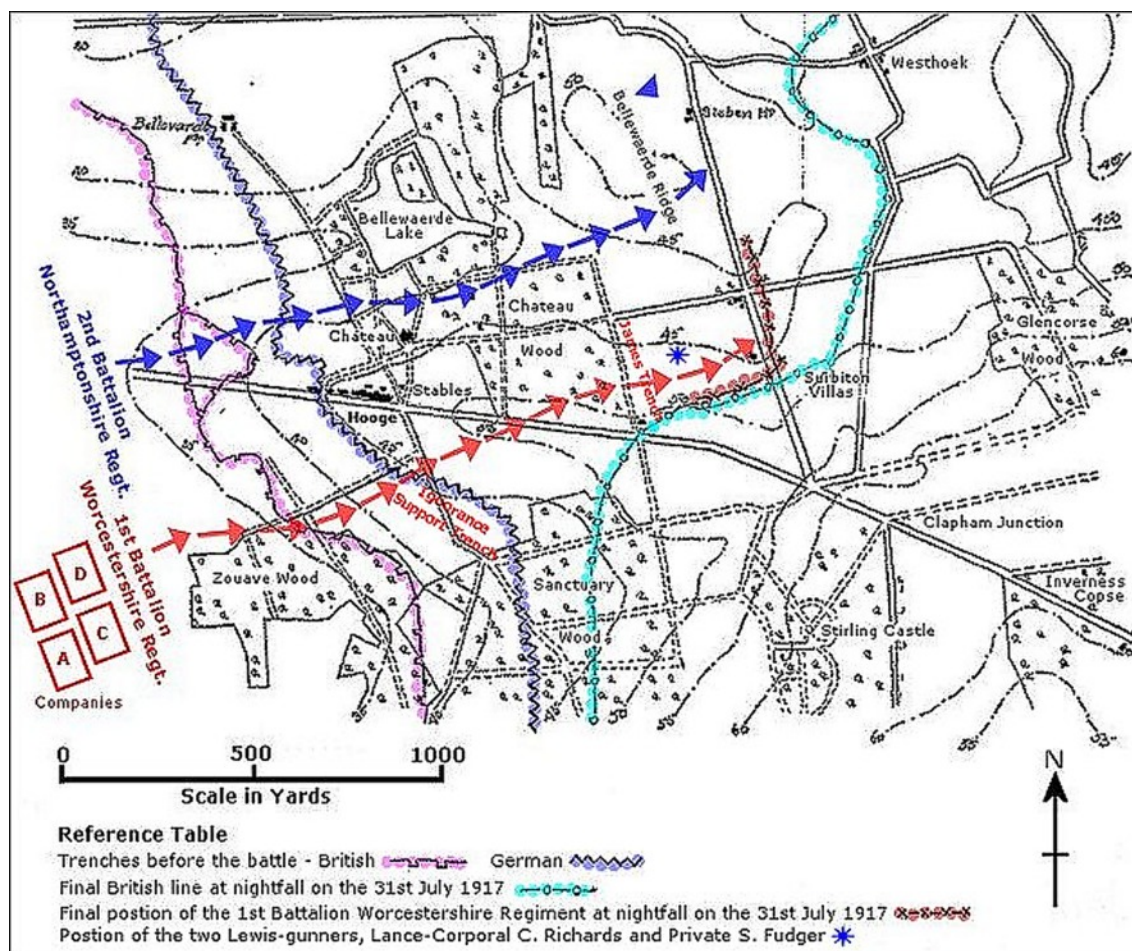
Following close behind the creeping barrage, "C" and "D" Companies of the 1st Battalion Worcestershire Regiment swept forward over the enemy's front and support lines. Little opposition was met. The organisation of the attack had been careful, and "mopping up" parties dealt with the enemy dugouts in quick succession. The existence of a tunnel under the road, behind the enemy's lines, had long been known, and it had been anticipated that it would give much trouble; but in the event it was captured easily enough, and forty cowering prisoners were extracted.

The ground over which the platoons advanced was a wilderness of shell-holes, and intermittent rain during the previous days had begun to soak the soil. At the German support trench ("Ignorance Support") the two leading companies called a halt and started to dig in, while "A" and "B" Companies, hitherto in second line, passed through, advanced through the tree stumps of Chateau Wood and captured "James Trench". Then came the first definite opposition, a hail of machine-gun fire, and a heavy barrage of shells from the enemy guns. Fortunately the German shells fell upon Chateau Wood, behind the advancing companies; but the machine-guns were a serious problem. The objective of the two companies was a small spur which projects southward from the Bellewaerde Ridge. On the spur were several concrete block-houses. Several had been smashed by our shells, but one was still intact. From that cover the enemy used a machine-gun with great effect, and the advance was checked.



Pilckem Ridge stretcher bearers





Detailed locations of German trenches (Ignorance Trench & James Trench)



Tree stumps of Chateau Wood

The attacking platoons breasted the slope, crossed the sky line, and dug in on their objective, the forward crest of the spur, facing the Westhoek Ridge.

On the left the 2nd Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment had stormed the ruins of Hooze and Bellewaerde Farm and had gained the highest ground of the Bellewaerde Ridge. The first phase of the attack had been triumphantly accomplished (Further to the left the attack of the 23rd Brigade had been equally successful. That Brigade was commanded with conspicuous gallantry by Colonel Grogan, the former Commanding Officer of the 1st Worcestershire. His Brigade-Major, Captain F. C. Roberts of the Regiment, was awarded the M.C. for daring personal reconnaissances made during the day under heavy fire. During that same day, Major H. St. J. Jefferies of the Regiment, commanding another battalion of the 8th Division, the 1st W. Yorks, also gained the D.S.O.).

Then, according to the plan, the two supporting battalions of the 24th Brigade were to come through and take the next objective. Tanks were to assist in that second phase, and soon the tanks were seen approaching, lumbering forward over the captured trenches; but the boggy ground rendered their movements slow and clumsy, most of them were "ditched" or broke down, and the only one which came past the Battalion was hit and destroyed by shell-fire.

The enemy's gun-fire increased. Under a rain of bursting shells the 2nd Battalion East Lancashire Regiment advanced through the lines of the 1st Battalion Worcestershire Regiment and pressed on to attack Westhoek. The fire was too fierce to permit of final success, and presently the East Lancashire Regiment, after losing heavily, were forced to halt and dig in short of their objective.

The reserve of the 8th Division, the 25th Brigade, came up in their turn. The 2nd Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment passed forward through the lines of the Worcestershire, but the enemy's resistance had stiffened, and the Lincolns suffered severely during their advance from machine-guns in Glencorse Wood. Eventually the Lincolns and East Lancashire consolidated a line which ran in a shallow semi-circle facing Westhoek.

On the right flank the position was exceedingly dangerous. The 30th Division had not succeeded in advancing beyond "Stirling Castle" and from the high ground about "Glencorse Wood," several machine-guns were firing. Those machine-guns could take the 8th Division front in enfilade,



and counter-attacks were also threatened. To protect the right flank Colonel Davidge led forward two companies of the 1st Battalion Worcestershire Regiment. He formed them as a defensive flank facing Inverness Copse, with the object of linking the line of the 8th Division with that of the 30th Division at Stirling Castle (For his brilliant leadership on that occasion Colonel Davidge was awarded the D.S.O. His Adjutant, 2/Lt. W. C. Stevens, was awarded the M.C.).

Intense gun-fire continued throughout the day. The morning had been dull and cloudy. Towards the evening heavy rain came on and continued into the night, obscuring the view and soaking both the troops and the ground beneath them. Casualties were counted—well over 200, including 9 officers (Killed 4 officers [Capt. F. J. O'Brien, 2/Lt. E. S. Collins, 2/Lt. H. C. Stephens, 2/Lt. R. A. Budden] and 22 other ranks. Wounded 5 officers [Lt. E. C. Barton, 2/Lts. R. A. Hart, G. N. Perham, G. B. Harrison and T. Comoys] and 167 other ranks. Missing 49). The Battalion had captured 70 prisoners as well as a machine-gun.

That night and the following day were miserable. Under pouring rain the officers and men of the 1st Battalion Worcestershire Regiment held firm on the ground they had won, digging in as best they could, while the enemy's fire swept the ridge. Late in the day word came of relief, and presently the relieving Battalion came splashing their way up through the mud; and proved to be none other than the 3rd Battalion of the Regiment. The relief took some time, but eventually the 1st Battalion got clear and marched back down the Merlin Road, while the 3rd Battalion settled down to take their places.

[http://www.worcestershireregiment.com/wr.php?main=inc/dcm\\_C\\_Richards\\_10324](http://www.worcestershireregiment.com/wr.php?main=inc/dcm_C_Richards_10324)





**HOLMES, PERCY**, Private 22205, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment. Died 18.12.1916, aged 41. Buried in Cheriton (St. Michael) Churchyard. (CWGC)  
Service Record not available.

“It is our sad duty to announce the death of Private Percy Holmes ...which took place in a Manchester Hospital, from septic pneumonia following shrapnel and gunshot wounds received “somewhere in France” on Monday December 12<sup>th</sup>. He had been wounded on November 19<sup>th</sup>, and as soon as he was able was brought back to England for treatment. All seemed to be going well until the septic pneumonia set in, and then he succumbed in a very short time before any of his relatives could reach him. The deceased was a general favourite in this village, and generally admired for his manly character. At the time of his death he was the oldest member of the Parish Church Choir, and also a member of the Cheriton Glee Class, and a church bell ringer. But, perhaps, it is in the game of cricket that he was so well known in the surrounding neighbourhood. As a bowler he had few compeers: he was very useful with the bat, and was a sound field; while in football, invariably playing back, he was a safe and sure kick and a good tackler. Whether in cricket or football, he always played the game. On the Derby Scheme coming in to force, he attested in one of the last groups, having almost reached the age limit, but he was accepted, and joined the Hampshire Regiment, being sent to Gosport for training, and then being taken over to France; but he was eventually transferred to the Dorset Regiment. The news of Percy’s death caused quite a shock in the village. The funeral took place in Cheriton Churchyard on Friday afternoon, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, and was of a semi-military character.”  
(Hampshire Chronicle 30.12.1916)

During the Battle of the Ancre – last attack of the battle of the Somme – 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Dorsetshire regiment was part of 14<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 32<sup>nd</sup> Division.

“(November 13<sup>th</sup> 1916) The day’s partial successes induced Gough to resume the attack on the 14th, during which the only notable achievement was 63rd Division’s occupation of Beaucourt. Political considerations prompted an adjustment in operations which resumed, in appalling conditions, on 18 November when the 32nd and 37th Divisions secured ground south of Serre and some small gains were won south of the Ancre following costly advances by the 19th, 18th and 4th Canadian Divisions.



Serre 1916 via [www.forumeerstewereldoorlog.nl](http://www.forumeerstewereldoorlog.nl)

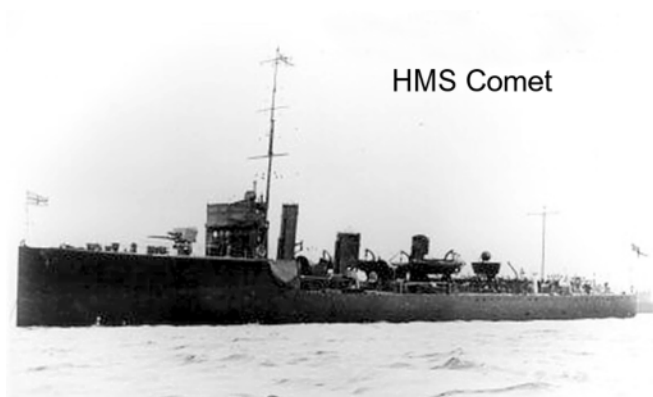
The objectives of the battle were not achieved; only in the marshy lowlands near the river were gains made, and these at great cost. On 19 November, with winter rain again enshrouding the battlefield, offensive operations were called off.”(CWGC)

Born in Cheriton in 1875 to Richard Holmes (an annuitant) and Emily (née Budd) (GRO & 1871 Census). In 1911 Percy, single, was working on his father’s farm. (1911 Census)

**IBBETSON, JAMES**, Engine Room Artificer, 4<sup>th</sup> Class M/23945 R.N., H.M.S. Comet. Died 06.08.1918, aged 30. Son of the late James Ibbetson. Commemorated on Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 29. (CWGC)

Born 26<sup>th</sup> July 1888 in Hertford, Hertfordshire. Enlisted 26<sup>th</sup> January 1917 for the duration of the hostilities, having been in the R.N.V.R. from April 7<sup>th</sup> 1916. Occupation storekeeper, height 5' 2¾", brown hair and eyes, dark complexion. (Naval Personal Record)

In 1911 James was a coach painter, lodging with the Blundell family, poultry farmers of Cheriton.



COMET was torpedoed at 06.33 hrs on 6th August 1918 in the Mediterranean (position 36.29N 15.45E) whilst under tow of the tug 'Andros'. She had been badly damaged in a collision with a merchant ship two days earlier, and was down by the stern and being towed to Malta for repair when attacked. ([www.uboa.net](http://www.uboa.net)).

“... Only son of the late Mr. James Ibbetson and Mrs. Blundell, late of Hertford heath and now of Lime Tree Cottage.

... He was a great favourite in the village, and very popular ...” (*Hampshire Chronicle* 17.08.1918)

“Mrs. Blundell, of Lime Tree Cottage, Cheriton, has received the following very kind letter of sympathy from the Commander of the ill-fated ship in which her son. The late J. Ibbetson, was lost: - ‘I feel I must write to tell you how deeply I sympathise with you in the great loss you have suffered by the death of your son, J. Ibbetson. I was in command of H.M.S. – when she was sunk by an enemy submarine. We were being towed at the time, having been in collision two days previously. The torpedo struck us just abaft or in the engine room, where your son was on duty at the time. Poor fellow, he must have been killed instantly. Nothing was seen of him afterwards. Your son was such an excellent man, and always carried out his duties in a most exemplary manner. The service can ill afford to lose such men. I hope you will accept my deepest sympathy, and also that of the remainder of the officers and men of the ship’s company. He was so very much liked by all aboard. A most impressive memorial service was held at the Dockyard Church here shortly afterwards for all the poor fellows who lost their lives.’”(Hampshire Chronicle 28.09.1918)

**MORGAN, RICHARD EDWARD**, Private S4/146821, HQ Lines of Communication, Army Service Corps, attached to HQ Delta District. Died 02.07.1916, aged 22. Son of Ernest and Agnes Morgan, of Woodbarn Farm, Chawton, Alton, Hampshire. Buried in Cairo War Memorial Cemetery, F.110. (CWGC)

Attested in Hertford 08.11.1915. Height 6'½", Chest 32¾", expansion 2\*, 135 lbs. Religion C of E. Calling – grocery. Refused re-vaccination. Served as a supply clerk. Died of smallpox in the Government Fever Hospital, Abbassia, Cairo, Egypt. (Personal service record).

“Morgan – died on active service on July 22<sup>nd</sup> 1916, with the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, Cairo, Richard Edward, the much loved son of Ernest and Agnes Morgan of Cheriton, Hampshire, aged 22.” (*Hampshire Chronicle* 15.07.1916)

Born in Chawton, father a farmer working on his own account (1901 Census)  
On Chawton, not Cheriton Memorial. Had the Hampshire Chronicle misread the parent's address, or had they moved from Chawton to Cheriton?

Sadly, the refusal to be re-vaccinated led to a spate of correspondence to be found in Richard's personal record:

D  
134

Officer Commanding,  
Government Fever Hospital,  
Abbassia, Cairo.

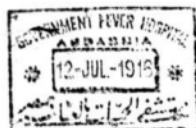


I shall be glad if you will be good enough to  
render to this office a detailed report of the illnesses  
resulting in death, in the cases of the men named below.

This is required by the Officer i/o A.S.C.  
Records, Woolwich, in accordance with War Office letter No.  
7/Relatives/4314 (F.3) d/26.3.1915, and I shall be pleased  
to have same at your earliest convenience. The report should also  
state whether the disease is certified as commencing or contracted  
on Active Service.

NO.	RANK.	NAME.	UNIT.
-----	-------	-------	-------

S/4/146821	Pte.	Morgan R.E.	Hqrs. Delta District.
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Base, M.E.F.  
9 / 7 / 1916.

Lt. Colonel,  
Officer i/o A.S.C. Section,  
A.G.'s Office at the Base,  
G.H.Q. M.E.F.

O. I/c., A.S.C. Section,  
A.G.Bs Office at the Base,  
G.H.Q., M.E.F.,

----

S/4/146821 Pte. Morgan, R.E. Hqrs. Delta District.  
-----

This man reported sick on 22-6-16 and was sent into Nasrieh Hospital, Cairo. On being diagnosed Small-Pox at Nasrieh Hospital he was transferred to the Government Fever Hospital, Abbassia, Cairo, the same day, where he died on July, 2nd.

He had not been vaccinated since infancy. He contracted the disease whilst on what is technically "Active Service" in Egypt but as he was stationed in Cairo employed as a clerk in Headquarter Offices, and though others were being vaccinated he did not get himself done in spite of not having been vaccinated since infancy, though Small-Pox was epidemic in Cairo at the time. I think the man was chiefly to blame himself.

*Robert William S*

Captain, R.A.M.C.,  
D.A.D.M.S. for A.D.M.S. Delta District.

Headquarters,  
Cairo, 17-7-16.

Army Form B. 104-88.

No. \_\_\_\_\_  
(If replying, please quote above No.)

Record Office,  
Station,  
191 .

SIR,

The undermentioned soldier having been reported to me from the War Office as having ~~been killed~~ <sup>"died"</sup> I have the honour to furnish the following particulars with a view to the case being represented to the Royal Patriotic Fund Corporation or other Association who may be able to assist the soldier's family.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

*Dr. R. Brooke Lewis*  
Officer in charge of Records,  
A.S.C.

The Secretary,

War Office (F. 3).

Regimental No. *S/4/146821* Rank *Pte* Name (in full) *Morgan, Richard Edward*  
Regiment *Army Service Corps*

(A 9 24) W 2237-127-100,000 5/14 H W V Form B. 104-88  
*NT Duns*

It would seem that the family would have to look to charity for any support, but the personal record shows no disciplinary reason for such ungracious treatment.

**NIAS, FRED**, Sapper 141787, 280th Army Troops Company, Royal Engineers. Died 13.03.1917, aged 33. Buried in Aubigny Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France, I.G.61. (CWGC)

Army Troops Companies were established for behind-the-lines bridging and water work. ([www.1914-1918.net/otherre.htm](http://www.1914-1918.net/otherre.htm))

Enlisted at Alton 13.11.1915. 5' 6¾", 166lbs, chest 38" expansion 2.5", physical development very good. Recorded as a proficient bricklayer. Embarked for France 29.04.1916. Died, of wounds received 11.03.1917, in 42<sup>nd</sup> Casualty Clearing Station, Aubigny, Pas de Calais, France. (Army Service Record)



Youngest son of Mr George Nias, Cheriton. Died of wounds, having been shot through the stomach 11.03.1917. "Before joining up about a year ago, the deceased followed the occupation of a bricklayer, being employed by Messrs. C. & F. Freeman, and was by them, as well as all those who came in contact with him, highly respected. Being a lover of sport, he held the important post of secretary to the Cheriton Cricket Club, and in that capacity was more widely known in the surrounding villages. He was ever willing, courteous and obliging, while the sympathy of the entire village will go out to his aged father in his great bereavement. Being a staunch churchman, a memorial service was conducted by the Rector on Sunday last, which was very largely attended, the Organist (Mrs H. Cross) and full choir being present ..." (*Hampshire Chronicle* 24.03.1917)

Born in Beauworth about 1883, his father George was a Carpenter's Labourer. They lived in Cheriton. (1911 Census)

**PRATT, GEOFFREY COWPER SPENCER**, Lieutenant 14<sup>th</sup> Anti-Aircraft Section, Royal Horse Artillery. Died 27.11.1915, aged 22. Son of Col. Arthur Spencer Pratt, C.B., C.M.G., and Mrs Emily F.P.Pratt, of Orford Hall, Ham Common, Surrey. Buried in Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension (Nord), I.D.38 (CWGC) Bailleul is about 14 Km. South West of Ypres, and several casualty clearing stations were in the area in the First World War.

Mentioned in Despatches 1916 (Exeter College Roll of Honour).

".... born on September 16<sup>th</sup> 1893, and educated at Eton and Exeter College, Oxford. On the outbreak of war he had just completed his second year at Oxford, and was a Sergeant in the Royal Field Artillery section of the OTC. He was at once given a commission in the RFA, and was posted to a reserve brigade at Woolwich. On January 16<sup>th</sup> 1915 he went out from Woolwich with No. 14 anti-aircraft section. He was promoted Lieutenant in June 1915. He served in France until November 26<sup>th</sup>, on which day he was mortally wounded, and died in hospital on November 27<sup>th</sup>.



He was doing exceptionally well for such a young officer. One of his seniors writes of him:-

“It seems only the other day I saw him so well and happy with his anti-aircraft guns, in the art of using which he had already earned no mean reputation.” Lieutenant Geoffrey Pratt, who was a nephew of Mrs Egerton, of Cheriton Cottage, had been for many years very intimately associated with Cheriton, where he founded and encouraged the Boy Scout movement. Many will remember his beautiful voice, both in solos in church and in local entertainments. He was a fine rider and a keen follower of the HH hounds. At the service of Sunday evening last the Rev. A.M. Watson, before the prayer for the anxious and bereaved, read out the following extract from a letter to his mother from his Commanding Officer: - “I had only known him since May, but in four months of war, living together, sharing good and ill, makes for a greater intimacy than years in England. He was such a perfect English gentleman, such a straight boy, fearless, open and brave, a real Christian soldier of the best type, the best subaltern and the most lovable lad I shall ever meet. There is not an officer or man of this section would not rather have lost a limb than have had this happen. I am only beginning to realise how much I leant on him, how our plans for the future are of no account how lonely and drear things seem, how utterly impossible it is for me to say anything that can comfort or cheer you. I know many have loved him - only one other has made a mark on me like your son, and he was killed just ten years ago on the fifth of this month. There are some friendships that time does not fade, some memories that nothing obliterates. That Geoffrey’s life has been a help to some, I know too many. I am sure a truer, straighter, braver, cleaner boy never lived. May God give you strength.” Hampshire Chronicle 11.12.1915.

...ex-Patrol Leader of the Curlew Patrol of a Hampshire Troop ..... keen on many things, on hunting, on singing, and above all, on the Scouts. He was getting on so happily among his men in France, when a shell burst over his trench wounding him and twelve of his men. To the last his thoughts were to save others trouble and anxiety. When the ambulance men hurried to his assistance he cried, “Never mind me, see to the others”... (*Scouting Gazette* – source also of the picture).

**PRIOR, HUGH**, Private 12993, 14<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion Hampshire Regiment. Died 03.09.1916. Commemorated on Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France, Pier & Face 7C & 7B. (CWGC)

Residence Petersfield, Hampshire, enlisted in Longwood, Hampshire. Killed in Action. (UK, *Soldiers who died in the Great War 1914-1919*)  
Army Service Record not available.

Born in Winchester about 1888, in 1911 Hugh Prior was a Journeyman Gardener, working at Amport House, Amport, Andover, Hampshire. (1911 Census). Amport House (today the Armed Forces Chaplaincy Centre) was owned by the Marquis of Winchester. The gardens were designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and planted by Gertrude Jekyll. The Thiepval Memorial was also designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, with gardens designed by Gertrude Jekyll.

The action of 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1916 was the Battalion’s first battle, the objective being the fortress of Thiepval; of the 570 in action that day 17 officers and 440 other ranks were casualties. Initially listed as “missing”, Hugh Prior’s body was never recovered. (Findings from The Royal Hampshire Regiment Museum).

## Battles - The Battle of Guillemont, 1916



189 Crown Copyright reserved THE HIGH STREET OF GUILLEMONT (captured September 4th, 1916) "Daily Mail" Official Photograph

A subsidiary attack of the Somme Offensive, and launched at midday on 3 September 1916 under the protection of a creeping barrage (of 25 yards per minute) as part of a wider attack, the Battle of Guillemont was primarily intended to distract German attention away from the Romanian front where the Romanians were coming under increasing pressure, although the capture of Guillemont had been repeatedly attempted (and

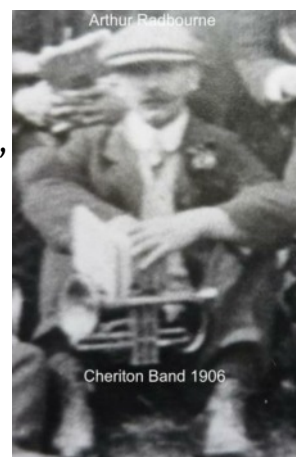
failed) earlier in July and August.

With its maze of underground tunnels, dugouts and concrete emplacements, Guillemont was a veritable fortress and an unquestionably tough nut to crack, as evidenced by the earlier failures of the British attacks during the previous two months.

The 3 September attack finally saw Guillemont fall to the British. Other targets during the wider attack, such as High Wood and the Schwaben Redoubt, remained however firmly in German hands. On the banks of the Somme the French succeeded in taking both villages of Clery and Omiecourt. ([www.firstworldwar.com/battles/guillemont.htm](http://www.firstworldwar.com/battles/guillemont.htm))

### **RADBOURNE, ARTHUR**, Sapper 548824, 126<sup>th</sup> Field Company, Royal Engineers.

Died 13.10.1917, aged 35. Husband of Agnes Radbourne, of Primrose Cottage, Hinton Ampner, Alresford, Hampshire. Buried in Abbeville Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France, III.D.3. (CWGC)  
 "..... Died in the 1<sup>ST</sup>. South African General Hospital, Abbeville, France, of wounds received in action." (*Hampshire Chronicle* 13.10.1917)



Picture from Mr J. Young

1891 Census shows his birthplace as Adbury, Hampshire, and living in Manor Farm, Bradley, Hampshire with his parents, Henry Radbourne (gamekeeper) and Mary Radbourne (laundress).

By 1911 he is shown as a carpenter, born in Newbury, Berkshire about 1883. His address: Hill Houses, Cheriton. As well as his wife he was living with daughters Miriam and Edith and son William. (1911 census).

Also on Kilmeston Memorial

Arthur Radbourne made a Short Service Attestation in Alresford on 8th December 1915, giving his occupation as carpenter and joiner, and address as Kilmeston. On examination he was 5 feet 6½ inches tall with a chest of 35½/38 inches. Religion Church of England. His service records show his family as wife Agnes (née Harfield, married in Cheriton 18.11.1906), children Miriam Agnes, born Cheriton August 3<sup>rd</sup> 1907, William Arthur, born



Cheriton October 1<sup>st</sup> 1908, Edith R, born Cheriton 17<sup>th</sup> December 1910, Percival L born Cheriton April 19<sup>th</sup> 1914 and Gertrude Aimie born Kilmeston April 13<sup>th</sup> 1916.

All these children had their births registered with the surname Barrett. A note in Arthur's service record states that Arthur Radbourne was really Arthur Barrett, and questioned whether Sapper 548824 Arthur Radbourne was the same man as the Arthur Barrett Radbourne who married Agnes Harfield on 18<sup>th</sup> November 1906. The Officer i/c Royal Engineers' Record Office, Chatham, investigated and found that they were the same person, and Agnes was entitled to her pension of £1.11s.8d per week.

The records also show Arthur as having a brother, Bryce Bertie Radbourne in Ropley and sister Gertrude Childs in Bradley.

Brice married in Alresford in 1906 as Brice Radbourne, but was buried as Brice Barrett in Alresford 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1965. What is the origin of this mystery? Arthur Radbourne's father Henry appeared in the 1891 Census as Henry Radbourne, married to Mary (née Hawkes).

Ancestry.co.uk, David Adrian Spencer Cox public access tree is informative. Henry's parents were David Radbourne, born 1831 in Stock Cross, Berkshire and Harriett née Barrett, born 1832 in Welford, Berkshire. Henry was born in Speen, Newbury, Berkshire in 1851, but his mother did not marry David Radbourne until 28<sup>th</sup> July 1853 in the Chapel of Wickham, Berkshire. A further 12 children were born after the marriage. David and Harriett both died early in 1903. Did Arthur only then discover that he was born out of wedlock? Harriett would only have been 19 when Arthur was born, so her parents would have had to give permission for her to marry before she was 21 in 1853.

Returning to Arthur's Service Record, he was accepted into the army reserve 09.12.1915 and joined his unit 26.04.1916. He went to France 28.05.1917. His fatal wound is recorded as a gunshot wound to the head, involving meningitis. (Army Personal Record)

It seems likely that Arthur Radbourne would have been wounded in the Battle of Broodseinde, the most successful attack (though at a cost of 20,000 Allied casualties) of the battle of Passchendaele. The attack started on 4th October 1917. (CWGC)



Picture <http://anzacbattlefields.com/Broodseinde/>

**SHADWELL, MARK**, Private 3443, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment, South Africa field Force. Died Bloemfontein 09.05.1900, aged 29 (Memorial tablet in Cheriton Church & UK, *Casualties of the Boer War*).

Born in Bighton, Hampshire in 1870, son of Luke (an agricultural labourer) and Mary Shadwell (1881 Census). Mother was born Mary Ann Annells.

(<http://trees.ancestry.co.uk/tree/15251484/person/1802046944?ssrc=>)

**SHAVE, FREDERICK WALTER**, Private 36495, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Worcestershire Regiment. Died 01.06.1917. Buried in Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun, Pas-de-Calais, France IV.M.42. (CWGC)

Born in Lytchett Matravers, Dorset. Residence Worcester, enrolled in Woking, Surrey. Died of wounds. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914 - 1919*)

Army Service Record not available.

Born about 1883, in 1911 Fred was a Waggoner on a farm, living at "Coombe", East Meon, Petersfield, Hampshire. He had been married four years to Caroline Edith, and had three daughters, Edith, Florence and Esther. (1911 Census)

It is not known how long Frederick survived his wounds, but this was the last major action of the Battalion before June 1917:

The 4th Worcestershire returned to the Battle of Arras after spending the 15th to the 19th April at rest. They passed through the city itself on the afternoon of the 19th, moving into their reserve trenches after heavy bombardment had eased. Their reserve positions were near the British heavy guns, and they were the result of a severe German bombardment, which continued the next day. On the 21st the Germans used gas shells which caused further casualties.

Orders came on the 22nd that the attack of the 29th Division on Infantry Hill was to be renewed on the 23rd. the hill was to be captured, and the second wave of the attack were to pass through these positions to attack German positions in the woods beyond. The 4th Worcestershire was to take the first objective, and the 2nd Hampshire were to pass through for the second attack. The battle damaged Essex Battalion and Newfoundland Regiment, mauled on the 14th April, were to act as carrying parties in a composite battalion. To the right of the 29th Division, the 15th Division would attack Guemappe.

The attack began at 4.45 am on the 23rd April 1917 with a massive British bombardment. Despite heavy fire, the Worcestershire quickly seized the hill, being in control of all their objectives after only half an hour. They quickly began to dig in around their new position. However, the attack of the 15th Division at Guemappe had failed, exposing the 4th Worcestershire's position to terrific German bombardment. At 10am the first counter attack began. The Worcestershire's fire turned back the German attack, but artillery fire began to smash the British positions. No support was received. The plan envisaged a seven hour pause between stages of the British attack, to move artillery. The 2nd Hampshire did not commence their attack, as to advance further and extend the fragile British salient would have been very dangerous. At 4pm the right flank of the British positions were crushed, and the Worcestershire companies defending them did so to the last man. The other companies just managed to hold the rest of the captured positions on the spur of Infantry Hill.

As darkness fell, the remainder of the 88th Brigade's troops counter attacked the recaptured copse with little success. After midnight, the 86th Brigade relived the 88th, and the remains of the Worcestershires were replaced by the 2nd Royal Fusiliers. The Battalion

moved back to rest in Arras before being rotated out of the line. There were 17 officers and 529 rank and file in the 4th Worcestershires on the 22nd April 1917; by the 24th April, there were only 2 officers and 64 men fit for duty.

(<http://1914-1918.invisionzone.com/forums/index.php?showtopic=138570>)

**SIMS, ERNEST W**, Private 14499, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Died

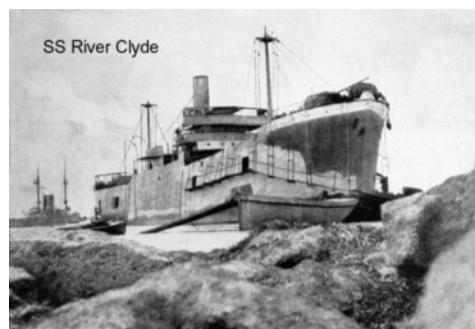
26.04.1915. Commemorated on V Beach Cemetery, Turkey, Special Memorial B.100.  
Born in Clyst St. Mary, Devon. Enlisted Winchester. Killed in Action. (*UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919*)  
Service Record not available.

Born about 1896, son of William and Jessie Sims.

Eldest son of the late Mrs W. Sims. Obituary notice gives his rank as Lance-Corporal. “..... killed in the landing of the troops in the Dardenelles ..... The deceased answered his country’s call last September. Previous to enlisting he was an enthusiastic Boy Scout, and also a member of the Parish Church Choir, and we feel sure the utmost sympathy is extended to his bereaved father, brother and sister (his mother having predeceased him by some years) by the whole village, while his noble patriotism should stimulate his “pals” in the village to join up to avenge their brave companion. ....” (*Hampshire Chronicle* 12.06.1915)

Born in Clyft St. George, Devon about 1895, in 1911 Ernest was working as a plumber’s apprentice. He was living in Rectory Cottages, Cheriton with his widower father William, a domestic gardener, a younger brother and sister. (1911 Census).

The eight month campaign in Gallipoli was fought by Commonwealth and French forces in an attempt to force Turkey out of the war, to relieve the deadlock of the Western Front in France and Belgium, and to open a supply route to Russia through the Dardanelles and the Black Sea. The Allies landed on the peninsula on 25-26 April 1915; the 29th Division at Cape Helles in the south and the Australian and New Zealand Corps north of Gaba Tepe on the west coast, an area soon known as Anzac. At Helles, the 29th Division landed troops at 'S', 'V', 'W', 'X' and 'Y' Beaches, five small coves at or near the southern end of the peninsula. The landing at 'V' Beach was to be made by boats containing three companies of the 1st Royal Dublin Fusiliers, followed by the collier 'River Clyde' with the rest of the Dublins, the 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers, half the 2nd Hampshire Regiment and other troops. The place was very strongly fortified and heavy casualties were sustained during the landing. On the morning of 26 April, Lieutenant Colonel Charles Doughty-Wylie and Captain Garth Walford led the survivors on the beach to the capture of Sedd el Bahr village and the old castle above it. Both won the Victoria Cross but were killed during the fight. (Captain Walford is buried at V Beach, Colonel Doughty-Wylie is buried in an isolated grave on the spot where he was killed). That evening, the main body of the French Corps began to land at 'V' Beach and after the following day, the front line had advanced about three



kilometres beyond it. The cemetery used during April and May 1915 and a few further graves were brought in after the Armistice for burial in Row O. There are now 696 servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 480 of the burials are unidentified but special memorials commemorate 196 officers and men, nearly all belonging to the units which landed on 25 April, known or believed to be buried among them. (CWGC)

**Father and son**, both on a family memorial stone in Cheriton Churchyard:-

**WARREN, PERCY BLISS**, Lieutenant-Colonel 3<sup>rd</sup> Brahmans, Indian Army - died 11th June 1911.

Memorial at Royal Garrison Church, Portsmouth - "In loving memory of Percy Bliss Warren Lieut. Col. Comdg. 3rd Brahmans who died at sea from the result of an accident on the 11th June 1911 aged 47. This tablet is erected by his sister E.M. Norris.

Born 23.04.1864 in County Cork, Ireland, son of Major General Richard Warren R.E. (1828-1913) and Emily née Lauder (1832-1891). Saw action in the Chin-Lushai Expedition 1889-1890 (Winterbotham Tree, [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk))

1911 address Hinton House (England & Wales, National Probate Calendar, 05.09.1911)

**WARREN, RICHARD CRAWFORD, M.C. & Bar**, Lieutenant, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 43<sup>rd</sup> (Oxford and Buckinghamshire) Light Infantry, killed in Ireland 28.06.1921, aged 22. Son of the late Colonel Percy Bliss Warren. Buried in Cheriton (St Michael) Churchyard, Hampshire, C.177. (CWGC)

Born 25.09.1898, son of Lt. Col. Percy Bliss Warren and Margaret Ellen née Martin (1871-1952) (Headstone) Born in India, in 1901 Richard was living with his mother, sister and brother in Grove House, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. (1901 census)

By 1911 Margaret was living in Grosvenor House, Westgate-on-Sea, Kent, with two more sons, the youngest, Geoffrey Martin, born in Cheriton in 1908. Richard was at school at St Aubyn's, Rottingdean, Sussex. (1911 Census)

1916 Aug 16. The undermentioned Gentlemen Cadets, from the R. Mil. Coll., to be 2nd Lts. Oxf. L.I. Richard Crawford Warren.



1917 Oct 16 gazetted MC 2nd Lt. Richard Crawford Warren, Ox. and Bucks. L.I. For *conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He went with a non-commissioned officer across a new crater to the enemy's sap head; he returned for a mobile charge and with it damaged the sap head; he was sniped at while returning. Later, he entered the enemy trench to find the extent of the damage he caused, and discovered a fortified shell hole and a sniper's post.*

1918 Feb 16. Promoted Lt. Oxf. & Bucks. L.I.—R. C. Warren, M.C.

1918 Nov 29 Lt. Richard Crawford Warren, M.C., 2nd Battalion, O. & B.L.I. *For conspicuous gallantry in leading a party to rush an enemy machine gun. He put the gun out of action and killed or dispersed the crew. He continued to lead his men forward for an hour, though wounded, and refused to go back until the attack had made good progress. He behaved splendidly.*

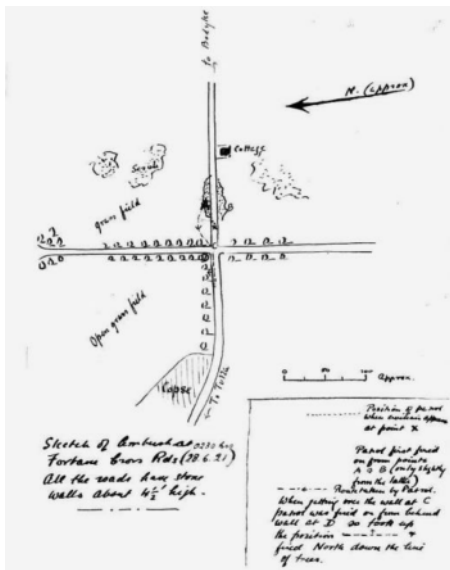
### The Tulla Ambush

The next major incident involving members of the Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry occurred near Tulla in the early hours of 28th June 1921 when a patrol consisting of 22 year old Lieutenant Richard Crawford Warren MC and eleven men was ambushed on their way back to Tulla Workhouse at about 2.00 am.



The patrol, which had been sent out to prevent the rebels from felling trees across the roads, was approaching Fortaine cross roads when a civilian suddenly appeared in the middle of the road. Lieutenant Warren went forward to speak to the impassive figure, but at that moment the men drew a revolver from his pocket and shot the officer in the stomach at more or less point blank range. The rebels immediately opened fire from both sides of the road, most of the fire coming from the right. Two more soldiers were wounded but, taking charge of the situation, Sergeant Thomas Swift rallied his men and mounted a spirited counter-attack, at which point the rebels fled from the scene. Meanwhile, it was clear that Lieutenant Warren had been severely injured, and he died of his wounds at 21.30 hrs.

Map of the ambush site sketched by a British soldier:



Sergeant Swift was the unquestioned hero of this nocturnal ambush. Thomas Swift, a native of Southall in Middlesex, a recipient of the DCO, was already a highly-regarded NCO, who had survived brutal treatment at the hands of the Turks after the fall of Kut-al-Amara, but had nevertheless done much to raise the morale of his fellow-prisoners in Mesopotamia. On returning to Tulla, Sergeant Swift immediately compiled the following report of the Tulla Ambush:

'I was sergeant-in-charge of the party returning from a laying-out party near Annagh-Neal,(?) on reaching the cross roads near Ballynahinch, a man came into the road, the party which was leading along the side of the road halted near the road bridge.

Lieutenant Warren, going out in the centre of the road, I heard someone speak, the next moment the rebel fired and I saw Lt. Warren fall. I ran up to Lt. Warren and fired two shots at the rebel as he ran up the road, then he disappeared over a wall, and then we were fired at from both sides of the road, most of the fire coming from our right. I immediately put a burst of fire into the right, then getting my men through and extending, then on reaching the wall on the cross roads got over and was again fired on from the opposite wall, I got my party on the flank and fired down the wall with this the rebels retired'.

On 1st July, Lieutenant Warren's body was placed on a gun carriage and escorted to Limerick railway station 'by the whole Regiment and by representatives of the garrison and the RIC of Limerick and Tulla'. He was buried in Brookwood Cemetery on 5th July 1921. Lieutenant Warren, a former pupil of Gresham's School in Norfolk, had been wounded twice during the Great War, and he had been awarded the Military Cross and bar for conspicuous gallantry during that conflict. Having survived the horrors of the Western Front, it was particularly tragic that his life should have ended on a quiet country road amid the beautiful countryside of County Clare.

On a footnote, it should perhaps be mentioned that Sergeant Swift was by no means anti-Irish. Indeed, he subsequently married Catherine Cronin at Limerick had three Daughters – Kathleen, Barbara and Jean.

(The Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry in Ireland 1919-1923  
By – Stanley C. Jenkins MA) ([www.warofindependence.net/](http://www.warofindependence.net/))

Richard had two younger brothers; Wallis, who served as a Royal Naval officer, and Geoffrey, a Major in the RTR who died of wounds in Libya in 1941.  
([www.ancestry.co.uk/tree/57609141](http://www.ancestry.co.uk/tree/57609141))



**The two younger sons of Frank and Emily Wild**, in 1911 living with their parents (father an innkeeper and plumber), elder brother, sister and mother-in-law. (1911 Census):-

**WILD, ERIC THOMAS**, Private 3856, 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Died 18.07.1916, aged 21. Second son of Frank Thomas and Emily Wild, of Marne Cottage, Kilmeston Rd., New Cheriton, Alresford, Hampshire. Buried in Amara War Cemetery, Iraq, XXII.G.2. (CWGC) (Also on Tichborne Memorial).  
Born Ropley, Hampshire. Residence Winchester. (UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919)

“... died from the effects of the terrible heat in Mesopotamia. The deceased was at the outbreak of hostilities a student at St. John’s College, Battersea, intending to make scholastic work his profession, but when the call by his King and Country was made, he nobly answered the same. As a boy he was a valued member of the church choir, and a member of the Cheriton Glee Club. For three years he was organist of Tichborne Church, only resigning this post on entering the College. In sport as well as his everyday work he put his whole energy into it, and was always courteous and obliging when the opportunity afforded itself to try to get others out of a tight corner. It is contemplated to hold a special service in the Parish Church on Sunday afternoon, at 3.15p.m., in consideration of his valued service to the church in his early life. Mr and Mrs Wild have another son serving with the Grand Fleet somewhere in the North Sea, who, it is to be hoped, is to be spared to them....” (*Hampshire Chronicle* 05.08.1916)

In August 1916 the Battalion was guarding the Northern end of the Es Sinn Line. Service Record not available.

**WILD, PERCY EDWARD**, Private 68352, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Devonshire Regiment. Died 30.08.1918, aged 18. Youngest son of Frank T. and Emily Wild, of Marine Cottage, Kilmeston Rd., Alresford, Hampshire. Born at Cheriton, Hampshire. Buried in Vaulx Hill Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France, I.F.18. (CWGC)  
Born Cheriton, Hampshire, residence Winchester, enlisted Alresford. Killed in Action. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919*)  
Service Record not available.

1<sup>st</sup> Battalion was part of the 37<sup>th</sup> Division in the Battle of Bapaume, which took place in foggy weather from 21<sup>st</sup> August 1918. Bapaume itself was captured on 29<sup>th</sup> August; “On the 29<sup>th</sup> August the attacks continued and objectives consolidated. Counter attacks on the 31<sup>st</sup> were repulsed ... Since 21<sup>st</sup> August the 5<sup>th</sup> Division had covered fourteen miles and taken 4,000 prisoners ... Over the same period the 1<sup>st</sup> Devons had incurred a loss of five officers killed and 13 wounded, 40 men were killed and over 200 wounded.” (Battalion War Diaries)



Photo via [www.stahlgewitter.com](http://www.stahlgewitter.com)

## WORLD WAR 2

**BALDWIN, STANLEY JOHN (“JACK”)**, Private 14592607 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, the Hampshire Regiment. Died 04.12.1944, aged 21. Grandson of Tom and Beatrice J. Baldwin, of Cheriton, Hampshire. Buried in Faenza War Cemetery, Italy, I.E.21. (CWGC)

Jack’s mother was Cicely Louisa Baldwin ([www.ancestry.co.uk/tree/33797997](http://www.ancestry.co.uk/tree/33797997)), who married William Primmer. She also died in 1944.

28th September 1944 the Brigade crossed the River Fiumicino, and then the Rubicon. The weather was atrocious, and movement was slowed by deep mud, and supply was difficult. Fighting continued until 9th October. A steady advance was made, and by 12th November the River Montone was crossed; on 26th November the River Lamone was reached. This was crossed on 3rd December in the face of stiff opposition, and by 6th December the Brigade had captured Casa Nova. The Brigade was relieved the following day, and moved well to the rear. From 24th August (when the Brigade moved up to the Gothic Line) to 7th December when they were relieved, the Hampshire Brigade had suffered 1,276 casualties. ([www.wikipedeia.com](http://www.wikipedeia.com))

**BUDD, COLIN ANTHONY**, Sgt. 1314591 RAFVR, 158 Sqn RAF. Died 17.09.1943, aged 26. Buried in Lyon (La Doua) French National Cemetery, Rhone, France, Row K grave 3. Only son of Henry Robert & Georgina Budd of Woodford Green, Essex, and grandson of Mrs Oakley, Church Cottages, Cheriton, Hampshire. (CWGC/*Hampshire Chronicle*).

Colin was a great pal of Ron Shearwood, who was drowned on HMS Courageous (qv p.107).

Colin’s will gave his address as 73 Princes Avenue, Woodford Green, Essex. Probate was granted to his father – effects £317.14s.8d. (England & Wales, National Probate Calendar. (Index of Wills and Administrations, December 1944)



158 Sqn. was flying Handley Page Halifax B.II Srs.1a bombers from Holme-on-Spalding Moor, Yorkshire, Colin Budd’s aircraft on 17.09.1943 being JN904, coded NP-K.

16/17 September 1943:- 340 aircraft of 3, 4, 6 and No 8 Groups - 170 Halifaxes, 127 Stirlings, 43 Lancasters - to attack the important railway yards at Modane on the main railway route from France to Italy. 5 American B-17s also took part. The marking of the target, situated in a steep valley, was not successful and the bombing was not accurate. No report is available from France. 2 Halifaxes and 1 Stirling lost. (Bomber Command War Diaries)

Halifax JN904 (showing the fin modification fitted in late summer 1943 to address handling problems)

Handley Page Halifax B.II Srs.1a 158 Sqn. RAF 1943



Airborne 1933 16<sup>th</sup> September 1943 from Lissett. Cause of loss not established. Crashed into a wooded area known as le Bois due Rivoireau at St. Georges d'Esperanche (Is\_re), 14 km W of Vienne, France. All are buried in Lyon (la Doua) French National Cemetery. Sgt E.Le Huray KIA, Sgt H.Pennell KIA, Sgt F.G.Shaw KIA, Sgt T.A.Roberts KIA, Sgt C.A.Budd KIA, Sgt A.V.M.Barron KIA, Sgt V.G.E.Briant KIA. " ([www.lostbombers.co.uk](http://www.lostbombers.co.uk))

**HARFIELD, ALEX IAN**, Driver T/7938181 RASC. Died 05.01.1946. Commemorated on Brookwood Memorial, Surrey, UK, Panel 16 col 3 (CWGC). 7938185 is his number given by UK, Army Roll of Honour 1939-45.

His birth, named Alec Ian, was registered in the Alresford district, March quarter 1917, mother's maiden name Passingham.

Died in an ambulance at Cambridge Military Hospital of a Cerebral Tumour, his rank being shown as Lance Corporal on the Death Certificate.

**HAYNES, HARRY**, Pte D/5262, 6th (H.D.) Battalion, Dorsetshire Regt. Died 20.02.1941, Netley Hospital, aged 53. Son of John and Clara Haynes; husband of Kate Haynes, of "The Bungalow", Harnham Hill, Cheriton, Hampshire. Father of Harry and Robert. Buried in Cheriton (St Michael) Churchyard. (CWGC)

Although buried in Cheriton, he is commemorated on the Kilmeston Roll of Honour. Born in Northampton, the son of a plasterer. (1891 Census)

Died in the Royal Victoria hospital, Netley, Hampshire of Heart failure and carcinoma of the left lung. (Death Certificate)

**HIGGS, THOMAS FRANCIS**, Warrant Officer (Pilot) 657789 RAF, 610 Sqn. Died 18.12.1944, age 23. Son of Thomas & Ada Higgs; husband of Phyllis Evelyn Barbara Higgs, of New Cheriton, Hampshire. Buried in Hotton War Cemetery, Hotton, Belgium, VIII.F.7. (CWGC)

Marriage to Phyllis Warren registered in Winchester March 1943.

610 "County of Chester" Sqn. was flying Supermarine Spitfire XIV fighters from B.56 Brussels/Evere, Belgium.



13:20hrs 610 Sqn Spitfire XIV RM736 Code DW-\* W/O T. Higgs (k) - crashed in poor visibility.

(2<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Air Force Vol. 2. Shores, C. & Thomas, C., Hersham, Ian Allan, 2005. ISBN 1 903223 41 5).

**MUSSELWHITE, VINCENT GEORGE**, Sgt. (Flight Engineer) 619222 RAF, 78 Sqn.

Died 05.06.1942, aged 23 in an accident. Buried in Cheriton (St Michael) Churchyard, Hampshire. Second son of Robert & Fanny L. Musselwhite of North End, Cheriton. (CWGC)

78 Sqn. was flying Handley Page Halifax B.II bombers from Middleton St. George, Co. Durham.



Halifax W7669 Information:

Airborne 2321 5<sup>th</sup> June 1942 from Croft to attack Essen, but as the Halifax climbed away the port inner engine burst into flames. Control was retained and P/O Bedford flew a wide circuit of the airfield at 150 feet, as he prepared for an emergency landing. However, while lining up on its final approach, the Halifax's port wing dropped and the bomber crashed 2325 and burst into flames. P/O H.E.Bedford KIA, Sgt V.G.Musselwhite KIA, Sgt J.O'Rourke KIA, Sgt W.L.Turner Inj, P/O Alder Inj, Sgt Phillips Inj, Sgt Meller Inj.  
(www.lostbombers.co.uk)

The early Halifaxes suffered from control problems caused by the fin design, and the Mark II had suffered growth in weight from added equipment and added drag from the addition of a large mid-upper gun turret. The loss of an engine at maximum weight could give the pilot almost no margin for error.

**SHEARWOOD, RONALD CHARLES**, Able Seaman P/SSX 19976 RN. HMS Courageous. Died 17.09.1939, aged 20. Son of Samuel Robert & Ellen Elizabeth Shearwood of Cheriton, Hampshire. Commemorated on Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Hampshire, UK. (CWGC)

‘A nice lad who played football’ (Les Holder)

A great friend of Colin Budd, lost with the RAF in 1943 (qv)



Ron was born in Kennett's Cottage, Cheriton, the family moving to 2, Rectory Cottage about five years later. Educated at Cheriton School, he was a good pupil who was awarded books for Best Influence, Senior Excellent Conduct and Senior Drawing. Not wanting to go into domestic service Ron joined the navy in 1937. After service in HMS Esk and HMS Winchester, both destroyers, he was transferred to HMS Courageous. Ron disliked the change to a large ship, commenting that it was easy to get lost on the aircraft carrier. (Memoir of niece Mary Russell)

Ron's last letter to his mother was sent from 58 Mess, 822 Squadron on Sunday, September 3rd, 1939– the day that war was declared. (The unit flew Fairey Swordfish biplanes.) It gives a moving insight into the mood of the time:-

*My Dearest Mum, Dad & all,*

*Hope you are all O.K. and keeping clear of all panic.*

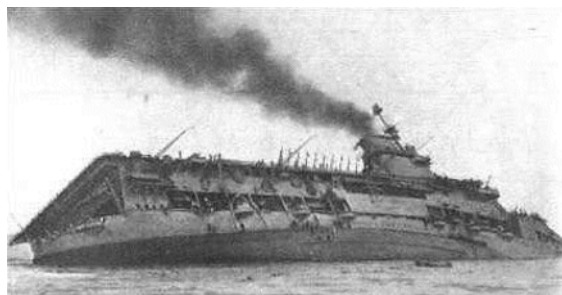
*Well, Mum, we were both wrong, but still there's nothing to worry about, just look after yourselves, and we will be with you, and within a short time I think the trouble will be over, when it's over everything will be straightened out, and we won't have a crisis every year.*



*I'll write to you when I can, it may be quite a time between letters, but don't worry, I'll be O.K. and please write and tell me how you are and all Cheriton news. We have leave tonight so we're going ashore, so Mother dear please don't worry, give my love to all. Hope you are better for the operation.  
Cheerio, from your loving son*

xxxxx Ron xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

#### HMS COURAGEOUS (September 17, 1939)



The 22,500 ton light battle cruiser, later converted to an escort carrier, commanded by Capt. W.T. Makeig-Jones, and accompanied by HMS Ark Royal and HMS Hermes, was sunk by German submarine U-29 (Kptlt. Otto Schuhart) while on anti-submarine duty 150 nautical miles west-south-west of Mizen Head, Ireland. A total of 576 men died in this tragedy, the first Royal Navy ship sunk in the war. Lost were 514 navy men, 26 Fleet Air Arm men and 36 RAF servicing crew. The carrier sank in about fifteen minutes after being hit by two torpedoes from a salvo of three fired from the U-boat. Captain Makeig-Jones stayed on the bridge and saluted the flag as the ship turned over and sank. All such patrols by aircraft carriers were stopped from then on. The entire crew of the U-29 was awarded the Iron Cross 2nd Class, when the boat made it safely back to Wilhelmshaven, the first time this decoration was awarded to members of the U-boat service. The U-29 survived the war and was scuttled on May 4, 1945 ([www.iinet.au](http://www.iinet.au))





# ITCHEN STOKE



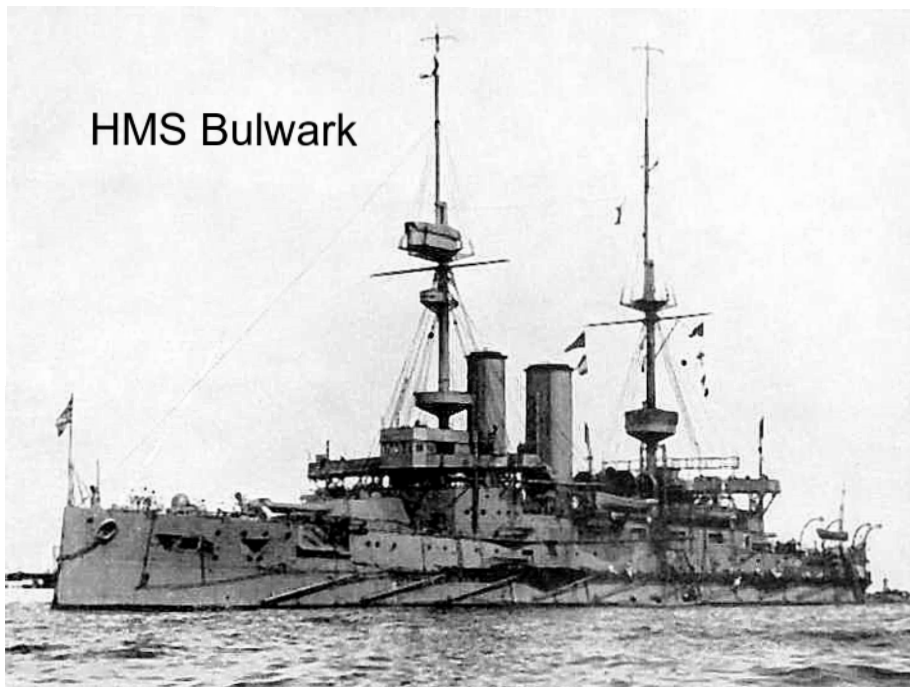
Population in 1811: 235; 8 casualties.

# WORLD WAR 1

**ANDREWS, STANLEY**, Ordinary Seaman J/20822, R.N., H.M.S. Bulwark. Died 26.11.1914, aged 19. Son of William Andrews, of New House Farm, The Grange, Alresford, Hampshire. Commemorated on Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 3. (CWGC). Born 8<sup>th</sup> November 1895 in Carnarvon, Wales. Enlisted 8<sup>th</sup> November 1913 for twelve years. Height 5' 0", chest 35", brown hair, brown eyes, fresh complexion, scar on right knee. Occupation farm labourer. Served as boy H.M.S. Vivid to 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1913, then H.M.S. Prince of Wales, joined H.M.S. Bulwark 8<sup>th</sup> November 1913. (Naval Personal Record)

Born in Capul Graig, Carnarvon, his father a farm labourer. (1911 census)

## ***The HMS Bulwark Explosion***



On 26th November 1914 HMS Bulwark, a 15,000 ton battleship, was moored at buoy number 17 at Kethole Reach on the River Medway. She was taking on coal from the airship base at Kingsnorth, on the Isle of Grain.

At 7.50am, as the crew were having breakfast, an explosion ripped the ship apart. The explosion was heard as far away as Whitstable to the south and Southend (in Essex) to the North. Eye witnesses stated that once the smoke has cleared, there was no sign of the ship. This evidence is supported by the fact that naval divers who investigated the wreck three days after the explosion found just two large fragments of wreckage - a section of the port bow as far aft as the sick bay, and 30 feet further away, a section of the starboard bow. Debris from the explosion fell up to four miles away.

In all, the explosion killed 745 men and 51 officers. Five of the 14 men who survived died later of their wounds, and almost all of the others were seriously wounded. There are mass and individual graves in Woodlands Cemetery in Gillingham, for the Bulwark's dead, who were mostly drawn from the Portsmouth area.

Although the local papers immediately suspected sabotage, the subsequent naval court of enquiry (held at the Royal Naval Hospital, Gillingham) found that much of the ammunition for the ships guns had been stored in the corridors between the 11 magazines, and that either a fault with one of the shells or overheating cordite near a boiler room bulkhead could have started a chain reaction which destroyed the ship.

The site of the wreck is now a restricted area, designated as a Military Wreck by the Admiralty, and is marked by two buoys - the East Bulwark (Green Conical at 51. 25. 21. 25 N, 00. 39. 13. 78 E) and West Bulwark (Red Can at 51. 25. 23. 25 N, 00. 39. 13. 78.E). ([www.rossfamily.plus.com/historicmedway/disasters/hms\\_bulwark.htm](http://www.rossfamily.plus.com/historicmedway/disasters/hms_bulwark.htm)).

**Not a local**, but commemorated by his own memorial in Itchen Stoke Church (see p.109):

**COX, REGINALD JOHN PONSONBY**, Major, Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, attached to 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Gordon Highlanders. Killed in action 27.09.1915. Son of Major John Ponsonby Cox & Emily Ponsonby Cox, of Society House, South Queensferry, West Lothian. Commemorated on Loos Memorial, Nord Pas de Calais, France, Panels 125-127. (CWGC)

“COX, REGINALD JOHN PONSONBY, Major, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, attd. as 2nd in command to 8th (Service) Battn. Gordon Highlanders, only s. of Major John Ponsonby Cox, of Society House, South Queensferry, late Durham Light Infantry (who



served in the Kaffir War 1852-53, in the Crimea and in the New Zealand War 1864-66 [Medals]), by his wife, Emily, dau. of Major Francis Chaliner, of Larbert House, Stirlingshire, 7<sup>th</sup> Dragoon Guards; b. Edinburgh, 2 April, 1874; educ. Moffat, and Haileybury College ; gazetted 2nd Lieut. (from the Militia) to the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders 4 Dec. 1895 ; joined his regiment in India Feb. following, became Lieut. 1 Dec. 1897, Capt. 3 July, 1901, and Major Aug. 1915 ; took part in the operations on N.W. Frontier of India 1897-98, with Tochi Field Force (Medal with clasp); was employed with Egyptian Army 29 Nov. 1901, to 29 Jan. 1908, and was Adjutant of the Territorial Force 20 May, 1909, to 26 Oct.

1910. On the outbreak of the European War in Aug. 1914, he was sent to train the newly-raised 10th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders at Aldershot, and in April, 1915, was appointed 2nd in Command of the 8th Gordons, and went to the front with them early in May. He was killed in action while leading a successful attack on a portion of “Dump Trench” during the advance on Loos 27 Sept. 1915. The Adjutant, Capt. Maxwell, wrote: “Colonel Wright put Major R. P. Cox in command of the battalion, 8th Gordons, which he led in the attack. Just as he was stepping into the trench, Major Cox was killed instantaneously,” and Private James Ireland, in a letter stated: “On 27 Sept. I saw Major Cox, when word came down the line for all to be over and at them. The Major, in a hail of lead, ran forward, shouting: ‘Come, Gordons, let them know what we are made of, boys! ’, and away we went. The Major acted like a hero all through it until he fell. Unmarried.” (UK, *De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour, 1914-1924*)



**GRAINGER, CHARLES EDWARD GORDON**, Lance Corporal 25488, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Wiltshire Regiment Died 31.07.1917, aged 32. Son of Edward and Lucy Ruth Grainger, of Itchen Stoke; husband of Ellen Frances Grainger (née Warwick), of Itchen Stoke, Hampshire. Commemorated on Ypres (Menin gate) Memorial, Belgium, Panel 53. (CWGC)  
Service Record not available.

“Mrs Grainger, of Edward Terrace, Alresford, has been informed that her husband ..... has been wounded in the throat. Mr. Grainger was well known in the town and Winchester district and his friends will wish him a speedy recovery.”  
(Hampshire Chronicle 05.05.1917)

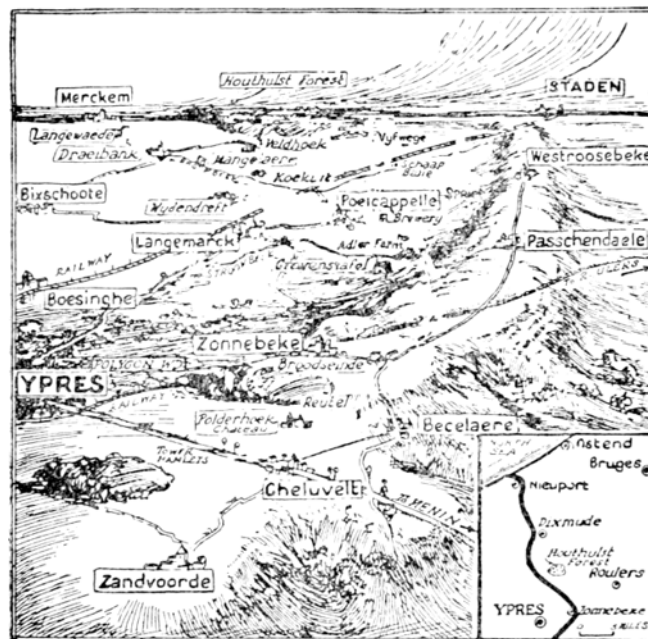
107 About 1910. Mr. Charlie Granger stands on the bridge. He was a bank clerk and was shortly to die in the Great War. Reed-cutting with a scythe is Mr. Walters, Itchen Stoke's water keeper.



(Picture from *In and Around Alresford in Old Photographs*, Roberts, E., Laurence Oxley, Alresford 1975 ISBN 0 9 501 347 91)

“Information has been received from the War Office by Mrs Grainger, East Street, Alresford, that as nothing has been heard of her husband, who was reported missing on July 31<sup>st</sup> 1917, he must now be presumed to be killed ... at the time of enlisting he was employed in a Winchester Bank.” (Hampshire Chronicle 03.08.1918)  
Born in Itchen Stoke. (1911 Census)

31<sup>st</sup> July 1917 was the opening of the Third battle of Ypres (Passchendaele) - see Appendix 3.



Regimental War Diary (From <https://www.thewardrobe.org.uk/wardiary>):-

"2nd Wiltshire Tuesday 31st July 1917 Belgium, Trenches

Z day

ZERO was at 3.40am, and when our first wave, consisting of three platoons of "B" company under Lieut LC MAKEHAM, went over it was still quite dark. The enemy at once put down a barrage on our old front line trenches and on CRAB CRAWL. There was also considerable machine gun fire from the right, which somewhat hindered the 2nd YORKSHIRE Regiment. However, the objective was captured and the trenches cleaned by 6.15am. About 40 prisoners were taken from the JAM SUPPORT, JEFFERY TRENCH and JEFFERY SUPPORT. "B" company HQ was finally established at the head of JAM ROW near GREEN JACKET RIDE at J.19.b.4.6. Three platoons of "C" company, under CAPT WB GARDNER, formed the second wave, and killed a number of Huns in JAM ROW and JAM LANE, but took no prisoners. 2/Lieut LG LEWIS was badly wounded during the advance. "C" company HQ was established in a trench mortar dug-out on dotted line J.19.b.4.2, and the company astride of JAM LANE with 2/Lieut HS STARKEY'S platoon around J.19.b.0.6.

"A" company, under Capt. WB WOOD, together with 2 platoons of "D" company, met with a good deal of resistance from machine gun fire from the woods W of DUMBARTON LAKES and INVERNESS COPSE. About 12 prisoners were taken around junction of JAM LANE and JAR ROW, and about the same number killed up to strong point at J.19.b.75.65.

2/Lieuts FR LEWIS and VAP BOWEN established a strong point with about 20 men at J.19.b.95.60, and strengthened the position considerably by Lewis guns taken from a derelict tank near by. This position covered low lying ground and junction of JAR ROW and JASPER AVENUE. Later they were joined by men from other units, and Capt KEEFE took charge. 2/Lieut EW CAIN was killed at J.19.b.8.0, and during the advance 2/Lieuts. ACB DODD and WW MANNING were wounded.

The Commanding Officer and Adjutant established Battalion HQ at 9.30am at J.19.b.10.15 in JAM LANE, and were joined at 12.30am by the rest of HQ company under 2/Lieut W RUDMAN, with two platoons of "D" company forming a reserve in JAM RESERVE under 2/Lieuts. VH TROW and FC BRITTAIN.

The barrage was said by all to have been splendid.

About 2pm "A" company reported enemy massing around DUMBARTON LAKES but no development took place. Heavy shelling continued around our reserve positions and "No Man's Land" the whole day"



*The Battle for Passchendaele*  
via [www.warresisters.org.uk](http://www.warresisters.org.uk)

**MUNDY, ARTHUR**, Private 3726, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Scots Guards. Died 18.12.1914, aged 32. Third son of William and Sarah Mundy, of 157, Itchen Stoke, Alresford, Hampshire. Commemorated on Ploegsteert Memorial, Hainaut, Belgium, Panel 1. (CWGC)  
Enlisted Winchester, killed in action. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919*)  
Service Record not available.

Born in Itchen Stoke in 1882, in 1901 was recorded as a soldier in the Guards Depot, Caterham, Surrey. (1901 Census)

“... a two-brigade attack was launched on 18<sup>th</sup> December, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Brigade to go over at 4 p.m., the 20<sup>th</sup> (of which the Scots Guards were part) at 6 p.m. This was at the request of the French, who, being by far the largest Allied force in the field, understandably felt they had the right to dictate to the British and the Belgians in the matter of strategy and tactics. They had an initiative planned for which they required British support. (*Brigadier General Reginald*) Heyworth’s diary for 19 December described the outcome:

“The affair of last night was not quite a success, but it was as good if not better than the other Brigade did. Lawford’s Brigade attacked first and did not get into the German trenches, they suffered heavily, 4 officers killed and several wounded and 300 rank and file killed and wounded. The Scots Guards got into the German trenches and killed a good many including an officer, but they got turned out by hand grenades which the Germans threw at them. They suffered pretty heavily. (7 officers killed, wounded or missing) Loder led the attack and was the only one not hit; about 160 rank and file killed and wounded ..... trenches too filthy for words, liquid mud over my knees in some places.”

Ironically, the French attack which these efforts were meant to support was not launched. No ground was gained, little impact was made on the enemy and many young lives were lost to no purpose. (*The Imperial War Museum book of 1914 – the Men Who Went to War*, Brown, M., ISBN 0 283 07323 3)



Ploegsteert Wood via Regent Street  
(comines-warneton.blogspot)

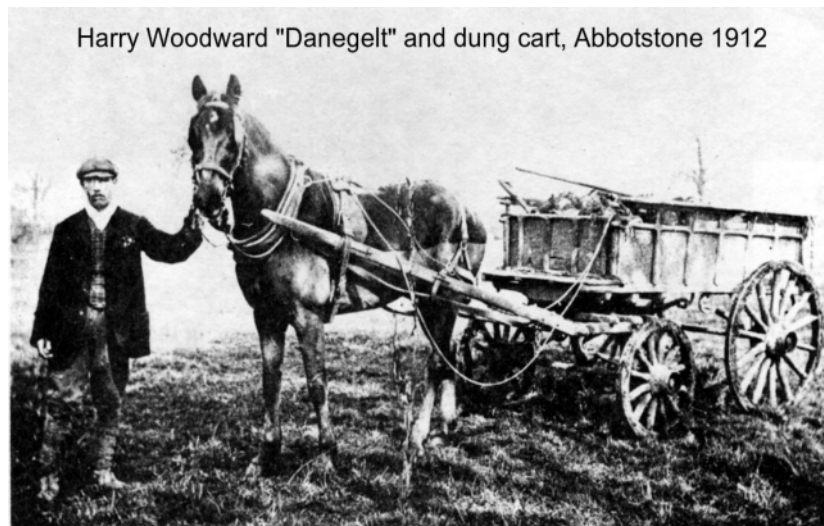


**Two brothers**, both recorded in the 1911 census as farm labourers, living in the home of their mother and stepfather Robert Smith, a farm carter at Abbotstone Cottage, Alresford. Their mother Ellen was already a widow, working as a laundress in 1891.(Census)

**WOODWARD, HARRY**, Private 2676, 2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Hampshire Regiment. Died 30.06.1916. Commemorated on Kirkee 1914-1918 Monument, India, Face D. (CWGC) Service Record not available.

“... died of sickness at Bombay, was the third son of the late Charles Woodward, of Winchester, and Mrs E. Smith, of Down Farm, Sutton Scotney. Private Woodward was 30 years of age.” (*Hampshire Chronicle* 05.08.1916)

Born in Cheriton about 1887 (1911 census)



Picture from “*In and Around Alresford in old photographs*”, Roberts, E. ISBN 0 9 50134791

**WOODWARD, WILFRED**, Lance Corporal 26048, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Royal Durham Light Infantry. Died 15.10.1916, aged 26. Son of Ellen J. Smith (formerly Woodward), of Shipton Farm Cottages, Woodstock, Oxon, and the late Charles Woodward. Buried in Bancourt British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France, VIII.F.10. (CWGC) Enlisted Winchester, killed in action (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*) Service Record not available.

Born in Winnal, Winchester about 1892 (1911 census)

### **The Battle of the Somme; the Battle of Le Transloy, 1 - 18 October 1916**

“After consolidating its ground the Division was relieved by the 20th Division on 30th September, and the long struggle began for the possession of the high ground overlooking the Bapaume-Le Transloy Road.

On 7th October the XIV Corps (20th and 56th Divisions) attacked with only partial success, and the 6th Division was brought in again on night 8/9th October for a general attack on

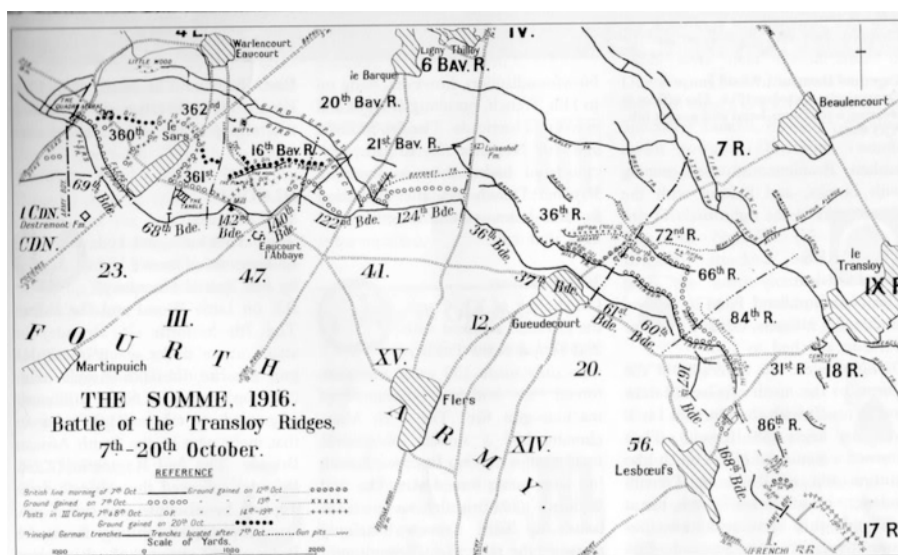
the 12th October. The enemy had dug a series of trenches named by us Rainbow-Cloudy-Misty-Zenith, etc., a portion of which had been captured by us, making a somewhat pronounced salient. All three brigades were in the line, with one battalion in front trenches, the 71st Infantry Brigade (Brig.-Gen. E. Feetham) being in the salient, with the 16th Infantry Brigade on the right and the 18th Infantry Brigade on the left. The objective of the attack of the 12th October was the line of trenches running north from Le Transloy.

At 2.5 p.m. the flank brigades attacked, but with only partial success. The failure to make ground, which was general all along the British front, was attributed for want of surprise, as we had bombarded the position for two days, and always attacked in the early afternoon. Further, the ground was very heavy and observation extremely bad. The Germans were fresh troops, and fought well. Perhaps more than anything it was due to the effect of their machine-gun fire. Taught by our creeping barrage that machine-guns in the front line were useless, the enemy had drawn them across the valley towards the road, and caught our advance over the brow of the rise with accurate distant machine-gun fire.

Changing the time of zero, the attack was renewed at 5.35 a.m. on the 15th October, the 18th Infantry Brigade on the left (2nd D.L.I. and 11th Essex) attempting to seize those portions of Cloudy and Mild trenches still held by the enemy, while the Sherwood Foresters on their right attacked some gun pits which lay about 200 yards in front of their line. This latter attack succeeded, but with the great loss of Colonel Hobbs, O.C. The Foresters, who died of his wounds. The left attack made a little ground. A final attempt to push forward the line was made on the 18th October by the 9th Norfolks, but was only partially successful."

(A Short history of the 6th Division Aug. 1914--March 1919, edited by Major-Gen. T. O. Marden, London, Hugh Rees, Ltd., 5 & 7 Regent Street, S.W.1, 1920;

[http://www.archive.org/stream/hist6thdivisionoomarduoft/hist6thdivisionoomarduoft\\_djvu.txt](http://www.archive.org/stream/hist6thdivisionoomarduoft/hist6thdivisionoomarduoft_djvu.txt))



<http://forum.irishmilitaryonline.com/showthread.php?9058-The-Somme-Day-by-Day/pages>

## WORLD WAR 2

**JACKSON, WILLIAM GEORGE**, Gunner 1693446, 439 Battery, 127 LAA Regiment, RA, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Queen's Royal Regiment, died 11.10.1942 age 30. Buried in Itchen Stoke Cemetery. Died at Ibsley Aerodrome as a result of war operations (death certificate). At the time the aerodrome was being used by the 1<sup>st</sup> Fighter group, USAAF (Lockheed P-38 Lightnings), and during a joint anti-aircraft/ground attack exercise pilot Lt. William Pennington tragically crashed on to a Bofors gun pit, killing himself and William Jackson. (RAF Ibsley Historical group).



P-38 Lightning & Bofors 40 from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**SMITH, REGINALD HENRY**, Sergeant 5501442, 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Died 28.06.1944, aged 37. Son of George Henry and Ada Smith; husband of Nellie Beatrice Smith, of Itchen Stoke, Hampshire. Buried in Beirut War Cemetery, Lebanon, 7.D.7. (CWGC)

Born in Swindon, Wiltshire, his father a domestic gardener. (1911 Census)  
A despatch rider in the army. (daughter's memory)

*Hampshire Chronicle* 29.07.1944:

The news was received recently of the death on active service of Sgt. Reginald Henry Smith, the Hampshire Regiment, of Keepers Cottage, Itchen Stoke. Sgt. Smith came to Hampshire from Chippenham, Wiltshire in 1937, to take the post of game-keeper to Lord Ashburton. In May, 1939, he joined the Territorial Army, the Hampshire Regiment, serving in this country for a time and later taking part in the North African and Italian campaigns. The funeral service, with full military honours, took place in Beirut, Syria, members of the Hampshire Regiment acting as pallbearers. The Rev. E.M. Thomas, C.F., formerly curate at Romsey, took the service. Alike in his civilian occupation, and in the Army, Sgt. Smith was loved and esteemed by all with whom he came into contact. Tributes have been paid to his loyalty and sterling character by Lord Ashburton, his former employer, and the officers and men of his unit. He was an excellent soldier, yet wished above all to return to the country life which he loved. He married in January 1937 Nellie Beatrice, the only child of Mr and Mrs Warwick of Itchen Stoke, and lately of Aldenham, Wiltshire. The deepest sympathy has been expressed to his wife and little daughter by members of the Hampshire Regiment as well as by many other friends.

# KILMESTON



Population in 1911: 238; 13 casualties.

## WORLD WAR 1

**CHOULES, ALFRED GEORGE**, Private T/241098, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment). Died 05.12.1917. Buried in Dochy Farm New British Cemetery, Langemark-Poelkapelle . West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, XII.A.17. (CWGC)  
Residence Fernhurst, Sussex, Enlisted Guildford, Surrey. Killed in Action. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)  
Service Record not available.

Born 05.08.1897 in Caversham, Oxfordshire, son of Joseph Henry Choules (a general labourer) and Charlotte née Hall. Charlotte was born in Ropley.  
([www.ancestry.co.uk/tree/3309239](http://www.ancestry.co.uk/tree/3309239))

From the War Diaries of 1st Battalion:

“Front Line S. of Passchendaele

4<sup>th</sup> November 1917 Continued in Front Line which consists of Posts requiring much work which was commenced immediately on taking over – No movement possible by day. During night S.A.A. Bombs etc. were carried forward. Casualties 2 Lieut J.E. Corry wounded, 2 O.R. killed 4 O.R. wounded.

5<sup>th</sup> November 1917 Continued in Front Line. Situation Normal – Casualties 2 O.R. killed.”

**CLARK, GERALD MAITLAND**, Major, 6<sup>th</sup> battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment. Died 14.07.1916, aged 35. Son of the Rev. W. M. Clark and Annette L. Clark, formerly of Kingsgate House, Winchester. Commemorated on Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France, Pier and Face 11A and 11D. (CWGC)

"... Elder son of the late Reverend W.M. Clark, M.A., (Vicar of Kilmeston) and of Mrs Clark, 24, Ranelagh Road, Winchester. He was educated at Bradfield, to which college, after obtaining his University degree, he returned as assistant master, and was holding that post when war broke out..." (*Hampshire Chronicle* 22.07.1916)



Born July 1880, attended Bradfield September 1884 to April 1899. Prefect. Cricket XI, 1899. St. Catharine's College, Cambridge. Scholar. 1899; B.A. 1902; M.A. 1906. Assistant Master, Bradfield College, 1903-1914; Secretary O.B Society 1906-1916. Major, 6th North Hampshire Regiment.; M.I.D. Killed in action, 1916. (From *The Bradfield College Register*, 1963.)

"There was a splendid game against Radley in 1899, and it was pluck alone that pulled the match out of the fire. When G.M. Clark joined C.Henry there were six wickets down, 65 more runs to get, and a lob bowler has just taken two wickets in two balls! What that meant every cricketer afflicted with nerves knows full well. But Clark and Henry never for a moment lost their heads, and their achievement in putting on 56 runs for the seventh wicket was as good a bit of cricket as we have seen here" (A, F Leach, 1900)

Admitted as a Classical Exhibitioner at ST CATHARINE'S, January 16, 1899.

Son of William, clerk. Born July 30, 1880, at Hampstead.

Matriculated Michaelmas 1899; B.A. 1902(Class. Tripos, Class II, Div. 3); M.A. 1906.

Captain Assoc. Football and Lawn Tennis. Colours for May Boat, Rugby and cricket." (St. Catharine's register)

"On the night of 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> two divisions were ordered to attack and carry the Bosch second line. At the last moment it was found that Trones Wood on our right which, was supposed to have been captured and held by another British Brigade, had been counter-attacked and with the exception of one small portion was in the hands of the enemy and a menace to the safety of our right flank. My Regiment supported by the Middlesex Regiment was ordered to attack, capture and consolidate. They did so, with very hurried notice, and through a very heavy barrage of high explosive. Their advance through this was magnificent. On reaching the wood, terrific hand-to-hand fighting ensued, but the two gallant regiments were not to be denied, and by 10 o'clock the whole wood was in our possession.

The fine performance was naturally not carried out without heavy loss, and I have to mourn the loss of many gallant officers and men who all died fighting like heroes. Among them was Major G.M.Clark, whose loss all the Regiment will mourn. I have met no gallant or finer soldier among the many brilliant ones the new armies have produced. ... I pray that those who are sent to replace them may be made of the same stuff; if so, the honour of our county is in safe keeping." (G. Ripley, Colonel, *The Northampton Independent* 29.07.1916)

**COUSENS, GEORGE EDWARD**, Second Lieutenant, 1st/8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, Died 24.08.1918. Buried in Bucquoy Road Cemetery, Ficheux, Pas de Calais, France, VI.E.13. (CWGC)

Killed in action (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)

Born in Portsmouth about 1892, son of Thomas Cousens (a farmer in Hinton Ampner in 1901) and Elizabeth Cousens (1901 Census). George was working as a domestic gardener in Kilmeston in 1911. (Census)

Formerly Sergeant 3/4911 Hampshire Regiment. His widow remarried and became Mrs Andrews of 2, Southampton Road, Alresford. (Medal Roll)

George Cousens, still a Sergeant in the Hampshire Regiment, married Ellen Madge Smith in St John's, Alresford on 12.02.1917; Ellen then married Jesse Andrews, Alresford Police Constable, on 15.12.1920. (Parish Register)  
Personal Service Record not available.



THE BATTLE OF THE SCARPE, 1918.

The two days fighting on the 24th and 25th of August in which the 1/7th and 1/8th Middlesex took part before the Battle of the Scarpe (26th-30th August 1918), began, must be looked upon in the light of operations designed to win positions before the defences covering the Hindenburg Line were attacked. As already stated, the two Battalions, with the 63rd Brigade, had reached Blaireville on 23rd August and during the evening of that date relieved the 1st London Regiment in the front line known as Boyelles Reserve Trench.

The orders to the 63rd Brigade were to attack the enemy on the morning of the 24th, the objective being the German trench known as Summit Trench. The 1/8th Middlesex were detailed to attack on the right, the 1/7th Middlesex in the centre and the 1st London Regiment on the left.

The 1/7th Battalion completed the relief by 5 a.m. on the 24th, but during the operations lost R.S.M. W. Burt, who was killed close by Battalion Headquarters. He was a very gallant man, greatly respected by all ranks: he had served at the front ever since the Battalion landed in France.

At 7a.m. the barrage fell and at once the advance began. This trench covered the village of Croisilles and was about 1,500 yards away. There was no hesitation as our screen of fire fell and swept the enemy's front line, and with "A" Company on the right, "B" on the left, "C" in support and "D" in reserve, The 1/8th Middlesex (Lieut.-Colonel C. H. Pank) advanced on the Summit Trench. The latter was reached by 10 a.m. And consolidated, outposts being pushed forward The Battalion had thus gained its objective at a loss of three officers killed (Captain C. J. Keeping and 2/Lieuts. G. E. Cousens and E. Child) and one (2/Lieut. W. J. Thorne) missing. The losses in other ranks were 51 killed or wounded.

On the left of the 1/8th, the 1/7th Battalion (Major P. C. Kay commanding) similarly reached all its objectives. A small number of prisoners were captured while the Battalion lost about fifty all ranks, Lieut. H. Mummery being among the wounded. (*The Middlesex Regiment: Duke Of Cambridge's Own, the 57th and 77th Of Foot*, Blaxland, Gregory, Leo Cooper, 1977).



**HARFIELD, HENRY JAMES**, Private 37545, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Worcestershire Regiment. Died 31.07.1917. Commemorated on Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, Panel 34. (CWGC)

Also on Cheriton Memorial (q.v. p.85).

**JEWELL, WILLIAM STUDLEY**, Driver 1288, "D Battery, 251<sup>st</sup> Brigade, Royal Field Artillery. Died 18.04.1918, aged 25. Son of Alfred George and Elizabeth Ann Jewell, of Yew Tree Cottage, Littleton, Winchester, Hampshire. Buried in Chocques Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France, II.A.8. (CWGC)  
Service Record not available.

1901 Census shows him born about 1894 in East Tisted, Hampshire, his father a gardener at Chawton House, Hampshire. By 1911 William was working as a Domestic Footman in Hinton Ampner.

".... youngest son of Mr & Mrs Jewell of Lower Tilmore, Petersfield. A letter from the officer of his battery says that he (deceased) was enjoying his first real rest after four weeks of hard fighting and marching, and was killed at his billet in his sleep. The writer adds that throughout all the strenuous battles recently he had showed great pluck in many dangerous situations, and was always cheery and ready to answer any call day or night. Deceased joined up a month after the outbreak of war, and had been in France nearly three years." (*Hampshire Chronicle* 04.05.1918)

Chocques was occupied by Commonwealth forces from the late autumn of 1914 to the end of the war. The village was at one time the headquarters of I Corps and from January 1915 to April 1918, No.1 Casualty Clearing Station was posted there. Most of the burials from this period are of casualties who died at the clearing station from wounds received at the Bethune front. From April to September 1918, during the German advance on this front, the burials



Photo via [www.lavoixdunord.fr](http://www.lavoixdunord.fr)

were carried out by field ambulances, divisions and fighting units. The groups of graves of a single Royal Artillery brigade in Plot II, Row A, and of the 2nd Seaforths in II D, and III A, are significant of the casualties of the 4th Division at that time. (CWGC)

**RADBOURNE, ARTHUR**, Sapper 548824, 126<sup>th</sup> Field Company, Royal Engineers. Died 13.10.1917, aged 35.  
Also on Cheriton Memorial, q.v. p.96

**WHITE, GEORGE**, ("Jum"), Private 3201, 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Died 11.08.1916. Buried in Amara War Cemetery, Iraq, XV.C.3.  
Also on Bramdean Memorial, q.v. p.66.

## WORLD WAR 2

**CARDEN, JOHN RORY**, Lieutenant RN 802 Sqn FAA. Died 22.12.1941 in the Battle of the Atlantic, HMS Audacity, aged 24. Son of Revd. Canon Henry Craven Carden, MA, and Olive Carden, of Kilmeston Vicarage, Alresford, Hampshire. Awarded the King's Dirk in HMS Frobisher. Commemorated on Lee-on-Solent Memorial, Bay 1, Panel 6. (CWGC).

British ships had been suffering from the attention of Focke Wulf Fw 200 Kondor long range bombers. The first, desperate remedy was to equip some merchant ships with a catapult and an old Hawker Hurricane fighter – after action the pilot had to head for land if in range or bale out into the sea near the convoy and hope to be rescued. A better answer was a small, “escort” carrier on which aircraft could land as well as take off, and Lt. Carden took part in this new development.

802 Sqn. FAA operated Grumman Martlet I fighters:



Grumman Martlet I 802 Sqn. FAA



HMS Audacity

HMS Audacity was the first of the Royal Navy escort carriers. She was launched 29 March 1939 as the North German Lloyd cargo/passenger liner MV Hannover being completed on 10 May 1939. She was caught outside home waters by the outbreak of war, and captured by the British light cruiser HMS Dunedin (Capt. C.E. Lambe, RN) and the Canadian destroyer HMCS Assiniboine (Cdr. E. Mainguy, RCN) in the West Indies on 8 March 1940 while trying to run the blockade.

Taken into the Royal Navy as Sinbad, then renamed Empire Audacity and commissioned as an Ocean Boarding Vessel 11 Nov 1940. Converted to escort carrier by Blyth Shipbuilding from 22 Jan 1941, commissioned 20 June 1941. Renamed Audacity 30 July 1941.

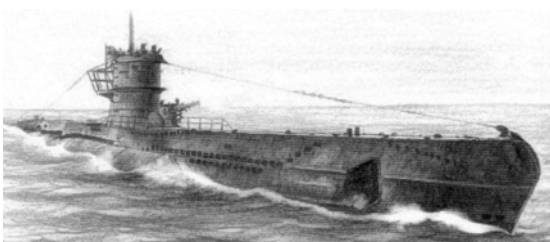
As the first Escort carrier the design she had no space for a hangar or a lift, so her aircraft were parked on deck. Three arrestor wires and an open conning position on the starboard side were fitted, together with a minimal anti-aircraft armament. As the principal air threat was perceived to be Condor long-range reconnaissance aircraft, her aircraft were all fighters. Hurricanes were proposed but not available, while the Grumman Martlet was not only available but had been specifically designed for carrier operations. Eight aircraft were embarked.

HMS Audacity commenced her war service when she sailed with her first convoy in September 1941 to Gibraltar. On 21 September, one of her aircraft shot down a Focke-Wulf Condor which had just been making a bomb run attack on the convoy rescue ship Walmer Castle. The ship carrying over 80 survivors was set on fire and had to be sunk by gunfire from a corvette.

HMS Audacity (Cdr. Douglas William Mackendrick, RN) participated in two more convoys before being sunk at 2137 hours on 21 December 1941, after being hit by three torpedoes from the German submarine U-751 about 500 miles west of Cape Finisterre in position 43°45'N, 19°54'W. The survivors were picked up by the British corvettes HMS Convolvulus (T/Lt. R.S. Connell, RNR), HMS Marigold (Lt. W.S. Macdonald, RNVR), and HMS Pentstemon (Lt.Cdr. J. Byron, RNR). ([www.uboot.net](http://www.uboot.net))

*Hampshire Chronicle* 10.01.1942: “Lt. John Rory Carden, RN, missing, presumed killed on active service, was the son of Canon and Mrs H.C. Carden, Kilmeston. He gained a special entry cadetship for the navy in January 1935, and was trained for a year on HMS Frobisher. From January 1936, he was a Midshipman in the cruisers Sussex, Berwick and Sheffield, in Australia, China and Home Waters. He was promoted Sub-Lieutenant in March 1938, and after his courses for Lieutenant served as Sub-Lieutenant of the Gloucester, flagship in the East Indies. Since the war he had qualified as a fighter pilot in the Fleet Air Arm.”

Captain Eric Brown, R.N. remembers John Carden as “a serious young man, one of nature’s gentlemen – quiet, thoughtful and a great reader; he had a most elegant way of smoking a cigarette. He was conscious of his position as one of only two regular officers in the squadron and as flight leader. Although he successfully abandoned ship his slight build meant that he succumbed to the intense winter cold of the Atlantic – the continued presence of the U-boat led to a three hour delay before escorts could pick up survivors.” Capt. Brown went on to be a very famous test pilot, and his book “Wings On My Sleeve” (ISBN-10 0 297 84565 9) has a good account of the career of 802 squadron and H.M.S. Audacity. The other survivors of 802 squadron went on to serve on H.M.S. Avenger, and were lost with her on 15<sup>th</sup> November 1942.



Type VIIc U-Boat by John Pellet

[www.subart.net](http://www.subart.net)



U-751 was commissioned on 31.01.1941, commanded by Kptlt. G. Bigalk. After serving six operational patrols and sinking six ships, U-751 was attacked on her seventh patrol four days into her voyage on 17.07.1942. She was sunk, with all hands lost, off the coast of Cape Ortegal, Spain by depth charges from an aircraft.

**COBB, ARTHUR KENNETH**, Sgt. 1184403 RAFVR, 407 (RCAF) Sqn. d. 08.02.1942, aged 31. Son of Henry W. and Bertha Cobb; husband of Florence Cobb, of York. Commemorated on Runnymede Panel 80 (CWGC)  
The Squadron was flying Lockheed Hudson V Maritime Patrol Aircraft from RAF North Coates, Lincolnshire.



Birth registered March quarter 1912, Wilton, Wiltshire.

Marriage to Florence Shields registered March quarter 1941.

**Cobb** was WAG on Hudson AM617, 'A' of 407 Squadron. Failed to return from a Rover patrol off Frisian Islands.

Other crew members were J4324 P/O J.R. McCulloch (pilot), 748710 F/S N.N. Palmer (2nd pilot), 751286 Sgt L.J. Hodson (WAG). ..... (the crew) had taken off before dawn on the 8th to intercept a convoy reported moving southwards from Terschelling. They did not return and because of the necessity of maintaining wireless silence, there was no report of what had befallen them. One of the other crews reported seeing some flak and light ground fire near the coast, directed at another aircraft; possibly it was Jack McCulloch's Hudson which had inadvertently come in low over the coastal defences. Sgt Hodson had been in the first group of ten WAGs posted to the unit. (From *407 SQUADRON HISTORY* [ed. Procter])

**HAYNES, HARRY**, Pte D/5262, 6th (H.D.) Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment. Died 20.02.1941, Netley Hospital, aged 53. Son of John and Clara Haynes; husband of Kate Haynes, of "The Bungalow", Harnham Hill, Cheriton, Hampshire. Father of Harry and Robert. Buried in Cheriton (St Michael) Churchyard. (CWGC) Also on Cheriton Memorial (see p.105).

Born in Northampton, the son of a plasterer. (1891 Census)

Died in the Royal Victoria hospital, Netley, Hampshire of Heart failure and Carcinoma of the left lung. (Death Certificate)

**LANDSCHEIT, EDWARD ELLIS**, Private 5500720 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Died 04.12.1944, aged 25. Son of Edward William and Matilda Landscheit, of Kilmeston, Hampshire. Buried in Faenza War Cemetery, Italy 1.E.12. (CWGC)

28th September 1944 the Brigade crossed the River Fiumicino, and then the Rubicon. The weather was atrocious, and movement was slowed by deep mud, and supply was difficult. Fighting continued until 9th October. A steady advance was made, and by 12th November the River Montone was crossed; on 26th November the River Lamone was reached. This was crossed on 3rd December in the face of stiff opposition, and by 6th December the Brigade had captured Casa Nova. The Brigade was relieved the following day, and moved well to the rear. From 24th August (when the Brigade moved up to the Gothic Line) to 7th December when they were relieved, the Hampshire Brigade had suffered 1,276 casualties (www.wikipedeia.com)



**LEVENTHORPE, JOHN MARK**, Sub-Lieutenant RNVR, HMS Charybdis. Died 23.10.1943 aged 22. Elder son of Colonel G. S. Leventhorpe and Mrs .D .Leventhorpe of Gastons, Kilmeston, Hampshire. Commemorated on Plymouth Naval Memorial Panel 84 col.2 (CWGC)



**HMS Charybdis** was a *Dido*-class cruiser of the Royal Navy. She was built by Cammell Laird Shipyard (Birkenhead, UK), with the keel being laid down on 9 November 1939. She was launched on 17 September 1940, and commissioned 3 December 1941. One of two sisters (the other was, appropriately, HMS *Scylla*), *Charybdis* was originally completed with four twin QF 4.5 in Mk.III in UD MK III mountings because of a shortage of 5.25 in mountings. The forward superstructure was considerably modified to accommodate these and also to increase crew spaces. Naturally they were known as the 'toothless terrors', and

proved to be very good anti-aircraft ships, often leading to comparisons with their sisters armed with the heavier QF 5.25-inch (133 mm) guns.  
([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS\\_Charybdis\\_\(88\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Charybdis_(88)))

### Operation Tunnel 23rd October 1943

In late 1943, the British authorities were aware of the approach of the German blockade runner, *Münsterland*, which was carrying an important cargo of latex and strategic metals. The Germans had a well-rehearsed procedure for escorting such vessels. The British reacted by executing *Operation Tunnel*, a standard operation whereby available ships would attempt to intercept. Germans had the advantage with their excellent radar chain along the French coast as well as good liaison between each vessel and a strong force of Elbing-class destroyers to protect the convoy.

They also knew the advantage of sailing convoys in order to make the best of light and weather conditions, their tactics were to draw the attacking force away from the convoy.

#### The British Plan

The convoy was to run close to shore where shore batteries could operate guns of 15 miles range.

The British force planned a ridged column of 7 ships 3 cables apart at 17 knots, passing through established points to sweep to the westward along the likely route of the convoy.

On 23 October 1943, *Charybdis* (command ship) and destroyers HMS *Grenville*, *Rocket* and four Hunt class destroyers (HMS *Limbourn*, *Wensleydale*, *Talybont* and *Stevenstone*) (none of the ships had worked together before) intercepted *Münsterland* off Ushant, Brittany. The force was attacked at night by the German 4th Torpedo Boat Flotilla (five Elbing class torpedo boats), commanded by Franz Kohlauf, which was escorting the blockade runner.

#### The **Elbing** class torpedo boats (or **Flottentorpedoboot 1939**)

were a class of 15 small warships that served in the German *Kriegsmarine* during World War II. Although classed as *Flottentorpedoboot* ("fleet torpedo boat") by the Germans, in most respects—displacement, weaponry, usage—they were comparable to contemporary medium-size destroyers. The most notable difference was in the armament of the *Elbings* being fewer in number and of a slightly smaller caliber — 105 mm (4.1 in) compared to the 4.7 in (120 mm) of contemporary British destroyers such as the "L" and "M"-classes.



(Illustration from [http://www.navypedia.org/ships/germany/ger\\_tb\\_1939.htm](http://www.navypedia.org/ships/germany/ger_tb_1939.htm))

Armament: 4 × 105 mm (4.1 in) guns, 4 × 37 mm (1.46 in) anti-aircraft guns, 9 × 20 mm (0.79 in) anti-aircraft cannons, 6 × 533 mm (21.0 in) torpedo tubes, 50 × mines.

The design and weapons mix resulted from experience of earlier, more specialised classes such as the Type 35. The *Elbings* were a radical change to an all-purpose vessel capable of torpedo attacks, anti-aircraft defence and escort duties. These ships adopted unit machinery with two



separate engine rooms and two boiler rooms. Their machinery was however relatively unreliable.

Construction of the class took place in the Schichau shipyard in Elbing (now Elbląg), hence the Allied name for the class. The first examples were commissioned in late 1942 and the last in late 1944.

T23 survived the war, scrapped February 1955, after serving in the French Navy as the *Alsacien* ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elbing\\_class\\_torpedo\\_boat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elbing_class_torpedo_boat))

### **What actually happened.**

Charybdis picked up vessels on its radar some seven miles ahead, but it was not equipped to detect German radio communications.

Meanwhile British Hunt-class destroyer HMS Limbourne (another fated British destroyer) had its radar masked on ahead bearings by Charybdis, but picked up German radio transmissions indicating that at least six naval units were close by.

These two vital pieces of information were not exchanged, so Charybdis knew that the enemy was present but not its numbers, while the other vessels knew that six enemy destroyers were close by, but not where.

1.38am

The German Elbing T23 under the command of Friedrich-Karl Paul sighted Charybdis a few miles north of the Sept Isles off northern Brittany. Charybdis had picked it up and was swinging to port but was hit by a full salvo of six enemy torpedoes.

As the British destroyers came into sight, they too were fired on, with Limbourne being struck before yet another torpedo tore into the Charybdis.

Confusion

The German force proceeded east, leaving the British in confusion. Both the senior officers' ships were sinking and incommunicado and the rest were charging round at high speed.

The first torpedo had struck Charybdis on her port side, flooding a boiler room and resulting in a 20° list to port.

The second struck aft, wiping out electrical power and taking the list to some 50°.

Charybdis took an angle by the stern until almost vertical, staying like that for about half an hour before the bulkheads gave way.

2.30am - The Sinking

HMS Charybdis sunk through an avoidable series of events. Only 107 of the crew could be rescued and 30 officers and 432 ratings lives were lost. *Charybdis* sank in position 48°59'N 3°39'W 48.983°N 3.65°W, just off the North Coast of Brittany.

The torpedo that had struck HMS Limbourne's forward magazine had destroyed the forward section of the ship, though she would remain afloat as long as the bulkhead held. It was later decided to sink her, to keep her out of German hands.

With 40 of HMS Limbourne's men dead, the action had cost 500 lives in all.

*Münsterland* entered Cherbourg harbour, where she was attacked by the RAF five times from 24<sup>th</sup> October; though the ship was damaged, the low-level attacks in the face of strong defences were costly. Seven aircraft were lost, three pilots killed, 15 civilians dead and 52 wounded. 50 buildings were destroyed and 170 others damaged. (*Flat out at Zero Feet*, Simon, M., *Flypast Magazine* March & April 2012)

The *Münsterland*, renamed *Walkenreid*, was eventually forced ashore and destroyed west of Cap Blanc Nez by fire from British coastal artillery on 21 January 1944.

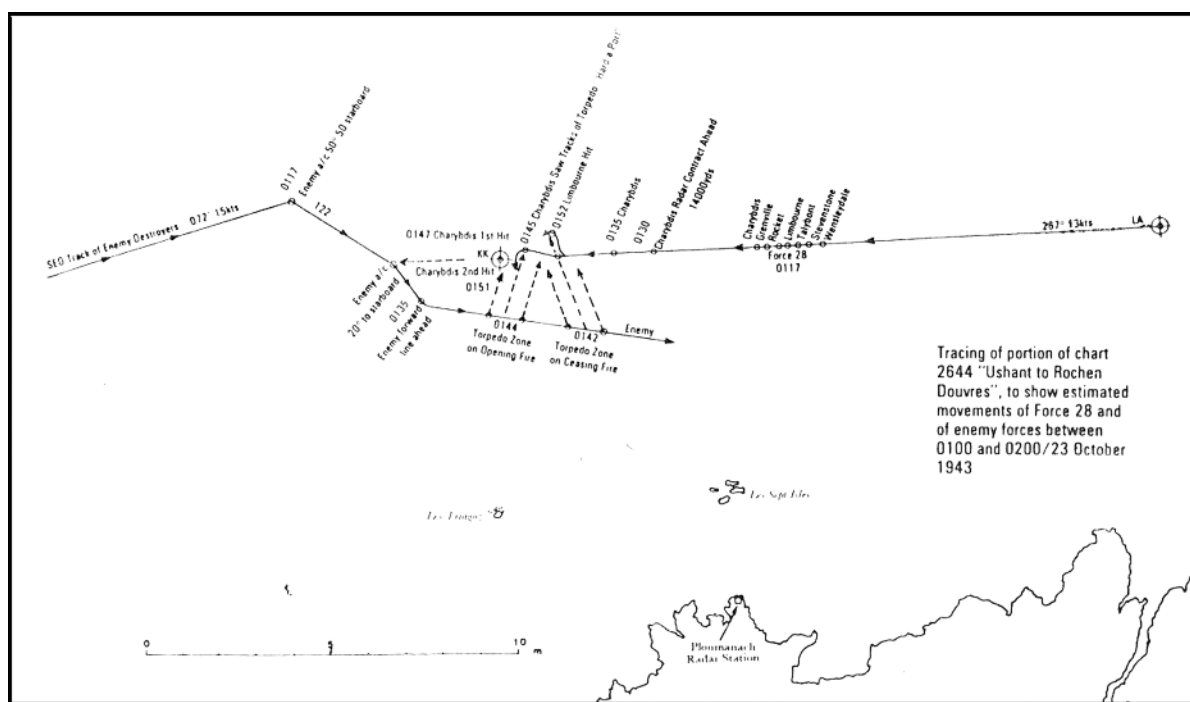
A well-trained and drilled enemy force had reduced a superior British task force to equality in minutes and made its convoy safe, without firing a gun or taking any losses.

The British had made so many errors both ashore and afloat that the incident was used as an illustration by the Royal Navy tactical school for many years to follow as an example of what not to do.

Soon after the sinking, the bodies of 21 Royal Navy and Royal Marine men were washed up on the island of Guernsey. The German occupation authorities buried them with full military honours. The funerals became an opportunity for some of the islanders to demonstrate their loyalty to Britain and their opposition to the Nazi occupiers, with around 5000 islanders attended the funeral, laying some 900 wreaths - enough of a demonstration against the Nazi occupation for subsequent military funerals to be closed to civilians by the German occupiers. Every year a commemoration service is held, which is attended by survivors of the action and their relatives, the Guernsey Association of Royal Navy and Royal Marines, Sea Cadets, St John's Ambulance Brigade, the Police and the Red Cross and representatives of the Royal Navy.

The wrecks of *Charybdis* and *Limbourne* have recently been found. The *Charybdis* was located in 1993, in 83 metres of water. [[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS\\_Charybdis\\_\(88\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Charybdis_(88))]

([http://www.bbc.co.uk/guernsey/content/articles/2004/10/06/hms\\_charybdis\\_feature.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/guernsey/content/articles/2004/10/06/hms_charybdis_feature.shtml))



**STEELE, JAMES**, Flt.Lt. (Pilot) 127895 RAFVR, 76 Sqn. RAF. Died 03.11.1943 aged 20 (CWGC). (Also on Bishop's Sutton Memorial see full entry there p.46).

# NEW ALRESFORD



Population in 1911: 1706; 89 casualties.

## PRE WORLD WAR 2

**ALLAN, LEONARD WALTER**, Private 3504, Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

Died 19.07.1916, aged 23. Son of the late Frank and Hannah Mariah (née Tizard) Allan.

Commemorated on Loos Memorial, France, Panel 22 to 25. (CWGC)

Residence Horsham, Sussex. No. 5504. Killed in action. Formerly 2838, Royal Sussex Regiment. (*UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)

1901 Census: Born in New Alresford in 1893, living in Broad Street with his family, father a butcher. By 1911 Leonard was living with his widowed mother at 34 West Hill, East Grinstead, Surrey and working as a farm pupil. (1911 Census)

Personal Service Record not available.

**ASLETT, THOMAS HENRY**, Private 25750, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire Regiment). Died 14.10.1916, aged 25. Son of Thomas and Sarah Aslett, of 3, Fairlight Villas, The Dean, Alresford, Hampshire. Commemorated on Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France, Pier & Face 13A. (CWGC)

Born Cheriton, Hants, resident Winchester, Hants, enrolled Alresford, Hampshire Formerly 23238, Somerset Light Infantry. Killed in action. (*UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)

In 1911 Thomas was boarding in Templar Cottages, East Meon, Petersfield, Hampshire and working as a Baker's Assistant. (1911 Census)

Personal Service Record not available.

From the Regimental War Diary (<https://www.thewardrobe.org.uk/wardiary>):-

1st Wiltshire      Saturday 14th October 1916      France, Thiepval

"The morning was quiet and the weather was dull. In the afternoon at 2.46p.m. the 8th LN Lancs Regt assaulted the 'MOUNDS' with 100 men. The objective was taken and about 90 prisoners secured. C Coy of this Regt was called upon by the Lancs to carry bombs to STUFF redoubt. Half B Coy in ZOLLERN trench was ordered to proceed to STUFF redoubt to support the Lancs."

Thiepval 1916



Stuff Redoubt



**BAKER. KINGSLEY, M.C.,** Lieutenant 141711, “A” Battery, 51<sup>st</sup> Brigade, Royal Field Artillery. Died 30.03.1918 aged 23. Son of Henry Charles and Nellie (née Stubbs) Baker, of Alresford, Hampshire. Buried in Abbeville Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France, III.B.29. (CWGC)

Died in No.2 Stationary Hospital, France. Administration granted on 18.09.1918 to Henry Charles Baker, farmer; effects £209.9s. (England & Wales, National Probate Register, Index of Wills & Administrations, 1861-1941)

Henry Baker was a Draper and Outfitter in Broad Street, Alresford. (1901 Census). Kingsley was born in 1894 in New Alresford (PRO index). After the Great War Henry Baker purchased army huts at the bottom of New Farm Road, turning them into homes named Kingsley Bungalows in his son's memory.



“... deceased had succumbed to his wounds, which had seriously affected the abdomen and also his legs and arms. Lt. Baker, who was 23 years of age, was the third son of Mr & Mrs H.C. Baker of Broad Street, and extremely popular in the town and district. He enlisted in September 1914 in the Hussars, and when volunteers were asked for he was one of the first to come forward, and was transferred to the Royal naval Air Service. Gallipoli Campaign - he served through the whole of the campaign, and was one of the last thirty to leave Suvla Bay. On his return he was granted a commission in the Royal Field Artillery, and went to the Western Front in 1916, having been on active service since. ... Two other of Mr and Mrs Baker's sons hold commissions in the Army, and both have been wounded. Lt. G. Baker, Royal Berkshire Regiment, suffered serious injury in the arm, and Lt. P. Baker, RAF has been in hospital since September 24<sup>th</sup> as a result of an aeroplane accident, in which he suffered severe burns, but it is hoped he is now on the way to recovery.” (Hampshire Chronicle 06.04.1918)

“Letter from H.Q. – Brigade – Division B.E.F.:- ‘I have just received intimation of the death from wounds of your son. I hope you will allow me to express to you my deep personal sorrow at the loss of a most gallant officer and friend, and my fellow-feeling for you in your great sorrow. He was one of my best officers, and, at the time he was wounded, was performing most gallant and efficient work as a forward observing officer in front of -. He did so well that his name has gone in for immediate award of the Military Cross, and I feel very sad that he did not live to wear a much-deserved decoration. I trust it may help you to know how much we thought of your son, and how gallantly he has fought throughout this great battle.’” (Hampshire Chronicle 13.04.1918)

**BALDWIN, HENRY WILLIAM**, Private 34560, 1<sup>st</sup> Garrison Battalion, Prince Albert's (Somerset Light Infantry). Died 13.07.1918, aged 36. Son of Joseph and Ellen Baldwin, of Tichborne, Hampshire; husband of Ellen Jane (née Watts) Baldwin, of Alresford, Hampshire. Commemorated on Karachi 1914-1918 War Memorial, Pakistan. (CWGC)  
Born Tichborne, Residence Winchester, enlisted Alresford. Formerly 5435 Hampshire Regiment. Died. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*).  
Personal Service Record not available.

Son of Joseph Baldwin, a woodman on an estate. (1891 Census)  
In 1911 Henry was working as a Builder's labourer, living at Cooks Down, Alresford. (1911 Census)

**BARNETT, NORMAN HENRY**, Private 204081, 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Died 04.11.1918, aged 29. Son of James Samuel and Priscilla Ann Barnett, of 24, Back Hill, Ely. Cambridgeshire. Enlisted August 1914. Buried in Baghdad (North Gate} War Cemetery, Iraq, VII.K.1. (CWGC)  
Residence Southampton, enlisted Ely, Cambridgeshire. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*). Personal Service Record not available.

"... Died in Mesopotamia from fever on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Deceased was at one time a clerk at the Union and Smith's Bank, and was engaged to Miss Hasted, who has received many expressions of sympathy. He went to India in 1914 with the 1/4th. Hampshire Regiment, and had taken part in the campaigns in Mesopotamia for the last two years." (*Hampshire Chronicle* 23.11.1918)

His father was an elementary school teacher. (1881 census)  
Born in Ely, Cambridgeshire, in 1911 Norman was living at 23, Bishop Street, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire and working as a Bank Clerk. (1911 Census)  
Not on Ely, nor New Alresford Memorial.

**BENHAM, ARTHUR THOMAS**, Private 291950, 9<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion, Devonshire Regiment. Died 10.10.1917. Commemorated on Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium, Panels 38-40. (CWGC)

"... eldest son of Mr & Mrs Thomas Benham, Spring Gardens, and leaves a widow to mourn her loss." (*Hampshire Chronicle* 21.09.1918)  
Born Alresford, Residence Chippenham, Wilts. Killed in action. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*). Personal Service Record not available.

Born in Alresford in 1891, in 1911 Arthur was living with his widower father (a general labourer), younger brother and sister, and working as a Butcher's Boy. (1911 Census)

The **Battle of Poelcappelle** (9 October 1917) marked the end of the string of highly successful British attacks in late September and early October 1917, during the Third Battle of Ypres. Only the supporting attack in the north achieved a substantial advance. On the main front the German defences withstood the limited amount of artillery fire achieved by the British after the attack of 4 October. The ground along the main ridges



had been severely damaged by artillery fire and rapidly deteriorated in the rains, which began again on 3 October, in some areas the ground became a swamp. Dreadful ground conditions had more effect on the British, who needed to move large amounts of artillery and ammunition to support the next attack. The battle was a defensive success for the German army, although costly to both sides. The weather and ground conditions put severe strain on all the infantry involved and led to many wounded being stranded on the battlefield. Early misleading information and delays in communication led Plumer and Haig to plan the next attack (the First Battle of Passchendaele 12 October) under the impression that a substantial advance had taken place at Passchendaele ridge. The Regiment was part of the 7th Division, which had 3,877 casualties from 1–10 October. (Wikipedia)

**BENHAM, JAMES MAC**, Lance Corporal 22841, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire Regiment). Died 21.03.1918. Commemorated on Pozieres Memorial, France, Panel 64. (CWGC)

Personal Service Record not available.

“.... Deceased, though under age enlisted in January 1916. He was the youngest son of Mrs Benham, The Soke, with whom much sympathy is felt. Five of her sons have served in the present war, two of whom have been severely wounded and discharged.” (*Hampshire Chronicle* 07.09.1918)

Born Alresford, Hants, Residence Alton, Hampshire. Killed in action. (*UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)

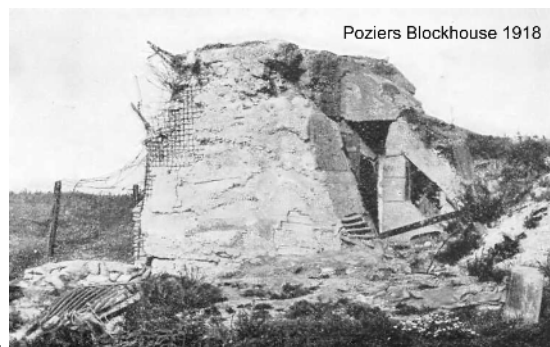
The 1901 Census shows James as born in Alresford about 1899, his father William a well-digger, living in the Soke, Alresford. Also present were two older sisters and an older brother.

The 1911 Census records James Mack living with his widowed mother Mary in The Soke, Alresford. Also in the household were an older brother Frederick, a Butcher, and younger brother Henry Walter.

From the Regimental War Diary (<https://www.thewardrobe.org.uk/wardiary>):-

2<sup>nd</sup> Wiltshire Thursday 21st March 1918 France, Trenches

An intense enemy bombardment of our trenches and back areas with HE and gas shells at 4.30 am and continued throughout the day. The enemy attacked at 10 am with two Divisions on our Battalion front, and owing to the dense mist which prevailed broke through on our flanks and surrounded the Battalion in spite of the strong resistance which was offered. No definite information was forthcoming owing to the Battalion being cut off, but a message was received by pigeon carrier at 1.30 pm from Lt Col AVP MARTIN to the effect that he was still holding out in the redoubt with 50 men. The Battn Transport moved back from FLUQUIERES to DURY at 4.40 am and again moved at 11pm to ESMERY HALLON.



Poziers Blockhouse 1918

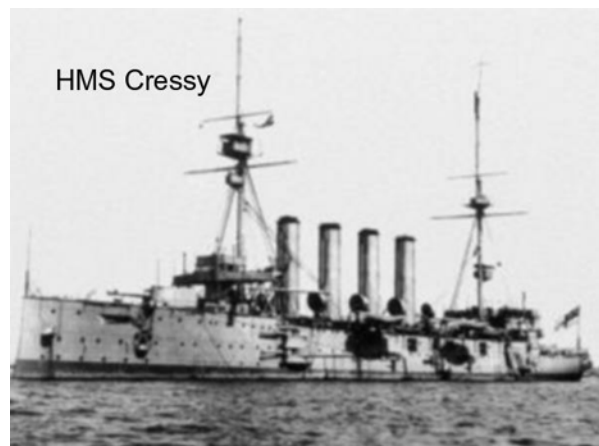
(Picture [www.ww1battlefields.com](http://www.ww1battlefields.com))

**BENNETT, VICTOR EDWARD ERNEST**, Private CH/18396 Royal Marine Light Infantry, HMS Cressy. Died 22.09.1914, aged 21. Fourth son of Harry and Kate Eliza Bennett, of Railway Cottages, Alresford, Hampshire. Commemorated on Chatham Naval Memorial, Panel 7. (CWGC)

Born in Alresford in 1894, the son of a brewery cellarman. (1901 Census) By 1911 Victor was serving with the Royal Marines in the Royal Marine Depot, Eastry, Walmer, Kent. (1911 Census)

HMS Cressy was the Royal Navy's first armoured cruiser, commissioned in 1901.. Unlike previous protected cruisers she had an armoured belt, made possible by the introduction of face hardened Krupp armour which allowed worth while protection for an acceptable weight of armour. The class were also the first British warships to serve overseas that were not copper sheathed but instead painted with anti-fouling paints, this saving £40,000 and over 500 tons in displacement.

During the early months of World War 1 the Royal Navy maintained a patrol of old Cressy class armoured cruisers, known as Cruiser Force C, in the area of the North Sea known as the Broad Fourteens. There was opposition to this patrol from many senior officers, including Admiral Jellicoe and Commodores Keyes and Tyrwhitt, on the grounds that the ships were very vulnerable to a raid by modern German surface ships and the patrol was nick named the "live bait squadron". The Admiralty maintained the patrol on the grounds that destroyers were not able to maintain the patrol in the frequent bad weather and that there were insufficient modern light cruisers available.



In the early hours of September 20th 1914 the cruisers HMS Euryalus, HMS Aboukir, HMS Hogue and HMS Cressy were preparing to go on patrol under Rear Admiral Christian in Euryalus. Normally the patrol was under command of Rear Admiral Campbell in HMS Bacchante but he was absent so Christian helped fill the gap although he had other duties. The weather was too bad for destroyers to be at sea and unfortunately Euryalus had to drop out due to lack of coal and weather damage to her wireless, Rear Admiral Christian had to remain with his ship rather than transfer to another ship as the weather was too bad to transfer. He delegated command to Captain Drummond in Aboukir although he did not make it clear that Drummond had the authority to order the destroyers to sea if the weather improved, which it did towards the end of September 21st.

Early on September 22nd 1914 the German submarine U9 under the command of Commander Otto Weddigen sighted the Cressy, Aboukir and Hogue steaming NNE at 10 knots without zigzagging. Although the patrols were supposed to maintain 12-13 knots and zigzag the old cruisers were unable to maintain that speed and the zigzagging order was widely ignored as there had been no submarines sighted in the area during the war.

U9 manoeuvred to attack and at about 6.25 AM fired a single torpedo at Aboukir, which stuck her on her port side. Aboukir rapidly suffered heavy flooding and despite counter flooding developed a 20 degree list and lost engine power. It was soon clear that she was a lost cause and Captain Drummond ordered her to be abandoned, although only one boat had



survived the attack so most crew had to jump into the sea. At first Drummond thought that Aboukir had been mined and signalled the other two cruisers to close and assist but he soon realised that it was a torpedo attack and ordered the other cruisers away, but too late. As Aboukir rolled over and sank, half an hour after being attacked, U9 fired two torpedoes at HMS Hogue that hit her amidships and rapidly flooded her engine room. Captain Nicholson of Hogue had stopped the ship to lower boats to rescue the crew of Aboukir, thinking that as he was the other side of Aboukir from U9 he would be safe. Unfortunately U9 had manoeuvred around Aboukir and attacked Hogue from a range of only 300 yards. The firing of two torpedoes affected the trim of U9 which broke the surface briefly and was fired on by Hogue without effect.

It only took Hogue ten minutes to sink as U9 headed for HMS Cressy. Cressy, under Captain Johnson, had also stopped to lower boats but got underway on sighting a periscope. At about 7.20 AM however U9 fired two torpedoes, one of which just missed but the other hit Cressy on her starboard side, Cressy briefly firing on U9's periscope with no effect. The damage to Cressy was not fatal but U9 turned round and fired her last torpedo which hit Cressy sinking her within a quarter of an hour.

Survivors were picked up by several nearby merchant ships including the Dutch Flora and Titan and the British trawlers JGC and Corainder before the Harwich force of light cruisers and destroyers arrived. Flora returned to Holland with 286 rescued crew who were quickly returned to Britain even though the neutral Dutch should have interned them. In all 837 men were rescued but 1459 died, many of which were reservists or cadets.

In the aftermath of the attack the patrol by armoured cruisers was abandoned, the stopping of major ships in dangerous waters banned and the order to steam at 13 knots and zigzag re-emphasised.

A court of inquiry was set up and found that some blame was attributable to all of the senior officers involved - Captain Drummond for not zigzagging and for not calling for destroyers, Rear Admiral Christian was criticised for not making it clear to Drummond that he could summon the destroyers and Rear Admiral Campbell for not being present and for a very poor performance at the inquiry at which he stated that he did not know what the purpose of his command was. The bulk of the blame was directed at the Admiralty for persisting with a patrol that was dangerous and of limited value against the advice of senior sea going officers.

(<http://www.worldwar1.co.uk/cressy.htm>)

## TWO BROTHERS:

**BLAKE, FRANCIS HENRY**, Rifleman B/1279, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Rifle Brigade. Died 30.07.1915, aged 27. Son of Mr and Mrs H. F. Blake, of Broad Street, Alresford, Hampshire. Commemorated on Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium, Panels 46-48 & 50. (CWGC) Born in Old Alresford in 1888. Attested 31.08.1914 in Winchester, son of Henry Frederick (a shepherd) and Katherine Blake of the Soke, Alresford, giving his occupation as labourer. Height 5ft. 10in. Chest 34½/37in. Weight 129 lbs. Good physical development. Scar on right forearm. Had previously served with the 4<sup>th</sup> Worcestershire Regiment 1909. Posted 02.09.1914. Embarked for France 19.05.1915. Killed in action. (Service Record)

### The Action at Hooge

At 7pm on 19th July 1915, a large mine was exploded by 175th Tunnelling Company RE, under a German trench position. The spoil from the detonation threw up a lip 15 feet high, around a crater 20 feet deep and 120 feet wide. After the firing, it was immediately occupied by two Companies of the 4th Middlesex (8th Brigade, 3rd Division). British artillery quelled all signs of German attempts to recover the crater.

German retaliation came on 30th July 1915. The Hooge sector was being held by 41st Brigade of 14th Division, which had taken over the area only a week before. The 8th Rifle Brigade held the near crater lip, with the 7th KRRC on their right, across the road. These battalions had relieved the others of the Brigade during the night. At 3.15am, with dramatic suddenness, the ruins of the Stables were blown up, and jets of flame shot across from the German trenches. This was the first time in warfare that liquid fire flamethrowers had been used by the Germans against the British. Immediately a deluge of fire of all kinds fell on the Brigade, and on all support positions back to Zouave Wood and Sanctuary Wood. The ramparts of Ypres and the exits from the town were also shelled. The Germans achieved complete surprise, but although the British front lines were evacuated, they did not follow beyond them. There was intensive hand to hand fighting in some trenches; eventually virtually all of the positions held by the Brigade were lost. ....

8th Rifle Brigade went into the line with 24 officers and 745 other ranks; it lost 19 officers and 469 other ranks killed, wounded and missing. (<http://www.ramsdale.org/hooge.htm>)  
SANCTUARY WOOD.

29th Thursday. Dugouts made, communication trenches cleared, parapets raised especially in F1. 7th KRR relieved 8th KRR about midnight. 8th Btn retires to YPRES. A & D Coys to ramparts near Lille Gate. B & C Comps to dug outs near White House West of Asylum.

30th Friday. Enemy attack trenches occupied by 8th RB & 7th KRR at 3.00am. Using liquid fire at G3 and G4. Frontline trenches opposite Zouave Wood lost. Bombardment by our guns (and enemy guns reply) opens at 3.45am. 8th KRR ordered to reinforce 8th RB in Zouave Wd. D Company leads off getting to Zouave Wd at 6.30am. 3 Platoons under Major Crum & Captain Baker. Remainder of Btn goes to Sanctuary Wood. The 3 Platoon of D Coy reinforce a Coy of 8th RBs at the edge of Zouave Wood are heavily shelled, they are withdrawn to Sanctuary Wood at 12.0 noon. Lt Hawkes RAMC killed just past bridge 14 on way up to Sanctuary Wood with the battalion. Intensive bombardment by our own artillery opened at 2.15pm; Counter attack arranged for 2.45

– 8th Btn to support, 9th Btn attack to be launched from Sanctuary Wood. RB's from Zouave Wood. Enemy machine gun fire makes it impossible to leave wood; edge of wood being heavily crumpled, a few platoons succeed in getting some way out from wood, A Coy & B Coy in (?) supported by C Company D Coy left in reserve in trench near frontline Headquarters (map Y) in SW. About 3.15pm – a message was received by Colonel Green from Major Seymour saying that the 7th Btn and our advance was stuck up & asking whether he should again attempt to push on. Col Green seeing that the RB attack had also been held up, decided to hold on and ask for orders. The order was shortly received from the Brigadier not to press attack further. Colonel Green issued orders for a trench to be dug through SANCTUARY WOOD at the point held by our firing line. This was done by all available men – helped by the 7th Notts & Derby & the DCLI who had sent 2 coys to reinforce. The losses had been very heavy including Captain WJ Davis – the adjutant Lt Watson killed & 8 officers wounded & NCOs and men. The medical arrangements were entirely inadequate. Dr Hawkes had been killed – only 1 Dr was available to cope with over 500 cases. Great difficulties were experienced in finding and collecting the wounded in the thick woods and when found in bringing them to dressing stations. It being impossible to bring ambulance within 900 yds of the first aid station many men had to remain out exposed for over 24 hours. This, coupled with the fact that the battalion had had no rations for 36 hours & suffered from want of water caused the loss of many fine riflemen who might have been saved. At about 3am a terrific rifle & MG fire was opened by both sides. The artillery and flare lights and rockets of both sides added to the confusion and what appeared to be a heavy night attack took place. The 7th Battalion & A & D Coys having been relieved – only B & C Coys & MGs were present. These took up position & awaited developments under Col Green. One MG under Rifleman Bentley particularly distinguished itself. At Daybreak the firing died down and the 2 Coys having been relieved withdrew. Col Green visiting Brigadier & Div General on the way reported fully on the events. (Regimental War Diary)

**BLAKE, HENRY W.,** Private 6583, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Killed in action 20.11 1914. Buried in Lancashire Cottage Cemetery, Hainaut, Belgium, I.A.10. Enlisted in Cheriton. Son of Mr & Mrs Henry Blake of Tanyard Hill. Husband of Maud Frances Blake, of Rose Cottages, California Rd., Mistley, Manningtree, Essex. (CWGC)  
Born in Cheriton, Hampshire, Residence Winchester. Killed in Action. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)  
Personal Service Record not available.

Deceased was tram driver at Teddington, and was a reservist in the 1<sup>st</sup> Hampshire, and at the outbreak of war only had ten days left to complete his time of service. He went to the front immediately at the outbreak of hostilities and within half an hour of landing was in the fighting line. His letters home have been very cheery, and have dealt with the cruelty of Germans to defenceless women and children, and with the good food provided to the troops together with warm clothing and a plentiful supply of tobacco. In a letter dated the 17<sup>th</sup> inst. he said he was in the trenches so close to the Germans that they pelted them with mud. Deceased leaves a wife and one child ... (*Hampshire Chronicle* 19.12.1914)

Not on war memorial.

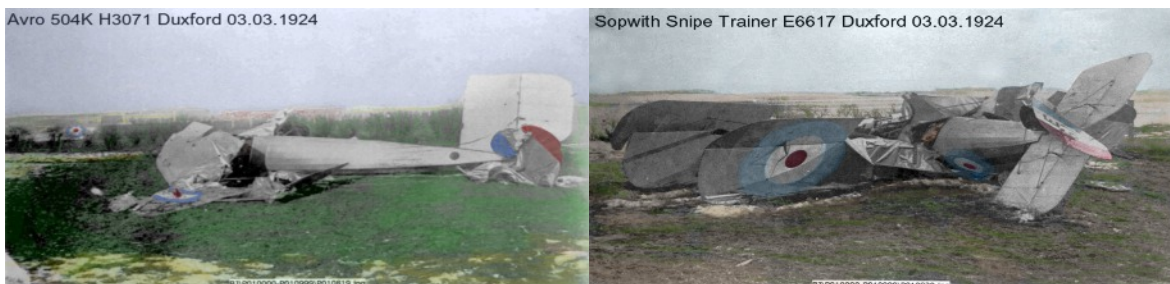
In the last two weeks of November 1914 the Hampshire was in front of Le Gheer, occupying trenches that were in a very poor state and during heavy rain. Although there was not a major attack at the time, German snipers caused 20 casualties, 9 of which were fatal. The sick rate was also high, four officers and 92 men being sent to hospital, of whom only 20 returned to duty. (*The Royal Hampshire Regiment, Vol.2, 1914-1918*, Atkinson C.T., University Press, Glasgow 1952)

Born in about 1885, son of Henry W (a Coachman) and Jemima Blake, living in Cheriton in 1891 (Census)

**BOND, GEORGE THOMAS**, Sergeant Pilot 157644, RAF Died 03.03.1924 in an accident at Duxford, Cambridgeshire. (Alresford Memorial)

Buried in Alresford (St John's) Churchyard, F.II.1.1056

"Death of Sgt. Bond, RAF – Sgt. G.T. Bond, who was the only son of Mrs Bond of Broad Street and nephew of Mr & Mrs John Dorey of the Dean.



The accident happened when an "Avro" machine, which Sgt. Bond was piloting with Pilot Officer Tattersall as his pupil, collided with a Sopwith "Snipe", both machines attempting to land simultaneously. The pilots of both machines were killed, the other two occupants being pinned among the wreckage and unconscious. Much sympathy has been expressed with Mrs Bond, who lost her only daughter some years ago, and has now lost her only son. The body was brought to Alresford on Thursday afternoon, and taken to the church, later to the residence of Mr Dorey, from which the funeral started yesterday (Friday), full military honours being accorded the deceased. The late Sergeant-Instructor Bond would have been 23 on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. He was very popular in the Air Force, and had a brilliant future before him, having successfully passed many examinations." (*Hampshire Chronicle* 08.03.1924)

The aircraft concerned were Avro 504k H 3071 of 2 Flying Training School and Sopwith Snipe E 6617 of 111 Squadron, RAF. The Avro was struck from above and behind by the Snipe. (RAF Accident Report Form 528 W135, 08.03.1924)

AM Form 470 Casualty Cards show, incidentally, that the report in the *Hampshire Chronicle* was incorrect in stating that 'The pilots of both machines were killed, ...'. The correct report should have been:

"E6617. Pilot (Instructor) Albrecht seriously injured; passenger (pilot under instruction) Peck killed." The Snipe was, of course, normally a single-seat fighter, but ca. 40 were converted to two-seat, dual-control trainers, for operational training at squadron level."



“H3071. Pilot (Instructor) Bond, killed; passenger (pilot under instruction) Tattersall seriously injured.” It was, of course, common practice in the RAF, but only in the air, for Sgt Pilots to instruct & lead higher-rank commissioned officers, providing that they had the necessary qualifications & experience. There were many occasions during the Second World War when experienced Sgt Pilots led flights & even squadrons on operations, with less experienced officers in the formations behind them. (Peter Murton, Research & Information Officer IWM Duxford)

George Thomas Bond was born on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1901, son of Thomas James Bond (a butler) and Mary Alice Bond of 85, Fairbridge Road, Upper Holloway, London. (Parish Record of St. John's, Upper Holloway).

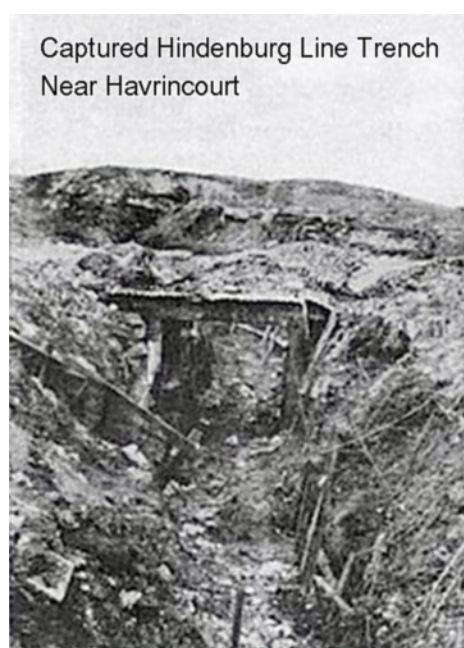
**CHOWN ALBERT HENRY**, Private 32375, 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Devonshire Regiment. Died 13.09.1918. Commemorated on Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Pas de Calais, France, Panel 4. (CWGC) Enlisted in Blandford, Dorset. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)

Personal Service Record not available.

“Killed in action ... of “Glendale”, Edward-terrace, Alresford, aged 21 years. His Commanding Officer, in communicating the sad news to Mrs Chown, writes: ‘He was a fine soldier, keen, bright, and knew no fear, his loss being most keenly felt by all who came in contact with him.’ The C.Q.M.S. of his Company also writes:-” I have made enquiries, and find that your son could not have suffered. He took part with his Regiment in a very important attack, which proved successful, on a position held by the enemy, which it was essential for our advance that we should hold, and, during the battle, was wounded by a shrapnel shell in the spine, rendering him instantly unconscious, from which state he never returned. He was buried just outside the little village of Harrincourt [sic] during the attack in which your son made the great sacrifice.” (Hampshire Chronicle 26.10.1918)

The Hindenburg Line ran through Havrincourt. The second Battle of Havrincourt took place on 12<sup>th</sup> September, and was a British success against superior German numbers in well entrenched positions; it marked the start of the German retreat towards Belgium.

Born about 1898 in Alresford, Hampshire, son of Frederick (a House Painter) and Mary Ann Chown. In 1911 the family, including four daughters and two other sons, was living in 5, Edward Terrace, Alresford. (1911 Census)



Captured Hindenburg Line Trench  
Near Havrincourt

**CLARKE, JAMES OLIVER, (CLARK** on official records), Private 200656. 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Died 21.01.1916, aged 26. Son of Elias and Sabina Clark, of New Cottages, The Dene, Alresford, Hampshire. Commemorated on Basra Memorial, Iraq, Panel 21 & 63. (CWGC).  
Born Over Wallop, Hampshire Enlisted Aldershot. Killed in action. (*UK, Soldiers Who Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)  
Personal Service Record not available.

1901 Census shows him living with his parents in Odiham, his father an engine driver on a farm.

“..... Second son of Mr & Mrs Clark of Abbotstone, who has been missing since January of last year, is now reported dead. He enlisted early in the war, and proceeded to India in October 1914, subsequently took part in the actions in Mesopotamia, from where he was reported missing. Deceased ... was a keeper in the employ of Sir Joseph Tichborne, Bt., having previously served under Lord Ashburton.” (*Hampshire Chronicle* 24.11.1917.)  
James Clarke died during the siege of Kut, which lasted from December 1915 to April 1916.

Also, as Clarke, James, on Tichborne War Memorial.

**COLLISTER, ROBERT HENRY**, Private 28317, 6th Battalion Somerset Light Infantry. Died 25.07.1918, aged 24. Son of the late Sergeant and Mrs.T.Collister, of Alresford, Hampshire. Buried in Cologne Southern Cemetery, XIV.B.9. (CWGC)  
Born Alton, Hants, enlisted Alresford, Hampshire Formerly 033621, Royal Army Service Corps. (*UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)  
Personal Service Record not available.

In 1911 Robert was an Insurance Agent. He was living at 3, Bridge Road, Alresford with his father Thomas (an Army Pensioner and Insurance Agent), mother Helen, two brothers and a sister.

Cologne Southern Cemetery was used for the burial of British Servicemen who had died in captivity in Germany. The Battalion had suffered heavy casualties in the German offensive in April 1918 – so great that the battalion had to form a composite unit with the 5<sup>th</sup> battalion, Ox & Bucks Light Infantry, which was then reduced to cadre after two weeks.  
(<http://www.1914-1918.net/somersets.htm>)

**COUSENS, GEORGE EDWARD**, 2nd Lieutenant, 1<sup>st</sup>/8th Battalion Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment). Died 24.08.1918. Buried in Bucquoy Road Cemetery, Ficheux, France, VI.E.13. (CWGC)  
Also on the Kilmeston Memorial, see p.120 for full entry.

**CROMIE HENRY JULIAN**, Captain, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion attached to 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Died 23.10.1916, aged 20, near Lesboeuufs, Somme. Son of Joan Angela Cromie, of 1, The Mead, Ringwood, Hants, and the late Captain Francis Charles Cromie (1st Battalion Hampshire Regiment). Commemorated on Thiepval Memorial, France, Pier & Face 7C & 7B. (CWGC)

**Born** 29th October 1896 at Dar-el-Baida, Morocco.

Younger son of Son of Joan Angela Cromie (nee Yonge) of 1, The Mead, Ringwood, Hants, and the late Capt. Charles Francis Cromie (1st Battalion, Hampshire Regiment) formerly British Vice Consul, Dar-al-Baida, Morocco.

### **Education**

Blundell's School, "Day Boy", from age of 9, May 1904 – Christmas 1907.  
Dover College, Dover to 10th Aug 1911 where he was in the school OTC.

### **Career**

School Master at Down College, Alresford, Hampshire.

### **Service**

He attested on 20th August 1914 and went to France on 2nd February 1915 joining 1st Hants Regiment in the field. He was admitted to District hospital No 4 1BB in Rouen, France with "slight sickness" on 20th February 1915 and his mother informed by telegram. He rejoined 1st Hants Regiment in the field on 6th May 1915. On the 15th January 1916 he was admitted to 110 FA with "myalgia" but rejoined on 27th May 1916 and was appointed to be temporary Captain from 29th April to 5th May inclusive. He was placed Officer Commanding "A" Company 1st Battalion on 2nd July 1916.

### **Trench Diaries**

The 1st Battalion, Hampshire Regiment were part of 11th Brigade, 4th Division. On 1st July the battalion advanced at 7.40am in attack on Redan Ridge. They were relieved and sent to Mailly-Maillet and then on to Bertrancourt. Then on the 4th July they went to Bertrancourt and on 10th July sent back to frontline trenches at Beaumont-Hamel. The regiment had suffered very heavy losses, and so were sent by train to the Ypres sector from Doullens on 23rd July. They returned to the Somme at the end of and September 1916. The brigade formed reserve lines east of Guillemont on 17th October and support lines at Lesboeuufs on 19th October. They moved to front lines (Frosty Trench) on the 22nd October and at 2.30pm on the 23rd July, A and C companies led an attack on Boritska Trench. Immediately they came under very heavy machine gun and rifle fire. The right flank eventually entered German front line trenches but after holding for a few hours were forced to retire. Casualties numbered 202 officers and men.

### **After Death**

He died intestate as a bachelor without father so probate was granted to Joanna Angela Cromie (Widow), the natural and lawful mother, only next of kin; his assets amounted to £156-0-0.

([www.blundells.org/archive/in-memoriam/cromie\\_hj.html](http://www.blundells.org/archive/in-memoriam/cromie_hj.html))

**CROMIE, MAURICE FRANCIS**, Lieutenant, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion attached to 2nd Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Died 04.06.1915, aged 20. Son of Joanna Angela Cromie, of 1, The Mead, Ringwood, Hants, and the late Capt. Charles Francis Cromie (1st Battalion Hampshire Regiment). Commemorated on Helles Memorial, Turkey, Panels 125-134 or 223-226, 228-229 & 328. (CWGC)

Born in Bayswater in 31.07.1895, when his father was British Vice Consul in Dar At Baidan, Morocco. (London, England, Births & Baptisms 1813-1906). Killed in action. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)

2nd son of the late Capt. Charles Francis Cromie, C.M.G., 37th Regiment, Consul-General for Congo Free state at the time of his death, by his wife, Joanna Angela (Alresford, Hants.), dau. of Julian Bergus Yonge, of Otterbourne, Hants, J.P., M.A. [Cadet of Yonge of Puslinch, Devon] ... educated at Blundell's, Tiverton, and Dover College, where he was in the O.T.C.; obtained his commission, 15 Aug. 1914, and was killed in action at Gallipoli, 4 June, 1915; *unmarried*. (Blundell's Roll of Honour)



His commanding officer wrote: "Lieut. Cromie's loss was really a bitter blow to the Regiment I had only known him a few days, and he had charge of the machine guns. When we went up to the front trenches prior to the assault he came twice with me on expeditions, and was so keen and cheerful about it all that I got him to come and live in my dug-out, and there we stayed together until the day. How it happened I do not know, but what I do know is that his guns arrived in the nick of time and later were instrumental in saving the situation." (UK, *De Ruigny's Roll of Honour, 1914-1924*)

**CURTIS, WILLIAM JAMES, D.C.M.**, Sergeant 20623, 26<sup>th</sup> Field Company, Royal Engineers. Died 18.05.1918, aged 27. Son of Walter and Francis Curtis, of Alresford, Hants; husband of Josephine Kate Curtis, of 10, Clifton Rd., Maida Vale, London. Buried in Cambrin Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France, N.50. (CWGC)  
Personal Service Record not available.

Born in New Alresford, father a hire carter in Pound Hill, New Alresford. (1901 census) A bell ringer. (*Hampshire Chronicle* 01.03.1919)

"Deceased was one of the earliest soldiers to cross over to France. On November 11<sup>th</sup>, 1914, he won the Distinguished Conduct Medal for gallantry in remaining at his post, after his officer had been killed, under a heavy machine gun fire, until compelled to fall back owing to shrapnel fire assailing his trench from the rear. He was afterwards wounded and sent home, and on recovery was appointed instructor. He subsequently returned to France, and was killed by shrapnel a week ago. Much sympathy is expressed for his widow."  
(*Hampshire Chronicle* 25.05.1918)  
Killed near La Basse (Hampshire Chronicle 17.05.1919)

**DOREY, CHARLES ARCHIBALD T**, Sergeant 3080, 1<sup>st</sup> battalion, Rifle Brigade (The Prince Consort's Own). Killed in action 13.09.1914. Buried in Vauxbuin French National Cemetery, Aisne, France III.E.7. Killed in the retreat from Mons. (CWGC)

Born in New Alresford 1892 (England BMD Index). Son of Henry Peter (a carpenter) and Eliza Dorey. (1901 Census)

"On 13<sup>th</sup> September, at the battle of the Aisne, Sgt. C. Dorey, 1<sup>st</sup>. Battalion Rifle Brigade, late of Alresford" (Hampshire Chronicle)

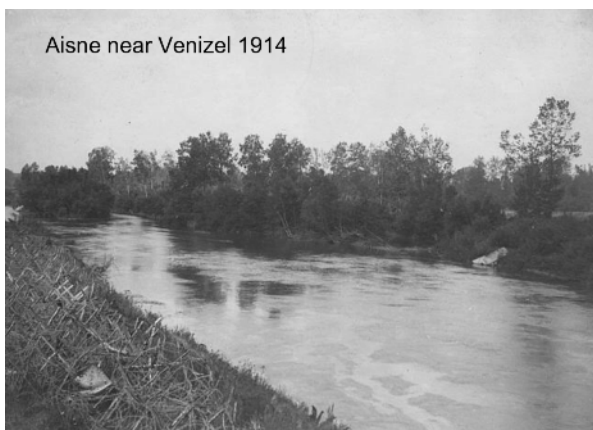
Enlisted in Winchester, resident Alresford, killed in action. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)

Personal Service Record not available.

Not on Alresford memorial, but on Shoreham-on-Sea Memorial, Sussex. ([www.roll-of-honour.com/sussex/shorehambysea.htm](http://www.roll-of-honour.com/sussex/shorehambysea.htm))

13<sup>th</sup> September 1914 was the first day of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battle of the Aisne. The British Infantry and Cavalry had become mixed up, and in the rainy weather their movement was too slow to prevent the Germans closing a gap to occupy the heights above the River Aisne. On the night of 12/13<sup>th</sup> the Battalion had made a hazardous crossing of an inadequately destroyed bridge at Venizel, South-East of Soissons. At 9.30am they suffered several casualties when they were shelled by British artillery, who had misidentified their raincoats as enemy uniforms. At about 4pm an attack was ordered.

"As soon as these two companies got to the crest of the hill, all the German batteries started opening fire on them, having got the range perfectly. About 30 of our fellows were killed and another 70 or 80 wounded, as well as Captains Nugent, Harrison and Riley, the last named very slightly. Sergeant Dorey, my old platoon sergeant of no. 7 platoon, when I was in B Company, was killed, and Rfmn Spindler and many others I knew killed. Sergeant Walker, who had done so well at Ligny and had been recommended for



the DCM and Médaille Militaire, had his leg almost blown off in this advance, but hanging by a bit of bone. It is hardly credible but he took his pocket knife out and on the field where he lay cut his leg off and bound his leg up and when it grew dark he was still conscious when he was brought in on a stretcher. Sergeant Roberts of B Coy was badly wounded also.

This stupid advance did no good, and we were forced to retire about 300 yards again..." (Diary of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant the Hon. Lionel, later Lord, Tennyson, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Rifle Brigade, 4<sup>th</sup> Division, and future English cricket captain, quoted in *The Imperial War Museum Book of 1914, the Men Who Went to War*, Brown M, ISBN 0 283 07323 3)

**EACHER, CHARLES**, Corporal 7279, 1<sup>st</sup> battalion, Norfolk Regiment (New Alresford Memorial) No matching name was on the CWGC site, but as a result of this research Charles Eacher now has a Commonwealth War Grave and headstone.

Buried in New Alresford (St. John the Baptist) Churchyard extension, Hampshire, C.VII.2.  
Personal Service Record has not survived.

“Eacher – on July 8<sup>th</sup>, at 1, New Farm-road, from disease contracted at the war, Charles Eacher, late Drummer. 1<sup>st</sup> Norfolk Regiment, aged 29 years ...

Military Funeral – The death occurred on Sunday, after a long illness, of Lance Corporal Charles Eacher, of the Norfolk Regiment. Deceased was a member of the Expeditionary Force, and saw a great deal of service in France, where he suffered from trench feet, necessitating losing a portion of the limb. Consumption subsequently developed, and he was discharged from the Army. The funeral took place on Thursday .... a military funeral.”  
(*Hampshire Chronicle* 14.07.1917)

Charles Eacher was sent to England with frostbite 24.02.1915 (Royal Norfolk Museum). His Medal Roll records his discharge as 15.07.1915.

“In ever loving memory of Charles Eacher, who died in honour’s cause July 8<sup>th</sup> 1917. From his wife and little Nellie, 63, Tufnell Park, London N.” (*Hampshire Chronicle* 12.07.1919)

His Death certificate records the cause of death as Phthisis and his occupation as Army Pensioner.

Born in Great Yarmouth, in the 1911 Census Charles Eacher was recorded as a Drummer serving with the Norfolk Regiment, stationed in Hartley Wintney, Hampshire. In 1914 Charles married Dorothy Emma Munday in County Down, Ireland. Dorothy was born in Bishops Sutton, Hampshire in 1889, daughter of George Munday, a rural messenger. She died in 1950. Dorothy was the sister of Jack and Percy (“Jim”) Munday, who are also recorded on the St. John’s war memorial, killed in 1914 and 1917 respectively.

“Little Nellie” was born in Belfast in 1914 and died in Hampshire in 1995.

**EDWARDS, FREDERICK JAMES (“Jimmie”)**, Private 10031, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Hampshire Regiment, attached to 88<sup>th</sup> Company, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry). Died 20.10.1916, aged 19. Eldest son of William James and Elizabeth Edwards, of West St., Alresford, Hampshire. Commemorated on Thiepval Memorial, France, Pier & Face 7C & 7B. (CWGC).  
Personal Service Record not available.

“Enlisted early in the war, took part in the Gallipoli Campaign, where he contracted fever. He was sent to a Hospital in Malta, and on recovery was transferred to the Western Front... ..”  
(*Hampshire Chronicle* 11.11.1916)

Born in Aldershot, Hants, enlisted Alresford, Hampshire Killed in action (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)

Frederick’s father, William, was a manufacturer of sulphate of ammonia at a gasworks. In 1911 the family were living in Aldershot (Census)

The Battalion had successfully attacked Grease Trench near Gueudecourt on 18<sup>th</sup> October 1916, and then stoutly defended against heavy counter-attacks until relieved on the night of 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> October – a day late as very heavy rain held up the replacements ... 3 officers and 31



men were killed, 6 officers and 106 men wounded and a further two officers and 30 men had to go to hospital. "October 18<sup>th</sup> ranks among 2<sup>nd</sup> Hampshire's most notable achievements. Success at that stage in the Somme was never easily obtained and needed dash and determination to no small degree". (*The Royal Hampshire Regiment*, vol.2, 1914-1918, Atkinson,C.T., University Press, Glasgow, 1952)

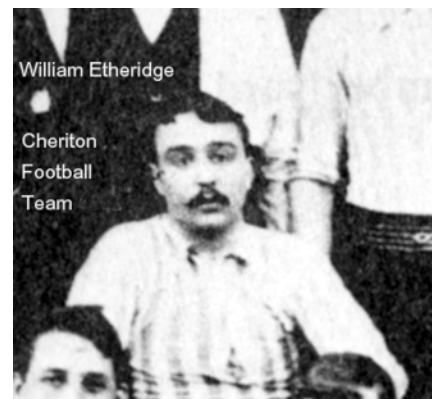
**Two brothers**, both born in Alresford. 1901 Census shows the family living in Pound Hill, New Alresford, father George an agricultural labourer:

**ETHERIDGE, FREDERICK CHARLES**, Signaller 179470, 128<sup>th</sup> Heavy Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery. Died 07.12.1918, aged 21. Son of George and Jane Etheridge, of West Hill, Alresford, Hampshire. Buried in Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France, XLVII.B.20. (CWGC)

"... died from pneumonia in the General Hospital, Camiers, was 21 years of age, and was the youngest son of Mr & Mrs Etheridge, Pound Hill, who had previously lost one son in the war. He was a bright, promising young man, and had been at the front for about three months attached to the Royal Garrison Artillery. His parents had been informed of his illness, and Mr Etheridge was able to be with him when he passed away, and also attended his funeral at Etapes on Monday. Much sympathy has been expressed to the family in their great loss. (*Hampshire Chronicle* 14.12.1918)  
Personal Service Record not available.

**ETHERIDGE, WILLIAM GEORGE**, Private TF/203123, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, East Surrey Regiment. Died 01.11.1917. Buried in Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France, VIII.I.92. (CWGC)  
Birthplace Alresford, residence Guildford, enlisted Milford, Surrey. Died of Wounds. (*UK, Soldiers Who Died in the Great War 1914-1919*).  
Personal Service Record not available.

The picture (from *In and Around Alresford in Old Photographs*, Roberts, E. ISBN 0 9 50134791) shows William in the 1900 Cheriton Football Team.



1901 Census shows him as born 1876, living with his parents, occupation harness maker.  
1911 Census shows him working as a barman at the Angel Hotel, Guildford, Surrey.

"..... succumbed to his wounds. He was severely wounded in the chest, and was not found till he had been two days in "No Man's Land". It was at once seen that his injuries were very serious, and his wife was sent for. She was with him when he died, and was present at his funeral. Deceased was a son of Mr & Mrs Etheridge, Pound Hill, and was well known in the town, where he took a keen interest in sport. He was also at one time official bugler to the Fire Brigade. He leaves a widow and little girl, with whom much sympathy is expressed." (*Hampshire Chronicle* 10.11.1917)  
In autumn 1917 the Battalion took part in the 3<sup>rd</sup> battle of Ypres (Passchendaele) (Appendix 3).

**GARDINER, PERCY WILLIAM**, (William Percy in CWGC), Private, 23046, 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire Regiment). Died 02.11.1916, aged 21. Eldest son of William Arthur and Rose Gardiner, of 85, Wales St., Winchester. Commemorated on Thiepval Memorial, France, Pier & Face 13A. (CWGC)  
Born in Alresford, resident and enrolled in Winchester, Hampshire. Killed in action. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*).  
Personal Service Record not available.

In the 1901 Census is recorded as William Percy Gardiner, living in Butcher's cottages, The Soke, New Alresford, his father a maltster and brewery labourer. By 1911 the family had moved to East Street, New Alresford, "William Percy" had become a fishmonger's errand boy, and his father a brewer's drayman. (1911 Census)

From the Regimental War Diary (<https://www.thewardrobe.org.uk/wardiary>):-

"6th Wiltshire Thursday 2nd November 1916 France, Nr. Aveluy

Battalion relieved 8th Gloucester Regt in STUFF and REGINE Trenches - B, C & D Companies in firing line and A in support. Headquarters in STUFF Redoubt.  
Remarks MAP SHEET 57d SE. W.18a" (See map p. 130)

**GARDNER, LEONARD GEORGE**, Private 25034, 12<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Died 18.09.1918, aged 34. Son of George and Frances (née Hoare) Gardner, of Sunnyside Cottage, Goatacre, Medstead, Alton, Hampshire; husband of Sarah A Gardner, of 67, Pollock Road, New Kent Road, London. Buried in Karasouli Military cemetery, Greece, D.898 (CWGC)  
Born Northington, Hampshire Residence Alresford. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)  
Personal Service Record not available.

"... died from wounds received at Salonika on September 18<sup>th</sup>. Deceased, who formerly lived in Bridge Road, was well known in the town." (Hampshire Chronicle 23.11.1918)  
Personal Service Record not available.

On 18<sup>th</sup> September 1918 12<sup>th</sup> Hampshire took part in an attack west of Doiran. After initial success the battalion had to withdraw in the face of strong counter-attacks. Casualties were heavy – 1 officer and 19 men killed or missing, 3 officers and 39 men wounded. (*The Royal Hampshire Regiment*, vol.2, 1914-1918, Atkinson, C.T., University Press, Glasgow, 1952)

1901 Census records him as born in about 1884 in Northington, working as an under cattleman and living in Old Alresford with his parents George (a woodman) and Frances. Leonard married Sarah A Cooper in Alresford in 1914 (GRO, England & Wales, Free Marriage Index, July 1914)

**GIBBS, RICHARD WILLIAM**, Sapper 34604, "G "Depot Coy, Royal Engineers. Died 03.01.1917, aged 29. Son of the late Frederick James and Mary Gibbs, Town House; husband of Hannah Elizabeth Gibbs, of Broad St., Alresford, Hampshire. Buried in New Alresford (St. John the Baptist) Churchyard Extension, Hants, C.II.2.914. (CWGC)  
Personal Service Record not available.

"... Severely wounded September 15<sup>th</sup> 1916, and was operated upon at a dressing station in France, being subsequently transferred to the 5<sup>th</sup>. Southern General Hospital, Southsea. In addition to losing the sight of an eye, serious injuries were sustained in the legs, and several operations had been performed. His condition had been precarious, but recently hopes were entertained of his recovery. A relapse ... this week, and his wife was wired for ... A further operation was deemed necessary on Wednesday, and deceased was quite bright before going to the operating theatre, but, following the administering of the anaesthetic, he collapsed and passed away. The deepest sympathy is felt for his wife, who is left with a baby nine months old..."  
(*Hampshire Chronicle* 06.01.1917)

Born in Tichborne, Hampshire, the son of a rural postman (1891 Census)

**GILES, DAVID**, Rifleman B/2167, 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Rifle Brigade. Died 22.06.1915, aged 21. Second son of William Henry and Lucy Giles, of Barton Cottage, Old Alresford, Hampshire. Commemorated on Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium, Panels 46-48 & 50. (CWGC) Killed by shell fire in the trenches, having been at the front for about a month. (*Hampshire Chronicle* 03.07.1915)  
Born and enlisted in Alresford, Hampshire. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War* 1914-1919)

On 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1915 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion were holding trenches at Hooge, having just arrived.  
(<http://www.ramsdale.org/hooge.htm>)

1901 Census records David's place of birth as Isington, Hampshire, his father a cowman on a farm in Farringdon, Hampshire. David attested in Winchester for three years with the colours on 01.09.1914. He gave his occupation as postman, and his address The Dene, Alresford. Height 5' 3", chest 36/38", weight 112 lbs. Physical development good. Fresh complexion, hazel eyes, dark hair, scar on the back of his left hand. (Personal Service Record)

**GODWIN, EDWARD**, Private 37627, 14<sup>th</sup> Labour Coy, Devon Regiment, transferred to (92168) 154<sup>th</sup> Company. Died 17.11.1917, aged 37. Buried in Longuenesse (St Omer) Souvenir Cemetery, France, IV.F.3. (CWGC)

Son of William and Frances Godwin of Swanmore, Hampshire. He was a partner in a Pork Butcher and Grocery business in Broad Street, Alresford. (Family memoir of M.Godwin).

Attested for the duration 05.12.1915 at Alton, aged 35 years, 7 months. Height 5' 6½", Chest 38", deaf in left ear. Unmarried. Church of England. Mobilised 23.03.1916. Died of Erysipelas (St. Anthony's Fire"). (British Army WW1 Service Records)

“... early in the week ... dangerously ill and admitted to hospital. He never regained consciousness, and official information was received on Thursday to say he had passed away. A sad feature of the case is that the deceased was to have come home on leave last Saturday. Pte. Godwin, who was the fourth son of Mr & Mrs Godwin, Swanmore, was well- known and highly respected in the town, where he carried on the business of grocer and pork butcher with his brother in Broad-street. He had been at the Front for fourteen months....”  
(*Hampshire Chronicle* 24.11.1917)

**GRAINGER, CHARLES EDWARD GORDON**, Lance Corporal 25488, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Wiltshire Regiment Also on Itchen Stoke memorial, see p.112 for full entry.

**GRINHAM, PHILLIP RICHARD JOHN**, Lieutenant, 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment). Died 03.05.1917. Commemorated on Arras Memorial, Pas-de-Calais, France, Bay 7. (CWGC)  
Killed in action. (*UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)

Although 03.05.1917 was the date of the bloody and unsuccessful 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Bullecourt, The Middlesex Regiment are not recorded in the order of battle.

Born in Alresford in 1890 (PRO Birth Index)  
Eldest son of Mr.P.B. and Olive (née Cobden) Grinham, 10, Cranworth Road, Winchester (late of Alresford). (*Hampshire Chronicle* 12.05.1917)  
19.09.1917 Administration to Philip Boys Grinham, retired surveyor of highways. Effects £1181 1s 10d. Father P.B.Grinham himself died 11.11.1918, aged 57. (England & Wales, National Probate Register, Index of Wills & Administrations, 1861-1941)  
In 1911 the family were living on Tichborne down, Alresford, Phillip working as Assistant Station Manager. (Census)

**HAZELGROVE, HAROLD CHARLES**, Rifleman 13160. 18<sup>th</sup> Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps. Died 01.11.1918. Commemorated on Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium, Panels 115-119, 162A & 163A. (CWGC)

“ .... twin son of Mr & Mrs Frank Hazelgrove East Mount, Alresford, had died in hospital from wounds received on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Deceased was only 20 years of age, and had served in the Army for just over two years. He saw service in Italy, and was transferred to the Western Front, where he was wounded and subsequently recovered. He was home on leave about a month ago, and looked remarkably fit. In a letter to his parents, the Captain of his Company said they were resting in barns near the line. The enemy sent over a few shells and one caused a number of casualties. Rifleman Hazelgrove was badly wounded and removed to hospital, where he passed away. He was well liked by everyone, and was always cheerful and willing to do his utmost. “(*Hampshire Chronicle* 16.11.1918) The barns were at Kaphoek (Battalion War Diary)

In 1901 the family were living in Edward Terrace, Alresford; father Frank Hazelgrove working as a baker and breadmaker. (Census)

Attested in Winchester 10.10.1916 for seven years serving the colours, having a letter from the C.O. of the Rifle Depot to the recruiting officer saying that he was keen to join the KRRC and should be sent to join that regiment. Occupation butcher. Height 5ft 3¾". Weight 112lbs. Chest 33½/36". Fresh complexion, hazel eyes, dark brown hair. Religion C of E. Served at home until posted to BEF 16.10.1917. Reached the front 27.07.1917, and wounded in action the same day 30.07.1917. Wounded again 03.08.1918 (shot in face, right hand and left leg). Rejoined battalion 27.08.1918. (Personal Service Record)

**HILL, JOHN STUART**, Private 22342, 1<sup>st</sup> battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment. Died 14.06.1918. Buried in Berles New Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France, III.B.9 (CWGC). Born about 1895 Carlow, Co. Carlow, Ireland, residence Alresford. Killed in action. Formerly 27179, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*) Personal Service Record not available.

1911 census shows John as an apprentice in a hardware business in Launceston, Cornwall. He was living with his parents John (an army pensioner & worker in a steam laundry) and Selina Hill.

In New Alresford Chapel, 6 May 1915, he married Fanny Frances Hunt, who died, aged 20, January 1916 within a few weeks of the birth (01.01.1916) of their daughter Gwendoline Dorothy. (Family tree of Opal & Ted Thompson)

Prior to enlisting he was employed at Mr. Chapman's, East Street. (Hampshire Chronicle 29.06.1918)

Not on the New Alresford War Memorial but on memorial in Launceston, Cornwall. Personal

**HOCKLEY, JOSEPH**, Rifleman B/1227, 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Rifle Brigade. Died 25.09.1915, aged 22. Son of Emma Hockley (née Norgate), of 1, Church Cottages, Alresford, Hants, and the late Frederick Hockley. Commemorated on Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, Panels 46-48 & 50. (CWGC) Personal Service Record not available.

Born in Alresford about 1893, the seventh of ten children of Frederick and Emma Hockley. In 1901 the family were living in West Street, Alresford, father working as a bricklayer. (1901 Census) By 1911 the family had moved to East Street, and Joseph was working as a domestic gardener. (1911 Census)

"Wounded ..... well known in the town, and when war broke out acted as Assistant Scoutmaster to the local troop." (Hampshire Chronicle 25.09.1915)

"... missing since September 25<sup>th</sup> last year, was killed in action on that day. He enlisted immediately on the outbreak of war, and before joining the Army was Assistant Scoutmaster to the local troop, in which he took a great interest." (Hampshire Chronicle 14.10.1916)

September 1915: During the Second Battle of Ypres, the 9th was in Railway Wood, left sector. On the 25th they took part in a very costly attack by the 14th (Light) Division on the Bellewarde Farm position, the task allotted to the Battalion being to seize and hold the enemy trenches. Although two lines of German lines were taken, they were soon lost. (Obituary of Lt. C.H.N. Scholey, 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Rifle Brigade, of whose company only one N.C.O. and six men returned to the British lines)

## TWO BROTHERS:

**HODGSON, EDWARD THOMAS**, Midshipman, R.N., HMS Invincible. Died 31.05 1916, aged 17 in the Battle of Jutland. Elder son of Dr. Harold and Jessie Hodgson, of Alresford, Hampshire & brother of John – see below. Their father was a well-known G.P. and local artist. Commemorated Portsmouth Naval memorial, Panel 11. (CWGC).

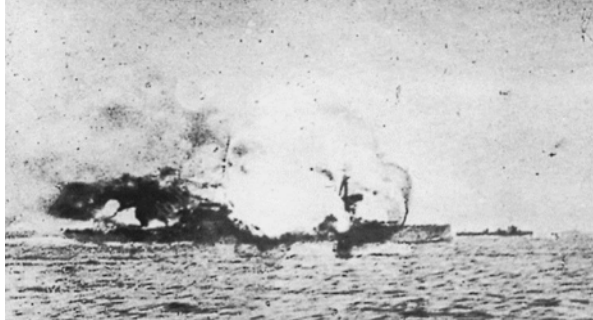
“..... Midshipman Hodgson, who was educated by Mr Thomas of Alverstoke, was only seventeen years of age. He entered the Navy in January 1912, where he gave every promise of a very successful career. At the outbreak of war he was at Dartmouth, where he was appointed to H.M.S. Invincible, on which he had seen a great deal of naval activity, being present at the battle of Heligoland and the Battle of the Falkland Islands, through which he came unscathed....” (*Hampshire Chronicle* 10.06.1916)

Born 11.04.1899. Training establishment January 1912 – August 1914. Then H.M.S. Jupiter, H.M.S. Agincourt, H.M.S. Invincible (Naval personal record)

H.M.S. Invincible



H.M.S. Invincible exploding at the Battle of Jutland 31st May 1916



### HMS Invincible

Built Elswick, laid down April 1906, completed March 1909, cost £1,767,515.

Size: Length 560' waterline 567' overall, beam 78' 9", draught 26' 8"

Displacement: 17,420 load 20,135 tons full load.

Propulsion: 4 shaft Parsons turbines, 46,500 shp = 26.64 knots

Armour: 6-4" belt, 7" barbettes, 7" turret faces, 2.5-1" decks

Armament: 8 x 12" 45cal MK X (4 x 2), 16 x 4" (16 x 1), 5 x 18" TT

#### Comments:

The first battlecruiser, probably the most famous and controversial idea of Admiral Sir John Fisher, although when built they were known as armoured cruisers indicating their origin as larger power cruisers with roles seen as trade protection, support of light forces, heavy scout, pursuit of a fleeing enemy battle-fleet and support of the van of the battle-fleet. The class introduced turbines to large cruisers giving them the speed to overhaul enemy cruisers or evade any ship powerful enough to defeat them. They also had a uniform battleship calibre main armament but were only protected to the same scale as a conventional armoured cruiser. Whilst this protection was shown to be adequate against traditional armoured cruisers it was a weakness against other battlecruisers. Crew 779.



### **HMS Invincible World War 1 Service:**

6 August 1914 completed refit and dispatched to Queenstown for trade protection duties.  
19 August 1914 ordered to return to become flagship on 2nd Battlecruiser Squadron.  
28 August 1914 took part in the Battle of Heligoland Bight.  
September 1914 transferred to 1st Battlecruiser Squadron.  
October 1914 rejoined 2nd Battlecruiser Squadron.  
4 November ordered to South American waters to hunt Admiral Graf Spee.  
11 November 1914 after short refit at Devonport set sail as flagship of Vice-Admiral Sturdee.  
8 December 1914 Battle of the Falkland Islands.  
16 December 1914 left the Falkland Islands for home.  
January-February 1915 refit at Gibraltar then joined 3rd Battlecruiser Squadron.  
31 May 1916 sunk by SMS Derfflinger and Lützow at the Battle of Jutland and inflicted fatal damage on Lützow. (Wikipedia)

### **Extract from the Official History; "Naval Operations" by Sir Julian S. Corbett. 1923 .**

... At 06.32 Admiral Beatty reached his station ahead of the battle fleet. Ahead of him again was Admiral Hood with his three battle cruisers, leading the fleet, and leading it in a manner worthy of the honoured name he bore. Upon him was concentrated the fire of three or four of Admiral Hipper's five ships. Under pressure of the oncoming British Dreadnoughts they had turned again to the southward. For the past ten minutes the action between them and the "Invincibles" had been growing hot upon similar courses, and Admiral Hood with Captain A. L. Cay, his flag-captain, at his side was directing it from the bridge. Having the advantage of the light he was giving more than he received. The range was down below 9,000 yards, but it was the greatest that visibility would permit, and he was doing too well to alter. "Several shells," says Commander von Hase of the *Derfflinger*, "pierced our ship with a terrific force and exploded with a tremendous roar which shook every seam and rivet. The captain had again frequently to steer the ship out of the line to get clear of the hail of fire." So heavy was the punishment he was inflicting that Admiral Hood hailed Commander Dannreuther, his gunnery officer, in the control top, and called to him, "Your firing is very good. Keep at it as quickly as you can. Every shot is telling." They were the last words he is known to have spoken. Just then the mist was riven and from the *Derfflinger* her tormentor was suddenly silhouetted against a light patch of sky. Then as another salvo from the *Invincible* straddled her she began rapid salvos in reply, in which probably the *König* joined with as many. One after another they went home on the *Invincible*. Flames shot up from the gallant flagship, and there came again the awful spectacle of a fiery burst, followed by a huge column of dark smoke which, mottled with blackened debris, swelled up hundreds of feet in the air, and the mother of all battle cruisers had gone to join the other two that were no more. As her two consorts swerved round her seething death-bed they could see she was rent in two; her stem and stern rose apart high out of the troubled waters as though she had touched the bottom, and near by a group of half a dozen men were clinging to a life raft, cheering the ships as they raced by to continue the fight.

(Via [www.northeastmedals.co.uk/britishguide/jutland/hms\\_invincible\\_casualty\\_list\\_1916.htm](http://www.northeastmedals.co.uk/britishguide/jutland/hms_invincible_casualty_list_1916.htm))

**HODGSON, JOHN SOLOMON RIDDELL**, Lieutenant, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment. Died 25.03.1917, aged 20, leading his platoon in action at Jebel Hamrin in Mesopotamia... Younger son of Dr. Harold Hodgson, M.B., J.P., and Jessie Hodgson, of Alresford, Hampshire. Brother of Edward Thomas Hodgson (see above). Commemorated on Basra Memorial, Iraq, Panel 22 & 63. (CWGC)  
Killed in action. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)

“... Lt. Hodgson, who was only twenty years of age, having been born on September 28<sup>th</sup> 1896, was educated at Rugby and Sandhurst, where he showed every sign of a successful and useful career. In December 1914 he was gazetted to the Dorset Regiment, and later he proceeded to France, where he served with his regiment, and was severely gassed at Hill 60 in May, 1915. He was invalided home, where he was nursed back to health, and in July of the same year he was promoted to Lieutenant. In December he went to Mesopotamia, and it was here that he met his death.” (*Hampshire Chronicle* 07.05.1917.)

“Keary's consequent preparations to storm the Turkish lines were not undertaken in secrecy, with the result that when the British attack finally began on 25 March (having first laboriously navigated both canals) they found the Turkish defence well prepared. The attack was a failure, some 1,200 British casualties were suffered while Ishan's force managed to escape southwest, headed for Turkish forces sited on the River Tigris.” (<http://timelines.com/1917/3/25/first-action-at-jebel-hamrin>)

“The first action we fought at Jebel Hamrin, in the third week of March, 1917, was a sanguinary affair. The Turks held us back on the hills when they were crossing the Diala with the Russians behind them, and, as we imagined, pressing them hard. The Turkish gunners had the range of us, and we learnt the difference between the burst of a shell on hard rock and soft soil. Also the warren of low hillocks was so complicated that one never knew if one were on dead ground or not. In places where one thought one was under cover one drew machine-gun fire, and most of the little passes between one low ridge and another were traps. I remember a patch of open ground between rocks which a sniper had marked for his preserve. There was a bush of some blue leguminous plant just where one reached cover the other side, and the impulse to recross was irresistible. The relief to be out of the flat was so great that the actual hills and the birds and the flowers and the gravel and rock interested me more at the time than the business that had brought us there. These were no doubt the preoccupations of a trivial mind, but one consoled oneself with the thought that the covetousness and intrigues, or the honest instinct for survival, which had sent armed bodies of men through these passes for the last two thousand years were merely transient, whereas the hills in their stark nakedness or dainty covering were eternal. I have nodoubt there were renegades in the armies of the Chosroes who botanised in a battle. Nobody bothers much now which side did the most killing, but the iris and the mauve hyacinth and the red anemone still blossom under Jebel Hamrin.” (Candler, Edmund, *On the edge of the World*, pp.214-215)



*Image War Illustrated* 22.06.1918

**JACKSON, WILLIAM HAROLD**, Private 30212, 2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Dorsetshire Regiment. Died 05.11.1917. Commemorated on Chatby Memorial, Egypt. (CWGC)  
Born in Stourpaine, Dorset. Enlisted in Winchester, Hampshire. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)

“... youngest son of Mr & Mrs W.J. Jackson, Broad Street, had died while on his way to a foreign station. He was not well when he embarked, and in a letter from the Principal Chaplain on board, it appears he rapidly grew worse. Despite every attention that could be bestowed on him he passed away, and later in the morning his body was committed to the deep. ... life has been given for his country as truly as if he had fallen in action. Deceased was well known in the town and had a wide circle of friends. He took a great interest in bell ringing, and was a member of the Church Ringers.” (*Hampshire Chronicle* 08.12.1917)

Born in 1898. Father William James Jackson was a private schoolmaster of Stourpaine School. (1901 Census)

**JOHNSON, ERNEST RALPH**, Company Quartermaster Sergeant R/277, 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps. Died 15.10.1917, aged 26. Son of Herbert and Merci Johnson, of Norton-sub-Hamdon, Somerset; husband of E. F. L. Johnson, of "May View," West Hill, Alresford, Hampshire. Buried in Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Belgium, XXI.H.6. (CWGC)

Father's occupation stone Sawyer (1901 Census)

“... the deceased was well known in the district and was highly respected. He enlisted in the King's Royal Rifles soon after the outbreak of war, and made rapid progress. He was home on leave a fortnight ago. Last week a telegram was received stating he was lying in a Base Hospital, seriously wounded. ... Deceased leaves a widow and little girl, with whom much sympathy is felt.” (*Hampshire Chronicle* 27.10.1917)

Widow Esme Francis Lilian Johnson née Guy,  
daughter Esme Florence Mercy [sic], born in  
Alresford 16.10.1915. (Attestation)



Image courtesy of Children and Teachers of Norton School  
as published by Norton sub Hamdon History Society.

“15.10.1917 In Dickebush Trenches: This tour was most unpleasant; communications, especially to the rear, were very difficult, and the Menin Road, which was the chief approach, was freely shelled. The Battalion suffered severe a loss of three CQMSs, Ellis, Steward and Johnson; these Warrant Officers were amongst the oldest members of the Battalion, and had done splendid work.” (*The King's Royal Rifle Corps Chronicle* 1917)

Attested in Kingston-on-Thames, Surrey for three years' service 29.08.1914. Born in Norton sub Hamdon, Somerset. Occupation Hospital attendant. Height 5' 7¾". Chest 36/41 in. Fair complexion, blue eyes, light brown hair. Religion Church of England. (Personal Service Record)

**KERSLEY, LEONARD**, Lance Corporal 27359, 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers. Died 18.06.1918, aged 36. Son of the late William and Anna Kersley, of St. Cross, Winchester; husband of Margaret Young Kersley, of 2, Morrison Place, Hawick. Buried in Duisans British cemetery, Etrun, France, VI.G. 26. (CWGC)  
 Born in Winchester, Hampshire Enlisted Hawick, Roxburgh. Killed in action. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)  
 Personal Service Record not available.



“On the night of the 9th of June the battalion relieved the 6th Cameron Highlanders, taking over the sector extending from the River Scarpe on the left, to the junction with the 56th Division, about 150 yards south of the Arras-Douai Railway, on the right ... There was lively patrol activity on 12<sup>th</sup> June”, but until a fortnight later “We often visited the ruins of Athies Mill, where roses were in full bloom, and gathered bunches to decorate the mess tables; or made our way across to the lake at Athies, officers and men, to enjoy the pleasure of a swim. These days were very quiet.”  
 ([http://www.archive.org/stream/borderbattalionhooediniala/borderbattalionhooediniala\\_djvu.txt](http://www.archive.org/stream/borderbattalionhooediniala/borderbattalionhooediniala_djvu.txt))

In a letter to his wife written on 12<sup>th</sup> June 1918, Leonard wrote *That's how things go on out here. A sudden burst of noise, thunder and smoke and death dealing shrapnel and high explosive and then all is quiet again except for the occasional bark of a gun. These things help to vary the monotony of life in the trenches which otherwise would be a dull monotonous round. In a day or two we shall be going a bit nearer where the shells drop. There probably we shall have no occasion to complain of the monotony of trench life.*  
 His diary for the same date recorded: *Johneys now shelling battery on right. Shelled supports earlier in morning. 5 casualties in B yesterday. On fatigue at 11 carrying rifle and bombs to shell holes, water and latrine tubs. Had to lengthen trench in shell hole.*

It would thus seem that Leonard was killed in one of those flurries of explosions in a period that the unit diarist felt able to describe as ‘quiet’. No mess-table roses for him, but as described in letter of condolence written by David Somerville of the 7/8th KOSB 21 June 1918:

*'We buried him yesterday in a little British cemetery well behind the lines. And as we laid him to his rest we thought of you and all his loved ones and prayed that God might comfort and help you. This is a very beautiful cemetery; and in the fields just beyond his grave the summer flowers weaved for us the colours of the flag for which he died: the poppies, marguerites and cornflowers, red, white and blue'*

Son of a gardener and seedsman, in 1901 Leonard was living with his parents in Pound Hill, Alresford and working as a printer and compositor. (Census). Later he worked for the Hawick News (Derek Robertson, Great War Forum) “He was a native of Hampshire, but had been resident in Hawick for many years. Prior to enlisting, Lance-Corporal Kersley, who had been at the front for five months, was engaged as a printer with Messrs. A. Watt & Son, and had formerly been employed in “The Hawick News” Office. He took an intelligent interest in public affairs, was vice-president of Hawick Trades Council prior to joining up, and was a member of the Ambulance Section of the Special Constables. His wife (the only daughter of

Mrs. Nisbet, merchant, Morrison Place) and two children, reside at Morrison Place. (*Hawick & The Great War: A Pictorial Record* p. 189)

His parents were William Kersley and Annie (nee Hannah Shackell from Romsey), who had a nursery at Pound Hill and later owned land used as a nursery at Tichborne Down. William was active in the fledgling Salvation Army in Winchester and Leonard, after an apprenticeship and working as a printer left the trade to train as an officer in the SA. About 1905/6 he was sent by the SA as an officer to lead the corps in Hawick. While there, he met Margaret (Meg) Young Nisbet. However, at that time SA Officers were not allowed to marry without permission and then only to another officer, so the organisation took the rather drastic step of sending him eventually to Lerwick in the Shetland Isles!

Fortunately, we know that love won and he resigned his commission in the SA to return to Hawick to marry Meg and resume his trade in printing.

( I am grateful for the help of grandson Leonard Kersley, who provided the photo and access to family records.)

**LEE, ALEXANDER C L**, Corporal 10324, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Kings Royal Rifle Corps. Died 21.12.1914. Buried in Hamburg Cemetery, Germany, III.B.12. (CWGC)

Born 1893 in Parkhurst, I.O.W. Residence Winchester, enlisted Alresford, Hampshire.

Formerly S/26621, Army Service Corps. (*UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)  
Personal Service Record not available, but from his service number he would have enlisted as a regular in Autumn 1911. The Hamburg Cemetery contains the graves of Commonwealth servicemen who died as prisoners of war. (CWGC)

**LIGHT, JOHN**, Rifleman 1063, 1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion The London Regiment (London Rifle Brigade). Died 03.05.1915, aged 26. Son of Worthy and Amy Light, of Broad St., Alresford, Hampshire. Commemorated on Ypres (Menin gate) Memorial, Belgium, Panels 52 & 54. (CWGC)  
Personal Service Record not available.

### **Yser Canal**

The London Rifle Brigade, being in support, had been instructed to dig itself in 600 yards south-east of Fortuin.

**April 26th.** The Battalion did not reach this position until 1.45 a.m., but, thanks to an early morning mist, it was able to secure fairly good cover by daylight.

On this day, and daily for the next seven days, the Battalion was heavily shelled, and suffered a high percentage of casualties, chiefly from enfilade fire.

Orders were received for a company to move early in the afternoon and take up a position that would join up the gap existing between the Somerset Light Infantry and the Hampshire "C" Company was detailed, but a personal reconnaissance by the Officer Commanding the Company (Major Burnell) convinced higher authority that it was not only impossible to move the men by day, but that the Hants' left could not be found. Orders were accordingly received for the whole Battalion to move at dusk into the gap. Moving by a somewhat circuitous route, it arrived at its position, and dug in for the second night in succession. Owing to the darkness, most, if not all, of the rules as to "artillery formation" were of necessity transgressed on this occasion.

The left of its line joined the Somersets, and the right an isolated party on the Zonnebeke-St. Julian road, which was supporting the Hants' left some 500 yards further forward to the right front.

**April 28th.** It was not until this night that the Rifle Brigade finally dug across and joined up with the Hants, so that there was once more a continuous line.

**April 29th.** The London Rifle Brigade, having now become the second line, was moved up on this night to relieve the 4th East Yorks. The latter, with the 4th Yorks, were split up among the Battalions of the 11th Brigade, two companies of the latter being attached to the London Rifle Brigade. (The East Lancs had rejoined the Brigade by this time.)

**May 2nd.** About 5 p.m., under cover of very heavy shell fire and gas, the Germans advanced from the ridge beyond the Haanebeke stream into the dead ground on the near side of the stream, where they dug in some 300 yards away, though on the left they got up much closer under cover of the houses.

The London Rifle Brigade casualties were very heavy, especially on the right, where the ground was more open.

Though the Battalion was affected by the gas for about 10 minutes, there was sufficient wind to dissipate it before any serious damage was done.

There is no doubt that, during their advance from about 1,000 yards till they got into dead ground, the Germans suffered fairly heavy casualties from the rifle fire of the two companies on the right, and this may possibly have deterred them from trying to leave the dead ground. With the assistance of the two companies of the 4th Yorks and one company of the East Lancs, which was also attached to the Battalion, the damage to the trenches was almost all repaired during the night, and all the wounded were evacuated.

**May 3rd.**

On this night the line was readjusted, and the whole Brigade retired through the new line in rear without a single casualty.

**May 4th.** The actual withdrawal commenced at 12.45 a.m., commencing from the right of Battalions. Wieltje was timed to be reached at 1.45 a.m.

The casualties over the period April 25th to May 4th were 16 officers and 392 other ranks. (*Short History of the London Rifle Brigade*, Author: Unknown, Release Date: June 29, 2008 [EBook #25932])



German barrage Ypres 1915

Born in Alresford about 1889, son of a Relieving Officer. In 1911 he was working as a Clerk in a Solicitor's Office, living with his parents and sister in Wickham house, Alresford. (Census)



**LOCK, CHARLES FREDERICK**, Private 7286, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Hampshire Regiment. Died 07.11.1914. Commemorated Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium, Panel 6. (CWGC)  
Born in Twyford. Enlisted at Itchen Stoke, Alresford, Hampshire. Killed in action. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)  
Personal Service Record not available.

“Alresford – Killed at the front.

Official information has been received that Chas. Frederick Lock was killed on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Deceased was a reservist of the 1<sup>st</sup> Hants and proceeded to the front at the commencement of the war where he took part in many engagements. He resided in the Soke and leaves a wife and 2 children. One child was born since war started, the christening ceremony taking place on Sunday last. Much sympathy is felt for the family in their bereavement. A brother of deceased who was in the Berkshire Regiment and was wounded at Ypres has been invalided home and made good progress from his wounds.” (*Hampshire Chronicle* 12<sup>th</sup> December 1914)

On 4<sup>th</sup> November 1914 the Hampshire took over trenches on the Ploegsteert Road at Le Gheer. Two days later the Germans unsuccessfully attacked wearing kilts as a disguise, but then took advantage of a misty morning on 7<sup>th</sup> November to launch eight battalions against the 11<sup>th</sup> Brigade. The Hampshire held the line at a cost of an officer and 34 men killed and missing and three officers and 20 men wounded. (*The Royal Hampshire Regiment, Vol.2, 1914- 1918, Atkinson C.T., University Press, Glasgow 1952*)

Born in 1886, in 1901 he was working as a carter and carrier. His parents were George (a farm labourer) and Charlotte Lock. (Census)

Married Ada Kathleen Blake in Alresford on 11.07.1909. Charles gave his occupation as Private, 1<sup>st</sup> battalion, Hampshire Regiment. (Parish register)

By 1911 Charles, his wife Ada and daughter Gladys were living with Charles' parents on West Hill, Alresford. Charles was working as a carter on a farm. (1911 Census)

Brothers **James Albert** and **John William** were also killed in 1915, and are recorded in Ovington.

**MARRINER, EDWARD**, Private 32034, 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Somerset Light Infantry. Died 01.04.1918. Buried in Roye New British Cemetery, Somme, France, III.D.13. (CWGC)  
Born about 1893 in Tichborne, Hants, residence Reading, enlisted Kingsworthy, Hampshire Formerly 36663, Devonshire Regiment. Died of wounds. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)  
Personal Service Record not available.

Son of Henry and Jane Marriner, in the 1911 Census he is living with his parents and six brothers in Malthouse Cottages, Lee, Romsey, Hants – father and all but the youngest brother employed as farm labourers.

7<sup>th</sup> Battalion was part of 20<sup>th</sup> (Light) Division, which lost heavily in the fighting retreat before the German offensive that opened on 21<sup>st</sup> March 1918. 53<sup>rd</sup> Casualty Clearing Station was at Roye from March 1918 until the town was captured by the Germans on 26<sup>th</sup> March. The New Cemetery took in burials from the Clearing Station and several local burial grounds. (CWGC)

**MARSHALL, WALTER DAVID**, Rifleman 4748, 1<sup>st</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> Battalion, London Regiment (Queen's Westminster Rifles). Died 10.09.1916. Commemorated on Thiepval Memorial. France, Pier & Face 13 C. (CWGC), also commemorated on his father's grave in St. John's churchyard, New Alresford, D.2.10. Residence Westminster, enlisted Alresford, Hants, Killed in action. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)

Born about 1897 in Burstow, Surrey. In the 1911 census he was recorded as a schoolboy living in the Police Station, Alresford, where his father, Walter, was Police Sergeant.

The Battle of Ginchy started on 9<sup>th</sup> September, a rainy day when 16th (Irish) Division successfully took the village after heavy fighting. 1<sup>st</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> Battalion were part of the 56<sup>th</sup> (London) Division, supporting the attack on the right flank in Leuze and Bouleux Woods. 10<sup>th</sup> September was a day of German counter-attacks, which were repulsed. Although the casualties were heavy, the battle secured the high ground and straightened the lines at the junction of the British and French Armies. (www.ramsdale.org/timeline.html)



(Photo IWM Q\_1302 via Wikimedia Commons)

**MATHIAS, EDWARD MORGAN**, Private 27948, 17<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers. Died 19.05.1916, aged 35. (Served as DENNIS). Son of Edward Morgan Mathias and Mary Mathias, of Wales. Buried Calais Southern Cemetery, C.4.14. (CWGC) Born in 1880 in Brecknock, Breconshire, Wales. Edward's father was vicar of Greetham, Oakham, Rutland.

Attested as Edward DENNIS at Holborn, 15.07.1915 for the duration of the war. He gave his address as Greetham Vicarage, Oakham, Rutland. His occupation as seaman, (in the 1901 census was recorded as "tes. sup., submarine telegraphy"). Height 5' 3", chest 36/39", fresh complexion, grey eyes.

Married Winifred Beatrice Gedge in Coston, Leicestershire, 14.07.1908. Children Edward Lanfranc Mathias born 27.06.1909, Margaret Evelyn Winifred born 26.09.1910, both in Havant, Hampshire.

"I, Edward Dennis, do solemnly and sincerely declare that I was enlisted on July 15<sup>th</sup> 1915 under the name of Edward Dennis, which name I took in May 1911 by deed duly advertised in the "Times" newspaper, and executed. My name previous to this date being Edward Morgan Mathias, and I make this solemn declaration believing the same to be true ..... " Reached the front 25.01.1916, wounded in action (gunshot) 13.05.1916, and died of his wounds 19.05.1916 in 35 General Hospital, Calais. (Personal service records)

**MERRITT, FRANK**, Lance Corporal PLY/9984, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Marine Light Infantry." Signalman, H.M.S. Vindictive" on New Alresford Memorial. Died 23.04.1918, aged 39. Son of Mrs E. Merritt, of Martyr Worthy, Winchester, Hampshire Served in Persian Gulf and South African Campaign. Buried Dover (St James' Cemetery, P.W.40A. (CWGC)  
 "A Zeebrugge hero ... eldest son of Mr Frank Merritt of Martyr Worthy, married Miss A.M. Loveridge, of Broad Street, less than a year ago. (Hampshire Chronicle 04.05.1918)  
 Born in Old Alresford, Hants, the son of a shepherd. (1891 census). By the 1911 census he was a private in the Royal Marines Barracks, East Stonehouse, Devon.

23<sup>rd</sup> April 1918 was the date of the famous Zeebrugge Raid. The raid on Zeebrugge was first proposed in 1917 by Sir John Jellicoe, but was not authorised until Vice-Admiral Sir Roger Keyes created a plan for a blocking operation which would make it difficult for German ships and submarines to easily leave the port. The raid was formally approved by the British Admiralty in February 1918 and launched two months later consisting of seventy five volunteer ships and two hundred soldiers.

The raid began with a diversionary attack against the mile-long Zeebrugge mole. The attack was led by the old cruiser, HMS Vindictive, with two Mersey ferries, HMS Daffodil and HMS Iris II.

The three ships were accompanied by two old submarines, which were filled with explosives to blow up the viaduct connecting the mole to the shore. HMS Vindictive was to land a force of 200 Royal Marines (for which 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion R.M.L.I. had been specially trained) at the



THE OLD "VINDICTIVE" OF ZEEBRUGGE FAME.

entrance to the Bruges Canal, however, at the time of the landing the winds changed and the planned smoke-screen to cover the ship proved ineffective. The marines, whose objective was to destroy German gun positions, immediately came under heavy fire and suffered heavy casualties. Vindictive, spotted by German gun positions, was forced to land in the wrong location, resulting in the loss of the marines' heavy gun support. Eventually, submarine HMS C3, commanded by Lt. R. D. Sandford, destroyed the viaduct as planned, by explosion. Sandford was awarded the Victoria Cross for this action.

The plan to sink three old cruisers to block the flow of traffic in and out of the Port of Bruges-Zeebrugge did not go as planned. The failure of the attack on the Zeebrugge mole resulted in heavy German fire on the three blocking ships, Thetis, Intrepid and Iphigenia, which were filled with concrete. Thetis did not make it to the canal entrance, after it had hit an obstruction and was scuttled prematurely. The two other ships were sunk at the narrowest point of the canal.

The blockships were not in the correct position when sunk and only managed to block the canal for a few days. The Germans removed two piers in the western bank of the canal, near the blockships, and created a channel through the silt near the blockships' sterns. They were thus able to move submarines past the blockships at high tide.

The Zeebrugge Raid was promoted by Allied propaganda as a key British victory and resulted in the awarding of eight Victoria Crosses. Of the 1,700 men involved in the operation, 300 men were injured while more than 200 were killed. Among those killed was Wing Commander Frank Arthur Brock, the man who devised and commanded the operation of the smoke screen.

([www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zeebrugge\\_Raid](http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zeebrugge_Raid))

**MITCHELL, NORMAN WILLIAM**, Rifleman 13082, 17<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps. Died 26.04.1918, aged 19. Son of Albert George and Alice Mitchell, of 3, Westbrooke Rd., Alton, Hampshire. Commemorated Tyne Cot memorial, Belgium, Panels 115-119, 162A & 163A. (CWGC)

Attested for seven years' service 25.05.1916 in Winchester, Hampshire. Occupation clerk. Height 5' 5¾", weight 112lbs, chest 34/38". Fresh complexion, light brown eyes, black hair. Religion Church of England.

Posted to BEF 11.02.18, qualified as a bomber. Killed in Action. (Personal Service Record)

The Germans launched their last great offensive in March 1918. On the 25<sup>th</sup> March 17<sup>th</sup> Battalion was "in a position along the canal bank, being astride the Feuilleries – Hem Road, and we were responsible for the bridgehead" ... that day the bridge was demolished, Germans were "visible, and punished with rifle and machine gun fire. At 2 a.m. on the 26<sup>th</sup>, in accordance with orders, the Battalion withdrew to a line of trenches between Herbecourt and Frise, with the 4/5<sup>th</sup> Black Watch on our right, and 16<sup>th</sup> Sherwood Foresters on our left. At dawn the Germans attacked in force, and at 8a.m., after heavy fighting, the 118<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade commenced to withdraw. We fell back by alternate Battalions from the right, fighting steadily, and reached a position astride the Cappy-Herbecourt Road South of Eclusier, and at 11a.m. we were ordered to retire to Proyart, which movement was successfully carried out, covered by 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucester Regiment. At 5p.m. we established a strong line at Proyart, with 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion Rifle Brigade on our left and 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion Sherwood Foresters on our right. We were now heavily shelled. Casualties 24<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> April were Officers: 2 killed, 7 wounded and 1 missing; other ranks: 11 killed, 181 wounded, 103 missing." (*Annals of the King's Royal Rifle Corps*, vol 4, Hare,S., Murray, 1929) After their heavy losses 17<sup>th</sup> Battalion was merged with 16th Battalion, Rifle Brigade, in 117 Brigade of 39<sup>th</sup> Division.

Born in 01.05.1898 in Ripley, Surrey, the son of an assistant superintendent of the Prudential Assurance Company. In the 1911 census the family was living in South Ascot, Berks. Although the records show no Alresford connection, this is the only non- commissioned N. Mitchell of the KRRC in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Great War Roll of Honour.

## **TWO BROTHERS, sons of a Rural Postman:**

**MONEY, FRED**, Private 26587, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment. Died 09.04.1917, aged 36. Husband of C. Money, of Manor Stables, Bighton, Hampshire. Son of George and Naomi Money, of 6, Stanley Cottages, The Dean, Alresford, Hampshire. Buried Neuville-Vitasse Road Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France, C.11. (CWGC)

Killed in Action. Formerly 18157, Dorsetshire Regiment. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-19*)

Born in 1881 in Alresford, in 1911 he was living at 10, Edward terrace, Alresford and employed as a butcher. His daughters were Hilda Caroline, born 1909 and Francis Mary born 1910. (1911 census)

“Husband of Mrs Maton of East Street, Alresford. Prior to enlisting deceased was employed as a butcher by Mr Livingstone, Broad Street, and had been engaged on the same premises for a large number of years. Left two little girls...” (Hampshire Chronicle 05.05.1917)

Regimental War Diary (<https://www.thewardrobe.org.uk/wardiary>):-

2nd Wiltshire Monday 9th April 1917 France, Trenches

At 1.30am a party of 100 OR of "D" company under the command of Lieut FRISBY went forward to attack the MILL near the HENIN - NEUVILLE VITASSE ROAD. The attack met with considerable resistance, and the attackers were forced to retire, having sustained heavy casualties. Lieut N FRISBY was wounded and Lieut SR PARSONS killed, and 35 other ranks became casualties. Lieut BEARNE and one platoon moved forward to cover the retirement. It was ascertained from prisoners taken later that the garrison of this MILL was at the time of the attack 120 other ranks and 2 machine guns.

At 5.30 am the main attack on the HINDENBURG LINE commenced. NEUVILLE VITASSE and ST MARTIN - sur - COJEUL, the villages on our flanks, were captured, and at 11.38am the 21st Brigade attacked with the 2nd Wiltshire Regt on the right, the 18th King's (Liverpool) Regt on the left, and the 19th Manchester Regt in support. The distance between the assembly positions of this Battalion and their objective varied between 2,000 and 2,400 yards. The Battalion advanced in artillery formation, the first wave being composed of "A" company on the right and "B" company on the left, the second wave was composed of "C" company on the right and "D" company on the left, each wave consisting of 2 lines of 2 platoons per company. Considerable hostile shelling was experienced throughout the advance, which became intense as it proceeded, causing heavy casualties before the attackers came in sight of their objective. To reach the objective (namely the HINDENBURG LINE) two sunken roads had to be crossed, at which considerable resistance was offered but was soon overcome, a machine gun and several prisoners being captured on the first. Between the first and second sunken roads the attackers came under fire from several machine guns, which together with the shelling formed a considerable barrage. The advance continued up to the enemy's wire, but by this time the ranks of the attackers were considerably depleted. The wire was found to be damaged but not cut sufficiently to allow troops to enter the trenches. The few unwounded men left took cover in all available shell holes, but eventually had to retire to the sunken road running from NEUVILLE VITASSE to ST MARTIN - sur - COJEUL, where they dug in on the EASTERN BANK. The enemy's artillery immediately commenced to shell this road heavily with shells of large calibre, causing further casualties. By this time most of the officers had become casualties, only three remaining, 2/Lieuts HC CLARK, FJ LONDON, and TW GLYNN. These officers collected all the unwounded men, 90 in all, and consolidated the position. Some little time afterwards two companies of the 19th Manchester Regt arrived in support, and also dug in on the same road. This position was held until the evening, when two companies of the 16th Manchesters came up and took over the position. After relief the remnants of the Battalion marched back to SWITCH LANE, South of MERCATEL.

The total casualties sustained by the Battalion in the attack, not counting those previously sustained in the attack on the MILL, was Captains 2, Subalterns 12, other ranks 328. These were made up as follows:- Capt RW BROWN, 2/Lieuts WH BALKWILL, ST HORTON, AC CLAKE and CH MERRIMAN killed, and Capt CW WARD, DSO, Lieut LH BEARNE, 2/Lieuts CS GRAY, DJ CAMPKIN, GH KELLY, AVS GRANT, HS EDMONDS, FJ LONDON, and AS CARTER (att 21st TM Battery) wounded.

**MONEY, WILLIAM**, Private 36759, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment. Died 27.11.1916, aged 25. Youngest son of George and Naomi Money, of 6, Stanley Cottages, The Dean, Alresford, Hampshire. Commemorated on Thiepval Memorial, France, Pier & Face 5A & 5B. (CWGC)

Born 1892 in Alresford, in the 1911 census he was living with his parents (father a domestic gardener) in Dene Cottages, Alresford and employed as a journeyman baker.

“... killed in action November 27<sup>th</sup> .... a baker by trade. At the time of enlisting he was employed by Messrs Dumpers, Winchester. He had been at the Front nearly four months, and in a letter of sympathy to his parents from an officer of the Regiment, he was spoken of as “a good and keen soldier. He was always cheerful under trying circumstances, and was popular with officers and men alike. He was killed instantaneously by shellfire, and was buried between the front and support trenches, not far from where he fell.” Much sympathy is felt for the family, who have two other sons serving.” (*Hampshire Chronicle* 16.12.1916)

“... on the 27th, front-line trenches on the right of the Albert—Bapaume road, north-east of Le Sars and facing the Butte de Warlencourt (held by the Germans) were taken over.'These trenches were described by the C.O. as a particularly bad sample of the Somme trenches of the winter of 1916 '. They were reached only after a long trek overground, by communication trenches full of deep, sticky mud, which were merely man-traps. The front line consisted of broken-down trenches, not continuous.

By an unfortunate error of judgment an error never repeated the Battalion had been ordered to parade in gum boots and, despite orders to the contrary, one or two platoons attempted to use communication trenches to the front line. These, to a man, became stuck in the mud and were only extricated by being pulled out by men outside the trenches, leaving their gum boots behind them. A large number of men who reached the front line overground soon suffered in the same way, with the result that many had to remain until the following morning (when supplies of boots and socks were brought up) in their bare feet. A and B Companies took over the front line while C and D companies were in support in Eaucourt-l'Abbaye, a vast entrenched mined building, very difficult to find in the dark. In consequence it was late before they also were in position.

The relief, therefore, was not completed until 4.30 a.m. on the 28th. The “new hands”, both officers and men, who formed a large proportion of the Battalion, hardly appreciated their first introduction to trench life. (*The Gloucestershire Regiment in the Great war 1914-1918*, Wyrell, E., Methuen & Co., London, 1931)



Ancre 1916



**TWO MORE BROTHERS;** their sister Dorothy was married to Charles Eacher, (p.144).

**MUNDAY, JACK GREENWOOD,** Pt PO/15857 Royal Marine Light Infantry, HMS Bulwark. Died 26.11.1914, aged 20. Sixth son of Mr G. Munday, (Rural Postman) of Spring Cottage, Alresford, Hants, & the late Mrs E. Munday. Commemorated Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 6. (CWGC)

Another victim of the explosion of H.M.S. Bulwark – see p.110

Born in Alresford, the son of George, a rural postman, and Edith Munday (1901 census). In 1911 census he is at the Royal Marine Barracks, Walmer, Kent.

**MUNDAY, PERCY VICTOR, (“Jim”),** Private 54239, 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Durham Light Infantry, Died 20.09.1917. Commemorated Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium, Panels 128-131, 162 & 162A. (CWGC)

Born in Bishops Sutton in 1892, in the 1911 census he is single, working as a farm labourer in Ovington, Hampshire.

On enrolment to the RFA on 21.10.1916 he was 5’ 7½”, weight 138lbs. with a 37” chest, and gave his occupation as “Horse and Cattle Breeder”. He married Beatrice Fanny Cox in Glastonbury 04.08.1915 and then lived in Water Lane, Somerton. Son Cyril George Munday was born on 12.07.1916.

Joined the Expeditionary Force on 08.01.1917. (Personal Army Service Record).

“.. “Jim”, fifth son of Mr & Mrs Munday, the Shrubbery, who was killed in action on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Enlisting soon after the outbreak of war, he joined the Royal Field Artillery and was subsequently transferred to the Durham light Infantry. In a letter informing his wife of the sad news the officer states he was killed instantly by shell fire, and that the Regiment had lost an excellent soldier. Deceased leaves a wife and little girl, for whom much sympathy is felt, and similar feelings have been expressed towards the parents, who had previously mourned the loss of another son, whilst another was invalided out of the Army after the retreat from Mons, and a fourth has been in hospital with trench fever.” (*Hampshire Chronicle* 06.10.1917)

**NEWMAN, HERBERT EDWARD,** Private 35755, 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment.

Died 15.04.1918, aged 18. Son of Robert and Ellen Newman, of New Farm Cottages, Alresford, Hampshire. Commemorated on Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium, Panels 119-20. (CWGC)  
Personal Service Record not available.

“... killed in action ... at Kemmel Hill ... had only been at the Front for a short period, having been sent out after the German advance.” (*Hampshire Chronicle* 11.05.1918)

Born in Alresford, Hampshire, the son of a farm labourer. In the 1911 census he is living with his parents in Tichborne Down.

From the Regimental War Diary (<https://www.thewardrobe.org.uk/wardiary>):-

“6th Wiltshire Thursday 25th April 1918 Belgium, In the Trenches. H.Q. 58th Infantry Brigade

Herewith Narrative of Events from 10th April - 20th April 1918 during operations near WYTSCHAETE.

N.W. HOUSE Major  
6th Wilts. Regiment  
April 25 1918

6th Wiltshire Yeomanry Battn.  
The Wiltshire Regiment

On the night of the 9/10th April the Battn. was holding a subsector of the trenches east of the MESSINES - WYTSCHAETE ridge - with its right on the WAMBEKE & its left on JUNCTION BUILDINGS (exclusive). The front was held by two Coys. (A & B) which were distributed in depth - each with two platoons in the front line of posts & 1 strong platoon in support. C & D Coys. Were in reserve about 2000 yds. behind the front line.

About 3.30 a.m. fairly heavy shelling on the whole subsector began consisting of H.E. & gas shells. This continued practically without intermission the whole day though no gas shells fell after about 5.30a.m.

About 6 a.m. the shelling which was much heavier on the subsector of the Battalion on our right reached a climax, and the enemy under cover of a very thick "scotch mist" attacked the 57th Brigade on the right & apparently forced its centre Battn. back on to its reserve line. The left Battalion of the 57th Brigade (the 10th Warwick R.) thereby had its right flank turned & the success of the attack was so sudden that a portion of the Warwicks were forced to fall back in a northerly direction on to our right flank - the WAMBEKE formed the natural boundary between the 57th & 58th Brigades. - & just North of it ran a long duck-boarded but shallow Communication trench. MANCHESTER ST. between VERNE RD. & GUN farm was a system of flooded shallow trenches, which "C" Company Occupied at once to form a defensive position, while half the support platoon of B Company was utilized with any parties of the 10th WARWICK R. which came across the BEKE to man MANCHESTER ST. as a long defensive flank.

The 4th Company (D Coy) was used to stiffen up the defence of the right flank of the Brigade which was so dangerously exposed.

The whole Battalion Subsector was subjected to heavy shelling and a large part of it to M.G. & rifle fire throughout the day, the M.G. & rifle fire coming from the high ground South of WAMBEKE round ANZAC FARM.

The Battalion maintained its position everywhere until 4.30p.m. that afternoon. At 3.30p.m. the enemy was massing 2000 yds. east of our front line - & a frontal attack developed, but was unable to materialise owing to our vigorous Lewis & gun rifle fire.

At 4.30 p.m. orders were received by the Battn. on our left (9th R.W.F.) to evacuate the front line of posts; & as this order emanated from Brigade the front line held by this Battalion was also abandoned, although the order for this to be done never reached the front line from our Battalion H.Q. A strong position was then taken up by the two front Coys on a line of supporting points. The enemy advanced about 5.30p.m. to our original front line, but was unable to approach nearer than 600 or 800 yds. owing to our active Lewis gun & rifle fire.

About 6p.m. the enemy organised strong attacks on our right & left flanks - The order to withdraw on to the Reserve Line never reached the front line Coys. so our position on the support line were held until the enemy had completely surrounded the two front line Company a few elements of which, only, managed to work through to our own lines.

The reserve Coys. which had been heavily engaged on the right flank, fell back fighting on to the high ground WEST of COSTAVERNE. Battn. H.Q. Company which was utilised in an attempt to strengthen the right rear was also engaged heavily in fighting in which the C.O. Major Monreal was mortally wounded & the 2nd in Command Capt. Garthwaite wounded.

During the night the survivors of the battn. rallied on portions of the front between the DAMMSTRASSE & WYTSCHAETE. 75 stragglers were collected & sent up to GRAND BOIS, where Capt. Rentoul had established Battalion H.Q. The remainder of the day was spent in collecting & re-organising the Battn.

On the 12th April the Battalion was withdrawn to ROSSIGNOL CAMP near KEMMEL.

270 Reinforcements were waiting here & the Battn. was re-organised mustering 450 strong - and moved to BABADOS camp via CLYTTE for the night.

At 10.30a.m the next day orders were received to stand by ready to move & a quarter of an hour later the Battn. was ordered to march to a position of readiness between LA CLYTTE & KEMMEL east of the main road. At 12 noon C.Os were warned that the Brigade would take over the lines that night from the S. African Brigade. Details of the relief could not be given until 4.30 p.m. at the S. Africans Brigade H.Q. & then were very complicated. The Battalion was to take over from 4 units - a portion of the 4th S. African Battalion the whole of the 1st S. African Battalion 2 Coys. of the 10th R. Warwicks R. & 1 Company of the S.W.B. The front of it was to take over was about 800 yds. & included the extremely important high ground at the SPANBROEK - MOLEN CRATER. The Battalion marched up from its position of readiness and although all companies were in position by 3 a.m, the relief was not reported complete till 6.a.m.

The Battalion was disposed as follows from left to right -

A Company two platoons, front line One support east of SPAENBROEK MOLEN CRATER.

B. C. & D Coys each two platoons in front line & one in support from left to right.

On the right of D Company were the 12th R.I.R. and on the left of A Company were the 9th R.W.F.

Battalion H.Q. were 300 yards in rear of the front line just W. of SPANBROEK MOLEN CRATER.

The 14th April was an abnormally quiet day; the enemy Artillery was more or less inactive except on the area round Battalion H.Q. which later moved to REGENT ST. DUG OUTS.

N29.c.central.

On the night of the 14th it was decided that the dispositions of the Battalion required adjustment

- It was decided to push up the whole of A & D Coys into the front line & withdraw

the whole of B & C Coys. into support, B on the left C on the right, covering A & D respectively.

In addition to ensure the security of SPANBROEK MOLEN this G.O.C. placed 1 Company of the 9th Welch at the disposal of O.C. 6th Wilts R. The O.C. this Company (B Coy) was accordingly ordered to send 1 platoon to be in close support to A Company just east of the CRATER, and place the remainder of his Company in a position S. West of the CRATER from which it would be ready to launch an immediate counter attack against the high ground should this be lost, or reinforce the front lines.

These alterations in the dispositions of the Battn. were carried out during the night of the 14th/15th.

At dawn on the 15th the enemy opened a heavy H.E. barrage on the whole subsector particularly along support line, and in the area round REGENT ST DUG OUTS.

About 5.45 a.m the S.O.S. went up on the left Company front. The enemy were attacking on the right Company front and on the front of the battn. on our right.

The attack failed to reach our front line, but the enemy succeeded in penetrating the front of the 12th R.I.R. who were at the time attempting to carry out a withdrawal, using their left flank as a pivot - The enemy occupied R.E. & SHELL FARMS and made it necessary, first for half of C. Company to move up & occupy a line, running approximately E. & W. North of SHELL farm and

secondly for D Company in order to safeguard its right flank, to bend its right back on to the left of the C. Coy's front line.

The line therefore was intact, though thinly held; enemy snipers and machine guns were extremely active, & being close, hindered movement & the organisation of our new front on the Southern flank.

On the remainder of the Battn. front enemy movement was vigorously checked by snipers & Lewis guns - In spite of very heavy shelling in the earlier part of the day, casualties on the left half of the front were slight.

As the line was so thinly held on right, it was decided to dribble 1 platoon of B. Coy of the 9th Welch up into the front line held by C & D Coys. and to move 1 platoon up into support behind D Coy's left. This was successfully done.

That night orders were received to withdraw from the front line South of the SPANBROEK MOLEN CRATER - this meant that the line occupied by three Coys. B. C. & D was to be evacuated, while that held by A. Coy was to be handed over to the 62nd Brigade Att. 9th Division.

This Company, which consisted of about 120 men (including the supporting platoon of B. Coy, 9th Welch), handed over the line to 19 men of the 1/7th West Yorks and it was due to this severe weakening of the garrison of such important ground that the crater was lost the next day (16th inst.)

During the night of the 15th/16th the Battn. withdrew without molestation, according to the orders outlined above. At dawn it was taking up positions astride the KEMMEL - WYTSCHAETE road, just E. of PARRAIN FARM where Battalion H.Q. were established. The Battn. was here in support to the 9th Welch who were holding the line from a point just S. of SPANBROEKMOLEN CRATER to SPY FARM.

B Company was ordered to dig a series of posts in the N.E. corner of N.28.b and A. C. & D Coys. were distributed in partly dug positions over the area N. & S. of PARRAIN FARM.

The Battn. remained in these positions for two days - during which time SPANBROEKMOLEN was lost.

On the night of the 17th/18th the Battn. relieved the 9th Welch and elements of the 5th S.W.B. in the front line - which ran from the X roads N.29.w.2.5. South to N.29.d.2.8. - thence W. to N.28.d.5.6. This line was taken over with three Coys. In the front line (A. B. D. from left to right) and 1 Company In support just South of STONE FM. (C. Coy) - the line was nowhere continuous but touch was maintained everywhere. The day was quiet (18th April) until 1.30 p.m. when the enemy started to shell the support line fairly heavily, and the front line intermittently.

The French had, at about 6 p.m the night before, attempted to advance & capture SPANBROEKMOLEN. This was unsuccessful, although elements of the 22nd Division reached the western edge of the crater. A number of French troops remained in our front line throughout the following day (April 18th) and apparently it was owing to some movement in the French advanced trenches West of the CRATER that the enemy put down this heavy barrage at 1.30 p.m. It lasted till 5.30 p.m. when the French withdrew from their advanced line & the enemy followed. Our left Coy put up the S.O.S. and the Artillery opened on their S.O.S. lines. At the same time the enemy who had been advancing with difficulty under our M.G. & rifle fire (which was slightly hampered by the French on their retirement) apparently decided to advance no further.

He was then about 300 yards away and opened heavy M.G. fire on our trenches, sweeping the parapets of the front & support lines. However soon afterwards the situation quietened down completely.

The whole operation on the afternoon of the 18th seemed in the nature of a demonstration more than anything else; the enemy were nowhere in large numbers, & I fancy that movement on the

part of the French in their front trenches was largely responsible for the liveliness during the latter part of the day.

On the night of the 18th/19th the Battalion was relieved by the 22nd French Divn. & on relief moved to billets near ABEELE via LA CLYTTE & RENINGHELST, where they arrived about 9.30 a.m.

## Appendix

APPROXIMATE CASUALTIES to the 6th Wilts R. between the 10th April & 20th April 1918 -

1. No. going into the line on the night of the 7th/8th April; - 11 Officers. 580 Other ranks.
  2. No. coming out of the line 12th April - 5 Officers. 175 Other ranks.
- Reinforcements & attachments 5 Officers. 270 Other ranks.
3. No. going into the line on the night of the 13th April - 10 Officer. 380 Other ranks.
  4. No. coming out of the line on the night of the 18th/19th April - 4 Officers. 250 Other Ranks.

H.W. HOUSE Major Commdg 6th Wilts R. April 25th 1918”

**OAKLEY, JAMES**, Private 5809, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Died 12.05.1915, aged 31. Husband of Mary Jane Oakley formerly Holt, London Road, Alton, Hampshire. Buried in Sanctuary Road Cemetery, Belgium, V.N.18. (CWGC)  
Personal Service Record not available.

“... has been killed in action by a piece of shell. He resided at Alresford, and leaves a widow and three children. He had served in the Hampshires several years, and went through the South African War, as also the operations in Somaliland. During the past week Mrs Oakley, Senior, has received a postcard to the effect that another son, Driver W.Oakley, of the Field Artillery, has been to hospital wounded, and that a third son, Private C. Oakley, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Hampshire Regiment, has been wounded in the right foot during the operations in the Dardenelles. (Report under “New Alresford”, *Hampshire Chronicle* 29.05.1915)

James Oakley is commemorated on the war memorial at Holybourne rather than New Alresford. Neither brother is recorded in the CWGC Roll of Honour.

Born in Pulborough, Sussex, son of William (a farm labourer) and Annie Oakley. (1891 Census)

In the 1911 census he was recorded as a farm labourer living in London Road, Holybourne.

During the Second Battle of Ypres, the Hampshire had moved to the front line near Canadian Farm, north east of Ypres on 10<sup>th</sup> May, and were subjected to heavy shelling prior to a heavy attack on the 13<sup>th</sup>. (*The Royal Hampshire Regiment, Vol.2, 1914-1918, Atkinson C.T., University Press, Glasgow 1952*)

**POWELL, JACK STANLEY**, Private 3152, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Died 08.10.1915 of disease. Buried New in Alresford (St. John the Baptist) Churchyard extension, Hampshire, A.VII.4.884. (CWGC)  
Residence Winchester, enlisted Gloucester. (Soldiers died in the Great War).

On leaving school worked in the offices of James Harris and Son, Jewry Chambers, Winchester, Hampshire. (*Hampshire Chronicle* 16.10.1915). Not on war memorial.  
Born in Alresford about 1897, in the 1911 census he is a schoolboy living with his uncle, John Hawkins, a miller at Mill House, Shawford, Winchester.

Jack's Death certificate records the cause of death, at 1<sup>st</sup> Northern General Hospital, Newcastle on Tyne, as Bronchiectasis, Empyema, Pulmonary Endocarditis and Pericarditis. His home address is stated as the Mill, Shawford, and his civilian occupation as Auctioneer's Clerk. The informant was his mother, of "The Firs", Tetbury, Gloucestershire.

**PRING, HUGH FREDERICK DENYS**, Private 767351, "C" Company 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion, London Regiment (Artists' Rifles). Died 01.06.1918, aged 18 years 9 months, in action near Avebury Wood, France. Son of Frederick Pring (Eng. Capt., R.N.) and Agnes Mabel Pring, of The Old House, West St., Alresford, Hampshire. Buried in Varennes Military Cemetery, Somme, France, III.E.6. (CWGC & memorial tablet).  
Enlisted in Hounslow, residence Alresford. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-19*)

".... eldest son..... He originally intended obtaining a commission in the Artists' Rifles, but on reaching the age of 18, joined up as an ordinary soldier. He had only been at the Front a few weeks, where he proved himself – in the words of a superior officer- as "steady and reliable". Killed in action by explosion of an enemy shell..." (*Hampshire Chronicle* 15.06.1918)

Born in Bitterne Park, Southampton. (1911 census)

Deemed to have been enlisted 30.09.1917, called for service 30.11.1917, giving his address as Old House, West Street, Alresford, occupation student and YMCA hut worker. Height 5ft 6¼in, Chest 35/38in. Weight 131lbs, Dark brown hair, pale complexion, hazel eyes. Loose cartilage left knee. Religion C.of E. He gave his next of kin as his mother, of Old House, West Street, Alresford; his father's address was given as 10, Queen's terrace, Sussex Street, Southsea, Hampshire. Posted 08.04.1918, joined unit 13.04.1918.

"During April and May we performed tours of duty in the new line established after the retreat north of Mesnil and in Aveluy Wood sector. We lost Capt. Neighbour (who had rejoined us in March) through sickness and Col. Johnson was wounded in Aveluy Wood. Thereupon Capt. Wilkinson (L.R.B.) assumed command. In June the Battalion went into Corps reserve at Toutencourt Wood and was attached to the "flying" Corps, kept for operations on any front..."  
([http://www.archive.org/stream/regimentalrollofoohighiala/regimentalrollofoohighiala\\_djvu.txt](http://www.archive.org/stream/regimentalrollofoohighiala/regimentalrollofoohighiala_djvu.txt))



**RICHARDS, CYRIL SIDNEY**, Aircraftsman RAF. Died 29.04.1924 in a flying accident at RAF Shotwick, Flintshire. Buried New Alresford (St. John the Baptist) Churchyard, F.III.1.1061.



“We regret to record the death of another promising local airman – Aircraftsman C.S. Richards – who was killed in a flying accident at Shotwick Aerodrome (Flintshire).

With a Flying Officer in charge, the aeroplane had risen about 200 feet when it crashed and burst into flames, both the occupants being killed. A verdict of accidental death was recorded at the inquest. Deceased was well known locally, and was the only son of Nurse Richards, with whom the deepest sympathy is felt ...” (Hampshire Chronicle 03.05.1924)

The deceased was in C Flight, 5 Training School RAF at Shotwick. The RAF was also represented at the funeral by a party from The Wireless School at RAF Flowerdown. (Funeral report *Hampshire Chronicle* 10.05.1924).

Shotwick is now known as Sealand Airfield. The aircraft concerned was Bristol F2b F4954, piloted by F/O J.R.J. Jones.

**SHIELD, CLEMENT RIDLEY, M.C.**, Captain, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Highland Light Infantry, attached to 51<sup>st</sup> Division H.Q. Staff. Died 08.10.1916, aged 29. Son of Joseph Ridley Shield (Solicitor) and Mary Octavia Shield, of Alresford, Hampshire. Buried in Louvencourt Military Cemetery, Somme, France, I.D.14. (CWGC)

Born in Alresford in 1897, third of four brothers. (1901 Census)

“..... killed by a shell on 7<sup>th</sup> inst. He was in a communication trench at the time, having just returned from the front line trenches. He was buried in the cemetery of a small village at the rear of the Divisional Headquarters, all the staff, together with the G.O.C., being present. The late Staff Captain Shield was very popular in the town, where he had a host of friends. At one time he held a commission in the ranks of the local Territorials, where he was very keen on drill, and his services were greatly appreciated. The local troop of Boy Scouts also found him a staunch supporter, he being the secretary of the local organisation. At the time of the Coronation he undertook the duties of honorary secretary, a difficult task which he carried out in a thorough manner.

He subsequently took an appointment in India in a solicitor's office, where he became a member of the Calcutta Light Horse. He was then invalided home, and whilst on sick leave war broke out. After undergoing an operation, and making a satisfactory recovery, he received a commission in the Highland Light Infantry. His splendid abilities soon earned him promotion to the rank of Staff Captain, and we understand that additional promotion was shortly to be conferred on him. His devotion to duty had earned for him mention in official dispatches, and his gallant conduct had resulted in his being awarded the Military Cross. His early death at the age of 29 years has ended a most promising career. ...” (*Hampshire Chronicle* 14.10.1916)

**SHIRFIELD, ARTHUR EDWIN**, Gunner 16952, 20<sup>th</sup> Reserve Battery, Royal Field Artillery. Died 09.12.1915, aged 19. Son of Charles and Lily Shirfield, of The Dean, Alresford, Hampshire. Born at Bishops Sutton, Alresford. Buried in Greenwich Cemetery, England. Commemorated on Screen Wall 3”C”.A.24. (CWGC)

Died in Lewisham of diphtheria. He was due to go to the front when taken ill. (Hampshire Chronicle 11.12.1915)

The 1911 census shows him, surname spelled Sherfield, as born in Bishop’s Sutton, and living with his parents in North Street, Bishop’s Sutton, his father a groom gardener. He was working in a butcher’s shop.

**SMITH, ALBERT JOHN**, Private 23208, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment. Died between 08.10.1918 & 08.01.1919. Commemorated on Vis-en-Artois Memorial, France, Panel 9. (CWGC)

Born in Chawton, Hampshire. Enlisted in Alresford, Hampshire. Died 8<sup>th</sup> January 1919. (UK, *Soldiers Who Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)  
Personal Army Record not available.

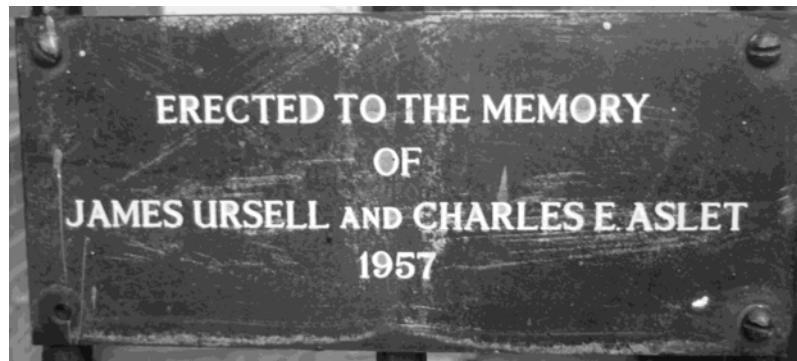
Born about 1897, the son of Albert, builder and general labourer, and Fanny Smith. In the 1911 census he is living with his parents in the Soke, Alresford, and is employed as a house boy. His mother was born Fanny Elizabeth Hickman in Alton, Hampshire. (England & Wales, Free BMD Marriage Index, December 1896)

On 8<sup>th</sup>- 9<sup>th</sup> October 1918 the Battalion took part in the Battle of Cambrai-St Quentin, when the German army was forced back to the River Selle.



*Breaking the Hindenburg Line* by William Longstaff.

**Two cousins**, nephew and son of James Ursell, railway warehouseman and stalwart of the Congregational Church in Alresford. James' memorial tablet is on the side gate of Alresford Methodist Church.



**URSELL, JOHN LINTER, ("Linter")** Private 702634 "C" Company, 23<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, London Regiment. Died 28.07.1918, aged 20. Son of Francis Henry and Ellen Ursell, of 13, Penhole Rd., Erith, Kent. Enlisted at 17 years old. Wounded at Arras, September, 1916. Buried in St John's Churchyard, Alresford, Hampshire D.IV.10.946. (CWGC)  
"Wounded Messines Ridge 7.6.1917, died of wounds" (Headstone)  
Attested 29.04.1915 in London, giving his occupation as clerk. Height 5' 3" chest 33/37". Fair complexion, brown hair and eyes. He claimed to the medical officer to be 19 years. To France 25.06.1916.  
Gun shot wound to left arm 22.09.1916, returned to England 27.09.1916  
Returned to France 20.01.1917, gun shot wound to the head fracturing his skull, returned to England 07.08.1917 (Personal Army Record)

In the 1901 Census he is living with his family in Levenshulme, Lancashire – father a weighing machine fitter.

Born in Abbey Wood, Kent; in the 1911 Census he is a schoolboy living with his family in Cranbrook Villa, New Road, Abbey Wood, Kent; his father is now listed as a master grocer and provision dealer.

From the Battalion War Diary:

5 June 1917 ... 10 pm to BLUFF TUNNELS

7 June 1917 Right Sector CANAL Sub-sector YPRES

Bn. in attack YPRES-COMINES Canal. Lt. Col. H.H. Kemble DSO, MC Died of Wounds. Major T.C. HARGREAVES, DSO assumed command of Bn. 2/Lts L.P. CLIFFORD, H. STONE and G.M. FRANKLYN Killed in Action.

9 June 1917 Bn. HQ moved back to BLUFF TUNNELS.

Total casualties (OR) 33 Dead, 159 Wounded 2 Missing.

Discharge certificate dated 12.12.1917 gives his "special qualification for employment in civil life" as "Railway Clerk (Audit)" and his last employer as the London Electric Railway Company, Electric Railway House, Westminster. He was discharged as of very good character, now two inches taller than on attestation. He was granted a pension of £1.7s.6d per week. (Personal Army Record).

**URSELL, WILLIAM**, Lieutenant, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers).

Died 04.11.1918, aged 24. Buried in Hanwell Cemetery, London, 4.7172.

Second son of James and Esther Ursell; husband of Louisa E. Ursell, of 15, Edward Terrace, Alresford, Hampshire.

Previously Able Seaman A.A.852, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. (British Army WW1 Medal Rolls)

Served October 1915 to September 1916; wounded twice and relinquished his commission due to ill-health caused by wounds. (University of London OTC Roll of the Fallen)



In the 1911 Census he is listed as a boy-clerk in a sub-post office, boarding in 79 St Dunstons Road, Hammersmith. Married Louisa Elizabeth Sexton at Shephers Bush Tabernacle (Baptist Church), London 04.08.1917. A son, Douglas, was born on 11.05.1918. (Unpublished research by Paul Waterworth)  
Died at “Combles”, 20a, York Gardens, Ealing, of Influenza. Worked at H.M. Stationary Office. (*Hampshire Chronicle* 09.11.1918)

10 September 1916

“Serving with 56 Division, 1/2 Londons took severe casualties at Gommecourt on 1st July and were again heavily engaged at Leuze Wood at the beginning of the third phase of the Battle of the Somme in September. On 10th, 'A' Coy lost all its officers in an unsuccessful attempt to take trenches south east of Leuze Wood. At 6pm Germans were seen massing for a counter-attack and Captain Heumann, commanding 'B' Coy, was ordered to push forward to occupy Leuzenake (or Q) Trench. (This ran from the southern tip of Leuze Wood to the present-day position of Faffemont Farm, Combles). Capt Heumann called a quick conference in the shell hole forming his HQ but a shell burst over the party, killing Heumann, his company Sergeant Major and Sgt Torrance and wounding Lt Attenborough, 2nd Lt Ursell and 2nd Lt Childs who later died of his wounds. 2nd Lt Cambray, the only officer left, managed to get the rest of the Company into the Trench.

Captain Heumann and his NCOs had been buried together in the shell hole and after the War Mr Heumann bought 42 sq m of land and, apparently with the agreement of the other families, arranged for the grave to remain where it was ...”

(<http://www.westernfrontassociation.com/great-war-people/memorials/231-heumann-mills-torrance.html>). The grave is now maintained by the CWGC.

**The Battles of the Somme:** Battle of Morval, 25 - 28 September, 1916

The Regiment took part in this battle, capturing the remains of Combles village. A reasonable assumption would be that William's second wound was in this battle and that is why his home was named *Combles*.

“The days immediately following 15 September attack were marked on Fourth Army's front by a series of minor line-adjusting operations conducted in deteriorating weather. The increasingly wet conditions delayed preparations for a renewed effort to secure the villages of Morval, Lesboeufs and Gueudecourt, unattained objectives of the Flers-Courcelette



fighting. This new offensive required an advance of up to 1,500 yards on a line from Martinpuich to Combles. A wiring party carrying their implements going up to the front line on 25 September. The ruined villages of Morval and Lesboeufs lay on XIV Corps main front of attack; immediately left, XV Corps, was to sieze Gueudecourt; III Corps was to advance on the German line north-east of Martinpuich and offer cover for XV Corps left flank.

The preliminary bombardment began at 7 am on 24 September; the assault troops waiting in muddy 'jumping-off' trenches early next morning witnessed a barrage of unprecedented ferocity on German positions, which intensified just before zero hour. At 12.35 pm on 25 September, as the creeping barrage pounded down on No Man's Land, the infantry advanced. On XIV Corps front 5th, 6th and Guards Divisions methodically gained ground and both Morval and Lesboeufs were occupied by 3.30 pm. XV Corps divisions had difficulty approaching the formidable Gird Trench and considerable disorganisation was caused by determined German resistance. It was not until early morning on 26 September that a section of Gird Trench was cleared, with the assistance of a tank, opening the way into Guedecourt village, which was taken that same evening. Earlier in the day Combles had been occupied by British and French forces. Further attacks were made by XV Corps on 27 September and the following day saw the handover of the extreme right of XIV Corps line to French forces. (CWGC)

Combles was one of the largest villages on the Somme, and a major billeting and communications area for the Germans. Deep catacombs below the village were used to shelter troops. To the west of the village were two woods: Bouleaux ('Bully') and Leuze ('Lousy'). These became the battleground of the 56th (London) Division from early September 1916. By the 25th most of the wooded area had been taken, and a joint attack by British and French troops took the village on 26th September. It then served as a headquarters for British units in the line at Rancourt and Sailly-Sailliesel during the winter of 1916/17.

(<http://www.somme-1916.com/combles.htm>)



Not on New Alresford War Memorial.

**WANSBOROUGH, JOHN EDWARD** (Wansbrough on CWGC), Farrier Serjeant 48703, 96<sup>th</sup> Field Company, Royal Engineers. Died 27.09.1917. Husband of I. A. Wansbrough, of 190, Millbrook Rd., Southampton. Buried in Bard Cottage Cemetery, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, IV.I.2. (CWGC)

“... late of Alresford, was killed in action on September 27<sup>th</sup>. He was the only son of the late Mr.J.H. Wansbrough & of Mrs Wansbrough of 18, Hanley Road, Southampton. He was well known locally, and much regret will be felt at his loss.” (*Hampshire Chronicle* 06.10.1917)

1881 shows him as born about 1875 in Ropley, living with parents John and Agnes at Ropley Station – his father was the Station Master.

1891 census shows him as a stable lad employed by Arthur Yates at “The Mansion”, Bishop’s Sutton.

1901 census shows him lodging at “The Plough”, Bishop’s Sutton, and employed as a jockey and groom.

1911 census shows him as now having been married to Isabella for 8 years, with a son, Henry and daughters Ena and Blanche. He is working as a cycle agent, living in West Street, Alresford.

As part of 20<sup>th</sup> (Light) Division the Company was involved in the Battle of Polygon Wood, which commenced 26<sup>th</sup> September 1917.

(<http://www.ww1westernfront.gov.au/battlefields/polygon-wood-september-1917.html>)

**WESTBROOK, ALFRED THOMAS**, Lance Corporal 3617, 1<sup>st</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Battalion London Regiment (Post Office Rifles). Died 21.05.1916, aged 22. Second son of Henry George and Mary Ann Westbrook, of The Weir, Alresford, Hampshire. Commemorated Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France, Bay 10. (CWGC)

Enlisted at Alresford, no. 371420, killed in action. (*UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*).

1901 census shows him as born in Old Alresford, living with his parents (father a general labourer) in Old Alresford.

The 1911 census shows him as unmarried, living with his parents in Old Alresford, and employed as a Telegraph Messenger.

Worked at Alresford Post Office before the war. (*Hampshire Chronicle* 17.06.1916)

"On 21 May 1916, after shelling both forward trenches and divisional artillery positions from no less than 80 out-of-sight batteries on the reverse slope of the ridge, the German infantry attacked the British lines along a 2,000-yard (1,800 m) front in an effort to repulse the latter from positions along the ridge. The Germans successfully captured a number of British mine craters before halting and entrenching their positions. Small counterattacks by units of the 140th and 141st British Brigades took place on 22 May, but did not manage to change the situation. The newly-formed Canadian Corps relieved the British IV Corps stationed along the western slopes of Vimy Ridge in October 1916."

([www.militaryphotos.net/forums/archive/index.php/t-38979...](http://www.militaryphotos.net/forums/archive/index.php/t-38979...))



**WHITE, WILLIAM THOMAS**, Private 267473, 1<sup>st</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment. Died 29.06.1918, aged 29. Husband of K. Hillary (formerly White), of 10, Grange Rd., Alresford, Hampshire. Buried in New Alresford (St John the Baptist) Churchyard Extension, Hampshire. (CWGC)

1901 census shows him as born in Alresford, living with his family in the Soke, Alresford. His parents John Dorey White, butcher and watercress grower, and Elizabeth White. In the 1911 census he is still living with his father at the Stag Inn, Alresford. His father is now a Butcher Master and Publican, and has been married to Mary for 5 years. William is employed by his father as a Butcher's Assistant.

"The death took place on June 27<sup>th</sup>, from wounds received in action ..... He had served in the trenches for eight months before being wounded, and was brought home from France to Netley. Deceased leaves a widow and three children." (*Hampshire Chronicle* 13.07.1918)



(Picture via  
[www.fuebook.net](http://www.fuebook.net))

**WOODWARD, ALFRED**, Company Quartermaster Sergeant 200481, 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Hampshire Regiment. Died 15.07.1917. Buried in Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery, Iraq, XV.D.9. (CWGC)

Born in St Margarets, Kent. The 1911 census shows him, a clerk and army pensioner, living with his sister Lucy in Minden Cottage, Alresford.

"... Death .... At Baghdad, from heatstroke, at the age of 49. Deceased, who was well known in the town, where he resided with his sister, was well respected. He enlisted in the Hampshire Regiment in 1885, and on his discharge in 1902 had attained the rank of Colour-Sergeant. On the outbreak of war in 1914 he was one of the first to rejoin the Colours, and within a very short time proceeded to India with the Hampshire Regiment. From there he saw service in the Persian Gulf, and for a time was invalided to India, where he had earlier had fifteen years' experience. On recovery he again went to the Gulf, where his devotion to duty resulted in his being mentioned in despatches and also being recommended for the Distinguished Conduct Medal. ... Deceased was in possession of the Tirah Medal, 1897, and the China Medal 1900-2." (*Hampshire Chronicle* 28.07.1917)

## WORLD WAR 2 and Later

**ALLAN, JOHN CECIL OWEN**, Flying Officer 159499 RAFVR, 96 Sqn. RAF. Died 07.06.1944, aged 22. Son of Richard and Marie Annie Allan, of Grange Road, Alresford, Hampshire. Old Symondian. Commemorated on Runnymede Memorial, Surrey, Panel 24. (CWGC)

96 Squadron was flying de Havilland Mosquito XIII night fighters from West Malling, Kent.



Mosquito MM451 was on a night defensive patrol on the night of 7<sup>th</sup> June 1944. The crew, F/O J.C.O. Allan and Sgt W.M.Patterson, reported engine trouble and that they were baling out East of Ramsgate. They were not found. (Shores, C. & Thomas, C., 2nd. *Tactical Air Force* vol. 1, Ian Allan, Hersham, 2004, ISBN 1 903223 40 7)

A keen member of the Church Choir. His mother always believed that he would reappear, and left the door unlocked at night for him for years. (Peter Mercer)

**AUSTIN, WILLIAM HENRY, (“Willie”)**, Flight Sergeant (Air Gunner) 778987 RAFVR, 103 Sqn. RAF. Died 23.08.1943, aged 32. Son of William and Netta Austin, of Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia. Buried in Jonkerbos War Cemetery, Netherlands, 16.B.5. (CWGC) (Not on the New Alresford war memorial).

103 Squadron were flying Avro Lancaster bombers from Elsham Wolds, Lincolnshire.



Lancaster B.III ED701 Information:

"When lost this aircraft had a total of 266 hours. Airborne 21:39 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1943 from Elsham Wolds to attack Leverkusen. Shot down by a night-fighter (Obt Heinz Strüning, 1./NJG1) and came down near the castle at Heusden (Noor Brabant) 7 km NE of Waalwijk), Holland. All were taken to Venlo for burial, but they have been subsequently re-interred in Jonkerbos War Cemetery. W/O Breckon's DFM had Been Gazetted 15 Jun 43. F/s Austin came from Bulawayo in Southern Rhodesia. W/O K.Breckon DFM KIA, Sgt W.J.Wearn KIA, F/S C.W.Jones KIA, Sgt T.Davison KIA, Sgt J.Harwood KIA, Sgt A.E.Lefort KIA, F/S W.H.Austin KIA ." (www.lostbombers.co.uk)

22nd August 1943

257 Lancasters, 192 Halifaxes and 13 Mosquitoes attacked Leverkusen. 3 Lancasters and 2 Halifaxes were lost. The I.G. Farben factory at Leverkusen was chosen as the aiming point for this raid and it was hoped that some of the bombs would hit this important place, but the raid was not successful. There was thick cloud over the target area and there was a partial failure of the Oboe signals. Bombs fell over a wide area. At least 12 other towns in and near the Ruhr recorded bomb damage. Dusseldorf was the hardest hit of these other places. 132 buildings were destroyed and 644 seriously damaged. Solingen reported 40 people killed and 65 injured. Only a few bombs fell in Leverkusen where 4 people were killed. The I.G.Farben factory received only superficial damage in the acid department. 5 Germans were injured in the factory and 1 foreign worker was killed. (<http://www.ww2aircraft.net/forum/ww2-general/day-war-europe-65-years-ago-6116-49.html>)

*Hampshire Chronicle* 10.06.1944:

Alresford – a tribute to a missing airman. The memorials of brave British lads lie around Europe. A brief paragraph tells us that after an attack on the Rhineland "five of our bombers are missing". Willie Austin, at eight years of age, left Alresford to make a home with his parents in South Africa (Rhodesia). Soon after the war broke out he joined the Air Force. With dauntless courage, this young man, now no mere boy, returned to his native land to interpose with so many others their lives between us and danger. Willie Austin heard the Empire's call and laid down his life against the enemy. Truly the race is being uplifted and sacrifice never so high to free the world from a monster, who by every crafty and cruel way meant to hold in thrall the whole world. Thus did Flight Sergeant Willie Austin meet his lonely death. A little wooden cross on Dutch soil marks his resting place. He is one of that gallant band who throughout the ages have counted not their lives unto them. (Contributed).

**BRAZIER, WILLIAM JAMES**, Private 7584000, Royal Army Ordnance Corps. Died 29<sup>th</sup> July 1944, aged 34. Son of William and Anastasia Brazier, of Alresford; husband of Joan Brazier, of Alresford. Buried in New Alresford (St. John the Baptist) Churchyard Extension, Plot G. Row 5. Grave 5. (UK, Army Roll of Honour, 1939-1945)

Born in Alresford in 1910, son of a farm labourer. (1911 Census)

Died in Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester of post-operative shock following gastrojejunostomy on 26.07.1944 for pyloric obstruction due to a duodenal ulcer. His civilian occupation is recorded as taxi driver of the Dean, Alresford. (Death Certificate)

**CHOWN, WILLIAM ROBERT**, Leading Aircraftman 1248233, RAFVR. 1 BSRU, RAF. Died 07.11.1944, aged 47. Son of Fred and Mary Chown, of Alresford, Hants; husband of Maud Chown, of Alresford. No known grave, commemorated on Runnymede Memorial, Surrey, Panel 241. (CWGC)

In 1911 he was living with his parents (father a house painter), mother, four sisters and two brothers in Edward Terrace, Alresford. (1911 Census)

No. 1 Base Signals & Radar Unit was formed to support the servicing of mobile radar units on the Continent after D-Day. On 7 November the main body of the unit was crossing the Channel in a Landing Ship Tank, LST-420, which struck a mine off Ostend at 15:00 hours and sank quickly. Only 5 officers and 26 other ranks survived, with 14 officers and 224 other ranks being lost. (<http://www.navsource.org/archives/10/16/160420.htm>)

Photo # 80-G-247120 USS LST-1 and LST-292 "high and dry" on a Brittany beach, Sept. 1944



<http://www.navsource.org/archives/10/16/1016000107.jpg>

**Two Brothers**, whose father **CULLEY, Geoffrey Matthew George, DSO**, Captain, 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent), was killed in 1916. His memorial is in St Peter's Church, Soberton, Hampshire – together with their mother's four brothers who were killed in World War 1, leaving only one surviving.

Their mother, **CULLEY, Elizabeth Frances, née TWYNAM, 1880-1952**:  
“...was one of the most active personages in the town... During World War II, Mrs Culley served as a Sergeant in the ATS, and made a daily car ride to Winchester to carry out her duties.



Mrs Culley identified herself with every deserving cause in the town, and among her many offices she held the post of People's Warden at Alresford Parish Church where her services on the Church Council were greatly valued. She was a former chairman of the Women's Branch of the Conservative Association, a Vice-President of the Women's Institute: a Governor of Perins Secondary School, member of the WVS, the Beekeepers' Association, Fire Service and Civil Defence; whilst she was a very keen worker in the Hospital car Service, where she gave ever ready voluntary assistance.  
(*Hampshire Chronicle* 19.07.1952)

**CULLEY, GEOFFREY MATTHEW**, Sergeant (W.Op./Air Gunner) 1164676, 39 Sqn., RAF. Died 17.05.1942. Youngest son of the late Capt. G.M.G. Culley and Eleanor [sic] Jane Culley, of Sunhill, Alresford, Hampshire. Buried in Tobruk War Cemetery, Libya, 1.B.17. (CWGC)

Also commemorated on the Wye Agricultural College memorial. ([www.kentfallen.com/PDF/REPORTS/WYE COLLEGE WW2.pdf](http://www.kentfallen.com/PDF/REPORTS/WYE%20COLLEGE%20WW2.pdf))

Born late in 1916 in Tisbury, Wiltshire. (PRO Birth Index December Quarter 1916)

39 Sqn. was flying Bristol Beaufort torpedo bombers from Shallufa, Egypt on anti-shipping strikes. The squadron commander has given a good account of the period in his book "*Torpedo Leader*", Gibbs, P., Grub Street, London, 1992, ISBN 0-948817-56-9:

17.05.1942: Beaufort IIa AW358 was lost with its crew when an engine caught fire on take-off at Bu Amud ("*The Beaufort File*", Hayward, R., ISBN: 9780851301716)

The others in the crew, who rest in the Tobruk War Cemetery in neighbouring graves:-  
COATES, WILLIAM ERNEST, Pilot Officer (Pilot) 119744, RAFVR, Age: 22  
SACKMAN, ALBERTO, Sergeant (W.Op./Air Gnr.) 1375726, RAFVR.  
WESTON, JACK, Sergeant 921146, RAFVR, Age: 23.

Beaufort II, 39 Sqn:



**CULLEY, GEORGE WILLIAM, M.C.,** Major 64507, 53 (The Worcestershire Yeomanry) Airlanding Light Regiment Died 24.03.1945. Buried in Reichswald War Cemetery, 37.F.2. (UK, Army Roll of Honour, 1939-1945)

Born in Tisbury, Wiltshire 1915.

Educated at Wellington School, Picton 1928 to 1933. A Regular soldier, he served in India with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Field Regiment, RA, till the outbreak of war. He held a variety of Staff appointments before he came home in March, 1943 after very severe typhoid. Having served at the Gunnery School at Larkhill he was finally appointed to the Essex Yeomanry in 1943 and went over to Normandy with that unit on D-Day. For his work as a Forward Observation officer on September 26<sup>th</sup> 1944, he was awarded the M.C. The citation runs, "Throughout three difficult days Captain Culley's coolness and amazing display as Forward Observation Officer with armour armour was of the highest order." This happened when he was working with the U.S. Airborne Division at the Nijmegen bridge-head. Culley was killed with all his crew in an airborne landing on the enemy side of the Rhine ... His Colonel writes "It is no exaggeration to say that in him we have lost one of the noblest and most lovable of men". 53rd Worcestershire Yeomanry Airlanding Light Regiment R.A. was attached to the 6th Airborne Division, and become its field artillery regiment.



### Operation Varsity

The plan was to drop two Airborne Divisions, including the Regiment, behind enemy lines north of Wesel so as to isolate the industrial Ruhr and disrupt enemy rear defences. 210 Battery was split between 211 and 212. On March 24th, 78 gliders set off from England to follow in a successful night attack that had established bridgeheads on the eastern bank of the Rhine. The first guns were in action within 10 minutes of the gliders landing. Unfortunately, 22 gliders were destroyed either on landing or in the air, emphasising that the most dangerous part of an airborne landing can be the arrival by glider. By the evening all of the Divisions objectives had been taken but 2 Battery Commanders and 20 Other Ranks had been killed, with 8 officers and 59 men missing or prisoners of war. (Taken from 'A Brief History of the Queen's Own Worcestershire Hussars' by Derek Woodward)

"Of the three Battery Commanders, one only was safe and of the six Troop Commanders, two. Major W. C. Knox-Peebles of 212 was killed instantaneously as he emerged from his glider after landing safely; he was a fine leader of men who had been a splendid Battery Commander. Major G. W. Culley, M.C., of 210, who had been with the Regiment a few weeks only, died in the rejoined." (*The Queen's Own Worcestershire Hussars 1922-1956* By D. R. Guttery)



Pictures via [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)



**DOIDGE, GEORGE LEWIS**, Sergeant (Nav.) 1336841 RAFVR, 102 Sqn. RAF. Died 21.04.1943 aged 21. Son of Frank and Annie Doidge, of "Westholme" Alresford, Hampshire. Buried in Nyborg New Cemetery, Denmark, Grave G8. (CWGC)

Frank Doidge was a builder. (Peter Mercer)

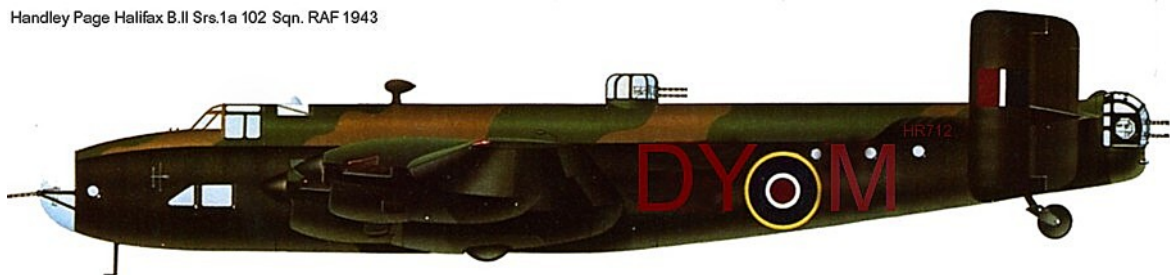
102 Sqn. was flying Handley page Halifax II bombers from Pocklington, Yorkshire.

20/21 April 1943:- 339 aircraft - 194 Lancasters, 134 Halifaxes, 11 Stirlings - ordered to attack Stettin. This raid, on a target more than 600 miles from England, proved to be the most successful attack beyond the range of Oboe during the Battle of the Ruhr. Visibility was good and the Pathfinder marking was carried out perfectly. 24 fires were still burning when a photographic reconnaissance aircraft flew over Stettin a day and a half later. 21 aircraft - 13 Lancasters, 7 Halifaxes, 1 Stirling - lost, 6.2 per cent of the force. (*Bomber Command War Diaries*)



Sgt George L. Doidge (Picture via Steve Kendall)

Handley Page Halifax B.II Srs.1a 102 Sqn. RAF 1943



" HR712 was one of two No.102 Sqn Halifaxes lost on this operation. Airborne 21:34 20<sup>th</sup> April 1943 from Pocklington. Shot down by Flak and crashed 02:26 some 1,500 metres off the Slipshavn at Nyborg, Denmark. The two survivors were picked up by a launch, shortly after the Halifax sank in about 150 feet of water. The bodies of those killed were eventually recovered and taken for burial in Nyborg New Cemetery. Sgt P.R.Olliver PoW, Sgt G.S.Meldrum PoW, Sgt G.L.Doidge KIA ,Sgt A.F.Warner KIA, F/S G.H.Bartman RCAF KIA ,Sgt F.W.Day KIA, Sgt J.B.McM Irving KIA ; Sgt G.S.Meldrum was interned in Camps L1/L6/357, PoW No.1084 with Sgt P.R.Olliver, PoW NO.1086. "(www.lostbombers.co.uk)

**GUNNER, HARRY LESLIE HAROLD**, Sapper 2156134, 96 Bomb Disposal Section, Royal Engineers. Died 10.06.1944, aged 23. Son of Harry and Louisa Lucy Gunner, of Alresford, Hampshire. Buried in Bayeux War Cemetery, XIX.B.2 (UK, Army Roll of Honour, 1939-1945) "... lost his life in a minefield ... on the beach head at Longues, France..." (*Hampshire Chronicle* 13.06.1946)

Lived in Pound Hill, and was a carpenter in the building trade before the war. (Peter Mercer)

**HARRIS, GERALD ROY (“Roy”)**, Private 22522209, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment. Died 05.06.1951. Commemorated Commonwealth Memorial, UN Memorial Cemetery, Pusan, South Korea: no known grave. (National Army Museum)  
Wounded 23rd April 1951, died as a PoW, aged 19. (<http://glostesters.tripod.com/koreap.html>)

Eldest son of Dennis A Harris and Frances L E née Powell, his father a grocer in Broad Street, Alresford. (Unpublished memoir of Peter Turner). Birth registered in the Alresford District in the June Quarter of 1932. (England and Wales Birth Index)

The Battle of the Imjin River, Korea April 1951:-

From 22 to 25 of April 1951 around 750 men of the Gloucestershire Regiment and Troop C. 170th Independent Mortar Battery, Royal Artillery, fought a force of over 10,000 Chinese regular troops. Towards the end of the Battle the Glosters were completely surrounded and running out of ammunition. Some men were reduced to fighting with bayonets and fists. Against overwhelming odds the Glosters held the line against the Chinese for four days. When they were finally given the order to break out only forty men managed to reach safety. The Chinese captured or killed the rest. The Glosters’ actions in delaying the Chinese allowed the rest of the United Nations forces time to regroup and block the advance of the enemy towards the South Korean capital Seoul. (<http://www.glostesters.org/citation.htm>)  
(Tony Sheppard of Bishops Sutton was also lost in the action – see p.48 for a fuller account of the battle)

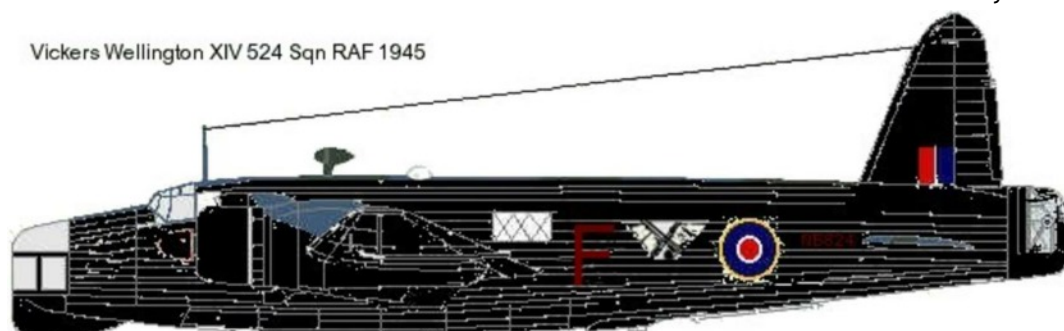
**LAMING, LEONARD LEWIS**, Sergeant (W.Op/Air Gunner) 1603656 RAFVR, 524 Sqn., RAF. Died 26.03.1945, aged 23. Son of Leonard Lewis Laming and Elsie May Laming; husband of Joyce Hilton Laming, of Blackpool. Buried in Blackpool (Carlton) Cemetery, Sec. B, grave 2. (CWGC)

Lived in Winchester Road; father was an agricultural engineer employed at Edwards of Itchen Abbas. (Peter Mercer)

Wellington XIV NB824 Crashed on take-off for Box Patrol R at RAF Langham, 01:48 hrs. Crew W/O J J Brogan, F/Sgt F A Harris, F/Sgt L S Cuthbert, Sgt L L **Laming**, Sgt J Marston, Sgt D R Carter, W/O C E Loftus. Marston, Carter and Loftus all survived.



Photo courtesy Dave Laming



524 Sqn. were flying Vickers Wellington XIV maritime patrol aircraft from Langham, Norfolk. Unusually for Coastal Command aircraft, the undersides were painted black rather than white as the majority of patrols were at night, seeking e-boats.

**LONG, ERNEST H. J. ("JIMMY")**, Fusilier 6204972, 20<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment). Died 24.12.1942, aged 23. Son of Ernest and Henrietta Long, of Alresford. Buried in New Alresford (St. John the Baptist) Churchyard Extension, Plot G, Row 5, Grave 4. (UK, Army Roll of Honour, 1939-1945)

Died in Kings College Hospital from Pulmonary Embolism due to femoral phlebitis thrombosis following herniotomy operation. (Death certificate)

In January 1943 the 20th Battalion embarked in the SS Mooltan to Bombay, and after jungle training joined the fighting in Burma from November that year.

([http://rrflondon.2day.ws/siteFiles/files/RRFLondon\\_RFLocationofBattalions\\_1246371704.pdf](http://rrflondon.2day.ws/siteFiles/files/RRFLondon_RFLocationofBattalions_1246371704.pdf))



*Photo courtesy Gill Long*

**MARTIN, GEORGE**, Private, 5502699, 2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Died 31.12.1940, aged 22. Son of Thomas Henry and Elizabeth Ann Martin, of Alresford. Buried in New Alresford (St. John the Baptist) Churchyard Extension, Plot H, Row 7, Grave 1. (UK, Army Roll of Honour, 1939-1945) (In Tichborne war memorial bible)

Lived at Vernal Cottage off New Farm Road. (Peter Mercer)

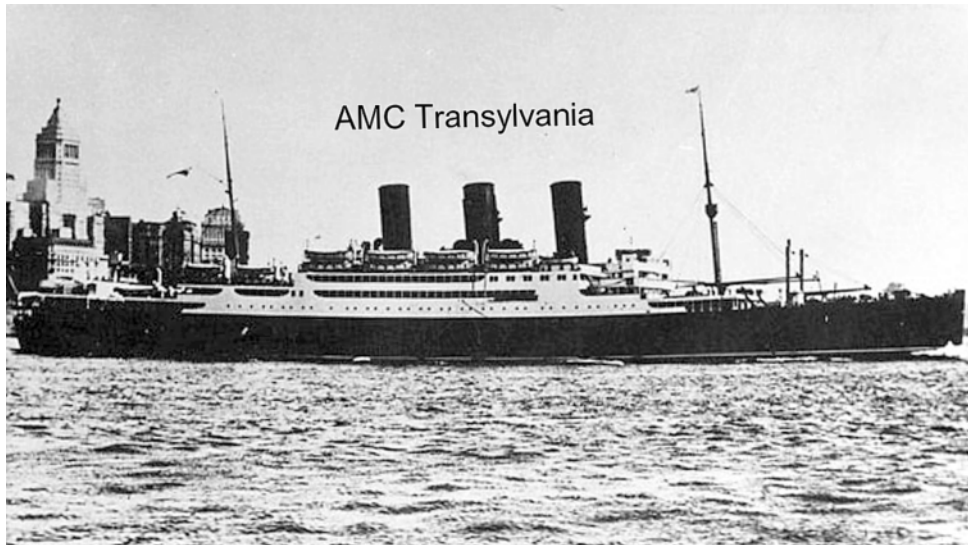
Died beside an army pillbox at Foreness Point, Margate, Kent, accidentally shot by a round from a Lewis Gun which was being cleaned. (Death Certificate)



Foreness Point 1930's

**NORGATE, FRED**, Chief Petty Officer, P/239946, RN. AMC Transylvania. Died 10.08.1940, aged 50. Buried in Kilchattan Old Churchyard, Colonsay & Olonsay, Scotland. (CWGC)

*Hampshire Chronicle* 24.08.1940 "Reported missing – News has been received from the Admiralty that Chief Petty Officer Fred Norgate has been reported missing from the armed merchant cruiser Transylvania. Mr Norgate had 22 years' service to his credit, and for ten years had been in the employ of Barclay's Bank. He leaves a wife and two children in Cheriton Road.



In August 1939 the passenger ship Transylvania of the Anchor Line (Henderson Bros) Ltd, Glasgow was requisitioned by the Admiralty and converted to an armed merchant cruiser. Conversion was completed on 5 October 1939.

Displacement: 16,923 BRT Armament: 8x152mm, 2x76mm. Speed: 15.5 knots.

Career: October 39 - August 40: Northern Patrol.

Notable events involving Transylvania include:

21<sup>st</sup> Oct, 1939

The German merchant Poseidon (5864 GRT) is intercepted in the Denmark Strait by the British armed merchant cruisers HMS Transylvania (Capt. F.N. Miles, OBE, RN) and HMS Scotstoun (Capt. S.K. Smyth, RN). However before she can be captured the German crew attempted to scuttle their ship but this failed. The damaged ship was taken in tow but sinks in bad weather on the 26th.

23rd Oct, 1939

The German merchant Bianca (1375 GRT) is intercepted and captured in the Denmark Strait in position 67°29'N, 22°15'W by the British armed merchant cruiser HMS Transylvania

21<sup>st</sup> Nov, 1939

The German merchant Tenerife (4996 GRT) is intercepted off the south coast of Iceland in position 62°55'N, 20°00'W by the British armed merchant cruiser HMS Transylvania. However before the German ship can be captured she is scuttled by her own crew.

28th Mar, 1940

HMS Transylvania intercepts the German merchant Mimi Horn (4007 GRT) in the Denmark Strait. However before the German ship can be captured she is scuttled by her own crew.

At 01:00 hours on 10 August 1940, HMS Transylvania (Capt. *Francis Nigel* Miles, OBE, (retired), RN) was hit aft of the stack by one G7e torpedo from U-56 (Harms) about 40 nautical miles northwest of Malin Head, Donegal in position 55°50'N, 08°03'W. The ship of the 10th Cruiser Squadron on Northern Patrol had been spotted by the U-boat only 15 minutes before and the Germans had to leave her behind because they had no torpedoes left. The disabled vessel was taken in tow but later foundered, while nearby trawlers rescued about 300 officers and ratings. (www.uboot.net)

**PAGE, WILLIAM ALFRED**, Private 5501285, 5<sup>th</sup> Cinque Ports Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment. Died 27.05.1940, aged 21. Son of Frederick Charles and Agnes Page, of Kingsley Bungalows, Alresford, Hampshire. Buried in Bertanacre Military Cemetery, Fletre, Nord, France, 2.F.3. (UK, Army Roll of Honour, 1939-1945).

The 5th (Cinque Ports) Battalion, The Royal Sussex Regiment (Territorial Army) was mobilised in Sep 1939 and assigned to the 133rd (Royal Sussex) Brigade, with the 1st and 4th Battalions. The brigade was deployed to France with the British Expeditionary Force, fighting in the St Omer–La Bassée area during the Battle of France (23–29 May) and was then evacuated from Dunkirk on 30 May 1940, having suffered some 350 casualties.

(<http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/WORLDWAR2/2000-06/0960321051> & [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/133rd\\_Infantry\\_Brigade\\_\(United\\_Kingdom\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/133rd_Infantry_Brigade_(United_Kingdom)))

**PARIS, WILFRED NORMAN**, Sergeant S/93360, Royal Army Service Corps. Died 21.06.1944. Husband of Doris Ethel Paris, of Heathfield, Sussex. Buried in Cassino War Cemetery, Cassino, Provincia di Frosinone, Lazio, Italy, II.F.21. (UK, Army Roll of Honour, 1939-1945)

Born in Alresford in 1917. (Birth Index March Quarter 1917)

Married Doris Ethel Henley in Wharfedale, Yorkshire in 1941. (Marriage Index Dec. 1941)

By 21.06.1944 the battle of Monte Cassino was over, Rome had been captured, but the Germans were conducting a fighting retreat in the Lake Trasimene area.

**ROWLEY, DAVID WILLIAM**, Private 14598071, Royal Pioneer Corps. Died 16.04.1947, aged 24. Son of William Robert and Norah Kathleen Rowley; husband of Phoebe Kathleen Florence Rowley, of New Alresford. Buried in New Alresford (St. John the Baptist) Churchyard, H.7.9. (UK, Army Roll of Honour, 1939-1945)

Died in Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot of Bulbar Paralysis and Ascending Myelitis. (Death Certificate)

**SAWYER, VICTOR ALBERT**, Gunner 14305626, 112 (7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Durham Light Infantry) Lt. A.A. Regiment, Royal Artillery. Died 31.07.1944, aged 20. Son of Harry and Elsie Sawyer, of Alresford, Hampshire. Buried in Bayeux War Cemetery III.C.7 (CWGC)

Before the war was a gardener on the Arlebury Estate. (Peter Mercer)

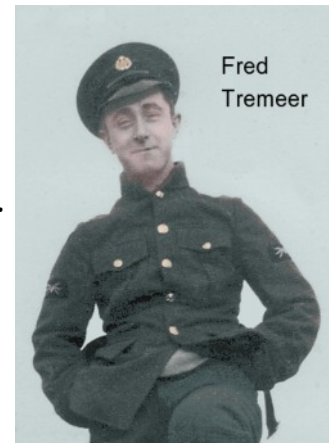
“... dearly loved and adopted son of the late Mr H. Sawyer RSM of the Rifle Brigade, and Mrs Sawyer, 8, Spring Gardens, Alresford, and brother of W.H.F. Sawyer, of the Royal Marines...” (*Hampshire Chronicle*)

**Two Brothers**, sons of Charles Edwin Foster and Ada (née Smith) Tremeer. Charles was a baker at Ellingham, West Street, and served in the Home Guard. Younger brother Alan Tremeer has been very helpful with family photos and information.



**TREMEER, FREDERICK JETHRO, ("FRED"),** Sergeant Pilot 510762, 142 Sqn. RAF.

Died 04.08.1940, aged 29. Buried in New Alresford (St. John the Baptist) Churchyard Extension, Plot H, Row 5, Grave 1. (CWGC)



*Hampshire Chronicle* 17.08.1940: The late Sergeant – Pilot F.J.Tremeer – Much sympathy has been expressed for Mr & Mrs C. Tremeer of the Dene, Alresford, in the loss of their son, Fred J. Tremeer, who was killed on active service at the age of 29, and more particularly so as another of their sons is also missing. Sergeant-pilot Tremeer was one of a family of eight brothers, who were serving or have served with his Majesty's Forces the youngest, though not of military age, being a member of the Home Guard. He had been a member of the Royal Air Force for about eleven years, and a Sergeant-pilot for five years. During his period of service he accompanied his unit to Palestine, Egypt and France."

Born on 7th January 1911 in St Pancras, London, Fred enlisted for twelve years on 9th July 1929, giving his civilian occupation as footman to Miss E.K. Golasmid of 25, Portland Square, London. He was 5' 2½" tall, with dark brown hair, hazel eyes and a fresh complexion. He trained as a Wireless Operator, and was posted to Egypt in 1932. Pilot training and promotion to Sergeant followed in 1935 at 4 FTS, Abu Sueir, Egypt. Posting to 14 Squadron followed. Fred returned to the UK in January 1937, serving with training units in the North East. He re-



engaged for twenty four years in February 1939. Conversion to the Fairey Battle was at 12 OTU in April 1940, then posting to 98 and 142 Squadrons in France. Throughout he was recorded as being of 'very good' character. (Personal RAF file)

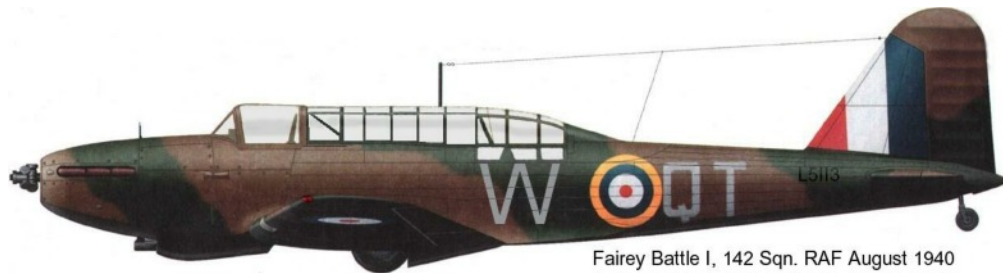
(Photos via Alan Tremeer)

142 Squadron were flying Fairey Battle light bombers, which suffered enormous

losses with the Advanced Air Striking Force in the Battle of France. The squadron was withdrawn to England in June 1940... ([www.raf.mod.uk/history\\_old/h142.html](http://www.raf.mod.uk/history_old/h142.html))

On 04.08.1940, at about 20:00 hrs. Sgt. Tremeer, with Sgts. P.P.Duffy & H.E.Masters as crew, was engaged in a night-flying exercise in Battle L5113 QT-W when the aircraft was seen to dive into the ground at Middleton Stoney near Bicester, engine running, from about 2,000ft. All the crew were killed. The cause was never established. (Flying Accident Card AM1180/265)





**TREMEER, WILLIAM JAMES (“JIM”)**, Leading Airman FX/77400, 800 Sqn., RN, HMS Ark Royal. Died 13.06.1940 aged 25. Commemorated on Lee-on-Solent Memorial, Bay 1, Panel 4, (CWGC) and on the grave of his brother Fred (see above).

Born 5th March 1915 in St Pancras, London. His personal Service File reveals that he enlisted for seven years as an Ordinary Telegrapher on 13th February 1933, his civilian occupation being an under footman. He was 5' 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ " on initial enlistment, but had grown to 5' 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " when re-enlisting for twelve years five years later. W/T exam was passed in 1937, followed by qualification as an air gunner in 1938. Promotion to Leading Airman was in August 1939, aboard HMS Ark Royal. Throughout his service he was recorded as being of 'very good' character.



*Hampshire Chronicle* 22.06.1940:

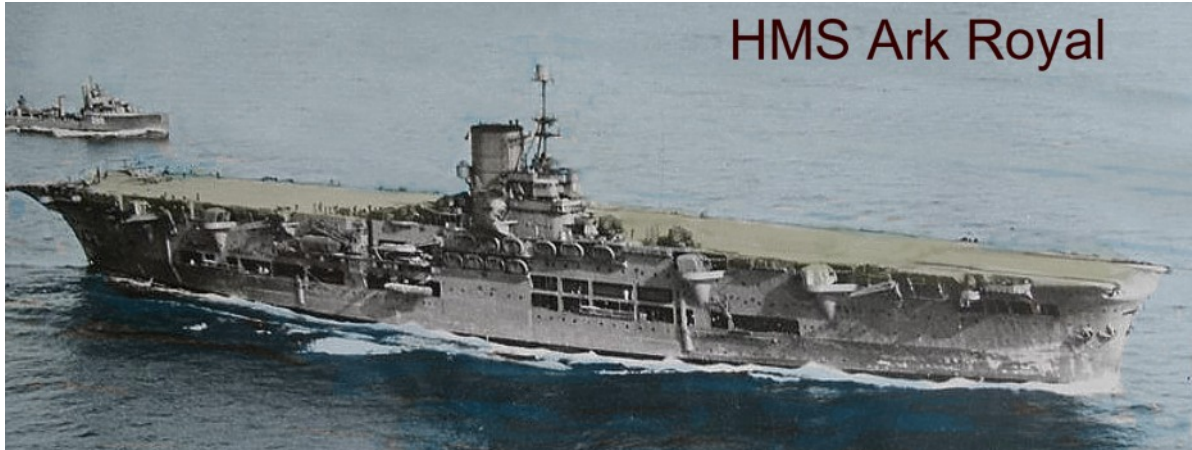
“Missing – news has been received this week that Acting Leading-Seaman William James Tremeer has been reported missing on war service. He was the fifth son of Mr and Mrs E. Tremeer, the Dean, who have six sons serving in the forces. He was very popular in the town, and took great interest in the Football Club, and hopes are expressed that better news may be heard of him.”

Jim was the rear gunner of a Blackburn Skua L3047 of 800 Sqn. FAA on HMS Ark Royal.



(Illustration © Mushroom publications, reproduced with their kind permission)

Pilot Derek Martin remembers coming under attack from Messerschmitts; while manoeuvring hard he heard “Hold on a minute” from Jim Tremeer, followed immediately by numerous cannon and machine gun strikes. No more was heard from Jim, and the Skua’s controls had been shot away; Derek had no option but to bail out. The Norwegians believe that they may have found the wreck of L3047, and might possibly raise it one day. (Interview with Derek Martin 2012)



#### **NORWEGIAN CAMPAIGN: (Mark Horan):**

The presence of the damaged battlecruiser *Scharnhorst* in Trondheim harbour was a tempting target and it attracted the attention of the RAF. On the 11th of June a force of twelve Hudson bombers attacked at medium altitude, but not a single hit was achieved. It must have seemed that a repeat of the sinking of the *Konigsberg* by Skuas was possible. However there were important differences, the *Konigsberg* had been a light cruiser whose armour could be easily penetrated by the 500 lb. bomb carried by Skuas, whereas the much more heavily armoured battlecruiser *Scharnhorst* would have hardly been touched by such bombs. The *Konigsberg* had been attacked in the first days of the Norwegian campaign before the Germans could put fighter and Flak defences in place. Lastly Bergen, where the *Konigsberg* was sunk is fairly near the open sea allowing little time for observers on the coast to spot incoming aircraft (even here the Germans had had 15 minutes warning) while Trondheim, where the *Scharnhorst* was anchored, is a long distance from the open sea, being reached by a long fiord, giving ample warning of the approach of aircraft. Trondheim was too far North to be reached by Skuas flying from land bases so such a strike would have to be flown off the *Ark Royal*.

A plan was devised to attack the *Scharnhorst*. Fifteen Skuas would be launched from *Ark Royal* in the middle of the night (although it would still be light, Trondheim being close to the Arctic Circle). An attack by RAF Beauforts on the main German aerodrome at Vaernes was planned to disrupt any German fighter response and support was to be given by long range Blenheim fighters.

The *Ark Royal* and escorts arrived off the coast of Norway but the strike had to be postponed due to bad weather, the *Ark* was spotted by German reconnaissance but the

weather prevented the Germans taking any action against her, but the defences of Trondheim were put on alert. The raid was launched on the night of 12th/13th of June. Six Skuas from 800 squadron and nine from 803 Squadron flew off the carrier at around midnight. They crossed the coast at 01:23 hrs., still 20 minutes from their target. The RAF attack on Vaernes had the opposite effect to that intended, swarms of Luftwaffe aircraft took off in response to it and were in exactly the right position to attack the incoming Skuas. The Skuas split into two formations and 800 squadron attacked the *Scharnhorst* stern to bow while 803 squadron ran in from the other direction, bow to stern. Two hits were claimed, but German records admit to only one, and that did not explode. The Skuas crews fought for their lives through the flak from the *Scharnhorst* and the other German naval vessels in harbour, and from the Messerschmitt 109 and 110 fighters that swarmed around them. Eight of the Fifteen Skuas were shot down, including the commanders of both 800 and 803 squadron (Lt Cdr Casson and Capt R.T. Partridge). The survivors only got away by flying low in the early morning mist, claiming a single Messerschmitt 110 damaged. The RAF Blenheims turned up only after the attack was over.

#### "Black" Thursday - The attack on Trondheim:

At precisely 0002, but still in bright daylight at position 64.58N, 04.38E, the first Skua of 803 rolled down the flight deck and lumbered into the air. Rapidly forming into their sections, they orbited the carrier briefly looking for the promised Blenheim escort (six aircraft), then took their departure towards Trondheim, climbing slowly but steadily towards 11,000 feet. The Force was still in sight when the expected fighters, somewhat amazingly, arrived over Ark Royal. The Blenheim crews sighted the departing aircraft but, unfamiliar with carrier operations, were unsure if, in fact, those were the aircraft they were supposed to escort. Unable to converse by radio with the Fleet Air Arm aircraft Ark she carried (different radios and frequencies you know), they finally set out for Trondheim on their own, well behind the strike planes, for all intents out of the battle.

Meanwhile, the seven Beauforts of 22 Squadron's diversionary bombing force intending to hit Vaernes airfield at the same time the Skuas attacked, at 02:00, ran into the same rough weather Ark had been fighting hours earlier, which broke up the formation and caused three to abort. The remaining four hit the airfield at 01:50, strung up a hornet's nest of angry enemy fighters that were unable to catch the fleet Beauforts, but were now circling over the field wondering what might be up. This was, of course, exactly the opposite of the intended goal of the Coastal Command effort, and would have tragic consequences for the lumbering Skuas, now only minutes away.

At 01:23 the striking force made landfall at the North of Halten light at 11,000 feet. Continuing inland for 10 minutes, the force then turned South, circling around to attack from the Southeast. As they approached they descended to 10,000 feet, then the two formations strung out into line ahead formation and began the high-speed run into the target area. Flak was intense throughout, but the real problems were the Luftwaffe fighters which hastened over from the Vaernes area and hit them several miles from the push over point. Several of the Skuas never reached the push over point. Those that did so in a rush, pursued by Bf-109s, Bf-110s, Ju88 C-2s and angry flak bursts. On pull out, the scattered Skuas had a hard choice to make. Stay low and hope to remain hidden in the backdrop of the Norwegian landscape, but without any altitude to fight or, if worst came to worst, to jump, or to climb for altitude, giving themselves some fighting altitude, and hope to join up with the others.

With only a single exception, those that chose the later option did not return. Highlighted against the light sky, the Luftwaffe fighters picked them off one at a time. In the end, only seven of the Skuas, five from 803 and two from 800 made it back to the ship. While the strike group was out, the ship flew two further fighter patrols. With the eight missing Skuas were sixteen experienced aviators:

803 Squadron losses: [1 KiA, 1 DoW, 6 PoW]

7A: L???? Lieutenant-Commander John Casson, RN, Lieutenant Peter Evelyn Fanshawe, RN [PoWs]

7F: L2963 Lieutenant Cecil Howard Filmer MiD, RN, Midshipman (A) Thomas Anthony McKee DSC, RN [PoWs]

7L: L2992 Sub-Lieutenant (A) John Anthony Harris, RNVN [KiA], Naval Airman first class Stuart Rex Douglas Stevenson, RN [DoW as PoW]

7Q: L2955 Acting Sub-Lieutenant Richard Edward Bartlett, RN, Naval Airman L. G. Richards, RN [PoWs]

800 Squadron losses: [4 KiA, 4 PoW]

6A: L2995 Acting Major Richard Thomas Partridge DSO, MiD, RM [PoW], Lieutenant (A) Robert Southey Bostock MiD, RN [KiA]

6F: L3000 Lieutenant George Edward Desmond Finch-Noyes, RN, Petty Officer Airman Howard Gresley Cunningham DSM, MiD, RN [PoWs]

6G: L3028 Midshipman (A) Leonard Henry Gallagher, RN, Petty Officer Airman Wallace Crawford, RN [KiAs]

6H: L3047 Midshipman (A) Derek Thomas Revington Martin, RN [PoW], **Leading Airman William James Tremeer, RN [KiA]**. Ditched into the sea at Stadsbygd.

One of the surviving Skua pilots was 24 year old Donald Gibson, much later to become Vice-Admiral Sir Donald Gibson. In his memoirs Gibson compared the attack on the *Scharnhorst* to the Charge of the Light Brigade and said "In future all admirals should ideally be shot at in an aeroplane while they are still young."

The effect on the ship, particularly the Air Staff that had planned the mission, was staggering, the more so as all recalled Casson's prediction to the Admiral. While ten of those lost on the mission ultimately survived as prisoners of war, the total losses amounted to an entire squadron, effectively reducing the Fleet Air Arm's two premiere squadrons to cadre status pending future reorganization.

Throughout the morning the ship maintained an active fighter patrol with the stay-at-homes until the ship re-entered the weather front, at which point she elected to just keep *Swordfish* up ahead of the force to prevent another [HMS] *Glorious* disaster. On exiting the front, an extensive search was flown at 19:30 clearing the forward 140 degree arc to 110 miles.

Thereafter, until the ship entered Scapa at 16:00 on the 14th, air operations were limited to Air Defence Area patrols.

Operation "Alphabet", and the subsequent attack on Trondheim, had seen *Ark Royal*'s five squadrons (including the visiting 701 Squadron Walrus amphibians) fly 375 sorties, including 193 by the two Skua Squadrons. While actual combats had been limited, the group had executed its prime mission, covering the withdrawing troop transports, flawlessly. The ship would have little time to dwell on the losses of the 13th however. Three days prior, the Italians had declared war on the Allies (soon to be just Britain). Within three days HMS *Ark Royal*, her squadrons refreshed, would leave Scapa Flow for the far away Mediterranean and a very different war. (<http://homepage.ntlworld.com/andrew.etherington/1940/04/10.htm>.)



**TUBB, CECIL**, Gunner 6394452, 12 Coast Regiment, Royal Artillery. Died 22.03.1943, aged 37. Son of John William and Kate Tubb, of Alresford, Hampshire. Buried in Yokohama War Cemetery, Japan, Brit. Sec. M.C.3. Memorial St. John's Graveyard, New Alresford, F.III.o. (UK, Army Roll of Honour, 1939-1945)

Part of a large family living in Riverside Cottages, The Dean, Alresford. They had stables and worked with horses. (Peter Mercer)

Born in Winchester, in the 1911 census he has a younger sister and two younger brothers; his father recorded as a horse dealer.

In 1941 24 Coast battery, 12 Coast Regiment were operating the Mount Davis gun position at the western end of Hong Kong, covering Victoria Harbour with three 9.2" long range guns. During the Japanese attack their shooting was "very effective". From 13.12.41 they came under heavy shelling, including being hit by many dud rounds marked "Woolwich Arsenal 1908"! By 18.12.41 the fort was out of action, the survivors being dispersed to the remaining defence forces. Surrender followed on Christmas Day 1941. ("The Battle for Hong Kong 1941-1945 Hostage to Fortune", Lindsay, O.) After capture and Hong Kong prison camp (Shamshuipo) Cecil Tubb survived the sinking on 01.10.42 of the transport ship *Lisbon Maru* and was held in Kobe Camp (Osaka #2 Branch Camp). The POWs were used by Nippon Express Company, Kobe Ship Transport Company, and so on, and they were engaged in loading and unloading works at Kobe Harbor or railway stations in Kobe City. Some other POWs went to work by train at Toyo Steel Company, Showa Denkyoku Company and Yoshiwara Vegetable Oil Company in the suburbs of Kobe City. 488 POWs (360 British, 73 Australian, 26 American, 17 Dutch and 12 others) were imprisoned at the end of the war. 134 men died while in imprisonment; Cecil's death was due to acute pneumonia. ([www.hongkongwardiary.com](http://www.hongkongwardiary.com))

Tony Banham's book *THE SINKING OF THE LISBON MARU: BRITAIN'S FORGOTTEN WARTIME TRAGEDY* is not just about the actual sinking of the *Lisbon Maru* -- it tells the story of all those involved: the POWs, the Americans who fired the torpedoes and the Japanese. This story is told on a personal level using the first-hand reports of those who were there as well as using the available records. The details cover the lead-up to the ship sailing from Hong Kong right through to the end of the war and what happened to the survivors.



The story is about the men who were captured at the fall of Hong Kong and who then had to endure the horrors of the *Lisbon Maru*. Their ordeal did not end with the sinking: those who survived suffered further hardships and trauma at the hands of the Japanese. For those who made it home there was sometimes the horror of the memories to live with, which made life almost unmanageable for some.

The submariners aboard the *USS Grouper*, the submarine involved, are also covered. They were keen to avenge the attack on Pearl Harbour and finding an armed ship that appeared to be a troop carrier seemed to be a God-sent opportunity. Imagine their horror when they heard that it was carrying

POWs. However, the survivors never blamed the Americans and after the war there was some contact and enduring friendships were forged. There is less detail about the Japanese apart from the recounting of their atrocities. An Appendix covers the trial of the ship's captain, and a story about a post-war encounter that showed that at least one of the Japanese showed some remorse for his actions.



The main impact of the book is the inhumane treatment meted out by the Japanese. This had started in Hong Kong where the POWs were herded into Sham Shui Po camp. Conditions there were terrible with most men suffering from some form of nutritional deficiency. When the time came they were happy enough to leave the camp on the basis that something different was likely to be better.

Banham, in parallel, traces the track of the American submarine, the *USS Grouper*, and its crew. The first chapters relate how the two groups, unaware of each other's existence fatefully came together in the sea off Shanghai on 1 October 1942. Although a total of six torpedoes were fired only one did any damage, the others missed or failed to detonate. The one that did hit, did so near the rudder and holed the hull, but the ship stayed afloat for more than 24 hours. During that time all the Japanese on board, troops and crew, were safely taken off but the POWs were locked in the holds with no food, water or fresh air. It is clear that the Japanese intended that they should all go down with the ship; indeed one is reported as saying as much.

There was much loss of life amongst the POWs on board, but as Tony Banham relates there was a break out from the holds and many escaped into the sea. Even there the Japanese tried to shoot them until it was clear that some would survive to tell the tale. These had either managed to make it to nearby islands or had been picked up by Chinese fishermen. However, by the time the Japanese started to pick up survivors about half the 1834 POWs on board had died. They then rounded up the rest of the survivors, although three men managed to avoid capture and eventually made it back to tell the true story of what happened. Virtually all of this loss could have been avoided had the Japanese acted in a proper humane way and taken the men off at the same time they transhipped their own troops. A tragedy it certainly was, but not one that could be blamed on the Americans.

Those lucky enough to have survived then had to endure the all too familiar horrors of a Japanese work camp. Working on the docks at Kobe they had some opportunities for pilfering extra food and that helped some survive. Nevertheless there were many who succumbed to disease and maltreatment. The Japanese surrender stemmed the suffering although even then some didn't make it home, and for those who did there was still the ordeal of settling into a world they hadn't known for over four years. The miracle is that some pulled through and went on to lead full and happy lives.

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



**UPTON, JOHN EVERARD, ("JACK")** Captain 47648, 2 Searchlight Regiment, Royal Artillery. Died 16.05.1940. Born in India about 1910, second son of the late Sir Thomas Everard Tichborne Upton, and of Lady Upton, of Black & White Cottage, Fordcombe, Kent, & late of Langton House, Alresford, Hampshire. Buried in Terafene Churchyard, Affligem, Vlaams-Brabant, Belgium, NW corner. ( UK, Army Roll of Honour, 1939-1945 & *Hampshire Chronicle*).

John's father was Solicitor to the Government of India, sportsman (founder of the Himalayan Club) and renowned traveller (<http://www.himalayanclub.org/journal/in-memori-22/>).

Terafene is near Brussels, and Jack was killed in the retreat to Dunkirk.

**WALFORD, HUGH CARR,** Lieutenant Colonel, 17<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> Lancers, Royal Armoured Corps. Died 08.08.1941, aged 39. Son of Herbert Nevill Walford and Sybil Marie Walford of Arlebury Park; husband of Mary Olivia Walford, of Rathmolyon, Co. Meath, Irish Republic. Buried in Barby (St. Mary) Churchyard, Northamptonshire. (UK, Army Roll of Honour, 1939- 1945)

Born in Paddington, London, his father a solicitor. (1911 Census)

"It was in an exercise with an Army Co-operation Squadron, that the Commanding Officer, HC Walford, was killed, when the aeroplane in which he was being flown, hit a tree and crashed. He was succeeded by Hull." (*The 17th/21st Lancers* by R. L. V. French Blake)



8-8-1941  
No.241 Sqn. Lysander III T1742  
Hit tree during low flying exercise near  
Thetford, Norfolk.



"G. T. H writes:—

Lieutenant-Colonel H.C.Walford (" Chicken ") joined the 17th/21st Lancers in 1922. He spent the whole of his service with the regiment of which he had just been given command. It is difficult to imagine a more cheerful person and it was impossible to be depressed for long when in his company. Whether he was doing a job of work, playing in an important polo match, or taking part in some minor game, he did it with all his heart. He had a great sense of humour, and his well-known laugh will be missed by many, especially by his brother officers. He was a loyal and true friend who took a delight in helping others. His death leaves a gap in the regiment and our lives which will be very hard to fill." (*The Times*, Aug 14, 1941; pg. 7; Issue 49004; col. D)

**WALLIKER, REGINALD FREDERICK**, Pilot Officer 56210 RAF, 230 Sqn., RAF. Died 28.11.1944, aged 28. Son of Mrs J.E.Walliker, and stepson of F.McMahon; husband of Dorothy Lily Walliker, of Ryde, Isle of Wight. Commemorated on Singapore Memorial, Col. 433. (CWGC)

230 Sqn. was flying Short Sunderland III flying boats from Koggala Lake, Ceylon.

“...reported missing from air operations in November. He had only been commissioned a few days before that date, and in a letter to his mother his commanding officer said that he had built up a first-class reputation as a flight engineer and was very popular with men and officers alike. P.O. Walliker took part in the rescue of passengers from the lifeboats of a wrecked ship in the Bay of Bengal, an incident well reported in the national press...”

(*Hampshire Chronicle* 06.01.1945)

The famous Sunderland JM673 “Black Peter” was unique in the RAF in being painted black for covert operations. On 28.11.1944 the aircraft was observed on radar to be flying into a tropical storm; there was no response to radio messages and the aircraft disappeared. (*Sunderland at War*, Chaz Bowyer, Ian Allen, ISBN-10: 0711006652)



**WALTER, JOHN CHARLES WILLIAM, D.F.C.**, Flying Officer 112394 RAFVR, 6 Sqn. RAF. Died 07.04.1943 aged 27. Buried in Beja War Cemetery, Tunisia, 2.R.8. Son of Major William Fredrick Walter & Kate Agnes Walter, husband of Ruby Irene Walter (née Denning) of Alresford. (CWGC)  
B.A. District Officer, Northern Rhodesia. Not on war memorial.

6 Squadron was the only unit in North Africa equipped with the Hawker Hurricane IIc. The aircraft was armed with two 0.303 machine guns and two mighty 40mm Vickers Type S anti-tank cannons; the squadron had great success, gaining the nickname “The Flying Can-openers”. The unit had moved to Gabes airfield on 03.04.1943 for the final phase of the Tunisian campaign. In attacking armoured forces near Wadi Akarit three aircraft were lost on 06.04.1943. 07.04.1943: “At 18:20 11 Hurricane IIc took off to attack tanks near Cekhira, but 6 of the 6s aircraft were shot down by intense light flak; F/O BL Thornton & F/S R Veal both returned, as did P/O JM Freeland, but F/O AHM Clark & F/S EV Hastings were killed and F/O JCW Walter was reported missing.” (From “*Fighters over Tunisia*, Shores, Christopher, Hans Ring, and William N. Hess London: Spearman, 1975” p.297) The aircraft was vulnerable during the required long, flat approach to the target. After a few more attacks the squadron was withdrawn for re-equipment.



**WILD, JOSEPH CRESSWELL**, Sgt. (Obs.) 751369 RAFVR, 217 Sqn. RAF. Died 26.12.1940, aged 29. Son of Barton and Laura Wild; husband of Violet Emily Wild, of Alresford, Hampshire. Father of Brett and Barton Wild, the “Wild Brothers” builders of Alresford. Buried Pornic War Cemetery, Loire-Atlantique, France, Joint grave 2.H.9. (CWGC)

Joseph Wild had swapped duties with another airman as a Christmas favour and was killed when his aircraft was shot down.

217 Sqn. RAF were flying Bristol Beaufort I anti-shipping aircraft from St. Eval, Cornwall. Their aircraft was L9860 coded MW-F (RAF Coastal Command Losses of the Second World War, vol. 1, McNeill, R., Midland Publishing, Hinkley, 2003, ISBN 1 85780 128 8)



**Bristol Beaufort, L9860, 217 Sqn.**

The crew of L9860, 217 Squadron, from the St Eval Book of Remembrance:-

26 Dec 40	Fg Off	Tilson	John S D	42030	Age 26
26 Dec 40	Sgt	Bradshaw	Robert A	905929	
26 Dec 40	Sgt	Miflin	William B	550750	Age 21
26 Dec 40	Sgt	Wild	Joseph C	751369	Age 29

**WISE, NORMAN WALTER**, Captain 205907, General List. Died 12.11.1942, aged 48. Son of Walter William and Edith Wise; husband of Winifred Julia Wise, of Swanmore, Hampshire. Buried in New Alresford (St John the Baptist) Churchyard Extension, plot G, row 4, grave 11. (UK, Army Roll of Honour, 1939-1945)

Born in Sutton, Surrey, the son of a Bank of England official. (1911 Census)  
Died in Emergency Hospital, Winchester of a Cerebral Embolism. A Captain in the Home Guard, he was a Poultry Farmer of Hampton Farm, Swanmore. (Death Certificate)





Before leaving New Alresford, mention must be made of another, unusual memorial, found by the riverside path a little to the east of the bottom of the Dean. This is the grave of **Hambone Junior**, ‘faithful friend’ of the 47<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 9<sup>th</sup> Division, US Army. The regiment was based in and around Alresford from November 1943 to train for the invasion of France, their headquarters being at 50, Broad Street. The Divisional Headquarters were at Northington Grange.

Local resident Mavis Shefferd remembered Hambone Junior as a scruffy little terrier that had especially befriended a large cook nicknamed ‘Hambone’ and become a mascot of the troops. Alas, just before D-Day one of the army trucks ran Hambone Junior over and killed him. Les Harness, who had a small holding at Northington and was a regular visitor to the various U.S. camps collecting pig swill, knew that Hambone Junior was greatly missed and that the men were very upset. He gave them another dog "Spider", who soon also became a great favourite and went everywhere with the 47<sup>th</sup>. Once the troops left, ‘Spider’ was never seen again and it is thought he may well have accompanied them all the way to France.

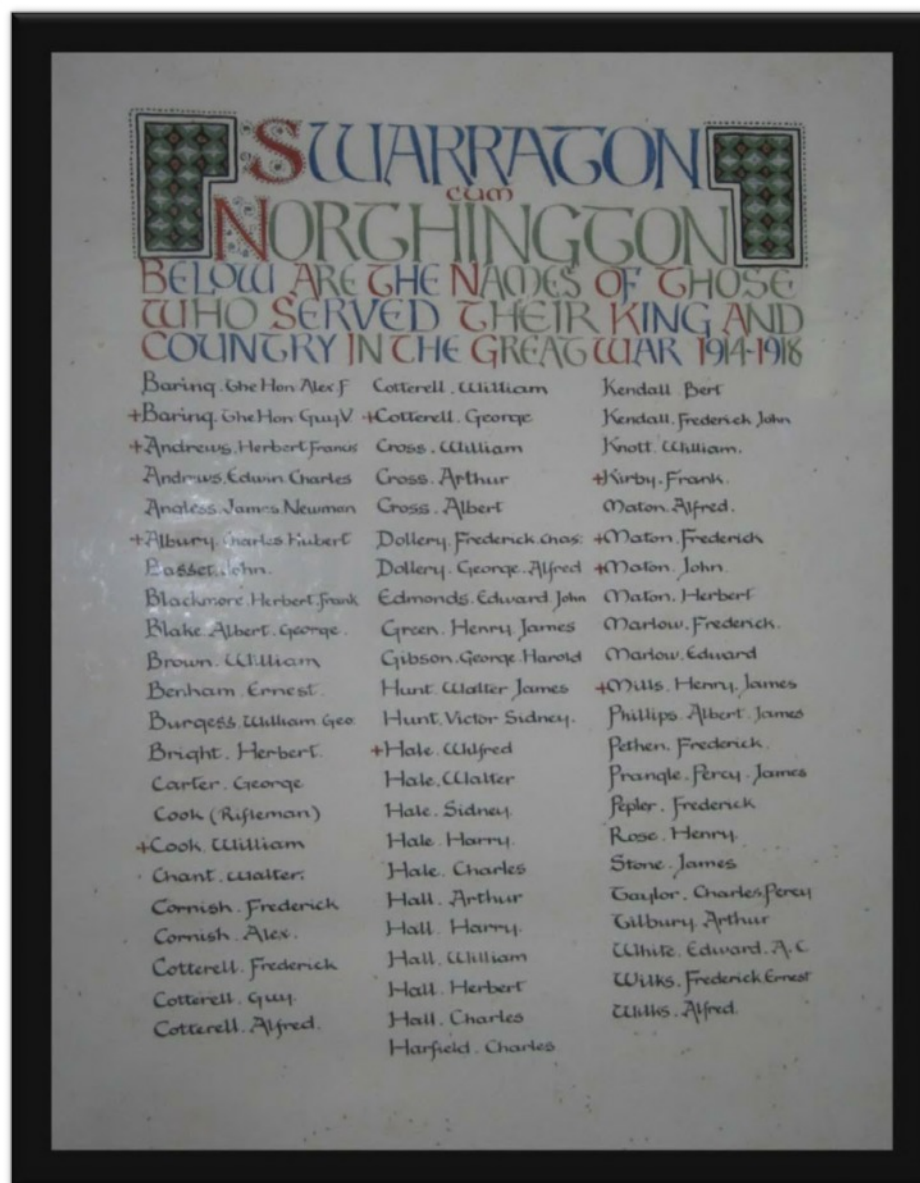
(*Alresford Displayed* 13, article 53)

To this day someone leaves flowers on Hambone Junior’s grave on June 6<sup>th</sup> and November 11<sup>th</sup>.

A bench in St John’s churchyard bears this plaque:



# NORTHINGTON



Population in 1911: 351; 11 casualties.

# WORLD WAR 1

**ALBURY, CHARLES HUBERT**, Private 5/455, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Rifle Brigade. Died 14.07.1915, aged 18. Son of T.Albury, of Upper Unstead Farm, Shalford, Guildford, Surrey. Buried in Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France, II.B.20A. (CWGC)  
Enlisted in Alresford. Previously 6/1347, Kings Royal Rifle Corps. Died of Wounds. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*).  
Service record not available.

On 14<sup>th</sup> July 1915 the Battalion was out of the line, but had taken part in a successful attack on German trenches East of Boesinghe (North of Ypres) on 6<sup>th</sup> July.

Both sides were suffering in trenches which were largely below the water table. The objective was 250 yards of enemy frontage, and 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Somerset Light Infantry joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Rifle Brigade in the attack. The men had rum and a good breakfast and dressed in marching order without packs, carrying two sandbags each.

Congratulations were received from 2<sup>nd</sup> Army and 6<sup>th</sup> Corps, as well as from General Wilson who said "he wished to thank the Battalion for their conduct in the strenuous fighting which had taken place recently. They had been shot out into the salient attached to another formation and not only General Bulfin but also even the Germans agreed about the fine conduct displayed ..." The cost was 4 officers and 33 other ranks killed, 5 officers and 178 wounded, 37 missing (Rifle Brigade), 1 officer and 27 other ranks killed, 3 officers and 100 other ranks wounded, 5 men missing (Somerset Light Infantry) (The Rifle Brigade Chronicle for 1918, Verner,W., London, John Bale, 1919).

"... some attack waves were cut down in No Man's Land suffering heavy losses. A few trenches were captured, and the shape of the front lines changed slightly - in most cases it moved both sets of trenches closer together, so that by the close of the battle some British soldiers were only tens of metres away from the enemy.

General Sir Herbert Plumer, who had been the overall commander during this engagement, later said that 'The attack will go down in history as one of the great battles of the campaign'. However, events elsewhere on the Western Front, and the fighting in Gallipoli, soon conspired to send the events of July 1915 into historical oblivion, remembered only by the veterans who survived the battle, and the families of those who fell."

([http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/familyhistory/get\\_started/boesinghe\\_01.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/familyhistory/get_started/boesinghe_01.shtml))

1911 census records Charles, born 1896 in Newton Valence, Hampshire, working as a farm labourer. He was living with parents Thomas (a cowman) and Emily and younger siblings Lucy and George in Park Cottages, Droxford, Hampshire.

Mother's maiden name Emily Ann Fullick.

(<http://trees.ancestry.co.uk/tree/13403763/person/871336205>)



**ANDREWS, HERBERT FRANCIS, M.M.,** (“Bert”) Lance Sergeant G/6188, “A” Company, 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Middlesex Regiment. Died 26.09.1916, aged 25. Son of Alice Maria Andrews, of 54, Totford Farm, Northington, Alresford, Hampshire, and the late Stephen Andrews. Commemorated on Thiepval Memorial, France. Pier & Face 12D & 13B. (CWGC) Killed in Action. Formerly 16071, 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry. (UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919) Service record not available.

“One of the first recruits, and at the outbreak of war was employed by Mr Walford. He had been at the front for fifteen months, and on July 14<sup>th</sup>, as a result of his gallant conduct and devotion to duty, he was awarded the Military Medal.”

(*Hampshire Chronicle* 14.10.1916) (H.H. Walford, J.P., resided at Arlebury, Alresford)

MILITARY MEDAL was awarded for the action in Trones Wood from 14-17th July 1916.

The 12th Btn War Diary records:

*"No 6189 Lance Corporal Herbert Francis Andrews - when his platoon commander and Sergeant became casualties assumed charge of his platoon and controlled it with determination and high example throughout the occupation of the wood which was a time of the highest stress - awarded Military Medal"*



1911 Census shows Herbert as born 1891 in Old Alresford, working as a farm labourer, and boarding at “Westbrook”, New England, Arlebury, Alresford.

#### BATTLE OF THIEPVAL RIDGE:

26th-28th September, 1916.

Thiepval—“ Bloody Thiepval,” as it was so often called in those days was the next battle in which the Middlesex Regiment was engaged the 12th, Colonel Frank Maxwell's Battalion, again covering itself with glory and adding still further to its laurels by winning two Victoria Crosses.

The 18th Division was to attack Thiepval from south to north with two brigades in line - 53rd on the right, 54th on the left. Of the latter Brigade, the 12th Middlesex were to be on the right and the 11th Royal Fusiliers on the left. The 11th Division was to be on the right of the 18th and 49th on the left. The Middlesex were to attack with “C” Company on the right, “B” Company on the left, D” Company in support and “A Company in reserve. The 18<sup>th</sup> Division had three objectives:

(I) the road running north-west and south-east through Thiepval

(ii) the trenches on the northern outskirts of Thiepval,  
 (iii) the Schwaben Redoubt and the trenches south-east and south-west of it.  
 Into all the intricate details of the Operation Orders it is impossible to go (they occupy 11 pages of the Battalion Diary), but, roughly, the task allotted to the 54th Brigade was the capture of the whole of the enemy's front-line system covering Thiepval from attack from the west. This system included an extraordinary number of dug-outs in the first and support lines, so constructed as to afford practically absolute protection from shell fire. Within the Brigade boundary, south of the second objective, there were 144 alone, not including those round the Château. This system also included several strong points and the Chateau Redoubt: the Schwaben Redoubt was the final objective. The Brigade had to advance 1,800 yards to its final objective on a front which continually varied from 300 to 450, then from 200 to 900 yards. Serious opposition was expected throughout the whole of the advance owing to the splendid cover at the enemy's disposal ...  
 Success was achieved, with the aid of a tank at a crucial moment. Losses ... were severe. Ten officers had been killed and six wounded of the 20 engaged, while another on Brigade duty and the Battalion Padre were also wounded. In other ranks 60 were reported killed, 233 wounded, and 121 missing. (*The Middlesex Regiment: Duke Of Cambridge's Own, the 57th and 77th Of Foot*, Blaxland, Gregory, Leo Cooper, 1977).

**BARING, The Hon. GUY VICTOR**, Lieutenant Colonel, Coldstream Guards. Died 15.09.1916, aged 43. Son of the late Alexander Hugh Baring, 4th Baron Ashburton and Lady Ashburton; husband of Olive A. Baring (née Smith), of Biddesden House, Andover, Hampshire. Member of Parliament for Winchester since 1906. Twice mentioned in despatches. Buried in Citadel New Military Cemetery, Fricourt, France, II.A.9. (CWGC)



*Charcoal by John Sargent, R.A.  
 Reproduced by kind permission of Mrs.C.Ward.*

### **Background**

Baring was a member of the Baring family of Barings Bank, a younger son of Alexander Baring, 4th Baron Ashburton (1835–1889) and his wife the Hon. Leonora Caroline Digby. He was educated at Eton College and Sandhurst, and joined the Coldstream Guards in 1893.

In 1899 Baring's unit was sent to fight in the South African War, and he was present at the battles of Belmont, Graspan, Modder River, Magersfontein, and Driefontein, as well as the occupation of Bloemfontein. During the fighting in South Africa he was mentioned in despatches, and received the Queen's South Africa Medal with three clasps.

### **Career**

Baring was the commander of a detachment of the Coldstream Guards in 1900 which went with the Australia and New Zealand Imperial Representative Corps to the inauguration of the Earl of Hopetoun as Governor-General of Australia. He was then attached to the King's African Rifles and was a special service officer with the Jubaland Expedition in 1901 against the Ogaden Somalis and was awarded a medal with clasp. He was elected as the Member of Parliament (Conservative) for Winchester in the 1906 general election, and was re-elected in the January and December 1910 elections with increased majorities.

Although he had formally left the Coldstream Guards in 1913, he rejoined immediately on the outbreak of war in 1914. He was posted to Windsor where he commanded a training company, until July 1915 when he was posted to France. He was second-in-command of the 4th (Pioneer) Battalion; after the Battle of Loos he commanded the first Battalion of the Coldstream Guards.

### **Death**

During the Battle of the Somme on the morning of 15 September 1916, Baring's Battalion was advancing along the Ginchy-Lesboeufs road to attack German positions, together with two others. It was the first time in history that three Coldstream Guard battalions attacked together, but despite advancing "as steadily as though they were walking down the Mall" the action took a heavy toll. 17 officers and 690 other ranks went into battle, but only three officers survived (one injured) and 221 other ranks. Baring was buried in The Citadel New Military Cemetery near Fricourt.

### **Family**

Baring married Olive Althea Smith in 1903, and they had six children, including the cricketer Giles Baring. Their great grandchildren include the actress Rachel Ward and the actress and environmentalist Tracy Worcester. ([www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guy\\_Baring](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guy_Baring))



*Bombardment of Fricourt via  
[www.keepmilitarymuseum.org.uk](http://www.keepmilitarymuseum.org.uk)*

**COOK, WILLIAM**, Rifleman Z/225, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Rifle Brigade. Died 08.08.1916, aged 19. Son of Mrs. Sarah Stevens, of New House, Northington, Alresford, Hampshire. Buried in Essex Farm Cemetery, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, III.B.47. (CWGC)

Born Preston Candover, Hampshire, enlisted Winchester. Killed in Action. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War*, 1914-1919)

Went to the Western Front 29.07.1915. (Medal Roll). Personal Army Record not available.

BRIELEN (NW of Ypres) 8<sup>th</sup> August 1916 "In the evening the Battalion moved up from the canal in front of Brielen to take over the trench from 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Somerset Light Infantry. The relief was hardly finished when the Germans started to discharge gas on the 4<sup>th</sup> Division front. The gas was unexpected as there was a fairly strong wind flowing. At the same time the Germans put up a heavy barrage lasting about three hours, mostly falling on the support lines and roads behind. All telephone communication was cut, including wires to the Artillery. ... The Battalion was largely composed of new drafts who had joined since 1<sup>st</sup> July. The morale of the men was very good in spite of heavy casualties. Communication was now established by orderlies from Headquarters, and the barrage put up by the Artillery and the survivors of the Battalion was very effective and prevented the Germans from making an attack. We heard afterwards from a prisoner that the Germans had brought up a fresh Brigade with a view to penetrate our lines. Had they succeeded in doing this the situation would have been very serious." Battalion casualties were 4 officers killed and 5 wounded, other ranks 200 casualties with a preponderance being killed. (*The Rifle Brigade Chronicle for 1918*, Verner, W., London, John Bale, 1919).



**COTTERELL, GEORGE**, Private 33139, 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Died 31.07.1917. Buried in New Irish Farm Cemetery, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, XIV.F.6. (CWGC) Enlisted Winchester, Residence Northington. Killed in Action. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War* 1914-1919) Personal Service Record not available.

"... youngest son of W, Cotterell, Northington, aged 24." (*Hampshire Chronicle* 25.08.1917) Born in Swarraton in 1893, son of Walter Pitt Cotterell (a Woodman) and his wife Elizabeth. In 1901 the family was living in Grange Park, Swarraton (Census). Walter Pitt Cotterell and Elizabeth Cole married in Alresford in 1878 and they had 12 children, of which George was the eleventh. (ancestry.co.uk, birth updated 2010 public member tree).

Pte. Cotterell was killed in the Third battle of Ypres, a casualty of the same attack as Privates Walter Barnes, Norman Bluett and Ernest Simpson of Ropley. See Appendix 3 (p.305) for an account of the Division's part in the action.

**HALE, WILFRED**, Stoker 1st Class K/18261 R.N., H.M.S. Glory. Died 25.10.1918, aged 21. Son of the late Mr and Mrs Thomas Hale. Buried in Murmansk British Cemetery, Sp. Mem. A. 2. (CWGC)

Born 6th. September 1894 in Petersfield, Hampshire. Enlisted 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1913 for 12 years. Occupation carter, height 5'6½", chest 36", Dark brown hair and eyes, fresh complexion and a scar on the back of his neck. Died of influenza. (Naval Personal Record)

The pre-dreadnought battleship H.M.S. Glory was the guardship at Archangel from 1916 to 1919.



**KIRBY, FRANK**, Private 25068, 12th Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Died 01.08.1917, aged 34. Husband of Emma Kirby, of 60, Northington, Alresford, Hampshire. Buried in Karasouli Military Cemetery, Greece, C.525. (CWGC)  
Born Old Alresford, Enlisted Alresford, Died of Wounds. (UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919)  
Personal Army Record not available.

Frank is recorded in the 1901 Census as born in Armsworth, Hampshire, and working as a farm labourer and carter. He was living at Down Farm, Deane, Basingstoke with his parents Benjamin (a farm labourer & carter), mother Fanny P and seven siblings. Frank married Emma Bright in Alresford in the last quarter of 1907. (England & Wales, Free BMD Marriage Index, December 1907)

In 1911 Frank was still a farm labourer, with two young sons. (Census)

In July, August and September the Hampshire were in a Summer defence line west of Struma. No major actions happened in that time. (*The Royal Hampshire Regiment, Vol.2, 1914- 1918*, Atkinson C.T., University Press, Glasgow 1952)

(IWM)





## Two Brothers:

**MATON, ERNEST JOHN, ("Jack")**, Private G/4936, 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment. Died 31.08.1916, aged 35. Second son of George and Laura Maton, of New House Farm, The Grange, Alresford, Hampshire; husband of Harriet Smith (formerly Maton), of South Farm Cottages, East Meon, Petersfield, Hampshire. Buried in Bulls Road Cemetery, Flers, Somme, France, III.C.11. (CWGC)

"Before joining up he worked as a carter on the Up Park Estate, where he was much respected. He joined the Army on January 15<sup>th</sup> 1915, and was sent with the British Expeditionary Force to France on November 24<sup>th</sup> 1915. He leaves a widow and seven children to mourn his loss..." (*Hampshire Chronicle* 30.09.1916)



His date of death was during the Battle of Delville Wood (Part of the Battle of the Somme). "On 27 August, the Germans re-entered from the north-east side of the wood. By now there was not a tree left in the wood, rain had turned the shell holes into pools of water and mud, many containing already decaying German and Allied corpses. Fighting resumed in all earnest, and on 30 August the 72nd and 73rd Brigade of the 24th Division were sent in as reinforcements. The final German forces were driven from the wood on 3 September 1916." ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Delville\\_Wood](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Delville_Wood)) Battalion losses 31.08.1916 - 04.09.1916 were 3 officers and 115 men. (<http://battlefields1418.5omegs.com/9sussex.htm>)



([en.wikipedia.org](http://en.wikipedia.org))

**MATON, FREDERICK GEORGE**, Private 331065, 1<sup>st</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Died 19.04.1917, aged 23. Third son of George and Laura Maton, of New House, The Grange, Alresford, Hampshire. Commemorated on Jerusalem Memorial, Panels 28 & 29. (CWGC)

Also on Brown Candover Memorial.

See p.75 for full entry.



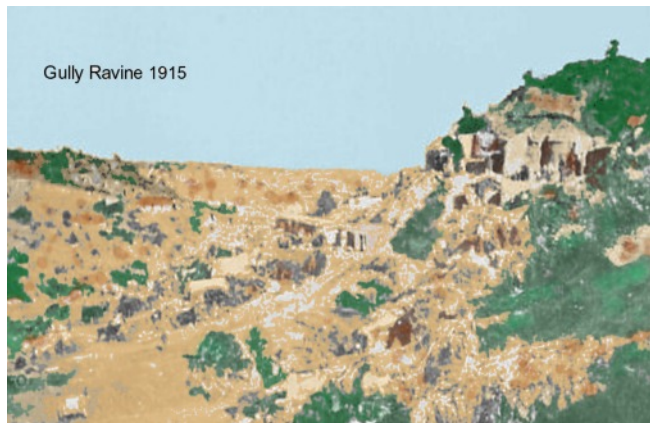
**MILLS, HENRY JAMES**, Corporal 8227, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Died 06.08.1915, aged 24. Eldest son of Abel George (an agricultural labourer) and Emma Mills, of Totford Farm, Northington, Alresford, Hampshire. Commemorated on Helles Memorial, Turkey, Panel 125-134 or 223-226, 228-229 & 328.

Born 1890 in Hursley, Hampshire. Enlisted Winchester. (*UK, Soldiers who died in the Great War 1914-1919*).

In the 1911 Census Henry is recorded as a Private in the Hampshire Regiment, stationed at Longmoor Camp, Hampshire. Personal Military Record not available.

On 6<sup>th</sup> August 2nd Hampshire attacked Turkish trenches in front of Krithia Nullah.

"artillery support was utterly inadequate ... at 3.50pm the infantry went forward with the utmost dash and gallantry, the Hampshire attacking in four waves ... machine- guns opened up on all sides and mowed the attackers down wholesale before many of them had got any way across No Man's Land. The Hampshire suffered terribly .... The



attack soon withered away ... It had been the worst day in the whole story of Cape Helles. Inadequate artillery support had once again led to a heavy sacrifice of lives to little purpose. Nothing had been gained locally and even if the Turks had been distracted from the main attack at Suvla, its unfailing gallantry had left the 88<sup>th</sup> Brigade a wreck. 224 other ranks killed and missing". (*The Royal Hampshire Regiment, Vol.2, 1914-1918*, Atkinson C.T., University Press, Glasgow 1952)

## WORLD WAR 2

**WHITE, WILLIAM ARTHUR**, Private 5510781, 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Hampshire Regiment Died 10.01.1944 aged 33. Son of William John and Sarah White; husband of Agnes Lucy White, of New House Farm, Northington, Hampshire. Buried in Minturno War Cemetery, Italy, I.J.17. (*UK, Army Roll of Honour, 1939-1945*)

Born in Martyr Worthy, his father a farm labourer. (1911 Census)

5<sup>th</sup> Battalion was part of 128<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, 46<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, which had landed at Salerno 9<sup>th</sup> September 1943, and had advanced to the River Garigliano by 27<sup>th</sup> November 1943. "*The Royal Hampshire Regiment 1918 - 1954*" by David Scott Daniell, Gale and Polden, 1955.

# OLD ALRESFORD



Population in 1911: 566; 19 casualties.

## WORLD WAR 1

**BARNES, FRANK**, Private 14835, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Died 02.07.1915, aged 26. Son of Job and Caroline Barnes née Heath, of South Warnborough, Hampshire. Commemorated on Helles Memorial, Turkey, Panel 125-134 or 223-226, 228-229 & 328. (CWGC)

Recorded in the 1911 Census as born about 1889 in Medstead, Hampshire, a farmworker like his father, living with his parents in Dean Cottages, South Warnborough. Residence South Warnborough, enlisted Hartley Wintney, Hampshire, Died of Wounds. (UK, Soldiers Who Died in the Great War, 1914-1919)

The Battle of Gully Ravine lasted from 28<sup>th</sup> June – 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1915. Although the allied attack was largely successful, losses were very heavy.

“In loving memory of my dear brother, Frank Barnes of Armsworth, Alresford ..... Sister Emm. (*Hampshire Chronicle* 07.07.1917)  
Not on Old Alresford War Memorial.

**BRAZIER, JOSEPH RICHARD (“Richard”)**, Private 11046, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Middlesex Regiment. Killed in action 25.09.1915. Buried in Cambrin Churchyard Extension, France, K.32. (CWGC)

Attested 29.08.1914 in Winchester for three years’ service, aged 21yrs 10 months. Place of birth Sunningdale, Windsor, Berkshire. Occupation jockey. Had finished an apprenticeship with a Mr Hunt 01.01.1913. Unmarried. Father’s name Richard Brazier, Fobdown, Alresford, Hampshire. Mother already deceased. Height 5’ 7½”; weight 130 lbs.; chest 35/37 “; physical development very good.

Joined 9<sup>th</sup> Reserve Cavalry, transferred 02.06.1915, posted to B.E.F. 29.08.1915. (Personal Military Record)

25.09.1915 was the first day of the Battle of Loos.

### ***The Battle of Loos***

#### **25th September-30th September 1915.**

When dawn broke on the morning of 25th it seemed as if the elements had again conspired to make the attack abortive, for heavy rain fell and the wind, what there was of it, shifted almost continually; it was a bad day for the projection of gas. Indeed, one Brigade of the 2nd Division (6th) notified Divisional Headquarters that the wind was unfavourable, but was ordered to proceed with the projection. So, at 5.50 a.m., the cylinders were opened and great clouds of asphyxiating gas were projected into the air, whilst the smoke candles were lighted. But instead of the gas floating across No Man's Land and settling down over the German trenches, it hung lifeless in the air or blew back upon the British trenches from which it had been projected, in many places with disastrous effects.

The left Battalion (the Highlanders) of the 19th Brigade fared worse than the right-the Middlesex-for the ground in front of the former was much cut up by craters, and in these the gas hung about with exasperating stillness.

Across No Man's Land the Germans could be seen donning gas masks and using sprays-in order to dispel the gas-while all along their parapets, at intervals of about 20-30 yards, they lighted fires for the same purpose, and by their activities they appeared quite unaffected by the noxious fumes. For forty minutes the gas projection lasted and then, at 6.30 a.m., the signal was given for the assault.

"A", "B" and "C" Companies of the 1st Middlesex, awaiting the order to go forward, at once began their advance; "D" Company was in reserve. But the men had not gone more than a few yards ere a storm of rifle and machine-gun bullets tore their ranks to shreds and No Man's Land was soon littered with killed and wounded. Undeterred by the gas fumes the Germans stood up in their trenches, in many places upon the parapets, and poured a deadly accurate fire upon the advancing British troops. For not alone from in front of the gallant Die-Hards did fierce resistance take place, but all up and down the line. Unable to make further progress, the Middlesex men laid down. By this time the German trenches, which when the advance began had been lightly held, were packed with men and the volume of fire increased. With orders to reinforce the three forward companies, "D" Company now "went over the top," only to share a similar fate, and survivors lay close to the ground with a rain of bullets pouring overhead. The Battalion Diary records the action in the following and all too brief words: *"At 5.50 a.m. a gas attack was opened on the German trenches for 40 minutes. This was not, however, very successful, and did not have much effect. At 6.30 the Battalion attacked with three Companies in the front line and one Company ("D") in reserve. The Battalion was all flung into the line, but failed to get further forward than 100 yards and were then hung up. Gunners again shelled the hostile line, but no further advance was made. At 12 noon the Battalion was ordered to withdraw into Brigade Reserve, having lost very heavily in both officers and men. A large proportion of N.C.Os. were casualties."*

The 19th Brigade Diary throws but little further light on the action, though the position of the Brigade at 7.30 a.m. is given thus: *"1st Middlesex about 100 yards in front of our front-line trenches; 2nd A. and S. Highlanders being under cover of the German parapet by the wire"* (a terrible position). Then a little later the narrative states: *"2nd A. and S. Highlanders withdrawn to their original trenches, leaving many men behind, including two complete platoons who reached the German front trenches. 1st Middlesex, trying to get on, are a hundred yards in front. Artillery shell the German front line very heavily. A bombardment under 2nd Divisional orders was arranged to start at 9a.m., after which infantry were to advance. 2nd Royal Welch Fusiliers now put out two companies to support the Middlesex, but they were met with fierce opposition and lose heavily. Bombers of 1st Middlesex reach the craters at "D," but are heavily fired on by our own artillery."* At 9.45a.m. orders were received at Brigade Headquarters stating that as the attack on the right of the 2nd Division was progressing favourably, no further attack was to be made for the present by the 19th Brigade and the 6th Brigade (the latter was on the left of the former).

Amongst the appendices to the Diary of the 19th Infantry Brigade, however, are several field messages of special interest to the Middlesex Regiment, and although

there are gaps in the story it is possible to follow the course of the Battle from a battalion point of view.

The first message, timed 6.57 a.m., is from Brigade Headquarters to Battalion Headquarters Middlesex and reads: *"Any news aaa How far have you advanced aaa Is gas returning you aaa Keep me well informed so that artillery barrage may be altered to suit if you want it."* In reply to this message there follow several, one after the other, from the O.C. Middlesex, and they are given in their correct order, though the first was evidently despatched while the Brigade message was on its way to Battalion Headquarters: (i) *"6.50 a.m. Much opposition to our front. Please ask guns to shell Les Briques trench."* (ii) *"7 a.m. Reserve company has got on, but we are being very heavily fired at."* (iii) *"7.16 a.m. Line held up. Very heavy fire aaa Have "* (here the message is overwritten and is unreadable. (iv) *"7.20 a.m. Ask guns to shell German front-line trench aaa Railway trench I mean."* (v) *"7.26 a.m. Don't think gas is affecting us or Germans. They are holding their front-line trench aaa Our Battalion is all out in area between their front trench and ours aaa 2nd Royal Welch Fusiliers are now up aaa It is essential to now shell hostile front trench."* (vi) *"7.30 a.m. Reported casualties probably 400, but impossible to tell aaa Have observed an enormous number fall."* (vii) *"7.55 a.m. Must shell German first line aaa Our men are all out in front aaa Almost all must be killed or wounded aaa Please shell first line aaa Welch Fusiliers are now advancing."* And, at 8 a.m. the Commanding Officer asks for men for the attack on his left: *"Is there any news re Argylls and Sutherlands?"*

It is apparent from the last message that no news had reached the Commanding Officer of the Middlesex from his own front line of the situation on his left flank. About 8 a.m., however, Colonel Rowley received the following message from Lieut. A. D. Hill (commanding "C" Company): *"Enemy very strong in front with machine-guns and rifles. "C" Company strength only about 30 or 35 men. Impossible to advance on account of machine guns. Mr Henry and 3 men alone remain out of two platoons. Can we have reinforcements? We are in Square 27B in crater S.E. of road and about 60 yards south Point 79."* To which, at 8.12 a.m., Colonel Rowley replied: *"Hang on where you are until reinforced."* The next message is written on a small muddy and blood-stained piece of paper: *"8.30 a.m. "B" Company attack held up 100 yards out of own trench. Major Swainson wounded. "B" Company knocked out, few men stand fast." It is signed "P. Choate, 2nd Lieutenant."*

The only other information received by Colonel Rowley from No Man's Land was a second message from Lieut. Choate, timed 10.50 a.m.: *"So far as can ascertain "B" Company nearly wiped out. A few men are lying near me 100 yards in front of our front trench to left of wrecked aeroplane and facing Les Briques Farm. I have not enough men to advance further. Can you reinforce or give orders?"* There is no reply in the Diaries to this message.

The one bright spot in the attack was an assault from the left flank carried out by the Grenade Reserve platoon, assisted by a platoon of the Reserve Company ("D"). These gallant fellows attacked a large crater (at D) and actually captured it.

There is little more to tell! At 1.15 p.m. the Battalion- all that was left of it- was ordered into reserve at Siding No. 3 and Braddell Trench. When this movement had been carried out, but a handful of men-84 other ranks- were mustered, though when darkness had fallen over the battlefield on the night of 25th other men, who had been lying out all day in No 2 Man's Land, were able to withdraw. The little party of "D" Company who had

hung on to the crater they had captured were also withdrawn. During the day they had actually pushed beyond the crater, but were held up by very thick hostile wire entanglements, and the grenade officer was killed whilst trying to force a way through. A machine gun had also been pushed forward into the crater and did great execution, but the machine gun officer being wounded, the gun had to be withdrawn. Throughout the morning the Battalion stretcher-bearers performed many gallant deeds and worked heroically.

Ten officers killed (Captains N. Y. L. Welman, F. V. A. Dyer, L. G. Coward and R. J. Deighton; 2nd Lieuts. C. A. J. Mackinnon, C. Pery, B. U. Hare, A. L. Hill, R. C. Mellish, J. H. Linsell; Lieut. A. W. R. Carless died of wounds on 27th September.) and 7 wounded; 73 other ranks killed, 285 wounded, 66 missing, 7 gassed and 2 suffering from shell concussion—a total of 455—were the casualties suffered by the 1st Middlesex throughout the day. Well indeed might the Brigadier-General (P. R. Robertson) commanding 28th Brigade write in a letter to Colonel Rowley, dated 26th September: *"Please convey to all ranks my very high appreciation of the splendid behaviour of all ranks in yesterday's action. They did all that it was possible to do under such circumstances; their conduct was most gallant and fully upheld the fine reputation of the Die-Hards."* (Regimental War diary)

**BUTCHER, ALBERT EDWARD**, Lance Corporal 7018, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Canadian Infantry (Western Ontario Regiment). Died 30.04.1915, aged 24. Only son of Stephen and Elizabeth Butcher, of Close View, Old Alresford, Hampshire. Buried in Wimereux Communal Cemetery, France, I.F.17A. (CWGC)

The 1901 Census records Albert's birthplace as Old Alresford. His father was a farm carter and his mother a laundress, and the couple also had three daughters. The family was living in The Brook, Old Alresford. By 1911 the family were at the same address, and Albert was working as a carpenter.

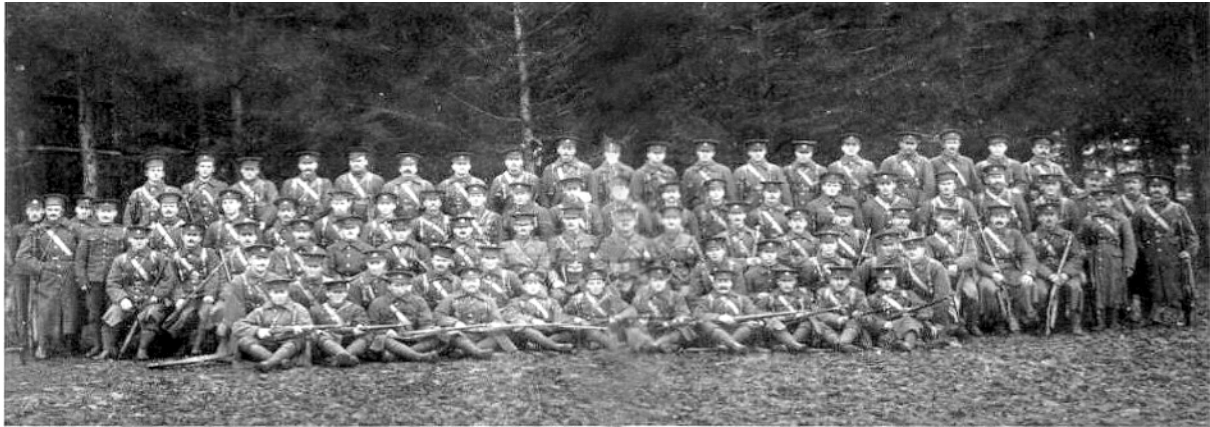
Albert E Butcher was recorded as arriving at Portland, Maine, USA on 22.04.1912, having sailed from Southampton on the Cunarder *Ausonia*. His intended destination was Ripley, to be a farm labourer. (Canadian Passenger Lists 1865-1935) Ripley was a farming community in Ontario, near Lake Huron.

Albert married Annie Barker in Preston, Waterloo, Ontario 20.05.1914. Both gave their residence as Hespeler, Waterloo, Ontario; Albert declared that he had lived there since 1<sup>st</sup> June 1913. Annie declared her birthplace as England and religion as Church of England. (Marriage Certificate)

Albert's attestation paper, dated 01.09.1914 at Valcartier Camp, Quebec, records his date of birth as 15.09.1886, his trade as carpenter, and his next-of-kin as his wife Annie, who was living in Old Alresford. He is described as 5ft 7½" tall, chest 37½" with 1½" expansion, fair hair, greenish eyes and black hair. Religion Church of England.

Annie actually landed in London 07.12.1914, having travelled from Montreal on the Allen line steamer *Corinthian*. She gave her address as Old Alresford. (UK Incoming Passenger Lists, 1878-1960)





### **1st Battalion (Western Ontario) at Salisbury Plain, Christmas 1914**

This rare portrait of the 1st Battalion men (H Company) shows the men stationed at Salisbury Plain (Bustard Camp) in England for further training while awaiting word to move on to the Front. These men participated in the counter-attack towards Mauser Ridge at 5:25am on April 23rd (2nd battle of Ypres).

(<http://groups.msn.com/CanadaWorldWarOnetheFirstContingent/1stbattalionwesternontario1.msnw>)

Hampshire Chronicle 08.05.1915: "Died of wounds received near St Julien. .... On Tuesday evening last a telegram was received by Mrs Butcher jr. from the authorities to the effect that her husband had died of wounds received in action. During the middle of last week a letter written by a chaplain in Boulogne, conveyed the news that Pte. A .E. Butcher was lying in hospital there, having been severely wounded in the head, and that the loss of the sight of the left eye was feared. ... death at Rawal Pindi British General Hospital, Wimereux, Boulogne on 30<sup>th</sup> April. Pte Butcher was not quite 25 years of age, and leaves a young widow to mourn her loss, she having followed him to England when his Battalion had sailed from Canada. The greatest sympathy is felt for her in her great bereavement, and also for her husband's parents ... who have lost their only son. Private Butcher was always a most steady and respectable young man, and in his boyhood days he was for a long time a member of the choir of the Parish Church of Old Alresford. When the war broke out Butcher was one of the first to join the colours in Canada, although he had only just recovered from a long illness. Before going to Canada, three years ago, he was a keen member of the Hampshire Territorials, and was an excellent shot.

Although no details have been received, it is clear that he was in the thick of the terrible fighting round Ypres and St Julien on 22<sup>nd</sup> April and following days, when the Canadian Division saved the situation with great gallantry. The magnificent bravery of the Canadians is told by the Records Officer in his report of the fighting – Although Butcher's Regiment (1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Ontario, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade) was at first in reserve it was ordered, together with the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, to make a counter attack on the first line trenches of the Germans, with the object of relieving a powerful attempt by the enemy to outflank the left of the Canadian Division. The attack was brilliantly carried out under Brigadier-General Mercer. In combination with a British Brigade, and though the casualties were terrible from the withering fire of the enemy the attack was pressed closer and closer, until a hand-to-hand fight ensued, and the trench was won. Such was the nature of the fighting in which Private Butcher evidently took part."



The action being described above is the Battle of St Julien, part of the Second Battle of Ypres. It is interesting that there was no mention of the use of gas, as the Second Battle of Ypres was the first time Germany used poison gas on a large scale on the Western Front in World War I. It was also first time a former colonial force (Canadians) pushed back a major European power (Germans) on European soil. (www.wikipedia.com)

*Canadians cheered, after their great stand at St. Julien, April 1915. (www.magnoliabox.com)*

**EDWARDS, FRANK ALFRED**, Private 25587, 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Died in action 01.09.1918, aged 41. Husband of Frances Sarah Edwards, of The Saints' Gardens, Alresford, Hampshire. Buried in Karasouli Military Cemetery, Greece, D.704. (CWGC) Born in Craycombe, Worcester. Enlisted Alresford, Killed in Action. (UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919) Personal Army Record not available.

“... . Killed in action, at Salonika, on 1<sup>st</sup> September. Deceased went out to Salonika in November 1916. He was formerly head gardener to the late Mrs Christy, and subsequently to Mrs Rodney of “The Saint’s”, Old Alresford. Much sympathy is felt with Mrs Edwards, who is left with three young children to mourn his loss.” (*Hampshire Chronicle* 28.09.1918)

The action on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1918 was an attack on the Roche Noire Salient, which continued over the 2<sup>nd</sup> September. By the time the battalion was relieved on September 7<sup>th</sup> losses were three officers and 47 men killed and missing, 2 officers and 132 men wounded – “about half of those engaged in the attack... The attack had fully achieved its objectives, tactical and strategical, ... congratulated on their fine achievement.” (*The Royal Hampshire Regiment*, vol.2, 1914-1918, Atkinson, C.T., University Press, Glasgow, 1952)

Birth registered Pershore, Worcester in Mid-1877. (England & Wales, Free BMD Birth Index, September 1877.

The 1881 Census recorded Frank living in Bedwardine, Worcestershire with his parents Alfred (a gardener) and Jane. His birthplace was recorded as Fladbury, Worcestershire. By 1901 Frank was lodging in Pangbourne, Berkshire, working as a domestic gardener. (Census)

Frank married Frances Sarah Roberts in Ellersmere, Shropshire (England & Wales, Free BMD Marriage Index, December 1907)

By 1911 Frank had become Head Gardener at Lower Grayswood gardens, Haslemere, Surrey. (Census)

**GOODYEAR, HENRY**, Lance Corporal 3693, 1<sup>st</sup> (Royal) Dragoons. Died 12.01.1916, aged 22. Son of Thomas Goodyear, of Armsworth, Old Alresford, Hampshire. Commemorated on Loos Memorial, France, Panel 1. (CWGC)  
Residence Armsworth, Alresford; enlisted Southampton; Killed in Action. (UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919)  
Personal Army Record not available.

Henry was born in Old Alresford in 1890. In 1891 his father Thomas Goodyear was a farm servant, living in 1, Hill Cottages, Old Alresford. (Census). His mother was Caroline née Caines (<http://trees.ancestry.co.uk/tree/7323461/person/-1117762977?ssrc=>)  
By 1911 Henry had become a cowman on a farm, living at Hill Cottages, Old Alresford with his parents and younger sister. His father was now a stockman. (1911 Census).

The 1<sup>st</sup> (Royal) Dragoons were part of the 1<sup>st</sup> (Indian) Cavalry Division, which had arrived in France in October 1914. In early 1916 they were fighting largely as dismounted infantry. ([http://www.1914-1918.net/1cavdiv\\_indian.htm](http://www.1914-1918.net/1cavdiv_indian.htm))

**GULLIVER, EDGAR**, Private 26115, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Died 16.08.1917. Commemorated on Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium, Panel 88-90 & 162. (CWGC)  
Born Stanveam, Wiltshire. Residence Kensal Rise, London. Enlisted Winchester. Killed in Action. (UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919)  
Personal Service record not available.

Edgar's birth was recorded in the October quarter of 1880 in the Hungerford District. (England & Wales, Free BMD Birth Index October 1880)

The 1881 census showed his parents as William (a farm bailiff) and Fanny Gulliver. At that time the family were living in Prosperous Farm, Shalbourn, Hungerford, Berkshire; Shalbourn was also given as his place of birth.

Edgar married Ellen Gulliver at the end of 1910 in Alverstoke, Hampshire. (England & Wales Free BMD Index December 1910)

In 1911 Edgar, a Post Office sorting clerk, was living with his wife Ellen at 41, Elthiron Road, Fulham. (1911 census).

Probate was granted in 1918 to his widow in 1918, address 2, Holland Road, Willesden, London. Effects £216. (England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1861-1941 Record for Edgar Gulliver)

2<sup>nd</sup> Hampshire took part in a successful attack on 16<sup>th</sup> August 1917 on lines between Wijndendrift and Langemark. "The Hampshire's casualties, (3 officers) and 43 men killed and missing; (2 officers) and 148 wounded, though substantial, were not high, considering what had been achieved ..."  
(*The Royal Hampshire Regiment, Vol.2, 1914-1918*, Atkinson C.T., University Press, Glasgow 1952)



**HUGHES, CHARLES**, Lance Corporal 11883, 4 Company, 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Worcestershire Regiment. Died 12.10.1916, aged 25. Son of James and Hannah Hughes, of Newbury, Berks; husband of Eva Annie Hughes, of Barton Cottage, Old Alresford, Hampshire. Commemorated on Doiran Memorial, Greece. (CWGC) (Not on the war memorial)  
Born in Caversham, Oxford and enlisted in Newbury. Killed in Action. (UK, *Soldiers Who Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)

In 1891 Charles' father was a bookbinder, but by 1901 he had become a timber sawyer and moved to Newbury, Berkshire. Charles was then working as a Grocer's Errand Boy. (1901 Census)

Charles married Eva Annie Brown in Alresford in the second quarter of 1916. (England & Wales, Free BMD Marriage Index June 1916)

"Roll of Honour – Sergeant Charles Hughes, of the Worcestershire Regiment, who has been missing since 12<sup>th</sup> October 1916, is now reported killed. Mrs Hughes, of Barton Cottage, Old Alresford, last week received official intimation that her husband was killed on that date. His Company Officer, with the Salonika Force, Writes:- "His Company was in the first line during an attack upon the enemy trenches on the night of October 12<sup>th</sup>, and the last seen of him was just in front of the enemy's wire shouting "Come along, boys!" . He had only been in the Company a short while, but, during that time, he had shown himself every inch a soldier. I am really sorry to lose him." Deceased was 26 years of age, and the youngest son of Mr James Hughes, of Newbury." (*Hampshire Chronicle* 09.02.1918)

"In the valley north-east of 'Horseshoe Hill' lies the village of Doldzeli. On the far side of Doldzeli a low rounded under-feature had been named, by the French, the "Mamelon." That height was known to be held by the Bulgarians, but their exact strength there was uncertain. ...

It was then decided to make a raid in force against the "Mamelon" with two companies of the 11th Worcestershire. The raid was to be prepared by a sharp bombardment and was to be supported by machine-guns. The main attack was to be preceded by one advanced platoon, which would sweep the wooded banks of the Vladaja ravine as a precaution against surprise.

All day of October 11th the British guns kept up an intermittent bombardment against the "Mamelon." After dark the guns redoubled their fire. The troops moved into position. Half an hour before midnight (October 11/12th) the guns lifted their fire and the attack began.

The raiders were met by an intense fire, which checked the front line. Two additional platoons were brought up in support and, with that aid, the attackers charged forward to the enemy's trenches. Sergeant H. W. Preedy showed great bravery in leading on his platoon after the platoon officer had been hit (Sergt. Preedy was awarded the M.M.).

A fierce fight ensued. The enemy's front trench was cleared and the desired identification was secured from dead Bulgarians (proving the enemy to be of the 9th Bulgarian Regiment). Then retreat was ordered (at 15 minutes past midnight) and the raiders fell back to the British trenches.

The losses had been considerable—nearly 60 in all (Killed, 4. Missing, 6. Wounded, 3 officers (Capt. A. E. J. Legge, 2/Lts. C. L. Godson and C. R. P. Corbin (the latter died afterwards) and 44 other ranks)—but the Battalion was heartily congratulated on its success. To that success all ranks had contributed, and not least the Battalion signallers. Corporal A. Burton earned special praise by his work in maintaining cable communication under very heavy fire (Corporal Burton was subsequently awarded the M.M.).” ([http://www.worcestershireregiment.com/wr.php?main=inc/bat\\_11](http://www.worcestershireregiment.com/wr.php?main=inc/bat_11)).

**JACKSON, FREDERICK**, Private 20881, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Died 24.08.1916. Buried in Railway Dugouts Burial Ground, Belgium, VI.K.2. (CWGC)  
“... official intimation was received by Mr Robert Jackson that his second son, Frederick had been killed in action in France on the 24<sup>th</sup> August. He belonged to the Hampshire Regiment, and had not quite reached his 20<sup>th</sup> birthday. ... Mr and Mrs Jackson’s eldest son, Samuel, is serving with the Royal Garrison Artillery in France.” (*Hampshire Chronicle* 16.09.1916)  
Born & resident in Old Alresford. Enlisted Winchester. (UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919)

On the date that Frederick died his battalion was occupying trenches “South of the Menin Road, a nasty bit of line which seemed to be overlooked from all around.” (*The Royal Hampshire Regiment*, Vol.2, 1914-1918, Atkinson C.T., University Press, Glasgow 1952)

In the 1901 Census Frederick’s father was recorded as Henry David Jackson, a general labourer. His mother Jane Jackson. A younger brother was called Henry. No son Samuel is in the census.

Not on the Old Alresford war memorial. Is “Henry Jackson” a misnomer for Frederick?

**JACKSON, HENRY**, No record in CWGC, “Soldiers who died in the Great War” or *The Hampshire Chronicle*, so it seems that this is a misnomer for Frederick.  
1901 Census shows a Henry Jackson, born about 1899, living with parents Henry David and Jane Jackson (father a general labourer) in Old Alresford.

**MILLARD, HAROLD WILLIAM**, Private 3621, “C” Company, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, London Regiment (Post Office Rifles). Died 11.06.1916, aged 26. Eldest son of William and Sarah Millard, of Perin's Cottage, Old Alresford, Hampshire. Enlisted April, 1915. Buried in Douai Communal Cemetery, Nord, France, B.25. This cemetery was in German hands in 1916, and used to bury allied prisoners of war. (CWGC)

Born in Old Alresford about 1890, his father an agricultural labourer. (1891 Census)  
Worked at Alresford Post Office before the war. (*Hampshire Chronicle* 17.06.1916)  
Died at Stammlager-wahn, Germany, of wounds received in action. “..... attached to a machine-gun section. Took part in the severe fighting on Vimy Ridge between May 21-25, when he was reported missing..... was much liked by his colleagues at the Alresford District Post Office and by all with whom he came into contact.” (*Hampshire Chronicle* 15.07.1916)

**MITCHELL, HARRY FRANK**, Pioneer 11212, 11<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Killed in action 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1918, aged 26. Son of John and Emma Mitchell, husband of Emma Mitchell. Buried in Ste. Emilie Valley Cemetery, Villers-Faucon, Somme, France, II.A.20. (CWGC)  
Born in Houghton, Stockbridge, Hampshire. Residence, Winchester. Enlisted Alresford. (UK, Soldiers Who Died in the Great War 1914-1919)  
Personal Army Record not available.

Birth registered 1892 as Harry Frank Mitchell in Stockbridge. (England & Wales, Free BMD Birth Index, April 1892)  
1911 census shows him living with his parents (father a carpenter and wheelwright) in Armsworth, Old Alresford, Hampshire.

“... only son of Mr & Mrs Mitchell, 60, Sussex St., Winchester, late of Armsworth, Alresford. His company officer, ... says, ‘He paid the full price for sticking nobly to his position when surrounded by the enemy. The post that he was in held out for a long time after everyone else on the right and immediate left had retired. This enabled troops further on the left to retire, who otherwise would have been cut off. He was shot through the head and killed instantly. Pioneer Mitchell is a great loss to us. His cheerfulness and kindness is just what was wanted to hold a party of men together. Having been in the Battalion for so long, one had almost begun to think that he would remain always. Several of the men wish me to say how sorry they are, and how much they sympathise with you in your great loss.’” (*Hampshire Chronicle* 04.05.1918)

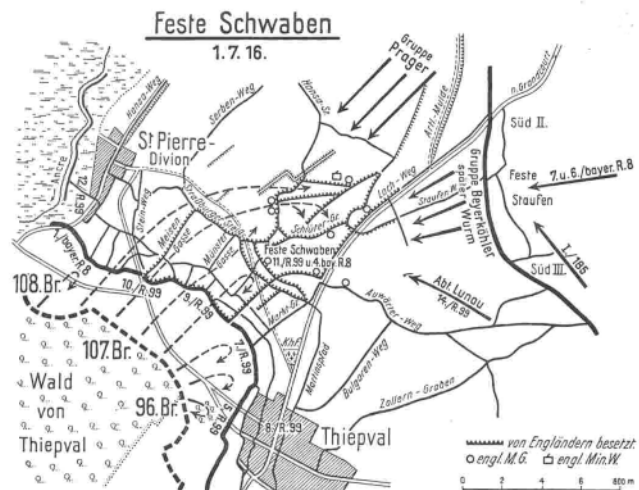
The Germans had started their last great Western Front offensive on 21<sup>st</sup> March 1918, and attacked the Hampshire’s positions near Villers-Faucon in overwhelming force (eleven divisions against three). After stout defence, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March the 11<sup>th</sup> Hampshire fought an effective rearguard action to cover the British withdrawal over the Somme. (*The Royal Hampshire Regiment*, vol.2, 1914-1918, Atkinson, C.T., University Press, Glasgow, 1952)

**NORGATE, WILLIAM JAMES (“Willie”)**, Private, 13463, 5<sup>th</sup> battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment, formerly 5737, 7th Dragoons. Killed in action 26.09.1916, aged 22. Only son of William and Charlotte Norgate, Upper Bullington, Sutton Scotney, Hampshire. Commemorated on Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France, Pier & Face 7B. (CWGC)  
Born in Ropley. Residence Alresford. Enlisted in Alresford 02.11.1914. (UK, Soldiers who Died in the Great War 1914-1919)

1901 Census shows him living with his parents (father a carrier on a farm) at Hill cottages, Old Alresford.  
1911 Census shows William living with his parents in Armsworth and working as a farm labourer.  
Roll of Honour announcement in the Hampshire Chronicle of 13.10.1917 states that the deceased, previously “missing”, was now confirmed killed. Parents’ address is given as Well Cottage, Armsworth.



The British aim for September 26<sup>th</sup> 1916 was to clear the ridge running eastward from the Ancre. The 5<sup>th</sup> Dorsets were part of 11<sup>th</sup> Division, whose attacks on that day were on the formidably strong Zollern and Stuff Redoubts. Most of the objectives were secured, but at enormous cost; of roughly 600 in action nearly two thirds were casualties, 8 officers and 114 men being killed or missing, 5 officers and 225 men being wounded. (*History of the Dorsetshire Regiment 1914-1919*, Lock, T.D., Dorchester, Henry Ling)



**NORTH, ARTHUR JAMES**, Rifleman, 7<sup>th</sup> Rifle Brigade. Died 01.06.1915, aged 19. Eldest son of Mr & Mrs James North of Nythe Cottage, Bighton Road, Alresford. (*Hampshire Chronicle* 12.06.1915)

Listed in CWGC as North, *Matthew James*, Rifleman B/2, 7<sup>th</sup> Rifle Brigade, died 31.05.1915, aged 19, eldest son of James and Beatrice Effie North of Nettlebeds, Old Alresford, Hampshire. Buried in Packhouse Farm Shrine Cemetery, Heuvelland, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, F.5 (outside the village of Wulvergem, 9.5 Km South-West of Ieper).

Listed in the 1901 census as Arthur J., born in Rownhams, Hampshire, his father gamekeeper at the Longwood Estate.

By 1911 Arthur was working as a grocer's errand boy. (Census)

"... received a fatal wound late in the afternoon of 31<sup>st</sup> May, and died early in the morning of June 1<sup>st</sup> without regaining consciousness. He was shot through the head whilst digging a trench just behind the firing line. His officer, who conveyed the sad news to his parents, refers to him as "always a good soldier, keen at his work, always willing and liked both by his comrades and his officers. It was only on the previous Saturday that he was specially selected for the reserve machine gun section on account of his good qualities. .... He died a good soldier, doing his duty fighting for his King and Country, and helping on a good cause which all were trying to achieve." Enlisted on 11<sup>th</sup> August 1914, having been employed by Major Bulpett at the Cottage, Old Alresford. At the time of his death younger brother Herbert, serving with the Royal Field Artillery, was recovering from a serious illness in a convalescent home in Hitchin, Hertfordshire. (*Hampshire Chronicle* 12.06.1915)

On 31<sup>st</sup> May the Battalion were at Dranoutres being trained in trench warfare. (*Rifle Brigade Chronicles* 1916)

**RODNEY, The Hon. WILLIAM FRANCIS**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant (Obs.), 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Rifle Brigade (The Prince Consort's Own") and 3 Squadron, Royal flying Corps. Died 09.05.1915, aged 18. Son of the late 7th Baron Rodney and Lady Corisande Evelyn V. Rodney, of K.6, The Albany, Piccadilly, London. Buried Chocques Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France, I.B.11. (CWGC)

The youngest of three brothers who took part in the first Boy Scout's Camp on Brownsea Island in 1907. The eldest, George Brydges Harley Guest Rodney, became 8<sup>th</sup> Baron Rodney. James Henry Bertie was wounded twice in W.W.1. and won the M.C.

"... the youngest of four brothers serving in this War. His eldest brother, the Honble. J.H.B.Rodney, is also in the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Rifle Brigade and Royal Flying Corps, and his third brother is Lieutenant the Honble. C.C.S.Rodney, 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Hampshire Regiment, since the War attached to the 17<sup>th</sup> Battalion The King's (Liverpool Regiment). The Honble. William Rodney, fourth son of the seventh Baron Rodney and of Corisande, daughter of the 1<sup>st</sup>



Lord Wimborne, was born at 33, Grosvenor Street, London, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 1896. He was educated at Shrewsbury College (School House), which he entered in September, 1910, and where he distinguished himself as an oarsman, rowing stroke, and winning for the School against Bedford in 1914, also winning the School Race at Henley. He was a member of the Bath Club.

In 1914 he entered the R.M.C. Sandhurst, and in December of that year he was gazetted 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the Rifle brigade, being posted to the 4<sup>th</sup> battalion. For training he was attached to the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion of his Regiment, and early in 1915 was sent to France, attached as an observer to the Royal Flying Corps, No. 3 Squadron.

A report by his Squadron Commander comments on the good work done by 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Rodney and his pilot, Lieutenant Spence, just before they were killed while flying on the 9<sup>th</sup>. May, 1915. It is as follows:

*"I should like to bring to your notice the good work performed by Lieutenants Spence and Rodney, and the gallant way in which they performed it, on the 9<sup>th</sup>. instant. They succeeded in getting the 26<sup>th</sup> Heavies and a French 105mm battery on to a large number of German batteries, and silenced their fire. During the previous few days they had been exposed to a very heavy fire from guns, and had had one tail boom nearly cut in two, and Lieutenant Spence had been grazed in three places.*

Maurice Farman M.F.11



*During the 9<sup>th</sup> they were flying for five or six hours, under fire most of the time, and were eventually struck by a shrapnel bullet, which either killed Lieutenant Spence or caused him to lose control of his machine, and broke up in the air."*

("The Bond of Sacrifice" Vol.II, Clutterbuck, ISBN 1 897632 21 5)

9th May 1915 was the busiest day of the air war thus far; 3 Squadron, [Spence's church memorial says 16 Sqn] to which Lt. (Pilot) Charles Bennett Spence and Rodney (Observer) belonged, had for some days been involved in reconnaissance for army headquarters with a view to the coming Battle of Aubers Ridge (9th May 1915). Spence and Rodney, flying a Maurice Farman M.F.11 number 1854, took off at 4:35 a.m. on an artillery patrol, carrying out the vital task of 'ranging' German gun batteries that were then hit by British counter-battery fire. At 7:30 a.m. the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire and began a steep glide that turned into a nosedive, leading to the airframe failing at 2,000 feet. Both occupants were killed instantly.

Information from '*The Sky Their Battlefield*' by Trevor Henshaw , ISBN: 1 898697 30 2)

**VOSS, GEORGE EDWARD**, Lance Corporal 11839, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Worcestershire Regiment. Died 22.03.1916, aged 23. Son of John and Mary Jane Voss, of Chilbolton, Stockbridge, Hampshire. Buried in Cambrin Churchyard Extension, Pas de Calais, France, G.50. (CWGC)  
Killed in Action, residence Warnford , enlisted Portsmouth (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War*, 1914-1919)

1901 Census records George's father as a general labourer, the family living in Milton, Hampshire; George's birthplace recorded as Milton. In 1911 George, unmarried, was already a Bandsman serving with the regiment in Jhansi, India. (Census)

“After a week of rest (February 29th to March 8th in Annequin and Oblinghem) the Battalion again took over trenches south of the (La Bassée Canal). Fighting in that sector had died down; presumably because the high explosive required for mines was needed at more vital sectors of the battle-front. The Cuinchy trenches were not uncomfortable and the weather had improved. Thenceforward the Spring months of 1916 brought no event of note to the 2nd Worcestershire. The Battalion remained in the area around Bethune, holding trenches at one part or another of the front just south of the La Bassée Canal. Twice the companies had a definite rest (from 25th March to the 3rd April, from the 17th May to the 8th June.), lying in billets at Annequin or in Bethune itself. At other times, when temporarily out of the line the Battalion was billeted either in close support at Annequin or in reserve at Beuvry. No heavy fighting occurred during that period, nor were casualties heavy. In March the losses totalled 4 killed and 17 wounded, in April 2 killed, 1 officer (Captain F. H. Lawrence) and 24 men wounded.” ([http://www.worcestershireregiment.com/bat\\_2\\_1916.php](http://www.worcestershireregiment.com/bat_2_1916.php))



## WORLD WAR 2 and Later

**BULPITT, THOMAS HENRY TOPP (“TOM”),** Stoker, RN. HMS Gladiolus. Died 17.10.1941.

*Hampshire Chronicle* 17.10.1942:

Roll of Honour

BULPITT. Missing from HMS Gladiolus, presumed died on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 1941, Thomas Henry Topp Bulpitt. “He was only one in a million, He had not much to give, But his one cherished possession He gave that we might live.”  
From Mum, Dad, Brothers and Sisters, Old Alresford



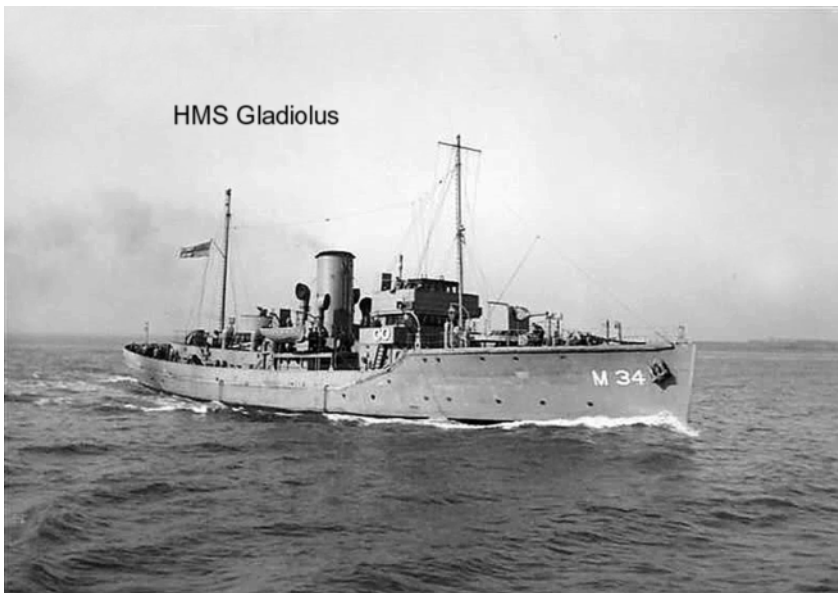
On the casualty list for HMS Gladiolus he is listed as:

**TOPP, THOMAS HENRY,** Stoker, 2<sup>nd</sup> Class RN (P/KX 109421).

Adopted son of Albert Edward and Lilian Bulpitt, of Old Alresford, Hampshire. Died 17.10.1941, age 25. Commemorated Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 56, Column 2. (CWGC)

A Thomas H Topp, mother's surname Topp, is recorded as being born in Chelsea. (England & Wales, Birth Index, 1916-2005, March 1917)

HMS Gladiolus, first of the famous “Flower “ Class corvettes:  
From [www.uboot.net](http://www.uboot.net):



On 17 Oct, 1941 HMS Gladiolus (Lt.Cdr. Harry Marcus Crews Sanders, DSO, DSC, RD, RNR) was torpedoed and sunk (most likely) by the German submarine U-558 south of Iceland in position 57°00'N, 25°00'W while escorting convoy SC-48. She was ordered to pick up survivors from several torpedoed ships and in doing so fell behind the convoy. She was last seen about 01:00 hours and was reported missing thereafter.

It is also possible that the ship was sunk by U-432 later that night. There were no survivors.

The convoy SC-48 was very significant for the gradual involvement of the USA in the war before Pearl Harbor:

## SC-48

15 - 17 Oct 1941

The convoy: 52 ships

Escorts

Planned until Oct 17th :

The Canadian escort group EG.4.1.15 (Lt-Cdr Davis) consisting of the destroyer Columbia, the British corvette Gladiolus, the Free French corvette Mimosa and the 5 corvettes Baddeck, Shediac, Camrose, Rosthern and Wetaskiwin.

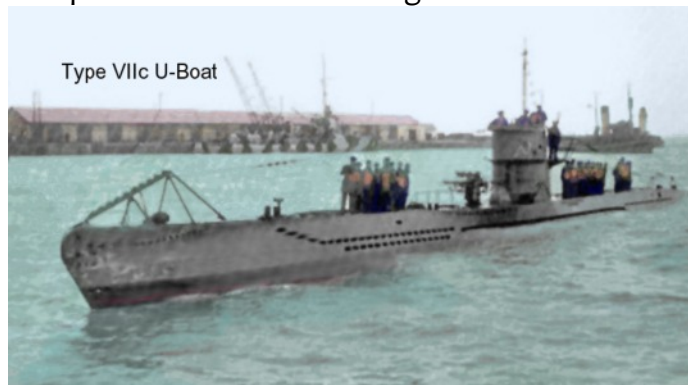
Planned to take over at the 17th :

The British escort group EG.3 consisting of the 5 destroyers Bulldog (Cdr Cresswell-Baker), Amazon, Richmond, Georgetown and Belmont, the corvette Heartsease, the 3 trawlers Angle, St-Apollo and Cape Warwick and the rescue ship Zaafaran.

First sighting: On Oct 15th by U-553

U-boats: U-73 (Kptlt. Rosenbaum), U-77 (Kptlt. Schonder),  
U-101 (Kptlt. Mengersen) \*, U-109 (Kptlt. Bleichrodt),  
U-208 (Oblt. Schlieper), U-374 (Oblt. von Fischel),  
U-432 (Kptlt. Schultze) \*, U-502 (Kptlt. von Rosenstiel),  
U-553 (Korvkpt. Thurmann) \*, U-558 (Kptlt. Krech) \*,  
U-568 (Kptlt. Preuss) \*, U-573 (Kptlt. Heinsohn),  
U-751 (Kptlt. Bigalk)

\*U-boats that fired torpedoes or fired the deck gun.



The battle:

During October and well before, the Allied make good use of the information provided by Ultra in order to rout their convoys around U-boat concentrations.

A second factor in the battle for the Atlantic at that time, is the increasing influence of the American Navy in the Atlantic. In this stage of the war, they escort all North- Atlantic convoys from a point between the Canadian escort zone ( Western Ocean Meeting Point or WESTOMP ) and the British escort zone ( Mid Ocean Meeting Point or MOMP ). Already on Oct 9th, SC-48 is routed according to 'Ultra' information around a U-boat concentration, consisting of U-109, U-208, U-374, U-502, U-553, U-568 and U-573. This group is formed into a patrol line and it is reinforced during the following days by U-73, U-77, U-101, U-432, U-558 and U-751. These boats lengthen the patrol line. Not all

convoys can be re-routed in time around the lengthened patrol line and in the night of the 14th U-553 runs into SC-48.

At that time, only 4 corvettes of EG 4.1.15 are still with the convoy, the other having returned because of fuel shortage. U-553 attacks at once and sinks two ships. The destroyer Columbia returns to the convoy and manages to drive off U-553 but the boat has already brought up many other U-boats. U-568 takes over the contact-keeping job and attacks at dark. She sinks one ship but is then driven off by the Gladiolus.

The British countermeasures are as follows: the EG.3 is ordered to take over as soon as possible the escort from EG.4.1.15. The EG.2 who is escorting ON-25 sends the 2 corvettes Veronica and Abelia. The 3 destroyers Highlander, Broadwater and Sherwood intended to relieve the escort of TC-14, are redirected to the convoy. But since all these ships are too far away for immediate assistance, it is decided to disperse convoy ON-24 and its escort is sent towards SC-48.

The 5 American destroyers Greer, Kearny DD432, Livermore DD429, Decatur and Plunkett DD431 sortied from ON-24 at noon on the 16th. They make several attacks and sweeps but cannot prevent the build-up for the night attack.

The American commanders lack experience and remain very close (less than a mile) to the convoy, so the U-boats can come into firing range before being detected. The American ships are not yet fitted with radar and when the U-boats attack, they fire snowflakes and star-shells to no good use, because due to their proximity to the convoy they illuminate the merchants, who are now clearly visible to the U-boats.

U-558 sinks three ships plus the corvette HMS Gladiolus, U-432 sinks two and U-553 sinks one. In the morning U-568 attacks, and runs into the Kearny, who is making a manoeuvre in order to avoid collision with a corvette. U-568 fires a spread of three and scores one hit. The capable crew of the Kearny confined flooding to the forward Fire room enabling the ship to get out of the danger zone with power from the aft fire room. Regaining power in the forward fire room, Kearny steamed to Iceland at 10 knots, arriving 19 October. Kearny lost 11 bluejackets and 22 others were injured in this attack. Then the Americans are relieved by the other reinforcements as Kearny heads back to Iceland. Also air escort arrives and Catalina's chase away the contact keeping boats.

U-73, U-77, U-101 and U-751 try to close in with the convoy but only U-101 manages to attack at night and sinks the destroyer HMS Broadwater. The next day the operation is broken off.

The American view:

Convoy SC-48 sailed from Canada on October 10, 1941. Terrible weather and an abnormal number of stragglers, 11 of the 50 merchantmen, held the speed of advance to 7 ½ knots. A U-boat wolfpack struck during the night of October 15. The Canadian destroyer Columbia and four Canadian corvettes escorting SC-48 had more than they could handle. Three ships had been torpedoed and sunk when a call for help went into Reykjavik, 400 miles to the north. Captain L.H. Thebaud, ComDesRon 27 in Plunkett, with Livermore and Kearny, all Benson/Livermore class 1630 tonners and the Decatur, a WW I 4-piper, answered the call. They were joined by the 4-piper USS Greer, the British destroyer Broadwater and the Free French corvette Lobelia, from other duties. The Reykjavik group of destroyers arrived just before sunset on the 16th and found an exhausted Canadian screen and her shaken merchant convoy, waiting for another night of U-Boat



horror. Kearny, Livermore, Decatur and Plunkett formed a close screen, less than a mile from the convoy. In three waves of attacks beginning about 2200 and closing about 0200 on the 17th, the U-boats found their marks in the convoy with torpedoes. First a merchantman, then two more, then four more, received death blows. In the last wave, Kearny made her way into the convoy, close to a burning tanker. A sudden blaze from the tanker illuminated a British corvette picking up survivors. Kearny slowed and turned to avoid interference. In this now well lighted scene, a U-boat fired a spread of three torpedoes at Kearny. The center one hit in the #1 fire room. Men died from fire, impact, and sea water. The damage control officer and the Chief Motor Machinist shored up and saved the forward engine room bulkhead. The "split-plant" experience enabled Kearny to keep way on while a Quartermaster in the locked after steering engine room compartment answered rudder calls. The 4-piper Greer rallied alongside Kearny to give aid. Kearny's skipper told Greer he could make Iceland. Despite criticisms of this Benson class for topside weight, the class proved very sturdy with double bottoms and well-designed water-tight integrity compartmentation. Few of these vessels succumbed to a single torpedo. Kearny did not. The Navy repair ship Vulcan in Iceland performed a near miracle to get Kearny back to sea. The gaping hole in her starboard side just forward of the number one stack and under the starboard wing of the bridge could have finished her.



9 merchant ships were sunk for a total of 51,093 grt, one corvette and one destroyer sunk and another destroyer damaged. (www.uboot.net.)

**CHICHESTER, ARTHUR PATRICK SPENCER**, Major the Hon., 62573, Coldstream Guards. Died 23.12.1942, Medjez-el-Bab, Tunisia aged 28. Eldest son of Arthur C. S. Chichester, Lord Templemore, Upton House, Alresford, Hampshire. Buried in Medjez-el-Bab War Cemetery, Tunisia, 3.A.20. (CWGC)

Major the Hon. Arthur Patrick Spencer Chichester, Coldstream Guards, eldest of the three sons of Lord and Lady Templemore, died of wounds in North Africa last month. Born on March 23, 1914, he was educated at Harrow and at Sandhurst and was gazetted to the Coldstream Guards in 1934. He was promoted Lieutenant in 1937 and Captain in 1939. His brother, Capt. The Hon. Dermot Richard Claud Chichester, 7th Queen's Own Hussars, born on April 18, 1916, becomes heir to the barony. He was reported to be a prisoner of war early last year. (*The Times* 01.01.1943)

### **LONGSTOP HILL 1942**

#### **World War II – North Africa - 24th December 1942**

On the 22nd December, the 2nd Battalion attacked Longstop Hill, near Medjez-el-Bab, in order to clear the way for a British drive on Tunis. Once the hill was captured about midnight, the position was handed over to an American unit, and then the Battalion marched back 12 miles, through heavy rain to a rest area. However, on the 23rd December, the Germans successfully counter attacked, and the Battalion had to go forward again and recapture the hill on the evening of the 23rd. Heavy counter attacks by infantry and tanks on Christmas Day forced the Americans and the Battalion off the hill, and at 1000 hours they were ordered to withdraw, having suffered in this particular fierce battle some 10 Officers and 200 men killed or wounded.([www.shinycapstar.com](http://www.shinycapstar.com))



Picture [www.nam.co.uk](http://www.nam.co.uk)

**CONSTABLE-MAXWELL, WILLIAM MICHAEL**, Flight Lieutenant, RAF. Died

29.03.1950, age 23. Buried in St Mary's Churchyard, Old Alresford, Hampshire.

Born on 17 September 1926, the son of Wing Commander Gerald Joseph and Caroline Burns (née Carden) Constable-Maxwell of Old Alresford House, Hampshire.

(<http://thepeerage.com/p6068.htm>)

William was serving in 56 Squadron, RAF; his father had been in the squadron in World War 1 as was his uncle in World War 2.

Notes on the accident taken from *Last Take-off*, Cummings, C, Nimbus Publishing, ISBN-10: 0952661934: 29 Mar 50 VW277 Meteor F4 56 Sqn, near Thorney Island, pilot Flight Lieutenant William Michael Constable-Maxwell.

This aircraft was No 3 in a formation of 4 aircraft performing a roll at about 1500 feet. The pilot of this aircraft pulled away downwards from the formation and in rolling out, struck the ground. The No 3 had found himself out of position and chose to pull away downwards rather than break to the side.

(Photo by courtesy of Rosemary Chambers)



No.56 Squadron: The month of March 1950 was entirely devoted to various forms of aerobatic flying in preparation for the 11 Group formation aerobatic competition at RAF Thorney Island in May. On 29 March the squadron's four-ship display team suffered a tragic mishap when Flt Lt Constable-Maxwell was killed when his Meteor (VW277) got into difficulties during a formation sortie and crashed on the mud flats off Thorney Island. With little time to train a replacement to the required standard, the team reluctantly withdrew from the competition. (<http://sussexhistoryforum.co.uk/index.php?topic=2867.0;wap2>)

An article in *The Aeroplane*, June 2013 p.106 was written by a pilot who survived a crash in a similar Meteor F.4 in September 1951. Significantly, he stated "We had been briefed that if losing sight of the leader during a turn, the correct action was to throttle back while breaking away and down".

As a memorial to William, Wing Commander and Mrs Constable Maxwell converted the Billiard Room and Library of Old Alresford house into a chapel to a design by Pietro Annigoni. (Pemberton, V., in Alresford Displayed No.8)

**MORGAN, HUGH HUTCHISON**, Junior Engineer, MV Domala. Died 02.03.1940, aged 22. Commemorated on Tower Hill Memorial, London, Panel 35. (CWGC)

*Hampshire Chronicle*. 16.03.40:

“Death of Mr Hugh Morgan.

We regret to record the death of Mr Hugh Morgan, son of the Archdeacon of Winchester, and Rector of Old Alresford, (the Venerable E.R.Morgan) and Mrs Morgan. Mr Morgan was Junior Engineer on the Anglo-Indian Steamship Domala, which was bombed last week when bringing from Amsterdam a number of English and other people, who had been set free from internment in Germany. He was educated at Winchester College, where he was at Kingsgate House from 1930-35. From Winchester he went to Hertford College, Oxford, and there he pursued a course in engineering, a subject in which he had shown marked ability. He took a degree in this subject, and an outstanding career was predicted for him. He was an excellent athlete, an oarsman and a long-distance runner, and had won for himself the esteem and affection of all with whom he came into contact.”

Hugh’s father was the Venerable Edmund Robert Morgan, who married Isabel Charlotte Jupp in Farnham. (England, Free Marriage Index June Quarter 1916)

From [www.iinet.au](http://www.iinet.au):-

M.V. DOMALA (March 2, 1940)

British India  
passenger liner of  
8441 tons, launched  
in 1921. Bombed by  
the German  
Luftwaffe, badly  
damaged, set on fire  
and had to be  
beached off the Isle  
of Wight. (Some  
sources say that  
around 100 people  
were killed) Later, the  
ship was salvaged  
and rebuilt under her  
new name, Empire



Attendant. It was while part of Convoy OS-33 that the ship was torpedoed in 1942 by the U-582 south of the Canary Islands. The ship’s captain, forty-nine crew members and nine gunners were lost. In the U-Boat's log she is entered under her former name, 'Domala'.

Hugh Morgan’s younger brother, Lt. Robert Andrew Morgan, RN, was mentioned in despatches during the Dunkirk evacuation and died, aged 24, when the escort destroyer HMS Hurworth was lost in a gallant action off Kalymnos on 22.10.1943. By that time their father had become Bishop of Southampton.

# OVINGTON



Population in 1911: 137; 8 casualties.

**BARNES, JOHN**, Private SD/886, 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment. Died 28.07.1917, aged 40. Son of Edwin and Emily Barnes, of Ovington Down, Alresford, Hampshire. Buried in Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Belgium, XVI.I.17A. (CWGC) Enlisted Lewes, Sussex. Died of wounds. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War* 1914-1919)

Born in Chilbolton, Hampshire, the son of an agricultural labourer. (1881 Census)  
By 1911 John was living with his parents in Ship Hill, Bishops Sutton, and working as a Domestic Groom. (Census)

When was John Barnes wounded? In late July the Battalion was not in the front line, but preparing for the Battle of Passchendaele (3rd Ypres), which started on 31st July 1917.

From the 11th Battalion War Diary:

16.07.1917 Battalion to C Camp, Poperinghe.

25.07.1917 Company training etc. C Company on CANAL BANK sustained several casualties to O.R.'s, particularly cases of Gas. Reconnaissance of model trenches by all ranks.

26.07.1917 Issue of 2 bombs per man and 50 extra rounds of S.A.A. (except specialists).  
Company Training and Inspections, preparing of Rolls of those going into action and revising Rolls of next-of-kin etc.



27.07.1917 Training under Company arrangements and Inspections of Companies in Fighting Order. Battle under 2 hours' notice to move up to the line owing to rumour that the Bosche is evacuating his front line system. Inspection of Field Dressings etc., and deficiencies completed. Hostile aeroplanes active during night, Bombing ammunition dumps etc. 3 O.R.'s wounded by Bomb at Transport Lines.

The burials in Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery were from the local Field Dressing Stations. If there was time to take John Barnes to a Dressing Station before he succumbed to his wounds, is it more likely that he was one of the casualties of July 25<sup>th</sup>?

**CHIVERTON, FRANK**, Rifleman 2355, 13<sup>th</sup> Company, Australian Machine Gun Corps. Died 26.09.1917, aged 23. Commemorated on Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium, Panel 31 (CWGC) and Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Panel 177.

Born in Brixton, son of Charles (a brewer's labourer) and Lucy Chiverton (née Gaiger) (1891 census). By 1901 the family were living in Easton, Hampshire; father a domestic gardener (Census). In 1914 his father became landlord of the Bush Inn, Ovington. In 1912 Frank sailed on the *Themistocles* to Australia, arriving in Sydney on 06.12.1912, giving his occupation as "agriculture". (NSW, Australia, Unassisted Immigrant Passenger Lists 1826-1922). His younger brother Ernest had already arrived in Brisbane on 14.03.1912.

Frank joined the Australian Imperial Force, attesting on 20.05.1915 at Hughenden, Queensland. His height was 5ft 5¾ in, Weight 9st 4lbs, Chest 33/35in, complexion fair, eyes grey, hair brown and a full set of teeth. Religion C. of E. Occupation station hand. Appointed to 7th Rein., 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade on 13.08.1915. After training in Egypt sailed to France on HMAV *Shropshire*; attached to 13 Machine Gun Company 29.07.1916, serving on the Somme. 23.11.1916 on leave in England, hospitalised 05.01.1917 for hernia operation, convalesced in Weymouth, 06.05.17 to further training in Grantham then rejoined unit in France 14.06.1917. (Personal service record). On the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> September the AIF were involved in ferocious fighting near Polygon Wood, and Frank was killed instantly by a bullet from an aircraft.

At that time brothers Ernest and Arthur were serving in the British army; Ernest had paid his own passage back to England in January 1915 and was en route to India, while Arthur had just gone to France. (*Hampshire Chronicle* 13.10.1917).



Polygon Wood 1917

Via Library of New South Wales.



**FITALL, JAMES, M.M.**, Sergeant 12991, 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment. Died 05.10.1917. Commemorated on Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium, Panel 92. (CWGC)

Born in Winchester about 1896, the son of Frank Fitall, a printer's labourer (1901 census). By 1911 James was working as a Baker's Assistant. (Census)

"... killed in action ... acting C.S.M. James Fitall ... fourth son of Mr Mrs Fitall of Ovington, aged 21.

His mother has received a letter from a Lieutenant in his Battalion, in the course of which he expresses his regret at the loss of a personal friend. The late Sgt, Fitall .... Enlisted in the Dorsets in February 1915. He was sent to the Dardenelles, and took part in the evacuation. From there he went to Egypt, and saw active service. From Egypt his Battalion was ordered to France, about 18 months ago. He was wounded in the severe fighting on the Somme on September 26<sup>th</sup> 1916, and was at Boulogne Convalescent Depot for three weeks. Rejoining the Battalion, he took part in the world-famous Battle of Messines Ridge, and subsequently came home on leave for 10 days in July. He returned to France, and his mother received the sad news from a fellow Sergeant on Tuesday last, conveying his deep sympathy and that of his comrades for the death of one who "was one of the bravest and coolest men I have ever seen in action, and was liked and respected by everyone. .... Mr & Mrs Fitall have four other sons, three of whom are serving in the Army. Their Third son George has seen service in the Persian Gulf, and has since been discharged through ill health. Their first and second sons, Frank Henry and William Charles, are both in the R.M.A., and it is a curious fact that their fifth son, Robert, joined the Rifle Brigade at the age of 15, as his father did 54 years before him. Mr Fitall himself served 24 years, and saw active service in India and Afghanistan, and is the possessor of two war medals, viz. the India Service Medal and Ali Muajid Clasp 1878. Altogether this family have shown a fine military spirit. Much sympathy to Mr and Mrs Fitall in their bereavement."



Enlisted in Sherborne, Dorset 06.02.1915, recorded as being 5' 10½", with a fair complexion, blue eyes and light brown hair, chest 38". He gave his employment as footman and religion as C. of E. The 1916 wound was a gunshot wound to the right buttock. His parents were named as Frank and Mary Ann Fitall of Ashtree cottage, Ovington. (Personal military record)

Letter from B Company, 5<sup>th</sup> Dorsets, B.E.F., France: "Dear Madam, I am very sorry to have to tell you that your son James was killed in action on Oct 5 by a shell splinter in the right side, after he was hit he continued to cheer on the men, but unfortunately only lived a few minutes. He was one of the coolest and bravest men I have ever seen in action & was liked and respected by everyone. At the time he was acting Company Sergeant Major & his death is a serious loss to everyone in the battalion. He was buried shortly afterwards by his comrades, their last tribute to a good soldier who had "Done His Bit". I should like to express my Deepest Sympathy of all his comrades to you in your great loss. Yours very sincerely J. Mounfield, Sergt."

(The action was the Battle of Broodseinde – though costly, an allied success of the Third Battle of Ypres.)

Brothers Frank and William both survived the war.

## Brothers:-

**LOCK, CHARLES PADWICK** Nothing known. 1891 Census has Charles F. Lock, s. of George F. (farm labourer) & Charlotte, b. abt. 1886, in Headbourne Worthy, Hampshire. Thus "Padwick" would appear to be a misreading of "Frederick", as Charles Frederick Lock is also commemorated on the New Alresford Memorial, q.v. p.157.

**LOCK, JAMES ALBERT**, Lance Corporal 8456, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Died 08.05.1915, aged 23. Third son of George Frederick Lock, of Lone Farm, Itchen Abbas, Hants, and the late Charlotte Lock. Commemorated on Helles memorial, Turkey, Panels 125-134 or 223-226, 228-229 & 338. (CWGC)

Baptised in Headbourne Worthy on 16<sup>th</sup> October 1892. Unmarried. Enlisted Winchester. Killed in Action. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919*)  
Was already serving as a private in 1911 (Census)  
Service Record not available.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion had been in constant action on Cape Helles since April 25<sup>th</sup> 1915. An assault was made up Galley Ravine; artillery support was inadequate, resistance strong, and the line was advanced about 500 yards, short of their objectives, at heavy cost. The exhausted troops were ordered to try again on May 8<sup>th</sup> with the support of newly-arrived New Zealand and Australian troops. The Brigade was checked by well-concealed machine gun fire, and in the evening was ordered back from what little ground had been gained. "The Hampshire had made another determined effort which had cost them another 28 ...killed and missing and ...98 wounded. ... In little over a fortnight three-quarters of the battalion had become casualties and the survivors were for a time completely played out." (*The Royal Hampshire Regiment, Vol.2, 1914-1918*, Atkinson C.T., University Press, Glasgow 1952)

**LOCK, JOHN WILLIAM**, (LOCKE CWGC) , Lance Corporal 7985, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment. Died 25.09.1915. Commemorated on Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium, Panel 7 & 8. (CWGC)

Second son of Frederick George Lock and Charlotte Lock, born in Winchester on 17<sup>th</sup> July 1889. Not married. Enlisted in Newbury. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)  
Was already serving as a private in 1911. (Census)  
Service Record not available.

The action on 25.09.1915 was at Bois Grenier, part of the Battle of Loos.  
From the Regimental War Diary (<https://www.thewardrobe.org.uk/wardiary>):-  
2nd Royal Berkshire Saturday 25th September 1915 France, BOIS GRENIER  
Battalion took part in an attack on the German position and during the day sustained the following casualties:-  
Officers Killed: CAPTAIN R.W.L. OKE, CAPTAIN W.A. GUEST-WILLIAMS, LIEUTENANTS G.F. GREGORY, R.H.G. TROTTER, J. VESEY, R.H.L. SIMMONS and 2nd LIEUT B. RUSSELL. Officers Wounded: CAPTAIN G.H. SAWYER, LIEUT G.E. HAWKINS, 2nd LIEUTS H.F.R. MERRICK, R. LEWIS, and G.W. LINDLEY. (The last two named were not admitted to hospital).  
Other Ranks: Killed 32, Missing 143, Wounded 216.

From the history of the 8th Division (Via [www.1914-1918.invisionzone.com/forums](http://www.1914-1918.invisionzone.com/forums)):-

“The attack was conceived as an adjunct to the Battle of Loos. The aim was 'to capture about 1200 yards of the German front line system opposite the re-entrant and link them up with our own line at the Well Farm and Le Bridoux salients, thereby both shortening and strengthening our position'.

At 4.25am, ... The infantry ... when the barrage lifted ... immediately occupied the front line trench on the right. "A" Company followed with 4 machine guns. By 6am the second line had also been occupied.

Three companies of 2/Royal Berkshire attacked through the centre. One company was picked up in a searchlight and came under fire while forming up. The attack was also successful in capturing the front line, as was the effort of two companies of 2/Lincolnshire on the left. The one problem was a 200 yard section of trench between the Rifle Brigade and Berkshire companies that remained in German hands. It was linked to a communication trench through which the Germans could funnel forward counterattack troops.

At 6.30am, the captured second line had to be abandoned under pressure from the counterattacks. The bombers were having difficulties with resupply and with the rain, which was affecting the fuses. On the right and in the centre, the German attacks were held.

Pressure increased on the left but reinforcements of 2 companies of 1/Royal Irish Rifles were fed into the left sector. Three 'Grenadier platoons of the 24th Infantry Brigade were sent up at 8am to reinforce our troops throughout the length of the captured trenches. Despite this further reinforcement, the situation in Brideaux Fort again became serious as the morning advanced'. The supply of bombs gave out completely. The 2 companies of 2/Royal Berkshires and their reinforcements were forced back to the British lines at 2pm.

The British centre then gave way under increased German pressure. Although the right flank held out longer, reinforced with two trench mortars, once contact with the centre companies was lost, the retreat of these forces was inevitable as well.”

**STOWELL, HUGH OSWALD DOUGLAS**, Lance Corporal 17426, 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Middlesex Regiment. Died 12.05.1917, aged 29. Son of the Rev. Hugh Frederick La Mothe Stowell and Mrs Annie Davenport Stowell, of Ovington Rectory, Alresford, Hampshire. Buried in Cagnicourt British Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France, III.B.11. (CWGC)  
Personal military record not available.

In 1911 Hugh was working as a solicitor, lodging at 13, Lexham Gardens, Kensington. (Census)

“... Being a Lieutenant in the Alresford Territorials he was called up at the outbreak of war, when he was transferred to the Sussex Cyclists, and was promoted to Captain, guarding the East Coast. Owing to ill health, caused by the constant strain of his arduous duties, he was obliged to resign his commission, but on regaining his health, his noble spirit and fine courage was shown by his enlisting as a Private in the Middlesex Regiment, and was soon after sent out to France. He returned to a London hospital with a wound in his shoulder, and on recovery was again sent out. He returned to England to the Mont Dore Hospital, at Bournemouth, suffering from a severe attack of dysentery, and went back to France about six months ago. On Tuesday news arrived from his Captain that when storming a German trench on May 12<sup>th</sup> a machine-gun bullet hit him in the chest, killing him instantly. The deepest sympathy will go out to the parents in their great loss. (*Hampshire Chronicle* 02.06.1917). This action would have been during the Third Battle of the Scarpe.

**WHITE, FREDERICK CHARLES**, Private DM2/117996, 597<sup>th</sup> Mechanical Transport Company, Royal Army Service Corps. Died 21<sup>st</sup> November 1916, aged 28. Buried in Salonika (Lembet Road) Military Cemetery, Greece, 692. (CWGC)  
 Born Andover, residence Bristol, enlisted Ovington, Hampshire. Died. (*UK, Soldiers Who Died in the Great War 1914-1919*).  
 Personal military record not available.

The 597<sup>th</sup> Company was a supply column for 26<sup>th</sup> Division. Lembet Road Cemetery served several local Field Hospitals. There was no great offensive for the Division in November 1916, but losses through disease were heavy. (<http://www.1914-1918.net/26div.htm>)

### Salonika front Summer 1916

(From <http://www.hounslow.info/libraries/local-history-archives/edgar-turner/>)



Requests for hats, sun helmets and mosquito nets for the British Salonika Forces were never fully met. Mosquito netting provision remained inadequate until 1917, when the effects of malaria on British troops provided indisputable evidence of the need for mosquito nets. The largely treeless landscape meant that troops were regularly exposed to the glowing sun.

In the heat of a summer day, in a largely treeless landscape, shelter from the sun was

very important. Excessive heat prevented all but essential work from being done between half-past one and four o'clock each afternoon.

Heatstroke was a problem for marching troops in the Balkan summer. Steel helmets, issued for use by front line troops, were not popular. "They may have been excellent things to wear in cool countries; but not in Salonika, in the summer!" (Captain Nicholson, 10th Hampshire Regiment)

One private soldier wrote that:

"Marching is very hot and tiring, and we get a thirst which no amount of drinking will satisfy; our water bottles are a very precious thing... (they are) filled before moving off and no man must drink until the order is given.. The water men have difficulty keeping up the supply, which has to be carried in leather bags on the mules." [Under the Devil's Eye: Britain's Forgotten Army at Salonika 1915-1918; p.51; Alan Wakefield & Simon Moody, 2004]



Born in 1888, son of David (a woodman) and Ann White (1891 Census). By 1901 Frederick was already working as a shepherd, the family living in St Mary Bourne, Hampshire. (Census)

## WORLD WAR 2



**WHATLEY, ERNEST GEORGE**, Corporal 5500799, Hampshire Regiment. Died 12.09.1943, aged 24. Third son of the late Mr & Mrs Whatley of Mattingley, nr. Alresford, Hampshire. Buried in Salerno War Cemetery, Italy, IV.B.43. (CWGC)

Born in Alresford in mid 1919.

Mother's maiden name Verrian. (England & Wales, Birth Index, September quarter 1919)

Parents were Henry & Ellen, married in Sparsholt, Hampshire 01.11.1905. (Sparsholt Parish Register) In the 1911 Census Henry is recorded as a shepherd of Nettlebeds, Old Alresford.

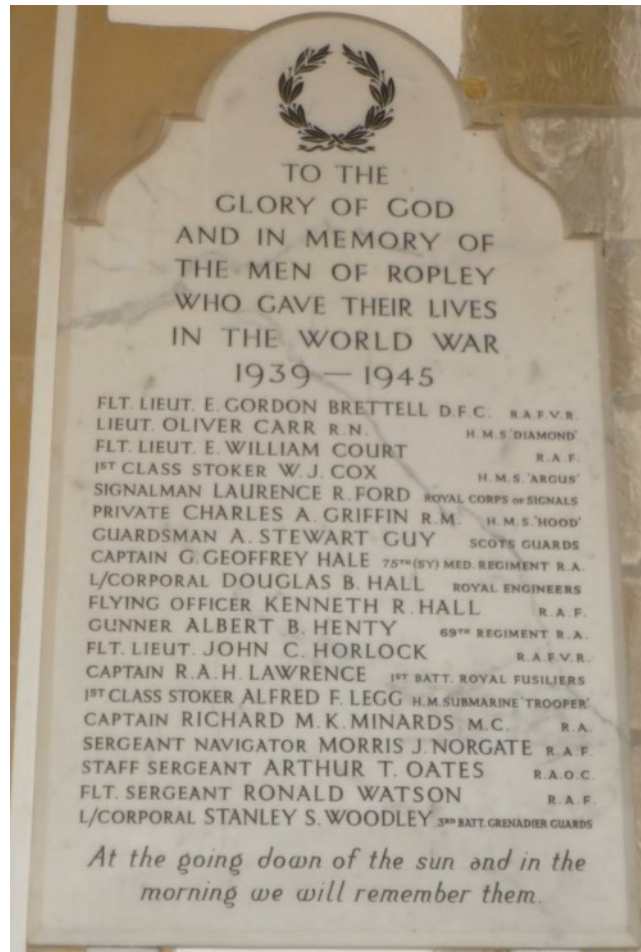
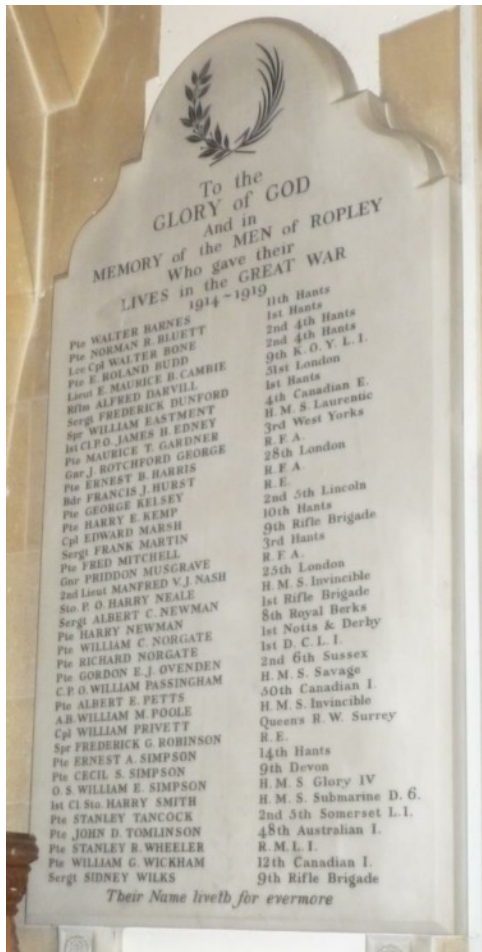
9 September 1943

The 128th Infantry Brigade was one of three British brigades that made an assault landing at Salerno in Italy as part of X Corps. The landing was opposed by shore batteries firing shrapnel, and the beaches were raked by machine gun fire.

2nd Battalion and 1/4th Battalion made steady progress, but 5th Battalion had been landed in the wrong place and suffered heavily. A German counter-attack over-ran 'B' company and the Battalion HQ of 5th Battalion. The 5th Battalion lost 40 men killed, but over 300 were wounded or taken prisoner. On 12 September the Germans started a general assault against the Salerno bridgehead, which made good progress; the US VI Corps were almost driven into the sea. However, the arrival of US paratroops and the British 7th Armoured Division turned the tide. 128th Brigade was in the hills above Salerno, and the fighting was hard, but on 20 September the Germans began to withdraw northwards, and the pressure eased. All three Battalion had suffered – 2nd Battalion suffered 304 casualties, 1/4th Battalion suffered 159 casualties and the 5th Battalion suffered 29 Officer and over 400 Other Rank casualties. *"The Royal Hampshire Regiment 1918 - 1954"* by David Scott Daniell.



# ROPLEY



Two casualties, **Walter Barnes** and **Norman Bluett**, of the Third battle of Ypres, in which Ernest Simpson of Ropley and **George Cotterell** of Northington were also killed – see Appendix 3 for an account of the action.

**BARNES, WALTER**, Private 21355, 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Died 04.08.1917, aged 30. Son of Mr and Mrs D. Barnes, of Swelling Hill, Ropley, Winchester. Buried in Dozinghem Military Cemetery, Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, II.C.6. (CWGC)  
Born in Ropley, enlisted Winchester, Died of Wounds. (UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919)

Westvleteren was outside the front held by Commonwealth forces in Belgium during the First World War, but in July 1917, in readiness for the forthcoming offensive, groups of casualty clearing stations were placed at three positions called by the troops Mendinghem, Dozinghem and Bandaghem. The 4<sup>th</sup>, 47<sup>th</sup> and 61<sup>st</sup> Casualty Clearing Stations were posted at Dozinghem and the military cemetery was used by them until early in 1918. (CWGC)



The 1891 Census recorded the family living at Kitwood, Ropley, Walter born in Ropley about 1887, eighth of ten children of David and Caroline Barnes. Father was a farm labourer. By 1901 the family had moved to Four Marks, Hampshire, and Walter had become a cattleman on a farm. (Census) In 1911 Norman was a farm carter, living with the family on Swelling Hill (Census). Mother Caroline née Jackson (England & Wales, Free BMD Marriage Index Dec. 1871).

Personal Service Record not available.

Walter's birth was actually recorded in the July quarter of 1885. (GRO Index)

**BLUETT, NORMAN RUPERT**, Private 22510, 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment.

Died 01.08.1917, aged 26. Son of Lionel Rupert Bluett, of Homestead Farm, Galley Hill, Selborne, Alton, Hampshire, and the late Harriet Bluett. Commemorated on Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium, Panel 35. (CWGC)

Born in Lewisham, London, residence Medstead, Hampshire, enlisted Alton, Hampshire.

Killed in Action. (UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919)

Personal Service Record not available.

Born in Lewisham late in 1891 (England & Wales, Free GRO Birth Index Dec. 1891). Baptised in Lewisham 10.11.1891, the son of Lionel Rupert and Bessie Harriett Bluett of 62 Mount Pleasant Road. Father was an Insurance broker. (London, England, Births & Baptisms, 1813- 1906).

Bessie Harriett née Fuller (England & Wales, Free BMD Marriage Index Dec. 1889).

In 1911 Norman was a General Education Student at the Rectory, Roughton, Norfolk (Census)

Probate record lists Norman's address as "Hazelcroft", Alton Lane, Four Marks, Hampshire.

Effects £285.16s.2d. (England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1861-1941, 22.08.1918)

**BONE, WALTER CHARLES**, Lance Corporal 202497, 2nd/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Hampshire

Regiment. Died 26.01.1919, aged 39. Son of Charles Bone, of West Tisted, Alresford; husband of Florence Bone (formerly Hall), of Church St., Ropley, Winchester.

Buried Cologne Southern Cemetery, Germany, IX.C.24. (CWGC)

" .... Death ... from cerebro-spinal meningitis, in Germany. Lance Corporal Bone, formerly of Martyr Worthy, was the eldest of five brothers serving with the Colours, and joined up in April 1916. He went to India in July 1917, and from there proceeded to Palestine. He was wounded at Jerusalem, and went to France in June last, where he remained with the exception of a short home leave last September. Since the armistice he had been with the Army of Occupation in Germany, and Mrs Bone was expecting to hear of his return daily, when she heard from an Army Chaplain ... that he had passed away after only a few days' illness ... (*Hampshire Chronicle*)

Born in Bentworth, Alton, Hampshire, in 1911 Walter was a carter on a farm, living with his wife and daughter at Enmill Farm, Sparsholt, Hampshire. (Census)

**BUDD, ERNEST ROLAND, (“Roland”)**, Private 29037, 2nd/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Died 28.09.1918, aged 18. Son of Mrs Elizabeth Budd, of Rectory Flat, Medstead, Alton, Hampshire. Buried in Flesquieres Hill British Cemetery, France, I.C.7. (CWGC) Residence Ropley, enlisted Southampton. Killed in Action. (UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919)

On 28<sup>th</sup> September 1918 the Battalion attacked Marcoing and the Scheldt Canal, as part of the assault on the Hindenburg line. The attack was successful, but cost nearly 100 casualties. (The Royal Hampshire Regiment, vol.2, 1914-1918, Atkinson, C.T., University Press, Glasgow, 1952)



In 1901 Ernest was recorded as born in Ropley in 1900, living in the Stores, Medstead, his father Charles a shopkeeper. In 1911 Ernest was living with his widowed mother, a laundress, in Medstead, Hampshire. (Census)

Ernest Roland Budd was known as Roland Budd by his friends and family.

Roland's parents (Charles and Elizabeth Budd) moved from Ropley to Medstead where they bought a Grocery and Bakery business. Unfortunately Charles Budd died of pneumonia in 1906 leaving his wife to support their three children Cecil, Roland and Hilda. Roland attended the local village school until 14 years of age when he was apprenticed to an engineer. Both Cecil and Roland were keen Boy Scouts.

The death of Roland was a severe shock to all the family and it is said that his mother's hair turned completely white almost overnight after receiving the news. (Thanks for picture and information to Sheila Bishop née Budd and Julian Bishop.)

**CAMBIE, EDWARD MAURICE BALDWIN**, Lieutenant, 8th Battalion, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. Died 01.07.1916, aged 22. Son of the Rev. Dr. Cambie and Mrs S. R. Cambie, of Saxlingham Rectory, Norwich. (Rev. Dr. Cambie was vicar of Ropley in 1915). Commemorated on Thiepval Memorial, France. Pier & Face 11C & 12A. (CWGC)

As part of the Battle of the Somme, on 1st July 1916, supported by a French attack to the south, thirteen divisions of Commonwealth forces launched an offensive on a line from north of Gommecourt to Maricourt. Despite a preliminary bombardment lasting seven days, the German defences were barely touched and the attack met unexpectedly fierce resistance. Losses were catastrophic and with only minimal advances on the southern flank, the initial attack was a failure. (CWGC)



“... only surviving son of the Rev. S.R. Cambie, Rector of Otley, and late Vicar of Ropley, Hampshire. Lt. Cambie fell gallantly leading his men on the very first day of the great offensive. His Commanding Officer says: “He had shown himself to possess to remarkable extent the qualities of leadership, and men who saw him in the battle tell me that the courage, skill and resource shown by him during the attack were extraordinary”. This

promising young officer came of a long line of distinguished sailors and soldiers, and for many generations his Huguenot ancestors were prominently connected with the civil and religious life of the city of Norwich. He was educated at the Dean Close School, Cheltenham, and Hertford College, Oxford. Directly the war broke out he enlisted in the United Public Schools Battalion, receiving a commission almost immediately in the Yorkshire Light Infantry. He was promoted to a Lieutenancy in November 1914. (*Hampshire Chronicle* 22.07.1916)

... only surv. s. of the Rev. Solomon Richard Cambie, C.M.G., B.Litt., Rector of Otley, Ipswich, and formerly Vicar of St. Saviour's, Brixton Hill, S.W., by his 1st wife, Alice, dau. of Lewis Richards, late of Chowringhee, Calcutta; and godson of Edward John Cambie (some time Scholar of T.C.D.), of Kilgarvan House, Nenagh, and Monkstown, co. Dublin; b. at Gorsley Vicarage, co. Gloucester, 7 Aug. 1894; educ. Dean Close Memorial School, Cheltenham (Senior Prefect and Corpl. O.T.C.), and Hertford College, Oxford; enlisted on the outbreak of war in the Public Schools Battalion, being subsequently gazetted 2nd Lieut. 30 Oct. 1914, receiving his promotion to Lieutenancy shortly after. He served at Halton, Tring, and at Witley Camp, co. Surrey as Officer of Details, and after a course at the Staff College, Camberley, he proceeded to Rugeley, Staffs (Reserve of Officers), where he was for a time Deputy Acting-Adjutant: left for France on 24 March, 1916, and fell in action 1 July, 1916, near Hébuterne, on the Somme front. His Commanding Officer wrote: "Those who saw him in the battle say that his courage, skill and resource were extraordinary," A brother officer said: "We miss him frightfully: he was so cheery and always ready to do anything." His servant wrote: "Unfortunately I got separated from him in the battle, but I would gladly have died for him." (UK, *De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour*, 1914-1924)

**DARVILL, ALFRED**, Rifleman 391802, 2nd/9<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Queen Victoria's Rifles), London Regiment. Died 21.09.1917, aged 21. Son of Joseph and Caroline Darvill, of Hook House, Ropley, Winchester. Buried in Mendinghem Military Cemetery, Belgium, V.D.33. (CWGC) Enlisted London, Died of Wounds. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War*, 1914-1919)

#### Third Battle of Ypres

'September 19<sup>th</sup> 1917 Reigersberg Camp. Brigade in reserve for attack on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Work allocated to 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Queen Victoria's Rifles consisted of two companies (A & D) being detached to carry ammunition for the heavy guns while C & B acted as stretcher bearers under Capt. Eustace, the M.O. "Both tasks were well done" says Lt. Col. Parry, though not without casualties, and I received very congratulatory reports from the ADMS and the CRA on the behaviour of the men and the excellent discipline they had shown.'" (*The History & Records of the Queen Victoria Rifles 1792-1922*, Keeson, V.D., London, Constable & Co. Ltd., 1923)

Born in Ropley, in 1911 Alfred was not recorded as having an occupation. He was living with his family at Hook Saw Mills, Ropley, his father a timber merchant. (Census)

**DICKSON, William Herbert**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, 2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment. Died 07.06.1917. Brother of Captain A.N.Dickson, M.C., I.M.S., of Preston, and nephew of Mrs.Dickson of Ropley. Buried in Motor Car Corner Cemetery, Belgium, A.1.CWGC & *Hampshire Chronicle* 16.06.1917)

Not on Ropley War Memorial.

His Headstone is inscribed "Brother of Capt. A.N. Dickson, M.C., I.M.S., of Preston. Remembered with honour."

(William's medal roll gives his brother's address as "c/o A.C.Dickson Esq., 17, Winckley Street, Preston".



Killed in action in France, June 7th,1917. That date was the opening of the Battle of Messines.

([http://www.archive.org/stream/recordofservice000soli/recordofservice000soli\\_djvu.txt](http://www.archive.org/stream/recordofservice000soli/recordofservice000soli_djvu.txt))

"Towards the end of May, to relieve the Second Army and II Anzac Corps of responsibilities outside the active area, the 57th Division sector right up to the Lys was transferred to the XI Corps of the First Army.

The defensive front of the Corps, as contrasted with the offensive front on which the three divisions were preparing their spring on Messines, was thus restricted to the short sector from the Lys to St. Yves, held by the 3rd Australian Division. To relieve its garrison a separate force of two battalions of the already extended 57th Division was brought up on the 3rd June north of the Lys and attached for tactical purposes to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Australians." The two battalions here mentioned, as detached from the 57th Division, were the 2/4th and 2/5th Battalions of The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, and in the War Diary of the Battalion it is stated that the task of this two-battalion detachment was "... to hold the front from the River Lys to St. Yves as a defensive front on which other operations will pivot."

With this small detached force the Battalion remained for some ten days, taking its share of duty with the Australian Battalions, and during almost the whole period of its absence from the Division being subjected to an especially heavy bombardment by all descriptions of "heavy stuff." The casualties suffered were naturally very many – probably in proportion almost as heavy as those incurred by battalions actually engaged in the Messines battle; these amounted to one officer – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant W.H.Dickson – and fourteen other ranks killed. Lieutenant and Adjutant J.S.Kay and one hundred non-commissioned officers and men wounded." (*The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment 1914- 1919*, Wylly,H.C., The Naval and Military Press Ltd.)

Born in Preston, Lancashire in 1877, son of George H Dickson, Solicitor, and Mary Eliza Ann Dickson (née Cox) of Springfield House, Nether Wyresdale, Garstang, Lancashire, (1881 Census & England & Wales Christening Records, 1530-1906).

Educated at Cheltenham College, like his two brothers, father, six uncles and grandfather. William Herbert was born on 7 May 1877 and attended College from May 1890 until July 1894, on the Classical (as opposed to Military and Modern) side of College. He was a

Boarder in Boyne House and coxed the College Boat in 1892 and 1893. (Cheltenham College archives; photo reproduced by kind permission of the College).

By 1901 he was a solicitor, living with his widowed mother in Southport, Lancashire (Census).

Admitted February 1901, practising at Chippenham.

The remnants of his attestation record, marking his enlistment in Chippenham on 10.12.1915, show William as a solicitor, 5' 47/8" tall, 10 stone in weight, 37" chest with 31/2" expansion, good sight, fit for general service. Joined 14th Batt. County of London Regiment. (London Scottish) 15.03.1916 and was later attached to an O.T.C. at Gales.

Gazetted 2nd Lieut. Loyal North Lancashire Regiment 26.01.1917 (Medal Roll).

**DUNFORD, FREDERICK GEORGE**, ("Freddy"), Sergeant 8086, 1st Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Died 01.11.1914. Married to Lily Atkinson (née White, formerly Dunford) of 79, Addiscombe Court Rd., Croydon, Surrey. Commemorated Ploegsteert Memorial, Berks Cemetery Extension, Hainault, Belgium, Panel 6. (CWGC).

Also on the Tichborne Memorial – see the Tichborne entry p.293 for full details.

**EASTMENT, WILLIAM**, Sapper 504242, 11<sup>th</sup> Field Company, Canadian Engineers. Died 27<sup>th</sup> October 1916, aged 25. Son of Richard Samuel Eastment and Maria Eastment, of Oak Cottage, Four Marks, Alton, Hants, England. Commemorated on Vimy Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. (CWGC)

The Company War Diary reveals that the Company was working at night on Battalion Headquarters and Brigade dump at the old front line at La Boisselle, Somme, France; the Company was in La Boisselle from October 12<sup>th</sup>. No casualty is recorded on 27<sup>th</sup> October 1916; the nearest record is "1 O.R. struck off strength died of wounds # 9C.S.S." on 24<sup>th</sup> October. (<http://data2.collectionscanada.ca/e/e050/e001247451.jpg>)



The Canadian Expeditionary Force Burial Register states "Previously reported missing, now Killed in Action" in the vicinity of Courcellette. The nearest record in the War Diary for "missing" is "1 O.R. missing, struck off strength on October 13<sup>th</sup>. La Boisselle was known to the British troops as the "Glory Hole" – tunnelling in the area was extensive. (<http://www.laboisselleproject.com/>)

Picture from "Our Heroes in The Great World War", compiled by J. H. De Wolfe, Patriotic Publishing Co., Ottawa, Ontario, 1919

William Eastment, English, single, Methodist, was recorded as landing in Quebec from SS Ionian (steerage class) on 16.09.1913. His old and proposed occupation was given as "Y Labr", and his destination Brockville, Ontario.

William's attestation paper is dated 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1916. His birth is given as 12<sup>th</sup> August 1882, in "Aldshot, Surry, England". Still unmarried, his next of kin his mother, Maria, in Oak Cottage, Four Marks. His occupation teamster, and address Edmonton, Alberta. He claimed to have



served three years in the Army Service Corps. Height 5' 10", chest 39", expansion 5". Fair complexion, blue eyes, light hair. Now recorded as Roman Catholic.

It seems unlikely that 1882 is the correct birth date. A Richard Samuel Eastment married Maria Little in the last quarter of 1890 in Blandford, Dorset. (England & Wales, Free BMD Index). The 1901 Census records a William Eastment, aged 9, born in Winterborne, Dorset. There are some hamlets called Winterbourne near Blandford. His parents, however, are recorded as Richard Eastment, a 36 year old Farm Carter born in Pilston, Somerset, and Minnie Eastment, 34 years old and born in Yeovil, Somerset. The family were living in Addlestone, Surrey. It would therefore appear that William was born about 1892.

**EDNEY, JAMES HIGHFIELD**, Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class 113286 (Dev) R.N., HMS Laurentic. Died 25.01.1917, aged 52. Son of Henry Edney, of Amble, Northumberland; husband of Henrietta Edney, of Highfield, Four Marks, Alton, Hampshire. Buried in Upper Fahan (St. Mura's) Church of Ireland Churchyard, County Donegal, Eire. (CWGC)

Born 13<sup>th</sup> February 1865 in Warkworth, Northumberland. Enlisted 13<sup>th</sup> February 1883 at Devonport for 10 years, height 4' 11<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>", dark brown hair, sallow complexion. Re-enlisted 21<sup>st</sup> November 1892, height now 5' 2" with fair complexion. Served on many ships, then joined the newly commissioned battleship H.M.S. Ocean in 1901, which sailed to the China Station (the Boxer rebellion took place over this period). Royal Fleet Reserve, Devonport 28<sup>th</sup> July 1903. Recalled to service 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1914, joined H.M.S. Laurentic 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1914. (Naval Personal Record)

**LAURENTIC** Built 1909 Tonnage 14892 GRT Length 550' 00" Breadth 67' 00" Average Speed 17.0 knots. Her engines were experimental, their success leading to their arrangement being adopted for the *Olympic* class.



She normally served on the Liverpool-Canada route, and gained notoriety in the capture of murderer Hawley Harvey Crippen, in which Chief Inspector Walter Dew of the Metropolitan Police used the Laurentic's speed to arrive in Canada before the fleeing suspect on the SS Montrose. [[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SS\\_Laurentic\\_\(1908\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SS_Laurentic_(1908))]



On the outbreak of World War I in 1914, the White Star liner R.M.S. *Laurentic* was requisitioned by the Admiralty as an armed merchant cruiser. On 25th January 1917 she struck a mine off Lough Swilly on the northern coast of County Donegal, Ireland and sank with the loss of 350 persons. H.M.S. *Laurentic* was travelling to New York and her cargo included a substantial amount of gold bullion that was later recovered.  
([www.gwpda.org/naval/laurenti.htm](http://www.gwpda.org/naval/laurenti.htm) ).

**FANN, FRED MANLEY**, Sergeant 23, 1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment. Died 13.10.1915, aged 36. Son of John William Fann, of The Dene, Ropley, Winchester; husband of G. L. Blackwell (formerly Fann), of "Inglesyde", Quedgeley, Gloucester. Commemorated on Loos memorial, France, Panel 31 – 34. (CWGC) (Not on Ropley Memorial)

“... wounded and missing 13<sup>th</sup> October 1915. No information received since. Served in the Boer War, holding Victoria and Edward VII medals for that campaign and long service medal as a volunteer.... (Hampshire Chronicle 13.01.1917)

Had three children. Two older brothers lived with his parents in Ropley.

Served at home from 05.08.1914. With the expeditionary force in France 01.03.1915.  
(Personal army file)

Born Grimsby, Lincolnshire, residence Grimsby, enlisted Gloucester, *Killed in Action* (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War*)

Born about 1888, father a Clerk in HM customs, mother a music teacher. (1891 census) Married Gertrude Lucy Tuck in Grimsby in 1899. (England & Wales, Free BMD Marriage Index, September 1899)

In 1911 Fred was working as a plumber, living in Grimsby with his wife and three children (1911 Census)

The date of death indicates that Fred fell in the Hohenzollern Redoubt battle, the battalion being part of 46 (North Midland) Division. The whole of the division comprised of Territorial Regiments, made up of units from Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire, North Staffordshire and Monmouthshire, supported by Royal Field Artillery and Royal Engineers. It was the division's first major action after its arrival on the Western Front but it was a gallant failure. The casualties incurred that afternoon changed forever the fine pre-war territorial character of the division.

The battle took place on the last afternoon of the Battle of Loos, some 12 miles to the north. The objective was for "The Hump" - an old mine slag heap which controlled the high ground, housing observation posts, machine guns etc.

The battle started with the usual artillery barrage early morning. After a lengthy pause, it was followed with a gas attack, but this proved to be ineffective as the wind had changed and the gas blew over the British. The high command then demanded another pause before the troops went over the top. This gave the Germans the opportunity to occupy their positions ready for the expected attack.

The trench lines were only 200 yards apart. The Germans had a small bulge in their line which gave them a clear field of fire down no mans land, and this had been fortified with machine guns.

The 1/4th and 1/5th Lincolnshire Regiments were the first to go over the top, and they were wiped out in less than half an hour. Of those killed 90% of the 1/4th Lincolns and 97% of the 1/5th Lincolns have no known graves. The percentage of casualties was higher than in the Battle of the Somme.

Records show that as these were regiments whose recruits were from the same towns and villages, so many brothers, fathers and sons, uncles and cousins all died together. Despite all efforts, the battle was a complete failure and the "The Hump" remained in German hands until the end of the war.



**Attack on the Hohenzollern Redoubt 13 th October 1915; 46 (North Midland) Division total infantry Casualties:**

Killed Or Died Of Wounds: 74 Officers And 1234 Other Ranks, a total of 1,308, of whom 93% have no known grave. 1/5<sup>th</sup> Lincolns recorded 188 killed, 97% with no known grave.

There were 2,368 non-fatal Infantry casualties (295 of the 1/5 Lincolns). Most were wounded, but a small number became Prisoners of War.

The Artillery, Engineers and other divisional units suffered 87 casualties.

Total 46<sup>th</sup> (North Midland) Division Casualties: 3,763.

(<http://www.royalanglianreggy.co.uk>)

**GARDNER, MAURICE THOMAS**, Private 20560, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own). Died 27.05.1918. Commemorated on Soissons Memorial, Aisne, France. (CWGC)  
Born Ropley, Hampshire, residence Wimbledon, Killed in Action. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)

Born about 1899, son of Charles (a Gardener, not Domestic) and Alice M Gardner of South Street, Ropley. (1901 Census)

The original British Expeditionary Force crossed the Aisne in August 1914 a few kilometres west of Soissons, and re-crossed it in September a few kilometres east. For the next three and a half years, this part of the front was held by French forces and the city remained within the range of German artillery. At the end of April 1918, five divisions of Commonwealth forces (IX Corps) were posted to the French 6th Army in this sector to rest and refit following the German offensives on the Somme and Lys. Here, at the end of May, they found themselves facing the overwhelming German attack which, despite fierce opposition, pushed the Allies back across the Aisne to the Marne. Having suffered 15,000 fatal casualties, IX Corps was withdrawn from this front in early July, but was replaced by XXII Corps, who took part in the Allied counter attack that had driven back the Germans by early August and recovered the lost ground. The Soissons Memorial commemorates almost 4,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom forces who died during the Battles of the Aisne and the Marne in 1918 and who have no known grave. (CWGC)

Personal Service Record not available.

**GEORGE, JOHN ROCHFORD**, Gunner 176323, "D" Battery, 336<sup>th</sup> Brigade, Royal Field Artillery. Died 06.07.1918. Buried in Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery, Iraq, XIX.D.5. (CWGC)  
Born Woodstock, Oxfordshire, residence Alresford. Died. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)  
Personal service record not available.

As Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery was created for those who died in local casualty clearing stations and hospitals, it seems likely that "died" implies that John succumbed to disease rather than wounds. Formed in 1917, the 18<sup>th</sup> (Indian) Division, to which the Brigade was attached, was not recorded as being in action until October 1918.  
([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/18th\\_Indian\\_Division](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/18th_Indian_Division))

Born about 1876, in 1901 John was a Provision Dealer, living with his wife Alice in Battersea, London. (1901 Census)  
The probate record shows that John left effects valued at £588 13s 11d to his widow, Alice Maud George of "Woodside", Parkstone Road, Ropley. (England & Wales, National Probate Calendar Index of Wills and Administrations, 1918)

**HARRIS, ERNEST BEACH**, Private 766892, "C" Company, 28<sup>th</sup> Battalion London Regiment (Artists Rifles). Died 23.08.1918, aged 28. Son of Edwin and Hepzibah Ierson Harris, of Herne Hill, London; husband of Gwendoline May Harris, of 2, Golders Manor Drive, Golders Green, London. Buried in Bienvillers Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France, XVIII.F.11. (CWGC)

Born in Southwark, son of an Ironmonger. (1901 Census)

Deemed to have enlisted 02.03.1916. An army agent's clerk, who had previously served for six years with the 21<sup>st</sup> Battalion, London Regiment. Medically examined in Clapham 19.07.1917, found fit with good physical development apart from a double inguinal hernia. 5' 6" tall, 171 lbs., 39" chest. Called for service 07.09.1917. In hospital 31.12.1917- 08.02.1918 for repair of hernias. Joined his unit 27.07.1918. Died of wounds received in action. Father of Francis Beach Harris, born 18.04.1918. (Personal army record)

"In August, on the eve of the Australian offensive before Amiens, we went to Beaucourt-sur-l'Hallue. After their attack had been successfully launched the Division marched north again via Famechon to Souastre, whence we moved out via Fonquevillers to take our part in the commencement of that vast movement which resulted in the eventual overthrow of the enemy. The Division attacked on the 21st in heavy mist supported by a very intense artillery barrage and at the end of the day the Artists found themselves in the front line, having passed unconsciously through the Battalion we were supporting who had lost direction to a certain extent and moved too far to the right. The next morning the C.O. and Adj. (Capt. Barnett) were wounded and we sustained our most deeply regretted casualty in the death of R.S.M. Peter Emslie, who was ever a magnificent stand-by in the line, where his courageous efficiency rendered him at all times invaluable. The Battalion was brought out by Lieuts. Bayne and Besch. On the 24th at Achiet-le-Petit we went over in close support of the 188th Brigade in a heavy ground mist intermingled with gas and smoke. Objectives were carried and the attack turned south-east towards Warlencourt and Ligny-Thilloy where stout opposition was encountered and the attack delivered on the following morning in conjunction with the Canadians failed. The Division was then withdrawn via Irles, Miraumont, Achiet-le-Petit, Bucquoy, Alette to Boiry St. Riquette. The next day we moved into trenches at Boiry-Becquerelle, and on the 26th we followed up the attack as Division in reserve, the attacking waves passing through Fontaine and Hendecourt to Caignicourt, and so on to the Hindenburg line between Inchy and Moeuvres."

([http://www.archive.org/stream/regimentalrollofoohighiala/regimentalrollofoohighiala\\_djvu.txt](http://www.archive.org/stream/regimentalrollofoohighiala/regimentalrollofoohighiala_djvu.txt))



Photo National Army Museum 91197

This is the only casualty to match the inscription on the Ropley memorial, but what was his connection with the village?

**HURST, FRANCIS JOHN**, Lance Bombardier 261622, Royal Field Artillery. Died 17.05.1919, aged 29. Son of James Hurst; husband of Ellen Hurst, of 19, Grange Rd., Alresford. Born at Broadstairs. Buried in Ropley (St Peter) Churchyard, Hampshire. (CWGC)

Born in London, Surrey, son of a groom. (1901 Census)

In 1911 Francis was working as a groom at the HH Kennels, Ropley. (Census)

Died at Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester of Carcinoma of the Pancreas and Exhaustion. His civilian occupation and address were given as a Hunt Whip of the Kennels, Ropley on the Death Certificate.

**KELSEY, GEORGE**, Pioneer 129736, 2<sup>nd</sup> Special Company, Royal Engineers. Died of wounds 07.05.1917, aged 33. Son of William and Elizabeth Kelsey, of Avon Cottages, Ropley, Hampshire. Buried in Lillers Communal Cemetery, Pas-de Calais, France, V.D.21. (CWGC) Born in Kings Somborne, Hampshire, enlisted Ropley, formerly 22066, Hampshire Regiment. (UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919)

2<sup>nd</sup> Special Company, Royal Engineers were specialists in the use of poison gas, attached to 4<sup>th</sup> Army. (<http://www.1914-1918.net/specialcoyre.htm>)

Lillers was used for billets and headquarter offices from the autumn of 1914 to April 1918. At that time it was a hospital centre with the 6<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 32<sup>nd</sup>, 49<sup>th</sup> and 58<sup>th</sup> Casualty Clearing Stations in the town at one time or another. (CWGC)

In 1901 George was a Carter on a farm, living with his parents (father also a carter) in Hursley, Hampshire (1901 Census)

In 1911 George was still a Carter, living with his wife and two daughters in Gilbert Street, Ropley. (Census)

**KEMP, HARRY EDWARD**, Private 41353, 2<sup>nd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment. Died 26.09.1917, aged 19. Son of Arthur William and Alice Kemp, of North Street Farm, Ropley, Winchester. Buried Tyne Cot Cemetery, Belgium, XXIX.F.19. (CWGC) Born in Ropley, Hampshire, residence Alton, Hampshire. Formerly 125768, RASC. Killed in Action. (UK, *Soldiers Killed in the Great War 1914-1919*)

In 1901 Harry was living with his parents (father William a china dealer) and elder brother in the Soke, Ropley. (1901 Census)

By 1911 the family had moved, and Harry's father had become the farmer of North Street Farm, Ropley. (1911 Census)

The Battle of Polygon Wood: 26th September-3rd October 1917:

The previous operations from the 20th-25th September gave us the whole of the Menin Ridge, and the next battle was for the purpose of pushing our line still further east to a position from which a direct attack could be made on the ridge between Noordemdhoek and Broodseinde. The attack was due on the 26th of September on a front of rather less than six miles from south of Tower Hamlets to north-east of St. Julien.

The 59th Division (Romer) attacked with the 177th Brigade on the right and the 178th Brigade on the left, each brigade with two battalions in the front line, and captured a long line of strong posts on each side of the Wieltje—Grafenstafel road.

In addition to the usual artillery barrage there was a machine gun barrage from forty machine-guns firing on the strong points, Van Isackere Farm, Dochy Farm, Fokker Farm, Toronto and Otto Farm.

On the night of the 25th/26th the 2/4th and 2/5th Lincolnshire formed up on a line roughly from Zevenecote to Elms Corner, i.e., in rear of the Leicesters. Two hours before zero (5.50 a.m.) the guns opened with a heavy bombardment of the enemy's positions. Several days of fine weather had dried up the ground considerably, and the bursting shells threw up clouds of dust, which acted as a smoke screen for the attackers.

At zero the Leicesters attacked and gained possession of the first objective without much opposition. The 2/4<sup>th</sup> Lincolnshire passed through the 2/4th Leicesters at zero plus one hundred and thirty-five minutes, the formation of the battalion being a line of men who moved about fifty yards in rear of the barrage, followed at a distance by small assaulting columns in file. A Company was on the right, C on the left, B in support, whilst D was used for carrying and mopping-up duties. The support company moved in artillery formation.

The enemy showed very little fight. Some surrendered and came out of their Concrete strongholds ("pill-boxes") as soon as the first line approached. The garrisons of two offered resistance, but when the attacking troops moved round their flanks and opened fire they also gave in. Of machine-gun and rifle-fire and bombing, there was very little. The 2/4th advanced until held up by their own barrage, under cover of which deep narrow trenches were dug in irregular formation. Patrols were then pushed out and more prisoners secured from a strong point south-east of Dochy Farm, where the ground was too wet to allow of trenches being dug.

The captured ground was consolidated in depth, a few "pill-boxes" being used, but the latter were mostly avoided as the enemy would certainly shell them. At about 5.30 p.m., the enemy put down a heavy barrage, which fell principally on the support line, causing many casualties. An attempted counter-attack was broken up. Throughout the night of the 26th/27<sup>th</sup> shell-fire was continuous.

On the left of the 2/4th, the 2/5th Lincolnshire had similarly captured their objective. The battalion attacked also on a two company frontage, B on the right, D on the left, C in support, and A in reserve, with orders to provide carrying parties.

D on the left met with practically no resistance and dug a strong point north of Dochy Farm, sending a platoon to assist B Company in capturing the Farm. B Company in attacking the Farm as final objective, met with machine-gun and rifle-fire, but worked to the flanks of the block-houses, whereupon the Germans surrendered, some fifty being captured.

The battalion then consolidated a line of strong points from the Farm to the strong point constructed by D Company. Shell-holes in rear of these points were connected and deepened. The enemy's barrage on the old front line and assembly positions was heavy, but the attacking troops had passed beyond it, and did not suffer casualties. The heaviest losses, however, occurred on the final objective, on which the hostile artillery placed a heavy bombardment. The captured "pill-boxes" especially came in for rough treatment.



“The men,” records the narrative of the 2/5<sup>th</sup> Lincolnshire, “behaved with the greatest gallantry throughout, and on several occasions had to be checked from passing through our own barrage to their objectives, especially during the wait behind the 2/5<sup>th</sup> Leicesters until zero plus one hundred minutes.” The whole attack by the 59<sup>th</sup> Division went splendidly. ....

The Battalion Diary states that out of twenty-one officers and five hundred and sixty-three other ranks who went into action on the 26<sup>th</sup>, only ten officers and seventy-five other ranks marched out of the trenches. A heavy price to pay for victory.” (*The History of the Lincolnshire Regiment 1914-1918*, ed. Simpson, C.R., Medici Society, 1931)

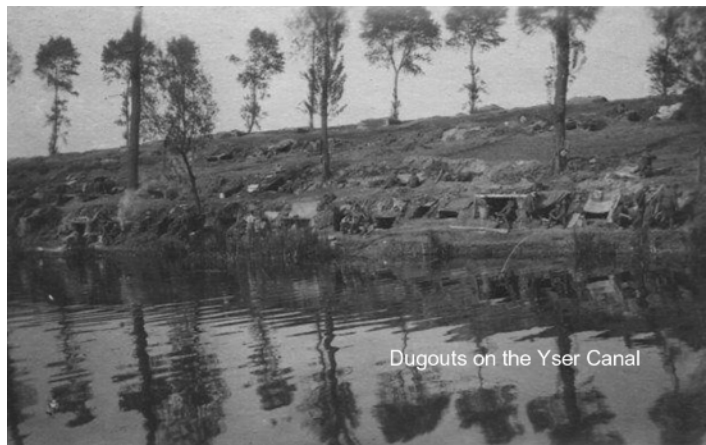
**LAILEY, ERIC LILLYWHITE**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Duke of Cornwall’s Light Infantry. Died 29<sup>th</sup> February 1916, aged 21. Only son of Ernest and Leah Lailey, of “Fairbank”, Watford, Hertfordshire. Buried in Bard Cottage Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, I.F.4. (CWGC)

Not on Ropley War memorial, but named on that of St Matthew, Oxhey, Watford.  
Personal Army Record not available.

Born in 1894 in Bushey, Hertfordshire; mother’s maiden name Leah Weeks Lillywhite. Father was a civil engineer. (<http://trees.ancestry.co.uk/tree/8483031/person/-13811963?ssrc=>)

“... one of the two grandsons of the late Mr James Lailey of Ropley ...During the lifetime of Mr and Mrs Lailey his grandchildren constantly spent their holidays in Ropley, and the people of Ropley have seen them grow up and knew the late Lt. Lailey by sight very well. He was educated at Bedales’ School, and afterwards as a civil engineer at University College, London. At the outbreak of war he joined the Artists’ Rifles and was gazetted to a commission in the 7th Duke of Cornwall’s Light Infantry in October 1914. He went to France in July last, and was at home for a week’s leave in January last.” *Hampshire Chronicle* 18.03.1916)

(On the Bank of the Yser Canal South of Boesinghe and opposite Brielen) “The 7<sup>th</sup> DCLI went into the line on the night of 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup>. The front line was in appalling condition. The ground was waterlogged and there were no dug-outs for officers or men. The Brigade Headquarters’ Diary describes the sector, on taking over, in the following terms:  
*The work to be done is terrific and the line barely exists. Very little of the wire to be seen and the*



*communication trenches are a mass of “crump” holes. On the 29<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. E.L.Lailey, who went out in front of his post superintending the putting up of wire, was killed by a machine-gun bullet. His body was brought in by 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. T.W.Lonsdale.”* (*The History of the DCLI 1914-1919*, Wyrall, O., London, Methuen & Co. Ltd., 1932)

(Picture [www.border-regiment.co.uk](http://www.border-regiment.co.uk))-

**MARSH, EDWARD, ("Ted")**, Corporal 14705, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Died 09.08.1916. Son of James and Sarah Marsh, of Cheriton, Hants; husband of Jessie Sarah Nevell (formerly Marsh), of Swan Hill, Ropley, Winchester. Buried in Potijze Chateau Wood Cemetery, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, A.27. (CWGC)  
Born Upham, Hampshire. Enlisted Winchester. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919*)  
Personal Army Record not available.

Killed in action ... aged 35. The loved husband of Jessie S. Marsh, Gilbert-street, Ropley."... enlisted in the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment, early in December 1914. He was sent to Gallipoli with the Battalion in May, 1915, and was in the big battle that raged from the 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> August, when he was wounded and sent home. He made a rapid recovery, and was sent out again in November (attached to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion). He was in the withdrawal of troops from Suvla Bay. He was then sent to Egypt, and from there to France this year. He leaves a widow and two small daughters to mourn his loss. Corporal Marsh had previously been in the Army. He was in the Battle of Dorgai Heights, but was invalided suffering from malaria fever. (Hampshire Chronicle 09.09.1916)

"The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion was in trenches east of Potijze when they were subjected to a phosgene gas attack on August 8<sup>th</sup>.... between it and the German barrage, the battalion suffered terribly, having more than 240 casualties, more than half fatal." The line was held. (The Royal Hampshire Regiment, Vol.2, 1914-1918, Atkinson C.T., University Press, Glasgow 1952)

The 1881 Census recorded 1 month old Edward's birthplace as Cheriton; he was living at Westfield Farm, Cheriton, Hampshire, his father James an agricultural labourer and his mother's name Hannah.

Edward married Jessie Sarah Legg in early 1906 in Alresford. (All England & Wales, Free Marriage Index: June 1906)

In 1911 Ted, Jessie and two daughters were living in Gilbert Street, Ropley, Ted working as a farm carter. (Census)

Jessie married Reginald C D Nevill in early 1922. (England & Wales, Free BMD Marriage Index, June 1922)

**MARTIN, FRANK**, Sergeant B/2161, 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Rifle Brigade. Died 20.08.1916, aged 36. Husband of Annie L. Martin, of "Sunnydene," Melody Rd., Biggin Hill, Kent. Commemorated on Thiepval Memorial, France, Pier & Face 16B & 16C.

Born in Wimborne, Dorset about 1880.

Residence Winchester, enlisted Ropley, Killed in Action 20.08.1916. (UK, *Soldiers Killed in the Great War 1914-1919*)

On 1 July 1916, supported by a French attack to the south, thirteen divisions of Commonwealth forces launched an offensive on a line from north of Gommecourt to Maricourt. Despite a preliminary bombardment lasting seven days, the German defences were barely touched and the attack met unexpectedly fierce resistance. Losses were catastrophic and with

only minimal advances on the southern flank, the initial attack was a failure. In the following weeks, huge resources of manpower and equipment were deployed in an attempt to exploit the modest successes of the first day. However, the German Army resisted tenaciously and repeated attacks and counter attacks meant a major battle for every village, copse and farmhouse gained. At the end of September, Thiepval was finally captured. (CWGC)

1891 Census records Frank's parents as George (a Malthouse Labourer) and Emily Martin. The family were living in Colehill, Wimborne Minster, Dorset.

In 1911 Frank and Annie Lillian Martin were living in 8, Fox Cottages, Amport, Hampshire. Frank was working as a carter on a farm. (Census)

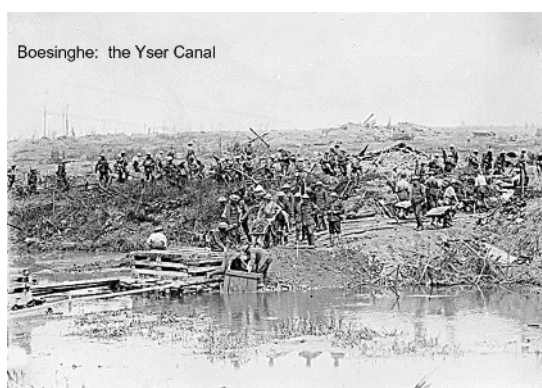
Frank's attestation papers are dated 1<sup>st</sup> September 1914 and signed in Winchester. His address is given as Parkside, Ropley. He declared previous eight years service in the RGA, ended in 1912. Occupation carter. Height 5' 6", weight 141 lbs, chest 38", expansion 2", good physical development. A daughter born in 1911 and a son in 1913.

**MITCHELL, FRED**, Private 31648, 2<sup>nd</sup> (Church Memorial says 3<sup>rd</sup>) Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Died 13.07.1917, aged 30. Son of Harry and Fanny Mitchell; husband of Gertrude Ward Mitchell, of 9, Andover St., Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. Buried in Longuenesse (St. Omer) Souvenir Cemetery, France, IV.C.54. (CWGC)

"... died of wounds ... "(Hampshire Chronicle 18.08.1917)

Residence Alresford, enlisted Ropley. 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Died of wounds 13.07.1917. (UK, *Soldiers Who Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)  
Service Record not available.

From July 10<sup>th</sup>- 13<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Hampshire were in the front line, occupying the Canal Bank near Boesinghe. "They found the line fairly quiet and casualties were few, if much hard work was needed." (*The Royal Hampshire Regiment, Vol.2, 1914-1918*, Atkinson C.T., University Press, Glasgow 1952)  
Born about 1888 in Walton, Surrey, his father a Domestic Servant, Gardener (1891 Census)



### **MUSGRAVE, PRIDDON (Fred),**

(Musgrove CWGC), Gunner 199092, Royal Field Artillery. Died 15.05.1917. Buried Portsmouth (Milton) Cemetery, Hampshire, L.7.28. (CWGC)

Died of wounds: On 15<sup>th</sup> May, at the Milton Military Hospital, Gunner P.F. Musgrave, Suffolk Regiment, beloved and only son of Mrs and the late Mr Musgrave of Medstead, Alton, aged 19. (*Hampshire Chronicle* 19.05.1917)

Service Record not available.

Late April 1917 saw the Suffolk Regiment, as part of 3<sup>rd</sup> Division, 3<sup>rd</sup> Army taking part in the heavy fighting of the Battle of Arras.

1901 Census shows Priddon Musgrave, born in Headley, Hampshire, as the son of Priddon and Matilda Musgrave in Medstead, Alton, Hampshire – father a gardener.

**NASH, MANFRED VICTOR JOHNSTONE**, 2nd Lieutenant, 1<sup>st</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> Battalion (25 (Cyclist) Battalion on memorial) London Regiment. Died 02.11.1917, aged 36. Son of Ann Nash, of 14, Eton Avenue, Hampstead, London, and the late Frederick Nash. Educated at Exeter College, Oxford (M.A.) matriculated 1900. Born in London. Buried in Gaza War Cemetery, XIV.D.4

Killed in Action 02.11.1917. (UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919) Service Record not available.

“ ... of Four Marks, Hampshire, Commissioner (Boy Scouts) Alton District, Scoutmaster of 22<sup>nd</sup> Hampshire Troop, only child of Mrs Nash, 14, Eton Avenue, London N.W.” (*Hampshire Chronicle* 24.11.1917)

In 1911 was living alone, on his own means, at 29, Wellington Square, Oxford (Census)

### **Third Battle of Gaza**

The first action at Gaza took place before dawn on 2 November, when the 161st, 162nd and 163rd Brigades of the 54th Division attacked the Ottoman trench system in the sand dunes between Gaza and the sea in a four stage attack. British attacks featured well-prepared troops with overwhelming artillery support and even six Mark IV tanks. The British infantry advanced about 2 miles (3.2 km) on a 5,000 yards (4.6 km) front and held their gains against repeated Ottoman counter-attacks. Casualty figures were heavy for both sides but this time favoured the British. Not all the British attacks were as successful as expected, and the British attempt to break through with the Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade was not successful. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Third\\_Battle\\_of\\_Gaza](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Third_Battle_of_Gaza))

**NEALE, HARRY**, Petty Officer Stoker K/11454 R.N., H.M.S. Victory (memorial states H.M.S. Invincible). Died 26.10.1917. Son of George Frederick and Alice Neale. Buried in Ropley (St. Peter's) Churchyard, Hampshire. (CWGC) Service Record not available.

Born in Bighton, Hampshire about 1887, son of George (a Domestic Coachman) and Alice Neale. In 1901 Harry was working as a Post Boy and Groom, living with his parents, two brothers and three sisters in Church Street, Ropley. (1901 Census)

“Funeral of a Naval Hero. On Wednesday there was laid to rest in the quiet Ropley Churchyard the body of S.P.O. Harry Neale, late of H.M.S. Invincible. S.P.O. was one of the sons of Mr & Mrs G. Neale of Gilbert-street. For over nine years he faithfully served his King and Country in the Royal Navy and took part in the battles of The Bight and The Falkland Islands in 1914. After the latter battle his health completely broke down, and eventually he was invalided from the Navy in 1915. His health, however, did not improve, and he passed quietly away from the storms of life on Friday October 26<sup>th</sup>....” (*Hampshire Chronicle* 03.11.1917)

See p.150 for HMS Invincible's wartime service.

**Two brothers**, sons of Tom (a Railway Worker) and Jane Newman). In 1901 the family were living with Jane's parents in North Street, Ropley. (1901 Census), but by 1911 were living in Station Cottages, Ropley, Tom working as a railway platelayer. (1911 Census):-

**NEWMAN, ALBERT CHARLES**, Sergeant B/2316, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Rifle Brigade. Died 18.10.1916, aged 18. Son of Tom and Jane Newman, of The Dene, Ropley, Winchester. Buried in Guard's Cemetery, Lesbœufs, Somme, France, XIII.AA.4. (CWGC)  
Residence Ropley, enlisted Ropley. Killed in Action 18.10.1916. (Soldiers Killed in the Great War)

"... Albert Newman joined the Rifle Brigade at Winchester in August 1914, at the age of sixteen years, left England for France on December 31<sup>st</sup> 1915, and was reported missing on October 18<sup>th</sup> 1916. .... A letter from his Captain says " I have just got back to C Company after having been away sick for a few weeks, and I find that your son has been reported "missing" on October 18<sup>th</sup>. I am sorry indeed and deeply sympathise with you in your anxiety. He is a great loss to my Company, as he was one of the most promising N.C.O.'s I had, and I had become very fond of him, and relied on him a great deal. He was always cheerful, and ready to do anything he was told to do, and would do it well; he was a very gallant fellow." (Hampshire Chronicle 18.11.1916)

(Battle of the Somme)

"The fighting that the Battalion took part in in October was confined entirely to the country between the Lesbœufs-Morval ridge and the German system in front of Le Transloy – the depth of the country was about 2,000 yards, and the Germans were holding no definite trench lines but were occupying fortified shell holes, abandoned gun pits, and short lengths of trench all over the place. Machine guns were scattered in all directions and were impossible to locate... Several attempts had been made to clear this country and get within jumping-off distance for a big attack on the Le Transloy system, but these had made very little progress.

... on 16.10.1916 took over part of the captured German trench West of Lesbœufs. The night of 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> was terrible, with pouring rain and pitch darkness." ... There was confused fighting with allies and enemy mixed up. A supporting tank became stuck in a sunken road 600 yards behind the action. "On the 18<sup>th</sup>, about 11a.m., we were warned to co-operate with the French in an attack that they were making at noon, and two more companies of the Somerset Light Infantry were put at our disposal for this and these moved up to a position on our right flank, but as the French attack never materialised, they did not come into action. Frosty trench was occupied in the afternoon and held against counter-attack ... thus a valuable piece of ground was gained. ... The weather had been appalling the whole time, and the state of the trenches beyond words – especially the communication trenches, which were quite impassable. Casualties 8 officers and 253 other ranks".

(The Rifle Brigade Chronicle for 1919, Verner, W. London, John Bale, 1920)

**NEWMAN, HARRY**, Private 45941, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment. Died 23.10.1918, aged 18. Son of Tom Newman, of The Dene, Ropley, Winchester. Commemorated on Vis-en-Artois Memorial, France, Panel 7. (CWGC)

Born in Ropley about 1900.

Residence Southampton, enlisted Ropley. Killed in Action 23.10.1918. (*UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)

Service Record not available.

Regimental War Diary (<https://www.thewardrobe.org.uk/wardiary>):-

8th Royal Berkshire Wednesday 23rd October 1918 France, LE CATEAU

01:20. Zero hour for 18th Division. Barrage commenced. The enemy retaliation was quickly felt and was remarkably heavy, the Cutting apparently being his barrage line and many shells falling actually on the line. The Battalion suffered about 15 casualties during its stay in the cutting, including the Medical Officer, CAPTAIN W.H. FERGUSON MC, R.A.M.C. Although wounded this officer continued to attend to the wounded in a cool and heroic manner and while extricating wounded men from a blown in dug-out he was wounded a second time which necessitated his leaving the Battalion.

01:50. Companies commenced to leave the cutting and form up about 100 yards in front. Order of Coys was D Coy on the right, C Coy in the centre, B Coy on the left and A Coy in support.

The Battalion had been ordered to capture and consolidate the 2nd objective of the 53rd Infantry Brigade, passing through the 10th Essex Regt and 7th R.W. Kent Regt on the 1st objective. Companies tasks and objectives are shown on attached map.

02:20. Battalion moved forward keeping direction by the right flank of D Coy which was resting on the wood running from K.35.b.7.6 - EVILLERS WOOD FARM - L.20.central. Considerable difficulty was experienced in keeping touch although the moon, which was full, had risen by this time.

The first opposition was met at RICHEMONT RIVER, where a strong machine gun nest held up the left Coy (B). These guns had been missed by the 1st attack. O.C. "B" Coy 2ND LT J. GRANT was killed here and most of his Coy Head Qrs became casualties. On the right a little sniping from 3 Bosche who had previously surrendered caused slight trouble.

The Battalion moved on behind the leading Battalion to just short of the 1st objective, the sunken road in L.14.C, L.20a and a, where the 10th Essex were found to be definitely held up by very heavy machine gun fire from this road. Numerous attempts were made to rush this position both by the Essex and C Coy without success. In addition heavy Machine Gun Fire was coming from L'EVEQUE WOOD and the right was also held up. Batt Head Qrs had, by this time, moved to about L.19.Co.o.

The position remained unchanged until dawn.

As soon as it was light enough, it became evident that the attack on the left Brigade front was going well and the enemy in the sunken road apparently becoming uneasy, especially when Tanks were seen moving on the far ridge to their flank, began to retire. Captain M. WYKES MC, who had gone forward from Batt Head Qrs to reconnoitre appreciating the situation moved the leading companies forward and the sunken road was rushed without much opposition. Over 30 Light and Heavy M.G.'s were taken in the road.



The advance was then continued as far as the 2nd objective which was taken about 08.30 hours. Owing to the fact that B Coy had been held up at RICHEMONT RIVER it became necessary to reinforce the line on the 2nd objective. A Coy was therefore moved up.

Coy dispositions were as follows. C Coy from FAYT FARM inclusive to L.9.d central with A Coy on their right and elements of B and D along the road at L.16.a.2.5, where touch was gained with the left Battalion (1st WORCESTERS) 25th Division. The 55th Brigade were soon after passing through and M.G. fire was shortly afterwards heard from the direction of BOUSIES.

Companies reorganised. B Coy was concentrated in the practice trenches in L.14.c. Batt Hd Qrs were established at L.14.C.8.3.

These positions were maintained during the night 23/24th October.

The Battalion's capture in Field Guns were 11, Machine Guns over (20) definitely collected.

**Two brothers**, sons of Charles (an Agricultural labourer) and Elizabeth Norgate. In 1901 the family, including a younger son and daughter, were living in Hammond's Lane, Ropley. (1901 Census)

**NORGATE, RICHARD**, Private 27357, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry. Died 24.08.1918. Son of Charles and Elizabeth Norgate, of Yew Tree Cottage, Hammonds Lane, Ropley, Winchester. Buried Bagneux British Cemetery, Gezaincourt, Somme, France, IV.G.8. (CWGC)

Residence Alresford. Died of Wounds 24.08.1918. (UK, *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914- 1919*) Service Record not available.

The Battalion took part in the Battle of Albert, August 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> 1918, the successful opening attack that opened the way for the Second Battle of the Somme. Gezaincourt was the home of several casualty Clearing Stations.



Photo [www.ww1westernfront.gov.au](http://www.ww1westernfront.gov.au)

Born about 1891 in Ropley, Hampshire. (1901 Census)

In 1911 was working as a labourer, living with his parents in Ham Lane, Ropley (his father now a thatcher). (1911 Census)

**NORGATE, WILLIAM CHARLES**, Private 70069, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Sherwood Foresters (Notts. And Derby Regiment). Died 27.04.1918. Buried in Sedan-Torcy French National Cemetery, Ardennes, France, XX.750. (CWGC)  
Residence Catford, Kent, enlisted Guildford, Surrey. Died 21.06.1918. (*UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)  
Service Record not available.

Why the two different dates of death? Sedan-Torcy French National Cemetery was made in 1923. The cemetery contains 45 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, nine of which are unidentified. The graves came from the German Cemeteries of CARIGNAN; LA CACHETTE, NOUZON; LIART; MAUBERT-FONTAINE; and WALCOURT (NAMUR). (CWGC) Does this imply that William went missing on 27.04.1918, but died as a prisoner on 21.06.1918? 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Sherwood Foresters was not in action on 21<sup>st</sup> June 1918. The Battalion history for April 1918 reads “after the 23<sup>rd</sup>, quiet. – 7 killed and 18 wounded. The line was readjusted on the night of 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> April, the troops withdrawing to a general line Pilckem-Wieltze-West end of Zillebeke Lake – Voormegeele (near Ypres). The month closed with the enemy held on both the Southern and the Northern battle fronts.” (The 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> battalions the Sherwood Foresters in the Great War, Wyllly, H.C., Aldershot, Gale & Polden Ltd.)

Born about 1889 in Ropley, Hampshire. (1901 Census)

**OVENDEN, GORDON EUGENE JAY**, Private TF/266231, 2<sup>nd</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> “Cyclist” Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment. Died 01.11.1918. Commemorated on Karachi 1914 -1918 War Memorial, Pakistan. The names commemorated on the memorial are of those who served in garrisons and died in Pakistan (formerly India) during the 1914-1918 War and who lie buried in civil and cantonment cemeteries (excluding those graves lying west of the river Indus). (CWGC)  
Residence Brighton. Died 01.11.1918. (*UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*)  
Service Record not available.

The only match in the 1901 census is Gordon E Ovenden, born about 1891 in Blackheath, Kent. He was living in Brighton, Sussex with his parents Job (a hairdresser) and Laura Ovenden. In the 1911 census, surname spelled Ovendon; he has become a drapery salesman in Reigate, Surrey. Married in Reigate June quarter 1911. (GRO Marriage Index Vol 2a p.441)

The Battalion War Diary reveals that Gordon Ovenden died of influenza at Lahore, one of four from C Company to die of the disease in five days. The battalion lost fifteen Officers, NCO's and men to pneumonia or influenza between October 15<sup>th</sup> and November 10<sup>th</sup> 1918. In 1918 the Battalion lost nobody in action, three died in accidents and 32 died of disease. Many of the local villages were placed out of bounds due to endemic Plague and Enteric Fever.

**PASSINGHAM, WILLIAM**, Chief Stoker 291299 R.N., HMS Savage. Died 03.05.1915, aged 34. Son of Mr and Mrs W. Passingham, of South St., Ropley, Hants; husband of Lottie Potter (formerly Passingham), of 124, Dalling Rd., Hammersmith, London. Commemorated on Portsmouth Naval Memorial Panel 8. (CWGC).

Enlisted for 12 years 6<sup>th</sup> February 1899 in Portsmouth, occupation engine cleaner. Born 7<sup>th</sup> January 1881 in Ropley, Hampshire. Height 5' 4", Dark Brown Hair, grey eyes, Fresh complexion. Re-enlisted 6<sup>th</sup> February 1911, by which time he had tattoos: girl and swallow on left arm, tree on right arm. Served on several ships, passed for Chief Stoker 20.06.1912 when on H.M.S. Invincible, joining H.M.S. Savage 1<sup>st</sup> April 1915. Killed in action. (Personal naval record) The only ship's casualty recorded on 03.05.1915. (<http://www.navalhistory.net/xDKCas1915-05May.htm>)

The ship survived the war to be sold in 1921.

[[http://www.dreadnoughtproject.org/tfs/index.php/H.M.S.\\_Savage\\_\(1910\)](http://www.dreadnoughtproject.org/tfs/index.php/H.M.S._Savage_(1910))]

Hampshire Chronicle 15.05.1915:

"News came to Ropley yesterday that Chief Stoker Passingham of H.M. Torpedo-destroyer had been killed in the Dardanelles. He had only left Portsmouth three weeks before. He was a son of Mr and Mrs W. Passingham of South Street, Ropley, and leaves a widow and one little girl of four. Married Charlotte Tibble in Alresford (England & Wales, Free Marriage Index, 1837-1915, March 1910) Daughter Ellen was born in Portsmouth in 1911. (1911 Census) Charlotte ("Lottie") married Albert Potter in Alverstoke (England & Wales, Free Marriage Index, 1837-1915, March 1918)



**PERCEY, FREDERICK**, Gunner RMA/12773, Royal Marine Artillery. Died in hospital due to a nervous breakdown, 24<sup>th</sup> July 1915. Born 19.10.1894 in North Waltham, Hampshire. Buried Osmondwall Cemetery, Isle of Hoy, Orkney, D.64. (CWGC & *Hampshire Chronicle* 04.11.1916) (Not on Ropley Memorial). Service dated from 20.11.1911. (<http://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/ViewRecord/865057?reference=arrowLinks>)

Frederick Percy, gardener, born about 1895 in North Waltham, Hampshire, appears in the 1911 Census as the son of James and Adelaide Percy of Parkville, Ropley – his father a Police Constable.

**PETTS, ALBERT EDWARD**, Private 898480, 50<sup>th</sup> Battalion Canadian Infantry (Alberta Regiment). Died 28.02.1917, aged 20. Son of William and Mary Petts, of Telegraph Lane, Four Marks, Alton, Hants, England. Buried in Villers Station Cemetery, Villers-au-Bois, Pas de Calais, France, VII.C.22. (CWGC)

Born 22.01.1895 in London. Dairyman by trade in Bellevue, Alberta. Unmarried. Enlisted and passed fit 10.06.1916 in Blairmore, Canada. Height 5'9", girth 28½", complexion ruddy, eyes

brown, hair dark; religion C. of E. (Nat. Archives of Canada Accession ref. RG 150, Accession 1992-3/166, box 7780-3). [Bellevue was a coal-mining town. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bellevue,\\_Alberta](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bellevue,_Alberta))]

The Battalion War Diary does not record a great battle on 28<sup>th</sup> February 1917, just “Battalion in front line. 1 O.R. killed in action.” The front line was on Vimy Ridge. (<http://data2.collectionscanada.ca/e/e045/e001115691.jpg>)

Born in Lambeth, London. In 1911 he was living with his parents William & Mary (father a Police Pensioner and Market Gardener) and two sisters at *Myrtle Croft*, Alton Lane, Four Marks, Alton. (1911 Census)

Embarked 25.04.1914 in Southampton to sail to New York on American Line’s *SS St Louis*, giving his occupation as gardener.

**POOLE, WILLIAM MORTLAND**, Able Seaman J/16553, R.N. HMS *Invincible*. Died 31.05.1916 in the Battle of Jutland. Commemorated on Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 13. (CWGC). See p.150 for the story and pictures of H.M.S. *Invincible*.

Born in Dublin 10.05.1896, son of William George and Annie Frances Poole. Enlisted as a boy, giving his occupation as garden boy. Height 5’6¼”, chest 34”, brown hair & blue eyes. Engaged 10.05.1914 for 12 years, height now 5’ 9¾, and an anchor tattooed on his left forearm. (Personal service record).

In 1911 the family (including two younger sisters and a brother) were living in *Soldridge*, Four Marks, Alton, father recorded as a Smallholder and Army Pensioner. (1911 Census)

**PRIVETT, WILLIAM**, Corporal G/1156, 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The Queen’s (Royal West Surrey) Regiment. Died 28.09.1916, aged 25. Eldest son of William and Sarah Jane Privett, of “*Ivanhoe*”, The Dene, Ropley, Winchester. Commemorated on Thiepval Memorial, France, Pier & Face 5D & 6D. (CWGC)  
Personal Army service record not available.

Born in Ropley about 1891, in 1911 William was working as a cowman, living with his parents (father a painter), younger brother and sister in Church Street, Ropley. (1911 Census). Parents’ address given as Church-street, Ropley. “Dearly loved friend of P.L.B.” (Hampshire Chronicle 28.10.1916). P.L.B. was “Phoebe” (Hampshire Chronicle 28.10.1916)

On 28<sup>th</sup> September 1916 at 1300 hours the Battalion assaulted the Schwaben Redoubt, Thiepval, (see map p.217), gaining and holding the southern side. 1 officer and 44 other ranks were killed. (Regimental War Diary)

*Surrender of the Germans on the Schwaben Redoubt*  
via [www.lookandlearn.com](http://www.lookandlearn.com)



**ROBINSON, FREDERICK G**, Sapper 50144, 37th Signal Company, Royal Engineers. Died 20.02.1917, aged 21. Son of Arthur Frederick and Agnes Robinson, of Four Marks, Alton. Born at Farringdon, nr. Alton, Hampshire. Buried in Barlin Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais, France I.F.54. (This cemetery was used for burials by the 6th Casualty Clearing Station) (CWGC)

In 1911 Frederick was working as a Farm Labourer, living with his parents (father a Farm Labourer, Thatcher and Hedger), younger brother and two sisters at Southwood Farm, Dummer, Basingstoke, Hampshire. (1911 Census)

**SAVAGE, ARTHUR ROBERT**, Able Seaman J/23935, H.M.S. Black Prince. Died 31.05.1916, aged 18, in the Battle of Jutland. Mentioned as being on the Ropley Roll of Honour in 1916 (*Hampshire Chronicle* 04.11.1916), but not on Ropley War Memorial. See Bramdean p.59 for full entry.

### Two brothers, from a family of ten siblings:

**SIMPSON, CECIL SIDNEY**, Private 31083, 9<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion, Devonshire Regiment. Died 29.10.1918. Son of Rose Simpson, of Ropley Soke, Winchester. Buried in Pommereuil British Cemetery, Nord, France, B.44. (CWGC)  
“... died of wounds.” (*Hampshire Chronicle* 08.09.1917)  
Enlisted in Ropley. (UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919)

Born about 1899 in West Meon, Hampshire. Father William Henry Simpson was a farm labourer (1911 Census) whose death was registered in the first quarter of 1918. (GRO Index). Mother's maiden name was Nicholson.  
(<http://trees.ancestry.co.uk/tree/9913843/person/6000924281>)

Pommereuil is a village 3 kilometres east of Le Cateau that was the scene of severe fighting on 23-24 October 1918; the cemetery was made by the 25th Division after the capture of the village. (CWGC)

**SIMPSON, ERNEST ARTHUR**, Private 33248, 14<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion, Hampshire Regiment (The First Portsmouth Pals). Died 09.08.1917. Buried in Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France, 22.O.9A. (CWGC)  
Enlisted in Winchester, residence Ropley Soke, Hampshire, Died of Wounds. (UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919)

Etaples is a town about 27 kilometres south of Boulogne... During the First World War, the area around Etaples was the scene of immense concentrations of Commonwealth reinforcement camps and hospitals. It was remote from attack, except from aircraft, and accessible by railway from both the northern and the southern battlefields. In 1917, 100,000 troops were camped among the sand dunes and the hospitals, which included eleven general, one stationary, four Red Cross hospitals and a convalescent depot, could deal with 22,000 wounded or sick. In September 1919, ten months after the Armistice, three hospitals and the

Q.M.A.A.C. convalescent depot remained. The cemetery contains 10,771 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

Given that Ernest died of wounds in Etaples, a long way behind the lines, it seems likely that he was wounded in the Battle of the Pilckem Ridge in the opening phase of the Battle of Passchendaele (Third Ypres). 14 Battalion was part of XVIII Corps, 5<sup>th</sup> Army – see Appendix 3 for an account of the action.

Born in West Meon in 1896, also the son of William Henry and Rose Simpson, Ernest was already a farm labourer by 1911. (1911 Census)

**SIMPSON, WILLIAM ERNEST (“Ernest”),** Ordinary Seaman, J/56335 R.N.

H.M.S. Glory IV. Died 18.09.1918 of bronchial pneumonia. Buried in Archangel Allied Cemetery, Russia, G.5 (CWGC)

Born 18<sup>th</sup> January 1900 in Ropley, Hampshire. Enlisted 18<sup>th</sup> January 1918 for 12 years. Occupation farm labourer, height 5’ 4½”, chest 34”, brown hair, grey eyes, fresh complexion. (Naval personal record)

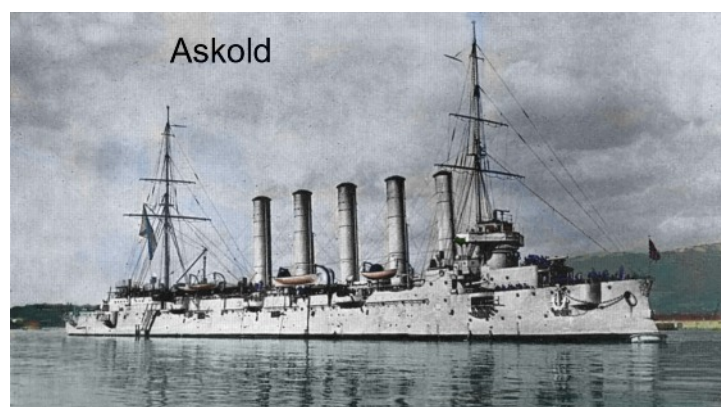
Parents were James (woodman on an estate) and Frances Simpson, living at *Hawthorn*, Ropley in 1901 and 1911 (Census). In both census returns he is recorded as “Ernest”, but his birth was registered as “William Ernest” (England & Wales, Free Birth Index, March 1900). UK, Royal Navy and Royal Marine War Graves Roll, 1914-1919 confirms that “William Ernest” was the son of James Simpson of *Hawthorn*, Four Marks, Hampshire.

The Russian cruiser **Askold (Аскольд)** was built for the Imperial Russian Navy by Deutsche Werft Kiel. She was launched on 3

March 1900 and served in the Russian Pacific Fleet during both the Russo-Japanese war and World War I. She was interned in Shanghai after the Battle of the Yellow Sea and became flagship of the Siberian flotilla in 1906. She sailed to the Mediterranean in 1915 and participated in the Dardanelles operation with Russia's British allies. She was seized by the Royal Navy after the Russian Revolution and

commissioned as the *Glory IV*. Returned to the Soviets after the Russian Civil war she was scrapped in Germany in 1922.

The ship was named after the legendary Varangian Askold. She had five thin funnels which led British sailors to nickname her *Packet of Woodbines* after the thin cigarettes smoked by them. ([www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org))





**SMITH, HARRY** Stoker 1<sup>st</sup> Class, K/13121 Royal Navy, H.M.Submarine D.6. Died 24.06.1916. Son of Henry and Julia Smith, of *The Shant*, Ropley, Winchester, Hampshire. Commemorated on Portsmouth Naval memorial, Panel 30. (CWGC)

[www.naval-history.net](http://www.naval-history.net) records Harry's death as 28.06.1918 – the day that the ship was lost, torpedoed by U-73 near Northern Ireland.

The D Class patrol submarines evolved from the C class boats. They were designed to be propelled by diesel motors on the surface to avoid the problems with petrol engines experienced with the A class. These boats were designed for foreign service with an endurance of 2500 nmi at 10 knots on the surface and much improved living conditions for a larger crew of 25. D boats were fitted with twin screws for greater manoeuvrability and were fitted with saddle tanks. The D class were the first submarines to be equipped with deck guns forward of the conning tower, beginning with D6. Also, reserve buoyancy was increased to 20.6%. Armament also included three 18 inch torpedo tubes (2 vertically in the bow and 1 in the stern). D class was also the first class of British submarine to have standard radio fitted. The aerial was attached to the mast of the conning tower that was lowered before diving. With their enlarged bridge structure the boat profile was recognisably that of the modern submarine. (Wikipedia)

H.M.SUBMARINE D.6 1912



U-73 was a Type UE I ocean-going single hull submarine with saddle tanks built by Kaiserliche Werft Danzig. The Type UE I was equipped with two six-cylinder Benz engines for 900 horsepower (670 kW) for a surface top speed of 9.6 knots (17.8 km/h; 11.0 mph) to 10.6 knots (19.6 km/h; 12.2 mph). Armed with a single torpedo tube forward and aft, plus one 8.8 cm (3.5 in) deck gun. Its main weapon were the 38 mines in two minelaying tubes. The boats were crewed by four officers and 28 men for a complement of 32.

Later, U-73 operated in the mediterranean, and had the distinction of being responsible for sinking the largest ship sunk in World War I, the 48,758 ton hospital ship *Britannic* (sister of *Olympic* & *Titanic*). She laid the mine which *Britannic* struck. U-73 survived the war, to be scuttled off Pula. (Wikipedia)

Henry Smith was innkeeper of the *Shant* in 1911 (Census), but was a gamekeeper in Cookham, Berkshire when Harry was born – registered as Harry Frank in the September Quarter 1898.

By 1901 Harry was already working as an assistant at a dairy farm, his age in the census given as 14 – a ploy to leave school and work early? By 1911 Harry had joined the Navy, a 1<sup>st</sup> Class Stoker aboard HMS Bonaventure, a cruiser being used as a submarine depot ship. (Census)

**STARTIN, FRANCIS HENRY JAMES**, Sub-Lieutenant R.N.V.R., Nelson Battalion, Royal Naval Division. Mentioned in Despatches. Died of wounds at 12.30pm, 19.07.1915, aboard Hospital Ship *Grantully Castle* (perforated wound Abdomen 13/7/15), aged 24. Son of Admiral Sir James and Lady Startin, of Wyndlawn, Hayling Island, Hampshire. Buried in Lancashire Landing Cemetery, Helles, Turkey, A.53. (CWGC)

Sub/Lt F.H.J. Startin



*Hampshire Chronicle* 04.11.1916 mentions his being on Ropley's Roll of Honour, but his name is not on the Ropley War Memorial.

Commissioned Temporary Sub Lieutenant 26/10/14 ; Nelson Battalion 27/2/15-11/4/15 posted to Base HQ Alexandria as Adjutant & Quartermaster, rejoined Nelson Battalion 19/5/15-19/7/15 DD. A' Company 13/7/15 ; MiD London Gazette 28/1/16 p.1206 ; Born November 3rd 1891, the eldest of four children (three sons and one daughter) of Admiral Sir James Startin, JP (Hampshire), and Alice (née McMicking) of Wyndlawn, Hayling Island, Hampshire. (Next-of-Kin 1914: Father, Captain J. Startin CB RNR); Home address: Bolton Mansions Hotel, Bolton Gardens, South Kensington, London; He was educated at the RN College Dartmouth (September 30th 1904 to January 14th 1909) and was unmarried. On January 15th 1909, he was appointed Midshipman RN and on May 15th 1912, he was gazetted Sub-Lieutenant RN. He served on HMS "Shannon" (January 15th 1909-May 14th 1910), HMS "Swift" (May 15th- September 14th 1910), HMS "Warrior" (September 15th 1910-January 10th 1911), HMS "Neptune" (January 11th 1911-January 11th 1912), HMS "Prince of Wales" (February 19th-May 16th 1912) and HMS "King Edward VII" (May 17th 1912-July 12th 1913), all ships being in the Home Fleet. In 1913 he resigned his commission due to poor eyesight and scarlet fever. (Personal Service Record)

The Rev. H.C. Foster, Chaplain to the 2nd Royal Naval Brigade, wrote in *"At Antwerp and The Dardanelles"* (page 143):- "During the attack [on July 13th], Sub-Lieutenant F.H.J. Startin (late RN), Nelson Battalion, was severely wounded just outside the fire trenches. In spite of loss of blood, and with great gallantry, he continued doing his duty and encouraging his men for thirty-six hours. At first the stretcher-bearers were unable to reach him, but, even when they were able to do so, he would not be carried into safety until other wounded men in front had been brought in, thus setting a noble example to those around him. He died of his wounds shortly after on a hospital ship. (*Royal Naval Division Casualties of the Great War*)

The eight month campaign in Gallipoli was fought by Commonwealth and French forces in an attempt to force Turkey out of the war, to relieve the deadlock of the Western Front in France and Belgium, and to open a supply route to Russia through the Dardanelles and the Black Sea. The Allies landed on the peninsula on 25-26 April 1915; the 29th Division at Cape Helles in the south and the Australian and New Zealand Corps north of Gaba Tepe on the west coast, an area soon known as Anzac. At Helles, the 29th Division landed troops at 'S,' 'V,' 'W,' 'X' and 'Y' Beaches, five small coves at or near the southern end of the peninsula. The landing at 'Y' Beach (Ghurkha Bluffs) was carried out by the 1st King's Own Scottish Borderers and the Plymouth Battalion of the Royal Naval Division, but these troops were forced to re-embark on the following day.

The 2nd Royal Fusiliers landed at 'X' Beach, followed by the rest of the 87th Brigade. Under very severe fire, the 1st Lancashire Fusiliers landed on 'W' Beach and cut their way through wire entanglements and trenches to the edge of the cliff. They and the other battalions of the 88th Brigade established themselves on the hills of Tekke Burnu and Helles Burnu. The beach became known as Lancashire Landing. The greater part of the cemetery (Rows A to J and part of Row L) was made between the landing in April 1915 and the evacuation of the peninsula in January 1916. (CWGC)

**TANCOCK, STANLEY JOHN**, Private 3372, 2<sup>nd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Somerset Light Infantry. Died 08.03.1916, aged 21. Eldest son of John Tancock, Town Street Farm, Ropley. Buried in Kut War Cemetery, Iraq, J.7. (CWGC)

“... died ..... as a result of wounds received in action in the East on February 1<sup>st</sup>. The poor boy, for he was only 21, had previously been wounded twice, the first time on September 22th, 1915, and again on December 21<sup>st</sup> last. Much sympathy is expressed for Mr and Mrs Tancock and for the brothers and sisters of this young soldier.” (*Hampshire Chronicle* 01.04.1916)

The siege of Kut-al-Amara lasted from 7<sup>th</sup> December 1915 to 29<sup>th</sup> April 1916; by the time of the British surrender the relief efforts had cost the British forces some 23,000 casualties. (<http://www.firstworldwar.com/battles/siegeofkut.htm>)

Born 1894 in Hemyock, Devon, son of John Tancock who was farming Quarterly Farm. (1901 Census)

**TOMLINSON, JOHN DOUGLAS**, Private 2753, 48<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Australian Infantry, A.I.F. Died 09.06.1917, aged 30. Son of John Joseph and Sarah Tomlinson, of Laurel Cottage, Ropley, Hampshire, England. Buried in Messines Ridge British Cemetery, Belgium, VI.D.3. (CWGC)

Born in Tottenham, Middlesex, about 1887, in 1911 John was living with his widowed mother at *The Homestead*, Four Marks, Alton, Hampshire; both were recorded as Farmers working on a farm. (1911 Census)

Enlisted 15.5.1916 at Belmont, Western Australia. Height 5'6¾", chest 32½"/35½", ruddy complexion, hazel eyes, brown hair. Anglican. Occupation farmer. Next of kin Mrs Sarah Tomlinson of *May Cottage*, Ropley. (Attestation paper)  
Posted to 48<sup>th</sup> Battalion in Fremantle 30.10.1916. Sailed to Devonport on *HMAT 16 Port Melbourne* arriving 28.12.1916. Trained at 12 Training battalion Codford, to France 28.03.1917, to front 19.04.1917, killed in action 09.06.1917. Buried *Bon Fermier Gully*, Messines. (Personal Service Record)

The 48<sup>th</sup> Battalion was raised in Egypt on 16 March 1916 as part of the “doubling” of the AIF. Roughly half of its new recruits were Gallipoli veterans from the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion, and the other half, fresh reinforcements from Australia. Reflecting the composition of the 16<sup>th</sup>, the men of the new battalion hailed mainly from regional South Australia and Western Australia.

The new battalion formed part of the 12th Brigade of the 4<sup>th</sup> Australian Division. It became known as the *Joan of Arc (the Maid of Orleans)* battalion because it was “made of all Leanes” - it was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Ray Leane, his brother was the adjutant, and several other relatives were scattered throughout the battalion.  
([http://www.awm.gov.au/units/unit\\_11235.asp](http://www.awm.gov.au/units/unit_11235.asp))

Messines (now Mesen) was considered a strong strategic position, not only from its height above the plain below, but from the extensive system of cellars under the convent known as the *Institution Royale*. The village was taken from the 1st Cavalry Division by the German 26<sup>th</sup> Division on 31 October-1 November 1914. An attack by French troops on 6-7 November was unsuccessful and it was not until the Battle of Messines on 7 June 1917 that it was retaken by the New Zealand Division. On 10-11 April 1918, the village fell into German hands once more after a stubborn defence by the South African Brigade, but was retaken for the last time on 28-29 September 1918. (CWGC)

From the Battalion War Diary, 1917:

4<sup>th</sup> June        Moved ... to Antrim Lines (T27888) Health and spirits of troops excellent ...

7<sup>th</sup> June        The battalion moved forward to Midland Support South Trench at 8.40a.m. Remained in support during the day. Heavy shelling round the area during the night the enemy placed a large number of gas shells near the trench. The alarm had to be given several times. No casualties.

No entries until:

13<sup>th</sup> June        (*La Creche*) Special report on operations at Messines ... Battalion moved back to this area during the night. Troops very done up after 5 days severe fighting in the front line. Our casualties were, 1 officer killed 3 wounded, 19 OR killed 36 wounded. 2 missing 4 shell shock. (<http://www.awm.gov.au/collection/records/awm4/23/65/awm4-23-65-17.pdf>)



The battleground of Messines ([www.army.gov.au/.../The-Battle-of-Messines-1917](http://www.army.gov.au/.../The-Battle-of-Messines-1917))

**WHEELER, STANLEY RICHARD**, Private PLY/1988(S), 1<sup>st</sup> Royal Marine Battalion, 63<sup>rd</sup> (Royal Naval) Division, Royal Marine Light Infantry. Killed in action 27.09.1918. A Baker; Wife, Nellie, Ropley, Alresford, Hampshire. Buried in Hermies Hill British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France, IV.A.32. (Great Britain, Royal Naval Division Casualties of The Great War, 1914-1924)

Stanley's personal file has survived. It reveals that he was born on 23.06.1883, attested for general service on 05.12.1915 aged 33 and was accepted into the Army Reserve the next day. His height was 5'7", occupation baker and grocer, religion Church of England. At the end his abilities were recorded as "satisfactory", his character "very good". Enlisted 21/3/17 age 34 ; Embarked RM Brigade 11/5/17 ; Draft for BEF 20/6/17, joined 2nd RM Battalion. 1/8/17-28/8/17 Dyspepsia, rejoined 2nd RM Battalion 14/11/17, transferred to 1st RM Battalion 28/4/18-14/7/18 Influenza, rejoined 1st RM Battalion 12/8/18. UK Leave 18/8/18-5/9/18, extended leave for urgent private affairs, rejoined 1st RM Battalion 8/9/18. (*Royal Naval Division Casualties of the Great War*)



When was Stanley born? On his personal record it states 1883, but his age as 33 in 1915 – meaning 1882. His marriage certificate gives his age as 29 in December 1912, meaning 1883. However, his birth was registered in the September quarter of 1884. (England & Wales, Free BMD Birth Index)

An Alresford Tribunal certificate dated 07.08.1916 reveals that Stanley was granted temporary exemption from military service because of "Serious business and financial obligations and domestic position".

27<sup>th</sup> September 1918 was the first day of the Battle of the Canal du Nord (third phase of the Hindenberg Line Battle).

"Our reports show that at the end of September and beginning of October 1918 the 1 RNLI were in action on the Cambrai front, taking part in the great British advance which had begun on August 8, S. of Amiens, and which ended only with the Armistice. On September 27 we find the Battn. By the Canal du Nord, and one account says: On Sept. 27 we crossed the Canal and attacked the village of Anneux, almost due W. of Cambrai. We met strong opposition at the Factory between Anneux and Graincourt, but we captured Anneux at 2.30pm and consolidated, at 6.45pm the enemy counter-attacked under heavy machine gun barrage, but was repulsed. We captured 9 field guns and 2 heavy howitzers..." (*Royal Naval Division War Diary*)

Born in Chieveley, Berkshire, the son of Thomas and Mary Wheeler. His father was a Master Grocer and Baker (1891 Census). By 1911 Stanley had moved to Wootton St Lawrence, Hampshire, and was working as an assistant to a farmer, grocer and baker. (1911 Census). Stanley married Nellie Caroline Groves on 24.12.1912 in Hungerford, Berkshire. (Marriage Certificate). They had three children; Ronald (1913), Dulcie (1915) and Jack (1916). (<http://trees.ancestry.co.uk/tree/21712214/person/18852699619?ssrc=>)



“Before joining up Mr.Wheeler was the local sub-postmaster at the Dene Post Office.”  
(*Hampshire Chronicle* 26.10.18)

In his will, dated 14.06.1917, his wife’s address is given as “The Dean Farm Cottage, Ropley. Approval was given on 03.03.1919 to pay his widow £3.8s.9d residue of wages and £8.10s war gratuity.

**WILKS, SIDNEY GEORGE**, Sergeant B/2163 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Rifle Brigade. Died 25.10.1916, aged 21. Youngest son of Henry and Jane Wilks, of South St., Ropley, Winchester. Buried in Ropley (St Peter) Churchyard. (CWGC)

“Born in the village, where his father and mother have resided for 30 years, Sgt. Wilks was educated at the Church of England School. He is described as having been “a nice boy, everything he did was thorough, both in his school work and in his work after he left school – no matter who was his employer, he tried to give satisfaction.” He was one of those who responded when the call first came from his country, for he joined one of the newly-formed battalions of the Rifle Brigade in September, 1914. Mr and Mrs Wilks have reason to be proud of their family record; both their other sons are soldiers; one joined in August 1914, and is now in India, and the other is with his battalion in the midlands; their only daughter is the wife of one of our Australian soldiers, now in France. The same exemplary conduct which characterised Sergt. Wilks in civilian life he must have shown in the Army, for, though but 19 years of age when he enlisted he rose rapidly to non-commissioned rank; he was, moreover, very popular with his comrades. He was wounded in the wrist, and came home some time ago, but he got all right again, and went back to France. More recently he had an attack of trench fever, from which he recovered, but had been back in the fighting line only two days when he was shot in the chest. He was sent over to Netley, and was in hospital there for five weeks, everything possible being done for him, but he succumbed to his injuries on the evening of Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> .....” (*Hampshire Chronicle* 04.11.1916)

From 15<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1916 the Battalion took part in the Battle of Flers-Courcelette, the last major action of the Battle of the Somme. See p.30 for a full account.



Picture by Mostonian FCUM  
via [www.flickrriver.com](http://www.flickrriver.com)

In 1911 Sidney was working on a farm; his fathers a labourer. (1911 Census)



## WORLD WAR 2

**BRETTELL, EDWARD GORDON, D.F.C.**., Flight Lieutenant (Pilot), 61053 RAFVR. 133 (Eagle) Sqn., RAF. Died 25.03.1944, after recapture in Scheidemuhl, one of the fifty officers murdered following taking part in the “Great Escape” from Stalag Luft III, Germany. Eldest son of Mr Viviean Brettell and Eileen Isabella Brettell, The Malthouse, Ropley, Hampshire. B.A. (Cantab.) Buried in Poznan Old Garrison Cemetery, Collective grave 9.A.



133 was reformed in August 1941 as the third “Eagle Squadron” – which, together with 71 and 121, was to be manned largely by American volunteers. Gordon Brettell’s last mission was in Spitfire IX BS313, squadron codes MD-A.



Flight Lieutenant Gordon Brettell DFC

By Derrick W.Croisdale

(Originally appeared in [www.newsheridanclub.co.uk](http://www.newsheridanclub.co.uk) Newsletter No.20):-

‘Gordon Brettell was born in Pyford, Surrey, on 19th March 1915. His father was lance-corporal in the Honorable Artillery Company but his principal occupation was a stockbroker; they were a well-off family. Brettell was educated privately, first at Sunningdale Preparatory School and then at Cheltenham College until he was 18. At 15, he almost died of mastoids but recovered, much to everyone’s surprise. It was only the first of many brushes with death in the 29 years of his life.

At Cheltenham he was a good all-rounder. He took part in debating competitions, rowed, played hockey, rugby and cricket and was captain of his house boxing team (“not a great boxer but pretty tough” was the college assessment). He also sang in a college quartet. In his teens he took his younger brother to a fairground where there was a “wall of death”, a cylindrical structure around the inside of which performers rode motorcycles on the vertical wall. At the end of the performance the audience was asked if anyone would like to have a go. Young Gordon immediately volunteered and amazed everyone by not only riding the motorbike conventionally but repeating his performance sitting on the handlebars.

He went up to Clare College, Cambridge, in 1934 and graduated three years later with a BA. At Cambridge he became secretary to the university Automobile Club and became passionately interested in car racing. This was to be his main interest up to the outbreak

of the Second World War. After graduating he became a freelance author writing for boys' magazines and racing car journals. His favourite vehicle was an Austin Seven "Ulster" which he raced frequently at Brooklands. On one occasion his brakes failed halfway through a race but he pressed on and won by a comfortable margin. Another time he misjudged his speed negotiating one of the steeply banked bends and spun off the top, crashing to the ground. He sustained six bone fractures but was racing again within a month.

On the day Germany invaded Poland, Gordon immediately went to the RAF Recruitment Office and enlisted for service as a pilot. Pending his call-up he worked at Vickers Ltd, Weybridge, on the production of the Wellington bomber. He was called up on 20th January 1940 and did his training at No.5 Service Flying Training School, RAF Bassingbourne. During his training he managed to wangle a flight for his younger brother serving in the Royal Artillery. They flew in a Miles Magister and "beat up" their parents' home in Chertsey, Surrey. His brother recalls that they dived at over 140mph— upon landing, Gordon apologised for not having dived faster, but the wings were supposed to come off at 140mph.

On 17th February 1941, Gordon got his wings and was commissioned Pilot Officer. His active service was mainly at Biggin Hill with squadrons 92, 124 and 111 flying Spitfires Mk VB. On 4th September he was severely wounded in the head in an action over France.

Gordon wrote a detailed account of this action at the request of the Medical Officer who attended him. It was later published in the Sunday Pictorial and Reader's Digest under the title "There Were Too Many Huns", using the pen name Pilot Officer Stanley Hope. In the action he was pounced upon by ten ME109s; he managed to damage one enemy aircraft before being compelled to make good his escape by diving down to sea level where the Spitfire was slightly faster than the ME109F. His head wounds caused him to lose consciousness from time to time and blood obscured his vision. He expressed relief that he didn't have a date that night so he wouldn't let anyone down if he didn't make it back. But make it back he did, and made a respectable landing. The surgeon who operated on him gave him the pieces of metal he removed from his skull as a memento. A later citation for his DFC states that after his injury "he resumed operational flying with renewed zest".

Gordon has been described variously as "a careful planner", "impetuous", "a ladies' man", "a gentleman and a gentle man who never lost his temper", "modest" and—by an American pilot who evaded capture after a later catastrophe for which Brettell was arguably to blame—"a great guy". Perhaps it was all these qualities that led to his court martial on 14th April 1942. Two weeks previously there had been an Officers' Mess party to which a number of WAAFs (Women's Auxiliary Air Force) had been invited. Gordon befriended one of the WAAFs who, late in the evening, said she would have to leave because transport was waiting to take them back to their airfield. Gordon must have exercised his charm because he persuaded her to stay the night and also promised to get her back in time for morning parade. He was court martialled because, true to his word, he got her back—in his Spitfire. Dispensing with parachutes, he flew sitting on the WAAF's lap. The official record states, "Tried by General Court Martial at Biggin Hill on 14.4.42 under Sections 39A(1)(b) and 40 Air Force Act; that 'When on active service was likely to cause damage to aircraft by improperly and without authority carrying a passenger, neglected to wear his parachute harness contrary to Regulations'. Guilty. Sentence: severe reprimand."

On 2nd August he was posted to 133 Squadron as a flight commander. The squadron was in action almost every day. The busiest was on 19th August in support of the combined operation at Dieppe. Gordon was at readiness from four o'clock in the morning and took part in all four missions flown that day, finally touching down at nearly nine o'clock in the evening in bad visibility. The air fighting had been fierce but the squadron acquitted itself exceedingly well, destroying or damaging 16 enemy aircraft without any loss. In this action Gordon shot down a FW190.

No.133 Squadron was one of three "Eagle" squadrons in the RAF, comprised mostly of American volunteer pilots. The squadron had been formed in August 1941 under Squadron Leader George A. Brown, who famously addressed the young Americans: "Gentlemen, no Englishman is more appreciative than I to see you American volunteers over here to assist us in our fight. It is going to get a lot tougher as time goes by, so take a good look around this room—because a year from now most of you will be dead." The young pilots were dumbstruck. In fact, in the following 13 months, 23 pilots were killed, 13 in action and 10 in accidents.

An emotional day was 19th August 1942, the date of the first raid by B17s of the United States Army Air Force (USAAF) on enemy-occupied Europe. No.133 Squadron was given the honour of escorting the 12 B17s in a raid on railway yards in Rouen, which they did without loss. The main hazard was the trigger-happy air gunners in the B17s, who couldn't tell the difference between Spitfires and ME109s. After being shot at on the return journey the squadron dived to sea level and left the B17s to go home alone.

At the beginning of September, the RAF began to re-equip the squadron in readiness for the transfer to the USAAF. To deal with the transfer formalities, the American Squadron Leader Carroll McColpin was summoned to London for a few days. His place was taken by Gordon Brettell.

On 26th September the squadron was to escort a group of B17s to Morlaix in Brittany. There was heavy cloud, but navigation was not going to be a problem as the squadron would be vectored by RAF Exeter. When they reached the rendezvous point there was no sign of the bombers, so they were ordered to circle and wait. In fact the B17s had left 20 minutes early but had not bothered telling the RAF. Moreover, an unexpected 100mph wind at the operational height was rapidly carrying the squadron towards Brittany. By the time RAF Exeter realised what was happening, the Spitfires were out of radio contact.

Brettell made two inexplicable decisions. The first was to keep circling after radio contact was lost. Eventually they did spot some B17s heading north, but by this time fuel was running low so he decided to abort and head for Bolt Head. His second odd decision was to take the whole squadron down out of the clouds to get bearings, when one plane would have done. They spotted the coastline and a large port that they took to be Plymouth. In fact it was Brest, the most heavily defended port on the Atlantic coast. In seconds, 11 of the 12 Spitfires were lost, either shot down or forced to crash-land or bale out from lack of fuel. Four pilots were killed, six were captured. One baled out, evaded capture and eventually made it back to England, having been jailed in Spain for a while. The twelfth plane had aborted earlier with engine trouble and crash landed near Kingsbridge.

Brettell's plane was hit by two cannon shells that reduced the port wing to a skeleton. Unable to bale out, he hit the ground at 200mph. He later spoke well of the German soldiers who extricated him from the wreckage and administered morphia. He was well treated

in hospital but delayed telling his parents about his injuries in case they were worried. By the time he was on the mend, however, he wrote, describing that he had “four broken ribs, three broken vertebrae, left shoulder blade broken, right shoulder blade dislocated, a sprained knee, a large cut on my head, a very squashed-in chest, a ricked neck, two marvellous black eyes, a broken tooth. I also gathered that I had a fractured skull, but I think I must have misunderstood this because my head never felt the least bad... These ailments, though not individually serious, do look slightly formidable when lined up in a row.” Less than a month after the crash, he said that all he felt was a little, rapidly vanishing stiffness.

Three days after he was shot down, Gordon was awarded the DFC, citing his 111 sorties over enemy-occupied territory and his great “keenness to engage the enemy”. Meanwhile, Brettell himself was headed for Stalag Luft III, a POW camp for Allied airmen 100 miles south-east of Berlin.

He became a regular escapee. On one occasion he and a Belgian prisoner were making for the Baltic Sea, hoping to sail for Sweden. It was winter and they came upon a wide frozen river. Unsure if it would hold their weight they crawled across on hands and knees, testing the strength of the ice as best they could. Eventually reaching the far side, exhausted and cold, they sat down for a rest. Almost at once they heard a rumbling—and a column of German army vehicles came driving down the middle of the river.

With each escape, Gordon was recaptured after a few days and sentenced to two weeks’ solitary confinement in the “cooler”. On one occasion he apologised to the Luftwaffe Commandant, Colonel Friedrich-Wilhelm von Lindeiner-Wildau, a professional and honourable soldier, for the trouble he might be causing him. The Colonel silenced him by striking the table with his fist and announcing that it was the duty of an officer to escape! Gordon became a member of the forgery team which prepared documents for would-be escapees. He was an enthusiastic supporter of the planned escape by tunnel which would become known as the “Great Escape”. The entrance to the tunnel, codenamed “Harry”, was in the room Gordon shared with half a dozen other POWs. When the time was ripe for the escape, a ballot was held to determine who would be in the first batch to escape through the tunnel. Gordon was one of those selected.

On the night of 24th March 1944, 81 prisoners escaped through the tunnel. Gordon and two others were free for two nights but were recaptured after being reported by a suspicious railway booking clerk as they were making good progress for the Baltic.

Hitler was furious about the escape and ordered 50 of the escapees to be shot. Gordon was one of those selected and he was killed by Gestapo Captain Reinholt Bruchardt on 29th March on the outskirts of Danzig. The camp Commandant was arrested and charged with negligence. At his trial he was asked what he would have done if Hitler had ordered him to shoot the prisoners. He replied that he would rather have shot himself. He was sentenced to two years imprisonment. Not so fortunate were three German electricians: they were executed for allowing large quantities of wire to fall into the POWs’ hands.

The cremated remains of the 50 escapees were returned to Stalag Luft III. Colonel von Lindeiner, while awaiting his trial, paid for materials and tools to enable the POWs to build a stone memorial. This was completed towards the end of 1944 and on 4th December a remarkable ceremony was held. Attending were senior German officers, 15 POW

officers representing the nations of the dead, members of the Swiss Legation, an Anglican and a Roman Catholic priest and a guard of honour of German soldiers. A POW bugler sounded "The Last Post" and the guard of honour fired a volley of shots. In the middle of a savagely-fought war, it was an act of great nobility and courage by the Germans who took part.

For his part in the escape, Gordon Brettell was mentioned in dispatches.'

© Derrick W. Croisdale, 2008

From motormarques.com, Monday, 26 November 2007:-

### **Gordon Brettell** by John Sutton

'Gordon was the son of Vivian and Eileen Brettell and brother of Terence Brettell whose interest in Vintage cars continued post war and who was a contributor of many photographs for the Vintage Sports Car Club's regular Bulletins.

We are fortunate to have a letter from Gordon's brother Terence which gives a wonderful insight into his character:-

"---Gordon was 5 years my senior & I both loved and admired him. He seemed always to do things better than I could. I think I only once surpassed him, when I was about 17. We had a gravel path "course" round our fairly large lawn & used to time each other on bikes (push), the record changing frequently. Gordon quite clearly hoped that I could take this record & when I eventually got round in 20 seconds flat, though I'm sure he didn't cheat on my behalf in the timing, when I repeatedly urged him to have another go, though he agreed he should, he always had some excuse for not doing so. I suspect my sole triumph was, therefore, not all that genuine! I still marvel at the attitude of our parents. Not only were there some fairly gruesome accidents but there was always a danger that one of us might enter the drawing-room through one of its large picture- windows. They clearly were not much in favour our activities but never tried to stop them, nor even to speak against them. But I digress. I not only loved & admired Gordon, I came to consider him indestructible – not without reason. At the age of fifteen he developed a mastoid, serious enough then, but in his case it was wrongly diagnosed & the poison spread over his face. He had many operations & was at death's door for weeks on end, but he recovered, only to start sudden blackouts, without warning. It was feared that his brain was damaged. (Some people might have thought that his performance at the Whitsun meeting was evidence that this fear was indeed correct, but I trust you will see that, as I explain in the enclosed photocopies, it was over-exuberance rather than brain-fade, which can be blamed). Gordon recovered completely & duly survived his over-the-top crash at Brooklands. In a sweep over France in 1941 he was separated, in a dog fight, from his squadron. On the way home in his Spitfire he was jumped by a dozen Messerschmitts. He fought them all the way back, possibly downing one, but was himself badly wounded in the head. He became unconscious but just before going into the sea came to & succeeded in getting home. Having recovered, he was on another sweep but they were given the wrong wind direction & landed up over Brest, a bad place to be at that time. He was shot down by anti-aircraft fire. The cockpit wouldn't open (no ejector seats in those days) & he went into the ground at some 200 mph. He recovered completely from this. Can you wonder that I thought him indestructible?

Alas, even he could not survive a bullet in the back of the head, administered by the Gestapo after the “Great Escape” from Stalag Luft III.

Whilst incarcerated in the POW camp Gordon wrote this poem:-

#### ESCAPE

*If you can quit the compound undetected  
And clear your tracks nor leave the smallest trace  
And follow out the programme you've selected Nor  
lose your grasp at distance, time and place*

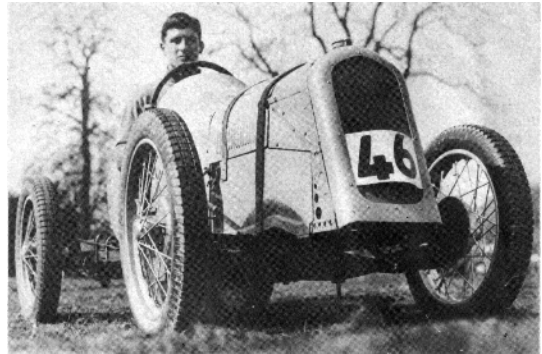
*If you can walk at night by compass bearing Or  
ride the railways by day and night  
And temper your elusiveness with daring  
Trusting that sometimes bluff will find a way*

*If you can swallow sudden sour frustration  
And gaze unmoved at failure's ugly shape  
Remembering as further inspiration  
It was, and is, your duty to escape*

*If you can keep the great Gestapo guessing  
With explanations only partly true  
And leave them in their heart of hearts, confessing  
They didn't get the whole truth out of you*

*If you can use your 'Cooler' fortnight clearly  
For planning methods wiser than before And  
treat your miscalculation merely  
As hints let fall by fate to teach you more*

*If you scheme on with patience and precision  
It wasn't in a day they builded Rome  
And make escape your sole ambition  
The next time you attempt it –YOU'LL GET HOME*



Gordon Brettell Austin 7



(Flt Lt Gordon Brettell RAF, 'Cooler', Gross Hartmannsdorf, Saxony, Germany.)

By all accounts Gordon was a fun loving character whose exploits as a racing driver were also well documented, particularly when he “went over the top” of the Brooklands banking with his little Austin 7 racing car at the BARC Whit-Monday meeting on the 17th May 1937. A photo of him emerging from the undergrowth with a broken arm even made the front page of *The Times* newspaper.”

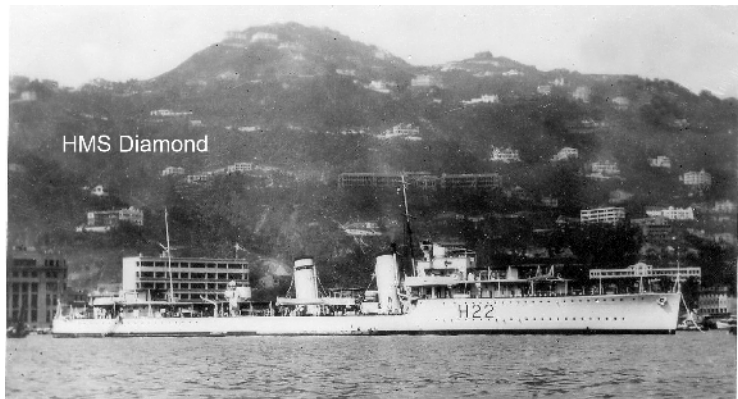


For full information on the Great Escape see:  
[http://www.elsham.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/gt\\_esc/](http://www.elsham.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/gt_esc/).



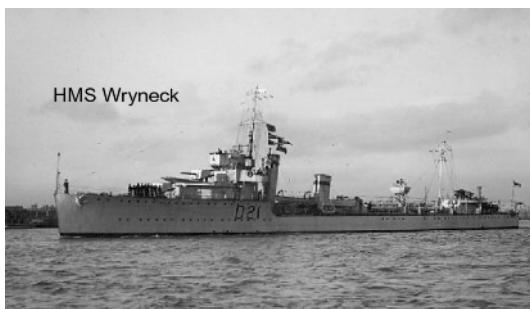
**CARR, OLIVER**, Lieutenant, Royal Navy, HMS Diamond. Killed 27.04.1941, aged 24. Son of Samuel and Victoria Gladys Carr, of Troon, Ayrshire. Commemorated on Plymouth Naval memorial, Panel 44, Col. 3. (CWGC)

On 26 April 1941, under the command of Lt. Commander Cartwright, *Diamond* rescued 600 troops from Crete after their transports were attacked. The following day, *HMS Diamond* and another destroyer, *HMS Wryneck*, attempted to rescue troops from a sunk Dutch troop ship, the *Slamat*. However, both ships were attacked and sunk by German Ju 87 Stuka dive bombers.



Approximately 253 officers and crew, as well as 700 troops were lost from both vessels. Only 23 survivors were rescued. ([www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com))

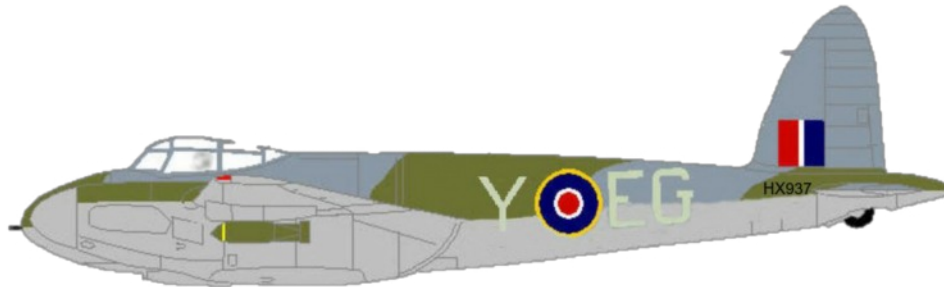
“Lieutenant Oliver Carr, R.N., who was recently reported lost, presumed killed, when H.M.S. Diamond was sunk, was the second son of Mr and Mrs Samuel Carr, of Ceylon, and grandson of the late Canon Roland Upcher. Born in June, 1916, he entered Dartmouth in January, 1930, and was appointed midshipman in H.M.S. Neptune in 1934. He attended the Olympic Games in Berlin in 1936. In 1937 he joined H.M.S. Diamond as sub-lieutenant on the China Station, and served throughout in that destroyer in the Mediterranean until she was sunk in April, 1941, having been promoted to First Lieutenant in December, 1940. A memorial service for Lieutenant Carr was held in Cromer Parish Church on Sunday, May 18.” (*Times* 27.05.1941)



SS Slamat & HMS Diamond ([www.krlmuseum.nl/Slamat/SLAMAT-Engels.htm](http://www.krlmuseum.nl/Slamat/SLAMAT-Engels.htm))

**COURT, EDGAR WILLIAM (“PETER”)**, Flight Lieutenant (Pilot) 40993 RAF, 487 (RNZAF) Sqn. Died 09.10.1943, aged 28. Fourth son of Edgar Maurice and Leah Adlam Court of Ropley, Hampshire. Buried in Schoonselhof Cemetery, Belgium, IVa.B.15.

487 Sqn. were flying de Havilland Mosquito VI fighter-bombers from Sculthorpe, Norfolk, having recently converted to the type.



The mission:-

“The second 2 Group Mosquito raid was launched as 'Ramrod 265,' an attack on a Messerschmitt engine works at Woippy by 14 aircraft of 464 Squadron and 12 of 487 Squadron. En route a formation of Royal Navy vessels were seen, and in changing course to avoid overflying these, the Mosquitos crossed the coast slightly off course, and in an area where Flak was concentrated. Four aircraft were shot down, two from each unit, all falling near Metz, and a fifth was damaged, Wg Cdr A.G. Wilson, Commanding Officer of 487 Squadron, landing at Manston with his navigator, Flg Off D. Bridgman, dead. The whole effort had proved of no use, however, for on arrival the target was found to be covered by cloud, and bombs had to be brought back.”

“487 Sqn. Mosquito VI HX937 Y

Crew F/L E.W.Court, (KIA) Pilot, F/L J.B.Sands (KIA), Navigator.

E/f jettisoned bombs b/u Metz (Woppy)”

(Shores, Christopher and Chris Thomas. *2nd Tactical Air Force, volume one: Spartan to Normandy, June 1943 to June 1944*. Crowborough, UK: Classic Publications, 2004)

Sadly, it appears that Court’s aircraft was blown up by its’ own bombs. (M.J.F.Bowyer, 2 Group RAF, a Complete History, Faber & Faber, London, 1974).

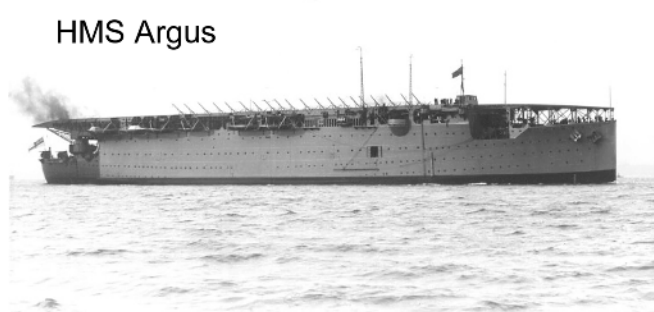


**COX, WILLIAM JACK**, Stoker, 1<sup>st</sup> Class P/KX 78712 Royal Navy. H.M.S. Argus. Died 22.01.1940, aged 34. Son of William Henry and Charlotte Harriet Cox; husband of Kathleen Olive Cox, of Fareham, Hampshire. Commemorated on Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Hampshire, Panel 59, col. 1. (CWGC)  
Born in Ropley, his father a labourer. (1911 Census)

*Hampshire Chronicle* 16.03.40:-

‘We regret to record the death in a French hospital of First-Class Stoker W.J. Cox of 2, Adelaide Place, West Street, Fareham, and the eldest son of Mr and Mrs Cox of “Willalone”, Ropley. The burial took place at sea, and the coffin, when it left a French port, was covered with the flags of Great Britain and France, and seventy of First-Class Stoker Cox’s shipmates and French sailors, together with the English Vice-Consul, were present. The service was conducted by his ship’s Chaplain, and there was a wealth of beautiful flowers. First-Class Stoker Cox was 34 years of age, and had served in the Navy for nearly 13 years.’

HMS Argus (Aircraft Carrier, 1918-1946)



HMS Argus, a 14,550-ton aircraft carrier, was built at Glasgow, Scotland. Begun as the Italian passenger liner Conte Rosso, the ship's construction was suspended after the outbreak of World War I. She was purchased unlaunched in 1916 and converted into an aircraft carrier, the World's first to have a full-length flight deck upon which wheeled aircraft could land and take-off with relative safety. As such, she

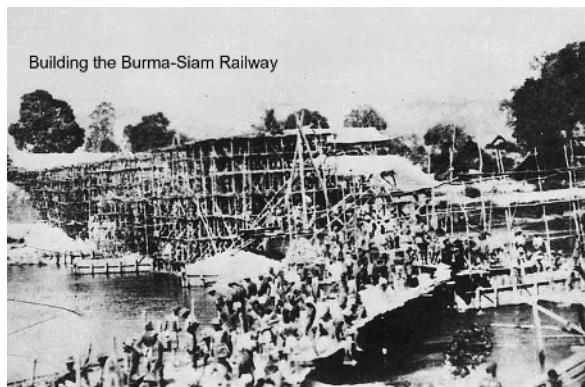
established the general pattern for future aircraft carriers.

Argus was commissioned in September 1918, shortly before the end of the "Great War". She spent much of her first decade on the vital work of developing carrier techniques and training aviators in the demanding work of operating aircraft at sea. Her merchant ship hull, relatively small size and modest speed limited her utility as a combat ship, and she was superseded in fleet service as newer carriers were completed during the later 1920s. Laid up early in the next decade, she was later modified for use as mother ship for target aircraft and as a training carrier.

Argus served in a training role during much of World War II, but the desperate circumstances of the first years of that conflict sometimes required that she see front-line service, notably in 1942, when she served with Force H and later supported the landings in North Africa. After further training duty, she was reduced to reserve in late 1943 and spent the rest of the war as an accommodation ship. HMS Argus was sold for scrapping in December 1946. ([www.history.navy.mil](http://www.history.navy.mil))

**FORD, LAURENCE REGINALD**, Signalman 2331261, Royal Corps of Signals, attached to III. Indian Corps of Signals. Died 17.09.1943, aged 24. Buried in plot 2, row N, grave 64, Kanchanaburi War Cemetery, Thailand – resting place of many of the Prisoners of War who died building the notorious Burma – Siam Railway. (CWGC)

The British Indian III Corps was the primary ground formation that took part in the Battle of Malaya in 1942. It was commanded by Lieutenant-General Sir Lewis "Piggy" Heath. III Corps was formed in mid-1941 as part of the Malaya Command when the increase in tension in the Far East necessitated the dispatch of large reinforcements to the area to deter Japan. The Corps consisted of the Indian 9th Infantry Division, commanded by Major-General Barstow, and the Indian 11th Infantry Division, commanded by Major-General Murray-Lyon. Due to the rapid expansion of the British Indian Army, many of the formations in the Indian divisions were ill-trained and lacked large enough cadres of experienced troops. The British had plans - Operation Matador and Operation Krohcol - to move forward into the south of Siam to forestall Japanese advances. However, lack of forewarning, combined with caution over upsetting Japan needlessly with precipitate actions, prevented the plans from being implemented. This put the garrison on the defensive, a position from which it never recovered. III Corps was pushed down the Malayan peninsula by Japanese units, who employed novel tactics. When confronted with an Allied strongpoint on a road, the Japanese troops would leave a screen in front of the position, and then send infiltrators round through the jungle to outflank the position. Having been surrounded, positions were usually relatively easy to take. III Corps and the rest of the Allied land forces were pushed back to Singapore itself by February 1942. There they endured a short siege before the island surrendered. Some of the prisoners taken from Indian III Corps subsequently joined the Indian National Army. (www.wikipedia.com)



Probate was granted to George Ford, retired builder. Laurence's home address was given as *Ellore*, Parkstone Road, Ropley. (England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1947)

Laurence's birth was recorded in Alresford in the September quarter of 1918. Mother's maiden name Kilbourne. (England & Wales, Birth Index, 1916-2005)

A search of the *All England & Wales Marriage Index* gives a record for Reginald G Ford marrying Edith G Milbourne in Alresford in the September quarter of 1916.



**GRIFFIN, CHARLES ARTHUR**, Marine PO/X 3811, Royal Marines. HMS Hood.  
Died 24.05.1941, aged 19. Son of Mr and Mrs C.A. Griffin, Ropley, Hampshire.  
Commemorated on Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 59, Column 1.



Photographer: Allan C. Green 1878 – 1954, Restoration by Adam Cuerden. Courtesy State Library of Victoria.  
Colourised by author.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia:

HMS *Hood* (pennant number 51) was a battlecruiser of the Royal Navy, and considered the pride of the Royal Navy in the interwar period and during the early period of World War Two.

### **Battle of the Denmark Strait**

When the German battleship *Bismarck* sailed for the Atlantic in May 1941, *Hood* was sent out in pursuit commanded by flag captain Ralph Kerr, C.B.E. and flying the flag of Vice-Admiral Lancelot Holland, together with the newly-commissioned *Prince of Wales*, to intercept the German ships before they could break into the Atlantic and attack Allied convoys. Holland's ships caught up with *Bismarck* and her consort, the heavy cruiser *Prinz Eugen*, in the Denmark Strait between Greenland and Iceland on 24 May. During the subsequent Battle of the Denmark Strait on 24 May 1941, *Hood* suffered a series of events which culminated in her destruction. Vice-Admiral Holland, flying his flag in *Hood*, had intended to approach *Bismarck* and *Prinz Eugen* from a converging, head-on course. This plan carried several crucial advantages. Above all others it would have allowed *Hood* with *Prince of Wales* to close the range to the Germans at a combined speed of roughly 50 knots. This would have greatly reduced the time that *Hood's* poorly armoured decks would have been exposed to plunging shell fire from *Bismarck's* main armament, exposing her broadside only (*Hood's* side armour gave sufficient protection). The Admiralty was well aware of the frailties of *Hood's* deck armour. It also meant that *Hood* would have met the German squadron just after sunset (roughly 02:00 so far north in May) and benefit from approaching from darkness catching the Germans silhouetted against the afterglow of sunset. A further advantage was that this would not only catch the Germans by surprise, as Holland's squadron would be approaching from the south, but also would allow a night-time clash. The Royal Navy of that time was highly skilled in night-actions, it having been a training obsession of the inter-war years following the escape of the German High Seas Fleet during the night of the Battle of Jutland. It would also seem that Holland

intended Wake-Walker (flying his flag in *Norfolk*) to engage the German squadron separately, in addition to Holland's attending destroyers, thus allowing a possibly vital distraction. As it was Holland never signalled this intent, his fearing that any such communication might betray his presence.

However the two radar-equipped heavy cruisers *HMS Suffolk* and *Norfolk* that had been tracking *Bismarck* and her consort *Prinz Eugen* since 19:15 on the 23 May, lost contact with *Bismarck* at around midnight until 02:47 on 24 May. During this period, at no more than 10 miles range, the German squadron passed the British and Holland's plan was undone. This was to have dire consequences.

When contact was regained, Holland had little choice but to chase after the German squadron. Furthermore, Holland had disengaged his destroyers during the loss of contact so as to allow a search for the Germans; the destroyers did not subsequently arrive at the battle until too late to do anything but render assistance to survivors. When the two rivals met shortly before 06:00 the *Hood* was now approaching *Bismarck* sailing in the same direction on a more or less parallel course, greatly increasing the period in which her weak decks would be exposed to the plunging shellfire of *Bismarck*. Holland was reluctant to "aim his bow" directly at the German ships to reduce range, as it would allow the *Bismarck* and her consort to fire a full broadside, whilst Holland would only be able to use *Hood*'s forward turrets. Controversially, Holland chose to lead his squadron with *Hood* in the van rather than allowing *Prince of Wales* to be lead ship and therefore take the brunt of the Germans plunging (high-trajectory) gunfire on her much more substantially armoured decks. Due to the loss of contact the previous night *Hood* and *Prince of Wales* were now approaching from such an angle that only their two-forward gun turrets could engage the enemy as their own superstructure masked their aft-turrets. *Bismarck* and *Prinz Eugen* were able to bring all of their guns to bear when the engagement began.

At 05:35am the opposing battle groups sighted each other simultaneously. Admiral Lütjens was faced with a dilemma aboard *Bismarck*. His orders were to engage enemy commerce not enemy warships, let alone Capital Ships. *Bismarck* could outrun the British to the north-west, but with the Ice-edge not too far away and a British Cruiser on his starboard quarter, Lütjens had no other choice but to engage.

Admiral Holland ordered his force to open fire at 05:49. Initially *Hood* engaged *Prinz Eugen* instead of *Bismarck*, a mistake not realised until *Hood* fired the first salvo of the engagement at 05:52:30 at a range of 25,000 yards (c. 14.2 miles). *Hood*'s shells landed very close to *Prinz Eugen* causing minor shell splinter damage. *Hood* continued to race toward the German ships in an attempt to close the range and reduce the time *Hood*'s decks were exposed to plunging fire. The German ships quickly found the range to *Hood* and she was hit first by an 8 inch (203mm) shell from *Prinz Eugen* on the boat deck which ignited 4 inch (102 mm) ammunition and UP rockets, causing a fire to burn out of control endangering the ship. Shortly afterwards *Prinz Eugen* shifted her aim to *Prince of Wales* following a semaphore order from *Bismarck*. At 05:55 Holland ordered "2 blue", a 20 degree turn to port, to enable *Hood* to bring her aft turrets to bear on *Bismarck*.





KMS Prinz Eugen



BISMARCK FIRING IN THE BATTLE OF THE DENMARK STRAIT

*Note the deliberate similarity in the German ships' profiles.*



HMS Prince of Wales

At about 06:00 (06:01 in German reckoning) as *Hood* was turning she was struck by one or more shells from *Bismarck's* fifth salvo, fired from a range of 15 to 18 km (about 8 to 9.5 nautical miles). Almost immediately, a huge jet of flame burst out of *Hood* from the vicinity of the mainmast. This was followed by a devastating explosion that destroyed the after part of the ship. *Hood's* stern rose and sank rapidly, then her bow section reared up in the sea and sank. Its forward turret fired one last salvo, possibly from the doomed gun crew, just before the bow section sank. That turret was manned by Royal Marines such as Charles Griffin.

*Hood*, the pride of the Royal Navy, had sunk in 3 minutes. From *Hood's* first salvo to her disappearance beneath the waves, only eleven minutes had passed.



**Sinking of HMS Hood** by J.C. Schmitz-Westerholt. HMS *Prince of Wales* is in the foreground.

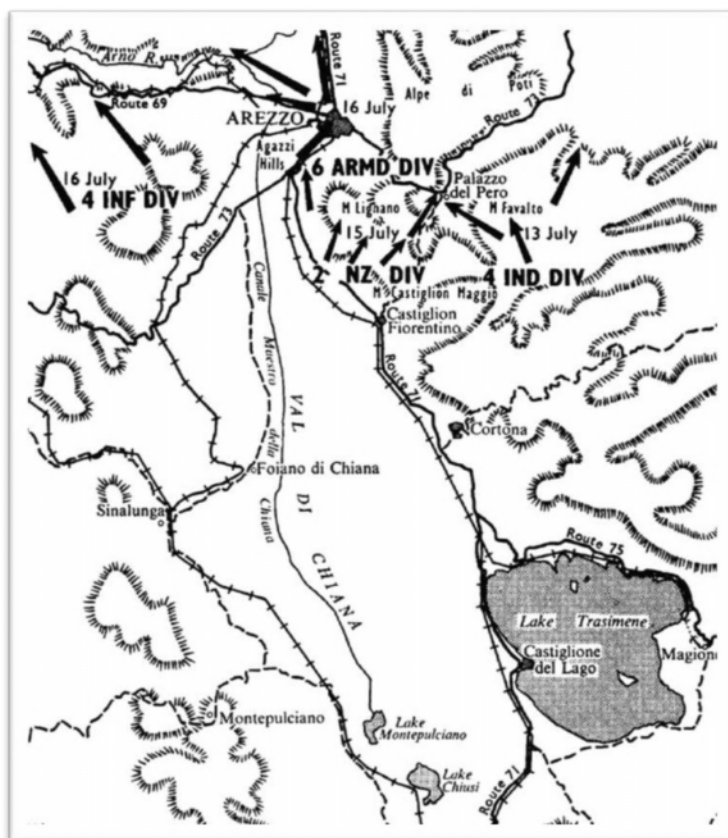
Of the 1,418 crew, only three men (Alfred Edward Briggs, Robert Ernest Tilburn (1921-1995) and William John Dundas (1921-1965)) survived; they were rescued about two hours after the sinking by the destroyer HMS *Electra*.

The dramatic loss of such a well-known symbol of British naval power had a great effect on many people; some later remembered the news as the most shocking of World War II. Following the loss of *Hood*, the Royal Navy concentrated all available resources in pursuit of *Bismarck* and *Prinz Eugen*; although *Prinz Eugen* escaped, *Bismarck* was destroyed after being brought to battle again on the morning of 27 May 1941.

Charles' birth was recorded in the Alresford District, his mother's maiden name as Caplijn. (England & Wales, Birth Index, December 1921).

**GUY, ALBERT STEWART**, Guardsman 2701048, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Scots Guards. Died 15.07.1944, aged 22. Son of Albert Edward and Jessie Andrina (née Shearer) Guy, of Oak Cottage, Ropley, Hampshire. Buried in Arezzo War Cemetery, Italy, IV.B.24. (CWGC)  
Born in Ropley in 1922.

15<sup>th</sup> July 1944 was the date of an assault on Monte Lignano, south of Arezzo.



The Guards Brigade, ... met stubborn resistance along the lower north-western slopes of Monte Lignano. A battalion of the Grenadier Guards captured Stoppiace, less than half a mile from Point 650, after a short fight, but a company directed to Point 575 (north-east of Stoppiace) was counter-attacked and forced back 300 yards from the crest, and a squadron of 17/21 Lancers which went to the company's assistance at dawn was engaged by anti-tank guns. Later in the morning a battalion of the Coldstream Guards captured Point 575, but a company which reached a hill farther to the north-west in the afternoon was immediately counter-attacked and forced to withdraw. The Coldstream Guards attacked again and recaptured the hill. The enemy made no further attempt to recover it.

The loss of Monte Lignano, the dominant peak in the Arezzo defence system, meant that the Germans would have to withdraw. Tenth Army reported to Army Group C during the morning of 15 July that 'we have lost M. Lignano. From there the enemy has a view of Arezzo.

Therefore we cannot remain there much longer... A counter attack would be very costly and is out of the question...'. Field Marshal Kesselring agreed that 'with M. Lignano in the hands of the enemy we must withdraw.' Permission was given for 76 Panzer Corps to make a delaying withdrawal, lasting two days, to the Arno River.

(<http://noeljameshoking.wordpress.com/the-23rd-nz-battalion-introduction/the-battle-for-arezzo/>)

**HALE, GEORGE GEOFFREY**, Captain 76907, 75 (Shropshire Yeomanry) Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery. Died 28.11.1943, aged 25. Son of George and Cecilia Hale; husband of Jean Halliday Hale (nee Elliot) of Muirend, Glasgow. Buried in Sangro River War Cemetery, Italy, XI.B.36. (CWGC)



‘Guns in the mud, Italy 1943’  
5.5” Howitzer, as used by 75 (Shropshire Yeomanry) Regiment  
(<http://www.shropshireregimentalmuseum.co.uk/regimental-history/shropshire-yeomanry/the-shropshire-yeomanry-1939-10945-royal-artillery/>)

Two months after invading Italy the Canadian and British forces of General Bernard Montgomery's Eighth Army were south of the Sangro River, the edge of the Germans' heavily defended Bernhard Line.

Montgomery planned a two pronged advance which would bring his troops up the coast to Pescara, then swing west to cut across the Italian peninsula and reach Rome. One of the objectives just south of Pescara was Ortona, a coastal town which had both a port and a railway marshalling yard. Capture of the port would facilitate landing supplies for Montgomery's troops as they moved forward. This point also occurred to the Germans, who quickly brought in engineers to ruin the harbour facility, denying the use of the port to the Allies.

The first stage of Montgomery's offensive was to cross the Sangro River, some four hundred metres wide. The attack went in on November 28, and was a success. Formations of British, New Zealand, and Indian troops were able to get bridges across the river and seize the opposite banks after tough fighting. Over the next few days they drove the Germans back about eight miles to the Moro River - about five miles south of Ortona. There the fighting petered out, the front line formations of both sides worn down. (<http://www.cliftonrfchistory.co.uk/memorial/WW2/wood.htm>)

Birth registered in Alresford District, mother's maiden name Tomlinson. (England & Wales, Free Birth Index March 1918). George's father was a smith and wheelwright of Church Street, Ropley. (British Phone Book 1935)



## Two cousins:

**HALL, DOUGLAS BARNARD**, Sapper 14316969 (memorial states Lance Corporal), 42 Field Company, Royal Engineers. Died 16.12.1943, aged 22. Son of William James Hall and Florence Hall (née Titheridge), of Ropley, Hampshire. Buried in Minturno War Cemetery, Italy, II.H.18. (CWGC)

Winter 1943 was a time of heavy assaults on the Gustav Line of defences. The Company was part of 56(London) Division, attached to the US 5th Army. In December the main battle was to take Monte Camino.

Douglas' father was a bricklayer (1911 census)

**HALL, KENNETH REGINALD**, Flying Officer (Navigator) 153358, RAFVR, 21Sqn. RAF. Died 12.05.1944, aged 22. Son of Reginald Frank and Sarah Helen Hall, of Hammonds Lane, Ropley, Hampshire. Buried in St. Desir War Cemetery, Normandy, France, VIII.B.4. (CWGC)

21 Sqn. was flying de Havilland Mosquito F.B.VI fighter-bombers from Gravesend, Kent.



Kenneth Hall 1941, courtesy elbet 148

On the night of 11/12<sup>th</sup> May 1944 a mission was ordered to Chateaudun:  
00:30 (approx) Mosquito VI LR274 F/Lt L.R.Walsh (k), F/O K.R.Hall (k)  
(Shores, C. & Thomas, C., 2<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Air Force vol. 1, Ian Allan, Hersham, 2004, ISBN 1 903223 40 7)

Probate was granted to Kenneth's father, a grocer's storeman. Kenneth's address was given as Byways, Park Lane, Ropley (England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1945)

**HENTY, ALBERT VICTOR**, Gunner 1466193, 33 Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery. Died 05.06.1945, aged 24. Son of Harry Henty and Lily Henty of Ropley, Hampshire. Buried in Rangoon War Cemetery, Myanmar, 3.D.18. (CWGC)

The Indian 19th Infantry Division was raised during World War II, and played a prominent part in the final part of the Burma Campaign, including the capture of Rangoon on May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1945.

It was raised in Secunderabad in India in 1941. It originally consisted of the 62nd, 63rd and 64th Indian Infantry Brigades. Its first commander was Major-General Jackie Smyth VC, who was subsequently transferred to command the Indian 17th Infantry Division, then fighting in Burma. (Indian 63rd Infantry Brigade was also transferred from the division to Burma in March 1942, to be replaced by Indian 98th Infantry Brigade).

The division remained under temporary commanders until late 1942 when Major General Thomas Wynford Rees was appointed to command. It spent an extended period on internal security duties and in training before being committed to the Burma front in November 1944. As part of Indian XXXIII Corps, it played the major role in the capture of Mandalay. Transferred to Indian IV Corps, it guarded the British Fourteenth Army's line of communication and mounted an offensive towards Mawchi, in the Shan States.

Its successes were due to its fitness and high morale. Not having been stationed in the unhealthy mountains on the Indian / Burmese border in 1943, nor fought during the battles in 1944, it had a high proportion of pre-war regulars among its officers and senior NCO's.

The division was occasionally referred to as the "Dagger Division", from its divisional sign, which was a hand thrusting a dagger overhand, in yellow on a red background. ([www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com))

"The 19th Indian Division had come far and fast. Heat and dust had been extremely trying and the fighting had been severe. As is the case in such hard fighting, our casualties had not been light. But sheer guts and determination had carried the men through, and their morale was terrific.

... After Mandalay there was no rest for them, and having liquidated Japs left North of the Myitnge River they moved South, joining 4 Corps for the Rangoon operations.

While the Armoured Brigade, with 5 and 17 Divisions swept on in the van, 19 Div ferried and footslogged hard, catching up during the pauses, and liquidating en route many Japs overrun by the leading troops. Some of it proved stiff fighting. And further North, 19 Div troops were pushing on towards Kalaw, in determined fighting in some of the thickest jungle in Burma. They drove back the Japanese 15 Div and other troops trying to hold on near Toungoo to allow their main bodies to escape."

([www.burmastar.org.uk/19divpush](http://www.burmastar.org.uk/19divpush))

Albert's birth was registered in Droxford, Hampshire. Mother's maiden name Pollard. (England & Wales, Birth Index, September 1920)



**HORLOCK, JOHN CHARLES**, Flight Lieutenant (Pilot) 134123 RAFVR, 272 Sqn. RAF. Died 09.12.1944, aged 28. Son of Benjamin Withers Horlock and Minnie Horlock, of Four Marks, Hampshire. Buried in Udine War Cemetery, Italy, II.F.13 (CWGC). 272 Sqn. were flying Bristol Beaufighter X and XI fighter-bombers from Foggia, Italy.



From *The Armed Rovers, Beauforts and Beaufighters Over the Mediterranean*, Nesbit, Roy C. (ISBN: 1853105171 / 1-85310-517-1):-

"Two days later a new flight commander, Squadron Leader Anthony J. Mottram, led six Beaufighters to the Gulf of Trieste, escorted by six Spitfires of 237 Squadron. Mottram had been awarded a DFC when flying Beaufighters with 489 (NZ) Squadron in the UK, while his navigator, Flying Officer Walter A.G. Hook, had received a DFC after completing a tour with the Beauforts and Beaufighters of 39 Squadron in the Mediterranean. When flying at 150 feet, the Beaufighter and Spitfire formation encountered medium and light flak from the shore. This was both intense and accurate, and an aircraft flown by Flying Officer John C. Horlock and Warrant Officer Frank H. Rapley was hit. Horlock attempted a force-landing in a field but the aircraft blew up when it skidded along the ground. Rapley tried to rescue Horlock, but was forced out of the burning machine. The pilot lost his life, and the navigator ended the war as a PoW. The other aircraft scored hits on three barges, two of which sank."

Beaufighter X serial NT971 shot down by flak at San Giorgio. W/O RAPLEY - 1602664 is in the PoW-register without camp- and pow-number.

Birth record shows registration in the Alresford District, his mother's maiden name Kingsland. (England & Wales, Birth Index December 1916)

The probate record gives John's address as *Fairlight*, Four Marks, and his father as John Benjamin Withers Horlock, retired farmer. (England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1946)

**KENNEDY MINARDS, RICHARD METHUEN, M.C.**, Captain 134464 495 Battery, 102 (The Pembroke Yeomanry) Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery. Died 03.08.1944, aged 26. Son of William Ivey Kennedy Minards and Lilian Vesta Kennedy Minards, born Malta. Husband of Pamela Vyvyan Kennedy Minards (nee Richards) of Alresford. B.A. (Hons.), Oxon. Commissioned 08.06.1940. Buried in Ropley (St. Peter) Churchyard, Hampshire.

Richard Kennedy Minards



Richard's father, a Major, was Assay Master to H.M. Mint, Bombay. (UK Incoming Passenger Lists, MV *Domala*, 06.04.1923)

Wellington School. Benson 1931 to 1936, left with many honours, Prefect, member of the first XV and a Classical Exhibitioner at B.N.C. He joined the Royal Artillery from Oxford, fought in North Africa and won the M.C. in April, 1943, for conspicuous gallantry as a forward Observation Officer. Twice his tank was hit. His driver was wounded. He transferred to another tank and went on fighting while 75 per cent of the squadron he was supporting were knocked out. His courage and dash," says the citation, "were an inspiration to all." He returned to England in spring, 1944, to train as an Air Observer.... "He will be remembered," writes his' tutor, "for his loyalty, affection and simple goodness." (Wellington Roll of Honour 1939-1945, Wellington School, 1949)

Joined 35 AOP course, RAF 21.07.1944 to train as a pilot. (AOP course list)

No.43 OTU, 03.08.1944 1803 hours.

Captain Kennedy-Minards was piloting Taylorcraft Auster AOP.III MZ242 (c/n/356) on an exercise to practise forced landings near Stonehenge. While he was flying into the sun in hazy conditions the aircraft hit HT cables and crashed in flames. The aircraft accident card records that it was decided to discontinue using that landing field, the HT cables being only 300 yards from the perimeter.



Rickard, J (15 September 2008), *British Taylorcraft Auster*, [http://www.historyofwar.org/Pictures/pictures\\_british\\_taylorcraft\\_auster.html](http://www.historyofwar.org/Pictures/pictures_british_taylorcraft_auster.html)

“Kennedy Minards. – In Aug., 1944, on active service, Capt. R. M. Kennedy Minards, M.C., R.A., aged 26, beloved husband of Pamela (née Bull), daddy of Judy, and dear only child of Mr and Mrs W. I. Kennedy Minards, late of Bombay and Parkstone, Dorset. No letters, please.” (Times 07.08.1944)

“Kennedy Minards. - On April 15, 1945. At the Nursing Home, Four Marks, Hampshire, to Pamela (née Bull), wife of Capt. R. M. Kennedy Minards, M.C., R.A. (killed flying, Aug. 1944) – a brother (Richard) for Judy.”  
(Times 18.04.1945)

Probate gave Richard’s address as *Southfield*, Monkwood, Ropley. (England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1944).

**LAWRENCE, RICHARD ALEXANDER HERBERT**, Captain 95245 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion. Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment). Died 29.11.1943, aged 24. Only child of Lt. Col. A.E. Lawrence, Grey House, Kinver, Stockbridge, and Mrs George Evans, The Kennels, Ropley, Hampshire. Buried in Sangro River War Cemetery, XI.E.21.  
(CWGC/Hampshire Chronicle)

Born in Walsingham, Norfolk, mother’s maiden name Smith.  
(England & Wales, Birth Index, September 1919)

Educated at Wellington School, going to the Anglesey in 1932 and left in 1937. He was the son of an O.W. well known to many Wellingtonians as their popular Battalion Commander in O.T.C. Camps. Heavily built and naturally rather slow of movement he was nevertheless an effective player of all games and was in the XV and the 2nd XI at cricket and at hockey. He was in the VIth



Form, Head of his dormitory, a Prefect and held high rank in the O.T.C. He passed out of the R.M.C. in July, 1939 with the rank of Cadet Sergeant and was commissioned in the Royal Fusiliers. He was wounded in Libya in 1941 and after nearly three years of active service was killed in action in Italy in December, 1943. He was mentioned in dispatches. His tutor writes this of him: “Solid, dependable, thoughtful, slow and somewhat blunt of speech, but full of good sense, undemonstrative, imperturbable, capable of inspiring both affection and respect – a natural leader.” (Wellington Roll of Honour 1939-1945, Wellington School, 1949).



Probate record shows Richard’s address as *The Kennels*, Ropley, probate being granted to Muriel Mary Evans, wife of George Patrick Elystair Evans. (England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1944)

(Photo [www.ww2today.com](http://www.ww2today.com))



Map by Kirrages

### Battle of the Sangro River

Two months after invading Italy the Canadian and British forces of General Bernard Montgomery's Eighth Army were south of the Sangro River, the edge of the Germans' heavily defended Bernhard Line.

Montgomery planned a two pronged advance which would bring his troops up the coast to Pescara, then swing west to cut across the Italian peninsula and reach Rome.

One of the objectives just south of Pescara was Ortona, a coastal town which had both a port and a railway marshalling yard. Capture of the port would facilitate landing supplies for Montgomery's troops as they moved forward. This point also occurred to the Germans, who quickly brought in engineers to ruin the harbour facility, denying the use of the port to the Allies.

The first stage of Montgomery's offensive was to cross the Sangro River, some four hundred metres wide. The attack went in on November 28, and was a success.

Formations of British, New Zealand, and Indian troops were able to get bridges across the river and seize the opposite banks after tough fighting. Over the next few days they drove the Germans back about eight miles to the Moro River - about five miles south of Ortona. There the fighting petered out, the front line formations of both sides worn down.



Sangro River November 1943

(<http://www.cliftonrfchistory.co.uk/memorial/WW2/wood.htm>)



**LEGG, ALBERT FRANK**, Leading Stoker P/KX 78715, RN, HM Submarine Trooper. Died 17.10.1943, aged 35. Son of William C. and Louisa J. Legg; husband of Sylvia D. Legg of Ropley, Hampshire. Commemorated on Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Panel 77, Column 3. (CWGC)

HMS Trooper (N91) (Lt. John Somerton Wraith, DSO, DSC, RN)

A submarine of the T class, commissioned 29 August, 1942. Fitted to operate 3 human torpedoes (Chariots), *Trooper* spent most of her short career serving in the Mediterranean.

On her first operation, she took part in Operation Principal, which used human torpedoes to sink Italian ships in Palermo harbour. She sank the Italian tanker *Rosario*, the Italian merchant *Forli*, a sailing vessel and on 29- July-1943 sunk Italian submarine *Pietro Micca* at entrance to Adriatic - Strait of Otranto.

She also damaged two other enemy vessels, and unsuccessfully attacked the Italian merchant *Belluno* (the former French *Fort de France*). ([www.underwater.org.uk](http://www.underwater.org.uk))



Sailed from Beirut on 26 September 1943 for a patrol in the Aegean Sea off the Dodecanese islands, including the Leros area. She failed to return on 17th October and was reported overdue on that day. She is presumed lost on German mines around Leros.

The exact date of her loss is not known. However the Germans claim that HMS Trooper was sunk by Q-ship GA.45 on 15 October 1943. But this claim to have sunk Trooper is erroneous. GA.45 carried out an attack on a submarine 2.5 miles south of Calolino on 15th October. The Germans were unaware of the identity of the submarine or whether it had been destroyed. The attack was made initially with depth charges, then when the submarine surfaced with gunfire. The

submarine in question was HMS Torbay (Lt. Clutterbuck) and she was not damaged during this encounter. ([www.uboot.net](http://www.uboot.net))

A full account of H.M.S. Trooper's service can be found in "A Submarine at War – the Brief Life of H.M.S. Trooper" by D.R. Grant.

Born in Ropley in 1908, living at Parkside Cottages, Ropley (1911 Census)

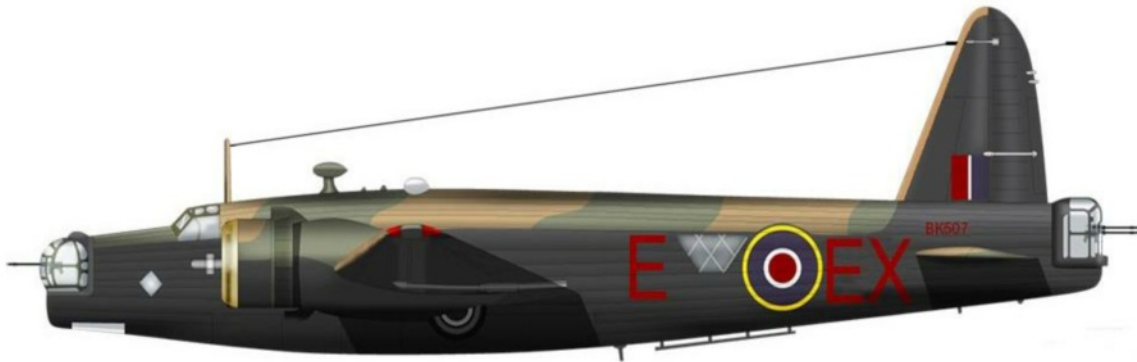
Son of William Charles and Louisa Jane (née Riddle) Legg. Married Sylvia Dorothy Newnham in Alton, Hampshire in 1941, fathering a daughter.

(<http://trees.ancestry.co.uk/tree/9157123/person/1399901465?ssrc=>)

**NORGATE, MORRIS JOHN**, Sergeant (Navigator) 1380915, RAFVR, 199 Sqn. RAF. Died 07.02.1943, aged 22. Son of Frank and Edith Annie Norgate, of Ropley, Hampshire. Buried in Guidel Communal Cemetery, Brittany, France, Row 3, Grave 22. (CWGC). 199 Sqn. were flying Vickers Wellington X bombers from Ingham, Lincs.

7/8 February 1943

323 aircraft - 100 Wellingtons, 81 Halifaxes, 80 Lancasters, 62 Stirlings to Lorient in a well-executed raid. 7 aircraft - 3 Lancasters, 2 Halifaxes, 2 Wellingtons - lost. (Bomber Command War Diaries)



Vickers Wellington B.III BK507 Information:

Airborne from Ingham. Crashed in the target area. All are buried in Guidel Communal Cemetery. F/L K.Powell KIA, Sgt A.E.Keeton KIA, Sgt M.J.Norgate KIA, Sgt D.C.Pennycook KIA, Sgt C.B.Sullivan RAAF KIA, Sgt R.V.Baker KIA. " (www.lostbombers.co.uk)

Morris' birth was recorded in Windsor, Berkshire, mother's maiden name Seymour. (England & Wales, Birth Index, September 1920)

Probate shows Morris' address as 7, Owen Road, Farncombe, Godalming, Surrey, and his father's full name as Frank Morris Norgate. (England & Wales, National Probate Calendar, 1944)

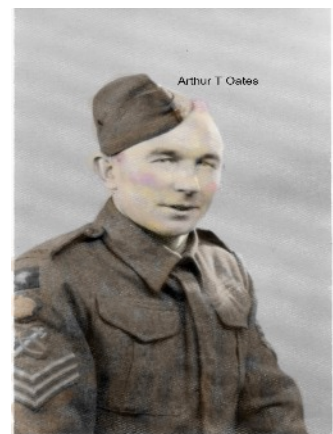
**OATES, ARTHUR THOMAS**, Staff Sergeant 7607954, Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

Died at sea between 02.03.1943 & 03.03.1943, aged 28. Born in Sussex. Commemorated Singapore Memorial, Col. 10. (CWGC)

September 1913 GRO Birth index lists Arthur Thomas Oates as born in Petworth, Sussex, his mother's maiden name being Dewdney.

Said to have been bombed on a troopship on the way to Singapore, developing shell shock. One other with severe shell shock was landed at Singapore, and survived; Arthur Oates was retained on board and died when the ship was sunk. (Family lore) No matching sinking found; the last convoy left Singapore on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 1942. UK, Army roll of honour, 1939-1945 gives year of death 1942, which seems more likely. Probate also gave date of death as 02 or

03.02.1942, and his address as Elm Grove, Ropley. (England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1944). Had Arthur been a survivor of the bombing of RMS Empress of Asia, lost 05.02.1942? If landed in Singapore, he could have been evacuated to the Dutch East Indies and then lost in an evacuation ship - many were sunk in early June 1942.





## WATSON, RONALD, Flight Sergeant, RAF

There is only one casualty record on the CWGC site, though there is no apparent Ropley connection:

Flight Sergeant (W.Op. /Air Gnr.) 652631, RAF 21 Sqn. Died 21.04.1943, aged 22. Son of James Thomas Watson and Florence Edith Watson, of Wandsworth, London; husband of Violet Mary Watson, of Wandsworth Common. Buried Abbeville Communal Cemetery Extension, Plot 6, Row A, Grave 2. (CWGC)

21 Squadron were flying Lockheed Ventura bombers from Oulton, Norfolk.



11 Venturas were sent to raid the Abbeville railway yards on 21.04.1943 – three were lost. (Bomber Command War Diaries).

“Led by Flt. Lt. Dennis, and covered by 11 Group squadrons, they made for their target, the marshalling yards at Abbeville. During none too accurate bombing the eleven Venturas were intercepted by fifteen '190s whilst others took on the escorting fighters. They made determined head-on, under and quarter attacks simultaneously, breaking through the fighter screen to within fifty yards of the bombers. Flg. Off. Hicks in AE913 was downed near Abbeville and Sgt. Wells' aircraft banked away, flames pouring from the port motor. A third bomber was soon after destroyed. Losses were due to the courage and strength of the fighter interception.” (Bowyer, M.J.F., 2 Group RAF, Faber & Faber, London, 1979 ISBN 0 571 11460 1)

Apart from pilot, the crew of AE913 were Flt. Sgt. F.S. Bowles (Navigator), Flt. Sgt. R. Watson (W/Op), F. Taylor (Air Gunner). (Bomber Command loss card).

The fighters were from Jagdgeschwader 26, led by the Gruppenkommandeur, Wilhelm-Ferdinand “Wutz” Galland, brother of the famous Adolf Galland. He downed two of the Venturas for his 39<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> victories; the other fell to Oblt. Horst Stemberg for his 14<sup>th</sup>. ([www.cieldegloire.com/jg\\_026b.php](http://www.cieldegloire.com/jg_026b.php))



**WOODLEY, STANLEY STUART**, Lance Corporal 5499840, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Grenadier Guards. Died 30.05.1940, aged 20. Younger son of Mrs J.R. Woodley, Hyde St., Winchester and W.H. Woodley of Bighton, Alresford. No known grave, commemorated on Dunkirk Memorial, Nord, France, Col.32. (CWGC)

*Hampshire Chronicle* 06.06.1942:- The following letter has been received from Doris Wylde, of "Heritage", Michelmersh, Romsey: - "In your issue of May 30<sup>th</sup> there appeared a notice of the death in action of Lance-Corporal Stanley Woodley who, since May, 1940 has been reported missing. This young man was a native of Ropley, and I looked in vain under the news of that village for any tribute to his memory. May an old friend repair the omission? During the sixteen years I lived in Ropley Parish I took a great interest in the choir boys, of whom Stanley Woodley was one. He had no outstanding gifts, but was a merry-hearted, straightforward lad, amenable to discipline and very loyal to his friends. When he left Ropley School he joined the family business, and travelled the countryside with fish. Working steadily and cheerfully at his arduous job, he speedily became a favourite with his customers, who appreciated his willingness, and soon learned that his word was to be relied upon. These qualities stood him in good stead in his Army life, where as early as 1940 he had earned his first stripe. Now we know that he has joined the uncounted best from Hampshire and the Isle of Wight whose cheerful, dogged endurance and unassuming devotion to duty ("their job" as they would put it) has led them to the final sacrifice and kept us safe, and their country free. May his memory be hallowed in the land he loved.

Birth registered in the Alresford District, mother's maiden name Payne. (England & Wales, Birth Index, December 1919)

On 29th-30th May the Battalion took part in a stout defence of Veurne (Furnes).

"Veurne is an attractive Flemish town, with buildings dating back to medieval times – many of them showing signs of shrapnel damage from 1940. It was defended by the 7th Guards Brigade in May 1940, and held until the final stage of the defence when the perimeter was shortened. The Guards dug in along the canal – one unit even bayonet-charged the Germans in the streets." (www.historyextra.com/feature/dunkirk-where-history-happened)



Map es.weather-forecast.com

# TICHBORNE



Population in 1911: 286; 14 casualties.

## WORLD WAR 1

**BAKER, KINGSLEY, M.C., Lieutenant**, "A" Battery, 51<sup>st</sup> Brigade, Royal Field Artillery. Died 30.03.1918, aged 23. Son of Henry Charles and Nellie Baker, of Alresford, Hampshire. Buried in Abbeville Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France, III.B.29. (CWGC)

Although his family did not live in Tichborne, he had worked under Mr Michie as a member of the Tichborne Estate management team. (Tichborne 2000)  
Also on New Alresford Memorial – see p.131 for full details.

**BALDWIN, HENRY WILLIAM**, Private 34560, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Somerset Light Infantry. Died 13.07.1918, aged 36. Son of Joseph and Ellen Baldwin, of Tichborne, Hampshire; husband of Ellen Jane Baldwin, of Alresford, Hampshire. Commemorated on Karachi 1914-1918 War Memorial, Pakistan. (CWGC)

His father was the Tichborne Estate Woodman and a leading figure in the Tichborne Mummers. He had served in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment in the Boer War and transferred to the Army Reserve in 1907. After rejoining the Army he served in India and is commemorated on the memorial as many civil and cantonment cemeteries proved impossible to maintain properly. (Tichborne 2000)

In 1911 Henry was working as a Builder's Labourer, living with his wife, stepson and baby son at Cooks Down, Alresford. (1911 Census).

**CLARKE, JAMES OLIVER**, (CLARK on official records) Private 200656, 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Died 21.01.1916, aged 26. Also on the New Alresford memorial, see p.140 for full details.

**DOWDING, GEOFFREY MARISCHAL**, Midshipman, Royal Naval Reserve, H.M.S. *Good Hope*. Died 01.11.1914, aged 19 in the Battle of Coronel. Son of the Rev. Charles and Kathleen Dowding, of Tichborne Rectory, Alresford, Hampshire (His father was curate of Tichborne). Born at Dibrugarh, Assam, India. Commemorated on Portsmouth Naval Memorial, panel 6. (CWGC)

In 1911 Geoffrey was a cadet on the training ship “Conway” on the River Mersey. (Census)

HMS *Good Hope* was a Drake class heavy cruiser. When completed these were amongst the faster ships in the world, and even in 1914 their top speed of 23kts compared well with the 23.5kts of the *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau*, the more modern German cruisers that would sink the *Good Hope* at Coronel.

At the outbreak of war, the *Good Hope* joined the 6th Cruiser Squadron as part of the Grand Fleet. However, she was soon detached from that squadron and sent to reinforce Rear-Admiral Sir Christopher Cradock’s South American Squadron, becoming his flagship.

Cradock was under orders to intercept Admiral von Spee’s cruiser squadron. This contained five modern cruisers, amongst them the *Scharnhorst* and the *Gneisenau*. These were also pre-Dreadnaught cruisers, but were much better armed than the *Good Hope*, each carrying eight 8.2in guns, six

of which could be used on any one target (four of the guns were carried on the sides of each ship). The *Good Hope*’s two 9.2in guns were the only guns in the British squadron that were not outranged by the German 8.2in guns. Learning that von Spee was planning to sail into the South Atlantic, Cradock took his fleet into the Pacific. There he was ambushed by von Spee at Coronel (1 November 1914). The *Good Hope* was lost with all hands, (as was the *Monmouth*), without causing any significant damage to the German fleet. Having been crippled earlier in the battle by fire from the *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau*, the *Good Hope* was eventually finished off by the German light cruiser *Nürnberg*. (Rickard, J (22 August 2007), *HMS Good Hope*, [http://www.historyofwar.org/articles/weapons\\_HMS\\_Good\\_Hope.html](http://www.historyofwar.org/articles/weapons_HMS_Good_Hope.html))



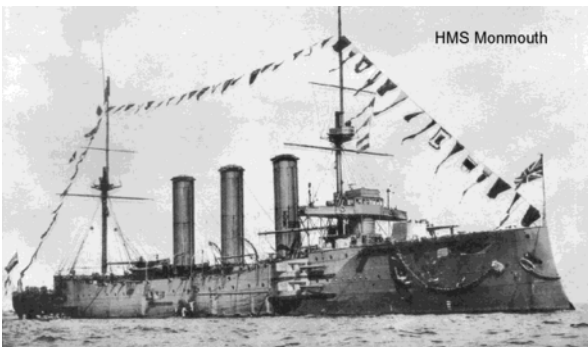
*The Battle of Coronel*  
(Wikipedia commons, from a postcard)



H.M.S. Good Hope



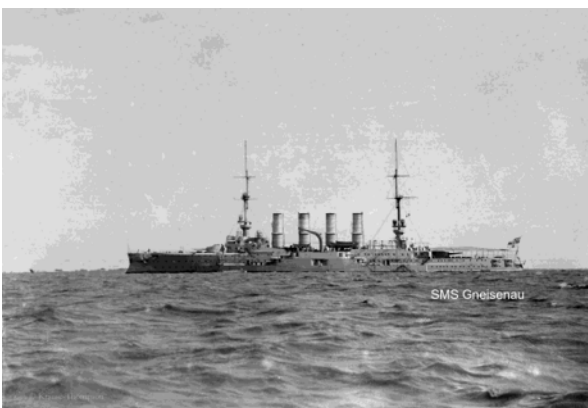
HMS Monmouth



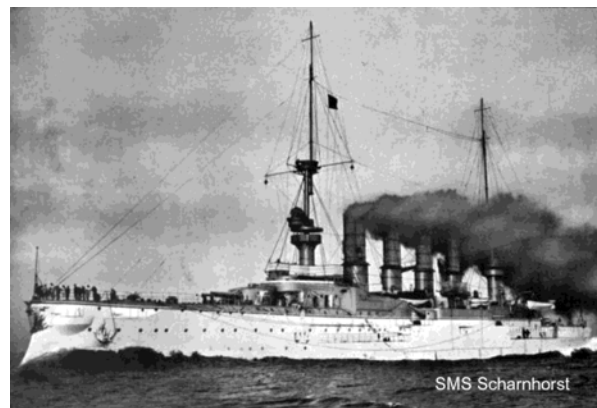
SMS Nürnberg



SMS Gneisenau



SMS Scharnhorst



*Sinkende Engl. Schiffe in der Seeschlacht von Coronel - 1914*

German propaganda postcard.

**DUNFORD, FREDERICK GEORGE**, (“Freddy”), Sergeant 8086, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Died 01.11.1914. Married to Lily Atkinson (née White) of 79, Addiscombe Court Rd., Croydon, Surrey. Commemorated on Ploegsteert Memorial, Berks. Cemetery Extension, Hainault, Belgium, Panel 6. (CWGC)

Born 20<sup>th</sup> August 1891 in Wonston, Hampshire, the son of a farm servant. (1901 census)

Frederick Dunford was killed in action at St. Yves. He was the son of William and Elizabeth Dunford of Tichborne; they lived in the cottage next to the Tichborne Arms and William was the Parish Clerk. (*Tichborne 2000*). William Dunford was a Horseman on an estate. (1911 Census).



“Before he enlisted Fred. Dunford was a useful member of the choir and a bellringer, and when he left his parish to serve his country in the Hampshire Regiment he carried the good wishes of all with him. He was a fine athlete, winning, while the Regiment was stationed at Aldershot and Colchester, two cups and four medals for long distance running. That Dunford was a keen, good soldier, and had done good work in the war is provided by the fact that at the early age of 23, and only five days before his death, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant.” (*Hampshire Chronicle* 05.12.1914)

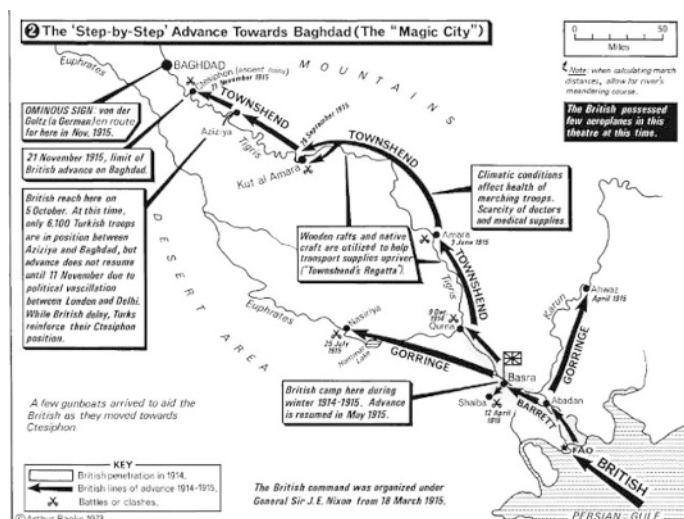
From 28th October to 2nd November 1914 the 1st battalion was in a series of unconnected trenches, defending Ploegsteert Wood against ferocious German artillery and infantry assaults. The Germans were successful in clearing the Messines Ridge on the Hampshire’s left, leaving the St Yves position as a salient. During this defence the Hampshire lost 2 officers and 46 men killed, 51 missing (many buried in demolished trenches) and 121 wounded. (*The Royal Hampshire Regiment, Vol.2, 1914-1918*, Atkinson C.T., University Press, Glasgow 1952)

Also on the Ropley Memorial.

**FLETCHER, WALTER**, Private 2776, 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Died 24.07.1915, aged 26. Youngest son of Mr and Mrs C. Fletcher. Born at Tichborne, Hampshire. Buried in Basra War Cemetery, Iraq, II.R.10. (CWGC)  
Enlisted Hamilton Camp, Hampshire. Killed in Action. (UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919)  
Personal Army Record not available.

Advancing up the Euphrates, on 24<sup>th</sup> July 1915 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Hampshires and 2/7<sup>th</sup> Gurkhas captured Nasiriya, “Reduced, mainly by sickness, to 150 of all ranks before the attack, the 4<sup>th</sup> Hampshire had really suffered very severely in losing (2 officers) and nine men killed and (3 officers) and 34 men wounded ..... the battalion’s work was warmly praised by General Melliss ... Beyond Nasiriya there was no intention of advancing, the Turks had been well and truly beaten, nearly 1,000 being taken with 15 guns, and with another 2,000 casualties there was not much left of them .... (*The Royal Hampshire Regiment, Vol.2, 1914-1918*, Atkinson C.T., University Press, Glasgow 1952)





Walter Fletcher's parents were Charles (a shepherd) and Ellen Fletcher of Gander Down. (Tichborne 2000)

Previous to the war Walter was employed as a footman at Milland Place, Liphook, and volunteered when war broke out. At the time of his death two brothers were serving in the army as Privates – George in the National Reserve, Arthur with 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment in France. Another brother, Ernest, was killed serving with the Hampshire Regiment in the Boer war. Father Charles Fletcher was a shepherd. (Hampshire Chronicle 21.08.1915 and census returns)

**HOGDEN, WILLIAM** No matching name on CWGC, or 1911 census.

There is a medal card for a William Hogden, Private 1504 later 200273, Royal West Kent Regiment, with the record "T.F.WAR.R W KENT.TFM #IND.GS.AFGN.NWFF.1919 (ROLL 17509-149). Both the 1<sup>st</sup> and 1/4<sup>th</sup> Battalions of the Royal West Kents took part in the Third Afghan War and actions on the North West Frontier 1919-1922.

A Sergeant S817 William Hogdon, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal West Kent Regiment, died of wounds 9<sup>th</sup> October 1915. However, his personal army record shows his place of birth as Plaistow, Kent, and his children were all born in South East London, where his wife lived. No Hampshire connection appears in the record.

**WATSON, ARTHUR GEORGE**, Rifleman 47755, King's Royal Rifle Corps, seconded to 1/15<sup>th</sup> Battalion London Regiment (Prince of Wales' Own Civil Service Rifles). Died 02.11.1918. Buried in Willems Communal Cemetery, Nord, France, East Side near North-East corner. Willems is a small village about 13 kilometres east of the centre of Lille, and 2 kilometres west of the border with Belgium. Arthur Watson was killed in the final advance in Artois, and was the only allied casualty (of 11) in the cemetery recorded as killed on that date. (CWGC)

"UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919" records Rifleman 47755, KRRC as *Albert George Watson*, born in Shoreditch, Middlesex, resident in Tottenham, Middlesex and killed in action. Is this the correct record? This is the only A.G. Watson in the CWGC roll of honour that does not list a next of kin as elsewhere than Hampshire. No Watson family is recorded in Tichborne in the 1911 Census.

**WHITE, PERCY HENRY**, Private 8940, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Hampshire Regiment. Died 26.04.1915, aged 19. Son of the late Richard White (carpenter) and Mrs Emily White, of 29, Turk St., Alton, Hampshire. Commemorated on Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium, Panel 35. (CWGC).

Born New Parish, Hampshire. Enlisted Winchester. Killed in Action. (UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919)

Personal Service Record not available.

During the second Battle of Ypres, on the night of 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> April 1915 the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion was ordered forward to establish a defence line between St Julien (just lost to an enemy attack) and Berlin Wood. After a night of digging fresh trenches the Hampshire successfully held off a strong German attack despite being subjected to a ferocious artillery bombardment. Casualties were heavy, mainly from shellfire - 59 killed and missing and 100 wounded. (*The Royal Hampshire Regiment, Vol.2, 1914-1918*, Atkinson C.T., University Press, Glasgow 1952)

In the 1901 Census Percy was recorded as Percy C G White, living in 29, Turk Street, Alton with his parents, brother and four sisters. His birth was recorded, as Percy Charles G White, in mid 1895 in Alton. (England & Wales, Free Birth Index, September 1895) By 1911 Percy was at the same address and his mother was a widow. Percy was working as a Cowman. (Census)

**WICKHAM, CYRIL HENRY**, Captain, 1st Battalion, Royal Fusiliers. Died 15.01.1915, aged 36. Buried in La Chapelle D'Armentiers Communal Cemetery, Nord, France, A.3. (CWGC)

Died of Wounds. (UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919)

While occupying flooded trenches in January 1915, the battalion was not subjected to a large attack but suffered greatly from snipers as well as sickness. . . (*The Royal Fusiliers in the Great War*, H. C. O'Neill, O.B.E.

[www.archive.org/stream/royalfusiliersinooonei/royalfusiliersinooonei\\_djvu.txt](http://www.archive.org/stream/royalfusiliersinooonei/royalfusiliersinooonei_djvu.txt)).

Born 25<sup>th</sup> May 1878 in Tichborne, Cyril Wickham was the younger son of Henry Lamplugh Wickham and the Hon. Teresa Wickham (nee Arundell) who had been first married to Sir Alfred Doughty-Tichborne. Sir Alfred had died in 1866 and she remarried in 1873 (at the height of the trial of the Tichborne Claimant who had endeavoured to dispossess her small Tichborne son). Cyril grew up with his half-brother at Tichborne. In 1898 he was a Subaltern in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, the Wiltshire Regiment. (*Tichborne 2000*)

He was a keen cricketer, playing for Tichborne Park. Gazetted to the Royal Fusiliers in 1900, promoted to Lieutenant in April 1901 and Captain in June 1908. From November 1909 to November 1912 Capt. Wickham was an Adjutant in the Special reserve. (Obituary, *Hampshire Chronicle* 23.01.1915)

**WICKHAM, WILLIAM JOSEPH**, Captain, Scots Guards. Died 31.10.1914, aged 39.

Son of Capt. H. L. Wickham and the Hon. Mrs Wickham, of Down Grange, Basingstoke, Hampshire. Commemorated on Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Panel 11. (CWGC)  
Killed in Action. (UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919)

31<sup>st</sup> October was the date of the Battle of Gheluvelt (in the First Battle of Ypres), fought at the end of 10 days of rain. The crisis of the Battle of Ypres hinged around the village of Gheluvelt. Lying on a forward spur of the low ridge that covers the town of Ypres, Gheluvelt was the last point retained in British hands from which the enemy's line could be dominated. By noon on 31st October 1914, the Queens, the Royal Scots Fusiliers, the Welsh and the Kings Royal Rifles had been overwhelmed, while on the right the South Wales Borderers had been rolled back. Gheluvelt had been lost and a serious gap had been made in the British line. So serious was the situation that unless the gap could be closed, a breakthrough could not be avoided. Indeed orders had already been prepared for artillery to move back in preparation for a general retreat. The only remaining reserve was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Worcestershire, who made a most gallant counter-attack.. The 2nd Worcestershires had gone into this action with about 370 men of whom 187 were killed or wounded. Gheluvelt had been saved and the line restored. It is rare that the action of one unit can exert such a profound influence as did this now famous counter attack. As a result of the capture of Gheluvelt against terrific odds, and the consequent closing of the gap in the British Lines, Ypres was held and the Channel Ports were saved. Gheluvelt 31st



October 1914 (painting by J. P. Beadle) ([www.worcestershireregiment.com/h\\_gheluvelt.php](http://www.worcestershireregiment.com/h_gheluvelt.php))

William Wickham was the elder son of Henry Lamplugh Wickham and the Hon. Teresa Wickham (see above), and would also have grown up at Tichborne. In 1898 he was a law student of the Inner Temple, living in Chelsea. He joined the Scots Guards at the outbreak of war. (*Tichborne 2000*).

Born in Tichborne Park, in 1911 William was already a Captain in the 1st Battalion, Scots Guards, based in Kasr El Nil Barracks, Egypt. (1911 Census)

**WILD, ERIC THOMAS**, Private 3856, 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. Died 18.07.1916, aged 21. Son of Frank Thomas and Emily Wild, of Marne Cottage, Kilmeston Rd., New Cheriton, Alresford, Hampshire, Buried in Amara War Cemetery, Iraq, XXII.G.2. (CWGC). Also recorded on Cheriton memorial – see p.103 for full details.

## WORLD WAR 2

**MARTIN, GEORGE**, Private, 5502699, 2/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Hampshire Regiment Died 31.12.1940, aged 22. Son of Thomas Henry and Elizabeth Ann Martin, of Alresford. Buried in New Alresford (St. John the Baptist) Churchyard Extension, Plot H, Row 7, Grave 1. (CWGC)

George Martin worked on the Tichborne Estate, and his parents lived in Spring Way, Alresford. (*Tichborne 2000*)

Died beside an army pillbox at Foreness Point, Margate, Kent, accidentally shot by a round from a Lewis Gun which was being cleaned. (Death Certificate) (seep.183)

**TOWNSEND, THOMAS DANIEL**, Gunner 1074588, 122 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery. Died 21.09.1944, aged 33. Son of Daniel and Florence Townsend, of Alresford, Hampshire. Commemorated on Singapore Memorial, Col. 3. (CWGC).

Born in Tichborne in 1911, his father a general labourer. (1911 Census)

Thomas Townsend also worked on the Tichborne Estate, and his parents lived in the western part of the Post Office. He had been taken prisoner in Singapore. (*Tichborne 2000*)

Drowned as Prisoner of War when the transport ship was sunk: On 21st September 1944 the Hofuku Maru sailed with Convoy MATA-27 for Takao in Formosa. She was attacked by an American aircraft carrier about 80 miles north of Corregidor; the aircraft carrier's planes sunk the whole fleet including the Hofuku Maru, not knowing she carried prisoners. The Hofuku Maru was carrying 1289 prisoners from Manila to Japan, 1047 were lost. ([www.roll-of-honour.org.uk/Hell\\_Ships/Hofuku\\_Maru](http://www.roll-of-honour.org.uk/Hell_Ships/Hofuku_Maru))



### 122 Field Regiment Royal Artillery

122 Field Regiment Royal Artillery was a Territorial regiment formed in Bradford on 1 June 1939 along with 70 Field Regiment. Both Regiments had the title 'West Riding'. No

122 had headquarters opposite Valley Parade Drill Hall and units in Halifax and Heckmondwike. It had two batteries, 278 and 280.

On 3 January 1941 the Regiment embarked at Glasgow in the ironically named Canadian Pacific liner '*Empress of Japan*' and arrived in Malaya on 11 March to become part of the 12th Indian Brigade, III Indian Corps.

When the Japanese invaded Malaya the following December, 278 Battery was sent up country to face them and fought its way all down the Peninsular to rejoin 280 Battery in the short battle for Singapore Island.

The three and a half years of captivity in inhuman conditions cost the Regiment dearly.

Its members were scattered all over the Far East. Many were sent as slave labour to build the infamous Burma/Siam Railway on which it was reckoned that one prisoner died for every sleeper laid.

Today 41 soldiers of 122 Field Regiment lie buried in the Kanchanaburi War Cemetery in Thailand. Another 13 are buried at Chungkai. There are graves of 17 others in Kranji Cemetery, Singapore and the Kranji Memorial to those with no known grave lists another 43.

Others from the Regiment were shipped in appalling conditions to Korea and to mainland Japan and 10 are buried in the War Cemetery at Yokohama.

Out of the original complement of 500 men, 122 Field Regiment lost 132, including 3 who died before war started in the Far East.

Effectively, the Regiment ceased to exist with the surrender of Singapore. It was never re-formed and came to be called 'The Forgotten Regiment' by the survivors.



**'D' Troop 280 Battery 122nd Field Regiment RA**  
"Tosh" Townsend is circled. ([www.cofepow.org.uk](http://www.cofepow.org.uk))

# UPPER WIELD

## WORLD WAR 1

**GILES, WILLIAM**, Private G/60567, 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Fusiliers. Died 05.04.1918, aged 35. Youngest son of Henry and the late Ellen Giles. Native of Upper Wield, Alresford, Hampshire. Buried in Bienvillers War Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France, XIII.C.7. (CWGC)  
Born Wield, Hampshire, Residence Chesham, Enlisted Croydon, Surrey, Killed in Action. Formerly 3174, Middlesex Regiment. (UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919)  
Army Service Record not available.

Bucquoy GERMAN ATTACK, APRIL 5th. — In the last days of March the 10th and 13th Royal Fusiliers had been brought down from the Ypres area and had reached the neighbourhood of Gommecourt.

On March 31st the 13th Battalion went into the front line at Bucquoy. The following morning the Germans attempted to rush the bombing posts of No. 2 Company. The attacks were beaten off, and Second Lieutenant J. Davis, though wounded, stood on



the top of the parapet and continued to direct the bombers. It was noticed that during these days the enemy exposed themselves very freely and provided good practice for the snipers. But on April 5th the battalion were involved in a very determined attack which the enemy delivered from the Somme to some distance beyond Bucquoy. The preliminary bombardment at 5.30 a.m. practically obliterated the trench positions of Nos. 1 and 3 Companies. At 8.45 strong bombing attacks were made on Nos. 2 and 3 Companies, and the men were pressed back to

company headquarters before a counter-attack restored the position. About two hours later it was seen that other battalions had not been so successful, and the left of the battalion being uncovered, the order was given to retire. Nos. 2 and 3 Companies fell back covered by No. 1 Company's support platoon under Second Lieutenant G. E. Vickers. The flank of No. 1 Company being uncovered in the withdrawal, they were at once rushed, and a desperate fight followed at company headquarters, which were partially blown in, several men being buried. Before the company could extricate themselves a number of men were cut off. By 2 p.m. the line was reorganised with parties of several other battalions and of the trench mortar battery, and no attempt was made to press the attack home. A great many decorations were given for this spirited defence, including the D.S.O. to Lieut. -Colonel H. A. Smith, M.C., through whose skilful handling of a crumbling position the neighbouring battalions were organised into an effective fighting force, and the M.C. to Second Lieutenant J. Davis.

(*The Royal Fusiliers in the Great War*, H. C. O'Neill, O.B.E.

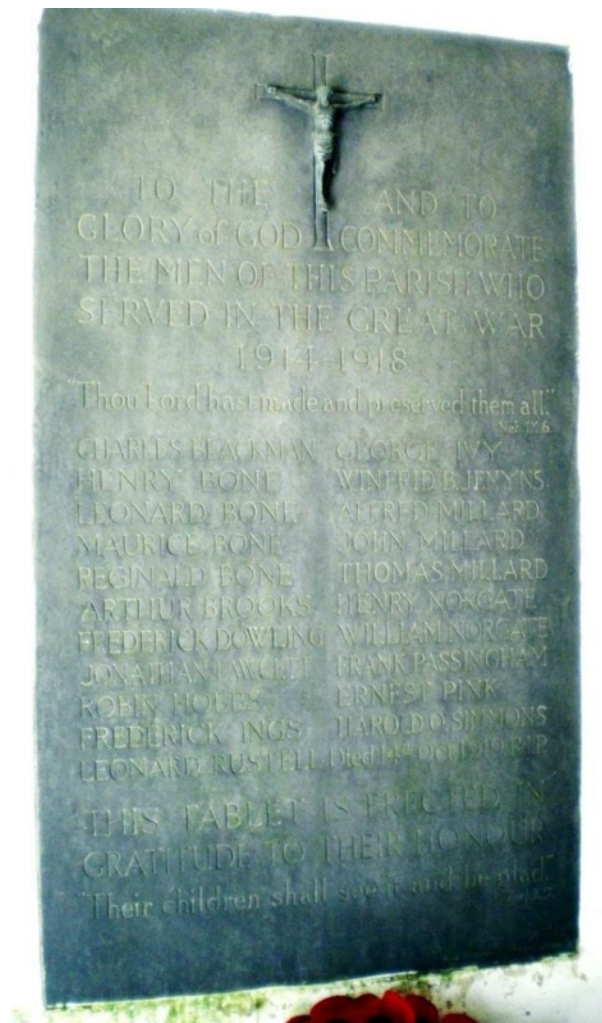
[www.archive.org/stream/royalfusiliersinoonei/royalfusiliersinoonei\\_djvu.txt](http://www.archive.org/stream/royalfusiliersinoonei/royalfusiliersinoonei_djvu.txt))

1901 Census shows him as born and living with his parents in Wield. He was working as a labourer, his father a carpenter and wheelwright, and had an elder sister and three elder brothers.

1911 Census records him working as a domestic gardener, living with his brother Gilbert in Chelsham, Surrey.



# WEST TISTED



Population in 1911: 195; 3 casualties.

## WORLD WAR 1

**RUSTELL, LEONARD**, Private 13023, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Worcestershire Regiment. Died 14.10.1919, aged 22. Son of Mrs Edith Matthews, of The Cottage, Woodside Farm, Privett, Alton, Hampshire. Buried in West Tisted (St. Mary Magdalene) Churchyard. (CWGC) Born East Marden, Sussex. Enlisted Alton, Hampshire (UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919).

Army Service Record not available.

In 1911 Leonard was living at the above address with his stepfather (a farm labourer) and mother. (1911 Census)

Cause of death, at the Military Hospital, Western Heights, Dover, was Acute Pulmonary Phthisis (1 year 10 months) and Cardiac Failure. (Death Certificate)

## WORLD WAR 2

### Two brothers:

**ZAMBRA, ROGER MURRAY GEORGE**, Flight Lieutenant 25127 RAF, seconded from Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment). Died while flying 02.10.1940 aged 26. Son of Sqn. Ldr. Nelson Zambra and Mary Olive Zambra of Privett, Alton; husband of Monica Zambra, of Liphook, NW of tower. Buried in Liss (St Mary's) Churchyard, Hants, UK . (CWGC)

Joined Royal Fusiliers at Shorncliffe as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. 1935, promoted Lt. 30.08.1938. After gaining his wings on 13.05.1939, on the night of 02.10.1940 Roger Zambra was piloting Miles Master I N7749 of the Central Flying School from Shrewton Landing Ground to practice circuits and landings - his first night-time solo, but after being permission to land dived into ground 1 mile north of the field.



The accident report came to no definite conclusion as to the cause of the crash, but the poor illumination of the flares then in use came in for criticism, and it was suggested that the pilot had become disorientated.

Married Monica Moore-Gwyn in Petersfield, Hampshire (England & Wales, Marriage Index, June 1940)

Probate showed his address as *Pruetts*, Liss, Hampshire. (England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations), 1941)

**ZAMBRA, WARREN, M.B.E.**, Lieutenant Colonel 44970, Commanding 56 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery. Died 13.09.1944, aged 34. Son of Capt. Nelson Zambra (formerly Royal Artillery), and of Ethel Zambra (née Lockland), of Privett, Hampshire, husband of Patricia Joan Zambra. Buried in Gradara War Cemetery, Pesaro, Italy, I.D.6. (CWGC)

The **Battle of Rimini** took place in between 13 and 21 September 1944 during Operation *Olive*, the main Allied offensive on the Gothic Line in August and September 1944, part of the Italian Campaign in the Second World War. Rimini, a town on the Adriatic coast of Italy, anchored the Rimini Line, a German defensive line which was the third such line forming the Gothic Line defences. Rimini, which had been hit previously by air raids, had 1,470,000 rounds fired against it by allied land forces. According to Lieutenant-General Sir Oliver Leese, commander of the 8th Army:

The battle of Rimini was one of the hardest battles of Eighth Army. The fighting was comparable to El Alamein, Mareth and the Gustav Line (Monte-Cassino). (Wikipedia)

Born in Liphook, Hampshire, his father a game farmer (1911 census)

M.B.E. for gallant and distinguished service in Sicily (*Times* 24.03.1944)

“Zambra – In Sept., 1944, killed in action in Italy, Lt.-Colonel W. Zambra, M.B.E., Royal Artillery, aged 34, only surviving son of Captain N. Zambra, M.C., and husband of Joan (née Montgomery), Marche Manor, Halfway House, Shrewsbury.”  
(*Times* 02.10.1944)

Attended Sandhurst 1928-1929, commissioned 1930. (*The Sandhurst Collection Registers*)

From the *Pre-War History of East Surrey Morris Men*:

“1934 - 1939

For the next few years the side flourished with Kenneth Constable as Squire and Leonard Bardwell as Bagman and main musician (he played the concertina ... ). Music was also occasionally provided by Warren Zambra on the Northumbrian pipes. They continued to dance at local Society events and from 1937 to 1939, the main annual event was a May tour following the Pilgrims Way calling at such villages as Brockham Green, Betchworth, Reigate Heath, Nutfield, Bletchingly, Oxted and finishing up at the Hare and Hounds in Godstone for a steak and kidney pudding feast.”

(<http://www.esmm.org.uk/html/history-section/pre-war.htm>)

Warren married Patricia Joan Montgomery in Chelsea in 1940, and they had a son, David.  
(<http://wildwood.org.nz/david/p1.htm#i108>)

Served in the War Cabinet in 1943, concerned with Imperial Communications.

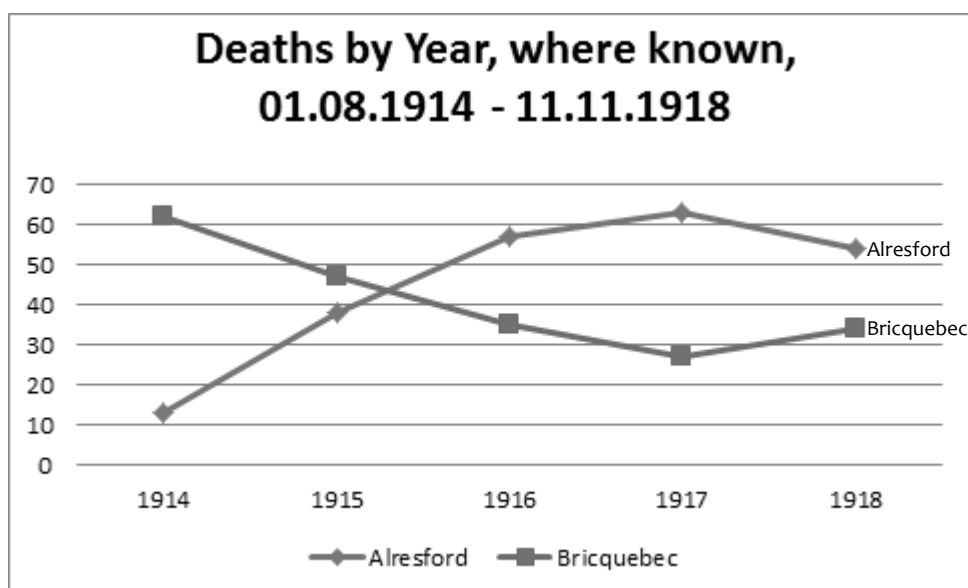
(<http://janus.lib.cam.ac.uk/db/node.xsp?id=EAD%2FGBR%2F0115%2FRCMS%2033%2F5%2F14>)

## Appendix 1

Comparison with Alresford's French twin town, Bricquebec, in World War 1

	Alresford RD	Bricquebec Canton
Population	7531 (1911)	4949 (1914)
Deaths in service	227 (3%)	225 (5%)
First k.i.a.	13.09.1914	11.08.1914
Last k.i.a.	07.11.1918	15.10.1918
Worst days	25.09.1915 (4 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ypres) 31.05.1916 (4 – Jutland) 31.07.1917 (4- Passchendaele)	22.08.1914 (37 - Belgium)
Youngest casualty	18	18
Oldest casualty	52	47
Average age	26	28
Officers	26 (11%)	1
Other Ranks	201 (89%)	224
Army	203	221
Navy	21	4
Air Forces	3	0

(French figures from *La Voix du Donjon* No.59, by courtesy of Jacques Blin of Bricquebec)

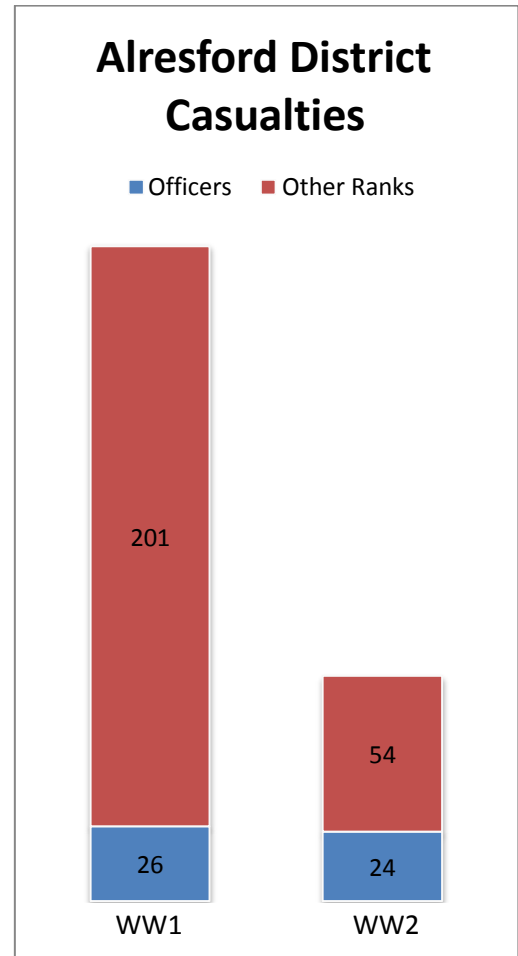


## Appendix 2

### World War 2

#### Alresford RD

Population (1931)	5155
Deaths in service	78 (1.51%)
First death in service	17.09.1939
Last death in service	05.06.1945
Youngest casualty	19
Oldest casualty	53
Average age	28
Officers	24 (31%)
Other Ranks	54 (69%)
Army	43 (55%)
Navy	8 (10%)
Air Forces	27 (35%)



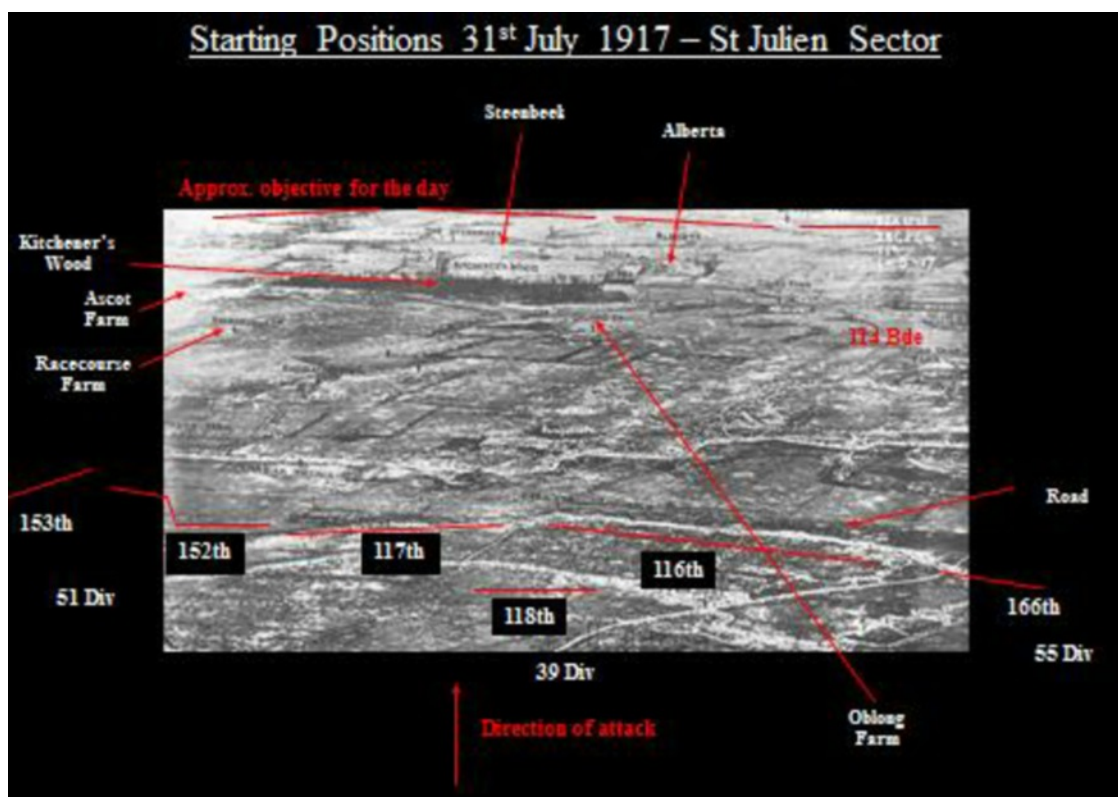
## Appendix 3

### Third Battle of Ypres – Passchendaele

On 31st July 1917, behind the newly mastered creeping barrage, the allied troops climbed out of the their trenches along the whole front line, from Boesinghe in the North to Le Gheer in the South, and advanced towards the German forces. The enemy's first line was quickly taken (the Germans had adapted the scheme of defence in depth, which consisted of a thinly defended front line of machine gun outposts and strongly more heavily defended support line) and the British pushed forward about one mile before meeting much stiffer resistance. Later in the afternoon the advance was stopped and pushed back in places by a carefully coordinated counter attack by specially trained troops. However a worse enemy was afoot, the worst weather for 75 years, which turned the whole battlefield into a quagmire, the whole attack was stalled until 10th August.

It is estimated that Third Ypres cost the Allies about 300,000 casualties (35 men for every metre gained – many of them were lost to the mud of Flanders and have no known grave, only to be commemorated on the Menin Gate and Tyne Cot Memorials to the missing) and the Germans a further 260,000 casualties.

### 39th Division



The brigade attacked at zero hour with two Brigades, the 116th Brigade (consisting of the 11th, 12th, 13th South Downs Battalions and 14th (1st Portsmouth Pals) Hampshire Battalion) and 117th Brigade (consisting of the 16th (Chatsworth Rifles) Sherwood



Foresters and the 17th King's Royal Rifle Corp) with the 118th Brigade in support. The 116th Brigade with the support of two tanks, which were allocated the enemy's artillery, reached their objectives in St Julien, taking many prisoners, Lieutenant D G Wyldbore Hewitt of the 14th Hampshire winning the VC during the action (when his first objective had been captured, he reorganised his company and moved forward. Whilst waiting for the barrage to lift, he was hit by a piece of shell, which exploded the signal lights in his haversack and set fire to his equipment and clothes. He extinguished the flames and then, in spite of his wound and severe pain, he led forward the remnants of the company under a very heavy machine-gun fire and captured and consolidated his objective. He was subsequently killed by a sniper while inspecting the consolidation and encouraging his men. His body was never recovered and he is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial).  
([www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~dccfarr/3rd%20Ypres.htm](http://www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~dccfarr/3rd%20Ypres.htm))

“If the failure to retain St Julien was disappointing, the Division had gained a substantial success and hit its enemy hard. The 14<sup>th</sup> alone claimed over 200 prisoners and three guns and 17 machine-guns, their casualties, (3 officers) and 60 men killed and missing, (5 officers) and 156 wounded .... While they had the satisfaction of having carried out all they had been asked to do ... (*The Royal Hampshire Regiment, vol.2, 1914-1918*, Atkinson, C.T., University Press, Glasgow, 1952)



## Appendix 4

### Luftwaffe Burials in New Alresford

In 1941 two German airmen were buried in St. John's graveyard, New Alresford. In 1959 The German War Graves Commission (*Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge*) adopted a policy of moving most of the German graves scattered around the United Kingdom to an expanded German Military Cemetery at Cannock Chase in Staffordshire – apparently chosen for being similar to Lüneberg Heath. The two buried in New Alresford were amongst those disinterred and moved.



Cannock Chase

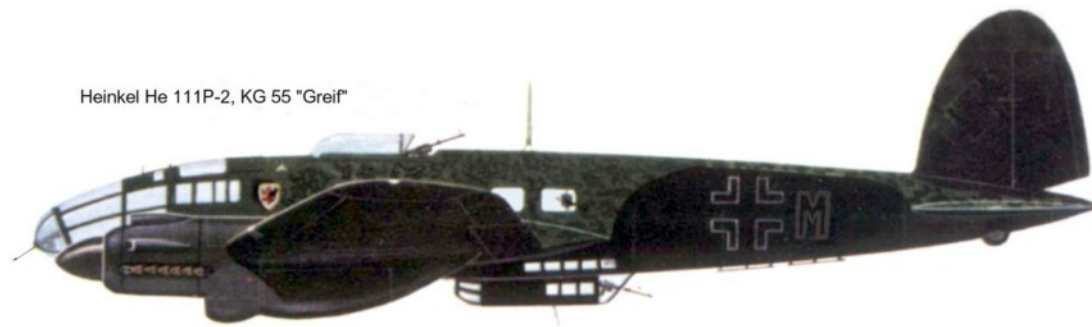
The two were:

**Klein, Helmut**, Feldwebel, born 14.02.1916 in Wippertal-E, now buried in Cannock Chase German Military Cemetery, II,2,22.

**Manek, Bernhard**, Oberfeldwebel, born 22.07.1915 in Klodnitz, now buried in Cannock Chase German Military Cemetery, II,2,21. (VDK)

They had been members of the crew of a bomber shot down by a night fighter to crash at Wood Farm, Bramdean at 20:40 on 13<sup>th</sup> March 1941. The bomber was a Heinkel 111P-2 W.Nr. 2806 coded GI+MR of 7/KG 55 that was on a mission from its base at Villacoublay in France to bomb Glasgow.

(*The Blitz, Then & Now*, Vol.2, ed. Ramsey, W.G., After the Battle, ISBN-10: 0900913541)



The other two of the crew baled out and were made prisoners of war:  
**Hesse**, Walter, Oberleutnant, (Pilot, Staffelkapitän )  
**Groschopf**, Gottfried, Feldwebel

The Heinkel had been shot down by a very successful crew in a Bristol Beaufighter of 219 Squadron flying from Tangmere:



The victorious crew were:



**Hodgkinson, Arthur John, Pilot Officer (Pilot).**

Arthur John Hodgkinson from Hampstead, London, was born in Calcutta in 1916 and educated at Amersham Grammar School. He joined the RAF as an Aircraft Apprentice in January 1932 and passed out in December 1934 as a Fitter, Aero Engines. He later applied for pilot training and was selected. Hodgkinson was serving with 219 Squadron in June 1940. He damaged an unidentified enemy aircraft during the night of 21st/22nd July, on 15th August damaged a Ju 88 and during the night of 25th/26th October he destroyed a Do 17 in the Kenley area.

In January 1941 Hodgkinson teamed up with Sgt. BE Dye and was commissioned in February. During the night of 26th/27th February Hodgkinson and Dye damaged an He 111, on 13th/14th March they destroyed a Do17, on 7th/8th April an He 111, on the 10th/11th probably a Ju88, on 30th April/1st May an He 111 destroyed and an unidentified enemy aircraft damaged, on 9th/10th May and 16th/17th two He 111's destroyed, on 21st/22nd June an unidentified enemy aircraft destroyed, on the 25th/26th an He 111 and on 27th/28th July a Ju 88.

Hodgkinson was awarded the DFC (gazetted 1st April 1941) and a Bar (gazetted 6th June 1941).

Hodgkinson was rested from operations until March 1942 when he and Dye joined 264 Squadron at Colerne. During the night of 28th/29th June they damaged a Do217 southeast of Portland Bill.

In February 1943 Hodgkinson was posted overseas and joined 23 Squadron at Malta. On 15th March he shot down an He111 of II/KG 26 over Catania, Sicily. On the 23rd, on a train-busting operation over Western Sicily, a bullet fired from the ground entered the cockpit of the Mosquito and killed the navigator, WO WA Woodman. Hodgkinson destroyed two Ju 88's west of Sicily on 26th April.

He was killed on 10th July 1943, aged 27, when Mosquito VI HJ740 failed to return from operations. Sgt. V B Crapper was also lost. However the crash site must have been discovered at some time as both men are buried in Beach Head War Cemetery, Anzio, Italy, communal grave XXI.11.5.

Hodgkinson was awarded the DSO (gazetted 23rd July 1943).  
(<http://www.bbm.org.uk/Hodgkinson.htm>)

**Dye, Bertram Ernest, Sergeant (Radar Operator).**

Bertram Ernest Dye, of Stakeford, Northumberland, born in Yorkshire in 1920, joined the RAF as an Aircraftman in September 1938. He later remustered as an Air Gunner and after training was with 219 Squadron at Catterick in June 1940. He served throughout the Battle but with the advent of AI equipment and the Beaufighter, Dye and other 219 gunners retrained as Radio Observers.

In January 1941 he teamed up with P/O AJ Hodgkinson and they had great success. (See above). Dye was awarded the DFM (gazetted 2nd May 1941) and a Bar (gazetted 6th June 1941).

Commissioned in December 1941, Dye returned to operations in March 1942, going with Hodgkinson to 264 Squadron at Colerne. During the night of 28th/29th June they damaged a Dornier Do 217 southeast of Portland Bill.

Dye was killed on 31st August 1943, as a Flight Lieutenant with 96 Squadron. His Beaufighter VI V8715 collided with a Boeing B-17 Fortress near Norwich and crashed near Church Farm, Foulsham. His pilot, F/O FN Robertson, was also killed. The B-17F, 42-5376 JJ-X 'Eager Eagle' was from the 422nd Bomb Squadron, 305th Bomb Group at Chelveston. All but two of the crew were killed:

1/Lt. FH Truesdell, Pilot; 2/Lt. AN McDaniel, Co-Pilot; 2/Lt. WM Cullity Jr, Navigator; 1/Lt. RW Barrall, Bombardier; T/Sgt. JN Yongue, Gunner/Engineer; T/Sgt. JF van Esley, Radio Operator; S/Sgt. CF Awrajcewicz, Ball Turret Gunner; S/Sgt. GD Simon, Tail Gunner; S/Ldr. EM Appleton, Observer (RAF).

The two waist gunners were able to bale out:  
Sgt. CG Ruehl and S/Sgt. JE Breen.

Dye is buried in St Peter's New Burial Ground, Cambois, Northumberland, D.5. (<http://www.bbm.org.uk/Dye.htm>)

## Appendix 5

“Where have all the young men  
gone?”

Country of Death or Fatal  
Wounding  
(Using modern political geography)

Country	No.
Aegean Sea	1
Atlantic Ocean	1
Bay of Bengal	1
Belgium	54
Denmark	1
Egypt	3
England	33
English Channel	7
France	114
Germany	7
Greece	8
India	1
Indian Ocean	1
Iraq	11
Ireland	1
Israel & Palestine	6
Italy	12
Japan	1

Country	No.
Korea	2
Lebanon	1
Libya	1
Mediterranean Sea	4
Myanmar	2
Netherlands	4
North Sea	6
Pacific Ocean	2
Pakistan	3
Poland	1
Russia	2
Scotland	2
Singapore	1
South Africa	3
Syria	1
Thailand	1
Tunisia	2
Turkey	8

“If I should die, think only this of me,  
That there’s some corner of a foreign field  
That is for ever England...”

*“The Soldier”, Rupert Brooke 1887-1915*



# INDEX

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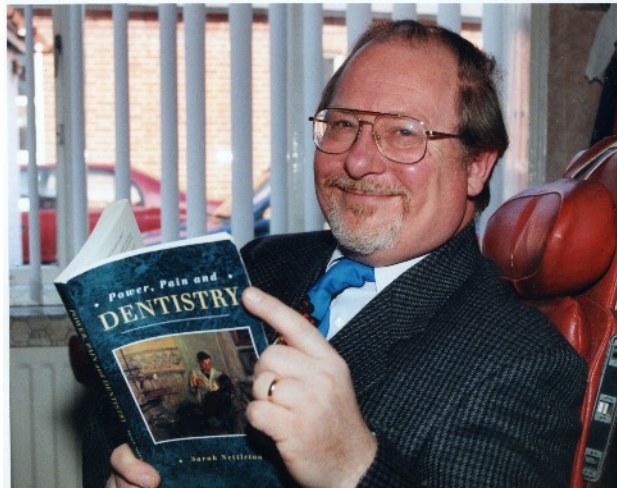
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## About the author



Glenn Gilbertson BDS (Lond), BA (Hons) (OU) was born in Southampton, Hampshire and educated at Sherborne School, Dorset. He then studied at University College Hospital Dental School, London, where he met and married Josephine, both qualifying as dental surgeons. They moved to Alresford in 1970 and ran a dental practice in the town from 1972 to 2006. They have three children and one grand-child.

Along with aviation and model-making, history has been a life-long passion. Career choice meant specialising in scientific subjects, but in later life six years of study with the Open University led to an Honours BA in History and Social Science in 1997.

Retirement has given the opportunity to travel, continue to learn through U3A and become involved with the Alresford Historical and Literary Society. Apart from writing this book, the author is currently editor-in-chief of *Alresford Articles*, the AHLS magazine that has succeeded *Alresford Displayed* in presenting articles about Alresford or written by local people.





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