



WOODBIDGE
SCHOOL

War Memorial Biographies



The War Memorial at Woodbridge School is 100 years old in 2021. It was dedicated on 11 November 1921 by the then Headmaster, Canon Dudley Symon, listing the names of 59 OWs who had given their lives in World War I. After World War II Canon Symon returned to School to dedicate the plaques which were added to commemorate the 34 OWs who died in this conflict. On the centenary of the War Memorial OW, and grandson of Canon Symon, Neil Symon, has researched and written biographies of all 93 OWs remembered on the War Memorial.

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Arthur Langton AIRY

Lieutenant

3rd Battalion, attached to 1st Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment

Died: 11 January 1915

Age: 39

Commemorated at: Le Touret Memorial, France, Panel 28-30



Son of Dr. Hubert Airy, M.A., M.D., late of Stoke House, Woodbridge, Suffolk, husband of Grace Airy, of 103A Gloucester Road, South Kensington, London. Grandson of Sir George Biddell Airy, K.C.B.

Arthur Langton Airy was born at Kidbrook, Blackheath, Kent on 3 May 1876, the youngest child and only son of Dr Hubert Airy and his wife Susan Cecilia, nee Langton. He was the grandson of Sir George Biddell Airy, Astronomer Royal, 1831-1881. In the 1881 Census the family was living at 15 Sussex Gardens, Terminus Road, Eastbourne, Sussex. In the household were his parents, Hubert and Susan and Mary, his sister. Also staying with them were Kate Haveston, a governess and teacher; Sarah A Catchpole, the cook; Zella Garrod, a nurse; and Eleanor Pells, the housemaid.

Arthur was a pupil at Woodbridge School for just one year in 1887 going on to board at Eaton House School, Aldeburgh and then Bradfield College. On leaving school he studied art at Herkomer's Art School, Bushey, Hertfordshire.

He joined the 3rd Battalion, Northamptonshire Regiment on 28 April 1900, as a 2nd Lieutenant and was promoted to Lieutenant on 6 November 1900. He was attached to the 1st Battalion and saw service in the South African (Boer) War on 19 January 1901, for which he received the South Africa Medal and three clasps – Cape Colony, Orange Free State and Transvaal. He was awarded the honorary rank of Lieutenant in the Army. He retired, at the death of his father, from the Army on 14 February 1903, as a Supernumerary Lieutenant.

He was a member of Ipswich Art Club 1899-1912 and exhibited at the Royal Academy 1904-1910.

He married Grace, the daughter of the Rev. W. Wood, Rector of Easton, Suffolk and had two sons, Hubert Arthur Airy born 2 July 1904 and Jack Langton Airy, born 21 December 1906. In 1911 he was described in the Census as an 'artist painter' living at South Lodge, Broadwater Road, Worthing. He was living with his wife and two sons. They employed three servants.

At the outbreak of the First World War, he rejoined the 3rd Battalion with the rank of Lieutenant on 11 October 1914. He disembarked in France on 27 November 1914.

He was killed on 11 January 1915, at Cuinchy, France after having gone to help a friend who was ill. The Battalion had entered the trenches east of Cuinchy, near Bethune and Festubert, on 3 January 1915. On 10 January 1915 the 60th Rifles were ordered to attack a part of the railway embankment. The 1st Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment was in support of the attack. The Germans counter-attacked in the evening. C Company was sent out in support of the 60th Rifles. The Battalion was relieved on 11 January 1915 and returned to billets. The War Diary notes that Lieutenant A.L. Airy was killed, though other casualties were slight. He was awarded the 1915-1915 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Arthur's son Hubert unveiled the Woodbridge School War Memorial on 11 November 1921.

Francis Pelham ALDRICH

Second Lieutenant

1st/6th Battalion (Territorial), Northumberland Fusiliers

Private 5644, 2/7th Battalion, Worcestershire Regiment
Lance Corporal 202589, 2/7th Battalion, Worcestershire Regiment

Died: 6 July 1917

Age: 25

Buried at: Vis-en-Artois British Cemetery, Haucourt, France, Grave XI.C.1



Francis Aldrich was born in Walthamstow, Essex in 1892, and was the son of Charles Ernest and Louisa (nee Heard) Aldrich. He had one sister, Edith Gertrude born in 1894. His birth was registered in the third quarter of 1892 in the West Ham district.

At the 1901 Census the family, Charles, Louisa, Francis, and Edith, and Alice Allen a general domestic were living at 64 Mount Pleasant, Eaton, Norwich. His father, Charles, was a traveller for a drapery company.

Francis was a pupil at Woodbridge School for one year from 1908 – 1909 and at the 1908 Speech Day he played Lysander in a scene from *Midsummer Night's Dream*.

In 1911 he was living with his widowed mother at 154 Queen's Road, Norwich and at the age of eighteen he was a commercial clerk.

On 28 October 1914 Francis joined the East Yorkshire Regiment as a Private and after training went to France on 24 May 1916, from where he transferred to the Worcester Regiment. He was given a commission with the Northumberland Fusiliers on 28 March 1917 and returned to France on 21 May 1917.

On 5 July 1917 the Battalion relieved the 5th Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers in the support trenches at Henin sur Cojeul, south of Arras, and later relieved the 7th Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers at the Quarry on the left sector of the front line. On 6 July 1917, 2nd Lieutenant Francis Aldrich took one Other Rank and took out a picqueting patrol of 10 men. He and one Other Rank failed to return. On 6 July 1917 the British Red Cross and Order of St John enquired of his whereabouts with the German Zentral Nachweise Buro, replying later that he had been killed, though a previous letter had indicated that he was a prisoner.

Francis Aldrich was originally buried by the Germans at the Lecluse German Cemetery and given a German Cross above his grave. His body was identified by his officer's clothing, Regimental buttons and his badge of rank.

Geoffrey Ambler ARMITAGE

Captain

16th Battalion, West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales Own) (Bradford Pals)

Died: 27 February 1917

Age: 30

Buried at: Owl Trench Cemetery, Hebuterne, France, Row A



Son of the late Mr and Mrs George Armitage, of Bradford; husband of Grace L. Armitage, of 14 Chatsworth Avenue, Wembley Hill, Middlesex.

Geoffrey Armitage was born on 29 May 1886 and his birth was registered in Bradford during the third quarter of the year. He was baptised at Birstall, Bradford on 19 September 1886.

In 1891 his father George, a stuff merchant, and mother Edith, nee Ambler, were living at Park Drive, Heaton, Bradford. In the family were his sister, Sybil, and brother Harold. The servants were Agnes Ward a nurse, Sarah Rhodes the cook, and Jane Moore the housemaid. George Armitage was now a master cloth dyer.

In 1895 Geoffrey attended junior school and by September 1899 he had skipped two forms. In 1900 both Geoffrey and Harold moved to board at Woodbridge School. Geoffrey played cricket for the First XI and played soccer for the Second XI. In July 1903 Geoffrey left Woodbridge to work for his father.

During 1904 Geoffrey joined the volunteer Yorkshire Dragoons and was promoted corporal.

In the 1911 Census his father described himself as a Mohair merchant. The family, Edith, Sybil,

Geoffrey and Harold were living at 28 Oak Lane, Bradford. The servants were Emily Ellis, the domestic housemaid and Alice Blake, the cook. Geoffrey Armitage was 24 and a Mohair Merchant's manager. The assistant manager was Harold. The company was Geo. Armitage Mohair Merchants, at 2 Commercial Street, Bradford. During 1911 he resigned from the Yorkshire Dragoons, though he was a member of Bradford Amateur Rowing Club. In September 1913 he was stroke in the coxed pairs at the Regatta at Saltaire.

On 20 December 1914 he applied for a commission at Belle Vue Barracks and was appointed temporary 2nd Lieutenant on 21 December 1914. He was appointed Lieutenant on 11 May 1915 and arrived in Egypt with the Battalion on 22 December 1915.

On the first day of the Battle of the Somme, 1 July 1916, Geoffrey was in reserve but went forward to help the survivors. He was promoted Captain and given command of 'A' Company.

He was admitted to the 14th General Hospital with severe eczema on 19 August 1916 where he met Grace Fogg from Wembley. On 7 October 1916 Geoffrey Armitage married Grace and the marriage was registered at Hendon, Middlesex.

He returned to France on 28 November 1916, re-joining the Battalion on 6 December 1916. On 27 February 1917 he led his Company on an attack on Rossignol Wood as it was thought the Germans were pulling back. Due to the right sector failing to advance the Company was exposed to heavy machine-gun fire which caused heavy casualties, including Geoffrey Armitage.

The War Diary has the following description: "*My right Company pushed forward to the Southern edge of the Wood and entered the trenches. The enemy opened heavy machine gun fire which enfiladed these trenches, and killed, wounded, and made practically the whole of these three platoons' casualties, the fourth platoon took cover in shell holes in the open, and re-joined the Battalion at night. The Company Commander and 2nd in Command are missing, two platoon Commanders were wounded.*"

The Yorkshire Evening Post, 6 March 1917, initially reported him as missing, however his name was included in the list of Regimental Casualties in the Army and Navy Gazette, 28 April 1917. In May 1917 it was reported that his brother, 2nd Lieutenant Harold Armitage, RFA was in hospital in Newcastle having been wounded by shrapnel.

Harry BAMFORD

Pioneer 267628

Signal Depot Royal Engineers.

Died: 12 April 1917

Age: 18

Commemorated at: Birmingham (Lodge Hill) Cemetery. Panel: Screen Wall
B10.2.218C

Harry Bamford was born on 21 June 1898, in Hampton Wick, Middlesex, to Captain Charles Frederic, a clerk, and Ethel Charlotte Bamford of 1 Ryde Villas, Kingston Road, Hampton Wick. He was baptised on 17 July 1898 at Kingston-on-Thames Parish Church by Rev A W Young.

During the 1901 Census Charles, Ethel and Harry were staying with Charles's widowed mother, Henrietta, at 29 The Grove, Wandsworth. Henrietta's daughter, Lois, was described as a commercial clerk. A boarder was also staying, a civil service clerk from Scotland, Julian Parminter. Charles's occupation was described as clerk (Fire Insurance).

By 1911 they had moved to Gablecote, Ashford, Middlesex. Charles, an accountant, Ethel, Harry and their other children John and Freda Maud were joined by Ethel's sister Kate Gertrude Reading. Harry and his younger brother John entered Woodbridge School as School House boarders in January 1913

Harry left Woodbridge School in December 1916 and immediately enlisted into the Royal Engineers at Staines, Middlesex. After initial training he was posted to the Royal Engineers Signal Depot, at Fenny Stratford.

Little more is known other than that Harry Bamford died of Spotted Fever (a tick-borne disease caused by bacteria of the genus *Rickettsia*) on 12 April 1917.

Leonard Alfred BOOTH M.M.

Serjeant 203338

2nd Battalion, Suffolk Regiment
12th (Service) Battalion, Suffolk Regiment

Private, 1735
2nd/1st Suffolk Yeomanry

Died: 27 September 1918

Age: 23

Buried at: Lowrie Cemetery, Havrincourt, France. Grave: F.16

HE SLEEPS WITH BRITAIN'S BEST AND NOBLEST SONS



Son of George and Elizabeth Booth of "Glenville", 95 New Street, Woodbridge, Suffolk

Leonard Booth was born on 17 April 1895 in Woodbridge, Suffolk and was baptised at St Mary's Church, Woodbridge on 14 June 1895. His father, George, was a printer and stationer. Early editions of Woodbridge School publications such as the Blue Book and Woodbridgian Magazines were printed by this family firm.

At the time of the 1901 Census his parents, George and Elizabeth were living in Seckford Street, Woodbridge. Their family consisted of Ethel, Ernest, Ella, Muriel, Leonard and Arnold (Lt Col Arnold Booth). The general domestic servant was Florence Clarke.

On 29 August 1904 Leonard was admitted to St Mary's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, Woodbridge, having been previously taught by Miss Hasketon. In 1906 he followed both his father and older brother to Woodbridge School where he remained a pupil until 1910.

By 1911 the family had moved to New Street, Woodbridge. It now consisted of Ethel a stationer's shop assistant, Muriel a pupil teacher, Leonard a stationer's shop assistant, Arnold at school, and Gladys at school. The general domestic servant was Lucy Plant.

Leonard Booth joined the 1st/1st Suffolk Yeomanry (Duke of York's Own Loyal Suffolk Hussars) which was formed in 1908 and consisted of four squadrons, of which C Squadron was based in Woodbridge. He was a part-time, territorial, soldier. The Battalion came under the orders of the Eastern Mounted Brigade, which in 1914 moved to Woodbridge. At the same time the 2nd/1st Suffolk Yeomanry was formed in September 1914 as a reserve for the 1st/1st Suffolk Yeomanry.

The 12th (Service) Battalion, Suffolk Regiment was formed on 7 July 1915 in Bury St Edmunds, and it is probable that Leonard transferred at this time. On 12 November 1915 the Battalion moved to Bordon Camp, and then in December to Pirbright. They embarked at Southampton and disembarked at Le Havre on 6 June 1916. The Battalion was reduced to cadre strength on 16 June 1918. It is likely that Leonard Booth transferred to the 2nd Battalion, Suffolk Regiment at this time. This Battalion had been in France since 17 August 1914.

From 18 September 1918 to 26 September 1918 the Battalion had been in training for 'Y' Day at Morchies-Beaumetz, near Cambrai. During the night the Battalion marched to the assembly point in readiness for the attack 05.30 am on 27 September 1918. It was during this attack that Serjeant Leonard Booth was killed in action.

He was awarded the Military Medal for bravery on 21 October 1918.

Robert Moore BOWMAN

Second Lieutenant

C Battery, 81st Brigade Royal Field Artillery

Died: 5 August 1916

Age: 21

Buried at: Carnoy Military Cemetery, France. Grave: N.34

HE DIED FOR FREEDOM AND HONOUR

Son of Thomas Kynaston Bowman of 50 Hanover Gate, Regent's Park, London

Robert Bowman was born in 1895 in Camden Town, London. He was the second son of Thomas Kynaston Bowman of Camden Town and Crackenthorpe, 40 Mapesbury Road, Brondesbury, London NW.

At the 1901 Census, Robert Bowman was living with his parents Thomas, a house furnisher, his wife Alice, and his siblings Thomas, Gertrude, and Jack. The servants were Margaret Anderson a domestic help, Beatrice Stockwell a domestic housemaid, and Jane Denham a general servant. Also in the house at 118-138 High Street, St Pancras, London was his father's brother Robert H Bowman and the shop staff.

Robert and his brother Thomas were both School House boarders from May 1907 until December 1910. On leaving Woodbridge School Robert was apprenticed to farming during which he joined the Loyal Suffolk Hussars Yeomanry.

In 1911 the family address was 40 Mapesbury Road, Brondesbury, London. Thomas Bowman was a widower. Thomas Jnr was an apprentice house furnisher. Gertrude and Robert were living at home, and they had a four-year old sister Nina. Nina was looked after by Louisa Kite, a nurse. The other servants were Alice Green the housemaid and Alice Wooffen the cook.

On 12 February 1915 he was gazetted to the Royal Field Artillery having been a Cadet of the Officers' Training Corps. He joined the 81st (Howitzer) Brigade, Royal Field Artillery.

On 14 July 1915 he disembarked at Le Havre, France. He served 13 months at the front mostly on the Ypres Salient, before moving south to Armentieres and arrived at the Somme on 16 June 1916.

On 1 August 1916 the Brigade moved from the rest area to positions just south of the village of Montauban, Somme. There was considerable shelling of the area during the afternoon. On 2 August 1916 the Brigade completed the registering of the guns onto targets and covered the 52nd Infantry Brigade. On 5 August 1916 the enemy bombarded Orchard Trench and 2nd Lieutenant Robert Moore Bowman was killed during the night and Captain F Benham was severely wounded by a shell hitting the officers' dug out.

He was a good horseman and was always prominent in sport.

Ernest Alexander BOYER

Second Lieutenant

7th (City of London) Battalion

attached to

1st/22nd (City of London) Battalion (The Queen's), London Regiment

Private 8162 and 762200

28th (City of London) (Artists' Rifles) Battalion, London Regiment

Died: 5 April 1918

Age: 28

Commemorated at: Arras Memorial, France, Bay 9 or 10

Son of Edward Lawrence Boyer and Isabelle Agnes Boyer, of 28 Alkham Road, Stoke Newington, London.

Ernest Boyer was born in 1889 and his birth was registered in Hackney in the second quarter of the year.

In 1891 Edward, a solicitor, and his wife, Isabelle, were living at Alkham Road, Stamford Hill, Stoke Newington, London and had two sons Richard and Ernest. The servants were Annie Raman a nurse, and Ellen Farrier a housemaid/domestic servant.

On 6 November 1899 Edward applied to the Grocers' Company School, Hackney for Ernest to attend and he was admitted on 12 January 1900. He left the school in March 1903 and followed his brother to Woodbridge School as a boarder in January 1904.

In the 1911 Census his father, a solicitor, was a widower living at 28 Alkham Road, Stoke Newington. With him in the household were his brother, William Richard, a stockbroker, and sons Richard Lawrence an undergraduate, and Ernest Alexander, a bank clerk. There were two servants, Ellen Mabel Bound, the domestic housekeeper, and Ennie Ganderston, a general domestic servant.

Originally Ernest Boyer enlisted as a private into the 28th Battalion, London Regiment. This battalion moved to France on 28 October 1914 and became an Officer Training Corps.

On 25 January 1917 Cadet Ernest Alexander Boyer was appointed Second Lieutenant in the London

Regiment. Initially he joined the 7th Battalion (City of London) Battalion, London Regiment before being attached to 1st/22nd Battalion, London Regiment. This Battalion had been in France since 16 March 1915 when it landed at Le Havre.

On 5 April 1918 the Battalion was at Martinsart, north of Albert, Somme. The enemy attacked at 7.50am and drove back the outposts in the front line held by the 23rd Battalion. The right flank of the 24th Battalion (holding the left front line of the Brigade sector) was compelled to fall back owing to enemy pressure. At 4.15pm A and D Companies counterattacked to gain the lost ground. This was unsuccessful however, owing to heavy machinegun fire, especially from the right flank of the position. Lieutenant Boyer was killed in action.

Francis Digby Edward CAYLEY

Second Lieutenant

8th Battalion
attached to
1st Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps (60th Rifles)

Died: 29 September 1915

Age: 21

Buried at: Vermelles British Cemetery, France. Grave:
I.H.16

LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON HIM



Son of Sir Everard Cayley, 9th Bart. and Lady Mary Cayley, of Brompton Hall, Yorkshire. His father also died on service.

Francis Cayley was born in 1894 and his birth was registered in Scarborough during the first quarter. He was baptised on 28 March 1894 at Brompton by Sawdon, North Riding, Yorkshire. His parents were Sir George Everard Arthur and Mary Susan Cayley.

During the 1901 Census his parents, Sir George Everard Arthur Cayley, magistrate and baronet, and his wife Mary Susan, were living at Hungate, Brompton, Scarborough, Yorkshire. The family consisted of Dorothy, Margaret, Francis, Kenelm and Anne. The governess was Helene Hunsding from Germany. The other servants were Rosalie Margot, lady's maid; Sarah Hawley the nurse; Jane Hendric a housemaid; Hannah Holt the cook; Jennie Lewin a housemaid; Helen Davidson the nurserymaid; Beatrice Pepper the kitchenmaid and Ethel Stephenson a housemaid.

By 1911 the family, George Everard baronet, Mary Susan, and their daughters Dorothy Frances, Margaret Renee, Anne Lotitia, and sons Francis Digby and Kenelm Henry Ernest were living at Tempe, Woodbridge, Suffolk. Also staying were Eleanor Amelia Ivin, a sick nurse, Lottie Storey the cook, Mildred Curtis the parlourmaid and Ruth Attawell the between maid. Anne, Francis and Kenelm were all attending school. Francis was a day pupil at Woodbridge School from 1908 - 1912 and on leaving Woodbridge went to St Catherine's College, Cambridge.

On 7 September 1914 Francis Cayley became a Second Lieutenant in the 8th Battalion, The King's Royal Rifle Corps. 2nd Lieutenant Francis Cawley disembarked in France on 21 June 1915.

On 29 September 1915 the Battalion was in the trenches on the Loos battlefield. They had been in considerable fighting for the previous week. The following is the report from the 1st Battalion's War Diary:

"At 5 a.m. the Germans commenced heavy bomb attacks at the same as the previous day, where "D" Coy. had relieved "A". They failed to make any progress and ceased their efforts after about 2 hours. 2nd Lieut. Cayley was killed during this attack. Simultaneously they attacked the barricade in St. ELIE AVENUE which was now held by the Worcesters. Here the Germans immediately made progress, partly because the fuses of the Worcester's bombs were wet and would not light. The Worcesters retired in some disorder to where "C" and "B" Coys. were holding the old German line. The Germans who made a very plucky and well organised attack advanced until they were stopped by heavy rifle fire from our two Companies, and nearly all their leading men killed. When the Germans had come within about twenty yards of the Old German Front line about 10 men of "C" Coy. went for them with swords and though some of them were hit by hostile rifle fire from the left. The Germans retired further back. Immediately a supply of bombs had been secured a bombing party from "C" Coy. drove the Germans who seemed to have had enough of it back to their own barricade. We then consolidated our position and strengthened the barricade..

A little later the Germans shelled St ELIE AVENUE heavily for half an hour with 4.2 inch and then threw a few bombs but on our replying left us alone for the rest of the day. The barricade was held by our bombers until we were relieved that night by the King's Own, while the Worcesters held the rest of St ELIE AVENUE.

All the afternoon there was very heavy bombing near FOSSE 8 and HOHENZOLLERN REDOUBT while urgent requests for bombs and bombers came down every few minutes. We had no bombs to send and of our own bombers who went down to help very few returned. 2nd Lt F.D.E. Cayley was killed, and 2nd Lt. M.T. Sampson was wounded in the arm, during the attack."

Sir Everard Cayley died on 15 November 1917, age 56, on service with the Royal Defence Corps, Strand, London, and was succeeded in the baronetcy by his younger son Sir Kenelm Cayley (another OW) who had become a prisoner of war in Germany.



John Robert COWANS

Driver 625658

126th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery

2/B Battery, Honourable Artillery Company (Artillery Section)

Died: 10 September 1918

Buried at: Vis-en-Artois British Cemetery, Haucourt, France. Grave: II.C.32

John Cowans was born at Netherwitton, Northumberland on 24 November 1897 and was his birth was registered in the first quarter of 1898 in Morpeth. He was admitted to the Netherwitton County Primary School in 1903.

In the 1901 Census John Robert Cowans was staying with his grandparents, Hector and Jane at Marefield, Billesdon, Leicestershire. His mother, Eliza, and sister Jennie were amongst the family staying.

By the time of 1911 Census his father, John, was farming at Butley Abbey Farm, Tunstall, Suffolk. He was a widower. John was at school and his sister, Jean (Jennie), was employed in dairy work. John joined Woodbridge School as a dayboy in January 1911 and remained a pupil until Easter 1914.

John enlisted at Ipswich into the Honourable Artillery Company on 13 February 1917 and joined the Reserve Brigade on 31 March 1917.

On 22 July 1917 he joined 2 Battery, Honourable Artillery Company (Artillery Section) in France as part of 126th Army Brigade, Royal Field Artillery. The Brigade comprised of four batteries and an ammunition column and was armed with 4.5 inch howitzers.

On 3 September 1918 the lorry park was hit by a bomb dropped by an enemy aeroplane. Two drivers were instantly killed and six men were taken to the 42nd Casualty Clearing Station at Mignoval, north-west of Arras. John Robert Cowans died of his wounds on 10 September 1918.

Note

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission documentation incorrectly names him as Cowan.

Alan Davy CROWE

Private, 29339

1st/8th (Territorial) Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Private, 36500
Suffolk Regiment

Died: 27 August 1917

Age: 32

Commemorated at: Tyne Cot Memorial, Panel 23 to 28

Son of Davy and Jessie Crowe, of Woodbridge, husband of Emma Jane Crowe, of Albany Villas, Woodbridge, Suffolk

Alan Crowe was born on 20 November 1885 at Church Street, Woodbridge, Suffolk and was baptised on Christmas Day 1885 at St. Mary's Church, Woodbridge. His parents were Davy Crowe, a grocer, and his wife Jessie Kate, nee Bloxsome.

In the 1891 Census Davy and Jessie Crowe were living at Church Street, Woodbridge with their children Ethel Sarah 19, Rhoda May 15, Kathleen Jessie 5, Alan Davy 5, Constance Winifred 4, and Arthur Edward (newly born). Rhoda, Kathleen, Alan and Constance were all attending school. Also in the household were Eliza Hurwood the cook and Leah Emma Kemp a general domestic servant.

By the 1901 Census Davy Crowe was a widower, but his single sister, Ellen Crowe 47, was living with the family at Church Street. The children still living with them were Rhoda, Alan and Arthur. They had one general domestic servant, Maud Carr. Alan entered Woodbridge School as a day boy in 1897 and left in 1901.

Little is known about Alan for a few years. We find him next in 28 October 1907 when he married Emma Jane Greeves at St Margaret-with-St Nicholas Parish Church, King's Lynn, Norfolk.

In the 1911 Census Alan and Emma Crowe were living at Langley's Yard, King's Lynn, Norfolk where he was a grocer's assistant. They had a young family, a daughter Inez Marian 2, and Edward Davy (newly born).

Alan Crowe enlisted in Woodbridge into the Suffolk Regiment before transferring to the Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

Having spent July and most of August 1917 at a training camp the 1st/8th Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment moved up into the line on 16 August 1917 near St Julien (Sint Juliaan) on the Passchendaele (Passendale) battlefield.

The morning of 27 August 1917 promised a fine day, but the ground was afforded no opportunity for drying as several showers fell. The men remained concealed in their positions apparently unobserved by the enemy, until 'Zero' (1.55 p.m.). The five Companies then attacked under cover of the artillery and machine-gun barrage, but owing to the activity of the enemy's machine-guns and to a much greater extent to the impassability of the ground the final objectives laid down in operation orders were not gained. Springfield trench was taken and positions were consolidated to the east of the Winnipeg-Springfield trench road. During the action Captains S.W. Pepper and W. Ewing became casualties as did C.S.M. Chalk of 'D' Company. During the night the Battalion was relieved. The casualties of the action were found to be 35 killed, 83 wounded, and 54 missing.

Brian CROWE

Private, 3569

4th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment

Transferred to

Private, 403586

Employment Coy, Labour Corps

Died: 2 July 1918

Age: 21

Buried at: Les Baraques Military Cemetery, Sangatte, France, Grave: IV.B.12

Son of William Crowe, of 209 Earlham Road, Norwich. Native of Woodbridge, Suffolk.

Brian Crowe was born on 19 July 1896 in Woodbridge and his birth was registered during the third quarter of 1896. He was baptised at St. Mary's Church, Woodbridge on 16 August 1896.

In the 1901 Census his parents William, a grocer's manager, and his wife Emilia, nee Carter, were living at Melton Hill, Melton, Woodbridge, Suffolk. The family consisted of Madeline 8, Olive 7, Geoffrey Carter 6, and Brian 4. The servants were Nellie Townsend the mother's help, and Grace Fenn a general domestic servant. Brian entered Woodbridge School in 1906 as a day pupil and left in 1913.

By the 1911 Census Emilia Crowe had died and William Crowe was living with his father-in-law, George Carter, a retired linen draper, at Framfield, Thorofare, Woodbridge. The family, Olive, Geoffrey and Brian were also staying, and were all at school. The servants were Annie Garwood a sick nurse, Florence Incots the cook and Lillian Fusk a domestic housemaid.

Brian disembarked with the Suffolk Regiment on 27 October 1915.¹ Little is known about his military service as the Labour Corps were not required to maintain a War Diary, however it is quite possible that he was medically downgraded and transferred to the Labour Corps. The duties of the Employment Companies of the Labour Corps were to organise the drafts of soldiers coming over to France. As he was buried at Sangatte, Calais it is probable that he was with No. 6 Base Supply Depot, Calais. It was also the base for the 30th, 35th and 38th General Hospitals, No 9 British Red Cross Hospital and No 10 Canadian Stationary Hospital.

George Walpole Winthrop DENMAN-DEAN

Lieutenant

2nd Royal Marines Battalion, Royal Navy Division
Royal Marines Light Infantry

Died: 7 November 1917

Age: 21

Buried at: St. Sever Cemetery, Rouen, France. Grave:
Officers, B.7.15

Only son of the Rev R and Mrs Denman-Dean, of
Woodbridge Rectory, Suffolk

DIED OF WOUNDS AT ROUEN



George Denman-Dean was born at Wickham Market, Suffolk on 1 September 1896. His parents were the Reverend Richard and Emma Elizabeth, nee Wray-Cook, of Woodbridge Rectory.

In the 1911 Census George and his mother were staying with John and Mary Richardson-Eyre at 28 Marlboro Hill, St Johns Wood, London, NW.

He was educated at Woodbridge School from 1904 until 1911 and Lancing College, Sussex where he was at Old's House from September 1911 to April 1914.

He was appointed 2nd Lieutenant, Royal Marines on 22 August 1914 and was posted to the Royal Marine's Depot, Deal, Kent. On 11 October 1914 he was posted to the Plymouth Division, where he remained until 15 July 1915.

He passed his gunnery examination as 'excellent' in February 1915, and the Electricity and Wireless Telegraphy Yeoman examination in April 1915.

He was promoted to Lieutenant on 27 March 1915. On 16 July 1915 he was posted to H.M.S. Duncan (Home Fleet) and served with the ship in the Aegean until 10 April 1917. His report stated "A keen ...young officer who promises with a little more experience to do very well. Takes charge of men and is a good officer of the watch in harbour. Recommend promotion in due course."

On 11 October 1916 he landed to take Lipso Island and re-embarked the same day, and between 13 October 1916 and 16 October 1916 he landed to take Command of Lipso Island, which he did again between 12 November 1916 and 20 December 1916.

He was noted as a candidate for the Royal Naval Air Service.

On 11 April 1917 he returned to the Plymouth Division where he attended the Bombing Course, and became the Regimental Bombing Instructor; and then he volunteered and was posted to 2nd Royal Marines Battalion on 22 June 1917 (nominally H.M.S. Victory for the Royal Marines Brigade).

He embarked at Folkestone on 22 June 1917 and disembarked at Le Havre the same day, joining the Battalion in the field on 23 June 1917.

On 26 October 1917 the Battalion was at Irish Farm, north of Ypres, and at 5.40am the Battalion attacked the enemy opposite its front together with other battalions of the 188th Infantry Brigade. The objectives were achieved but seven officers and 301 Other Ranks were casualties.

On 26 October 1917 he sustained a gunshot wound to his leg, fracturing his tibia. He was taken to No.2 Red Cross Hospital, Rouen where he died of his wounds on 7 November 1917.

A brother officer wrote "He was a fine young officer, attentive to duty and extremely popular, and we feel that the service is poorer for his loss."

Arthur DUNNAGE

Second Lieutenant

5th Battalion
attached to
3rd Battalion
Rifle Brigade (The Prince Consort's Own)

Private, 1446
18th (Service) (1st Public Schools Battalion), Royal
Fusiliers

Died: 1 September 1916

Age: 25

Buried at: Delville Wood Cemetery, Longueval, France. Grave: XXX.C.6



Arthur Dunnage was born Dalhousie, Bengal, India on 22 March 1890 to Arthur James and Ethel Dunnage, and was baptised at St John's, Dalhousie on 1 May 1890.

The family returned to England and from 1899 he attended the Fauconberge School, Beccles, Suffolk. In the 1901 Census the family, Arthur J Dunnage, Colonel Royal Artillery retired, his wife Ethel and children Katherine 14, Ethel M 13, and Arthur 11 were living at Staithe House, Northgate Street, Beccles, Suffolk. The children were all attending school. The servants were Anna Harper a domestic housemaid and Eliza Oxborough the cook.

Arthur Dunnage attended Woodbridge School between 1906 and 1909. He represented the school at football and played for Woodbridge Town Football Club during the 1908-1909 season. His first match for the club was on 18 January 1909 when he played centre forward against Ipswich St. Matthews. The score was 4-0 to Woodbridge.

On 2 January 1907, as part of the Young Helpers' League in aid of the Woodbridge Cot for Barnados Homes he played an irascible gentleman in the play 'Fairy Queen's Messenger' played at the Lecture Hall, Woodbridge.

In 1909 he went up to Merton College, Oxford and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in 1912. By the 1911 Census the family had moved to Gate House, Church Street, Woodbridge. The children were recorded as May (Ethel), Arthur 21, an undergraduate at Oxford University, and Edward 8. Another Oxford undergraduate was staying, Arthur Russell Smith. The servants were Kate Rage a parlourmaid, Maud Barch a cook, and Eva Mills a housemaid.

In August 1914 he enlisted into the 18th (Service) Public Schools Battalion, Royal Fusiliers, whilst he was a schoolmaster in East Dulwich.

In the third quarter of 1915 Arthur Dunnage married Evelyn M Lewis in Sheppey, Kent and their son Arthur was born in January 1916.

On 9 May 1915 Arthur Dunnage was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant, on probation, into the 5th Battalion, Rifle Brigade. In the London Gazette, 24 March 1916, he was confirmed in his rank as 2nd Lieutenant in the Rifle Brigade but it is not clear when Arthur Dunnage was promoted to the rank of Temporary Captain.

On 1 September 1916 the 3rd Battalion, Rifle Brigade was at Delville Wood, Somme. They made an attack and successfully retook the trenches in that had previously been lost in Delville Wood. The casualties were high. One officer and 31 Other Ranks were killed. Six Other Ranks were missing and 167 Other Ranks were wounded. 2nd Lieutenant Dunnage was leading the second wave of the attack.

Leslie Bastin FRANKS

Lance Corporal, 4882 and 77

"B" Company, 9th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment (Queen Victoria's Rifles)

Died: 30 July 1916

Age: 26

Buried at: Hamburg Cemetery. Grave: V.C.6

Son of William Henry and Kathleen May Franks, of Ipswich, Suffolk

Leslie Franks was born on 10 January 1890 at South View, Ipswich and was baptised on 6 July 1890 at St Margaret's, Ipswich. His parents were William Henry, a bank cashier, and Kathleen May Franks.

In the 1891 Census William and Kathleen Franks were living at Avenue Place, Tuddenham Road, St Margaret's, Ipswich. They had two children, Neville 2 and Leslie 1. Also staying were Leslie's grandparents, James, a retired bank manager and Louisa. The servants were Sarah Berry a general servant, and Rosa Randall a nurse.

By the 1901 Census they had moved to Bank House, Orwell Road, Felixstowe. William Franks had been promoted to bank manager. The family consisted of Kathleen, and children Neville, Leslie, Inez, and Rolland. The servants were Alice Spinks a nurse, Alice Markham a cook, and Annie Hanton a housemaid. Both Leslie and his older brother Neville attended Woodbridge School from April 1901- December 1903.

He attested for one year into the 9th Battalion (County of London) London Regiment (Queen Victoria's Own) on 1 April 1908 as a part-time Territorial soldier. He was 18 years old. He had been a clerk with Messrs. Birt, Potter & Hughes Ltd (Ship Owners) and he lived at 210, Hainault Road, Leytonstone, London. He had previous army experience in 1st Mx (V& St G) V.R.C. [1st Middlesex (Victoria & St Georges) Volunteer Rifle Corps], as a private from 31 July 1907 until 31 March 1908. Between 1 April 1908 and 30 April 1909 he was a Private (Rifleman) and was promoted Lance Corporal 1 May 1909, and to Corporal on 1 April 1910.

Leslie was discharged from the Army on 31 March 1911 having completed three years, as time expired. His next-of-kin was given as his father at 210 Hainault Road, Leytonstone.

The International Red Cross Committee's report on prisoners of war (9 September 1916) gives his battalion as A Company, 3/9 Battalion, The London Regiment (Queen Victoria's Rifles). However, this battalion was a Reserve Battalion and did not leave the UK. The only part of the 9th Battalion to be in France at the time of Leslie's death was the 1st/9th Battalion. They had landed at Le Havre on 5 November 1914. However, as Leslie Franks was not eligible for the 1915 Star he would have transferred from the 3rd/9th Battalion to the 1st/9th Battalion in 1916.

It is unclear when Leslie Franks was wounded and taken prisoner, however it is probable that it occurred during the first day of the Battle of the Somme. The Battalion went into positions at Gommecourt. The Battalion suffered heavy casualties with 6 officers and 51 Other Ranks killed; 5 officers and 290 Other Ranks wounded; and 5 officers and 188 Other Ranks missing. A total of 16 officers and 529 Other Ranks. Leslie Bastin Franks died of his wounds on 30 July 1916.

Leonard Henry Russell GRAY

Lance Serjeant, 1778

Ceylon Planters Rifle Corps

Died: 15 September 1914

Age: 21

Buried at: Kandy War Cemetery, Sri Lanka. Grave: I.A.2

Son of the Rev A W and Helen Eliza Gray, of Furze Croft, Nacton Road, Ipswich. Born at Rushmere, Ipswich

Leonard Gray was born in 1893 and his birth was registered in the second quarter. He was baptised at St Andrew's, Rushmere on 16 July 1893. His parents were Arthur Woollaston and Helen Eliza Gray. Arthur Gray was a Clerk in Holy Orders.

During the 1901 Census the Reverend Arthur Gray and his wife Helen were living at the Vicarage, Rushmere St Andrew, Suffolk with their children Sidney, Eardley and Leonard. In 1911 Arthur, Helen and their family, which had grown to include another son, Cuthbert Arthur 16, and a daughter Kythe Benigna 12 were still living at the Vicarage, Rushmere St Andrew, Suffolk. The servants were Alberta Hawkins a nurse, and Christina Lambley a general domestic. Woodbridge School has records of three of the four sons having attended as boarders: Leonard from 1904-1910 and Eardley from 1905-1907 as School House residents and Cuthbert from 1905-1910 who was in Marryott House.

On leaving school Leonard moved to Dickwella, Ceylon, and became a tea planter. When war broke out, being a keen member of the Planters' Rifle Corps, he volunteered and was accepted for active service. The Ceylon Planters Rifle Corps was attached to the Ceylon Defence Corps and was a volunteer (defence) regiment based in Kandy, Ceylon.

Leonard Gray died on active service at the Camp Diyalatawa in the Ceylon Administration on 15 September 1914 and was buried at Diyalatawa Boer Military Cemetery. This was a Military Cemetery that contained the graves of Boer prisoners of the South African War. The Diyalatawa Camp, used later as a naval and military training ground, was reopened to receive German internees. In 1966 his grave was concentrated to Kandy War Cemetery.

Ernest William Frost HAMMOND MC, MiD

Captain

2nd Battalion, Honourable Artillery Company (Infantry)

Second Lieutenant

1/1st Battalion, Honourable Artillery Company (Infantry)

Sergeant, 676

Private, 5790

1st Battalion, Honourable Artillery Company (Infantry)

Died: 3 May 1917

Age: 27

Commemorated at: Arras Memorial, France. Bay 1

Son of Jane Agnes Hammond, of 13 Forres Gardens, Golders Green, London, and the late Alfred Hammond.



Ernest Hammond was born on 1 July 1889 and his birth was registered in Islington in the third quarter.

In the 1891 Census his father, Alfred, a solicitor, and his wife Jane Agnes were living at Parkhurst Road, Islington, London. They had two sons, Herbert Alfred 3, and Ernest William Frost 1. The servants were Kate Louisa Sunnick a general servant, and Alice Childs a nursemaid.

During the 1901 census the family, Alfred a solicitor, his wife Jane and the children Herbert, Ernest, and Lucy were living at 16 Tufnell Park Road, Islington, London. The servants were Martha Jenkins a general domestic, and Sarah Newby a domestic help. Shortly after this census was taken Herbert joined Woodbridge School as a School House boarder and a year later Ernest joined him, studying at Woodbridge from 1902-1906. Both brothers were active members of the OW Society on leaving school, sharing the roles of Honorary Secretary and Treasurer between them.

By the 1911 Census his widowed mother, Jane Agnes, was living off private means at 40 Redbourne Avenue, Finchley, London. She had with her sons Herbert Alfred 27 a law student, Ernest William Frost 21 a hand surveyor's assistant, and her daughter Lucy Phyllis 18 a student. The servant was Ellen Mary Waldock a general domestic. At about this time Ernest was a student at the University of London and was a Member of the Institute of Surveyors.

Ernest Hammond attested on 9 November 1911 giving his address as 5 Dollis Road, Finchley and c/o L. Raymond, Esq., Golders Green, and his occupation as a surveyor. He was 5 feet 11 inches tall, and was proposed by R.G. Cole and C.T. Ross. Leonard Hammond was initially posted to the 4th Battalion, Honourable Artillery Company (Infantry). Between 1911-1914 he was with the 1st Battalion, Honourable Artillery Company (Infantry). He disembarked in France on 18 September 1914. The London Gazette of 31 October 1914 states that he had been an Officer Cadet and was Commissioned as a Temporary 2nd Lieutenant on 27 October 1914.

He was awarded the Military Cross for the action at Sanctuary Wood on 30 September 1915. *"For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during a fight at Sanctuary wood on 30 September 1915. Although severely wounded in the right side during the afternoon and unable to use his right arm, he remained at the front, using his left arm, till after nightfall when his wound compelled him to retire."* Ernest Hammond was Mentioned in General French's Despatches, 30 November 1915.

On 3 May 1917 the 2nd Battalion, Honourable Artillery Company (Infantry) moved at 1.45am and bivouacked and at 7.30am they moved forward. At 2.00pm they received orders to make an attack on Bullecourt at 6.00pm that night, the attack was postponed until 10.30pm At 10.00pm the Battalion formed up south west of the road and advanced. A and B Companies were to take the first objective and C and D Companies to go through and take the second

objective. At 11.50pm A and B Companies reported that they had gained their objectives. At 12.30am on 4 May 1917 A and B Companies reported a heavy counter attack and were out of touch on their left, followed by requests for 'grenades' and reinforcements. At 1.45am Captain Bower reported he was practically surrounded and had only about 30 men left. At 2.15am Captain Bower reported he had been 'bombed' out and had taken up positions in shell holes outside the Hun wire. At 3.30am orders came to withdraw and follow the Manchesters who were about to attack the original position again. At 3.45am the enemy put down a heavy barrage and at 4.30am counter attacked on the right.

At 4.45am the men were collected and they took up position along the Ecoust-Noreuil Road. The following were officer casualties: Capt Satchwell, Lts Hammond, Bockett, Feddon, G. Bower and Ellis.



Arthur Albert HARRIS

Private, GS/27774
8th Battalion (City of London Regiment)
Royal Fusiliers

Died: 7 October 1916

Commemorated at: Thiepval Memorial, France. Pier and Face 8 C g A and 16 A

Arthur Harris was born in Huntingfield, Suffolk in 1879. In the 1881 Census, his father, John, was a journeyman plumber. He and his wife, Priscilla, and daughter Ethel 9, and two sons Dennis 6 and Arthur 2 were living in Seckford Street, Woodbridge. By 1891 the family had moved to St John's Street, Woodbridge. His father was still a plumber, but Ethel had become an assistant schoolmistress, and Dennis was a watchmaker's apprentice. Another sister, Agnes, who did not appear on the 1881 Census, was a scholar, as was Arthur and a younger sister Jessie. They had several boarders staying, Margaretta Leather, a widow living on her own means, George Kent a solicitor's clerk, and Albert Cumner a stationer's assistant.

The Woodbridge School Register of Boys lists Arthur as having been in receipt of a Marryott Scholarship during his time at the school from 1890-1892. It is noted that he 'did not return' after the Christmas holiday of 1892.

The family was still living at St John's Street, Woodbridge during the 1901 Census. John remained a plumber. Those of the family staying were Priscilla and Arthur, a grocer's assistant. Jessie Roe, John's niece, born in Scotland, was also staying. Her occupation was as a general servant domestic. The boarder was Ernest Latty, a seed merchant's assistant. By the 1911 Census John, 64, was still a plumber, and his wife, Priscilla was 71. Ethel, now known as May, was married to Frank Tranter, an invalid. They had a boarder, Henry Leigh, who was living on his private means. Arthur was a grocer.

Between 9 July 1916 and 15 July 1916 Arthur Harris was with the 2nd Battalion, Royal Fusiliers and transferred to the 8th Battalion on 16 July 1916.

On 7 October 1916 the Battalion was at Flers, Somme, France. The previous day the trenches were heavily shelled and blown in. On 8 October 1916 they were again heavily shelled, however they had completed a new front line. Over the previous 24 hours, up until noon, there had been one officer and six Other Ranks killed, and 18 wounded. At 1.45pm the Battalion was ordered to attack in conjunction with the whole of the Fourth Army, Reserves and the 6th French Corps. The 9th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers were on their right and the 32nd Battalion, Royal Fusiliers on their left. The order of attack was two sections of A, B, and C Companies in the front line, two platoons of each of the second line, and D Company following in one line of support. The attack was not successful owing to the heavy casualties suffered through the enemy's machine-guns and artillery; and owing to the fact that the enemy's relief was taking place at this time with the result that the enemy were at double strength in this part of the line. The Battalion finally came back to their own trenches and at 11.00pm and were relieved by the 11th Middlesex Regiment. Three officers and 35 Other Ranks were killed, three officers and 113 Other Ranks wounded, and three officers and 96 Other Ranks missing believed killed or wounded. Arthur Harris was amongst those who died.

Claude Knox HOMAN

Lieutenant

6th (Service) Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment

Died: 18 September 1915

Age: 19

Buried at: Voormezele Enclosure No. 3, Belgium. Grave: XI.A.5

Son of Claude Samuel and Adelaide Mabel Homan, of 72 Parkstone Road, Poole, Dorset. Native of Tyneham, Corfe Castle, Dorset.

Claude Knox Homan was born in 1896 and his birth was registered in Dorchester in the third quarter. His mother's maiden name was Digby.

Claude Homan's father, Claude Samuel was a clergyman in the Church of England. In the 1901 Census his parents, Claude and Adelaide were living at Tyneham Rectory, Tyneham, Wareham, Dorset. They had two sons, Digby Arden 6, and Claude Knox 4. Claude Knox was a twin but his sister, Rachel Adelaide died in infancy in May 1897. The governess was Eleanor Ratcliff. The other servants were Deborah Travers a housemaid, Mary Prout a cook, and two kitchen maids Adelaide Hyde and Rosa Hibbs.

In the 1911 Census Claude Knox Homan is listed as a boarder at School House, Woodbridge, Suffolk. He joined in 1910 and left on gaining commission a few days after the beginning of the Autumn Term 1914.

The 6th (Service) Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment was formed in Dorchester on 6 September 1914 as part of Kitchener's Army (K2). They were based in Wareham until May 1915 when they moved to Romsey. Claude Homan was gazetted on 22 September 1914 as a 2nd Lieutenant and disembarked on 13 July 1915.

Between 12 and 20 September 1915 the Battalion was at St. Eloi (Sint Eloo), Ypres, Belgium. The Battalion had taken over the trenches on 12 September 1915, but no unusual activity is noted in the War Diary. They had good weather and work on the communication trenches advanced rapidly. The War Diary noted that Lt. C K Homan was killed on 18 September 1915. An extract from The Woodbridgian of the time: His happy disposition made him popular with masters and boys, while the development both of his mind and character seemed to promise that he would make his mark in life. He went out to France in July 1915, and was killed by a sniper at night after a few weeks. His Colonel wrote of him "I cannot tell you what a gloom his death has cast right through the regiment", and his Brigadier described him as "about the best young fellow in his Brigade."

Digby Arden Homan was also killed. [Private 1199, Digby Arden Homan, 2nd Rhodesia Regiment. Died 12 March 1916. Commemorated at Nairobi British and Indian Memorial].

Leonard Alfred HOWELL

Private, 1288

1/3rd County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters)

Died: 22 November 1914

Age: 19

Buried at: Paddington Old Cemetery, Kilburn, London. Grave: 1 D. 13948

Leonard Howell was born on 23 March 1895 to Alfred Giles, a merchant's buyer, and Amy, nee Colleau, Howell in Brondesbury, London.

In the 1901 Census, Alfred, a pianoforte manager, and his wife Amy Emmeline, were living at 32 Colcott Lane, Brondesbury, Willesden, London. The family consisted of Frederick 15, Amy 12, and Leonard 6. Also staying were Alfred's father, retired pianoforte maker, Benjamin Howell, and Amy's sister, Evelyn Colleau. The servant was Alice Prince, the cook.

On 12 April 1903 Leonard was baptised at Swanage, Dorset, where the Colleau family lived. Alfred Howell gave his occupation as a merchant, and his address as 32 Colcott Lane, Brondesbury.

Leonard was a boarder in Marryott House at Woodbridge School from 1908-1911. On 1 September 1914 he enlisted in London, giving his residence as London and his occupation as a student. The 1/3rd County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters) was a Territorial Battalion based in Henry Street, St John's Wood, London. In August 1914 it moved with the Brigade to Hounslow, Middlesex and then to join 2nd Mounted Division at Streatley.

In November 1914 the Battalion moved with Brigade to North Walsham, Norfolk. Leonard was accidentally killed on 22 November 1914 at Trunch, North Walsham, Norfolk. He was originally commemorated at the Brookwood Memorial until his grave was located.

3RD COUNTY OF LONDON
YEOMANRY
PRIVATE
HOWELL L. A.

PRO DEO

REGE

PATRIA

Leslie Ernest HUNT

Private, GS/63890

11th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment)

Private, 242052

Royal East Kent Regiment (The Buffs)

Died: 24 October 1917

Age: 30

Buried at: Dozinghem Military Cemetery. Grave: IX.C.13.

Son of George Henry Hunt, C.B.E., I.S.O., and Emily Mary Hunt, of Croydon; husband of Eileen Laura Alexandria Hunt, of 20, Wydehurst Road, Addiscombe, Croydon.

CONTENTED HE DIED PROUDLY

Leslie Hunt was born on 5 June 1887 and his birth was registered in the third quarter in Croydon, and he was baptised on 13 August 1887 at St John's Church, Croydon. His father, George Henry, was a government clerk, and gave his address as Lee Croft, St Peter's Road, Croydon.

During the 1891 Census, George Henry, a civil service assistant account, and his wife Emily were living at St Peter's Road, Croydon, Surrey. They had three sons, Harry 8, a scholar, Leslie 3, and newly born Walter. George's niece, Gertrude Greaves 13, a scholar, was also living with them. Bertha Alexander was the general domestic servant.

In the 1901 Census George, a civil service assistant accountant at the Treasury, and his wife, Emily, were living at 30 St Peter's Road, Croydon. Leslie Ernest, 13, was their only son staying. Also staying were Gertrude Greaves, George's niece, Edith Williams, the cook, and Emily Stillwell, the domestic maid. Shortly after this census was taken Leslie became a boarder at Woodbridge School where he studied from 1901-1905.

In November 1906, at 19, he started work as a clerk at the London and County Bank, which merged with the London and Westminster Bank in 1909. On the 1911 Census Ernest is 23 and has become a bank clerk, still living with his parents and younger brother Walter, another Old Woodbridgian, in Croydon.

Leslie married Eileen Laura Alexandria Dencher in April 1914, in Croydon. He enlisted at St. Swithin's Lane, London in July 1916 into the Buffs (East Kent) Regiment, before transferring to the Royal Fusiliers.

At 3.00am on the morning of 22 October 1917 the 11th Battalion Royal Fusiliers was north east of Ypres (Passchendaele) and they moved forward from Cane Trench area to Pleasant Farm near Poelcappelle (Poelkappelle) and acted as the support Battalion to the 10th Essex Regiment, 53 Brigade who attacked the Brewery east of Poelcappelle. This attack was very successful with all the objectives being gained and held. The Battalion was called on to hold the positions taken which was successfully accomplished. The casualties on 21 October 1917 were Other Ranks one killed, four wounded, one shell shock. Casualties on 22 October 1917 were Other Ranks killed one, 29 wounded 14 shell shock and Captain A. Aley wounded. The Battalion held the line and late at night, from 7.00pm the Battalion was relieved and proceeded to Yser Canal where busses were waiting to convey the officers and men to Dirty Bucket Camp. Casualties for 23 October 1917 were Other Ranks 12 killed, 27 wounded, two shell shock. Casualties for 24 October 1917 were Other Ranks one wounded.

Private Leslie Ernest Hunt died of his wounds on 24 October 1917.

Thomas Pelham JOHNSON D.S.O., MiD

Lieutenant Colonel

15th Divisional Train
Army Service Corps

Bedfordshire Regiment

Died: 12 June 1918

Age: 46

Buried at: Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun, France. Grave: VI.G.22

Son of the Rev F A Johnson (Rector of Stratford St. Andrew, Suffolk) and Ellen Johnson; husband of Lilian Dora Johnson, of Pavillon Iberia, Menton (A.M.), France

GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN

Thomas Johnson was born 16 June 1871 and his birth was registered in the third quarter in Plomesgate, Suffolk and he was baptised on 9 July 1871. His parents were Frederick Alfred and Ellen Johnson, nee Garret.

By the time of the 1881 Census Frederick Johnson had died and the family had moved to Old Market Place, Wangford, Suffolk. His widow Ellen was 42 and described herself as a clergyman's widow. Living with her were daughters Susan 19, Ellen 15, both with no occupation, Fanny 12 a scholar, and her son, Thomas 9 also a scholar. The servant was Mary Woodward a housemaid. In 1882 Thomas followed his two older brothers to board at Woodbridge School where he studied until 1890.

During the 1891 Census Ellen Johnson was recorded as being a widow and living on her own means. She and her family, Ellen, Fanny, Thomas a cadet, and servants Elizabeth Reynolds the kitchen maid and Florence Howell a housemaid, were living at Smallgate Street, Beccles, Suffolk.

In the 1901 Census his widowed mother, Ellen, was living on her own means at Smallgate Street, Beccles, Suffolk. Living with her were her single daughter Ellen 35, and Thomas 29, a Captain in the Army Service Corps. The domestic servants were Rose Margaret Falgate and Lilian Alice Chambers.

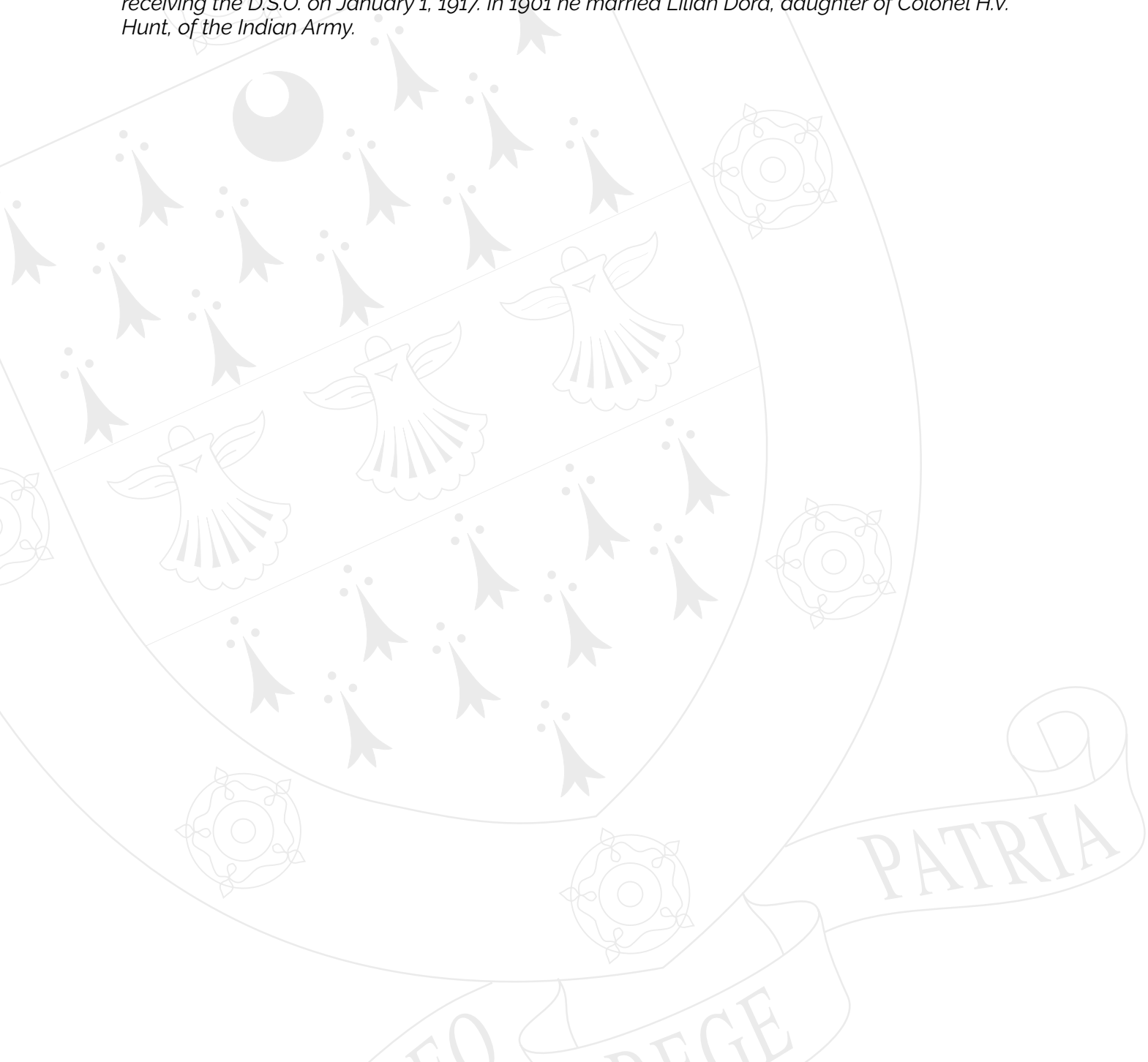
On 21 May 1907 Thomas Johnson married, at Christ Church, Stoke-next-Guilford, Lilian Dora Hunt, daughter of Colonel Henry Vere Hunt of the Indian Staff Corps. In the 1911 Census Thomas Pelham Johnson was a Major in the Army Service Corps and was living with his wife Lilian and their daughter Muriel Frances Ellen 8, at Beechlynn, Moorside, Fenham, Newcastle upon Tyne.

In June 1918 the 15th Divisional Train, Army Service Corps was at Agnez les Duisans, Etrun, near Arras, France. Lt. Col T.P. Johnson DSO, ASC, died suddenly between 10 a.m. and 11.30 a.m. on 12 June 1918 in his room from what was believed to be a cerebral haemorrhage. A

Court of Enquiry was held at 6 p.m.

The following taken from his obituary published in *The Suffolk and Essex Free Press*, Wednesday Evening June 26 1918:

Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Pelham Johnson, D.S.O., A.S.C., who died on June 12, was the youngest son of the late Rev. F.A. Johnson, rector of Stratford St. Andrew, Suffolk, and of Mrs. Johnson, of Beccles. He was born on June 16, 1871, and educated at Woodbridge Grammar School, Queen's College, Cambridge, and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. In December, 1891, he passed out of Sandhurst with honours, and after a few months at Dresden was gazetted to the Bedfordshire Regiment, with which he went to India in the following year, and served with Sir Robert Lowe's force against the Chitral in 1895 as assistant commissariat officer, being awarded the Indian Frontier medal after the storming of the Malakand Pass and the action near Khar at the descent into the Swat Valley. In 1898 he was sent by the Foreign Office as transport officer to Uganda during the construction of the railway from Mombasa and took charge of the Nandi punitive expedition, being mentioned in dispatches twice and receiving the Uganda and British East Africa Medals. In 1904 he joined the Army Service Corps in South Africa for five years. At the outbreak of the war he was stationed at Woolwich, and was sent to the Western front on August 22, 1914, taking part in the retreat from Mons. With the exception of a few months spent in training troops on Salisbury Plain and short absences on leave he remained at the front during the whole of the present war, being three times mentioned in dispatches and receiving the D.S.O. on January 1, 1917. In 1901 he married Lilian Dora, daughter of Colonel H.V. Hunt, of the Indian Army.



Maurice Freshfield JONES

Private, 23799

7th Battalion
Suffolk Regiment

Died: 3 July 1916

Age: 20

Commemorated at: Thiepval Memorial, France. Pier and Face 1 C and 2 A

Son of Henry Freshfield Jones, and Margaret Isabel Jones, of Barclays Bank, Aldeburgh, Suffolk

Maurice Jones was born in 1896 and his birth was registered at Plomesgate, Suffolk in the third quarter.

In the 1901 Census, his parents, Henry, a bank manager, and his wife Margaret, nee Warne, Jones were living at Lanaughan House, Aldeburgh, Suffolk. Maurice 4, was an only child. In the 1911 Census Maurice Jones, 14, was a boarder at The School, Woodbridge, Suffolk, and he had previously attended Aldeburgh Lodge Preparatory School. Maurice joined Woodbridge School in 1910 and left in 1912.

Prior to enlisting at Saxmundham he worked for Barclays Bank.

On 1 July 1916 the 7th Battalion Suffolk Regiment was in reserve and left Franvillers at 6.45 a.m. arriving at Henincourt, Somme, at 8.30 a.m., which they then left and took over the support trenches at 8.00am on 2 July 1916. On 2 July 1916 at 3.15am the Battalion received orders to attack Ovillers at 3.15am the following morning.

At 3.15am on 3 July 1916 they made a frontal attack on Ovillers on a frontage of 200 yards; the disposition of the Battalion was as follows: D Company on the right, C Company on the left, supported by B Company on the right, and A Company on the left. On the right of the Battalion was the 5th Royal Berkshire Regiment and on the left the 37th Brigade, the 36th Brigade being in reserve. Two Companies of the Essex Regiment were in support to each battalion, the Norfolks being in reserve. Zero was at 3.15am. Ten minutes before Zero the leading waves advanced under cover of the bombardment and at the hour of Zero the Battalion assaulted in eight successive waves. The first of the waves penetrated to the enemy's third line and portions of them into the village itself, but owing to the darkness touch was lost with succeeding waves and with the 5th Royal Berkshire Regiment on the right, so that the leading waves were not supported closely enough, thus allowing the Germans to get out between the waves and cut off the leading ones at the 3rd line of resistance, it was brought to a standstill. The two Companies of the Essex Regiment moving up in support were too far behind and were practically annihilated by machine gun fire during their advance across the open. The casualties in the Battalion were 21 Officers and 458 Other Ranks killed, wounded and missing, though some of those missing eventually re-joined the battalion during the following night.

The International Red Cross Committee (IRCC) on 25 September 1916 stated that Maurice Jones had been missing since 3 July 1916 at Albert, Somme. On 13 November 1916 the IRCC that they had heard nothing of his whereabouts.

Henry Frederick Irwin KING

Lieutenant

D Battery, 165th Brigade Royal Field Artillery

Royal Horse Artillery

Died: 5 November 1918

Age: 20

Buried at: Kezelberg Military Cemetery, Belgium. Grave: II.A.23

Son of Henry James and Florence King, of the Limes, Saxmundham. Native of Woodbridge

PRO DEO, REGE, PATRIA

Henry Frederick King was born in 1898 and his birth was registered in the second quarter. He was baptised on 30 May 1898 at St Paul's Church, Cambridge. His parents, Henry James, a corn merchant, and his wife Florence Mary, nee Menham, King were living at 11 Glisson Road, Cambridge.

By the 1901 Census they had moved to 15 Glisson Road, Cambridge where Henry James King was a corn, coal and coke merchant. They had two sons, Henry 2, and Thomas 1. The servants were Annie Buttriss a general domestic, and Abigail Goldsmith the nurse.

By the 1911 Census Henry James King was no longer a merchant but was living on his private means, with his wife, Florence, at 2 Castle Street, Woodbridge. Henry Frederick, now called known as Irwin 12, was a school boy, as was Thomas 11. They had both joined Woodbridge School as day boys in 1911. Irwin left Woodbridge School in 1915 and there is a note in the Register of Boys to say he 'passed into Woolwich'. Henry Frederick Irwin King was granted a commission as a 2nd Lieutenant on 27 October 1915, having been a Gentleman Cadet at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich.

He disembarked in France on 23 April 1916 and joined the Royal Horse Artillery.

Though it is recorded that he served with the 165th Brigade Royal Field Artillery no record of his death is in the War Diary for the Brigade, at the time they were preparing for an attack that never came. There were no officer casualties during August, October and November. The War Diary for September is missing, therefore it is possible he was wounded during these months.

Samuel Jarrold KING

Private, 424274

6th Battalion Canadian Light Mortar Battery
27th Battalion Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force
30th Battalion Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force
45th Battalion (Manitoba) Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force

Died: 18 February 1918

Age: 23

Buried at: Thelus Military Cemetery, France. Grave: I.A.8.

Son of Thomas and Eva King of Hasketon, Woodbridge, England

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

Samuel King was born in 1894 and his birth was registered in Woodbridge during the third quarter.

He was baptised at St Andrew's Church, Hasketon on 14 December 1894. His parents were Thomas, a farmer, and Eva, nee Burrows, King.

In the 1901 Census Thomas and Eva King were living at Burg Road, Hasketon, Woodbridge, Suffolk. They had two children, Kate 9, and Samuel 6. They employed a general domestic servant, Emily Farnish.

In the 1911 Census their address was recorded as Gull Farm, Hasketon, Woodbridge, Suffolk. Thomas was now 60, and Eva was 50. Samuel 16 was a school. Samuel was a day boy at Woodbridge School from 1904-1911. The servants were Edward Purling 15, a stock boy on the farm, and Ethel Brookes 16, a general domestic servant. They had a visitor, Edith Hurry, a teacher in an elementary school.

Samuel King enlisted as Jarrold King into the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force on 12 February 1915 at Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, Canada, giving his date of birth as 14 July 1893 and place of birth as Hasketon, Woodbridge, Suffolk. His next of kin was Emily King. He gave his trade or calling as a labourer. He was single, willing to be vaccinated and had never been in the military forces. He was willing to serve overseas.

His apparent age was 21 years and 7 months. He was 5 feet 8³/₄ inches tall, with a chest when fully expanded of 36¹/₄ inches, with a range of expansion of 4 inches. He had a dark complexion, brown eyes and black hair. He gave his religious denomination as Church of England. He had good physical development.

At his medical examination at Portage la Prairie he was classed fit for service with the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force. He joined the 45th Battalion (Manitoba) CEF. He was vaccinated on 5 March 1915. He had anti-typhoid inoculations on 26 April 1915, 5 May 1915, 15 May 1915 and in June 1917.

On 13 September 1915 he arrived in England and proceeded to Shorncliffe Barracks, Folkestone with the 30th Battalion CEF. He was admitted to hospital at Moore Barracks on 22 October 1915 until 24 October 1915 suffering from varicocele, and was given a suspensory bandage. From 2 November 1915 until 11 February 1916 he was with the 32nd Reserve Battalion CEF when he transferred to the 27th Battalion CEF in the field in France and arrived at the Canadian Base Depot on 13 February 1916.

He left the Base Depot on 29 February 1916 and arrived at the 27th Battalion CEF on 2 March 1916.

On 6 March 1916 he started with the 6th Canadian Trench Mortar Battery. On 12 February 1917 he was awarded, in the field, his Good Conduct Badge. On 2 October 1917 he was attached to the 6th Brigade, French Mortar Battery. On 3 October 1917 he was formally transferred to the 6th Canadian Trench Mortar Battery from the 27th Battalion CEF. Samuel King was killed in action in a raid on German trenches southeast of Avion on 18 February 1918.

Frederick James LARKEN

Second Lieutenant

1st/4th Battalion
Northumberland Fusiliers

7th Battalion (Territorials) Northumberland Fusiliers

Private, 15627
The Queen's Regiment (Royal West Surrey Regiment)

Died: 15 November 1916
Also recorded as 14 November 1916

Age: 38

Buried at: Albert Communal Cemetery Extension. Grave: I.M.11

TILL THE BARRAGE LIFTS

Son of Louise Larken, of Grove Lodge, Woodbridge, Suffolk, and the late Major William Hare Larken (Loyal North Lancashire Regiment.)

Frederick Larken was born in 1877 and his birth was registered in Woodbridge during the third quarter. He was baptised at St Peter and St Paul's Church, Pettistree, Suffolk on 18 December 1877. His father, William Hare Larken was an Army Captain.

In the 1881 Census his parents, William, a captain on half pay, late 47th Regiment, and Louisa, born in Canada, were living on the Thorofare, Woodbridge. The family consisted of Cecily 13, a schoolgirl, born in Canada, William 11 a scholar, Louisa 9 a scholar, Frank 4 a scholar, Frederick 3, and Mabel 1. The servants were Emma Fisk a nurse, Celia Cullinford a cook, and Florence Upson a parlour maid.

During the 1891 Census the family still resided in the Thorofare, Woodbridge. William Larken was not present for the census, however Louise Larken 46 described herself and the wife of a retired Major in the Army. All the children; Frank, Frederick, Mabel, Alfred, Mary and John (John Savage, killed in action 21 September 1918), were at school. Frederick and his older brother Frank both joined Woodbridge School in 1886 and Frederick remained a pupil until 1892.

During 1914 he attended a banking course at Queen's University giving two addresses, Molsons B, Vancouver, B.C., Canada, and Grove Lodge, Woodbridge.

On 14 November 1916 the 4th Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers was at Warlencourt, Somme.

At 3.30am the Commanding Officer moved to the Hexham Road trench to meet the General Officer Commanding 149th Brigade. At 5.00am B and C Companies moved to the Hexham Road trench and D Company moved up to the front line at Snag trench. At 6.30am B Company moved up to Snag trench to dig a communication trench between the head of Pioneer Alley and Hook Sap. C Company moved to Snag trench on the left of Pioneer Alley. Captain R.J.W. Robinson, commanding officer of B Company, who took out a patrol to reconnoitre Hook Sap was killed. At 11.00am Lt Col B.D. Gibson and Major Wright (5th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers) went forward to re-organise the front line for an attack. At 12.30 a.m. on 15 November 1916 an attack was launched but owing to an intense enemy barrage and heavy rifle and Machine Gun fire did not succeed. The following were the casualties amongst the officers. Killed Capt J W Robinson, 2nd Lieutenant F J Larken. Wounded Lt Col B D Gibson, slightly at duty, Missing 2nd Lieutenant A K Derrick and 2nd Lt T Bonner.

In the Appendix to the 4th Battalion's War Diary - Casualties, it is noted that 2nd Lieutenant Larken F J (7th Northumberland Fusiliers) was killed in action on 15 November 1916.

John Savage LARKEN

Second Lieutenant

10th (Royal East Kent and West Kent Yeomanry) Battalion
The Buffs (East Kent Regiment)

2/1st West Kent Yeomanry

Private, 10369, 764370

28th (County of London) Battalion (Artists Rifles) London Regiment

Died: 21 September 1918

Age: 33

Buried at: Villers-Faucon Communal Cemetery Extension, France. Grave: II.A.7

THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE

Son of Major W.H. and Louise Larken, of Grove Lodge, Woodbridge, Suffolk; husband of Muriel du Pre Addison

John Savage Larken was born in 1887 and his birth was registered in the first quarter at Woodbridge. He was baptised at St John's Church, Woodbridge on 16 February 1887. His father was Captain William Hare Larken, late of the 47th Regiment. His mother was Louise. During the 1891 Census the family resided in the Thorofare, Woodbridge. William Larken was not present for the census, however Louise Larken 46, described herself as the wife of a retired Major in the Army. All the children, Frank, Frederick (Frederick James, killed in action 15 November 1916), Mabel, Alfred 8, Mary 6 and John 4, were at school. The servants were Elizabeth Ely a cook, Ellen Cotton a nurse, and Emily Birch a housemaid.

During the 1901 Census William and Louisa Larken were living at Pytches Lane, Woodbridge, Suffolk. The children living with them were Mabel 21, Mary 16, John S 14, and the servants Anne Scales the cook, and Florence Hawes. John followed his older brothers to Woodbridge School as a day pupil from 1895-1903.

When John Larken enlisted into the 28th Battalion, London Regiment is unknown, and his Medal Card shows that he did not go to France during 1914 and 1915. The 28th Battalion, London Regiment moved to France on 28 October 1914 and it was established as an Officers Training Corps at Bailleul, and at St Omer from April 1915.

On 26 September 1917 a notice in the London Gazette stated that he was commissioned from an Officer Cadet Unit as a Second Lieutenant in the Liverpool Regiment, though this was later changed to the Territorial Force, West Kent Yeomanry. He joined the 2/1st Battalion, West Kent Yeomanry, which at that time was at Woodbridge. The Battalion remained on Home Service, and in Ireland, throughout the War.

The 10th (Royal East Kent and West Kent Yeomanry) Battalion had been formed from two dismounted Yeomanry battalions in Sollum in Egypt on 1 February 1917, and soon after it moved to France. It is likely that John Savage requested a transfer to an active service battalion.

On 9 April 1918 John Savage Larken married Muriel Addison at St Mary's Church, Woodbridge. They were married by the Rector Reverend Denman-Dean, father of George Denman-Dean, another OW commemorated on the War Memorial. Muriel was the youngest daughter of the late Major A.D. Gillespie Addison, R.F.A., and Mrs Addison of Wayside, Crowborough.

At 5.45am on 21 September 1918 the 10th Battalion, (Royal East Kent and West Kent Yeomanry) Battalion The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) was at Cambrai. D and C Companies went up to the front line with A Company in support and formed up on the road, and advanced under a barrage to take the Blue Line trench. The wire west of Zoo trench was reached and one of the of the two belts penetrated, but tremendous machine gun fire was

met and no further advance could be made. A withdrawal was necessitated by the battalions on the left returning. The front Companies did not return to the Battalion until the morning of 22 September 1918 with the exception of a few men, and the original Red Line trench was held by B Company and the remnant of A Company. The Battalion was relieved in the evening by the 15th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment.

Henry Nicholson LECHLER MiD

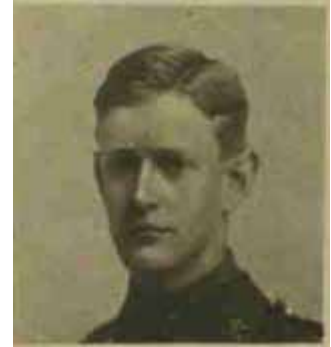
Second Lieutenant

10th Battalion attached to 6th Battalion South Lancashire Regiment, The Prince of Wales Volunteers

Died: 4 April 1916, probably 5 April 1916

Age: 21

Commemorated at: Basra Memorial, Iraq. Panel 23



Son of Gottlob Lechler and Violet Lechler, of Brooklyn Estate, Yercaud, Southern India. Also served at Gallipoli.

Henry Lechler was born in 1894 to Christian Gottlob Lechler and his wife Violet Annie Lechler, in Yercaud, Madras, India. He was their only son but he had one sister, Doris Woodman Lechler.

From 1906 to 1910 he attended Dollar Academy, Scotland. From 1910 – 1913 he boarded at School House, Woodbridge School where he was in the cricket team, the football XI and the gymnasium 6. He was also a Lance Corporal in the Officer Training Corps.

In 1914 he studied at Manchester University as a student of geology. His grandfather, R D Foote was an Indian geologist. At University, he joined the University Officer Training Corps.

He was Gazetted as a 2nd Lieutenant on 23 December 1914. He served at Gallipoli, where he was Mentioned in Despatches for his 'distinguished and gallant' service. At the end of January 1916 the Battalion was posted to Egypt and thence to Mesopotamia.

On 4 April 1916, the date given by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission for his death, the 6th Battalion, South Lancashire Regiment Battalion was preparing for attack, and no lives were lost. However, the War Diary for the 6th Battalion has this entry for 5 April 1916: "*At 4.55 a.m. the assault on the HANNAH POSITION took place and the 1st line was taken by the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, the second by the East Lancashire Regiment. While this operation was in progress the third line was heavily bombarded, on the fire lifting the Regiment advanced and occupied the third line. Casualties which were very slight were as follows; Capt C R Attlee and 2/Lt W S Ireland wounded and about 18 OR wounded, these being caused mostly by our own men pushing on into our own barrage. By 7 a.m. the whole of the HANNAH POSITION was in our hands, a few prisoners were taken, and a number of Turkish dead found, the remainder falling back to the FALAHIYEN position. At 11 a.m. the Regiment took up a line with its left on the 40th brigade and its right on the East Lancs.*

During the movement the Regiment was shelled by 2 small guns. The line was due N and S about 500 yards W of PETRES POINT. A line was entrenched under distant rifle fire about 1400 yards from the enemy who had held the 40th Brigade up and caused them a number of casualties. At about 1.30 pm the King's Own Rifle Regiment and Loyal North Lancshires pushed on another 400 yards and entrenched. The assault on FALAHIYEN position was ordered for 7.35 p.m.

The artillery bombardment commenced at 7 p.m. and was most intense. The Battalion moved forward, third in order, under severe rifle fire. There was perfect steadiness and order. By 9 p.m. the position was in our hands; the fact that 3 officers and 23 men of "A" Coy were found dead

just in front of the enemy's trenches testified to the intensity of the Turkish fire. The Division was relieved by the 7th Division and went into bivouac at FALAHYEN."

It was reported that "He fell gallantly, leading his men, and was found ahead of them almost on top of the Turkish trenches in front of a machine gun."

Edward St. Hilary LINGWOOD

Second Lieutenant

7th (Service) Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment

Sergeant, 60036

104, Training Reserve Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment

Sergeant, PS 614

19th (Service) Battalion (2nd Public Schools),
Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment)

Died: 3 May 1917

Age: 24

Commemorated at: Arras Memorial. Bay 5



Son of Alice Mary Lingwood, of Westleton, Saxmundham, Suffolk, and the late Edward Thomas Lingwood (OW).

Edward Lingwood was born on 25 September 1892 and his birth was registered in the fourth quarter at Ipswich. He was baptised on 12 October 1892 at St Margaret's, Ipswich. His parents were Edward Thomas, an artist, and Alice Mary, nee Hunt, Lingwood. Their address was Coleman Villa, Norwich Road, Ipswich.

By the 1901 Census Edward Thomas Lingwood, an artist landscape painter, and his wife Alice had moved to Barns Arms Inn, Dunwich, Suffolk. The family consisted of Edward St Hilary 8, Percival 5, and Nevil 3. The servants were Lilian Smith 15, a cook, and Ethel Smith 14, a domestic housemaid.

In the 1911 Census Edward St Hilary was a boarder, along with his two brothers, at Woodbridge School. Edward studied at Woodbridge from 1903 until 1911 and was, by all accounts, a good all rounder.

On 16 September 1913 Edward became a clerk with the Civil Service, after Open Competition in the Second Division. On 17 August 1914, after Open Competition, he became an Officer in the Customs and Excise Department.

In September 1914 he enlisted into the 19th (Service) Battalion (2nd Public Schools), Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) as Private PS 614, rising to Corporal and Sergeant. The Battalion was formed on 11 September 1914 by the Public Schools and University Men's Force at Epsom. The Battalion landed in France in November 1915. He disembarked in France on 14 November 1915 where he remained until 6 January 1916. The Battalion was disbanded on 27 February 1916 with many of the soldiers becoming commissioned officers. Edward St Hilary Lingwood transferred to the 104, Training Reserve Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant on 24 January 1917 and was posted to the 7th Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment.

At 3.45am on 3 May 1917, in the Arras sector, the 7th Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment, as part of the 18th Division was to attack Cherisy. The 54th Brigade was on the right, the 56th Brigade on the left, and the 53rd Brigade was in reserve. The attack was supposed to take place at dawn, with Zero hour being at 3.45am, but it was not light enough to attack until 4.15am. The

artillery barrage commenced badly, being irregular. The Battalion left their trenches before Zero and formed up splendidly. The advance started at Zero, they soon slightly lost direction, the men being extended at about 12 paces could scarcely see each other. The Regiment on the left also lost direction and crowded to the right, thus confusing the 7th Battalion's attack and causing a further loss of direction. Four tanks were to be used to attack Fontaine village. One was unable to start, another went but a short distance, another made its way down Wood Trench and then turned and came through the Battalion's advancing lines, this added to the confusion and some groups retired to the front line again. They were reformed at once by the Officers and again advanced. The barrage had however gone on and the Battalion was held up at Fontaine trench as it was strongly defended, also the wire was thick and undamaged. The Battalion came under heavy machine gun fire from the Mis-en-Artois – Cherisy-Fontaine trench and Wood trench. Small detachments pushed forward to the angle formed by Fontaine Trench and Wood Trench.

At this time the majority of the 55th Brigade had reached their first objectives on the left. The position of the Battalion about 10.00am was in front of Fontaine Trench with their Right back at Wood trench. At this time the Leicesters on the right had not made good Wood Trench except a small portion on the western side. Some groups of the 55th Brigade reached a portion of their second objective. About 11.30am the 14th Division further to the left commenced retiring, followed by the 55th Brigade and the Middlesex Regiment, and some groups of the Bedfords, but about one Company still remained in shell holes in front of Fontaine and Wood Trenches, when at midday the troops on the left had all got back to the starting trenches.

At 7.15pm a new barrage started and two Companies of the Northamptonshire Regiment attacked on the Battalion's frontage in which elements of the Battalion joined and which was covered by rapid fire from the Battalion's advance troops. This, however, was unsuccessful as the enemy put up a heavy barrage and the wire in front could not be forced. The whole lot fell back to the original front line and held that during the night being relieved early in the morning by the Northamptonshire Regiment

Edward Lingwood's body was never found and he is commemorated on the Arras Memorial.

Postscript.

Edward Thomas Lingwood designed the Woodbridge School War Memorial (IWM War Memorial 5398). The architects, Messrs Burgess and Brown, drew up the plans. The builder was W. Barrel. It was unveiled on 11 November 1921 by Dr Hubert Airy, who lost his son Arthur Langton Airy on 11 July 1915. The memorial was dedicated by the headmaster the Rev. Dudley Symon. Admiral Pelham Aldrich, uncle to Francis Pelham Aldrich who died 6 July 1917 gave the address, Lest we forget.

Claude Amyas MILLS

Corporal, 77250

7th Battalion (1st British Columbian), Canadian Infantry
Canadian Expeditionary Force

30th Battalion, Canadian Infantry
Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Died: 25 July 1916

Age: 21

Buried at: Railway Dugouts Burial Ground (Transport Farm),
Zillebeke, Belgium. Grave: VI.C.15

Son of Mrs F.E. Mills of the Corner House, Westbourne Park Road, Bournemouth,
England, previously Wynhurst, Penn Hill Avenue, Bournemouth.

GOD PROVED THEM AND FOUND THEM WORTHY OF HIMSELF



Claude Mills was born on 23 November 1894 and was baptised on 17 November 1895 at St Nicholas with St Peter, St Andrew, St James, St Paul and St Luke Church, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk. His mother was Florence Mills.

In the 1901 Census Claude 6, was boarding with John, a coal merchant, and Jemima Read at 111 Nelson Road, Great Yarmouth. Their family consisted of Jemima, Ellen, Alfred, William and Ada. Also staying was Frances Bacon, John Read's widowed aunt.

Claude boarded in both Marryott House and School House from 1906-1910.

In the 1911 Census Claude Mills 16, a student, was a visitor at the home of Albert George and Janet Agnes Grimditch at 19 Cooper Street, Victoria Docks, London. Albert Grimditch was a caretaker, but they also had one servant, Lily Alice Lark, a house parlourmaid, born in Great Yarmouth.

Claude Mills enlisted into the Canadian Over-seas Expeditionary Force in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, on 6 November 1914. He gave his birthplace as Norwich, England. His next of kin was Mrs Florence E Mills, of Beaumont House, Woodbridge, Suffolk. He gave his occupation as a contractor. He was currently in the 88th V.F. (88th Regiment, Victoria Fusiliers, located at Victoria, British Columbia). He had spent three years in the Officer Training Corps at school. He was struck off the strength of the 88th Victoria Fusiliers as from 1 November 1914 and transferred to the strength of the 30th Battalion, Canadian Infantry.

He was 5 feet 11 inches tall, with a chest when fully expanded of 37 inches, with a range of expansion of 3 inches. He had fair complexion, hazel eyes and brown hair. He was 22 years old and a member of the Church of England.

On 22 February 1915 Claude Mills sailed from Halifax, Nova Scotia aboard the White Star liner, SS Megantic. On 4 May 1915 he transferred to the 7th Battalion, Canadian Infantry, in the field. On 28 October 1915 he was admitted to No. 26 General Hospital, Etaples with a gunshot wound to his head. He remained in hospital until 10 November 1915 when he was transferred to No. 6 Convalescent Depot, Etaples. He was discharged on 25 November 1915.

He was granted 9 days home leave on 13 January 1916 and returned to his unit on 24 January 1916.

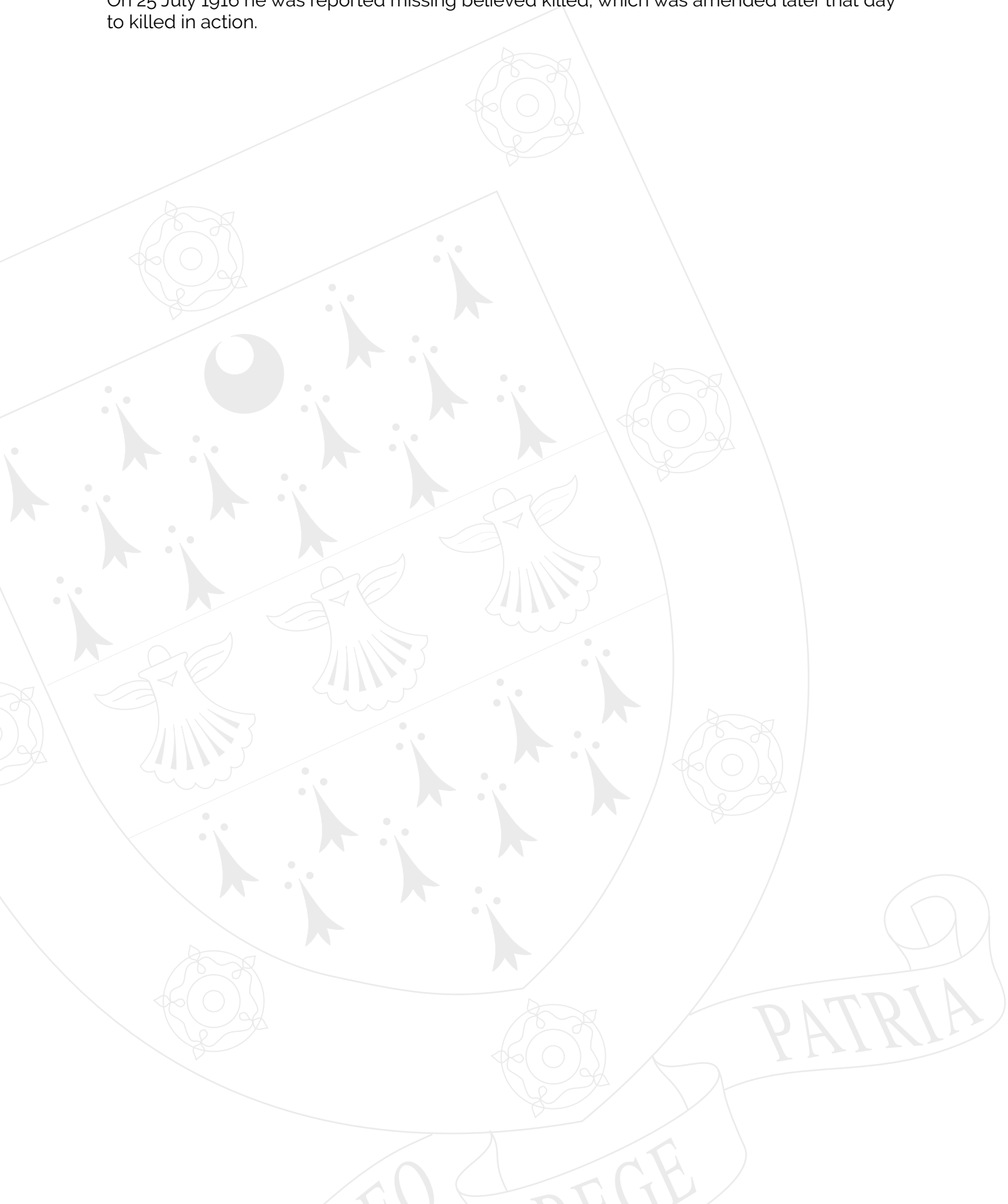
He was promoted Lance Corporal on 2 March 1916

He was fined 1 day's pay, on 29 March 1916, for the loss of kit.

On 5 June 1916 he was admitted to No. 2 Canadian Field Ambulance with a wounded left leg and arm. He returned to regimental duty the same day. Claude Mills was promoted Corporal on 17 June 1916.

On 25 July 1916 the 7th Battalion, Canadian Infantry was near Zillebeke, Belgium, south east of Ypres (leper). It had been quiet all day. At 10.00pm the enemy exploded a large mine in the Bluff sector, where the Battalion was in trenches. The Battalion responded with machine gun fire and an artillery barrage which was effective in preventing the enemy from leaving their trenches. The crater was immediately occupied and consolidated by No. 1 Company. Between 11.00pm and midnight the Battalion was relieved by the 4th Battalion, Canadian Infantry, and they moved to Dominion Lines

On 25 July 1916 he was reported missing believed killed, which was amended later that day to killed in action.



Gerald Milner MOORE

Sapper, 5434

2nd Field Company
1st Canadian Divisional Engineers
Canadian Expeditionary Force

Died: 25 January 1916

Age: 30

Buried at: Berks Cemetery Extension, Belgium. Grave: III.B.22

Son of Mary E. Moore, of 70 Abingdon Road, Kensington,
London, England, and the late John G. Moore

BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART FOR THEY SHALL SEE
GOD. R.I.P.



Gerald Moore was born on 28 April 1885 and was baptised in Stratford on Avon. His father was John George and his mother was Mary Elizabeth Moore.

Gerald Moore was a boarder at Woodbridge Grammar School, as it was then known, from 1898-1903. On 15 November 1904 he was admitted as a student to the Institute of Civil Engineers, from which he completed his studies in 1906.

In the 1911 Census he was living with his mother, Mary, at 2 Glenluce Road, Westcombe Park, Blackheath, London. Both were living off private means. The other family member was Gerald's brother, Reginald Eric Francis, 20, born in Winnipeg, Canada. The servants were Louisa Brown cook, and Florence Roots housemaid.

Though not mentioned in the census returns Gerald had another brother, Lieutenant Cyril Hartley Moore. He was killed in action near Harrismith, 28 July 1901. He was born in July 1876 and was educated at St John's Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Malvern College. He saw service in South Africa, was invalided home and returned in April 1901. He was at a farm about 22 miles from Ladysmith and the Boers had cut him and his ten men off. Having requested him to surrender three times, the Boers shot him through the heart.

At the start of the War Gerald Moore was offered a commission in the Canadian Infantry, but preferred to join the Canadian Engineers. He enlisted at Valcartier (Saint-Gabriel-de-Valcartier), Quebec on 23 September 1914. He gave his occupation as mechanical engineer. He had spent six years' service as a volunteer in the Canadian Territorial Engineers.

He was 29 years and 2 months old, 5 feet 8½ inches tall, with a chest expanded to 38 inches with a 3 inch expansion. He had a fresh complexion, light blue eyes, and brown hair. He was a member of the Church of England. He was considered fit for the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force. He was inoculated against typhoid at his medical examination.

Sapper Gerald Milner Moore was posted to the 2nd Field Company, 1st Divisional Engineers, Canadian Engineers. The Company embarked at Quebec on the SS Zeeland on 3 October 1914 and whilst on board he was vaccinated on 11 October 1914. The Company disembarked in England on 15 October 1914. There were 8 officers and 233 other ranks. The 2nd Field Company, Canadian Engineers arrived at Larkhill, Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire on 20 October 1914. The Company embarked on HMTS Courtfield at Avonmouth Docks on 9 February 1915 and weighed anchor the next day. The Company arrived in France on 12 February 1915, disembarking at St Nazaire, as part of the 1st Canadian Divisional Engineers. Their ranks included 50 civil engineers.

On 25 January 1916 the Company was near Ploegsteert, Belgium, north of Armentieres, south of Ypres. It was foggy in the morning which cleared towards noon. Enemy aeroplanes were very active. A lieutenant returned from leave. Major Irving visited the Divisional Engineers Headquarters in the morning. Brigadier General Lipsett called in the

afternoon. Sapper Tanqueray was wounded in his right arm and 5434 Sapper. G. M. Moore was killed while working at Fort Nash about 11 p.m.

At the time of his death he was expecting to receive a commission in the 3rd Canadian Division for which he had been recommended.



John Herman MULLER

Lieutenant

113th Squadron
Royal Flying Corps

Private, 2009
9th (Territorial) Battalion
Middlesex Regiment, (The Duke of Cambridge's Own)

2/10th Battalion
Middlesex Regiment, (The Duke of Cambridge's Own)

Died: 31 October 1917

Age: 21

Buried at: Beersheba War Cemetery, Israel and Palestine
(including Gaza). Grave: O73

Son of William and Edith Muller, of 10, Charlesville Mansions, West Kensington,
London

THOU GENTLE BEAM OF LIVING LOVE AND DEATHLESS LIFE



John Muller was born in 1896 and his birth was registered in the fourth quarter, at Bradford, Yorkshire. His parents were Ernest W, a wool merchant, and Annie Edith Bertha Muller. They lived at 8 Walmer Villas, Bradford.

In the 1901 Census William and Edith Muller had three children, Brunhilde 12, Ingrid 9, and John 4. The servants were Mary Robinson the cook, Elizabeth Robson the nurse, and Gertrude Smith and Lily Stubbs as the housemaids.

John Muller was a boarder at Woodbridge School, Suffolk from 1909-1913.

On 29 October 1914 he entered the Indian theatre of war, as a Private in the 9th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment. When War broke out the Battalion was part of the Middlesex Brigade. They were mobilised and moved to Sheerness and then to Sittingbourne. On 30 October 1914 they sailed from Southampton, arriving in Bombay on 2 December 1914.

He was commissioned, as a Second Lieutenant, from the ranks, into the same Battalion, on 7 April 1915.

On 19 June 1916, when part of 2/10th Middlesex Regiment, 2nd Lieutenant Muller was admitted to 19th General Hospital, Alexandria for jaundice and catarrh. He spent 29 days under treatment. He was transferred to Ridi Biskr Hospital before transferring to No 10 Convalescent Home. It was noted in his admission notes that he had been with the field force for four months. The 2/10th Battalion had been at Gallipoli before retiring to Egypt.

The 113th Squadron Royal Flying Corps was raised on 1 August 1917, in Egypt, as part of General Allenby's Army against the Turkish 7th and 8th Armies in Palestine. The task of the Squadron was as a 'Corps Reconnaissance Unit' flying BE2C, BE2E, and RE8 aeroplanes. They were used in artillery and trench spotting.

On 31 October 1917, at 0830 hrs, during the Battle of Beersheba, the pilot, Lieutenant Alaric Pinder Boor, an Australian born in Perth and a Rhodes Scholar, took off from 113th Squadron's aerodrome at Weli Sheikh Nuran, with Lieutenant John Herman Muller as observer. The aircraft was a Royal Aircraft Factory RE8. This was the standard artillery spotting and reconnaissance aircraft from mid-1917. It was difficult to fly and gained a reputation with the Royal Flying Corps as being unsafe.

Their task was to report on the defensive and offensive capabilities of the Germans and Turks. Lt Muller wrote down his report on notepaper, wrapped around a stone, and which was thrown over British Headquarters. Their aeroplane was reported to have 'fallen out of control' and crashed, killing Lieutenant Muller and fatally wounding Lieutenant Boor, who died later that day.

Fred John NEWSON

Lance Corporal (Signaller), 5358

2nd/1st Buckinghamshire Battalion
Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry

Private, 1722
2/6th Suffolk Cyclists Battalion
Suffolk Regiment

Died: 19 July 1916

Age: 19

Buried at: Laventie Military Cemetery, France. Grave: III.C.9

Son of Oliver and Grace Newson, Earl Soham, Framlingham, Suffolk

DEARLY LOVED, SADLY MISSED, THY WILL BE DONE

Fred Newson was born in the fourth quarter of 1896 at Sweffling, Saxmundham, Suffolk

His parents were Oliver and Grace , nee Drummond, Newson.

During the 1901 Census the family, Oliver M, a grocer and draper, Grace, and the children, Kate 6, Fred 4 and Margery 2 were living at the Street, Earl Soham, Suffolk. They had one domestic servant, Kate Archer.

In the 1911 Census, at the age of 14, Fred Newson was a boarder at Eastward House College, Wolsey Terrace, Felixstowe, Suffolk. Shortly after this we find he has moved to Woodbridge School where he was a day pupil for just one year.

He enlisted at Saxmundham, Suffolk into the 2/6th Suffolk Cyclists Battalion, Suffolk Regiment. The Battalion was formed, in Ipswich, in September 1914. This battalion remained in the U.K. for the duration of the War.

Fred Newson transferred to the 2nd/1st Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, and arrived in France sometime during 1916. On 19 July 1916 the Battalion was at Laventie, near La Gorgue, France. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission describes the events of the day: *"The first full-scale engagement between the Bavarians and the British came on the evening of 19 July 1916, when the brigades of the 61st Division joined those of the 5th Australian Division in a major attack on the enemy positions along Aubers Ridge. The main thrust of the attack focused on the Sugarloaf Salient, a heavily reinforced sector of the German line in front of Fromelles. The British troops were tasked with storming the right flank of the salient while the Australians advanced on the left. The distance between the British and German trenches was as much as 400 yards at certain points and many of the English infantrymen came under heavy machine-gun fire as soon as they left their own lines at 6 pm. Some units of the 61st Division managed to advance as far as the enemy wire, but no British troops succeeded in entering the German lines. The Australian units fared better at first, managing to capture sections of the German front-line, but suffered enormous casualties in the face of fierce counter-attacks. The Battle of Fromelles ended on the morning of 20 July as the few remaining Commonwealth troops returned to their trenches. In the first few hours of the attack, over 1,500 men of the 61st Division had been killed or wounded."*

The Battalion's War Diary described the events:

"ZERO" was at 11 a.m., & at that hour our Bombardment started.

5.30 p.m.. By 5.30 p.m. we had lost nearly 100 men killed & wounded by shell-fire. This was serious as on July 18th "A" Coy (which was holding the Battalion's front) lost 78 men gassed – owing to one of OUR shells having burst a Gas Cylinder in our Trenches. The Battalion went into Action with 20 Officers & 622 other ranks. This was reduced by casualties suffered to 6 Officers & 300 O.R..

5.40 p.m. What was left of "A" & "D" Coys (the assaulting Coys) – about 120 men – filed out into NO MANS LAND by RHONNDA SAP & lay down in 4 waves.

6 p.m. With a cheer, the four waves leapt up & assaulted the enemy's trenches. Even before 5.50 p.m. the enemy's Machine Guns had become busy and at 6 p.m. they mowed down our advancing waves, so that only a few men actually reached the German parapet. These did not return.

Telephone Communication between Battalion Headquarters & the front line was soon out (about 1 p.m.). After many gallant attempts to mend the wire, success was obtained at exactly 5.40 p.m. & from 5.40 p.m. till 9.30 p.m. the telephone was in constant use & saved many lives – in that runners were spared.

Reports that flowed in over the telephone were sent on – as they came in – straight to Brigade Headquarters & were very contradictory. Owing to the distance between the Trenches & to the continuous bombardment & smoke, the officers, who were observing – found this task about impossible of fulfilment with any degree of accuracy. Seeing our men actually on the German parapet it was concluded that a certain number must have got in. But it is certain that very few survived the enemy's Machinegun fire & whether they got in or not they never returned. "C" Coy (the Coy which carried over R.E [Royal Engineers] Material for consolidating purposes) went out into NO MANS LAND at 6.10 p.m. but, again, the enemy's Machinegun fire prevented any advance without extermination.

6.30 p.m. By 6.30 p.m. it was clear that:

1. The attack could not succeed without more men
2. That given more men (say two Coys) the attack must have succeeded

No reserves, however, were available: & the Commanding Officer of the Battalion was ordered to reorganize & attack again at 8.30 p.m. This order was received at a time when every man, save a few telephone operators, orderlies & wounded, was in NO MANS LAND. Gradually about 80 men were reorganised, & 40 men of "B" Coy (the Reserve Coy) was added.

7.30 p.m. The order then came to postpone the attack till 9 p.m..

8 p.m. and at 8 p.m. the order came through that no further attack would take place that night. Every officer who went out with the Assaulting Coys was either killed or wounded: & Capt. H.S.G. BUCKMASTER was the only officer who went out into NO MANS LAND who came back physically unhurt.

During the 18th & 19th July the Battalion lost 322 ALL RANKS.

The whole attack was unsuccessful in that the enemy's Trenches – though penetrated – but were not consolidated & held – but a very great measure of success was obtained in that:

1. The enemy suffered severe casualties
2. He was & will be prevented from withdrawing either Infantry or guns for the support of his forces further South on the SOMME."



George Amos OXX

Private (Signaller), 25801

B Coy, 2nd Battalion
Wiltshire Regiment

Died: 28 December 1918

Age: 36

Buried at: Terlincthun British Cemetery, Wimille, France. Grave: XII.E.16

Husband of Edith M. Oxx, of 2 Castle Street, Calne, Wiltshire

George Oxx was born on 19 March 1882 in Woodbridge, Suffolk. His parents were George Amos and Maria Oxx. They previously had another son, George Amos Oxx, who died in infancy in 1880.

During the 1891 Census the family was living at the Thorofare, Woodbridge. George Oxx, senior, described himself as a county court bailiff, a county court clerk, a corn chandler, a game dealer and a meat purveyor. He and his wife, Maria also his assistant, had two sons at school, George 9, and Edward 6, and another son, Walter 3. An assistant, corn chandler's manager, Arthur Gorham and two domestic servants Emma Spurling and Esther Brett also lived at the house.

It was reported in the East Anglian Daily Times 29 June 1894 that a meeting of the Governors of the Seckford Charity, Woodbridge, held the previous Wednesday, that George Amos Oxx, 12, had been granted an Open Marryott Scholarship of £10 for four years to Woodbridge Grammar School. He in fact only for three years attended from September 1894 – July 1897.

In the 1901 Census George Oxx, senior, described himself as a bailiff of the county court. In the household were his wife Maria, George Amos Oxx, 19, a hardware shop's apprentice, Edward a tailor's apprentice, and Walter. The domestic servant was Gertrude Woods.

By the 1911 Census George was an ironmonger's manager, boarding at the house of Charles Pontin, a commercial clerk, and his wife Emily at 12, Back Row, Calne, Wiltshire. In the household were Emily's sister, Susan Gough, spinster, helping in the house, and Ada Read who was visiting. Ada Read's son Roland Read was also staying. Other boarders were Jane Augusta Jones 73, born in Anglesey, Joseph Stanley a commercial clerk, and Frederick Sutton a miller's apprentice.

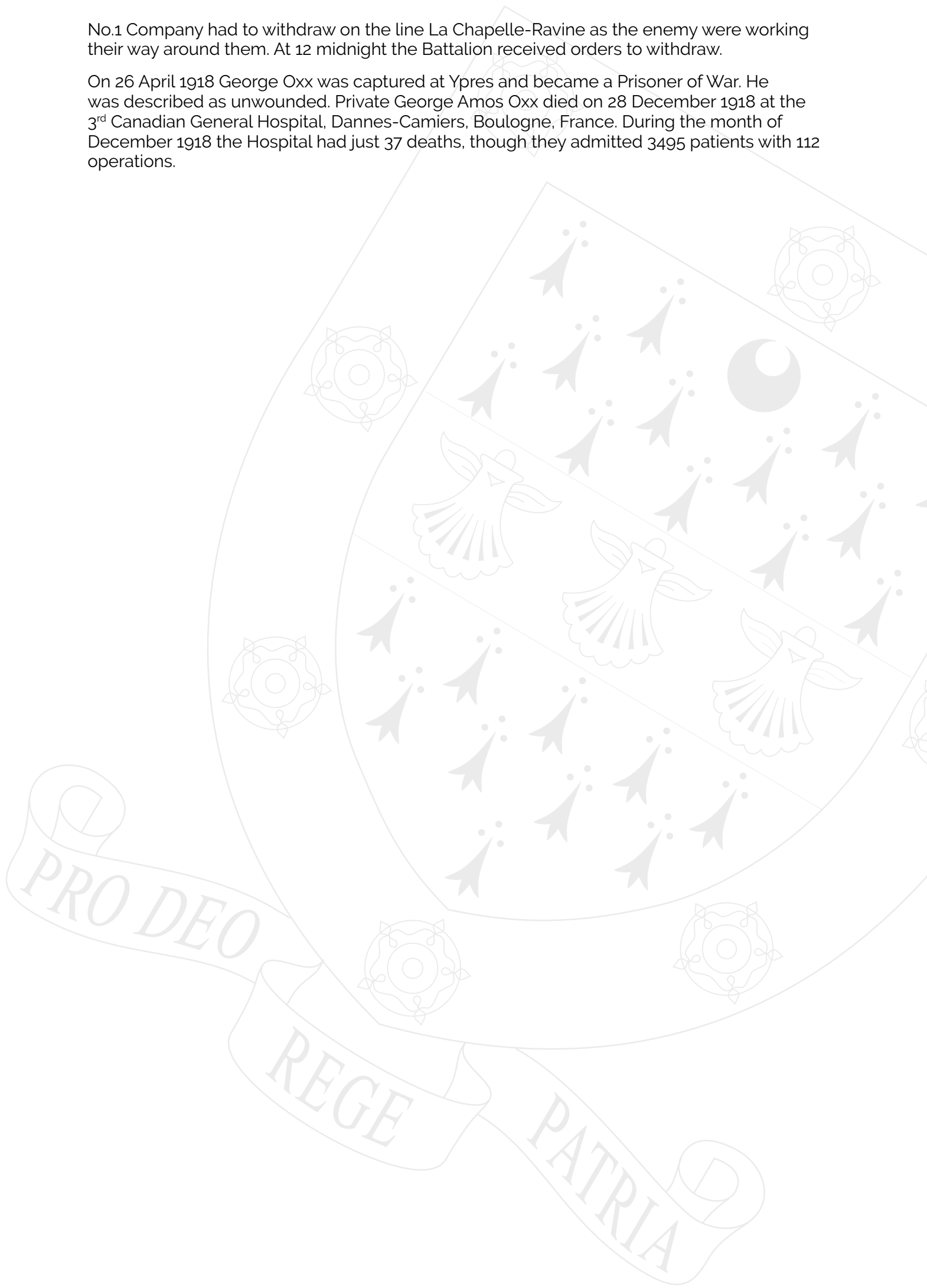
In the third quarter of 1913 George Amos Oxx married Edith M Angell in Calne Wiltshire. [In 1924 Edith Oxx remarried to Alfred M Davis.]

George Oxx was most likely conscripted into the Army in 1916. On 26 April 1918 the 2nd Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment was in billets behind the line. However, on 19 April 1918 a Composite Brigade was formed with No 1 Battalion comprising two Companies of the 2nd Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment, and two Companies of the 2nd Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment. They went up to the front line that day between Vlamertinghe and Reninghelst, Ypres.

On 26 April 1918 the enemy started pushing forward a little south of the Canal. Battalion Headquarters, in Spoil Bank, had to be evacuated as the enemy got very near to them. The enemy also got the Mound at St Eloi and nearly all of the Battalion's troops withdrew to a line of Lock 8. There was a lot of heavy shelling by the enemy. At 9.00am the Battalion Headquarters moved from Lock 7 to Bedford House. They formed a defensive flank along the Canal from Lock 8 to Spoil Bank, No. 4 Company were employed for this. Later in the day two Companies of 1st Battalion, West Yorkshire Regiment were sent to La Chapelle Ridge to strengthen the right flank. During the day the enemy made repeated attempts to capture the Bluff. These attempts were broken up by 2nd Lieutenant P.A. Page and his platoon. The enemy captured the Bluff during the afternoon and at 7.30pm had crossed the Canal at Norfolk Bridge. Captain Smith (Wiltshire Regiment) and part of his Company were captured.

No.1 Company had to withdraw on the line La Chapelle-Ravine as the enemy were working their way around them. At 12 midnight the Battalion received orders to withdraw.

On 26 April 1918 George Oxx was captured at Ypres and became a Prisoner of War. He was described as unwounded. Private George Amos Oxx died on 28 December 1918 at the 3rd Canadian General Hospital, Dannes-Camiers, Boulogne, France. During the month of December 1918 the Hospital had just 37 deaths, though they admitted 3495 patients with 112 operations.



John Aldred PALMER

Rifleman, 2747
1st/16th (County of London) Battalion
London Regiment (Queen's Westminster Rifles)

Private, 550627
London Regiment

Died: 1 July 1916

Commemorated at: Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Panel and Face 13C

John Aldred Palmer was born on 29 November 1895 and his birth was registered in the fourth quarter at Watford, Hertfordshire. His parents were Frederick, a railway clerk, and Ellen Emily, nee Biggs, Palmer.

He was baptised on 23 February 1896 at St Andrew's Church, Watford. His parents' residence was 195 St Alban's Road, Watford, Hertfordshire.

By the 1901 Census the family, Frederick, Ellen and family Helen 6, and John 5, were living at Goodhope, Kingsfield Road, Watford. The housekeeper was Emma Billars.

John Palmer was a Marryott House boarder at Woodbridge School, Suffolk from 1908-1911.

He enlisted in Westminster, London giving his residence as Watford, into the 1st/16th Battalion, London Regiment. The Battalion was formed in August 1914 at Queen's Hall, 58 Buckingham Gate, Westminster as part of the 4th London Brigade, 2nd London Division. The Battalion landed at Le Havre on 3 November 1914. He disembarked in France to join the Battalion on 27 April 1915. On 1 July 1916 (1st Day of the Battle of the Somme) the Battalion was at Hebuterne for the attack on Gommecourt, Somme. This is the Battalion Commanding Officer's report:

"July 1st The Battalion assembled on the night June 30th/July 1st in the assembly trenches in Y.47 area, and at 7.30 a.m. advanced to attack following the two leading Companies of the Queen Victoria Rifles - "A" Company on the right - "B" Company on the left - in columns of Platoons in line abreast at 80 yds distance: "C" Company together with the H.Q. Bombers following in similar formation. "D" Company which had assembled in the "R" Line and was in support, was moved forward almost immediately by Captain Glasier to the assembly trenches which our front Company had moved out of - ready to rein - force or take up material for consolidation.

The enemy first and second line trenches were much more strongly held than had been expected and their deep dug-outs seemed practically all to have been undamaged by the artillery bombardment, and both in front of the front line and of the 2nd line enemy trenches a great deal of wire was not cut at all, so that both the Victorias and ourselves had, in places, to wait and file in close order through the gaps, and many were hit doing this in both these two German Lines. And in both of them a certain number of the enemy who had emerged from their dug-outs or had been got out by the Victorias were still engaging their attention. So that, as the advance was being made under heavy Machine Gun Fire from our right from certainly two Machine Guns (one by NAMELESS FARM and one from about 30 yards on the South side of the ETCH Communication Trench in the enemy front trench (FEVER) and also under rifle fire from FELLOW itself, the losses were heavy before reaching the bank on the enemy side of the GOMMECOURT-NAMELESS FARM ROAD, which the Victorias were lining. At this point our 3 Companies and the two of the Victorias were joined up and intermixed. As no Officer who got as far as this has returned and only on Sergeant, it is extremely difficult to know in detail what happened and still more difficult because signal communication across "No Man's Land" was never able to be established, and as only one messenger from the Companies on the other side of it ever succeeded in getting through no information except this one message brought by Rifleman Orchard (Signaller) from the Gommecourt-NAMESLESS FARM ROAD received at 8 a.m. was received until the evening, except what was obtained by observation or given by the Royal Flying Corps, and some of what was given by the Royal Flying Corps was, as is not hard to understand, not correct. But clear statements say that Captain G.E. COCKERELL Commanding

"B" Coy and Captain H.F. Mott, Commanding "C" Coy were both killed crossing the 1st German trench (FERN) and that Captain F.G. SWAINSON Commanding "A" Coy was killed shortly after leaving the 2nd Line German Trench (FRED).

It was from this junction of the NAMESLESS FARM ROAD with ETCH that 2nd Lieut. J.A. HORNE of "B" Company, the senior Officer left, 2nd Lieut. A.G. V. YATES and 2nd Lieut. A.G. NEGUS and 2nd Lieut. D.F. UPTON of "C" Coy and 2nd Lieut. E.H. BOVILL of "A" Coy, collecting their men together dropped into ETCH Communication trench and bombed up it into and along FELLOW, along which 2nd Lieut. UPTON led one bombing party, and thence along FEUD nearly to the Cemetery, where some German bombers held them up for a time. When they had in this way cleared these trenches, they put up one of the Battalion sign boards, on seeing which, the men still lining the NAMELESS FARM ROAD, came over the open and dropped into them.

It was by this junction of FELLOW and ETCH that 2nd Lieuts YATES and NEGUS were killed.

2459 Lance Corporal D. Newton, 2513 Rfn A E. Clark and another bomber tried to bomb up ETCH, but it was too strongly held and they were driven back. They then blocked ETCH and also FELL (the enemy 3rd Line Trench to the South of FELLOW) with the assistance of the Platoon of Cheshire Pioneers and of the R.E. sappers, who are reported to me to have worked most gallantly under the covering fire of a Lewis Gun mounted by 2nd Lieut. HORNE and the only gunner left.

8.30 a.m. By this time some more of "B" Coy among them 2969 Corporal F.E. Hayward, 2nd London Regiment attached Queen's Westminster Rifles, some of "C" Coy and some of the H.Q. Bombers worked up by the Cemetery and up EMS and the whole of FELLOW & FEUD were now in our possession.

1722 Sergeant W. G. Nicholls who, after Lieut. P. Spencer-Smith had been wounded, after crossing the 2nd German Trench (FEED) had been in command of the H.Q. Bombers Section with some of this Section and I believe led by the young Cheshire 2nd Lieut.....continuing with others, among them, 1637 Corporal Townsend "C" Company, 2936 Lance Corporal W.C. Ide (2nd London Regiment attached 1st Queens Westminster Rifles) "C" Company, Corporal Hayward "B" Company, 2755 Rfn F.H. Stow "D" Company, up EMS undoubtedly did actually reach QUADRILATERAL (9.a.m), where a strong enemy bombing party met them and the Cheshire 2nd Lieut ordered our party to retire – apparently trying to cover their retirement himself, as he has not been seen since.

9.20 a.m. SUPPORT COMPANY. This Company was ordered at 9.20 a.m. to send a Platoon up with all the bombs they could carry to reinforce the front, thought then to be still held up on the GOMMECOURT-NAMESLESS FARM ROAD with written orders to the senior Officer present to try and bomb up ETCH, EMDEN and EMS. There was by this time only one Officer left with "D" and the Coy Sergt Major had also been killed. 1704 Sergeant H.E. Ironmonger tried to get his Platoon across, but the Machine Gun Fire and Artillery barrage made it impossible and he withdrew the few men who were not hit.

11.0 a.m. At this time another attempt was made to reinforce the front Companies with the remaining Platoons of "D" Coy and to get bombs up to them, but it was not possible to get through the enemy barrage and Machine Gun fire. The last remaining Officer of "D" Coy had now been hit.

1.0 p.m. Attempt to reinforce again repeated but it could not be done.

1.30 p.m. It was reported the front Companies were being driven back from FELLOW. H.Q. Details runners etc turned out to the French trench in front of Cross Street

9.0 a.m. to 1.45 p.m. SITUATION IN ENEMY TRENCHES. These trenches were under heavy Machine Gun fire chiefly from our right. A good many enemy dead were found in these trenches. Many of them, at any rate having been killed during the previous night and this morning's artillery bombardment.

12 noon. Soon after 12 noon strong bombing counter attacks were made by the enemy both down EMS but principally from the direction of GOMMECOURT and down FILM. Our own supply of bombs was exhausted as the German ones of which a great number were taken from German Prisoners or found in the trenches in which they had been stored in large quantities and at 12.30 p.m. 2nd Lieut. J.A. HORNE who had displayed the greatest gallantry during the whole

morning, organising and directing men all along FELLOW and shooting with a Lewis Gun when all the team had been knocked out, decided to withdraw to the next line of German Trenches (FEED) and it was in covering this withdrawal that he was hit and believed beyond doubt to have been killed. This left only 2nd Lieut E.H. BOVILL, who had been wounded in the nose very early in the morning, but who carried on most gallantly with his Platoon all day – and 2nd Lieut D. UPTON of all the Officers went over the top in the morning. This 2nd Line of German Trenches becoming also untenable, they decided at 1.45 p.m. to withdraw further to the 1st German Trench Line, most of them to FERRET where they stayed, still hoping at night to be reinforced and able to hold their own, but at 7 p.m. the enemy began to surround them coming in from both flanks and the supply of bombs being entirely used up, as well as all the German ones they could find, they were compelled to retire across the open to our own lines.

2nd Lieut UPTON by this time wounded was unable to get away and is missing. He was the Officer who led the bombing party along FELLOW in the morning and he and 2nd Lieut BOVILL had displayed great gallantry all day in reorganising the men and carrying on the attack and defence as long as they had bombs either of our own or enemy one that could be got, and later when forced to withdraw in carrying out the withdrawal from trench to trench.

7.30 p.m. 2nd Lieut BOVILL is reported to have been almost if not quite the last to leave the last enemy trench and it was cruelly hard luck that he should have been killed on the very parapet of our own trench, as he was just stepping into it."



Henry PEACHEY

Gunner, 169175
286th Siege Battery
Royal Garrison Artillery

Died: 4 January 1918

Age: 42

Buried at: Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Belgium. Grave:
XXVI.DD.2

Son of Charles William Peachey, of the Thoroughfare,
Woodbridge, Suffolk



Henry Peachey was born in 1876 and was registered in the second quarter in Woodbridge, Suffolk. His parents were Charles William Peachey, a hairdresser and perfumer, and his wife Emily.

In the 1881 Census they were living at the Thoroughfare, Woodbridge. The household consisted of the family, Emily 7, Charles 6, Henry 4, Frederick William 3, Florence 1 and infant Elizabeth. All the children, except the two youngest, were at school. They had a general domestic servant, Matilda Pendle. Henry and his brother Fred both joined Woodridge School in 1886 with Henry remaining a pupil until 1890.

By the 1891 Census Henry Peachey had left home and was an apprentice to Robert Lock, a linen draper, Stortford House, Potter Street, Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire. Altogether in the household were 35 people.

In the 1901 Census Henry was living with Adela Warren, named as his wife on the Census, and they were living with their newly born daughter, Joyce, at 76 Roseberry Gardens, Tottenham, London. Henry was a draper's assistant. Adela was the daughter of a draper from Gravesend, Kent. The 1911 Census shows that Henry and Adela had moved to 28 Percy Road, Leytonstone, London, where Henry was a drapery buyer. The family now included Emily Joyce 10, at school, William 5, and Frank 3.

In the second quarter of 1917 Henry Peachey married Adela Warren, in Lambeth, London.

On enlistment, in Camberwell, Surrey, Henry Peachey gave his address as Upper Norwood, Surrey.

The 286th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery was a Scottish Battery, formed near Greenock on 9 November 1916. They were initially equipped with 4.8" BL Mk VI howitzers, which were upgraded to 8" howitzers when they embarked for France on 30 March 1917, arriving at Boulogne the next day.

On 1 October 1917 and until January 1918 the Battery was at the same position at Passchendaele.

During this time Gunner Henry Peachey reported sick. He died at No. 3 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 4 January 1918 of nephritis of the kidneys.

Cyril Elmore PELLs

Second Lieutenant
D Company, 2nd Battalion
The Devonshire Regiment

3rd (Reserve) Battalion
The Devonshire Regiment

Private, 765308
2/28th Battalion
London Regiment

Died: 27 May 1918

Age: 27

Commemorated at: Soissons Memorial, France

Son of Arthur and Caroline Pells, of "Briarwood", The Grange Estate, Beccles, Suffolk;
husband of Mary Anita Pells (nee Reeve), of San Luis Obispo, California, U.S.A.



Cyril Elmore Pells, known in the family as Elmore, was born in Beccles, Suffolk on 28 August 1890 and his birth was registered during the fourth quarter at Wangford, Suffolk. Elmore was baptised at St Michael's Church, Beccles on 26 October 1890. His parents were Arthur, a surveyor and builder, and Caroline, nee Martin, Pells.

During the 1891 Census Arthur, an architect, surveyor and builder, and his wife Caroline were living at Puddingmore, Beccles, Suffolk. The family consisted of Ethel 3, and Cyril E. They had one servant Emily Hart. Elmore Pells was a pupil at the Fauconberge School, Beccles, enrolling in 1899, which he left in July 1906 before coming to Woodbridge School for one year from 1906-1907. His two brothers also attended Woodbridge as did a nephew who was born after he had died.

In the 1901 Census they were living at Alexandra Road, Beccles. The family had grown with the arrival of Claude 9, Eric 7, and Doreen 1. The servants were Elizabeth Barker, a domestic parlourmaid and nurse, and Alice Barker a housemaid.

By the Census of 1911 Elmore Pells was a boarder at Bury Street, Ruislip, Uxbridge, Surrey, giving his occupation as being in the optical scientific trade.

He emigrated to Canada on 9 August 1912 travelling aboard S.S. Parisian, embarking in Glasgow, arriving in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. He gave his occupation as a clerk and his final destination as Vancouver, British Columbia.

On 22 April 1914, in North Lonsdale, British Columbia, Canada, Elmore Pells married Mary Anita Reeves and in March 1915 they had a son, John.

On 1 May 1915 Cyril Elmore, Mary Anita and John Pells boarded the RMS Lusitania in New York bound for England. Elmore Pells' great niece, Rebecca Pells, describes the events:

"On 1st May 1915 Cunard's RMS Lusitania, the fastest and most luxurious ship in the world at the time, set sail from pier 54 in New York headed to Liverpool, UK. On Friday 7th May it was struck by a German torpedo off the coast of Ireland. Of its 1959 passengers and crew on board 1198 perished – my great uncle and aunt were among the survivors. Their three month old son John was not.

An account of their trauma is taken from statements made by both Anita and Elmore upon their eventual arrival in England. "(Cyril) Elmore and (Mary) Anita Pells, travelling with their infant son John from Canada to England where Mr. Pells was to join his regiment, despaired of ever leaving the ship safely. At the time the torpedo struck they were dining in the second class salon and returned to their E Deck cabin to retrieve John, and Elmore made a second trip below for lifebelts. Not expecting to survive, they took seats together somewhere on one of the upper decks presumably on the port side, to wait for the end. When it came, they were pulled

down deep with the ship, and in the torrent John was wrenched out of his father's arms and lost. Elmore and (Mary) Anita surfaced and were able to pull themselves atop an overturned lifeboat."

In London, Elmore Pells enlisted as a Private into the 2/28th Battalion, London Regiment. This Battalion had originally been 3/28th London Regiment, but when the original 2/28th Battalion was absorbed by 1/28th Battalion in November 1914 it became the 2/28th Battalion. In November 1916 it became No. 15 Officer Cadet Battalion, stationed at Hare Hall, Romford, Essex.

He was commissioned into the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion, Devonshire Regiment as a 2nd Lieutenant on 20 December 1917. The Battalion was a training unit used for the defences of Plymouth and remained in the UK during the War.

He disembarked in France on 14 April 1918 and transferred to the 2nd Battalion, Devonshire Regiment. On 25 April 1918 he was among 14 new officers to join the Battalion in the field. On 23 April 1918 the Battalion had moved up to the front line trenches at the Cachy Switch trench, south west of Villers Bretonneaux, Amiens, Somme, but because of shelling some moved to Rivery on the outskirts of Amiens.

On 27 April 1918 they were relieved and marched to billets at Blangy Tronville, and the next day to Pont Noyelles. After a few days in billets they entrained at Saleux for a new area on 4 May 1918.

They detrained on 5 May 1918 at La Fere en Tardenois and marched to billets at Dravegny, Aisne, between Soissons and Reims, where they commenced training. On very hot days they marched to Romain on 10 May 1918 and onwards to Concevreaux Quarry, near Roucy the next day. They took over the front line trenches on 12 May 1918 where they remained until 20 May 1918, having had a relatively quiet time, and returned to Roucy.

On 26 May 1918 the Battalion was put under orders to move to the support trenches at Bois des Buttes as the Germans were expected to attack. At 1.00am on 27 May 1918 the enemy bombardment commenced followed by the enemy's attack. The Battalion with the remainder of the Brigade were forced to retire under heavy shelling and Machine Gun Fire. The Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. R.H. Anderson-Morshead D.S.O. was missing and Major A.H. Cope D.S.O. was put in command. There were many rear-guard actions.

Lieutenant Pells death is described in the book "Through Hell To Victory: From Passchendaele To Mons With The 2nd Devons", by R.A. Colwill: "Another officer who was popular with the Company was Lieut. C.E. Pells. He had, in his heart, bitter hatred for the Germans, for his only child was drowned when they sank the Lusitania. And all that morning he seemed to take fiendish delight in mowing them down with a rifle. He moved about, cheering the men and showing them how to take better cover. Then he was killed."

The Brigadier General, commanding 23rd Infantry Brigade wrote: *"I should like to bring to your attention to your especial notice the soldiery and gallant conduct of the 2nd Devon. Regt., a conduct of unsurpassable excellence and a battalion whose discipline and fortitude were pre-eminent and much beyond the ordinary.*

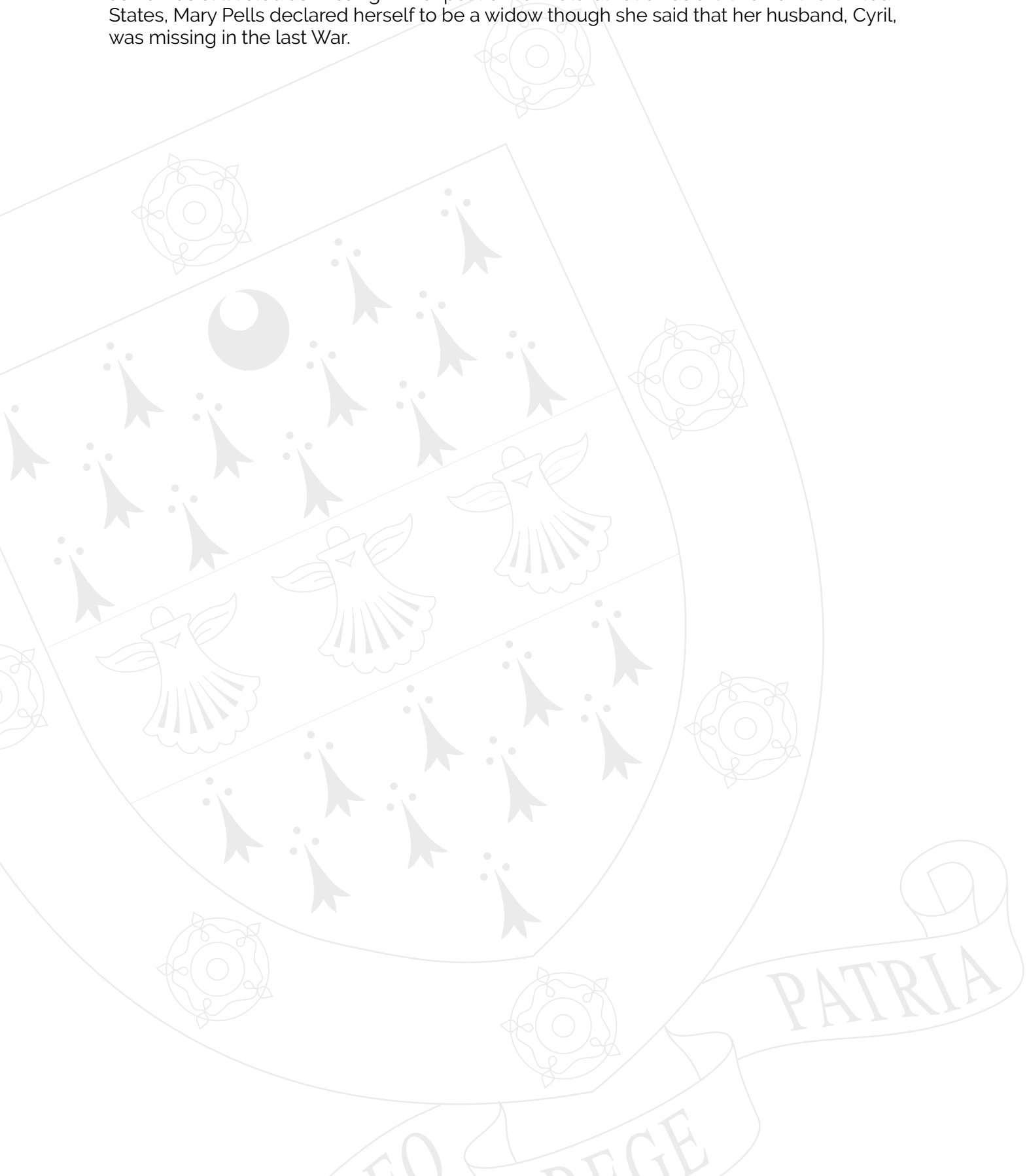
This Battalion was sent up on the night of May 26th to occupy the all important position of the BOIS DES BUTTES, with instructions to defend it to the last against all hostile attacks. When the enemy had successfully carried our forward and main defences on the morning of May 27th, long after, at a late hour of the morning, the 2nd Devon. Regt. was, though surrounded on all sides, successfully maintaining an unbroken front to the foe, and by hampering all attempts on his part to advance frontally was gaining time, which proved of the utmost value to enable us to organize our defences South of the AISNE, and assist the reinforcing troops to come up into action undisturbed."

One eyewitness states that he saw the 2nd Devon. Regt., though they were merely an island in the midst of an innumerable and determined foe, mowing down the Germans in large numbers by the steadiness of their fire, and their unshakeable discipline."

Another eyewitness, a Battery Commander, stated as follows: *"At a late hour of the morning those of my personnel who escaped the enemy ring of machine guns and his fearful barrage found the Commanding Officer of the 2nd Devon. Regt. and a handful of men, holding on to the last trench before the Canal and in such a position that they were entirely without hope of help,*

but still fighting on. The Commanding Officer himself calmly writing his orders with a perfect hell of H.E. dropping around him. He was cross questioned by me but said nothing could be done and advised those could to get away. As all my artillerymen were quite unharmed he sent them off to get through if they could, refusing all their offers of help as they had no arms. His magnificent bearing and dauntless courage moved one's emotion as he had determined to carry on to the end. There is no doubt that this Battalion perished en-masse, fighting to the end, refusing to surrender, and smiting down their country's foe until they ceased to exist."

The International Committee for the Red Cross, Prisoners of War section was asked by the British Red Cross & Order of St John on 2 August 1918 for information about Cyril Elmore Pells as he was still listed as missing. In her petition for Naturalization as a Citizen of the United States, Mary Pells declared herself to be a widow though she said that her husband, Cyril, was missing in the last War.



Holford Charles Fourdrinier PLANT

Second Lieutenant
3rd Battalion
North Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's Own)
attached to
9th Battalion
Leicestershire Regiment

Also attached to
Royal Flying Corps (Balloon Section)

Trooper
Essex Battery
Royal Horse Artillery

Died: 3 May 1917

Age: 22

Commemorated at: Arras Memorial, France. Bay 7 and 8

Son of Ethel Marian Clowes (formerly Plant) of the Moorings, Woodbridge, Suffolk,
and the late Samuel Plant



Holford Plant was born at Ashlands, Tillington, Staffordshire on 15 August 1895 and his birth was recorded in the third quarter in Stafford.

In the 1901 Census his parents Samuel, a solicitor, and his wife Ethel Marian, nee Stevenson, Plant were living at Eccleshall Road, Tillington, Stafford, Staffordshire. The family consisted of Holford 5, John 2, Samuel 1, and newly born Margaret. The other family member staying was Samuel's single sister, Emily Marian. The servants were Emily Wetton nurse, and Hilda Wetton a general domestic servant.

In 1904 Holford was admitted to Chebsey National School, Chebsey, Staffordshire, joining Woodbridge School as a boarder from 1908-1911, his two brothers also attended Woodbridge.

By the 1911 Census Samuel Plant had died and his widow had moved to New Street, Woodbridge, Suffolk. In the household were Holford 15, John 13, Samuel 11 and Antoinette (Margaret) 10, all of whom were at school. The general domestic servant was Elsie Fiske.

In September 1911 Holford Plant entered Ipswich School, having been at Woodbridge School, and left during the summer of 1912 to study engineering at Colchester with a view to going to India.

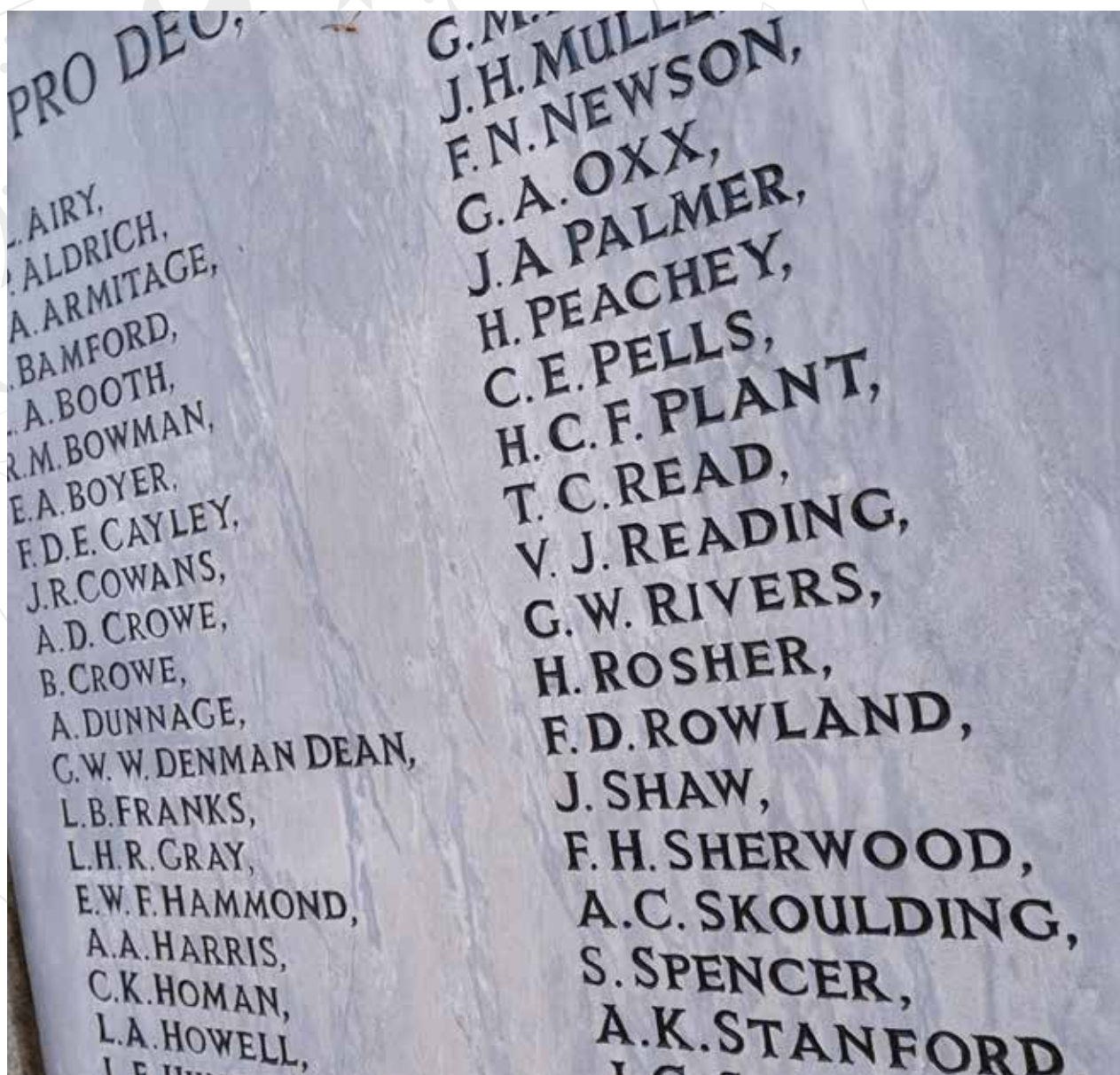
Whilst studying he joined the Essex Battery, Royal Horse Artillery as a Trooper. At the outbreak of war in August 1914 the Essex Battery, RHA was at annual camp on Salisbury Plain. On mobilization the Essex Battery, RHA went to Woodbridge, Suffolk and was in fact billeted at Woodbridge School with School House being converted into a military hospital.

Holford Plant was commissioned on 28 November 1914 into the North Staffordshire Regiment, on probation as a Second Lieutenant. He was attached to the Royal Flying Corps (Balloon Section) but re-joined his Regiment. He disembarked in France on 26 July 1916 and was attached to the 9th Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment. He was at the capture of Gueudecourt, Somme on 26 September 1916 and undertook useful work as sniping officer for his Company.

He was killed in action whilst leading his Platoon in attack at Fontaine le Grosilles, Arras, on 3 May 1917.

The Colonel of the Leicestershire Regiment wrote to his mother, Mrs Clowes: "Lieutenant Plant led his platoon forward with great gallantry, under very adverse conditions"

The Chaplain wrote: "The Battalion went over the top before sunrise, and had a tremendous barrage fire to pass through, and all behaved magnificently. The Company Commander was killed soon after the attack commenced and Lieut. Plant led the men on – practically the whole way, to their objective, since he was killed right up forward, quite close to the position which the men captured and held – and they say he led them splendidly and inspired them with his own coolness and courage. Lieut. Plant's death must have been instantaneous as he hit by bullets from a machine gun. His Company was in the first wave of the attack, so Lieut. Plant was leading the foremost company of the Battalion. In speaking to one of the officers today, he showed me what I already knew that Lieut. Plant will be greatly missed. 'A real good sort' is what he called him and I realised by his expression how much he words meant."



Terrance Capon READ

Second Lieutenant

1st/2nd Battalion
Norfolk Regiment

Attached to

1st/5th Battalion
Norfolk Regiment

Died: 22 April 1917

Age: 32

Buried at: Gaza War Cemetery, Israel and Palestine
(including Gaza). Grave: XXX.G.16

Son of A.W. Read of Boscombe, 92 Christchurch Street, Ipswich



Terrance Read was born in Burkitt Road, Woodbridge on 6 October 1886. He was baptised on 7 November 1886 at St Mary's Church, Woodbridge. His father was Alfred William and his mother was Fanny Maria Read.

In the 1891 Census his father, a corn miller and merchant, and his mother were living in Burkitt Road, Woodbridge. The family consisted of Terrance 4, Robert 3, Jack 2, and newly born Olive. The servants were Ellen Percy a lady's help, and Lizzie Holmes a general domestic servant.

By the 1901 Census his parents had moved to Theatre Street, Woodbridge. The family had grown to include Muriel M 8, and Christabel D 5. The servants were Lucy Arnott governess, and Annie Wilham, general domestic servant. Terrance was a pupil at Norwich School and Woodbridge School from 1897-1902 and, in 1902; he started to work for the Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society.

In the 1911 Census the family had moved to 92 Christchurch Street, Ipswich, however Terrance Read was a boarder at 2 Rutland Street, Norwich, Norfolk, staying with Elizabeth Dyball, a widow and her servant Sarah Archer. Terrance was a clerk in a fire office. In 1912 the Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society sent him to Shanghai, China. Whilst in China he was a member of the Mounted Infantry, a local volunteer force and was a well-known polo player.

In December 1914 he returned to England and was commissioned in 1915. After training he volunteered for special duty at the front. On 29 July 1915 the 1/5th Battalion embarked at Liverpool and went to Gallipoli, via Mudros. They landed at Suvla Bay on 10 August 1915. On 19 December 1915 they were evacuated to Alexandria, Egypt and then proceeded to Palestine

He first entered a theatre of war in 1916, or later, and died of wounds in Palestine on 22 April 1917, wounds, likely received at the Second Battle of Gaza. The 1/5th Battalion's objective on 19 April 1917 was Road Trenches on the Beersheba Road, subsequently named Tank Redoubt due to the newly-deployed tank destroyed in the attack. The casualties were extremely large and similar to the losses suffered on the Somme; 9 officers and 211 men were killed and 7 officers and 377 men were wounded.

Vernon Jack READING

Second Lieutenant
Flying Officer

15 Squadron
Royal Flying Corps

Private, 767956
2nd Battalion, Artists Rifles

Died: 26 March 1918

Commemorated at: Arras Flying Services Memorial, France

Son of Arthur Vernon Reading, of Knodeshall Lodge, Saxmundham, Suffolk

Vernon Reading was born on 13 September 1895 to Arthur Vernon and Alice Dora, nee Tilbert, Reading. The birth was registered in the fourth quarter.

In the 1901 Census Arthur, a shopkeeper, confectioner and fruiterer; and his wife Alice were living at Landsdowne, High Street, Aldeburgh, Suffolk. Vernon Jack was their only child. The household also contained Emily Bixby, confectioner's shop assistant, Edith Self, fruiterer's shop assistant, Ellen Hammond, general domestic servant, and George Mayhew, baker.

The 1911 Census shows his parents at the same address. Arthur described his occupation as baker tuckers grocer and confectioner. Vernon Jack, still an only child, 15, was at school. He attended Woodbridge School from 1907-1912. The others in the household were Mildred Olive Gooch, assistant in confectioner's shop, Mabel Ruth Rablett, general servant housework, and the errand boy Albert George Smith.

Initially Vernon Jack Reading enlisted into the 2nd Battalion, Artists' Rifles before transferring for Officer Training in the Royal Flying Corps on 14 July 1917 as a Cadet.. For his basic training he was at Reading until 31 August 1917 when he was posted to 3 Training Squadron, Shoreham. He was placed on the six-week course of flying training which included a minimum of flying 3 hours dual and 3 hours solo on the Avro 504K.

On 3 October 1917 he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant on the General List and was posted to 83 Squadron, the next day. The Squadron was based at Montrose. He stayed with this Squadron until 1 December 1917 when he transferred to 42 Training Squadron at Hounslow on appointment as a 2nd Lieutenant/Flying Officer. The Squadron was designated as a Higher Reserve Squadron. On 16 December 1917 42 Training Squadron moved to Wye.

On 26 December 1917 he was posted to 16 Training Squadron at Beaulieu, and then on 29 January 1918 the Artillery and Infantry Cooperation School for training in artillery spotting. On 2 February 1918 he was posted to 15 Squadron in Lechelle, Somme, France. The Squadron was equipped with R.E. 8 aircraft flew many long hours over German positions recording the fall of the shells and reporting them by morse to their own batteries, being shelled themselves by anti-aircraft fire.

2nd Lieutenant Vernon Reading flew R.E 8 aircraft B742 as the pilot with 2nd Lieutenant M. Leggatt as his observer. On 21 March 1918 their aircraft was shot through by machine guns fired from the ground though both the pilot and observer were unharmed.

At 16.10 hours on 26 March 1918, 2nd Lieutenants Vernon Reading and Leggatt took off in aircraft RE8 B742 for an artillery spotting and bombing patrol. At 17.00 hours, 2 km northeast of Albert, Somme, they were intercepted by Manfred von Richthofen, the 'Red Baron', flying aircraft Fokker DR.1 477/17. This was Baron von Richthofen's 70th victim.

In response to a request to the International Committee of the Red Cross inquiring as to 2nd Lieutenants Vernon Reading and Leggatt's whereabouts, the Committee replied on 18 June 1918 that the German Authorities stated that their machine had been brought down in flames.

George William RIVERS

Private, 320371,
15th (Suffolk Yeomanry) Battalion
Suffolk Regiment

Private, 3241
1st Battalion
Suffolk Yeomanry (Duke of York's Own Suffolk
Hussars)

Died: 3 September 1918

Age: 23

Buried at: Peronne Communal Cemetery Extension, France. Grave: IV.D.10

Son of George Thomas and Adelaide Lucia Rivers, of Earls Colne, Essex

HE WENT AT HIS COUNTRY'S CALL



George Rivers was born in Hong Kong in 1895. His parents were George, an engineer, and Adelaide Rivers. In 1900 George's sister, Elsie Adelaide, was born.

In the 1901 Census George was living with his aunt, Eliza Rivers at 2 London Road, Crane Hill, Ipswich. Also living there was a general domestic servant, Florence Frost.

Between 22 January 1908 and July 1909 George attended Mrs Steel's private Preparatory School at Banham Grammar School, Ipswich. When the school experienced difficulties in 1909 the Headmaster, Fred Cole, left to become Headmaster of Thetford Grammar School, taking 26 boys with him, including George Rivers, which he attended between 23 September 1909 and 20 December 1910. During his time there he came first in Form IV and Form V. Full fees were paid to the school. At that time his parents were living in America. However, his parents separated and his mother, Adelaide remarried on May 1909. His sister Elsie remained with her mother.

In the 1911 Census George was still living with his aunt, Eliza, but she had moved to 257 Norwich Road, Ipswich. The domestic servant was Laura Clover. George was described as a school boy, and he attended Woodbridge Grammar School for just one year from 1911-1912.

He enlisted at Woodbridge, Suffolk into the 1st Battalion Suffolk Yeomanry, probably C Squadron, which was based in Woodbridge. On 25 September 1915 the Battalion was dismounted and sailed from Liverpool on SS Olympic for Gallipoli. They landed at Anzac Cove on 10 October 1915. George Rivers was entitled to the 1914-1915 Star, though his Medal Card omits the date of disembarkation, however it is probable that he was with the Battalion.

In December 1915 the Battalion was evacuated from Gallipoli and transferred to Egypt for the defence of the Suez Canal. On 5 January 1917 the Battalion changed to infantry and became the 15th (Suffolk Yeomanry) Battalion, Suffolk Regiment. On 7 May 1918 the Battalion landed at Marseilles for service in France. On 3 September 1918 the Battalion was near Peronne, Somme. They had remained hidden in Hind Leg Wood before moving up to Scutari Trench. George Rivers was killed in action that day.

Harold ROSHER

Flight Lieutenant,
5 Wing
Royal Naval Air Service

Died: 27 February 1916

Buried at: Dover (Charlton) Cemetery, United Kingdom.

Grave: Q.H.8

BIRTHLESS AND DEATHLESS AND CHANGELESS
REMAINETH THE SPIRIT FOR EVER
DEATH HATH NOT TOUCHED IT AT ALL
DEAD THOUGH THE HOUSE OF IT SEEMS



Harold Rosher was born on 18 November 1893 at Milverton, Beckenham, Kent, and his birth was registered in the fourth quarter in Bromley, Kent. His parents were Francis Edwin, a cement and lime manufacturer, and his wife Gertrude.

In the 1901 Census he was staying with his widowed grandmother, Mary Rosher, who was living at Marlow, Hadley Crescent, Enfield, Edmonton, Middlesex. Staying with her were her unmarried daughter, Ethel Rosher 31, and grandchildren Mary, Harold 7 and Helen 4. The cook was Helen Perdy.

During the 1911 Census Harold Rosher, 17, was a student at the South Eastern Agricultural College, Wye, Kent.

Having been a Probationary Flight Sub-Lieutenant, on 18 August 1914 he was confirmed in rank as a Flight Sub-Lieutenant. He undertook his aviation training at the Graham-White School, Hendon.

He wrote extensively of his experiences to his parents, published in 1916 *"In The Royal Naval Air Service, Being the War Letters of the late Harold Rosher to his family, with an introduction by Arnold Bennett, London, Chatto & Windus 1916"*.¹ This is the Introduction: *Harold Rosher was born at Beckenham on the 18th November, 1893, and was educated at The Dene, Caterham, and subsequently at Woodbridge [1907-1908]. Although as a boy he suffered severely from acute asthma and bronchitis, he did well at school; and the pluck which carried him through the moral distresses of asthma helped him to hold his own in games, despite the fact that up to the age of sixteen he was considerably under the average height. As his health did not cease to give anxiety, he was taken for a holiday to India (being with his father the guest of the Maharajah Ranjitsinhji, Jam Sahib of Nawanagar) in 1909. In 1913, for the same reason, he made a trip to South Africa with his sister. It was his health again which helped to decide his career. An open-air life was considered to be essential, and he became a student at the South Eastern Agricultural College, Wye, remaining there until the outbreak of the war.*

One of Harold's greatest chums at the Agricultural College was a young and rich German landowner named K—. At the latter's invitation Harold spent the summer vacation of 1913 in Germany, and the two young men toured on motor-cycles through a great part of Germany and Austria. In August 1914 K— was to celebrate his majority, and had asked Harold to the festivities. But on August 2nd, when war appeared inevitable, he wrote a letter of farewell to Harold in which he said that he did not expect they would ever meet again. The next day he telephoned from Charing Cross as he was leaving England, and Harold was overheard saying to him on the telephone: *"Well, if we meet, mind you don't shoot straight."*

On the day of the declaration of war, Harold applied for a commission in the Royal Naval Air Service, and in order to save time he went immediately as a civilian pupil to Brooklands, where several months previously he had once been taken up in the air as a passenger. In the few days which elapsed before the War Office commandeered the Brooklands Aerodrome and ejected every civilian Harold progressed rapidly in the craft of flying. He was gazetted a Probationary Flight Sub-Lieutenant in the R.N.A.S. on August 18th and reported himself at

Hendon. He remained there about six weeks, obtaining his aviator's certificate.

Harold achieved his Aviation Certificate on 30 September 1914, as the 917th candidate to pass.

He was promoted to Flight Lieutenant on 31 December 1914. Harold Rosher went back to France on 13th February, 1915, and three days later took part in a further great raid. By 1 March 1915 No 1 Naval Aeroplane Squadron was based with the British Expeditionary Force in France, at Dunkirk Aerodrome. About the end of April Lieut. Rosher crashed on his Morane at Dunkirk. The machine overturned and was completely smashed, but he came out uninjured.

On 25 July, 1915, Harold Rosher arrived home on two days' leave, having come across to attend a conference. On 2 August 1915 Lieut. Rosher had been posted back to the U.K. and was stationed at the Royal Naval Flying School, Eastchurch, however on 13 August 1915 he returned to the B.E.F. at No 1 Wing, RNAS., in particular to take part in the Raid against storage depots in the Forest of Houthulst. On 27 February 1916 Lieutenant Rosher took control of Bristol Scout Type C 1258, 5 Wing, RFC Dover. It was written off (destroyed) when it nose-dived into ground from about 250 feet, RFC Dover, Swingate Down, Dover, Kent.

"On 27th February, Major Risk, the C.O. of the Dover Aeroplane Station being away on duty, Harold, as second in command, was in charge. Among other duties he had to train new pilots on fast machines, and he would always personally test a new machine or a newly-repaired machine before allowing anybody else to try it. On that Sunday morning he ordered a number of machines to be brought out of the sheds for practice flights. Among them was one which had just been repaired after a mishap three weeks earlier. The pilot had already got into his machine. Harold told him to get out as the machine was untested, and himself took it up for a trial flight of eight or ten minutes. Everything seemed to go right until Harold began the descent about a mile away from the Aerodrome. Then, at a height of 300 feet or less, the machine suddenly made a nose-dive and crashed to the ground. Harold was killed instantly. The disaster occupied seven seconds, at the inquest nothing was ascertained as to the cause of the accident. One theory is that the controls jammed. Harold was buried on the 2nd March at Charlton Cemetery, with full naval honours. The cemetery is on the cliffs within sight of the Aerodrome, and while his body was being lowered into the grave aeroplanes were flying overhead."

On 7 March 1916 a Memorial service was held for Flight Lieutenant Harold Rosher at St. James's Church, Piccadilly, London. The Chaplain to the Flying Corps in Dunkirk came over specially to take part in the service and he read the Lesson. The Political Aide-de-Camp to the Secretary of State for India was present as were many Naval and Military Officers, as well as representatives of the Royal Flying Corps.

¹More extracts from this book are available on request.

PRO DEO

REGE

PATRIA

Frank Dennis ROWLAND

Sergeant, 87

54th (1st/1st East Anglian), Casualty Clearing Station
Royal Army Medical Corps (Territorial Force)

Died: 13 August 1915

Age: 37

Commemorated at: Helles Memorial, Turkey
(including Gallipoli). Panel: 201 and 202 or 236 to 239
and 328

Son of Rowland Hill Rowland, JP and Sarah Rowland,
of Woodbridge, Suffolk; husband of Elsie Eve
Rowland of, "Broadleaze", Eastbourne



Frank Rowland was born in 1878 and his birth was registered in the first quarter in Woodbridge, Suffolk. His parents were Rowland Hill and Sarah, nee Bailey, Rowland.

In the 1881 Census Rowland H Rowland, a hardware man employing 3 staff, and his wife Sarah were living in Cumberland Street, Woodbridge, Suffolk. The children were Bernard 4, a scholar, and Frank Dennis 3. The mother's help was Rowland's niece, Annie Rowland 18. The general servant was Charity Bedingfield.

During the 1891 Census the family was still at the same address. The family consisted of Rowland, Sarah and the children Bernard 14, Frank 13, Naomi 11, all of whom were at school, and Philip 8, Norman 5, Reginald 3, and Hanley 1. The servants were Jane Reene a general domestic, and Ada Girling a nurse. In total there were nine Rowland children, 8 boys – all of whom attended Woodbridge School and 1 daughter.

In the 1901 Census Rowland Hill Rowland described his occupation as shopkeeper, ironmonger, hardware and furniture dealer. With him in Cumberland Street were his wife, Sarah, Bernard 24 assistant house furnisher, Frank 23 assistant cabinet maker, Naomi 23, Philip 18 assistant house furnisher, Norman 15 apprentice house furnisher, Stanley 11, Hugh 7, and Donald 2. The servants were Ada Breth and Mary Carey, both general domestic servants.

In the 1911 Census Rowland Hill Rowland, a house furnisher and cabinet maker, and his wife Sarah were living at Hamblin House, Cumberland Street, Woodbridge, Suffolk. The household consisted of Frank Dennis 33, an assistant house furnisher, Norman Lancelot 25, assistant ironmonger, Stanley Hill 21, assistant ironmonger, Hugh James 17, unemployed, and Donald Ewart 12, at school. The general domestic servant was Emily Ramsey.

In the fourth quarter of 1913 Frank Rowland married Elsie Driver which was registered in Ipswich.

Frank Rowland enlisted in Woodbridge on 9 February 1915 (though his attestation record shows 1914) giving his address as 5 Ipswich Road, Woodbridge, Suffolk. He was posted to the Royal Army Medical Corps, East Anglian Casualty Clearing Station, as a Private.

Frank Rowland was rapidly promoted to temporary Sergeant as of 8 March 1915. This rank was substantiated on 30 July 1915 when he was aboard "HMT Royal Edward" at Devonport, Plymouth, Devon. On 28 July 1915, HMT Royal Edward embarked for Gallipoli with 1,367 officers and men at Avonmouth. The majority were reinforcements for the British 29th Infantry, but also included were members of the Royal Army Medical Corps. The ship was reported off the Lizard on the evening of 28 July 1915, and arrived at Alexandria, Egypt on 10 August 1915, a day after its sister ship HMT Royal George, which had departed from Devonport. HMT Royal Edward departed Alexandria for the harbour of Moudros on the island of Lemnos, a staging point for the ships in the Dardanelles. On the morning of 13 August 1915, the Royal Edward passed the British hospital ship Soudan, which was headed in the opposite direction. Oberleutnant zur See Heino von Heimburg on the German submarine UB-14 was off the island of Kandeloussa and saw both ships. Von Heimburg, seeing the properly identified

hospital ship, allowed Soudan to pass unmolested, but soon focused his attention on the unescorted Royal Edward, some 6 nautical miles (11 km) off Kandeloussa. Von Heimburg launched one of UB-14's two torpedoes from about a mile away and hit the Royal Edward in the stern. The ship sank by the stern within six minutes. The Royal Edward's crew was able to get off an SOS before losing power. Soudan, after making a 180° turn, arrived on the scene at 10:00am and was able to rescue 440 men over the next six hours. Two French destroyers and some trawlers that responded were able to rescue another 221. The Royal Edward had just completed a boat drill and the men were stowing the equipment below decks. This accounted for the high death toll, estimated at 935.

Frank's body was never found and was believed to have drowned on the sinking of H.M.T. Royal Edward on passage from Alexandria to Gallipoli.

James SHAW

Captain

2nd Queen Victoria's Rajput Light Infantry.

1st Battalion, Manchester Regiment.

Died: 9 April 1916

Age: 27

Commemorated at: Basra Memorial, Iraq. Panel: 49

Son of Major James Shaw (Scottish Rifles) and Mrs Gertrude Shaw (nee Cumberland); husband of Violet Frances Tranchell (formerly Shaw)

James Shaw was born in Ranikhet, India to James, an officer in the 90th Light Infantry, and Gertrude Shaw. His father originally came from Leamington Spa. James was a boarder at Woodbridge School from 1899 – 1907 alongside his older brother George who also boarded from 1899-1905. On leaving Woodbridge James attended the Royal Military College, Sandhurst before passing out as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 1st Battalion, Manchester Regiment.

During the 1911 Census he was a lieutenant in the 1st Battalion, Manchester Regiment at Kamptee, India. In 1911 the 1st Battalion, Manchester the battalion paraded at the Delhi Durbar, attended by King George V and Queen Mary. In the intervening years he transferred to the 2nd Rajput Light Infantry, Indian Army.

On 20 November 1914, in Bombay, James Shaw, 2nd Rajput Light Infantry, second son of Lieutenant Colonel James Shaw, Scottish Rifles, married Frances Violet Phillips, daughter of Francis A. T. Phillips I.C.S., retired, and Mrs Phillips of Avondale, Moat Croft road, Eastbourne.

At the start of the First World War the 2nd Rajput Light Infantry were stationed in Egypt defending the Suez Canal. In December 1915 the Battalion moved to Mesopotamia (Iraq). On 8 April 1916 the Battalion was involved in the Relief of Kut and were in the Upper Abu Roman trenches. In the morning the 'Bund' on the river bank was found to have been cut in several places and the water was flowing towards the trenches. A party of 10 men was sent to repair the 'Bund', but owing to the activity of the enemy's snipers, great difficulty was found in closing these breakages. The Turkish snipers being only 400 yards away on the opposite side of the river made this work all the more difficult. The Turks appeared to have discovered that the small Upper Abu Roman Hill was being used as an observation post by the artillery officers, as on 9 April 1916 at about 9 a.m. the Turks started to shell this position with a high velocity camel gun. The shelling become more marked at about 9.30 a.m.. Captain Shaw while bringing a message to Colonel Dunsford was killed instantly by a shrapnel bullet through the heart. Almost at the same time the Jamadar Chunraman Singh was killed by the fuze of a shrapnel shell, the piece of piping passing right through his body. A sepoy was also wounded.

Frederick Herbert SHERWOOD

Trooper, 802
3rd Reinforcement
1st Battalion, Australian Light Horse Regiment (New South Wales)
Australian Imperial Force

Died: 7 August 1915

Age: 29

Buried at: Quinn's Post Cemetery, Anzac, Turkey (including Gallipoli). Grave: C6

Son of Samuel Robert and Mary Elizabeth Sherwood, of Playford, Ipswich. His brother Harold Samuel also fell.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Frederick Sherwood was born at Hazelwood, Suffolk in 1886, which was registered in the third quarter at Plomesgate, Suffolk. His parents were Samuel Robert, a farmer and marine agent, and Mary Elizabeth, nee Steele, Sherwood.

In the 1891 Census the family, Robert Henry 6, Frederick Herbert 4, Basil John 2, Winifred 2, and Harold Samuel 1 were living at the Farmhouse, Heath, Hazelwood, Suffolk. The domestic servant was Elma Threadkell, and the governess was Mary Clifton Howes.

During the 1901 Census Frederick Sherwood 14 was a pupil at Cloford House, Kirkley Cliff, Mutford, Suffolk. Prior to this he and his brother Basil had attended Woodbridge School from 1897-1900.

No trace can be found of Frederick Sherwood in the 1911 Census and it is possible that he had emigrated to Australia. However, there is a record of a Mr F.H. Sherwood embarking on the SS Maloja in London on 28 November 1912 bound for Brisbane, Australia.

He enlisted on 12 December 1914 at Holesworthy via Liverpool, New South Wales. He gave his occupation as a farmer (station work), and his last school as Woodbridge Grammar School. He had come to Australia at the age of 26 (1912). Before emigrating to Australia he had been a member of the Suffolk Yeomanry. He was 30 years and 2 months old, 5 feet 6 ½ inches tall, weighed 154 lbs, had a fair complexion, brown eyes and auburn hair. He had an upper set of dentures. At the time he was living with his brother Harold Samuel at The Post Office, Brighton le Sands, New South Wales.

His brother, Harold Samuel Sherwood (Framlingham College) enlisted on 19 December 1914, as Trooper 821, in the 3rd Reinforcement, 1st Battalion, Australian Light Horse. The brothers embarked together and sailed from Sydney, New South Wales on board HMAT A6 Clan McCorquodale on 6 February 1915. On 10 July 1915 Frederick joined his unit in Gallipoli.

Frederick Sherwood was initially reported as wounded on 7 August 1915, but he was later reported as being killed in action. It was at 3.30pm that he had been in the Turkish trenches. No bodies were recovered. He was killed at Pope's Hill, Gallipoli, the same day and place as his brother Harold Samuel Sherwood.

Alfred Cecil SKOULDING

Second Lieutenant
6th Battalion Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry

Lance Corporal, 4394
Unit 3-4
Honourable Artillery Company

Died: 21 February 1917

Age: 33

Buried at: Grove Town Cemetery, Meaulte, France. Grave: III.A.5

Son of Mrs S.M. and the late Mr A.N [W]. Skoulding, of "The Rosary", Melton, Suffolk

AN OLD WOODBRIDGIAN. GOOD SHOT, KEEN CRICKETER, A DEVOTED SON.
R.I.P.

Alfred Skoulding was born in 1884 and was baptised at St Andrew's Church, Melton on 13 April 1884. His parents were Alfred William, a grocer, and Sarah Matilda Skoulding. His birth was registered in the first quarter of 1884 in Woodbridge, Suffolk.

The 1891 Census shows Alfred, a grocer, and his wife Sarah living at the Grocer's Shop, Melton, Woodbridge, Suffolk. The family consisted of two sons, Maxwell 9, and Alfred Cecil (recorded as Cecil A) 7, both scholars. The general domestic servant was Sarah Dunavant. Alfred was a pupil at Woodbridge School from 1897-1902.

During the 1901 Census his parents, Alfred a grocer shopkeeper, and his wife Sarah, were living at Station Road, Melton, Woodbridge, Suffolk. They had two children, Maxwell 19, and Alfred C 17, a scholar. Kate Underwood was the general domestic servant.

In the 1911 Census Alfred and Sarah Skoulding were living at The Rosary, Melton. Two children were living with them, Maxwell 28, a grocer's assistant, and Alfred Cecil 26, an auctioneer's clerk. They had one domestic servant, Mildred Olive Gooch.

Alfred Cecil Skoulding became Captain of the Melton Cricket Club. On Saturday 10 May 1913 he turned out for an away match for Melton Cricket Club against Framlingham College, played on the school ground. The school was the easy winner, scoring 112 all out, whilst Melton could only achieve 41. Alfred Skoulding, an opening batsman was bowled for 0. However, as a bowler he took four wickets.

On 4 October 1915 he was admitted initially into the Reserve Battalion, then into Unit 3-4, Honourable Artillery Company. He was promoted Lance Corporal on 1 April 1916. He was discharged from the Honourable Artillery Company on 18 December 1916. On 19 December 1916 Cadet Alfred C Skoulding became a temporary Second Lieutenant attached to the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. On 19 February 1917 the 6th Battalion Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry left Guillemont Camp, Somme and marched into the line, taking over from the 7th Battalion, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. B, C, and D Companies being the front line companies and 'A' Company in Reserve. While going into the line the enemy opened a sharp bombardment and 2nd Lieutenants A.C. Skoulding and J. Wright were wounded and three Other Ranks killed and 10 wounded.

Alfred was admitted to No 34 Casualty Clearing Station on 20 February 1917 with a gunshot wound to his left buttock. He died of his wound the next day.

Stanley SPENCER

Captain
2nd/5th Battalion York and Lancaster Regiment

Died: 3 May 1917

Age: 25

Commemorated at: Arras Memorial, France. Bay 8

Son of Constance M. Spencer, of Chilliwack, British Columbia and Barton-upon-Humber, Lincolnshire, and the late Frank Thomas Spencer of Rob Royd, Barnsley.

Stanley Spencer was born on 16 December 1889 and his birth was registered in Barnsley during the first quarter of 1890. His parents were Frank Thomas and Constance Marion Spencer. He was baptised on 24 January 1890 at Worsbrough Dale, Yorkshire.

In the 1891 Census Frank Thomas, a linen bleacher, and his wife Constance Marion were living at Rob Royd Farm, Rob Royd, Barnsley, Yorkshire. The family consisted of Moira 4, Frank Leslie 3, and Stanley 1. Also staying were Frank's nieces May E Spencer 17, and Dorothy Eastwood 14. The domestic servants were Mary Drewery, Harriet Stevenson and Alice Crick. The groom was Albert Dalby.

In the 1901 Census Stanley Spencer, 11, was a boarder at Agnes Tuckwell's School, Hendon, Middlesex. At the same time his brother (Frank) Leslie Spencer was a boarder at Woodbridge School. Stanley joined Leslie at Woodbridge School from 1902-1906.

Before the War Stanley Spencer emigrated to Chilliwack, British Columbia, Canada probably with his brother, Basil, with whom his mother went to live in January 1920, having previously visited Canada in February 1912 and remained there until February 1919.

On 3 November 1914 he was gazetted as a Second Lieutenant, 5th Battalion, York and Lancaster Regiment. The Battalion was formed as a second line battalion. In March 1915 it moved, with 2nd/5th Battalion to Nottingham where it was billeted at the Mechanics' Hall, the Arboretum and in Victoria Hall, Talbot Street, Nottingham. On 10 April 1915 it moved to Streshall Common, in July 1915 to Beverley, in November 1915 to Gateshead, in January 1916 to Larkhill, in June 1916 to Flixton Park, Bungay, and in December 1916 to Wellingborough. He disembarked in Le Havre, France on 13 January 1917.

At 3.45am, 3 May 1917, near Bullecourt, south east of Arras, Somme, the Battalion attacked the Hindenburg Line and the Hindenburg Support Line. Four Vickers Machine Guns of 208 Coy and two Trench Mortars from 187th Infantry Brigade were attached to the Battalion. The attack was not successful although the greater part of the Battalion got into the Hindenburg Line and many into the Support Line. Those who did reach their objectives put up a gallant fight all day and were either killed or wounded, with a few withdrawing at night.

Alan Kinderley STANFORD

Private, 76331, 1331
29th Battalion, British Columbia Regiment, Canadian Infantry
Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force

Died: 19 April 1916

Age: 25

Commemorated at: Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium. Panel 18-28-30

Son of Charles Maurice and Louisa Blanche Stanford, of Braiswick House,
Colchester, England

Alan Stanford was born on 20 May 1890 to Charles Maurice, an auctioneer, and Louisa Blanche, nee Taylor, Stanford of Braiswick House, Colchester. His birth was registered in Colchester in the third quarter of 1890. He was baptised at St Peter's Church, Colchester on 12 June 1890.

In the 1891 Census Charles, an estate agent, auctioneer, bank agent and farmer, and his wife Louisa were living at Braiswick House, Bergholt Road, Lexden, Colchester. The family consisted of Eva 8, Gerald 7, Ida 6, Ivan 4, Donovan 2, and Alan. The governess was Winifred Gobbitt 17, and the domestic servants were Louisa Calegham, Jane Howe and Lavinia Hardwick.

During the 1901 Census Alan Stanford 10, was a pupil boarder at Eversley House, Southwold and in 1902 he and his brother Donovan both joined Woodbridge School for two years until 1904. He then attended Framlingham College from 1905 to 1906.

On 7 September 1912 he sailed from Liverpool aboard RMS Lusitania for the United States, travelling 2nd Class, and arrived at Ellis Island, New York on 14 September 1912. He gave his occupation as a clerk and his final destination as the United States.

He originally enlisted, in Vancouver, British Columbia, on 1 September 1914 into the 72nd Highland Regiment, but no regimental number was issued. He then enlisted on 9 November 1914 into the 29th Battalion, British Columbia Regiment in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. He gave his occupation as rancher, which was approved by a magistrate on 16 November 1914. He had previous military experience with the 5th Essex (Territorial) Regiment.

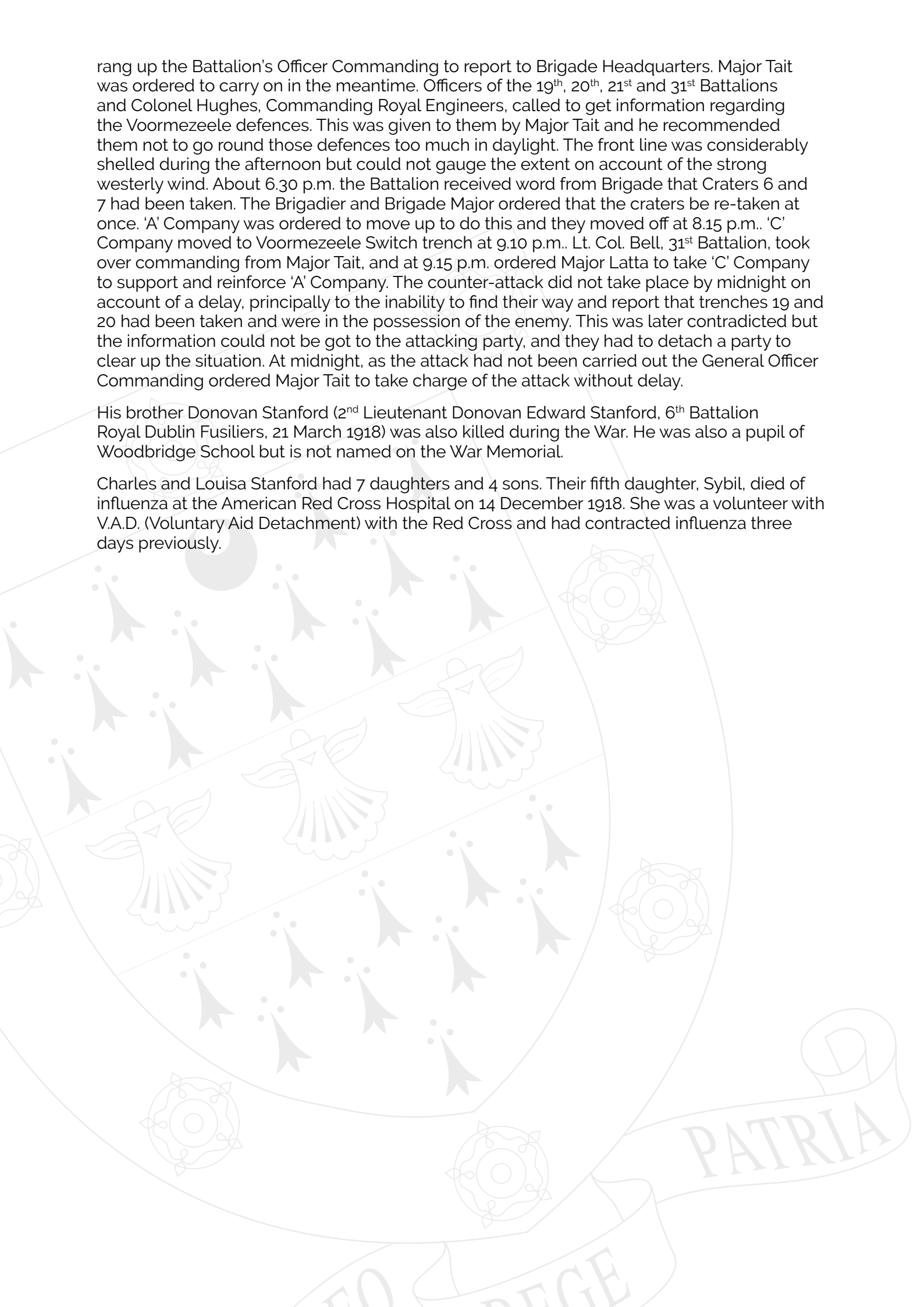
At his Medical Examination, at Hastings Park, Vancouver on 2 November 1915, his declared age was 25 years and 95 days, and was 5 feet 9 inches tall, with an expanded chest of 34½ inches with an expansion of 3 inches. He weighed 140lbs. He had a dark complexion, blue eyes and black hair. He was Church of England. He had good physical development. He was declared fit for Over-Seas Service on 9 November 1914. On 20 May 1915 the 29th Battalion sailed from Montreal, Canada aboard SS. Missanalie for England. He disembarked in Boulogne, France on 18 September 1915 having embarked the previous day.

On 5 January 1916 he was admitted to the 6th Canadian Field Ambulance with a sprained left ankle and re-joined the Battalion on 9 January 1916. On 19 April 1916, at Voormezele, Ypres, Belgium, the Mining Officer, Lieutenant Rees, went to Crater 1 to blow up a small mine shaft at 2.30am The shaft was not blown up. Lieutenant Grosvenor arrived early in the morning from Crater 6. He reported the position to be completely untenable and conditions beyond description. The men were standing up to their waists in mud. He was too exhausted to give a full report. Major Latta who had been in Crater 1 reported a comparatively quiet time. The casualties in Crater 6 were 1 killed and 4 wounded. At Voormezele there were 2 killed and 4 wounded. The conditions in trenches 14, 15 and 16 were very little better and no intercommunication was to be had from 16 except to Crater 1 thence to the Battalion on their right. The morning wind was westerly. 'A' Company remained in the Voormezele Switch Trench until daylight. There was practically no work done as they were 'standing to' most of the night. They worked on re-claiming trenches but most of the work was undone by enemy shelling. Lieutenant Maclean, in the early morning, went to the relieved officers for their work reports, as the Brigade was urgently asking for reports. The General Officer Commanding

rang up the Battalion's Officer Commanding to report to Brigade Headquarters. Major Tait was ordered to carry on in the meantime. Officers of the 19th, 20th, 21st and 31st Battalions and Colonel Hughes, Commanding Royal Engineers, called to get information regarding the Voormezele defences. This was given to them by Major Tait and he recommended them not to go round those defences too much in daylight. The front line was considerably shelled during the afternoon but could not gauge the extent on account of the strong westerly wind. About 6.30 p.m. the Battalion received word from Brigade that Craters 6 and 7 had been taken. The Brigadier and Brigade Major ordered that the craters be re-taken at once. 'A' Company was ordered to move up to do this and they moved off at 8.15 p.m.. 'C' Company moved to Voormezele Switch trench at 9.10 p.m.. Lt. Col. Bell, 31st Battalion, took over commanding from Major Tait, and at 9.15 p.m. ordered Major Latta to take 'C' Company to support and reinforce 'A' Company. The counter-attack did not take place by midnight on account of a delay, principally to the inability to find their way and report that trenches 19 and 20 had been taken and were in the possession of the enemy. This was later contradicted but the information could not be got to the attacking party, and they had to detach a party to clear up the situation. At midnight, as the attack had not been carried out the General Officer Commanding ordered Major Tait to take charge of the attack without delay.

His brother Donovan Stanford (2nd Lieutenant Donovan Edward Stanford, 6th Battalion Royal Dublin Fusiliers, 21 March 1918) was also killed during the War. He was also a pupil of Woodbridge School but is not named on the War Memorial.

Charles and Louisa Stanford had 7 daughters and 4 sons. Their fifth daughter, Sybil, died of influenza at the American Red Cross Hospital on 14 December 1918. She was a volunteer with V.A.D. (Voluntary Aid Detachment) with the Red Cross and had contracted influenza three days previously.



John George STRONG

Lance Corporal, F/2416 and G/11736

B Company, 23rd (Service) Battalion (2nd Football)
(Duke of Cambridge's Own) Middlesex Regiment

Died: 26 October 1916

Age: 20

Buried at: Voormezele Enclosure No. 3, Belgium. Grave: XII.B.4

Son of Walter Alexander and Lizzie Strong, of 20, 52nd Street, East Rangoon,
Burma

HE SHALL ENTER INTO PEACE

John Strong was born on 29 February 1896 to Walter Alexander, an assessor of taxes in Rangoon, and to wife Lizzie Strong. He had a sister, Eileen Marguerite Strong. He boarded at Woodbridge School for two years from 1912-1914.

He attested in Aldershot on 13 December 1915 giving his residence as 12 North Avenue, West Ealing, Middlesex, having enlisted in London on 10 December 1915. He was 19 years and 10 months old, and a student. He was Church of England. He was 5 feet 4¼ inches tall, with an expanded chest of 34 inches, with a 2 ½ inch expansion. He had two vaccination marks on his left arm. He weighed 133 ½ lbs. He was passed fit for service at home or abroad.

He joined the 23rd Battalion, Middlesex Regiment at Aldershot on 14 December 1915. The 23rd (Service) Battalion (2nd Football) was formed in London on 29 June 1915 and moved to Cranleigh. In November 1915 it moved to Aldershot and came under command of 123rd Brigade in 41st Division.

He was inoculated on 4 January 1916 and 12 January 1916, and re-vaccinated on 17 January 1916.

On 22 February 1916 he was admitted to the Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot suffering from tonsillitis. He stayed in hospital for 22 days being discharged on 14 March 1916. Having had his tonsils removed, it was declared that he had done well, and was passed fit to return to duty.

John Strong embarked at Southampton on 3 May 1916 and disembarked at Le Havre the next day.

On 15 September 1916 he was wounded by a gunshot to his upper lip. He was admitted to No. 1 New Zealand Field Ambulance and was transferred to No. 36 Casualty Clearing Station the same day. On 19 September 1916 he was transferred to No. 11 General Hospital at Dannes-Camiers, Etaples, France. On 24 September 1916 he was transferred to No. 6 Convalescence Depot, Etaples where he remained until 28 September 1916. He then transferred to the Infantry Base Depot, Etaples before re-joining his unit on 10 October 1916.

On 26 October 1916 the Battalion was in trenches at St Eloi, south of Ypres, Belgium. Reliefs between the Battalion's Companies were taking place, with D Coy relieving B Company in the front line. The relief was held up by a mud patch. The enemy opened fire with Rifle Grenades at B Company as they made their way through the mud. The parapet at the mud patch was completely knocked in and the telephone wire was broken which left the Company isolated. When the relief was completed they had 2 killed, including Lance Corporal John Strong, and 8 were wounded.

Eustace Edmund Marshall TAYLOR

Lieutenant
169th Coy
Machine Gun Corps (Infantry)

Second Lieutenant
King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry

Private, 15/1436
15th Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment

Died: 1 January 1917

Age: 23

Buried at: Rue-de-Bacquerot No. 1 Military
Cemetery, Laventie, France. Grave: II.K.16

Son of Mary E. Taylor, of "Glenside", Woodhall
Spa, Lincs., and the late John Henry Taylor, of Jordan Hill, Barnsley

HE, BEING MADE PERFECT, IN A SHORT TIME FULFILLED A LONG TIME. R.I.P.



Eustace Taylor was born in 1893, with his birth being registered in the fourth quarter in Barnsley, Yorkshire. He was baptised on 18 January 1894 in St Peter's Church, Barnsley, Yorkshire. His parents were John Henry and Mary Emma, nee Belward, Taylor.

- In the 1901 Census, his father John, a civil engineer, and his wife Mary were living at Gawber Road, Jordan Hill, Barnsley, West Riding of Yorkshire. The family consisted of Harold 19, an architecture student, Constance Jane 14, pupil at a public school, and Eustace 7, a pupil at a public school. The domestic housemaid was Sarah Sharp. He also had another sister, Bertha Emma Agnes Taylor.

Eustace boarded at Woodbridge School from 1907-1910. By the 1911 Census he is living back with his parents John and Mary, at 17 Gawber Road, Jordan Hill, Barnsley, West Riding of Yorkshire. Eustace Taylor was on the staff of the London Joint Stock Bank, Barnsley.

He was discharged from the West Yorkshire Regiment upon receiving his Commission. On 24 September 1915 he was gazetted as a temporary 2nd Lieutenant in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.

On 1 January 1917 the 169th Company, Machine Gun Corps was at Le Drumet. The majority of the Company was relieved by 168th Company Machine Gun Corps and marched to rest billets. However the No. Ones from each section remained behind for 24 hours with the relieving Company. Eustace was killed instantly at 2.30am by shellfire while leading his men during a bombardment at Moated Grange near Neuve Chappelle, the day before he had arranged to meet his brother Lieutenant Harold Taylor, who had been deputy Borough Surveyor for Barnsley.

PATRIA

EO DEGE

Geoffrey Charles Drury THEOBALD

Armourer Staff Serjeant, T/1210
Army Ordnance Corps
attached to
146th Siege Battery
Royal Garrison Artillery

Died: 6 March 1917

Age: 34

Buried at: Avesnes-le-Comtes Communal Cemetery Extension. Grave: I.C.9

Son of Admiral C.B. and Ellen Theobald, of Woodbridge, Suffolk.

SON OF THE LATE ADMIRAL C.B. THEOBALD. GRANT HIM LORD ETERNAL
PEACE

Geoffrey Theobald was born in 1882 in Peasemore, Buckinghamshire, and his birth was registered in Wantage in the fourth quarter.

In the 1891 Census his father, Captain Charles Barstow Theobald R.N., and his wife Ellen were living at the Warren, Woodbridge, Suffolk. They had two children, Marjorie 10, and Geoffrey 8. The general domestic servant was Julia Clarke. Shortly after this census was taken in 1893 Geoffrey entered Woodbridge School where he studied until 1900. His younger brother would follow him there in due course.

In the 1901 Census Charles Theobald was a retired Vice-Admiral R.N. and with his wife, Ellen, was living at the Cottage, Cumberland Street, Woodbridge, Suffolk. The family consisted of Marjorie 20, Geoffrey 18, an engineering apprentice, and a second son Nigel 7. The servant was Cecilia Blatch, a lady's help.

On 26 January 1910 Geoffrey Theobald embarked upon the SS Oronsa at Liverpool bound for Arica, Chile where he was going to work as an engineer. He returned to the UK in April 1913. In August 1913 he sailed for Canada travelling via New York, again to work as an engineer.

He enlisted at Woolwich around December 1915, into the Army Ordnance Corps as an armourer, and as such was attached to 146th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery.

The Battery disembarked in France on 16 August 1916. On 4 March 1917 the Battery was at Dainville, west of Arras, a few stray rounds were fired into a village in the evening one of which burst on the roof of the Sergeants' Mess severely wounding Staff Sergeant No 1210 G. Theobald A.O.C. the Battery Armourer Staff Sergeant. The NCO subsequently died of his wounds at No 37 Casualty Clearing Station on 6 March 1917 and was buried at Avesnes in the Military Cemetery on 7 March 1917.

A wooden cross was placed in his memory in Woodbridge Old Cemetery from his Comrades: the Officers, N.C.Os and Men of 146th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery.

Arthur Robert THURLOW

Private, 9877 and 330868

3rd (Reserve) Battalion Suffolk Regiment

1st Battalion Cambridgeshire Regiment

Died: 1968

Son of Lucy Augusta Thurlow, of "Hamildean", Cauldwell Avenue, Ipswich, England, and the late Edward Thurlow

Arthur Thurlow was born in the first quarter of 1880 in Rendlesham, Suffolk. The following year his parents, Edward, a farmer with 376 acres employing 17 men and 5 boys, and his wife Lucy were living at Naunton Hall, Plomesgate, Rendlesham, Suffolk. At this time the family consisted of Hugh de Naunton 4, and Arthur 1. Mary Ann Allen was the nurse, Emily Nichols the housemaid, and Sarah Ann Crawford the general domestic servant.

By the 1891 Census Lucy Thurlow was a widow and had moved to Surrey House, Castle Street, Woodbridge, Suffolk. She was living off her own means. Hugh 12, and Arthur 11 were both scholars at Woodbridge School from 1888-1892. Lucy had taken a boarder, Henry Stanford 20, an auctioneer's clerk. The general domestic servant was Caroline Hammond.

In the 1901 Census his mother, Lucy, was staying with her brother-in-law James Scott, a tailor, and his wife, Eliza, at Hamildean, Cauldwell Avenue, Ipswich. Arthur now 21, was also staying at this address with his Uncle and Aunt.

Arthur Thurlow enlisted on 17 January 1917. His residence by this time was Hilgery, Norfolk.

The 3rd Battalion, Suffolk Regiment was a reserve battalion which remained in the United Kingdom, however, there are records that show he also served in the 1st Battalion, Cambridgeshire Regiment.

The 1st Battalion Cambridgeshire Regiment had been in France since 15 February 1915, and on 9 May 1918 it absorbed 400 men from the 7th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment, to which, presumably, Arthur Thurlow had been posted having completed training.

Arthur Thurlow was discharged from the Army due to his wounds 23 November 1918 and was awarded the Silver War Badge on 30 November 1918, which was awarded to men honourably discharged, due to wounds or sickness, to be worn on civilian clothes.

Arthur Robert Thurlow died in the second quarter of 1968 and his death was registered in Wolverhampton.

It is possible that he is included on the Woodbridge School War Memorial because of misinformation about the extent of his wounds.

His brother Hugh de Naunton Thurlow died in the War.

Hugh de Naunton THURLOW

Private, 240503

102nd Battalion, Central Ontario Regiment, Canadian Infantry
Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force

205th Battalion, Tigers of Hamilton, Canadian Infantry
Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force

164th Battalion, Canadian Infantry
Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force

Died: 8 August 1918

Age: 39

Buried at: Beaucourt British Cemetery, Somme, France. Gave: B.II

Son of Lucy Augusta Thurlow, of "Hamildean", Cauldwell Avenue, Ipswich, England, and the late Edward Thurlow. Native of Rendlesham, Suffolk

Hugh Thurlow was born in 1878 and his birth was registered in the third quarter at Plomesgate, Suffolk. The following year his parents, Edward, a farmer with 376 acres employing 17 men and 5 boys, and his wife Lucy were living at Naunton Hall, Plomesgate, Rendlesham, Suffolk. At this time the family consisted of Hugh de Naunton 4, and Arthur 1. Mary Ann Allen was the nurse, Emily Nichols the housemaid, and Sarah Ann Crawford the general domestic servant.

By the 1891 Census Lucy Thurlow was a widow and had moved to Surrey House, Castle Street, Woodbridge, Suffolk. She was living off her own means. Hugh 12, and Arthur 11 were both scholars at Woodbridge School from 1888-1892. Lucy had taken a boarder, Henry Stanford 20, an auctioneer's clerk. The general domestic servant was Caroline Hammond.

In the 1901 Census Hugh de Naunton Thurlow was an ironmonger's assistant boarding with Theophilus, a Church of England clergyman, and Charlotte Pearl Schmid at 40 Ivory Street, Ipswich.

On 22 October 1905 Hugh Thurlow embarked at Liverpool upon the SS Sarmatian, bound for Quebec. He gave his occupation as a farmer.

On 8 May 1916 he enlisted at Hamilton, Ontario, Canada into the 205th Battalion, Canadian Infantry. He gave his date of birth as 25 August 1895. He was living at Franklin House, Hamilton, Ontario and was working as a clerk. He gave his next-of-kin as Lucy, his mother. He said he had 3-years' experience in the 1st Battalion, Suffolk Volunteers.

He was 5 feet 4¾ inches tall, with an expanded chest of 39 inches, with a 2½ inch expansion. He had a ruddy complexion, blue eyes and dark brown hair. He was Church of England. He had two vaccination marks on his left arm from childhood, and a scar on the left side of his abdomen. He had a deformed toenail on his right foot. He was passed fit for service with the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force and on 20 February 1917 he was transferred to the 164th Battalion, Canadian Infantry.

Hugh Thurlow embarked with his unit on 11 April 1917, at Halifax, Nova Scotia arriving in England on 22 April 1917 aboard SS Carpathia. On 24 April 1917 he transferred to the 2nd Canadian Reserve Battalion where he remained until 27 May 1917 when he returned to the 164th Battalion, Canadian Infantry, at Witley, Surrey. He reverted to the ranks, at his own request, on 19 July 1917.

On 8 March 1918 he transferred, at his own request, to the 102nd Battalion, Canadian Infantry and arrived in France the same day and went to the Canadian Corps Reinforcement Camp where he remained until he joined his unit on 5 April 1918, at Ecurie Camp, Maroeuil, north of Arras, Somme. On 8 May 1918 he was granted his first Good Conduct Stripe.

The following is amended from the Battalion's War Diary: *On 8 August 1918 the 102nd Battalion, Canadian Infantry was at Gentelles Wood, near Boves, south west of Amiens, Somme. At 12.30 a.m. they reached the first assembly point behind the wood, where they found the other Brigade assembling. They remained there for 5 hours obtaining all the rest possible. The Canadian Corps was on the verge of the biggest operation in which it had yet been engaged, and which figured as a part of the most spectacular counter-offensive yet launched against the Hun. For the first time they were to engage in open warfare and the 11th Brigade was put into actual practice the lessons learned in mimic warfare during the preceding May and June.*

At 4.20 a.m. the Barrage opened and the 3rd Division on their front moved forward to the attack. There was a white mist hanging low. At 5.20 a.m. the Battalion moved forward. It was a glorious morning, the mist quickly disappearing before the rising sun. Their way led through fields of ripened corn, past batteries of every calibre, through orchards and along the Amiens Roye Road, where they soon saw the first fruits of the attack in the shape of numerous bodies of Heine prisoners and their own walking wounded.

At 9.30 a.m. they reached their next Assembly Point, where they received unexpected orders for a long halt. At 12.10 p.m. the Battalion moved forward to the attack. After the capture of their final Objective, Headquarters, which had been pushing along in two sections, Advanced and Rear, moved up to the German Encampment, where they found all sorts of supplies – beer, food including cake, and footwear. Close by was a German Field Ambulance full of wounded. There was some bombardment of headquarters, but for the most part the night passed quietly enough. The 75th Battalion had passed through them, but failed to push their attack home that evening. The 87th Battalion had come up in support, establishing their Headquarters with their own Battalion's.

Private Hugh Thurlow was killed in action during the attack and was one of only 3 officers and 14 men killed.

Charles Wilson WARD M.C

Captain
Acting Major

Attached to
Headquarters, III Corps
Heavy Artillery Brigade
Royal Garrison Artillery

2nd Lieutenant
21st Heavy Battery
Royal Garrison Artillery

Corporal, 1344
Suffolk Yeomanry

Died: 29 April 1918

Age: 31

Buried at: St Fuscien Communal Cemetery, in Middle of Cemetery, Somme, France

Son of William and Catherine Ward, of Ufford, Woodbridge, Suffolk; husband of Florence H. Ward, of 47, Westgate Street, Ipswich, Suffolk

THY WILL BE DONE



Charles Wilson Ward was born in 1887 and he was baptised at St Mary's, Ufford on 12 June 1887. His parents were William, a carpenter, and Catherine Emily, nee Dawkins, Ward.

In the 1891 Census William, a carpenter, and his wife Catherine were living at Crown Lane, Ufford, Woodbridge, Suffolk. The children were Charles 3, and newly born Eva. The mother's help was Ellen Game. In the 1901 Census William, now an estate agent, and his wife Catherine were living at Barrack Lane, Ufford, Woodbridge, Suffolk. The family was Charles 13, Eva 10, Marjorie 7, Francis 2, and Arthur 1. The general domestic servant was Alice Peck. Little more is known other than that Charles entered Woodbridge School as a day boy in 1897 and remained a pupil until 1902.

On 1 April 1915 Charles Ward was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant into the 21st Heavy Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery. 21st Heavy Battery went out to the Western Front on 20 August 1915 with 22nd Heavy Artillery Brigade, RGA. At the time it was armed with four guns. It was made up to six guns on 4 September 1916 with one section of 164th Heavy Battery joining the battery. It transferred to 44th Heavy Artillery Group, RGA on 6 September 1916 and remained with it until 19 March 1917. Charles Ward would have been with the Battery as he was eligible for the 1914-1915, though his Medal Card omits his date of entry to a Theatre of War.

In the first quarter of 1916 Charles Ward married Florence Harriet Church which was registered in Ipswich.

On 1 January 1918 Temporary Lieutenant Charles Wilson Ward was awarded the Military Cross, in the King's Birthday Honours.

Charles Ward was killed by a stray shell. St Fuscien has only two other War Graves, both from 179th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery. His OW brother Francis William Ward is also listed on the School War Memorial.

Francis William WARD

Fitter (General)
Air Mechanic 3rd Class, 266730
Aircraftman 2nd Class, 266730
Royal Air Force

Died: 4 August 1919

Age: 21

Francis Ward was born 9 July 1898 in Ufford, Woodbridge, Suffolk. He was baptised on 5 August 1898 at Ufford. His parents were William, an estate agent, and Catherine Emily, nee Dawkins, Ward. His father gave his address as the Estate Office.

In the 1901 Census William, an estate agent, and his wife Catherine were living at Barrack Lane, Ufford, Woodbridge, Suffolk. The family was Charles 13, Eva 10, Marjorie 7, Francis 2, and Arthur 1. The general domestic servant was Alice Peck.

In the 1911 Census, at Ufford, the family consisted of William, Catherine, Dorothy (Eva) 20 a teacher of physical and dancing, Francis William 12 at school, and Arthur Cecil 11.

Francis attended Woodbridge School from 1909-1914, along with his younger brother Arthur (OW 1909-1915). Arthur survived WWI and his son and grandson followed in the family tradition and attended Woodbridge School in the 1940s and 1960s/70s respectively.

He attested on 10 July 1918 into the Royal Air Force. He was 20 years old and an engineering apprentice. He was 5 feet 6 inches tall, with a 32 ½ inch chest. He had back hair, brown eyes and a dark complexion. He gave his next of kin as his father, William, at Park Farm, Ufford. At his medical examination he was Grade 1.

He was posted to the Reserve Depot where he remained until 20 August 1918. He was then posted to Ar Ex Stn (unknown acronym) and then to the Dispersal Centre at Thetford, Norfolk on 10 February 1919. On 12 March 1919 he transferred to 'G' Reserve, RAF.

Francis Ward died of meningitis whilst doing war work on munitions in Ipswich. His brother, Charles Wilson Ward, died on 29 April 1918.

Ernest Frederick WELTON

Private, 3021

1/4th (Territorial) Battalion
Suffolk Regiment

Died: 15 July 1916

Age: 20

Commemorated at: Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 1C and 2A

Son of Mr and Mrs H. Welton, of St John's Hill, Woodbridge, Suffolk.

Ernest Welton was born on 11 September 1895 with his birth being registered during the fourth quarter in Woodbridge, Suffolk. He was baptised at St John's Church, Woodbridge on 17 November 1895. His parents were Henry, a bootmaker's assistant, and his wife Ellen.

In the 1901 Census his father, Henry, had changed his occupation to photographic artist. With him at the Thorofare, Woodbridge, were his wife Ellen, and children Alfred 16, a cabinetmaker's apprentice, Charles 15, a tailor's apprentice, Lily 14, Gertrude 13, Ernest 5, Albert 2, and Reginald 1.

In the 1911 Census Henry was a photographic dealer. He lived with his wife, Ellen, and family Lily 24, Gertrude 23, both assisting him in the business, Ernest 15, a clerk, Albert 12, Reginald 11, and Alice 8, at St John's Hill, Woodbridge, Suffolk.

Ernest was a day boy at Woodbridge School from 1906-1910, having been awarded a Marryott Scholarship.

Ernest Welton enlisted in Ipswich into 1/4th (Territorial) Battalion, Suffolk Regiment. Though this Battalion was mobilised in August 1914 and landed at Le Havre, France on 9 November 1914, Ernest Welton did not join them until 1916 as he was not eligible for the 1914-1915 Star.

On 15 July 1916 the Battalion moved to support the 1st Battalion, Middlesex Regiment in an attack on the Switch Line at Bazentin-le-Petit, Somme. A and B Companies formed the first line and C and C Companies the second. A line in front of the village of Bazentin-le-Petit was eventually taken up and held throughout the day. During the early morning of 16 July 1916 the Battalion was relieved by the 4th Battalion, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and went into reserve at 'Shell Valley' south east of Bazentin-le-Petit where the Battalion dug itself in and remained for the night. The casualties of the Battalion were heavy.

John Stanley WHITE

Lieutenant

2nd Coy, 7th Battalion, British Columbia Regiment, Canadian Infantry
Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force

2nd Lieutenant
30th (Reserve) Battalion, Canadian Infantry

Private, 16838
C Coy, 88th Regiment, Victoria Fusiliers

Died: 24 August 1916

Age: 26

Buried at: Kensal Green (All Souls') Cemetery, United Kingdom. Grave: 200.7.45235

Son of John and Clara White, of Ipswich, England; husband of Helen Mary Baynes (formerly White)

John White was born on 22 March 1890 and his birth was registered in Ipswich in the second quarter. His parents were John, a photographer, and Clara, nee Cade, White.

In the 1901 Census the family, John and Clara, and children Arthur 24, photographer, Edith 19, and John 11 were living at Elmroyd, Park Road, Ipswich. There were two general domestic servants, Selina Newstead and Harriet Storer. John attended Woodbridge School as a day boy from 1901-1906.

John White enlisted at Valcartier, Quebec on 17 September 1914, giving his occupation as a rancher. His next of kin was his mother, Clara, at 21 Clarkson Street, Ipswich. He had been a member of the 88th Victoria Fusiliers Militia. He was 5 feet 6 ½ inches tall, with an expanded chest of 34 inches with an expansion of 3 inches, and weighed 169 lbs. He had a fair complexion, blue eyes and brown hair. He was Church of England. There were 3 vaccination marks on his left arm from 1902 and a mole on his left abdomen. He was revaccinated on 5 February 1915. He had 4 teeth with problems.

He had previously been medically examined, 5 September 1914, and declared fit for service with the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force. In civilian life he was a surveyor.

John White had been with the Militia force, F Company, 88th Regiment Victoria Fusiliers during August 1914, before transferring to the 7th Battalion, Canadian Infantry on 4 September 1914. He sailed with his Battalion on 3 October 1914 as a Private. They arrived in the field, in France, in February 1915. On 26 April 1915 he was promoted to both Lance Corporal and Corporal.

On 20 March 1916 he was posted as a temporary Lieutenant to the 30th (Reserve) Battalion, Canadian Infantry at Hythe. On 5 April 1916 he was transferred to HQ Cadet Training Depot, Shorncliffe, Brighton with the view to obtain a commission. On 11 April 1916 he was transferred to the General List in the same Battalion, at Shorncliffe Barracks, Brighton. On 17 June 1916 he was drafted to the 7th Battalion and posted to France, which he joined in the field on 18 June 1916. On 9 August 1916 the Battalion was in trenches near Sanctuary Wood, Zillebeke, Ypres, having participated in the Battle for Mount Sorrel. They had a quiet day in exceedingly hot weather. At 11.00pm they were relieved by the 1st Battalion Canadian Mounted Rifles. The relief was completed by 3 a.m. It was during this relief that Lieutenant John White was struck by a bullet.

On 10 August 1916 he was dangerously wounded with a gunshot wound to his back, right arm and injured his spine. He was taken to No. 10 Casualty Clearing Station and then, on 18 August 1916, to No. 7 General Hospital, Boulogne. From there he was transferred via Hospital Ship St Denis to the Empire Hospital, Vincent Square, London on 20 August 1916. On admission he had a gunshot wound to his spine and haemorrhagic cystitis. He was admitted in a collapsed state, wounded by a bullet which entered his left side in post axillary line on

level with 11th rib. The Medical report continues: Passed through chest injuring spine and leaving on level with 10th rib on front of post axillary line. Spinal Injury Upper limit corresponds with 3rd (right) and 4th (left). Complete retention of urine and faeces. Chest has cleared up but urine very alkaline, full of pus and blood from acute haemorrhagic condition. Severe vomiting when attempt was made to take fluids and food. Could keep nothing down. On 23 August 1916 his bladder was much improved with a washout of Susol 1:16000 thrice daily. Vomiting was persistent though he was able to retain milk and brandy.

On 24 August 1916 he seemed in the same condition. At 12 midday, after a fit of vomiting he collapsed and died in about 10 minutes of acute cardiac failure. He would respond to nothing.



Francis Hayward WICKS

Private, 769006

2/28th (City of London) Battalion, Artists' Rifles
London Regiment

C Company, 2nd Artist Rifles' Officer Training Corps

Died: 1 November 1918

Age: 27

Buried at: Woodbridge Cemetery. Grave: G.6.83

Husband of Kathleen M Wicks, of Suffolk House, 4 Ipswich Road, Woodbridge

Francis Wicks was born in 1891 in Buffalo, New York, United States. He was a pupil at Woodbridge School from 1903-1906 and his father's details in the Register of Boys are given as Francis Frederick Wicks, Corn Merchant of Woodbridge.

By the 1911 Census Francis Wicks 19, a clerk, was a visitor at Louisa Berd's lodging house at Ferndale, Castle Road, East Finchley, London. Mrs Berd was a lodging housekeeper, with her sister Nellie. Their brother, Frank Smyth Berd, an optical turner, also lived there. The lodgers were Alfred Hoer, a timber merchant and financier, and his wife Florence, along with their son Monrad 6. Samuel Thomas Hayward was another lodger.

On 11 February 1914 he was initiated as a Freemason Doric No 81 E.C. Lodge giving his occupation as a bank clerk. He joined the Royal St Edmunds No 1008 E.C. Lodge on 24 May 1917.

On 31 July 1918 he married Kathleen Mary Fairweather, of Church Street, Woodbridge, in Woodbridge.

He was called up for service and enlisted at No. 6 Medical Board Building, Whitehall, London on 7 August 1918 aged 26. He was 6 feet 2 inches tall, weighed 122 lbs, had brown hair, a fresh complexion and hazel eyes. His chest when fully expanded was 34 inches with a 4 inch expansion. He had perfect eyesight.

He was posted to 2/28th Battalion, which was based at Epping Forest during the War. He proceeded to the 2nd Artists' Rifles Officer Training Corps, Hare Hall Camp, Romford, Essex.

On 27 October 1918 he was admitted to Warley Military Hospital, Essex with lobar pneumonia. He had slight delirium and a weak pulse. He was put on a brandy and milk diet, and effervescent medication. His condition was slightly on 28 October 1918, and the next day his delirium increased, with medication making little difference. On 30 October 1918 his delirium increased with twitching of his fingers, with a dry mouth and tongue. He was given strychnine, digitalis and oxygen.

On 1 November 1918 he was very delirious. Oxygen was given freely and his heart was failing. At 8.30pm he died. The Medical Officer, Captain A H Much RAMC, stated he had contracted the disease whilst on ordinary military service.

Charles Hunter WOOD

Rifleman, 5529

1st/9th (County of London), Queen Victoria's Rifles, Battalion
London Regiment

Died: 25 September 1916

Age: 32

Commemorated at: Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier and Face 9C

Son of Mary Grace Wood, of 84 Kensington Park Road, London, and the late A.S.
Hunter Wood

Charles Wood was born in Frettingham, Norfolk in 1884. He was baptised, by his father, on 31 August 1884.

In the 1891 Census his father, Andrew, the Rector of Frettingham, Norfolk, and his mother Mary, were living at The Rectory, Church Road, Crostwick and Frettingham, St Faith's, Norfolk. They had two children, Charles 6, and John 4. Cecily Larken was a visitor. Elizabeth Coe was the cook, and Angelina Harman was the general domestic housemaid. Charles became a boarder at Woodbridge School in 1892 and left in 1895. He must have boarded in Marryott House as School House was not built until 1895.

In the 1901 Census it appears that circumstances had changed. The Reverend Andrew Samuel Hunter Wood declares himself to be the head of the household at the Tally House Inn, Aunsby, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, giving his occupation as Clergyman in the Church of England. Mary Wood is living at Mill Street, Buxton, Aylsham, Norfolk, where she is a laundress. She has one child with her, Geoffrey 7. Also in the household are Daisy Garnham, a domestic laundrymaid, Annie Selwood, a general domestic servant, and Edith Skipper, a laundrymaid. At this time Charles Hunter Wood was living at Harvey Nicholls Drapery Establishment, 8 Lowndes Street, Chelsea, London, where he worked as a draper's assistant clerk, where he was still in 1911, but as a draper's clerk.

He enlisted in London giving his residence as Norfolk. He disembarked in France on 12 July 1916. On 23 September 1916 the Battalion was between Maricourt and Montaubon, Somme, and they relieved the 5th Battalion, London Regiment in trenches south east of Leuze wood. At 5.50am on 24 September 1916 they repulsed a grenade attack on Combles trench. The Battalion was relieved by the 5th Battalion, London Regiment and they went into Brigade Reserve in the Falfemont Farm Line.

On 25 September 1916 XIV Corps resumed the offensive. However, Rifleman Charles Hunter Wood was killed in action, and his body was never found.

His brother, 2nd Lieutenant John Hunter Wood, East Yorkshire Regiment, died on 13 November 1916.

Lewis Ironside WOOD

C.M.G.

Lieutenant Colonel

2nd Battalion
Border Regiment

1st Battalion
Border Regiment

34th Foot (55th)
Border Regiment

Died: 16 May 1916

Age: 48

Buried at: Le Touret Military Cemetery,
Richebourg-l'Avoue, France. Grave: II.D.12



Son of John Richard and Isabella Wood, of Melton Hall, Melton, Suffolk

Lewis Wood was born on 11 September 1866 to John Richard, a solicitor, and Frances Isabella, nee Woodhouse, Wood, at Melton, Woodbridge, Suffolk. He was baptised at St Andrew's Church, Melton on 8 December 1866. He was their fifth son. Their children were, Ellen Rosina, Gertrude Dovee, Alice Margaret, Clara Frances, Francis John Woodhouse, Ernest Richard, Gilbert Hilary, Arthur Thorley, Walter Ginnell, Maud Thyra and Lewis Ironside.

He was a pupil at Woodbridge School from the age of 10 in 1876 until 1879 when went on to be educated at Rugby School, and in France and Germany.

In 1884 he went to the Royal Military College, Sandhurst and passed out with honours. He obtained his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 2nd Battalion, Border Regiment on 5 February 1887. He was 5 feet 9 ½ inches tall.

On 22 December 1888 he went on active service in the Chin-Lushai Expedition, Burma, returning on 22 April 1890. He was awarded the India General Service Medal and Chin-Lushai Expedition Clasp.

From 23 April 1890 to 8 February 1892 he was on Home Service, and the 1891 Census shows he was a Lieutenant with the 1st Border Regiment of Infantry at South Front Barracks, Western Heights, Hougham, Dover, Kent. However, a note on his Service Record states that he transferred on exchange to the 2nd Battalion, Border Regiment in India on 3 November 1891. Whilst there he attended the Mounted Infantry Course at Shorncliffe Barracks.

Between 9 February 1892 and 13 September 1894 he was in the East Indies and achieved his Musketry Certificate at Changli Galli. He returned to India on 14 September 1894 to 2 April 1895 for the Waziristan Expedition, 1894-95, and he received the Waziristan Clasp to his India General Service Medal, and Frontier Medal. He could speak Hindustani, French and German. He returned to the East Indies on 3 April 1895 until 4 May 1895. He returned home on 5 May 1895. In May 1896, Lewis Wood was promoted to Captain and sent to South Africa where he took part in the Boer War. There he received the Queen's Medal and four clasps for actions, including Operations in Transvaal and Orange River Colony.

From November 1901 to May 1905 he was employed with the South African Constabulary. From November 1909 to March 1911 he held the position of Commandant of the Mounted Infantry School at Poona, India. In 1913 he was promoted Lieutenant Colonel, in command of the 2nd Battalion, Border Regiment. He embarked at Southampton on 5 October 1914, as part of VII Division, and disembarked at Zeebrugge, Belgium the next day.

On 29 October 1914, Lewis Wood led his men in an attack on Krusek Hill close to the Menin-Ypres road. The Battalion came under terrific direct shell, machine gun and rifle fire. After an hour's wait, the Battalion advanced under Lieutenant-Colonel L. I. Wood who was almost immediately hit." He recuperated in Britain and returned to his Regiment on 9 January 1915.

He was Mentioned in Despatches in Sir John French's Despatch of 14 January 1915, gazetted 17 February 1915. On 18 February 1915 he was made a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

On 12 March 1915 the Battalion was involved in engagements at Neuve Chapelle. The attack was ordered to take place at 10.30 a.m. precisely. At 10.30am "C" Company moved forward and immediately came under heavy machine gun and rifle fire with a company of Scots Guards on their right. The attack continued for about 15 minutes but the casualties in both Regiments were so heavy that Lieutenant Colonel L.I. Wood ordered the advance to stop until strong artillery fire or covering fire could be brought to bear. At this critical time, 20 minutes after the attack had been launched, an order arrived to say the attack would be postponed until 12.30 p.m. As this order did not arrive till 10.50 a.m. nothing could be done except wait in the present position for the Artillery Bombardment. At 12 midday the Artillery commenced their bombardment. At about 12.20 p.m. Lieutenant- Colonel Wood again gave the order to advance, although still enfiladed. The Battalion pushed on and got close up to the enemy's positions and rushed it just as the guns ceased firing. The Germans came out holding up their hands and waving handkerchiefs. Some 200 prisoners were taken and large quantities of rifles, bayonets, and ammunition.

On 30 April 1915 Lieutenant-Colonel Lewis Wood attended Buckingham Palace to receive his C.M.G. from the King.

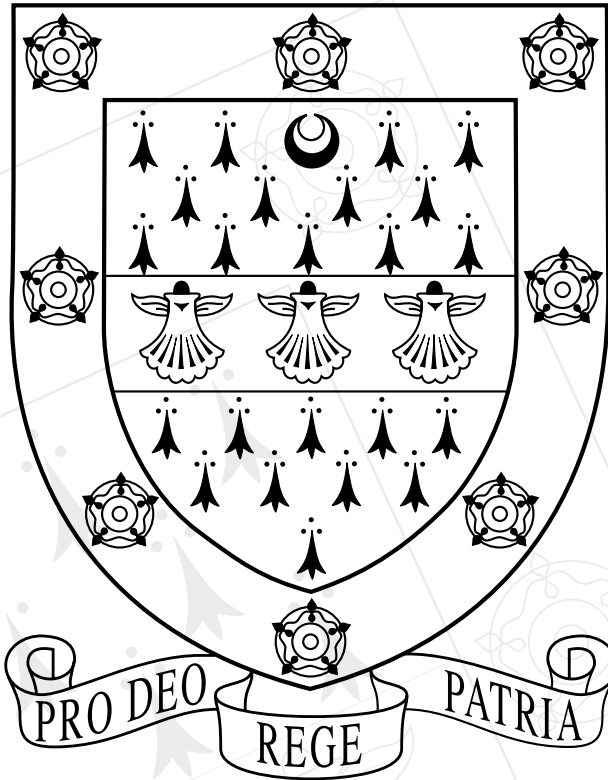
On 15 May 1915 the Battalion marched to the trenches at Festubert at 5.00pm and arrived at 9.00 pm. Seven men in the Machine Gun section were wounded by shellfire during the night. On 16 May 1915 the Brigade were allocated the task of breaking the line at two points. The Border Regiment from point P5 to Princes Road, roughly 150 yards, and the 2nd Scots Guards from Princes Road to 150 yards to the right. At 3.15am two Platoons of 'A' Company made the assault but were stopped by two of the British howitzer shells which dropped after the time the bombardment should have ceased. They advanced a second time after heavy loss and gained the German trench. They were at once supported by the remaining two Platoons of 'A' Company.

An attempt was made to progress further but the advance was stopped by a ditch full of water and by heavy machine gun fire which enfiladed from the left. The whole of 'B' Company was pushed over and occupied the German front line trench with orders to hold P5 at all costs. 80 Brigade Bombers were attached to the Company for this purpose. Attempts were made to bomb down the trench to the left which was still in the hands of the German. About 200 yards was gained but on each occasion the ground had to be given up owing to the shortage of bombs. These parties came under fire from a trench mortar during each attempt and suffered heavy losses but despite these losses P5 was held until the Battalion was relieved.

About this time the Communication Trench P5, P4 which was the Battalion's objective was made good. The machine gunners with 2 guns were then sent up to a point about midway between P5 and P4 to strengthen the line. C and D Companies pushed over into the German trench and prolonged the line to the right.

During these operations the Battalion suffered very heavily, Lieutenant Colonel L.I. Wood CMG was wounded midway between the British and German trenches and was brought in by Sergeant Major Davenport and Corporal Coleman but died as soon as he reached the British trenches.

In total, over all of the operations at Festubert the Battalion lost 11 officers killed, and five wounded, 110 other ranks killed, 240 wounded and 35 missing.



World War II

Frederick Edward BARBER

Pilot Officer, 36223

115 Squadron
Royal Air Force

Died: 12 April 1940

Age: 26

Buried at: Stavanger (Eiganes) Churchyard, Norway. Grave: Z.42

Son of Arthur Thomas and Priscilla Thurza Barber

IN MEMORY OF DEAR FRED WHO GALLANTLY GAVE HIS LIFE THAT WE MIGHT LIVE

Frederick Barber was born in 1913 and his birth was registered in Woodbridge, Suffolk during the third quarter, to Arthur and Priscilla, nee Smith, Barber.

Frederick attended Woodbridge School on a scholarship from 1925-1929. On leaving school he entered the RAF as an apprentice.

At the outbreak of WWII Frederick was living with his father Arthur, a retired hurdle maker, and mother Priscilla at The Street, Little Bealings, Suffolk along with his brother Douglas, a radiator unit moulder.

On the night of 11/12 April 1940 Vickers Wellington Mk.1c P9284 (KO-J) of 115 Squadron RAF took off from RAF Marham, Norfolk at 18.00 hrs with Stavanger-Sola Airfield, Stavanger, Rogaland, Norway, as the target, with Pilot Officer (Pilot) Frederick Edward Barber, RAF 36223 as the pilot. Wellington P9284 was the lead aircraft in the second wave of the raid. It was shot down by Flak/AAA in target area and crashed on top of a bakery in Stavanger. Other sources say that P9284 crashed on top of Storhaug School in Stavanger, killing two (or three) civilians in the building.

The crew of six was killed:

Pilot Officer (Pilot) Frederick Edward Barber, RAF 36223, age 26.

Pilot Officer (Pilot) David Alexander Rankin, RAF 36180 (New Zealand), age 25.

Sergeant (Observer) Alan Sydney Pearce, RAF 580805, age 20.

Sergeant Geoffrey William James Juby, RAF 514904, age 28.

Leading Aircraftman Lionel Allen Westcott, RAF 545537, age 21.

Pilot Officer (Air Gunner) Peter Edward Tucker Bull, RAFVR 76004, age 26.

115 Squadron's Operations Report states:

11 April 1940. Attack on aerodrome.

1800 S/L du Boulay's section and P/O Barber's section comprising F/O Scott and F/S Powell took off to attack Stavanger aerodrome.

2300 The first aircraft returned.

2345 F/S Powell, the fifth aircraft to return, landed with undercarriage up owing to damage by A.A. One aircraft P/O Barber was brought down by A.A. at Stavanger.

Reginald Jack BENTHAM

Signalman, 2598246

11th Armoured Division Signals
Royal Corps of Signals

Died: 2 May 1945

Age: 39

Buried at: Hamburg Cemetery, Germany Grave: 8A.E.1

Son of Richard and Hannah Bentham

(Reginald) Jack Bentham was born in 1905 and his birth was registered in Woodbridge, Suffolk during the third quarter. His parents were Richard and Hannah, nee Hardy, Bentham.

In 1911 Richard, a headteacher in an elementary school, and his wife Hannah were living at Alma House, The Street, Melton, Woodbridge. The family consisted of Arnold 21, a commercial clerk, Kate Ida 13, at school, Dorothy 12, at school, Richard 9, Reginald 5, Maud 3, and Cecil 3. They had the Danison family staying, Flora, Winifred, and Thomas. The domestic servant was Edith Farrow.

Jack Bentham attended Woodbridge School between 1916 and 1919 having obtained a scholarship. Little more is known about his life until the last stages of WWII.

The 11th Armoured Division was held in reserve until 28 March 1945, when it crossed the Rhine at Wesel, heading for the river Weser. It reached Gescher on the evening of 30 March 1945.

Comet tanks of the 2nd Fife and Forfar Yeomanry, 11th Armoured Division, crossed the Weser at Petershagen, Germany, 7 April 1945.

On 1 April 1945 after crossing the Dortmund-Ems canal, the 11th Armoured Division approached Ibbenburen and was heavily engaged on the Teutoburger Wald heights. The villages of Brochterbeck and Tecklenberg were captured. Further east, the wooded hills were defended by companies of NCOs, who counter-attacked the 3rd Battalion Monmouthshire Regiment. Later, the 131st Infantry Brigade (7th Armoured Division) made it possible to overcome their opposition, but the 3rd Battalion Monmouthshire Regiment, already weakened during previous campaigns, had to be replaced by 1st Battalion Cheshire Regiment.

British units continued towards the Osnabrück canal. After crossing it, via a captured bridge, it moved towards the Weser, which was reached by leading units near Stolzenau on 5 April 1945. A week later, the 11th Armoured Division liberated the concentration camp at Bergen-Belsen. A local agreement with German commanders made it possible to declare the neighbourhood of the camp an open area, and the fighting moved northeast. The Division reached the river Elbe near Lüneburg on 18 April 1945.

On 30 April 1945, the 11th Armoured Division launched their last attack. It crossed the Elbe at Artlenburg, then against little opposition, occupied Lübeck on 2 May 1945 and Neustadt on 3 May 1945. The 11th Armoured Division finished the war by patrolling the surrounding countryside, collecting 80,000 prisoners which included 27 Generals.

Signalman Reginald Jack Bentham was killed in action.

Philip Harvey BLOWFIELD

Pilot Officer, 77782
Sergeant

12 Squadron
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Died: 14 June 1940

Age: 20

Buried at: Les Minieres Communal Cemetery,
France.

Son of Bernard Charles and Mabel Blowfield, of
Whitton, Middlesex. His brother Bernard John also
died on service.

"PERSONNE N'A UN PLUS GRAND AMOUR QUE CELUI DE DONNER SA VIE POUR SES
AMIS"



Philip Blowfield was born on 18 November 1919 to Bernard Charles, a marine engineer, and Mabel, nee Weston, Blowfield, at Sea Cliff Front, Dovercourt, Essex. He was baptised in Dovercourt on 28 December 1919.

Philip was a School House boarder at Woodbridge School from 1933-1935. A year after leaving school, on 3 November 1936, after Open Competition, he became a member of the Civil Service, in the Clerical Class. On 11 December 1936, the London Gazette states that he was assigned to the Clerical Class at the Admiralty.

In 1939 Philip Blowfield, a civil servant, was staying with Leonard, a railway clerk/cashier, and Constance Mills at 22 Una Road, Harwich, Essex along with their son, Leonard Mills, a bank clerk.

By 1940 Philip Blowfield had enlisted into the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve and on 7 March 1940 Sergeant Philip Harvey Blowfield RAFVR was granted a commission as a Pilot Officer in the General Duties Branch, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

On 14 June 1940 Pilot Officer Philip Harvey Blowfield, Pilot; Sergeant Batty, Observer; and Sergeant David Laing Grant, Wireless Operator and Air Gunner, at 16.30 hours took off from Sourgé, France in Fairy Battle Mk1, Registration L5396, with the target of enemy troop columns at Evreux. They were shot down by a Messerschmidt Bf 109 between Coulognes and Les Minieres, 2km northeast of Damville, France. Sergeant Grant was killed, but Pilot Officer Blowfield and Sergeant Batty set out to evade capture. Initially he evaded capture and was able to reach Les Minieres, about 8km from where they crash landed, along with Sergeant Batty, when they were fired upon by a machine gun on a Panzer tank. Sergeant Batty was able to escape unharmed and made it back to England, but Pilot Officer Blowfield was killed. The Operations Report of 12 Squadron states: "The operations order called for three aircraft to bomb the woods S.E. of Evreux which were carrying large volumes of M.T. vehicles, also there was an aerodrome one mile S.E. of Le Courdray, reported to be in use by the enemy, which was to be bombed. Owing to bad weather conditions Sergt Preston was unable to locate the target, so he returned without dropping bombs. P/O Blowfield and Sergt Wilcox failed to return. Subsequently, Sergt Batty, Observer to P/O Blowfield returned to the Squadron in England, and reported that aircraft was shot down by enemy fighters. LAC Grant the Air Gunner was killed in the air, but P/O Blowfield was eventually killed by enemy tanks on making his way with Sergt Batty to friendly territory."

George Vernon Baldwin BLYTHE

Lieutenant, 265860

2nd Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers

Died: 19 January 1944

Age: 24

Buried at: Minturno War Cemetery, Italy. Grave: VI, E, 19

Son of George William Frederick and Lillian Theodora Blythe, of Clapham, London



George Blythe was born on 4 January 1920 and was registered in the first quarter in Norwich, Norfolk to George William Frederick, a tramcar driver, and Lillian Theodora Blythe.

George Blythe attended Woodbridge School between 1933 and 1938. He was awarded a scholarship on entering the school and maintained his potential, being a frequent winner of awards at annual Speech Days and winning the MacMaster Medal in his final year (a prize awarded to the pupil with the best exam results each year).

In 1939 he was unmarried and a Building Society Clerk living at The Fort, Pewley Hill, Guildford, Surrey, which appears to be dormitory accommodation for secretaries and clerks.

On 5 March 1943 he was commissioned into the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers as a 2nd Lieutenant. In June 1943 the 2nd Battalion, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers disembarked in Egypt and on 10 July 1943 took part in 'Operation Husky', the invasion of Sicily. The Battalion landed at Cassibile, south of Siracuse and fought through to Tremonte near Mount Etna.

On 3 September 1943, at the invasion of Italy, the Battalion landed at Reggio where they met no opposition. Over the next fifteen days the Battalion advanced 240 miles on foot, by road transport and by landing craft. After heavy fighting they took the well defended town of Isernia from the Germans.

In the Garigliano Valley in the approaches to Rome lay the heavily defended Gustav Line. The Battalion was involved in a silent attack across the river during the night of 17 January 1944. The assault was opposed and the Battalion sustained heavy casualties. The objective was not taken until 19 January 1944 and became the first Battalion to breach the Gustav Line.

The Woodbridgian Magazine of July 1944 included an extract of a letter written to his mother from his C.O.: "We had forced our way over the river Garigliano and taken our objective in the hills. During all this time your son had led his men with a calmness and a cheerfulness which made bullets and shells and mines of little account. After several severe counter-attacks, George was leading a charge against an enemy group when he was shot through the head and died instantly. We are still in the line and he is buried where the men still hold their positions – so even in death he exerts an influence and makes it impossible for the Germans to capture what he took."

PATRIA

EO REGE

Arnold John BOOTH M.C.

Lieutenant Colonel, 13507

Royal Artillery
attached to
25 Mountain Regiment
Royal Indian Artillery

Royal Garrison Artillery

Died: 7 January 1944

Age: 47

Buried at: Taukkyan War Cemetery, Myanmar. Grave: 11.B.22

Son of George and Elizabeth Booth; husband of Dorothy Alice Booth, of Ipswich, Suffolk

PRO DEO, REGE, PATRIA



Arnold Booth was born on 9 February 1897 in Woodbridge, Suffolk and his birth was registered in the first quarter. He was baptised at St Mary's Parish Church, Woodbridge on 10 March 1897.

In the 1901 Census his parents, George, a printer's and stationer's manager, and his wife Elizabeth were living in Seckford Street, Woodbridge, Suffolk. Their family consisted of Ethel, Ernest, Ella, Muriel, Leonard (killed in action 27 September 1918) and Arnold. The general domestic servant was Florence Clarke.

In 1905 Arnold Booth was admitted to the St Mary's Voluntary Aided Primary School, Woodbridge, having previously attended Mrs Clayton's School. When he left the primary school he went to Woodbridge Grammar School, where he studied between 1907 and 1915.

By the 1911 Census the family had moved to New Street, Woodbridge. It now consisted of Ethel a stationer's shop assistant, Muriel a pupil teacher, Leonard a stationer's shop assistant, Arnold at school, and Gladys at school. The general domestic servant was Lucy Plant.

On 19 February 1916 he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Garrison Artillery having been a Gentleman Cadet at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. He disembarked in France on 4 April 1916. On 4 June 1917 2nd Lieutenant Arnold Booth, Royal Garrison Artillery was awarded the Military Cross in the King's Birthday Honours.

He returned from France on 11 November 1918, Armistice Day. In the first quarter of 1920 Arnold Booth married Dorothy A. Bentham, in Woodbridge, sister to Old Woodbridgian, Reginald Jack Bentham, killed in action 2 May 1945.

On 30 November 1922 he had a Special Appointment (Class G.G.) in the Rhine Army, returning on 29 November 1926. Between 16 October 1928 and 15 October 1932 he was Adjutant to the Territorial Army, Royal Artillery. He went to the North West Frontier of India between 1936 and 1937, for which he was awarded the India General Service Medal, and NW Frontier Clasp.

The 25th Mountain Regiment, Royal Indian Artillery was part of 7th Indian Division, Indian XV Corps. From December 1943 to November 1944 the strategic balance of the Burma campaign shifted decisively. Improvements in Allied leadership, training and logistics, together with greater firepower and growing Allied air superiority, gave Allied forces a confidence they had previously lacked. In the Arakan, XV Indian Corps withstood, and then broke, a Japanese counterstrike, while the Japanese invasion of India resulted in unbearably heavy losses and the ejection of the Japanese back beyond the Chindwin River.

In Arakan, Indian XV Corps under Lieutenant General Philip Christison renewed the advance on the Mayu peninsula. Ranges of steep hills channelled the advance into three attacks each by an Indian or West African Division. The 5th Indian Infantry Division captured the small port of Maungdaw on 9 January 1944. The Corps then prepared to capture two railway tunnels linking Maungdaw with the Kalapanzin valley but the Japanese struck first. A strong force from the Japanese 55th Division infiltrated Allied lines to attack the 7th Indian Infantry Division from the rear, overrunning the Divisional HQ.

Unlike previous occasions on which this had happened, the Allied forces stood firm against the attack and supplies were dropped to them by parachute. In the Battle of the Admin Box from 5 to 23 February 1944, the Japanese concentrated on XV Corps' Administrative Area, defended mainly by line of communication troops but they were unable to deal with tanks supporting the defenders, while troops from 5th Indian Division broke through the Ngakyedauk Pass to relieve the defenders of the box. Although battle casualties were approximately equal, the result was a heavy Japanese defeat. Their infiltration and encirclement tactics had failed to panic Allied troops and as the Japanese were unable to capture enemy supplies, they starved.¹

He was survived by his wife and three daughters, Doreen Ruth, born 1923, Pamela Alice born August 1925 in Cologne, Germany, and Susan Nancy born May 1931 in Conwy, Caernarvonshire, of 108 Valley Road, Ipswich. His Old Woodbridgian brother Leonard was killed during World War I. Their father George had also attended Woodbridge School between 1870 and 1874.

Peter Neville BURGESS

Third Officer
S.S. Umona (London)

Died: 30 March 1941

Age: 24

Commemorated at: Tower Hill Memorial, London. Panel 113

Son of Edward Neville Burgess and Mary Madeline Burgess

Peter Burgess was born on 29 June 1916. His father was Edward Neville, a bank manager, of Abbey Road, London, NW6 and Mary Madeleine Burgess. He was a pupil at Woodbridge School from 1931-1933.

Peter Burgess was living in London when he signed on to the Steam Merchant Ship, Umona. The ship which was built in 1910 was owned by Bullard, King & Co Ltd (Natal Line), London. It was en-route between Durban, South Africa, - Walvis Bay-Freetown-London carrying a cargo of 1549 tons of maize, 50 tons of pulses and 47 tons of jam.

On 30 March 1941 at 23.01 hrs the ship, which was unescorted, was hit on the port side underneath the aft mast by one G7e torpedo from the German submarine U-124. The ship sank immediately having been hit again eight minutes later about 90 miles southwest of Freetown. The Master, 85 crew, two gunners and 13 passengers were lost. One gunner and one passenger were picked up after 13 days by the British steam merchant ship Lorca and landed at Freetown on 13 April 1941. On 7 April 1941 three Indian crew members were picked up by HMS Foxhound (H 69) on escort duty and landed at Freetown the next day.

PATRIA

EO REGE

Martyn Lowther CARRICK

Flight Lieutenant, 117783

609 Squadron
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Died: 18 August 1944

Age: 22

Buried at: Bailleul Churchyard, France

Son of Arnold George and Olive Gladys Carrick, of
Dovercourt, Essex; husband of Barbara Jean Carrick

PRO DEO, REGE, PATRIA



Martin Carrick was born in 1922 and his birth was registered during the first quarter in the Isle of Wight. His parents were Arnold George and Olive Gladys, nee Bond, Carrick. He won a Foundation Scholarship to Woodbridge School where he was a pupil from 1935-1937

In the second quarter of 1944 he married Barbara Jean Denney in Harwich, Essex. When probate was granted she was living at Great Oakley, Norwich.

In The Woodbridgian of July 1944 his marriage was reported to his former schoolfriends and it is noted that 'he holds the 1939-1943 Africa Star and is a fighter-pilot'. On 18 August 1944 Martin Carrick was the pilot of Typhoon Ib JR125. He took off, along with seven other Typhoons, at 15.35hrs to attack any movement in the Falaise Gap, Normandy, which was crowded with guns and tanks, which were attacked. Flight Lieutenant Carrick failed to return.

William Robert Flinders CLOVER M.C.

Major

108th (Suffolk and Norfolk Yeomanry) Field Brigade
Royal Garrison Artillery

Suffolk Heavy Brigade
Royal Artillery

Flying Officer
Royal Air Force

Died: 1941

Age: 42

Norwich, Norfolk

William Clover was born 25 November 1898 and his birth was registered in Lexden, Essex in the fourth quarter. His mother's maiden name was Jolly. His father was J.P. Clover of the Hall, Dedham.

William Clover attended Woodbridge School between 1909 and 1916. On 25 May 1915 he played cricket for Woodbridge School 1st XI against Framlingham College 1st XI, at Framlingham. Woodbridge scored 63 all out, while Framlingham scored 372 all out. William Clover was bowled for 5.

He entered Sandhurst in 1916, passing out with a commission on 27 February 1917 as a 2nd Lieutenant. On 26 November 1917 he disembarked in France. In June 1918 2nd Lieutenant Clover was in a Military Hospital in Reading with gas poisoning. On 16 September 1918, as a 2nd Lieutenant, he was awarded the Military Cross. During the War he was wounded twice. His citation reads: "2nd Lt. William Robert Flinders Clover, R.G.A. For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When this officer was in charge of a section it was necessary to pull both guns out of the pits to fire in another direction. As soon as the other gun opened fire his gun was violently shelled, his No. 1 being killed and other men wounded, but he continued to work without interruption, and by his example kept the men well in hand."

On 1 November 1921 Lieutenant William Robert Flinders Clover M.C., R.G.A., was granted a temporary commission as a Flying Officer for four years' duty with the Royal Air Force.

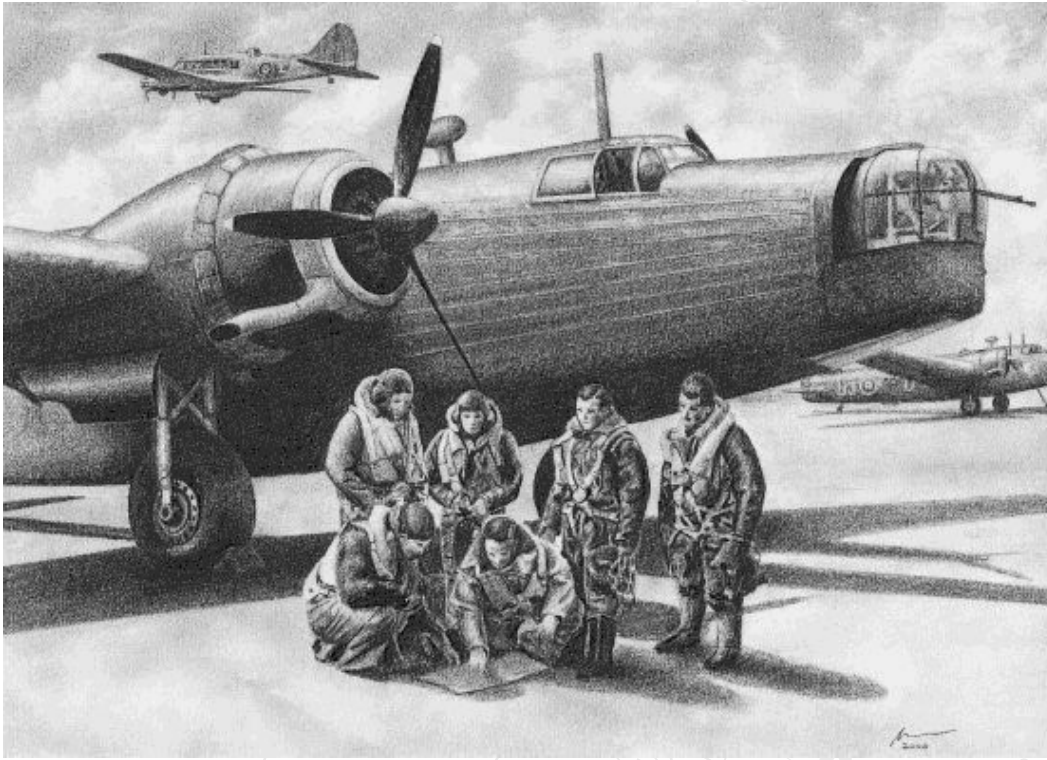
In 1921, in Malta, he married Hilda Yolanda Foley, which was registered at the British Consulate, Alexandria, Egypt. His station was No 4 Flying Training School, Abu Sueir, Egypt. On 30 May 1923 Flying Officer WRF Clover returned to Army duties. On 22 January 1926 Lieutenant WRF Clover was appointed Adjutant of the Suffolk Territorial Heavy Brigade at Dovercourt, with the temporary rank of Captain.

On 6 April 1928 Captain W.R.F. Clover, Suffolk Heavy Brigade, ex 108th (Suffolk and Norfolk Yeomanry) Field Brigade, R.G.A. relinquished his rank of Captain but maintained his seniority of 28 August 1918. On 11 March 1930 Lieutenant W.R.F. Clover M.C., (Lieutenant in the Reserve of Officers) was promoted to Captain in the Suffolk Heavy Brigade.

In 1935 he divorced Hilda Yolanda Clover, shortly afterwards, in the fourth quarter of 1935 he married Gladys M.A. Carver, in Norwich.

On 24 May 1938 Captain and Brevet Major W.R.F. M.C., Suffolk Heavy Brigade, resigned his commission and retained his rank, with permission to wear the prescribed uniform.

On 23 December 1939, Lieutenant (Brevet Major, Territorial Army) ceased to belong to the Reserve of Officers on account of ill health. He died in the second quarter of 1941, with his death being registered in Norwich.



George Herbert CONE

Pilot Officer, 139888
Navigator under training
27 Operational Training Unit
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Died: 15 May 1943

Age: 24

Buried at: Bredfield (St Andrew) Churchyard, Woodbridge, United Kingdom

Son of Herbert John and Anna Cone, of Bredfield; husband of M. Babette Cone, of Farnham, Surrey.

George Cone was born in 1919 and his birth was registered in the first quarter at Woodbridge, Suffolk. His parents were Herbert and Anna, nee Waters, Cone.

Between 1930 and 1937 he attended Woodbridge School as a day boy having won a scholarship.

In the fourth quarter of 1942 he married Marjorie Babette Charman in Surrey.

On 23 February 1943 George Cone was commissioned as a Pilot Officer. On the night of 14 May 1943, Wellington X3785 took off from 27 Operational Training Unit, RAF Lichfield, Staffordshire, at 2241 hours, for a night cross country exercise combined with a Bullseye operation. The flight was to be from Lichfield to Rhyl, Isle of Man, Anglesey, Fishguard, Llangollen, Cannock Chase bombing range and return to Lichfield, one of the unit's standard training routes.

The pilot was Flying Officer J W Robb of Glasgow, with over three hundred hours, 29 on Wellingtons, ten of which were at night. The observer was Flying Officer T. A. Ley from Australia. The pupil navigator was Pilot Officer G. H. 'Billy' Cone of Suffolk. Sergeant A. W. Sayers, from Kent, was the air bomber. The Wireless Operator/Air Gunner was Sergeant G. S. Lee from Weston-Super-Mare, and Air Gunner was Sergeant E. L. Clarke of Nottingham.

3½ hours into the flight, on the Fishguard to Llangollen leg, an engine caught fire. Just before the crash, the aircraft was heard to be in trouble by local people, with one engine misfiring before bursting into flames. At 0234 hours, Sergeant Lee sent a brief standby for message signal, but before this could be transmitted, the aircraft dived almost vertically into the ground, (narrowly missing an isolated farmhouse), one mile north of Lake Vyrnwy in Montgomeryshire. All the crew of six were killed.

Michael Cecil ENGLISH

Lieutenant, 204214

104 (City of Edinburgh) Field Squadron
Royal Engineers

Gunner, 931062
Royal Artillery

Died: 24 April 1943

Age: 21

Buried at: Massicault War Cemetery, Tunisia. Grave: III.A.18

Son of Bertram W. and Muriel E.F. English, of Ufford, Suffolk

Michael English was born in 1921 in Kent and his birth was registered in the fourth quarter in Bromley, Kent. His parents were Bertram William, a civil engineer, and Muriel Elizabeth Frances, nee Keer, English.

Michael English attended Woodbridge School between 1929 and 1939. He had been awarded a scholarship and boarded in School House. His older twin brothers, Peter and Henry were also pupils from 1928-1936.

In 1939 he enlisted into the Royal Artillery. His parents were living at Wayside, Ufford, Woodbridge, Suffolk. On 14 November 1940 he left the Royal Artillery to become an Officer Cadet. On 13 September 1941 he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers. On 29 June 1942 he was reported wounded in Casualty List (Officers) 862. On 13 May 1943, in Casualty List (Officers) 1133 he was reported as being killed in action.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission describes the events in Tunisia during 1943:

In May 1943, the war in North Africa came to an end in Tunisia with the defeat of the Axis powers by a combined Allied force. The campaign began on 8 November 1942, when Commonwealth and American troops made a series of landings in Algeria and Morocco. The Germans responded immediately by sending a force from Sicily to northern Tunisia, which checked the Allied advance east in early December. Meanwhile, in the south, the Axis forces defeated at El Alamein were withdrawing into Tunisia along the coast through Libya, pursued by the Allied Eighth Army. By mid April 1943, the combined Axis force was hemmed into a small corner of north-eastern Tunisia and the Allies were grouped for their final offensive. Many of those buried at Massicault War Cemetery died in the preparation for the final drive to Tunis in April 1943 and in that advance at the beginning of May.

Frank George FIRMAN

Third Officer
Merchant Navy

SS. Kirnwood (Middlesbrough)

Died: 11 August 1940

Age: 21

Commemorated at: Tower Hill Memorial, London. Panel 62

Son of Sargeant Bertie and Edith Frances Firman, of Woodbridge, Suffolk.

Frank Firman was born on 5 March 1919 to Sargeant Bertie, an electrical wireman, and his wife Edith Frances, nee Dennant, Firman. He was baptised at Dovercourt, Essex on 17 August 1919. The family was living at 17 Waddestone Road, Dovercourt.

From the Woodbridge School Register of Boys it is clear that the family had moved to Woodbridge by 1929 when Frank became a pupil, with a 'free place', at Woodbridge School where he remained until July 1935. Very swiftly after leaving school, on 14 October 1935, Frank Firman first went to sea and worked on eight voyages.

He was 5 feet 10 ½ inches tall, with blue-grey eyes, dark brown hair and a fresh complexion.

From 3 April 1939 till 8 September 1939 he was aboard SS Yorkwood, from whence he completed his apprenticeship. He moved to SS Kirnwood was a merchant ship owned by the Constantine Shipping Company Ltd, Middlesbrough.

On 11 August 1940 SS Kirnwood was hit by a bomb dropped by an enemy aircraft. There were three deaths: James Daglish, a steward, Roger Hackett, the chief cook, and Frank Firman.

James Wilson FREESTONE

Lance Corporal, 14421136

6 Training Battalion
Royal Engineers

Died: 22 December 1944

Age: 19

Buried at: Preston (New Hall Lane) Cemetery, United Kingdom. Grave: Sec J.J. C. of E
Grave 431

Son of Wilson McD. Freestone and Winifred Freestone; husband of Madge Freestone, of
Holme Slack, Preston

IN LOVING AND TREASURED MEMORY OF MY DEAR HUSBAND AT REST

James Freestone was born in Montreal, Canada on 25 February 1925. His parents were Wilson McD, a chemical engineer and sugar refiner, and Winifred Freestone. His father had travelled to the New York, United States, aboard the RMS Lusitania, on 26 August 1910. He also travelled to the USA in 1920, giving his residence as Lisbon, Portugal.

James Freestone attended Woodbridge School between 1934 and 1940. There is a note on his entry in the Register of Boys that he was withdrawn 'owing to war'.

James Freestone enlisted on 4 February 1943 in Colchester, Essex, where he was living and on 29 April 1943 he was posted to No. 6 Training Battalion Royal Engineers.

On 18 July 1944 he married Madge Dewhurst, and their address was 4 Rose Lane, Holme Slack, Preston.

He was killed as a result of an accident on 22 December 1944 during demolition training. The opinion of the Commander of the North West District during the enquiry of 2 January 1945 found the he was on duty and was not to blame. The Coroner's Inquest of 4 February 1945 concluded that it was misadventure.

Archibald Roy GRAINGER

Gunner, 917786

18/4 Battery, Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment
Royal Artillery

Died: 4 January 1941

Age: 19

Commemorated at: Golders Green Crematorium, London. Panel: 2

Archibald Grainger was born in 1921 and his birth was registered in the first quarter in Woodbridge, Suffolk. His father was Felix Charles, a builder's foreman, and Kathleen, nee Renwick, Grainger.

Army records state that he was born in St Albans, Hertfordshire but the family were living in Woodbridge for the duration of his education at Woodbridge school from 1930-1934.

He attested into the Royal Artillery in 1939.

The 1939 Registration shows his family, including his brother Robert, to be at 155 Gurney Court Road, St Albans Hertfordshire.

Army Casualty records show that he died as a result of an accident.

Samuel Robert GROOM

Wing Commander, 26032

102 (Ceylon) Squadron
Royal Air Force

Died: 21 November 1940

Age: 32

Commemorated at: Runnymede Memorial, United Kingdom. Panel: 3

Son of John Bax Groom and Charlotte Elizabeth Groom; husband of Josephine Groom, of Foxton, Leicestershire.

Samuel Groom was born in 1907 and his birth was registered at Blything, Suffolk during the first quarter. In the 1911 Census his father John, a retired marine engineer (Lieutenant Commander RNR), and his wife Charlotte, nee Long, Groom were living at Reydon Cottage, Wangford Road, Southwold, Suffolk. The family consisted of John 10, William 8, Mary 7, Anthony 5, Samuel 4, and Lydia 2. The domestic servants were Ethel Jane Rudd and Ethel May Ruthen.

By 1915 the family had moved to Woodbridge and Samuel and his brother Anthony entered Woodbridge School as day boys. Anthony remained until 1922 and Samuel until 1925. On 17 December 1927 he successfully passed through the Royal Air Force Cadet College, Cranwell and was granted a permanent commission as a Pilot Officer, in the General Duties Branch. On 17 June 1929 he was promoted to Flying Officer.

In 1931 he was a Flying Officer at 606 (County of Cork) (County of York B) Squadron, Auxiliary Air Force, Thornby Hall. He served in Khartoum, Egypt, Palestine and Transjordan for five years. In 1938 he returned to the UK.

In the first quarter of 1940 he married Josephine Oram of Knighton Hall, Leicester, which was registered in Leicester. The wedding took place at St Mary's, Knighton. She was formerly joint master of the Westerby Bassett Hounds and later became secretary. Since the war started, she was an assistant section officer in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force. The marriage service was fully choral and was conducted by the Archdeacon of Leicester, Archdeacon C.L. Matthews and the Reve. W.H. Groom, brother of the bridegroom (who would later become a Chaplain in the RAF). The best man was Squadron Leader C.E. Beamish.

On 7 June 1940 Samuel was promoted to Wing Commander. He was the Squadron Commanding Officer, flying Armstrong Whitworth Whitley V P5072 with markings DY-P, took off from RAF Topcliffe at 0212 hrs on 21 November 1940. Five aircraft were detailed for the attack on a mission to Duisberg, Germany. The weather was fair over the target early but clouded over. The opposition was slight. The crew was Flying Officer A.M.L. Selby, pilot, Wing Commander S.R. Groom, Sergeant L. Hogarth, Sergeant T.D. Elliott, and Flying Officer E.D. Stevens.

The aircraft crashed into the North Sea at 0634 hrs on its return.

Hugh Percy Francis GUYMER

Leading Aircraftman, 624110

98 Squadron
Royal Air Force

Died: 17 June 1940

Age: 33

Buried at: St Trojans-les-Bains Communal Cemetery, Ile d'Oleron, France. Row 4, Grave 2

Son of Percy Juniper Guymer and Caroline Mary Guymer; husband of Kathleen Maud Guymer, of Lindby, Nottinghamshire.

TOO DEARLY LOVED TO BE FORGOTTEN

Hugh Guymer was born in 1907 and his birth was registered in the fourth quarter in Scarborough, Yorkshire. He was baptised on 5 January 1908 at St Mary's Church, Scarborough, North Riding of Yorkshire. His parents were Percy Juniper, a fish buyer, and Caroline Mary, nee Francis, Guymer, living at 24 Victoria Road, Scarborough. He was only at Woodbridge School for one year from 1922-1923.

In the second quarter of 1939 Hugh Guymer married Kathleen M. Broughton, which was registered in Nottingham.

98 Squadron was disbanded between the Wars but was operational, in Abingdon, on 17 February 1936. At the start of World War 2, 98 Squadron was a Training Unit, operating Fairey Battle and Hawker Hind aircraft. In April 1940 the Squadron disembarked in France to assist the British Expeditionary Force.

On 17 June 1940 the requisitioned Cunard liner, RMS Lancastria was participating in the evacuation of Dunkirk. At 1548 hrs the ship came under attack from German aircraft. She received three direct hits from bombs dropped by Junkers 88 bombers, and within 20 minutes the ship sank with an estimated 4,000 victims, including 96 from 98 Squadron, RAF. It was the single largest loss of life in World War 2. The BBC describes the events:¹

"The crew had already been paid off when the telegram came ordering the Lancastria to be ready to sail with Operation Aerial and, together with other vessels, she made for Plymouth where the vessel was given orders to sail for western France. She was guided into the sea lanes of the Loire estuary, and anchored some 10 miles off St Nazaire at about 06.00 hrs on Monday 17 June. It was a beautiful misty summer morning.

Almost immediately, exhausted troops and some civilians began to arrive and were given little tickets, like bus tickets, with their cabin and deck number. Some were given spaces in the vast holds of the ship, where they laid down to rest and were asleep in just a few minutes. Throughout the morning troops arrived and seemed to fill every available space. Some had their first hot meal in weeks; some remained on deck watching still more people come aboard. There were units from the Army and RAF as well as civilians - men, women and young children.

At about 13.00 hrs the red alert sounded and a dive bomber was seen to attack the Oronsay which was some distance off. The bomber scored a direct hit on the bridge area, but it did not render the ship unseaworthy. Those on the deck of the Lancastria feared the worst: the enemy was sure to return. By this time the ship had taken some 6,000 people on board and more kept coming. At around 15.00 hrs Captain Sharp decided that enough was enough, but that to sail straight away would court disaster - he would rather wait for an escort.

At about 15.50 hrs the enemy returned. Bombs were seen to straddle the ship, one bomb exploding close to the port side, rupturing her almost full fuel tanks. The black oil oozed into the sea, creating a dark, deathly cloud. Immediately, the ship began a perilous roll from port to starboard and back again, further bombs struck home, one penetrating the holds that were crammed with troops. Of the RAF personnel aboard - from 73 Squadron and 98 Squadron - very few survived. The ship rolled onto her port side, down by the bow. Those who could, took to the water to try and swim though the black cloud of oil that here and there showed licks of flame. Non-swimmers took to the water with whatever seemed to be able to keep them afloat. Some lifeboats were lowered but, on many, the davits could not be released because of the angle of the ship. Those still on board what was now an upturned hull watched as the enemy returned to strafe both those struggling for life on the hull and those in the sea. They sang in defiance at the tops of their voices 'Roll out the Barrel' and 'There'll always be an England'. The

ship's siren wailed and by 16.10 hrs, in just 20 minutes, the Lancastria slipped beneath the waves.

Then there was the silence, a silence louder than the clamour of exploding bombs and guns. So ended the life of a beautiful ship and the lives of thousands of men, women and children. No one will ever know the exact number who died that day - some say there were as many as 9,000 on board by the time the Lancastria was bombed, others estimate 7,000. All we do know is that around 6,000 were on board by 13.00 hrs, and that many more arrived after that. Only 2,447 arrived home.

The rescue began with all kinds of vessels - from small fishing boats to destroyers of the Royal Navy - picking up survivors, more like oily flotsam than people. The bodies of those who died that day were washed up along the French coast during the coming months and were given Christian burials by the French people, who bravely ignored the German presence and cared for the victims as their own.

Churchill immediately hid the news from the public. In 1940, after Dunkirk, to reveal the truth would have been too damaging for civilian morale. He said, 'The newspapers have got quite enough disaster for today, at least!' Since that time the disaster has never been recognised for what it was - the greatest maritime disaster in Britain's history. More people were killed on the Lancastria than on the Titanic and Lusitania put together."

Norman Arthur Cyril HARDY RN

Captain

HMS Forfar

Died: 2 December 1940

Age: 45

Commemorated at: Chatham Naval Memorial. 34, 1

Son of Josiah and Margaret Hardy; husband of Amy Hardy,
of Carshalton, Surrey



Norman Hardy was born on 24 October 1895 and his birth was registered in the fourth quarter at Plomesgate, Suffolk.

In the 1901 Census his parents, Josiah, a schoolmaster, and Margaret Hardy, schoolmistress, were living at the School House, Main Street, Grundisburgh, Woodbridge, Suffolk. The family consisted of Vivian 8, Dorothy 7, and Norman 5. The general domestic servant was Florence Simper.

Norman followed his brother Vivian to Woodbridge School where he was a pupil from 1905-1913.

By the 1911 Census Josiah and Margaret Hardy were joint elementary school heads, in Grundisburgh. Vivian 18 was a pupil Chartered Accountant, Vera G D (Dorothy) 17 was at school, as was Norman 15.

In September 1914 he entered the service of the Royal Navy. After initial training he served on HMS Marlborough from January 1915 – March 1917. An exemplary naval career followed, he was 'lent' to the Royal Australian Navy from 1925-1927 and he rose through the ranks, achieving the rank of Commander in June 1932 and Captain in 1938. He married Amy Sayer in November 1921.

At the beginning of WWII in September 1939 he is in Command of HMS Forfar.

On 2 December 1940, at 0546 hrs HMS Forfar was hit by one torpedo from U-99 after she had just left convoy HX-90 on-route for convoy OB-251, about 500 miles west of Ireland. She sank at 0657 hrs, having had four more torpedoes hit her at 0639 hrs, 0643 hrs, 0650 hrs and 0657 hrs. Three officers and 18 naval ratings were rescued by HMCS St Laurent (H 83), HMS Viscount (D 92) and SS Dunsley, and they were landed at Oban. Captain Hardy, 35 officers and 136 naval ratings were lost.

Leonard Samuel JOHNSON

Bombardier, 899322

118th Field Regiment
Royal Artillery

Died: 12 September 1944

Age: 24

Commemorated at: Singapore Memorial, Singapore. Column 8

Son of Samuel and Adelaide Johnson, of Eight Ash Green, Essex

Leonard Johnson was born on 28 December 1919 in France. He was a pupil at Woodbridge School from 1934-1938, and the family address in the Register of Boys when he entered the school was in France.

He enlisted into the Royal Artillery in 1939 and was captured by the Japanese at the fall of Singapore.

On 4 September 1944, convoy HI-72 sailed from Singapore. Amongst those ships was the Rakuyo Maru which carried 1317 Prisoners of War, consisting of 600 British, 718 Australian and some Americans who had all been on the Thailand-Burma Railway. The ship also contained bauxite and the ashes of Japanese soldiers. The convoy joined up with another from Manilla on 11 September 1944.

On 12 September 1944, at 0200 hrs, the convoy was attacked by the submarine US Growler. An escort ship was sunk. Despite the attack the Prisoners of War were kept in the hold. The attack recommenced at 0530 hrs by the submarine US Sealion, which torpedoed three ships including the Rakuyo Maru. Two ships sank, however the Rakuyo Maru, which had been hit with a torpedo in the bows and another midships, remained afloat. The Prisoners of War escaped from the holds, and some jumped overboard, but the lifeboats had been taken by the Japanese.

At 0615 hrs US Growler attacked again. A Japanese frigate was hit, but in the hunt for the submarine depth charges were dropped killing men in the water from the Rakuyo Maru.

The ship was still afloat at 0710 hrs and men who had been in the oil covered water returned to it, and it remained afloat until 1730 hrs, when all the remaining Prisoners of War evacuated the ship. The Japanese started to rescue those in the water, but only saved their own people, leaving only two lifeboats. Some Prisoners of War made it away, but when the submarine US Pampanito arrived on the scene for further attacks they discovered survivors clinging to the wreckage, and took on board 63, and the US Sealion returned and saved a further 44. But many more were left in the sea.

On 17 September 1944 the submarines US Barb and US Queenfish arrived at 1730 hrs and saved a further 32 men, after that the weather deteriorated and no more were found.

It is estimated that 1159 Prisoners of War died in the sinking of the Rakuyo Maru.

Norman Edward KERSEY

Sergeant

Australian Army

Second Lieutenant

Private, 75511
2, Tank Corps

Private, 8633
33 Division
Army Cyclists Corps

Died: 8 September 1946

Age: 48

Buried at: Great Bealings, Suffolk

Norman Kersey was born on 30 January 1898 and his birth was registered in the first quarter in Woodbridge, Suffolk. His parents were Arthur Edward, a builder, and Sarah Ann, nee Pryke, Kersey. He was baptised on 24 April 1898 at St Mary's Church, Great Bealings, Suffolk.

In the 1901 Census Arthur, a building contractor, and Sarah were living at Lower Street, Great Bealings, Woodbridge, Suffolk. The family consisted of Arthur, 8, and Norman 3.

In 1906 he attended Northgate Grammar School, Ipswich, in Class 1b, having previously studied at the Council School, Great Bealings. However, in September 1906 Norman and his brother Arthur both joined Woodbridge School where Norman remained a pupil until 1913.

In the First World War he served in the Army Cyclists Corps, the Tank Corps, into which he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant on 4 March 1919.

In the second quarter of 1928 he married Elsie F.D. Fisher in Kensington, London. On 2 April 1931 Norman and Elsie Kersey embarked on SS Chindwin, in Rangoon, Burma bound for Plymouth. He was a Forestry Assistant. Their address in the UK was 'Posh Place, London'.

On 26 September 1931 he embarked, in Birkenhead, for Rangoon, Burma, aboard the Henderson Line SS Bharmo. His occupation was as a forestry assistant. His employer was Galbraith, Pembroke & Co, London. His address was 86 Madrid Road, Barnes. India was his intended place of permanent residence.

Norman Kersey enlisted into the Australian Army in Perth, Western Australia as a Private on 6 May 1941. On 11 June 1942 he was discharged from the Australian Army.

On 18 May 1945 Norman and Elsie Kersey arrived in Liverpool aboard the T.S.S. Nestor from Freemantle, Australia, via South Africa, giving his occupation as Forest Manager, and his address as c/o Barclays Bank, Woodbridge, Suffolk.

He died on 8 September 1946 and his death was registered in the Deben District, Suffolk. His funeral was held on 10 September 1946 at 2 p.m. at Great Bealings Church. His address at his time of death was Thorneycroft, Great Bealings, Suffolk. The funeral notice gave his former employer as Steele Brothers & Co., Rangoon, Burma.

Hugh Arthur LIGHTBODY

Flight Lieutenant, 116893
Warrant Officer 740743

515 Squadron
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Died: 15 July 1944

Age: 28

Buried at: Hotton War Cemetery, Belgium. Grave: X.A.12

Son of Godfrey Kennett Lightbody and Beatrice Kate Lightbody,
of Malvern, Jamaica.

HE DIED IN THE FLESH BUT LIVES IN THE SPIRIT



Hugh Lightbody was born in 1916 in Eton, Windsor. His parents, Godfrey and Beatrice Lightbody had married in Ipswich on 8 April 1915.

He attended Woodbridge School from 1928 to 1933.

He enlisted into the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve in 1937 and was mobilised in 1939. On 4 February 1942 he was commissioned as a Pilot Officer having been a Warrant Officer. On 1 October 1942 he was promoted from Pilot Officer to Flying Officer. On 14 February 1944 Hugh Lightbody was promoted Flight Lieutenant, RAFVR.

At 2355 hrs on 14 July 1944, he took off, as pilot, from RAF Little Snoring, Norfolk, with Flight Sergeant Ernest John Adams Broomfield, as navigator, in de Havilland Mosquito FB.VI - PZ293 to escort bombers to an airfield at Florennes, Belgium. The pilot, Hugh Lightbody, was blinded by searchlights and crashed 4km SSW of Chaumont, Namur, Belgium. Both men were killed. At first they were both buried at Rosee (Jusaine), Belgium.

The Operations Report of 515 Squadron states that their aircraft took off at 2355 hrs, detailed to patrol Florennes, since when nothing had been heard of it or its crew.

PATRIA

EO REGE

Eric Lycett MATHEWS

Captain, 153135

Suffolk Regiment
attached to
1st Battalion
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment

Died: 3 September 1944

Age: 27

Buried at: Florence War Cemetery, Italy. Grave: V.A.4

Son of Edward Lycett Mathews and Lucy Winifred Mathews; husband of Angela rose Mathews, of Ipswich, Suffolk.

UNTIL WE MEET

Eric Mathews was born in 1917 in Argentina. Between 1929 and 1935 he was a pupil at Woodbridge School, Suffolk.

On 3 August 1934, aged 16 and a student, he embarked upon RMS Highland Monarch in London bound for Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Eric Mathews was gazetted as a 2nd Lieutenant on 29 October 1940 into the Suffolk Regiment.

In the third quarter of 1942 he married Angela Rose Alexander in Ipswich, Suffolk.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission describes the fighting around Florence War Cemetery: On 3 September 1943 the Allies invaded the Italian mainland, the invasion coinciding with an armistice made with the Italians who then re-entered the war on the Allied side. Following the fall of Rome to the Allies in June 1944, the German retreat became ordered and successive stands were made on a series of defensive positions known as the Trasimene, Arezzo, Arno and Gothic Lines. Florence, which was taken by the Allied forces on 13 August 1944, was the centre of the Arno line and the point from which the attack on the German Gothic Line defences in the Apennines was launched. The site for the war cemetery was selected in November 1944 for burials from the hospitals established in and around Florence but the greater part of those buried here lost their lives in the fighting in this area from July to September 1944.

Captain Eric Mathews was killed in action. At probate his address was 26 Ingram House, Park Road, Hampton Wick, Middlesex.



Reginald Alfred MEADOWS

Lance Serjeant, 909414

67 Medium Regiment
Royal Artillery

Died: 14 November 1942

Age: 31

Commemorated at: Alamein Memorial, Egypt. Column 32

Son of Alfred and Alice Meadows; husband of Ellen Meadows, of Ipswich, Suffolk

Reginald Meadows was born on 16 November 1911 and his birth was registered in Ipswich. His parents were Alfred, a mental health nurse, and Alice, nee Worledge, Meadows of 24 Kelvin Road, Woodbridge, Suffolk. He was a pupil at Woodbridge School with a 'free place' from 1921-1927.

In the third quarter of 1935 he married Ellen L. Hazel in the Deben District of Suffolk.

He joined the Royal Artillery in 1939. His address was 34, Kelvin Road, Ipswich. On 20 June 1942 he was captured in Cyrenaica (Eastern Libya) when the whole of 67 Medium Regiment, Royal Artillery was captured at Tobruk.

On 13 November 1942, 814 Allied Prisoners of War were ordered into the Italian SS Scillin's cargo hold, which was only suitable for around 300, at Tripoli, Libya. This resulted in severe overcrowding and insanitary conditions. More prisoners would have been loaded, but the British military doctor (Captain Gilbert, RAMC) made vehement and repeated protests. Some reports state that a further 195 Prisoners of War were disembarked before SS Scillin sailed. On the night of 14 November 1942, off the Tunisian coast SS Scillin was ordered to stop with gunfire by the British submarine HMS Sahib. SS Scillin did not respond, so her captain, Lieutenant John Bromage RN decided to torpedo SS Scillin. Those in the hold had little chance of survival as the torpedo had hit the hold itself and the ship sank rapidly. HMS Sahib was able to rescue 27 Prisoners of War (26 British and one South African), the SS Scillin's captain and 45 Italian crew members, before the arrival of an Italian warship forced her to leave. Only when survivors were heard speaking English, did HMS Sahib's captain realize that the SS Scillin was carrying Prisoners of War.

This information was kept secret until 1996 with the War Office/Ministry of Defence maintaining that the men had died in Prisoner of War Camps.

Robert John MOORE

Sergeant (Navigator), 522730

115 Squadron
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Died: 7 April 1940

Age: 23

Commemorated at: Runnymede Memorial. Panel 17

Son of Charles William and Elsie Hannah Moore, of Vange, Essex. His brother Harold Arthur also died on service.

Robert Moore was born in on 18 May 1916 and his birth was registered in Sudbury, Suffolk. His parents were Charles and Elsie, nee Bishop, Moore. During the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918-1920 he was placed in a Children's home in Maldon, Essex and the Head of this children's home is listed as his guardian in the Woodbridge School Register of Boys. He was a School House boarder from 1927-1933.

On leaving Woodbridge School he studied at Kelham Theological College, Nottinghamshire.

On 7 April 1940 Vickers Wellington Mk 1A, N2949, KO-H took off from RAF Lossiemouth, on detachment with Coastal Command from their usual bases at RAF Marham and RAF Honington, along with aircraft from 9 Squadron to search for enemy shipping off Denmark. The aircraft became separated from the main force and was shot down by Messerschmidt 110s. The crew was Pilot Officer Roy Gayford - Pilot, Sergeant William Nicol - Pilot, Sergeant Michael Murphy - Observer, Sergeant Robert Moore - Wireless Operator and Air Gunner, Leading Aircraftman Daniel Armstrong - Wireless Operator and Air Gunner and Aircraftman 1st Class John Moss - Air Gunner.

115 Squadron's Record of Operations states:

0700 Cloudy. South westerly wind. Stand by again the same.

Fleeting Targets at Sea

1105 The twelve aircraft took off one at a time.

1115 The last aircraft took off. They met 9 Sqdn. and set course.

The target, a cruiser and 6 destroyers, was not discovered. A Flight got left behind on the return journey and was attacked by between 2 and 4 ME.110s. Two of our aircraft were shot down, captains P/O Wickenkamp and P/O Gayford. It is believed one aircraft was shot down.

1825 First aircraft returned

1855 The last aircraft returned.

His brother, Able Seaman Harold Arthur Moore C/JX640864, HMS Pembroke, died on 07 Jan 1946.

Peter Ernest NEALE

Flight Sergeant, 1255937

248 Squadron
Coastal Command
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Died: 18 June 1942

Age: 21

Commemorated at: Runnymede Memorial. Panel 75

Son of Albert Ernest and Edith Maud Neale, of Gidea Park, Essex

Peter Neale was born on 17 March 1921 and his birth was registered in the second quarter in Woodbridge, Suffolk. His parents were Albert and Edith, nee Andrews, Neale. He attended Woodbridge School from 1934-1937. His father was an engineer and when he joined Woodbridge his family were living in Barkingside, Essex.

In 1939 Peter Neale was an electrical engineer's apprentice electric motors living at 41 Bredfield Street, Woodbridge, Suffolk. The only other resident at the house was Ethel E. Blake, a 63 year-old housewife. Ethel Blake, nee Andrews, was married to Charles Blake, a maltster and was Peter Neale's aunt.

248 Squadron was a night fighter squadron of Coastal Command. The Squadron moved to Scotland in February 1942, firstly at RAF Dyce, Aberdeenshire, then at RAF Sumburgh, Shetland Isles for long-range patrols over the North Sea. From June 1941 the Squadron flew the torpedo bomber, Bristol Beaufighter.

On 18 June 1942 there are reports that Bristol Beaufighter Mk 1c, T3326, took off from RAF Sumburgh, Shetland Isles for a reconnaissance flight over Norway. The pilot was Pilot Officer, 115858, Eric Booth RAFVR, and the observer was Flight Sergeant, 1255937, Peter Ernest Neale RAFVR. The aircraft failed to return. There are also reports that a Jochen Prien, a pilot of 3./JG 5 (based in Norway) claimed a Beaufighter this day.

The Summary of Events, Y, for 248 Squadron makes no mention of this flight on, or around 18 June 1942. The aircraft T3326 was flown that day by Flight Lieutenant Lumsden and Sergeant Goffee, on a sea rescue mission from 0953 hrs to 1202 hrs, and nothing was spotted. It is possible that the flight of T3326 of Pilot Officer Booth and Flight Sergeant Neale was later that day and was not recorded. 18 June 1942 was the last day that Beaufighter T3326 was recorded in the Summary of Events, Y, for 248 Squadron.

The last mention of Pilot Officer Booth and Flight Sergeant Neale in the Summary of Events, Y, for 248 Squadron was on 13 June 1942 when at 0443 hrs they took off on a fighter scramble in Bristol Beaufighter T5107, along with T5142, and landed at 0545 hrs, with nothing sighted.

Edward Peter Paul OLSON

Sergeant, 1615942

44 (Rhodesia) Squadron
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Died: 10 April 1945

Age: 21

Buried at: Berlin 1939-1945 War Cemetery, Germany. Grave 13.J.2

Son of Sarah Olson, of Chelmsford, Essex

IN EVERLASTING, PROUD AND LOVING MEMORY OF A PERFECT BROTHER AND SON

Edward (Peter) Olson was born in April 1923 and his birth was registered in the Blything area of Suffolk. His mother's maiden name was Nielson. Peter and his older brother John were living in Woodbridge with their parents when they both entered Woodbridge School in 1934. They remained pupils until 1937.

After leaving school Peter worked by as an armature winder at the Chelmsford electrical engineer's Crompton-Parkinson.

At 1831 hrs on 10 April 1945 Avro Lancaster III ND631 took off from RAF Spilsby on a bombing attack the Wahren, Leipzig railway marshalling yards. Its bomb load was 10 x 1000 MC (Medium Capacity). Fzd.53.A. (Fuze). The aircraft which was piloted by 21 year-old Southern Rhodesian Flying Officer 160043 Patrick William 'Pat' Kennedy, on his 30th operation, was carrying eight airmen, one more than usual. The extra man was 29 year-old Pilot Officer 160244 Geoffrey Clayton Rance Woodhouse.

The other crew were Canadian Warrant Officer Class II (Navigator) R/189991 Allan Frederick Turner (aged 22), Flying Officer W. J. Jones, Flight Sergeant (Wireless Operator) 1604391 James Edward Short (aged 23), Flight Sergeant (Air Gunner) 1090496 Colin McBurney (aged 23), and Flight Sergeant (Air Gunner) 1816650 Albert Edward Bull (aged 20). Edward Olson was the navigator.

Their aircraft was shot down over Leipzig with Flying Officer W. J. Jones the only crew member to survive.

PRO DEO

REGE

PATRIA

Charles Ernest OXBORROW D.S.C., R.N.

Lieutenant,

H.M. Submarine Unshaken

Died: 25 November 1942

Age: 26

Commemorated at: Portsmouth Naval Memorial. Panel 62, Column 1

Son of Mr and Mrs W.A. Oxborrow; husband of Hazel Elaine Oxborrow, of Maesteg, Glamorgan.

Charles Oxborrow was born in October 1916 and his birth registered in Woodbridge, Suffolk. His parents were William and Eliza, nee Dewhurst, Oxborrow.

Charles Oxborrow joined the Royal Navy as a rating and received his commission before the war.

In the third quarter of 1939 he married Hazel Elaine Bowser in Staines, Middlesex. They had one son who died in infancy.

While at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich he was a rugby forward for the United Services and Kent. By 1 September 1937 Acting Sub-Lieutenant Oxborrow had achieved Class 2 Certificate in the War Course, Class 2 Certificate in Navigation, Class 1 in Gunnery, Class 2 in Torpedo, and Class 3 in Signals.

On 7 October 1939 he transferred to the Submarine Service, in HM Submarine H 43, an H Class submarine. In July 1940 he was posted to HM Submarine Utmost, a U Class submarine, on which he became 1st Lieutenant on 7 November 1940.

On 5 May 1942 Lieutenant Charles Oxborrow was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for "daring enterprise and devotion to duty in successful patrols in H.M. submarines".

In May 1942 he became Commanding Officer on HM Submarine Unshaken. On 25 Nov 1942 in the late afternoon HM Submarine Unshaken, P 54 surfaced in the Gulf of Lyons in very heavy weather. The submarine then submerged back to a depth of about 30 feet while the Commanding Officer and two lookouts were already on the bridge. They could not get below in time and were washed overboard. A search was made but they were not sighted again.

At probate his address was Redlands, 67 St Michael's Road, Maesteg, Glamorgan. His widow, Hazel Oxborrow, joined the WRNS becoming a Third Officer.

Herford Linton PENDAL

Warrant Officer (Pilot), 741070

No. 3 School of General Reconnaissance, Coastal Command,
Royal Air Force Reserve

Died: 23 August 1942

Age: 32

Buried at: New Southgate Cemetery, United Kingdom.
Sec. A.C. Grave 954

Son of William Charles and Clara Martha Pental; husband of
Doris Marie Pental



Herford Linton Pental was born on 21 May 1910 in Rudiport, South Africa. His parents were William Charles (from Suffolk), a mining engineer and Captain at the Robinson Deep Gold Mine Co Ltd, Johannesburg, and Clara Martha Pental, nee Williams (from Builth Wells, Wales). Following William Charles Pental's death in September 1911, in May 1912 (just one month after the Titanic disaster) Clara returned to England with Herford. They embarked at Cape Town on SS Kinfauns Castle, celebrating Herford's second birthday onboard, and disembarked at Portsmouth. The two settled in Ipswich, where Clara bought a house on Westerfield Road.

Herford attended Woodbridge School as a boarder between 1923 and 1926. His was a happy time at Woodbridge, and he cherished the photographs he took while at school and at the school's Officer's Training Corps camp at Tidworth Park on Salisbury Plain in 1924 and 1925. He kept in touch with his beloved House Master Captain Gilbert Riddell for the rest of his life; his surviving family maintaining the friendship until Captain Riddell's death. Herford appears in photographs of school life published in the books 'The Seckford Foundation: four hundred years of a Tudor charity' and 'Woodbridge school, Suffolk, 1662-1962: An outline history'.

Upon leaving school in 1926 Herford worked for short time as a certified Wireless Watcher for the U.K Postal Service and soon after was engaged for a period as a Junior Officer in the Merchant Navy, sailing mainly to Egypt and the Middle East.

Having always wanted to fly, 19-year-old Herford began private flying lessons at De Haviland's Flying School and obtained his private pilot's licence before joining the Royal Air Force at RAF Uxbridge as a Pilot Officer on the 10 October 1930.

Following a serious crash in June 1932 and months of recuperation at RAF Cranwell, Herford was invalided out of the RAF but maintained an active interest in flying as a member of the London Aeroplane Club.

By 1934 Herford co-owned Pendeller Motors, a car dealership first in Bury Walk, Chelsea; and after 1935, in Kensington and Friern Barnet.

In September 1935 Herford married Doris Marie Tankard in Bowes Park, Middlesex. She was the daughter of the Music Hall comedian Victor Tankard (stage name Victor Travers).

In August 1937 Herford was employed by the Metropolitan-Vickers Company, Manchester, in the Lamp Sales Department and was living in Timperley with Doris.

In the 1939 Register they are recorded as living at 33 Heyes Lane, Timperley, Altringham.

Having been a Sergeant in the Royal Air Force Voluntary Reserve since 1936 (and flying regularly in a private capacity while living in the north), Herford was mobilised immediately upon the outbreak of war and was promoted to Warrant Officer. Pilots serving at Home at this time were encouraged to keep their wives with them for morale and although their official residence during the war reverted to Doris' family home in Bowes Park, Herford and Doris travelled extensively to various RAF coastal stations all over the UK and Scotland while he was engaged in Reconnaissance work and as a Flying Instructor. His diary of 1941-1942 notes he was involved with the search for his former London Flying Club contemporary Amy Johnson's crash site.

On 23 August 1942 Herford was the pilot of Blackburn Botha Mk1 - L6318 flying from No. 3 School of General Reconnaissance, Squires Gate, Blackpool, with four crew members, Sergeant Robert Wilmore Patrick RNZAF a navigator/bomb aimer; Sergeant John Bernard Wood RNZAF, a navigator/bomb aimer; Aircraftman 1st Class Ronald Ibbetson, the wireless operator; and Aircraftman 1st Class Andrew

Smyth, a wireless operator, on a navigational exercise. Flying over North Wales the aircraft entered low cloud and crashed on the north eastern slopes of Tal-y-Fan near Conwy. All members of the crew were killed. A search party from No 9 AOS at RAF Penrhos and locals found the aircraft the next day and recovered the bodies.

In October 1942, just six weeks after he died, Herford and Doris' only child, Susan M L Pental was born. She was later granted the Licence to marry in the RAF church, St Clement Danes, Strand; where the church Remembrance Book was opened with the page bearing Herford's name.

Herford's name is recorded on the Woodbridge School Memorial, the Metro-Vickers War Memorial in Stretford, Manchester, in the Remembrance books at St. Michael-at-Bowes parish church and at St. Clement Danes, Strand; and on the Ipswich War Memorial in Christchurch Park.

Frank Graham SODEN

Lieutenant

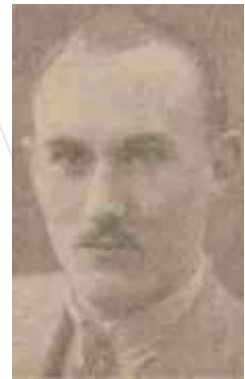
Army in Burma Reserve of Officers

(Civilian in Burma)

Died: 18 May 1942

Age: 27

Buried at: Imphal War Cemetery, India. Grave: 7.F.20



Frank Soden was one of three sons of Dr Wilfred Scovil and Mrs Dorothy Maud, nee Graham, Soden of Winchcombe, Gloucestershire. His birth was registered in the second quarter of 1915 in St Pancras, London.

He was educated at Woodbridge School from 1923-1933, and on leaving entered the employment of a large firm of importers. He went to Rangoon, Burma to work in teak forestry and was there for six years.

He was an outstanding all-round sportsman, having played in the Wimbledon All England Club Tournament. He played cricket for Winchcombe and other clubs in Gloucestershire. He was also a competent golf and rugby player.

He lived and worked at Bharmo, Burma and died of blackwater fever in the retreat from Burma.

His two Old Woodbridgian brothers were also killed during WWII. Ian Scovil Soden, DSO, MiD., RAF was killed in action on 18 May 1940, and John Flewelling Soden was killed in action on 12 September 1942.

Ian Scovil SODEN D.S.O., MiD.

Flight Lieutenant, 33289

B Flight, 56 Squadron

Royal Air Force

Died: 18 May 1940

Age: 23

Buried at: Biache-St Vaast Communal Cemetery, France.

Grave: 2

Son of Wilfred Scovil Soden and Dorothy Maud Soden, of Combe Down, Bath, Somerset



Ian Soden was born in 1917 and his birth was registered in the second quarter in Hanover Square, London. His parents were Dr Wilfred Scovil and Mrs Dorothy Maud, nee Graham, Soden of Winchcombe, Gloucestershire.

He was educated at Woodbridge School where he was a boarder in Marryott House from 1926-1934 and then at RAF Cranwell College.

On 19 December 1936 he was commissioned as a Pilot Officer from being a Flight Cadet at RAF College, Cranwell.

On 16 May 1940 he was detached to France to operate alongside 229 Squadron. Over the next 48 hours he was involved in 6 successful engagements. On 18 May 1940 he failed to return from his fifth sortie in his Hawker Hurricane N2439. The following are contemporary accounts from B Flight's official Summary of Operations:

'F/Lt. Soden, accompanied by F/O Rose, P/O Down, F/Sgt. Higginson and Sgt. Whitehead [Pilot Officer F. 'Barry' Sutton followed slightly later due to engine problems], left North Weald on 16th May, 1940, and, after landing at Manston, arrived at Vitry aerodrome, near Douai, that same evening.

Friday Morning 17th. Took off on an offensive patrol over Brussels. There was intense A.A. fire. We chased a Henschel over enemy territory at 200 feet and returned because of intense pom-pom fire. Later that morning F/Lt. Soden shot down a Ju.88 which had just bombed Vitry and Douai and set an oil refinery on fire while at the same time F/Sgt. Higginson shot down a Dornier 215 or 17.

Friday Afternoon 17th. While on an offensive patrol the flight met about 7 Heinkel III's. F/Lt. Soden, F/O Rose, Sgt. Whitehead and Flt/Sgt Higginson each accounted for one while F/O Rose and Sgt. Whitehead got another between them. P/O Down made a successful attack on a sixth and there is no doubt that it crashed.

Saturday Morning 18th. F/Lt. Soden and F/Sgt. Higginson went for a Dornier 215 and F/Lt. Soden shot it down.

F/Lt. Soden, F/Sgt. Higginson and Sgt. Whitehead encountered 50 to 60 Me.109's near Brussels and F/Lt. Soden shot one down.

It is also understood that F/Lt. Soden, F/O Rose and P/O Sutton, between them shot down a Dornier 17 but no details are available.

Saturday Afternoon 18th. While rising to escort bombers from England F/O Rose, P/O Down, P/O Sutton and Sgt. Whitehead with others were attacked by about 12 Me. 109's. F/O Rose was shot down and killed and P/O Sutton slightly wounded. Enemy casualties not known.

F/Lt. Soden and Sgt. Whitehead took off to attack 3 Heinkels III and F/Lt. Soden shot one down.

F/O Ereminsky (who had joined the flight), F/Sgt. Higginson and Sgt. Whitehead were rising on a patrol when they sighted and attacked about 10 Me.110's sent to draw our fighters off. F/O Ereminsky and F/Sgt. Higginson each shot one down, while Sgt. Whitehead shot two down.

Saturday Evening 18th. The aerodrome was bombed by 9 Dornier Flying Pencils and about 8 to 10 planes were destroyed. F/Lt. Soden borrowed a machine and took off and has not been seen or heard of since. That evening Vitry aerodrome was evacuated, everybody going to Norrent Fontes aerodrome.

Sunday Morning 19th Our remaining pilots accompanied a party by road to blow up everything

valuable remaining at Vitry. F/O Ereminsky, P/O Down and F/Sgt. Higginson flew home to England.'

Pilot Officer 'Barry' Sutton described Soden's first Victory thus:

"A Dornier appeared over the airfield, flying high and out of the sun. This was the first enemy aircraft I had seen either from the ground or from the air, and I was so engrossed in looking at it that I had to be thrown into a small trench. A second later there came the scream of a falling bomb. Ian [Soden], Higginson and someone from 229 Squadron roared off. The Dornier had now overshot the airfield and turned as if to make a second run. He also lost height and was at about 800 feet. Spellbound we watched him turn away suddenly as he apparently saw Ian [flying N2437] climbing hard after him. Then followed the most thrilling spectacle I have ever seen. Ian, by now well on his tail, started firing. We heard the noise of his Brownings above that of the engines of both machines. The Dornier dived and began hedge-hopping in an effort to get away, but Ian followed him, firing all the time. We watched them disappear behind some trees."

'The Dornier crashed into a field near the airfield and Soden landed beside the wreckage to collect a souvenir (an ammunition pan); he reported that there were no survivors. This was almost certainly Lt. Otto Grüter's aircraft of 6/KG76.'

'Flt. Lt. Ian Soden (N2437) of 56/B Flight had also taken off to intercept the Bf.110C's of II/ZG76, but was shot down almost immediately and crashed just outside the aerodrome perimeter; in the few days he had led his Flight into action, he had proved himself to be a gallant, inspiring and successful leader; his body was recovered later and buried at nearby Biache-St Vaast.'

Flight Lieutenant Soden was buried at Biache-St-Vaast, near Arras, France.

The citation for his DSO stated:

London Gazette 28 June 1940, the recommendation (for a Posthumous award) states:

'This Officer's Flight was ordered to France at short notice and arrived [the] same evening. His personal influence, on being chosen for active service affected all ranks and made his Flight a determined fighting unit. During the following two days he led his Flight in frequent combats. During this time he himself accounted for five enemy aircraft and possibly two more, whilst his Flight accounted for a further seven confirmed.

On one occasion he attacked, single handed, between 50 and 60 enemy fighters. He shot down one of them. On the evening of the 18th May the aerodrome was under heavy bombing attack. Flight Lieutenant Soden jumped out of a shelter trench and called to a crew to start up an aircraft. He got into the first fighter he came to without knowing whether it was fully fuelled or armed. He took off from the aerodrome which was covered with smoke and many delayed action bombs. He was last seen in pursuit of the enemy.

This officer, throughout the period of active service, displayed leadership in the highest degree; which inspired all under him to the greatest effort.

His last attack on the enemy showed the sternest valour and extreme devotion to duty. He left comparative safety to make a lone attack on a greatly superior number of enemy."

Remarks by Air Officer Commanding [Air Vice-Marshal K. R. Park]:

"This very gallant Officer through his personal influence made his Flight into a very determined fighting unit.

He had great personal dash and cool courage. He accounted for six enemy aircraft and others unconfirmed. He attacked single-handed between 50 and 60 enemy aircraft and accounted for one.

On 18th May 1940, while the aerodrome was under heavy bombing attack, he jumped out of his shelter trench and took off to attack. He left safety for a gallant lone attack. He is reported missing.

I very strongly recommend the award of the Distinguished Service Order."

Park, then commanding No. 11 Group, made a very strong recommendation for the above 'immediate' award notwithstanding the fact that Soden had already been killed. This was then supported by Dowding, before the Air Ministry stepped in to relay that his recommendation for the D.S.O. was inadmissible unless Soden had been proven to be alive at the time of the recommendation. After lengthy correspondence the award was approved by the Secretary of State for Air, and subsequently signed off by the King, but only on the proviso that no further awards be made on this basis.

His Mention in Despatches was published in the London Gazette on 1 January 1941.

His two Old Woodbridgian brothers also died during World War II. Frank Graham Soden on 18 May 1942, and John Flewelling Soden was killed in action on 12 September 1942.

John Flewelling SODEN

Flight Lieutenant, 42903

Royal Air Force

Died: 12 September 1942

Age: 23

Commemorated : Alamein Memorial, Egypt. Column 247



John Soden was born in June 1921 at Winchcombe, Gloucestershire. His parents were Dr Wilfred Scovil and Mrs Dorothy Maud, nee Graham, Soden of Winchcombe, Gloucestershire.

He was a pupil at Woodbridge School from 1930-1937, Suffolk and then studied at Cheltenham Technical College.

He joined the Royal Air Force on a short service commission in August 1939.

On 2 June 1940 he was commissioned as a (probationary) Pilot Officer.

He was awarded his 'Wings' at No. 9 Flying Training School at RAF Hullavington, and he was posted to No. 5 Operational Training Unit at RAF Aston Down on 10 June 1940. He was posted to 266 Squadron at RAF Wittering on 26 June 1940 where he trained on Supermarine Spitfires.

On 16 August 1940 his Spitfire K9864 was severely damaged when fighting Messerschmidt Me109s over Canterbury, Kent and he made a forced-landing near Oare, Faversham, Kent being slightly wounded in the legs.

On 25 October 1940 when he was fighting Messerschmidt 109s over Sussex he bailed out and injured his right leg when he landed by parachute at Perryfields, Burgess Hill, Sussex. He was admitted to East Sussex Hospital, Hastings, Sussex. His Spitfire, P7325, crashed at Stonelink Farm, Brede, East Sussex.

From November 1941 John Soden flew Curtiss P40 Tomahawks in the Western Desert serving under his uncle Group Captain F.O. Soden, DFC and Bar.

On 12 September 1942 he was returning to the United Kingdom when he was lost in the troopship SS Laconia, sunk by a U-boat on 12th September 1942. uboat.net describes the events: "On Sept 12, 1942 at 2207 hours U-156 under the command of Kptlt. Werner Hartenstein torpedoed a large target in the South Atlantic in position 05.05S, 11.38W. The large vessel was the British line Laconia (19,695 tons) which sank at 2323 hours. The liner was carrying a 136-man crew, some 80 civilians, military material and personnel (268 men) and approx. 1800 Italian prisoners of war with 160 Polish soldiers on guard.

Shortly after the sinking the crew of U-156 was amazed to hear Italian voices in the sea amongst the people both in lifeboats and also struggling in the water itself. Hartenstein immediately began rescue operations and radioed for assistance, both from nearby U-boats and also sent out un coded messages to every vessel around to assist, promising to cease hostilities.

In the next days U-156 saved some 400 survivors, hold 200 on board and the other 200 in lifeboats. On Sept 15, at 1130 hours U-506 under Kptlt Erich Würdemann arrived at the scene and continued to rescue the survivors. A few hours later U-507 under Korvkpt. Harro Schacht and the Italian submarine Cappellini also arrived. The boats headed for shore, towing the lifeboats behind them and hundreds of survivors were both in and inside the U-boats themselves.

On Sept 16, at 1125 hours an American B-24 Liberator bomber operating from the Ascension Island arrived at the scene where its pilot spotted the boats (which at that time flew the Red Cross flag and were clearly not hostile to anyone). The pilot radioed back to his base asking for instructions and was told to attack at once which he did at 1232 hours, forcing the U-boats to cut the lines to the life boats and submerge immediately, leaving hundreds of people again struggling in the water.

Thankfully this US intervention caused not as much loss of life as it could have as shortly afterwards some neutral French warships from Dakar arrived at the scene and started picking up survivors. Also many had been taken into the U-boats themselves and were safe there (only because the bomber failed to sink them though). Roughly 1500 survived the sinking.

This incident prompted one of the most controversial order Dönitz ever issued, usually known as

the Laconia order today, it made it absolutely clear that no U-boats were to take part in any rescue operations from that date and leave any survivors in the sea. Up until that time U-boats had on very many occasions helped the survivors of their victims with supplies, water, directions to nearest land and so on."1

John's brother Flight Lieutenant Ian Scovil DSO was killed on 18 May 1940 and his remaining brother Frank Graham was killed in the retreat from Burma on 18 May 1942.

Arthur Robert TIMBERS

Captain, 143937

Warrant Officer, Class II

Army Educational Corps

Died: Between 14 March 1942 and 15 March 1942

Buried at: Kranji War Cemetery, Singapore. Grave 8.E.4

Age: 38

Arthur Timbers was born in Woodbridge, Suffolk in 1904 and his birth was registered in the fourth quarter.

In the 1911 Census his parents, Herbert Matthew, an elementary school master, and Sarah Ann Timbers were living at 164 St Edmunds House, Castle Street, Woodbridge, Suffolk. The children were Elsie 18, an apprentice schoolteacher, Philip 13, at school, Violet Eleanor 11, at school, Arthur 6, at school, and Margaret 4, at school. The general domestic servant was Louisa Byles.

Arthur Timbers attended Woodbridge School between 1915 and 1919, his older brother had also been a pupil from 1908-1912. Little more is known until a record that on 18 January 1932 Arthur Timbers married Nancy Gwendoline Smith at All Saints' Church, Cheriton, Folkestone, Kent. They spent their honeymoon in London and Bournemouth.

On 17 August 1940 Warrant Officer Class II Arthur Timbers, Army Educational Corps was commissioned as a Lieutenant. He was reported as missing from the Malaya Expeditionary Force on 15 February 1942. In Casualty List 1663, 24 January 1945, it was reported that he died as a Prisoner of War in Japanese Hands.

On 18 April 1946 Arthur Timbers was moved from his original burial place at Changi Cemetery, Singapore to Kranji War Cemetery.

Hugh Thomas WALLER RN

Schoolmaster

H.M.S. Penelope

Royal Navy

Died: 7 October 1943

Age: 30

Buried at: Alexandria (Hadra) War Cemetery, Egypt. Grave: 5.E.10

Son of Alexander Mortlock Waller and Charlotte Mary Waller, of Fortis Green, Middlesex.

PRO DEO, REGE, PATRIA. R.I.P.

Hugh Waller was born on 12 December 1912 and his birth was registered in the first quarter of 1913 at Islington, London. His parents were Alexander Mortlock and Charlotte Mary, nee Grane, Waller.

He was educated at Woodbridge School, Suffolk between 1926 and 1931.

From 1931 to 1934, and 1937 to 1936 he was a student in the Faculty of Science at King's College, London. He graduated with a BSc.

On 16 April 1939 Hugh Waller joined the Royal Navy as a Schoolmaster, with the equivalent rank of Warrant Officer.

On 4 October 1943 HMS Penelope transferred to the Levant Command to intercept craft taking German troops to the Greek Aegean islands following the Italian surrender.

On 7 October 1943 HMS Penelope, HMS Sirius, HMS Faulkner, and HMS Fury intercepted the German convoy taking soldiers to the Greek island of Cos. They attacked four small transport boats and lighters, and their escorting trawlers, which were sunk or set on fire.

They came under heavy air attacks in the Scarpanto Strait which seriously damaged HMS Penelope with a direct hit abreast of Y turret, and several near misses. The ship began to list, which was corrected and continued on its passage. 12 members of the ship's company were killed and 29 injured. It returned to Alexandria, Egypt for repairs.

John Trevor WILKINS MiD

Squadron Leader, 33204

Royal Air Force

Died: 1 March 1942

Age: 24

Buried at: Jakarta War Cemetery, Indonesia. Grave: 5.F.13

Son of Wing Cdr. Frederick Ralph Wilkins and Gladys Maud Wilkins, of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire

John Wilkins was born on 15 July 1917, and he was baptised on 28 October 1917, at St Peter's, Southsea, Portsmouth. At the time his parents, Frederick Ralph and Gladys Maud Wilkins were living at 24 Bailey Road, Southsea. His father was a Lieutenant in the Royal Flying Corps. Between 1930 and 1935 John Wilkins was a pupil at Woodbridge School while the family were based nearby at Martlesham. Soon after leaving it is probable that he joined the Royal Air Force.

Squadron Leader John Wilkins RAF and his crew Sergeant F G Brooker (RAF) (Air Gunner) and Flying Officer Wallace Chisholm (407410) (Observer) took part in an operation in Vilderbeeste K6377 aircraft on the night of 28 February 1942.

"As a result of intelligence that a major threat in the form of a landing by Japanese forces would develop in Eastern Java, No. 36 Squadron left Tjikompek with eight Vildebeestes and one Albacore and arrived at Madeon, half way between Sourabaya and Semerang and about 100 kilometres inland. They arrived about 1900 hours on 28 February and after refuelling and briefing were ready for takeoff at 2100 hours. During the night most aircraft did two sorties each.

The first part of the mission required an extensive search because reconnaissance information was inaccurate. A convoy was found, however, about 8 kilometres off the coast, north of Rembang and 160 kilometres west of Sourabaya. There were 28 ships, including a cruiser, in the convoy and most pilots claimed direct hits on transports. The squadron claimed to have sunk eight ships for the loss of three Vildebeestes during the night's operations. Americans, also based at Madeon and operating with Flying Fortresses, claimed to have sunk a further seven ships, but despite these efforts, the Japanese made a successful landing.

During the night Squadron Leader Wilkins and his Observer Pilot Officer Bill Chisholm were killed when their Vildebeest crashed after an attack on the convoy. The Wireless Air Gunner, Sergeant Brooker escaped but was wounded. This was the first loss by enemy action of a Vildebeest on a night flight during the campaign."

On 31 October 1946 Squadron Leader John Wilkins was mentioned in Despatches. His Old Woodbridgian brother, Flying Officer Stephen Wilkins, was killed in action on 12 January 1942.

¹Extract from Hall, E.R. (O3341) Glory in Chaos, Sembawanag Association West Coburg VIC, 1989 - Page 474

Stephen Percival WILKINS

Flying Officer, 33496

(Flight Lieutenant)

205 Squadron

Royal Air Force

Died: 12 January 1942

Age: 22

Commemorated at: Singapore Memorial, Singapore. Column 413

Son of Wing Cdr. Frederick Wilkins and Gladys M. Wilkins, of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire

Stephen Wilkins was born on 8 May 1920 and he was baptised on 7 July 1920 at St Peter's Church, Southsea, Portsmouth. His parents were Frederick Ralph, a Flying Officer in the Royal Air Force, and Gladys Maud Wilkins of 24 Bailey Road, Southsea.

He attended Woodbridge School, Suffolk between 1930 and 1938, along with his older brother. The family were living close by in Martlesham at the time. The Woodbridge School Register of Boys notes that he entered Cranwell for training on leaving.

On 14 June 1939 Flight Cadet John Lawrence Orby Hicks, aged 17, and Stephanie North, aged 17, a nursemaid, were killed in a car crash on the Great North Road, near Newark, Nottinghamshire. They were returning from Grantham when rounding a bend hit a telegraph pole. Four other Flight Cadets from RAF Cranwell were also injured. They were Stephen Wilkins 19, of Heathcote, Uxbridge with a broken thigh and leg; David Michael Agnew 19, of Jedburgh, driver of the car, concussion and injury to his back; Henry Mountency Stacey 19, of Tunbridge Wells, concussion; and Richard Ashton Shuttleworth 19, of Nether House, Brundall, near Norwich, slight concussion.

It was stated that Wilkins, Stacey and Shuttleworth were in a serious condition. At the inquest on 10 July 1939 Richard Shuttleworth said that Hicks, Stacey and he were in Newark when they met Agnew and Wilkins. They all accepted an invitation to go back in Agnew's car. Before returning they decided to visit an inn at Farndon where they met other cadets and Miss North. They returned to Newark and visited a hotel. When they left Miss North went first with Agnew following in his car. "We were all sober" said Shuttleworth. Some distance further on the lead car stopped and Miss North got out. Agnew drove across the road to talk to her, and she then got into the driving seat of the car. Wilkins got into the back seat to allow Agnew take the seat next to the driver. Miss North drove the car for about two miles in the direction of Grantham, when she stopped and turned around. Agnew said that his last recollection was that the girl was driving. He had initially refused to let her drive as he was not insured for other drivers. Miss North replied that she had a policy. After that Agnew could remember nothing. Flight-Cadet Wilkins, in his statement to the Coroner from Newark Hospital, where he was still a patient, said "Miss North was the last person driving the car, within my knowledge."

On 22 December 1940 Stephen Wilkins was granted a permanent commission as a Pilot Officer, on probation, into the General Duties Branch of the Royal Air Force. On 12 January 1942 Flying Officer Stephen Wilkins was flying Consolidated Catalina I W8409 with Squadron Leader M F C Farrar, Sergeant H J Bye, Sergeant W Cannon, Sergeant N D Clayton, Sergeant R M T Draper, Sergeant T J Goggin, Flight Sergeant C H Hall, Sergeant R W Whitehouse on an operational flight over Singora Railway Station, Thailand. The aircraft failed to return and he was lost in his aircraft.

On 22 December 1942 it was announced that he would have been given promotion to Flight Lieutenant. His Old Woodbridgian brother, Squadron Leader John Trevor Wilkins RAF was killed on 1 March 1942.

Derek Garth WOODWARD

Sergeant, 940837

99 Squadron (Madras Presidency)

Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Died: 12 June 1941

Age: 20

Buried at: Reichswald Forest War Cemetery, Cleves, Germany. Grave: 19.E.5

Son of Lieutenant Commander Arthur Gerald and Doris Woodward, of Beckford, Gloucestershire

REST IN PEACE

Derek Woodward was born in 1921 and his birth was registered in the second quarter in Winchcombe, Gloucestershire. His parents were Arthur Gerald, a Lieutenant in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, and Doris, nee White, Woodward, of Dalton House, Beckford, Gloucestershire. Arthur Woodward had trained to fly with the Wright Brothers' Field of Flying. He later became Managing Director of tomato growers, A.J. Woodward & Sons, the largest growers of tomatoes, under glass, in the country. Derek Woodward was the eldest son and attended Woodbridge School from 1934-1939.

On the night of 11 June 1941 Vickers Wellington IC - W5680 took off for an operation over Dusseldorf, Germany from RAF Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire. The crew was Sergeant D G Woodward (Pilot), Sergeant P Bratley (Pilot), Sergeant R C Scott (Observer), Sergeant J K Cassels (Wireless Operator), Sergeant W M Ritchie (Wireless Operator), and Sergeant A J Arnold (Air Gunner).

Derek Woodward had just completed his 200th war operational flying hours, and was awaiting his commission, having been posted as an instructor in an operational training unit. The aircraft was shot down on 12 June 1941.

99 Squadron' Summary of Operations states:

2300-2332. NIGHT OPERATIONS AGAINST TRAGETS AT DUSSELDORF AND BOULOGNE.

Ten aircraft took off to attack targets at Dusseldorf and five Freshmen to attack the docks at Boulogne. Of the ten aircraft detailed to attack Dusseldorf five successfully attacked the target, one attacked targets at Munchen Gladbach, one attacked oil storage at Rotterdam, and one had to jettison bombs while evading enemy aircraft which was preparing to attack.

Two sorties (Sgt. Woodward & Crew and Sgt. Barron & Crew) failed to return. All the Freshmen landed safely, all having attacked the primary target.

Originally the crew were buried at the Gelsenkirchen-Huellen Cemetery, in the Ruhr area of Germany, as unknown, but were later identified and re-buried on 8 May 1947.

Acknowledgements and Sources

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The following general sources were used in this research:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

National Archives, London

Library and Archives of Canada

National Archives of Australia

Imperial War Museum