

**FIRST WORLD WAR HEROES  
OF  
WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE**

**Bill Griffiths**

**Bill Griffiths © 2013**

**“First World War Heroes of Wotton-under-Edge”**

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**Second printing** with minor corrections printed and bound in Great Britain by “Printondemand-worldwide.com” - October 2013.

**ISBN 978-0-9548895-5-5**





# FIRST WORLD WAR HEROES OF WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE

**Dedicated to my two grandfathers:**

*Pte. Humphrey Jones  
8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Welsh Fusiliers  
killed in action on the Gallipoli Peninsula  
22<sup>nd</sup> September 1915*

*and*

*John Spencer Griffiths  
Royal Flying Corps  
who survived the war*

*and*

*to all the men of Wotton-under-Edge  
who served in the Great War,  
especially the 114 who made the supreme sacrifice*

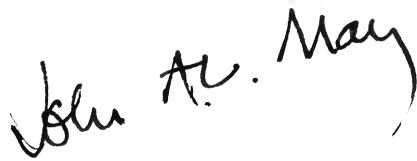
## FOREWORD

“Cornock, Grimes, Stinchcombe,  
Exell, Richings, Jotcham, Organ...”

The names ring out across a century and more. They are the rich fabric of Wotton-under-Edge and, like a poem, they have a life and glory of their own. To those who know and love Wotton each name describes families and memories, chronicling the busy life of a small town on the edge of the Cotswolds.

These names are also on the War Memorial in Old Town, in memory of the 114 who gave their lives in the First World War.

In this book Bill Griffiths tells their story and out of chiselled letters on a stone the lives and deaths of these local men leap up. This is a fascinating account. Local people, visitors and historians alike will be delighted and excited at the minutely researched vignettes. Bill has brought the stone to life in a most marvellous way and gloriously enriched our view of Wotton-under-Edge and its place in time and history.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John A. May". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. The "J" is large and loops around the "o". The "A" is written as "Al." and the "May" is written in a fluid, connected script.

*John May*

*Vicar of Wotton-under-Edge 1990-2007*



*The War Memorial  
Wotton-under-Edge*

## WHY I WROTE THIS BOOK

My interest in the First World War began in 1973, soon after I became Housemaster of Wellicome House in Katharine Lady Berkeley's School, Wotton-under-Edge. The House was named after William Cecil Wellicome, a teacher at what was then Katharine Lady Berkeley's Grammar School, when the war broke out in 1914. He volunteered to join the Army soon after the outbreak of hostilities, went to France with his regiment and was killed on the Western Front in November 1916. It was just these few facts which were known about Mr. Wellicome when I joined the staff of the school. To me Mr. Wellicome was a romantic figure from the past and I decided that I needed to know more about him. This led me into researching and reading a great deal about the First World War. My interest has spread from not only studying the war generally, but into specific areas e.g. researching the men, like Mr. Wellicome, whose names appear on Wotton's War Memorial. Also researching the ex-pupils of Katharine Lady Berkeley's Grammar School who died in the war. I have also been studying other war memorials in Gloucestershire and attempting to find out more about the men named on them.

114 men from this small town sacrificed their lives for their King and country in "the War to end all wars". In total over 700 Wottonians served in the Forces between 1914 and 1918 – you can read their names on the Roll of Honour in the Town Hall. At that time the town's population was less than 4,000 (according to Kelly's Directory, 1911, it was just 3,021). Almost every house in the town would have had a man in uniform. One in seven of those men who went to war did not return to their families! Many Wotton women became widows and many children were left without fathers. I have heard it said that no other town in the country lost so many men per head of population. Of course trying to prove this would be a huge task. What one can say is that Wotton-under-Edge made an enormous contribution to the war effort. This contribution is highlighted by studying just one Commonwealth War Grave Commission Memorial in France – that of Thiepval on the Somme, to find no less than the names of thirteen Wotton men carved on the panels of stone.

The townsfolk of Wotton-under-Edge, like people in all villages, towns and cities in Britain, wanted to provide a memorial for their sons who had fallen in the War. The Government's decision was not to bring bodies home for burial because of the massive numbers involved. Of course many men were lost completely on the battlefields and at sea. Wotton soldiers and airmen lie in cemeteries in France, Belgium, Salonika, Gallipoli and in countries as far away as Mesopotamia (modern day Iraq). Sailors lie in watery graves from the South Pacific to the North Sea. Where bodies were not recovered, or it was impossible to identify the serviceman, then men were commemorated on Memorials to the Missing. Some of these are massive edifices like the Thiepval Memorial, mentioned above, and the Menin Gate in Ypres, Belgium. Others are on the Naval Memorials in ports such as Plymouth, Portsmouth and Chatham.

Very few families after the First World War had the money to travel great distances to pay their respects at the graves of their loved ones. The question for communities was how to remember their dead. Committees were set up throughout the land, mainly in 1919 and the early 1920s, to decide what type of memorial would be appropriate for their locality. The money would be raised by public subscription, so cost was a factor. As in the case of Wotton-under-Edge many communities erected a monument to remember their dead. Others built crosses or even Memorial Halls, Memorial Hospitals, bungalows for widows or even playing fields. A small village may have put up a tablet in the Parish Church or designed a stained glass window to remember their dead. Many schools put up Rolls of Honour as did some commercial establishments.

I look at those names inscribed on Wotton's War Memorial and cannot help but feel that each man deserves more. Most were very young men who gave their all for what they felt was a just cause. In this book I have tried to give some detail of their families, and their lives in Wotton-under-Edge before they went to war. For nearly all of them there is information on their service careers and also the way in which they lost their lives and where they were buried or commemorated. Through this book I hope that we will at least go some way towards remembering the sacrifices that these young Wottonians made. We can only look back in admiration at their courage and devotion to duty, and although we didn't know them, we thank them for the sacrifices they made, not only for their own generation, but for future ones as well.

ADAMS, W. H. CAPT	CHAPPELL, H. Pte
AMOS, H. Pte	CLISSOLD, E. V. Pte
ANDREWS, L. F. AB.	COOPER, F. Pte
ANNESLEY, W. R. N. MAJ.	CORNOCK, A. A. Sgt
AVENILL, J. E. CPL	CORNOCK, A. E. Pte
BALLENGER, M. A. AB.	CORNOCK, E. A. B.
BECHER, H. S. MAJ.	CORNOCK, R. P. O.
BENGOUGH, J. C. LT	CORNOCK, S. Pte
BIGNELL, L. J. Pte	DANDO, H. M. L/c
BOW, C. SPt	DAVIS, J. L/c
BOYCE, F. J. Tpr	DEACON, E. Pte
BROodbANK, P. E. Pte	DICKENSON, H. Pte
BROWN, F. C. Pte	DOLMAN, W. CPL
BURFORD, G. Pte	ELLIOTT, H. Pte
BUTCHER, W. Pte	EXCELL, G. E. Pte
BUTLER, A. Pte	EXELL, G. Pte
BYE, A. W. STOKER.	EXELL, P. Pte
CANDY, F. Pte. M.M.	EXELL, W. CPL M.M.
CANDY, G. Pte	FARMILOE, F. F. A.B.

FAY, W. B. Pte	KING, H. Pte
FITZ, W. N. Pte	KINSON, A. E. L/c
FORD, A. E. Pte	KNIGHT, W. C. Pte
FRAPE, H. G. Pte	LACEY, J. Pte
FRY, R. F. Pte	LAINCHBURY, J. Pte
GORDON, F. CPL	LEONARD, H. Pte
GRANT, W. C. Sgt	LEONARD, J. Pte
GRIMES, E. Pte	LEWIS, M. W. F. Pte
GRIMES, G. Pte	MARSH, A. Pte
GRIMES, R. C. Pte	MAY, H. G. CPL
HEATH, W. R. K. Lt	MAY, W. N. Pte
HOLLISTER, E. A. Sgt	MEADOWS, T. Pte
HYNER, F. C. Pte	NEALE, F. G. Pte
JOTCHAM, C. R. Tpr	NOYES, R. E. MAJ
JOTCHAM, F. Lt	ORGAN, F. Pte
JOTCHAM, H. Pte	PAGETT, W. G. Pte
JOTCHAM, W. M. Lt	PARKER, A. Pte
JOTCHAM, W. L/c	PARKINSON, J. A. F. Lt
KEYNTON, W. J. L/c	PEARCE, F. Pte

*The four inscription panels on the  
War Memorial*

PEARCE, R. J. Pte	STINCHCOMBE, W. Pte
PERRY, F. CPL	TANNER, R. H. Sgt
POULTON, A. W. Sgt	TILLEY, A. L. Pte
PROSSER, H. W. Bdr	TOWNSEND, H. L. L/c
RICHINGS, J. Sgt	TROTMAN, V. CPL
RICHINGS, M. E. L/c	TUIBBS, S. B. CAPT
RIDLEY, H. L. Pte	TURNER, C. Pte
ROBINSON, W. CPL	TURNER, H. W. W. Pte
RODMAN, F. Dnr	UPSTONE, C. D. Lt
RUDGE, J. C. A.B.	VENN, T. Pte
SARGENT, W. Pte	VINES, W. Pte
SAUNDERS, W. C. A.B.	WALKER, D. Sgt
SAXTON, W. H. Pte	WATHEN, W. Pte
SHORT, H. L. Gnr	WEBB, T. F. Pte
SMITH, A. E. Pte	WELICOME, W. C. Sgt
SMITH, F. Rman	WICKS, F. J. Pte
SMITH, G. H. Pte	WILLCOCK, H. Pte
SPENCER, S. Pte	WOOD, W. B. Lt
STEVENS, C. W. Pte	WOODLANDS, A. H. Pte

TO THE HONoured MEMORY  
OF THE BRAVE MEN OF  
WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE  
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN  
THE GREAT WAR  
1914-1919  
Greater love hath no man  
than this, that a man lay  
down his life for his friends.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I have to thank many people for the help and advice they gave me in preparing this book. Top of the list must come Stuart Braidford who put the text, photographs, documents, maps etc. together in book form, in fact became my 'editor and publisher'. Thanks very much Stuart for the hours you spent on this project. Also high on the list must come four people who were willing to read through the first draft of this book and recommend alterations where needed and give me ideas for further research. Many thanks Michael Chappell\* and Beryl Kingan\*, Wotton-under-Edge, and Wayne and Michelle Young, Chippenham. For allowing me to borrow and read her grandfather's letters (Sidney Cornock) to his wife and include some of them in this book, I am indebted to Angela Cornock of Filton, Bristol. Angela also helped in providing me with photographs and information on the Cornock family. Pam Smith of Woodbridge, Suffolk, gave me copious information on a branch of the Jotcham family, especially her uncles – Fred, Herbert and William. For information and letters concerning Cedric Upstone, I would like to thank Karen Garvey, Archivist of St. Edward's School, Oxford. In the Appendices you will find some of the poignant letters written by Sidney Cornock to his wife Agnes and letters surrounding the death of Cedric.

Several people in Wotton-under-Edge gave of their time, talking to me about their relatives named on Wotton's War Memorial. From many I was able to borrow letters, documents, photographs and medals, for this I would like to thank them all. Others helped in a variety of ways, including Wilfred Chappell, Victor Chappell\*, Ethel Cook\*, Mrs. Cullimore, Fred Dimery, Steve Garrad, John Grimes, Rose Hayward, Vic Jellings\*, Mrs. E. Jenkins, Ivor Marsh\*, Rose Owen\* and Ellen Walker. I thank three ladies of the Heritage Centre in Wotton-under-Edge for their help and encouragement, especially Doreen Wren, Mary George and the late Beryl Kingan. I was also pleased to receive encouragement and advice from Dawn Waring and the late Syd Harris.

I was also helped by a number of people from a little further away. They are :- Graham Adams, ex-Charfield, Robert Bignell, Tytherington, Richard Cornish, Nailsea, Joe Devereux, Cheltenham, Daphne Fleming, Thornbury, Rex George, Cirencester, Mr. C. R. Jotcham, Rangeworthy, Roger Pritchard, Clifton, Bristol, Graham Sacker, Cheltenham, and Pete Uzzell also of Cheltenham. Help came from even further afield - Mr. S Anderson of Leamington Spa, C. Ball\* of Brora, Sutherland, Robin Barlow, Rugby, John Chapman, Reading University, Elaine Dando, Redhill, Sam Eedle, Tewkesbury, Mark Harrison, Sheffield Hallam University, Bill Inxson, Bridgnorth, John Laffin\* of Knighton, Powys, Robert Robertson, Wick, Caithness, George T. Ross, Achrisgill West, Sutherland, Mr. R. R. Smith, Headmaster, Sir William Borlase School, Marlow, Major G. A. B. Sutherland, Golspie, Sutherland, Basil Wellicome, Sussex, Miss J. Wellicome and Mrs. P. A. Wellicome of Marlow, Rob Williams, Solihull and Sebastian Wormell of Harrods of Knightsbridge.

Help came from overseas. Many thanks to Dalece Pope of Hawthorn, South Australia, who provided me with detailed notes and photographs on her uncle – Edward Deacon. Thank you

Glenda Lynch, Kambah, A.C.T. Australia, Paul Read, Somme, France and Martin Staunton of Nairobi, Kenya. I visited or wrote to many librarians, museums staff and the staff of various societies. I thank everybody for their courtesy in replying to my requests and for guiding me through their archives. They are :- P. Baird, Local Studies Department, City of Birmingham Public Library, Staff of the Reference Library, Central Library, Bristol, Matthew Buck, Researcher at the Royal Artillery Museum, Woolwich, London, Richard Callaghan (Curator), Redoubt Fortress Museum, Eastbourne, Major Carroll and Lieut. Col. N. Parmley of the Keep Military Museum, Dorchester, Lt. Col (Retd.) C. D. Darrach D.L. Royal Hampshire Regiment Museum, Winchester, Staff of the Regimental Headquarters of the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, Exeter, Lieut. Col. (Retd.) A.A. Fairie, Cameron Barracks, Inverness, Staff of the Gloucestershire Collection, Gloucester Library, Staff of the Gloucestershire Archives, Staff of the Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum, Gloucester, particularly Col. B. Whitmore, Staff of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, A. D. K. Hawkyard, The Archives Room, Harrow School, P. D. Hunter, the Vaughan Library, Harrow School, Penelope James (Curator) The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Museum, Guildford, Major Lamond and Gavin Edgerley-Harris, The Gurkha Museum, Winchester, Staff of the Imperial War Museum, London, Lt. Col. (Retd.) Patrick Love, Worcestershire Regiment Archives, Norton Barracks, Worcester, Major (Retd.) A. J. Maher, M.B.E. The Queen's Lancashire Regiment, Fulwood Barracks, Preston, Staff of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Maidenhead, Alastair Massie, Department of Archives, Photographs, Film and Sound, National Army Museum, Col. (Retd.) I. H. McCausland, The Royal Green Jackets Museum, Winchester, Major R. G. Mills, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers Museum, Warwick, John Mock, Naval Historical Collectors and Research Association, Mark Reid, Canadian War Museum, Ottawa, Stephen Shannon, Durham Light Infantry Museum, Durham, W. O. Simpson, The Cheltenham Society, Ron Thompson, Personnel Records Centre, National Archives of Canada, Ottawa, Liza Verity, Marine Information Centre, Col. H. B. Waring, O.B.E. Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment Museum and D. R. C. West, O.B.E. T.D. M.A. Archivist of Marlborough College. I would like to thank also Skip Walker of the *Gloucestershire Gazette* series, 74 Dyer Street, Cirencester, for permission to include material from the *Dursley Gazette*, 1914-1927. I apologise to anyone I may have inadvertently omitted.

Three times I enjoyed the company of Chris Penna, History teacher at Katharine Lady Berkeley's School and other members of staff of that school, during visits to the battlefields of the Western Front. I must also thank Tony Haworth of Wotton-under-Edge for driving me around the Somme and Arras battlefields and particularly for introducing me to *Le Poppy* café at Ovillers. We were to get an appreciation of Somme mud when getting stuck up some track looking for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Cemetery! Also, a thank you to my friend Clive Rushton who took some impressive photographs of Wotton-under-Edge War Memorial and, under difficult conditions in Wotton's Town Hall, photographs of the Roll of Honour boards which, amongst other assistance, helped to add finishing touches to the book. My friends Barry Crutchley, Sheila Braidford and Peter Griffin contributed considerable polish to the text with their meticulous proof-reading.

Finally, my wife, Joyce, was of great help to me during the many years I spent researching this book. Her encouragement and interest maintained my determination to complete the work. Thank you, Joyce.

Unless otherwise stated photographs, maps, documents etc. are from the author's collection.

Katharine Lady Berkeley's Grammar School is now Katharine Lady Berkeley's School.

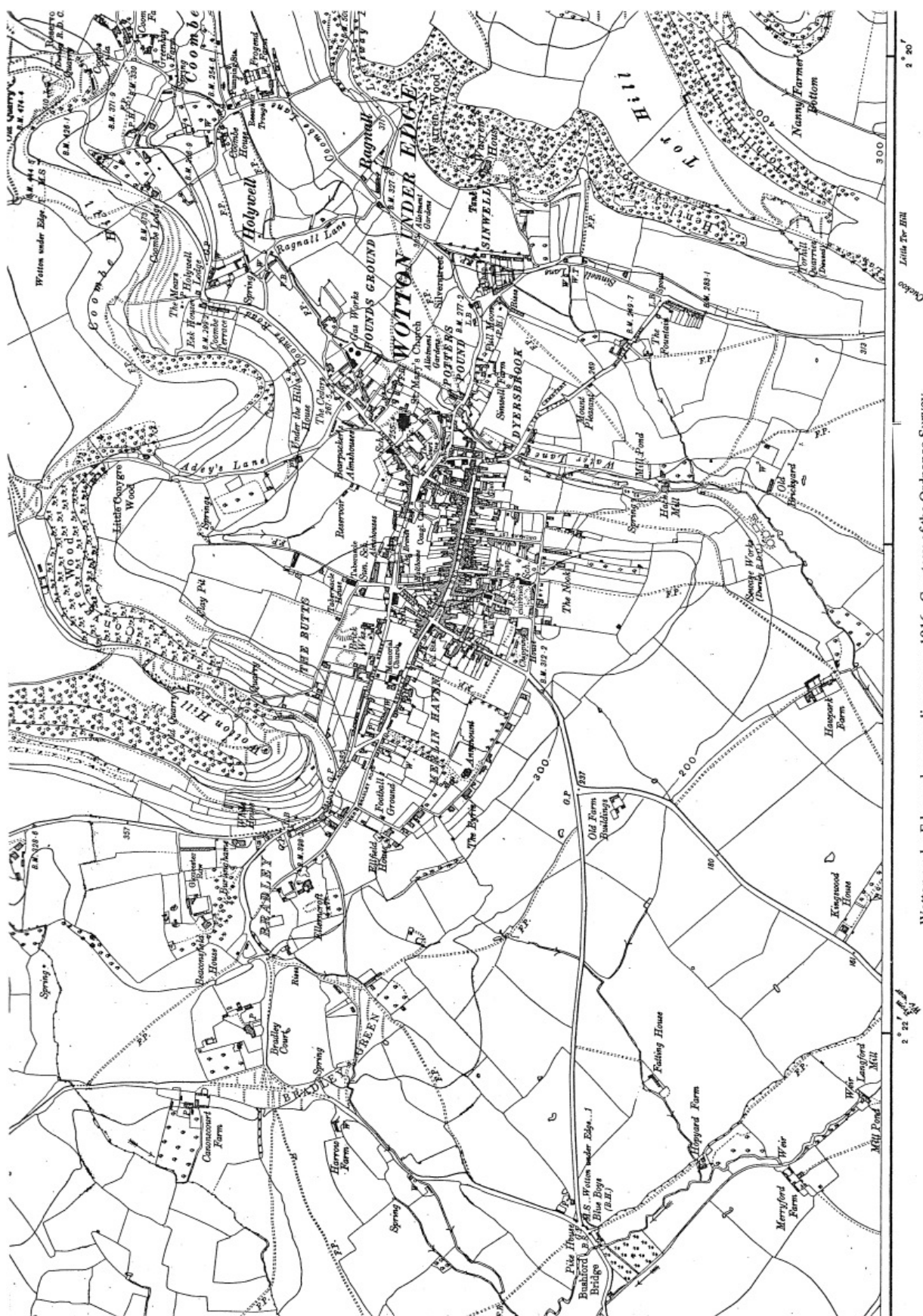
In this work I shall be using the contemporary spellings for Synwell (Sinwell) and for the Blue Coat School (Bluecoat School).

\* These friends, who are now sadly departed, provided early help and encouragement.



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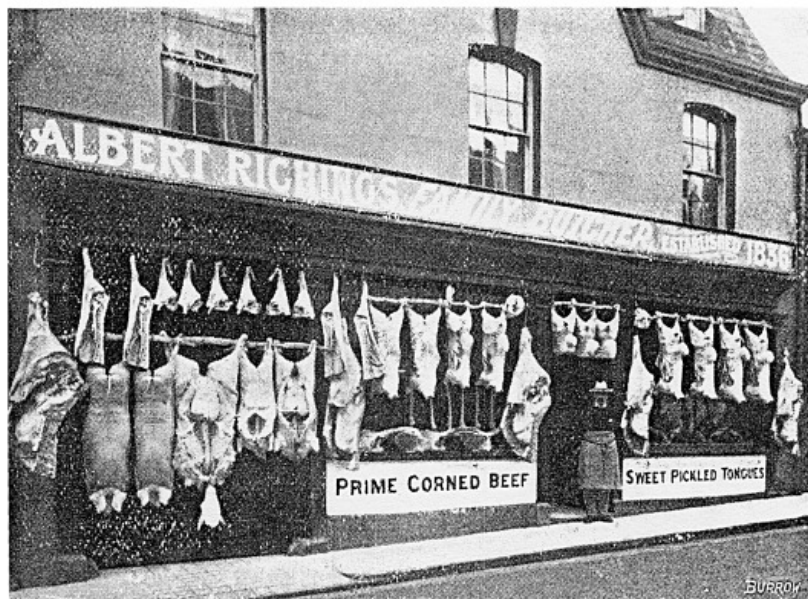
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# I WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE AT THE START OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

Wotton-under-Edge, a small market town in southern Gloucestershire, situated on the edge of the Cotswold Hills, with a population of just over 3,000, seemed a world away from war as the townsfolk got on with their lives in this quiet corner of the Kingdom. In the first decade of the twentieth century Wotton was a very active and self-contained community. It was almost noiseless, without motorcars. However, that peacefulness was soon to be shattered by a world war, the likes of which had never before been seen. In those days the town was a close knit community, many families having inter-married, so family bonds were very strong. At that time there was a definite class divide, with the working class expected to acknowledge the gentry and women having to curtsy.

The main employer of the area by far was Tubbs-Lewis, a company owning several mills in nearby Kingswood and Charfield. They produced high quality braids and elastic, needles and pins. A study of leavers from the British School in Wotton between 1905 and 1915 showed that out of 156 who left, 75 went to work for Tubbs-Lewis. A good number of boys left to work on the land and several girls entered domestic service. Other boys took up apprenticeships with local firms, whilst many boys and girls found employment in the many shops in Wotton's main streets, particularly in Church Street, Long Street, High Street and Market Street. At this time there were about eight

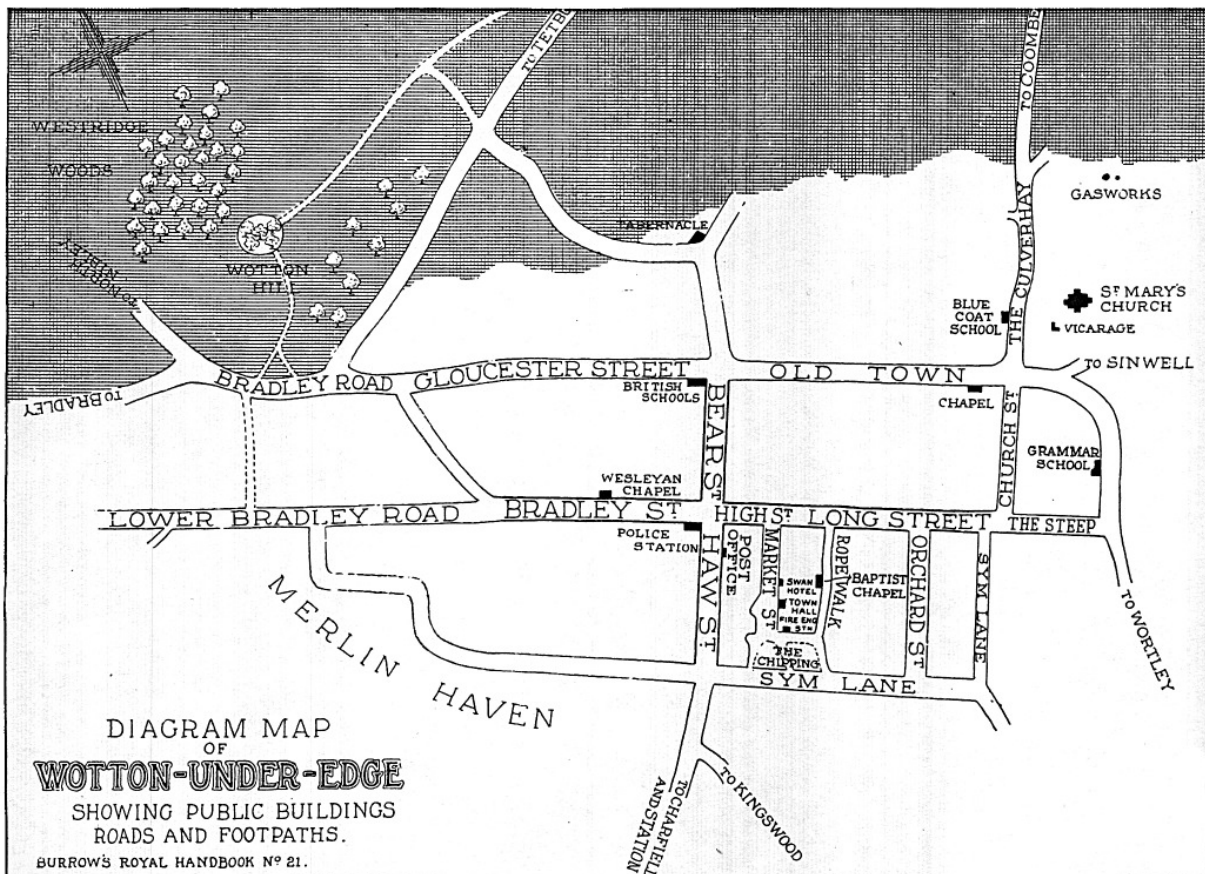


*Prime Quality Beef, Choice Down and Welsh Mutton,  
Veal, Lamb and Dairy-Fed Pork.*

grocery stores, five bakers and four or five butchers who slaughtered on their premises. Almost all the shops offered a delivery service.

In this first decade of the twentieth century the town was served by two banks, the National Provincial and Lloyds, and it also had a branch of the Wotton and Dursley Building Society. There was a police station, situated at the head of High Street, a volunteer fire brigade, using a horse-drawn appliance, working out of the engine house in the Chipping (now altered and occupied by the Heritage Centre). The town boasted about a dozen public houses. There were three elementary schools, the British School (a mixed school plus infants) in Bear Street, the Bluecoat School (boys and infants) in Culverhay and the National School (girls and infants) in the Chipping. There was also a secondary school, Katharine Lady Berkeley's Grammar School, founded in 1384, making it one of the oldest in the country. There were six places of worship, all being well supported, with large congregations. The town possessed four principal charities, Hugh Perry's Almshouses, Thomas Dawe's Almshouses, Bearpackers Almshouses and Rowland Hill's Almshouses. In total they housed 40 of the town's 'poor'.

Wotton was also served by a reading room, with a selection of daily papers and a free lending library at the Town Hall. Just before the outbreak of the Great War, the Electric Picture House opened in Market Street. There was a Registrar's Office in the Rope Walk. A fair was held twice annually, on 25<sup>th</sup> March and 25<sup>th</sup> September and provided one of the highlights of the year, filling the Green Chipping and stretching down Market Street. However, Wotton's market had fallen into disuse by 1911. For travellers by rail there was an omnibus, run by John Faller, which left from the Swan Hotel and met every train at Charfield railway station, two miles distant. Every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, William Wyatt ran his omnibus to Bristol via Charfield, Cromhall and Bagstone. William Tapscott also ran a daily omnibus to Charfield station and surprisingly as noted in *Kelly's Directory*... 'to all parts of the Kingdom!'

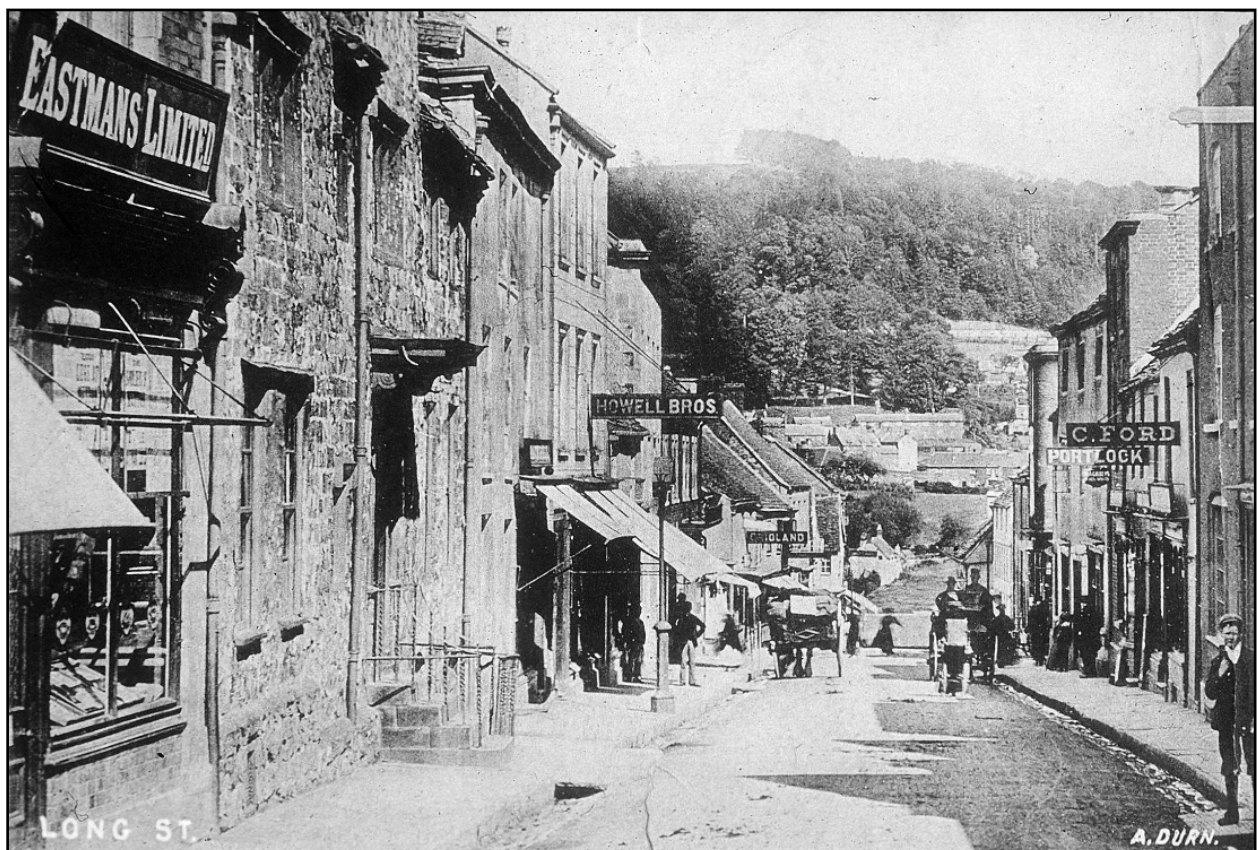


## First World War Heroes of Wotton-under-Edge



*Early Twentieth Century postcards of Wotton-under-Edge*

Source: Wotton-under-Edge Heritage Centre



# I

## THE FATAL STEPS TO WAR

1914

- 28<sup>th</sup> June Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie were assassinated at Sarajevo in Bosnia. Franz Ferdinand was the heir to the throne of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. He had gone to Bosnia, then occupied by Austria, to try to shore up the Empire, which was showing signs of being loosened by nationalists. The assassin was Gavrilo Princip, a Serb. Here then was a chance for Austria to crush the growing strength of Serbia.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> July Austria sent an ultimatum to Serbia demanding that Princip be arrested and that any anti-Austrian propaganda should be banned. Serbia agreed but did not want any monitoring of proceedings by Austria.
- 28<sup>th</sup> July Austria was not satisfied with the response and declared war on Serbia.
- 31<sup>st</sup> July Russia, because of its ethnic ties with Serbia, began to mobilise, as did Austria. Sir Edward Grey, British Foreign Secretary, asked France and Germany to observe Belgian neutrality. France agreed but no reply came from Germany.
- 1<sup>st</sup> August Belgium ordered mobilisation, as did France. Germany, who always sided with Austria, declared war on Russia.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> August Germany invaded Luxembourg and small parts of France. The King of Belgium appealed for British help as they did not want German troops crossing their border.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> August Germany declared war on France.
- 4<sup>th</sup> August German forces entered Belgium. Mobilisation orders were issued in Britain. Britain asked Germany to withdraw its troops from Belgium. They did not do so; Britain therefore declared war on Germany.



# III

## WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE IN AUGUST 1914

The *Dursley Gazette* newspaper (which I shall refer to as the *Gazette* in this book) of Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August 1914 contained a number of public notices advertising events for the forthcoming Bank Holiday week. Prominent amongst them was the following :- *Union Fete and Flower Show to be held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> August at Ellerncroft Field by kind permission of Stanley Tubbs Esq. Gates open at 2.30 p.m. In the evening 'Dancing in an Illuminated Enclosure at Dusk'. Also a 'Comic Singing Competition for Adults', entrance fee 6d. Prize – a live pig given by Mr. & Mrs. Cook of Church Street. The evening ending with a 'Grand Display of Fireworks' by W. D. Penly & Sons.*

Townsfolk were asked – *Do not forget the Wotton-under-Edge Swimming Club Aquatic Sports on Bank Holiday 3<sup>rd</sup> August (Monday) to be held at the picturesque Coomb Valley Lakes.*

Events which had taken place during the previous week were reported in the same edition. *The Wotton-under-Edge Lawn Tennis Club met the Carlton (Bristol) Club in home and away matches on Saturday last (25<sup>th</sup> July). The match at Wotton was drawn, the Bristol team winning on their own court. A report on pigeon flying also appeared – The first young bird race took place on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July from Templecombe. Flying birds were B. Dauncey (Uley), G. Young (Sinwell), C. A. Pearce (Wotton), A. Millard (North Nibley), G. Pagett (Wotton), G. Butler (Wotton) and F. Grimes (Uley). A race from Dorchester will take place to-day.*

Wotton's cinema, then called *The Electric Picture House* showed the following films during the week – *The Two Divers, In Convict Garb, Some Nerve and Mike and Jack Join the Army.* It wouldn't be many more weeks before several Wotton men along with thousands nation-wide joined *Mike and Jack* in the Army. The previous Saturday's cricket matches were reported on, including Wotton Alliance's match against Thornbury – *Wotton Alliance beat Thornbury 168 – 105. F. Holloway 36, S. R. Tubbs 35. Holloway took 6 wickets for 28 and Tubbs 4 for 23. Playing for Wotton were – F. Holloway, T. H. L. Hodgkinson, G. W. Bond, S. R. Tubbs, A. H. Jotcham, W. Bassett, E. Savoury, R. Butler, W. Taylor, R. Keynton and J. Paget.*

The *Gazette* reported pharmaceutical success for Fred Jotcham, the 3<sup>rd</sup> son of Mr. & Mrs. F. Jotcham, who .... *has been successful in winning the 'Fairchild Scholarship' which is open to England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland, value £50 cash. He was educated at Katharine Lady Berkeley's Grammar School and subsequently went to Melton Mowbray. From there he joined the well-known firm of Steele & Marsh, chemists of Bath and is still with them.*

Most poignantly, as it soon turned out, there was a report on the Wotton Territorials' forthcoming summer camp. It was reported like this .... *The local company of Territorials go into camp at Marlow tomorrow for their annual training. Kit bags are being sent on in advance and the company will parade at the Wotton-under-Edge Drill Hall at 7.15 a.m., where they will proceed to Charfield Station, leaving at 8.20 for Gloucester. Here they will entrain on the Great Western Railway at 9.55 arriving at their destination at 1.35 p.m.*

On Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> August, Britain declared war on Germany. The *Gazette* of Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> August, contained several columns of news on the outbreak of the war; page 1 ran two and a half columns, page 2 devoted four of its seven columns to the war and page 5 one column. There were also further items on the war in some of the other pages. Page 1 contained the following headlines – *THE WAR.. BRITISH NAVAL MISHAP. HMS AMPHION SUNK. BY A MINE. 131 LIVES LOST. 2 GERMAN CRUISERS SUNK IN ATLANTIC. BRITAIN'S CALL TO ARMS. 500,000 MORE MEN FOR THE ARMY. AUGUST 4TH GERMANY DECLARES WAR ON BELGIUM AND GREAT BRITAIN DECLARES WAR ON GERMANY AFTER THE FORMER REFUSES TO RESPECT NEUTRALITY OF BELGIUM. 25,000 GERMAN CASUALTIES. REQUEST FOR ARMISTICE. LIEGE STILL HOLDS OUT.* Under the headline *GREAT BRITAIN AT WAR* was the following – *The long dreaded moment has come, and all Europe is either at war or on the brink of it.*

There followed a report on the Dursley and Wotton Territorials, who only a few days previously had arrived in Marlow for their annual camp and training. It appeared under the headline – *BRIEF STAY IN CAMP.* It read as follows – *An order was issued on Sunday (2<sup>nd</sup>) night for all Territorials in camp to return home immediately.*

*As there are usually from 150,000 to 200,000 men in training in various parts of the country during the August Bank Holiday week, it can easily be imagined what commotion that caused, especially as so many of the regiments only arrived in their respective camps on the Sunday. The Dursley and Wotton-under-Edge Territorials left for their annual fortnight's training on Sunday. The camp was at Great Marlow in Buckinghamshire. Here, close to the Thames, tents had been pitched for 4,000 men comprising the brigade.*

*Men were aroused from their sleep at 4 a.m. One amusing incident occurred – one of the sleeping Territorials on being told to get up enquired "Where be they to?". Apparently he was under the impression that the enemy had arrived and were in the next field. About 1 o'clock the Gloucesters took trains. The Dursley and Wotton men reached home at 6. 30 in the evening on Monday.*

On Tuesday it was announced that the Army was being mobilized and that the Territorials were to be embodied at once. In the morning several recruits were added to the Dursley and Wotton Company. The War Office were making enquiries of local owners as to how many horses would be available in case they were required. On Tuesday night orders were received for Dursley and Wotton Territorials to proceed to the Headquarters at Gloucester on Wednesday morning.

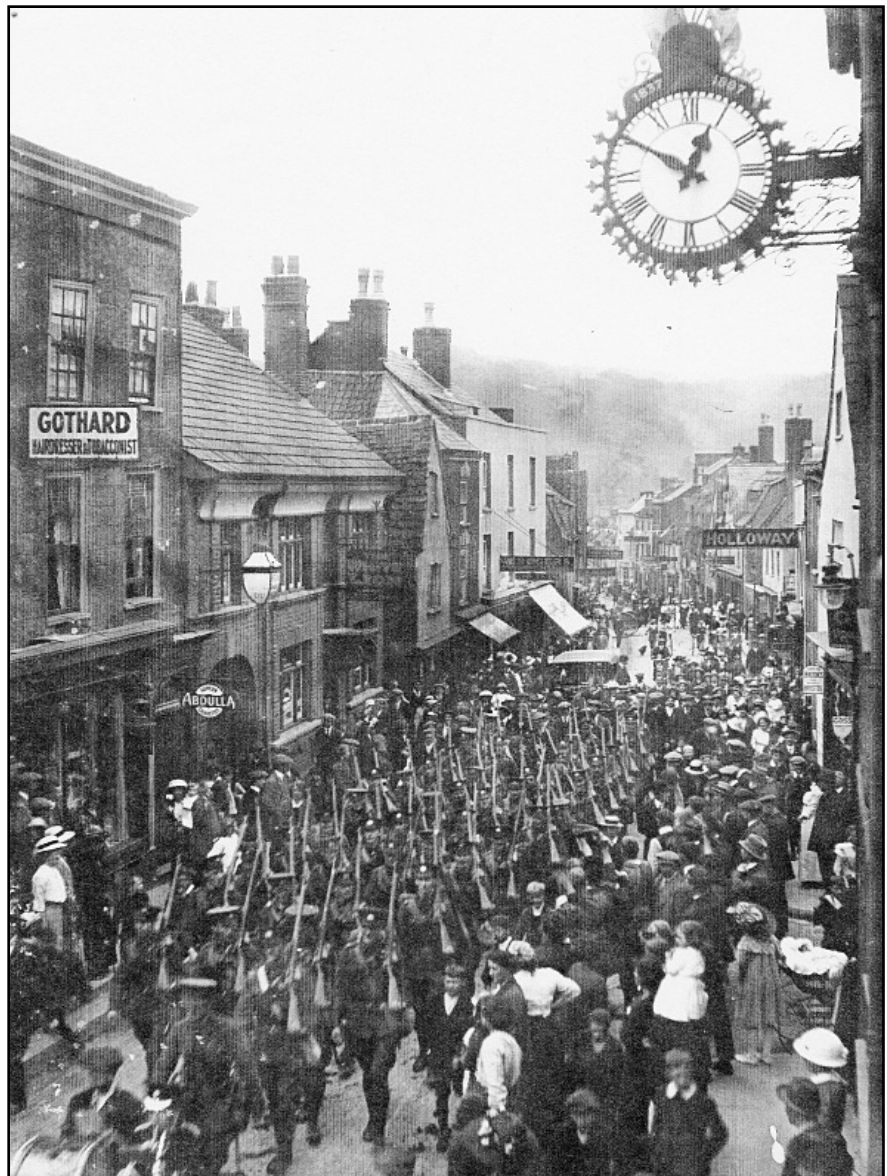
The *Gazette* then reported the departure of the Wotton Territorials with the headline – *STIRRING SCENES.* It continued – *Stirring scenes such as have not been seen in the town before were witnessed on Wednesday when the Wotton-under-Edge Company of Territorials departed for mobilization. The Company paraded at the Drill Hall at 12. 30 under Lieut. R. B. Lister. Prior to starting for Charfield, Mr. S. W. Tubbs, on behalf of the town, thanked the men for their prompt response to the call of duty – "That you will do your duty" said Mr. Tubbs, "we well know, and Wotton is proud of you. Be assured that while you are away every attention will be paid to those you leave behind." Three cheers were then given for the King, in which the crowd that had gathered, heartily joined, after which cheers were called for Mr. Tubbs.*

*Preceded by the Abbey Band, which had been hurriedly convened by Mr. H. H. Evans, the Company marched through the town by way of Long Street and Haw Street amid the ringing cheers of large numbers, which lined the route. At the corner of Market Street a very large crowd had assembled, in fact, it seemed as though the entire populace of Wotton were out to do honour to her sons. There was a further demonstration at the top of New Road, there being much waving and cheering as the men passed. The Band fell out at the Kingswood turning, but numbers of people continued the march to the station, where the Company was given a final enthusiastic send off.*

*We understand that over 20 young men from the district have offered themselves for enlistment and are awaiting instructions to proceed to the Territorial Headquarters at Gloucester.*



Most of the men of the Dursley and Wotton Companies of the Territorials were drafted into the 1/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment. Along with the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Battalions of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry and the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Royal Berkshire Regiment, the Gloucester men formed the 145<sup>th</sup> Brigade in the 48<sup>th</sup> (South Midland) Division. The 1/5<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters saw training on the Isle of Wight, also in Swindon and finally in Chelmsford. On the last day of March 1915 the 48<sup>th</sup> Division landed at Boulogne. Between 1914 and 1918 the 1/5<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters were to see service in France, Belgium and Italy. Over that period they were to lose 30 officers and 577 other ranks.



*Gloucestershire Regiment Territorials, including the Dursley and Wotton Companies, parade through High Street, Wotton-under-Edge on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1914.*

# I

## ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS BOOK

A.C.	Air Craftsman	K.L.B.G.S.	Katharine Lady Berkeley's Grammar School
A.D.C.	Aide-de-camp	K.R.R.C.	King's Royal Rifle Corps
A.I.F.	Australian Imperial Forces	L.A.C.	Leading Aircraftsman
A.M.	Air Mechanic	Lead. Tel.	Leading Telegrapher
Art.	Artificer	L./Cpl.	Lance Corporal
A.S.	Able Seaman	Lieut. or Lt.	Lieutenant
B.E.F.	British Expeditionary Force	L./Stkr.	Leading Stoker
Bglr.	Bugler	Lt. Cdr. or Lt. Comdr.	Lieutenant Commander
Bn. Or Btn.	Battalion	Lieut. Col. or Lt. Col.	Lieutenant Colonel
Brig. Gen.	Brigadier General	Maj.	Major
Capt.	Captain	Maj. Gen.	Major General
C.C.S.	Casualty Clearing Station	M.C.	Military Cross
C.O.	Commanding Officer	M.G.C.	Machine Gun Corps
Co. or Coy.	Company	M.M.	Military Medal
Col.	Colonel	N.C.O.	Non Commissioned Officer
Cpl.	Corporal	O.S.	Ordinary Seaman
C.P.O.	Chief Petty Officer	Pnr.	Pioneer
C.S.M.	Company Sergeant Major	P.O.	Petty Officer
C.W.G.C.	Commonwealth War Graves Commission	Pte.	Private
Div.	Division	Q.M.Sgt.	Quarter Master Sergeant
D.L.I.	Durham Light Infantry	Regt.	Regiment
D.S.O.	Distinguished Service Order	Rev.	Reverend
Dvr.	Driver	R.F.A.	Royal Field Artillery
Ftr.	Fitter	Rfn.	Rifleman
F.O.	Flying Officer	R.G.A.	Royal Garrison Artillery
F./Sgt.	Flight Sergeant	R.N.D.	Royal Naval Division
Gdsmn.	Guardsman	S./Cpl.	Shoeing Corporal
Gnr.	Gunner	Sdlr.	Saddler
G.O.C.	General Officer Commanding	Sglm.	Signalman
H.M.A.S.	His Majesty's Australian Ship		
Inf.	Infantry		

Sglr.	Signaller	T.F.	Territorial Force
Sgt.	Sergeant	Tpr.	Trooper
S./Sgt.	Staff Sergeant	V.A.D.	Voluntary Aid Detachment
Sgt. Ins.	Sergeant Instructor	V.C.	Victoria Cross
Sgt. Maj.	Sergeant Major		
Spr.	Sapper		
Stkr. or Stok.	Stoker		
Tel.	Telegrapher		

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## ORGANISATION OF THE BRITISH ARMY DURING THE WAR

B.E.F.	British Expeditionary Force - all the British fighting forces in France and Belgium.
Army	A body of men armed for war and commanded by a General. Consisted of varying numbers of corps.
Corps	Part of an army, usually consisting of two or three divisions. Commanded by a Lieutenant-General. Must not be confused with units such as Tank Corps or Army Service Corps.
Division	An independent fighting unit consisting of infantry, artillery, engineers, signals, transport, medical, etc. Commanded by a Major-General.
Brigade	A unit of three or four battalions. Commanded by a Brigadier-General.
Regiment	Usually, a unit of between two and four battalions. Commanded by a Colonel.
Battalion	A group of around 1,000 men and 30 officers. It had its own headquarters staff. Commanded by a Lieutenant-Colonel.
Company	A unit quarter the strength of a battalion, under the command of a Captain.
Platoon	Four platoons made a company, usually commanded by a Lieutenant.
Section	Fourteen fighting men led by a corporal, perhaps with a lance corporal to assist. There would be four sections in a platoon.

# VI

## LIST OF WW1 NAMES ON THE WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE WAR MEMORIAL

	<b>Rank</b>	<b>First Names</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Unit</b>
1.	Capt.	William Holloway	Adams	7 <sup>th</sup> Btn Canadian Infantry
2.	Pte.	Harry	Amos	Army Service Corps
3.	AS	Lionel Frederick	Andrews	Royal Navy
4.	Major	William Richard Norton	Annesley D.S.O.	1 <sup>st</sup> Btn Royal West Kent Regt
5.	Cpl.	John Edward	Avenell	7 <sup>th</sup> Btn Royal West Surrey Regt
6.	AS	Macarthur	Ballinger	Drake Btn Royal Naval Div.
7.	Major	Henry Sullivan	Becher	2 <sup>nd</sup> Gurkha Rifles
8.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieut.	John Crosbie	Bengough	Royal Glos Hussars Yeomanry
9.	Pte.	Lambert Jack	Bignell	10 <sup>th</sup> Btn Worcestershire Regt
10.	Pte.	Cyril	Bow	7 <sup>th</sup> Btn Durham Light Infantry
11.	Tpr.	Ferguson James	Boyce	Royal Household Cavalry
12.	Pte.	Percival Ernest	Broodbank	2/6 <sup>th</sup> Btn Glos Regt
13.	Pte.	Francis Charles	Brown	8 <sup>th</sup> Btn Middlesex Regt
14.	Pte.	George	Burford	2 <sup>nd</sup> Btn Hampshire Regt
15.	Pte.	William Lewis	Butcher	2 <sup>nd</sup> Btn Glos Regt
16.	Pte.	Ambrose	Butler	2/1 <sup>st</sup> Btn Ox & Bucks Light Inf
17.	Stok.	Alfred William	Bye	Royal Navy
18.	Pte.	Alfred George	Candy	8 <sup>th</sup> Btn Glos Regt
19.	Pte.	Francis Wilfred	Candy	1 <sup>st</sup> Btn Glos Regt
20.	Pte.	Albert Thomas	Chappell	1 <sup>st</sup> Btn Royal West Kent Regt
21.	Pte.	Edward Victor	Clissold	12 <sup>th</sup> Btn Royal Sussex Regt
22.	Pte	Frederick	Cooper	2 <sup>nd</sup> Btn Glos Regt
23.	Pte.	Albert Edward	Cornock	10 <sup>st</sup> Btn Border Regt
24.	Sgt.	Archibald Alexander	Cornock	1 <sup>th</sup> Btn Glos Regt

	<b>Rank</b>	<b>First Names</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Unit</b>
25.	AS	Ernest C	Cornock	Royal Navy
26.	PO	Ernest Ralph	Cornock	Royal Navy
27.	Pte.	Sidney	Cornock	13 <sup>th</sup> Btn Glos Regt
28.	L/Cpl.	Henry Mortimer	Dando	14 <sup>th</sup> Btn Glos Regt
29.	L/Cpl.	James	Davis	Royal Army Medical Corps
30.	Pte.	Edward	Deacon	27 <sup>th</sup> Btn AIF
31.	Pte.	Henry	Dickenson	7 <sup>th</sup> Btn Warwickshire Regt
32.	Cpl.	William	Dolman	1 <sup>st</sup> Btn Glos Regt
33.	Pte.	Harold	Elliott	1/4 <sup>th</sup> Btn Glos Regt
34.	Pte.	George Edward	Excell	11 <sup>th</sup> Btn Worcestershire Regt
35.	Pte.	George Henry	Exell	Royal Marine Light Infantry
36.	Pte.	Percy Herbert	Exell	1 <sup>st</sup> Btn Glos Regt
37.	Cpl.	William	Exell M.M.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Btn Worcestershire Regt
38.	OS	Francis Frank	Farmiloe	Royal Navy
39.	Pte.	William Basil	Fay	1 <sup>st</sup> Btn Loyal North Lancs Regt
40.	Pte.	William Norman	Fitz	1 <sup>st</sup> Btn Glos Regt
41.	Pte.	Albert Edward	Ford	14 <sup>th</sup> Btn Glos Regt
42.	Pte.	Henry George	Frape	2/4 <sup>th</sup> Btn Glos Regt
43.	Pte.	Reginald Frederick	Fry	2 <sup>nd</sup> Btn Canadian Regt
44.	Cpl.	Frederick Arthur	Gordon	1 <sup>st</sup> Btn Glos Regt
45.	Sgt.	W.G.	Grant	285 <sup>th</sup> Siege Battery RGA
46.	Pte.	Edward	Grimes	1 <sup>st</sup> Btn Glos Regt
47.	Pte.	George	Grimes	1 <sup>st</sup> Btn Glos Regt
48.	Pte.	Reginald Charles	Grimes	19 <sup>th</sup> Btn Machine Gun Corps
49.	Lieut.	William Rufus Kennard	Heath	1 <sup>st</sup> Btn Glos Regt
50.	Sgt.	Edward Albert	Hollister	10 <sup>th</sup> Btn Glos Regt
51.	Pte.	Frederick Charles	Hyner	10 <sup>th</sup> Btn Glos Regt
52.	Tpr.	Cyril Reginald	Jotcham	Royal Glos Hussars Yeomanry
53.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieut.	Fred	Jotcham	Royal Engineers
54.	Pte.	Herbert	Jotcham	Royal Army Medical Corps
55.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieut.	Walter Morse	Jotcham	1 <sup>st</sup> Btn Worcestershire Regt
56.	L/Cpl.	William	Jotcham	12 <sup>th</sup> Btn East Surrey Regt
57.	L/Cpl.	William John	Keynton	8 <sup>th</sup> Btn Royal Berkshire Regt
58.	Pte.	Henry	King	4 <sup>th</sup> Btn Worcestershire Regt
59.	Pte.	Albert Edward	Kinson	20 <sup>th</sup> Btn Royal Fusiliers

	<b>Rank</b>	<b>First Names</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Unit</b>
60.	Pte.	William Charles	Knight	8 <sup>th</sup> Btn Glos Regt
61.	Pte.	James	Lacey	2/5 <sup>th</sup> Btn North Staffs Regt
62.	Pte.	James Eli	Lainchbury	7 <sup>th</sup> Btn Royal Norfolk Regt
63.	Pte.	Evan John	Leonard	2/6 <sup>th</sup> Btn Warwickshire Regt
64.	Pte.	Horace Ivor	Leonard	14 <sup>th</sup> Btn Glos Regt
65.	Pte.	Maurice Walter Freeth	Lewis	Princess Patricia's Light Inf
66.	Pte.	Albert	Marsh	Tank Corps
67.	Cpl.	Henry George	May	1 <sup>st</sup> Btn Worcestershire Regt
68.	Pte.	William Nun	May	12 <sup>th</sup> Btn Glos Regt
69.	Pte.	Thomas	Meadows	8 <sup>th</sup> Btn Glos Regt
70.	Pte.	Frederick George	Neale	5 <sup>th</sup> Btn Glos Regt
71.	Major	Ralph Elliot	Noyes	10 <sup>th</sup> Btn Yorkshire Regt
72.	Pte.	Frederick	Organ	5 <sup>th</sup> Btn Glos Regt
73.	Pte.	Walter George	Pagett	Royal Marine Light Infantry
74.	Pte.	Albert	Parker	Royal Engineers
75.	Lieut.	Joe Anthony Francis	Parkinson	1 <sup>st</sup> Btn Dorset Regt
76.	Pte.	Frank	Pearce	1 <sup>st</sup> Btn Glos Regt
77.	Pte.	Rowland James	Pearce	16 <sup>th</sup> Waikato Regt N.Z. Regt
78.	Cpl.	Francis	Perry	Royal Field Artillery
79.	Sgt.	Albert William	Poulton	13 <sup>th</sup> Btn Glos Regt
80.	Bdr.	Heber William	Prosser	Royal Field Artillery
81.	L/Cpl.	Elton Maurice	Richings	10 <sup>th</sup> Btn Yorks & Lancs Regt
82.	Sgt.	John	Richings	1/1 <sup>st</sup> Btn Royal Glos Hussars
83.	Pte.	Henry Lancelot	Ridley	12 <sup>th</sup> Btn Glos Regt
84.	Cpl.	W.	Robinson	Glos Regt
85.	Drmr	Frederick	Rodman	1 <sup>st</sup> Garrison Btn Warwick Regt
86.	AS	John Creed	Rudge	Royal Navy
87.	Pte.	William Thomas	Sargent	10 <sup>th</sup> Btn Glos Regt
88.	AS	Walter Charles	Saunders	Anson Btn Royal Naval Div
89.	Pte.	William Harold	Saxton	2 <sup>nd</sup> Btn Glos Regt
90.	Gnr.	Henry Lambert	Short	Royal Field Artillery
91.	Pte.	Archibald E.	Smith	1 <sup>st</sup> Btn Glos Regt
92.	Rfn.	Frederick	Smith	16 <sup>th</sup> Btn King's R. R. Corps
93.	Pte.	George Henry	Smith	5 <sup>th</sup> Btn Glos Regt
94.	Pte.	Stanley	Spencer	2/4 <sup>th</sup> Btn Hampshire Regt

	<b>Rank</b>	<b>First Names</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Unit</b>
95.	Pte.	Charles William	Stevens	1 <sup>st</sup> Btn Glos Regt
96.	Pte.	Wilfred George	Stinchcombe	10 <sup>th</sup> Btn Worcestershire Regt
97.	Cpl.	Richard Harold	Tanner	4 <sup>th</sup> Btn AIF
98.	Pte.	Arthur Llewellyn	Tilley	5 <sup>th</sup> Btn Glos Regt
99.	L/Cpl.	Lewis H.	Townsend	5 <sup>th</sup> Btn Royal Irish Regt
100.	Cpl.	Victor Vincent	Trotman	14 <sup>th</sup> Btn Glos Regt
101.	Capt.	Seymour Burnell	Tubbs	2/5 <sup>th</sup> Btn Glos Regt
102.	Pte.	Charles	Turner	8 <sup>th</sup> Btn Glos Regt
103.	Pte.	Henry Walter William	Turner	Royal Marine Light Infantry
104.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieut.	Cedric Donovan	Upstone	4 <sup>th</sup> Btn Devon Regt
105.	Pte.	Tom	Venn	8 <sup>th</sup> Btn Royal Berkshire Regt
106.	Pte.	Wilfred	Vines	14 <sup>th</sup> Btn Glos Regt
107.	Sgt.	Daniel Edward	Walker	8 <sup>th</sup> Btn Glos Regt
108.	Pte.	Walter	Wathen	1 <sup>st</sup> Btn Glos Regt
109.	Pte.	Tyrrel Frederick	Webb	Royal Flying Corps
110.	Sgt.	William Cecil	Wellicome	5 <sup>th</sup> Btn Seaforth Highlanders
111.	Pte.	Frederick James	Wicks	10 <sup>th</sup> Btn Glos Regt
112.	Pte.	Herbert	Willcock	58 <sup>th</sup> Btn AIF
113.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieut.	William Bryan	Wood	8 <sup>th</sup> Btn Glos Regt
114.	Pte.	Albert Henry	Woodlands	Royal Marine Light Infantry





# VII

## **THE BIOGRAPHIES**



1

**WILLIAM HOLLOWAY ADAMS**



Rank & Unit: Captain in the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Canadian Infantry  
Born: 6<sup>th</sup> January 1877 in Bristol  
Died: 15<sup>th</sup> April 1918 of heart failure in Seaford, Sussex.  
Buried in Seaford Cemetery, Sussex, Row A Grave 297  
Age: 41  
Parents: William Townsend and Elizabeth Mary Adams  
Wife: Amy Ellen  
Children: Two

William Holloway Adams was the eldest son of William Townsend and Elizabeth Mary Adams. According to the 1891 Census the family were then living in Orchard Street, Wotton-under-Edge, although at some stage the family moved to *Bradley House*, Bradley Street. William Townsend Adams was Secretary to the Gas Council in Wotton. William Holloway had a brother, Albert, two years his junior and a sister, Blanche, three years younger.

William Holloway attended Katharine Lady Berkeley's Grammar School, entering around 1888. Some time after leaving school William left England for Canada where he worked as an accountant. Before leaving England William had served in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Volunteer Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment. In June 1915 he was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the 101<sup>st</sup> Regiment (Edmonton Fusiliers) of the Canadian Army. At that time William was already married to Amy Ellen and living in Edmonton, Alberta. William quickly gained promotion, being gazetted Captain in July.

Ten months or so after attesting, William sailed for England, after having undergone training in Canada. Then followed three more months training in England. In July 1916 he was serving in the 63<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of the Canadian Infantry; he then underwent a series of transfers, first to the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion and then to the 7<sup>th</sup>, the Battalion in which he served up to his death. On 14<sup>th</sup> August he arrived in France from England with a fresh draft of Canadians. Less than two months after arriving in France, news was received in Wotton that Capt. Adams had been hit in the face by shrapnel on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, but it was also reported that he was progressing satisfactorily, although septic poisoning had set in. As a result of this wound he lost the sight of one eye.

On 4<sup>th</sup> October William was moved to No. 14 General Hospital, Boulogne, and was moved again on the 5<sup>th</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> West General Hospital, Manchester. He remained in hospital until the 29<sup>th</sup> November when he was discharged and granted five weeks leave. Capt. Adams was now put on light duties, being placed on the Home Service List. He then worked for some time in military courts martial. However, Capt. Adams was to suffer more setbacks, as on 13<sup>th</sup> March 1917 he was taken to the Canadian Military Hospital in Hastings, suffering from a ruptured appendix and peritonitis. He recovered from those illnesses and left hospital on 2<sup>nd</sup> April. On 17<sup>th</sup> April Capt. Adams was discharged from his military duties.

Just one year later, on 15<sup>th</sup> April 1918 whilst playing with his two children at his home in Seaford, Sussex, William became unconscious and died a few minutes later from heart failure. He was 41 years of age. William's funeral took place on 18<sup>th</sup> April at Seaford, where he was accorded full military honours. He was buried in Seaford Cemetery, Alfriston Road, in Row A, Grave 2971. It is interesting to note that although Capt. Adams's name appears on Wotton's War Memorial, his death was one of the few not directly attributed to war action.

Capt. William Holloway Adams is incorrectly stated as having served in the Royal Fusiliers on Wotton's Roll of Honour in the Town Hall.

William Townsend Adams died on 27<sup>th</sup> December 1914, aged 76 and his wife Elizabeth Mary died on 24<sup>th</sup> February 1920, aged 70. William and Elizabeth share a grave in St. Mary's Churchyard in Wotton. On 8<sup>th</sup> May, 1920 a notice appeared in the *Gazette* stating that... "*Bradley House had been sold to Mr. Frank Mann for £620.*"



*Seaford was one of the main Canadian training centres for soldiers leaving for Belgium and France. Seaford cemetery (above) contains 253 burials from the First World War, 200 of them being Canadians. Many of the soldiers who died during the great influenza pandemic - November 1918 to February 1919 are buried here.*

## 2

### H. AMOS



The 'H. Amos' named on Wotton's War Memorial and on the Roll of Honour boards in the Town Hall is likely to be :-

Pte. H. Amos, 24581, 7<sup>th</sup> Btn. Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).

The Roll of Honour has this soldier as having served in the Army Service Corps. This of course is possible, as he may have moved from one unit to the other during the war, as many servicemen did. No soldier of this name and with Wotton-under-Edge connections appears in the publication - *Soldiers Died in the Great War*. Editions of the *Gazette* between August 1914 and November 1918, the period of the First World War, contain no reference to or obituary for an H. Amos. Neither does his name appear in post-war *Gazettes* as perhaps having died of wounds received during the war.

However, Commonwealth War Grave Registers do confirm the name of a soldier called H. Amos whose parents lived in Bristol. The Register contains the following information :-

*Pte. H. Amos, 24581, 7<sup>th</sup> Btn. Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Died on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> February 1917, aged 23. Son of Alfred and Sarah Ann Amos of 33 Byron Terrace, Hanham Road, Bristol. Buried in Regina Trench Cemetery, Grandcourt, Somme, France. Plot 6 Row E Grave 7.*

Did H. Amos and his parents once live in Wotton and then move to Bristol or could it be that young Amos once worked in Wotton and therefore had his name inscribed on the War Memorial? The second name listed on the Kingswood, Bristol War Memorial is that of H. Amos and is likely to be the soldier mentioned above.



*The Kingswood, Bristol War Memorial in Holy Trinity Church. Included is the name H. Amos, probably the soldier whose name is also on Wotton's War Memorial.*

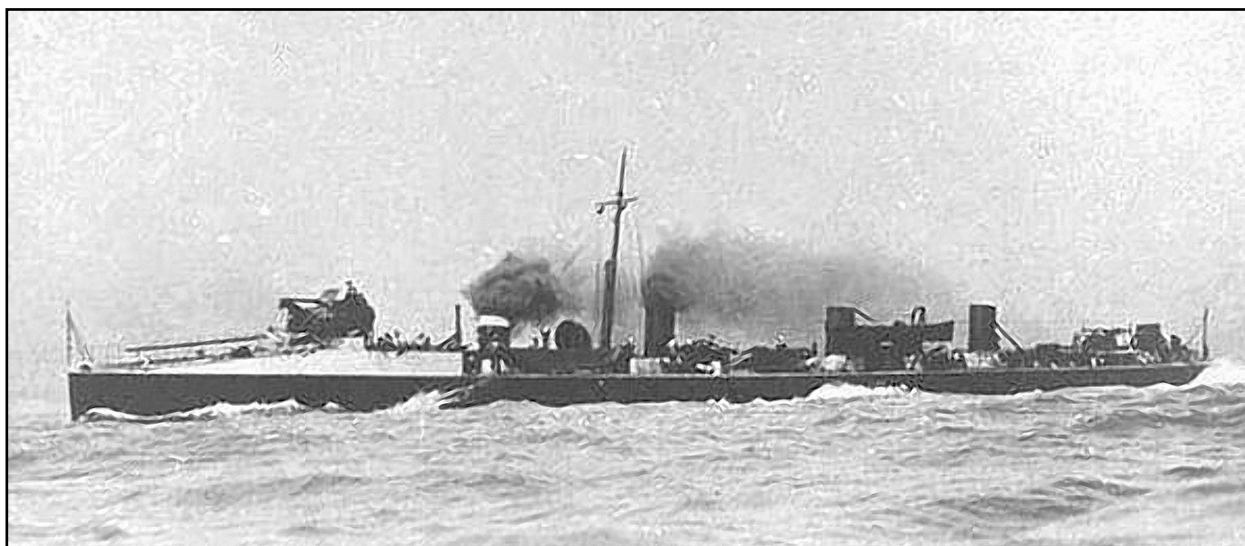
3

**LIONEL FREDERICK ANDREWS**



Rank and Unit: Able Seaman, J./26422, in the Royal Navy  
Born: 1897  
Died: Killed in action on 18<sup>th</sup> September 1917 in the English Channel.  
Commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial  
Age: 20  
Parents: Richard and Clare Andrews

Lionel was born in 1897, the son of Richard and Clare Andrews of *Dyer's Brook House*, Wotton-under-Edge. He joined the Royal Navy with the service number J./26422 and achieved the rank of Able Seaman. Lionel served on *HMS Contest* which on 18<sup>th</sup> September 1917 was sunk by a German submarine in the English Channel. The *Contest* was a destroyer of 957 tons, built in Newcastle by Hawthorn Leslie and launched in 1913. The *Contest* had taken part in the Battle of Jutland on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1916 under the command of Lt. Cdr. E. G. H. Master. In August 1917 he was succeeded as Captain by Lt. Cdr. R. B. England. Lionel is commemorated on the Tabernacle Church Roll of Honour, Wotton-under-Edge, and on the Plymouth Naval Memorial as well as on Wotton's War Memorial. Lionel was just 20 years of age.



*HMS Contest*

Source: Imperial War Museum; image no. Q38536

4

**WILLIAM RICHARD NORTON ANNESLEY, D.S.O.**



Rank & Unit: Major in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment  
 Born: 12<sup>th</sup> June 1863 in Colchester  
 Died: 29<sup>th</sup> November 1914 of illness in London.  
 Buried in St. Andrew's Western Cemetery, Scotland; Row E Grave 106  
 Age: 51  
 Parents: Major-General William Richard Annesley and Isabel Annesley  
 Wife: Edith Mackenzie

William Richard Norton Annesley was born on 12<sup>th</sup> June 1863 in Colchester, the eldest son of Major-General William Richard Annesley and Isabel, daughter of the Rev. James Norton of Ottershaw, Surrey. He attended Cheltenham College between May 1879 and December 1882, going on to the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. He was appointed to the Yorkshire Regiment on 6<sup>th</sup> February 1884 and transferred to the Royal West Kent Regiment on 27<sup>th</sup> February, 1884, being promoted to Captain on 15<sup>th</sup> July 1891 and Major on 16<sup>th</sup> July 1902. He took part in the Nile Expedition in 1884-5 and was with the Sudan Frontier Force in 1885-6. He was present at the attack on Ambigol Wells and action at Ginniss, being mentioned in despatches, and was admitted to the Distinguished Service Order for his services at the latter (*London Gazette* 26<sup>th</sup> November, 1896). He was employed with the Egyptian Army from 27<sup>th</sup> November 1888 to 6<sup>th</sup> October 1890 and was Staff Officer at Assouan for the operation at Toski. He retired on 15<sup>th</sup> December 1905 and became lecturer on military subjects at St. Andrew's University.



During the Great War Major Annesley was on the General Staff in London when he died of illness. He was the husband of Edith Mackenzie of 16 Greyfriar Gardens, St. Andrews. He is buried in St. Andrew's Western Cemetery Row E Grave 106. In his will, his address is given as Stanhope Gardens, Kensington, London and administration was granted to his widow on 28<sup>th</sup> January 1915 of the estate valued at £549. 16s. 1d.

The Annesley family managed Coombe Valley Brewery, in the Old Grist Mill, just outside Wotton, after 1889. A partner in the business was Arthur H. Guinness. The family home was at *Coombe Cottage*. William Annesley had three brothers who all served in the Great War; A. J. P. Annesley, Major in the Royal West Kent Regiment, J. Annesley, Lieut. in the Royal Air Force and J. H. Annesley, Capt. in the Somerset Light Infantry. William is incorrectly stated as serving in the Queen's Own Highland Regiment on the Roll of Honour in Wotton's Town Hall. There is a photograph of Major Annesley in the Bristol Times & Mirror newspaper of 1<sup>st</sup> April 1916.

5

# JOHN EDWARD AVENELL



Rank and Unit: Corporal, G/2050, in the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Royal West Surrey Regiment  
 Born: 26<sup>th</sup> September 1876 in Gloucester  
 Died: Killed in action in Belgium on 21<sup>st</sup> October 1917.  
 Buried in New Irish Farm Cemetery, Ypres, Belgium Plot 10 Row D Grave 16  
 Age: 41  
 Parents: Thomas and Elizabeth Avenell

John Avenell, mistakenly spelt 'Avenill' on Wotton's War Memorial and on the Roll of Honour in the Town Hall, was born in Gloucester on 26<sup>th</sup> September 1876. He was the second son of Thomas and Elizabeth Avenell of *Fernley Farm*, Newark, near Wotton-under-Edge. John attended Ozleworth School and then transferred to the Bluecoat School in Wotton. John joined the Army right at the commencement of the war, enlisting in Guildford in the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment, service no. G/2050.

John gained promotion to Corporal and with his Battalion landed at Boulogne in May, 1915. The 7<sup>th</sup> Royal West Surrey's formed part of 55<sup>th</sup> Brigade in the 18<sup>th</sup> (Eastern) Division. John came through the major Battle of Loos, September 1915 unharmed, but was severely wounded during the Battle of the Somme in July 1916. He spent a whole year recovering from his injuries, some of the time being spent in hospital in England.



*The Bronze Memorial Plaque  
 St Nicholas Church, Ozleworth*

John returned to France in August 1917. He rejoined his Battalion who now moved on to Belgium to take part in another major Battle, that of 3<sup>rd</sup> Ypres, sometimes called the Battle of Passchendaele. On 19<sup>th</sup> October the 7<sup>th</sup> Queen's transferred to the 53<sup>rd</sup> Brigade. Two days later John was killed in action in the Poelcappelle area, about 5 kms north-east of Ypres. The Battalion Diary confirmed that on that date the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion were "holding the line". It would thus appear that John was killed either by shell-fire or by a sniper. He was 41 years old, one of Wotton's oldest servicemen to die in the war.

John was buried in New Irish Farm Cemetery, Ypres, Belgium, in Plot 10, Row D,



Grave 16. This is a large cemetery containing some 4,600 allied graves. There is a beautiful bronze tablet commemorating John and four other soldiers who fell in the Great War in St. Nicholas Church, Ozleworth, the church being close to John's boyhood home at Newark.



*Cpl. John Avenell*

Source: Wotton-under-Edge Heritage Centre

6

**MACARTHUR BALLINGER**



Rank & Unit: Able Seaman, R/1102, in Drake Battalion of the Royal Naval Division  
 Born: 1893  
 Died: Killed in action near Ablainzeville, France on 21<sup>st</sup> August 1918.  
 Buried in Achiet-Le-Grand Communal Cemetery Extension, France:  
 Plot 3, Row D, Grave 5  
 Age: 25  
 Father: E. D. Ballinger, Brook Street, Gloucester

MacArthur Ballinger, incorrectly spelt 'Ballenger' on Wotton's War Memorial, was the youngest son of Mr. E. D. Ballinger of Brook Street, Gloucester, a retired farmer. MacArthur, a tenant farmer of *Swinhay Farm* near Wotton-under-Edge joined the fighting forces in March 1917. His father came out of retirement to look after the farm whilst MacArthur went to war. He joined the Drake Battalion of the Royal Naval Division. This Division (63<sup>rd</sup>) had been formed of Naval men who could not be found ships and instead underwent training as infantry. They retained their Naval ranks and joined Battalions with names such as Nelson, Collingwood, Hood, Hawke and Drake.

On the night of 21<sup>st</sup> August 1918 the 3<sup>rd</sup> Army, of which 63<sup>rd</sup> Division was a part, were pressing north of the Ancre river, a tributary of the Somme, towards Bapaume. The Drake Battalion, together with the Anson and Hood Battalions and the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalions of the Royal Marine Light Infantry, was in action west of the village of Ablainzeville, just north of the Ancre. It was in this action that MacArthur lost his life. An officer, writing to his father, said that "*death was instantaneous and painless*". I wonder how true that was? Many letters from officers or colleagues to relatives



*Achiet-le-Grand Communal Cemetery Extension*

Source: Commonwealth War Graves Commission

of the dead soldier contained these or similar words and was probably done to try to soften the blow on hearing of the death of a loved one. MacArthur was either 24 or 25 when he died. He lies buried in Plot 3, Row D, Grave 5 of Achiet-le-Grand Communal Cemetery Extension. The cemetery is situated at the north-west side of the village, 19 kms south of Arras in the department of Pas-de-Calais. MacArthur is commemorated on a memorial tablet in Charfield Congregational Church (where his rank is given as 'Private') as well as having his name inscribed on Wotton's War Memorial.

## HENRY SULLIVAN BECHER



Rank and Unit: Major in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Gurkha Rifles  
 Born: 7<sup>th</sup> April 1876  
 Died: Killed in action near Neuve Chapelle, France on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1914.  
 Commemorated on the Neuve Chapelle Indian Memorial, France  
 Age: 38  
 Parents: Lieut. Col. S. E. Becher and Mrs. Sullivan Becher

Sullivan Becher (as he was known) was born on 7<sup>th</sup> April 1876, the only son of Lieut. Col. S. E. Becher and Mrs. Sullivan Becher of *Kingswood House*, Wotton-under-Edge. He was educated at Marlborough College and in Germany and later at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. He was gazetted 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1896, Lieutenant on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1898, Captain on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1905 and Major on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 1914.

On first commission he was attached to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers which he joined in India on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1896. He was appointed to the Indian Army on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1897 and was posted to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Goorkha Regiment (Gurkhas), joining on 9<sup>th</sup> August 1897. Major Becher took part in several operations in India, mainly on the N.W. Frontier, between 1897 and 1914. Between November 1909 and September 1911 he served as A.D.C. to the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army. Sullivan was proficient at polo and represented his Regiment on numerous occasions.



Source: Gurkha Museum, Winchester

At the outbreak of the First World War Sullivan Becher accompanied his Battalion to France. In November 1914 the Battalion, which formed part of the Indian Corps, were fighting in the Neuve Chapelle area of the Western Front, between Béthune and Armentières. On 2<sup>nd</sup> November Sullivan's Battalion came under heavy shell-fire, men were either buried or blown sky high.



*Neuve-Chapelle Indian Memorial*

Source: Author: Carcharoth; Wikipedia

Merewether and Smith in their book *The History of the Indian Corps in France* describe the action in which Sullivan was killed :-

*'One shell blew four men into the air with the debris of the parapet, rifle and a machine gun and killed Lieut. Lucas while rallying his men. At the same time Major Becher was killed while trying to get his men back to the cover of an old trench.'*

*The Times* of 11<sup>th</sup> November 1914 contains a tribute to Major Becher, written by one of his colleagues. Major Becher's body was not recovered from the battlefield for burial until May 1915 and he was buried where he had fallen. Unfortunately this grave was lost during further fighting, so he is commemorated on the Neuve Chapelle Indian Memorial to the Missing.

8

## JOHN CROSBIE BENGOUGH



Rank & Unit: Captain in the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars  
Yeomanry  
Born: 1889 at Wotton-under-Edge  
Died: Killed in Action in Egypt on 26<sup>th</sup> February, 1916.  
Commemorated in Alexandria, Chatby Military Cemetery, Egypt  
Age: 27  
Parents: John Alan George Bengough J.P. and Rosa Margaret Bengough

John Crosbie Bengough was born at *The Ridge*, a large country house overlooking Waterley Bottom, just two miles north of Wotton-under-Edge. *The Ridge* was demolished in the 1930s. John Crosbie was the eldest son of John Alan George Bengough J.P., and of Rosa Margaret his wife. His grandfather was John Charles Bengough J.P., High Sheriff of Gloucestershire in 1877.

John Crosbie Bengough was educated at Rugby School from 1902 until 1908. He then went up to Emmanuel College, Cambridge, graduating in 1911. Bengough then spent two years farming in the Transvaal. In 1913 he returned to England and was given a Commission in the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars.

He went with his Regiment to Egypt in April 1915. He was made Staff Captain and appointed Military Landing Officer at Alexandria and in the same capacity, was sent to Lancashire Landing, 'W' Beach, in the Gallipoli Peninsula, in July of the same year. In October he rejoined the Regiment at Suvla Bay, and served as Bombing Officer and was in charge of a Trench Mortar. On the Regiment leaving to refit he became Divisional Bombing Officer and had a Bombing School at Suvla. Later, when the School was abolished owing to the evacuation of the Peninsula he was appointed Camp Commandant and A.D.C. to Major-General W. E. Payton, G.O.C. the Egyptian Western Frontier Force.

On 26<sup>th</sup> February 1916 the Queen's Own Dorset Yeomanry, to whom Bengough had been temporarily lent, was in action against the Senussi, who had allied themselves with the Turks at Agagia, 14 miles south-east of Barvani in Western Egypt. John Bengough was killed in this action, described as a "*brilliant and successful charge*". He was 27 years of age. The charge of the Queen's Own Dorset Yeomanry is depicted in a large painting by the military artist Lady Butler, the original being owned by the Dorset County Council and which can be viewed in the Town Hall, Dorchester.

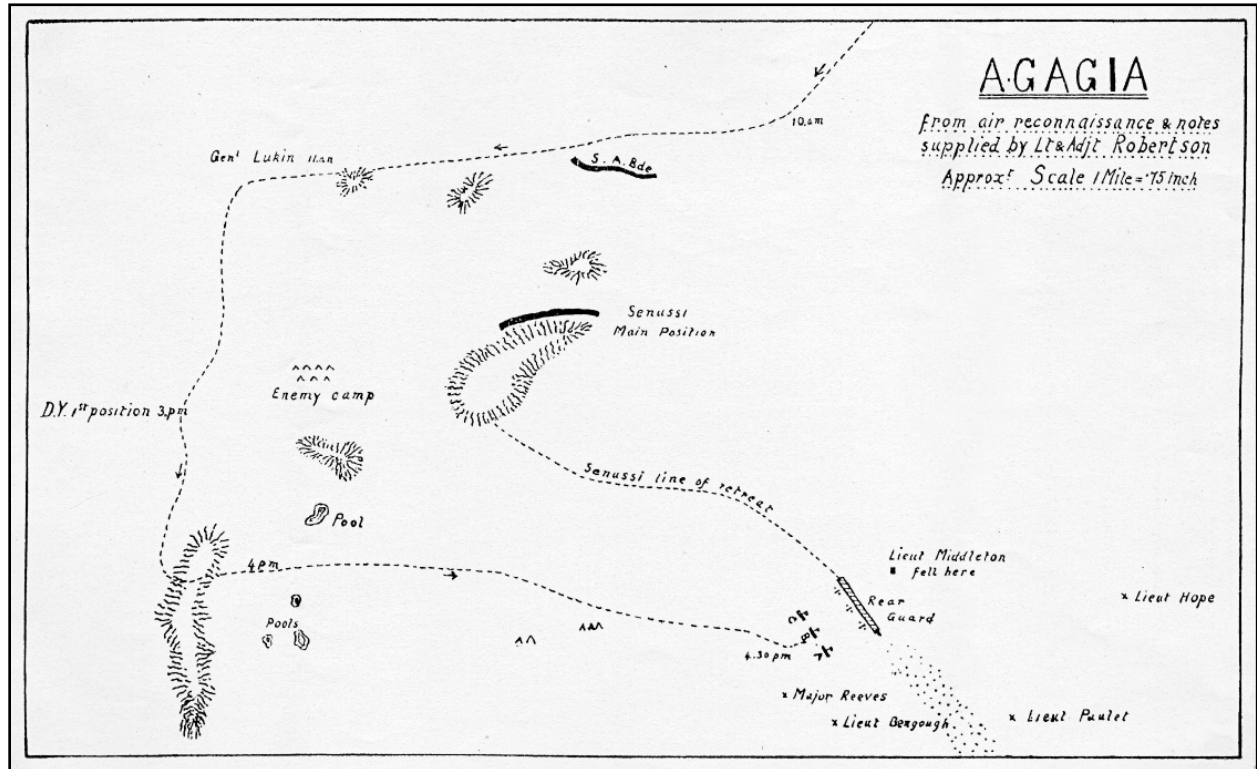
Capt. Bengough was mentioned in Dispatches of 9<sup>th</sup> April 1916 by the General commanding the force in Egypt "*for gallantry and distinguished service in the Field*". His brother officers wrote :-

*"He was a most gallant fellow, upright and keen in everything he undertook. His work as a soldier was always so excellent. Everyone of all ranks in his Brigade is to-day mourning the loss of a dear comrade."*

Capt. John Crosbie Bengough is commemorated in Chatby Military Cemetery Alexandria. As



Source: Memorials Of  
Rugbeians Who Fell In The  
Great War, Medici Society



*A map showing the action in which Captain Bengough was killed at Agagia, Egypt*

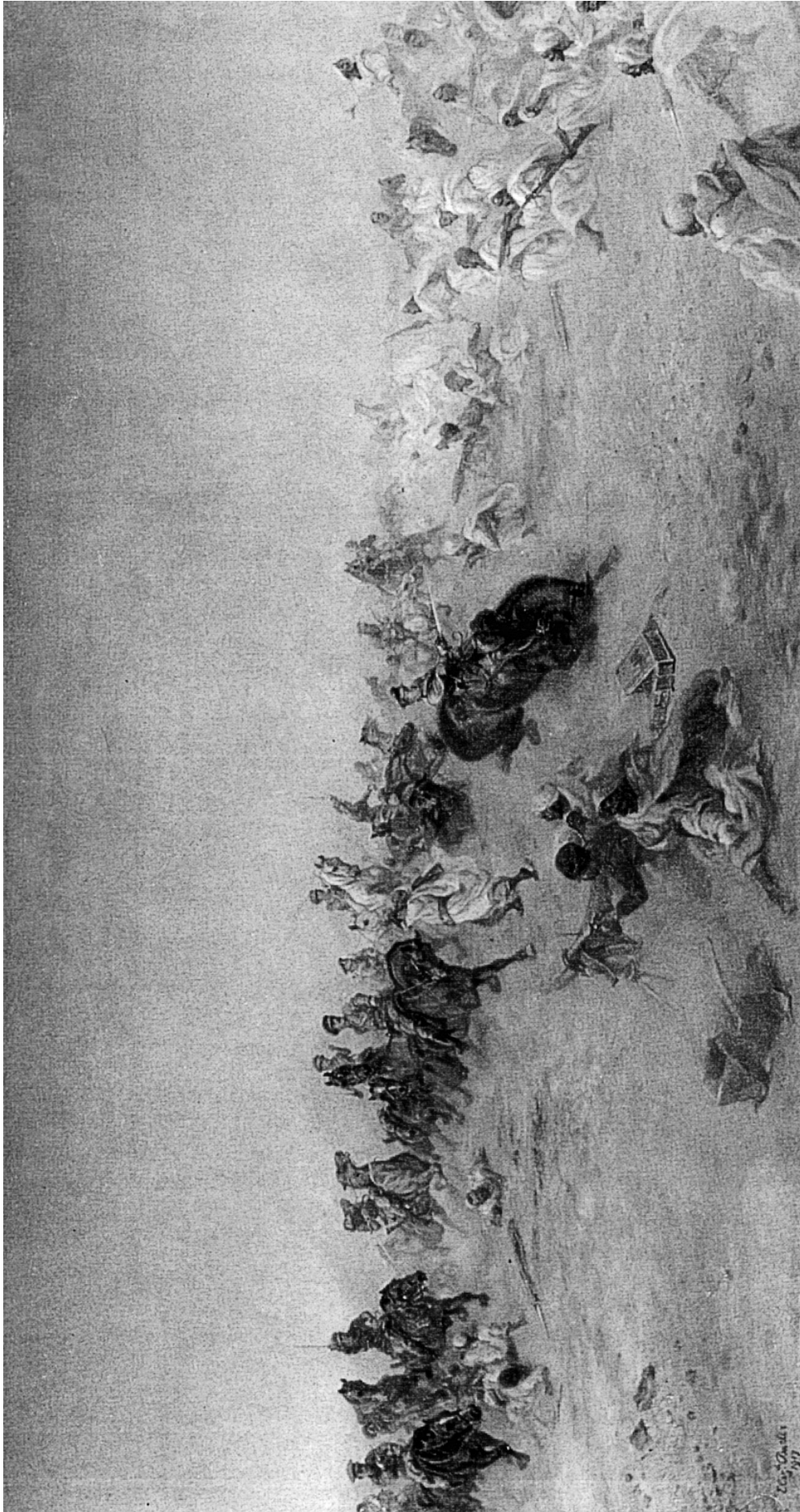
Source: Sir F. Fox, *The History of the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Yeomanry*, Philip Allan & Co. London, 1922

well as having his name inscribed on the town War Memorial in Wotton, he is commemorated on a plaque in St. Mary's Church, Wotton, on the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Memorial in Cathedral Close, Gloucester; also on the war memorial in Rugby School, where, interestingly, his name appears alongside that of Rupert Brooke, the poet. There is a family vault beneath the Sacristy in St. Mary's Church, Wotton, where many of the Bengough family were buried.

C.E.BEAUSIRE	D.E.BRADBY
J.C.BELL	E.J.BRADLEY
J.C.BENGOUGH	O.G.F.J.BREUL
J.R.BENHAM	H.J.BRIERLEY
A.S.BENNETT	A.C.BROOK
C.T.BENNETT	R.C.BROOKE
P.D.BENNETT	W.A.C.BROOKE
G.E.BERNHEIM	F.C.BROOKS
C.C.BEVINGTON	A.L.T.BROWETT
C.E.F.BEVIR	A.C.BROWN
S.M.BICKERSTETH	J.C.D.BROWN
G.BIGNELL	P.L.BROWNE
E.W.BIRCH	D.BRUNTON

*John Bengough's name is close to that of Rupert Brooke's, the poet, on the Rugby School Roll of Honour.*

Source: Rusty Maclean



*The Dorset Yeomanry at Agagia, 26<sup>th</sup> February 1916.*

Artist - Lady Elizabeth Butler

Source: Courtesy of Dorset County Council



9

**LAMBERT JACK BIGNELL**



Rank and Unit: Private, 20187, in the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion,  
Worcestershire Regiment  
Born: 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1897  
Died: of wounds in Belgium on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1917.  
Buried in Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, France: Plot 3, Row  
E, Grave 257  
Age: 20  
Parents: John and Alice Bignell

Lambert Bignell was one of six children of John and Alice Bignell of Prospect Place, Symn Lane, Wotton-under-Edge. Lambert was born in Wotton on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1897. As a young boy Lambert, also known as 'Bert' or 'Bertie' attended the National Infants School and the Bluecoat School in Wotton. During his teenage years Lambert was a member of the Wotton 1<sup>st</sup> Scouts troop. He enlisted in the Army in Wotton, joining the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Worcestershire Regiment. This Battalion was formed in Worcester in September 1914 soon after the outbreak of war. In December the Battalion moved to Salisbury Plain for training. In March 1915 they were at Tidworth and on 19<sup>th</sup> July 1915 the Battalion landed in Boulogne.

The Battalion was to see heavy fighting on the Somme, in fact Lambert wrote a letter home describing the events of 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1916 when he was serving in 'A' Company. The letter was printed in the 22<sup>nd</sup> July edition of the *Gazette*. It reads as follows :-

*Dear Mother,*

*I am very sorry I have not written before, but we have been so busy of late. I expect you have been worrying a lot lately, seeing what has been going on out here, and I can tell you we have been in the thick of it, but all the Wotton boys have come through safely. But the sight we have witnessed during the last few days have been terrible: it has been a proper Hell. Never did I think I should come out of it alive, but thank God I have. We have had all of our officers killed or wounded or missing. It was on the morning of 2<sup>nd</sup> July that we had orders to take a village held by the Huns. Over we went and succeeded in taking it after four hours of terrible fighting. Our Regiment made a splendid name of itself, as we did work that a Division had endeavoured to do. I am sorry to say that I lost my watch in the charge, but as I came through it safely, I don't mind. We took a great many prisoners. The Germans against us were splendid fighters - they were one of Germany's finest regiments - but we got over them. If only I get back again I can tell you something about it. I have some things belonging to the Germans and will try to get them home, but of our Company of 150 men we have only 53 left, so you may see what it has been like, but we have shifted them back further and I think one more go like that will end this war. I only hope it will come quickly ..... Now, mother, mind and not worry, as we are out of all danger now. I must close now, with love to all.*

*Your ever loving son,*

*Bert*

Source: Capt. H. Fitz M. Stacke, Worcs. Regt., 1928

Unfortunately, it was during this time of being in reserve that Lambert was killed. On 7<sup>th</sup> August he was wounded by a high-explosive shell, he was taken to a dressing-station, but his injuries were so severe that he died the next day. The news of her son's death was broken to Mrs. Bignell by a letter from Lieut. R. Cooper of her son's Battalion; Lambert had been the officer's servant. Lambert was just 20 years of age at his death. He lies buried in Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France, 14kms south-west of Ypres, near the Belgian border.





*Lambert Bignell with his mother Alice,  
three sisters and two brothers.*

Source: Robert Bignell

## 10

### CYRIL BOW



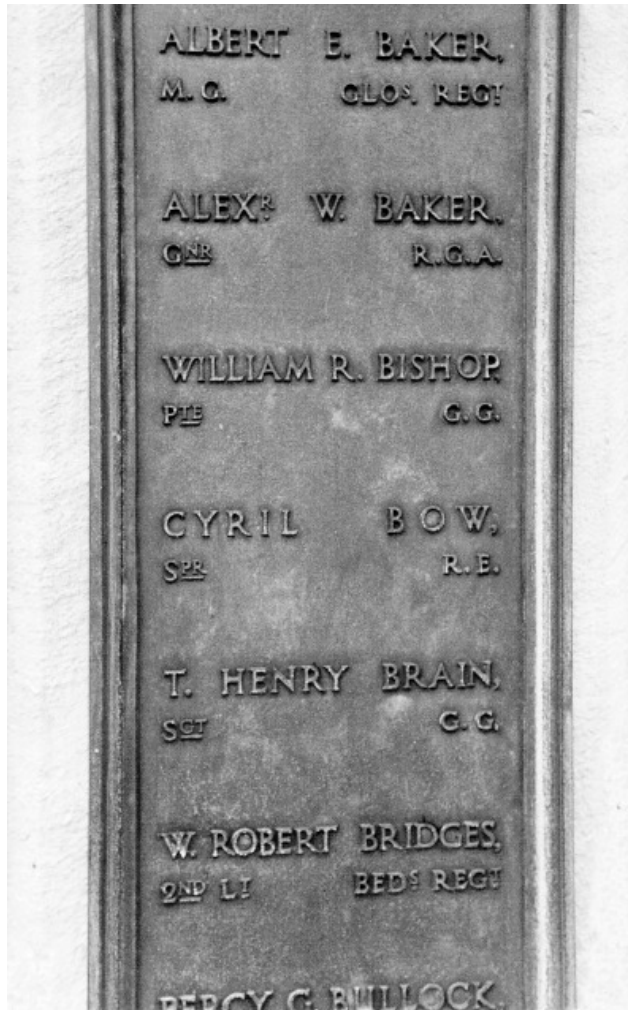
Rank and Unit: Private, 77063, in the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Durham Light Infantry  
Born: 21<sup>st</sup> May 1881  
Died: Killed in action in Belgium on 25<sup>th</sup> October 1917.  
Buried in Cement House Cemetery, Langemark, Belgium: Plot 15, Row D, Grave 24  
Age: 36  
Parents: John and Jane Bow  
Wife: Ada Emily (née Honeybone)  
Child: One son known - John Charles, born 1910

Cyril was the son of John and Jane Bow of Potter's Pond, Wotton-under-Edge. He was born on 21<sup>st</sup> May 1881. John died when Cyril was still an infant. Cyril attended the Bluecoat School, Wotton-under-Edge, between 1888 and 1895 having reached Standard 5. Cyril married Ada Emily in 1903 and a son, John Charles, was born to the couple in 1910. During the war Cyril served with the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Durham Light Infantry. This was a Pioneer Battalion, attached to the 50<sup>th</sup> (Northumberland) Division. The Battalion crossed to France on 14<sup>th</sup> May 1915.

Cyril was killed in action on 25<sup>th</sup> October 1917 during the Third Battle of Ypres. On 24<sup>th</sup> October the 50<sup>th</sup> Division, with the 7<sup>th</sup> D.L.I. went into the line south of the Houthulst Wood. Cyril's family received a letter from 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. F. C. Lawrence of the 7<sup>th</sup> D.L.I. reporting his death. At



*Stonehouse War Memorial, Gloucestershire.*



*Cyril Bow's name is inscribed on the Stonehouse War Memorial.*

that time his wife and son were living in Stonehouse, Gloucestershire. The letter was printed in the *Gazette* of 17<sup>th</sup> November 1917 and is very typical of letters sent from the front explaining the death of a loved one. It reads :-

*It is with deep regret that I write to sympathise with you in the loss of your husband. During the short time he was with us here we had grown to respect him for the cheerfulness and courage in the danger and hardships with which life out here is filled. Your husband met his death near the front line in the execution of very important work and his death will mean a great loss to his country and ourselves. Please accept the deep sympathy of my brother officers and myself. Believe me,*

*Yours very sincerely,*

*F. C. Lawrence*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut.*

Private Bow is buried in Cement House Cemetery, Langemark, in Plot 15, Row D, Grave 24. Langemark lies 7 kms north of the town of Ypres (Ieper). The cemetery contains

some 3500 allied graves. As well as having his name inscribed on the Wotton War Memorial, Cyril is commemorated on the Stonehouse War Memorial as this is where he was living with his wife before he went to war. Both on the Stonehouse Memorial and on the Roll of Honour in Wotton's Town Hall, Cyril is given the rank of 'Sapper' serving in the Royal Engineers. This is not necessarily a mistake as he may have served in this Regiment before joining the Durham Light Infantry.

# 11

## FERGUSON JAMES BOYCE



Rank and Unit: Trooper, 1701, in the Royal Household Cavalry (Household Battalion)  
 Born: 1895  
 Died: of wounds on 26<sup>th</sup> May 1917.  
 Buried in Tournai Communal Cemetery Allied Extension, Belgium: Plot 5, Row G, Grave 16  
 Age: 22  
 Parents: Dr. James G. Boyce and Mrs. Augusta Boyce

Ferguson James Boyce was the only son of Dr. James G. Boyce and Augusta Boyce of The Chipping, Wotton-under-Edge. He was born in Maidstone, Kent in 1895. The family moved to Wotton-under-Edge and Ferguson attended Katharine Lady Berkeley's Grammar School. Early in the War, Ferguson enlisted in Cranbrook, Kent, joining the West Kent Yeomanry with the service no. 3224. He then transferred to the Royal Household Cavalry and joined No.1 Company of the Household Battalion as a Trooper, no. 1701.

In May 1917 Ferguson's parents received a letter to say that their son had been reported 'missing' since 11<sup>th</sup> May. Then a postcard arrived in July written by Ferguson to say that he had been captured by the Germans and was now in a prisoner of war camp in Germany. Their relief must have been tempered with some concern as Ferguson wrote that he had been wounded before capture. On 13<sup>th</sup> October 1917 the *Gazette* printed the sad news that Ferguson had died in a prisoner of war camp. It is probable that Ferguson had succumbed to his wounds. Ferguson had in fact died on 26<sup>th</sup> May and the postcard which he had written did not arrive until two months after his death.

The Germans returned Trooper Boyce's body to the Allies and he was buried in Belgium in Tournai South Communal Cemetery, Allied Extension in Plot 5, Row G, Grave 16. This cemetery contains about 700 British graves. Tournai is a town approximately 20kms east of Lille. As well as having his name inscribed on Wotton's War Memorial, Ferguson Boyce is commemorated on the Roll of Honour plaque in Katharine Lady Berkeley's School. Some time after the war, Dr. & Mrs. Boyce returned to Kent to live in Biddenham at *The Willows*.



*Tournai Communal Cemetery*

Source: Commonwealth War Graves Commission

## 12

### PERCIVAL ERNEST BROODBANK



Rank And Unit: Private, 266142, in the 2/6<sup>th</sup> Battalion  
Gloucestershire Regiment  
Born: 1885 in Woodford, Essex  
Died: Killed in action in France on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1917.  
Commemorated on the Cambrai Memorial France: Panel 6  
Age: 32  
Parents: Ernest Alexander and Ellen Maria Broodbank  
Wife: Nellie  
Children: One

Percival Ernest Broodbank (Percy) was born in Woodford, Essex in 1885, the son of Ernest Alexander Broodbank and his wife Ellen Maria. At the time of Percy's death in 1917, their address was given as 4 Manor Park, Redland, Bristol. Percy was married to Penelope (Nellie). Sometime after Percy's death, Nellie re-married a Mr. Jones and went to live in Tetbury.

Percy and Nellie were living in Sinwell, Wotton-under-Edge, at the outbreak of the war. Nellie gave birth to a child (gender and name not known) about this time. In March 1915, Percy enlisted in Bristol and joined the 2/6<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment, being given the service no. 266142.

Soon after enlisting, Percy was seeing action on the Western Front in France. In October and November 1917 he spent some time at home on leave. Only three weeks after returning from leave Percy was posted as missing. It wasn't until September 1918, about nine months later that Nellie was informed by letter from the War Office that her husband was "*presumed to have been killed in action on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 1917.*" The family had been hoping that maybe Percy had been taken prisoner.

Percy's Battalion, the 2/6<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters, had embarked for France on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1916 as part of 183 Brigade in the 61<sup>st</sup> Division. In December 1917 they were taking part in the Battle of Cambrai and were fighting in the Havrincourt Wood area. This section of the Western Front, 8kms south-west of Cambrai, was part of the Hindenburg Line, a system of German defensive fortifications. The line was named after the German General, Field Marshal Paul von Hindenburg. 'Line' was perhaps a misnomer as the fortifications extended to a depth of up to 15kms. Included in the system were 'Stellung' strong points festooned with trenches, barbed-wire and firepower. For further information on the Hindenburg Line see the book *The First World War* - Pope and Wheal, published by Macmillan.

The 2/6<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters War Diary for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1917 reads as follows :-

*1<sup>st</sup> December Metz*

*Battalion bivouacked in Havrincourt Wood. Moved up to the line in the afternoon and took over the line east of La Vacquerie in and about the Hindenburg Line.*

*2<sup>nd</sup> December*



*Trenches east of La Vacquerie. Enemy made an attack on one of our saps about 6 a.m. (part of the Hindenburg Line) with a large party. He drove us back twice, but local counter attacks recaptured the ground. About 6.30 a.m. the enemy attacked again with a large party, gained and held the sap owing to our supply of bombs having run out.*

*About 2 p.m. after a heavy barrage the enemy attacked with large forces on a fairly wide front bombing down trenches and attacking across the open. We were forced to retire about 300 yards. Counter attacks were made to drive the enemy back but without success. Battalion Headquarters was captured during this attack, the Commanding Officer being hit and believed to have been taken prisoner. At night several attacks were made on our new positions, but all were repulsed.*

It was during this fighting that Percy was killed. His body was never recovered from the battlefield and so he is commemorated on the Cambrai Memorial. A photograph of Percy appeared in the *Bristol Times & Mirror* of 1<sup>st</sup> April 1916.



*Cambrai Memorial*

Source: Commonwealth War Graves Commission

## 13

### FRANCIS CHARLES BROWN



Rank and Unit: Private, TF/242337, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Middlesex Regiment  
Born: 1886  
Died: Killed in action in Belgium on 16<sup>th</sup> August 1917  
Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium: Panels 113 to 115  
Age: 30  
Parents: James and Elizabeth Brown  
Wife: Georgina Eleanor Brown  
Child: Frances

Although Francis Brown (also known as Frank) has his name inscribed on Wotton's War Memorial, I have been unable to find what the Wotton connection was, although it is possible that his work brought him to Wotton. It is interesting to note that Frank's name also appears on two other Gloucestershire memorials. One in Thornbury, where it can be found in the porch of the Parish Church, and the other at Berkeley, again, in the Parish Church. There is yet another Gloucestershire town which Francis had a link with. When the Imperial War Graves Commission (now called the Commonwealth War Graves Commission) asked for family details on Frank, his wife's address was given as Parsonage Street, Dursley.

Francis Charles Brown was born in 1886, the son of James and Elizabeth Brown of *Black Hall*, Berkeley. He lived with his parents up until his marriage to Georgina Eleanor Young in 1913. A daughter was born to Georgina and Frank before he joined the Army.

Frank enlisted in Bristol, joining the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Territorial Force) of the Middlesex Regiment, with the no. TF /242337. This Battalion, which was formed in Hounslow on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1914, right at the beginning of the war, saw a short period of service in Gibraltar before crossing to France, landing at Le Havre on 11<sup>th</sup> March 1915. The Battalion formed part of 85<sup>th</sup> Brigade in 28<sup>th</sup> Division.

The publication *Soldiers Died in the Great War* states that Frank was killed in action on 16<sup>th</sup> August 1917. At that time the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion were fighting in the Ypres Salient in Belgium, taking part in the infamous 3<sup>rd</sup> battle of Ypres. They had now transferred to 167<sup>th</sup> Brigade of the 56<sup>th</sup> Division. Everard Wyrall in his book *The Die Hards in the Great War* (the Middlesex Regiment) describes the action of the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion on the day that Frank was killed :-

*At least a dozen German aeroplanes were in the air above the Middlesex some flying low down and machine-gunning the troops as they crouched in their posts. One was brought down by Lewis-gunfire. At 1pm the enemy guns opened fire on the Middlesex heavily and many casualties were suffered. This fire continued until 3pm.*

Frank was killed on the eastern edge of Nonne Boschen Wood, approximately 7kms east of Ypres. Frank's body was not recovered after the battle and so he is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial to the Missing, Panels 113 to 115.



*Tyne Cot Cemetery looking towards the Cross of Sacrifice.  
Pte. Francis Brown's name is inscribed on one of the  
memorial tablets at the back of the cemetery.*



## 14

### GEORGE BURFORD



Rank and Unit: Private, 204596, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Hampshire Regiment  
Born: 1883  
Died: of wounds in France on 6<sup>th</sup> September 1918.  
Buried in Arneke Cemetery France: Plot 8, Row A, Grave 13  
Age: 35  
Parents: William Blizzard and Jane Burford  
Wife: Frances

George Burford was the fourth child born to William Blizzard Burford (baker and dairyman) and Jane Burford of *Sinwell Farm*, Wotton-under-Edge. William was born in Wotton, Jane in Nettleton, Wiltshire. First born of their children was Annie, then followed Owen, Herbert, George and Griffin. As a young man George was a member of the Baptist Church in Wotton. He married a young lady named Frances, who was probably from Stow-on-the-Wold.

George first enlisted in the West Somerset Yeomanry when he was living in Sidmouth. At some stage he transferred to the Hampshire Regiment, enlisting in Axminster and joining the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, service no. 204596. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion fought bravely in the Gallipoli campaign, but it is not known if George was serving with them then.

In August 1918 the British Army were advancing on a wide front in France and regaining all the territory they had lost during the German Spring Offensive. On 30<sup>th</sup> August the 2<sup>nd</sup> Hampshires, part of 86<sup>th</sup> Brigade in 29<sup>th</sup> Division were advancing well beyond Bailleul, into Belgium and not meeting much German opposition; in fact fires could be seen in the distance, suggesting a retreat. The advance continued over the next few days. However, on 4<sup>th</sup> September the 88<sup>th</sup> Brigade, now in the Ploegsteert Wood area, in the southern sector of the Ypres salient, began to meet much stiffer opposition. The enemy, now holding large craters, brought up many machine guns and in front of their line thick belts of uncut wire helped to hold up the attackers.

It was here that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Hampshires lost many men, 2 officers and 34 men killed, 4 officers and 140 men wounded. It was probably as a result of this action on 4<sup>th</sup> September that George Burford was wounded. He was taken back to a base field hospital in St. Omer and it was here that he died on the 6<sup>th</sup>, aged 35. George was buried in Arneke Cemetery, Plot 8 Row A Grave 13 and is the only man from the regiment to be buried in this cemetery. Arneke is a village approximately 13kms north-east of St. Omer.

The *Gazette* of 14<sup>th</sup> September 1918 carried a headline referring to George's death :-

*ANOTHER WOTTON SOLDIER FALLS IN ACTION.*

In fact George had become the 102<sup>nd</sup> Wotton serviceman to die in the war. George's wife Frances received the news whilst living in *Pine House*, Stow-on-the-Wold, probably her parents' home.

## 15

### WILLIAM LEWIS BUTCHER



Rank and Unit: Private, 9852, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment  
Born: 5<sup>th</sup> June 1894  
Died: Killed in action in Belgium on 10<sup>th</sup> May 1915.  
Buried in Sanctuary Wood Cemetery, Zillebeke, Belgium: Plot 4, Row F, Grave 17  
Age: 20  
Father: David Butcher

William Butcher was born in Wotton-under-Edge on 5<sup>th</sup> June 1894, the son of David Butcher of Sinwell. William attended the British School and then transferred to the Bluecoat School on 21<sup>st</sup> September 1903, leaving on 20<sup>th</sup> June 1907 at the age of 13.

In May 1913 William enlisted as a regular soldier in Bristol, with the service number of 9852. He first joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment. Soon after the outbreak of war, William was drafted to France on 13<sup>th</sup> August. Not long after he was transferred to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion.



*The Cross of Sacrifice in Sanctuary Wood Cemetery.*

On 4<sup>th</sup> April 1915 the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion marched to Ypres from Dickebusch, 7 kms to the south-west, and for the next month or so they saw action in and around Ypres. Ypres, an old Flemish town, was a very important strategic centre, standing in the centre of a large salient (bulge) into the German lines. The land surrounding Ypres is extremely flat. Encircling the salient is a ridge, and it was on this ridge that the Germans encamped for most of the war. If the German army could take Ypres, then the way was open for them to control the Channel ports. Apart from just three days in October 1914, soon after the start of the war, the Germans were never to take Ypres for the rest of the war, no matter how hard they tried.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1915 the Germans attacked Ypres again, in what became known as the Second Battle of Ypres. For the first time in the war the Germans released poison gas, just to the north of the city. The Battle ended on 25<sup>th</sup> May, with the Allies having to give up much of the ground in the salient.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Gloucesters' Battalion Diary for 9<sup>th</sup> May 1915 records a day of heavy fighting in the *Stirling Castle* area of the salient, just 7 kms south-east of Ypres. It states :-



*A pupil from Katharine Lady Berkeley's School placing a Remembrance Cross at the grave of Pte. William Butcher, in Sanctuary Wood Cemetery, Ypres, Belgium*

*1 officer was killed, 3 officers wounded, 1 officer missing, 39 other ranks killed, 93 wounded and 8 missing.*

In all probability this was the action in which William was killed. The Diary for 10<sup>th</sup> May contains no reports of Battalion losses.

William is buried in Sanctuary Wood Cemetery, Zillebeke, Belgium, Plot 4, Row F, Grave 17. The cemetery lies just 5kms south-east of Ypres and contains over 1800 allied graves.

The Gazette of 12<sup>th</sup> May 1917 contains the following 'In Memoriam' message :-

*In loving memory of Pte. William Butcher who was killed on the 10<sup>th</sup> May 1915.  
From his loving father and sister. (Nellie)*

*Sleep on dear Will, in that far off grave,  
A grave we may never see,  
But as long as life and memory last,  
We will remember thee.*

Similar insertions can be found for later years.

## 16

### AMBROSE BUTLER



Rank and Unit: Private, 240076, in the 2/1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the  
Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry  
Born: 12<sup>th</sup> June 1896  
Died: of wounds in France on 31<sup>st</sup> March 1918.  
Buried in St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, France: Plot 9, Row G,  
Grave 10B  
Age: 21  
Parents: James and Amelia Butler



Ambrose Butler was born on 12<sup>th</sup> June 1896, the son of James, general labourer, and Amelia Butler. James hailed from Cromhall and Amelia from Eastington. Ambrose was one of five boys born to James and Amelia. George was born in 1883, Percy in 1892, William in 1898 and Sidney in 1900, unfortunately William died aged only six. At the time of Ambrose's birth the family lived in Coombe Road, Holywell, Wotton-under-Edge, but at some stage they moved to *The Cloud* in Wotton. Ambrose attended the National Infants School and afterwards the Bluecoat School.

In the *Bristol Times & Mirror* of 1<sup>st</sup> April 1916 a photograph of Ambrose appeared with the caption 'Gloucestershire Regiment' underneath. This may have been a mistake, but if not, then Ambrose must have transferred regiments at some stage as all other references state that he served in the Ox. & Bucks. Light Infantry. He enlisted in the 2/1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Regiment in Wotton, service no. 240076. The Battalion was formed at Aylesbury in September 1914 as a Territorial Force. They trained in various places, including Northampton, Chelmsford and Salisbury. Forming part of 184<sup>th</sup> Brigade in the 61<sup>st</sup> Division they sailed for France, landing at Le Havre on 26<sup>th</sup> May 1916. Ambrose crossed to France with a draft of men about 11 months later.

On Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> April 1918, during a period of German offensives on the Western Front, James and Amelia received the sad news that Ambrose had died of wounds on the last day of March, he was 21 years of age. It is likely that Ambrose died in a Rouen hospital as he is buried in one of that town's cemeteries - St. Sever Cemetery Extension, in Plot 9, Row G, Grave 10B. Ambrose's brother, George, serving in the Royal Army Medical Corps, was badly gassed in France only a month before Ambrose died and was taken to a hospital in Cardiff for treatment.

## 17

### ALFRED WILLIAM BYE



Rank and Unit:	Stoker in the Royal Navy
Born:	19 <sup>th</sup> August 1897
Parents:	Charles and Anne Bye
Siblings	Florence Lizzie, born ~1892, Alice, born ~1899, Eliza, born ~1903, Henry George, born ~1904, Ernest, born ~1908

I have been unable to find any information on the military career of Alfred Bye. However, we do have a few personal details. Charles and Anne Bye's family lived at the Old Brick Yard, Wotton-under-Edge. They had six children - Florence, Alfred, Alice, Eliza, Henry and Ernest. Alfred attended the British School in Wotton from 29<sup>th</sup> August 1904 until 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1910. After leaving school Alfred became a farm hand. If Alfred died in the war it is unusual for his death not to be mentioned in the *Gazette*.

It is interesting to note that according to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Registers for the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, an Alfred William Bye, Petty Officer Stoker, service no. P/K 59924 serving on *HMS Cairo*, died on 12<sup>th</sup> August 1942, aged 41. He was the son of Sarah Bye of Aldershot, Hampshire.

# 18

## ALFRED GEORGE CANDY



Rank and Unit: Private, 202628, in the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion  
Gloucestershire Regiment  
Born: 1885 in Berkeley  
Died: of heart failure in a German Prisoner of War Camp on 13<sup>th</sup> September  
1918. Buried in Terlincthun British Cemetery, France: Plot 16, Row F,  
Grave 22  
Age: 33  
Father: William Candy  
Wife: Elizabeth May  
Children: Amy Rose and John William

George (as he was known) was one of five children of William Candy and his wife. He was born in Berkeley in 1885. George worked for Mr. Rowland as a decorator before joining the Army. On 28<sup>th</sup> November 1908 George married Elizabeth May Jackson in Falfield. They were to have two children, John William and Amy Rose. At the time of his enlistment in the Army in early 1916, George and Elizabeth were living at 5 Gloucester Row, Wotton-under-Edge. George joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment, service no. 29008. He was then transferred to the 2/4<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters, with the no.20318. Yet another change came with another transfer, this time to the Gloucesters' 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

George was wounded and gassed whilst serving on the Western Front, early in 1915. He was sent back to England to recover and returned to France on Good Friday. On 10<sup>th</sup> April George was posted as missing. Not long afterwards Elizabeth received a card from her husband stating that he was a prisoner of war in Germany. George died in Remischsol Hospital in Germany on 13<sup>th</sup> September 1918 from 'heart weakness', possibly as a result of the gas damage he had received. He was interred in Charleville Cemetery, Germany but at some stage his body was removed to France and he now lies in Terlincthun British Cemetery, Boulogne, Plot 16, Row F, Grave 22.



*George's grave in  
Terlincthun British  
Cemetery, France*

Elizabeth had an agonising wait of six months before being told that George was dead. George's last letter to her had been written the previous August, when he mentioned that he was in a weak condition. George was just 33 years of age when he died. After his death Elizabeth received a letter from the Ministry of Pensions; it reads as follows :-

*Madam,  
The Minister of Pensions has heard with regret of the death  
of your husband in the War and I am directed to offer his  
sympathy with you in your loss. To assist you in meeting  
any extra expense which may fall upon you in consequence  
of your bereavement, the sum of £7 will be paid to you at the  
Post Office upon presenting the enclosed Identity Certificate.  
The question of your pension will be settled in due course,*

*I am madam,  
Your Obedient Servant,  
J. A. Flynn  
Secretary*

The pension paid to Elizabeth amounted to £2 : 4s: 2d per week.

George's daughter Amy Rose, whom I met in 1999, and who has since died, told me that her mother struggled to bring up her and her brother John on her own. John died in 1994 aged 78; he was then living in Swindon. Amy Rose Owen lived in North Nibley with her husband for many years before moving to Old Town, Wotton. Mrs. Owen was proud to have in her possession her father's War Medals. Alfred George Candy's name appears on the Tabernacle Church Roll of Honour as well as on Wotton's War Memorial.



*Members of the Tabernacle Church, Wotton-under-Edge who served in W.W.I listed on the Church's Roll of Honour*

Source: Wotton-under-Edge Heritage Centre

## 19

### FRANCIS WILFRED CANDY



Rank and Unit: Private, 9629, in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment  
Born: in Kingswood on 28<sup>th</sup> December 1893  
Died: Killed in action in France on 7<sup>th</sup> April 1915.  
Commemorated on Le Touret Memorial, France: Panel 17  
Age: 21  
Parents: Albert and Julia Candy (née Neale)

Francis was born in the village of Kingswood, near Wotton-under-Edge, on 28<sup>th</sup> December 1893. He was the son of Albert and Julia Candy. Albert pre-deceased his son in September 1907 at the age of 42 when his son, Francis, was just 14. Whilst living in Kingswood Francis attended the village school. By 1902 the family had moved to Bradley Street in Wotton. Francis attended the British School between 8<sup>th</sup> September 1902 and 18<sup>th</sup> January 1907. After leaving school he worked for Tubbs-Lewis & Co. in one of the local mills.

Francis enlisted as a regular soldier in Bristol in 1912, joining the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment, service no. 9629. Francis arrived in France with his Battalion soon after the outbreak of war, in fact only nine days after. Francis survived the early battles, until 7<sup>th</sup> April 1915 at 1.30 a.m. when he was killed whilst on sentry duty. This occurred near Givenchy, about 3 kms west of the town of La Bassée. The 1<sup>st</sup> Gloucesters held this part of the Front Line for about 10 months in 1915. It is interesting to read the Battalion Diary entry for 1<sup>st</sup> April.



*"Germans shouting and singing for Bismarck's birthday. Saxons to our front put up notice to say Hindenburg was coming with 500,000 men."*

There is every possibility that Francis was buried, with his remains being lost due to further fighting. He is commemorated on the Le Touret Memorial, Panel 17. This Memorial to the Missing from the Battles of La Bassée, Neuve Chapelle, Aubers Ridge and Festubert in 1914-1915 lies a few kms north-east of the town of Béthune.

There is a mistake on the Wotton-under-Edge War Memorial, where you will see 'M.M.' after Francis's name. M.M. of course stands for Military Medal. This award was given to N.C.Os. and other ranks from March 1916 onwards. Since Francis died in 1915 he could not have been awarded the M.M. (the medal was not awarded retrospectively). Is it possible that the engraver mistakenly added M.M. after Francis's name, when he meant to place it after William Exell, whose name is exactly opposite? Not wanting to score the name out and spoil the tablet, did he allow the mistake to remain? As well as being commemorated on the town War Memorial, Francis's name appears on the Tabernacle Church Roll of Honour and on the War Memorial at Winterbourne, near Bristol.



## 20

### ALBERT THOMAS CHAPPELL



Rank and Unit: Private, G/21642, in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Queen's Own  
Royal West Kent Regiment  
Born: 28<sup>th</sup> September 1893 at Tresham near Wotton-under-Edge  
Died: of pneumonia in hospital in France on 1<sup>st</sup> December 1918.  
Buried in Caudry British Cemetery France: Plot 11, Row D, Grave 28  
Age: 25  
Parents: Albert James and Kate Elizabeth Chappell  
Wife: Georgina  
Child: Lewis

Albert Thomas Chappell was born on 28<sup>th</sup> September 1893 in Tresham, near Wotton-under-Edge, to Albert James and Kate Elizabeth Chappell. He is incorrectly named as 'H. Chappell' on the Wotton War Memorial, but correctly named on the Roll of Honour boards in the Town Hall. Before joining the Army, 'Bert', as he was known, was employed by Mr. Burford on Sinwell Farm.

Bert enlisted in Bristol in 1916 into the Gloucestershire Regiment, service no. 204063. He saw a great deal of fighting in 1917 and 1918 on the Western Front. At some stage in 1918 he transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, no. G/21642. Bert served with this Battalion right through to the Armistice on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918, but fell ill in France soon after. The *Dursley Gazette* of 14<sup>th</sup> December 1918 carried an account of his death as reported by a Nurse Ruck :-

#### Death of Pte. Bert Chappell of Wotton-under-Edge

##### *An Influenza Victim*

*The sad news reached Wotton-under-Edge on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December of the death in hospital in France of Pte. Albert Chappell of the West Kent Regiment. His wife, who had received previous intimation of his illness, received the following letter from a nurse :-*

*Dear Mrs. Chappell,*

*I am so sorry to write and tell you that your dear husband, who has been lying at this hospital since the 23<sup>rd</sup> November passed away on the 1<sup>st</sup> December at 5.5 a.m. He was brought here suffering from influenza which was followed by pneumonia and though everything possible was done to aid his recovery, he rapidly became worse and died on the 1<sup>st</sup>. It seems so hard that though the fighting is over we are losing our brave men by this terrible epidemic of influenza. I feel so sorry for you and can only offer you my sincere sympathy in your great sorrow. Your dear husband was laid to rest in the cemetery near Caudry and a little cross with his name and regiment mark his last resting place. I expect the chaplain will write to you also.*

*I am,*

*Yours faithfully,*

*M. E. Ruck*

The influenza pandemic killed an estimated 70 million people worldwide in 1918-1919. The American Army lost more men to influenza than were killed in battle.

Bert Chappell was 25 years old, he left a wife - Georgina - and an infant son, Lewis. Bert was buried in Caudry British Cemetery, Nord, France, Plot 11, Row D, Grave 28. Caudry is a large village, 10 kms east of Cambrai, on the south side of the road to Le Cateau. Georgina remarried a Mr. Young and they had two sons - George and Archie. Bert was a member of Sinwell Chapel and is commemorated on a Memorial tablet there.



*Caudry British Cemetery*

Source: Commonwealth War Graves Commission

## 21

### EDWARD VICTOR CLISSOLD



Rank and Unit: Private, G. 17073, in the 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment  
Born: 17<sup>th</sup> August 1898 in Thornbury  
Died: Killed in action in Belgium on 24<sup>th</sup> September 1917.  
Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium  
Age: 19  
Parents: Edward and Alice Clissold

Edward Victor Clissold was the eldest son of Edward and Alice Clissold of *The Glaziers Arms*, the Steep (Ludgate Hill), Wotton-under-Edge. Edward senior worked as a Police Constable but died at a young age. He had served at Fairford and Didmarton before moving to Wotton. Edward Victor was born in Thornbury on 17<sup>th</sup> August 1898; his younger brother Archie was born in 1901. Victor Clissold (as he was known) attended the Bluecoat School from 29<sup>th</sup> August 1905 until 25<sup>th</sup> July 1907 when the family moved to live in Thornbury.

After finishing his schooling Victor worked for the Post Office and was working in Crumlin, Monmouthshire, when he joined the Army in February 1917 at just 18 years of age. Victor first served in the Warwickshire Regiment but was quite soon transferred to the Royal Sussex Regiment, where he joined the 12<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> Southdown) Battalion, regimental no. G. 17073.

The 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Sussex Regiment formed part of 116<sup>th</sup> Brigade in 39<sup>th</sup> Division. In September 1917 they were taking part in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battle of Ypres. The *Gazette* of 15<sup>th</sup> December 1917 carried a copy of a letter, which had been sent to Victor's mother. It was from Capt. W. Jack Fast of the Sussex Regiment; it included the following :-

*"Victor was killed instantly by a piece of shell and died without saying a word, and without any suffering. Killed in the 'Tower Hamlets' sector and buried in the vicinity."*

Tower Hamlets, on a ridge 5 kms east of the town of Ypres, was a German strong point, having a mass of concrete dugouts and pillboxes. The Battalion Diary states that on 24<sup>th</sup> September there was extremely heavy German shelling on that day

Victor's grave was lost during further fighting, so he is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial to the Missing in Tyne Cot Cemetery. The cemetery lies 8 kms north-east of Ypres and near the village of Passchendaele. Victor, one of Wotton's youngest men to die in the war, was just 19 years and one month old. The Roll of Honour in Wotton's Town Hall gives Victor's regiment as the Royal Warwicks, not the Royal Sussex in which he was serving when he died.

## First World War Heroes of Wotton-under-Edge



*Commonwealth War Graves Commission gardeners in Tyne Cot Cemetery, the largest British cemetery on the Western Front*



*Wotton-under-Edge Scout Troop 1910. Lambert Bignell is in the back row, far right and Victor Clissold in the front row, far right. Both young men died in the war.*

Source: Wotton-under-Edge Heritage Centre

## 22

### FREDERICK COOPER

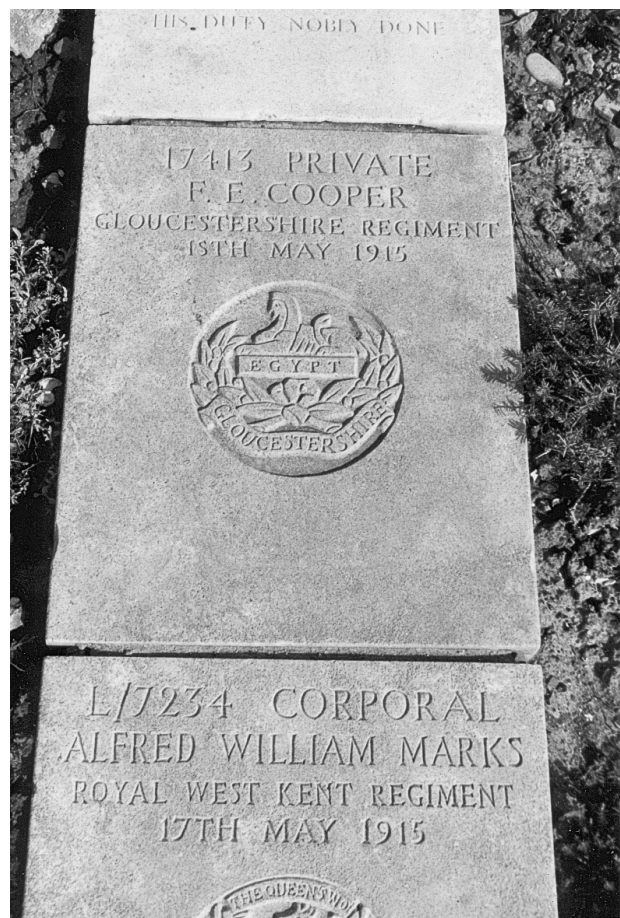


Rank and Unit: Private, 17413, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment  
Born: 8<sup>th</sup> January 1884 in North Nibley  
Died: of wounds on 18<sup>th</sup> May 1915 in a Boulogne Hospital.  
Buried in Boulogne Eastern Cemetery: Plot 8, Row D, Grave 18  
Age: 31  
Parents: Frederick Cooper. Mother's name not known.

Frederick was born in North Nibley on 8<sup>th</sup> January 1884, the eldest of three boys. He attended the British School in Wotton-under-Edge and transferred to the Bluecoat School on 13<sup>th</sup> March 1893. He remained at that school until 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1896 when he was in Standard 3.

Frederick enlisted in the Army in Bristol in January 1915, joining the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment, service no.17413. Frederick was drafted to France on 25<sup>th</sup> March 1915 and survived less than two months, being wounded in battle. From the fighting on the Front Line he was taken back to a hospital in Boulogne where he succumbed from his wounds on 18<sup>th</sup> May 1915. Frederick is buried in Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, Plot 8, Row D, Grave 18.

It would appear that Frederick's father, also named Frederick, predeceased his son as an 'In Memoriam' notice in the *Gazette* for the 17<sup>th</sup> May 1916 reads as follows ... *In loving memory of Pte. F. E. Cooper, died of wounds May 18<sup>th</sup> 1915. From his ever loving mother, sister and brothers (Wotton-under-Edge).* I have been unable to trace Frederick's mother's name. Frederick had two younger brothers - William and Thomas. The Pte. W. J. Cooper of the Army Service Corps, whose name appears on the list of men from Wotton who served in the First World War, found on the Roll of Honour in the Town Hall, is likely to be William, Frederick's brother. I have also been unable to trace Frederick's sister's name. Frederick is commemorated on the Tabernacle Church Roll of Honour as well as on the town's War Memorial.



*The grave of Pte. Frederick Cooper in Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, France*

## 23

### ALBERT EDWARD CORNOCK



Rank and Unit: Private, 15531, in the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion  
Gloucestershire Regiment  
Born: 1879  
Died: of phthisis at Cranham Sanatorium, Gloucestershire on 9<sup>th</sup> April 1919.  
Buried in St. Mary's Churchyard, Wotton-under-Edge  
Age: 40  
Father: John Cornock  
Wife: Bessie  
Child: Albert Edward

Albert was the son of John Cornock. I have been unable to trace his mother's name and it has not been possible to find out about Albert's life before he joined the Army. We do know that in 1903 Albert married Bessie when he was 24 years of age. A son also named Albert Edward was born to the couple in 1915.

Albert enlisted in the Army soon after the outbreak of war, on 13<sup>th</sup> November 1914. Given the service no. 15531, he joined the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment. He was drafted to France with his Battalion on 9<sup>th</sup> August 1915. He served for eighteen months on the Western Front, acting as a stretcher-bearer. Albert was discharged from the Army on 18<sup>th</sup> February 1917 and returned to England.

For the next two years Albert suffered from poor health and finally died from phthisis (tuberculosis) in Cranham Sanatorium, Gloucestershire at the age of 40. Albert was buried in St. Mary's Churchyard, Wotton-under-Edge. Albert's grave, like most Commonwealth war graves, has a headstone made out of white Portland stone. The family chose the inscription - "*Greater love hath no man*" to go onto the headstone.



*Albert's grave in St Mary's churchyard, Wotton-under-Edge*

## 24

### ARCHIBALD ALEXANDER CORNOCK



Rank and Unit: Sergeant, 8540, in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Border Regiment  
 Born: 9<sup>th</sup> May 1889 in Coombe, Wotton-under-Edge  
 Died: Killed in action on 14<sup>th</sup> May 1915 on the Gallipoli Peninsula.  
 Commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Gallipoli  
 Age: 26  
 Parents: Ruth and Charles Cornock  
 Wife: Eveline (née Ostle)

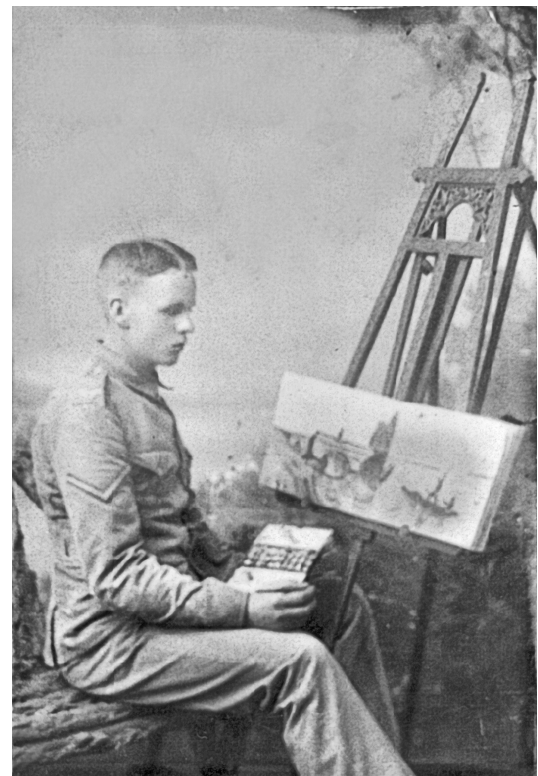
Archibald Alexander Cornock, usually known as 'Archie', was the 13<sup>th</sup> of the 14 children born to Ruth and Charles Cornock of Valley Road, Wotton-under-Edge. Archie was born in Coombe, Wotton, on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1889. Charles worked as a brewer's drayman in the Coombe Valley Brewery. Before her marriage to Charles, Ruth lived in the family home in Kingswood.

Archie attended school in Wotton and at the young age of 17 enlisted in the Army, joining the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Border Regiment, service no. 8540. Whilst in the Army Archie married a girl from Carlisle named Eveline Ostle. The couple must have met in Eveline's home town which housed the Regimental Headquarters of the Border Regiment. Archie saw much service with the Regiment, including tours in Burma and India, where he was promoted Sergeant. Archie was a fine athlete, particularly enjoying boxing, a sport in which he gained great distinction, winning several silver cups and medals in the Regimental tournaments.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Border Regiment along with other units of the 87<sup>th</sup> Brigade in 29<sup>th</sup> Division embarked at Avonmouth on 17<sup>th</sup> March 1915. At 5.30 p.m. they set sail in the *Andana* and *Duke of Edinburgh*; all on board having a good idea that their destination would be the Dardanelles, where they would join the rest of the Allied Forces to try to eject the Turks from the Gallipoli Peninsula and proceed to Constantinople (Istanbul).

Malta was reached on 24<sup>th</sup> March and Alexandria on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Training in beach landings was the main activity over the next few days. On 10<sup>th</sup> April they left Alexandria and anchored in Mudros Bay on the Greek island of Lemnos on the 12<sup>th</sup>. More training took place at Mudros, including getting up rope ladders and landing from boats. The Battalion sailed for the Dardanelles on 24<sup>th</sup> April.

The troops landed at 'X' beach, near the southern tip of the Gallipoli Peninsula, at 7.15 a.m. on



*Archibald Cornock when a Lance Corporal*

Source: Angela Cornock



the 25<sup>th</sup> without serious opposition. However, they encountered stern opposition as they scaled the cliffs. The cliff top was gained and a distance of approximately 500 metres was made during the day but with the loss of a number of troops. There was fierce fighting during the night, but finally the Turks had to draw away. The 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> were quiet days. The 28<sup>th</sup> saw heavy fighting in the Krithia area of the Peninsula. During the day the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion lost 4 officers and 28 other ranks killed, 5 officers and 131 N.C.Os. and men wounded. The night of the 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> passed quietly. During daylight hours on the 29<sup>th</sup> the Turks shelled the British positions very heavily. Eighty nine reinforcement troops arrived to help the Battalion.

On the morning of 30<sup>th</sup> April the Battalion were withdrawn and sent back to 'Y' beach in reserve. They then spent 48 hours in comparative quiet. On 2<sup>nd</sup> May the Battalion were ordered to join front line positions in the direction of Achi Baba Peak. For the next 24 hours the Turks kept up a fearful bombardment, obviously trying to break through the thin British line. At dawn on 3<sup>rd</sup> May the Battalion counter-attacked, supported by the Royal Fusiliers and the South Wales Borderers. However, the advance failed and the Battalion was ordered back to Gully Beach.

Over the next five days the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Border Regiment helped the Allied Forces to advance their front line, but again suffered a number of casualties. Sgt. Archie Cornock had come through all the fighting unscathed, but, ironically, on 14<sup>th</sup> May, when the Battalion were in reserve near 'X' beach he was killed, possibly by a stray shell. Archie was buried, but probably because of further fighting his body was lost and so he is commemorated on the Helles Memorial. In Carlisle Cathedral there is a chapel to the Border Regiment; it contains a Book of Remembrance to the men of the Regiment who fell in the First World War and Sgt. Archibald Cornock's name is included. Two of Archie's brothers also died in the War - Ralph (no. 26) below and Sidney (no. 27).



*The Cornock family of Wotton-under-Edge c. 1904. Left to right, back row - Margaret, Newton, Sidney, Osborne, Gilbert, Maurice, Arabella. Middle row - George, Annie, Charles senior, Ruth, Ralph, Charles junior. Front row - Archibald, Dennis, William. Sidney, Ralph and Archibald were killed in W.W.I.*

Source: Angela Cornock



## 25

### ERNEST C. CORNOCK



Rank and Unit: Able Seaman, J./23989, in the Royal Navy  
 Born: 1896  
 Died: in Stroud on 14<sup>th</sup> April 1919.  
 Buried in St. Mary's Churchyard, Wotton-under-Edge  
 Age: 22  
 Parents: Charles and Millicent Cornock

Ernest Cornock was the eldest son of Charles and Millicent Cornock of Valley Road, Wotton-under-Edge, and the grandson of Charles and Ruth Cornock. Ernest was born in 1896. As a young man Ernest joined the Scouts movement, one of the first Wotton boys to do so. He was also a chorister in St. Mary's Church, Wotton. Ernest joined the Royal Navy at the young age of 15, service no. J./23989. He completed a seven year stint in the Navy, which included service right through the war. He served on at least two ships - *HMS Lion*, which took part in the Battle of Jutland, *HMS Lizard* and on the shore station, *HMS Vivid*.

Early in 1919 Ernest was discharged from the Navy on medical grounds, suffering from a throat malady. He was taken to Cashes Green Sanatorium, Stroud, but he did not recover from his illness, dying of pneumonia on 14<sup>th</sup> April. Ernest's body was brought back to Wotton and he was buried in St. Mary's Churchyard on Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> April. According to the *Gazette* report of the funeral in its 29<sup>th</sup> April edition, it was very impressive. The report stated that a large number of people attended, the coffin being shrouded with the Union flag. Six Naval men acted as bearers - H. Carter, W. Dixon, W. Knight, S. Peglar, D. Portlock and W. Wheeler. The Rev. F. C. Black officiated. This must have been a very sad day, not only for Ernest's parents, but also for his grandparents; they had lost three sons in the war and now their 22 year old grandson had also died. No other family in Wotton could have been hit so badly in so short a time. There is a photograph of Ernest in the *Bristol Times & Mirror* of 1<sup>st</sup> April 1916.



*The grave of Ernest Cornock in St. Mary's churchyard, Wotton.*

## 26

### ERNEST RALPH CORNOCK



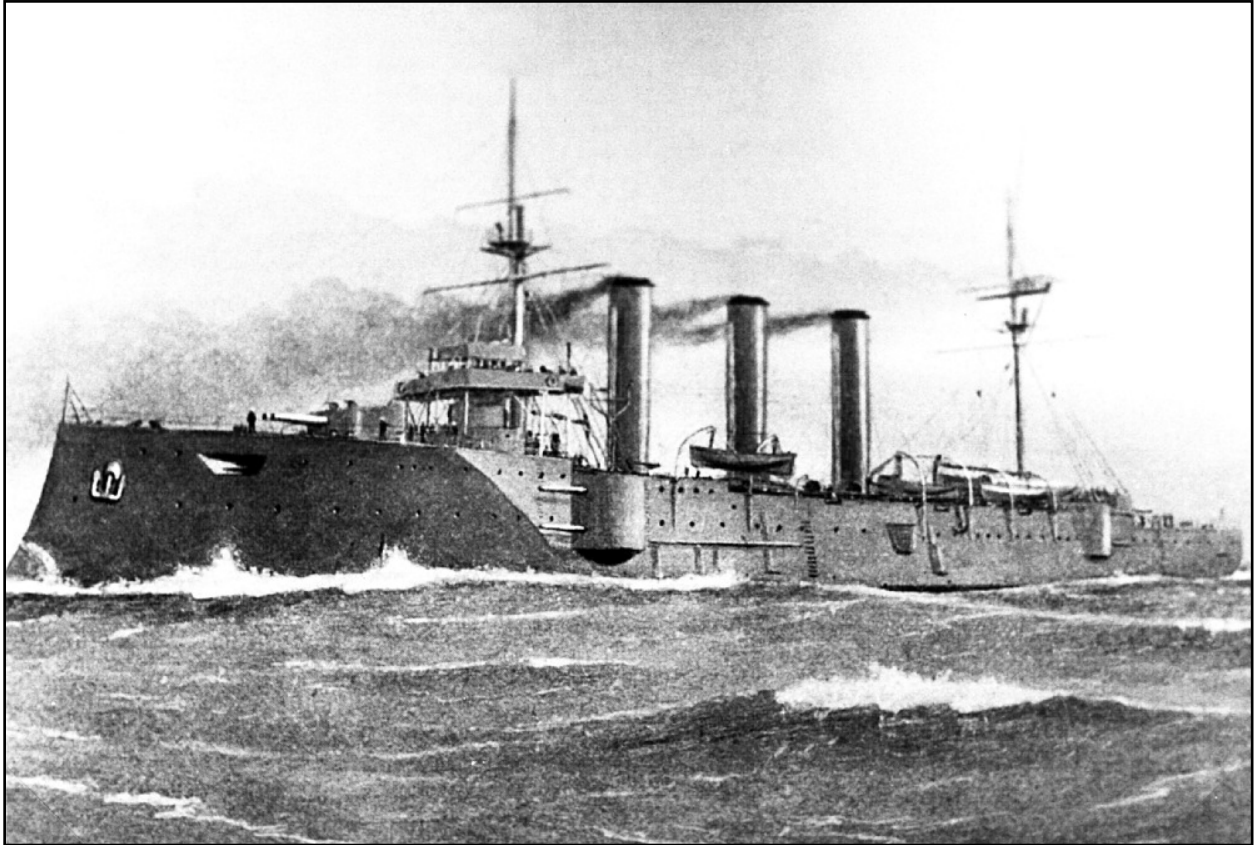
Rank and Unit: Petty Officer, C.G.142188, in the Royal Navy  
 Born: 24<sup>th</sup> June 1871  
 Died: Killed in action on *HMS Monmouth* at the Battle of Coronel, 1<sup>st</sup> November 1914.  
 Commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial  
 Age: 43  
 Parents: Charles and Ruth Cornock  
 Wife: Mary Rosina (née Ferris)  
 Children: Flossie Alice, Hilda Annie, Elsie Hannah and Dorothy Violet

Ernest Ralph Cornock, always known as 'Ralph', was the eldest of the 14 children of Charles and Ruth Cornock of Valley Road, Wotton-under-Edge. He was born on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1871. Ralph married Mary Rosina Ferris in Hillesley on 20<sup>th</sup> October 1898. Mary hailed from Kilcott, a hamlet close to Hillesley. On marrying, Ralph and Mary set up home in *La Bassée* Cottage, Potters Pond, Wotton-under-Edge. *La Bassée* is an interesting name as it is a town on the France-Belgium border and was a centre of hostilities during the First World War. They were to have four children - all girls. First born on 6<sup>th</sup> December 1899 was Flossie Alice, then followed Hilda Annie, born on 17<sup>th</sup> August 1903, Elsie Hannah was the next born and finally Dorothy Violet.

Ralph joined the Navy in 1887 at the age of 15, service no. C.G.142188. He first served as a coast-guardsman in Padstow and Cadgwith in Cornwall. When Ralph died in 1914 he had served altogether 27 years; for this service he was awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. At the time of his death Ralph was a Petty Officer aboard the armoured cruiser, *HMS Monmouth*. This ship of the 'County' Class, built in Glasgow, laid down August 1899 and completed in 1903, normally displaced 9,800 tons and could reach a speed of 24 knots. She carried fourteen 6 inch guns whose maximum range was 1,200 yards.

On 1<sup>st</sup> November 1914 the *Monmouth*, along with other ships of the British Cruiser Squadron, patrolling the Chilean coast of South America and looking for German trade raiders, encountered the German China Squadron, led by the skilful commander - Admiral Graf Von Spee. The British Squadron was led by Vice-Admiral Christopher Craddock. The German ships enjoyed both a tactical and a numerical advantage - so great indeed, that the question has been asked ever since, why Craddock chose to engage them. Their two heavy cruisers, *Scharnhorst* and *Gueisenau* both crack gunnery vessels, caught Craddock's *Good Hope* - his Flagship - and *Monmouth* silhouetted against the sunset off Cape Coronel. The three light cruisers in attendance, *Leipzig*, *Dresden* and *Nurnberg*, utterly overwhelmed the British cruiser *Glasgow* and armoured merchantman *Otranto*. All was over within an hour. *Good Hope* and *Monmouth* were sunk with no survivors, 900 men going down with the *Good Hope*, including Craddock and 690 with the *Monmouth*, including Ralph Cornock. *Glasgow* escaped by the skin of her teeth. *Otranto* had been sent away at the outset of the action. Von Spee's victory was complete, a deep injury had been done to British pride and prestige. All the gallant seamen who went down with their ships are commemorated on Britain's three great Naval war memorials at Plymouth, Portsmouth and Chatham. Ralph is commemorated on the Plymouth Memorial.

This moving 'In Memoriam' notice was placed in the *Gazette* on 6<sup>th</sup> November 1920 by Ruth Cornock, now widowed, in memory of her son Ralph :-



*HMS Monmouth*

*This image is from a Raphael Tuck and Sons postcard,  
the artist was Wilfred Mitchell, completed in 1905.*

Source: Steve Backer

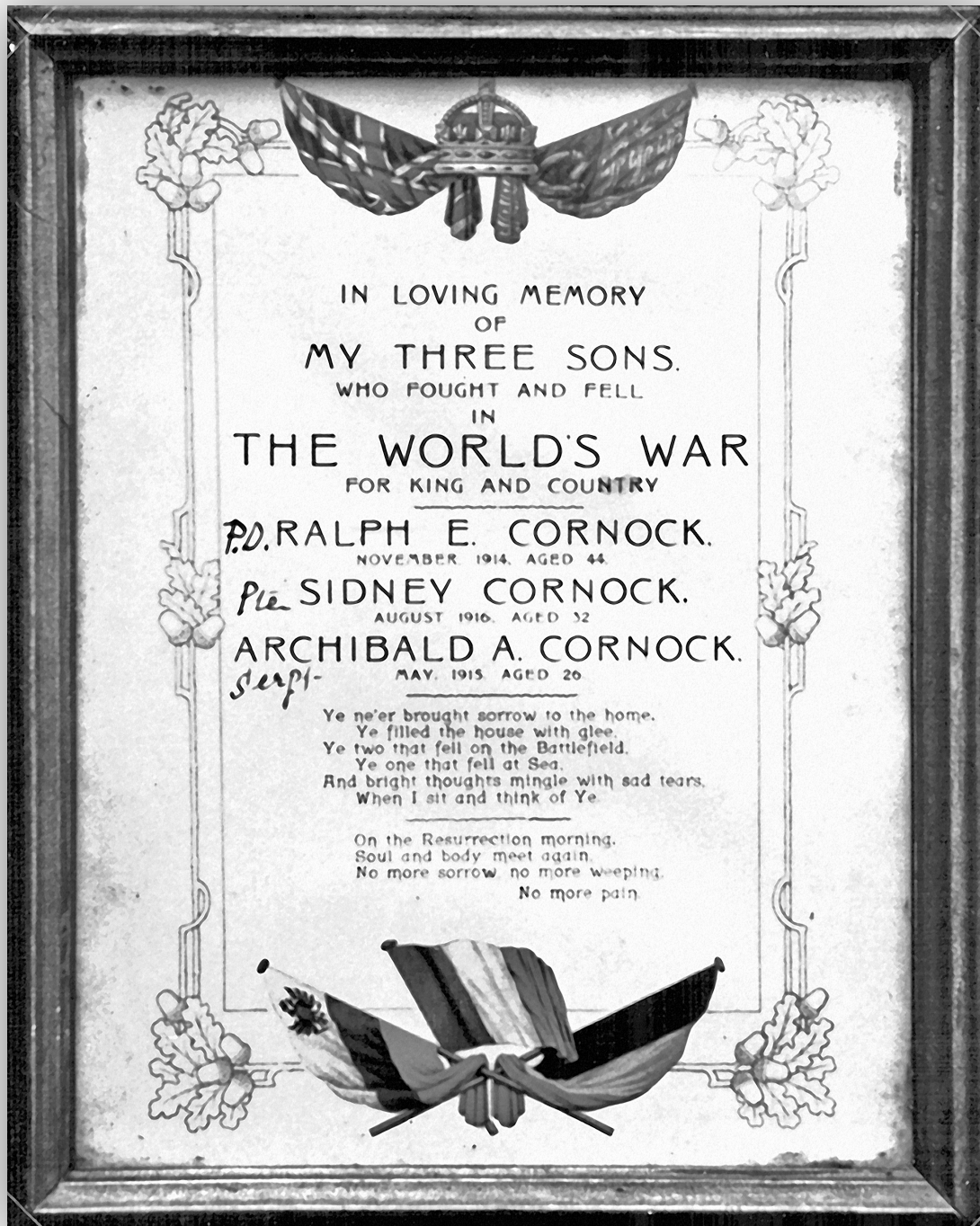
*Cornock*

*In sacred memory of my eldest son Ralph who went down  
on the Monmouth November 1<sup>st</sup> 1914 with many other brave  
Bluejacks, defending the British flag as they sank beneath a  
sailor's grave.*

*They lie where pearls lie deep*

*Mother*

Source: Angela Cornock



*A plaque which Ruth Cornock had made in honour of her three sons who died in the First World War, Ralph, Sidney and Archibald*

Source: Angela Cornock

## 27

### SIDNEY CORNOCK



Rank and Unit: Private, 18310, in the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion  
Gloucestershire Regiment  
Born: 31<sup>st</sup> August 1883 in Wotton-under-Edge  
Died: Killed in action in France on 24<sup>th</sup> October 1916.  
Buried in Serre Road Cemetery No.1, Beaumont Hamel,  
France: Plot 8, Row, C Grave 21  
Age: 33  
Parents: Ruth and Charles Cornock  
Wife: Agnes Maud (née Wilcox)  
Children: Muriel Eleanor and Maurice Osborne Sidney

Sidney was the 10<sup>th</sup> child of Charles and Ruth Cornock of Valley Road, Wotton-under-Edge. Altogether they reared 14 children. Sidney was born in Wotton on 31<sup>st</sup> August 1883. After attending a private school, Sidney entered the Bluecoat School in Wotton on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1890 and left on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1896. One of Sidney's first jobs on leaving school was as a decorator and paper hanger, in the employment of Mr. R. Cook, later transferring to Messrs. John Jotcham and Son in a similar capacity. At a later stage Sidney worked for the Prudential Assurance Company in Berkeley.

Round about this time Sidney married Agnes Maud Wilcox of Turkdean, Gloucestershire and they moved to Church Lane, off High Street in Berkeley. Two children were born to Sidney and Agnes, Muriel Eleanor and Maurice Osborne Sidney. Maurice and Osborne were the names of two of Sidney's brothers.

In February 1916, along with two of his brothers, Maurice and Newton, Sidney enlisted in Cinderford and was drafted into the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment and was given the service no. 18310. This Battalion was a Pioneer Battalion, raised in Malvern by Lieut. Col. H. Webb M.P. in December 1914 and known as the Forest of Dean Pioneers. Many of the men were Forest of Dean miners. In August 1915 the Battalion moved to Winchester and in September to Aldershot. In November there was another move, this time to Witley in Surrey. In March 1916 the Battalion landed in France. The 13<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters formed part of 39<sup>th</sup> Division, a New Army Division. This Division and the 13<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters in particular were to become involved in a number of actions on the Western Front.

In August 1916 the 39<sup>th</sup> Division moved down to the Somme area, an area that had seen some of the heaviest fighting in the war to date, including the infamous attack by the Allies on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916 in which the British Army sustained 60,000 casualties. The 13<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters headed for the Thiepval sector of the Somme Battlefield. In a letter home to his wife Agnes, Sidney gives a brief description of trench warfare...

*"I am quite well after our terrible experience Thursday night we went to the trenches got there about one and had to wait till orders we had to hold the first line of trenches for about four hours Well my darling I can't tell you too much for fear it gets opened but I never want to witness anything else like it but we must be thankful and pray to God for bringing me through such a horrible experience Well my darling I am glad to tell you Newt (Sidney's brother Newton) and Maurice is quite alright except it unnerved poor old Newt he was crying like a child when we got back to our billets..."*

On 24<sup>th</sup> October the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion were in the front line attacking the enemy in the Schwaben Redoubt area near Thiepval. This was a massive German fortification containing trenches, command

posts, telephone exchanges and underground shell-proof shelters. The officer commanding 'C' Company of the 13<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters, Major R. Howman, in a letter to Agnes, described how Sidney was killed in this action :-

*"At the time we were leaving the trenches and were heavily shelled on the way out. One shell landed in the trench killing several men, amongst whom was your husband. Luckily he did not suffer, as he was killed instantly. I am sorry to say he was buried, but we had a party of men on to them at once, and they were buried behind the trench."*

Newton was injured by the shell which killed his brother. Maurice managed to avoid any injury, but did see his brother killed. Both Newton and Maurice survived the war. After the war Agnes wrote several times to the Imperial War Graves Commission (now called the Commonwealth War Graves Commission) to try to find out exactly where Sidney was buried. Finally, she got the answer on 13<sup>th</sup> March 1924, over seven years after Sidney's death. Here is an extract of a letter she received from the Commission :-

*"Private Cornock was reported to have been buried with seven other soldiers at a spot which was known as Tank Street at Thiepval. In the course of the work of removing the bodies of the soldiers buried in isolated and scattered graves in the neighbourhood to cemeteries, the graves of these soldiers were found, and their remains, which have been identified by an examination of effects recovered from one of the bodies, have been reburied in Serre Road Cemetery, No. 1, Hebutere, north of Albert, Plot 8, Row C, Grave 21, in order to ensure the permanent and suitable maintenance of the grave."*

Serre Road, No. 1 is a large cemetery containing 2,412 graves, 1728 of the men are unidentified. On the anniversary of Sidney's death, 24<sup>th</sup> October 1924, an 'In Memoriam' notice appeared in the Gazette, it read as follows :-

**Cornock**

*In ever loving memory of my dear husband, Pte. Sidney Cornock,  
who was killed at Thiepval in France on the 24<sup>th</sup> October 1916.*

*Rest on beloved and take the rest,  
We loved thee well, but Jesus loved thee best.  
Gone, but ever mourned by his sorrowing wife and children...R.I.P.*

Sidney is commemorated on the Berkeley Roll of Honour in the Parish Church as well as on the Wotton-under-Edge War Memorial. There is a photograph of him in the Bristol Times & Mirror of 1<sup>st</sup> April 1916.

In November of the Millenium year 2000, a play was performed in Wotton by the local amateur dramatic society, based on letters written by Sidney to his wife during the War. The play entitled *Holding the Line* was written by local man - Marc Pasco. In the audience for one of the performances was Angela Cornock, Sidney's granddaughter.

See Appendix A for a selection of Sidney's letters.

20/10/16 No 18310. O. Coy  
13th Glos Res. B. C. F.

My own darling Wife & children  
Just a few lines in answer  
to your most kind & welcome  
letter received yesterday &  
also Gayette received. Well you  
didn't send W.W. this time  
did you forget it as I am just  
quite interested in the two tales  
running in it. I am so glad  
to hear you are keeping  
well also Aileen & base &  
to hear that Aileen's cough  
is better. Well my dear I am  
writing this on your Birthday  
but it would hardly be right  
to wish you many happy  
return of the day but we  
must hope & trust that  
we shall have more happy  
ones in store and that this  
terrible war is over before

Sidney's last letter to Agnes.

either of us see another Birth  
I am sorry I have not been  
able to send you anything  
but we are right away from  
any town or at least what is  
inhabited there is a talk  
of us shifting again which  
I hope will be to a much  
quieter place than where  
we are now which is very  
hot. I hope you are having  
better weather again yesterday  
it was very wet out here  
all day but today its  
beautiful. Fancy Ben starting  
leave he is lucky as he  
didn't come out till after  
us there is rumour about  
us but we have heard  
nothing definite yet but  
I think its time as we have  
been out here over 8 months  
and I can tell you we are

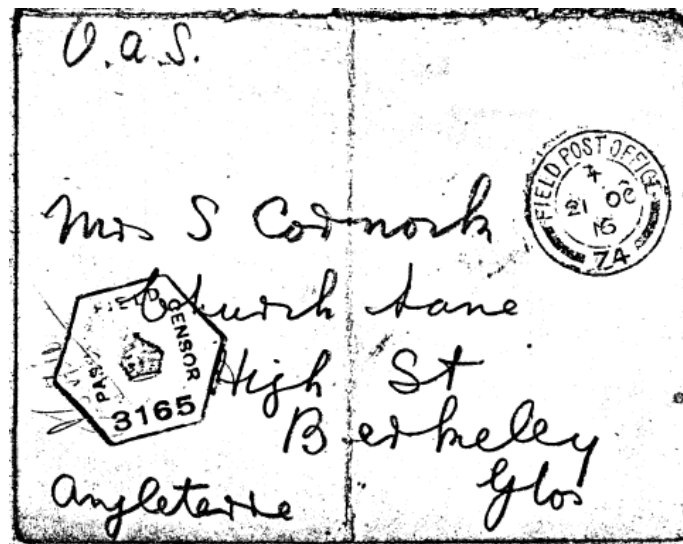
Sidney's last letter to Agnes.

(cont....)

all getting anxious to see dear old England  
 we more but we would all rather hear  
 that it was all over. I am glad to hear  
 my boy is a little better and hope he  
 will continue to improve. I see by the papers  
 that they are still gathering in the  
 lockers but I think it is a disgrace  
 to see so many quite young fellows getting  
 demotions is young Harry Hancock at  
 Viter in Surrey I see by the Gazette  
 my A Rudge has got to go, what  
 about F Cooper and his brother have  
 they got to go. I am glad to tell

you I am keeping quite well  
 also Newt & Maurice and  
 that we are altogether  
 I don't think I have any  
 more news for this time  
 so wishing you my very very  
 best compliments on your  
 Birthday so must close  
 with my usual very best  
 fondest & truest love to  
 my own darling wife  
 & children XXXXXXXX  
 XXXX your ever loving love  
 XXXX devoted husband  
 XXXX XXXXXX Sidney XX  
 XXXXXXXXXX  
 God, guard, guide and  
 keep you safe till we  
 meet again





*Envelope containing Sidney's last letter to Agnes. Sent from Field Post Office 74 in France on 21<sup>st</sup> October 1916.*



● Sidney and Agnes Cornock and their children Muriel (Queenie) and Maurice (Ossie)



IMPERIAL WAR GRAVES COMMISSION.

Any further communication on this  
subject should be addressed to—  
"THE SECRETARY,"  
and the following number quoted:—

CDEW/31595.

82, BAKER STREET,  
LONDON, W.1.

13th March, 1924.

Madam,

With reference to previous correspondence,  
concerning the burial place of Private S. Cornock, I  
am directed to inform you that further careful  
investigations have been made in this matter.

Private Cornock was reported to have been  
buried with seven other soldiers at a spot which was  
known as Tank Street at Thiepval. In the course of the  
work of removing the bodies of the soldiers buried in  
isolated and scattered graves in this neighbourhood to  
cemeteries, the grave of these soldiers was found, and  
their remains, which have been identified by an examination  
of effects recovered from one of the bodies, have been  
reburied in Serre Road Cemetery No.1. Hebuterne, North of  
Albert, Plot 8, Row "C", Grave 21, in order to ensure the  
permanent and suitable maintenance of the grave.

I am to assure you that the reburial was  
undertaken with all due care and reverence. The grave is  
fully registered in this office.

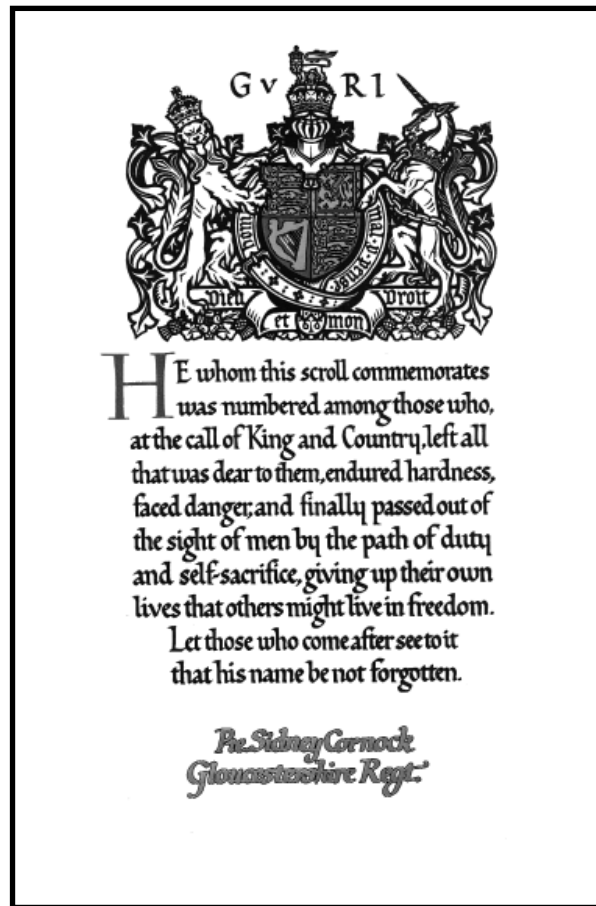
I am to add that the numbering of the grave  
must for the present be regarded as provisional and liable  
to alteration.

I am, Madam,  
Your obedient Servant,

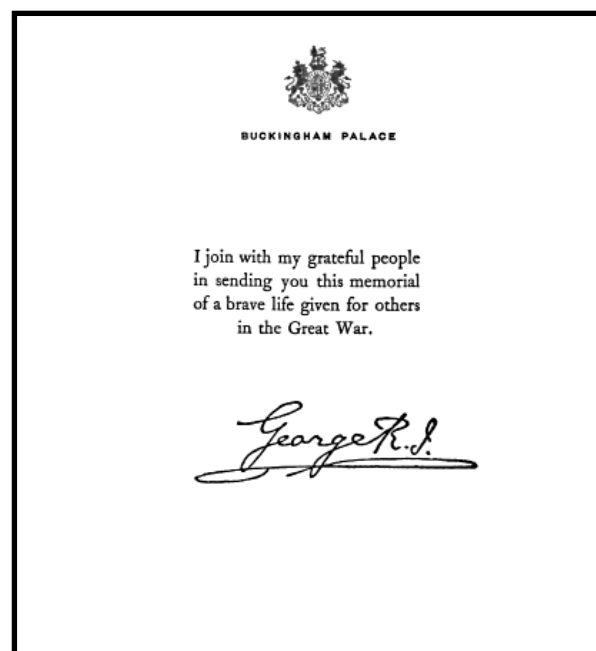
Mrs. Cornock,  
Church Lane,  
High Street,  
Berkeley,  
Gloucestershire.

*amburkad*  
for Principal Assistant Secretary.

*Letter from the Imperial War Graves Commission  
to Agnes, Sidney Cornock's widow.*



*The memorial sent to Agnes Cornock from King George V.*





*Pte. Sidney Cornock. His war medals were presented to his widow Agnes.*



*Sidney Cornock's grave in Serre Road Cemetery, No.1, France. He shares the grave with three other Gloucestershire Regiment men, all killed by the same shell.*

## 28

### HENRY MORTIMER DANDO



Rank and Unit: Lance Corporal, 30646, in the 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion  
Gloucestershire Regiment  
Born: 30<sup>th</sup> March 1892 in Old Sodbury  
Died: 17<sup>th</sup> July 1918 in a German Prisoner of War Camp.  
Buried in Cologne Southern Cemetery, Germany: Plot 12, Row F, Grave  
25  
Age: 26  
Mother: Mrs. A. Dando

Henry Mortimer Dando was the second born of the five children of Mrs. A. Dando of Old Town, Wotton-under-Edge. Henry or 'Harry', as he was known, was born in Old Sodbury on 30<sup>th</sup> March 1892. He had two brothers, Albert and Frank, both of whom also served in the First World War, a sister, Dorothy, and another sister who died in infancy. Harry attended the National Infants School, Wotton-under-Edge, and afterwards the British School, where he was a school chum of Billy Exell (37) who also died in the war.

Prior to joining the Army, Harry worked in the family bakery and confectionary business. As a young man Harry attended the Old Town Meeting House, where he was a chorister. Harry enlisted in Wotton under the Derby Scheme. This was a scheme devised by Edward Stanley, 17<sup>th</sup> Lord Derby, the Director of Recruiting, which asked all eligible males for voluntary 'assent' to service if called upon, promising that married men would be called last. Harry was drafted to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment. He was later transferred to the 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion ('*West of England Bantams*') of the Gloucesters, service no. 30646. The Gloucestershire Bantams went to France in January 1916 and were in the trenches first at Festubert and Givenchy and later at Laventie. Their service took them to the Somme in 1916 and to Belgium (Passchendaele) in 1917.

During a German offensive on the Somme in 1916 Harry was taken prisoner and he spent the next two years or so in a prisoner of war camp in Germany. His family who had heard nothing of his whereabouts since the spring of 1916, had to wait until 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1918 to be told officially that he was reported 'missing'. Then only a week later a card arrived from Harry to say that he was a prisoner of war in Germany. Sadly, on 20<sup>th</sup> September 1918 news reached Wotton that Harry had died. The information was forwarded by the Red Cross Society, but all they could say was that Harry had died in hospital in Germany on 17<sup>th</sup> July. Harry was 26 years of age. He was buried in Cologne Southern Cemetery, Plot 12, Row F, Grave 25.

Harry's brother Frank who also served in a Gloucestershire Regiment, survived the war, but due to war wounds died prematurely. His other brother Albert, who served in the Army Service Corps, also survived the war, living to an advanced age, dying in 1993 at the age of 102. The Heritage Centre in Wotton holds a photograph of the British School c. 1900 in which both Harry and Albert (Bert) can be identified.

## 29

### JAMES DAVIS



Rank and Unit: Lance Corporal, 34075, Royal Army Medical Corps  
Born: 1881 or 1882  
Died: Killed in action on 26<sup>th</sup> August 1916 in France.  
Buried in Carnoy Military Cemetery, France: Row H, Grave 24  
Age: 35  
Parents: Jesse and Elizabeth (known as Bessie) Davis  
Wife: Ethel (née Organ)  
Children: Frank, Wilfred, Edward Winston, and Cecil



James, born in 1881 or 1882, was the eldest of the three sons of Jesse and Bessie Davis of *Westview*, Hillesley, near Wotton-under-Edge. In the days before the First World War, James assisted his father in the village smithy. He lived an active life, being involved in many local organisations. He was a member of the Wotton branch of the Red Cross Society; he played in the Abbey Band, Kingswood and he was a member of Wotton Baptist Church where he was a chorister and served as a Sunday School teacher.

James enlisted in Wotton, joining the Royal Army Medical Corps, service no. 34075. He was attached to the 62<sup>nd</sup> Field Ambulance. Altogether 16 members of the Wotton branch of the Red Cross joined the Army at the commencement of the war. James crossed to France and served close to the Front Line, attending to wounded and dying soldiers right up to his own death. James served for 14 months without getting any home leave; he had been promised leave in early summer 1916, but because of the impending 'Big Push' - the Battle of the Somme - that leave did not materialize. On 29<sup>th</sup> August 1916, during that Battle, a letter arrived at the home of James's wife Ethel in Long Street, Wotton. It was from Pte. W. M. Hall a local man and a colleague of James. It read :-

August 26<sup>th</sup>

Dear Mrs. Davis,

*It is my sad duty to inform you of your husband's death. He was hit by a piece of shrapnel and died instantaneously, thereby suffering no pain. On behalf of the Ambulance and particularly the section to which he belonged, I offer you our heartfelt sympathy.*

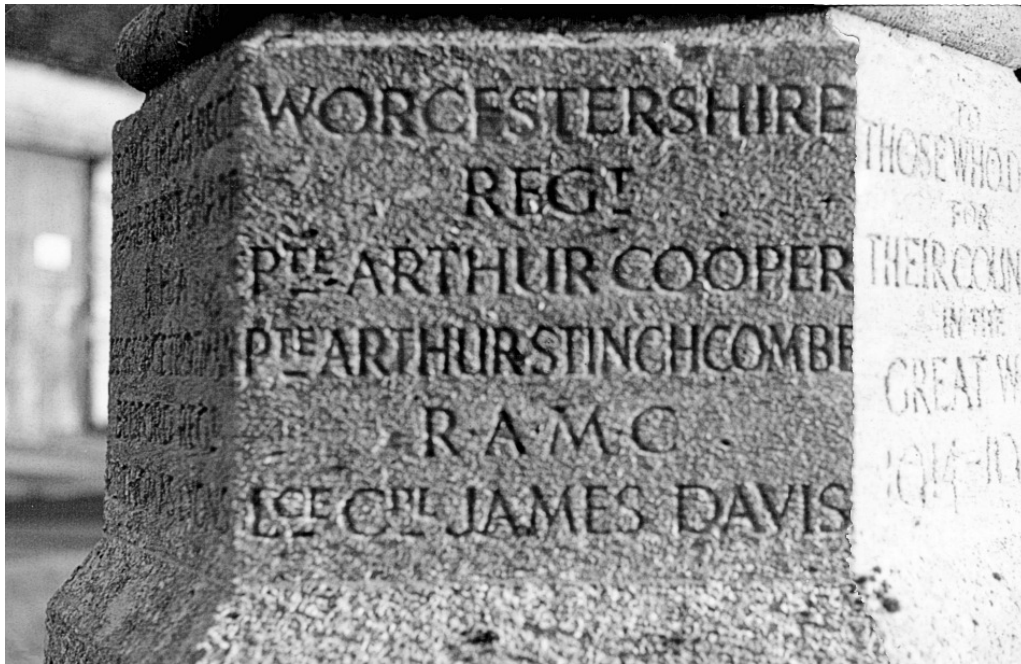
*He was much respected by all who came into contact with him and the news of his death, which occurred this morning, came as a great shock to us.*

*Believe me to remain,*

*Yours sincerely,*

*William M. Hall*

On James's death at the age of 35, Ethel was left with four children. James was buried in Carnoy Military Cemetery, Somme, Row H, Grave 24. The cemetery lies on the D. 938 road, 3 kms south-east of the village of Fricourt. It contains 837 burials. In it is buried Capt. W. P. Nevill of the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion East Surrey Regiment, famous for bringing four footballs to the Front. He offered a prize for the first football to be kicked into a German trench during his Company's assault on



*One of the faces of the Hillesley War Memorial includes the name of L./Cpl. James Davis.*

Montauban on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916. One football was inscribed 'The Great European Cup. The Final. East Surreys v Bavarians. Kick off at zero.' Nevill kicked off, but did not survive to award his prize. Two of the footballs were retrieved after the attack.

James is commemorated both on the Wotton-under-Edge and Hillesley War Memorials. He is also commemorated on the Memorial Boards of the Chipping Sodbury District War Memorial Cottage Hospital (now closed). A photograph of James was included alongside a tribute in the *Gazette* of 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1916. In *The History of the Abbey Band, Kingswood* by Pat Goulding, which has been deposited in the Wotton Heritage Centre, there are two photographs of James, one in the Abbey Band c. 1912 and one in the Red Cross Branch, Wotton-under-Edge c. 1914.

Two of James and Ethel's sons served in the Royal Navy, Edward Winston who served between the two World Wars and Wilfred who was awarded the D.S.M. (Distinguished Service Medal) and who lost his life in the Second World War. Another son, Cecil John, emigrated to Australia and died in 1960. Frank, James's son, ran a hardware store in High Street, Wotton. After James's death Ethel remarried, her second husband being Albert Stone.

### 30

## EDWARD DEACON



Rank and Unit: Private, 2627, in the 27<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Australian Imperial Force  
Born: 15<sup>th</sup> July 1891 in Wotton-under-Edge  
Died: Killed in action in France on 5<sup>th</sup> August 1916.  
Commemorated on the Villers-Bretonneux Australian Memorial, France  
Age: 25  
Parents: James and Eliza Deacon (née Hunt)

Edward Deacon, born in Church Street, Wotton-under-Edge, on 15<sup>th</sup> July 1891 was the second child of James Thomas Deacon and Eliza Deacon. He had two sisters, Maria Frances and Freda, and a brother, James Hunt. Edward's maternal grandfather was Jehu Hunt, bootmaker who lived with his wife, Maria (née Kemp) in *Victoria House*, Market Street, Wotton. Jehu and Maria brought up eight children and kept 'open-house', offering Sunday lunches for any hungry villagers or passers by and gave time, money and goods to the poor.

Edward (known as Ted) spent his early boyhood in Wotton where for much of the time he played with his cousin Walter Wathen (see no. 108). Walter also served and died in the First World War. It appears that Ted was a talented young man - enjoying playing music, collecting coins and playing football enthusiastically. Thereafter, Ted's family moved to London where Ted spent the latter part of his boyhood.

In September 1912, when Ted was 21, the family emigrated to Australia. They sailed from Tilbury Docks, on the Thames east of London, on board the *Ballaarat* to Adelaide, South Australia - the voyage taking one month. Ted first worked as a fitter and turner improver, then as an electrical engineer on the South Australia Railways.

On 19<sup>th</sup> July 1915 at Unley, South Australia, Ted enlisted into the 27<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Australian Imperial Force, his service no. was given as 2627; the Battalion forming part of the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade. It is interesting to read Ted's Attestation Oath :-

#### **Oath to be taken by person being Enlisted**

*I Edward Deacon swear that I will well and truly serve our Sovereign Lord the King in the Australian Imperial Force from ..... until the end of the War and a further period of four months thereafter unless lawfully discharged, dismissed or removed therefrom; and that I will resist His Majesty's enemies and cause His Majesty's peace to be kept and maintained; and that I will be in all matters appertaining to my service, faithfully discharge my duty according to law.*

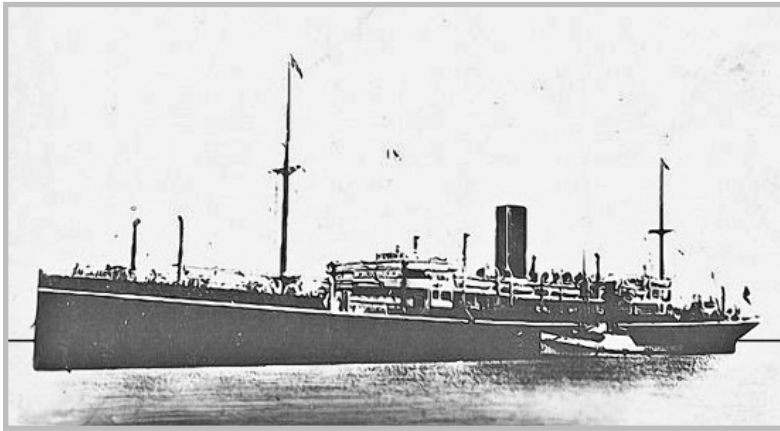
*So help me God*

*E. Deacon*

*Signature of Person Enlisted*

Ted also took a medical examination that day and included in the completed form was the following information - age - 24, height - 5 feet 10 inches, weight - 160 lbs., chest - 33 inches, complexion - fair, eyes - blue, hair - brown, religion - Non-Conformist.





*HMAT Benalla*

Postcard

On 27<sup>th</sup> October Ted set sail from Adelaide on *HMAS Benalla* with a draft of Australian soldiers for Egypt.

After spending some months in Egypt training with the battalion, during which time Ted contracted mumps and was hospitalised for three weeks, he left Alexandria on the *Oriana* on 21<sup>st</sup> March 1916. He disembarked at Marseilles on the 26<sup>th</sup>. On 25<sup>th</sup> June Ted was at Étaples, on the coast near Le Touquet, Étaples being a large military centre containing

many training camps.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade of the A.I.F. moved to the Somme sector of the front from Neuve Eglise, near Baileul on 10<sup>th</sup> July, Ted moving with them. On the 12<sup>th</sup>, the Brigade after much marching and a train journey, arrived at Bertangles where they underwent hard training for the next few days. On the 20<sup>th</sup> the Brigade moved to Toutencourt where they occupied huts about a half mile from the centre of the town. Next day the 27<sup>th</sup> Battalion marched closer to the front line, where they rested at Warloy-Baillon. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> the Brigade attended a church service and were addressed by General Birdwood, Commanding the Australian Forces. There was more training, special attention being given to rapid firing and bayonet fighting.

On the evening of 26<sup>th</sup> July the Battalion marched once more and bivouacked on the outskirts of the town of Albert. All soldiers passing through this town could see the large church with the spire on the summit, on which the statue of the Madonna leaned over at right angles from the perpendicular, the result of German shell fire. Next evening the Battalion moved to Tara Hill and bivouacked in and around trenches, which had been occupied by the British, just prior to the big advance on 1<sup>st</sup> July. In fact the Battalion were alongside the massive mine crater which heralded the advance on that epoch-making day.

Next day, the Battalion were told that their objectives in the coming advance were to be two German trenches, named O.G.1 and O.G.2 on the heights above Pozières village. The 7<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Brigade made up of the 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Battalions with the 27<sup>th</sup> Battalion in reserve, attacked at dusk on the 28<sup>th</sup>, but owing to insufficient artillery preparations and uncut German barbed wire entanglements and with the front being swept by machine gun fire of an intense nature, the Australian troops had to be withdrawn after suffering several casualties. The 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade now withdrew to the old British trenches, the 27<sup>th</sup> Battalion resuming occupation of La Boisselle.

Following the failure of 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> July, new instructions for the 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade were issued to make another attack, including improved artillery fire which would destroy the enemy's wire



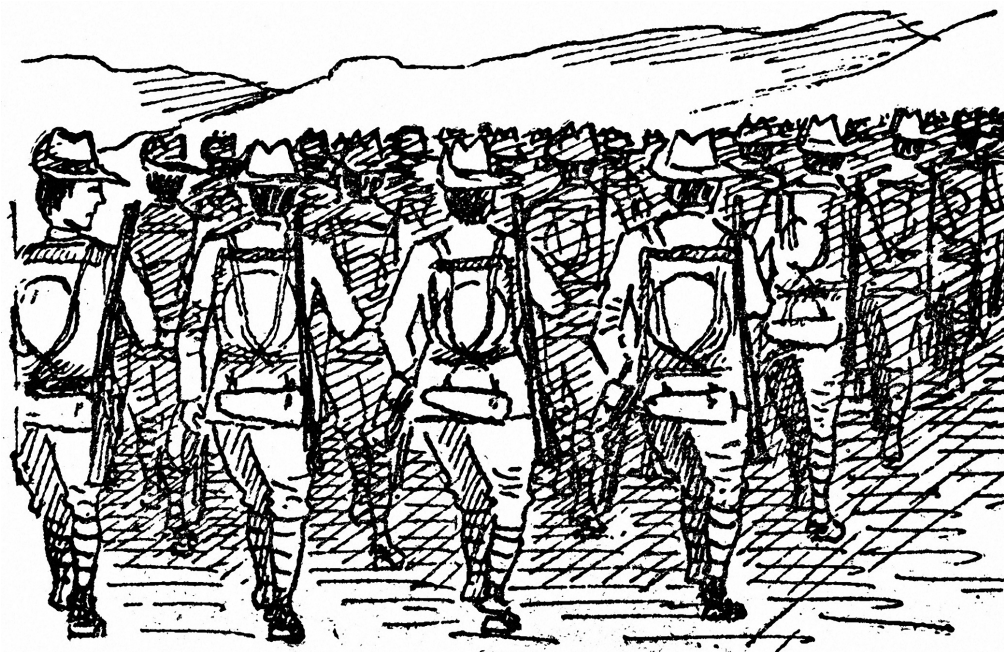
entanglements. Machine guns were trained on all points to prevent repair work being carried out. The date 4<sup>th</sup> August was chosen for the attack, the date being the anniversary of Britain's entry into the War.

On the afternoon of 4<sup>th</sup> August, the 27<sup>th</sup> Battalion moved off from La Boisselle towards their front line positions, which after some difficulties, especially with communication trenches being blocked by troops of other battalions, they reached at about 9 o'clock. Two companies of the 27<sup>th</sup> quickly reached their target of the German trench O.G.1 to be followed soon after by the other two companies and the capture of the whole of the trench was obtained. At 4 a.m. on the 5<sup>th</sup> the enemy counter-attacked

to try to regain possession of O.G.1 but were not successful. In this attack the Germans lost 100 men and 2 officers and 60 surrendered. Shortly after this action the 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade pushed on and captured trench O.G.2 and the Pozières Windmill, a German strongpoint on the highest part of this sector of the Somme Battlefield.

During the whole of 5<sup>th</sup> August the Germans heavily shelled their captured O.G.1 and O.G.2 trenches, therefore the job of consolidating these trenches by the Australians was made very difficult. Later in the day the section of trenches gained by the 27<sup>th</sup> Battalion were handed over to the 48<sup>th</sup>. Thus ended the heroic efforts of the 27<sup>th</sup> Battalion A.I.F. to remove the Germans from heavily defended positions around the village of Pozières. In the action of the 27<sup>th</sup> Battalion on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> August 1916, 1 officer was killed, 2 were posted as missing, 7 were wounded, 40 other ranks were killed including Pte. Ted Deacon, 289 were wounded and 67 posted as missing.

Ted's body was not recovered after the battle so he is commemorated on Villers-Brettonneux Australian Memorial, he was just 25 years old. Villers-Brettonneux is on the main Amiens-St. Quentin road. The Memorial stands on a large lawn at the back of the Villers-Brettonneux Military Cemetery. It is both a national memorial to all the Australians who died on the Western Front in



**OFF TO THE SOMME.**

*A war artist has depicted the 27<sup>th</sup> Btn. A.I.F. marching towards the Somme battlefield. This is the Battalion in which Edward Deacon served.*

the First World War and a memorial to the 10,797 named Australians who have no known grave.

Back home at 215 Melbourne Street, North Adelaide, James and Eliza had to wait for years, despite writing many letters to the authorities, before finding out that Ted's body was lost during the Battle of the Somme and that in fact he was commemorated on the Australian Memorial at Villers-Brettonneux. Ted is also commemorated on the National Memorial in Adelaide, Unley War Memorial, South Australia, on the Railway Employees Memorial in the foyer of Adelaide Railway Station, on the Australian National War Memorial, Canberra as well as on Wotton's War Memorial and on the Roll of Honour boards in Wotton-under-Edge Town Hall. His name also appears on the Tabernacle Church Roll of Honour, now held in the Heritage Centre. Ted's death was announced in the *Gazette* of 28<sup>th</sup> October 1916 and a photograph of him was included.



## 31

### HENRY DICKENSON



Rank and Unit: Private, 267023, in the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal  
Warwickshire Regiment  
Born: 1877 in Evesham  
Died: Killed in action in Belgium on either 4<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> October 1917. (See  
below). Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium: Panels  
23-28  
Age: 40  
Mother: Mrs. F. Mann

Henry Dickenson was born in Evesham in 1877. He was the son of Mrs. F. Mann who was the licensee of *The Old Plough* public house, Charfield, near Wotton-under-Edge. I have been unable to find any details of Henry's life before he joined the Army.

He enlisted in Wotton-under-Edge, joining the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Territorial Force) of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, his service no. being 267023. The 7<sup>th</sup> Warwicks were formed in Coventry the day war broke out on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1914. They belonged to 143 Brigade in 48<sup>th</sup> (South Midland) Division. Commanding the Brigade was Brig. Gen. G. C. Sladen and the Divisional Commander was Maj. Gen. R. Fanshawe. Training for the Battalion took place in the Chelmsford area. On 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1915 they sailed for France and landed at Le Havre.

143 Brigade, which included the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Battalions of the Warwickshire Regiment along with the 7<sup>th</sup>, were involved in fighting on the Somme battlefield. Their greatest triumph was the capture of Leipzig Redoubt on 18<sup>th</sup> August 1916. October 1917 saw the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion in the Ypres Salient in Belgium, taking part in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battle of Ypres.

The publication *Soldiers Died in the Great War* states that Pte. Henry Dickenson was killed in action on 8<sup>th</sup> October 1917, this is probably a mistake. The more likely date for Henry's death is 4<sup>th</sup> October. If one consults the War Diary for 8<sup>th</sup> October, you will read the following :-

*Weather fine. Battalion moved by motor lorries to Siege Camp.*

However, on 4<sup>th</sup> October there was heavy fighting in the Langemark area, about 8 kms north of Ypres. The 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion War Diary for that date reads as follows :-

*At 5.30 a.m. the enemy put down a heavy barrage ... At 6 a.m. our barrage came down and the attack commenced. 'C' Company experienced great difficulty on account of bad ground. Numerous shell holes and very wet... Their right was held up by a machine gun .... Capt. Croall was killed and the company sustained many casualties ..... After about half an hour fighting, the machine gun was captured and the enemy either killed or captured. Company pushed on again capturing about 10 prisoners. 'D' Coy on the left advanced well and without much opposition at first. They then were held up by machine gun fire at 'Tweed House', both gun and team were captured. The Coy pushed on again to it's objective and seized it... The remaining two companies 'A' and 'B', who were to attack the second objective, kept as well up to the barrage as possible without becoming involved in the fighting for the first objective... 'B' Coy. pushed forward, taking a few prisoners.... 'A' Coy*



*At the back of Tyne Cot Cemetery, showing the granite wall  
with the names of 35,000 men with no known graves.*

*on the left pushed forward close after the barrage, captured 'Terrier Farm' and then advanced ... meeting with strong enemy resistance. A party of men attacked this point and captured 1 officer and about 50 O.R ... A large enemy party formed up near 'Gloucester House' and counter attacked. This was met and completely broken up by our Lewis Gun and rifle fire. Three small counter attacks started from 'Beek House' but they were all dispersed by our fire... Advanced Battalion H.Q. was established at 'Tweed House'.*

Casualties during operations were 2 officers killed, 23 O.R. killed, 3 officers wounded, 140 O.R. wounded, 14 O.R. missing.

Henry Dickenson was most likely one of these casualties. He was 40 years old, one of the oldest Wotton men to die in the Great War. Henry's body was not recovered after the battle, so he is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Passchendaele, Panels 23 to 28. Back in England Henry is commemorated on a memorial tablet in Tortworth Church along with 10 other local men.

A sad occurrence took place in this sector of the Western Front on 12<sup>th</sup> September 1917 when Pte. Charles Britton of the 1/5<sup>th</sup> Warwickshire Regiment was executed for desertion. He was one of 350 members of the British and Empire Forces to be 'shot at dawn' during the First World War.

## 32

### WILLIAM DOLMAN



Rank and Unit: Corporal, 9446, in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment  
Born: 20<sup>th</sup> June 1893 in Ozleworth  
Died: Killed in action in France on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1916.  
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, France: Pier 5, Faces A and B.  
Age: 23  
Parents: Thomas and Eliza Dolman

William Dolman was born in Ozleworth, near Wotton-under-Edge on 20<sup>th</sup> June 1893, the son of Thomas and Eliza Dolman. William attended Bagpath School and then when the family moved to Sinwell, Wotton-under-Edge, he transferred to the British School, which he attended from October 1904 until June 1907. After leaving school William worked first as a stable boy and then on Mr. Pullin's farm in Ozleworth.

In December 1910 William enlisted in Wotton-under-Edge, becoming a regular soldier and joining the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment. At the outbreak of war William was serving with his Battalion in Tientsin, China. As more men were needed on the Western Front the 2<sup>nd</sup> Gloucesters sailed for the United Kingdom during September 1914, landing at Southampton on 8<sup>th</sup> November. From there they made their way to Winchester where they joined 81<sup>st</sup> Brigade in 27<sup>th</sup> Division. On 18<sup>th</sup> December the Battalion landed at Le Havre.

William had by this time been promoted Corporal. For the next 20 months or so Cpl. Dolman was to see some very heavy fighting, taking part in all the major engagements on the Western Front. He was wounded on two occasions, one of them on 24<sup>th</sup> February 1915 during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Ypres. It was after recovering from these wounds that William was transferred from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Gloucesters, service no. 9446.

In September 1916, when the 1<sup>st</sup> Gloucesters were taking part in the Battle of the Somme, an uncle of William's, Mr. W. Smith of *St. Francis Cottage*, Holywell, Wotton-under-Edge, received official news that William had been killed on the night of 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> September. He was 23 years old. William's battalion were in Quadrangle Trenches, High Wood, the night of William's death. The Germans attacked the trench at 3 a.m. on the 9<sup>th</sup> and it was probably during this attack that William was killed. William is commemorated on a tablet in Sinwell Chapel as well as on Wotton's War Memorial. In France he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Pier 5, Faces A and B as his body was not recovered after the battle.



## 33

### HAROLD ELLIOTT



Rank and Unit: Private, 4740, 1/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment  
Born: 1897 in St. George, Bristol  
Died: Killed in action in France on 9<sup>th</sup> July 1916. Buried in Sucrerie Military Cemetery, Colincamps, France Plot 1 Row E Grave 28  
Age: 19  
Parents: Alfred Thomas Elliott and Harriet Elliott

Harold Elliott was born in St. George, Bristol in 1897, the son of Alfred Thomas Elliott (coachman) and Harriet Elliott. Harold's paternal grandparents were Rowland Elliott (Gashouse Labourer), born in 1841 and Elizabeth, born 1836. Rowland and Elizabeth lived in Dyer's Brook, Wotton-under-Edge. At the time of Harold's death his parents were living in Valley Road, Wotton.

After leaving school Harold worked for many years in Langford Silk Mill, Kingswood, but just prior to enlisting in the Army, he worked for an uncle in Bristol. Harold enlisted in Bristol in May 1915, joining the 1/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment, Service no. 4740; this was a Territorial Unit, known as the '*City of Bristol*' Battalion. The Battalion sailed for France from Folkestone on 31<sup>st</sup> March 1915, Harold followed with a draft on 9<sup>th</sup> October.



On the night of 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> July, the 1/4<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters were in the Front Line trenches 'Monk' and 'Excema' in the Somme Battlefield area. At 12.30 a.m. these trenches were heavily shelled with 5.9 field guns which obtained several direct hits. Three shells fell on a working party, killing 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. H. P. Fisher and 5 men, and wounding one. Pte. Harold Elliott was one of those men killed, he was just 19 years of age. The platoon commander, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. C. H. Symes wrote to Harold's parents on 13<sup>th</sup> July to tell them of their son's death. He explained that Harold was killed instantaneously and that his burial was carried out "*with every solemnity*" by the Regimental chaplain. The letter also stated that the Battalion Commanding Officer plus other officers attended the burial. Harold lies in Sucrerie Military Cemetery, Plot 1, Row E, Grave 28 along with 29 other men from the Gloucestershire Regiment. The cemetery, which takes its name from a small sugar-beet factory which used to exist nearby, lies 1 km east of the village of Colincamps and just off the D. 919 road from Mailly-Maillet to Puisieux.

In the publication *Soldiers Died in the Great War* Harold Elliott is listed as having served in the 2/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment, but this is probably a mistake.

## 34

### GEORGE EDWARD EXCELL



Rank and Unit: Private, 18644, in the 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion  
Worcestershire Regiment  
Born: 1896 in Wotton-under-Edge  
Died: 12<sup>th</sup> October 1918 of pneumonia. Buried in Doiran Military Cemetery,  
Salonika Plot 5 Row H Grave 28  
Age: 22  
Parents: Elizabeth and Edwin Excell



George Edward Excell, born 1896 in Wotton-under-Edge, was one of the six children of Edwin and Elizabeth Excell of Sinwell, Wotton-under-Edge. Edwin worked as a rural postman and Elizabeth, whose family came from Nympsfield, Gloucestershire, was matron of Perry & Dawes Almshouses, Church Street, Wotton. George's father died at a young age. George had a brother, Edwin, born 1884 and four sisters, Charlotte, born in 1881, Kathleen 1882, Alice 1888 and Ethel born in 1894.

After leaving school George entered the employ of Mr. G. W. Palmer, boot maker of Long Street, Wotton, Mr. Palmer was to serve in the Great War as an Able Seaman in the Royal Naval Division. George enlisted in Wotton, joining the 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Worcestershire Regiment at the beginning of the war, service no. 18644. The 11<sup>th</sup> Worcesters were formed on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1914 and entered 78<sup>th</sup> Brigade of 26<sup>th</sup> Division. The Battalion trained in Wiltshire, both at Sherrington and on Salisbury Plain. On 21<sup>st</sup> September 1915 they landed at Boulogne.

George saw a great deal of action over the next two years or so, being wounded on two occasions. After wounds received in battle in November 1916, a letter from a pal, Pte. A. E. 'Jack' Allen of Gloucester Row, Wotton, was printed in the *Gazette* of 11<sup>th</sup> November. The article read as follows :-

#### **Pte. George Edward Excell wounded**

*Writing to Mrs. Excell, matron of the Church Street Almshouses, Wotton-under-Edge, Pte. A. E. Allen of Gloucester Row informed her that her son Pte. George Excell was hit in the leg above the knee, by a piece of shrapnel and has been removed to a clearing hospital. He further states that Pte. Excell was hit whilst carrying rations to the trenches and assured Mrs. Excell that the wounds are in no way dangerous. Pte. Excell is one of Wotton's youngest soldiers. He enlisted in the Worcesters at the commencement of the war and has been in France 14 months.*

George Excell recovered from these wounds and continued his service with the Worcesters. In September 1918 the 11<sup>th</sup> Worcesters, including George, sailed for the Salonika theatre of war. The Allied forces in Salonika were under the command of the French Army and the British contingent occupied a defensive position near the Bulgarian border at Doiran. The purpose of the Allied troops, who included Serbians, Russians and Greeks was to place pressure on the Austro-





*Doiran Military Cemetery, Salonika*

Source: Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Hungarian and Bulgarian forces, but this was a campaign which tied up many men for three years with questionable results.

On 16<sup>th</sup> October 1918, Elizabeth received a message, which stated that her son was dangerously ill in hospital in Salonika. In fact George had died from pneumonia four days previous to this message arriving in Wotton. It was on Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> that Mrs. Excell received a wire, stating that her youngest son had died; he was 22 years old. Pte. George Excell lies buried in Doiran Cemetery, Plot 5, Row H, Grave 28. A photograph of George appeared in the *Gazette* on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1918.

## 35

### GEORGE HENRY EXELL



Rank and Unit: Private, PLY/8584, Royal Marine Light Infantry  
Born: 1878  
Died: Killed in action on 25<sup>th</sup> April 1915 on the Gallipoli Peninsula.  
Commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Gallipoli Panels 2 to 7  
Age: 36  
Parents: William and Mary Exell



George Exell, born in 1878, was the eldest son of Mary and William Exell (engine driver) of Gloucester Row, Wotton-under-Edge. George joined the Royal Marine Light Infantry in 1896 and served through the entire South African campaign. In October 1914 George was sent out to the defence of Antwerp with a Brigade of the Royal Naval Division. There is a very full account of George's experiences in that action in the *Gazette* of 31<sup>st</sup> October 1914. After this engagement George returned home for six days leave.

In April 1915 George sailed with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force to the Gallipoli Peninsula. The intention was to knock Turkey out of the war. The first stage of the operation was to use a number of older warships to force the Dardanelles (the sea passage between the Mediterranean and the Black Sea). The Allied naval attempt on the Dardanelles

on 18<sup>th</sup> March came very close to success. The main Turkish batteries had been put out of action and mine sweepers led the fleet into the Dardanelles. However, as the warships passed through Erenkeni Bay, seven ships struck mines. Vice-Admiral Sir John de Robeck, commanding the operation decided that the passage could not be forced by ships alone. A military expedition was only then finally resolved upon.

On 25<sup>th</sup> April the Allies landed at Cape Helles on the southern tip of the Gallipoli Peninsula. The Royal Marine Light Infantry (Plymouth Battalion) together with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers and one company of the South Wales Borderers landed on 'Y' Beach, one of five beaches chosen for the landing. Behind the beach were 200 foot high cliffs, with only two narrow defiles allowing an approach to the top. The cliffs were undefended by the Turks. Led by the Scottish Borderers, the landing was completely unopposed. However, there was a failure to exploit this lack of opposition. There appeared to be a lack of direction and confusion reigned amongst the assaulting forces. The most senior commander - Lieut. Gen. Sir Aylmer Hunter-Weston, 29<sup>th</sup> Divisional Commander, appeared to be more interested in two of the other landing areas - 'V' and 'W' beaches. In mid-afternoon General Sir Ian Hamilton, commanding the Expeditionary Force, ordered that defensive trenches should be dug on the cliff-top beachhead. The Turks came up in strength during the late afternoon, firing shrapnel shells and using long range snipers. At about the same time some of the Plymouth Battalion were shelled by one of the British ships.



*The bronze plaque given to George Henry Exell's family after his death.*



*The 1914-1915 Star awarded to Pte George Henry Exell*

Source: for both images on this page, Mr. Uzzell, Cheltenham

Fighting continued throughout the day and into the night. Both sides sustained heavy casualties. At 8 a.m. next morning most Allied troops had moved back to the beach and re-embarked as soon as boats arrived. In this infamous action 331 men of the Royal Marine Light Infantry were killed or wounded and it was here that George Exell lost his life. He was 36 years of age. George's body was not recovered after the battle, so he is commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Panels 2 to 7. In Wotton George is commemorated on the Tabernacle Church Roll of Honour as well as on the town's War Memorial. A photograph of George can be found in the *Gazette* of 19<sup>th</sup> February 1916, along with an obituary. It wasn't until that week in February 1916 that George's parents had official word that their son had been killed. They had waited ten months not knowing what had happened to their son. During the course of the war many other families in Wotton and indeed families right across the country, experienced that same long agonising wait.

See (no. 58) Pte. Henry King, who was also killed during the Gallipoli landings.

## 36

### PERCY HERBERT EXELL



Rank and Unit: Private, 1789, in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment  
Born: 24<sup>th</sup> June 1896 in Wotton-under-Edge  
Died: 15<sup>th</sup> February 1915 in France of wounds.  
Commemorated on Le Touret Memorial, France  
Age: 18  
Parents: Frederick and Elizabeth Exell



One of the youngest Wotton men to die in the First World War was Percy Herbert Exell. He was the son of Elizabeth and Frederick Exell (chimney-sweep) of Back Lane (now called Gloucester Street), Wotton. Percy was born in Wotton on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1896. He was a pupil at the British School from 7<sup>th</sup> September 1903 until 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1909. On leaving school he worked as a baker's errand boy.

Percy enlisted in Bristol and joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment, service no. 1789. He was a Special Reservist, drafted to France on 24<sup>th</sup> November 1914. Within three months of arriving in France Percy was dead, dying of wounds on 15<sup>th</sup> February 1915 after being hit during fighting in the Béthune sector of the Front. Percy was buried but unfortunately his grave was lost during further fighting and so he is commemorated on the Le Touret Memorial. The Memorial can be found

3kms north-east of the town of Béthune. Percy was nearly 19 years old when he died. There is a photograph of Percy in the *Bristol Times & Mirror* of 1<sup>st</sup> April 1916. Percy's mother Elizabeth had re-married in 1907 and when contacted by the Imperial War Graves Commission after the war was then living at 7 Bradley Street, Wotton-under-Edge.

## 37

### WILLIAM EXELL M.M.



Rank and Unit: Corporal, 235382, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion  
Worcestershire Regiment  
Born: 19<sup>th</sup> May 1895 in Wotton-under-Edge  
Died: Killed in action in France on 10<sup>th</sup> April 1918.  
Buried in Cabaret Rouge British Cemetery, France: Plot 20, Row B,  
Grave 19  
Age: 23  
Parents: Timothy and Kate Exell  
Wife: Elizabeth

William Exell (known as 'Bill') was born in Wotton-under-Edge on 19<sup>th</sup> May 1895, the son of Timothy and Kate Exell. He was baptised in the Parish Church by the curate, Rev. P. Upstone on 14<sup>th</sup> July. Bill was educated at the British School in Wotton. He enlisted in the Army in March 1912, joining the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment, with the service no. 1599. It was recorded that he was a young man of splendid physique. At the outbreak of war Bill mobilised with the Dursley and Wotton Territorial section of the 5<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters. He was drafted to France with his Battalion, landing at Boulogne on 29<sup>th</sup> March 1915. After a brief period for final training they went up to the Ploegsteert area (known to the troops as 'Plugstreet') of Flanders, just north of Armentières and served in the trenches at Hebuterne.

In early 1916 Bill Exell was given a new service no. 240127. The 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Gloucesters moved down to the Somme area of France in July 1916 to take part in the Somme Offensive, having already spent 16 months in trenches and become hardened Western Front soldiers. The 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion went into the line, north-east of Ovillers, relieving the Warwicks on 19<sup>th</sup> July, and joined in the difficult task of 'softening' the German strong-points in front of the Pozières Ridge, by strong bombing raids. The enemy held the ridge in strength as it was vital to their position. The British plan was to soften German resistance here so that the ground won could be used for jumping-off places for the main attack.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters made two such bombing raids on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, going out into the full fury of the enemy's fire and approaching within bomb-throwing distance of the enemy's posts. In these two attacks alone, and they were but two of many, the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion lost 4 officers and 110 men. On another day, in their first week in the line, the 5<sup>th</sup> went over the top into such murderous machine-gun fire that they were driven back with the loss of 13 officers and 125 men. Such was the ferocity of the fighting at Pozières Ridge in July 1916. See Edward Deacon (no. 30), for fighting at Pozières in late July and August.

The strain on the men in such fighting was terrible, but somehow they adjusted themselves to it and as a history of the Gloucesters remarks "*they remained keen and miraculously gay of heart.*" The 5<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters were in the trenches throughout the winter of 1916/17 and they fought in the battles of Ypres and Langemark in August 1917.

Bill Exell must have been a brave soldier for the *Gazette* of 5<sup>th</sup> May 1917 carried a report that he had been awarded the Military Medal (M.M.) for conspicuous service in action. Just a month or so later, Bill was brought back to England suffering from septic poisoning caused by shrapnel wounds to his leg. He was taken to a hospital in Cardiff. After treatment and recuperation he was sent back to the front. Confirmation of Bill's award of the M.M. came when he was gazetted on



*A photograph of the British School c. 1900. Two of the youngsters were killed in W.W.I - Harry Dando, 3<sup>rd</sup> from the left in the front row and Bill Exell, 3<sup>rd</sup> from the right in the 2<sup>nd</sup> row down. In the front row, far right is Bessie Marsh who became Bill Exell's wife for just 7 months.*

Source: Wotton-under-Edge Heritage Centre

18<sup>th</sup> July 1917.

In September Cpl. Bill Exell came home to marry his childhood sweetheart Miss Elizabeth (Bessie) Marsh, the fifth daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Charles Marsh of Gloucester Street. Bill and Bessie knew each other from their school days. They married in Old Town Meeting House on 8<sup>th</sup> September with Bill still having shrapnel in his leg.

After a short period of leave Bill returned again to the fighting on the Western Front. However, on 5<sup>th</sup> January 1918 the *Gazette* reported the following :-

Wotton soldier gets his medal

Writing to his wife a few days ago, Cpl. W. Exell, a Wotton-under-Edge Territorial says - "I have been to Newcastle to have my medal presented to me. There were a lot of us presented yesterday in the presence of thousands of people and with bands playing. The worst of it was that some mothers and dozens of young widows who have lost their sons or husbands were there to receive medals won by them." Cpl. Exell added that the medals were presented by General Sir John Maxwell.

Early in 1918 Bill was transferred to the Worcestershire Regiment, joining the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, service no. 235382. In April Bill was home on leave, returning to France on Good Friday. On 25<sup>th</sup> May the *Gazette* reported that Cpl. William Exell, M.M. was officially reported missing in France, since 10<sup>th</sup> April. A similar report appeared in the 24<sup>th</sup> August edition. Friends and family in Wotton hoped that perhaps Bill was alive and that he was a prisoner of war. However, in the second week of December, Bessie received the news from the Infantry Records Office in Warwick that her husband 'had made the supreme sacrifice'. Bill had in fact been killed on 10<sup>th</sup> April. Bessie had

waited 8 months for the news she hoped she would never hear. Bill was just 23 years of age.

Interestingly, Bill's body was found after the battles and he was buried in Cabaret Rouge British Cemetery, France, Plot 20, Row B, Grave 19. The cemetery is situated near Souchez on the main road between Arras and Béthune. It is a large cemetery, containing 7,662 graves. It is a place of great beauty, stately chestnuts ring the slopes of the cemetery and a long avenue of weeping birch leads to the Cross of Sacrifice at the far end. Many specimens of fine trees are grouped throughout the area and the graves themselves are bright with flowering perennials. It is no wonder that the man who designed it, Sir Frank Higginson, asked that on his death his ashes should be scattered here.

Cpl. Bill Exell's name was added to the Roll of Honour in the Tabernacle Church, Wotton. On 10<sup>th</sup> April 1920, the second anniversary of Bill's death, the following 'In Memoriam' poem appeared in the *Gazette* :-

*Only a bundle of letters  
All that is left to me,  
But the boy who died for his country  
Ever lives in my memory.  
Only some lines from the trenches-  
Now the hand of the writer is cold,  
But his name on the paper is graven  
In shining letters of gold.*

There exists a poignant photograph of the British School children c.1905 with both Bill and Bessie in it. Also in the photograph is another boy who was killed in the war, Harry Dando (no. 28). Bill's widow Bessie lived to an advanced age, dying on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1984 aged 97. She was buried in Wotton Cemetery. Bessie was known as a happy, sociable lady, living for many years in *Montcalm*, a cottage in Gloucester Street, before moving to 27 Westfields in Wotton. It is said that Bessie got much of her strength from her religion, being a devoted Christian and attending Old Town Meeting House.



# 38

## FRANCIS FRANK FARMILOE



Rank and Unit: Ordinary Seaman, J./35987, in the Royal Navy  
 Born: 5<sup>th</sup> October 1900  
 Died: Killed in action on *HMS Anchusa* on 16<sup>th</sup> July 1918.  
 Commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial  
 Age: 18  
 Mother: Emma Farmiloe

Fifty five Wotton men served in the Royal Navy during the First World War, a large number considering that Wotton is not a coastal town. Most of these men would have enlisted in Bristol and several of them had joined the Navy well before hostilities started in August 1914. Six of these men lost their lives during the war, one being Ordinary Seaman Frank Farmiloe, J./35987.

Frank was the youngest son of Emma Farmiloe of Gloucester Street, Wotton-under-Edge. He was educated at North Nibley School and the British School in Wotton, leaving on 12<sup>th</sup> November 1912. Before joining the Navy in 1915, Frank worked as a stable hand at Stancombe Park, near Stinchcombe and later at Nind Cloth Mill, near Kingswood.

In 1916 Frank was serving on the battleship *HMS Duncan* as can be seen by his cap badge in the photograph alongside. In 1918 Frank was aboard *HMS Anchusa*, engaged on convoy work in the Atlantic and the Western approaches. *Anchusa*, launched in 1917 was an escort sloop of 1,290 tons. On 16<sup>th</sup> July 1918 she was on duty west of Ireland when she was torpedoed by the German submarine *U-54*. Frank went down with the rest of the crew. Frank's mother received the devastating news

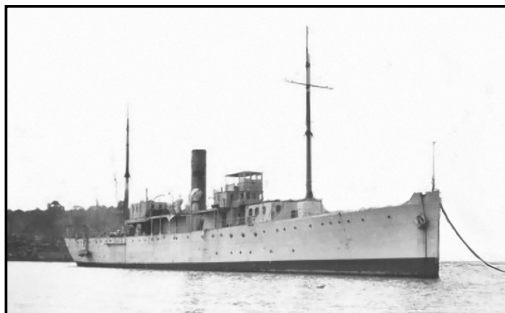
of her son's death on the 18<sup>th</sup>, just two days after

the sinking of the *Anchusa*. Frank, at 18 years of age, was one of the youngest Wotton men to give his life in the war. He is commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial.



*Frank is standing to the right of his aunt who became a Marsh, behind his sister Annie Farmiloe (later Allen) and his youngest sister Elizabeth Farmiloe who became Crew/Crewe.*

Source: Trevor Allen



*HMS Bryony a ship of the Anchusa class*

Source: courtesy of [www.worldnavalships.com](http://www.worldnavalships.com)

## 39

### WILLIAM BASIL FAY



Rank and Unit: Private, 10061, in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Loyal North Lancashire Regiment  
Born: 12<sup>th</sup> May 1895 in Cavan, Ireland  
Died: of wounds in France on 15<sup>th</sup> September 1914.  
Commemorated on La Ferté-sous-Jouarre Memorial, France  
Age: 19  
Parents: Anne Byett and Thomas Fay

William Basil Fay (known as 'Willie' or 'Bill') was born in Cavan, Ireland, on 12<sup>th</sup> May 1895, the son of Thomas and Anne Fay. Willie had one sister. Thomas died when Willie was still a boy. Anne was later to re-marry. The Imperial War Graves Commission Registers containing family details and compiled about 1920, gives Anne's surname as 'Byett'.

At the time when Willie was going to school, the Fay family lived in Orchard Street, Wotton, but at a later date they moved to Bradley Street. Willie first attended the British Infants School and afterwards moved to the Bluecoat School, starting on 17<sup>th</sup> July 1899. He spent nearly 10 years at that school, leaving on 21<sup>st</sup> May 1909 when he was 14 years of age. It is reported that Willie enjoyed playing football and was a member of Wotton A.F.C.



Willie enlisted in Gloucester on the outbreak of war and joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, with the service no. 10061. The Battalion, 1007 men strong, formed part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade in 1<sup>st</sup> Division. At the outbreak of war they were in Tournai Barracks, Aldershot. On 12<sup>th</sup> August 1914, together with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps, they left Tournai Barracks for Southampton. Later that day they embarked in the SS *Agapenor* and sailed at midnight for 'an unknown destination'. This turned out to be Le Havre, which was reached soon after midday on the 13<sup>th</sup>. They then marched off to a camp about 10 kms from the town. The 1<sup>st</sup> Division then entrained to the Mons area, near to where the German Army were advancing through Belgium and heading towards France. For a week the Battalion were at Esqueheries; during this time the men were inoculated against enteric fever. Also during this week a message was read out to the troops from His Majesty the King. It read as follows :-

*"You are leaving home to fight for the safety and honour of My Empire. Belgium, whose country we are pledged to defend, has been attacked and France is about to be invaded by the same powerful foe. I have implicit confidence in you, My soldiers. Duty is your watchword and I know your duty will be nobly done. I shall follow your every movement with deepest interest and mark with eager satisfaction your daily progress; indeed your welfare will never be absent from my thoughts. I pray God to bless and guide you, and bring you back victorious."*

The next few days were spent marching further north, right up to the Belgian border. The

Battalion received a report from an aircraft that 40,000 Germans had been seen marching towards Mons. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> August the Battalion saw the enemy for the first time in the shape of a Taube aircraft which hovered over them for about five minutes.

Late on the night of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Sir John French, Commander in Chief of the British Expeditionary Force decided to make a general retreat southwards, the reason being that a large gap had appeared between the B.E.F. and the French 5<sup>th</sup> Army to their right, the French having already fallen back. Whilst retreating, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Loyal North Lancs could see to their left a brisk engagement between the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division and the Germans and they could see the German guns in action on their front just south of Mons. On the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> the Battalion moved back towards Maubeuge. Near that town a small action took place between some units of the 1<sup>st</sup> North Lancs and some German cavalry. The 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> saw the Battalion marching further south in heavy rain until reaching Hauteville at 8 o'clock at night. During the 27<sup>th</sup> German aeroplanes continuously flew over the column.

Hauteville was left at midday on the 28<sup>th</sup>. The Battalion marched until 1 a.m. on the 29<sup>th</sup> when they reached Fressancourt with everybody 'deadbeat', as the history of the Battalion records. Fortunately it was possible for the men to halt at Fressancourt for 24 hours and have a day's rest. On the 30<sup>th</sup> there followed a very hot and dusty march of 20 miles to Anizy-le-Chateau. So the great retreat from Mons continued through Soissons and Villers-Cotterets. On 2<sup>nd</sup> September the Battalion crossed the River Marne just before the bridge was blown up by the Engineers.

On 5<sup>th</sup> September the Battalion was at Aulnoy and on the 6<sup>th</sup> at Bernay, where the welcome news came to hand that the retreat from Mons had at long last come to an end and that the British Army was now to turn upon the pursuing enemy. The Battalion had marched 200 miles in 13 days! For the next stage - the movement back north, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade was to be in reserve. So on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> September the 1<sup>st</sup> North Lancs were in bivouacs near Courpalay. The Battalion then advanced northwards, crossing the Marne on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Reports came through that the enemy was moving rapidly to the north. The advance continued on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, however, it was checked somewhat, with the Royal Sussex and Northants Battalions suffering considerable losses. The Battalion reached Coincy on the night of the 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> and rested in billets there.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> the Battalion crossed the River Aisne at Bourg and spent the night in billets at Moulins. Before day-break the Battalion were on the move again, now heading for Vendresse. Now they came into heavy German rifle fire, with the Germans counter-attacking heavily. At this time the 1<sup>st</sup> Lancs ammunition supply was beginning to run out. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade was ordered to fall back and dig in. This they did at 3 p.m. on the 14<sup>th</sup>. On this day, the Battalion's first general action of the war, losses were heavy, mounting to 14 officers and over 500 N.C.Os. and men killed, wounded and missing. It was in this action, near Vendresse, that young Pte. William Fay was wounded, later to die from these wounds on 15<sup>th</sup> September. He had become the first Wottonian to die in the war, he was just 19 years old. Willie was buried in Chivy, but his body was lost during further fighting, so he is commemorated on the British Memorial to the Missing at La Ferté-sous-Jouarre, along with 4,000 others who lost their lives in the battles of Mons, Le Cateau, the Marne and the Aisne in 1914 and whose bodies were never recovered.

Willie's mother received news that he had been reported as missing after the fighting on the Aisne. It wasn't until 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1915, over six months later, that the official news came through that Willie had died of wounds on 15<sup>th</sup> September.

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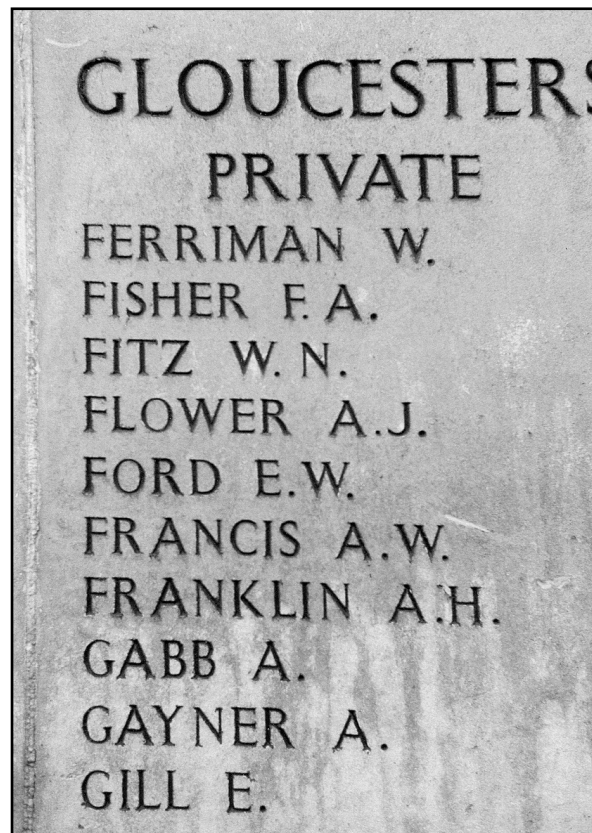
**WILLIAM NORMAN FITZ**



Rank and Unit: Private, 8120, in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment  
 Born: 1884 in Portishead  
 Died: Killed in action in Belgium on 29<sup>th</sup> October 1914.  
 Commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Belgium  
 Age: 30  
 Parents: William Goddard and Emily Ellen Fitz

Born in Portishead in 1884, William Norman Fitz was the son of William Goddard and Emily Ellen Fitz. William Goddard pre-deceased his son. William Norman was a regular soldier, enlisting in Gloucester in January 1906 and joining the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment, service no. 8120. He was drafted to France with his Battalion on 13<sup>th</sup> August soon after the outbreak of hostilities.

On 29<sup>th</sup> October the 1<sup>st</sup> Gloucesters were in action north-east of Gheluvelt, 7 kms east of Ypres. It was the tenth day of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battle of Ypres. The Battalion advanced through Gheluvelt village but were forced to retire owing to a lack of support. The fighting had been made particularly difficult, as there was a thick mist. At 2 p.m. the Battalion were ordered to push forward again, but this became impossible as the enemy enfiladed the Battalion with artillery fire. At 6.30 p.m. the Battalion returned to their trenches of the previous night to re-organise. It was during the fighting of this day that Pte. William Fitz was killed. Having no known grave William is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres. He was 30 years of age.



*Pte. William Norman Fitz is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres.*

The entry immediately after William's in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register for the Menin Gate is an interesting one. It is that of Brigadier-General Charles FitzClarence V.C., Irish Guards, commanding the 1<sup>st</sup> Guards Brigade. He was killed on 12<sup>th</sup> November towards the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battle of Ypres, leading the 1<sup>st</sup> Irish Guards in a counter-attack against the Germans in Polygon Wood. He was awarded the Victoria Cross for conspicuous bravery in action on two occasions during the Boer War whilst a Captain in the Royal Fusiliers.



*A Katharine Lady Berkeley's School pupil pointing out Pte. William Fitz's name inscribed on the Menin Gate Memorial to the missing.*



*Brigadier-General Charles FitzClarence V.C., Irish Guards*

Source: Victoria Cross Society

# 41

## ALBERT EDWARD FORD



Rank and Unit: Private, 20662, in the 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion  
Gloucestershire Regiment  
Born: 13<sup>th</sup> May 1894 in Wotton-under-Edge  
Died: Killed in action in France 27<sup>th</sup> July 1916.  
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, France  
Age: 22  
Parents: John and Clara Ford  
Wife: Alice  
Children: One

Albert Edward Ford was the son of John and Clara Ford of Valley Road, Wotton-under-Edge. He was born in Wotton on 13<sup>th</sup> May 1894. Albert had a brother and a sister. Albert first attended the Bluecoat School and then the British School, he transferred to a third school in 1903 (name not known). After leaving school Albert worked at New Mill, Charfield. In 1915 he married a young lady named Alice with whom he was to have a child.

Albert enlisted in Wotton in May 1915 and joined the 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion ('West of England Bantams'), Gloucestershire Regiment, service no. 20662. On 31<sup>st</sup> January 1916 the Battalion landed at Le Havre, France. The Battalion took part in many actions in France over the next twelve months, including Festubert, Givenchy and Levantie before moving down to the Somme. The 14<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters were now to take part in the massive Allied offensive on the Somme in July 1916. On the day that Albert was killed - 26<sup>th</sup> July - the Battalion was in the Bernafay area. The Battalion Diary for that period records :-



26<sup>th</sup> July Relieved 19<sup>th</sup> Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers. Bernafay Wood. Shelled heavily, working parties on support trenches.

27<sup>th</sup> July In support. Bernafay Trench. Working parties on communication trenches.

It was in Bernafay Trench that Albert was killed, probably by a stray shell. Albert's body was not recovered for burial so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial. He was just 22 years old. Very close to Albert's name on the Memorial is that of Pte. H. G. Frape, (see below), another Wottonian killed on the Western Front. The Thiepval Memorial, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and unveiled on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1932, is the largest British war memorial in the world. It carries the names of over 73,000 British and South African men who have no known graves and who fell on the Somme between July 1915 and March 1918. There are 13 Wottonians who have their names inscribed on this memorial. There is a photograph of Albert in the *Bristol Times & Mirror* of 1<sup>st</sup> April 1916 and in the *Gazette* of 6<sup>th</sup> August 1916.

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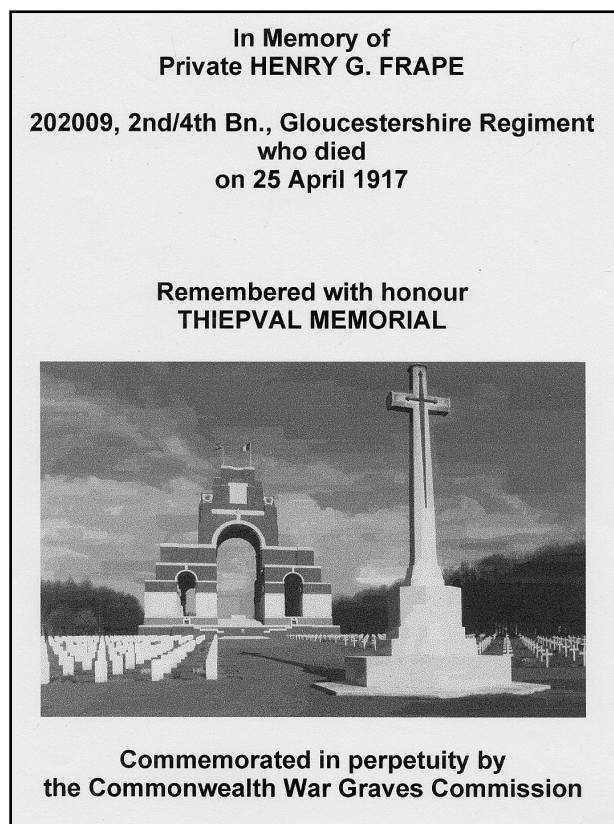
## HENRY GEORGE FRAPE



Rank and Unit: Private, 202009, in the 2/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion,  
Gloucestershire Regiment  
Born: 1883 in Charfield, Gloucestershire  
Died: Killed in action in France on 25<sup>th</sup> April 1917.  
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, France  
Age: 34  
Mother: Elizabeth Frape

Henry George Frape was the youngest son of Elizabeth Frape of Upper Bradley Road, Wotton-under-Edge. Born in Uley, Gloucestershire, Elizabeth had previously lived in Long Street, Wotton. For many years Elizabeth worked as a servant. Henry was born in Charfield, near Wotton, but nothing is known of his childhood. He enlisted in Bristol on 16<sup>th</sup> February 1916, joining the 2/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Territorial Force) of the Gloucestershire Regiment, service no. 202009.

The 2/4<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters left Southampton for France on 24<sup>th</sup> May 1916, arriving in Le Havre the next day. The Battle of Arras was raging during April 1917 and the 2/4<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters were working in the Monchy area of that Battlefield, about 6 kms east of Arras. The Battalion were not in trenches, but were busy constructing roads and defensive lines. During this time Henry was killed (25<sup>th</sup> April), so the probability is that he was killed by a stray shell or perhaps by a sniper's bullet. Interestingly, Henry has no known grave, instead he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial on the old Somme Battlefield.



*The C.W.G.C.  
Certificate of Commemoration  
for  
Pte. Henry George Frape.*

## 43

### REGINALD FREDERICK FRY



Rank and Unit: Private, 452429, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Canadian Regiment  
 Born: 11<sup>th</sup> December 1887 in Wotton-under-Edge  
 Died: Killed in action in France on 5<sup>th</sup> October 1916.  
 Buried in 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Cemetery, Contalmaison, France: Row B, Grave 8  
 Age: 28  
 Parents: Frederick and Elizabeth Emily Fry  
 Wife: Nellie

Reginald Frederick Fry (known as 'Reggie') was the eldest of the three sons of Frederick and Elizabeth Emily Fry of *Holywell Lodge*, Wotton-under-Edge. Reggie's father was an auctioneer and solicitor's clerk. Reggie was born in Wotton on 11<sup>th</sup> December 1887. His brothers Leonard and Eric also served in the First World War. Leonard was a Lieutenant in the Royal Naval Reserve and served for four years with the Grand Fleet on various ships, including *HMS Excellent*, *HMS Conflict*, *HMS Cornwall*, *HMS Albemarle* and *HMS Pegasus* and on the shore station in Plymouth - *HMS Vivid*. After leaving the Royal Navy he worked with Blue Funnel Line. Eric Fry entered the Royal Naval Air Service and served for three years as 1<sup>st</sup> Air Mechanic. He died at the age of 32 on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1931.

Reggie Fry was educated at Katharine Lady Berkeley's Grammar School during the Headmastership of the Rev. F. W. Morris, M.A. who later became Rector of Harnhill, Cirencester. Reggie was a brilliant scholar, passing his examinations with honours and winning many certificates and prizes. He was also a good sportsman, playing for the School 1<sup>st</sup> XI football team. After leaving school Reggie worked for a year at the National Provincial Bank at Hanley, Staffordshire. He then decided to travel the world and visited Australia, New Zealand, the West Indies, the U.S.A. and finally Canada, where he settled and became a farmer.

In Canada Reggie met a Wotton-under-Edge lady - Nellie - and they became married and settled down in Brantford, Ontario. With the coming of the war Reggie felt that he had a duty to his old country and so he enlisted in Niagara on 6<sup>th</sup> July 1915 and was drafted into the 58<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Canadian Army with the service no. 452429. Reggie's Attestation Paper contained the following personal information :- Height - 6ft., Chest - 34.5 in. Complexion - fair, Eyes - light blue, Hair - light brown, Religion - Church of England, Distinguishing marks - 2 tattoos on left arm.

Reggie sailed for Britain with a draft of Canadian soldiers in August 1915. He underwent training in Shorncliffe, Essex where he was taken onto the strength of the 12<sup>th</sup> Canadian Battalion. He sailed for France, arriving at Le Havre on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1915 and was immediately transferred to yet another Battalion, this time the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Battalion (East Ontario Battalion) which formed part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade of the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Division.

In April 1916 Reggie was wounded by a bullet, which passed through his right arm. First he was taken to the No. 13 General Hospital, Boulogne, then 11<sup>th</sup> April to the County of London War Hospital at Epsom, Surrey. On 19<sup>th</sup> May Reggie started convalescing at the Canadian Convalescent Hospital, Woodcote Park, Epsom where he stayed until 20<sup>th</sup> June. On 18<sup>th</sup> August Reggie was back with his unit in France. He returned whilst the Battle of the Somme was raging. No Canadian units had been involved in the Battle thus far, apart from the Newfoundlanders, who had suffered



terribly on the first day of the Battle - 1<sup>st</sup> July. In 1914 Newfoundland was a self-governing colony and not yet part of Canada. The Canadian Corps joined the Somme Battle at the end of August. By the time they arrived the Allied line had pushed forward a few kilometres from their starting point at a cost of 200,000 British casualties.

In October the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the Canadian Corps were fighting in the Courcellette area of the battlefield and this is where Reggie was killed. It was during this month that the Canadian Corps, along with some British units captured the longest German trench on the Somme battlefield - Regina Trench. Reggie was buried in 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Cemetery, Sunken Road, Row B, Grave 8. Forty-three of Reggie's Battalion are buried alongside him - all the men were identified. The cemetery lies just 1 km North of the village of Contalmaison, on the D147 road to Pozières. The cemetery, in a secluded spot, is surrounded by a weather-worn brick wall and shaded by flowering thorn trees.

Reggie's wife Nellie received the three war medals to which Reggie was entitled, the 1914-18 Star, the Victory Medal and the British War Medal. There is a photograph of Reggie in the *Gazette* of 11<sup>th</sup> November 1916, along with a tribute to the young soldier. His name appears on the Roll of Honour to pupils and staff who fell in the First World War in Katharine Lady Berkeley's School, as well as on Wotton's War Memorial.



#### PTE. R. F. (REGGIE) FRY.

##### KILLED IN ACTION.



We regret to record the news that Mr. R. F. Fry, (Reggie) the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Fry, of Holywell Lodge, Wotton-under-Edge, has been killed in action. He joined the 4th Company of the 2nd Battalion of the 1st Infantry Brigade, Canada, and came to England in the early summer of last year. After being in France for some months he was wounded in April by a bullet which passed through his right arm. After being in the London and County Hospital, Epsom, for some weeks, he returned to France, and has since been killed in action. He was educated at the K.L.B. Grammar School, Wotton-under-Edge, under the Rev. F. W. Morris, M.A., Head Master, who, after resigning, was appointed Rector of Harnhill, Cirencester.

Mr. Fry won a scholarship at the school, and passed the Oxford examination with honours; in addition he was the recipient of many certificates and prizes.

On leaving school he served three years with the National Provincial Bank at Hanley (Staffs) but, clerical work not suiting him, he, like his brother (Mr. Leonard N. Fry), who is a lieutenant in the Royal Navy, having a love for the sea and travel, went to the West Indies, Australia, New Zealand, the United States of America, the Rocky Mountains, Canada and other parts of the world.

He was the first of the old boys of the Grammar School to be wounded, and the first to be killed in action. Mr. R. F. Fry married in Canada a Wotton-under-Edge lady, and much sympathy is felt for his young widow and also for his parents, who have received letters of sympathy from all parts.

#### NEWS OF PRIVATE NEWTON CORNOCK.

The only information to hand regarding Pte. Newton Cornock—a Wottonian who was wounded by the same shell which killed his brother—is that he was injured in the back. The official intimation gives no clue as to the degree of wounds.

It is satisfactory to know that the wounded man—who is still in France—has been able to write a few lines home. He makes no mention of his brother's death, and apparently is in ignorance of the sad occurrence.

This is how the *Gazette* of 11th November 1916 reported the death of Pte. Reggie Fry. It also mentions the injury suffered by Newton Cornock in the incident which killed his brother Sidney.



*Katharine Lady Berkeley's Grammar School Football XI, 1913-14. Two of the team were killed in action during W.W.1 - Reginald Fry, 2<sup>nd</sup> from left in back row and Willie Wellicome, in the middle of the 2<sup>nd</sup> row. Reginald Vigar, in the centre of the back row died of influenza in Malta. During the 1913-14 season the team played 16 matches, winning 15 and losing only one. They scored 96 goals and conceded only 18.*



*Reggie's name appears in remembrance on his brother Eric's gravestone in Wotton-under-Edge Cemetery. Anne Bishop and Eric Fry of Kingswood helped to raise the headstone for a photograph.*

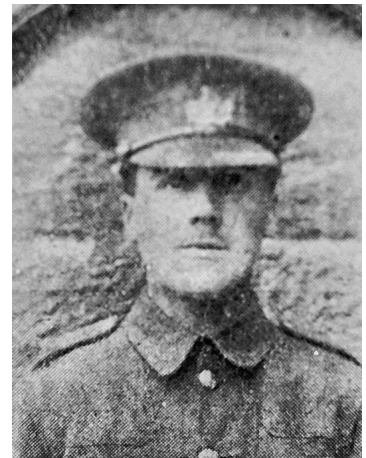
## 44

### FREDERICK ARTHUR GORDON



Rank and Unit: Corporal, 1409, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment  
Born: 17<sup>th</sup> August 1894 in Croydon  
Died: of wounds in Torquay on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1916.  
Buried in Holy Trinity Church Graveyard, Horfield, Bristol, Grave 1274  
Age: 21  
Parents: Frederick George Edward and Helen Kathleen Gordon

Frederick Arthur Gordon was born in Croydon on 17<sup>th</sup> August 1894, the son of Frederick George Edward Gordon and Helen Kathleen Gordon. Frederick or 'Fred' as he was known had a brother Percy and a sister Ellen. He attended the British School, Wotton-under-Edge from 4<sup>th</sup> September 1900 until 30<sup>th</sup> June 1908. He enlisted in Wotton-under-Edge as a Special Reservist, joining the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment, service no. 1409. At this time Fred was living at The Steep (Ludgate Hill), Wotton. Fred was drafted to France early in the war, on 19<sup>th</sup> September 1914.



Over the next twelve months Fred was involved in some very heavy fighting with his Battalion and suffered wounds on five different occasions. Finally, on 15<sup>th</sup> October 1915 he sustained two serious head wounds when the Battalion were in action in the Lillers area of France (8 kms west of Béthune). Fred had to be evacuated back to England for treatment. He underwent an operation in Torbay Hospital but didn't recover and died on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1916. At this time Fred's parents were living at 19 Tortworth Road, Bristol and so Fred was buried with full military honours in Horfield Holy Trinity Churchyard, Grave 1274. He was just 21 years old.

Fred is commemorated on the beautiful Roll of Honour in Holy Trinity Church and also on the Tabernacle Church Roll of Honour in Wotton-under-Edge. There is a photograph of Cpl. Fred Gordon in the *Gazette* of 11<sup>th</sup> March 1916.

45

**W. G. GRANT**



Rank and Unit: Sergeant, 365482, in the 285<sup>th</sup> Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery  
Died: 28<sup>th</sup> March 1918.  
Commemorated on the Pozières Memorial, France: Panel 10

On the Wotton-under-Edge War Memorial the name Sgt. W. C. Grant appears. The Roll of Honour in the Town Hall also names Sgt. W. C. Grant of the Royal Garrison Artillery. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission confirms that in fact he was Sgt. W. G. Grant, 285<sup>th</sup> Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery. His service number was 365482 and he died on 28<sup>th</sup> March 1918, this would have been during the German Spring Offensive, however, it is not clear how Sgt. Grant died. Sgt. Grant is commemorated on the Pozières Memorial, Somme, France. Pozières is a village some 6 kms north-east of the town of Albert. The Memorial encloses Pozières British Cemetery, which is a little south-east of the village on the north side of the main D.929 road from Albert to Pozières.

I have been unable to determine Sgt. Grant's connection with Wotton-under-Edge and nothing else on his life has come to light.



*Pozières British Military Cemetery showing  
the Great Cross and rear Memorial Wall*

## 46

### EDWARD GRIMES



Rank and Unit: Private, 36771, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment  
Born: 1892 in Wotton-under-Edge  
Died: Killed in action in France on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1918.  
Buried in Cross Roads Cemetery, France: Plot 11, Row 1, Grave 19  
Age: 26  
Parents: Thomas and Rose Grimes

Edward Grimes was born in Wotton-under-Edge in 1892. He was the son of Thomas and Rose Grimes, who at the time of receiving news of Edward's death, were living at 9 Bryn Terrace, Pontnewydd, Pontypool, Monmouthshire. I have been unable to unearth anything about Edward's early life until he enlisted in the Army in Wotton, when he joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment, service no. 36771.

In September 1918 the Allies attacked all along the German line on the Western Front. The 1<sup>st</sup> Division of the British Army, in whose number were the 1<sup>st</sup> Gloucesters, formed part of General Sir Henry Rawlinson's Fourth Army, on the extreme right of the British line, linking it with the French. The 1<sup>st</sup> Gloucesters led the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade attack at Fresnoy and a few days later, made a spirited attack on Gricourt, which was captured in spite of its tremendous strength. The deep Saint-Quentin Canal was crossed at Pontruet and giving the Germans no respite, the attacks were pressed home day and night throughout October. The famous Hindenburg Line was smashed. On 4<sup>th</sup> November the Germans made their last organised stand on the Sambre Canal and the 1<sup>st</sup> Gloucesters were ordered to storm the enemy positions at Catillon, 9 kms east of Le Cateau, the site of an early battle in 1914.

At 5.45 a.m. the Battalion, moving under a creeping barrage of artillery and machine gun, made excellent progress towards Catillon, although owing to a very dense fog it was difficult to keep direction. 100 prisoners were taken and a number of machine guns. Later in the day another 450 prisoners were captured and a number of trench mortars and more machine guns. Their attack was irresistible and the enemy was routed out of the houses, cellars and orchards with bayonet. This assault enabled the rest of the Brigade to cross the canal, and by the evening the enemy were everywhere in full and hopeless retreat. It was during this fighting on 4<sup>th</sup> November that Edward was killed. The 1<sup>st</sup> Gloucesters took relatively light casualties, 4 other ranks killed, including Edward and 36 wounded.

Edward was the last Wotton man to die in battle in the First World War. The 4<sup>th</sup> November was also the day when the soldier poet Wilfred Owen died, he was one year younger than Edward. Owen was killed alongside the Sambre Canal, only 3 kms from where Edward fell. Edward was buried in Cross Roads Cemetery, Fontaine-au-Bois, France, Plot 11, Row 1, Grave 19. Wilfred Owen is buried just 3 kms to the south in Ors British Cemetery.

## 47

### GEORGE GRIMES



Rank and Unit: Private, 7808, in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment  
Born: Wotton-under-Edge  
Died: Killed in action in France on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1916.  
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, France  
Father: Tom Grimes  
Wife: Rose  
Children: Two

George Grimes was born in Wotton-under-Edge, the eldest of the five sons of Thomas Grimes. All five sons served in the First World War. I have been unable to find out information on George's early life. It is known that he enlisted in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment in Bristol, service no. 7808. George was drafted to France, probably as a Reservist, very soon after the war's commencement, on 13<sup>th</sup> August 1914. The *Gazette* of 13<sup>th</sup> January 1917 carried a report that George was reported as missing since 8<sup>th</sup> September 1916. On that day the Battle of the Somme was still raging and the 1<sup>st</sup> Gloucesters were attacking German positions in High Wood.

On 28<sup>th</sup> April 1917 the *Gazette* confirmed that George had indeed been killed on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1916 (the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register states that George was killed on the 9<sup>th</sup>). His body was not recovered after the Battle, so he, like many other Wotton men, is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, just a few kilometres from where George fell in battle. George was a married man, living in Dyer's Brook, Wotton before he joined the Army. His wife Rose was left with two young children. We do not know George's age at his death.

An 'In Memoriam' notice appeared in the *Gazette* of 8<sup>th</sup> September 1917, the first Anniversary of George's death. It reads :-

#### GRIMES

*In loving memory of my dear husband, Private George Grimes, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion,  
Gloucestershire Regiment, Killed in action in France, 8<sup>th</sup> September 1916.*

*A year has passed, we miss him more,  
But hope to meet on a better shore.*

*From his loving wife Rose and two children.*

## 48

### REGINALD CHARLES GRIMES



Rank and Unit: Private, 72624, in the 19<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Machine Gun Corps  
Born: 24<sup>th</sup> April 1896 in Wotton-under-Edge  
Died: Killed in action in France on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 1918  
Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Pas-de-Calais, France: Bay 10  
Age: 21  
Parents: George and Mary Grimes

Reginald Charles Grimes was the youngest son of George and Mary Grimes of Orchard Street, Wotton-under-Edge. He was born in Wotton on 24<sup>th</sup> April 1896. Reginald attended the British School in Wotton from 7<sup>th</sup> September 1903 until 29<sup>th</sup> September 1910, when he was 14 years of age. As a young man he was apprenticed to Mr. W. Rogers, Grocery and Provisions, Long Street, Wotton, as were two other young Wottonians who were to lose their lives in the First World War, L/Cpl. William Jotcham (no. 56) and Pte. Horace Leonard (no. 64).

Reginald enlisted in Midsomer Norton and joined the 19<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Machine Gun Corps, service no. 72624. The publication *Soldiers Died in the Great War* shows that Reginald had also served in the 8<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment. The 19<sup>th</sup> Battalion, M.G.C. served in the 57<sup>th</sup> Brigade Machine Gun Company, which was formed at Grantham.

They disembarked in France on 9<sup>th</sup> February 1916, joining the 19<sup>th</sup> Division. The 57<sup>th</sup> Brigade M.G.C. fought in the Battle of the Somme at Albert, La Boisselle, High Wood, Pozières Ridge, Ancre Heights and the Ancre. An interesting account appeared in the *Gazette* of 4<sup>th</sup> November 1916, stating that Pte. Reg Grimes's photograph appeared in a national newspaper (see below), with him wearing a German helmet after the British had taken the German strong point of Thiepval, during the Somme fighting.

In April 1918 very sad news arrived in the Grimes household as they were officially told that Reginald was posted as missing since 21<sup>st</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> March, 1918 during the great German offensive on the Western Front. Like all other families receiving similar news, they prayed that Reg was alive and that perhaps he was a prisoner of war. It wasn't until May 1919, 13 months later and a long time after hostilities had ceased that George and Mary were informed that their son had been killed in action. It would appear that Reginald died in the Hermies section of the front, about 10 kms east of Bapaume. He was 21 years old. Pte. Reginald Grimes is commemorated on the Arras Memorial to the Missing, France, Bay 10.



*See preceding text*



## 49

### WILLIAM RUFUS KENNARD HEATH



Rank and Unit: Lieutenant in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment  
Born: 1886  
Died: Killed in action in France on 25<sup>th</sup> February 1916  
Buried in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Loos, France: Plot 3, Row C, Grave 32  
Age: 29  
Parents: William and Annie Rosa Heath

William Rufus Kennard Heath, usually known as 'Rufus', was the eldest of the five children of William and Annie Heath of *Kingswood House*, near Wotton-under-Edge. William Heath senior, an accountant, was for 16 years the manager of the Co-operative Bank of Gloucester. Rufus, born in 1886 had three brothers - John born 1890, Reginald 1892 and George 1893; he also had a sister - Rose born in 1891. Rufus was educated at Katharine Lady Berkeley's Grammar School, Wotton.

Rufus was commissioned in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment on 24<sup>th</sup> February 1915. On 20<sup>th</sup> November in the same year, he was drafted to France and on the 24<sup>th</sup> transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion. After the Battle of Loos, September/October 1915, the 1<sup>st</sup> Gloucesters remained in the Loos battlefield area, enduring a particularly hard winter. Rufus was to lose his life on that battlefield on 25<sup>th</sup> February 1916.



At 7 p.m. that day, an Allied mine was exploded under Hart's Crater (itself an older mine crater). 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. Heath was ordered to take a bombing party up to the lip of the new crater. It was whilst doing this that Rufus was killed, probably by fire from a German trench mortar or by a rifle grenade. Rufus's body was retrieved after the action and he was buried in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Loos, Plot 3, Row C, Grave 32. The cemetery lies on the north-west edge of the town of Loos. Rufus was 29 years old.

Rufus's photograph appeared in the *Bristol Times & Mirror* of 1<sup>st</sup> April 1916 and also in the *Gazette* of 18<sup>th</sup> March 1916. His name appears on the Katharine Lady Berkeley's School Roll of Honour, as well as on the town's War Memorial. After the war Mr. & Mrs. Heath moved to *Bradley House*, Bradley Street, Wotton-under-Edge. In 1936 in memory of their son, Rufus's parents paid for the installation of electric lighting in St. Mary's Parish Church, Kingswood.



*St. Patrick's Cemetery, Loos, France*

Source: Commonwealth War Graves Commission

## 50

### EDWARD ALBERT HOLLISTER



Rank and Unit: Sergeant, 15151, in the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion  
Gloucestershire Regiment  
Born: 1896 or '97 in Kingswood, Wotton-under-Edge  
Died: Killed in action in France on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1916  
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, France  
Age: 19  
Parents: William and Louise Hollister



Edward Albert Hollister was the youngest of the three sons of William and Louise Hollister of Ludgate Hill, Wotton-under-Edge. 'Ted' Hollister was born in Kingswood, either in 1896 or 1897. As a young man he worked at the London Central Meat Company at Wotton and later at the Chipping Sodbury branch, where he became manager. Ted enlisted in the Army in Wotton on 13<sup>th</sup> October 1914, joining the 10<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment, service no. 15151. Ted gained rapid promotion as a result of his "smart work and devotion to duty."

The 10<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters left for France in the summer of 1915. Ted soon found himself in action and was wounded on 25<sup>th</sup> September, the first day of the Battle of Loos. After a short spell of treatment and leave in England he returned to his Battalion in France. On 17<sup>th</sup> January 1916 Ted was promoted Sergeant and at the age of 19 must have been one of the youngest Sergeants in the British Army. In September 1916 the 10<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters formed part of 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division and were taking part in the Battle of the Somme, which had dragged on for two months.

On 4<sup>th</sup> September the 10<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters entered the Front Line at High Wood. The Battalion Diary for the 9<sup>th</sup> reads as follows :-

#### High Wood

*Battalion loaned to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade with whom it attacked the German lines in High Wood. Very little notice was given of the attack and the assaulting companies-'C' and 'D' only got into position just before zero. The attack failed, the casualties amounting to 4 officers and 118 other ranks (11 killed, 74 wounded, 33 missing).*

Ted, who was in 'D' Coy was one of those killed.

On Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> September news reached Wotton-under-Edge from Pte. Albert Cornock and Pte. Jack Allen, two of Ted's pals in the Battalion, that he had been killed in action. William and Louise had feared that something serious had happened as Ted used to write a weekly letter and the last they received was dated 8<sup>th</sup> September. Sgt. Ted Hollister has no known grave and so he is commemorated on the massive Thiepval Memorial, which was erected on the Somme Battlefield. A photograph of Ted appeared in the *Gazette* of 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1916.



*High Wood with London Cemetery, Longueval, France*

## 51

### FREDERICK CHARLES HYNER



Rank and Unit: Private, 28943, in the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion  
Gloucestershire Regiment  
Born: 13<sup>th</sup> December 1886 in Ledbury, Herefordshire  
Died: of wounds in France on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1916. Buried in St. Sever  
Cemetery, Rouen, France: Plot O/111, Row 1, Grave 5  
Age: 29  
Father: Robert Hyner  
Wife: Name not known  
Children: Three

Frederick Charles Hyner was born in Ledbury, Herefordshire on 13<sup>th</sup> December 1886. His father, Robert Hyner came to Wotton-under-Edge to manage the town's gas works. In 1915 Frederick was working in Ross-on-Wye, but towards the end of the year came to work in the Wotton branch of the India and China Tea Company as manager. Before enlisting in the Army at Wotton in November 1915, Frederick was working in the grocery department of the Dursley Co-operative stores.

Frederick joined the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment, service no. 28943, and went to the front in October 1916. Only six weeks later Frederick's wife, who at that time was living in Long Street, Wotton, received the sad news that he had been seriously wounded in the thigh and foot as a result of shell shrapnel. Frederick was first taken to the South Midland Casualty Clearing Station in France and later to a hospital in Rouen.

Frederick's condition deteriorated and he had to have his leg amputated. Unfortunately his condition worsened and he died in hospital on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1916, 29 years of age. Frederick is buried in St. Sever Cemetery, Rouen, Extension, Plot O/111, Row 1, Grave 5. The cemetery lies 3 kms south of Rouen Cathedral, beside Rouen football ground, the entrance is in Boulevard Stanislav Girardon. 6,600 British soldiers are buried in this large cemetery, many, like Frederick would have died from wounds received in battle, spending their last days in a local hospital.

The Battalion Diary for the 10<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters for the period 17<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1916 reads as follows :-

*"Battalion in Flers Line (from Pioneer Alley to Drop Alley) in Brigade Support. Time occupied by work on the Flers Line, which was in a very bad state, in deepening trench boarding and improving Pioneer Alley. Enemy shelled the Flers Line from time to time and 21 casualties were sustained (6 killed, 3 died of wounds and 12 wounded)."*

Private Frederick Hyner would have been one of those 12 wounded soldiers. As well as leaving a widow, Frederick left three children, one aged 2 years, one 4 years and the eldest 6 years of age.

## 52

### CYRIL REGINALD JOTCHAM



Rank and Unit: Trooper, 235464, in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Royal Gloucestershire Hussars  
 Born: 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1892 in Wotton-under-Edge  
 Died: of malaria in Egypt on 16<sup>th</sup> June 1918.  
 Buried in Kantara War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt: Grave F.31  
 Age: 26  
 Parents: Arthur and Elizabeth Jotcham



Cyril Reginald was the youngest of the three sons of Arthur and Elizabeth Jotcham of *Baden House*, Haw Street, Wotton-under-Edge. Cyril, also known as 'Rex', was born in Wotton on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1892. He attended Miss Whitfield's Private Preparatory School before entering Katharine Lady Berkeley's Grammar School on 20<sup>th</sup> January 1901. Cyril left at the age of 16 on 21<sup>st</sup> December 1908. Then for six years Cyril worked on Mr. F. Daniel's farm - *Symonds Hall*, near Wotton. On 12<sup>th</sup> January 1915, five months after the outbreak of war, Cyril was drafted into the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars, service no. 235464. In August of that year he was sent to Egypt with his Regiment. Soon after arriving in Egypt the Hussars sailed for Gallipoli where they took part in the Gallipoli Campaign. During his time on the peninsula Cyril was taken seriously ill with dysentery. He was taken to a

hospital on the Mediterranean island of Mudros and from there he was brought back to England.

After treatment in a Cardiff hospital, Cyril returned to Egypt in May 1916. Whilst in Egypt Cyril saw much action with his Brigade. However, illness struck Cyril again and he was admitted to hospital several times suffering from septic poisoning. In 1918 Cyril was struck down with malaria and as a result died in El Kantara Hospital on 16<sup>th</sup> June, aged 26. He was buried in El Kantara War Memorial Cemetery. The cemetery is situated at Kantara East on the eastern side of the Suez Canal, 160 kms north-east of Cairo and 50 kms south of Port Said. Cyril's parents received the sad news of their son's death in Egypt, on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June and his death was reported in the *Gazette* of the following Saturday. Only 10 months earlier Arthur and Elizabeth had received the news that Cyril's brother Walter had been killed in Belgium, see (55). The *Gazette* tribute to Cyril spoke of "*his genial disposition*" and that his death was deeply lamented amongst a wide circle of friends.

A memorial tablet to Cyril and his brother Walter was placed in St. Mary's Parish Church, Wotton. As well as having his name inscribed on the Wotton War Memorial, Cyril is commemorated on the Roll of Honour in Katharine Lady Berkeley's School and on the Memorial to the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars in Cathedral Close, Gloucester. Cyril and Walter were the first cousins of Fred (53), Herbert (54) and William (56) who also lost their lives in the Great War. A photograph of Cyril appears in the *Bristol Times & Mirror* of 1<sup>st</sup> April 1916.

## 53

### FRED JOTCHAM



Rank and Unit: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers, 4<sup>th</sup> Special Company  
Born: 19<sup>th</sup> April 1893  
Died: of wounds in France on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1918  
Buried in Le Grand Beaumart British Cemetery, France: Plot 1, Row D, Grave 14  
Age: 25  
Parents: Frederick John and Elizabeth Jane Jotcham



Fred Jotcham was born on 19<sup>th</sup> April 1893, the fifth child of Frederick John Jotcham, painter and decorator, and Elizabeth Jane Jotcham, née Richings, of Haw Street, Wotton-under-Edge. Fred attended the British School in Bear Street, Wotton, from 4<sup>th</sup> December 1899 until 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1905. At the age of 12 he won a Scholarship and entered Katharine Lady Berkeley's Grammar School. In 1906 he was awarded the Form III Prize for Latin and in 1908 he was awarded the Form IV Prize for English Literature. In July 1908 Fred passed the Junior Oxford Examination with second class honours and left the Grammar School, aged 16, on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1909. After leaving school Fred worked for a while in Mr. W. Rogers's Grocery Stores in Wotton.

Fred then left Wotton to live with his sister Bessie Smith in Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire. He took up an apprenticeship with Mr. R. W. Brownlow, Chemist and Druggist. During these years in Melton he met Miss Elsie Stokes of Hose and later became engaged to be married to her. After completing his apprenticeship, Fred then moved to Bath to take up a course of study at The Bath and West of England College of Chemistry and Pharmacy and also worked as an assistant with Steele and Marsh, Chemists in Milsom Street. He performed extremely well at the College and in 1914, as well as being awarded the Silver Medal, he won the 'Fairchild Scholarship'. This was open to all England - he gained 439 marks out of a possible 500 - and he was awarded £50. Fred passed the qualifying examination and registered as a Chemist and Druggist with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society in January 1915.

However, Fred's career as a Chemist was to be short lived as he enlisted in the Army in London on 25<sup>th</sup> August 1915. He was given the service no. 113330 and joined the Royal Engineers. His Army Service Record showed him to be 5 feet 9 ½ inches tall, with a chest measurement of 36 inches. Fred was immediately promoted to Corporal with a pay of 2s 6d a day. On 6<sup>th</sup> September, only twelve days after joining the Army, Fred embarked for France. In 1917 he was promoted to Sergeant and later that year he was appointed to a Temporary Commission as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant.

Fred joined the 4<sup>th</sup> Special Company of the Royal Engineers. This unit's purpose was to fight using Chemical Warfare. Soldiers like Fred, whose background was in chemistry, were trained to retaliate against the German's first use of gas during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Ypres, 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1915. The British first used gas as a tactical weapon during the Battle of Loos - 25<sup>th</sup> September to 8<sup>th</sup> October 1915 - a battle in which Fred took part and in which he was wounded. (For further information on chemical warfare during the First World War, see the book *Chemical Soldiers* by Donald Richter,

*Fred Jotcham's grave marker in Le Grand Beaumart Cemetery, France. This wooden cross would have been replaced by a C.W.G.C. Portland stone headstone at a later date.*



published by Leo Cooper).

Fred had been wounded on 1<sup>st</sup> October, his family not hearing from him nor knowing of his whereabouts for over two months. A relative - the Rev. Charles Jotcham of Compton Vicarage, Newbury wrote to the War Office on 13<sup>th</sup> December to try to find out what had happened to Fred. Their reply came on the 15<sup>th</sup> and was as follows :-

*"The Military Secretary presents his compliments to Mr. Jotcham, and in reply to his letter of the 13<sup>th</sup> instant, begs to say that 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant F. Jotcham, Royal Engineers, 1<sup>st</sup> Special Company, was admitted to the 4<sup>th</sup> London General Hospital on the 8<sup>th</sup> instant, suffering from a slight gunshot wound in the right arm."*

Fred had been admitted to No. 1 Red Cross Hospital in Le Touquet on the 7<sup>th</sup> and although his wound was 'slight' according to the War Office, it was obviously serious enough for him to be transferred back to England for treatment. In time Fred recovered and returned to the Western Front where he was to see action for another nine months. Sadly, on 30<sup>th</sup> September 1918 and only



six weeks before the war's end, Frederick and Elizabeth Jotcham received a telegram from the War Office stating that their son had died of wounds in France three days previous.

After Fred's death a fellow officer - Capt. G. R. Berry wrote a letter of condolence to Bessie, Fred's sister. It reads as follows :-

*No. 4 Special Co. R.E.*

*My dear Mrs. Smith,*

*Though you will already have heard of the death in action of your brother, I thought I would write & tell you what a great loss he was to us and how saddened we all are.*

*I knew him some years ago in Melton but lately, short a time as he was destined to be with us, I have really learned to know him for what he was. In word and deed he was an example to us all and in spite of a strange premonition he had, was the gallantest of the gallant. Brilliant, debonair and brave, God has robbed us of one we cannot replace and I trust that under this heavy burden of sorrow that has been thrown on you there may remain to you the proud and undying memory of his splendid life, his willing sacrifice and his heroic end. Your family I know, have suffered much for England.*

*His brilliant scholarship opened the way for him to a career of almost unequal promise. It was tragic fate that he should fall in the hour of victory. I cannot tell you how much I feel his loss. I never met a heart more tender, so loyal a comrade and so dear a friend. I hope to God this sacrifice is not in vain and a better world & a (?) loftier spirit be to those who are left.*

*He was mortally wounded taking up a convoy on a road just behind the front & during a heavy barrage on the road a shell struck the wagon he was on. He died next day in a C.C.S. I will let you know later fuller particulars as to his death and also the place where he is buried.*

*In heartfelt sympathy,  
Yours faithfully,  
Gordon R. Berry*

Fred Jotcham lies buried in Le Grand Beaumart British Cemetery, Steenwerck, France, Plot 1, Row D, Grave 14. Fred is commemorated in a number of places as well as on Wotton's War Memorial. Firstly, on the Roll of Honour in the Tabernacle Church (removed to the Wotton Heritage Centre on the closure of the church) and on the Roll of Honour in Katharine Lady Berkeley's School. Fred's name is also inscribed on his parents' grave in the Tabernacle Graveyard. Finally, to commemorate the death of Fred and his two brothers, a special service was held at The Old Town Meeting House on July 26<sup>th</sup> 1920, by the Rev. J. Hardyman and a bronze plaque was unveiled. (See William Jotcham - no. 56 - for the inscription). Fred's brother Herbert had died on 21<sup>st</sup> October 1917 and William on 25<sup>th</sup> March 1918. One can only imagine the torment that Frederick and Elizabeth went through during the last year of the war, as on three occasions they were told of the death of a son.



*The Jotcham family 1902. The bearded gentleman sitting is Grandfather William Jotcham. In the back row standing far left is William's son Frederick John. His wife Elizabeth Jane is sat with baby Oliver on her lap. Next to Elizabeth and standing in front of his father is their son Herbert. To her left is another son William. Sitting in front of William is his brother Fred. Herbert, William and Fred all died in the First World War.*

## 54

### HERBERT JOTCHAM



Rank and Unit: Private, 419227, in the 1/2<sup>nd</sup> (North Midland) Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps  
Born: 28<sup>th</sup> August 1888  
Died: of wounds on 21<sup>st</sup> October 1917 in France  
Buried in Fouquières Churchyard Extension, France: Plot 2, Row G, Grave 1  
Age: 29  
Parents: Frederick John and Elizabeth Jane Jotcham



Herbert ('Bert') was the third child of eight born to Frederick John and Elizabeth Jane Jotcham (née Richings) of Haw Street, Wotton-under-Edge. He was born on 28<sup>th</sup> August 1888 and baptised on 16<sup>th</sup> September in St. Mary's Church, Wotton. Bert had poor eyesight and wore glasses from an early age. Bert attended both the Bluecoat School and the British School, completing his education at the age of 14. After leaving school he was apprenticed to the Gentlemen's Outfitters, 'Parkin' in High Street, Wotton, where he worked for five years. He also worked at a number of other places, including Penarth, Devizes and Leicester, where his employer was 'Herringtons', General Department Stores.

Bert enlisted in Leicester on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1914, soon after the commencement of the war and entered the Royal Army Medical Corps (Territorial Force) with the service no. 419227. He was 5ft. 7 inches tall, with a chest measurement of 35 inches. No information has come to light concerning Bert's military career apart from details surrounding his death. A report published in the *Gazette* of 27<sup>th</sup> October 1917 contained the following information :-

*Private Bert Jotcham of Wotton-under-Edge  
Succumbs to wounds caused by German airmen*

*Tidings have been received at Wotton-under-Edge that Private Herbert (Bert) Jotcham, eldest son of Mr. & Mrs. Fred Jotcham of Haw Street, had passed away at a casualty clearing station (No. 33 C.C.S.) in France, as a result of several wounds of which previous intimation had been given. The news as to Private Jotcham's wounds arrived by wire on Monday, the War Office stating that he had been dangerously wounded the day previously. On Thursday the worst fears were confirmed by the arrival of the following letter :-*

*Dear Madam,*

*I much regret to have to tell you the sad news of your son's death. He died in this hospital at 6.20 p.m. on the 21<sup>st</sup> October from injuries received at 11 a.m. the same day. He was wounded by shell fire in the abdomen. Everything was done to try to save his life. He was quite conscious up to a short time before he passed away. He*

*spoke of his mother and brother but did not leave any messages. Deepest sympathy in your great loss.*

*Yours faithfully.*

*W. G. Foley.*

*Sister-in-Charge.*

Writing of the sad occurrence Lieut. Col. R. M. West of the R.A.M.C. said :-

*As I wrote you yesterday, your son seriously wounded by an enemy bomb dropped on my hospital, and was at once taken to the casualty clearing station for an operation, as offering the only chance of saving his life. I went to see him after his operation and he was in no pain but very weak. He died during last night. I regret his death greatly and he was a good soldier and one of my best nursing orderlies and a great favourite with the other men. I have had his body brought here, to be buried in a little English cemetery in the village this afternoon.*

Only four hours after Bert's death, a colleague, Harold Collington, wrote a letter to Bert's brother Fred, who at the time was serving with the Royal Engineers in France. The letter reads as follows :-

*Sunday.*

*Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> 1917*

*10 p.m.*

*My dear Fred,*

*I have a terribly difficult task before me. It is very bad news. At 10 a.m. this morning a Boche dropped a Bomb 3 yards from poor Bert's Ward. A small piece less than a sixpenny bit went through the wood of the hut and penetrated his left side making a tiny hole. I helped the Colonel to dress him and he was hurried off to the Cas. Clearing Station for an operation by Colonel Wallace consulting Surgeon to the Army. I was with him when he came round at 2 o'clock but he was very ill, towards 4 o'clock he seemed to sleep so I left him. At 7 o'clock I went down taking Bobby and Ted (?), but the poor boy had died quietly about 6 o'clock. The loss of him has struck right at my heart and it must be much worse for you. I am so sorry for you Fred, you have your own battles I know, you are sensible and hard though it is some people have it harder. The suddenness of the calamity seems appalling to lose the most cheerful good natured lad so suddenly. He never had an enemy amongst the men and the patients worshipped him. Though we had known each other for 3 years it was only the last six months we have been real chums, we seemed to fit together and we became staunch friends. Any trouble he had he brought to me, but my loss is small compared to yours. I shall try and write home tonight but it is a hard job, but my duty. I am sending one or two things home which Bert gave me, and a razor sent by Mr. Herrington, Bobbie Smith said he would like for a keepsake. Well Fred the sister said his last words were "What would my poor mother say to see me now" and he told her all about your wounds. So the dear boy was thinking of you all. It is perhaps a small consolation to know he had every attention and he told me he was not afraid to die, in fact he died like a man and nobly. Tonight an ambulance has gone for him and I shall be at the funeral to-morrow at the little Village Church here, the name of the place I will let you know later. I wish I could do something to help you Fred, when you feel like it please write me. I remain*

*Your very sad and sincere friend  
Harold Collington*

Bert was 29 when he died. He is buried in Fouquières Churchyard Extension, Plot 2, Row G, Grave 1. Fouquières-les-Béthune is a village about 1 kilometre south-west of Béthune in the Pas-de-Calais Department of France. Two of Bert's younger brothers also lost their lives in the war, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. Fred Jotcham (no. 53) and L/Cpl. William Jotcham (no. 56). Another brother, Pte. George Jotcham survived the war. Bert is commemorated on a plaque in Old Town Meeting House, Wotton, along with his brothers. His name also appears on the headstone of his parents' grave in the Tabernacle Church burial ground. No family in Wotton lost more than three sons in the Great War. However, Ruth and Charles Cornock also lost three boys.



*Bert's grave (with poppy) in Fouquières Churchyard  
Extension in Fouquières-les-Béthune, France*

Source: Pam Smith

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**WALTER MORSE JOTCHAM**



Rank and Unit: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the  
Worcestershire Regiment  
Born: 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1888  
Died: Killed in action in Belgium on 19<sup>th</sup> August 1917.  
Buried in New Irish Farm Cemetery, Belgium: Plot 13, Row B, Grave 5  
Age: 28  
Parents: Arthur and Elizabeth Jotcham

Walter was the second of the three sons of Arthur (builder and surveyor) and Elizabeth Jotcham of *Baden House*, Haw Street, Wotton-under-Edge, he was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1888. All three sons went to war, two of them - Walter and Cyril (52) making the supreme sacrifice. Arthur, serving in the Royal Garrison Artillery survived the war.

Walter was educated at Katharine Lady Berkeley's Grammar School and after leaving, joined the staff of the National Provincial Bank in Wotton's High Street. In June 1914, at the age of 25, Walter moved to the United States, settling in Washington State and became a fruit farmer. Two months later Britain was at war with Germany. Living close to the Canadian border, Walter decided to do his duty and enlisted in the 29<sup>th</sup> Vancouver Regiment of the Canadian Expeditionary Force in September 1914. The U.S.A. did not declare war with Germany until 1917. After training, Walter sailed for France with his regiment and served with them there and in Belgium from August 1915 until July 1916. Walter then came to England to receive a commission and he was gazetted 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. joining the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Worcestershire Regiment on 7<sup>th</sup> July 1916.



Walter returned to France and soon saw action with his new regiment who were soon to move to Belgium. In Belgium he was moved again, this time being attached to the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Worcestershire Regiment. This Battalion were taking part in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battle of Ypres as part of 144 Brigade in 48<sup>th</sup> (South Midland) Division. It was during this battle that Walter was to lose his life. On the night of 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> August, the 8<sup>th</sup> Worcesters were fighting in the Langemark area, about 7 kms north of Ypres. Capt. H. F. Stack who wrote the history of the Worcestershire Regiment in the Great War explains what happened that night :-

*"All remained quiet except for continuous artillery fire, plans being made for an attack that night. Tanks were used in the attack against the Steenbeek defences, conditions suiting their capabilities."*

Walter Jotcham's death is mentioned in a *Supplement to the Official History of the 1/8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Worcestershire Regiment*. Under the heading 'Capture of Maison du Hibou / Triangle Farm position by 'B' Company' we read the following :-



*The landscape near Langemarck, Belgium where  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. Walter Jotcham was killed.*

*This brilliant operation was an experiment in the use of Tanks and Infantry, working in conjunction but operating from different points. The intention was that the Tanks should capture the position and the Infantry occupy it and hold it, eventually the infantry captured the position themselves and the assistance lent by the Tanks was limited to demoralizing the garrison by getting between them and their supports and using reverse fire against them... 'B' Company was retained at the disposal of the G.O.C. Division for special duties, and rejoined the Battalion on the night of the 18/19<sup>th</sup> August to carry out the attack on Maison du Hibou in conjunction with the 6 Tanks of 'G' Battalion Tank Corps.*

*The German position consisted of a nest of concrete farm-houses lying about the cross-road at Maison du Hibou. Our advanced posts in the Steenbeek Valley were within 300 yards, the ground was a morass and movement difficult.*

*Zero was fixed for 4.45 a.m. at which hour Tanks were to advance from St. Julien village along the Poelcapelle road, and then cut in behind the Maison du Hibou position which they were to capture, 'B' Company to remain in their position till the Tanks were 'sitting' on the hostile position and had signalled the Infantry to advance.*

*'B' Company had to advance to its position across the Steenbeek under a heavy hostile barrage, and while doing so 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. Jotcham, commanding No. 6 platoon was killed. The Company dug in under heavy fire.*

Maison du Hibou was finally taken by 'B' Company, but by the infantry and not the tanks, which had come under heavy shell-fire. This action had cost the Battalion 2 officers killed (2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. Guilding being the other), 19 men killed and 47 N.C.Os. and men wounded. Walter was 28 years old. He lies buried in New Irish Farm Cemetery, St. Jan, Belgium, Plot 13, Row B, Grave 5. This is a large cemetery, with some 4,500 graves (75% of which are unnamed). At the foot of Walter's headstone is an inscription chosen by his family. It reads :-

*I have fought the good fight  
I have finished my course.  
I have kept the Faith.*

As well as having his name inscribed on Wotton's War Memorial, Walter along with his brother Cyril, are commemorated on their parents' grave in Wotton Cemetery and also on a plaque in the nave of St. Mary's Church, Wotton..



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### WILLIAM JOTCHAM

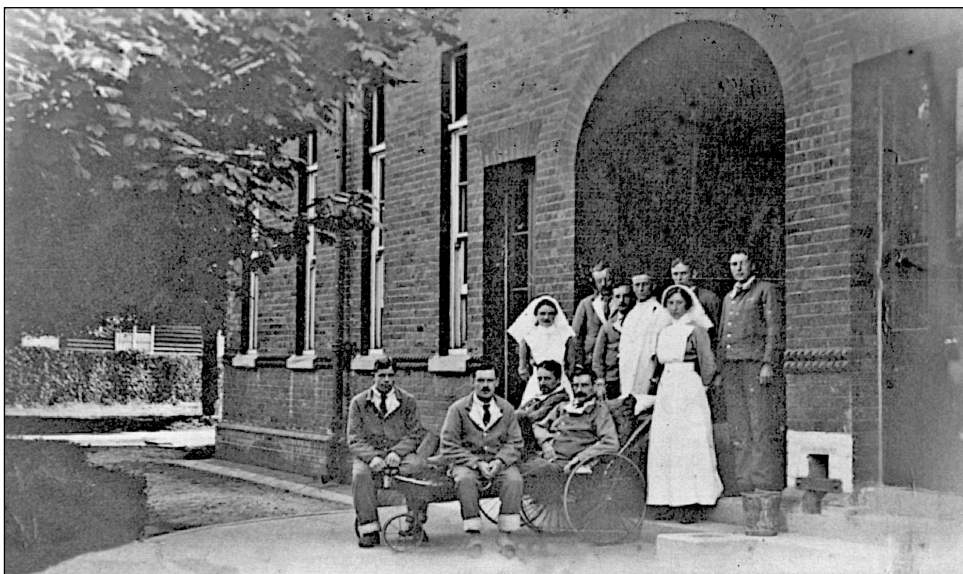


Rank and Unit: Lance Corporal, 26447, in the 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion East Surrey Regiment  
Born: 17<sup>th</sup> October 1890  
Died: Killed in action in France on 25<sup>th</sup> March 1918.  
Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, France: Bay D  
Age: 27  
Parents: Frederick John and Elizabeth Jotcham  
Wife: Agnes Ellen (née Croft)  
Child: Olive born July 1914

William Jotcham ('Will') was the fourth child born to Frederick John and Elizabeth Jane Jotcham of Haw Street, Wotton-under-Edge. Will was born on 17<sup>th</sup> October 1890. He was educated at the British and Bluecoat Schools in Wotton, finishing his education at the age of 14. After leaving school he was apprenticed to William Rogers, Grocery and Provisions, Long Street, Wotton, being paid one shilling a week. Will had a number of interests, which included racing pigeons and fishing, normally done in Coombe Lakes near Wotton.

Around the age of 20 Will moved to London and married Agnes Ellen Croft of 26 Carnarvon Road, Woodford Green, Essex. A daughter named Olive was born to the couple in July 1914. Will enlisted in the Army at Warley, near Brentford in Essex. He joined the 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the East Surrey Regiment, with the service no. 26447. This Battalion, sometimes called the 'Bermondsey' Battalion, formed part of 122<sup>nd</sup> Brigade in the 41<sup>st</sup> Division. The Battalion landed in France at Le Havre on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1916.

For the next 22 months Will saw much action with his Battalion in France and Belgium, doing his job as a signaller. His Battalion were involved in the Somme Battles, both at Fricourt and



*William, on the far right, recuperating in an Aldershot Hospital.*

Source: Pam Smith

Flers (where tanks were used in battle for the first time) in September 1916 and again in October at Mametz Wood and Goose Valley. In 1917 Will was with his Battalion in the Ypres Salient, but was then sent back to England, to an Aldershot Military Hospital suffering from 'spotted fever'. Spotted fever is also known as cerebro spinal fever, an infectious disease caused by a tiny germ entering the body through the nose and throat and from there reaching the nervous system causing inflammation of the brain and spinal cord

Will recovered and returned to France. On 21<sup>st</sup> March 1918, the Great German Offensive opened. On the same day the 12<sup>th</sup> East Surrey Battalion, commanded by Lieut. Col. G. L. Brown, moved from Halloy, near Doullens to Savoy Camp near Achiet-le-Grand. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> the Battalion moved towards the front line just north-east of Sapignies. Later in the day they entered the front line astride the Bapaume - Vaulx - Vraucourt road.

Over the next three days the Battalion remained in the front line and coming under heavy German shelling and being fired upon by aircraft. At 6. p.m. on the 24<sup>th</sup> the Battalion was ordered to withdraw to just east of Sapignies. During the night of the 24<sup>th</sup> the Battalion dug a new line of trenches. The enemy attacked again soon after sunrise on the 25<sup>th</sup> and it was during this action that William Jotcham was killed. The *Gazette* of 4<sup>th</sup> May 1918 reported that L/Cpl. Jotcham had been missing for six weeks (since 25<sup>th</sup> March). Then on 24<sup>th</sup> May 1919 (over a year later) the *Gazette* reported the following :-

**Now reported killed in action**

*Parents of Lance Cpl. William Jotcham, Haw Street, and Pte. Reg. Grimes, Orchard Street, two young Wottonians who were reported 'missing' during the Great German Offensive (March 1918) last year, have now been informed that the Army authorities concluded that they were killed in action at that time. Lance Cpl. Jotcham leaves a widow and a child and like Pte. Grimes was apprenticed to Mr. W. Rogers. Yet another of Mr. Rogers's employees, Pte. Horace Leonard fell in action in June 1917.*

William died just 27 years of age. As his body was not recovered at the end of the war, he is commemorated on the Arras Memorial to the Missing, Bay D. The Memorial is found in Faubourg d'Amiens Cemetery, on the western edge of the city of Arras. To commemorate the death of William and his two brothers, Frederick and Herbert, a brass plaque was placed in Old Town Meeting House, Wotton-under-Edge. A special service was held at the Meeting House on 26<sup>th</sup> July 1920, when the plaque was unveiled, the service being conducted by the Rev. J. Hardyman. Inscribed on the plaque are the following words :-

*In Proud and Loving Memory of  
Three Brothers,  
Sons of Fred and E. J. Jotcham  
Who gave their lives for King and Country  
In France during the Great War.  
1914 - 1919  
Herbert - 21<sup>st</sup> October, 1917  
William - missing since 25<sup>th</sup> March, 1918  
Fred - 27<sup>th</sup> September, 1918  
They died that others might live.*

William is also commemorated on the Tabernacle Church Roll of Honour and on his parents' grave in the Tabernacle Churchyard.

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### WILLIAM JOHN KEYNTON



Rank and Unit: Lance Corporal, 44579, in the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment  
Born: 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1899 in Wotton-under-Edge  
Died: Killed in action in France on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1918.  
Commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, France: Panel 7  
Age: 19  
Parents: Daniel Keynton. Mother's Christian name not known

William John Keynton, born 1899 in Wotton-under-Edge, was the only son of Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Keynton of Haw Street in Wotton. William was educated at the British School in Wotton, which he attended from 28<sup>th</sup> August 1905 until 1<sup>st</sup> August 1912. On leaving school William became a grocer's assistant. He enlisted in the Army in Bristol, joining the 1/5<sup>th</sup> Royal Warwickshire Regiment as no. 26547. He joined his Regiment in France, sometime in 1916. He then transferred to the Royal Berkshire Regiment as no. 44579 in 1918.

The *Gazette* of 6<sup>th</sup> April 1918 carried the news that L/Cpl. Keynton was wounded on the second day of the big German offensive of 22<sup>nd</sup> March and that he was brought to the Beaufort Hospital in Bristol (now called Blackberry Hill Hospital). His injuries were in the back of the neck and right arm, but he was stated to be "*going on favourably*". 157 Royal Warwickshire soldiers, including William Keynton, transferred to the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment, as they had received a severe mauling during the great German offensive. William had by now recovered from his wounds and joined 'C' Coy, 10<sup>th</sup> Platoon and the 7<sup>th</sup> Section of the Berkshires.

Another sad entry relating to a Wotton soldier's fate in the war appeared in the *Gazette* of 14<sup>th</sup> September 1918 (only two months before the Armistice). It was that of William, who was said to be posted as 'missing'. In fact William had been killed on 8<sup>th</sup> August during the Battle of Amiens. In that battle the 8<sup>th</sup> Berkshires were with 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps of 4<sup>th</sup> Army, commanded by Sir Henry Rawlinson. Their Division, the 18<sup>th</sup> (Eastern) was to help form a defensive flank for their main attack to be mounted south of the Somme. The Division's area of operations was the ridge on the north bank of the Somme, south and south-east of Morlancourt. Here the ground was difficult, being indented by a series of short ravines which provided excellent cover for the numerous machine gun posts.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> the 18<sup>th</sup> Division made a successful counter-attack, recovering part of the lost ground, and inflicting heavy losses on the enemy. At 4.20 a.m. on the 8<sup>th</sup>, the 8<sup>th</sup> Royal Berkshire Regiment began its advance. There was a thick mist and the men had immense difficulty in maintaining direction. Progress was very slow. Tanks were brought in to help the infantry but because of the mist they proved ineffective. The Battalion kept encountering snipers and machine guns. At 8.20 a.m. when the fog cleared the Battalion came under heavy fire from three field guns firing at a close range of 500 yards and a host of machine guns. Three attempts to rush the machine gun positions failed. By 9 a.m. a line had been organised more or less on the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion objective and there it was held.

In all the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion suffered heavy losses on the 8<sup>th</sup> August, having 3 officers killed, 5 officers wounded, 21 other ranks killed (including William), 83 wounded and 63 missing. William was just



*Wotton-under-Edge Scout Troop 1910. Ernest Cornock is in the back row, 2<sup>nd</sup> from the left. William John Keynton is in the front row, far right. Both died in the war.*

19, one of the youngest Wotton men to die in the war. His body was not recovered after the battle, so he is commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Panel 7, Pas-de-Calais, France. 9,903 names are carved on this memorial to men who fell in the 1918 advance in Picardy. The memorial is to be found about 10 kms south-east of Arras on the N. 39 road to Cambrai. See also Pte. Tom Venn (no. 105) who also served in the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Royal Berkshire Regiment.

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### HENRY KING



Rank and Unit: Private, 12996, in the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the  
Worcestershire Regiment  
Born: 28<sup>th</sup> August 1887  
Died: Killed in action in Gallipoli on 29<sup>th</sup> April 1915.  
Commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Gallipoli  
Age: 27  
Parents: Edward and Elizabeth King



Henry was the fifth born child of Edward and Elizabeth King of Bradley Street, Wotton-under-Edge. He was born on 28<sup>th</sup> August, 1887. Henry had six brothers and two sisters, all the boys served in the First World War, all surviving apart from Henry. Edward King, who was from Glastonbury, was employed as a brick maker. The Bluecoat School in Wotton was Henry's first school, he then moved to the British School on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1894, leaving on 15<sup>th</sup> April 1901 at the age of 13. Soon after leaving school Henry went to work in London. At the age of 19 Henry joined the Navy and served for six years. In the *Bristol Times & Mirror* of 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1916, there is a photograph of Henry wearing his cap, showing that he served on the shore station - *HMS Vivid*.

In 1912 Henry left the Navy and enlisted in the Worcestershire Regiment, joining their 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, with the no. 12996. When war broke out in August 1914, Henry was serving with his Battalion in India. He returned home, landing at Avonmouth on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 1915. After some leave Henry rejoined his Battalion at Leamington. There the Battalion joined up with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Hampshire Regiment and the 1<sup>st</sup> Essex Regiment to form the 88<sup>th</sup> Brigade of 29<sup>th</sup> Division, to be joined a little later by a Territorial Battalion, the 5<sup>th</sup> Royal Scots.

On 12<sup>th</sup> March 1915 the 29<sup>th</sup> Division were reviewed by H.M. King George V at Dunchurch, near Rugby. (There is now a Memorial to the 29<sup>th</sup> Division on the Fosse Way, north of Leamington Spa, recording the King's Review). At 9 p.m. on the 21<sup>st</sup> March the Worcesters left Leamington on three trains, arriving at Avonmouth early on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. *"It was a lovely morning, bright warm sun, so everyone was as cheerful as could be"* said one report. At 11 a.m. the troopship came alongside and embarkation began. It was now that the troops were told that they would form part of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force and that they would take part in the battle against the Turks on the Gallipoli Peninsula.

The Worcesters found themselves split up onto four ships, the *SS Southland*, the *SS Caledonian*, the *SS Aragon* and the *SS Melville*. They set sail later that day and not long after, started training to keep fit on the long journey and began preparing for the trials before them. The Straits of Gibraltar were cleared on 27<sup>th</sup> March. On the last day of the month the convoy steamed into the great harbour at Valetta in Malta, to be cheered by French sailors aboard the many French warships already there and to hear French bands playing *God Save the King* and *Tipperary*.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> April the convoy arrived at Alexandria in Egypt. After disembarking the Battalion spent

five days in camp at Mustapha Pasha, near Alexandria. On 11<sup>th</sup> April the Worcesters, now all aboard the ship *SS Aragon*, set sail from Alexandria. On the 13<sup>th</sup> they reached the Greek island of Lemnos. On the 21<sup>st</sup> the Worcesters were given explicit orders that they were to land on the Gallipoli Peninsula in the neighbourhood of Cape Helles, on the peninsula's southern tip and that their objective was a line across the peninsula, including the village of Krithia and the heights of Achi Baba, some 10 kms from the Cape.

On the evening of 24<sup>th</sup> April there was a general movement among the ships in Lemnos harbour. Presently the *Aragon* and the *SS Dongola*, carrying between them the whole of the 88<sup>th</sup> Brigade, moved out of the bay and crept eastwards at 5 knots speed over a quiet sea beneath the moon. After a while the moon set and in the ensuing darkness the transports closed towards the Gallipoli shoreline.

With the first light of dawn the battle began. From all sides came the flash and thunder of the great guns of the warships. Troops began fighting their way ashore. The 4<sup>th</sup> Worcesters were taken close ashore by a minesweeper. The intention was to land at 'V' beach, one of the five beaches chosen for the landings. However, 'V' beach was an inferno of bursting shells, covered with entanglements and was littered with dead and wounded. Instead the Worcesters clambered onto small boats and diverted to 'W' beach.

The beach was reached at mid-day. The task given to the 4<sup>th</sup> Worcesters was to capture the high ground on the right of the beach with a view to working onwards towards 'V' beach. The troops scrambled up the cliff and reached the slopes above. They were now faced by a Turkish redoubt from which came heavy rifle fire, many men were killed and wounded as they attempted to cut through barbed wire. At about 2 p.m. the Worcesters, along with some Essex Regiment men managed to capture the redoubt. However, after advancing a short distance beyond the redoubt the men came under more heavy rifle and machine-gun fire from a second redoubt on a hillock, 500 metres beyond. Again many men cutting at the barbed wire surrounding the redoubt were killed, but finally the last of the wire was cut through and with fixed bayonets the Worcesters attacked the redoubt. The enemy retired before the bayonet could reach them and the second redoubt was secured at about 4 p.m.

At sunset the Battalion took up a defensive line beyond the redoubt with the 1<sup>st</sup> Essex Battalion to their left. Firing continued all night, but the enemy did not attempt any strong counter attack against the redoubt. The troops snatched what rest they could after the exertions of the day, but with their rifles ready at their sides.

Dawn on the 26<sup>th</sup> was greeted by heavy gun fire from the ships. Throughout the morning the 4<sup>th</sup> Worcesters held their ground, shelled intermittently but not suffering serious loss. The Battalion together with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Hampshire Regiment and the 1<sup>st</sup> Essex Regiment pushed forward and cleared the Turkish trenches above 'V' beach. At about 2.30 p.m. the enemy gave way and retired. On the ground gained the troops dug in, while the enemy fell back out of range. The rest of the day was devoted to reorganisation and preparation for a further advance.

The fighting of 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> April had secured the landing at Cape Helles, but the success had only been gained at the price of heavy losses, the 4<sup>th</sup> Worcesters losing about 100 men, killed or wounded, Pte. Henry King having come through the ordeal unscathed. However, the British forces were still far from their original objective - the slope of the Achi Baba.

On the afternoon of 27<sup>th</sup> April a general advance was made. The country in front was an expanse of low ground, mottled with scrub and dotted with trees which obscured the view. On the right of the 4<sup>th</sup> Worcesters was the French 175<sup>th</sup> Regiment and to the left the rest of 88 Brigade - it was an inspiring sight. The advance proved difficult, being delayed by enemy snipers in front. Many Turkish bodies were passed - Turks killed by the guns of the ships. Shells from the Achi Baba heights burst over and around the advancing troops. As darkness grew the 4<sup>th</sup> Worcesters stopped near a small wood, took up defensive positions and prepared against attack. There was some firing during the night but without any casualties.

At 8 a.m. on 28<sup>th</sup> April the First Battle of Krithia began, the objectives being the village of Krithia, about 8 kms north of the landing beach and the heights of Achi Baba, another 2 kms further on. Advance was difficult, the 4<sup>th</sup> Worcesters coming up against much shrapnel fire. The Battalion now found themselves in a difficult position, with the flanking troops having failed to keep up with them. The Battalion advanced alone and with fixed bayonets managed to push the Turks back from a ridge in front. A defensive position was established and with the aid of machine guns the Turks were held back. As ammunition began to run out the Battalion started taking casualties with several officers in the front line struck down. Heavy firing continued until the evening. The French to the right retired before a counter attack and the 4<sup>th</sup> Worcesters were asked to move back to form a line with the French. The day's action had seen 35 men killed, 199 wounded, 74 missing and 9 officers wounded. The Battalion was now down to 400 men. That night they dug themselves into cover and tried to rest amid constant sniper fire.

On 29<sup>th</sup> April the Battalion remained in reserve. The Battalion Diary stated that :-

*the Battalion remained entrenched in the same position. Nothing of importance occurred. Only a slight night attack by the enemy which was easily repulsed.*

It must have been during this Turkish attack that Pte. Henry King was killed. Henry's body was not recovered after the battle, so he is commemorated on the Helles Memorial.

Back in Wotton-under-Edge came the news that Henry was reported as missing on the Gallipoli Peninsula. It wasn't until February 1916, ten months later, that the confirmation came through that in fact Henry had been killed in action. Henry, a single man, died at the age of 27.

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**ALBERT EDWARD KINSON**



Rank and Unit: Private, G.53123, in the 20<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers  
Born: 1896  
Died: Killed in action in Belgium on 28<sup>th</sup> November 1917.  
Buried in Tyne Cot Cemetery, Belgium: Plot 15, Row C, Grave 11  
Age: 21  
Parents: James and Ellen Kinson



Albert Edward Kinson, born in 1896, was the son of James and Ellen Kinson of Ozleworth, near Wotton-under-Edge. He had three sisters, Edith, Ellen and Elizabeth and two brothers, George and Walter. James predeceased Albert, dying at the age of 40 in 1903. Before the war Albert was employed by Mr. J. R. Richings in his butcher's shop in Long Street, Wotton. Albert enlisted in the Army Service Corps soon after the outbreak of war and went out to France in November 1915. After serving in that unit for a year he was transferred to the Royal Fusiliers, joining the 20<sup>th</sup> Battalion, also known as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Public Schools Battalion. This Battalion formed part of 19<sup>th</sup> Brigade in 33<sup>rd</sup> Division. Albert was sent back to England for training as an infantryman and he returned to France in March 1917.

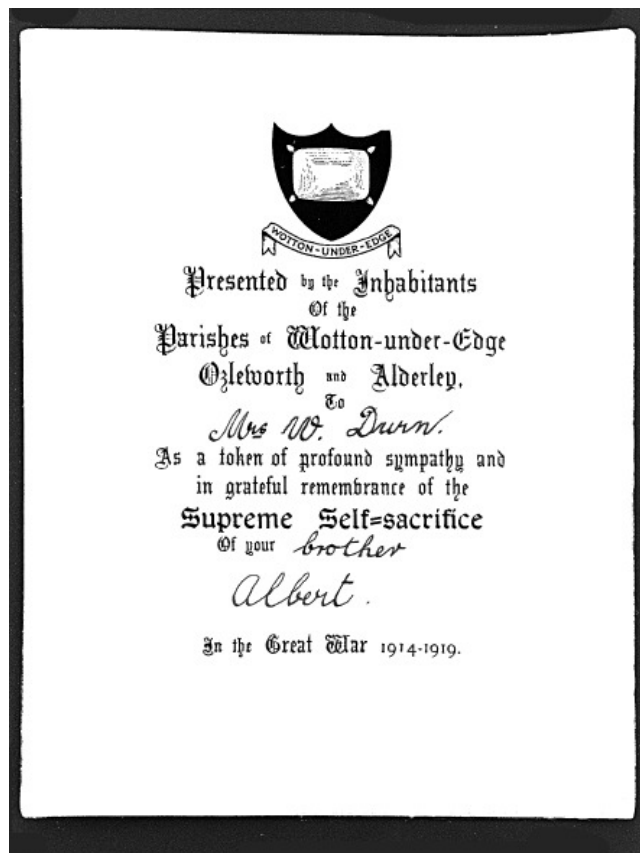
Between June and November 1917, Albert fought with his Battalion in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battle of Ypres. On 28<sup>th</sup> November the Battalion found themselves in the Potijze area of the Ypres salient about 2 kms north-west of the town of Ypres. On that day the enemy bombarded the area with a heavy barrage and it was during this barrage that Albert was killed, along with 50 other men of his Battalion. He was 21 years of age.

A letter received from a comrade and sent to his sister Edith of Silver Street, Sinwell, stated that he had been killed instantly and his body buried. After the war Albert's body was removed to the huge British cemetery at Tyne Cot, near Passchendaele. He now lies in Plot 15, Row C, Grave 11. His medals, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal were sent to his sister Edith.





*A Katharine Lady Berkeley's School pupil recording a grave inscription in the enormous cemetery at Tyne Cot, Passchendaele, Belgium.*



*The sympathy card given to Mrs. Edith Durn, sister of Pte. Albert Kinson who was killed in action on 28<sup>th</sup> November 1917.*

60

**WILLIAM CHARLES KNIGHT**



Rank and Unit: Private, 17731, in the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment  
Born: 30<sup>th</sup> May 1893 in Wotton-under-Edge  
Died: Killed in action in France on 18<sup>th</sup> November 1916.  
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, France  
Age: 23  
Parents: James and Louise Knight



William Charles Knight was born in Wotton-under-Edge on 30<sup>th</sup> May 1893, the only son of James and Louise Knight of Ragnall, Wotton-under-Edge. William was educated at the British School from 27<sup>th</sup> August 1900 until 18<sup>th</sup> September 1906 when he was 13 years of age. Between late 1906 and December 1915 William worked in various capacities for the Post Office in Wotton, starting as a telegraph messenger, then as a postman and finally on the postal staff.

William enlisted in Wotton-under-Edge in January 1915 as part of Kitchener's 'New Army' volunteers, being given the service no. 17731 in the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment. The Battalion, part of the 57<sup>th</sup> Brigade in the 19<sup>th</sup> (Western) Division landed in France on 18<sup>th</sup> July 1915 after training on Salisbury Plain. William followed a short time later on 4<sup>th</sup> August.

William saw a great deal of action with the Battalion in France over the next fifteen months. In November 1916 the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion took part in front line action in the Aveluy and Grandcourt areas of the Somme Battlefield. It was here that William met his death. First reports reaching Wotton came from his friend Pte. Fred Trotman of The Brickyard, Wotton, whilst he was home on leave. Pte. Trotman informed William's parents that during an attack made by the Gloucesters at 6 o'clock one morning, a shell burst among them just as they were crossing 'No Man's Land'. Terrible havoc was wrought amongst the gallant band and several were killed outright. Among these, according to Pte. Trotman was Pte. Knight, as he did not report afterwards, nor did he pass through the clearing station with the wounded. "It would have been impossible" said Pte. Trotman "for any of the men to have been captured by the enemy."

The 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion War Diary confirms Pte. Trotman's account. It reads as follows :-

*17<sup>th</sup> November, 1916    Marched out of Cromwell Huts at 4.30 p.m. and took over front line trenches from 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Loyal North Lancashire Regiment.*

*18<sup>th</sup> November, 1916    Formed up in Artillery Formation, preparatory to attack on western outskirts of Grandcourt. 6.10 a.m. attack launched. 1<sup>st</sup> objective reached and carried. The 10<sup>th</sup> Royal Warwickshires on our right being partially held up, our flank was in the air.*

*Casualties 12 officers, 283 other ranks.*

William was one of those casualties. His body was not recovered after the battle, so he is commemorated on the massive memorial to the missing at Thiepval. He was 23 years of age and

was a single man. Another Wotton soldier, Pte. Charles Turner (102) of the same Battalion as William, also lost his life in this battle on 18<sup>th</sup> November, 1916. Both William and Charles Turner were members of Sinwell Chapel, Wotton-under-Edge and their names are to be found next to each other on the chapel's memorial tablet.



*Looking east over the present day Grandcourt sector of the  
Somme battlefield where William Knight lost his life.*

61

## JAMES LACEY



Rank and Unit: Private, 203779, in the 2/5<sup>th</sup> North Staffordshire Regiment  
 Born: 1884 in Wotton-under-Edge  
 Died: in a Prisoner of War Camp in Germany on 9<sup>th</sup> April 1918.  
 Buried in Tournai Communal Cemetery, Allied Extension, Belgium:  
 Plot 5, Row M, Grave 16  
 Age: 34  
 Parents: John and Julia Lacey  
 Wife: Ellen Elizabeth  
 Children: Two

James Lacey, born in Wotton-under-Edge in 1884 was the youngest son of John and Julia Lacey of Church Street, Wotton. John worked as a wheelwright and Julia as a milliner. Altogether they reared 9 children - Louise, Frederick, Newton, Blanche, Rowland, James, Ellen, Frances and Florence. Before joining the Army James was station-master at Bardon Hill, Leicester. He married Ellen Elizabeth (maiden name not known) and they had two children. It was in Coalville, Leicestershire, that James enlisted in the 2/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, North Staffordshire Regiment in August 1917, service no. 203779. The 2/5<sup>th</sup> North Staffs were a Territorial Battalion, formed at Hanley, Staffordshire on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1914. In January 1915 they joined 176<sup>th</sup> Brigade in 59<sup>th</sup> (North Midlands) Division. During 1915 they trained near Luton and St. Albans. In April 1916 they served in Ireland at Dublin and the Curragh, helping to restore order, after the Easter Rising in Dublin. By January 1917 they were back training on Salisbury Plain. On 25<sup>th</sup> February 1917 they landed in France.

21<sup>st</sup> March 1918 saw the German Army unleash its massive attack on the Western Front and involved in that battle were the men of the 2/5<sup>th</sup> North Staffordshire Regiment. On 18<sup>th</sup> May the *Gazette* carried a report that Pte. James Lacey was wounded and missing in France. On 10<sup>th</sup> August the *Gazette* carried even more distressing news, as follows :-

*The sad news has reached Wotton-under-Edge, that Pte. James Lacey (North Staffs) died in Germany on the 9<sup>th</sup> April, about three weeks after being wounded and taken prisoner on the Western Front.*

The likelihood is that James died of the wounds he received in battle. He was 34 years of age. James's body was brought back from Germany to Belgium and he lies buried in Tournai South Communal Cemetery, Plot 5, Row M, Grave 16. There are two interesting graves in this cemetery. They are of two Royal Flying Corps Officers, thought to be the first Allied fliers to be brought down in battle. They are Lieut. Vincent Waterfall and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. George Gordon Bayley of No. 5 Squadron. They were shot down on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1914. It was from this success that Germans received their first confirmation that the British Forces had arrived in Belgium.

After the war James's widow Ellen Elizabeth moved to Birmingham, living at 446 Moseley Road. James is remembered on the Tabernacle Roll of Honour in Wotton as well as on the War Memorial.

## 62

**JAMES ELI LAINCHBURY**

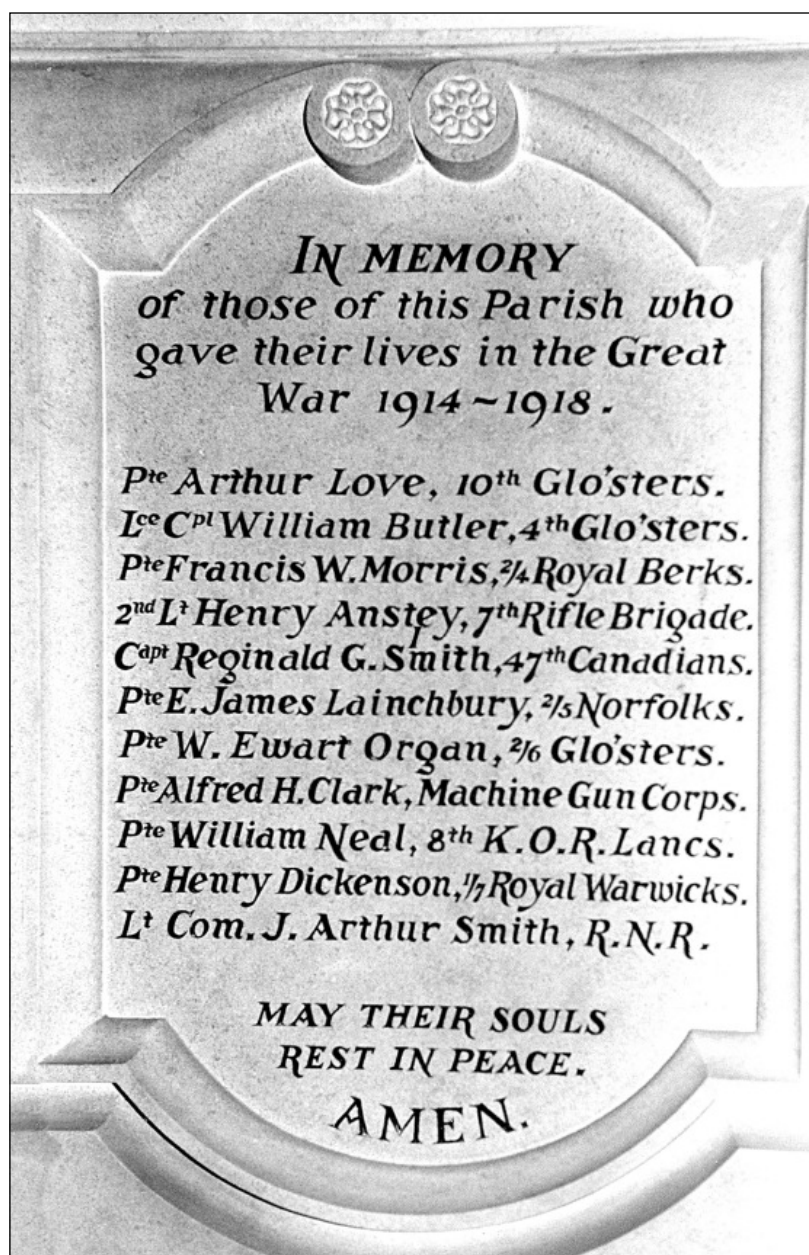
Rank and Unit: Private, 40864, in the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Royal Norfolk Regiment  
 Born: 1882 or '83 in Cromhall, near Wotton-under-Edge  
 Died: Killed in action in France on 27<sup>th</sup> March 1918.  
 Buried in Bouzincourt Ridge Cemetery, France: Plot 11, Row M, Grave 1  
 Age: 36  
 Wife: Florence (née Smith)  
 Child: William

James Eli Lainchbury was born in Cromhall, Gloucestershire, either in 1882 or '83. Before joining the Army he worked as a gamekeeper. In 1905 James married Florence Smith and they had one son, William. James enlisted in Wotton and joined the 7<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion of the Norfolk Regiment, service no. 40864.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Norfolks were formed in Norwich in August 1914, forming part of 35<sup>th</sup> Brigade in 12<sup>th</sup> (Eastern) Division. The Battalion was slow in rising to full strength. Local men only made up a little over half of the strength, the remainder being sent from other counties, James Lainchbury, of course, being one of those. In late August Lord Kitchener expressed concern over the situation which was general throughout East Anglia, so he sent a prominent M.P. to make recruiting speeches throughout the region. The East Anglia press made daily exhortations throughout August and early September to local men. There was a suggestion that farmers should sack single men who had not volunteered after the harvest. Someone even went so far as to suggest that suitable men who had not volunteered, should be shamed by being made to wear petticoats! Martin Middlebrook in his book *Your Country Needs You* believes that the slow uptake was due to the East Anglian nature of being careful, "*thinking matters over before rushing in to a project.*" However, at the end of September men came forward willingly after their harvest had been gathered in.

After their formation the Battalion trained at Shorncliffe, Romney, Littlestone (Kent) and Aldershot. On 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1915 they landed at Boulogne. The Battalion were then involved in all the battles on the Western Front, from the Battle of Loos in September 1915 right up to the 'Advance to Victory' battles of 1918. On 24<sup>th</sup> March 1918, the 35<sup>th</sup> Brigade with the 7<sup>th</sup> Norfolks, were sent to the Albert neighbourhood of the Somme to try to help stave off the German Spring Offensive. On the morning of the 27<sup>th</sup> the Battalion came under heavy shell and machine-gun fire. At 11 a.m. the Germans were advancing in strength on the village of Aveluy, just 2 kms north of Albert, alongside the Ancre River. Both flanks of the Battalion's position came under extreme pressure and they were ordered to fall back. The casualties as a result of the heavy fighting were very high - 5 officers killed, 5 officers wounded, 9 officers missing, 6 other ranks killed, 72 other ranks wounded and 202 other ranks missing. It was during this fighting on 27<sup>th</sup> March that James Lainchbury was killed; he was 36 years of age.

James was buried in Bouzincourt Ridge Cemetery, Somme, Plot 11, Row M, Grave 1. The cemetery lies in fields just off the Bouzincourt - Aveluy road. When Florence Lainchbury was informed of her husband's death, she and son William were living at 4 Orchard Street, Wotton-under-Edge. As well as being remembered on Wotton's War Memorial, James is commemorated on the memorial tablet in Tortworth Church, to the local men killed in the First World War. James's son William took part in the unveiling ceremony of the tablet.



*James Lainchbury's name appears on the War Memorial Tablet in Tortworth Church.*

## 63

### EVAN JOHN LEONARD



Rank and Unit: Private, 203250, in the 2/6<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the  
Warwickshire Regiment  
Born: 9<sup>th</sup> April 1895  
Died: of pneumonia in the Netherlands on 16<sup>th</sup> January 1919.  
Buried in Enschede Eastern General Cemetery, Netherlands  
Age: 23  
Parents: Evan John and Ann Leonard

Evan John Leonard, born on 9<sup>th</sup> April 1895, was the eldest son of Evan John and Ann Leonard of *Southview*, Bradley Street, Wotton-under-Edge. Evan John senior was an organist and music teacher. Evan John junior or 'Jack' as he was popularly known attended the Bluecoat School in Wotton and afterwards Katharine Lady Berkeley's Grammar School, but only for a short time. After leaving school Jack worked on Mr. H. J. Grimes's farm.

Jack Leonard enlisted in the Army early in the war, joining the Royal Field Artillery, service no. 148583. At a later stage he transferred to the Royal Warwickshire Regiment and was drafted into the 2/6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, no. 203250. The Battalion, formed in Birmingham in October 1914 trained in Chelmsford and on Salisbury Plain before crossing to France on 21<sup>st</sup> May 1916 where they joined 182<sup>nd</sup> Brigade of 61<sup>st</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> South Midland) Division, a wholly Territorial Division.



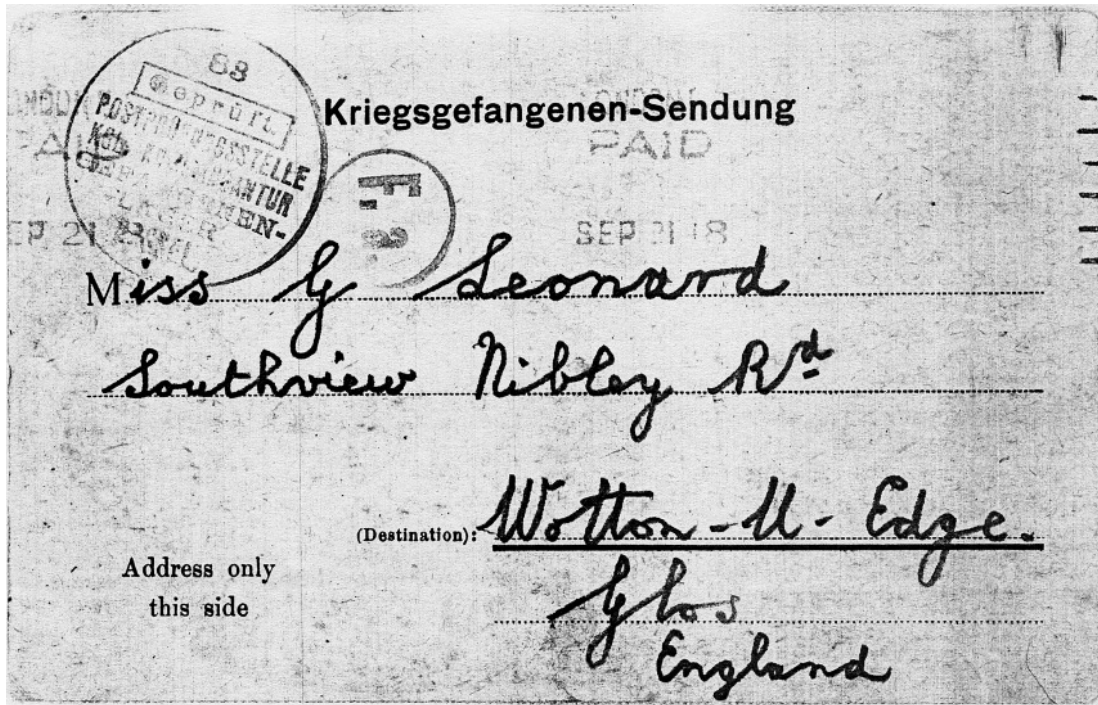
Very soon the Division found itself in major action when it was chosen to take part, with the 5<sup>th</sup> Australian Division in an attack at Fromelles which was supposed to attract a Division of German reserves from the British offensive raging on the Somme. The action was a costly failure which made no impression on German dispositions. The South Midland Battalions failed to get into the German trenches much to the anger of the Australians who did succeed but were then left with an open flank. Fromelles was seen in retrospect as an action that should never have taken place.

The Division remained on the Western Front until the Armistice, seeing action in the Third Battle of Ypres and at Cambrai in 1917 and in all of the main battles of 1918, showing that Territorials could make a significant contribution to British Expeditionary Forces operations.

Pte. Jack Leonard came through the 1916 and 1917 battles unscathed, being attached to the Machine Gun Section. The *Gazette* of March 1918 reported the following in its Wotton pages :-

*Pte. E. J. Leonard received a 'parchment' for an act of gallantry, at Villers Plouich (south-west of Cambrai) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1917. After his section had become casualties he continued to keep his Lewis Gun in action and was largely responsible for the repulsion of an enemy attack.*

However, during the German Spring Offensive in 1918 Jack was taken prisoner and remained in a German prisoner of war camp until the Armistice. On Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> January 1919 Jack's parents were shocked to receive a wire saying that whilst on his way home he had died of pneumonia in



*The envelope which contained Jack Leonard's letter to Gwen Leonard.*

Enschede, Holland the previous day. Jack had thus become Mr. & Mrs. Leonard's second son to die, their youngest son Horace having been killed in action in France in July 1917 (See below).

The Gazette of 25<sup>th</sup> January 1919 printed a letter from a comrade of Jack's who was in captivity with him. It reads :-

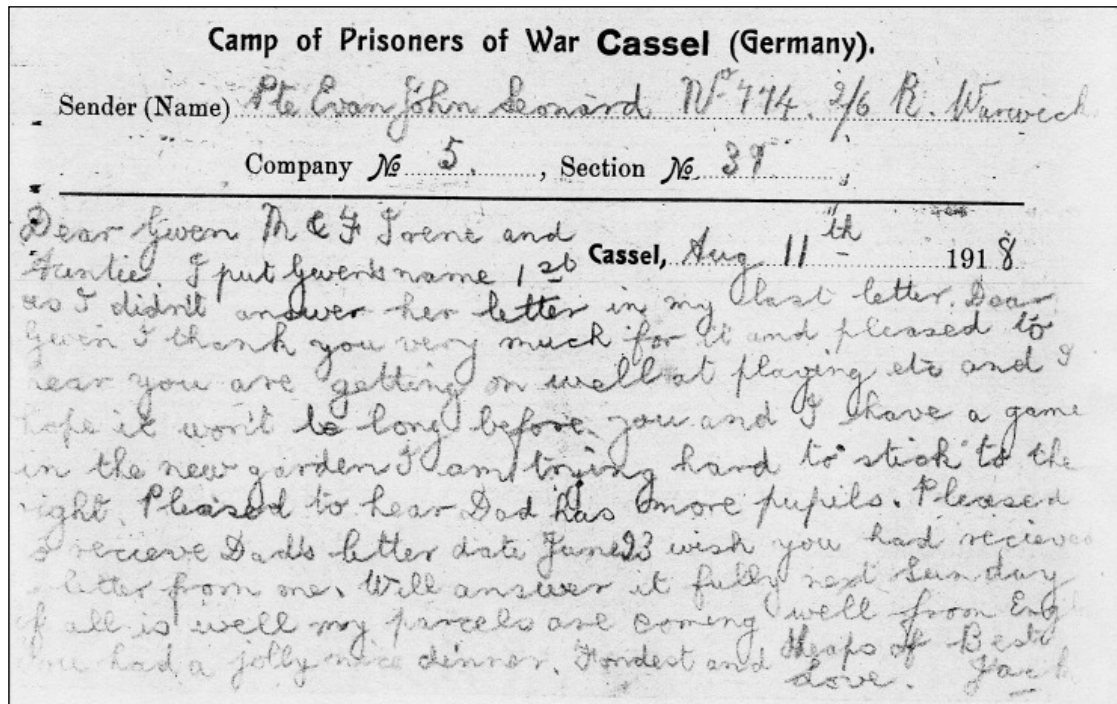
*I was with him till we reached Enschede, Holland, when Jack reported sick. The day before we left Kassel, Germany, Jack said he did not feel very well. I believed he had caught a cold. On the day we left camp, the 7<sup>th</sup> inst. we waited from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. when the engine came and was fastened onto the cattle truck. Jack did not get out very much, but stayed in the truck with a blanket over him and his overcoat on. Once or twice the train stopped for four hours, so we made tea etc. Just before we reached Frankfurt a Sergeant came round and asked if there were any sick. Jack said he did not feel very well. When we reached Frankfurt we were told we should have to go right back via Holland as the French camps were full.*

*Just before we reached the border we changed into a Dutch Red Cross train, which I think was on Friday, the 10<sup>th</sup> inst. and arrived at Enschede about 7 o'clock at night. A Dutch ambulance man came round and asked for sick. Jack did not make up his mind at first, but went to see the Sergeant. When he came back he said he was going sick, so I carried his box along the platform till we came across some other chaps who were also sick, and there I left Jack.*

The writer speaks very highly of Pte. Leonard, adding -

*He was one of the very best chums I ever had. He was also very much liked by the French prisoners who worked in the same village. He was the organist of our small*





*A letter written by Pte. Jack Leonard from Cassel P.O.W. camp, Germany to Miss Gwen Leonard, his parents, Irene and Auntie. Gwen may have been a cousin.*

*church which he attended every Sunday evening.*

Jack was buried in Enschede Eastern General Cemetery. As well as having his name inscribed on Wotton's War Memorial, Jack's name appears on the Tabernacle Church Roll of Honour, having worshipped there as a young man and his name can also be found on the Katharine Lady Berkeley's School Roll of Honour.

## 64

### HORACE IVOR LEONARD



Rank and Unit: Private, 30838, in the 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment  
Born: 1897 in Wotton-under-Edge  
Died: Killed in action in France on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1917.  
Buried in Villers Guislain Communal Cemetery, France: Row D, Grave 3  
Age: 20  
Parents: Evan John and Ann Leonard



Horace Leonard was born in Wotton-under-Edge in 1897, the younger son of Evan John and Ann Leonard of Bradley Street, Wotton. After leaving school Horace first worked for Mr. W. Rogers at his grocery store in Wotton and afterwards at Darby's Store in Clifton, Bristol.

Horace volunteered to join the Army some time in 1915, joining the 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment, the Battalion going by the name of '*The West of England Bantams*'. He enlisted in Bristol and was given the service no. 30838. The Battalion was raised in Bristol by the Citizens Recruiting Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1915. In June the Battalion was training at Masham in Yorkshire. By August they had moved to Salisbury Plain. The Battalion crossed to France, landing at Le Havre on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1916.

One year later the Battalion was in action along the Hindenburg Line, the massive German defensive position. On the 1<sup>st</sup> July the Battalion were in action in Gauche Wood, near Heudicourt, about 15 kms north-east of Peronne. It was during this action that Pte. Leonard lost his life, being killed by a shell. The Battalion Diary for that day reads as follows :-

*Gauche Wood (near Heudicourt)*

*At 1.30 a.m. enemy opened a heavy bombardment on both New and Old Front Line. During the night 1 other rank killed, 1 died of wounds, 8 wounded.*

Horace was no doubt the one 'other rank' killed. He lies buried in Villers Guislain Communal Cemetery, Row D, Grave 3. The cemetery lies alongside the D. 16 road to Gouzeaucourt. Like his brother Jack, Horace's name appears on the Roll of Honour of the Tabernacle Church as well as on Wotton's War Memorial.

## MAURICE WALTER FREETH LEWIS



Rank and Unit: Private, 2193323, in Princess Patricia's Light Infantry  
(196<sup>th</sup> Battalion)  
Born: 4<sup>th</sup> May 1893 in Kingswood, Wotton-under-Edge  
Died: Killed in action in France on 12<sup>th</sup> August 1918.  
Buried in Bouchoir New British Cemetery, France: Plot 4, Row B, Grave 52  
Age: 25  
Parents: William Thomas Lewis and Elizabeth Lewis

Maurice Lewis was born in Kingswood, Wotton-under-Edge on 4<sup>th</sup> May 1893, the second son of William Thomas and Elizabeth Lewis. After leaving school Maurice worked in the office of Tubbs-Lewis at New Mill, Charfield. At the age of 20 Maurice moved to Canada. At the time of joining the Army, Maurice held a responsible position with the Great Northern Fruit Packing Company, managing one of their district branches in Saskatoon.

Maurice enlisted in the Canadian forces on 14<sup>th</sup> April 1917, giving his address as 100 - 38<sup>th</sup> Street, Saskatoon. He joined the 196<sup>th</sup> (Western Universities) Battalion of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, service no. 2193323. His Attestation Paper gives the following personal details - *height 5 feet 5.5 inches, chest 34 inches, complexion - dark, eyes - brown, hair - dark*. On 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1917 Maurice embarked at Halifax and sailed on the *SS Olympia*, which docked at Liverpool on the 9<sup>th</sup>. There followed three months training in England at Seaford, Sussex. On 9<sup>th</sup> September Maurice arrived in France.

The Patricias had already seen much fighting on the Western Front. Raised in Canada on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1914, they sailed for England on 27<sup>th</sup> September. After three months training they crossed to France, arriving at Le Havre on 22<sup>nd</sup> December. They joined up with the 80<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade in 27<sup>th</sup> Division. In the Brigade with them were 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Rifle Brigade, the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Battalions of the King's Royal Rifle Corps and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, King's Shropshire Light Infantry.

The Battalion then saw action in several battles along the Western Front. First at St. Eloi in Belgium on 14<sup>th</sup> March 1915, then the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Ypres from 22<sup>nd</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> May 1915. Next the Battle of Mt. Sorrell near Ypres from March to August 1916, then the Battle of the Somme in September and October 1916 and then Vimy Ridge (part of the Battle of Arras) in April 1917.

On 4<sup>th</sup> November 1917, Pte. Maurice Lewis joined his Battalion in the field and was to see his first action of the war at Passchendaele, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battle of Ypres. Maurice came through that bloody battle unscathed. Between December 1917 and July 1918 the Patricias were not involved in front line action but spent most of their time in training.

On 8<sup>th</sup> August 1918 the Battle of Amiens began when the Allies launched their surprise action; taking part in the battle were the Patricias. Great advances were made with Germans falling back and many being taken prisoner. Many of their guns were captured, indeed the 8<sup>th</sup> August became known as '*the black day of the German Army*'. Sadly, it was during this battle that Maurice Lewis was to lose his life. It happened on 12<sup>th</sup> August, near the village of Parvillers, 36 kms south-east of Amiens. On Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> August, eight days after their son had been killed, William and Elizabeth, who were then living in The Chipping, Wotton-under-Edge, received official confirmation that Maurice had been killed. Then, on 31<sup>st</sup> August, the *Gazette* carried a letter from Capt. Fanbrocke of

the Patricias, stating how Maurice had been killed. He writes :-

*Pte. Lewis died fighting in an attack on a village (Parvillers). An enemy shell fell right in the trench and killed him instantly. He was killed by a small calibre shell, a piece of which pierced his helmet and penetrated to the brain, while another large fragment entered his neck. He died instantly.*

Maurice Lewis lies buried in Bouchoir New British Cemetery, Plot 4, Row B, Grave 52. The cemetery can be found 8 kms north-west of the town of Roye, on the D.934 road to Amiens. A year later an 'In Memoriam' notice was placed in the *Gazette* to Maurice, by his mother, father, sisters and brothers.



*Pte. Maurice Lewis lies in this cemetery -  
Bouchoir New British Cemetery, France.*

66

**ALBERT MARSH**



Rank and Unit: Private, 308273, in the Tank Corps  
Born: 1893  
Died: of influenza in France on 24<sup>th</sup> December 1918.  
Buried in Duisans British Cemetery, France: Plot 8, Row B, Grave 59  
Age: 25  
Parents: Charles and Elizabeth Marsh  
Wife: Jane (née Farmiloe)  
Children: Ivy, Albert Nigel and Ivor

Albert was the son of Charles and Elizabeth Marsh. Charles, who was born in Leighterton, Gloucestershire worked as a farm labourer. At the time of Albert's birth the family were living in Gloucester Street, Wotton-under-Edge. After leaving school Albert worked as a van driver at the Co-operative store in Wotton. Albert married Jane Farmiloe and they made their home at the *Brickyard*, Wotton. The Great War was to bring great tragedy to Jane, as she lost not only her husband, but a brother - Frank (38) and a brother-in-law, Bill Exell (37).



Albert first served in the Norfolk Regiment before transferring to the Tank Corps, service no. 308273. A number of years ago I met Albert's son Ivor, who was able to show me some of his father's war medals; inscribed along the rim of one were the words 'Norfolk Regiment' and his service no. 202333. Albert served on the Western Front for over two years, part of that time in the 1<sup>st</sup> Tank Carrier Unit, with which unit he was able to celebrate the Armistice on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918. Then on Christmas Eve in Wotton-under-Edge, with everyone celebrating peace and looking forward to Christmas, came the shocking news that Albert was dangerously ill in hospital. Only a couple of days later Jane received the following letter from an officer in the Tank Corps, for whom Albert was a batman :-

*Dear Mrs. Marsh,*

*It is with very real regret that I have to corroborate the news already notified you by the War Office as to your husband's death. He has been attached to me personally during the whole time he has been with the company, so I can assure you that I am qualified to say that in his duty and in his invariably cheery manner, he left nothing to be desired either as a soldier or as an officer's servant, in which latter capacity he was employed.*

*He contracted influenza about 10 days ago and no improvement being apparent after two days in bed, he was sent to hospital where he passed quietly away at mid-day on the 24<sup>th</sup> December. He is buried in the British Cemetery about 4 miles outside Arras, and just off the main Arras-St. Pol road. I myself attended his funeral, together with a party of his comrades,*

*Believe me, faithfully yours,  
G. Bruce Westall  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. Tank Corps*

Albert was buried in Duisans British Cemetery, Plot 8, Row B, Grave 59. He was 25 years of age and became another victim of the great influenza pandemic of 1918-1919. On 17<sup>th</sup> March 1917 a



*Silks were colourfully embroidered post-cards, a phenomenon of the First World War. Silks were normally enclosed in envelopes and posted from France to loved ones back home or they were brought home by soldiers returning on leave. These examples were received by Jane Marsh from her soldier husband Albert.*



short article in the *Gazette* stated that Albert was in hospital in Doncaster suffering from double pneumonia. Could this earlier illness have been a factor in his death, twenty-one months later? Albert left not only a wife, but three small children, Ivy, Ivor and Albert Nigel. Another tragedy was to strike the family in less than two years, when Jane was to die in her home in Gloucester Street on 15<sup>th</sup> November 1920, just 27 years of age. This now left the children as orphans, but they were soon taken in and brought up by three different aunts.



*Jane Marsh*

Source: Silks and Jane's photograph  
courtesy of Ivor Marsh



*Duisans British Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France.  
This is where Albert Marsh lies buried.*

67

## HENRY GEORGE MAY



Rank and Unit: Corporal, 18645, in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Worcestershire Regiment  
Born: 1896 in Wotton-under-Edge  
Died: Killed in action in France on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1918.  
Commemorated on the Pozières Memorial, France: Panel 41  
Age: 22  
Parents: Nun and Mary May



The month of April 1918 was a devastating one for Nun and Mary May of Sinwell Lane, Wotton-under-Edge, for in that month they received the awful news that two of their sons had been killed on the Western Front. On 1<sup>st</sup> April Cpl. Henry May was killed in France during the German Spring Offensive and only two weeks later Pte. William May was killed in Belgium.

Henry or 'Harry' as he was known was the tenth child of Nun and Mary May. Both Nun and Mary had worked at Tubbs-Lewis Mills and many of their children were to follow them there including Harry. Harry was born in Wotton in 1896. As a young man he attended Wotton Baptist Church. He enlisted in Wotton at the outbreak of the war, joining the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Worcestershire Regiment, service no. 18645. In the *Gazette* of 30<sup>th</sup> September 1916 there is a report of Harry being wounded and receiving treatment in a hospital back in England at Tunbridge Wells. In December of that year Harry spent some time on leave at his home in Wotton.

The *Gazette* of 9<sup>th</sup> December 1916, under the heading - '*Soldier Brothers Home Together*', gives details of the war experiences of Harry and his brother George who survived the war. It reads as follows :-

*Among Wottonians home on leave last week were the two soldier sons of Mr. Nun May, both of whom have been serving in France since early in 1915. The elder, Pte. George May belonged to the Royal Army Medical Corps and in spite of the dangerous character of his work, his unit has often been under fire and has suffered many casualties. He has been fortunate enough to come through without sustaining a scratch. He brought many interesting relics from the battlefield, including a German helmet and a portion of a hat of a Bavarian officer who had been 'blown to bits'.*

*Lance Cpl. Harry May has just recovered from wounds. Although only 18 he joined up in the first days of recruiting and has seen a very great deal of heavy fighting, belonging to a Battalion of the Worcesters which has made fame for itself on more than one occasion. Lance Cpl. May has been 'over the top' no less than five times. On the last occasion-when he was wounded-he was one of five specially selected for a bombing raid. The raid was of very*





*Cpl. Henry May is commemorated on  
the Pozières Memorial, France.*

*important character and their officer promised the five heroes a reward if they were successful. That they accomplished what was required of them is proved by the fact that while he was at home Lance Cpl. May's share of the reward came in the shape of 14 shillings in cash. The brothers have now returned - Pte. George to France and the other to Exmouth, having been transferred to another unit.*

Eventually Harry returned to France and for the next 16 months saw considerable action on the Western Front; during this time he was promoted Corporal. As a result of the Russian Revolution in October 1917 and her dropping out of the Alliance, Germany could now release thousands of troops who had been fighting on the Eastern Front and move them to France and Belgium. Germany now saw its chance to make a thrust in the west because of its numerical advantage; the United States wasn't to enter the war in large numbers until July 1918. So began the Kaiser's Battle or 'Kaiserschlacht', the German Spring Offensive on the Western Front, the first day of which was 21<sup>st</sup> March 1918.

28<sup>th</sup> March saw the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Worcesters in the Moreville Wood area of the Front, 16 kms south-east of Amiens. The Battalion Diary for 1<sup>st</sup> April reads as follows :-

*"Battalion holding a line on the west side of Moreville Wood. A very quiet day. The cavalry made an attack north of the wood assisted by very numerous aeroplanes which was successful."*

Harry was killed on this 'very quiet day' probably by a sniper or a stray shell. He was 22 years old. His body was not recovered after the fighting so he is commemorated on the Pozières Memorial to the Missing, Panel 4. The Memorial is found in the Pozières British Cemetery just outside the village

of Pozières and alongside the D. 929 road from Albert to Bapaume. The Memorial commemorates the men of the British 5<sup>th</sup> Army with no known graves. There are over 14,600 names, most of them relating to the fighting in this area during the German offensive of March-April 1918.

The *Gazette* of 11<sup>th</sup> May 1918 contained a poem to Harry's memory, composed by a cousin, Pte. H. G. Allen who served with the Army Service Corps during the war. It was entitled :-



### *'My Cousin Har'*

When first the country called to arms,  
Her bravest and her best,  
My cousin Har was one to go  
Along with all the rest;  
Shall we forget that bygone day,  
When he a soldier marched away,  
Thinking naught of life and freedom,  
But duty to his King and Kingdom.  
He took the oath before his God,  
To serve his homeland well,  
And by those words he fought and died,  
And like a soldier fell.  
Now he sleeps. No more he fights;  
His duty done, no more to roam  
No more to face the shot and shell,  
For God has called him home.

There is a photograph of Harry and William his brother, in Army uniform in this same edition of the *Gazette*. Harry and William are commemorated on their young sisters' grave in St. Mary's churchyard in Wotton (see above).

## 68

### WILLIAM NUN MAY



Rank and Unit: Private, 34351, in the 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment  
Born: 1890 in Plymouth  
Died: Killed in action in Belgium on 14<sup>th</sup> April 1918.  
Commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium: Bay 5  
Age: 28  
Parents: Nun and Mary May  
Wife: Elsie Florence (née Durn)



William Nun May was the seventh child of Nun and Mary May of Sinwell Lane, Wotton-under-Edge. He was born in Plymouth in 1890. After leaving school he worked for Tubbs-Lewis & Co., as did most of his brothers and sisters. William enlisted in the Army in Bristol on 12<sup>th</sup> August 1917, being posted to the 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion ('Bristol's Own') of the Gloucestershire Regiment, service no. 34351. This Battalion was raised at Bristol by the Citizens Recruiting Committee on 30<sup>th</sup> August 1914. It landed in France on 21<sup>st</sup> November 1915. It saw service there until November 1917 when it was sent to Italy. It was whilst they were in Italy, helping to push back the Austrian Army, that William joined his Battalion.

Whilst on leave in Wotton in September 1917, William married Elsie Florence Durn (usually known as 'May'), of *Rose Cottage*, Kingswood, the marriage taking place in Kingswood Parish Church. It wasn't long before William had to return to his Battalion in Italy. In March 1918 they moved back to the Western Front to help to try to counteract the German Spring Offensive. Just a month later the 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion were in the front line at La Motte-au-Bois, close to the French-Belgian border, 5 kms south of the town of Hazebrouck. On 14<sup>th</sup> April the Battalion Diary noted that there was heavy enemy shelling but no infantry action. One Other Rank was killed and four wounded. The 'Other Rank' killed must have been Pte. William May. He was 28 years old. William's body was not recovered so he is commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Panel 5, Belgium. The Memorial is about 17 kms south of Ypres and 2 kms north of the village of Ploegsteert, alongside the N.365 road. The Memorial is in the form of a Rotunda, it contains 11,447 names of men who were killed in local battles and have no known graves.

The *Gazette* of 11<sup>th</sup> May 1918 contained accounts of the death of William and his brother Harry, together with photographs of the two young men. Like his brother, William was a member of the Baptist Church in Wotton. The brothers are remembered on the grave of their two young sisters in St. Mary's churchyard in Wotton, the grave contains the following inscription :-

*In  
Affectionate  
Remembrance Of  
The Two Sons Of  
Nun and Mary May.  
Cpl. Henry George May  
Killed in France. April 1<sup>st</sup> 1918  
Aged 22 Years  
Also Pt. William Nun May  
Killed in France April 14<sup>th</sup> 1918  
Aged 28 years.  
The Dearly Beloved Husband Of  
Elsie May  
Ever Lovingly Remembered By Their  
Father, Mother, Wife, Sisters & Brothers  
Honour To Those In Battle Slain  
Who Died That We May Freedom Gain.  
To Their Brave Memory Homage Give,  
On History's Page Their Deeds Shall Live.  
Lucy May  
Died January 6<sup>th</sup> 1889, Aged 6 Weeks.  
Elsie May  
Died April 8<sup>th</sup> 1894, Aged 2 years.*



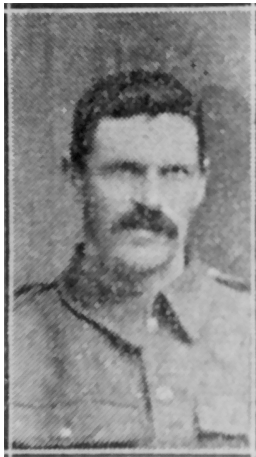
*The Ploegsteert Memorial to the Missing, located 17 kms south of Ypres, Belgium. It bears the names of 11,447 men who died in this area, throughout the war. Included amongst them is Pte. William Nun May.*

69

**THOMAS MEADOWS**



Rank and Unit: Private, 24393, in the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment  
Born: 1878 in Podington, Bedfordshire  
Died: Killed in action in France on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1916.  
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, France  
Age: 38  
Wife: Name not known  
Children: Four, but names not known



Thomas Meadows was a native of Bedfordshire, having been born in the village of Podington, near Rushden in 1878. He moved to Wotton-under-Edge in 1911 to work as under-gardener at *The Ridge* (see 'Bengough', no. 8). The Meadows family, Thomas, his wife and four children lived in Valley Road in Wotton.

Thomas enlisted in the Gloucestershire Regiment in Wotton in August 1915, joining the 8<sup>th</sup> Service Battalion, service no. 24393. The 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion formed part of 57<sup>th</sup> Brigade along with the 10<sup>th</sup> Royal Warwickshire Regiment, the 10<sup>th</sup> Worcesters and the 8<sup>th</sup> North Staffs. On 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1916 they were in the thick of things, fighting in the Battle of the Somme and occupying trenches in the Tara-Usna Line sector of the Front. All day they were involved in fighting the enemy. On the next day at 1.30 a.m. they moved forward to attack the enemy via St. Andrew's Avenue Trench.

This trench led north-east from the town of Albert to the village of La Boisselle. The attack on La Boisselle went in at 3.15 a.m.

Commanding the 8<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters in this attack was Lieut. Col. Carton de Wiart, D.S.O. Adrian Carton de Wiart had been in the Army since 1899 and had lost an eye in Somalia and a hand at Zonnebeke, Belgium, in addition to being wounded several other times. He was awarded the Victoria Cross for his work at La Boisselle. In his Memoirs Carton de Wiart plays down his part in the attack, remarking, "*During that engagement I was compelled to use some bombs for the first and last time and found a new use for my teeth, pulling the pins out; I was thankful that my teeth were my own.*"

Another soldier in the 57<sup>th</sup> Brigade also won a V.C. at La Boisselle on 3<sup>rd</sup> July. Pte. Tom Turrall of the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Worcestershire Regiment stayed out all day beyond the village with a wounded officer, Lieut. Richard Jennings, and brought him in after dark. At one time both men were completely cut off from British troops, but Turrall held the ground and brought Lieut. Jennings in when a counter attack made it possible. Unfortunately Jennings, who was the son of the Rev. Jennings, Rector of King's Stanley, Gloucestershire, died soon after in a dressing station. Before he died Jennings was able to tell his colleagues of Turrall's bravery. For a fuller account of this event, see Michael Stedman's book *La Boisselle*, published by Leo Cooper, pages 69-71.

Thomas Meadows was found later in the day, lying in a newly taken German trench. According to Major C. H. Harding of the 8<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters, writing in the Battalion Diary, the action at La Boisselle cost the Battalion dearly, 6 officers were killed; 14 wounded and 280 other ranks were

either killed or were missing. Unfortunately Pte. Meadows's body was lost in further fighting and so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Pier and Faces 5A & 5B. There is a photograph of Thomas in the *Gazette* of 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1916.



*Pte. Thomas Meadows was killed near this spot. This is the extraordinary mine crater at La Boisselle. This is the largest mine crater on the Western Front. It was set off at 7.28 a.m. on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916 at the commencement of the Battle of the Somme.*

## 70

### FREDERICK GEORGE NEALE



Rank and Unit: Private, 240654, in the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment  
Born: 8<sup>th</sup> March 1895 in Plymouth  
Died: Killed in action in France on 16<sup>th</sup> August 1916.  
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, France: Pier 5, Faces A & B  
Age: 21  
Parents: John Neale. Mother's name not known.



Frederick George Neale was born in Plymouth on 8<sup>th</sup> March 1895, the eldest son of Mr. & Mrs. John Neale. George, as he was known, attended the British School, Wotton-under-Edge from 1<sup>st</sup> September 1902 until 16<sup>th</sup> April 1908. After leaving school, like many other local youngsters, George went to work in one of Tubbs-Lewis mills. At that time the family were living in Gloucester Row, Wotton.

George enlisted in Wotton as a Territorial on 30<sup>th</sup> August 1914 and was posted to the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment. He served in 'C' Company with the service no. 240654. He was drafted to France with his Battalion, landing at Boulogne on 29<sup>th</sup> March 1915.

George saw action with his Battalion in the Ploegsteert area of Belgium and later moved with his Battalion to the Somme area of France. The First Battle of the Somme commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916 and was still raging on 30<sup>th</sup> September, when an announcement appeared in the *Gazette* that Pte. Neale had been wounded on 16<sup>th</sup> August. Sadly, another report appeared on 14<sup>th</sup> October, stating that Pte. Neale was now 'believed killed'. This phrase was repeated an agonising ten months later in the *Gazette* of 11<sup>th</sup> August 1917. One can only imagine the torment the family were going through, as they awaited official confirmation of these reports. It is not clear when official news arrived of George's death, but in the *Gazette* of 16<sup>th</sup> August 1919 an 'In Memoriam' notice appeared, as follows :-

*Neale, Pte. Frederick George, 1/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment. Eldest son of Mr. & Mrs. John Neale, 6 Gloucester Street, wounded and missing 16<sup>th</sup> August 1916, presumed killed on that date.*

*Mother, father, sister and brother.*

A similar entry appeared on 14<sup>th</sup> August 1920. The Battalion Diary for 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> August 1916 contained the following :-

*"Ovillers / La Boisselle*

*'C' Company party on way to relieve post near Anzacs heavily shelled.*

*Lt. Hawkins buried by shell and bruised. Other ranks - one killed and one missing."*

The likelihood is that George Neale was the 'missing' soldier. George was just 21 years old. Since his body was not removed from the battlefield, he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, on the old Somme Battlefield, Pier 5, Faces A & B. Pte. Neale's medals are on display in the Soldiers



of Gloucestershire Museum, Gloucester, GL1 2HE; they were presented to the Museum by Mr. G. Hale in 1984. A photograph of Pte. Neale appeared in the *Bristol Times & Mirror* of 1<sup>st</sup> April 1916.



*Ovillers Military Cemetery. It was in this vicinity that George Neale lost his life.*



## 71

### RALPH ELLIOT NOYES

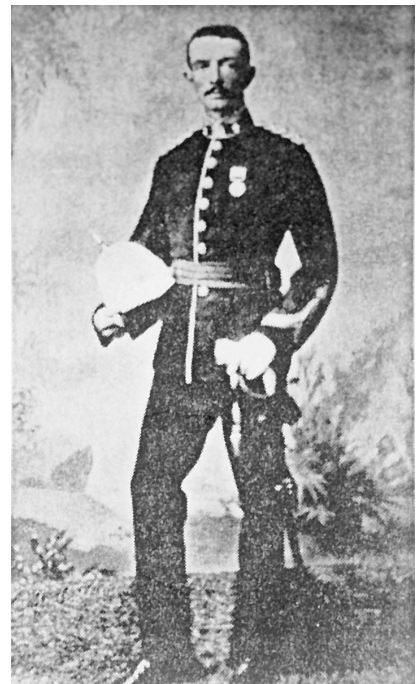


Rank and Unit: Major in the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment  
Born: 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1873  
Died: Killed in action in France on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1915.  
Commemorated on the Loos Memorial to the Missing, Panels 44 & 45,  
Dud Corner Cemetery, France  
Age: 42  
Parents: Colonel George Augustus Noyes and Helena Noyes (née Elliot)  
Wife: Florence E. M. Godson  
Child: A son - Richard Ralph George Gower Godson

Ralph Elliot Noyes was born on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1873, the second son of Colonel George Augustus and Helena Noyes. Colonel Noyes served with the Royal Artillery in Valetta, Malta. At various times he lived in St. Stephen's Road, Cheltenham, and at *Redesdale*, The Park, also in Cheltenham.

Ralph Noyes attended Cheltenham College between May and December 1886 and on 21<sup>st</sup> October 1893 was commissioned as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the Yorkshire Regiment (Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own). Promoted Lieutenant in December 1896 he saw service on the North-West Frontier of India in 1897 and 1898. For his service there he received the India General Service medal with two clasps.

Lieutenant Noyes rose to the rank of Major in 1910, retiring from the Army in 1911 and came to live at Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire. Ralph married Florence Godson in Kew, Surrey, at about this time. A boy, Richard Ralph George Gower Godson, was born on 11<sup>th</sup> April 1913. On the outbreak of war, as an officer of the Reserve, he was recalled for service, being appointed a Major in the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Yorkshire Regiment and going to France on 10<sup>th</sup> September 1915. On the 25<sup>th</sup> the Battalion was detailed for the British offensive taking place at Loos, where the objective was Hill 70, a low hill with bare sides, lying to the east of Loos and a heavily fortified German strong point. By the 26<sup>th</sup>, the unit, together with others having the same objective, was already at the limits of physical endurance, but they succeeded in pushing over the top of the crest, being cut down as they tried to advance further. The 10<sup>th</sup> Yorkshires lost their Commanding Officer and the next three senior officers, one of whom was Major Noyes, all within a few moments of each other. Ralph Noyes has no known grave and is commemorated on the Loos Memorial to the Missing in Dud Corner Cemetery. He left a widow and son, Richard Ralph George Gower Godson Noyes, who also served as an officer in his late father's Regiment.



Source: *Leaving All That Was Dear: Cheltenham in the Great War.*

J. Devereux & G. Sacker,  
Promenade Publications, 1997

It is not known what Ralph Elliot Noyes's connection was with Wotton-under-Edge, nor why his name is inscribed on Wotton's War Memorial. In Cheltenham he is commemorated on the War Memorial in the Parade and also on a tablet in St. Stephen's Church, St. Stephen's Road. Major

Noyes is incorrectly attributed to the Lancashire Regiment on the Roll of Honour in Wotton's Town Hall.



*Dud Corner Cemetery, Loos, France, on a cold and foggy morning in October. Major Ralph Noyes's name is inscribed on the Memorial to the Missing at the back of the cemetery.*

## 72

### FREDERICK ORGAN



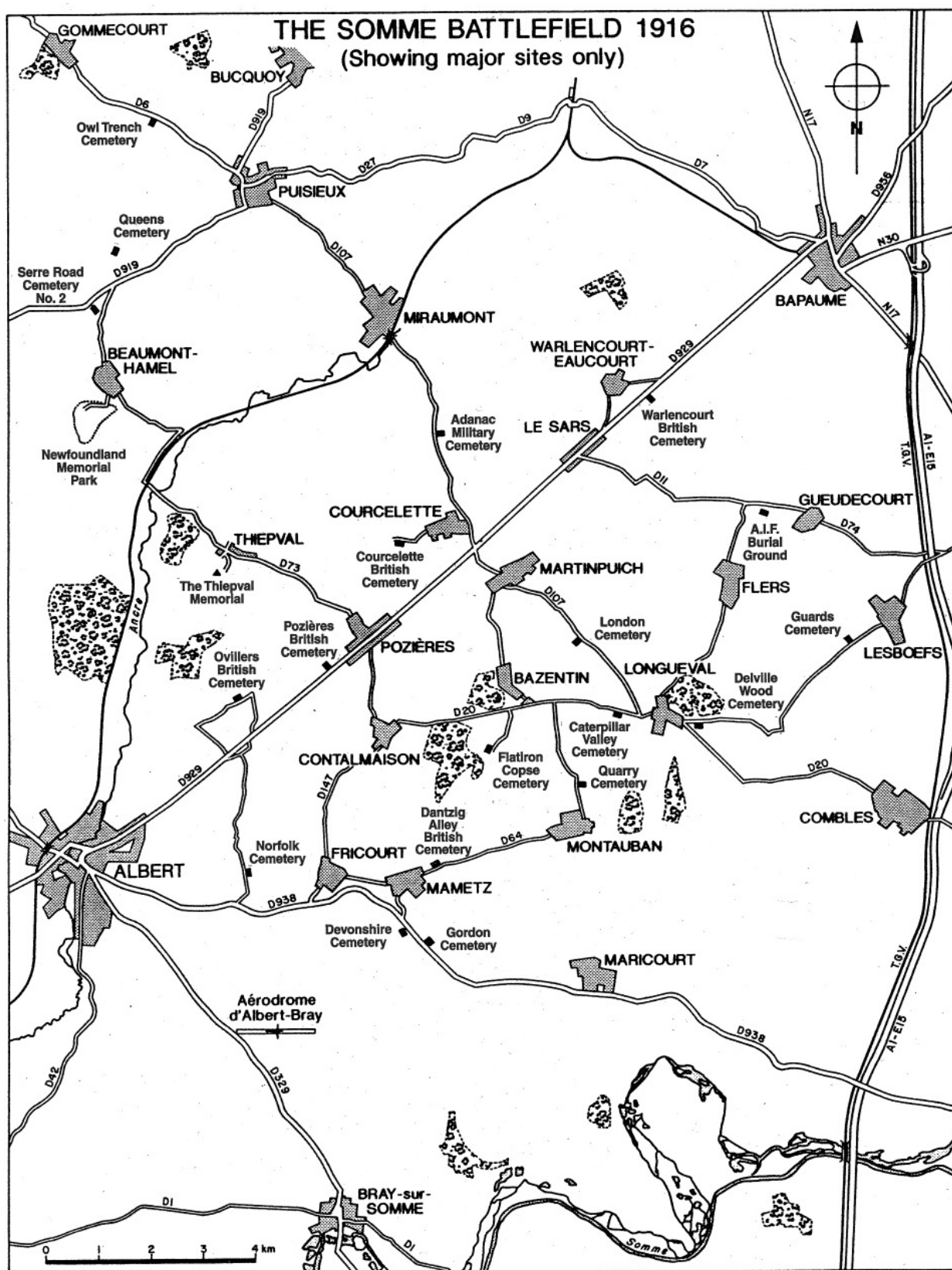
Rank and Unit: Private, 241692, in the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment  
Born: 16<sup>th</sup> May 1892 in Wotton-under-Edge  
Died: Killed in action in France on 4<sup>th</sup> September 1916.  
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, France  
Age: 24  
Parents: Henry and Mary Organ

Frederick Organ (Fred) was the youngest of the eight children of Henry and Mary Organ of Market Street, Wotton-under-Edge. All the family were born in Wotton including Fred's parents, Fred being born on 16<sup>th</sup> May 1892. Fred's brothers and sisters were - Lucy, Ralph, Frank, Florence, Arthur, Blanche and Henry. All the boys served in the First World War, Fred being the only one to lose his life. Fred attended Wotton's British School from 13<sup>th</sup> March 1899 until 30<sup>th</sup> November 1906. After leaving school Fred worked for Tubbs-Lewis in one of their local cloth mills. Fred attended both the Tabernacle and Baptist Churches in Wotton.

In December 1915 Fred enlisted in Wotton and joined the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Territorials) of the Gloucestershire Regiment, service no. 241692. Fred was to see action with his Battalion in France during the spring and summer of 1916. Fred now became attached to the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Devonshire Regiment, part of 20<sup>th</sup> Brigade in 7<sup>th</sup> Division. It was whilst he was with the Devons that Fred was killed.

On 1<sup>st</sup> September 1916 the 9<sup>th</sup> Devons, after training at Buire, embussed for Mametz and then marched to Montauban, from there they went along Ginchy Avenue trench into positions. The mission of the Devons was to capture the village of Ginchy, 1.5 kms north-east of Guillemont. At 8 a.m. on 4<sup>th</sup> September the 9<sup>th</sup> Division, with the help of a company of 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Border Regiment, went over the top and got into Ginchy, where the Battalion ran into a storm of machine-gun fire which forced them to withdraw after having received considerable losses - 3 officers killed, 12 or more wounded. Out of 700 men who took part in the attack, only half remained to be relieved after dark by the Gordon Highlanders and to drag themselves back to Montauban. It was during this attack on Ginchy that Fred lost his life, he was 24 years old. Fred's body was not recovered after the battle, so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme. It wasn't until July 1917, ten months later, that Fred's parents had official confirmation that he had been killed in battle on 4<sup>th</sup> September 1916.

In Wotton Fred's name appears on the Tabernacle Church Roll of Honour as well as on the town's War Memorial. Another soldier who fought and died with the 9<sup>th</sup> Devons was William Noel Hodgson, son of the Vicar of Thornbury, Gloucestershire. Hodgson, who gained the Military Cross for bravery was a famous war poet, his most famous poem probably being *Before Action* written only two days before his death during the Battle of the Somme (1<sup>st</sup> July 1916).



## 73

### WALTER GEORGE PAGETT



Rank and Unit: Private, PO/485(S), in the Royal Marine Light Infantry  
Born: 26<sup>th</sup> May 1893  
Died: Killed in action in Gallipoli on 28<sup>th</sup> May 1915.  
Commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Gallipoli  
Age: 22  
Parents: George Simpson Pagett and Kate Pagett



Walter George Pagett, born on 26<sup>th</sup> May 1893 was the son of George Simpson Pagett (grocer's porter) and Kate Pagett (from Radstock in Somerset). Walter had an elder brother, William, and a sister, Sarah. According to the 1891 Census George and Kate were living in Merlin Haven, Wotton; at some later stage they moved to the Chipping. Walter attended the British School from 4<sup>th</sup> December 1899 until 15<sup>th</sup> June 1906. On leaving school he worked as a draper's errand boy.

Walter served with the Royal Marine Light Infantry during the war, his unit being the Portsmouth Battalion of the Royal Naval Division. His service no. being PO/485(S). There is a photograph of Walter wearing his Naval uniform, with the caption *HMS Impregnable*, in the *Bristol Times & Mirror* of 1<sup>st</sup> April 1916.

Walter took part in the Gallipoli campaign and was killed in action there on 28<sup>th</sup> May 1915, just two days after his twenty-second birthday. Walter's body was not recovered after the battle and so he is commemorated on the Helles Memorial at the southern tip of the Gallipoli Peninsula (see below). In Wotton, Walter is remembered on the Tabernacle Church Roll of Honour (donated to the Heritage Centre on the closure of the church) as well as on the town's War Memorial.



## 74

### ALBERT PARKER



Rank and Unit: Private in the Royal Engineers (Railway Battalion)  
Born: 1870  
Died: at his home in The Steep, Wotton-under-Edge on 13<sup>th</sup> October 1916.  
Buried in the Tabernacle Church Burial Ground, Wotton-under-Edge  
Age: 46  
Parents: James and Jane Parker

Albert Parker was one of the six children of James and Jane Parker of 20 Bradley Street, Wotton-under-Edge, being born in 1870. James Parker worked in one of the local cloth mills. Albert's brothers and sisters were :- George, born in 1862, Florence in 1875, Edith in 1880, Arthur in 1884 and Harry, born some time after 1891. Before joining the Army Albert was a mail cart driver. The *Gazette* of 21<sup>st</sup> October 1916 gives an account of Albert's service career, death and funeral. It reads :-

*The death occurred on the 13th inst. of Mr. Albert Parker, a native of Wotton-under-Edge, recently discharged from the Army. He enlisted in the Engineers (Railway Battalion) in August of last year (1915) and was sent to France in a fortnight. He was abroad 6 months but had to be invalided home suffering from the effects of gas-poisoning. After treatment at a Reading military hospital he was drafted to Southampton and again sent to the front line, but owing to illness was finally discharged. He has since been in poor health, it is thought to the effects of being gassed. Death occurred at The Steep, Wotton. Deceased's age was 46. The funeral took place on Wednesday, October 18th at the Tabernacle burial ground, Wotton-under-Edge, the Rev. A. T Cosford officiating. The chief mourners were Messrs. Harry Parker (Bristol), George Parker (Dursley), Arthur Parker (Cardiff), brothers and the Misses Florence and Edith Parker (sisters).*



*New Mill, Charfield*

Courtesy of Wotton-under-Edge Heritage Centre

75

## JOE ANTHONY FRANCIS PARKINSON



Rank and Unit: Lieutenant in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Dorsetshire Regiment  
Died: Killed in action in France on 13<sup>th</sup> October 1914.  
Commemorated on Le Touret Memorial, France  
Parents: Thomas and Ada Blanche Parkinson

Joe Anthony Francis Parkinson, known as 'Billy', was the youngest son of Thomas and Ada Blanche Parkinson of *The Ridge*, near Wotton-under-Edge. Nothing is known of Billy's early career, but it is likely that he was a regular soldier, serving in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Dorset Regiment. The 1<sup>st</sup> Dorsets were part of the 5<sup>th</sup> Division, one of the original 6 Divisions of the British Expeditionary Force. The 1<sup>st</sup> Dorsets sailed from Belfast on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1914, landing at Le Havre on 16<sup>th</sup> August. Together with the 1<sup>st</sup> Norfolks, the 1<sup>st</sup> Cheshires, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Bedfordshires they formed the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade. The Brigade were soon in action at the Battle of Mons, this was followed by action at Le Cateau, the Marne and the Aisne before the Battalion moved to the La Bassée sector of the front.



*Le Touret Memorial is found in Le Touret Military Cemetery, between B  thune and Arment  res in the Pas-de-Calais department of France. The memorial lists over 13,000 men who died in this section of the Western Front, and who have no known grave. The memorial was designed by J. R. Truelove and was unveiled in March 1930*

Source: Commonwealth War Graves Commission

On 12<sup>th</sup> October the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade found themselves in action against the Germans near the village of Givenchy, 8 kms east of Béthune. During the day's fighting the 1<sup>st</sup> Dorsets lost 11 men killed, 30 wounded and 2 missing. At 5.30 a.m. on the 13<sup>th</sup> the attack by the 5<sup>th</sup> Division resumed in an early morning mist. Lieut. Billy Parkinson in 'D' Company of the 1<sup>st</sup> Dorsets lost his life when the Germans brought up a field howitzer battery, concentrating their fire on 'D' Company who had found themselves in the open. Capt. Davidson Commanding 'D' Company was also killed at this time. Altogether the 1<sup>st</sup> Dorsets lost 4 officers killed, 7 wounded and 4 missing, of other ranks 14 were killed, 122 wounded and 284 missing, all as a result of their action on 13<sup>th</sup> October. Some days later a burial party discovered 130 other ranks killed.

Lieut. Parkinson's body was not found after the battle and so he is commemorated on Le Touret Memorial in France.



## 76

### FRANK PEARCE



Rank & Unit: Private, 7316, in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment  
Born: 1886  
Died: Killed in action in Belgium on 5<sup>th</sup> November 1914.  
Commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Belgium  
Age: 28  
Parents: Henry and Jane Pearce

Frank Pearce was born in 1886, the second son of Henry and Jane Pearce. Henry, a farm labourer, was born in Kingswood in 1865 and his wife Jane was born in 1856 in Wotton-under-Edge. Frank's elder brother was William, nine years his senior. After Frank there followed three more children :- Harry, born in 1888, Albert in 1890 and a daughter born some time after 1891.

Frank enlisted in Stroud in November 1903 and at the outbreak of war in 1914 was probably on the Reserve list when he was called up into the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment. Frank was drafted to France on 13<sup>th</sup> August only nine days after Britain declared war on Germany.

When Frank was killed on 5<sup>th</sup> November 1914, his battalion were engaged in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battle of Ypres in Belgium. The Battalion Diary for 1<sup>st</sup> November to the 6<sup>th</sup> has this to say about the action :-

*The Battalion remained in Herenthage Wood being continually called up by day and night to support the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade and parts of the 7<sup>th</sup> Division on the Veldhoek Line. During this time the Battalion was about 300 strong. In the counter supporting attacks made by the Regiment on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, Capt. A. McLeod was killed and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. R. M. Grazebrook was wounded. About 200 men arrived under Capt. Pritchett but no record was kept as the draft went straight into action on arrival. Capt. Blunt slightly wounded on 2<sup>nd</sup> November and away from Battalion for 4 days in the Regimental dressing station at Ypres. On night of November 5<sup>th</sup> [when Frank was killed] the Battalion moved back to Bellevalde Farm near Hooze Chateau, remained there till 4 p.m. November 6<sup>th</sup> when they marched to Zillebeke to reinforce the line which had been broken there by the Germans. Orders were received that night to clear the Germans out of the wood just east of Zillebeke, but the Battalion were held up by barbed wire and machine gun fire and had to withdraw to a line between the wood and the village, where they dug in.*

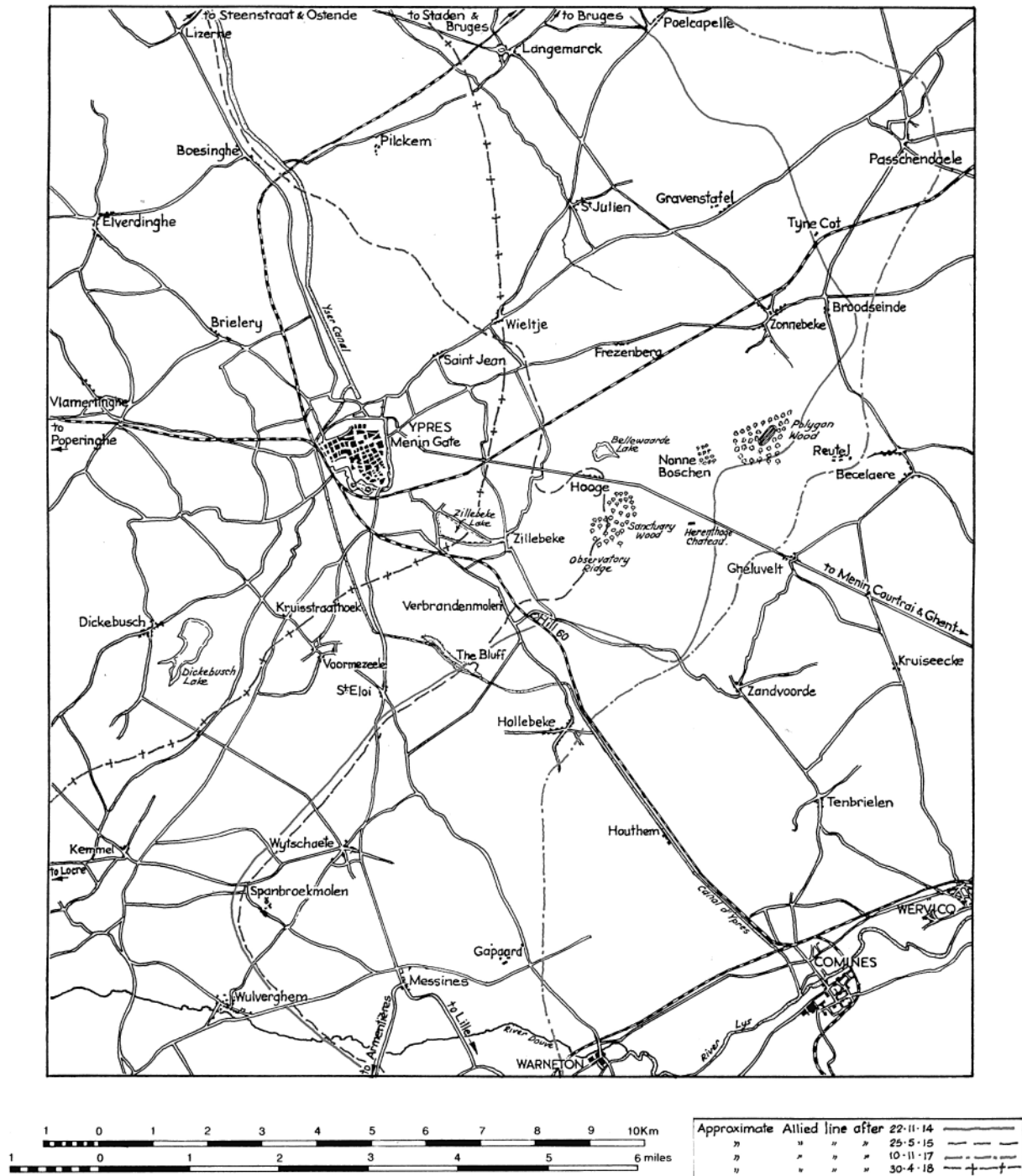
Having no known grave, Frank is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres. In the Gazette of 10<sup>th</sup> November 1917, page 5, three years after Frank's death, this 'In Memoriam' notice appeared :-

*Pearce. In ever loving memory of our dear son and brother, Pte. Frank Pearce, who was killed in action November 5<sup>th</sup> 1914 at Ypres. Ever remembered by his loving Mother, Father, Sister and Brother and Aunt Polly.*

*Though lost to sight, to memory ever dear.*

A similar 'In Memoriam' appeared in the Gazette of 8<sup>th</sup> November 1919, page 4.

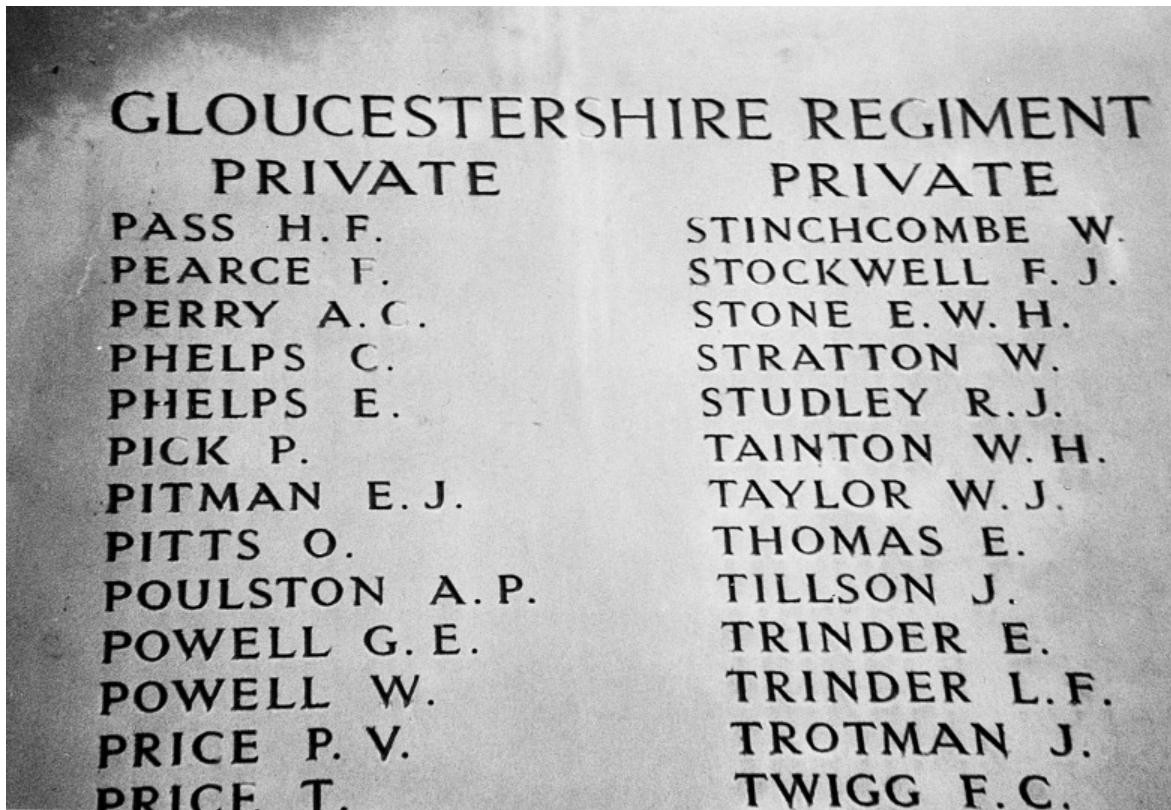
# First World War Heroes of Wotton-under-Edge



Note: the place names shown in this historical map are as they were known at the time of the First World War. Many are spelled differently today.

## *The Ypres Salient*

Source: Courtesy of Commonwealth War Graves Commission



*The name of Pte. Frank Pearce is inscribed  
on the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres.*

## 77

### ROWLAND JAMES PEARCE



Rank & Unit: Private, 12/3122, in the 16<sup>th</sup> Waikato Regiment, Auckland Infantry, New Zealand Regiment  
Born: 1888  
Died: Killed in action in Belgium on the 6<sup>th</sup> August 1916.  
Buried in Cité Bonjean Military Cemetery, Armentières, France: Plot 1, Row E, Grave 32  
Age: 28  
Parents: Charles and Beatrice Pearce

Rowland James Pearce, born 1888, was one of the seven children (four boys and three girls) of Charles and Beatrice Pearce of *The Firs*, Kingswood, Wotton-under-Edge. Charles worked as an elastic weaver in one of the local mills. With his brother George, Rowland emigrated to New Zealand. The *Gazette* of 19<sup>th</sup> August 1916 takes up the story :-

#### **Pte. R. Pearce accidentally killed**

*It is our painful duty to record the death in France of Pte. Rowland J. Pearce, fourth son of Mr. & Mrs. C. W. Pearce of The Firs, Kingswood. A chaplain writes to say that Pte. Pearce was accidentally killed while in the trenches on Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> inst. and that his body was conveyed back to the camp at St. Jean and buried with full military honours and a cross erected over the grave. The chaplain added that deceased was a brave lad, beloved by all his comrades.*

*Pte. Pearce as a lad attended the British School, Wotton-under-Edge, afterwards being apprenticed with Mr. F. Holloway, draper and outfitter. After a short while at Sharpness and Bristol, he left England for New Zealand about 9 years ago, settling in Waikato. On the outbreak of war he relinquished a good berth and joined the 16<sup>th</sup> Waikato Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Auckland Infantry and proceeded to Gallipoli with a draft of reinforcements for the gallant New Zealanders. He saw considerable service against the Turks, coming through the campaign unscathed. Since being drafted to France he took part in some 15 engagements and as recently as the Saturday previous to his death wrote home saying how thankful he was that he had been spurred to do his bit in the great advance.*

*Pte. Pearce will be remembered by many both in this district and at Sharpness and the sympathies of all will go out to the bereaved family, who have not seen their son since he migrated to the colonies. He was on a draft for leave from France when the advance began and leave was stopped, so that his hope to meet his family again was not realised.*

*The gallant soldier was in his 28<sup>th</sup> year. He was a tall, well-built young fellow and a good all-round athlete. He played football for Auckland and formerly for Sharpness, being a very sound defensive full back. A brother of the deceased, Sgt. Major G. V. Pearce is serving with the New Zealand Mounted Infantry and fought in the South African War with the North Somersetshire Yeomanry.*

At some stage Rowland's grave was moved as he now lies in Cité Bonjean Military Cemetery, Armentières, France, Plot 1, Row E, Grave 32. In Wotton Rowland's name was included on the Tabernacle Church Roll of Honour. His name also appears on the Kingswood War Memorial.

It is interesting to note that the Pearce family are descendants of Master John Pearce, the owner of the *Mayflower*, which took the Pilgrim Fathers to America.



*Cité Bonjean Military Cemetery (above) is found in the border town of Armentières, in the French Department of Nord, about 15 kms north-west of Lille. There are over 2000 Allied graves here, many of them holding New Zealand soldiers. Surprisingly, it also contains over 500 German graves.*

## 78

### FRANCIS PERRY



Rank & Unit: Corporal, 76104, in the Royal Field Artillery  
 Born: 1896 in Cardiff  
 Died: from disease in Mesopotamia on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1916.  
 Buried in Basra War Cemetery, Iraq: Plot 5, Row E, Grave 11  
 Age: 20  
 Parents: John and Annie Perry  
 Wife: Isadora Ellen (née Dixon)  
 Child: Frances Audrey

Francis Perry, known as 'Frank', died a long way from his home in Wotton-under-Edge. He was serving with his unit in Mesopotamia, now known as Iraq, when he succumbed to disease. At that time Mesopotamia was under the control of the Ottoman Empire. The Mesopotamian campaign grew out of the British defence of the oil-pipeline from Persia (Iran). From Basra near the Persian Gulf, British forces advanced towards Baghdad in early 1915. After initial success the British were forced back to Kut-al-Amara where they were besieged in April 1916. It wasn't until October 1918 that the Turks were finally defeated in Mesopotamia.

Frank Perry was the son of John and Annie Perry. He was born in Cardiff in 1896. In 1915 Frank married Isadora Ellen Dixon - known as 'Cis' - of Market Street, Wotton-under-Edge. Cis was the daughter of Cpl. and Mrs. Dixon; the Cpl. D. Dixon of the Royal Defence Corps named on Wotton's Roll of Honour in the Town Hall, is likely to have been Cis's father. A daughter, Frances Audrey, was born to Frank and Cis in June 1916, just one month before Frank died.

Frank enlisted in Cardiff and joined the Royal Field Artillery with the service no. 76104. He served in France and was badly wounded. After recovering from these wounds he returned to his unit and was sent to Mesopotamia in May 1915. News of Frank's death reached Wotton in August 1916. Under the heading - '*Bombardier Francis Perry - Death in Mesopotamia*' the *Gazette* of 19<sup>th</sup> August mentioned that the news had reached Wotton just five days earlier. Frank was 20 years old. He was buried in Basra War Cemetery. He lies in Plot 5, Row E, Grave 11. During the war Frank was promoted Corporal and there is mention in the *Gazette* of 24<sup>th</sup> May 1919 that Cpl. F. Perry's wife would be presented with the *Mons Star* (1914 Star) for his service in France.

## 79

### ALBERT WILLIAM POULTON



Rank & Unit: Sergeant, 18108, in the 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion  
Gloucestershire Regiment  
Born: April 1883 in Long Eaton, Derbyshire  
Died: of wounds in France on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1916.  
Buried in Gorre British Cemetery, France: Plot 1, Row D, Grave 19  
Age: 33  
Parents: Charles Jacob and Emily Poulton (née Greenaway)  
Wife: Annie Kate (née Lewis)  
Children: May Alexandra, Patricia Audrey, John Denis, Peggy and Madge

Albert William Poulton was the only surviving son of Charles Jacob and Emily Poulton, who at one time lived in Back Lane (now called Gloucester Street), Wotton-under-Edge. At a later date the family moved to North Nibley. Charles was born in Wotton and Emily in Longcot, Berkshire. A boundary change now places Longcot in Oxfordshire. Charles and Emily married in Cheltenham when Charles was a police constable. Due to an injury Charles left the police force and was given a small pension. In 1884 it is recorded that Charles was a wagon repairer when the family were living in the Long Eaton area of Derbyshire. Altogether, Charles and Emily brought up a family of nine children, Albert being one of only two boys. Albert's brothers and sisters were - Ruth, Elizabeth, Fanny, Lillie, Florence, Mary, Edith and John. Unfortunately Edith and John died young, Edith at only four months and John four years. The first four children were born when the family were living in Derbyshire. They must have moved to Gloucestershire prior to 1891 as the census for that year has Charles as a labourer in Wotton. Charles also worked as a chimney sweep, being a well-known personality in the district because of this line of work.



As a young man Albert Poulton was apprenticed to Messrs John Jotcham and Sons, builders, as a mason. He enjoyed sport and represented both North Nibley and Wotton in cricket and football. He was also a member of the Wotton quoits team. Albert married Annie Kate Lewis in St. Mary's licensed school room, Wotton, on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1905, the church being closed during restoration. Albert was 22 and Annie 23 years of age. At the time of their marriage Annie was living in Kingswood. Her father, William John Lewis, worked as an elastic braider. Annie's mother was Elizabeth, née Freeth and was from Malmesbury, Wiltshire.

Albert and Annie had five children, John Denis born 14<sup>th</sup> September 1906, May Alexandra born in 1911, Patricia Audrey, Peggy and Madge (dates of birth not known). Albert and Annie made their home in Upper Bradley Street in Wotton.

Albert enlisted in Bristol in January 1915, joining the 13<sup>th</sup> (Forest of Dean) Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment, service no. 18108. During 1915 the Battalion trained in various camps including Winchester, Aldershot and Witley (Surrey). Albert gained rapid promotion, becoming Sergeant in less than three months; he also qualified as a drill instructor. On 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1916 the Battalion sailed for France from Southampton in two ships, the *SS Marguerite* and the *SS Maiden*.

and docked at Le Havre. Once in France the Battalion moved to the Festubert/Givenchy area where they carried out pioneering work during the next few months, much of it concerned with barbed-wire laying.

It was whilst carrying out these duties near the village of Essars that Sgt. Albert Poulton was shot by a sniper on the night of 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> May. Albert died of his wounds before reaching a dressing station, he was 33 years old. News reached Annie only a week later in the form of three letters written by officers in Albert's Battalion. One of the letters contained the following words :-

*It is with great regret that I have to convey to you the sad tidings of your husband's death. Generous in high degree, kind to every man, doing his duty in a quiet unassuming manner, his loss is keenly felt, both by his men and myself. Perhaps you will be able to obtain some comfort and consolation in the fact that he died quite peacefully and painlessly. Let me assure you that you have our deepest sympathy in your hour of trial.*

Albert was buried in Gorre British Cemetery, Plot 1, Row D, Grave 19. Gorre is a village just 3 kms north-east of the town of Béthune. A year after Albert died an 'In Memoriam' notice appeared in the *Gazette*, it read :-

*In loving memory of Sgt. A. Poulton, 13<sup>th</sup> Glosters. Died of wounds France, 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1916. Still sadly missed by his sorrowing Mam, Dad and six sisters. Thy will be done.*

A photograph of Albert appeared in the *Bristol Times & Mirror* of 1<sup>st</sup> April 1916. Annie emigrated to Canada with the five children some time after her husband's death. John Denis Poulton, one of Albert and Annie's sons, was a Lieutenant in the South Saskatchewan Regiment and came to England during the Second World War. Whilst here he visited his aunt Lillie Jane Organ in North Nibley. Tragically John was killed on 10<sup>th</sup> April 1942 when he was walking at night, accompanied by his sergeant, along the Eastbourne Road, Wilmington, East Sussex, when they were struck by a motorcycle despatch rider. The motorcyclist and the sergeant survived the accident, but sustained injuries. John's funeral was at North Nibley and he has a Commonwealth War Grave in the cemetery there. In the graveyard of North Nibley Parish Church can be found the grave of little John Poulton, Albert's brother who died on 8<sup>th</sup> February 1897 at the young age of four years. Albert is also commemorated on his brother's grave.



## 80

### HEBER WILLIAM PROSSER



Rank & Unit: Bombardier, 825670, in the Royal Field Artillery  
Born: 1887  
Died: of wounds in Belgium on 16<sup>th</sup> August 1917.  
Buried in Duhallow Advanced Dressing Station Cemetery, Ypres,  
Belgium: Plot 1, Row B, Grave 9  
Age: 30  
Parents: Edgar and Julia Prosser



Heber Prosser was born in 1887, the third child of Edgar and Julia Prosser of Back Lane, Wotton-under-Edge. The Prossers' first child Henry was born in 1880, the second, Edgar, in 1882, Louise their youngest child was born in 1889. Before enlisting in the Army, Heber worked first as a carriage driver at the *Swan Hotel*, Wotton, and later doing similar work in Painswick, near Stroud. Heber was among the first volunteers for Kitchener's New Army, joining the Royal Field Artillery, service no. 825670. After training in Chelmsford he crossed to France in April 1915 and fought in several actions during the next two years. In April 1916 he was home on leave just one month before his mother died.

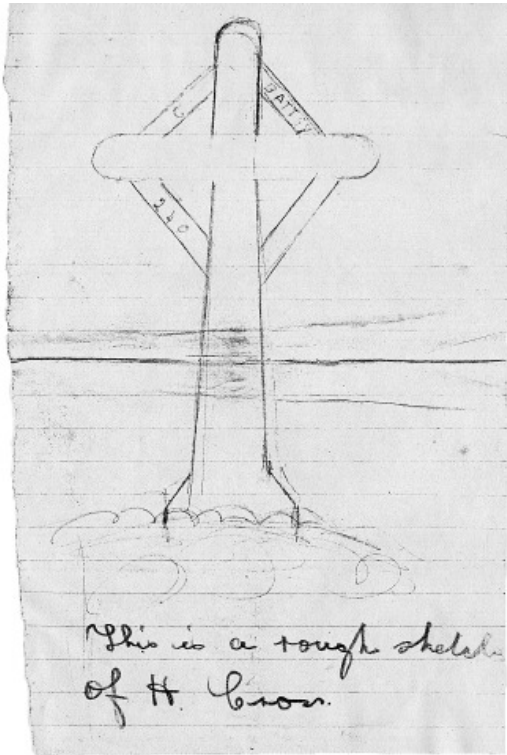
On 7<sup>th</sup> June 1917 the British Commander in Chief, General Haig, gave the order to launch a major attack on the Germans in Belgium, hoping to accomplish a major victory before the Americans arrived and as a preliminary to capturing German naval bases on the Belgian coast. Thus started the bloody 3<sup>rd</sup> Battle of Ypres. On 16<sup>th</sup> August Allied forces attacked in great numbers to the north and east of the town of Ypres. The Germans were well dug in on carefully sited posts. The German troops managed to infiltrate and work round to the rear of some of the leading British battalions. From machine gun posts the Germans delivered devastating fire on the flanks of other advancing British troops. Many British soldiers found themselves in swamp conditions under constant shell fire.

In August 1917 two fateful letters arrived at Gloucester Street, Wotton, at the home of Louise, Heber's sister. Both were written by Major L. C. Wilson, the commander of 'C' Battery, 240<sup>th</sup> Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery. The first arrived soon after the 16<sup>th</sup> August. It read :-

*Dear Miss Prosser,*

*I very much regret having to inform you that your brother, Bombardier H. W. Prosser was rather badly wounded this morning, while serving his gun. The wound is in the back and although severe, is not I am informed dangerous. I sincerely hope that he will soon be across in England and able to go about again,*

*Yours faithfully,  
L. C. Wilson (Major)*



*A sketch of the cross placed on  
Bombardier Heber Prosser's  
grave, drawn by his commanding  
officer, Major L. C. Wilson*

This communication was dated 16<sup>th</sup> August. Just over two weeks later another letter arrived from Major Wilson. It reads :-

28<sup>th</sup> August 1917

*Dear Miss Prosser,*

*It is my painful duty to inform you that your brother, Bombardier Prosser, died of his wounds soon after reaching the dressing station. His death came as a great blow to me, as although I recognised that his wounds were serious, I had hoped that he would recover from them. The shock to his system had been too much for him.*

*Your brother has all along done splendid work with my Battery and only a few days before his death I had promoted him to be full Bombardier. We miss him greatly and his loss will be greatly felt by us all. My brother officers join me in sincere sympathy for your great loss.*

*He was buried with full honours two miles from the Battery position and a cross has been made by the Battery and erected over his grave.*

*(A sketch of the cross was enclosed with the letter).*

Heber's grave is to be found in Duhallow Advanced Dressing Station Cemetery, Ypres, Plot 1, Row B, Grave 9. This cemetery, named after a Southern Irish hunt, lies in the northern suburbs of Ypres, just a 10 minute drive from the town centre. It contains some 1500 Allied graves and 54 German.

Because of Heber's connection with Painswick, he is commemorated on that village's War Memorial as well as on Wotton's. Painswick War Memorial is to be found in the Parish Churchyard. His name also appears on the Roll of Honour inside the church. Unfortunately Heber's name incorrectly appears as 'Albert' on both memorials.

28 Aug. 1917.

Dear Miss Prosser,

It is my painful duty  
to inform you that your brother  
Bdr Prosser died of his wounds soon  
after reaching the dressing station.  
His death came as a great blow  
to me as although I recognized  
that his wounds were serious I  
had hoped that he would recover  
from them. The shock to his system  
had been too much for him.

Your Brother has all along done  
splendid work with my Battery &  
only a few days before his death  
I had promoted him to be full  
Bombardier. We miss him greatly  
and his loss will be greatly felt  
by us all. My brother Officers join  
me in sincere sympathy for your  
great loss.

He was buried with full honours  
about 2 miles from the Battling  
position and a cross has been made  
by the Battery and erected over his  
grave.

I am  
Yours sincerely  
L. Wilson Major  
Comd'g 'C' Battery 240 Bde  
R.F.

The letter from Major Wilson, commanding 'C' Battery,  
Royal Field Artillery, to Heber's sister, Louise, informing  
her of his death, from wounds on 16<sup>th</sup> August, 1917

## 81

### ELTON MAURICE RICHINGS



Rank & Unit: Lance Corporal, 20651, in the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion Yorkshire and Lancashire Regiment  
Born: 1893  
Died: Killed in action in France on 16<sup>th</sup> May 1916.  
Buried in Norfolk Cemetery, France: Plot 1, Row A, Grave 53  
Age: 22  
Parents: Albert and Blanche Richings

Elton Maurice Richings was born in 1893, the son of Albert and Blanche Richings of 10 Long Street, Wotton-under-Edge, where Albert had a butcher's shop. Elton was educated at Katharine Lady Berkeley's Grammar School. After leaving school Elton worked as a butcher's assistant in his father's shop. He was a well-known and popular young man in the town and played for Wotton football club before joining the Army and during his periods of leave.



Elton was one of the first young men from Wotton to join the Territorial movement and for some considerable time journeyed to Dursley weekly to drill with the Company in that town. The Territorials had been formed after the Haldane Reforms of 1908. Lord Haldane was a Liberal politician and became Secretary of State for War from 1905 to 1912. The Army was being reorganised in the face of Germany's growing aggressive stance. The Territorials were part-time soldiers and formed to help defend Britain in times of war. They could not be sent abroad unless they volunteered. After the war had commenced nearly all the Territorial soldiers in fact volunteered for overseas service.

Elton joined the Army on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1914, just one month after the commencement of the war. He joined the 19<sup>th</sup> Lancers with the service no. 23867, serving a few months with them in Longmoor, Hampshire. He was then transferred to an infantry regiment - The Yorkshire and Lancashire Regiment - joining the 10<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion, service no. 20651. He completed his training at Sunderland and went to France with the Battalion on 10<sup>th</sup> September 1915, landing at Boulogne on the 11<sup>th</sup>. The Battalion formed part of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Brigade in the 21<sup>st</sup> Division. After additional training in trench warfare, the 10<sup>th</sup> Yorks and Lancs took part in its first major battle, when on 25<sup>th</sup> September it went into action at Loos. The Battalion suffered terribly, 320 men being killed or wounded; luckily Elton came through the battle unscathed.

During October the Battalion fought in several different locations in France and Belgium. In action at Hooge, near Ypres in Belgium, Elton was wounded by shrapnel. He was sent back to hospital in England and after two months or so recovering, he spent a few days at home in Wotton. December 1915 saw Elton back in France. His Battalion were now in the Armentières section of the Front. During this month the 10<sup>th</sup> Yorks and Lancs were, on several occasions bombarded very heavily, suffering many casualties. In that same month a letter written by Elton appeared in the *Gazette*, under the heading - 'Whizz Bangs Every Day', it included the following :-

*I was just getting ready for the trenches when it (the Wotton-under-Edge Christmas parcel) came. It is very wet out here, but they give us top boots and skin coats, so that helps to keep us dry and warm. I hope to get leave soon, so will thank you all then. We get some whizz-bangs over every day, but they don't always hit the mark. (Whizz-bangs were high-velocity, low-trajectory shells that made a shrill approach noise and then a sharp explosive report).*

Elton survived the whizz-bangs and other actions up until May 1916 when the 10<sup>th</sup> Yorks and Lancs found themselves in the Meaulte area of the Somme, about 4 kms south of the town of Albert. On 16<sup>th</sup> May the Battalion went into the Front Line. The Battalion diary records the following :-

*"Weather very changeable but hot towards the end of tour. Very quiet time. L.Cpl. Elton Maurice Richings killed in action 16.5.1916."*



*The grave of Elton Richings in Norfolk Cemetery, Somme.*

So yet another young Wottonian was unluckily killed during a 'quiet time'.

On the 21<sup>st</sup>, five days after Elton's death his parents received a letter written by one of his pals stating that Elton had been killed. An obituary appeared in the *Gazette* of 27<sup>th</sup> May including details of Elton's death. His pal stated that Elton had been killed by a sniper on the morning of 16<sup>th</sup> May while a group of men were engaged in railway construction work behind the trenches, he added that death resulted three minutes after Elton had been hit, and that whilst they were removing Elton's body another soldier was hit and he also died. Elton was 22 years of age. Writing to Elton's parents a few days later, a chaplain added that their son was buried in a military cemetery on the evening of the day he had met his end. The letter also spoke in high praise of Elton's ability as a soldier.

Elton was buried in Norfolk Cemetery, Somme, Plot 1, Row A, Grave 53. A number of years ago staff and pupils of Katharine Lady Berkeley's school were able to visit Elton's grave and place a remembrance cross upon it. Not far away from Elton's grave is the grave of Major S. W. Loudoun-Shand of the 10<sup>th</sup> Green Howards who won a V.C. on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916 for continuing to urge his men forward despite being mortally wounded.



*Norfolk Cemetery, Becordel-Becourt, Somme, France*

## JOHN RICHINGS



Rank & Unit: Sergeant, 235048, in the 1/1<sup>st</sup> Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Yeomanry  
 Born: 1894 in Ozleworth, Gloucestershire  
 Died: of dysentery in Damascus on 12<sup>th</sup> October 1918.  
 Buried in Damascus Commonwealth War Cemetery, Row A. 96  
 Age: 24  
 Parents: John Blizzard Richings and Elizabeth Mary Richings



John Richings was the middle son of John Blizzard Richings and Elizabeth Mary Richings of Long Street, Wotton-under-Edge, where they owned a butcher's shop. John or 'Jack' as he became known, was born in Ozleworth, near Wotton in 1894. The eldest of the Richings boys was Henry and the youngest Horace William. John also had three sisters - Mabel, Marjorie and Mary.

After leaving school Jack assisted his father in his butcher's shop. At the outbreak of war Jack enlisted in the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Yeomanry at Berkeley, with the service no. 235048. Jack served for almost the whole period of the war. He saw active service with his Battalion in the Gallipoli Campaign, also in Egypt and Palestine. On 15<sup>th</sup> January 1916, whilst serving in Gallipoli he was promoted L/Cpl. and on 12<sup>th</sup> February promoted Corporal. Rapid promotion continued and Jack was made Sergeant a short time later. Jack was wounded on no less than three occasions but always made a good recovery.

Just one month before the Armistice, Jack died in Palestine on 12<sup>th</sup> October. His parents received a wire on 18<sup>th</sup> October saying that he had died of dysentery in Damascus; he was just 24 years old. This news must have come as a terrible shock to his parents as they had had no warning that he was ill.

### John Blizzard Richings

20, LONG STREET,  
WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE.  
ESTABLISHED 1836.

**Family Butcher and Purveyor of the Finest English Meat only,**

Pickled Tongues,  
Corned Beef,  
Sausages and  
Home-cured Hams,  
a Speciality.

Families waited  
upon Daily  
for Orders.

A TRIAL  
SOLICITED.

INCLUDING—

Ox Beef,  
Wether Mutton,  
Welsh Mutton,  
Lamb, Veal,  
and Pork.

Turkeys, Geese,  
Ducks and Fowls,  
at Shortest  
Notice.

## 83

### HENRY LANCELOT RIDLEY



Rank & Unit: Private, 14768, in the 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment  
Born: 11<sup>th</sup> March 1888 in Chute, Wiltshire  
Died: Killed in action in France on 29<sup>th</sup> July 1916.  
Buried in London Cemetery, France: Plot 4, Row C, Grave 19  
Age: 28  
Parents: The Rev. Lancelot Ridley and Mrs. A. M. Ridley

Henry Lancelot Ridley was born on 11<sup>th</sup> March 1888 in Chute, near Ludgershall, Wiltshire, the only son of the Rev. Lancelot Ridley, vicar of Chute, and Mrs. A. M. Ridley who originated from Wotton-under-Edge. Henry was educated at Epsom and later at Keble College, Oxford, where he graduated in 1909. Henry took up schoolmastering, teaching first in Malvern and then at Southbourne, near Bournemouth.

Soon after the outbreak of war, Henry enlisted in Bristol in September 1914 and was drafted to the 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment, service no. 14768. The 12<sup>th</sup> Glos. belonged to the 95<sup>th</sup> Brigade in 32<sup>nd</sup> Division. After training in Wensleydale, Yorkshire, and on Salisbury Plain they were drafted to France on 21<sup>st</sup> November 1915. They entrained at Wyllye railway station, Wiltshire, under the command of Lt. Col. Martin Archer-Shee, D.S.O., M.P. for Folkestone, and crossed to Boulogne on the ship *Stranraer* with a strength of 27 officers and 886 other ranks. After arriving in Boulogne they proceeded to Ostrohoove Reserve Camp.

Martin Archer-Shee was the brother of George Archer-Shee, the family residing in Woodchester, near Stroud at that time. Lieut. George Archer-Shee, 3<sup>rd</sup> Btn. (attached 1<sup>st</sup> Btn.) The South Staffordshire Regiment, was born on 6<sup>th</sup> May 1895 and killed in action near Ypres, Belgium on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1914, quite early on in the war. *The Times* report on George's death included the following :-

*He joined the Royal Naval College, Osborne, in 1908, but was removed in circumstances which afterwards formed the subject of legal proceedings in the King's Bench, the result of which was the complete vindication of his character.*

George had been dismissed from Osborne for allegedly stealing a five shilling Postal Order. In the 1940s Terence Rattigan wrote a play based on the Archer-Shee case, calling it *The Winslow Boy*. In the play George became Ronnie Winslow and his brother Martin, Arthur Winslow. The play was first produced in the Lyric Theatre, London on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1946. It is sad to think that George, who had gone through the trauma of a celebrated court case, should lose his life on the Western Front, only a few years afterwards and at the tender age of 19.

The first battle that the 12<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters fought in was the Battle of the Somme, commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916. At 3.30 p.m. on 29<sup>th</sup> July the battalion attacked the enemy in the Longueval sector of the front and it was during this attack that Pte. Henry Ridley was killed by a shell, three of his comrades falling simultaneously. Henry was 28 years of age. It is interesting to note that Henry's name appears on the Memorial to the Missing of the Somme Battle at Thiepval, but that he lies buried in a marked grave in London Cemetery, Plot 4, Row C, Grave 19, only 5 kms away.





*'Bristol's Own' cross at Longueval on the Somme battlefield. It commemorates the men of the 12<sup>th</sup> Btn. Gloucestershire Regiment who died in the vicinity between July and September 1916. Part of High Wood can be seen in the distance.*

The reason for this is that Henry's remains were not found until the 1930s, when they were unearthed as a farmer was ploughing on his land. Indeed, remains of First World War soldiers are still being found along the Western Front, usually by farmers when working their land. If they are allied soldiers, the C.W.G.C. will do their best to identify the soldier and then give the man a military funeral and interment in one of their beautifully kept cemeteries. The Thiepval Memorial on which Henry's name was inscribed had already been erected and unveiled on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1932. London Cemetery, the third largest on the Somme, contains 3,300 graves, an extremely high percentage of them being of unknown soldiers, showing the ferocity of the fighting on the Somme. The cemetery is found alongside the D. 107 road from Martinpuich to Longueval, opposite High Wood (Bois des Fourcaux).

On the death of Henry's father, Mrs. Ridley returned to Valley Road, Wotton, from Chute. Henry's name appears on Wotton's War Memorial as this is where his mother resided during the war and to where he returned when on leave.

*Pte. Henry Lancelot Ridley is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing on the Somme, but after his remains were uncovered in a farmer's field in the 1930s, he now lies buried in London Cemetery, Longueval.*





*Cross roads at Longueval on the Somme. It was near this spot that Pte. Henry Ridley lost his life on 29<sup>th</sup> July 1916. High Wood, the scene of furious fighting can be seen in the distance.*



*George Archer-Shee is commemorated on the Wayside Cross Memorial in Woodchester, near Stroud. Terence Rattigan's play 'The Winslow Boy' was based on George's court case for allegedly stealing a postal order.*

**84**

**W. ROBINSON**



Rank & Unit: Corporal in the Gloucestershire Regiment

The identity of this serviceman commemorated on Wotton's War Memorial and on the Roll of Honour boards in the Town Hall has not been established. No soldier of this name and initial having any obvious connection with the town of Wotton-under-Edge is recorded in the publication *Soldiers Died in the Great War*. No report of a Corporal W. Robinson having died between August 1914 and November 1918, nor perhaps having died of wounds after the Armistice, has been traced in the *Gazette*. However, there are four soldiers who served in the Gloucestershire Regiment and died in the Great War who had the initial 'W' in their name and the surname 'Robinson'. None of them had the rank of Corporal. They are :-

*Pte. William Robinson 7366 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. Born St. Mary's, Bristol. Enlisted Guildford. Killed in action France & Flanders 6<sup>th</sup> May 1915*

*Pte. William Ansell Robinson 202284 2/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Born Leyton, Essex. Enlisted Romford. Killed in action France & Flanders 25<sup>th</sup> November 1917*

*Pte. William Robinson 19936 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Born Birmingham. Enlisted Birmingham. Died France & Flanders 20<sup>th</sup> April 1916*

*Pte. William Henry Robinson 25340 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Born Bath. Enlisted Bath. Died France & Flanders 16<sup>th</sup> September 1918*

N.B. 'Died' rather than 'Died of wounds' or 'Killed in action', suggests that the serviceman may have died of illness.

## 85

### FREDERICK RODMAN



Rank & Unit: Drummer, 13608, in the 1<sup>st</sup> Garrison Battalion,  
Royal Warwickshire Regiment  
Born: 1884 in Berkeley  
Died: on 26<sup>th</sup> December 1916 in Cairo, Egypt.  
Buried in Cairo War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt: Grave F. 174  
Age: 32  
Parents: John and Elizabeth Rodman  
Wife: Lucy (née Avenell)



Frederick Rodman was one of the four sons of John and Elizabeth Rodman, who at the time of Frederick's birth were living in Berkeley. Frederick was the third born of the boys, his brothers being James, William and Edward. At some stage the family moved to Wotton-under-Edge, living in *Linivell*, Sinwell. The 1891 census states that Frederick's father was a colt breaker by trade. Frederick was a keen footballer, representing both Wotton A.F.C. and Sinwell Star Football teams. Frederick married Lucy Avenell in September 1910 before joining the Army.

Frederick enlisted in Wotton, joining the Gloucestershire Regiment, with the service no. 23343. At a later date Frederick transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Garrison Battalion of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, with the service no. 13608. It may be that Frederick had either suffered wounds or had been ill, allowing him to do less strenuous work in a Garrison Battalion. During war service drummers would have been obliged to double up as infantrymen. The 1<sup>st</sup>

Garrison Battalion were formed at Weymouth on 20<sup>th</sup> August 1915 and immediately sailed for Egypt, arriving in September. The Battalion went straight to Khartoum, where it remained till December 1916.

How Frederick came to lose his life is not known, but the 'In Memoriam' notice below appeared in the *Gazette* of 11<sup>th</sup> January 1919 :-

*Rodman. In loving memory of Frederick Rodman of Sinwell who died on active service at Cairo, December 26<sup>th</sup> 1916. Ever remembered by his mother, father and brother.*

Frederick was buried in the Cairo War Memorial Cemetery, Grave F. 174. This cemetery is situated approximately 5 kms south-east of the city centre. A photograph of Frederick was published in the *Bristol Times & Mirror* of 1<sup>st</sup> April 1916. Frederick's widow Lucy remarried, taking the name 'Rowland' and lived at *The Potteries*, Tortworth, near Falfield.

Being a member of Sinwell Chapel, Frederick is commemorated along with seven others who fell in the Great War, on a tablet in the chapel. The tablet reads as shown here :-

*In honoured memory of*

*FREDERICK RODMAN  
GEORGE SMITH  
WILLIAM DOLMAN  
CHARLES TURNER  
WILLIAM KNIGHT  
LEWIS TOWNSEND  
WILLIAM CHAPPELL  
ALBERT CHAPPELL*

*Who gave their lives  
In the Great War.  
1914-1918*

86

## JOHN CREED RUDGE



Rank & Unit: Able Seaman, J./15444, in the Royal Navy  
Born: August 3<sup>rd</sup> 1895  
Died: Killed by a mine explosion in the North Sea on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1917.  
Commemorated on the Royal Navy War Memorial, Southsea, Hampshire  
Age: 22  
Parents: Charles and Emily Rudge



John Creed Rudge ('Jack') was born in 1895, the youngest son of Charles and Emily Rudge of Bradley Street, Wotton-under-Edge. Jack was a pupil at the British School in Wotton. As a young man he worked at Wotton's Post Office as a telegraph messenger. He was a member of Wotton's Baptist Church. In 1910 at the age of 15 Jack joined the Navy, service no. J./15444. According to the *Bristol Times & Mirror* of 1<sup>st</sup> April 1916, where there is a photograph of Jack, he was then serving on *HMS Myngs*. At some stage soon after that date he transferred to *HMS Torrent*.

During the night of 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> December 1917, *HMS Torrent* in company with *HMS Surprise*, ran into a minefield in the North Sea. Both ships were lost, *HMS Radiant* picking up few survivors from the icy waters. Jack was not one of those survivors. *Torrent* was a destroyer of 1,014 tons, captained by Lt. Cdr. F. A. Warner, the ship was less than a year old when she was sunk.

Jack was one of seven children, one of his brothers William, also served in the Navy during the First World War. Jack is commemorated on the Royal Navy War Memorial, Southsea, Portsmouth.

*Royal Navy War Memorial,  
Southsea, Hampshire*

Source: Peter Trimming



87

## WILLIAM THOMAS SARGENT



Rank & Unit: Private, 17318, in the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment  
Died: Killed in action in France on 25<sup>th</sup> September 1915.  
Buried in Dud Corner Cemetery, France: Plot 7, Row D, Grave 9

William was born in Wotton-under-Edge. Unfortunately I have been unable to trace his parents or any other members of his family. However, the 1891 census does show that a 'Sargent' family were living in Gloucester Street, Wotton-under-Edge at that time, the father's name being 'Jacques'.

William enlisted in Wotton-under-Edge early in the war, joining the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment, service no. 17318. The 10<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters were formed in Bristol in September 1914 as a Service Battalion to distinguish them from the Regular and Territorial Battalions. The Service Battalions were also known as New Army or Kitchener Army Battalions. In November 1914 the Battalion were in billets in Cheltenham and in April 1915 were training on Salisbury Plain. William was drafted to France with the Battalion in August 1915. The 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division. This Brigade consisted of battle-hardened regulars and Territorial soldiers of the original British Expeditionary Force

Only five weeks after landing in France the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion were engaged in the Battle of Loos, the biggest battle on the Western Front involving British soldiers since the start of the conflict in 1914. Like many other British soldiers, William was killed on the first day of that Battle - 25<sup>th</sup> September 1915. The 10<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters lost 150 men that day, killed wounded or missing. In fact, nearly all the



*The grave of Pte. William Thomas Sargent in Dud Corner Cemetery, Loos, France.*

unaccounted for were dead.

William was buried in Dud Corner Cemetery. The cemetery is so named because many of the British shells fired in the battle failed to detonate. The cemetery lies alongside the N.43, Loos-Béthune road, 5 kms north-west of Loos town centre. Commemorated on the Loos Memorial to the Missing in Dud Corner Cemetery is the young soldier poet, Charles Hamilton Sorley, amongst whose poems is the well known *When you see Millions of the Mouthless Dead*. Also commemorated is the late Queen Mother's brother - Fergus Bowes-Lyon of the Black Watch Regiment.



*British infantry advancing into a gas cloud during the Battle of Loos.*

Source: Photograph No. HU 63277B is from the Imperial War Museum collection No. 9306-11

## 88

### WALTER CHARLES SAUNDERS



Rank & Unit: Able Seaman, R/1694, in the Royal Naval Division  
(Anson Battalion)  
Born: 1891  
Died: of wounds in France on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1918.  
Buried in Sunken Road Cemetery, Villers-Plouich, Nord, France: Row A,  
Grave 28  
Age: 27  
Parents: Charles and Dora Saunders

Walter was born in 1891, the only son of Charles and Dora Saunders of Eastcourt, Wiltshire. Nothing is known of Walter's early life, but it is assumed that he resided in the Wotton-under-Edge district on becoming a policeman in the Gloucestershire Police Force. We know that he played football for Wotton A.F.C. Walter became engaged to Violet Short of Bradley Street, Wotton (see (90) below).

Walter enlisted in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve on 4<sup>th</sup> June 1917, joining the Anson Battalion of the Royal Naval Division, with the service no. R/1694. Walter trained at Blandford, Dorset, and went to France in September 1917. In November 1917 the R.N.D. found itself in the area of the massive German defensive position - the Hindenburg Line - in the region of Gouzeaucourt, about 16 kms south-west of Cambrai.

The actions of the Naval Division from November 1917 are described in the history of *The Royal Marines in France, 1916-1918* in the section entitled 'Action of Welch Ridge'. It reads as follows :-

*At the end of November was fought the successful Battle of Cambrai, in which the British had obtained considerable gain and had created the Flesquières Salient which included about four miles of the front and support lines of the Hindenburg Defences in that area. On 30<sup>th</sup> November the Germans had counter-attacked and broken through at Gouzeaucourt where they were counter-attacked and stopped by the Guards Division.*

*A defensive flank had been made running south-west along Welch Ridge, which ran at right angles to the Hindenburg sector and was important for it commanded the approaches to Masnières and Marcoing. The Royal Naval Division relieved the 31<sup>st</sup> and 62<sup>nd</sup> Divisions on 15-20<sup>th</sup> November. The frontage taken over was 6,000 yards and included the north slope of Welch Ridge and the whole length of the eastern face. On the right where it overhung the British line the slope fell down steeply to the valley.*

*Before the arrival of the Royal Naval Division in this sector a German document was captured, saying that the 63<sup>rd</sup> (Royal Naval) Division would arrive shortly and that a determined resistance must be expected! Until 30<sup>th</sup> December the troops were occupied in improving the trenches and making the defences possible in order to settle down for the winter.*

*At dawn on 30<sup>th</sup> December, the enemy dressed in white suits as the ground was covered with snow, delivered a strong attack along practically the whole front of the Division, which at first met with considerable success, for the defences were penetrated at certain points, and the enemy actually gained Welch Support; counter-attacks were delivered*



*in the afternoon and drove the enemy out of the positions. The Anson Battalion, temporarily commanded by Lieut. Commander Buckley, made a fine counter-attack at night and drove the enemy out of the Welch Support. Lieut. Commander Buckley was awarded the D.S.O. The enemy, however, retained the front line and thereby deprived the British of the observation which they had hitherto enjoyed, and further the enemy were now able to observe the British rear defences. The attack was renewed on the morning of the 31<sup>st</sup> in the vicinity of the centre, but was repulsed after heavy fighting.*

This was the action in which Walter Saunders was seriously wounded. According to a letter sent to Violet Short, Walter's fiancée, some time in February 1918 by George Redler, commanding 'A' Company of the Anson Battalion, Walter was hit in the neck by a piece of shrapnel. He was carried to a dressing station where later during the following day he died.

Walter lies buried in Sunken Road Cemetery, Villers-Plouich, Nord, France, in Grave A. 28 (see below). Villers-Plouich is a village two kms north of Gouzeaucourt.



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## WILLIAM HAROLD SAXTON



Rank & Unit: Private, 16367, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment  
Born: 1879 in Wotton-under-Edge  
Died: Killed in action in Belgium on 10<sup>th</sup> May 1915.  
Commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Belgium  
Age: 35  
Parents: George and Edith Saxton  
Wife: Florence Lucinda (née Lewis)  
Children: At least two



William was born in Wotton-under-Edge in 1879, the son of George and Edith Saxton of *Hazel Cottage*, Rudgeway, Bristol. William married Florence Lucinda Lewis in March 1900 and according to an 'In Memoriam' in the *Gazette*, they had at least two children. William also had brothers and sisters, but the exact number is not known.

William enlisted in Bristol in December 1914, joining the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment, service no. 16367. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Gloucesters formed part of the 81<sup>st</sup> Brigade in 27<sup>th</sup> Division. On 18<sup>th</sup> December 1914 the Battalion landed at Le Havre. William joined his Battalion after training in England, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1915. By this time the 27<sup>th</sup> Division were taking part in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Ypres and fighting in the area between Hooze and Zillebeke, east of Ypres.

On 10<sup>th</sup> May, just over a month after he had arrived on the Western Front, William was killed in action; he was 35 years of age. William has no known grave and is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing in Ypres. The *Gazette* for 11<sup>th</sup> May 1918 has an 'In Memoriam' entry relating to William. It reads as follows :-

*Saxton* In loving memory of my dear husband Pte. W. H. Saxton, killed in action May 10<sup>th</sup>, 1915, Ypres. Ever remembered by his wife and children, father, mother, brothers and sisters.

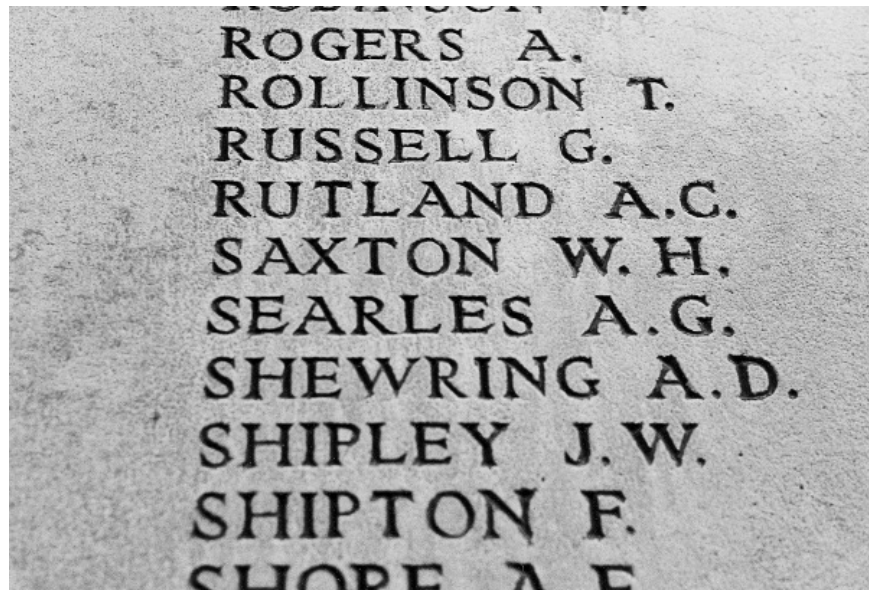
*O for a touch of that vanished hand,  
And the voice that we loved so dear.*

From a Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register, it appears that Florence re-married as her name was given as 'Francom'.

## THE MENIN GATE MEMORIAL, YPRES



Courtesy of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.



*The Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres has the name of William Harold Saxton inscribed on it.*

90

## HENRY LAMBERT SHORT



Rank & Unit: Gunner, 16333, 'D' Battery, 93<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, Royal Field Artillery  
Born: October 1893 in Wotton-under-Edge  
Died: of wounds in France on 5<sup>th</sup> October 1916.  
Buried in Grove Town Cemetery, France: Plot 1, Row M, Grave 29  
Age: 22  
Parents: Frank and Olive Short



Henry Lambert Short, usually known as 'Harry', was born in Wotton-under-Edge in 1893, the only son of Frank and Olive Short of Rockville, Bradley Street, Wotton-under-Edge. As a young man Harry worked for Mr. Price, butcher of Bradley Street and then at the Co-operative Stores as a van man.

On the outbreak of war Harry enlisted in Wotton with his friend George Pagett. They joined the Royal Artillery, Harry's service no. being 16333. Both Harry and George saw much active service together with 'D' Battery, 93<sup>rd</sup> Brigade. In October 1916 the Brigade were taking part in the Battle of the Somme, which had then been going on for four months.

On 4<sup>th</sup> October whilst on active duty Harry was seriously wounded with shrapnel shell injuries. He was taken to a dressing station where George saw his friend being attended to. George could see that the wounds to Harry's back and legs were indeed serious. Harry died on the following day and was buried in Grove Town Cemetery, 3kms north-west of Bray-sur-Somme. He lies in Plot 1, Row M, Grave 29. George wrote to Frank and Olive Short immediately on hearing of Harry's wounds, but had to send a second letter the day afterwards telling them of Harry's death. An officer from the Brigade, Capt. C. L. Kingscote also wrote to the family concerning Harry's death and they also received confirmation from the Artillery Records Office at Woolwich.

Harry was just one week short of his 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday when he died. He was of fine physique and was an exceedingly popular young man in Wotton. Grove Town Cemetery is a large cemetery with 1,392 graves. Also buried in this cemetery is the war poet Leslie Coulson who died just three days after Harry and at the age of 27. A few weeks before his death Coulson wrote to his father :-

*"If I should fall do not grieve for me. I shall be one with the wind and the sun and the flowers."*

On 6<sup>th</sup> October 1917 an 'In Memoriam' notice appeared in the *Gazette* from Harry's parents and sister, it contained the words "His country called, he answered. R.I.P."

## 91

### ARCHIBALD E. SMITH



Rank & Unit: Private, 9683, in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment  
Born: 30<sup>th</sup> March 1895 in Wotton-under-Edge  
Died: Killed in action in France on 24<sup>th</sup> September 1914  
Commemorated on the La Ferté sous Jouarre Memorial, France  
Age: 19  
Parents: Alfred Edward Rodomont Smith and Rhoda Jane Smith (née Derrett)

Archibald Edward Smith was born in Wotton-under-Edge on 30<sup>th</sup> March 1895, the eldest son of Alfred Edward Rodomont Smith and Rhoda Jane Smith, née Derrett. Archibald had a brother Claude and a sister Louise. The family were living at 5 Bear Street, Wotton-under-Edge when the children were born. Sadly Rhoda died in childbirth in March 1897. Alfred Smith was a well known character in Wotton; from his house he ran an umbrella making business as well as being a hairdresser (notice the barber's pole in the photograph of 5 Bear Street below). Alfred also entertained the young people of Wotton with a Punch and Judy show. He was known to many people as 'Professor Rodomont' or 'Umbrella Smith'. Archibald first attended Wotton Bear Street School, living just opposite, between 28<sup>th</sup> March 1898 and 21<sup>st</sup> July 1902. From 1<sup>st</sup> September of the same year until 16<sup>th</sup> April 1908 he was a pupil at the British School, completing his education at the age of 13. After leaving school Archibald worked as an errand boy.

Archibald enlisted in the Army in July 1912 at the age of 17, joining the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment, service no. 9683. The 1<sup>st</sup> Gloucesters were drafted to France on 13<sup>th</sup> August 1914, just nine days after the outbreak of war. The battalion were placed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division of the British Expeditionary Force, along with the 1<sup>st</sup> Queen's, the 1<sup>st</sup> South Wales Borderers and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Welch Regiment. After a few days in the concentration area at Le Havre, the B.E.F. went north to the Belgian frontier. There they helped form a defensive line along the Mons Canal. Soon the British Army had to fall back as the French Army to their right could not hold their position. The 1<sup>st</sup> Division retired to Landrecies.

It was at Landrecies that the 1<sup>st</sup> Gloucesters engaged the enemy for the first time. In this encounter the battalion lost 5 men killed and 30 wounded. Young Archibald Smith had come through the first ordeal. During the next 13 days the battalion marched 200 miles with very little sleep and food, but never getting into very close contact with the enemy. After a few days respite there came the great combined British and French attack which drove the Germans almost from the walls of Paris back across the Marne and the Aisne rivers. By now the Germans had established a defensive line north of the Aisne and there was very heavy fighting along the the Chemin des Dames. Between the 14<sup>th</sup> and the 24<sup>th</sup> September the 1<sup>st</sup> Gloucesters spent much of their time in the front line and had to endure much heavy shelling. It was just west of the town of Troyan that Archibald was killed by a shell on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Alfred and his second wife, Hannah, had to wait for over 3 years before they were given the definite news that Archibald had been killed in action in September 1914. They must have gone through agonies during this time as conflicting reports were arriving as regards Archibald. For instance there was a report that Archibald himself had written a letter to his parents in October

*A photograph of the Smith family outside 5 Bear St. Wotton-under-Edge circa 1911. It was here that Alfred Smith conducted his business of umbrella maker, as indicated by the sign, and hairdressers, as shown by the barber's pole. The lady with her hands on the little boy's shoulders is Hannah Smith, Archibald's stepmother. The little boy is probably Archie's younger brother Claude. The young lady holding the dog is Louise, Archie's sister. The little dog was used in Alfred's Punch and Judy Show. The identity of the lady wearing the apron is not known.*

Source: Rex George



1914. Another communication came through stating that he had been taken prisoner and yet another report that he had died in a Prisoner of War camp. Archibald's body was not recovered for burial, so he is commemorated on the La Ferté-sous-Jouarre Memorial, Marne, France (see also no. 39 - Pte. W. B. Fay, who is also commemorated on this Memorial).

Archibald's father Alfred also served in the war. He enlisted at the advanced age of 51, joining the Royal Engineers-Pioneer Regiment, service no. 162074 on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1916. He served with the R.E. Transport Depot for two years before being discharged on 7<sup>th</sup> May 1918. Some time during the war the family moved to Gloucester Street in Wotton. By this time Alfred had married Hannah Rudman. It was at Gloucester Street that he passed away on 19<sup>th</sup> November 1930. Alfred's name follows that of his son on the Roll of Honour in Wotton's Town Hall.

## FREDERICK SMITH



Rank & Unit: Rifleman, R/35612, in the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the King's Royal Rifle Corps  
 Born: 1884 in Wotton-under-Edge  
 Died: Killed in action in France on 26<sup>th</sup> June 1917  
 Buried in Croisilles British Cemetery, France Plot 1 Row G Grave 11  
 Age: 33  
 Parents: Joseph and Jane Smith  
 Wife: Name not known  
 Child: Name not known

Frederick (Fred) Smith was the eldest of the 6 children of Joseph and Jane Smith of Sinwell, Wotton-under-Edge, born in 1884. All six sons served in the First World War. Fred's father worked as a plasterer/tiler. Before he joined the Army Fred worked in Harrods, Knightsbridge in the Receiving Banks Department. Fred joined the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the King's Royal Rifle Corps as a Rifleman, service no. R/35612. The 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion had been raised at Denham, Buckinghamshire, in September 1914 by Field Marshall Lord Grenfell from the past and present members of the Church Lads Brigade.



*Frederick Smith is buried in this cemetery,  
not far from where he fell in battle.*

The 16<sup>th</sup> K.R.R.C. formed part of 100<sup>th</sup> Brigade of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Division, a 'Kitchener Division'. It landed in France in November 1915 and was involved in the Battle of the Somme in 1916. On 20<sup>th</sup> May 1917 a series of actions on the Hindenburg Line began. The main feature of these operations was an attack made by the 33<sup>rd</sup> Division between Bullecourt and the Sensée River at Croisilles. From their start positions at the Chalk Pit, two brigades - 98<sup>th</sup> and 100<sup>th</sup> - attacked at 5.15 a.m. and successfully took the enemy's front line trenches. These were later gallantly defended, with great loss, against a series of

counter-attacks by the enemy. It was at Croisilles on 26<sup>th</sup> June that Fred was to lose his life. It happened when his Battalion were moving up to the Front Line to relieve the outgoing Battalion, when they came under heavy shell fire. One officer was killed, 5 other ranks killed, including Fred, and 13 other ranks were wounded. Fred was 33 years old.

Fred was buried in Croisilles British Cemetery, Plot 1, Row G, Grave 11. Croisilles village is about 13 kms south-east of Arras. Fred left a wife and child. As well as having his name inscribed on the Wotton War Memorial, he is also remembered on the impressive marble War Memorial in Harrods.

# First World War Heroes of Wotton-under-Edge

PRIVATE	J. PEEK	DEVONS	CHINA
SERGEANT	JOLLY	9 <sup>TH</sup> CITY OF LONDON Q.V.R	CHINA
	FRICKER	17 <sup>TH</sup> ROYAL FUSILIERS	C. MEATS
PRIVATE	L. SMITH		BUILDING
WIREMAN	FRANK SHEER	ROYAL MARINES	HOUSE ENGINEERS
PRIVATE	H.A. HARROP	KING'S ROYAL RIFLES	CARPETS
" "	EDGAR PAYNE	ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS	PERFUMERY
" "	FRANCIS G.A. WARD	22 <sup>ND</sup> ROYAL FUSILIERS	
" "	HAROLD E. RIPLEY	MACHINE GUN CORPS	
SERGEANT	PHILIP MAGUIRE	ROYAL WEST KENTS	
PRIVATE	FROST	23 <sup>RD</sup> LONDON REGIMENT	JUV. TAILORING
	J. A. WRIGHT		MANCHESTER
SERGEANT	HERBERT SHRIMPTON	GRENADIER GUARDS	G.M.O
PRIVATE	FREDERICK SMITH	KING'S ROYAL RIFLES	REC BNK
" "	WILLIAM S. READ	CITY OF LONDON (T.F) CYCLISTS	TAILORING
" "	ERNEST R. CLARK	22 <sup>ND</sup> ROYAL FUSILIERS	TAILORING
" "	STANLEY CHATER	17 <sup>TH</sup> ROYAL WELSH FUSILIERS	COUNTING HOUSE
" "	BERTRAM GILL	EAST SURREY REGIMENT	AUDITS
SERGEANT	ANDREW S. OUGH	ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY	SANCTION OFFICE
PRIVATE	FRED <sup>R</sup> W.G. FELTHAM	LANCASHIRE FUSILIERS	DRUGS
" "	HENRY PETTY	12 <sup>TH</sup> B <sup>N</sup> RIFLE BRIGADE	HOUSE CATERING
SERGEANT	A. BOWER	9 <sup>TH</sup> LONDON REGIMENT	

*Part of the impressive marble war memorial in Harrods, London. On it is commemorated Rifleman Frederick Smith of the King's Royal Rifle Corps. Frederick was working in Harrods when he enlisted in the Army.*



*Frederick's grave.*



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**GEORGE HENRY SMITH**



Rank & Unit: Private, 1574, in the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment  
Born: 18<sup>th</sup> April 1893 in Wotton-under-Edge  
Died: 17<sup>th</sup> August 1916 of wounds in France  
Buried in Gezaincourt Communal Cemetery Extension, France Plot 11 Row B Grave 16  
Age: 22  
Parents: Henry and Annie Smith

George was born on 18<sup>th</sup> April 1893 in Wotton-under-Edge, the son of Henry and Annie Smith of Ludgate Hill, Wotton. Henry was the sexton of St. Mary's Parish Church in Wotton. George attended the British School and transferred to another school when he was eight years of age (name not known). At some stage the family moved around the corner to live in the Culverhay.

George enlisted in Wotton as a Territorial in February 1912. He was drafted to the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment, service no. 1574. George volunteered for overseas service after the commencement of the war (as did most Territorial soldiers) and was drafted to France with his Battalion on the 29<sup>th</sup> March 1915. The 5<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters formed part of 145<sup>th</sup> Brigade in the 48<sup>th</sup> (South Midland) Division.



On July 18<sup>th</sup> 1915 the British Third Army, which included the 48<sup>th</sup> Division, took over a part of the Western Front in the Somme area, holding 17 miles of the Front, north of the River Somme. For the next 11 months the 48<sup>th</sup> Division remained in the Somme area, taking part in the opening Battle in July 1916. In August the 5<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters were fighting in the Ovillers/La Boisselle sector of the Battlefield. Pte. George Smith was wounded in action in that area on 15<sup>th</sup> August and died in a Casualty Clearing Station two days later. Frederick Neale (70) also lost his life in this Battle and close to where George was wounded.

George was buried in Gezaincourt Communal Cemetery Extension, Plot 11, Row B, Grave 16. His family decided on the following inscription for his grave -

*Greater love hath no man  
Than to lay down his life  
For his friends.  
Thy will be done.*

Gezaincourt is a village a little south-west of the town of Doullens, halfway between the main road from Doullens to Abbeville and Doullens to Amiens. The Communal Cemetery and Extension are on the east side of the village. Many of the burials in this cemetery are of men who had died in nearby Casualty Clearing Stations. There is a photograph of George in the *Bristol Times & Mirror* of 1<sup>st</sup> April 1916.



*PTE. GEORGE SMITH of the 5<sup>th</sup> Btn. Gloucestershire Regiment died of wounds he received during fighting on the Somme, 17<sup>th</sup> August 1916. He is buried in Gezaincourt Cemetery. Above are his war medals.*

94

## STANLEY SPENCER



Rank & Unit: Private, 357296, in the 2/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Hampshire Regiment  
Born: 1899  
Died: Killed in action in France on 30<sup>th</sup> September 1918  
Commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, France  
Age: 19  
Parents: William and Frances Spencer

Stanley Spencer was the youngest of the four sons of William and Frances Spencer of Pinnel's Row, Sinwell, Wotton-under-Edge. He was born in the last year of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Stanley also had a sister. The only information we have of his younger life is that after leaving school he was employed as a weaver at New Mill, Charfield and for many years was a member of the Wotton Parish Church choir.

Stanley enlisted in the Army at Stroud in March 1917, joining the 2/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Hampshire Regiment, service no. 357296. On 1<sup>st</sup> September 1917 Stanley left Ireland for France. On 9<sup>th</sup> October, just five weeks after he had arrived in France, Mrs. Spencer received a devastating letter from Stanley's platoon commander. It read :-



*It is with heartfelt sympathy that I have to inform you of the death of your son, who was killed by a shell on September 30<sup>th</sup> and was buried near here the following day. Your son was a splendid soldier, willing, good hearted and cheerful under all conditions, and men of his ability we can ill afford to lose.*

The 2/4<sup>th</sup> Hampshires were a part of 186<sup>th</sup> Brigade in the 62<sup>nd</sup> Division, fighting in 4 Corps of General Sir Julian Byng's 3<sup>rd</sup> Army. The Hampshires had helped to clear the Hindenburg Line in their advance on Cambrai. Stanley lost his life in the Marcoing area, close to the St. Quentin canal, just after the Hindenburg Line had been cleared.

Stanley was one of the youngest Wotton men to die in the war, he was just 19 years old. Stanley is commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Pas-de-Calais, France, which suggests that his grave was lost in fighting after his death. The Memorial is to be found 10 kms south-east of Arras on the Cambrai Road.

95

## CHARLES WILLIAM STEVENS



Rank & Unit: Private, 10047, in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment  
Born: Wotton-under-Edge  
Died: Killed in action in France on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1915.  
Commemorated on Le Touret Memorial, France



I have been unable to definitely identify Charles's parents, however, the 1891 census records an Alfred Stevens (aged 53) living at 23 Bradley Street, Wotton-under-Edge, with his wife Sarah. They had three children - William, 18 years old in 1891, Charles, 16 and Charlotte, 28. Could this be Charles's family? If so, it would put Charles at 39 years of age at the outbreak of war. However, a photograph in the *Bristol Times & Mirror* of 1<sup>st</sup> April 1916 shows a young looking Charles Stevens in military uniform. Or could our Charles be the Charles Stevens, born on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1896, whose father was named 'Henry' and who lived in Bradley Street, Wotton? The Admissions Register for the British School, Wotton for 1903 records that this Charles Stevens entered the school on 7<sup>th</sup> September, leaving on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1910. There is a possibility that the Alfred Stevens named above and Henry Stevens, who both lived in Bradley Street, were related.

We definitely know that Charles William Stevens was born in Wotton-under-Edge and that he was a member of the Baptist Church in the town. We also know that he enlisted in Bristol right at the commencement of the war, in August 1914 (information from the publication *Soldiers Died in the Great War*). Charles joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment, service no. 10047.

Charles was drafted to France on 10<sup>th</sup> February 1915. At that time the 1<sup>st</sup> Gloucesters were in 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division. The 1<sup>st</sup> Division attacked the enemy on 9<sup>th</sup> May in the Béthune area of France, but were held up by hostile machine gun fire. They suffered many casualties, including many men of the 1<sup>st</sup> Gloucesters. 250 men of that Battalion were killed or wounded, among those killed was Pte. Charles Stevens. Having no known grave, Charles is commemorated on Le Touret Memorial. This is located at the east end of Le Touret Military Cemetery, on the south side of the Béthune-Armentières main road. Serving in the same Battalion as Charles was Pte. Walter Wathen (no. 108) from Bear Street, Wotton, who was also killed on 9<sup>th</sup> May, making this a very black day for the town.

## WILFRED GEORGE STINCHCOMBE



Rank & Unit: Private, 18676, in the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the  
Worcestershire Regiment  
Born: 1897 in Wotton-under-Edge  
Died: Killed in action in France in May or June 1918.  
Buried in Chambrecy Military Cemetery, France: Plot 7, Row B, Grave 7  
Age: 21  
Parents: Albert Bentley and Maria Stinchcombe

Wilfred was the son of Albert Bentley and Maria Stinchcombe of Ragnall, Wotton-under-Edge. Wilfred was born in 1897. Albert worked as a carpenter. As yet no information has come to light on Wilfred's early life, schooling or employment before he joined the Army.

Wilfred enlisted in Wotton-under-Edge early in the war, joining the 10<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion of the Worcestershire Regiment, with the service no. 18676. Many Gloucestershire men joined the Worcesters, not being able to get into their county Regiment as they were up to strength. The 10<sup>th</sup> Worcesters formed part of 57<sup>th</sup> Brigade in 19<sup>th</sup> (Western) Division. The Battalion landed in Boulogne on 19<sup>th</sup> July 1915 and saw much action on the Western Front over the next three years or so. According to a *Gazette* of 20<sup>th</sup> July 1918, Wilfred had come through three years active service safely, but was now reported missing and had been for seven weeks.

Wilfred's parents were now to have an extremely long wait before having confirmation that their son had died in battle. A *Gazette* of 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1919 contained the following report :-

### **Now reported killed**

*The Army Council have informed Mr. & Mrs. A. Stinchcombe of Ragnall, Wotton-under-Edge, that they now conclude that their son, Pte. Wilfred Stinchcombe of the Worcestershire Regiment was killed during the period May 28<sup>th</sup> and June 18<sup>th</sup> 1918, when he was reported missing.*

At the time of Wilfred's death the Battalion were involved in the German offensive on the River Aisne. The Germans attacked at the first light of dawn on 30<sup>th</sup> May in the area of Lhery (Marne), some 18 kms south-west of Reims. Under cover of very heavy gun-fire, eight dense waves of German infantry from the 103<sup>rd</sup> Division attacked the men of the British 19<sup>th</sup> Division. The Germans managed to get around the right flank of the line defended by the 10<sup>th</sup> Worcesters and almost surrounded them. Twice the German attack was repulsed but during their third assault, with the added advantage of fresh reinforcements, the 10<sup>th</sup> Worcesters had to fall back behind the village of Lhery and form a new defensive line.

It was probably during this action that Wilfred lost his life. Although reported as missing, Wilfred's body was located and identified and he was buried in Chambrecy British Cemetery just four kms south-east of Lhéry. The cemetery is situated east of the village of Chambrecy on the road to Reims. Wilfred is buried in Plot 7, Row B, Grave 7. Chambrecy Cemetery was made after the Armistice, by the concentration of graves from the surrounding battlefields. There are now over 400, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. The graves are almost all of May/June 1918 and largely of the 19<sup>th</sup>(Western) and 51<sup>st</sup> (Highland) Divisions. Nearly 200 of the casualties are unidentified.



*The grave of Albert Bentley Stinchcombe and his wife Maria in Wotton Cemetery. Their son Pte. Wilfred Stinchcombe is commemorated on their grave.*

It is interesting to note that there are different dates given for Wilfred's death. The publication *Soldiers Died in the Great War* gives June 18<sup>th</sup> 1918 as the date, however, fighting died down on this part of the front on the 8<sup>th</sup> June. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register for Chambrecy Cemetery has May 28<sup>th</sup>, but this is two days before the start of the action at Lhery and when the Battalion was being driven up to the front line. Even Wilfred's family were unsure of their son's date of death, as can be seen on the headstone of his parents' grave, which can be found in Wotton Cemetery. The inscription reads as follows :-

IN  
MEMORY OF  
ALBERT BENTLEY STINCHCOMBE  
DIED APRIL 26TH 1936  
AGED 72  
ALSO OF  
MARIA STINCHCOMBE  
WIFE OF THE ABOVE  
DIED JANUARY 10TH 1958, AGED 90  
ALSO  
WILFRED GEORGE  
BELOVED SON OF THE ABOVE  
KILLED IN ACTION JUNE 1918  
AGED 21.

## RICHARD HAROLD TANNER



Rank & Unit: Corporal, 313, in the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Australian Infantry, Australian Imperial Force  
Born: April 1884  
Died: of wounds in France on 24<sup>th</sup> August 1916.  
Buried in Étaples Military Cemetery, France: Plot 9, Row F, Grave 16  
Age: 32  
Parents: Charles and Charlotte Tanner

Richard Harold Tanner was born in April 1884, the son of William Charles and Charlotte Tanner of Ozleworth near Wotton-under-Edge. Richard had a brother, Walter John, who also served in the First World War, with the West Yorkshire Regiment. He also had a sister - Alice Maud, who on marrying moved to Leominster. Richard was educated in Bristol and taught at a number of schools in England before leaving for Australia in 1910. During the last two years in England before leaving for Australia Richard served as a Territorial soldier with the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Somerset Light Infantry.

Soon after the outbreak of war Richard attested at Randwick, New South Wales on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> August 1914. His attestation paper gave the following personal information - *height 5 feet 5.5 ins., weight 10 stones, complexion dark, eyes brown and hair black*. Richard joined the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade of the Australian Imperial Force. After undergoing training, he embarked on the ship *Lake Michigan* on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1915 and with thousands of other Australian troops joined the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force sailing to Turkey, to take part in the Gallipoli Campaign. Richard landed with his Battalion on the Gallipoli Peninsula and fought throughout the difficult campaign until illness caused him to be taken back to the Mediterranean island of Mudros on 1<sup>st</sup> July and thence to Heliopolis, a suburb of Cairo, where he was hospitalised with septic hands and ear trouble. Richard left Egypt on 28<sup>th</sup> September, sailed via Mudros and rejoined his Battalion on Gallipoli. He was now to be promoted Corporal. After further fighting and with the campaign not going well, the Battalion along with the rest of the Australian forces were evacuated from Gallipoli in December, disembarking at Alexandria on 29<sup>th</sup> December.

After rest and recuperation in Egypt Richard embarked with his Battalion for Marseilles on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1916, sailing on the ship *Simla*. They arrived on the 30<sup>th</sup> and entrained for the Western Front. Richard's Battalion were involved in a number of front line engagements over the next few months and on 6<sup>th</sup> August entered the front line near Pozières during the Battle of the Somme. Fighting in the Pozières area continued until the 18<sup>th</sup> August and it was probably during this period that Richard was seriously wounded in the back. He was taken back to St. John's Hospital in Étaples, on the channel coast and there he died of his wounds on 24<sup>th</sup> August. News of Richard's death appeared in the *Gazette* of 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Cpl. Richard Tanner was buried in the huge military cemetery at Étaples, Plot 9, Row F, Grave 16. The cemetery lies to the north of the town, on the west side of the road to Boulogne.



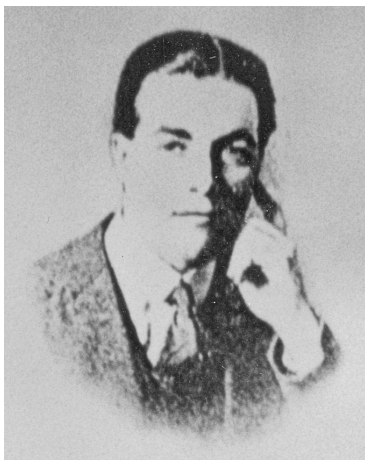
*Étaples Cemetery, the largest British military cemetery  
in France. Cpl. Richard Tanner is buried here.*



## ARTHUR LLEWELLYN TILLEY



Rank & Unit: Private, 2719, in the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment  
Born: 1892 in Wotton-under-Edge  
Died: Killed in action in France on 21<sup>st</sup> July 1916.  
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, France  
Age: 24  
Parents: Charles Henry and Veronica Tilley



Arthur was the second son of Charles Henry Tilley and his wife Veronica. The 1891 Census states that Charles was born in Bristol in 1856 and Veronica in Germany in 1858. They ran a confectionary shop in Market Street, Wotton-under-Edge. Arthur was born in Wotton in 1892. He attended Colston School, Bristol, between 1904 and 1909. After leaving school Arthur was apprenticed to Mawdsley's Engineering at the Zone Works in Dursley.

Arthur enlisted in Gloucester right at the start of the war and was drafted into the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment, service no. 2719. While training in Chelmsford with his Battalion, Arthur became one of the best shots and was selected as a sniper. Arthur sailed for France with his Battalion, landing at Boulogne on 29<sup>th</sup> March 1915. The 5<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters formed part of 145<sup>th</sup> Brigade, along with 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion (1<sup>st</sup> Bucks) of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Ox. and Bucks and the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Berkshires.

The 145<sup>th</sup> Brigade found themselves just north of the River Somme in July 1915 and there they were to stay until the infamous Battle of the Somme in July, 1916. It was during this battle that Arthur was to lose his life, probably killed by machine gun fire on the evening of 21<sup>st</sup> July in the Ovillers/La Boisselle sector of the battlefield. Arthur's body was not recovered after the battle, so he is commemorated on the giant Thiepval Memorial to the Missing.

Arthur is commemorated on the Colston School Memorial as well as on Wotton's War Memorial. 77 old boys of Colston's died in the Great War. Arthur's photograph appears in a book entitled *Colston School and the Great War 1914-1918*, compiled by H. Messenger, and also in the *Bristol Times & Mirror* of 1<sup>st</sup> April 1916. Arthur's death must have been keenly felt in the small town of Wotton-under-Edge as he was a very well known member of the community, representing the town in three sports - cricket, football and tennis. Arthur's brother Paul, serving as a Gunner in the Royal Garrison Artillery, survived the war.

## LEWIS HUBERT TOWNSEND



Rank & Unit: Lance Corporal, 1031, in the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Royal Irish Regiment  
 Born: 28<sup>th</sup> July 1894  
 Died: on the Gallipoli Peninsula on 20<sup>th</sup> September 1915.  
 Commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Gallipoli  
 Age: 21  
 Father: Alfred Townsend

Lewis Townsend, born on 28<sup>th</sup> July 1894 was the son of Alfred Townsend of High Street, Wickwar. I have not been able to identify his mother's name as yet. Alfred worked as a gardener. Lewis was educated at The Endowed School, Wickwar and then at Katharine Lady Berkeley's Grammar School, Wotton-under-Edge, which he entered on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1908, leaving on 26<sup>th</sup> July 1910. After leaving school Lewis became a clerk in a brewery, probably in Wickwar.

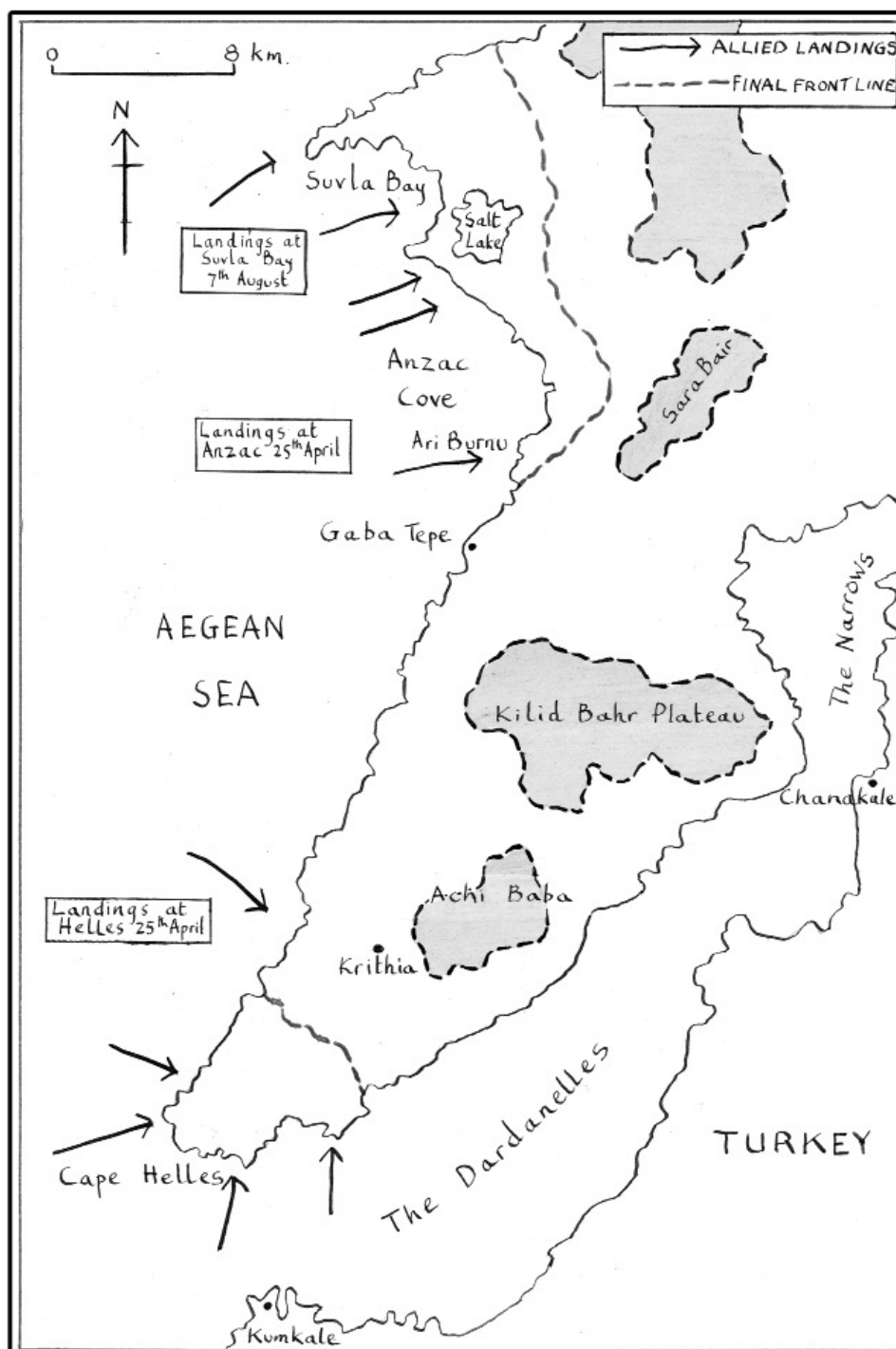
Lewis enlisted in the Royal Irish Regiment, joining its 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, service no. 1031. At the commencement of the war the 5<sup>th</sup> R.I.R. belonged to the 31<sup>st</sup> Brigade of the 10<sup>th</sup> (Irish) Division; this Division was the first Irish Division that ever existed in the British Army. The 5<sup>th</sup> R.I.R. served as the Divisional Pioneer Battalion. The Division crossed to England in May 1915, training in the Basingstoke area. In July 1915 they sailed for the Mediterranean, heading for the Gallipoli Peninsula. On 16<sup>th</sup> July the Division arrived at the Mediterranean island of Mudros. At 8 a.m. on 7<sup>th</sup> August the Division landed at Suvla on the Peninsula.

The 5<sup>th</sup> R.I.R. was trained as an infantry unit but also received instruction in engineering work, especially in road making. The majority of its men were miners or construction workers, its function was to do the odd jobs of the Division. On the Gallipoli Peninsula, however, those duties soon fell into abeyance, since it was called on to fill up the gaps in the line.

The Irish Division were given the task of clearing Kiretch Tepe Ridge, just north of Suvla Bay. After a week on the bare Kiretch Tepe the men were suffering terribly from the heat and the acute shortage of water. Robert Rhodes James in his book *Gallipoli* includes an eye-witness account of the conditions "*..... the drawn faces and haggard look told of the dreadful week into which more privation and suffering had been compressed than fell to the lot of most men in a lifetime. Their faces were begrimed with smoke and sweat. The clay of the trenches showed on their hands and through the unshaven beard and close-cropped head.*" Although the attack was conducted with great resolution, little real progress was made and casualties amounted to nearly 2,000.

L/Cpl. Lewis Townsend survived this battle, but unfortunately wasn't to live for much longer, dying just a month later, on 20<sup>th</sup> September. It is not clear how Lewis died. Both Commonwealth War Graves Commission Registers and the publication *Soldiers Died in the Great War* just have the word 'died'. Did he die in battle or as the result of wounds or could he have died from an illness? In fact a friend of Lewis - Pte. Frank Ashley, writing home mentioned that whilst serving on the Gallipoli Peninsula, Lewis had been taken to hospital suffering from dysentery.

It is also unclear when Lewis's family were told of his death. As late as 4<sup>th</sup> March 1916, the *Gazette* stated that he was '*still listed missing*'. Lewis is commemorated in several places. In Gallipoli his name can be found on the Helles Memorial. This memorial stands on the tip of the peninsula, it



*Map showing Gallipoli Landings  
April & August 1915*

takes the form of an obelisk over 30 metres high that can be seen by ships passing through the Dardanelles. The memorial bears over 20,000 names. As well as being commemorated on Wotton's War Memorial, Lewis also has his name inscribed on the Roll of Honour plaque in Wickwar Parish Church; as far as I am aware, Lewis is the only Wickwar man whose name appears on Wotton's memorial. Lewis's name appears in three other places, on the Roll of Honour in Katharine Lady Berkeley's School and on the memorial tablet in Sinwell Chapel, Wotton-under-Edge. There is a mistake on the Roll of Honour boards in Wotton-under-Edge Town Hall, where Lewis's regiment is given as the Royal Irish Rifles.

## 100

### VICTOR VINCENT TROTMAN



Rank & Unit: Corporal, 21572, in the 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment  
Born: 17<sup>th</sup> December 1899 in Dursley  
Died: Killed in action in France on 19<sup>th</sup> July 1916.  
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial  
Age: 16 years and 7 months  
Parents: Private George and Mrs. Trotman

Victor was probably the youngest Wottonian to die in the First World War. Born in Dursley on 17<sup>th</sup> December 1899, he was just 16 years and 7 months old when he was killed. Victor was the son of Mr. & Mrs. George Trotman of Market Street, Wotton-under-Edge. At one time Victor's family lived in Berkeley before moving to Kingswood and finally to Wotton. After leaving the Council School in Berkeley, Victor worked as an errand boy in that village. After the family moved to Kingswood Victor worked at New Mill, Charfield. Like many young men seeking adventure overseas and probably not realising the ferocity of modern warfare, Victor enlisted in the Army in August 1915 in Wotton-under-Edge, just 15 years of age, probably telling the recruiting officer that he was 18 or so. Victor joined the 14<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment, a Bantam Battalion for men shorter than 5 feet 5 inches. He was given the service no. 21572.

The Battalion landed at Le Havre, France on 31<sup>st</sup> January 1916. The 14<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters formed part of 105<sup>th</sup> Brigade in the 35<sup>th</sup> Division. Victor must have been an excellent soldier as he was soon promoted Corporal. In July 1916 the 14<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters were deployed just north of the River Somme, taking part in that momentous Battle. The Battalion Diary for the 19<sup>th</sup> reports :-

*Maricourt*

*Relieved 16<sup>th</sup> Cheshires in Front Line in Trones Wood. 2 officers killed, 4 officers wounded, 23 men killed, 70 wounded, 10 missing.*

The 35<sup>th</sup> Divisional History states that at 8.30 p.m. the enemy were reported to be advancing from Guillemont. The 14<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters were moving up to relieve the garrison who were preparing to resist the impending attack. The hostile advance had been noticed and a rapid artillery barrage opened on the enemy trenches north of Guillemont and no attack developed. Mention is made only of heavy shelling. It seems likely that the heavy casualties, including Victor, were as a result of that shelling. Having no known grave, Victor is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial.

Victor's father, George, also served in the Great War, receiving shrapnel wounds in the eye, shoulder and arms. He was brought back to No. 2 V. A. D. Hospital in Exeter. Whilst in hospital, recovering from his wounds, he received news of Victor's death. As well as Victor, George had three daughters - Elsie May, Lily and Florence. George had a number of jobs after leaving the Army, including shorthand typing in White's Bakery in London, also as an insurance agent and as a docker in Sharpness and finally as a postman in Kingswood.

## 101

### SEYMOUR BURNELL TUBBS



Rank & Unit: Captain in the 2/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment  
Born: 30<sup>th</sup> May 1894  
Died: Killed in action in Belgium on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1917.  
Commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium  
Age: 23  
Parents: Percy Burnell and Alice Maude Tubbs

Seymour Burnell Tubbs was born on 30<sup>th</sup> May 1894, the second son of Percy Burnell Tubbs, architect, F.R.I.B.A. and his wife Alice Maude Tubbs. Seymour's uncle was Mr. Stanley Tubbs (later Sir Stanley), who ran the business, Messrs. Tubbs-Lewis & Co. The business, which started in London, moved to cloth mills in the Charfield and Kingswood areas of south Gloucestershire. At the time of the Great War Tubbs-Lewis was by far the largest employer in the area.

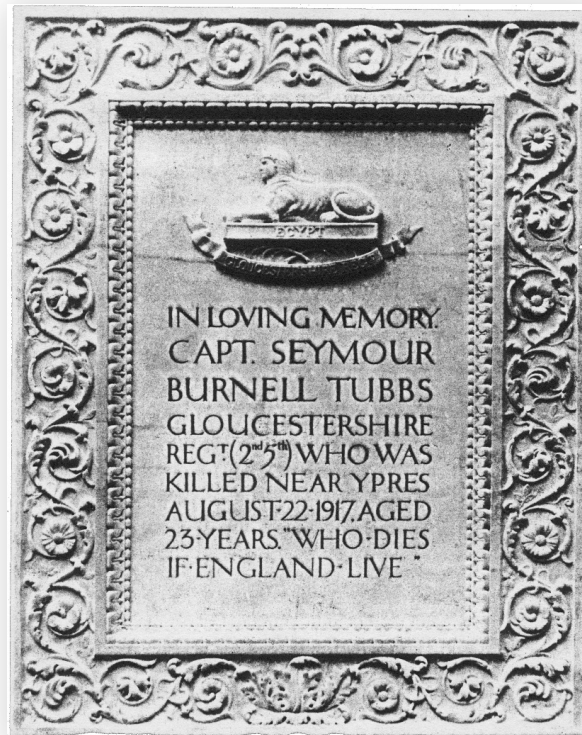
Seymour was sent to school in Eastbourne, attending St. Cyprian School, a small preparatory school run by Mr. L. C. Vaughan Wilkes. At that time Seymour's parents were living at 41 Campden Hill Court, Kensington. Later they moved to the prestigious address of 2 Moore Street, Cadogan Square, S.W. In late January 1909, at the age of 14, Seymour entered Harrow School, where he stayed until 1912. It is said that Seymour was not particularly academic, but showed some aptitude for sport, particularly Fives.



After leaving school, Seymour came to the Wotton-under-Edge district to work for his uncle in Tubbs-Lewis. Whilst living in Wotton (probably in *Ellerncroft*, his uncle's home), Seymour carried on with his sporting interests, joining Wotton Cricket Club and being appointed Captain at one stage. His talent at the sport was such that he was offered a trial with Gloucester County Cricket Club, but the coming of war was to cut that short.

Seymour joined the 1/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment as a Private in September 1914 and received his Commission about a month later in the 2/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Regiment. This was a Territorial Force battalion, which included in its ranks two Gloucestershire poets - Ivor Gurney and F. W. Harvey. Seymour was promoted Lieutenant on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1915 and Captain on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1916. He went to the Front with his Battalion just two days after his promotion to Captain, landing at Le Havre on 25<sup>th</sup> May. At the end of 1916, after being recommended for the Military Cross (which he did not receive), he was invalided home with trench fever and rheumatics, but returned to the Front in May 1917, where he acted as Adjutant until August when he was given charge of the newly re-formed 'D' Company.

Seymour was killed in his Battalion's attack on Pond Farm, near Wieltje, four kms north-east of Ypres in the Salient. In the *Gazette* of 8<sup>th</sup> September 1917, one can read part of a letter written by L/Cpl. A. W. Neill who was in the same Company as Capt. Tubbs. Neill refers to Capt. Tubbs's death in the letter to his wife, it reads :- "... he was killed by a shell which burst in front of him while

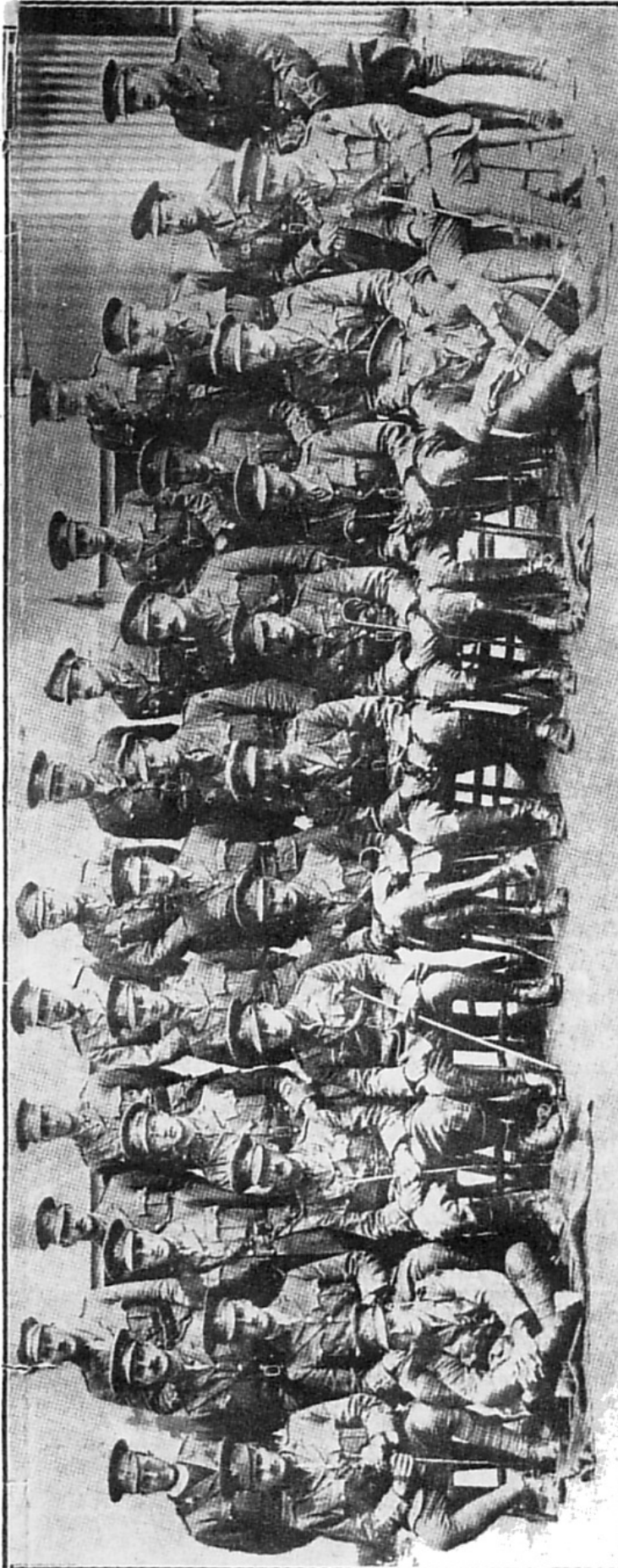


*The Memorial Tablet in Kingswood  
Parish Church, Gloucestershire, to  
Capt. Seymour Burnell Tubbs.*

he was leading us through a German barrage.” Apart from Seymour Tubbs, two other officers from the Battalion were killed in the attack, as were 16 other ranks, 1 officer and 51 other ranks were wounded and 1 other rank was listed as missing.

In the book *Harrow Memorials of the Great War* (1920), it states that Capt. Tubbs was buried “in the cemetery at Ypres”. In fact there are several cemeteries in Ypres, however, the book does not give the name of a specific cemetery. Seymour’s name actually appears on the Memorial to the Missing in Tyne Cot Cemetery, near Zonnebeke. The most likely happening was that if Seymour was indeed buried, then his remains were probably lost in the fierce fighting which continued in this area for another three months. The Tyne Cot Memorial lists the names of 35,000 men who died in the fighting in this part of Belgium between August 1917 and the end of the war. For the men who died in the Ypres Salient from August 1914 until August 1917 and have no known grave, then they are commemorated on the Menin Gate in Ypres.

Seymour Tubbs is commemorated in a number of places as well as on the Tyne Cot Memorial and Wotton-under-Edge War Memorial. His name appears on the Harrow School War Memorial and on a tablet in Kingswood Parish Church. The tablet has on it the words - “Who dies if England lives?” A Memorial service was held for Capt. Tubbs in Kingswood Church on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1917. Photographs of Capt. Tubbs appear in three books, first in *Harrow Memorials of the Great War*, secondly in *The Story of the 2<sup>nd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Gloucestershire Regiment, 1914-1918*, Edited by A. F. Barnes (1930) and finally in *F. W. Harvey - Soldier Poet* by Anthony Boden (1988). There is also a photograph of Seymour in the *Bristol Times & Mirror* of 1<sup>st</sup> April 1916. It was, of course, Seymour’s father, Percy Tubbs who designed Wotton’s War Memorial.



The Officers of the 2/5th Gloucesters photographed on Salisbury Plain before embarkation for France.

Back row: Lt. B. C. Bernard, Lt. J. Hunter, Lt. Naldrett, Lt. Vaughan, Capt. L. Dudbridge, 2nd Lt. Knight, 2nd Lt. Harvey, 2nd Lt. Foster, 2nd Lt. Blyth.  
 2nd row: Rev. P. Milum, Capt. Worthington, Lt. E. H. Harvey, Capt. C. S. Cole, Lt. C. Cole, Capt. M. F. Badcock, Lt. Pyke-Nott, Lt. O. Harrison, Lt. Miles, Capt. R. B. Sinclair, Lt. Curtois, Capt. Bickwell.  
 3rd row: Capt. J. K. E. Rickerby, Capt. Wise, Capt. A. F. Barnes, Major Wales, Major G. C. Beloe, Lt.-Col. P. Balfour, Major the Right Hon. C. P. Allen, Major G. Davies, M.P., Capt. J. E. Hollington, Capt. S. B. Tubbs.  
 Front row: 2nd Lt. Wallick, 2nd Lt. Neal.

Source: 'F. W. Harvey - Soldier Poet'  
 by Anthony Boden (1988)

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## CHARLES TURNER



Rank & Unit: Private, 24497, in the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment  
Born: 1882  
Died: Killed in action in France on 18<sup>th</sup> November 1916.  
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, France  
Age: 34  
Parents: Joseph and Harriet Jane Turner

Charles was the youngest son of Joseph and Harriet Jane Turner of Ragnall, Wotton-under-Edge. He was born in 1882, three years after his brother Jesse. Their father, an agricultural labourer, was born in Gloucester in 1854 and their mother was born in Coln St. Aldwyns in 1855.

After leaving school Charles worked at Lister's Engineering Works in Dursley. In September 1915 Charles enlisted in Dursley, joining the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment and being given the service no. 24497. The 8<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters belonged to 57<sup>th</sup> Brigade in the 19<sup>th</sup> (Western) Division. The Battalion landed in France on 18<sup>th</sup> July 1915. Charles was killed in action during the later stages of the Battle of the Somme, on 18<sup>th</sup> November 1916, aged 34. (For an account of the action in which Charles died; see Pte. William Knight (no. 60) who died on the same day). Charles's body was not recovered after the battle, so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial.

Charles is also commemorated in Sinwell Chapel, Wotton, where a tablet was placed in honour of eight young members who lost their lives as a result of the Great War conflict.



*Lister Works, circa 1919*

Source: Richard Buffrey



## 103

### HENRY WALTER WILLIAM TURNER



Rank & Unit: Private, PO.16512, in the Royal Marine Light Infantry  
Born: 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1895 in Wotton-under-Edge  
Died: Killed in action on *HMS Black Prince* during the Battle of Jutland, 31<sup>st</sup> May, 1916.  
Commemorated on the Portsmouth Division Royal Naval War Memorial  
Age: 21  
Parents: Henry and Ruth Turner



Henry Turner, also known as 'Harry' or 'Tiny', was born in Wotton-under-Edge on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1895, the third and youngest son of Henry and Ruth Turner of Lower Bradley Road, Wotton-under-Edge. Henry and Ruth also had two daughters. Before he joined the Royal Marines Harry had worked in Mr. Albert Richings's butcher's shop in Long Street, Wotton, and also as a carter. He enlisted in the Royal Marine Light Infantry in Bristol on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1912, service no. PO.16512, signifying Portsmouth Division, he was just 17 years of age. According to Service Records he was 5ft. 4 inches tall, of fresh complexion, with blue eyes and brown hair. He trained at the Royal Marine Depot in Deal, Kent, between September 1912 and July 1913. Whilst training he passed his 3<sup>rd</sup> class school certificate on 4<sup>th</sup> March 1913. After completing training Harry joined 'C' Company of Portsmouth Division. On 21<sup>st</sup>

April 1914 he embarked in *HMS Black Prince*, an armoured cruiser. He served in this ship up to his death at the Battle of Jutland.

The following is an account of the Battle as described by A. J. P. Taylor in his book *The First World War* :-

*At the beginning of the year (1916) there was a change in Germany's naval command - Scheer, who took over the High Seas Fleet was eager for action. He recognised that the British fleet was superior, but he hoped to entice their ships into isolated actions and thus wear down British strength until something like equality was achieved. Hence he pushed provocatively into the North Sea. The British could follow every German move. Early in the war, the body of a dead German naval officer was found by the Russians in the Baltic. On it was a copy of the German code book. The Russians passed this to the British. Henceforth the British could decipher every German wireless message. The great day came on 31<sup>st</sup> May. Scheer set his trap. Admiral Hipper, with the battle cruisers was to go ahead, and to lure British ships on to the main fleet. The British heard the warning. From Scapa Flow, Jellicoe steamed south with the Grand Fleet to take the Germans in their own trap. There had never been such an array of naval might. The British had 28 dreadnoughts, 8 battlecruisers; the Germans 16 dreadnoughts and 5 battlecruisers. In all 250 vessels were present and no less than 25 Admirals. In addition, there was 1 Royal Navy armoured cruiser, the Black Prince]*

*At first everything went according to plan. Beatty, commanding the British battle cruisers, engaged Hipper in the early afternoon. Though 2 British ships were sunk, Beatty pushed on towards the main German fleet. It was in the afternoon that the Black Prince lost contact with the rest of the fleet and wandered about the battle area until at midnight she stumbled across the German fleet. Scheer thought that his great chance had come. Beatty turned away, apparently in flight. For two hours Scheer pursued him. At 6.15 p.m. the main British fleet appeared on the horizon and deployed into line, though in such a way as to deploy away from the enemy. Scheer saw the trap almost before the great guns began to fire. He, too, turned away, soon after 6.30. Jellicoe did not attempt to pursue. He had laid down the firm doctrine that it was more important to preserve British ships than to sink Germans; and he now believed that pursuit would bring the ships onto German mines or submarines. In fact, the Germans had none of either on the scene of battle. However, rightly or wrongly, Jellicoe turned away. The battle seemed over. Half an hour later Scheer's ships suddenly re-appeared slap in the centre of the British line. No one knows why, probably Scheer hoped to pass across the rear. The battle was renewed for some 15 minutes. Then Scheer turned away once more and Jellicoe also. The British were now between the Germans and their way home. But contact had been lost. Jellicoe could only guess at the German route and he guessed the wrong one. Scheer slipped past the British rear and got safely home. Jellicoe found himself on an empty sea, and went home in his turn. The Battle of Jutland was over.*

*At midnight on the 31<sup>st</sup>, Hase, a German officer, on the Derflinger saw an unforgettable sight. He wrote "A burning ship drove past us, the whole ship was red hot. There could not have been a soul alive on board for some time." The ship was the Black Prince, she had been heavily shelled in the afternoon, had been caught alone and shelled again by the High Seas Fleet in the night. With dead men at her helm, she now drove through the centre of the battle, disappeared into the darkness and was never seen again.*

Harry Turner was one of 821 men who lost their lives on the *Black Prince*; he was 21 years old. Harry is commemorated on the Portsmouth Division, Royal Naval War Memorial at Southsea Common, Portsmouth, as well as on Wotton's War Memorial. The Portsmouth Memorial commemorates 9,666 men of the Royal Navy who lost their lives in the First World War. Both of Harry's brothers - Albert and Frank - served in the Royal Engineers during the war. Both survived, although Albert did become a German prisoner of war. There are photographs of Harry in the *Bristol Times & Mirror* of 1<sup>st</sup> April 1916 and in the *Gazette* of 17<sup>th</sup> June 1916.

**CEDRIC DONOVAN UPSTONE**

Rank & Unit: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Devonshire Regiment  
 Born: 18<sup>th</sup> September 1892  
 Died: of paratyphoid fever in India on 11<sup>th</sup> July 1916.  
 Buried in Kirkee Cemetery, Mumbai (Bombay), India Plot N/XI Grave C. 10 - [See text for explanation]  
 Age: 23  
 Parents: The Rev. Philip and Mrs. Mary Upstone

Cedric Upstone was the only son of the Rev. Philip Upstone and Mary Upstone. Cedric was born on 18<sup>th</sup> September 1892, probably in Wotton-under-Edge, where his father was Curate at St. Mary's Parish Church. Philip Upstone had graduated in Theology from Oxford University in 1890. On coming down he served as Curate in Wotton and stayed there until 1896. Between 1896 and 1899 he was Priest Vicar and Sacristan at Truro Cathedral. He came back to Wotton in 1900 and served as curate once more until 1903. He moved yet again, this time to Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, where he was curate until 1907. His final move came in that year when he became vicar of Coaley, Gloucestershire, until his death in 1911. During his stay in Wotton Philip lived in Prospect Place. According to the 1891 census, the head of the household was Samuel Partridge the church organist.

During Rev. Upstone's second curacy at Wotton, Cedric attended Katharine Lady Berkeley's School from c. 1903 until 1908. He then transferred to St. Edward's School, Oxford, where he stayed until 1911, the year of his father's death. Whilst at St. Edward's, Cedric became interested in rowing and in 1910 he represented the School IV as bow and in 1911 he rowed as number 2, he also rowed in the School VIII. In October 1911 Cedric went up to St. John's College, Oxford, where, like his father he studied Theology, with the intention of taking Holy Orders. Cedric continued with his rowing at St. John's and in 1912 rowed in the '*Torpids Races*' for the college 2<sup>nd</sup> VIII. In the following year he was rowing for the college 1<sup>st</sup> VIII. Whilst at St. John's Cedric was also a member of the Officers Training Unit.

On 29<sup>th</sup> August 1914, soon after the outbreak of war, Cedric attested and was commissioned in the 1/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Devonshire Regiment. Only six weeks later 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. Upstone found himself on the transport ship *SS Nevassa*, sailing for India with his Battalion. The 4<sup>th</sup> Devons were to relieve regular troops who would then go on to serve on the Western Front. Disembarkation took place at Karachi on 10<sup>th</sup> November. They then entrained for Ferozepore in the Lahore region of India, an 800 mile journey, passing through the Sind desert. Destination was achieved two days later and the 4<sup>th</sup> Devons took over from the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Connaught Rangers. For the next 15 months or so the Battalion performed the duties of internal security troops.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1916 orders were received for immediate mobilization to Mesopotamia (modern Iraq). On the 21<sup>st</sup> of the month the Battalion entrained for Karachi, arriving there two days later. They immediately embarked on the *SS Vita* and reached Basra in Mesopotamia on the 29<sup>th</sup>. The 1<sup>st</sup> Division of the British Army had landed on the shores of the Persian Gulf towards the close of 1914. The switch from coal-burning to oil-burning ships, had rendered British sea power dependant on supplies from the Persian oilfield at the head of the Persian Gulf. Yet less than 100 miles distant from the oil port of Abadan and the vital pipelines running inland to the wells round Ahwaz,

lay the borders of Turkish Mesopotamia. The mission of the British troops was to protect these Persian oil-fields and pipelines.

These troops, together with a contingent from the Indian Army and led by Maj. Gen. Townshend moving up the Tigris, had successfully captured and occupied Kurnah, Amarah, Sheikh Saad and Kut-al-Amarah. In December 1915 they pushed on towards Baghdad, won the Battle of Ctesephton, but now found themselves confronted by overwhelmingly superior numbers, many Turkish soldiers having been released from the Gallipoli Peninsula. Townshend's troops were forced to retire. He decided to stand at Kut-al-Amarah, however, his forces were cut off and surrounded. The 4<sup>th</sup> Devons, having just arrived in Mesopotamia, attempted to reach the beleaguered troops. The attempt failed as there were overwhelming difficulties - lack of numbers, lack of ammunition, lack of medical supplies and even a lack of food. Townshend surrendered on 29<sup>th</sup> April.

Between March and June 1916 the 4<sup>th</sup> Devons, not having been involved in the surrender, performed piquet line defence duties in the Sheikh Saad area. Duties were arduous and at times general conditions were most difficult and even appalling. The strength of the Battalion in both officers and men diminished. Casualties from sickness, chiefly dysentery, took a big toll. Medical supplies and hospital facilities were sadly deficient. Several men departed to hospitals in Sheikh Saad, India (including Cedric) and even England. The following item appeared in the Battalion Diary at that time :-

*"The physique of the Battalion has very seriously deteriorated during the past few weeks owing to adverse climatic and other conditions, viz. excessive heat, heavy fatigues, possession of only single-fly tents and the inability of the men to consume the issued rations."*

In June 1916 the 4<sup>th</sup> Devons moved to the Sinn area where they spent the next five months in the front line defences. It was during this time that Cedric became ill and he was sent back to hospital in Bombay, suffering from paratyphoid fever, a disease generally caused by drinking contaminated water. Very few soldiers in Mesopotamia would have been inoculated against this disease. Unfortunately, Cedric died in Colaba Hospital in Bombay on the 11<sup>th</sup> July 1916, aged 23. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. Cedric Donovan Upstone was buried originally in Bombay (Sewri) Cemetery, Plot N/XI, Grave C. 10. However, in 1960, all Allied WW1 graves were transferred to Kirkee Cemetery, Mumbai (Bombay), India.

Cedric is commemorated in a number of places - on memorials in the two schools he attended - Katharine Lady Berkeley's Grammar School, Wotton, and St. Edward's School, Oxford, and also at St. John's College, Oxford. His name is also inscribed on a tablet in the Parish Church, Charlton King's, and on the Kirkee 1914-1918 Memorial, Face C, India, as well as on the War Memorial in Wotton-under-Edge. Cedric's mother Mary received over 100 letters of condolence after her son's death (See Appendix B).



*Kirkee Cemetery, Mumbai, India*

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## TOM VENN



Rank & Unit: Private, 21837, in the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Royal Berkshire Regiment  
 Born: January 1894  
 Died: Killed in action in France on 21<sup>st</sup> March 1918.  
 Commemorated on the Pozières Memorial, France: Panels 56 and 57  
 Age: 24  
 Parents: George and Fanny Venn  
 Wife: Violet May (née Trull)

Tom Venn was one of the eight children born to George and Fanny Venn. Both George and Fanny hailed from Somerset, George was born in Rowberry and Fanny in Churchill. Tom was the youngest child. His brothers and sisters were Edward, Emily, Eva, Herbert, Elsie, Frederick and Edith. In 1891 when the Census was taken, the family lived in Bradley Road, Wotton-under-Edge, and George was employed as a gardener. By 1900 the family had moved to Bear Street in Wotton. Tom attended the British School between 1900 and 1908, leaving at the age of 14 to work first as a garden helper and secondly to work at Robertson's Jam Factory in Bristol.

At some stage before enlisting in the Army, Tom was married to Violet May Trull whose home was in Uley. It is probable that they went to live in North Nibley, near Wotton, soon after their marriage. Tom enlisted in Bristol during the early stages of the war and was drafted into the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Royal Berkshire Regiment, service no. 21837. The 8<sup>th</sup> Royal Berks were formed at Reading in September 1914. After training, the Battalion landed in France at Le Havre on 8<sup>th</sup> August 1915. Tom saw much action with the Battalion through 1916 and 1917, his job being that of signaller. Christmas 1917 saw Tom home on leave, but he soon rejoined his Battalion in France. The 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion now formed part of 53<sup>rd</sup> Brigade in the 18<sup>th</sup> (Eastern Division). In that Brigade with the 8<sup>th</sup> Berks were the 7<sup>th</sup> Royal West Kent Battalion and the 10<sup>th</sup> Essex Battalion.

On 21<sup>st</sup> March 1918 the German Army made a decisive thrust along a wide front. Their Spring Offensive, known to historians as '*The Kaiser's Battle*', had started. On that day the 8<sup>th</sup> Royal Berks. found themselves alongside the Canal de l'Oise et Sambre, 8 kms south-east of St. Quentin and near the villages of Alaincourt and Moy. At 4.40 a.m. the Germans opened up with a heavy barrage and gas shells. By 10.30 a.m. the Battalion had already suffered heavy losses. Not long afterwards the Battalion found themselves surrounded and they had to withdraw. The 8<sup>th</sup> Berks now numbered only 182 men, the rest having been killed or captured; they had started off the day with over 800 men. It was during this battle that Pte. Tom Venn lost his life; he was 24 years of age.

It wasn't until 1<sup>st</sup> May that news of Tom's death reached his family. An official communication reached Tom's wife in North Nibley, giving just the briefest of details that Tom had been killed in action. Unfortunately, Tom's body was lost in the battle, so he is commemorated on the Pozières Memorial, Somme, Panels 56 and 57. Pozières is a village some 6 kms north-east of the town of Albert. The Memorial encloses Pozières British Cemetery which is a little south-west of the village on the north side of the main road D.929 from Albert to Pozières.

Tom is commemorated on the Tabernacle Roll of Honour in Wotton as well as on the town's War Memorial. Tom's brother Frederick also served in the First World War, as a Private in the Australian Imperial Force. He was wounded twice, once during the Gallipoli Campaign and also during the capture of the village of Pozières, ironically the village where Tom is commemorated.

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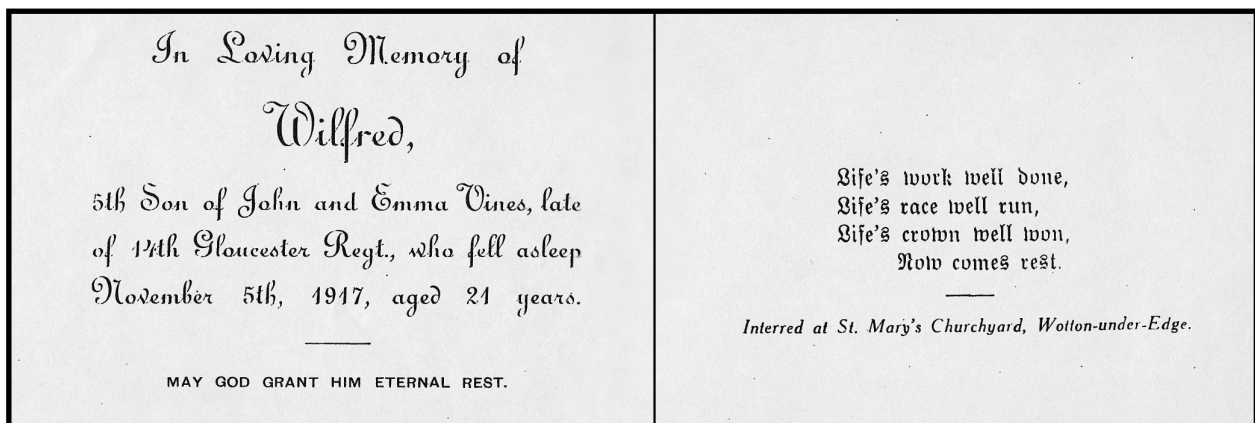
## WILFRED VINES



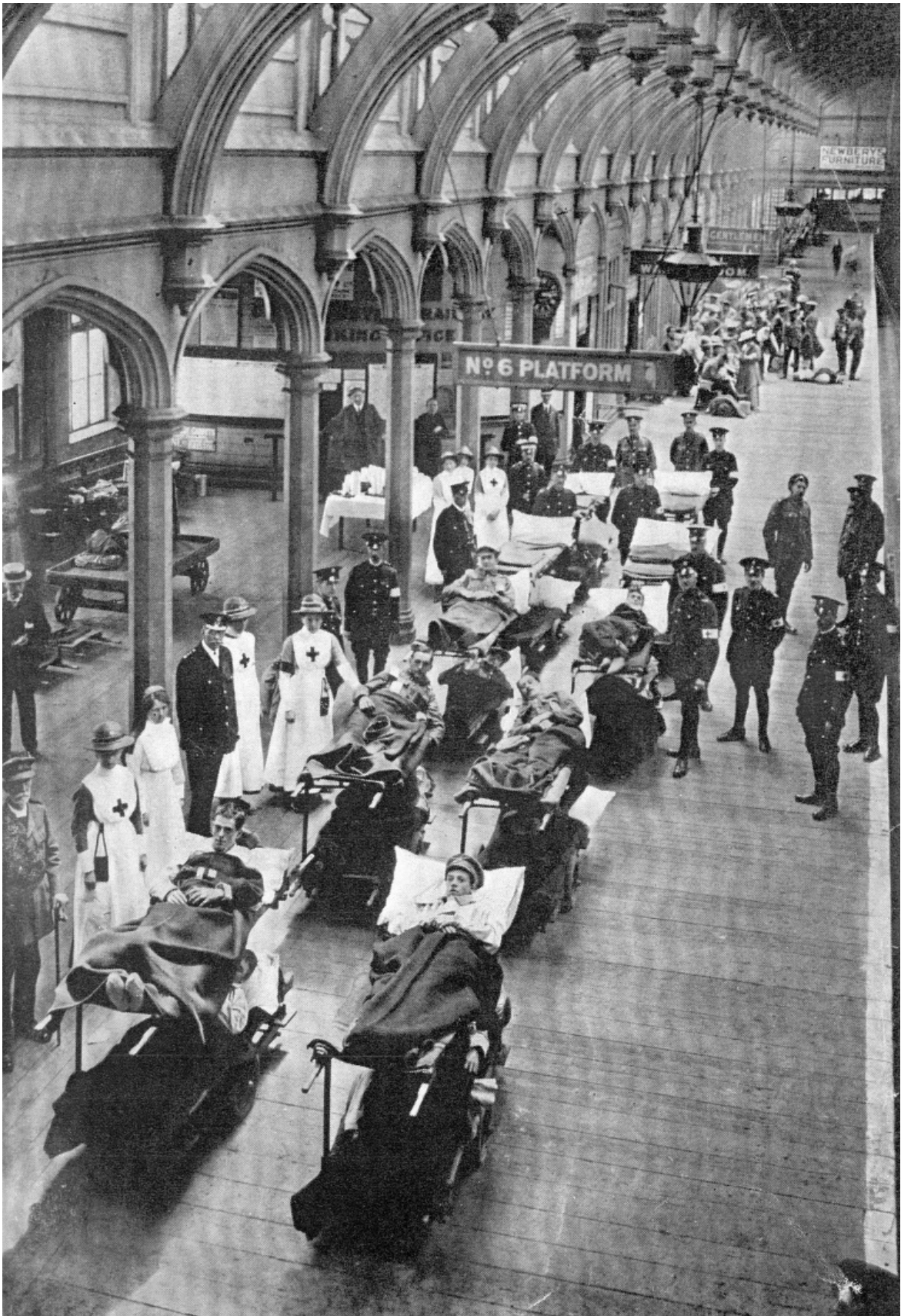
Rank & Unit: Private, 20921, in the 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment  
 Born: 1896  
 Died: at home in Wotton-under-Edge on 5<sup>th</sup> November 1917.  
 Buried in St. Mary's Churchyard, Wotton-under-Edge  
 Age: 21  
 Parents: John and Emma Vines

Wilfred was the fifth born of the six sons of John and Emma Vines of Bradley Street, Wotton-under-Edge. John was born in Stroud in 1867 and worked as an elastic-braider, probably in New Mill, Charfield. His wife, Emma was born in Wotton in 1868. Wilfred was born in 1896 and enlisted in the Army on 25<sup>th</sup> May 1915. There is some confusion as to which Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment he joined. According to an article in the *Gazette* of 17<sup>th</sup> November 1917 recording Wilfred's death, he served in the 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion (known as the 'West of England Bantams'). However, a Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register stated that he served in the 15<sup>th</sup>. C.W.G.C. headstones do not name Battalions, only Regiments. Of course it may be that during his service he switched from one Battalion to the other.

It appears that Wilfred did not serve overseas and that his death can be attributed to an accident which occurred during training at Chiseldon, near Swindon. He was hospitalised for 21 weeks, undergoing several operations. Wilfred died at his home in Wotton on 5<sup>th</sup> November 1917, aged just 21. Shortly before being discharged from the Army on 30<sup>th</sup> May 1916 and whilst in the First Southern General Hospital in Bristol, Wilfred met the King and Queen. Wilfred's funeral took place in St. Mary's Church on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1917 and he lies in the churchyard, sharing a grave with his brother Leslie.



*A Memorial Card printed by the Vines Family  
 in memory of their son Pte. Wilfred Vines of the  
 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment.*



*Wounded soldiers arriving at Temple Meads Station, Bristol,  
before transfer to Beaufort Hospital, Fishponds.*

Source: Bristol and the Great War 1914-1919. Editors: George F. Stone &  
Charles Wells Pub. J. W. Arrowsmith Ltd., Quay Street, Bristol 1920

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## DANIEL EDWARD WALKER



Rank & Unit: Sergeant, 16577, in the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment  
Born: 1893 in Wotton-under-Edge  
Died: Killed in action in Belgium on 28<sup>th</sup> July 1917.  
Commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Belgium  
Age: 24  
Parents: William and Elizabeth Walker



Daniel Walker was the fourth born of the twelve children of William ('Bill') and Elizabeth Walker of Wortley, near Wotton-under-Edge. He was born in 1893. Before joining the Army, Daniel - usually known as 'Dan', worked for Mr. E. Pullin on *Elm Tree Farm*, Wortley. He enlisted in the 8<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment, in December 1914, service no. 16577. During fighting on the Western Front Dan was severely wounded, but we have no details of the date, type of wound nor to which hospital he was presumably taken.

In July 1917 the 8<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters were in action in Belgium, taking part in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battle of Ypres at Oosttaverne, about 7 kms south of Ypres. They went into the Front Line on 23<sup>rd</sup> July. On the day of Dan's death - 28<sup>th</sup> - the Battalion Diary has the following entry :-

*"Enemy made determined raid on front line posts at 1.25 a.m. with storm-troopers and were repulsed with considerable loss."*

Philip Haythornthwaite, in his book *The World War 1 Source Book* explains Storm-troop tactics :-

*Storm-troops or assault detachments, heavily armed with machine-guns, light artillery, mortars and flame-throwers would advance rapidly, under cover of terrain and infiltrate throughout the enemy zone of defence, which had already been blanketed by a short but fierce bombardment. Pockets of resistance could simply be by-passed, the assault troops dashing to the enemy's rear area to neutralize his artillery-line, which might already have been attacked with gas shells. The storm-troops would be seconded by waves of supports which first overran the surrounded strong points and finally cleared the trench systems; after which the process could begin anew if a second tier of defences were to be assaulted.*

It was probably during this type of raid that Sgt. Dan Walker lost his life, he was 24 years of age. Dan's body was not recovered after the battle, so he is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres. This Memorial, designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield, stands on the site of an old gate through which had passed thousands of soldiers on their way to the front. The Memorial, which was started in April 1923 and completed in July 1927 consists of a vast triumphal arch in the Roman style. The vaulted hall is made of French limestone, weighs 20,000 tons, is 135ft long, 104ft wide, and 80ft high. The Memorial bears the names, engraved on panels, of nearly 55,000



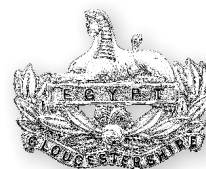
officers and men who were killed and have no known graves, between the start of the war and June 15<sup>th</sup> 1917 when the Battle of Langemarck began. Those who were lost after that date are listed on the Tyne Cot Memorial.

On 24<sup>th</sup> July 1927 Field Marshal Plumer, who had commanded the British 2<sup>nd</sup> Army at Ypres, unveiled the massive gate - probably the best known of all the Commonwealth War Grave Commission's memorials world wide, and a symbol of the British way of commemorating the dead. Just before 8 o'clock each night, the police halt the traffic through the Menin Gate. Buglers of the Ypres Fire Service march into the middle of the road, under the great arch and play the 'Last Post' - a most moving experience. Since the inauguration of the Memorial the ceremony has taken place every night, except for the period of the German occupation in the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War.

In 1997 I met Dan's last surviving sister - Ellen. She was then 86 years old and in very good health. She told me that she still did a lot of walking. She said that all her brothers and sisters were born in the family home and that they all went to school in Wotton. Their names in order of birth were - Maggie, Beatrice, William (who also served in W.W.1), Dan, Annie, Joseph, Elizabeth, Violet, George, Edward, Ellen, and Cecil. Dan's mother Elizabeth lived into her 80s and was buried in Kingswood Cemetery, near Wotton. A photograph of Dan appeared in the *Bristol Times & Mirror* of 1<sup>st</sup> April 1916 and also in the *Gazette* of 11<sup>th</sup> August 1917, along with an account of Dan's death.

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## WALTER WATHEN



Rank & Unit: Private, 2312, in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment  
Born: 19<sup>th</sup> June 1895 in Wotton-under-Edge  
Died: of wounds in France on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1915.  
Commemorated on the Le Touret Memorial, France  
Age: 19  
Parents: Frederick and Mary Ann Wathen



Walter Wathen was the son of Frederick (Wotton's last tinsmith) and Mary Ann Wathen and was born in Wotton on 19<sup>th</sup> June, 1895. The family had lived in Bear Street but then moved to Gloucester Street. Walter was a pupil at the British School from 1<sup>st</sup> September 1902 until 29<sup>th</sup> July 1909. He enlisted in the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment as a Special Reservist, in September 1914, soon after the outbreak of war, service no. 2317.

Walter was drafted to France on 10<sup>th</sup> February 1915. Just three months later Walter was severely wounded in fighting on 9<sup>th</sup> May and died of his wounds later that day. There is a report that Walter was buried, but since his name is inscribed on the Le Touret Memorial, it would appear that

his grave was lost as a result of further fighting. Walter died in the same action which took the life of Charles Stevens, also serving in the 1<sup>st</sup> Gloucesters. (See the entry for Charles Stevens (95), for details of the Battalion action that day).

Walter's parents were buried in the Tabernacle Churchyard in Wotton, their headstone bears an inscription to their son Walter. The headstone inscription is as follows :-

*In memory of Mary Ann Wathen, died June 25<sup>th</sup> 1937, aged 71. Also Pte. Walter Wathen 1<sup>st</sup> Gloucestershire Regiment, son of the above. Killed in action May 9<sup>th</sup> 1915 aged 19 years. Also Frederick W. Wathen, husband of the above, died July 23<sup>rd</sup> 1948, aged 82.*

Walter was a cousin and good friend of Edward Deacon (no. 30).

There is an excellent photograph of Walter in the *Gazette* of 10<sup>th</sup> May 1919.

## TYRRELL FREDERICK WEBB



Rank & Unit: Air Mechanic, 6649, in the Royal Flying Corps  
Born: 15<sup>th</sup> May 1883 in Charfield, Gloucestershire  
Died: in Derbyshire on 8<sup>th</sup> July 1919.  
Buried in Derby Cemetery, Nottingham Road, Grave Gen. 49857  
Age: 36  
Parents: Frederick and Louisa Webb (née Dyer)  
Wife: Mrs. Rhoda Gladys Webb (née Collins)

Tyrrell Frederick Webb was the eldest child of Frederick and Louisa Webb of Church Street, Wotton-under-Edge. He was born in Charfield, near Wotton, on 15<sup>th</sup> May 1883. He had two younger brothers - Francis and Percival (Percy) and a sister - Lillian. Tyrrell attended the National Infants School in Wotton from 13<sup>th</sup> September 1886 until 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1890 and afterwards the Bluecoat School until 1896, when he had reached Standard VI.

Little is known of Tyrrell's life after he left school, only that he spent much of his time away from Wotton, and we know that he married Rhoda Collins in June 1910. On 25<sup>th</sup> March 1916 the *Gazette* carried the following disturbing news as regards Tyrrell, under the heading - 'Local Soldier Paralysed'. The report continued :-

*Mr. & Mrs. F. Webb of Church Street, Wotton-under-Edge have received the disquieting news that their eldest soldier son Pte. Tyrrell Webb of the Royal Flying Corps has been seized with paralysis, and that despite the best medical skill, the lower part of his body, from the waist remains lifeless. It is not known to what cause this state of things is due, but it is considered probable that the continued damp weather is to a large extent responsible. Pte. Webb lies at a hospital at Weybridge, Surrey. He is 34 years of age and joined the Flying Corps about a year ago. Although having lived away from his native place for many years, he is very well known locally and his numerous friends will be relieved to hear a better account of him.*

A fortnight later the *Gazette* reported that Tyrrell was progressing favourably. Surprisingly no further information on Tyrrell appeared in the *Gazette*. However, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Registers contain the following information :-

*Tyrrell Frederick Webb died on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> July 1919. Husband of R. G. Webb of Hillmorton, Ashford, Derbyshire. Buried in Derby Cemetery (Nottingham Road), Grave Reference - Gen. 49857.*

Tyrrell's rank in the C.W.G.C. Register is given as Air Mechanic 2<sup>nd</sup> Class and not 'Private' as found on Wotton's War Memorial. Tyrrell's brother Percy also served in W.W.1 as a Sergeant in the Army Service Corps. He was badly wounded during the 1<sup>st</sup> Battle of Ypres. After recovering from his ordeal Percy transferred to office staff at Aldershot.

## 110

### WILLIAM CECIL WELLCOME



Rank & Unit: Sergeant, 3625, in the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Seaforth Highlanders  
 Born: 17<sup>th</sup> May 1890  
 Died: Killed in action in France on 13<sup>th</sup> November 1916.  
 Buried in Mailly Wood Cemetery, Mailly-Maillet, France: Plot 1, Row H, Grave 22  
 Age: 26  
 Parents: Richard and Emily Wellicome

William Cecil Wellicome, known as 'Willie', was the second born of the five sons of Richard (architect and surveyor) and Emily Wellicome of *West View*, Marlow, Buckinghamshire. He was born on 17<sup>th</sup> May 1890. All sons served in the First World War, two of them losing their lives, Willie and a younger brother, Edwin. Willie was educated at Sir William Borlase's School in Marlow and the East Anglian School, Bury St. Edmund's, Suffolk. In 1907 Willie matriculated from London University and then taught as an assistant teacher in various schools, including Broomy Hill School in Hereford and Eversley School, Stamford, Lincolnshire.

In September 1912 Willie came to teach at Katharine Lady Berkeley's Grammar School, Wotton-under-Edge, under the Headmastership of Mr. R. Dobson, who later became the Head of Marling School, Stroud. Willie's salary was set at £85 per annum, rising by £10 each year. He taught Latin, French, Games and Drill. Willie was of fine physique and was an excellent all-round sportsman. During holidays he played football and cricket for Marlow town and also for Buckinghamshire. Whilst living in Wotton he became engaged to be married to Vivien, the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Albert Richings who had a butchery business in Long Street. At a Governors' Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> September 1913, Mr. Wellicome's salary was increased to £95. It was said that he was a very successful teacher and that the Governors did not want to lose him.

Soon after the outbreak of war Willie enlisted in London, joining the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion (Caithness and Sutherland) of the Seaforth Highlanders, a Territorial Force. He was given the rank of Private, with the no. 3625. Willie was soon promoted through the ranks to become Sergeant. After training in Bedford with the 51<sup>st</sup> (Highland Division), the 5<sup>th</sup> Seaforths landed in Boulogne on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1915. With the 6<sup>th</sup> Seaforths, the 8<sup>th</sup> Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders and the 6<sup>th</sup> Gordon Highlanders, they formed the 152<sup>nd</sup> Brigade.

Over the next 18 months Willie saw a great deal of action along the Western Front, including battles at Festubert and Laventie. He managed to obtain one leave and was able to visit Wotton and Marlow over Christmas 1915. On 26<sup>th</sup> July 1916 the Battalion moved down to the Somme Battlefield. The Battle which had commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> July was still raging and the 5<sup>th</sup> Seaforths went into the line for the first time at Authuille on 30<sup>th</sup> July.

In November the 51<sup>st</sup> Division were facing the extremely well fortified village of Beaumont-Hamel. The German defenders of the village had repelled all attacks on 1<sup>st</sup> July, by the highly thought of 29<sup>th</sup> Division, who had fought so well in Gallipoli. The 51<sup>st</sup> Division were ordered to try to take Beaumont-Hamel on 13<sup>th</sup> November. On the day before the battle (which later became known as the Battle of the Ancre, named after a tributary of the Somme), Willie wrote a letter home, which he entitled '*On the Eve of the Battle*'. In the letter he mentioned that he expected to be

in action shortly and in case of accidents wished them all goodbye, also bidding them, as he had always done to 'keep smiling'.

Next morning, Monday the 13<sup>th</sup> dawned cold and foggy. At 5.45 a.m. a massive mine was blown under German positions on Hawthorn Ridge. This was the signal for the men to start their attack. The men rose out of their trenches to cross No-Man's Land, with Sgt. Wellicome leading his men. The mist made it difficult for the men to progress and keep in good order. After a while Willie was seen to fall. A letter to his parents from a colleague, Sgt. Caughy, stated that he was shot by a sniper and was killed instantaneously. It is likely that Willie fell close to Hawthorn Crater, the crater made as the result of the mine eruption. On this occasion Beaumont-Hamel was captured, but with many losses. The 5<sup>th</sup> Seaforths suffered badly, the Battalion losing 2 officers killed, 9 officers wounded, 94 other ranks killed or died of wounds, 195 wounded and 5 missing. Willie's body was taken back to the village of Mailly-Maillet, 4 kms behind the Front Line and he lies buried in Mailly Wood Cemetery in Plot 1, Row H, Grave 22. In the same cemetery are buried 65 other identified men of the 5<sup>th</sup> Seaforths, all falling in the attack on Beaumont-Hamel. Another 60 soldiers buried in the cemetery are unidentified, probably many of them from Willie's Battalion. Willie was 26 years of age and became the forty-fourth Wottonian to die in the war. Staff and pupils from Katharine Lady Berkeley's School have visited Willie's grave on a number of occasions during the 1990s and during the first decade of the present century. I do not know if any members of Willie's family have visited his grave. It is only in recent years, with easier travel and a growing interest in the First World War, that visits to the Western Front cemeteries have increased significantly.

The following account appeared in the *Gazette* of 9<sup>th</sup> December 1916 :-

*At a meeting of Katharine Lady Berkeley's Grammar School Governors on Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> 1916, the Chairman Sir Charles Prevost made feeling allusion to the death of Mr. Wellicome, an assistant master of the school, who had joined the Seaforth Highlanders and was killed near Beaumont-Hamel on November 13<sup>th</sup> and moved that the Governors do place on record their appreciation of the good works he had done in the school and of the noble example he had set and that an expression of the Governors' sympathy be sent by the clerk to Mrs. Wellicome, seconded by Mr. Hardyman and carried unanimously.*

Sixteen kms from Mailly Wood Cemetery is Delville Wood Cemetery, where the grave of Willie's brother, Pte. Edwin Cyril Wellicome, can be found. He was killed in action a few months before Willie, in an earlier Somme Battle, on the 31<sup>st</sup> July, whilst serving with the 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion (2<sup>nd</sup> Sportsman's), Royal Fusiliers. Edwin was just 20 years old. Willie is commemorated on the Roll of Honour in William Borlase's School and in Marlow Parish Church. In Wotton he is commemorated on the Roll of Honour in Katharine Lady Berkeley's School, along with other members of staff and pupils who fell in the Great War. His name also appears on the town's War Memorial and on the Town Hall Roll of Honour in Market Street. In the 1920s a House at the school was named in his honour (the name still exists). Sgt. Wellicome's photograph appeared in the *Gazette* of 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1916 and the Heritage Centre in Wotton also has a number of photographs of him, when he was a teacher in Wotton. A large photograph of Willie hangs in a Deputy Head's room in the present school. Willie's fiancée Vivien emigrated to Canada with other members of her family in the 1920s.



*The attack of 152<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 51<sup>st</sup> Division at Beaumont-Hamel. It was during this attack that Willie Wellcome was killed.*

Source: The 51<sup>st</sup> Division War Sketches by Fred A. Farrell Pub. T. C. & E. C. Jack London 1920



*Sgt. William Cecil Wellicome  
in warm winter clothing.*



*The author placing a cross at Willie Wellicome's  
grave. All the graves in this row are of Seaforth  
Highlanders killed on 13<sup>th</sup> November 1916.*

## BEAUMONT-HAMEL

*Dead men at Beaumont  
In the mud and rain,  
You that were so warm once,  
Flesh and blood and brain,  
You've made an end of dying,  
Hurts and cold and crying,  
And all but quiet lying  
Easeful after pain,  
Dead men at Beaumont,  
Do you dream at all  
When the leaves of summer  
Ripe to their fall?  
Will you walk the heather,  
Feel the Northern weather,  
Wind and sun together,  
Hear the grouse-cock call?  
Maybe in the night-time  
A shepherd boy will see  
Dead men, and ghastly,  
Kilted to the knee,*

*Fresh from new blood-shedding,  
With airy footsteps treading,  
Hill and field and steading,  
Where they used to be.  
Nay, not so I see you,  
Dead, friend of mine;  
But like a dying pibroch  
From the battle-line  
I hear your laughter ringing,  
And the sweet song you're singing,  
And the keen words winging  
Across the smoke and wine.  
So we still shall see you,  
Be it peace or war,  
Still in all adventures  
You shall go before,  
And our children dreaming,  
Shall see your bayonets gleaming,  
Forwards evermore.*

Lieut. Ewart Alan Mackintosh M. C.  
5<sup>th</sup> Btn. Seaforth Highlanders.  
Killed 21<sup>st</sup> November 1917, Cambrai



*The scarred landscape with trenches and shell-holes still visible, more than 90 years after the Battle of the Somme. On the other side of the line of trees is the village of Beaumont-Hamel. Sgt. Wellicome was killed only a few hundred yards to the left of this scene during his Battalion's attempt to take German positions in front of the village.*





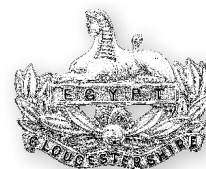
*The grave of Willie Wellicome with the inscription chosen by his family  
"Thy Will Not Mine O Lord"*



*Willie Wellicome's younger brother Pte. Edwin Wellicome was killed just over three months before him. He is buried in Delville Wood Cemetery, 16 kms from his brother.*

111

## FREDERICK JAMES WICKS



Rank & Unit: Private, 15459, in the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment  
Born: 1897 in Wotton-under-Edge  
Died: of wounds in France on 20<sup>th</sup> September 1916.  
Buried in Flatiron Copse Cemetery, France: Plot 1, Row F, Grave 24  
Age: 19  
Parents: John and Dora Wicks

Frederick James Wicks was the son of John and Dora Wicks and was born in Wotton-under-Edge in 1897. He enlisted in Berkeley, joining the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment in November 1914. He was drafted to France on 9<sup>th</sup> August 1915 and died of wounds on 20<sup>th</sup> September 1916. On the 19<sup>th</sup> the 10<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters were in the High Wood area of the Somme Battlefield. It is not known what caused Frederick's wounds from which he was to die. He was just 19 years of age. Frederick was buried in Flatiron Copse Cemetery, Mametz, Somme in Plot 1, Row F, Grave 24. There are 1522 graves in the cemetery including that of Cpl. E. Dwyer, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, East Surrey Regiment. He was killed near Guillemont in the same month as Frederick. Cpl. Dwyer earned a Victoria Cross at Hill 60 in the Ypres Salient on 20<sup>th</sup> April 1915, and was used back in Britain to help the recruiting effort by giving talks about his experiences.



*Flatiron Copse cemetery on the Somme is where Pte Frederick Wicks of Wotton is buried. He died of wounds on 20<sup>th</sup> September 1916.*

## 112

### HERBERT WILLCOCK



Rank & Unit: Private, 2913, in the 58<sup>th</sup> Battalion Australian Imperial Force  
Born: 1887 in Wotton-under-Edge  
Died: Killed in action in Belgium on 24<sup>th</sup> September 1917.  
Commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Belgium  
Age: 30  
Parents: Walter and Elizabeth Willcock

Herbert (Bert) Willcock was the youngest of the eight children born to Walter and Elizabeth Willcock of Church Street, Wotton-under-Edge. Walter, a brush maker, was born in London and Elizabeth hailed from Merthyr Tydfil. All of the Willcock children were born in Wotton. First was Minnie, then followed Elizabeth Ann, Nellie, Florence, Rose, Henry, Edwin Ernest and finally Bert, born in 1887. I have been unable to find anything of Bert's early life.

When war broke out Bert was living in Australia and serving with the Mercantile Marine. He enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1915, joining the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Australian Infantry. His Attestation Paper gave the following personal details - *height 5feet 6inches, weight 10stone 6lbs, chest 35inches, fresh complexion, blue eyes, and brown hair.*

There followed training in Australia and then in Egypt, between January and June 1916. Bert was now transferred to the 58<sup>th</sup> Battalion, A.I.F., service no. 2913. On 17<sup>th</sup> June he embarked on the troopship *Transylvania* sailing from Alexandria for France. Marseilles was reached on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. From there the 58<sup>th</sup> Battalion entrained for the Western Front and soon found themselves in the middle of the action at the Battle of the Somme.

During one of the Somme actions on 21<sup>st</sup> July, Bert received a serious shrapnel wound to the chest and had to be brought back to England where he was sent to Manchester General Hospital. It wasn't until 18<sup>th</sup> November that Bert was able to return to France, spending some time at Étaples on the Channel coast, before rejoining his unit on 8<sup>th</sup> December. It was round about this time that Bert's father Walter died. Soon afterwards Elizabeth moved to live in Bristol at 12 Camden Terrace, Clifton.

During 1917 Bert suffered much ill-health and spent considerable periods of time in hospital, including stays in Rouen in France and back in England in Brighton and Dartford. One of Bert's problems was chronic myalgia (muscular pains). He was finally discharged from hospital on 7<sup>th</sup> August 1917 and rejoined his unit whilst the Battle of Passchendaele (3<sup>rd</sup> Ypres) was raging. Whilst serving in the Polygon Wood area of Belgium on 24<sup>th</sup> September, Bert was killed by a shell; he was 30 years of age. His body was lost during further fighting, so, Bert Willcock is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres.

First intimations of Bert's death in Wotton arrived in a letter to his mother from a Lieut. G. Wood and the *Gazette* carried an obituary notice in its 20<sup>th</sup> October 1917 edition. Several 'In Memoriam' notices for Bert appeared in the *Gazette* over the succeeding years. Elizabeth Willcock died in 1929 and was buried in Wotton cemetery. Bert is remembered on an inscription on his mother's headstone, it reads as follows :-



**SACRED**  
TO THE MEMORY OF  
OUR DEAR MOTHER  
ELIZABETH WILLCOCK  
WHO FELL ASLEEP 7<sup>TH</sup> MAY 1929  
AGED 82 YEARS  
ALSO OF (BERT)  
SON OF THE ABOVE  
PTE H. WILLCOCK 2913  
58<sup>TH</sup> BATTALION, A.I.F.  
KILLED IN ACTION 24<sup>TH</sup> SEPT. 1917  
AGED 30 YEARS  
**BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS**

## 113

### WILLIAM BRYAN WOOD



Rank & Unit: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the  
Gloucestershire Regiment  
Born: 1894  
Died: Killed in action in France on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1916.  
Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, France  
Age: 22  
Parents: William Gent and Kate Annie Wood

William Wood was the son of William Gent Wood and his wife Kate Annie Wood of *The Hawthorns*, Langley Road, Chippenham. He was commissioned on 27<sup>th</sup> July 1916. Less than a month later William was an officer in 'B' Company of the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment, engaged in action in the Battle of the Somme. William was killed on 23<sup>rd</sup> July in the vicinity of Martinpuich village. The Battalion Diary relates what happened on 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> July :-

22.7.16 - 9.30 p.m. *Relieved Worcestershire Regiment (10<sup>th</sup> Bn.) in Front Line and prepared to attack the German switch line cutting through the north of High Wood and running south of Martinpuich with 10<sup>th</sup> Royal Warwicks and 7<sup>th</sup> South Lancs (1 a.m.). Attack failed, our casualties being 1 officer killed (2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. Wood), 5 wounded, 8 missing, including the C.O. Lt. Col. De Wiart with gun-shot wounds in the neck. 186 casualties among other ranks.*

23.7.16 - 4 a.m. *Taken back to support line and remained there all day. Relieved at 7.30 p.m.*

William's body was not recovered after the battle and, so, he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing; he was just 22 years old. Although William's name appears on the Wotton War Memorial, I have been unable to find his connection with the town. He is also commemorated on the War Memorial in Chippenham, where his name is the last of 171 men who hailed from that town.



*Chippenham War Memorial with  
William Wood as the last named.*

## 114

### ALBERT HENRY WOODLANDS



Rank & Unit: Private, PLY/1805(S), in the Royal Marine Light Infantry  
Born: 25<sup>th</sup> April 1876  
Died: Killed in action in France on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1918.  
Commemorated on the Arras Memorial, France: Bay 1  
Age: 42  
Parents: George and Harriet Woodlands  
Wife: Sarah  
Child: Dorothy

Albert Henry Woodlands, also known as 'Harry' or 'Curley', was one of the four children of George and Harriet Woodlands of the Rope Walk, Wotton-under-Edge. He was born on 25<sup>th</sup> April 1876. Harry was first educated at the village school at Bagpath and then transferred to the Bluecoat School, Wotton. Harry enlisted in the Royal Marine Light Infantry towards the end of 1916, service no. PLY/1805(S). It is believed that he left for France in April 1917. He was placed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Royal Marine Battalion of the Royal Naval Division.

On 8<sup>th</sup> March 1918, Harry, along with many other colleagues, was badly gassed as a result of a German gas bomb falling nearby. He had only returned from leave at home a month or so previously. On 22<sup>nd</sup> March, only a fortnight after having been gassed, Harry was killed by a shell. News of his death reached his mother and wife Sarah in a letter from a colleague, Pte. J. W. Pittaway, on Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> April. The letter read as follows :-

*Dear Mrs. Woodlands and Daughter,  
If you have not had official news, I am sorry to say we lost poor Harry on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. He was killed by a shell, but I must say the poor old chap did not suffer any pain, as it was instantaneous. We buried him in our small cemetery the same night. The whole of the platoon send their sympathy to you in your sad loss. He was one of the best - only too willing to assist everybody. I thought it was my duty as a comrade to inform you of the sad affair, as we have been chums together since the day we joined,*

*Yours sincerely,  
Pte. J. W. Pittaway*

Harry's grave obviously disappeared, probably as a result of further fighting as he is commemorated on the Arras Memorial to the Missing, Bay 1. He was one of the older Wotton men to die on active service in the war, being aged 42. As well as his wife Sarah, Harry left a daughter - Dorothy. Before enlisting in the R.M.L.I. Harry had worked for Tubbs-Lewis & Co. for 24 years. For 16 years Harry served as chapel-keeper at the Baptist Chapel, near his home in the Rope Walk. Harry was a well-known football goalkeeper in the district, playing both for Sinwell Star Football Club and Wotton A.F.C. Harry was also a fireman based in Wotton. In memory of their fallen comrade, it was decided to erect a tablet at the engine house of the Fire Station in the Chipping. Unfortunately the tablet was disposed of when the fire station moved to Symn Lane.





# VIII

## THE ARMISTICE

On 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918, four years and three months after the commencement of the war, the Germans signed the Armistice terms at 5 a.m., which stated that amongst other terms hostilities would cease at 11 a.m. that day. Cyril Falls in his book *The First World War* (Longmans) describes what happened on the Western Front on that day :-

*“That morning the scenes and sounds varied. Here and there a little combat took place even after 11 a.m., but over sections of the front only the occasional thumping of artillery or rattling of machine-guns was heard. Some batteries fired final salvoes just before the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. Then a strange silence fell. The victorious troops showed no immediate excitement. Doubtless many thought of lost kinsmen and friends, but the incredible fact that all was over left little room for other reflections. At night bonfires were lit here and there. Very lights and coloured rockets were shot into the sky already faintly illuminated by the sickle moon entering its first quarter.”*

In Wotton-under-Edge, as in other towns and villages throughout the country on that momentous day, celebrations soon got under way. However, as Cyril Falls pointed out, many people would be thinking of the men of the town who would not be coming back; the small town of Wotton losing 114 of its men folk. Under the headline – Peace Celebrations at Wotton-under-Edge, this is how the *Dursley Gazette* of Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> November reported the day :-

*Monday the blowing of hooters, ringing of bells etc., proclaimed that the Armistice terms had been signed and the most terrible of wars virtually over. In an amazing short space of time the town was gaily bedecked with flags, bunting etc., while the streets were thronged with people carrying Union Jacks and other national emblems. A drizzling rain made things quiet during the afternoon, but the rejoicing was resumed later when the church bells pealed joyously and Mr. Webb's band from Uley, augmented by several local players, paraded the streets, accompanied by a large crowd. Work ceased at the local factories from the time the news arrived and most of the business establishments were also closed.*

*Thanksgiving services took place at the Parish Church on the Monday and Tuesday, also a United Free Church service at the Baptist Church on Tuesday.*

# IX

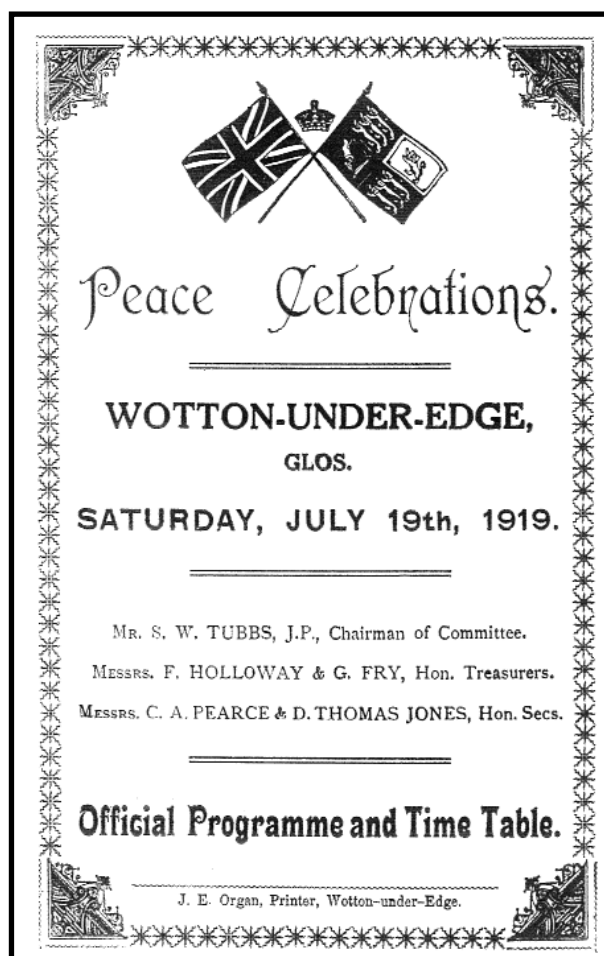
## EVENTS AFTER THE WAR

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### A Peace Celebrations Day

On 19<sup>th</sup> July 1919 the town of Wotton-under-Edge held its 'Peace Celebrations Day'. The town was appropriately decorated with Long Street in particular bearing 'an exceptionally pleasant appearance'. Flags, bunting etc. were displayed in great profusion throughout the town; Church Street's inhabitants even hung up an effigy of the Kaiser! Shops were illuminated at night. Heavy rain fell for much of the day, but a procession did make its way through the town. A *Gazette* article said that ... the day will be remembered as the day when they established a record for getting soaked to the skin! Many activities were held indoors instead of on the playing fields and in the streets. However, a curtailed athletic sports event was able to proceed on the Symn Lane playing field and a fancy dress competition was also able to go ahead. A tea for the children was provided in the Town Hall, the Parish Rooms and in the Baptist Church schoolroom.

At 9.30 in the evening a bonfire was lit on Wotton Hill, one report mentioned that the fire was ... *a most impressive sight, the whole of the surrounding district being illuminated*. There followed a fireworks display.





*Part of the parade during the Peace Celebrations, 19<sup>th</sup> July 1919*



*The bonfire on Wotton Hill, part of the Peace Celebrations 19<sup>th</sup> July 1919.*

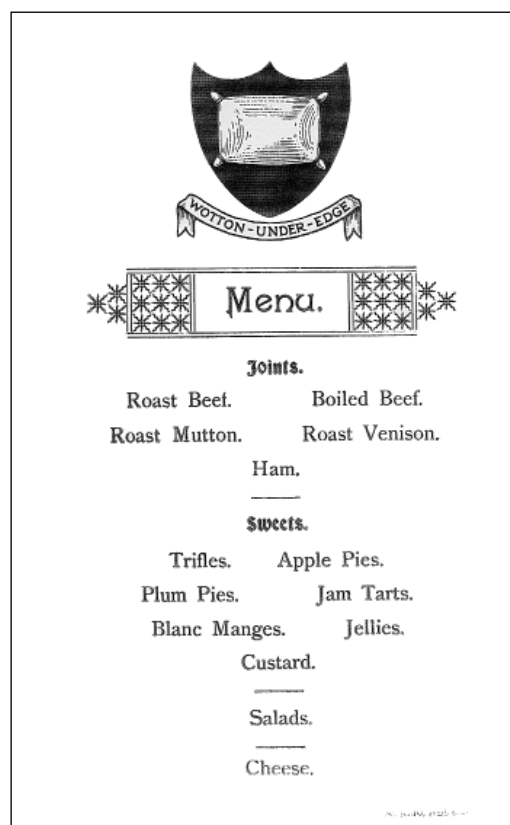
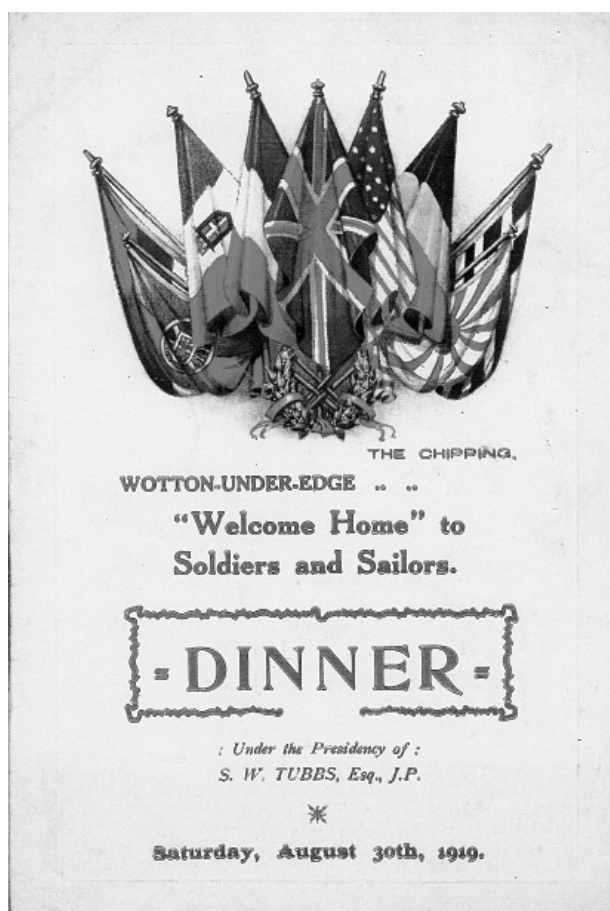


*A card given to all serving Wottonians, Christmas 1918.*

## B

### Dinner for Ex-Servicemen

On Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August 1919 in a marquee especially erected for the purpose, a dinner was held for serving and ex-servicemen in the Chipping. In total 350 attended. The dinner followed a march through the town, headed by the Abbey Band, Kingswood. A concert then followed the meal. At 4 p.m. a tea for the wives of the servicemen was held in the Town Hall.



**C**

**Armistice Day, Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November 1920**

The following is an account of the Armistice Day events in Wotton-under-Edge, as reported by the *Gazette* :-

*A maroon sent off by Messrs. Penly and Sons signalled the commemoration of the two minutes silence, which homage appeared to have been generally observed in the district. Business was suspended at the various establishments, some of which were closed. Activities were discontinued at all the schools.*

*Upon the completion of the 'silence' period, the tenor bell at the Parish Church was tolled 114 times, this being the number of parishioners who made the 'supreme sacrifice'. Mr. F. Oakhill was entrusted with this task.*

*At 11.30 a.m. Messrs. Penly and Sons gave a representation of a Royal Salute – 21 guns. Mention must be made of the beautiful floral tributes, as well as of the laurel wreaths which adorned the town War Memorial. A very large number of relatives of the deceased men visited the monument during the day.*

---

**D**

**The German Field Gun**

As happened in many villages and towns throughout the country, a trophy was presented to the town of Wotton-under-Edge in recognition of its contribution to the War. In Wotton's case it was a captured German field gun, which arrived in the town in December 1919. It was given a temporary home in Old Town Close. At a Parish Council meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> January 1920, it was decided that the most suitable place for the gun was at the Old Pump House in the Chipping near to the entrance to Market Street. One councillor suggested that it should be placed at the top of Wotton Hill, but this did not meet with much enthusiasm. Someone even suggested that the gun might become dislodged and sent careering down the slope! An article in the *Gazette* of 17<sup>th</sup> July stated that the plan to place the gun near Market Street had to be abandoned as it was too wide to permit entrance into the Chipping from Market Street.

The positioning of the gun was now becoming a problem for the town and so it was put into the hands of a 'Streets Committee'. They began to make strenuous efforts to procure a site in the enclosed portion of ground at the Rope Walk entrance to the Chipping. A Mr. E. J. Close of Old Town Close, outside whose house the gun had been given a temporary home, was now becoming impatient and asked that the gun be moved as soon as possible as it was occupying a great deal of space outside his house.

By October 1920 the problem of finding a permanent home for the gun had still not been resolved, as permission to use the proposed piece of ground in the Chipping could not be given. A prominent townsperson, discussing the matter at this time, expressed the view that "... it was a pity a gun was ever brought to Wotton. None of the Parish Councillors seem to care a rap what becomes of it." Meanwhile Mr. Close had to put up with the gun outside his house for another five months. Finally, in March 1921 the gun was found a home on the grass in the Chipping, between the Fire Engine Station ( now the Heritage Centre) and Rope Walk.

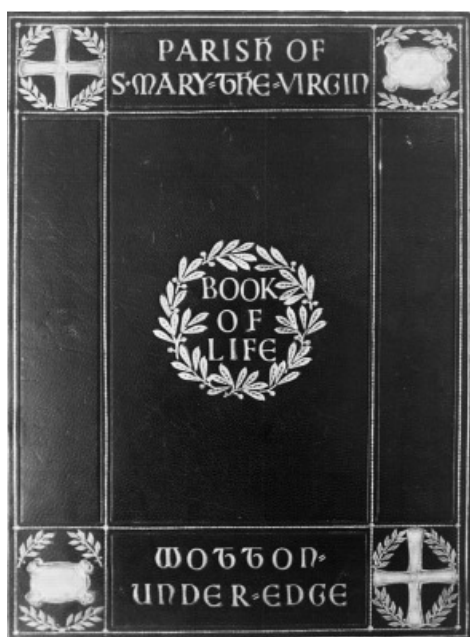
Of course the gun proved to be an attraction to little boys who enjoyed clambering over it. However, in November 1921 there was quite a serious accident concerning the gun, when a youngster placed a firework inside the muzzle, as part of his bonfire night celebrations. Unfortunately for him, he put his head too close and the explosion caused him to receive severe facial injuries and he had to be rushed to hospital. The gun remained in the Chipping until the Second World War when it was taken away and melted down for the war effort. It is interesting to note that the nearby village of Charfield also received a German artillery piece.

## E

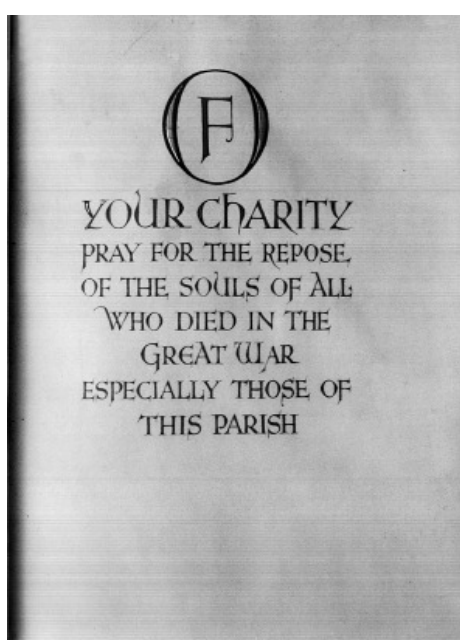
## The Book of Life

After the War and on every Remembrance Sunday (the nearest Sunday to 11<sup>th</sup> November) the Vicar of St. Mary's Church, Wotton-under-Edge, would read out all the names of the men of the parish who had died during the war. As the years went by, names would be added to the list, these being men who died as a result of war wounds, disease or gas poisoning. These men were still young, most still in their twenties.

In November 1928 the Royal British Legion gave a gift to the Church, of a beautifully bound leather volume – *The Book of Life*. The book was written by Edith C. Goodwin and bound in Birmingham by Frank Garrett. The book contained all of the names of the Wotton war dead and those servicemen who had died up to November 1928 from war related illnesses. This was the book which the Vicars used on Remembrance Sunday, at least up until the outbreak of the Second World War. I am indebted to late Pat Goulding of Dursley and the late Rev. Michael Chappell for the above information.



*The Front Cover of the Book of Life*



*An inside page from the Book of Life*

Adams, William H.	Capt. R. Fus.
Amos, H.	Pte. R. A. S. C.
Andrews, L. F.	A. B. R. N.
Annesley, W. R. N.	Major Queen's Own
Avenell, J. E.	Cpl. R. West Surreys
Ballenger, A. McArthur	A. B. R. N. Div.
Becher, H. S.	Major Gurkhas India R.
Bengough, J. C.	Lieut. R. Glos. Hussars
Bignell, L. J.	Pte. Worcester R.
Bignell, G. W.	Serjt. 5th Glos. Territorials
Bow, Cyril	Spr. R. E.
Boyce, F. J.	Tpr. R. Household Cavalry
Broodbank, P. F.	Pte. Gloucesters
Brown, Frank C.	Pte. Middlesex R.
Burford, George	Pte. Hampshire R.

*The first page of names found in the Book of Life. For information on Sgt. G. W. Bignell see Appendix J.*

Source: St. Mary's Church, Wotton-under-Edge Archives

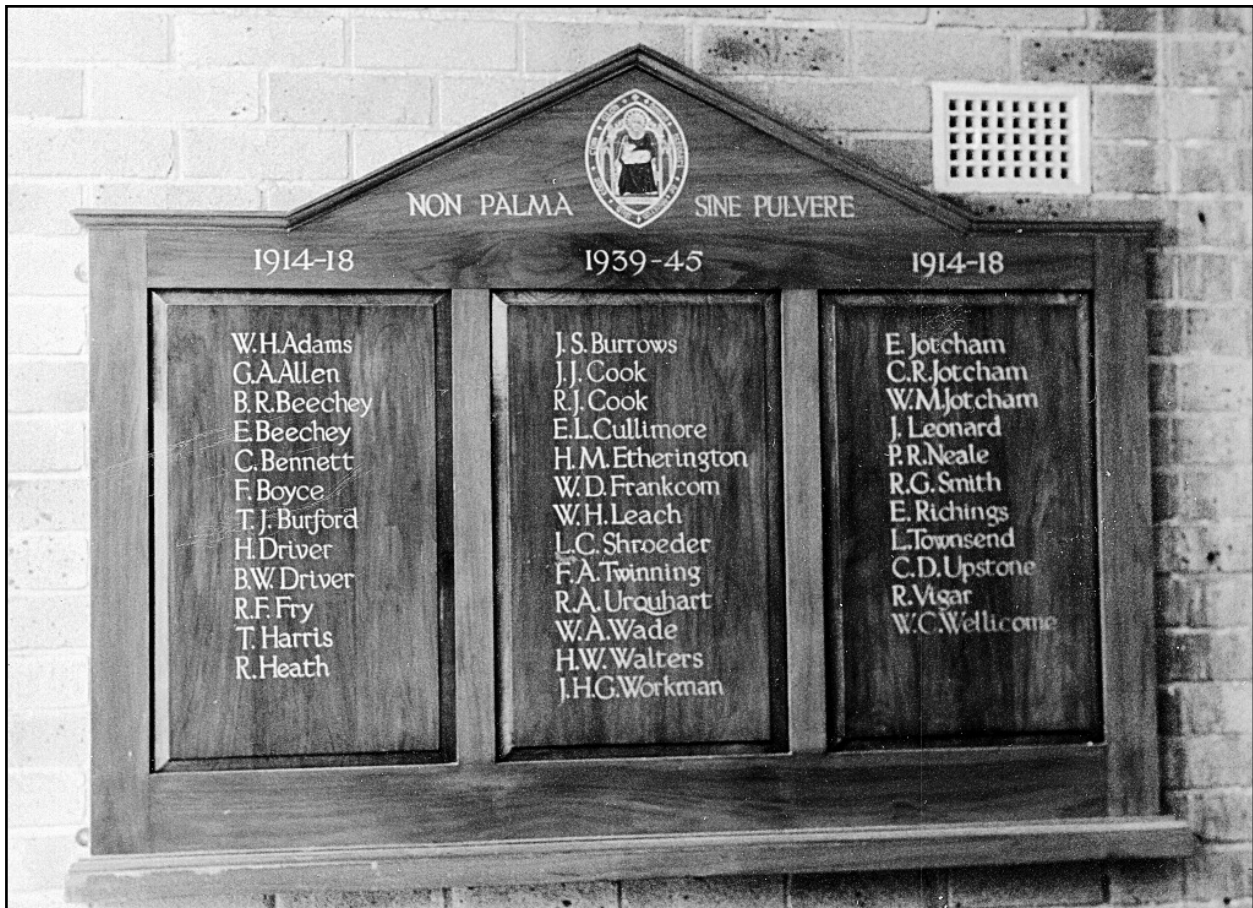
## **F**

### **Wotton-under-Edge Parish Magazine**

Parish magazines produced by a Parish Church can be a useful source of local history. I have been unable to find out if St. Mary's Parish, Wotton-under-Edge printed magazines between 1914 and 1918. The County Archives in Gloucester does hold some of the magazines, but there is a gap in their collection between 1913 and May 1924. The *Gloucestershire Collection Archives*, held now in the County Archives in Gloucester, do not have any of the magazines. The Heritage Centre in Wotton has some past editions but none for the period of the First World War. Likewise, the church archives in Wotton do not have any editions for that period.

We have to wait until May 1924 to read the first 'lengthy' account of mention of the war in the Parish Magazine. At that time the Vicar was the Rev. Austin J. Hodson and this is what he wrote concerning the war :-

*"It is difficult to believe that this will be the 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of the Great War. Every year that passes should deepen in us, as I believe at Armistice Day it does, the poignant memories of those days of suffering and heroism. Even as I write these words, it is difficult not to feel again the emotion which the mere thought calls up. Let none fail to recall those solemn days and memories at this time or to make some resolution to live more worthily of them. God knows there is room."*



*Katharine Lady Berkeley's Grammar School  
Roll of Honour boards for the two world wars.*

*E. (Eric) Beechey survived the War*

*E. Jotcham should be 'F' (Fred) Jotcham*




# X

## KATHARINE LADY BERKELEY'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL ROLL OF HONOUR

### PUPILS AND STAFF OF KATHARINE LADY BERKELEY'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL WHO FELL IN THE GREAT WAR AND WHOSE NAMES ARE INSCRIBED ON THE SCHOOL'S ROLL OF HONOUR

William Holloway Adams	See biography no. 1
Geoffrey Austin Allen	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieut. in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion Essex Regiment. He was killed in action 1 <sup>st</sup> July, 1916 (first day of the Battle of the Somme). He has no known grave and therefore is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing. He was the son of Robert Allen of Greenstead Hall, Essex. He was educated at Aldenham and St. John's College Cambridge. He taught at K.L.B.G.S. from 1909 – 1911 and afterwards at Milton Abbey School, Dorset.
Barnard Reeve Beechey	<p>Sergeant, 13773, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment. Died in Belgium 25<sup>th</sup> September 1915, aged 38, and commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Panel 3. He was the eldest son of the Rev. Prince William Thomas Beechey and Amy Beechey. The Rev. Beechey was the Vicar of Friesthorpe, Lincolnshire. Barnard was educated at St. John's Foundation School, Leatherhead, and graduated from St. John's College, Cambridge. He taught at K.L.B.G.S. from 1901 until 1907, becoming Senior Master. Barnard had previously taught at Stamford Grammar School where he once had been a pupil. After leaving Wotton, Barnard went to teach at Dorchester Grammar School. For more information on Barnard and indeed on the whole Beechey family, (there were 13 children in all) see Michael Walsh's book <i>Brothers in War</i>, Ebury Press, 2006.</p> <p>On the K.L.B.G.S. Roll of Honour there appears the name E. Beechey, this has to be Eric Beechey, Barnard's brother who was educated at K.L.B.G.S., possibly at the time when Barnard was teaching there. Eric in fact survived the war. How did his name come to appear on the Roll of Honour? Presumably, names would not have been collated for inclusion on the Roll until some time after the war. It looks as if someone has made an unfortunate blunder! It is surprising that the Beechey family did not get to know about this. (<i>cont'd.</i>)</p>

	In his book Michael Walsh discusses the eight Beechey sons who went to war, only three of whom survived. It is thought that only one other family in the country lost as many sons in the dreadful war that claimed the lives of so many young men.
G. Bennett	No information has come to light as regards this serviceman. However, there is a 'C. Bennett' inscribed on the War Memorial in North Nibley.
Ferguson James Boyce	See biography no. 11
T. J. Burford	No information has come to light as regards this serviceman.
Bertram Walter Driver	Private in the 15 <sup>th</sup> Battalion London Regiment (Territorial Force) also known as the Civil Service Rifles. Private Driver died on 7 <sup>th</sup> October 1916, aged 24. He is buried in Warlencourt British Cemetery, France, Plot 3 Row H Grave 6. He was the son of Joseph and Sarah Driver of Ealing, London and the brother of Harry Driver ( <i>see below</i> ).
Harry Driver	Capt. in the 7 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment. Awarded the D.S.O. and M.C. Born c. 1889, he was the second son of Joseph and Sarah Driver of North Nibley, where Joseph was the Headmaster of the Primary School. Harry was a pupil at K.L.B.G.S. from 1899 – 1905. Harry graduated B.Sc. at London University in 1913. He taught Mathematics in various schools. Harry was killed when hit in the stomach by a machine-gun bullet whilst fighting in the Battle of the Dvina on 10 <sup>th</sup> August 1919, his Battalion forming part of the Russian Relief Force. Harry was buried in Archangel Allied Cemetery, Russian Federation, Grave Sp. Mem. B. 38. In 1955 'The Driver Memorial Prize for Science' was set up in K.L.B.G.S. by Mr. Lewis Driver in memory of his brother Harry.
Reginald Frederick Fry	See biography no. 43
Trevor George Harris	Private in the 8 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment. He died on 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 1916, aged 19. His body was lost during fighting on the Somme battlefield and so he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Panels 5A & B. He was the son of Ezra and Mary Harris of Dursley.
William Rufus Kennard Heath	See biography no. 49
Cyril Reginald Jotcham	See biography no. 52
Fred Jotcham	See biography no. 53
Walter Morse Jotcham	See biography no. 55
Evan John Leonard	See biography no. 63
Percy Reginald Neale	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieut. in the Machine Gun Corps, formerly in the Gloucestershire Regiment. Percy Neale died on 20 <sup>th</sup> December 1917, aged 22. He is buried in St. Martin Calvaire British Cemetery, St. Martin-sur-Cojeul, France, Plot 1 Row E Grave 6. He was the son of Joshua and Charlotte Victoria Neale of Stonehouse, Gloucestershire.
Elton Maurice Richings	See biography no. 81

<p>Reginald George Smith</p> 	<p>Captain (Acting) in the 47<sup>th</sup> Battalion Canadian Infantry (Western Ontario Regiment). Reginald Smith died on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1917, aged 33. He was born in Charfield in 1883 and was a pupil at Katharine Lady Berkeley's Grammar School c. 1896. He was a graduate of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge and taught at Ashbury College, Ottawa, Canada from 1905 – 1909. He entered the Canadian Civil Service rising to Private Secretary to the Minister of Labour. In Spring of 1914 he became Secretary of the Canadian General Council of Boy Scouts. Lieut. Smith is buried in Villers Station Cemetery, Villers-au-Bois, near Arras, France, Plot 8 Row B Grave 14. He is also commemorated on the Roll of Honour in Tortworth Church (near Wotton-under-Edge) and also on a memorial cross in the churchyard. Reginald was the son of Daniel and Sarah Smith of Tortworth. His brother E. A. Smith - the Headmaster of Tortworth Primary School also saw service during the First World War, serving in the King's Royal Rifle Corps.</p>
<p>Lewis H. Townsend</p>	<p>See biography no. 99</p>
<p>Cedric Donovan Upstone</p>	<p>See biography no. 104</p>
<p>Reginald Victor Vigar</p>	<p>Private, 27968, in the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment. He was born at the family home – <i>Example Farm</i>, Falfield, Gloucestershire in 1897. Reginald attended Tortworth Elementary School and afterwards was admitted to K.L.B.G.S. on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1909 and left on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1914. His father William T. Vigar worked as a farm bailiff for the Earl of Ducie. Reginald became a bank clerk after leaving school, working for the Union of London and Smith's Bank in Bristol and afterwards at the branch in Bedminster. He enlisted in the Army in May 1916, trained at Seaford and sailed for Salonika at the end of August. He was taken ill on board ship, was landed at Salonika and operated on for appendicitis at the 1<sup>st</sup> Canadian Hospital. Five weeks later he was removed to the St. Ignatius Hospital, Sliema, Malta and again operated on, on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, death ensuing from heart failure. Reginald is buried in Pieta Military Cemetery, Malta, Plot D Row 14 Grave 3. At home he is commemorated on the Roll of Honour in Cromhall Parish Church.</p>
<p>William Cecil Wellicome</p>	<p>See biography no. 110 and figure overleaf.</p>

In 1921, the then Headmaster, Clement Trenchard suggested that the memory of the 23 boys and staff of the school be perpetuated by having a school war memorial. An oak tablet was made by Mr. W. J. Williams and was unveiled on 31<sup>st</sup> March 1921. The unveiling was performed by Col. W. F. N. Noel J. P. of Newent, Col. Noel having once been Chairman of Governors of the school. Major Evan Hayward, M.P., an old boy of the school also attended the ceremony. After the Second World War a new memorial was made and the names of the pupils who lost their lives in that conflict were added. Today the tablet can be found on a wall in a corridor, near the staff room of the present Katharine Lady Berkeley's School.



*The author holding Mr. Wellicome's portrait.  
Behind the portrait a section of Katharine Lady Berkeley's Grammar  
School Roll of Honour for both World Wars can be seen.*

Source: portrait of Mr. Wellicome courtesy of Jane Wallace

# XI

## WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE ROLL OF HONOUR FOR MEN WHO SERVED IN WW1

THOSE NAMED ON THE TOWN'S WAR MEMORIAL ARE SHOWN WITH A CROSS

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Initials</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Service Unit</b>
✚	Adams	W. H.	Capt.	101 <sup>st</sup> Canadian Regiment
	Allen	A. E.	Pte.	Worcestershire Regiment
	Allen	F. E.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Allen	F. E.	Pte.	Army Service Corps
	Allen	H.	Sglr.	Royal Berkshire Regiment
	Allen	H. G.	Pte.	Army Service Corps
	Allen	J.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Allen	L. R.	Pte.	Royal Marine Light Infantry
	Allen	R. E.	L/Stkr.	Royal Navy
	Allen	W.	A.M.	Royal Air Force
	Allen	W. H.	Lieut.	Royal Navy
	Allen	W. J.	Cpl.	Gloucestershire Regiment
✚	Amos	H.	Pte.	Army Service Corps
	Andrews	C. E.	Cpl.	Army Service Corps
✚	Andrews	L. F.	A.S.	Royal Navy
	Andrews	W. T.	Pte.	Royal Berkshire Regiment
	Annesley	A. J. P.	Maj.	Royal West Kent Regiment
	Annesley	J.	Lieut.	Royal Air Force
	Annesley	J. H. S.	Capt.	Somerset Light Infantry
✚	Annesley	W. R. N.	Maj.	Royal West Kent Regiment
	Arnold	W.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Arthurs	C.	A.S.	Royal Navy
	Austin	W. H.	QM.Sgt.	Worcestershire Regiment
✚	Avenill	J. E.	Cpl.	Royal West Surrey Regiment
	Bailey	A.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Bailey	F.	Dvr.	Army Service Corps
	Bailey	W.	Pte.	Army Service Corps

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Initials</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Service Unit</b>
	Baileys	J.	Sgt. Ins.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Baker	J.	Pte.	Royal Engineers
	Baker	W. G.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
†	Ballinger	McA.	A.S.	Royal Naval Division
	Bateman	E.	Gnr.	Royal Field Artillery
	Bayliss	T. J.	Pte.	Norfolk Regiment
	Beale	A. C.	Gnr.	Royal Field Artillery
	Beale	W.	A.M.	Royal Air Force
	Beard	H.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Beaver	R. A. (OBE)	Maj.	Royal Army Medical Corps
†	Becher	H. S.	Maj.	Gurkhas
	Beckington	J.	Gnr.	Royal Field Artillery
	Beckington	V.	Pte.	Hampshire Regiment
	Bendall	F. E.	Dvr.	Army Service Corps
†	Bengough	J. C.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieut.	Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Yeomanry
	Bennett	W. J.	Sgt.	King's Dragoon Guards
	Berkeley	R. F.	Rfn.	London Rifle Brigade
	Beynon	N.	Brig. Gen.	Royal Artillery
	Bignell	G.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
†	Bignell	L. J.	Pte.	Worcestershire Regiment
	Bignell	W.	Sgt.	Lancashire Fusiliers
	Bignell	W.	Pte.	Lincolnshire Regiment
	Bignell	W. G.	Sgt.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Bishop	G.	Pte.	Royal Berkshire Regiment
	Black	F. C.	Rev.	Chaplain's Department
	Blizard	J.	Lieut.	Canadian Regiment
	Bond	G. W.	Pte.	South Wales Borderers
	Bosanquet	E. C.	Lt. Comdr.	Royal Navy
	Bosanquet	E. M.	Lt.	Royal Artillery
†	Bow	C.	Pte.	Royal Engineers
†	Boyce	F. J.	Tpr.	Royal Household Cavalry
	Brain	F. G.	Pte.	Army Ordnance Corps
	Brainbridge	H. G.	Cpl.	Hertfordshire Yeomanry
	Brant	E. J.	Bmdr.	Royal Garrison Artillery
	Brant	F. W.	Pte.	Army Service Corps
†	Broodbank	P. F.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Brown	A. D.	F/Sgt.	Royal Gloucestershire Hussars
	Brown	C.	Pte.	Royal Engineers
	Brown	F.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
†	Brown	F. C.	Pte.	Middlesex Regiment
	Brown	J.	Pte.	Welsh Regiment

# First World War Heroes of Wotton-under-Edge

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Initials</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Service Unit</b>
	Brown	L. R.	Pte.	Lancashire Fusiliers
	Brown	R. L.	Pte.	Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers
	Brown	S.	L/Cpl.	Labour Corps
	Brown	S.	Pte.	Royal Army Medical Corps
	Bunce	H.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
✚	Burford	G.	Pte.	Hampshire Regiment
	Burford	H.	F/Sgt.	New Zealand Engineers
	Bury	C. R.	Lieut.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Bury	E. P.	Capt.	South Wales Borderers
	Butcher	J.	Pte.	Hampshire Regiment
✚	Butcher	W.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
✚	Butler	A.	Pte.	Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry
	Butler	G. J.	Cpl.	Royal Army Medical Corps
	Bye	A. W.	L/Cpl.	Machine Gun Corps
✚	Bye	A. W.	Stkr.	Royal Navy
	Cameron	L. C.	Capt.	Cameron Highlander
✚	Candy	A. G.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Candy	D. W.	A.S.	Royal Navy
✚	Candy	F.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
✚	Candy	G.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Candy	J.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Candy	R. G.	Pte.	Army Service Corps
	Cane	W.	A.S.	Royal Navy
	Carter	A. J.	Pte.	Worcestershire Regiment
	Carter	B.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Carter	H. T.	A.S.	Royal Navy
	Carter	J.	Cpl.	Royal Garrison Artillery
	Chappell	A. E.	Pte.	Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry
	Chappell	A. L.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
✚	Chappell	A. T.	Pte.	Royal West Kent Regiment
	Chappell	F.	Pte.	Worcestershire Regiment
	Chappell	F. A.	Pte.	Middlesex Regiment
	Chappell	G. W.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Chappell	H. J.	Pte.	Royal Engineers
	Chappell	J.	Pte.	Prince of Wales's Regiment
	Chappell	W. V.	Pte.	Royal Marine Light Infantry
	Chitts	G. H.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Chitts	J.	Pte.	Machine Gun Corps
	Chitts	W.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Clarke	F.	Pte.	Royal Army Medical Corps
	Clifford	W. J.	Sgt.	Gloucestershire Regiment

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Initials</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Service Unit</b>
†	Clissold	E. V.	Pte.	Worcestershire Regiment
	Clowes	F. C.	Capt.	Royal Army Medical Corps
	Cole	G.	Cpl.	Yorkshire Regiment
	Cole	G.	L/Cpl.	Royal Garrison Artillery
	Cole	G.	Pte.	Royal Marine Light Infantry
	Collins	W. D.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Cook	A. H.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Cook	A. J.	L/Cpl.	Royal Irish Regiment
	Cook	A. W.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Cook	E.	Spr.	Royal Engineers
	Cook	F. W.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Cook	J. A.	Sgt.	Royal Garrison Artillery
	Cook	L.	Gnr.	Tank Corps
	Cook	R.	Sgt. Maj.	Royal Horse Artillery
	Cook	W. A.	Pte.	Royal Army Medical Corps
†	Cooper	F.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Cooper	W. J.	Pte.	Army Service Corps
	Corbett	F.	L/Cpl.	Gloucestershire Regiment
†	Cornock	A. A.	Sgt.	Border Regiment
†	Cornock	A. E.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Cornock	D. L.	Sgt.	Canadian Regiment
†	Cornock	E.	A.S.	Royal Navy
	Cornock	G.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Cornock	G.	Pte.	Royal Marine Light Infantry
	Cornock	G. E. W.	Cpl.	Royal Engineers
	Cornock	J.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Cornock	M.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Cornock	N.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
†	Cornock	R.	P.O.	Royal Navy
†	Cornock	S.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Cornock	S.	A.S.	Royal Navy
	Cornock	W.	Pte.	Army Service Corps
	Cossons	E. T.	Spr.	Royal Engineers
	Cotter	J. L. Sir (Bart.)	Capt.	Royal Field Artillery
	Coventry	G.	Sgt.	Army Service Corps
	Cowles	A. R.	A.S.	Royal Navy
	Cowles	G.	A.S.	Royal Navy
	Crew	E.	Pte.	East Yorkshire Regiment
	Cuff	W. W.	C.S.M.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Cullimore	E.	Pte.	Labour Corps
	Dance	R.	Sgt.	Grenadier Guards



First World War Heroes of Wotton-under-Edge

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Initials</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Service Unit</b>
	Dancox	A. E.	Gnr.	Machine Gun Corps
	Dancox	G.	Ftr.	Royal Field Artillery
	Dancox	H. D.	A.S.	Royal Navy
	Dando	A. J.	QM.Sgt.	Army Service Corps
	Dando	F.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
✚	Dando	H. M.	L/Cpl.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Daniell	C. I.	Capt.	Worcestershire Regiment
	Davis	F. (DCM)	Sgt.	Loyal North Lancashire Regiment
	Davis	H. R.	Pte.	Wiltshire Regiment
✚	Davis	J.	L/Cpl.	Royal Army Medical Corps
	Davis	W. F.	Pte.	Army Service Corps
	Davis	W. J.	Spr.	Royal Engineers
	Davis	W. R.	Cpl.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Dawes	L. F.	Pte.	Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Regiment
	Day	E.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Day	G.	Pte.	Warwickshire Regiment
	Day	J.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
✚	Deacon	E.	Pte.	Australian Imperial Force
	Dennis	H. R.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Dennis	J. B.	Sgt.	Australian Imperial Force
	Dennis	J. L.	Pte.	Australian Imperial Force
	Dennis	P.	Lieut.	Army Service Corps
	Dennison	J. D.	A.M.	Royal Air Force
	Dennison	M. E.	Pte.	King's Liverpool Regiment
✚	Dickenson	H.	Pte.	Royal Warwickshire Regiment
	Dillimore	T. W.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Dixon	A. A.	Pte.	Royal Fusiliers
	Dixon	D.	Cpl.	Royal Defence Corps
	Dixon	D. A. H.	Lieut.	Machine Gun Corps
	Dixon	F. W.	A.S.	Royal Navy
	Dixon	H. C.	Pte.	Black Watch Regiment
✚	Dolman	W.	Cpl.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Downs	J. C.	Pte.	Royal Army Medical Corps
	Drew	B. E.	Sgt.	Canadian Regiment
	Dunn	E. S.	L.A.C.	Royal Air Force
	Durn	A.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Durn	W.	Pte.	Royal Engineers
	Durn	W. L.	Lead.Tel.	Royal Navy
	Dyer	G. H.	Pte.	Royal Fusiliers
	Ecott	W. P.	Spr.	Royal Engineers
	Elliott	A. F.	Pte.	North Somerset Yeomanry

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Initials</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Service Unit</b>
	Elliott	A. W.	Pte.	Suffolk Regiment
	Elliott	F. E.	Pte.	Worcestershire Regiment
†	Elliott	H.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Evans	E. T.	Pte.	Welsh Regiment
	Evans	H. C.	Pte.	Royal Army Veterinary Corps
	Evans	H. H.	Pte.	Royal Army Medical Corps
†	Excell	G. E.	Pte.	Worcestershire Regiment
	Exell	F. W.	Pte.	Lancashire Fusiliers
†	Exell	G.	Pte.	Royal Marine Light Infantry
	Exell	H.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
†	Exell	P.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
†	Exell	W. (MM)	Cpl.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Eyles	C. J.	Tel.	Royal Navy
	Eyles	H.	C.P.O.	Royal Navy
	Eyles	H. F.	P.O.	Royal Navy
	Eyles	I. C.	Ldg.Tel.	Royal Navy
	Eyles	T.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
†	Farmiloe	F. F.	A.S.	Royal Navy
	Farmiloe	S.	Pte.	Army Service Corps
†	Fay	W. B.	Pte.	Loyal North Lancashire Regiment
†	Fitz	W. N.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
†	Ford	A. E.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Ford	F. D.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Ford	G.	Cpl.	Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry
	Ford	G. H.	L/Cpl.	Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment
	Ford	H. F.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Ford	P. G.	Pte.	Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry
	Ford	W. G.	Sgt.	Army Pay Corps
	Ford	W. J.	Sgt.	Royal Defence Corps
	Fowler	F. W.	Cpl.	Norfolk Regiment
	Fowler	J.	Pte.	South Wales Borderers
	Fowles	D.	Gnr.	Royal Marine Artillery
	Fowles	S. W.	Ldg.Tel.	Royal Navy
	Fowles	W. N.	Sgt.	Royal Air Force
†	Frape	H. G.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	French	H.	Pte.	Welsh Pioneers
	French	H. H.	Pte.	Royal Army Veterinary Corps
	Fry	E. D.	A.M.	Royal Naval Air Squadron
	Fry	G. I.	Capt.	Royal Air Force
	Fry	L. G.	A.M.	Royal Air Force
	Fry	L. N.	Lieut.	Royal Naval Reserve

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Initials</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Service Unit</b>
	Fry	R.	RQSM	Gloucestershire Regiment
✚	Fry	R. F.	Pte.	Canadian Regiment
	Fryer	F.	Dvr.	Royal Field Artillery
	Fryer	G.	Stkr.	Royal Navy
	Fryer	W.	Pte.	Labour Corps
	Fryer	W. J.	Stkr.	Royal Navy
	Gabb	G. H.	L/Cpl.	Machine Gun Corps
	Gardener	H.	Pte.	Army Service Corps
	George	A. S.	Rfn.	Rifle Brigade
	Gibbard	W. E.	Pte.	Royal Army Medical Corps
	Goddard	J. B.	Pte.	Bedfordshire Regiment
✚	Gordon	F.	Cpl.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Gothard	F. J. H.	Cpl.	Army Service Corps
	Goulding	W.	Pte.	Royal Fusiliers
✚	Grant	W. C.	Sgt.	Royal Garrison Artillery
	Griffiths	E.	Pte.	Royal Warwickshire Regiment
	Grimes	A. S.	Rfn.	King's Royal Rifle Corps
	Grimes	A. W.	Lieut.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Grimes	C.	Pte.	Yorkshire & Lancashire Regiment
✚	Grimes	E.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Grimes	F.	P.O.	Royal Navy
	Grimes	F. C.	Sgt.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Grimes	F. W.	Stkr.	Royal Navy
✚	Grimes	G.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Grimes	H.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Grimes	H.	Gdsmn.	Grenadier Guards
	Grimes	H. G.	Sdlr.	Machine Gun Corps
	Grimes	P. J.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
✚	Grimes	R. C.	Pte.	Machine Gun Corps
	Grimes	S. A.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Grimes	S. G.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Grimes	T. E.	Pte.	Dorset Regiment
	Gulwel	H.	Cpl.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Hale	E. J.	Bglr.	Canadian Regiment
	Hale	H. M.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Hall	W. M.	Spr.	Royal Engineers
	Hammond	C. W.	L/Cpl.	Royal Warwickshire Regiment
	Harding	E. T.	Pte.	East Yorkshire Regiment
	Harding	F. C.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Harding	J. H.	Pte.	Labour Corps
	Hardwick	A. J.	Sgt.	Royal Air Force

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Initials</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Service Unit</b>
	Hardwick	C. E.	Pte.	Army Service Corps
	Hardwick	F. A.	Gnr.	Royal Field Artillery
	Hardwick	J. A.	Pte.	Royal Field Artillery
	Hardyman	W. T.	Pte.	Royal Fusiliers
	Harris	A.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Hayward	A.	Pte.	Dorset Regiment
	Hayward	E.	Maj.	Worcestershire Regiment
	Hayward	G. B.	Pte.	Royal Army Medical Corps
	Hayward	N.	Pte.	Royal Army Veterinary Corps
	Heath	E. A.	Pte.	Army Service Corps
	Heath	G. A.	Capt.	Royal Air Force
	Heath	J. L.	A.S.	Royal Navy
	Heath	R.	F/Sgt.	Royal Air Force
†	Heath	W. R. K.	Lieut.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Heaven	E. J.	Cpl.	Army Service Corps
	Heaven	F.	Dvr.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Heaven	H.	Pte.	Royal West Kent Regiment
	Heaven	W.	Pte.	Labour Corps
	Heaven	W. C.	L/Cpl.	Royal Warwickshire Regiment
	Hedges	H. J.	Pte.	Worcestershire Regiment
	Henderson	K. F.	Capt.	Lancers
	Herrick	E.	A.M.	Royal Air Force
	Herrick	P. E.	Pte.	London Regiment
	Hester	H. V.	Pte.	Royal Warwickshire Regiment
	Hester	W.	Pte.	Army Service Corps
	Hester	W. P. (MM)	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Hill	T. E. (MBE)	Lieut.	Army Service Corps
	Hinder	G.	Pte.	Canadian Regiment
	Hodges	A. O.	A.M.	Royal Air Force
	Hodges	F. A. (MM)	S/Sgt.	Royal Army Medical Corps
	Holden	E. W.	Pte.	King's Royal Rifle Corps
	Hollister	A.	Sgt.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Hollister	A. E.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
†	Hollister	E. A.	Sgt.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Hollister	H. R.	Gnr.	Royal Garrison Artillery
	Holman	S.	Gdsmn.	Grenadier Guards
	Honnibal	J. E.	Lieut.	Royal Garrison Artillery
	Hopkins	J. C.	1 <sup>st</sup> C.B.	Royal Navy
	Hopkins	W. G.	A.S.	Royal Navy
	Hopkinson	G.	Lieut.	Army Service Corps
	Howell	E. H.	L/Cpl.	Devonshire Regiment

# First World War Heroes of Wotton-under-Edge

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Initials</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Service Unit</b>
	Howell	H.	Pte.	Army Service Corps
	Howell	W. J.	Cpl.	Army Ordnance Corps
	Hubbard	J.	Pte.	Army Service Corps
	Hughes	F. A.	Pte.	Royal Army Medical Corps
	Humphries	B. C.	Cpl.	Army Ordnance Corps
	Humphries	F.	Cpl.	Army Service Corps
	Hunt	A. W.	Cpl.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Hyde	F.	A.S.	Royal Navy
✠	Hyner	F. C.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Jackson	F.	Pte.	Royal Warwickshire Regiment
	Jackson	R.	Pte.	Machine Gun Corps
	James	F.	A.M.	Royal Air Force
	James	J. H.	Gnr.	Tank Corps
	Jellings	A. G.	Pte.	Army Service Corps
	Jellings	F. J.	Cpl.	Australian Imperial Forces
	Jellings	J. W.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Jenkins	R.	Pte.	Devonshire Regiment
	Jenkins	S. T.	Cpl.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Jones	F. J.	Pte.	Norfolk Regiment
	Jones	G. W.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Jotcham	A. H.	Lieut.	Royal Garrison Artillery
✠	Jotcham	C. R.	Tpr.	Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Yeomanry
✠	Jotcham	F.	Lieut.	Royal Engineers
	Jotcham	G.	Pte.	East Surrey Regiment
✠	Jotcham	H.	Pte.	Royal Army Medical Corps
✠	Jotcham	W.	L/Cpl.	East Surrey Regiment
	Jotcham	W. E. S.	Lieut.	London Regiment
✠	Jotcham	W. M.	Lieut.	Worcestershire Regiment
	Keen	F.	Pte.	Royal Horse Artillery
	Kendall	H. L.	Tpr.	Royal Berkshire Regiment
	Kent	G. H.	A.S.	Royal Navy
	Keynton	A.	Spr.	Royal Engineers
	Keynton	H. R.	Cpl.	Grenadier Guards
	Keynton	R. G.	Spr.	Royal Engineers
	Keynton	W. A.	L/Cpl.	Army Service Corps
✠	Keynton	W. J.	L/Cpl.	Royal Berkshire Regiment
	King	A.	Pte.	Worcestershire Regiment
	King	C.	Sgt.	Royal Army Veterinary Corps
	King	D.	Pte.	Royal Army Medical Corps
	King	H.	Pte.	Royal Navy
✠	King	H.	Pte.	Worcestershire Regiment

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Initials</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Service Unit</b>
	King	S.	Tpr.	Royal Garrison Artillery
	King	T.	Pte.	Welsh Regiment
	King	W. E.	Dvr.	Royal Field Artillery
†	Kinson	A. E.	L/Cpl.	Royal Fusiliers
	Knight	W.	A.S.	Royal Navy
	Knight	W.	L/Cpl.	Military Foot Police
†	Knight	W. C.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Knipe	C.	Capt.	Royal Air Force
†	Lacey	J.	Pte.	North Staffordshire Regiment
	Lacey	R.	Pte.	Labour Corps
	Laight	H. F.	Spr.	Royal Engineers
†	Lainchbury	J.	Pte.	Norfolk Regiment
	Leigh	E.	Pte.	Cheshire Regiment
†	Leonard	H.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
†	Leonard	J.	Pte.	Royal Warwickshire Regiment
	Lewis	L. W.	Cpl.	Gloucestershire Regiment
†	Lewis	M. W. F.	Pte.	Princess Patricia's Light Infantry
	Lewton	G. H.	Pte.	Army Service Corps
	Light	W. J. C.	Sgt.	Wiltshire Yeomanry
	Mace	B.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Mackin	P. C. J.	P.O.	Royal Navy
	Mann	C.	L/Cpl.	Labour Corps
	Mann	D.	A.S.	Royal Navy
	Mann	E.	Cpl.	Herefordshire Regiment
	Mann	E. J.	Cpl.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Mann	E. N.	Pte.	Northumberland Fusiliers
	Mann	G.	Pte.	Army Service Corps
	Mann	H.	Cpl.	Royal Berkshire Regiment
	Mann	P.	Cpl.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Mann	W.	Pte.	Army Service Corps
	Marmont	R.	A.C.	Royal Naval Air Service
†	Marsh	A.	Pte.	Tank Corps
	Marsh	F.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Marshall	H. J.	Spr.	Royal Engineers
	Marshall	L. G. W.	L/Cpl.	Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Yeomanry
	Marychurch	H.	Gnr.	Royal Garrison Artillery
	Mason	A.	Lieut.	Royal Air Force
	Maunders	E. S.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	May	A. S. D.	Pte.	Royal Air Force
	May	G. E.	Pte.	Royal Army Medical Corps
†	May	H. G.	Cpl.	Worcestershire Regiment

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Initials</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Service Unit</b>
	May	W.	Pte.	Royal Air Force
✚	May	W. N.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Mayne	C.	Sglm.	Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve
	Mayne	E. G.	Pte.	Somerset Light Infantry
	Mayne	H. G.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Mayne	W.	Pnr.	Royal Engineers
	McAllum	(?)	Maj.	Royal Army Medical Corps
✚	Meadows	T.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Mills	G. W.	Bdr.	Royal Field Artillery
	Mills	H.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Morgan	F.	Pte.	Labour Corps
	Morley	J.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Morley	R.	Pte.	Worcestershire Regiment
	Morley	R.	Cpl.	Grenadier Guards
	Morris	A. H.	Maj.	Royal Air Force
	Morton	R. J.	Capt.	Royal Field Artillery
✚	Neale	F. G.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Neale	W.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Neil	A. W.	L/Cpl.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Newman	R.	Pte.	South Lancashire Regiment
	Nicholls	A. E.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Nicholls	P. H.	Cpl.	Scottish Rifles (The Cameronians)
	Nicholls	W.	Cpl.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Norris	F. J.	Cpl.	Machine Gun Corps
	Norris	L. C.	Pte.	Army Ordnance Corps
	Norris	W.	Pte.	Royal Irish Fusiliers
	Northcote	R. W. M.	Cpl.	Army Pay Corps
✚	Noyes	R. E.	Maj.	Yorkshire Regiment
	Oakhill	A. H.	Pte.	Labour Corps
	Oakhill	E.	Sgt.	Grenadier Guards
	Oakhill	F.	Pte.	Royal Army Medical Corps
	Oakhill	H. (DCM)	Lieut.	Royal Field Artillery
	Oakley	F.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Oates	A. W. G.	Pte.	Army Service Corps
	Oldland	F.	L/Cpl.	Durham Light Infantry
	Oldland	G.	Cpl.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Oliver	H. G.	A.S.	Royal Navy
	Orchard	D.	Cpl.	Royal Garrison Artillery
	Orchard	G.	Gnr.	Royal Field Artillery
	Orchard	J.	Gnr.	Royal Garrison Artillery
	Organ	A.	Pte.	Army Service Corps

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Initials</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Service Unit</b>
	Organ	A. E.	Sgt.	Army Service Corps
	Organ	E.	Pte.	Royal Warwickshire Regiment
	Organ	E.	Pte.	Worcestershire Regiment
†	Organ	F.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Organ	F. G.	Pte.	Labour Corps
	Organ	H.	Pte.	Labour Corps
	Organ	P.	Cpl.	Royal Army Medical Corps
	Organ	W.	Sgt.	Royal Engineers
	Organ	W. H.	A.M.	Royal Air Force
	Organ	W. J.	L/Cpl.	Machine Gun Corps
	Orr	J. A.	QM.Sgt.	Royal Army Observer Corps
	Osborne	A.	Pte.	Worcestershire Regiment
	Oxenham	C. J.	A.S.	Royal Navy
	Paget	A. E.	Pte.	Royal Warwickshire Regiment
	Paget	A. P.	A.S.	Royal Navy
	Paget	A. W.	Pte.	Worcestershire Regiment
	Paget	E.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Paget	G. G.	L/Cpl.	Royal Field Artillery
	Paget	J.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Paget	R.	L/Stkr.	Royal Navy
	Paget	W. G.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
†	Pagett	W. G.	Pte.	Royal Marine Light Infantry
	Pagington	T. J.	Dvr.	Royal Engineers
	Palmer	G. W.	A.S.	Royal Naval Division
	Palmer	H.	Pte.	Royal Air Force
	Palmer	H. G.	Pte.	London Regiment
	Palmer	J. W.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
†	Parker	A.	Pte.	Royal Engineers
	Parker	A. D.	Sgt.	Nigerian Regiment
	Parker	G.	Gnr.	Royal Engineers
	Parker	G.	Pte.	Seaforth Highlanders
	Parker	J. F.	Spr.	Royal Engineers
†	Parkinson	J. A. F.	Lieut.	Dorset Regiment
	Parkinson	T. W. (DSO)	Maj.	Yorkshire & Lancashire Regiment
	Pearce	C. A.	P.O.	Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve
	Pearce	C. C.	Pte.	London Scottish Regiment
†	Pearce	F.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Pearce	F.	Pte.	Labour Corps
	Pearce	G. V.	Sgt.Maj.	New Zealand Mounted Rifles
	Pearce	H.	Cpl.	Royal Field Artillery
	Pearce	L. J.	Pte.	Royal Army Medical Corps



First World War Heroes of Wotton-under-Edge

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Initials</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Service Unit</b>
✚	Pearce	R. J.	Pte.	New Zealand Regiment
	Penly	C. M.	Cadet	Royal Air Force
	Penly	W. D.	Cpl.	Royal Army Medical Corps
	Pepworth	A.	Gnr.	Royal Field Artillery
	Pepworth	G.	Pte.	Somerset Light Infantry
	Pepworth	V.	B'man.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Perrett	H.	Dvr.	Australian Imperial Force
	Perrett	J. W.	Pte.	Army Service Corps
✚	Perry	F.	Cpl.	Royal Field Artillery
	Pinnegar	J.	Pte.	R. Hussars (?)
	Pitman	A.	Pte.	Suffolk Regiment
	Pitman	W.	Pte.	Tank Corps
	Porter	T. R.	Sgt.	Royal Army Medical Corps
	Porter	W.	Pte.	Royal Army Medical Corps
	Portlock	D. F.	Spr.	Royal Engineers
	Portlock	F. D.	A.M.	Royal Air Force
	Portlock	F. R.	Pte.	Canadian Regiment
	Portlock	P.	Gnr.	Royal Navy
✚	Poulton	A. W.	Sgt.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Poulton	W.	F.O.	Royal Naval Air Service
	Pritchard	A.	Pte.	Army Service Corps
	Pritchard	H.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Pritchard	H.	Pte.	Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry
✚	Prosser	H. W.	Bdr.	Royal Field Artillery
	Pulley	G.	Sgt.	Royal Field Artillery
	Pullin	E. T.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Pullin	G. S.	Stkr.	Royal Navy
	Pullin	R.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Quintin	J.	Pte.	Worcestershire Regiment
	Reed	G.	Gnr.	Royal Garrison Artillery
	Reynolds	C.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Reynolds	G.	Pte.	Royal Defence Corps
	Reynolds	G.	Pte.	Somerset Light Infantry
	Reynolds	H.	L/Cpl.	King's Liverpool Regiment
	Reynolds	R. J.	Pte.	Hampshire Regiment
	Richings	F.	QM.Sgt.	Royal Field Artillery
✚	Richings	J.	Sgt.	Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Yeomanry
✚	Richings	M. E.	L/Cpl.	Yorkshire & Lancashire Regiment
✚	Ridley	H. L.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Roach	J. W.	A.M.	Royal Air Force
	Roberts	C. W.	Pte.	Army Service Corps

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Initials</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Service Unit</b>
	Roberts	T. A.	Art.	Royal Navy
	Robins	C. W.	Gnr.	Royal Field Artillery
	Robins	E. C.	Pte.	Worcestershire Regiment
	Robins	H. E.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Robinson	E.	L/Cpl.	Royal Engineers
	Robinson	F.	Pte.	Canadian Regiment
	Robinson	H.	Cpl.	Royal Engineers
	Robinson	H. T.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
†	Robinson	W.	Cpl.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Rodman	E.	Pte.	Machine Gun Corps
†	Rodman	F.	Dmr.	Royal Warwickshire Regiment
	Rodman	G.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Rodman	W.	Pte.	Royal Army Medical Corps
	Rodway	A.	Pte.	Agricultural Corps
†	Rudge	J. C.	A.S.	Royal Navy
	Rudge	W. C.	A.S.	Royal Navy
	Sargent	E. A.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
†	Sargent	W.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
†	Saunders	W. C.	A.S.	Royal Naval Division
	Savoury	E. J.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
†	Saxton	W. H.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Screen	W. C.	Cpl.	Royal Field Artillery
	Seward	E.	Pte.	South Wales Borderers
	Shadbolt	R. E.	A.M.	Royal Air Force
	Shadbolt	W. T.	A.M.	Royal Air Force
	Shearman	E.	Spr.	Royal Engineers
	Shearman	J.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Shearman	T. L.	C.P.O.	Royal Navy
	Shearman	W. F.	Cpl.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Shipton	D.	Spr.	Royal Engineers
	Shipton	F.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Shipton	H. H.	Cpl.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Shipway	O.	Pte.	Royal Army Medical Corps
	Shipway	W.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Short	F.	Pte.	Royal Warwickshire Regiment
†	Short	H. L.	Gnr.	Royal Field Artillery
	Sims	A. S.	Cpl.	Grenadier Guards
	Sims	G. W.	Pte.	Royal Berkshire Regiment
	Sims	G. W.	Pte.	Middlesex Regiment
	Slamin	W. P.	Sgt.	Army Service Corps
	Sluter	S. E.	L/Cpl.	Gloucestershire Regiment

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Initials</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Service Unit</b>
	Smart	C.	Sgt.	Royal Garrison Artillery
	Smart	E.	Pte.	Royal Garrison Artillery
	Smart	F.	Spr.	Royal Engineers
	Smith	A.	Pte.	Worcestershire Regiment
	Smith	A.	L.A.C.	Royal Air Force
	Smith	A. A.	Pte.	Lancers (?)
✚	Smith	A. E.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Smith	A. E. R.	Pnr.	Royal Engineers
	Smith	B.	Sgt.	Gloucestershire Regiment
✚	Smith	F.	Rfn.	King's Royal Rifle Corps
	Smith	F. W.	Pte.	Worcestershire Regiment
✚	Smith	G. H.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Smith	H.	Pte.	King's Liverpool Regiment
	Smith	H. T.	Pte.	Royal Army Medical Corps
	Smith	J. E.	Pte.	Somerset Light Infantry
	Smith	J. H.	Pte.	Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry
	Smith	T.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Smith	W. A.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Smith	W. E.	L/Cpl.	Army Service Corps
	Smith	W. F.	Pte.	Royal Navy
	Smith	W. J.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Southwood	J. W.	Pte.	Somerset Light Infantry
	Spencer	H.	Pte.	Royal Army Medical Corps
	Spencer	H. C.	Pte.	Royal Garrison Artillery
✚	Spencer	S.	Pte.	Hampshire Regiment
	Spencer	W.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Spiers	W.	L/Cpl.	Worcestershire Regiment
	Stevens	A.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
✚	Stevens	C. W.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Stevens	G. A. (MM)	Gnr.	Royal Field Artillery
	Stinchcombe	A. H.	Pte.	Machine Gun Corps
	Stinchcombe	E.	Pte.	Royal Field Artillery
	Stinchcombe	F.	Pte.	Essex Regiment
	Stinchcombe	F.	Pte.	Worcestershire Regiment
	Stinchcombe	H. T.	Sgt.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Stinchcombe	J. B.	S/Cpl.	Army Ordnance Corps
✚	Stinchcombe	W.	Pte.	Worcestershire Regiment
	Stokes	G.	Spr.	Royal Engineers
	Talboys	C.	Sgt.	Royal Garrison Artillery
	Tandy	A. T.	A.M.	Royal Air Force
	Tanner	C.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Initials</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Service Unit</b>
	Tanner	G.	Pte.	Army Service Corps
†	Tanner	R. H.	Sgt.	Australian Imperial Force
	Tanner	W. J.	Sgt.	Royal Army Observer Corps
	Tavender	C.	Pte.	Royal Army Observer Corps
	Tavinner	F.	Sgt.	A.M.T.C. (?)
	Tavinner	F.	Pte.	Black Watch
	Tavinner	W. G.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Temlett	F. J.	Drmr.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Terrett	C.	Cpl.	Royal Engineers
	Thatcher	G.	Pte.	Monmouthshire Regiment
	Thompson	W. H.	Pte.	Labour Corps
†	Tilley	A. L.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Tilley	E.	Rfn.	King's Royal Rifle Corps
	Tilley	H. C.	Sgt.	Royal Garrison Artillery
	Tilley	P.	Gnr.	Royal Garrison Artillery
	Tilling	R.	Sgt.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Toulmin	G. C.	Rfn.	London Rifle Brigade
	Toulmin	V. F.	Lieut.	Royal Air Force
†	Townsend	H. L.	L/Cpl.	Royal Irish Fusiliers
	Trotman	B. S.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Trotman	F.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Trotman	F. W.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Trotman	G.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Trotman	G.	A.C.	Royal Air Force
	Trotman	G. W.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Trotman	P. V.	Pte.	Army Service Corps
†	Trotman	V.	Cpl.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Tubbs	C. B. (MC)	Capt.	Somerset Light Infantry
†	Tubbs	S. B.	Capt.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Turner	A. H.	Pte.	Royal Engineers
†	Turner	C.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Turner	F. H.	Pte.	Royal Engineers
	Turner	H. E.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
†	Turner	H. W. W.	Pte.	Royal Marine Light Infantry
	Turner	W.	Pte.	Army Service Corps
	Twigg	S. J. H.	Cpl.	Royal Army Medical Corps
	Twinning	A. F.	Pte.	Agricultural Corps
	Underhill	C.	A.M.	Royal Air Force
†	Upstone	C. D.	Lieut.	Devon Regiment
	Venn	F. G.	Pte.	Australian Imperial Force
†	Venn	T.	Pte.	Royal Berkshire Regiment

First World War Heroes of Wotton-under-Edge

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Initials</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Service Unit</b>
	Vines	A. W.	Pte.	Royal Army Medical Corps
	Vines	E.	Pte.	Tank Corps
	Vines	H. D.	L/Cpl.	Royal Irish Lancers
	Vines	L.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
✚	Vines	W.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Vizard	A. G.	A.M.	Royal Air Force
✚	Walker	D.	Sgt.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Walker	E.	Cpl.	Royal Field Artillery
	Walker	F.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Walker	J. A.	Pte.	Devon Regiment
	Walker	J. L.	Spr.	Royal Engineers
	Walker	T. W.	Bdr.	Royal Field Artillery
	Wall	C.	Cpl.	Royal Army Medical Corps
	Wathen	L.	Pte.	South Wales Borderers
✚	Wathen	W.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Watkins	F.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Watkins	G.	Pte.	Army Service Corps
	Watkins	S.	Dvr.	Army Service Corps
	Watkins	W.	Sglr.	Royal Navy
	Webb	P. E.	Sgt.	Army Service Corps
✚	Webb	T. F.	Pte.	Royal Air Force
	Webb	W.	A.S.	Royal Navy
✚	Wellicome	W. C.	Sgt.	Seaforth Highlanders
	Wheeler	W. E.	C.M. (?)	Royal Navy
	White	A.	A.S.	Royal Navy
	White	V.	A.S.	Royal Navy
✚	Wicks	F. J.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
✚	Willcock	H.	Pte.	Australian Imperial Force
	Williams	J.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Williams	W. J.	Spr.	Royal Engineers
	Winter	A. W.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Witchell	C. H.	Pte.	Royal Engineers
	Wood	F.	Pte.	Somerset Light Infantry
	Wood	J. R.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
✚	Wood	W. B.	Lieut.	Gloucestershire Regiment
	Woodin	S.	Pte.	Army Service Corps
✚	Woodlands	A. H.	Pte.	Royal Marine Light Infantry
	Woodward	A.	Cpl.	Royal Army Observer Corps
	Workman	A.	Pte.	Welsh Regiment (?)
	Workman	A. J.	Gnr.	Royal Garrison Artillery
	Workman	C.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment

<b>Name</b>	<b>Initials</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Service Unit</b>
Workman	C.	Pte.	Army Service Corps
Workman	E.	Gnr.	Royal Garrison Artillery
Workman	H.	Tel.	Royal Navy
Workman	W.	Gnr.	Royal Garrison Artillery
Wright	W. H.	Dvr.	Royal Army Veterinary Corps
Wyatt	A. E.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
Wyatt	A. V.	Pte.	Essex Regiment
Wyatt	C. W.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
Wyatt	F.	Spr.	Royal Engineers
Wyatt	F. J.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
Wyatt	G.	Pte.	Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry
Wyatt	H.	Spr.	Royal Engineers
Wyatt	J.	Sgt.	Gloucestershire Regiment
Wyatt	J.	Pte.	Hampshire Regiment
Wyatt	P.	Gnr.	Royal Garrison Artillery
Wyatt	R.	Pte.	Dragoon Guards
Wyatt	S.	Spr.	Royal Engineers
Young	A.	Pte.	Gloucestershire Regiment
Young	G.	Pte.	Machine Gun Corps
Young	H.	Pte.	Army Service Corps
Young	W.	Pte.	Labour Corps
Young	W.	Pte.	Royal Defence Corps

Note: Army Service Corps (A. S. C.) should not include the prefix 'Royal'

Above this Roll of Honour, found along a wall in a downstairs room in Wotton-under-Edge Town Hall, are the words – “*Erected in recognition of the courage and devotion of the men of this town who served in the Great War*”. There are also paintings of aircraft, ships and balloons. Along the sides are written the names of some First World War battles. Men who died in conflict have before their names a golden cross symbol; these are the men whose names are also inscribed on the town's War Memorial. As far as I have been able to find out, there seem to be only three men who died during the war and do not have a cross in front of their name.

The Roll of Honour is signed underneath by the craftsman responsible for it :–

*W. L. Williams, R.E.*

*Signwriter and Shopfront Specialist*

*Wotton-under-Edge*

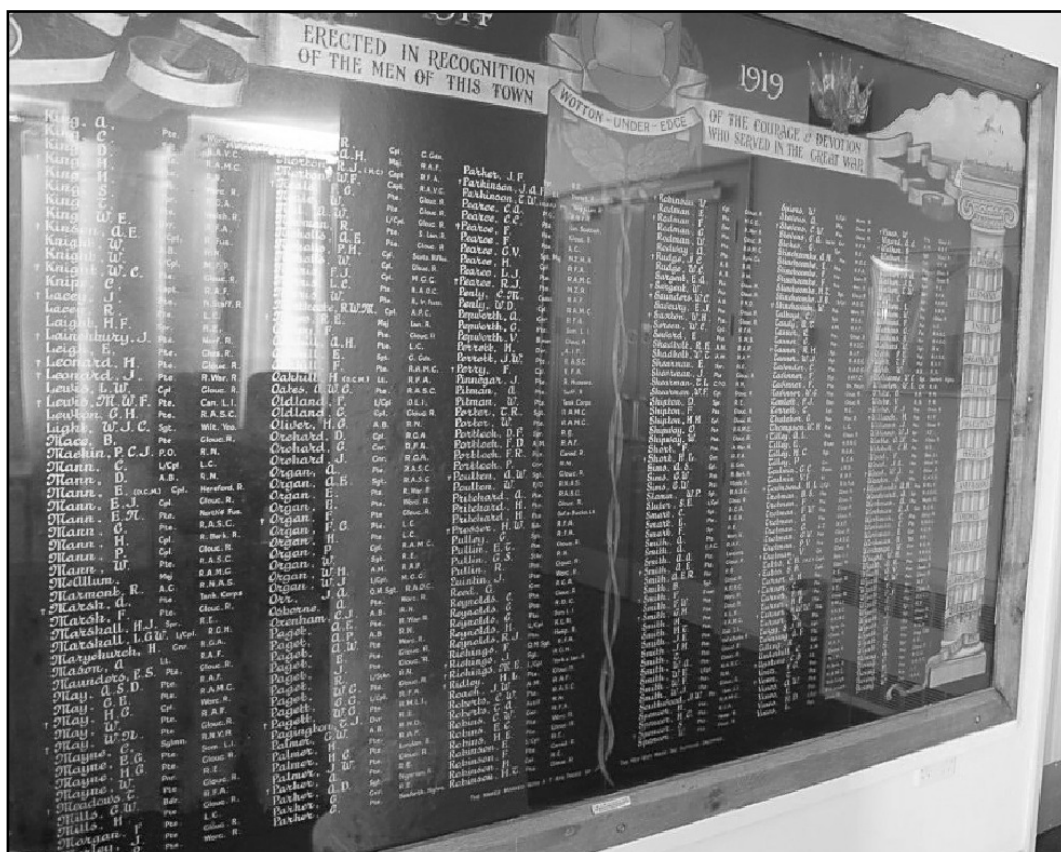
A brass plaque affixed to the bottom of the Roll of Honour contains the following words :–

*The panels were restored in 1995 by Wotton-under-Edge Town Council, with a contribution from Stroud District Council. To mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ending of World War Two.*



*The two panels of the Roll of Honour in the Town Hall*

Source: Clive Rushton



# XII

## A SHORT HISTORY OF WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE WAR MEMORIAL AND ROLL OF HONOUR

The first mention of a Memorial for the Great War for those Wotton servicemen who had died in that conflict appeared in the *Gazette* of 21<sup>st</sup> December 1918, just two months after the Armistice. The writer (anonymous) hoped that... *a strong public spirited committee may be formed to look into the possibility of a memorial to the Wotton boys.* On 25<sup>th</sup> January 1919 the *Gazette* reported that the Wotton Parish Council had called for a public meeting for 3<sup>rd</sup> February to discuss a proposed war memorial.

As a result of the 3<sup>rd</sup> February public meeting a steering committee was formed to arrange for a memorial to be built, with the public invited to subscribe towards the cost of the memorial and with the public also being given the opportunity of selecting the design. The Committee members chosen were :- Mr. S. W. Tubbs (J.P.), Chairman, Mr. F. Holloway, Vice Chairman, Messrs. C. A. Smith and E. L. Webber, joint Treasurers and Messrs. George Fry and D. T. James, joint Secretaries.

By 4<sup>th</sup> March subscriptions had amounted to £100. The Committee Chairman said the scheme he most favoured was ... *the erection of a monument with Roll of Honour engraved, at the bottom of Old Town.* He said that he was also in favour ... *funds allowing, of a list of names of all those who served in the war to be recorded in the Town Hall.* Not all townspeople agreed with a memorial; some, like Mr. C. A. Pearce preferred to see bungalows built for the town's war widows. Mr. F. C. Ford thought that a recreation

ground would be more appropriate. The Rev. F. J. Greenham suggested a cottage hospital.

At a War Memorial Committee meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> March various types of memorials were discussed, but as a result of a vote, it was decided that a monument should be built. Subscriptions were invited to be handed in by 15<sup>th</sup> April. The Committee requested that the names of all those who had fallen in the war and those who had served, be sent to the Secretary. The criteria for having a name inscribed on the Memorial or Roll of Honour were stipulated as :-

*born in Wotton-under-Edge*

*enlisted in Wotton-under-Edge*

*had a family home in Wotton-under-Edge*

The Committee would consider any names which fell outside these classes. At the meeting several more townsfolk were co-opted onto the Committee as follows :-

Miss Buckley, Mrs. H. Exell, Mrs. Lainchbury, Miss Marjorie Richings, Mrs. W. Rodman, Miss Searle, Miss Sluter, Mrs. Walker, Mr. C. R. Bagwall, Mr. A. J. Cook, Rev. A. T. Cosford, Mr. H. Evans, Mr. F. C. Ford, Rev. J. Hardyman, Mr. D. T. Jones, Mr. A. Jotcham, Mr. H. H. Lewton, Mr. F. Mann, Mr. C. A. Pearce, Mr. C. A. Smith, Mr. F. E. Webb and Mr. E. L. Webber.

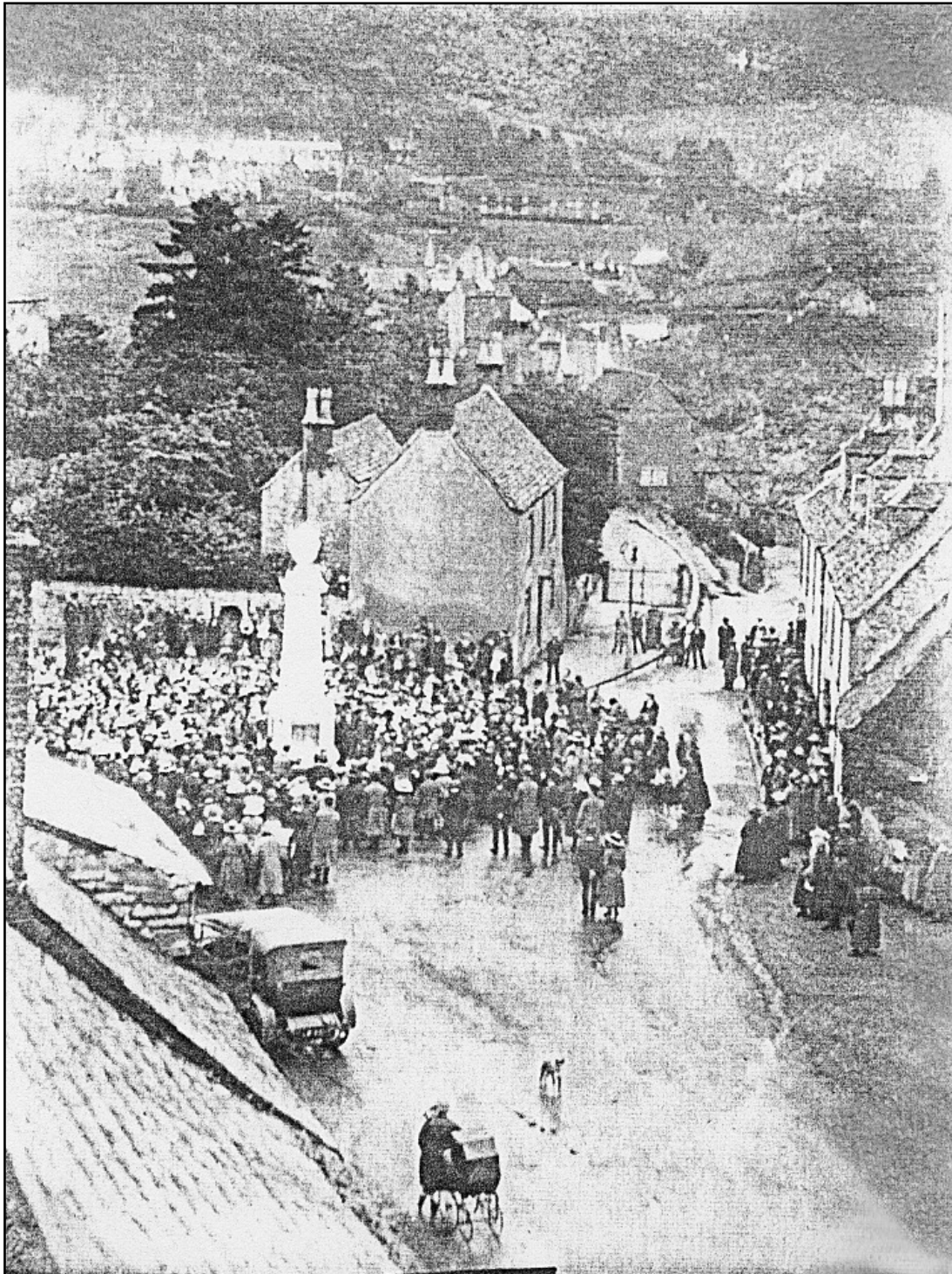
By 15<sup>th</sup> April almost £600 had been subscribed towards the War Memorial Fund. At a Committee meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> May it was resolved that £500 should be devoted to the



Memorial, which was ... *to be of Portland stone, with four panels for names*. It was confirmed that the Memorial would be placed at the bottom of Old Town. It was proposed and accepted that Mr. Percy Tubbs, F.R.I.B.A., would be the architect and adviser for the Memorial (Percy Tubbs' son, Seymour, had been killed in the

War and, so, would have his name inscribed on the Memorial designed by his father).

At a meeting of the Committee on 25<sup>th</sup> June it was agreed to approach the Wotton-under-Edge Town Trust, asking the body to accept responsibility for preserving the perpetuity of



*The unveiling of Wotton's War Memorial, 20<sup>th</sup> June 1920.*

Source: Wotton-under-Edge Heritage Centre



*Cleaning the War Memorial. This photograph was taken in the 1950s. The work was undertaken by members of the Wotton branch of the British Legion. On the left is Vic Jellings, next to him is F. E. ('Jim') Frith, Managing Director of Cotswold Collotype. On the ladder is Stanley Davies, and on the right is Colonel (Retired) Picton-Turbeville.*

Source: Vic Jellings

the Memorial when erected. The Committee were also empowered to have placed around the large room of the Town Hall, panels bearing the names of all from the parish who served in the War. The cost was assumed to be in excess of £100.

An interesting letter expressing his views on a memorial, written by Capt. Gordon Fry, R.A.F., appeared in the *Gazette* of 19<sup>th</sup> July. He thought that a recreation ground would be better than, as he put it – *A cold stone memorial*.

At a Memorial Committee meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, the tender submitted by Messrs. Barnes of Portland (approximately £600) to erect the monument, was accepted. The price quoted would include the whole works, except the laying of the foundations.

A *Gazette* article in its edition of 1<sup>st</sup> November stated that the lamp standard in the middle of the road at the bottom of Old Town would be removed to make way for the Memorial. Instead, a hanging lamp would be placed near the Old Town Meeting House. Another *Gazette* article appearing in its 6<sup>th</sup> December edition, stated that the inscriptions for the Roll of Honour in the Town Hall would be done by a Wotton ex-serviceman – Mr. W. J. ('Sapper') Williams, landlord of the *Rising Sun* public house.

It was the original intention of the Memorial Committee to have the panels bearing the names of the dead, inscribed in bronze, but in a meeting which took place on 30<sup>th</sup> December, it was explained that, owing to the prohibitive price of bronze, the tablets would be constructed instead of grey granite, a material described as ... *guaranteed to stand the test of time*. As they now realized that the original estimate would be exceeded, the Committee also agreed to omit all details of regiments, unit, etc. from the tablets.

By 5<sup>th</sup> May 1920, Mr. Percy Tubbs, architect, was able to announce that the contractors had the work '*well in hand*', this applied to the foundations for the Portland stone monument and its brick core; the carving of the monument would be done by Mr. Henry Poole, A.R.A.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> May the *Gazette* reported that 708

names had been submitted for the Roll of Honour in the Town Hall. Five days later, the stonework for the Memorial arrived at Charfield Station and the contractors commenced work at Old Town. It was expected that the work would be completed in about two weeks. On 17<sup>th</sup> June (with the Memorial now complete), there was a bizarre accident at the Memorial, just three days before the official unveiling and dedication ceremony. This is how it was reported in the *Gazette* of the 19<sup>th</sup> :-

#### **MOTOR MISHAP**

*A motor cyclist, a lady and her dog and the War Memorial at Wotton-under-Edge were all involved in a rather alarming accident on Thursday evening. Proceeding round the bend from the Culverhay to Old Town, Mr. Percy Mann had to swerve to avoid running over a dog. He missed the dog, but the handlebars of his machine knocked down the lady and the force of the impact drove the machine up the steps of the monument, one of the corners of the base of which was rather badly chipped. The most serious injuries however, were sustained by Mr. Mann, whose collar-bone was broken. The lady, Mrs. McCreath, was badly shaken. It is expected that the monument can be so treated that the marks of the mishap may be effaced.*

The unveiling and dedication ceremony of the Wotton-under-Edge Memorial took place on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June 1920 and was reported in the *Gazette* of 26<sup>th</sup> June as follows -

#### **Wotton-under-Edge War Memorial**

##### *Unveiling and Dedication Unique Proceedings*

*A service of a character entirely unique in the town's history took place at Wotton-under-Edge on Sunday afternoon (June 20<sup>th</sup>), when the monument erected at the bottom of Old Town as a War Memorial was unveiled and dedicated. Quite a large company had assembled, the rain which had been falling continuously since the early morning fortunately abating a few minutes before the ceremony commenced.*

#### **FINEST MEMORIAL IN COUNTY**

*Wotton's memorial has been described as one of the finest pieces of work of its kind in the county. The design consists of a three-tier base, supporting a slightly diminishing pier, which is capped and*

surmounted by a large vase or urn, the symbol of the ancients for 'sacrifice'. On the uppermost base stone are affixed three grey granite panels, upon which are engraved the names in alphabetical order of the parishioners, no fewer than 114 in number, who gave their lives in the war. Appended is the list of names :-

Above the panels are beautifully carved pediments, while encircling the vase are emblems of the Navy, Army, Air Force and Red Cross. The monument is surrounded by steps, four in number.

In the selection of design the Committee had the expert assistance of Mr. Percy Tubbs F.R.I.B.A. who kindly acted as Honorary Architect, Messrs. F. J. Barnes Ltd. of Portland were the constructors, the work being carried out under the capable direction of Mr. C. E. Becket of Herne Hill, London. It would be giving no undue praise to state that such a creditable accomplishment could not have been achieved without Mr. Becket's skilful work being supplemented by much painstaking interest.

#### **FIFTY TONS OF MATERIAL**

Some idea of the dimensions of the memorial will be obtained when we state that not less than 50 tons of material have been used in its construction. Nearly 30 tons of cement, gravel etc. was required for the foundations, the laying of which was entrusted to a local contractor – Mr. John Webb. The monument, rising to a height of 20 feet 6 inches contains about 22 tons of Portland Stone. It is pleasing to record that thanks to Mr. Becket's skilful treatment on Saturday, hardly any trace now remains of the motor mishap of two evenings previous.

#### **SUNDAY'S PROCEEDINGS**

For the ceremony of unveiling the memorial panels had been shrouded with the National Flag. Following the singing of 'God Save the King' the Rev. F. E. Black read the lesson, taken from 'Wisdom' Chapter 3, verses 1 to 9. After prayer by the Rev. W. Sargeant and the hymn 'Rock of Ages', the unveiling was carried out by Mrs. Ruth Cornock, a widow of the parish who had three sons killed as well as two grandsons. The Rev. F. J. Greenham pronounced the dedicatory prayer, after which Mr. S. W. Tubbs, Chairman of the Committee, made a few remarks fitting to the occasion.

#### **PRIDE AS WELL AS GRATITUDE**

Not only said Mr. Tubbs should they look upon the monument with feelings of gratitude for the noble

work done by the men who had fought and died, but also with pride. In time to come their children's children would be able to see and understand something of that noble work. In the time of their country's danger and urgent need those gallant men had come forward to face untold perils and if need be, death itself. By their heroism and devotion to duty the Empire had not only remained unimpaired but had gained a much greater influence. Mr. Tubbs concluded by quoting this couplet taken from the inscription of a similar memorial :-

Pass not this stone in sorrow, but in pride,  
And may you live as nobly as they died.

#### **THE LAST POST**

An impressive service concluded with the singing of 'Peace perfect peace' and the sounding of the 'Last Post' by Mr. F. Bennett Junior of Kingswood. A large number of laurel and floral wreaths were afterwards placed on the memorial. Mr. Maurice Brown accompanied the singing on a harmonium kindly lent from Old Town Church.

#### **THE COMMITTEE**

The Rev. J. Hardyman was unavoidably absent on Sunday being away on holiday. Another absentee was Mr. Percy Mann, the victim of the motor mishap mentioned above. Special mention must be made of the thorough and painstaking work in connection with the scheme of Mr. D. T. Jones, Secretary.

#### **THE COST**

The cost of the memorial which is being met by subscription is about £650.

A month after the Dedication and Unveiling of the War Memorial there appeared a request from the Wotton Town Trust, in the Gazette, asking that flower jars be removed from the steps of the monument as they were apt to become broken and were of an 'unsightly appearance'.

On 24<sup>th</sup> July the Gazette featured a report that the Wotton War Memorial Fund showed a deficit of over £150. The piece reads as follows :-

At a meeting of the Wotton-under-Edge War Memorial Committee on Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> inst. the Secretary (Mr. D. T. Jones), presented an interim balance sheet which showed an estimated deficit of over £150 after payment of all accounts. To meet the deficit, it was agreed to open a second

*subscription list. Mr. S. W. Tubbs J.P. (Chairman of the Committee) promised an additional £50, Mr. F. Holloway £3 3s., Mr. C. R. Bagwell £10 10s. and the Rev. J. Hardyman £1. It was decided to appeal to the townspeople through the Gazette, to send donations to either of the Banks, as soon as possible so that accounts may be closed. A list of subscriptions of half a crown and over will be published.*

The Gazette of 28<sup>th</sup> July was able to announce that the Roll of Honour in the Town Hall, made by 'Sapper' Williams had been completed.

By November 1920 the Town Trust had received many complaints about misuse of and damage caused to the War Memorial. The Gazette of 20<sup>th</sup> November reported that ... *the steps had recently been coated with waste oil from the 'National' buses, goods such as wire netting, oil drums, tar, felt etc. had been dumped on the steps which were also used as a platform for people waiting for the buses. Further, boys had actually been seen clambering above the name panels. Members unanimously agreed as trustees of the Memorial, to ask the War Memorial Committee to have the Monument fenced. Proper care was not possible unless this was done.*

A Gazette article of 27<sup>th</sup> November stated that the War Memorial Fund still had an approximate deficit of £100. The Memorial Committee decided to hold a jumble sale and a bazaar to help raise the money. At the same meeting, late in November, 'Sapper' Williams, the designer of the Town Hall Roll of Honour, explained that the recent increased cost of glass had raised the estimate for the work (originally £76) to £100. The Committee agreed to pay him this amount.

The jumble sale held on 15<sup>th</sup> December raised £36. The Fund's deficit now stood at £65 – which was hoped to be cleared in the New Year. This amount had still not been cleared by March 1921, when the Committee proposed holding a sale and arranging a concert. The concert, which was held at the end of March, raised a further £10 for the Fund.

An interesting letter was printed in the Gazette of 16<sup>th</sup> April 1921 from E. Mariott Bosanquet, Lieut. (Retired), Royal Artillery, The

Vicarage, Wotton-under-Edge, saying that he only attested recruits and didn't think that his name should be on the Roll of Honour in the Town Hall. He apologised, saying that he wasn't responsible for putting his name forward! It would be interesting to know if any other names on the Roll of Honour were of servicemen who did not actually see active service. The following week, Mrs. Bosanquet in a letter to the Gazette said that she had forwarded her son's name!

With the Memorial Fund still deficient by £55, I have been unable to find any further reference to it in subsequent Gazettes. I would assume that it was finally paid!

After having stood for 90 years the Memorial is in good condition. It is well respected and is the focus of the Remembrance Day Service in November. In my 40 years or so of living in the district, I cannot remember it being vandalised or desecrated in any way. As far as I am aware, no damage has been done by vehicles accidentally hitting it, although it does stand on a busy 'roundabout'. From time to time over those 90 years the Memorial has been cleaned, sometimes professionally and at other times by local volunteers.

If the townsfolk of the 1920s could come back and look at their War Memorial, I am sure they would be proud of the way that successive generations have taken care of it. Recently, restoration work was carried out around the base of the Memorial, which has made it more of a feature in the middle of a busy 'roundabout'. Perhaps the names of the men are not so distinct as when I first saw the Memorial, back in the seventies. If and when further restoration will take place at the Memorial, perhaps attention should be paid to the lettering. Let us hope the Memorial continues to be cherished in the years ahead.

Wottonians decided that on the conclusion of the Second World War, the names of the fallen from that conflict, should also be inscribed on the First World War Memorial. In doing this, they were following the practice of most towns and villages in the country.

We must never forget the sacrifices made by

## Roll of Honour for 114 Servicemen

### PANEL 1

ADAMS	W. H.	CAPT.	CHAPPELL	H.	PTE.
AMOS	H.	PTE.	CLISSOLD	E. V.	PTE.
ANDREWS	L. F.	A.B.	COOPER	F.	PTE.
ANNESLEY	W. R. N.	MAJ.	CORNOCK	A. A.	SGT.
AVENILL	J. E.	CPL.	CORNOCK	A. E.	PTE.
BALLENGER	McA.	A.B.	CORNOCK	E.	A.B.
BECHER	H. S.	MAJ.	CORNOCK	R.	P.O.
BENGOUGH	J. C.	LT.	CORNOCK	S.	PTE.
BIGNELL	L. J.	PTE.	DANDO	H. M.	L/CPL.
BOW	F. J.	TPR.	DAVIS	J.	L/CPL.
BOYCE	F. J.	TPR.	DEACON	E.	PTE.
BROODBANK	P. E.	PTE.	DICKENSON	H.	PTE.
BROWN	F. C.	PTE.	DOLMAN	W.	CPL.
BURFORD	G.	PTE.	ELLIOTT	H.	PTE.
BUTCHER	W.	PTE.	EXCELL	H.	PTE.
BUTLER	A.	PTE.	EXELL	G.	PTE.
BYE	A. W.	STOKER	EXELL	P.	PTE.
CANDY	F.	PTE. M.M.	EXELL	W.	CPL. M.M.
CANDY	G.	PTE.	FARMILOE	F. F.	A.B.

### PANEL 2

FAY	W. B.	PTE.	KING	H.	PTE.
FITZ	W. N.	PTE.	KINSON	A. E.	L/CPL.
FORD	A. E.	PTE.	KNIGHT	W. C.	PTE.
FRAPE	H. G.	PTE.	LACEY	J.	PTE.
FRY	R. F.	PTE.	LAINCHBURY	J.	PTE.
GORDON	F.	CPL.	LEONARD	H.	PTE.
GRANT	W. C.	SGT.	LEONARD	J.	PTE.
GRIMES	E.	PTE.	LEWIS	M. W. F.	PTE.
GRIMES	G.	PTE.	MARSH	A.	PTE.
GRIMES	R. C.	PTE.	MAY	H. G.	CPL.
HEATH	W. R. K.	LT.	MAY	W. N.	PTE.
HOLLISTER	E. A.	SGT.	MEADOWS	T.	PTE.
HYNER	F. C.	PTE.	NEALE	F. G.	PTE.
JOTCHAM	C. R.	TPR.	NOYES	R. E.	MAJ.
JOTCHAM	F.	PTE.	ORGAN	F.	PTE.
JOTCHAM	H.	PTE.	PAGETT	W. G.	PTE.
JOTCHAM	W. M.	LT.	PARKER	A.	PTE.
JOTCHAM	W.	L/CPL.	PARKINSON	J. A. F.	LT.
KEYNTON	W. J.	L/CPL.	PEARCE	F.	PTE.





*Wotton-under-Edge War Memorial as it appeared on a brilliant April day in 2011*

Source: Clive Rushton

**PANEL 3**

PEARCE	R. J.	PTE.	STINCHCOMBE	W.	PTE.
PERRY	F.	CPL.	TANNER	R. H.	SGT.
POULTON	A. W.	SGT.	TILLEY	A. L.	PTE.
PROSSER	H. W.	BDR.	TOWNSEND	H. L.	L/CPL.
RICHINGS	J.	SGT.	TROTMAN	V.	CPL.
RICHINGS	M. E.	L/CPL.	TUBBS	S. B.	CAPT.
RIDLEY	H. L.	PTE.	TURNER	C.	PTE.
ROBINSON	W.	CPL.	TURNER	H. W. W.	PTE.
RODMAN	F.	DMR.	UPSTONE	C. D.	LT.
RUDGE	J. C.	A.B.	VENN	T.	PTE.
SARGENT	W.	PTE.	VINES	W.	PTE.
SAUNDERS	W. C.	A.B.	WALKER	D.	SGT.
SAXTON	W. H.	PTE.	WATHEN	W.	PTE.
SHORT	H. L.	GNR.	WEBB	T. F.	PTE.
SMITH	A. E.	PTE.	WELLICOME	W. C.	SGT.
SMITH	F.	RFN.	WICKS	F. J.	PTE.
SMITH	G. H.	PTE.	WILLCOCK	H.	PTE.
SPENCER	S.	PTE.	WOOD	W. B.	LT.
STEVENS	C. W.	PTE.	WOODLANDS	A. H.	PTE.

A fourth panel bears the following inscription :-

TO THE HONOURED MEMORY  
OF THE BRAVE MEN OF  
Wotton-under-Edge  
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN  
THE GREAT WAR  
1914-1919  
Greater love hath no man  
Than this, that a man lay  
Down his life for his friends.

those young men whose names appear on the Memorial.

Time does not allow me to make an in-depth study of the men who died in the Second World War and whose names are also inscribed on

the Memorial – I leave that task to someone else. I hope that a local person will take up the challenge! I am sure that you would find it extremely rewarding.



# XIII

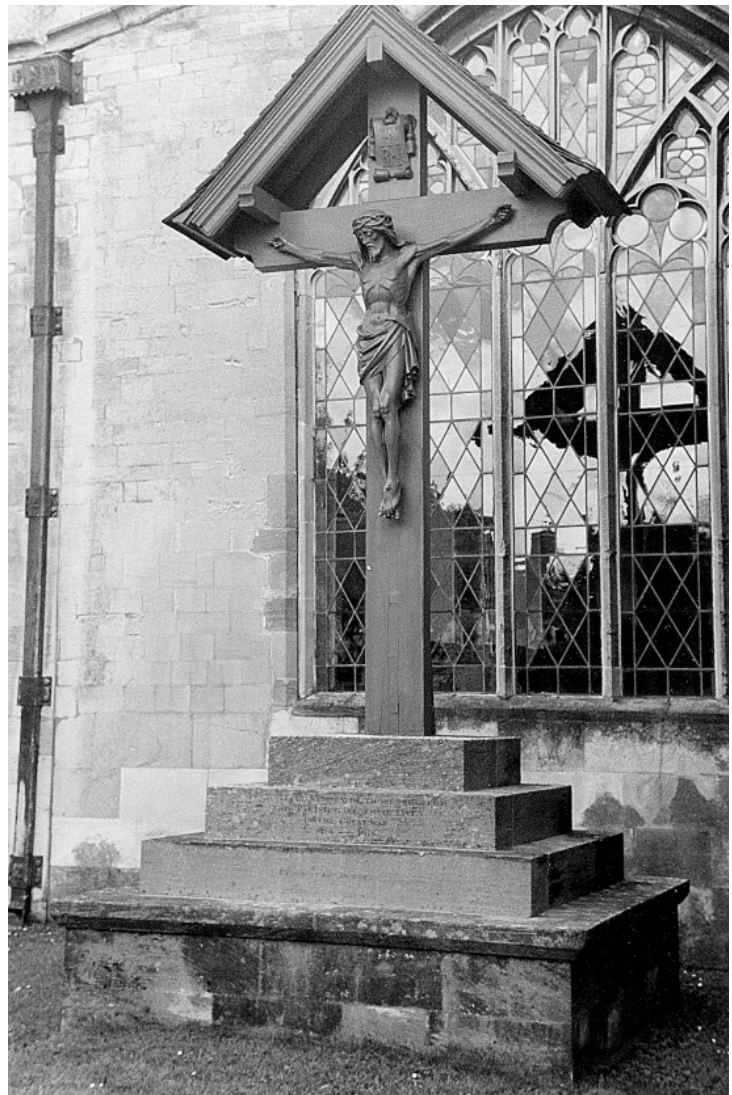
## THE CALVARY IN THE PARISH CHURCHYARD

Wotton-under-Edge has a second First World War Memorial to its parishioners, perhaps not so well known – a cross or Calvary, found in the churchyard of St. Mary's Parish Church. There is an account of its unveiling and dedication in the *Gazette* of 11<sup>th</sup> December 1920; this is how it was reported :-

**WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE  
PARISH CHURCH  
WAR MEMORIAL  
UNVEILED AND DEDICATED**

*A very large number of parishioners attended at St. Mary's Parish Church on Sunday (5<sup>th</sup> December) to witness the unveiling and dedication of the 'Calvary' erected by the church people as a memorial to those of the parish who fell in the war. The proceedings, of an impressive character, were conducted throughout by the Rev. F. J. Greenham (vicar).*

*The memorial stands in the graveyard on the left side of the tower and in full view from the main approach and public highway. The cross, rising to a height of nearly 20 feet, is surrounded on a plinth and three steps, consisting altogether of about 9 tonnes of Minchinhampton stone. In addition there is a concrete foundation, 5 feet deep. The Cross and Figure alike are of teak and there is a canopy of the same material. The carving of the figure has been exquisitely done. Surrounding the head is 'I.N.R.I.', while inscribed on the stone work at the base is the following – 'To the Glory of God. In grateful memory of those who from the Parish, gave their lives in the Great War 1914-18. Requiescant in Pace'.*



*The cost of the memorial - estimated at about £330 - is being met by subscription. Messrs. John Jotcham and Sons were the contractors. Mr. S. S. Stallwood of Reading was the architect and a Gloucester firm were entrusted with the designing of the stonework. Prior to the service on Sunday, the Figure had been veiled with the Union Jack. Upon this being removed the vicar pronounced the Dedication prayer and afterwards gave an address.*

*Speaking of the choice of a crucifix and a memorial the vicar said that they had erected the highest symbol of the Christian faith and a memorial which would speak to all who passed by and to those of generations to come, of the love of God and of the great sacrifice made for the salvation of mankind.*

*Whilst many might possibly not be in agreement with them as to the form of the memorial the presence of such a large number, including all denominations, showed that the desire to commemorate those gallant men who had fallen was generally accepted. Especially was he grateful to the ex-servicemen for their attendance and interest.*

*The church choir led the singing of the two hymns – ‘Rock of Ages’ and ‘When I survey the wondrous Cross’. Psalm 23 ‘The Lord is My Shepherd’ was also chanted, the proceedings concluding with the sounding of the ‘Last Post’ by Scout F. Saxton and a verse of the National Anthem.*

*Muffled peals were rung on the church bells prior to the service. There was also a parade through the town of a contingent of local members of the Ex-Servicemen’s Federation and the Officers and Brethren of the Sir Isaac Pitman (Wotton-under-Edge) Lodge of Buffaloes, the Abbey Brass Band heading the way. Among the floral and laurel tributes afterwards placed on the memorial were two from the above-named bodies.*

*Writing of the memorial Mr. R. R. Penney (Church warden) says ‘The Calvary as it meets our view on entering the Churchyard has an imposing effect. The figure, beautifully executed by Messrs. Martyn and Co. of Cheltenham leaves nothing to be desired. The position of it and the expression on the Saviour’s face exactly corresponds to our instincts of reverence and faith. The church people of Wotton may well feel proud that such a memorial has been erected in memory of those in the parish who gave their lives in the Great War.’*

# XIV

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## APPENDIX A

### THE CORNOCK LETTERS

A selection of letters written by Sidney Cornock.

1. A letter to a manager in the Prudential Assurance Co. No date but probably written in early February 1916.

*Dear Sir,  
I am writing to inform you that I have joined the Army in answer to their call and shall have to appear at Cinderford on Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. I would thank you to make arrangements to release me on that date trusting when the war is over that you will be able to reinstate me as an agent of the Prudential again. I should like to say that since being an agent of the Prudential I have had every consideration shown me from the officials of the same thanking you for past favours,*

*I am dear sir,  
Yours faithfully,  
Sidney Cornock*

2. A letter written to his wife Agnes just before sailing to join the B.E.F. in France.

*Pte. S. Cornock,  
No. 18310 C. Coy  
13<sup>th</sup> Glos Regt  
39<sup>th</sup> Division  
British Expeditionary Force*

*My own little darling wife and children,  
Just a line to let you know we start at 4 o clock Wed morning for somewhere in France I am very glad to tell you I have been picked to wait on C. Coy Officers and to cook for them so my darling it wont be hardly so dangerous for me so my old darling cheer up and look the bright side of it but its better to be going now than with the ones that are forced to it I cant stop to say more as we are busy preparing will write as soon as I can the other side so must now close with my usual very best fondest and truest love to my little darling and children*

*Your ever loving true and devoted husband  
Sidney  
X X X X X X X X X X*

3. A letter written to Agnes on 4<sup>th</sup> March.

No 18310 C Coy

13<sup>th</sup> Glos Regt

39<sup>th</sup> Division

British Expeditionary Force

Sat

*My darling wife and children*

*Just a line to let you know we arrived here quite safe but feeling very tired and done up we had a rather rough passage I was very sick myself but with it all it would have made you laugh to see them lying about Well my dear I hope you and the children are keeping well as it leaves me much better We-----Well my dear as you know we are under the censor now so mums the word. It's a ----- here we are but the place itself is nothing to look at Well my dear I must write a longer letter next time so must conclude with my usual very best fondest and truest love to my darling wife and children*

*Your ever loving and devoted husband*

*Sidney*

X X X X X X X X

(Missing words were crossed out by the censor.)

4. A letter to Agnes written on 6<sup>th</sup> March.

No 18310 C Coy

13<sup>th</sup> Glos Regt

39<sup>th</sup> Division

British Expeditionary Force

*My darling wife and children*

*Just a line to let you know I am keeping quite well hoping you and the children are keeping well Well my dear we started in the train about six o clock Sunday morning and arrived at the station after travelling all day and night at six o clock Monday morning Then we had to walk about 4 miles in a blinding snowstorm and arrived at another rest camp up over our ankles in mud we are within hearing of the guns we are in canvas huts about 30 men in a hut I don't think we shall be hear very long Well my dear I don't know what to write about as of course they have all got to pass the censor so must now close with my usual very best fondest and truest love to my darling wife and children*

*Your ever true and devoted husband*

*Sidney*

X X X X X X X X X X X X

*I am anxiously waiting for a letter from you*

5. A letter from France written on 19<sup>th</sup> March.

No 18310 C Coy  
13<sup>th</sup> Glos Regt  
39<sup>th</sup> Division  
British Expeditionary Force  
Sunday night 19/3/16

My own little darling wife and children

Just a line in answer to your most kind and welcome letter of today Fancy two at one post 2 one from mother glad to tell you I am keeping well so glad to hear you and the children are keeping well. Well my old dear you don't know how I look forward to your letters coming and I endeavours to write every day to you but my dear you cant guess I have not had much time as I have 9 officers to cook for every day and its no bad joke I have to be up at half past 5 every morning and the last lot of officers come back from the trenches between 12 and 1 o clock at night and I have got to keep something hot for them but I and Newt [Sidney's brother Newton serving in the same Battalion] take it in turns to stop up but I and Newt don't mind that at all so that it keeps us out of the trenches My old darling I think we are both very lucky to get the job we have shifted further back again yesterday we are under canvas but its beautiful weather so its really better than being in the old barns. Well my dear our lot was put in the trenches as soon as we got out here half of our Coy goes up in the day and the other half at night to repair the trenches we have been very lucky up till now no casualties yet but some very near shaves one chap you remember the one that met us on Bath station and promised to look after the parcel well he got a shot right through his cap so you can tell its pretty hot. Well my darling as for H. Mills writing home for cigarettes he ought to be ashamed of himself as we are allowed 2 oz a week and 2 boxes of matches and you can buy Woodbines at 1d a packet and in some cases ½ d Well my dear I received the Shamrock quite safe, thank Mrs. Rawle for it but if she had sent me some tobacco or chocolate it would have been more like it (what do you say) Well my old dear as I am writing this I have got your dear old face up in front of me and I look at it very longing. About six o clock tonight I was thinking of you ringing the bells and going to church with the two children and offering up a prayer for the safe return of the one nearest and dearest to you and what a day it will be when this terrible bloodshed is over and we are all back in our dear old homes never to part again Well my old dear tell Queenie and Ossie [Sidney's children Muriel and Maurice] I was very pleased with their letters tell them they must have wrote to me the same day that I sent them a card each also one to your dear little self I hope you have received them by now I am sending Queenie some verses I got out of a book the other day about the old Kaiser tell her I shall expect her to say it to me when I come home Well my old dear I can't make out why people crave to come to France for a holiday as I think it's the dirtiest place I was ever in its so very low lying and badly drained old thatched broken down houses and swarmed with rats Well my old dear it has been very quiet here today but some days the guns are going all the time and at night it's a continual bang-bang it fairly gets on your nerves. I think there will be a big move in a day or so. Aeroplanes are over here all day long Well my old darling I think this will make up a little for my short letters but I must really close now for the officers are just come in to supper so with my usual fondest and truest love to my little darling and only one and children

I remain your ever loving true and devoted  
Old boy  
Sidney

X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X

(What I would give for a real kiss)

6. A letter to Agnes written on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916, being the first day of the Battle of the Somme. In it he describes the action of the 13<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters on the night of 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> June at the 'Boar's Head' sector of the front.

No 18310 C Coy  
13<sup>th</sup> Glos Regt  
B.E.F.

Sat 1/7/16

*My own little darling wife and children*

*Just a line in answer to your most kind and welcome letter of today for which you know I am always anxiously waiting to receive Well my dear I know and trust you and the children are keeping well and I am glad to say I am quite well after our terrible experience Thursday night we went to the trenches got there about one and had to wait till orders we had to hold the first line of trenches for about 4 hours Well my darling I cant tell you too much for fear it gets opened but I never want to witness anything else like it but we must be thankful and pray to God for bringing me through such a horrible experience Well my darling I am glad to tell you Newt and Maurice [another of Sidney's brothers serving with the 13<sup>th</sup> Gloucesters] is quite alright except it unnerved poor old Newt he was crying like a child when we got back to our Billets we have just had orders to go to see the Colonel he has got something to say to us as of course it's a great honour to be called upon to hold the front line but oh my darling I do hope and pray it will soon be all over and the day is not far off when I shall be back with the one and only one I think of night and day but my darling its hard to say when it will be over although the papers look very bright well my darling I have a letter from Mr. Eaton the other day I must write a few lines to him Well my darling you asked me if I have used the pig-skin yet Well I am glad to tell you I have had no need to yet as my feet seem much better lately we are having much better weather out here again Well my old dear I was surprised to hear about Thompson doing poor Dawson down but I was glad you found everything alright when you got back I hope your Dad was able to save the pig as of course as you say it would be a big loss especially as everything so dear I hope that they are all quite well do you hear anything of Mills now Well my only darling I dont think I have any more news for you this time so will now close with my usual very best fondest and ever truest love to my own little darling wife and children*

*Your ever and always loving true and devoted  
Old boy  
Sidney*

*God guard and keep you safe till my return is my earnest prayer*

7. This letter to Agnes, written on 20<sup>th</sup> October 1916 was the last he wrote to her, for Sidney was killed just four days later.

20/10.16 No 18310. C. Coy

13<sup>th</sup> Glos Reg

B. E. F.

*My own darling wife and children*

*Just a few lines in answer to your most kind and welcome letter received yesterday and also Gazette received Wednesday you didn't send W.W. (?) this time did you forget it as I am got quite interested in the two tales running in it. I am so glad to hear you are keeping well also Queenie and Ossie and to hear that Queenie's cough is better Well my dear I am writing this on your Birthday but it would hardly be right to wish you many happy returns of the day but we must hope and trust that we shall have more happy ones in store and that this terrible war is over before either of us see another birthday. I am sorry I have not been able to send you anything but we are right away from any town or at least what's inhabited there is a talk of us shifting again which I hope will be to a much quieter place than where we are now which is very hot. I hope you are having better weather again Yesterday it was very wet out here all day but today its beautiful fancy Den starting leave he is lucky as he didn't come out till after us there is rumour about us but we have heard nothing definite yet but I think its time as we have been out here over 8 months and I can tell you we are all getting anxious to see dear old England once more but we would all rather hear that it was all over. I am glad to hear young Fryer is a little better and hope he will continue to improve. I see by the papers that they are still gathering in the slackers but I think it is a disgrace to see so many quite young fellows getting exemptions is young Harry Hancock at Witley in Surrey I see by the Gazette young A Rudge has got to go. What about F Cooper and his brother have they got to go. I am glad to tell you I am keeping quite well also Newt and Maurice and that we are altogether I don't think I have any more news for this time so wishing you my very very best compliments on your Birthday so must close with my usual very best fondest and truest love to my own darling Wife and children X X X X X X X X X your ever loving true X X X X X and devoted husband X X X X X X X X X Sidney X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X God Guard, Guide and keep you safe till we meet again*



## APPENDIX B

### THE UPSTONE LETTERS

Letters concerning Cedric Donovan Upstone

1. A letter from the President of St. John's College, Oxford to Mary Upstone, Cedric's mother.

*July 21<sup>st</sup> 1916*

*Dear Mrs. Upstone,*

*I was deeply grieved to see an announcement in the 'Times' that your son had given his life for his country some days ago-----There has never been an undergraduate at St. John's for whom I have had a deeper regard and respect than I had for your son. It was not only that his college life and record were blameless, but that I believe him to have been a true Christian and devout Churchman, whose work as a clergyman, had it pleased God to spare him to take Holy Orders, would have been of the utmost service to the Church. That is all over now, but doubtless God has other work for him to do, which we know not of - etc. etc. ----*

*Very sincerely yours,  
H. A. James*

2. A letter from a College Tutor

*July 20<sup>th</sup> 1916*

*Dear Mrs. Upstone,*

*I am more grieved than I can say. Cedric was one of my dearest pupils, and a constant help to me as well as a source of wholesome religious and moral influence in the College. He lived unspoilt and unspotted from the world. His memory will always be dear to me etc, etc.---*

*Yours sincerely,  
Leighton Pullan*

3. A letter from a College Tutor

*1 Wellington Place,  
Oxford.*

*July 20<sup>th</sup> 1916*

*Dear Mrs. Upstone,*

*I am deeply grieved at the loss of your gallant son. He was my pupil and I had a great regard for him. He was one of the finest fellows whom we had in the College; with his straightforward manly bearing, and his high character. I believe he was a great influence for good in College, and he was looked up to by our men, partly from his character, partly by his prominent position as an oarsman. Such fellows as he are the salt of the earth; and even in our small College world, before the war, he set a fine example and 'served his generation'. I would beg you to accept this expression of my most sincere sympathy,*

*Yours sincerely,  
John U. Powell*

4. A letter from the Senior Tutor, St. John's College

July 24<sup>th</sup> 1916

Dear Mrs. Upstone,

*I would like to tell you how grieved we have been to hear of your sad loss, and how much we feel for you. Your son was as universally liked as he was respected, and we can well realize what his loss must mean to you. His death was worthy of his good and pure life. With sincere sympathy,*

Grievedly yours,  
Sidney Ball

5. A letter from Mary Upstone to Mr. Sing, Warden of St. Edward's School, Oxford.

*The Cottage,  
Congresbury, Somerset.*

July 28<sup>th</sup> 1916

Dear Mr. Sing,

*Your letter brought me great comfort. At present I can hardly realize that my bright, loving boy has gone. As you know he was absolutely my all; it would be difficult to explain what he has been to me these last five years. I know you took a kindly interest in him and may like to know a few particulars, though really, beyond the bare facts which I received in a telegram from the War Office that he died on July 11<sup>th</sup> from paratyphoid, I know very little.*

*The privations and discomforts of every kind in Mesopotamia were very terrible, yet he always referred to them in a joking manner. The intense heat, bad water, pests of flies, insufficient food, etc. must have been exceedingly trying. He was in the trenches somewhere about 230 miles above Basra. Unfortunately he got a bad throat, he struggled very hard but could not manage to shake off the weakness, which must have been great, as he had to be carried on a stretcher to the Motor Ambulance which took him to the Field Hospital at Sheik Sa'ad.*

*It is so harrowing still to be getting letters from him – two came yesterday bearing dates of June 15<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. They were written on his back, he was too weak to sit up in bed. He has been kept for 9 days in a tent like an oven, with the temperatures 120 whilst they were waiting to have permission for him to be removed to Bombay, (there was so much red tape and such an absurd waste of time!). At length when this order came he was too ill to go by transport and had to wait for a Hospital Ship. All this time he was only given tinned milk. There was no bread, or any eggs, or anything nourishing. He said his throat was better and his temperature normal – the only thing he was suffering from was extreme weakness; then he added "but I shall soon pick up again if I can if only I can get out of this oven into hospital at Bombay, and have some nourishing food. Don't worry for I shall be quite well before this letter reaches you and I'll send you a cable the moment I am discharged." It is awful to think of what he must have suffered from June 21<sup>st</sup> until the end came. I believe he died from sheer exhaustion and neglect. It is terrible to think of, and I thank God he is out of his misery. For me it is utter desolation and loneliness, but for him what bliss the happy re-union with his dead father! I only pray my time will soon come – there seems nothing for me to live for now. You will suggest hard work of some kind, only unfortunately I am not able to do it. I have been a martyr to neuritis for several years – it is much better, though if I get the least bit overtired the pain in my right arm is at once acute.*

*I would very much like you to read the copies of letters I am enclosing, if it will not bore*

*you to do so. You know what his life was at St. Edward's, and these are a continuation. I am a justly proud mother, though broken down with sorrow. Thanking you very much for your kind expression of sympathy and the nice things you said about my dear boy,*

*Yours very sincerely,  
Mary Upstone*

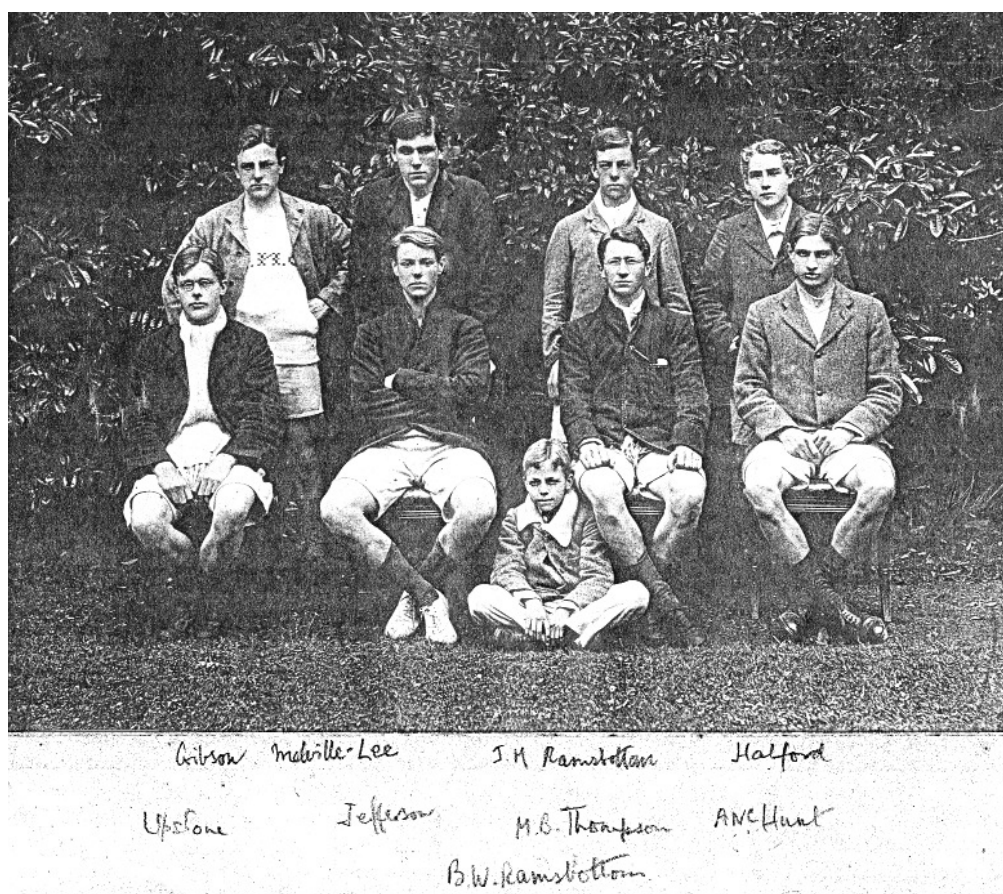
*P.S.*

*I heard officially that he was admitted to the War Hospital, Colabo, Bombay on July 2<sup>nd</sup> suffering from quinsy. He had sent a cable – "Convalescing. Quinsy", so I was feeling quite happy about him – thankful that he was away from Mesopotamia. Then a few days later came the fearful shock that he had died on the 11<sup>th</sup> from paratyphoid.*

*I have received over one hundred letters, some from people I do not know; but all expressing admiration for his beautiful character. I hope eventually to receive particulars from India. Oh! How I wish it were all a mistake. I sometimes think it must be, that he cannot really be gone.*

*M.U.*

(‘Quinsy’ is a very severe inflammation of the tonsils and before antibiotics was not easily treated.)



*Cedric, the talented oarsman, is sitting far left in this photograph of the St. Edward's School VIII*

Source: Karen Garvey

## APPENDIX C

### AN ALPHABETICAL LIST OF PLACES OF BURIAL OR COMMEMORATION FOR WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE SERVICEMEN WHO DIED DURING WW1

- ♦ **Achiet-Le-Grand Cemetery Extension, South Of Arras, France.**  
Able Seaman Macarthur Ballinger, Drake Battalion, Royal Naval Division.  
Plot 3, Row D, Grave 5
- ♦ **Alexandria Military Cemetery (Chatby), Egypt.**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. J. C. Bengough, Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Yeomanry.  
Commemorated.
- ♦ **Arneke Cemetery, Near St. Omer, France.**  
Pte. G. Burford, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Hampshire Regiment.  
Plot 8, Row A, Grave 13
- ♦ **Arras Memorial, Faubourg d'Amiens Cemetery, Arras, France.**  
Pte. R. C. Grimes, 19<sup>th</sup> Battalion Machine Gun Corps.  
Bay 10  
L/Cpl. W. Jotcham, 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion East Surrey Regiment.  
Bay D  
Pte. A. H. Woodlands, 2<sup>nd</sup> Royal Marine Battalion, Royal Naval Division.  
Bay 1
- ♦ **Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, France.**  
Pte. L. J. Bignell, 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion Worcestershire Regiment.  
Plot 3, Row E, Grave 257
- ♦ **Basra War Cemetery, Iraq.**  
Cpl. F. Perry, 56<sup>th</sup> Brigade, Royal Field Artillery.  
Plot 3, Row E, Grave 11
- ♦ **Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, France.**  
Pte. F. Cooper, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.  
Plot 8, Row D, Grave 18
- ♦ **Bouchoir New British Cemetery, France.**  
Pte. M. W. F. Lewis, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (Eastern Ontario Regiment).  
Plot 4, Row B, Grave 52
- ♦ **Bouzincourt Ridge Cemetery, Somme, France.**  
Pte. J. E. Lainchbury, 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Norfolk Regiment.  
Plot 2, Row M, Grave 1
- ♦ **Bristol Holy Trinity Church, Horfield.**  
Cpl. F. Gordon, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.  
Grave 1274

- ♦ **Cabaret Rouge British Cemetery, France.**  
Cpl. W. Exell, M.M. 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Worcestershire Regiment.  
Plot 20, Row B, Grave 19
- ♦ **Cairo War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt.**  
Drummer F. Rodman, 1<sup>st</sup> Garrison Battalion, Warwickshire Regiment.  
Grave F. 174
- ♦ **Cambrai Memorial, France.**  
Pte. P. E. Broodbank, 2/6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.  
Panel 6
- ♦ **Carnoy Military Cemetery, Somme, France.**  
L/Cpl. J. Davis, 62<sup>nd</sup> Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps.  
Row H, Grave 24
- ♦ **Caudry British Cemetery, Nord, France.**  
Pte. A. T. Chappell, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment.  
Plot 2, Row D, Grave 28
- ♦ **Cement House Cemetery, Langemark, Belgium.**  
Pte. C. Bow, 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Durham Light Infantry.  
Plot 15, Row D, Grave 24
- ♦ **Chambrechy British Cemetery, Marne, France.**  
Pte. W. G. Stinchcombe, 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion Worcestershire Regiment.  
Plot 7, Row B, Grave 7
- ♦ **Cité Bonjean Military Cemetery, Armentières, France.**  
Pte. R. J. Pearce, 16<sup>th</sup> Waikato Regiment Auckland Infantry, New Zealand Regiment.  
Plot 1, Row E, Grave 32
- ♦ **Cologne Southern Cemetery, Germany.**  
L/Cpl. H. M. Dando, 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.  
Plot 12, Row F, Grave 25
- ♦ **Croisilles British Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France.**  
Rifleman F. Smith, 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps.  
Plot 1, Row G, Grave 11
- ♦ **Cross Roads Cemetery, Fontaine-au-Bois, France.**  
Pte. E. Grimes, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.  
Plot 11, Row 1, Grave 19
- ♦ **Damascus Commonwealth War Cemetery.**  
Sgt. J. Richings, 1/1<sup>st</sup> Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Yeomanry.  
Row A, Grave 96
- ♦ **Derby Cemetery, Nottingham Road.**  
Air Mechanic T. F. Webb, Royal Flying Corps.  
Grave Reference General. 49857
- ♦ **Doiran Military Cemetery, Salonika.**  
Pte. G. E. Excell, 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion Worcestershire Regiment.  
Plot 5, Row H, Grave 28
- ♦ **Dud Corner Cemetery, Loos, France.**  
Pte. W. T. Sargent, 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.  
Plot 7, Row D, Grave 9
- ♦ **Dud Corner Cemetery, Loos Memorial To The Missing.**  
Major R. E. Noyes, 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion Yorkshire Regiment.

- ♦ **Duhallow Advanced Dressing Station Cemetery, Ypres, Belgium.**  
Bombardier H. W. Prosser, Royal Field Artillery.  
Plot 1, Row B, Grave 9
- ♦ **Duisans British Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France.**  
Pte. A. Marsh, Tank Corps.  
Plot 8, Row B, Grave 59
- ♦ **El Kantara War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt.**  
Trooper C. R. Jotcham, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Yeomanry.  
Grave F. 31
- ♦ **Enschede Eastern Cemetery, Netherlands.**  
Pte. E. J. Leonard, 2/6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment.  
Buried to the right of the path.
- ♦ **Étaples Military Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France.**  
Cpl. R. H. Tanner, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Australian Infantry, Australian Imperial Force.  
Plot 9, Row F, Grave 16
- ♦ **Flatiron Copse Cemetery, Mametz, Somme, France.**  
Pte. F. J. Wicks, 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.  
Plot 1, Row F, Grave 24
- ♦ **Fouquières Churchyard Extension, Pas-de-Calais, France.**  
Pte. H. Jotcham, 1/2<sup>nd</sup> North Midland Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps.  
Plot 2, Row G, Grave 1
- ♦ **Gézaincourt Communal Cemetery Extension, Doullens, France.**  
Pte. G. H. Smith, 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.  
Plot 11, Row B, Grave 16
- ♦ **Gorre British Cemetery, Béthune, France.**  
Sgt. A. W. Poulton, 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.  
Plot 1, Row D, Grave 19
- ♦ **Grove Town Cemetery, Bray-Sur-Somme, France.**  
Gunner H. L. Short, 93<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Royal Field Artillery.  
Plot 1, Row M, Grave 29
- ♦ **Helles Memorial, Gallipoli.**  
Sgt. A. A. Cornock, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Border Regiment.  
Pte. G. H. Exell, Royal Marine Light Infantry.  
Pte. H. King, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Worcestershire Regiment.  
Pte. W. G. Pagett, Royal Marine Light Infantry.  
L/Cpl. L. H. Townsend, 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Irish Regiment.
- ♦ **Kirkee Cemetery, Mumbai (Bombay), India.**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. C. D. Upstone, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Devonshire Regiment  
Formerly In Plot N/XI, Grave C.10, Sewri Cemetery, Mumbai (Bombay), India
- ♦ **La Ferté-sous-Jouarre Memorial, Marne, France.**  
Pte. W. B. Fay, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Loyal North Lancashire Regiment.  
Pte. A. E. Smith, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment.
- ♦ **Le Grand Beaumart British Cemetery, Steenwerck, France.**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. F. Jotcham, 4<sup>th</sup> Special Company, Royal Engineers.  
Plot 1, Row D, Grave 14
- ♦ **Le Touret Memorial To The Missing, Béthune, France.**  
Pte. F. W. Candy, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.  
Pte. P. H. Exell, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.  
Lieut. J. A. F. Parkinson, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Dorsetshire Regiment.

- Pte. C. W. Stevens, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.
- Pte. W. Wathen, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.
- ♦ **London Cemetery, High Wood, Somme, France.**
  - Pte. H. L. Ridley, 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
- ♦ **Mailly-Wood Cemetery, Mailly-Maillet, Somme, France.**
  - Sgt. W. C. Wellicome, 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Seaforth Highlanders. Plot 1, Row H, Grave 22
- ♦ **Menin Gate Memorial To The Missing, Ypres, Belgium.**
  - Pte. W. N. Fitz, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.
  - Pte. F. Pearce, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.
  - Pte. W. H. Saxton, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.
  - Sgt. D. E. Walker, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.
  - Pte. H. Willcock, 58<sup>th</sup> Battalion Australian Imperial Force.
- ♦ **Neuve Chappelle Indian Memorial, France.**
  - Major H. S. Becher, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Gurkha Rifles.
- ♦ **New Irish Farm Cemetery, St. Jan, Belgium.**
  - Cpl. J. E. Avenell, 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment.
  - Plot 10, Row D, Grave 16
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. W. M. Jotcham, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Worcestershire Regiment.
  - Plot 13, Row B, Grave 5
- ♦ **Norfolk Cemetery, Becordel-Becourt, Somme, France.**
  - L/Cpl. E. M. Richings, 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion Yorkshire & Lancashire Regiment.
  - Plot 1, Row A, Grave 53
- ♦ **Ploegsteert Memorial To The Missing, Belgium.**
  - Pte. W. N. May, 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.
- ♦ **Plymouth Naval Memorial.**
  - Able Seaman L. F. Andrews, Royal Navy.
  - Petty Officer E. R. Cornock, Royal Navy.
  - Ordinary Seaman F. F. Farmiloe, Royal Navy.
- ♦ **Portsmouth Naval Memorial.**
  - Able Seaman J. C. Rudge, Royal Navy.
  - Pte. H. W. M. Turner, Royal Marine Light Infantry.
- ♦ **Pozières Memorial To The Missing, Somme, France.**
  - Sgt. W. G. Grant, 285<sup>th</sup> Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery.
  - Cpl. H. G. May, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Worcestershire Regiment.
  - Pte. T. Venn, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment.
- ♦ **St. Andrew's Western Cemetery, Scotland.**
  - Major W. R. N. Annesley, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Queen's Own West Kent Regiment.
  - Row E, Grave 106
- ♦ **St. Patrick's Cemetery, Loos, France.**
  - Lieut. W. R. K. Heath, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.
  - Plot 3, Row C, Grave 32
- ♦ **St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, France.**
  - Pte. A. Butler, 2/1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.
  - Plot 9, Row G, Grave 10B
  - Pte. F. C. Hyner, 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.
  - Plot O/111, Row 1, Grave 5
- ♦ **Sanctuary Wood Cemetery, Zillebeke, Belgium.**
  - Pte. W. L. Butcher, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.
  - Plot 4, Row F, Grave 17

- ♦ **Seaford Cemetery, Alfriston Road, Seaford, Sussex.**  
Capt. W. H. Adams, 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Canadian Infantry.  
Row A, Grave 297
- ♦ **Second Canadian Cemetery, Sunken Road, Contalmaison, France.**  
Pte. R. F. Fry, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Canadian Regiment.  
Row B, Grave 8
- ♦ **Serre Road Cemetery No. 1, Beaumont Hamel, Somme, France.**  
Pte. S. Cornock, 13<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.  
Plot 8, Row C, Grave 21
- ♦ **Sucrerie Military Cemetery, Colincamps, France.**  
Pte. H. Elliott, 1/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.  
Plot 1, Row E, Grave 28
- ♦ **Sunken Road Cemetery, Villers-Plouich, Nord, France.**  
Able Seaman W. C. Saunders, Anson Battalion Royal Naval Division.  
Row A, Grave 28
- ♦ **Terlincthun British Cemetery, Wimille, Boulogne, France.**  
Pte. A. G. Candy, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.  
Plot 16, Row F, Grave 22
- ♦ **Thiepval Memorial To The Missing, Somme, France.**  
Cpl. W. Dolman, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.  
Pte. A. E. Ford, 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.  
Pte. H. G. Frape, 2/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.  
Pte. G. Grimes, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.  
Sgt. E. A. Hollister, 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.  
Pte. W. C. Knight, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment  
Pte. T. Meadows, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.  
Pte. F. G. Neale, 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.  
Pte. F. Organ, 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.  
Pte. A. L. Tilley, 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.  
Cpl. V. V. Trotman, 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.  
Pte. C. Turner, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. W. B. Wood, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.
- ♦ **Tournai Communal Cemetery Allied Extension, Belgium.**  
Trooper F. J. Boyce, Household Battalion Royal Household Cavalry.  
Plot 5, Row G, Grave 16  
Pte. J. Lacey, 2/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion North Staffordshire Regiment.  
Plot 5, Row M, Grave 16
- ♦ **Tyne Cot Cemetery, Passchendaele, Belgium.**  
Pte. A. E. Kinson, 20<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Fusiliers.  
Plot 15, Row C, Grave 11
- ♦ **Tyne Cot Memorial To The Missing, Passchendaele, Belgium.**  
Pte. F. C. B. Rown, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Middlesex Regiment.  
Pte. E. V. Clissold, 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment.  
Pte. H. Dickenson, 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment.  
Capt. S. B. Tubbs, 2/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
- ♦ **Villers-Brettonneux Australian Memorial, France.**  
Pte. E. Deacon, 27<sup>th</sup> Battalion Australian Imperial Force.



- ♦ **Villers Guislain Communal Cemetery, France.**  
Pte. H. I. Leonard, 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.  
Row D, Grave 3
- ♦ **Vis-en-Artois Memorial To The Missing, France.**  
L/Cpl. W. J. Keynton, 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment.  
Pte. S. Spencer, 2/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Hampshire Regiment.
- ♦ **Wotton-Under-Edge, St. Mary's Churchyard.**  
Pte. A. E. Cornock, 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.  
Able Seaman E. C. Cornock, Royal Navy.  
Pte. W. Vines, 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment.
- ♦ **Wotton-Under-Edge, Tabernacle Churchyard.**  
Pte. A. Parker, Royal Engineers.
  
- ♦ No information available yet on the following three servicemen :-  
Pte. Harry Amos, Army Service Corps.  
Stoker Alfred W. Bye, Royal Navy.  
Cpl. W. Robinson, Gloucestershire Regiment.

## APPENDIX D

## AGE OF WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE

## SERVICEMEN WHO DIED IN WW1

16.	V. V. Trotman.		H. L. Short,		H. Jotcham.
18.	P. H. Exell,		G. H. Smith,		30. F. C. Brown,
	F. F. Farmiloe.		W. B. Wood.		W. N. Fitz,
19.	E. V. Clissold,	23.	W. Dolman,		H. W. Prosser,
	H. Elliott,		W. Exell,		H. Willcock.
	W. B. Fay,		W. C. Knight,	31.	F. Cooper.
	E. A. Hollister,		E. J. Leonard,	32.	P. E. Broodbank,
	W. J. Keynton,		S. B. Tubbs,		F. Rodman,
	A. E. Smith,		C. D. Upstone.		R. H. Tanner.
	S. Spencer,	24.	M. Ballinger,	33.	A. G. Candy,
	W. Wathen,		F. Organ,		S. Cornock,
	F. J. Wicks.		J. Richings,		A. W. Poulton,
20.	L. F. Adams,		A. L. Tilley,		F. Smith.
	L. J. Bignell,		T. Venn,	34.	H. G. Frape,
	W. L. Butcher,		D. E. Walker.		J. Lacey,
	H. I. Leonard,	25.	A. T. Chappell,		C. Turner.
	F. Perry.		F. Jotcham,	35.	G. Burford,
21.	A. Butler,		M. W. F. Lewis,		J. Davis,
	F. W. Candy,		A. Marsh.		W. H. Saxton.
	F. A. Gordon,	26.	A. A. Cornock,	36.	C. Bow,
	R. C. Grimes,		H. M. Dando,		G. H. Exell,
	A. E. Kinson,		E. Grimes,		J. E. Lainchbury,
	F. G. Neale,		C. R. Jotcham,		T. F. Webb.
	W. G. Stinchcombe,		W. C. Wellicome.	38.	H. S. Becher,
	L. H. Townsend,	27.	J. C. Bengough,		T. Meadows.
	H. M. W. Turner,		W. Jotcham,	40.	A. E. Cornock,
	W. Vines.		H. King,		H. Dickenson.
22.	F. J. Boyce,		W. C. Saunders.	41.	W. H. Adams,
	E. C. Cornock,	28.	R. F. Fry,		J. E. Avenell.
	E. Deacon,		W. M. Jotcham,	42.	R. E. Noyes,
	G. E. Excell,		W. N. May,		A. H. Woodlands.
	A. E. Ford,		F. Pearce,	43.	E. R. Cornock.
	H. G. May,		R. J. Pearce,	46.	A. Parker.
	W. G. Pagett,		H. L. Ridley.	51.	W. R. N. Annesley.
	E. M. Richings,	29.	W. R. Heath,		
	J. C. Rudge,		F. C. Hyner,		

The oldest Wotton serviceman to die in action was Ralph Cornock who went down on *HMS Monmouth* at the age of 43. Although three years older than Ralph Cornock, Albert Parker died at his home in Wotton, probably as a result of the lingering effect of gas poisoning received in combat on the Western Front. Major W. R. N. Annesley, at the age of 51, died of illness whilst serving on the General Staff in London.

The youngest Wottonian to die in W.W.1 was Cpl. Victor Vincent Trotman. He was only 16 years and 7 months old when he was killed during the Battle of the Somme. One wonders how he got past the recruiting officer when he was only 15! The minimum legal age for an infantry soldier was 18.



*Cpl. Victor Vincent Trotman*  
*14<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment*

As far as is known the youngest British soldier to die in the War was John Condon of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the Royal Irish Regiment. He died during the Second Battle of Ypres in Belgium at the incredibly young age of 13 years 11 months. He lies in Poelcappelle British Cemetery, north of Ypres. To read more about John Condon see Tony Spagnoly and Ted Smith's book *Cameos of the Western Front – Salient Points Two*, pages 39 to 43, published by Leo Cooper.

**APPENDIX E**

**CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER OF DEATHS OF  
WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE SERVICEMEN DURING WW1**

<b>1914</b>					
September	15 <sup>th</sup>	W. B. Fay		21 <sup>st</sup>	A. L. Tilley
	24 <sup>th</sup>	A. E. Smith		22 <sup>nd</sup>	F. Perry
October	13 <sup>th</sup>	J. A. F. Parkinson		23 <sup>rd</sup>	W. B. Wood
	29 <sup>th</sup>	W. N. Fitz		27 <sup>th</sup>	A. E. Ford
November	1 <sup>st</sup>	E. R. Cornock		29 <sup>th</sup>	H. L. Ridley
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	H. S. Becher	August	5 <sup>th</sup>	E. Deacon
	5 <sup>th</sup>	F. Pearce		6 <sup>th</sup>	R. J. Pearce
	29 <sup>th</sup>	W. R. N. Annesley		16 <sup>th</sup>	F. G. Neale
<b>1915</b>				17 <sup>th</sup>	G. H. Smith
February	15 <sup>th</sup>	P. H. Exell		24 <sup>th</sup>	R. H. Tanner
April	7 <sup>th</sup>	F. W. Candy		26 <sup>th</sup>	J. Davis
	25 <sup>th</sup>	G. H. Exell	September	4 <sup>th</sup>	F. Organ
	29 <sup>th</sup>	H. King		8 <sup>th</sup>	G. Grimes
May	9 <sup>th</sup>	C. W. Stevens		9 <sup>th</sup>	W. Dolman
		W. Wathen			E. A. Hollister
	10 <sup>th</sup>	W. L. Butcher		20 <sup>th</sup>	F. J. Wicks
		W. H. Saxton	October	5 <sup>th</sup>	R. F. Fry
	14 <sup>th</sup>	A. A. Cornock			H. L. Short
	18 <sup>th</sup>	F. Cooper		13 <sup>th</sup>	A. Parker
	28 <sup>th</sup>	W. G. Pagett		24 <sup>th</sup>	S. Cornock
September	20 <sup>th</sup>	L. H. Townsend	November	13 <sup>th</sup>	W. C. Wellicome
	25 <sup>th</sup>	W. T. Sargent		18 <sup>th</sup>	W. C. Knight
	27 <sup>th</sup>	R. E. Noyes			C. Turner
<b>1916</b>			December	3 <sup>rd</sup>	F. C. Hyner
February	22 <sup>nd</sup>	F. A. Gordon		26 <sup>th</sup>	F. Rodman
	25 <sup>th</sup>	W. R. K. Heath	<b>1917</b>		
	26 <sup>th</sup>	J. C. Bengough	April	25 <sup>th</sup>	H. G. Frape
May	16 <sup>th</sup>	E. M. Richings	May	26 <sup>th</sup>	F. J. Boyce
	23 <sup>rd</sup>	A. W. Poulton	June	26 <sup>th</sup>	F. Smith
	31 <sup>st</sup>	H. W. M. Turner	July	1 <sup>st</sup>	H. I. Leonard
July	3 <sup>rd</sup>	T. Meadows		28 <sup>th</sup>	D. E. Walker
	9 <sup>th</sup>	H. Elliott	August	8 <sup>th</sup>	L. J. Bignell
	11 <sup>th</sup>	C. D. Upstone		16 <sup>th</sup>	F. C. Brown
	19 <sup>th</sup>	V. V. Trotman			H. W. Prosser
				19 <sup>th</sup>	W. M. Jotcham
				22 <sup>nd</sup>	S. B. Tubbs

September	18 <sup>th</sup>	L. F. Andrews			14 <sup>th</sup>	W. N. May
	24 <sup>th</sup>	E. V. Clissold			15 <sup>th</sup>	W. H. Adams
		H. Willcock		May	28 <sup>th</sup>	W. G. Stinchcombe
October	8 <sup>th</sup>	H. Dickenson		June	16 <sup>th</sup>	C. R. Jotcham
	21 <sup>st</sup>	J. E. Avenell		July	16 <sup>th</sup>	F. F. Farmiloe
		H. Jotcham			17 <sup>th</sup>	H. M. Dando
	25 <sup>th</sup>	C. Bow		August	8 <sup>th</sup>	W. J. Keynton
November	5 <sup>th</sup>	W. Vines			12 <sup>th</sup>	M. W. F. Lewis
	28 <sup>th</sup>	A. E. Kinson			21 <sup>st</sup>	M. Ballinger
December	2 <sup>nd</sup>	P. E. Broodbank		September	6 <sup>th</sup>	G. Burford
	23 <sup>rd</sup>	J. C. Rudge			13 <sup>th</sup>	A. G. Candy
<b>1918</b>						
January	1 <sup>st</sup>	W. C. Saunders		October	12 <sup>th</sup>	G. E. Excell
March	21 <sup>st</sup>	R. C. Grimes				J. Richings
		T. Venn		November	4 <sup>th</sup>	E. Grimes
	22 <sup>nd</sup>	A. H. Woodlands		December	1 <sup>st</sup>	A. T. Chappell
	25 <sup>th</sup>	W. Jotcham			24 <sup>th</sup>	A. Marsh
	27 <sup>th</sup>	J. E. Lainchbury		<b>1919</b>		
	28 <sup>th</sup>	W. G. Grant				
	31 <sup>st</sup>	A. Butler		January	16 <sup>th</sup>	E. J. Leonard
April	1 <sup>st</sup>	H. G. May		April	9 <sup>th</sup>	A. E. Cornock
	9 <sup>th</sup>	J. Lacey			14 <sup>th</sup>	E. C. Cornock
	10 <sup>th</sup>	W. Exell		July	8 <sup>th</sup>	T. F. Webb

A study of the deaths shows that most occurred, as one would expect, during the major battles of the war fought by the British Army. They include :-

1<sup>st</sup> Battle of Ypres 12<sup>th</sup> October – 11<sup>th</sup> November 1914

2<sup>nd</sup> Battle of Ypres 22<sup>nd</sup> April – 27<sup>th</sup> May 1915

Battle of the Somme 1<sup>st</sup> July – 19<sup>th</sup> November 1916

3<sup>rd</sup> Battle of Ypres 31<sup>st</sup> July – 10<sup>th</sup> November 1917

German Spring Offensive 21<sup>st</sup> March – 18<sup>th</sup> July 1918

The Allied Counteroffensive 18<sup>th</sup> July – 10<sup>th</sup> November 1918

Of the 29 deaths of Wotton soldiers between 1<sup>st</sup> July and 19<sup>th</sup> November 1916, 26 were caused during the Somme offensive. 11 of the 13 deaths between 31<sup>st</sup> July and 10<sup>th</sup> November 1917 happened during 3<sup>rd</sup> Ypres. 6 Wotton men fell during the first week of the German Spring Offensive of 1918. Before its conclusion on the 18<sup>th</sup> July, a further 9 had died. During the Allied push for victory – 18<sup>th</sup> July to 10<sup>th</sup> November, 12 more Wotton men lost their lives on the battlefield.

## APPENDIX F

### AWARDS, DECORATIONS AND MEDALS

Only one serviceman named on the Wotton-under-Edge War Memorial received an award for bravery during the Great War – Cpl. William Exell gained the Military Medal (no. 37). Although Pte. Francis Candy has ‘M.M.’ inscribed after his name on the War Memorial, it is obviously a mistake, as explained in Biography 19. The Military Medal was not instituted until March 1916, leaving many acts of bravery unrecorded for lack of an appropriate award. The Medal is inscribed with the words ‘*For Bravery in the Field*’. It is awarded to warrant officers, N.C.Os. and men.

Eight Wotton servicemen who returned safely gained awards. The Roll of Honour in the Town Hall lists them all. Sergeant F. Davis of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment received the D.C.M. (Distinguished Conduct Medal) as did Cpl. H. W. Oakhill of ‘A’ Battery, 71<sup>st</sup> Brigade, Royal Field Artillery and Cpl. E. Mann of the Herefordshire Regiment. Major T. W. Parkinson of the Yorkshire and Lancashire Regiment was awarded the D.S.O. (Distinguished Service Order). Two officers gained the M.C. (Military Cross) – Capt. R. J. Morton of the Royal Field Artillery and Capt. C. V. Tubbs of the Somerset Light Infantry. Staff Sergeant F. A. Hodges of the Royal Army Medical Corps gained the M.M. as did Gunner G. A. Stevens of the Royal Field Artillery.

The Distinguished Service Order was established in 1866 for meritorious or distinguished service in war. To qualify during 1914-1918 a serviceman had to be a commissioned officer whose name had been specially mentioned in despatches for “.... *distinguished service under fire or under conditions equivalent to service in actual combat with the enemy*”.

The Distinguished Conduct Medal was introduced in 1854 and during the First World War was awarded to N.C.Os. and men. According to the citation printed in *Distinguished Conduct Medals 1914-1920. Citations of Recipients. Artillery* (London: The London Stamp Exchange 1983), Cpl. H. W. Oakhill was awarded the D.C.M. “*For conspicuous bravery and resource in repairing wire under heavy fire. On one occasion, single-handed and unarmed, he captured an enemy sniper, and learning from him that some of the enemy were in a house near, he went to it and ordered them to surrender. Fifteen at once gave themselves up, and later, with the assistance of some infantry, he captured 25 more men in the cellar of the same house.*”

The Military Cross, an Army decoration, was instituted on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1914 when the authorities realized that they needed some way of rewarding captains, lieutenants and warrant officers for outstanding bravery and leadership in action.

The most coveted British and Commonwealth military decoration, the Victoria Cross, is very rare. The medal was instituted in 1856 by Queen Victoria. During the First World War 291 V.Cs. were awarded to British personnel who survived the action for which they were decorated and 124 were awarded posthumously; two men were awarded the V.C. twice. Of all the war memorials I have visited in the south Gloucestershire area, I have only come across three recipients of the Victoria Cross. Firstly, Lieut. Paul Bennett, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Worcestershire Regiment. Paul Bennett hailed from Cainscross, Stroud, and won his Victoria Cross at Le Transloy on the Somme battlefield on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1916. Lieut. Bennett was decorated by the King on 5<sup>th</sup> February 1917 at

Buckingham Palace. After the War Paul Bennett became a barrister and for many years was a Metropolitan Magistrate in London. He retired with his wife to Vincenza, North Italy, where he died in 1970, aged 77.

Secondly, Lieut. Maurice Dease of 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Fusiliers, gained his Victoria Cross at the Battle of Mons, France, on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1914. Maurice Dease died heading a machine-gun section whilst defending a railway bridge over the Mons-Conde canal at Nimy. Lieut. Dease was the first recipient of the V.C. in the First World War. Maurice Dease was born in Coole, County Westmeath in Ireland. His name appears on the Wayside Cross Memorial, in front of the Catholic Church in Woodchester, near Stroud. The reason for this is that Maurice used to sometimes stay with his aunt in the village of Woodchester and it must have been she who forwarded his name for inclusion on the Wayside Cross. Amazingly, Dease's family received his Victoria Cross by post on 11<sup>th</sup> January 1915. The medal can now be seen in the Royal Fusiliers Regimental Museum in the Tower of London.

The third recipient is Capt. the Hon. Alexander Gore Hore-Ruthven Arkwright of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, the Highland Light Infantry. On 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1898 during the action at Gedarif, Sudan, Capt. Hore-Ruthven saw an Egyptian officer lying wounded within 50 yards of the advancing Dervishes who were firing and charging. He picked up the wounded officer and carried him towards the 16<sup>th</sup> Egyptian Battalion. He had to drop his burden several times in order to fire upon the Dervishes and check their advance, but his action undoubtedly saved the officer's life.

Alexander Hore-Ruthven gained other decorations – the CB, GCMG, DSO & Bar and Croix de Guerre. In later life he became The Earl of Gowrie, served with the Welsh Guards in the First World War and achieved the rank of Brigadier-General in 1922. Later he became Governor General of Australia 1936-44. He died at the age of 83 and was buried in St. John the Baptist churchyard, Shipton Moyne near Tetbury, where he later retired and made his

home.

The Town Hall Roll of Honour boards include the names of two servicemen who gained awards during the War, not for bravery in action, but for service to the country. They are Major Robert Atwood of the Royal Army Medical Corps, who was awarded the Order of the British Empire and Lieut. Thomas Edgar Hill, Army Service Corps, was made a Member of the British Empire. In *Burke's Handbook to the Order of the British Empire*, Ed. A. Winton Thorpe, London 1921, there are short biographical details of Lieut. Hill, but nothing on Major Beaver.

Thomas Edgar Hill was born on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1881. He was the son of Thomas Hill of Moseley, Birmingham. He married Mona Isobel, daughter of G. A. J. Burr of Douglas, Isle of Man. He was educated at King Edward VI Grammar School, Birmingham. He worked as a cashier at Lloyds Bank, Ltd. (Final Institute of Banking). During the War he served with 2/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment in France 1916 and with the Army Service Corps, France and Belgium, August 1917 to September 1919 and was wounded in September 1918. His address was given as *St. Crantock*, Wotton-under-Edge.

The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire was instituted by Letters Patent under the Great Seal on 4<sup>th</sup> June 1917. There were two divisions – Civil and Military. The Sixth Statute of the Order explains who was eligible for the award. It reads as follows :- “... *that the persons to be admitted to the Civil Division of the said Order shall be such persons, male or female, as may have rendered, or shall hereafter render, important service to our Empire*”. On 27<sup>th</sup> December 1918, after the War, a Military Division of the Order was added, but the original object of the order was “... *the recognition and encouragement of the non-combatant war worker, who was doing his and her best to keep the fighting service working at their utmost capacity and to look after the well-being of the fighting man at home and at the front, in the ranks and in hospital, wherever he might be, and serving in whatever capacity.*”

**APPENDIX G**

**REGIMENTS/UNITS IN WHICH MEN NAMED  
ON WOTTON'S WW1 MEMORIAL SERVED**

Gloucestershire Regiment	44
Worcestershire Regiment	7
Royal Navy	6
Royal Marine Light Infantry	4
Australian Imperial Forces	3
Canadian Forces	3
Royal Field Artillery	3
Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Yeomanry	3
Royal Warwickshire Regiment	3
Hampshire Regiment	2
Royal Army Medical Corps	2
Royal Berkshire Regiment	2
Royal Engineers	2
Royal Naval Division	2
Royal West Kent Regiment	2
Army Service Corps	1
Border Regiment	1
Devon Regiment	1
Dorset Regiment	1
Durham Light Infantry	1
East Surrey Regiment	1
Gurkha Rifles	1
King's Royal Rifle Corps	1
Loyal North Lancashire Regiment	1
Machine Gun Corps	1
Middlesex Regiment	1
New Zealand Forces	1
North Staffordshire Regiment	1
Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry	1
Royal Flying Corps	1
Royal Fusiliers	1
Royal Garrison Artillery	1
Royal Household Cavalry	1
Royal Irish Regiment	1
Royal Norfolk Regiment	1
Royal Sussex Regiment	1
Royal West Surrey Regiment	1
Seaforth Highlanders	1
Tank Corps	1
Yorkshire Regiment	1
Yorkshire & Lancashire Regiment	1



**APPENDIX H**

**THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT  
AND WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE**

In the 1914-1918 War the Gloucestershire Regiment raised twenty-four battalions. Of these sixteen fought in France and Belgium, Italy, Gallipoli, Egypt, Mesopotamia (Iraq), Persia (Iran), or Macedonia, winning seventy-two new Battle Honours. A total of 409 officers and 7691 men lost their lives.

According to the Wotton-under-Edge Roll of Honour in the Town Hall, 708 men from the town served in the First World War, 168 of these in the Gloucestershire Regiment. Being the county regiment it is not surprising that it was popular with Wottonians.

If one looks at the town's War Memorial, it is seen that out of 114 Wotton men who lost their lives, 44 served in the Gloucesters. These men were spread through 12 of the regiment's battalions. Here is a list of those battalions and the number who died in each battalion from Wotton.

Battalion	Number of men who died
1 <sup>st</sup>	12
2 <sup>nd</sup>	3
4 <sup>th</sup>	1
5 <sup>th</sup>	4
8 <sup>th</sup>	6
10 <sup>th</sup>	5
12 <sup>th</sup>	2
13 <sup>th</sup>	2
14 <sup>th</sup>	5
2/4 <sup>th</sup>	1
2/5 <sup>th</sup>	1
2/6 <sup>th</sup>	1
Unknown	1

## APPENDIX I

### SERVICEMEN WITH WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE

#### CONNECTIONS WHO DIED IN WW1

#### Henry Herbert Boulton

Private 15903, 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment. He was the son of George and Alicia Boulton of Tetbury, Gloucestershire. Known as 'Harry', he was a former resident of Wotton and moved to Oxford, where he married Alice May of 87 East Avenue, Cowley Road. Harry died in France on 24<sup>th</sup> July 1917, aged 38. He is buried in Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun, Pas-de-Calais; Plot 5, Row A, Grave 30.

#### William Henry Box

Private 173119, 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment. William was the son of Emma Shipton of Lower Kilcott, Wotton-under-Edge. He was killed in action on 25<sup>th</sup> September 1915 during the Battle of Loos, he was 22 years old. William is commemorated on the Loos Memorial to the Missing in Dud Corner Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais. William's name is also inscribed on the Hillesley War Memorial.

#### Llewellyn Draisey

Private 240408, 'D' Coy. 2/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment. Llewellyn was born in Wotton-under-Edge, the son of Jane and the late Lewin Draisey of *Beech Cottage*, Coombe Road. Llewellyn enlisted in the Army in Wotton. He died 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1917 aged 23. He is commemorated on the Cambrai Memorial, Panel 6, Louverval Military Cemetery, Nord, France. It would appear that Llewellyn moved to Kingswood, near Wotton, as his name is inscribed on that village's War Memorial.

#### James E. M. Farquhar

Major, 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Cameron Highlanders. James was the only son of Rev. E. M. Farquhar of Bradley Court, Wotton. He was killed in action on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September 1916 and buried in Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, Longueval, Somme, France; Plot 5, Row A, Grave 12.

#### James W. Gittings

Lance Corporal 2594, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Hertfordshire Regiment. He was the son of Mr. & Mrs. G. Gittings, his father at one time being the gardener of *Ellerncroft*, Wotton. James was educated at the British School in Wotton. For many years he sang in the Parish Church choir. James joined the Army in the first week of the War. He was killed in action on the night of 19/20<sup>th</sup> July 1916, aged 28. A friend, Cpl. Johnson, wrote a letter to James's parents about his death and character, it is as follows :-

*"..... he was shot in the head by a sniper and died immediately. His remains were buried in the British Cemetery at Rue-de-Bois, near Festubert and a cross has been placed over his grave. I should like to mention that he was a great friend of mine since he joined the Machine Gun section and I shall miss him very much. He was always cheerful and ready to do anything. Only a few days previous he did some splendid work with the guns by repelling a bombing attack made by the Germans. His death has caused a big gap in the section, which I am afraid will be hard to fill. The whole of the section and myself deeply sympathise with you in your loss and hope it will be some consolation to you to know that he died a hero's death fighting for his country".*

### **William Kenneth Haile**

Private PS/8641, 20<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Fusiliers (Public School Corps). He was the son of the Rev. J. H. Haile, a former pastor of the Tabernacle Church, Wotton-under-Edge, and Mrs. Annie Haile. William was a pupil at Bear Street School in Wotton. At the very young age of 18 he was killed in action on 18<sup>th</sup> May 1916. He lies buried in Cambrin Churchyard Extension, Grave M 45, Pas-de-Calais, France. After leaving Wotton his parents moved to *The Manse*, Briston, Norfolk. There is a photograph of Pte. Haile in the *Gazette* of 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1916, page 6.

### **S. Jones**

Private S. 125688, 38<sup>th</sup> Battalion Machine Gun Corps (Infantry). He was the son of Alfred and Emma Jones of Bowcott Farm, Wotton-under-Edge. Pte. Jones was killed in action 18<sup>th</sup> September 1918 and buried in Gouzeaucourt New British Cemetery, Nord, France. His name is inscribed on the village War Memorial in North Nibley.

### **Patrick John Cyril Mackin**

Petty Officer 139004, Royal Navy. Patrick Mackin was Ship's Steward aboard *HMS Star of Galicia*, when he accidentally drowned on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 1914. It seems likely that Patrick completed 22 years service in the Navy and became a pensioner in 1910 and then was allowed to stay on. It is estimated that Patrick enlisted at the end of 1887 or the beginning of 1888. Patrick was probably in his 50s when he died. Since Patrick's body was not recovered, he is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval War Memorial. It is interesting to note that after extensive researches, Patrick Mackin appears to be one of only three Wotton men who died during the First World War, had his name added to the Roll of Honour in the Town Hall, but does not have that gold cross after his name, indicating that he died between 1914 and 1918. His name does not appear on the town's War Memorial.

The *Star of Galicia* was a Mercantile Fleet Auxiliary cargo ship of 4821 tons. She was taken up by the Admiralty on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1914 as a supply ship. Patrick was the only casualty from the ship whilst she was in Naval service.

### **Arthur Albert Parker**

Sergeant 3160 1/6<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment. Arthur was the son of a previous Pastor of the Baptist Church in Wotton. He was born in Bristol and enlisted there on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1914. Before the war he was on the clerical staff of the Co-op at Broad Quay, Bristol. Drafted to France on 25<sup>th</sup> June 1915, he was killed in action on 19<sup>th</sup> March 1916. He was the only son of the Rev. A. J. Parker, who at the time of Arthur's death was living at 3 Hengrove Road, Knowle, Bristol. The Rev. Parker later moved to 1 Salisbury Road, St. Anne's Park in Bristol. Arthur was just 25 when he died and is buried in Sucrerie Military Cemetery on the Somme, Plot 1 Row D Grave 97. There are photographs of Arthur in the Bristol Times and Mirror of 30<sup>th</sup> March 1916, page 5 and of 1<sup>st</sup> April 1916, page 14. Arthur is also commemorated on his parents' grave in the Baptist Churchyard, Wotton-under-Edge.

### **Ronald Lee Pyman**

Lieut. 15<sup>th</sup> Battalion Middlesex Regiment, attached to the 12<sup>th</sup>. Died on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1917 and commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Bay 7, France. He was the husband of Mrs. Pyman of Bradley Court, Wotton-under-Edge.

### **B. Allen Rudall**

2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment. He was born in Plymouth, the eldest son of Rev. J. Bertram Rudall and Ellen J. Rudall. At one time Rev. Rudall had been Pastor of the Tabernacle Church in Wotton. Allen Rudall fell on 17<sup>th</sup> July 1917 and is buried in the British Cemetery of Vis-en-Artois, Haucourt, Pas-de-Calais, France; Plot 5 Row C Grave 13. After Allen's death his parents moved to Holy

Trinity Vicarage, St. Philips, Bristol.

### Hubert Warner Shearman

Cpl. 1964 'D' Coy. 1/20<sup>th</sup> Battalion London Regiment (Blackheath & Woolwich). Hubert was the son of James Richard and Mary Shearman of *Eaucorts*, Upper Bradley Road, Wotton-under-Edge. He died on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1916 aged 24. Hubert is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial in France.

### Leslie Vines

Pte. 21573 Gloucestershire Regiment. Leslie only spent 11 days in the Army, from enlistment on 18<sup>th</sup> June 1915 until discharge on the 29<sup>th</sup>. It is not known why he served for such a short period. Leslie died on Armistice Day 1918, his death seemingly having little or nothing to do with his Army service. Is this why his name was not inscribed on Wotton's War Memorial? However, he does share a Commonwealth War Grave with his brother Wilfred in St. Mary's Churchyard. It appears that Leslie is only one of three servicemen who died during the War who do not have a gold cross after their names on the Roll of Honour in the Town Hall, the others being Patrick Mackin and F. J. Jennings.



*Leslie and Wilfred Vines share a grave in St. Mary's churchyard, Wotton-under-Edge*



*Frederick Chappell of the Worcestershire Regiment lies in a soldier's grave in Wotton Cemetery. Father of Victor, Wotton's last surviving veteran, he died in 1921, his life cut short as a result of war wounds.*

## APPENDIX J

### **WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE SERVICEMEN WHO DIED AFTER THE WAR FROM WOUNDS, DISEASES OR GAS POISONING SUFFERED DURING THE WAR**

#### **1. FREDERICK CHAPPELL**

##### **WORCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT**

Interred in grave 14 in Wotton-under-Edge Cemetery on 16<sup>th</sup> February 1921

Dursley Gazette, Saturday, February 19<sup>th</sup> 1921

##### ***Result of the War***

##### ***Wotton Ex-Serviceman's Death. Wounded in nine places.***

*The death of Mr. Frederick Chappell, an ex-serviceman whose home was at 'The Cloud', Wotton-under-Edge, is attributed to the effect of several wounds received in the war. Mr. Chappell passed away suddenly on Saturday last (13<sup>th</sup> February), aged 47.*

*Though he had never previously seen military service, Mr. Chappell volunteered immediately upon the outset of hostilities joining the 10<sup>th</sup> Worcesters. At Neuve Chappelle in the summer of 1915 he was wounded in no fewer than nine places. He recovered however and was again sent to France being even more severely wounded on the Somme in 1916, his injuries on this occasion resulting in a partial withering of one side of his body. He was honourably discharged on 17<sup>th</sup> April 1917. The doctors were unable to remove four pieces of shrapnel, which often caused intense pain.*

*Latterly he had been engaged at his old occupation – a braider at Messrs. Tubbs-Lewis Ltd. with whom he altogether was engaged 30 years. That his health had been shattered, however, seems clear. While visiting Stroud on Saturday with the Sinwell football team, he collapsed and had to be carried from the motor on his return home, passing away as stated above.*

*Mr. Chappell, who was the youngest son of Mr. Thomas Chappell of Mount Pleasant, leaves a widow and six children, four of the latter being quite young. The funeral of Mr. Chappell took place on Wednesday, the Rev. F. J. Greenham officiating at the Church and Cemetery. The arrangements were semi-military in character, the coffin being shrouded in the Union Jack. The local branch of the ex-Servicemen's Federation to which the deceased belonged, sent a contingent of members. Mr. Nun May represented the Abbey Mill, several fellow workmates also attending.*

One of Frederick Chappell's sons was Victor. Victor lived on to be 100 years old. When he died in 2000 he was the last Wotton survivor of the First World War. (See Appendix K).

2

**WILLIAM GIBBARD**

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

Dursley Gazette, Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1921

***Death of an Ex-Serviceman***

*Joining up in August 1914, Mr. William Gibbard of Wotton-under-Edge served in France with the Royal Army Medical Corps till 1919. Unhappily he became affected by German poison gas and on his return to civilian life the state of his health left much to be desired. Eight weeks ago he journeyed to Yorkshire to his brother to see if a change would be beneficial. He appeared to be going on well but, last week-end there was a relapse, death occurring on Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> November. William's body was brought back to Wotton and he was buried in St. Mary's Churchyard. His name appears on the Roll of Honour in the Town Hall but not on the War Memorial.*

3.

**GEORGE WALTER BIGNELL**

GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT

Interred in grave 118 in Wotton-under-Edge Cemetery on 18<sup>th</sup> April, 1922

Dursley Gazette, Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1922

***Sad death of an Ex-Soldier***

***Largely Attended Funeral***

*It is with deep regret we announce the death of Mr. George Walter Bignell of Holywell in Wotton-under-Edge. Death occurred on Good Friday.*

*Mr. Bignell was only 27, may be said to have been a victim of the war. He went away with the local Territorials in 1914 and served in France practically through the war, being wounded twice, as well as gassed. The effect of being gassed undoubtedly lead to his early decease, for though he was demobilised in the ordinary way, it soon became apparent that his lungs were affected. The trouble developed and for several months past his condition has given rise to much anxiety. Though of a very quiet disposition he was an exceedingly popular young fellow, and the sorrow occasioned by his illness and death has been widespread. The family indeed have been inundated with messages of sympathy in their great loss.*

*Particularly is Mr. Bignell's death keenly felt by those connected with the farming interest. Upon demobilisation he made application under the Small Holding's Scheme and was allotted the Old Farm situated on the Charfield Road. Unhappily he soon had to cease his activities.*

*There was a very large attendance at the funeral which took place at the Parish Church and Cemetery on Tuesday, the Rev. T. H. Thurland officiated.*

4.

**EDWARD SYLVESTER MAUNDERS**

GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT

Interred in grave 243 in Wotton-under-Edge Cemetery on 13<sup>th</sup> June 1927

Dursley Gazette, Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> June, 1927

***Funeral of War Victim***

***Late Mr. E. S. Maunders***

*The funeral took place at Wotton-under-Edge Cemetery of Mr. Edward Sylvester Maunders, a local young man, who though he died nine years after the cessation of hostilities, must be numbered amongst those who fell a victim to the Great War. He succumbed to tuberculosis, brought on by his being badly gassed in France, and though for some 10 months he underwent sanatorium treatment, he gradually became worse. Prior to his illness he followed the occupation of steam-roller driver, employed by the Gloucestershire County Council. Later he was put on lighter duties, which eventually had to be relinquished. Mr. Maunders, who was 28, leaves a widow and two children, who have received numerous expressions of sympathy in his affliction and decease.*

*The Rev. C. E. Purves officiated both at the Church and Cemetery. The arrangements were semi-military in character, Bugler Frederick Bennett sounding the Last Post at the graveside.*



*Edward Maunders is buried in a soldier's grave in Wotton Cemetery.*

5.

**GEORGE WARD**

GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT

Interred in Wotton-under-Edge Cemetery on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> June, 1927, but not in a soldier's grave  
*Dursley Gazette*, Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> June, 1927

***A victim of Malaria***

***Young man's sad end***

*Mr. George Ward whose death occurred at Wotton-under-Edge on the 17<sup>th</sup> inst. was only 28 years of age. He had been ill about a week, though it is considered that his health had been undermined by attacks of malaria contracted on war service. Mr. Ward belonged to the Gloucestershire Regiment and saw much service in the east. He was still on the Reserve at the time of his death.*

*Deceased leaves a widow and two little daughters. He was a native of Luckington (Wiltshire), his married life having been spent at Uley and in this town. He was held in high esteem by his fellow workers at Messrs. R. A. Lister & Co. Ltd.*

*The funeral took place at Wotton Parish Church and Cemetery on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> June. The Rev. A. J. Hodson (vicar) officiated.*



## APPENDIX K

### WOTTON'S LAST SURVIVOR OF WW1

#### WILFRED VICTOR CHAPPELL

Wilfred Victor Chappell, usually known as Victor or Vic, was Wotton-under-Edge's last surviving veteran of the First World War. He was born on 9<sup>th</sup> January 1899 and died soon after his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on 7<sup>th</sup> February 1999. Victor's paternal grandparents were Thomas, born in 1841 and Mary Ann, born in 1835. They raised seven children, the seventh being Victor's father Frederick, born in 1874. Frederick, a mill-hand married Ellen Mitchell of Tetbury. They went on to have five children, Victor being one of three boys. Victor attended Wotton's Bluecoat School between 1902 and 1912 under the headmastership of Orlando Pearce. At the age of 13 Victor started working at Abbey Mills, Kingswood, near Wotton. He worked as an elastic braider, earning 3s 6d for a 56 hour week.

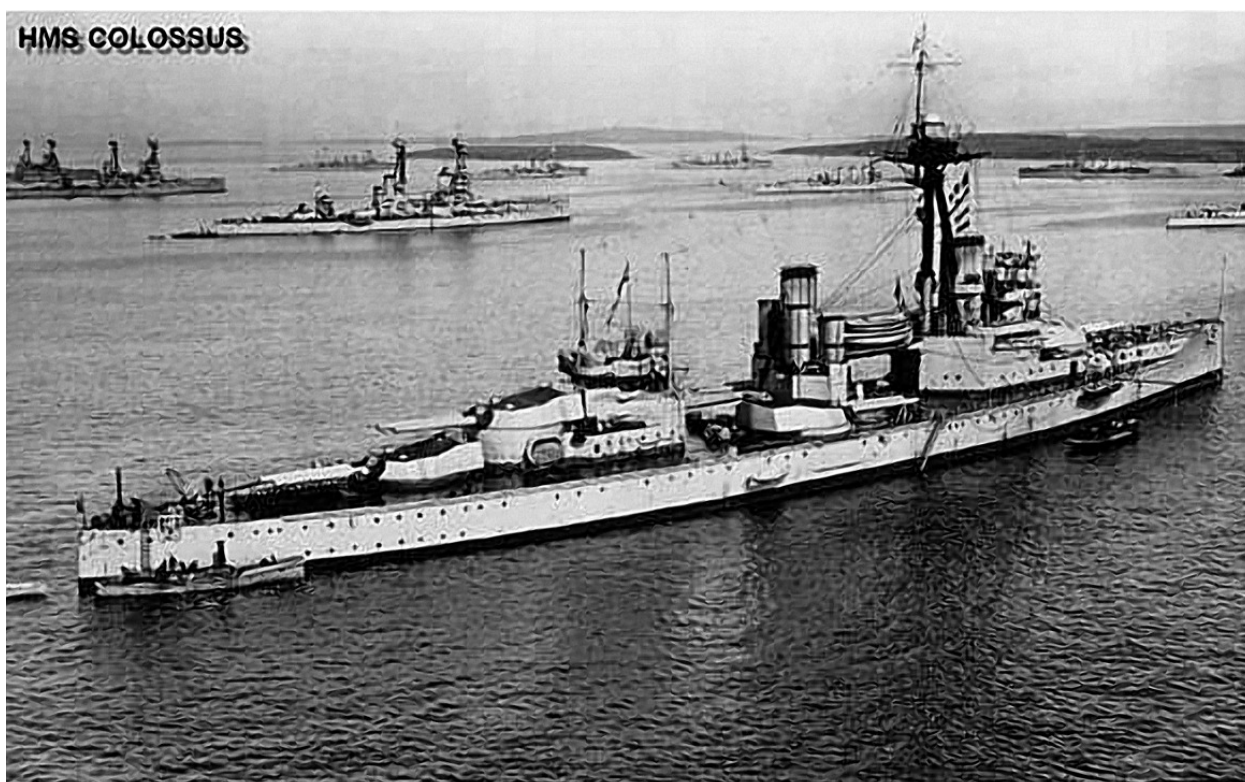
On 17<sup>th</sup> January 1916 just after his 17<sup>th</sup> birthday Victor enlisted in the Royal Marine Light Infantry.



*Victor (standing) with his boyhood friend Billy Hopkins who also served in World War 1. Billy who served in the Royal Navy also survived the war.*

The war had been under way for 17 months. His first experience in the forces was to be infantry training in Deal, Kent from January to August 1916. He then transferred to Plymouth where he joined the battleship *HMS Colossus*. Victor served on this ship until the end of the war. He worked in one of the massive gun turrets, his wages on starting being 7s. a week. His ship took part in the raid on the German submarine pens at Zeebrugge in Belgium. He was also present when the German fleet surrendered to the British fleet in The Firth of Forth. He remembered the magnificent sight of over 300 British warships, formed up in two lines, six miles apart, with the German ships having to steam between them and led by *HMS Cardiff*. Victor was the proud owner of a beautiful painting of this unique occasion. Of course, a few months later most of the German ships were scuttled in Scapa Flow. At the end of the war Victor was presented with the Great War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Victor's father Frederick also served in the First World War, enlisting in the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Worcestershire Regiment. He saw some fierce fighting, first at Neuve Chappelle in 1915 when he was wounded and

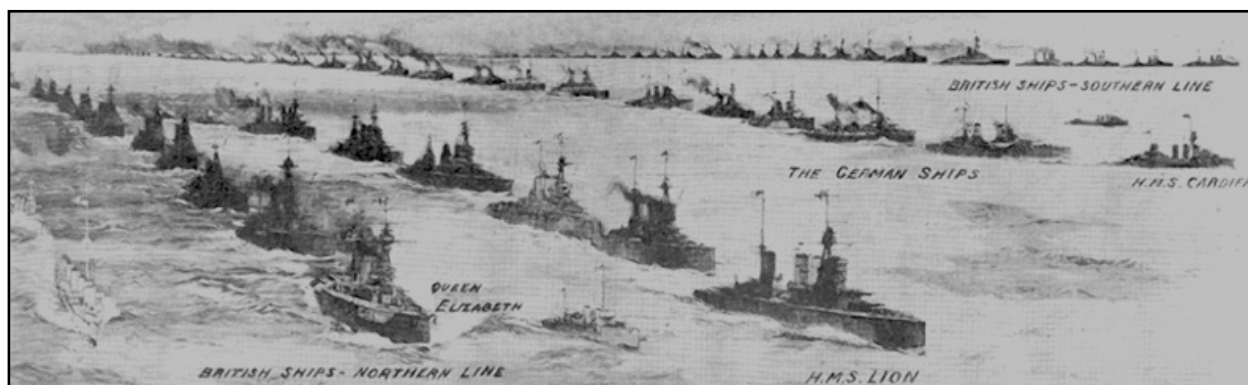


*Victor served, as a Gunner, on HMS Colossus, a Dreadnought battleship, during W.W.I.*

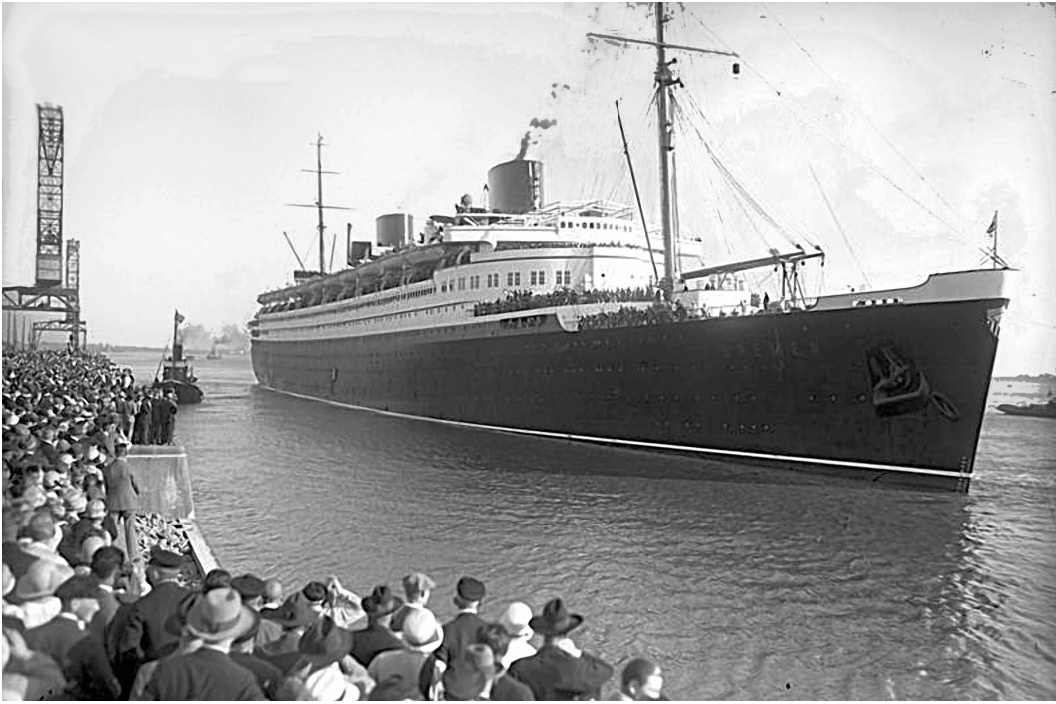
Source: Imperial War Museum

again on the Somme in 1916, where he was hit by shrapnel in no less than nine places, principally in the arms and legs. Frederick Chappell died on 13<sup>th</sup> February 1921, probably as a result of his wounds. He was given a semi-military funeral and buried in a soldier's grave in Wotton cemetery. Like many gallant Wotton servicemen who died in the years following the Armistice, from wounds received during the war, Frederick's name does not appear on Wotton's war memorial.

After the First World War Victor returned to Abbey Mills to resume his work as a braider. According to the Abbey Mills Pay Book (which can be consulted at the Heritage Centre in Wotton) Victor's pay in 1930, for a 45 hour week was £3 2s 0d. However, two years later it had dropped by one shilling although he was now working three hours longer. In 1922 Victor married Ella Gibbett of Brean Down, Somerset. They had met some years earlier when Victor went on a scout camp to Brean Down. Victor



*Germany's 74 big ships surrender in the Forth, November 21 1918*

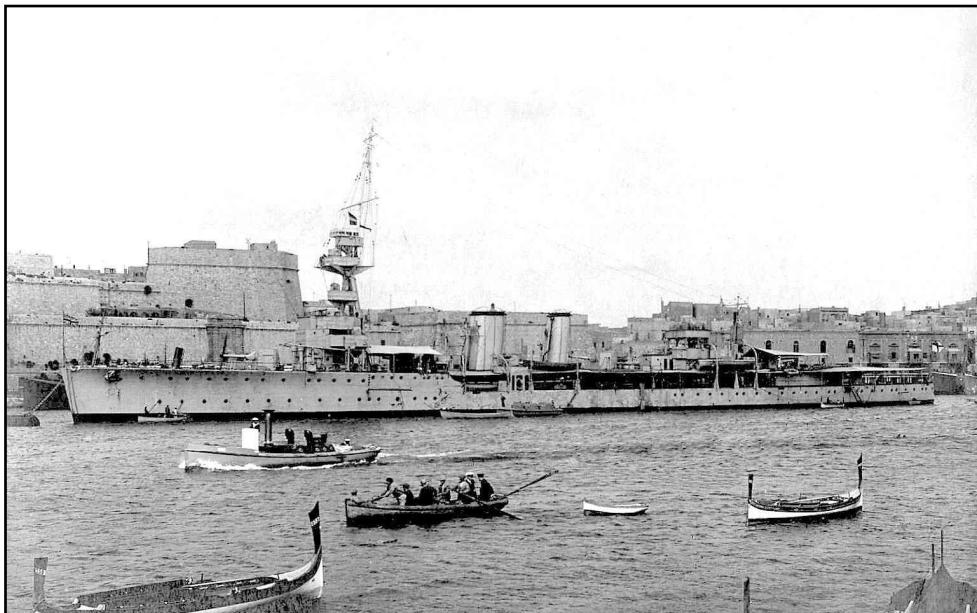


*German ocean liner SS Bremen - 1<sup>st</sup> January 1931*

and Ella were to have four children, Wilfred, who carried on the family tradition and joined the Royal Navy and also worked in a local cloth mill, Albert John, Margaret and Grace.

When the Second World War started Victor was still on the Reserve list and was posted to the light cruiser *HMS Calypso*, again serving as a gunner. The *Calypso* took part in the chase of the German ship *SS Bremen*, starting in the mid-Atlantic. *Bremen*, a liner, held the *Blue Riband* for the fastest crossing of the Atlantic.

On 26<sup>th</sup> August 1939, in anticipation of the invasion of Poland, the Kriegsmarine OKM, effectively the German Admiralty, ordered all German merchant ships to head to German ports immediately.



*HMS Calypso in Grand Harbour, Malta, circa 1920*  
*An official postcard image*



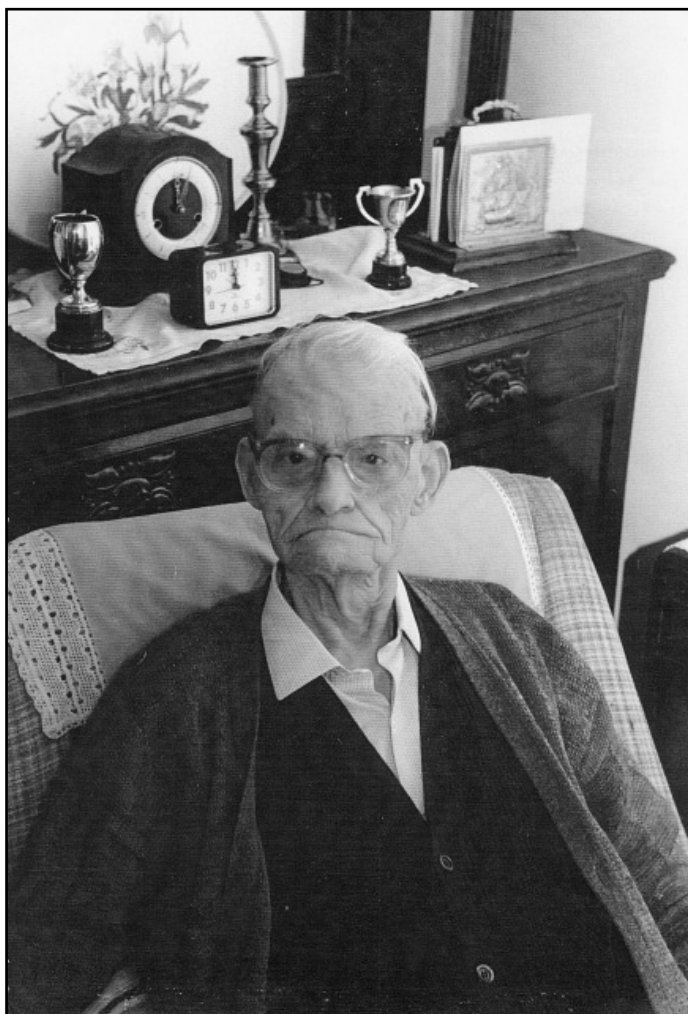
*Victor and Ella celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1972*

*Bremen* was on a westbound crossing and two days from New York, when she received the order. *Bremen's* captain decided to continue to New York to disembark her 1770 passengers. She left New York without passengers on 30<sup>th</sup> August 1939 and on the 1<sup>st</sup> September, coincident with the start of W.W.2, she was ordered to make for the Russian port of Murmansk; Russia at this time having a non-aggression pact with Germany. Underway, her crew painted the ship grey for camouflage. She made use of bad weather and high speed to avoid Royal Navy cruisers, including Victor's ship *Calypso*. *Bremen* arrived in Murmansk on 6<sup>th</sup> September 1939.

Thereafter, *Calypso* patrolled the Atlantic and the Mediterranean, guarding allied merchant shipping. Early in 1940 Victor was taken ill with chest trouble. He had to return to England and spent five months in Standish Hospital, near Stroud. During Victor's hospitalisation, *Calypso*, whilst on Mediterranean shipping patrol was torpedoed and sunk south of Crete by an Italian submarine with the loss of 39 sailors. On his release from the Royal Navy, Victor returned to his pre-war job in Abbey Mills, Kingswood, where he spent the rest of his working life, retiring in 1964 at the age of 65.

After the war Victor's interest turned to gardening. He moved from one house to another in Lisle Place, Wotton so that he could have a bigger garden in which to grow his vegetables. In 1972 Victor and Ella celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Five years later, on Christmas Eve 1977, Ella died. Victor moved to sheltered accommodation in Drylease Court, Wotton in 1982. During his last years Victor enjoyed having visits from his family and friends. I was privileged to have known Victor for the last two years of his life. He always welcomed me with a "Hello! You've come to see me again". He loved talking about his schooldays, for which he had a very sharp memory and also his service in both World Wars. On 9<sup>th</sup> January 1999 Victor celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in the communal lounge of Drylease Court. Among the gathering were his three surviving children Wilfred, Grace and Margaret, who with her husband had travelled from Australia for the happy occasion.

Sadly, shortly after his birthday Victor's health deteriorated and he lost the use of his legs. He was admitted to Berkekey Hospital, where he died peacefully on 7<sup>th</sup> February. On the day of his funeral Wilfred received a letter from the French authorities, to say that Victor had been awarded the Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur.



*Victor at home in 1998, aged 99*

## Happy 100th Victor!

**CENTENARIAN** Victor Chappell received congratulations from the Queen on Saturday – but what thrilled him most were messages from the Royal Marines, including one from the commandant general!

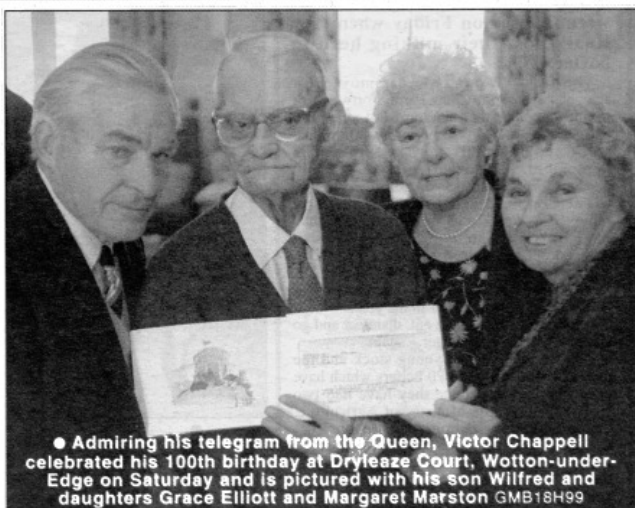
Mr Chappell, who lives in Wotton-under-Edge, served in the 1914-18 war on the battleship HMS Colossus in the Royal Marine Light Infantry.

And among his visitors were three Marines. Stroud District Council chairman Cllr Margaret Nolder plus family, friends and neighbours.

Mr Chappell is the local authority's longest-serving tenant and still lives in his own flat at the warden-controlled accommodation at Dryleaze Court.

Warden Maureen Pegler said: "It was a wonderful day. He had a whale of a time."

Daughter Grace Elliott, who lives at nearby Dryleaze, said: "He seems to be very well at the moment and has



● Admiring his telegram from the Queen, Victor Chappell celebrated his 100th birthday at Dryleaze Court, Wotton-under-Edge on Saturday and is pictured with his son Wilfred and daughters Grace Elliott and Margaret Marston GMB18H99

recovered from a fall when he broke a rib a fortnight ago. The following week he had another fall.

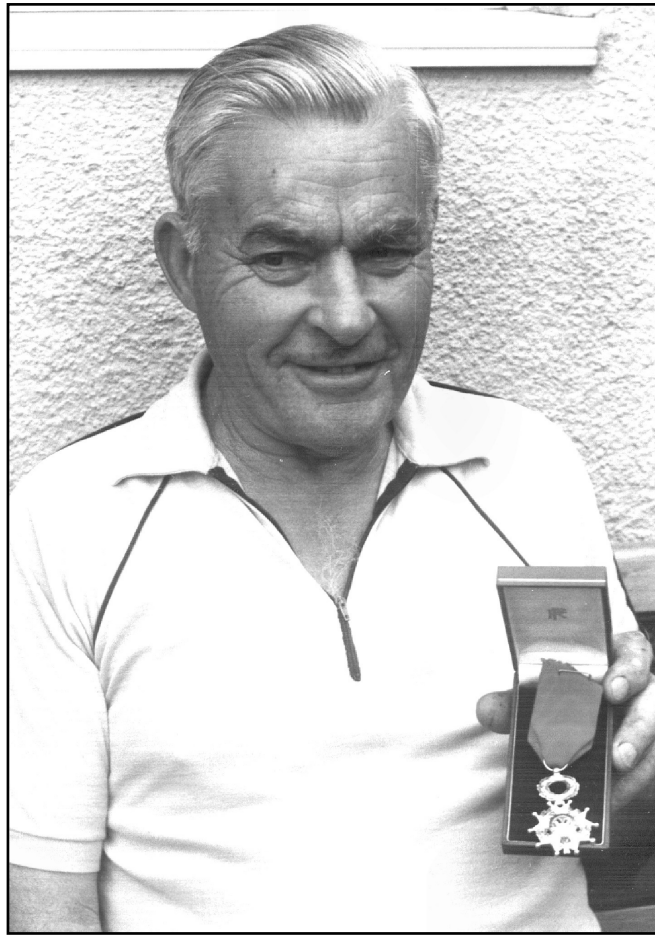
"We thought that he wouldn't be fit for his birthday but he has recovered so well.

"He is very much on the ball and takes it all in, although he has no desire to go out.

"Everybody had a super time and really enjoyed it."

Mr Chappell's other daughter, Margaret Marston, flew in last week from her home in Perth, Western Australia, to join the celebrations and there too was Mr Chappell's son Wilfred, from Kingswood.

Source: Dursley Gazette, January 1999



*Wilf Chappell with his father's  
Légion d'Honneur medal*



*The Legion of Honour or in full, the National Order of the Legion of Honour, is a French order established by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802. It is the highest decoration in France and is divided into 5 degrees, Chevalier (Knight) being the 1<sup>st</sup> Order, the 5<sup>th</sup> being the highest is the Grand Croix*





## SOME OF THE WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE SERVICEMEN WHO RETURNED AFTER THE END OF THE WAR

Final rank, name and unit taken from the Roll of Honour boards in the Town Hall. Photographs taken from the *Bristol Times & Mirror*, April 1<sup>st</sup> 1916.

	Rank	Name	Service Unit
1	Pte.	F. E. Allen .....	5 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
2		H. Allen .....	5 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
3	Pte.	L. R. Allen .....	Royal Marine Light Infantry
4		T. Allen .....	11 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
5	L/Stkr.	R. E. Allen .....	Royal Navy
6	Major	A. T. F. Annesley .....	Royal West Kent Regiment
7	Capt.	J. H. Annesley .....	Somerset Light Infantry
8	Pte.	W. Arnold .....	11 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
9	Sgt.	J. Baileys .....	5 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
10	Maj.	R. A. Beaver (O.B.E.) .....	Royal Army Medical Corps
11	Sgt.	W. C. Bignell .....	5 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
12	F.Sgt.	A. D. Brown .....	Royal Gloucestershire Hussars
13	Pte.	F. C. Burrows .....	Army Service Corps
14	Lieut.	Lieut C. R. Bury .....	11 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
15	Capt.	E. P. Bury .....	South Wales Borderers
16	Pte.	J. Butcher .....	11 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
17		W. Bye .....	2 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
18	Capt.	L. C. Cameron .....	Cameron Highlanders
19	Pte.	G. W. Chappell .....	10 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
20	Capt.	F. C. Clowes .....	Royal Army Medical Corps
21		G. Cole .....	8 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
22		A. J. Cole .....	Recruiting Officer
23	Pte.	F. W. Cook .....	9 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
24	Pte	C. Cornock .....	12 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
25	Pte.	J. Cornock .....	11 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
26	Pte.	M. Cornock .....	Gloucestershire Regiment

27	Pte.	N. Cornock .....	13 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
28	A.S.	S. Cornock .....	Royal Navy
29	C.S.M.	W. W. Cuff .....	7 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
30	Pte.	E. Cullimore .....	Gloucestershire Regiment
31	Cpl.	W. R. Davies .....	5 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
32	Sgt.	R. Dance .....	Grenadier Guards
33	Pte.	F. Dando .....	Gloucestershire Regiment
34	Pte.	T. W. Dillimore .....	5 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
35	Cpl.	D. Dixon .....	4 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
36	A.S.	F. W. Dixon .....	Royal Navy
37	Pte.	H. Exell .....	11 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
38	Gnr.	D. Fowles .....	Royal Marine Artillery
39	Ldg. Tel.	S. W. Fowles .....	Royal Navy
40	Lieut.	L. N. Fry .....	Royal Naval Reserve
41	Rgt. Q.M.Sgt.	Fry .....	Gloucestershire Regiment
42	Sgt.	F. C. Grimes .....	9 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
43	Cpl.	H. Gulwell .....	2 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
44	Capt.	G. A. Heath .....	Royal Air Force
45	A.S.	J. L. Heath .....	Royal Navy
46	Dvr.	F. Heaven .....	5 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
47	Pte.	W. Heaven .....	4 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
48	Pte.	W. Heaven .....	Labour Corps
49	Pte.	W. F. Hester (M.M.) .....	5 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
50	Pte.	A. E. Hollister .....	7 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
51		W. Hollister .....	1 <sup>st</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
52		W. C. Hollister .....	Royal Navy
53	L/Cpl.	T. S. Jenkins .....	5 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
54	Tpr.	S. King .....	Royal Gloucestershire Hussars
55	A.S.	W. Knight .....	Royal Navy
56		H. King .....	Royal Navy
57	Cpl.	L. W. Lewis .....	5 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
58	A.S.	D. Mann .....	Royal Navy
59	Cpl.	E. Mann (D.C.M.) .....	Herefordshire Regiment
60	Pte.	E. N. Mann .....	Northumberland Fusiliers
61	Spr.	H. J. Marshall .....	Royal Engineers
62	L/Cpl.	L. G. W. Marshall .....	Royal Gloucestershire Hussars
63	Pte.	H. Mills .....	9 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
64	Pte.	J. Morley .....	9 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
65	Capt.	R. J. Morton (M.C.) .....	Royal Air Force
66	Capt.	W. F. Morton .....	Royal Army Veterinary Corps
67		P. A. Nicholls .....	Gloucestershire Regiment
68	Cpl.	W. Nicholls .....	5 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
69	Sgt.	E. Oakhill .....	Grenadier Guards
70	Cpl.	G. Oldland .....	5 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
71		W. Organ .....	2 <sup>nd</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
72	A.S.	A. P. Paget .....	Royal Navy



73	Pte. E. Paget .....	9 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
74	A. Robinson .....	5 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
75	Pte. G. Rodman .....	14 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
76	A.S. J. C. Rudge, was killed and did not return home	
77	A.S. W. C. Rudge .....	Royal Navy
78	Spr. E. Shearman .....	Royal Engineers
79	C.P.O. T. L. Shearman .....	Royal Navy
80	Pte. F. Shipton .....	3 <sup>rd</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
81	Pte. F. Short .....	15 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
82	C. Smith .....	3 <sup>rd</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
83	Spr. F. Smart .....	Royal Engineers
84	Pte. W. J. Smith .....	5 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
85	Pte. W. Spencer .....	1 <sup>st</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
86	Spr. G. Stokes .....	Royal Engineers
87	Pte. C. Tanner .....	11 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
88	F. Tremlett .....	11 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
89	Pte. F. Trotman .....	8 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
90	Capt. C. B. Tubbs (M.C.) .....	Somerset Light Infantry
91	Pte. E. Vines .....	Tank Corps
92	A.S. A. White .....	Royal Navy
93	A.S. V. White .....	Royal Navy
94	Pte. J. R. Wood .....	14 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
95	Pte. C. W. Wyatt .....	Gloucestershire Regiment
96	Pte. F. J. Wyatt .....	5 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
97	Pte. R. Wyatt .....	Dragoon Guards
98	W. Young .....	5 <sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment
99	W. Knight .....	Coldstream Guards

# First World War Heroes of Wotton-under-Edge



F. E. Allan,  
5th Gloucesters.



H. Allen,  
5th Gloucesters.



Lewis Allen,  
R.M.L.I.



T. Allen,  
11th Gloucesters.



R. E. Allan,  
H.M.S. Orion



Maj. A. J. P. Annesley  
Royal West Kents



Cpt. J. H. Annesley  
Somerset L.I.



Wm. Arnold Sawell  
11th Gloucesters.



Sergt. J. Bailey,  
5th Gloucesters.



Maj. Atwood Brayer  
R.A.M.C.



Cpl. J. B. Bignell,  
5th Gloucesters.



Far. Sergt. Brown,  
Gloucesters.



S. C. Burrows,  
R.E.



2nd Lt. C. R. Bury,  
11th Gloucesters.



Lieut. E. P. Bury,  
South Wales Bor.



J. Butcher,  
11th Gloucesters.



W. Byo,  
2nd Gloucesters.



Lt. L. C. Cameron,  
Cameron Highlanders



Geo. Chappell,  
10th Gloucesters.



Lieut. E. F. Clowes,  
R.A.M.C.



G. Cole,  
8th Gloucesters.



Arthur J. Cook,  
Recruiting Officer



F. W. Cook,  
9th Gloucesters.



Gilbert Cornock,  
12th Gloucesters.



J. Cornock  
11th Gloucesters

*Servicemen who returned to Wotton*

First World War Heroes of Wotton-under-Edge

<p>26</p>  <p>Morris Cornock, Glo'sters.</p>	<p>27</p>  <p>Newton Cornock, Glo'sters.</p>	<p>28</p>  <p>Stanley Cornock, H.M.S. Impregnable</p>	<p>29</p>  <p>Wm. Cuff, 7th Glo'sters.</p>	<p>30</p>  <p>E. Cullimore, Glo'sters.</p>
<p>31</p>  <p>W. R. Davis, 5th Glo'sters.</p>	<p>32</p>  <p>Sergt. R. Dance, Grenadier Guards</p>	<p>33</p>  <p>F. Dando, 2nd Glo'sters.</p>	<p>34</p>  <p>Tom Dillimore, 5th Glo'sters.</p>	<p>35</p>  <p>Corpl. D. Dixon, 4th Glo'sters.</p>
<p>36</p>  <p>F. W. Dixon, H.M.S. Cumberland</p>	<p>37</p>  <p>H. Exall, 11th Glo'sters.</p>	<p>38</p>  <p>D. Fowles, Royal Marines</p>	<p>39</p>  <p>Saml. W. Fowles, H.M.S. Impregnable</p>	<p>40</p>  <p>Sub-Lieut. L. N. Fry, H.M.S. Constrict.</p>
<p>41</p>  <p>Pte. O. M. Frith, Glo'sters.</p>	<p>42</p>  <p>Sgt. F. C. Grimes, 9th Glo'sters.</p>	<p>43</p>  <p>Lt.-Col. H. G. Gullwell, 2nd Glo'sters.</p>	<p>44</p>  <p>Lieut. G. A. Heath, 3rd Glo'sters.</p>	<p>45</p>  <p>Jack Heath, H.M.S. Australia</p>
<p>46</p>  <p>Frank Heaven, 5th Glo'sters.</p>	<p>47</p>  <p>Wm. Heaven, 4th Glo'sters.</p>	<p>48</p>  <p>Spl. Wm. Heaven, 5th Glo'sters.</p>	<p>49</p>  <p>P. Hestie, 5th Glo'sters.</p>	<p>50</p>  <p>Ernest Holliston, 7th Glo'sters.</p>

*Servicemen who returned to Wotton*

# First World War Heroes of Wotton-under-Edge

 Wm. Hollister, 1st Glo'sters.	 W. C. Hopkins, H.M.S. Galatea.	 L.-Cpl. T. S. Jenkins 8th Glo'sters.	 S. King, Royal Glos. Hussars	 Wm. Knight, H.M.S. Challenger
 H. King, H.M.S. Vind	 L. W. Lewis, 8th Glo'sters.	 Dennis Mann, H.M.S. Encounter	 L.-Cpl. Mann, D.C.M	 E. N. Mann, Glo'sters.
 H. J. Marshall, R.E.	 L. Marshall, Royal Glos. Hussars	 H. Mills, 9th Glo'sters.	 James Morley, 9th Glo'sters.	 2nd Lt. J. R. Morton R.F.A.
 Capt. W. F. Morton A.V.C.	 P. A. Nicholls, Glo'sters.	 L.-Cpl. W. Nicholls 8th Glo'sters.	 Sgt. E. Oakhill Grenadier Guards	 Capt. G. Oldland, 5th Glo'sters.
 W. Organ, 2nd Glo'sters.	 Albert P. Paget, H.M.S. Marlborough	 Ernest Paget, 9th Glo'sters.	 A. Robinson, 8th Glo'sters.	 G. Rodman, 14th Glo'sters.

*Servicemen who returned to Wotton*

# First World War Heroes of Wotton-under-Edge

 John Rudge, H.M.S. Mynda	 Wm. Ridge, R.N.	 Sapper Shearman, R.E.	 T. L. Shearman, H.M.S. Pockles	 Fred Shipton, 3rd Glo'sters.
 F. Short, 15th Glo'sters.	 C. Smith, 3rd Glo'sters.	 F. Smart, R.E.	 W. J. Smith, 5th Glo'sters.	 W. Spencer, 1st Glo'sters.
 G. Stokes, R.E.	 Charles Tanner, 11th Glo'sters.	 F. Trenlett, 11th Glo'sters.	 F. Trotman, 5th Glo'sters.	 2nd Lt. C. H. Tufels, Somerset L.I.
 Edgar Viney, 5th Glo'sters.	 Arthur White, H.M.S. Ajax	 Victor White, H.M.S. Tiger	 J. R. Wood, 14th Glo'sters.	 W. W. Wyatt, 5th Glo'sters.
 F. J. Wyatt, 5th Glo'sters.	 R. Wyatt, 5th Dragoon Guards	 Wm. Young, 5th Glo'sters.	 Wm. Knight, Coldstream Guards	

*Servicemen who returned to Wotton*

N.B: Serviceman no.76, John Rudge in the Royal Navy, died during the War; he was mistakenly listed as a returned seaman.

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- |                                    |                                                                                      |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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| Western Front Association          | <a href="http://www.westernfrontassociation.com">www.westernfrontassociation.com</a> |
| Great War web pages                | <a href="http://www.hellfire-corner.co.uk">www.hellfire-corner.co.uk</a>             |
| Great War Forum - 1914-1918        | <a href="http://invisionzone.com">invisionzone.com</a>                               |
| Long, Long Trail                   | <a href="http://www.1914-1918.net">www.1914-1918.net</a>                             |
| Great War 1914-1918                | <a href="http://www.greatwar.co.uk">www.greatwar.co.uk</a>                           |



# XVII

## A NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

If this book has increased your interest in the First World War and you would like to further your knowledge of that conflict, can I recommend the 'Western Front Association'? The Association publishes three Journals a year - *Stand To* - and three Bulletins, an in-house publication. Nationwide there are about forty branches of the Association, the nearest branch to Wotton being in Kingswood, Bristol. This branch meets once a month, the meetings generally taking the form of talks by visiting military historians. Contact the Chairman Robert Lewis; e-mail address - robertwlewis@blueyonder.co.uk. There is also a branch in Cheltenham. See the WFA website for details.

This book, mainly about the Wottonians who fought and died in the war is not a complete study of Wotton during the war. There is surely a considerable amount of research to be done to achieve that aim, and probably a lot more stories to be told by the men who took part in that war. Do you have any soldiers' letters tucked away in a shoe box at home? If so, you might like to get in touch with me, or maybe if you have something of interest regarding the First World War which you would like to share with me, please get in touch. My address is 6 Finch Road, Chipping Sodbury, South Glos. BS37 6JF; my e-mail address is :- bkenvyn@yahoo.co.uk. Hopefully, there are no factual errors in this book, but if you do spot something which you believe to be a mistake, please let me know.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Bill Griffiths was born in London in 1938 of Welsh parents. He spent his childhood in Carmarthen where he attended Queen Elizabeth Grammar School. At the age of 18 Bill joined the Royal Air Force as a National Serviceman and spent two years as a statistician on various U.K. bases. After demobilization he trained as a teacher at Loughborough College, studying Physical Education and Geography.

After leaving college Bill spent nine years teaching in the London area, first in Wembley and then in Richmond. In 1967 Bill married Joyce, a nurse. Two years later, Bill and Joyce went on an Overseas Development three-year contract to Zambia. They spent an exciting and pleasant time, in a remote secondary boarding school in the north of the country, close to the border with the Congo (Zaire). Whilst there, their first daughter Alison was born.

Bill and Joyce returned to the U.K. in 1971, and in January 1972 Bill took up an appointment at Wotton-under-Edge County Secondary School. In 1973 a second daughter – Julie was born. Also in 1973 the Secondary School merged with Katharine Lady Berkeley's Grammar School, to become Wotton's comprehensive school. Bill became Head of Wellicome House in the new school, a post he was to hold for 20 years. In the meantime Joyce gave birth to a third daughter – Clare. It was whilst at Katharine Lady Berkeley's School that Bill became interested in the First World War, starting by researching Mr. W. Wellicome, a teacher at the Grammar School who went to war in 1914, losing his life two years later.

Owing to ill health, Bill retired in 1996 and in 1999 moved from Wotton to Chipping Sodbury. He spends his retirement researching various aspects of WW1, especially local war memorials, listening to music, swimming and enjoying the company of his four grandchildren – Alex, Jessica, Lucy and Eloise.



*At the Butte de Warlencourt, near Bapaume on the eastern edge of the Somme battlefield.*

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