

COMMEMORATING WW1 BOVINGTON HERTS

compiled by Dick West October 2014

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them."

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As have many, I have attended the annual Remembrance Day service at St Lawrence for a long time and heard the names of those on the WW1 memorial read out. I have often wondered who they were and how they came to their end in the service of the country. With the rise of the internet it has been made easier to provide a brief description of both their links with Bovington and how they met their end. To do this I have, shamelessly, used every resource I could consult and reproduced a distilled version here.

My principal references have been Ancestry.com (which provides access to some service records and the Census) and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission site. Other sources, including the Australian Forces Records, Regimental Diaries and School sites have been consulted and I thank them all for making the records so freely available.

In this booklet, each of the individuals on the memorial has his connection with Bovington explored and some indication of his service record is given.

There is an appendix which deals with the slight difference between the St Lawrence memorial and that in the Memorial Hall.

Another appendix deals with some individuals who died, but for some reason are not included in either memorial.

Further appendices are devoted to the War Graves and the special stories of T Hatfield Evans and of H W M Griffith.

Dick West
October 2014

Introduction

At the outbreak of WW1 the total strength of the British Army (including Territorials and Reserves) was 733,514. Enlistments between August 1914 and December 1915 totalled 2,466,719.

By the end of the war 7,712,722 men and women had enlisted.

The total number of men and women who enlisted and saw service in the British Armed Forces (including Royal Navy and Royal Flying Corp) between 1914 and 1918 was 9,296,691.

Prior to the outbreak of the war some 15,000 officers held commissions. During the period of hostilities another 235,000 individuals were granted temporary or permanent commissions in the British army.

The population of the U K at that time was approximately 46,100,000.

The number of UK people killed on active service was 1 million (approx) and a further 1.6 million injured.

From these numbers it would safe to conclude that many more residents of Bovingdon were directly engaged in the hostilities but survived. Some must have been wounded. All would have stories to relate.

Fred ALFORD

Born : 1889

Birthplace : West Willow, Hampshire

Father : Robert William Alford

Mother : Elizabeth (nee Jones) (died 1900)

Siblings : None

Occupation: Gardener

Connections with Bovingdon.

Fred lost his mother when he was 11. He was living in East Wellow in 1901 together with his Father. Both of them were gardeners. In 1902 his father married Alice Green in Romsey but in 1904 his father died leaving £500 to Alice.

By 1911 Fred had moved to Southampton and was described as head of the household and was still gardening for a living. Also living in the house was Alice Alford (his step-mother) who was described as a widow. In his service record he gives Lych Gate Cottages, Bovingdon as his place of residence and he enlisted at Watford.

How did he get there?

Fred ALFORD

Service Record

| | | | |
|---------------|--|------|---------|
| Enlisted : | Watford | | |
| Regiment | Bedfordshire Regiment 1 st /5 th Bn. | | |
| Battalion | 5th. Battalion | | |
| No | 203163 | Rank | Private |
| Date of Death | 5 Oct 1917 | | |
| Age | 38 | | |
| Theatre | Egypt | | |
| Memorial | <u>DEIR EL BELAH WAR CEMETERY GAZA</u> | | D.46 |

The diary for the regiment for the 4th October is given below and Fred is mentioned in the final sentence.

4 Oct 1917 Heavy enemy firing was encountered & **Lieut ECB Wodes house** [**Evelyn Charles Bradley WODEHOUSE**] was fatally wounded & 60 ORs were hit, more or less seriously. It is thought that some loss was inflicted on the enemy as they were prevented from coming to close quarters by our rifle & Lewis gun fire. The day passed without incident, a few shells being fired at our lines without doing any damage. 1800 3 patrols of 3 officers & 6 O.Rs in one case & 9 O.Rs & a Lewis gun in the other left our line at SUBKET POST. The first patrol's object was to advance into FISHER'S Wood & draw the TURKS to follow them back on to a line held by the second patrol. The Third was to lie up & try to ambush patrols of TURKS who might come along. The first patrol under the command of **2nd Lieut. Dennis** [**Ernest Edward DENNIS**] found the TURKS & succeeded in drawing them towards the 2nd patrol commanded by **2nd Lieut Gurney** [**Francis J. GURNEY**]. Here the TURKS discovered the trap & withdrew, followed by a heavy fire from our Lewis gun & rifles. The right, or 3rd patrol, commanded by **2 Lieut Mander** [**Arthur John MANDER**] did not encounter any enemy. The three patrols were all in by 0450. [Comment; **Private 203163 Fred Alford** died of his wounds on the 5th October].

William ALLEN

Born : 1875

Father : Henry Allen

Mother : Isabella Allen

Birthplace : Bovingdon

Siblings : Harry (1872), Emily (1877), Jane (1880),
Charles(1884), Mary(1886), Flora (1890)

Occupation : 1891 (Agricultural labourer living on
Collingham Farm) :1911 (Woodman in Chesham)

Connections with Bovingdon

The Allens in Bovingdon can be traced back to at least 1785.

In 1901 Isabella moved to Chipperfield where son Charles was a blacksmith.

Neither Henry or William are mentioned in the 1901 Census. Were they together somewhere? Jane had married Ernest Wood in 1900. They had a son of less than a year old. No mention of the husband. Was he with William and Henry ?

William ALLEN

Service Record

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Enlisted | Hertford |
| Regiment | Bedfordshire Regiment |
| Battalion | 1st |
| No | 3/7752 Rank Private |
| Date of Death | 5th May 1915 |
| Age | 39 |
| Theatre | France & Flanders |
| Memorial | YPRES(MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL Panel 31 & 33 |

Extract From Regimental Diary 5 May 1915

At a little after 8 a.m. enemy attacked with asphyxiating gas laid on from two points opposite our trenches. Battn stuck to its trenches, though a few men killed by gas, & all were badly affected. Troops on right, however, were driven out of trenches & enemy captured Hill 60 & trenches on our immediate right. Our left trenches were then attacked but drove back enemy: our right trenches were attacked all day with bombs, rifles & machine guns. Desperate fight all day enemy & selves in same trench, both sides using hand grenades fiercely. Enemy eventually worked round our right flank & enfiladed our right, but men gallantly maintained their position. A Battery of our own artillery spent the whole day firing into our own right trenches, causing many casualties but in spite of everything right trenches held out. **Lt Whittemore** [**Frederick John WHITEMORE, MC**] alone claims over 50 Germans to his own rifle, & he was seen by Artillery observing officer to shoot seven Germans in a couple of minutes. Our casualties in right trenches were heavy. **Lt Hopkins** [**Eric Arthur HOPKINS**] killed, **Capt Gledstones** [**Sheldon Arthur GLEDSTANES**; died of wounds 9th May] & **Lt Whittemore** [**Frederick John WHITEMORE, MC**] wounded. Attack made by 13th Inf.Bde to recapture Hill 60 & re establish line not successful .

Hugh Cyril Arthur BROOKING

Born : 1870

Father : Arthur Brooking

Mother : Marian Francis Georgina (nee Ryder)

Birthplace : Bovingdon

Siblings : Arthur (1845), Selina(1848), Granville (1850),
Reginald (1866), Blanche (1868), Muriel (1873),
Alice (1877)

Hugh Cyril Arthur Brooking was the eldest son of the Reverend Arthur Conolly Brooking Vicar of Bovingdon.

Hugh was christened at Bovingdon on the 23rd of October 1870. His mother was his fathers second wife his first wife (Fanny) having died. They lived in some style with a butler, a horse groom, a cook, a nurse and 3 other servants.

He was educated at Lancing College where he was in Fields House from January 1884 to July 1888.

His father died in 1890 leaving £7650.

He went to South Africa in 1890 and was Manager of the Filibussi Gold Mine.

He was married in 1912 at Williton in Somerset to Florence Eugenie (nee Day) Brooking of Belgrave House, Camden Road in Bath; they had two sons, Hugh Glyn Lawrence Arthur OL born on the 2nd of November 1914 and Granville Reginald Arthur OL born in 1912.

Probate was granted to his wife.

H C A Brooking of Manor-road Camp West Ham. Estate to Florence Eugenie Brooking - Widow. Effects £219 14s. 6d.

Hugh Cyril Arthur BROOKING

Service Record

Enlisted

Regiment Household Cavalry (and Cavalry of the Line)

Battalion North Somerset Yeomanry

Rank Captain

Date of Death 31 May 1918

Age 48

Memorial

Circumstances

He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the North Somerset Yeomanry on the 9th of October 1895 and was promoted to Lieutenant on the 8th of August 1903. On the 23rd of October 1900 he was seconded to the Colonial Office, returning to his regiment on the 12th of May 1906. He was promoted to Captain on the 5th of November 1904 and resigned his commission on the 17th of April 1907.

Following the outbreak of war he was reappointed to his old regiment with the rank of Temporary Captain on the 8th of August 1914 and embarked for France with his regiment on the 2nd of November 1914, landing there the following day. His regiment landed on the 13th of November where they joined the 6th Cavalry Brigade in the field at Ypres on the 15th.

He was confirmed in the rank of Captain on the 31st of July 1917 while seconded to another unit.

He died of blood poisoning at Purfleet Military Hospital in Essex.

Buried at St John the Baptist Churchyard at Frome in Somerset.

Alfred BURGIN

Born : 1885

Father : Moses

Mother : Annie Maria

Birthplace : Bovingdon

Siblings : Christy (1877)

Occupation: Farmer's son

Connections with Bovingdon

All of Alfreds early life was around Bovingdon. His Father (born in 1833) ran Marchants farm and Alfred worked with him. His sister Christy seemed to have a role of Scholar/ Teacher at the local school.

Moses died in Jan 1915.

Alfred BURGIN

Service Record

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Enlisted | Hemel Hempstead |
| Regiment | Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) |
| Batallion | 2nd Batallion |
| No | L/9579 Rank Private |
| Date of Death | 30 June 1916 |
| Age | 31 |
| Memorial | BAGHDAD (NORTH GATE) WAR CEMETERY Nisibin Mem. 225. |

Circumstances

2nd Battalion

August 1914 : in Multan (Mooltan), India. Moved to Mesopotamia, arriving Basra 6 February 1915 where it came under command of 12th Indian Brigade. Two Companies were attached to the 30th Brigade in the 6th (Poona) Division in November 1915 and became besieged at Kut-al-Amara, where they were captured on 29 April 1916. The remaining Companies were attached to 34th Brigade which was part of 15th Indian Division, transferring to 17th Indian Division in August 1917. Remained in Mesopotamia throughout the war.

The cost

Like Gallipoli, conditions in Mesopotamia defy description. Extremes of temperature (120 degrees F was common); arid desert and regular flooding; flies, mosquitoes and other vermin: all led to appalling levels of sickness and death through disease. Under these incredible conditions, units fell short of officers and men, and all too often the reinforcements were half-trained and ill-equipped. Medical arrangements were quite shocking, with wounded men spending up to two weeks on boats before reaching any kind of hospital. These factors, plus of course the unexpectedly determined Turkish resistance, contributed to high casualty rates.

- 11012 killed
- 3985 died of wounds
- 12678 died of sickness
- 13492 missing and prisoners (9000 at Kut)
- 51836 wounded

Arthur John CLARK

Born : 1890

Father :

Mother : Mrs William Kempster

Birthplace : Wandsworth

Siblings : see below

Occupation : Cowman

Connections with Bovingdon

Arthur was born in Wandsworth to Catherine Annie Clark (possibly a natural son) but moved immediately to Bovingdon to stay with his Grandparents (John & Emma Clark) in Church Lane. There is no sign of his mother He seems to have stayed there and in 1901 and 1911 he was still with the family although his Grandfather had died and they had moved into the High St.

He gives his residence for military purposes as Upper Holloway and so he seems to have moved out of the area between 1911 and his enlistment.

His mother survived him and lived in Hemel Hempstead. She had married in 1900 with a new family.

Arthur John Clark

Service Record

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Enlisted | Cockspur St, London |
| Regiment | Royal Field Artillery "D" Bty. 11th Bde. |
| No | 45644 Rank Gunner |
| Date of Death | 2 Aug 1918 |
| Age | 28 |
| Memorial | LIJSSENTHOEK MILITARY CEMETERY |
| Grave | XXV. AA. 21A. |

Circumstances

The movements of the various battalions of the Royal Field Artillery were rather haphazardly recorded and it is not clear (yet) when or where Arthur received his fatal injuries. The cemetery, in which he lies, is near Ypres and many men were sent there from differing battlefields.

Ernest COKER

Born : 1898

Father : George

Mother : Elizabeth (nee Ray)

Birthplace : Bovingdon

Siblings : Frank (1895) Ethel (1900) Harry (1903)

Occupation:

Residence : Longcroft Cottages

Connections with Bovingdon

The Cokers have a long connection with Bovingdon. His father died in 1911 (aged 44). He described himself as a horseman on a farm. His mother came from West Wycombe. Ernest spent some time in the West Herts Infirmary in Hemel Hempstead in 1901.

Ernest COKER

Service Record

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Enlisted | Watford |
| Regiment | Bedfordshire Regiment |
| Battalion | 6th |
| No | 14093 Rank Private |
| Date of Death | 15 Jul 1916 |
| Age | 18 |
| Memorial | Pozierers British Cemetry, Ovillers-La Boisselle |
| Grave | III.H.1 |

Notes from the diary of the Bedfordshire Regiment for 15th July 1916

15 Jul 1916 [***The Battle of the Somme - the Battle of Bazentin***] ***Attack on POZIERES*** by 112th Bde. from trenches S. of CONTALMAISON, Bde. held up by hostile machine guns, established itself about 100 yds from the CIMITIERE & dug in. Casualties (**3 Offs Killed**, 32 O.R. Killed) (25 missing) (9 Offrs. Wounded, 174 O.R. Wounded).

Reubin DEAN

Born : 1882

Father : Arthur Dean (died in July 1914)

Mother : Mary Dean (nee Geary)

Birthplace : Flaunden

Siblings : Thomas (1874), Sarah (1875), Joseph (1878),
Mary(1880), Annie (1885), Caroline (1887),
Arthur (1891), William (1893), Lily (1895),
Georgina (1897) + 2 others who died in infancy

Occupation: Agricultural Labourer

Connections with Bovingdon

Reubin was part of a large family who migrated from Flaunden to Bovingdon via Chesham . His father was a Hay-binder and for a while Reubin was also employed on the land. He enlisted in the regular army and was stationed in The Maida Barracks, Aldershot in 1911 near to his brother William.

Reubin married Dolly Grace Smith in early 1912. Subsequently (1919) Dolly became Dolly Grace Philbey of Bank Cottages, Bovingdon, Boxmoor, Herts.

Reubin DEAN

Service Record

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| Enlisted | Hemel Hempstead |
| Regiment | Bedfordshire Regiment |
| Battalion | 1st Battalion |
| No 7787 | Rank Private |
| Date of Death | 7th Nov 1914 |
| Age | 29 |
| Memorial | Le Touret Memorial |
| Ref : | Panel 10 and 11 |

Circumstances

Reubin was part of the expeditionary force sent to France at the onset of WW1.

The Bedfordshire Regiment diary for the day of Reubin's death is given below. Reubin was probably one of the 140 other ranks. This was during the first Battle of Ypres.

7 Nov 1914

Enemy broke through line held by Regt about 200 yards to our left, carrying next Regt & some of our men with them. Our supports were moved to left by self, [Capt. Monteith](#) [**John Cassells MONTEITH**] & Adjutant, & assisted in driving enemy back. **Qr. Mr.Sergt. Byford [4893 Thomas William BYFORD, DCM]** (awarded Distinguished C. Medal) collected about 40 men & captured trench held by 21 Germans, killing or capturing all. **Pte. Falla [8095 William FALLA, DCM]** (awarded Distinguished C. Medal) ran on in advance, & getting on left of trench enveloped enemy whilst remainder were rushing the trench. Our casualties about 7 officers & 140 other ranks killed wounded 7 missing.

William DEAN

Born : 1893

Father : Arthur Dean (died in July 1914)

Mother : Mary Dean (nee Geary)

Birthplace : Chesham

Siblings : Thomas (1874), Sarah (1875), Joseph (1878),
Reubin (1882), Mary (1880), Annie (1885),
Caroline (1887), Arthur (1891), Lily (1895),
Georgina (1897) + 2 others who died in infancy.

Occupation:

Connections with Bovingdon

William was part of a large family who migrated from Flaunden to Bovingdon via Chesham. His father was a Hay-binder. William enlisted in the regular army and was stationed in The McGregor Barracks, Aldershot in 1911 near to his brother Reubin.

William DEAN

Service Record

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Enlisted | Willesden |
| Regiment | Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) |
| No L/9393 | Rank Private |
| Date of Death | 3rd Sep 1916 |
| Age | 23 |
| Memorial | Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery |
| Grave | XXI.L.2. |

Circumstances

In 1914, Baghdad was the headquarters of the Turkish Army in Mesopotamia. It was the ultimate objective of the Indian Expeditionary Force 'D' and the goal of the force besieged and captured at Kut in 1916. The city finally fell in March 1917, but the position was not fully consolidated until the end of April. Nevertheless, it had by that time become the Expeditionary Force's advanced base, with two stationary hospitals and three casualty clearing stations.

Francis DODGSON

Born : 1889

Father : Henley Frederick Dodgson

Mother : Helen Dodgson (nee German)

Birthplace : Camden

Siblings : Arthur Douglas (1885), Philip Henry (1892),
Guy (1896)

Connections with Bovingdon

Henley F Dodgson died at Green Lodge Bovingdon in 1913 having moved there from Hampstead during the early 1900's. He was a stockbroker and kept a large household .

Francis was educated at Marlborough.. He went on to Cambridge where he may well have attended courses which were especially designed for training army officers.

He must have spent some time in and around Bovingdon because he became engaged to Marjorie Secretan of Bennetts End.

Francis was killed a few weeks before they were due to be married on his next leave.

A brass plate memorial is in St Lawrence Church alongside one in memory of his brother Guy.

Francis DODGSON

Service Record

Enlisted September 1914

Regiment Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own (Yorkshire Regiment)

Batallion 8th Rank Captain (T)

Date of Death 10th July 1916 Age 27

Buried in Serre Road Cemetery No.2 Grave XXVIII K 8

Circumstances

On the 10th July 1916 the 8th Bn Yorkshire Regiment (Green Howards) was tasked along with the 9th Green Howards (Both in 69th Brigade, 23rd Division) to capture Contalmaison.

They were assembled in the recently captured Horseshoe Trench about 1,500 metres short of Contalmaison.

Two companies from the 11th Bn West Yorkshire Regiment were sent forward on the left to Bailiff Wood to attack the village from the western flank — a tactic that proved successful.

At 1600 hours a thirty minute bombardment of the German positions was begun and the infantry then moved off towards the village.

Under machine gun and artillery fire the Yorkshiremen swept into the outer trench system and pushed the Germans back into the village.

The 8th Green Howards had taken very heavy casualties and were reduced to 5 officers and 150 men.

They captured 8 officers and 188 men of the 22nd Reserve Infantry Regiment.

Amongst the officers of the 8th Green Howards who fell was Francis.

A private memorial was raised by friends and was originally placed about 50 metres further out into the field (away from the village). It still stands there.

He was originally posted as being amongst the missing and then declared as having been killed. His body was eventually recovered and buried, only to have the burial place lost during the 1918 battles in the area. His body was then re-discovered after the war.

His grave marker is in the cloister of Salisbury Cathedral, alongside that of his brother Guy. He is also on Thiepval, high up on the Yorkshires panel, but not in the register.

He is also commemorated in the Memorial Hall in Marlborough College, and is listed in the Stock Exchange memorial volume.

Guy DODGSON

Born : 1896

Father : Henley Frederick Dodgson

Mother : Helen Dodgson (nee German)

Birthplace : Camden

Siblings : Arthur Douglas (1885), Francis(1889),
Philip Henry (1892)

Occupation:

Connections with Bovington

Henley F Dodgson died at Green Lodge Bovington in 1913 having moved there from Hampstead during the early 1900's. He was a stockbroker and kept a large household.

Guy was educated at Winchester and may have enlisted straight from school.

A brass plate memorial is in St Lawrence Church alongside one in memory of his brother Guy.



THIS CROSS MARKED THE PLACE WHERE
CAPT. FRANCIS DODGSON WAS KILLED AND
BURIED AT CONTALMAISON BATTLE OF THE
SOMME JULY 10TH 1916 ELDEST SON OF THE
LATE HENLEY F DODGSON AND
M^{RS} HAMILTON FULTON

THIS CROSS MARKED THE GRAVE IN THE
MILITARY CEMETERY CAUDRY FRANCE OF
CAPT. GUY DODGSON HERTS REGT WHO DIED
OF WOUNDS IN CASUALTY STATION NOV 14TH 1918
YOUNGEST SON OF THE LATE HENLEY F DODGSON
AND M^{RS} HAMILTON FULTON

Memorial crosses for Francis and
Guy Dodgson in the cloisters of
Salisbury Cathedral.

Guy DODGSON

Service Record

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Enlisted | Not known as Hertfordshire Regiment was a territorial Regiment |
| Regiment | 1st Hertfordshire |
| Rank | Captain |
| Date of Death | 14 Nov 1918 |
| Age | 23 |
| Memorial | Caudry British Cemetary I.D. 42 |
| Circumstances | |

In early 1918 the battalion was transferred to 116th Brigade in the same division, which was then in reserve near Amiens. Following the start of the German Spring Offensive with Operation Michael on the 21 March, the brigade was rushed into the line to support the 16th (Irish) Division. Thereafter followed a series of rearguard actions as Fifth Army retreated and during one of these the commanding officer was captured. The 39th Division was so depleted that it was reduced to a composite brigade, the Hertfordshires being amalgamated with 11th Royal Sussex Regiment to form a single battalion. In this guise they were involved in repelling the German offensive during the Battle of Lys. Having joined the 112th Brigade of the 37th Division in May the 1/1st Hertfordshire Regiment was reconstituted by absorbing thirty officers and 650 men from 6th Bedfordshire Regiment and placed under Lieutenant Colonel Carthew MC. On 23 August it took part in the assault on Achiet-le-Grand and on 5 September Lieutenant Colonel Hes- elton DSO, MC took command. Thirteen days later the battalion was employed in the fighting for the Hindenburg Line. On 8 October it was involved in the Second Battle of Cambrai, and took part in the subsequent pursuit of German forces to the River Selle. On 4 November 1918, in its final action of the war, the 1/1st Hertfordshire Regiment took part in forcing the enemy's positions to advance into the Forêt de Mormal. It was in this action that Guy received the wounds from which he subsequently died.

Guy lies in the Caudry British cemetery, 13 kilometres east of Cambrai.

Edwin Elbourn

Born : 1893

Father : William Elbourn

Mother : Alice (nee Merriden)

Birthplace : Ley Hill

Siblings : William (1890), Ethel Mary (1899),
Albert George (1910)

Occupation: Shepherd

Connections with Bovingdon

Edwin's father was also a shepherd in 1911 but is later described as a game keeper. His brother William was a boot rivetter.

How Edwin got to Perth in Australia and when is not known.

As an interesting aside, his service record shows that he weighed 133 lbs, was 5 ft 4 3/4 ins tall, had 35 ins chest measurement, Brunette complexion, brown hair and grey eyes.

His service record include letters he wrote describing the harsh conditions but without complaint.

His father was refused a pension as he was thought to have adequate means of support.

Edwin Elbourn

Service Record

| | | |
|---------------|---|--------------|
| Enlisted | 6th May 1915 | |
| Regiment | 11th Battalion, Australian Infantry AIF | |
| No | 2596 | Rank Private |
| Date of Death | 6th April 1917 | |
| Age | 24 | |
| Memorial | Morchies Australian Cemetary | |
| Grave | B 3 | |

Circumstances

The **11th Battalion** was an Australian Army battalion that was among the first infantry units raised during World War I for the First Australian Imperial Force. It was the first battalion recruited in Western Australia, and following a brief training period in Perth, the battalion sailed to Egypt where it undertook four months of intensive training. Edwin was part of many deployed as re-inforcements. In April 1915 it took part in the invasion of the Gallipoli Peninsula, landing at Anzac Cove. In August 1915 the battalion was in action in the Battle of Lone Pine. Following the withdrawal from Gallipoli, the battalion returned to Egypt where it was split to help form the 51st Battalion. In March 1916, the battalion was deployed to the Western Front in France and Belgium .

In early 1917, the Germans fell back towards the Hindenburg Line in an effort to shorten their lines and move into prepared positions. As the Allies pursued the withdrawing Germans, in late February the 11th Battalion captured Le Barque, conducting mopping-up operations before advancing to Thillooy where they fought a minor engagement before being relieved by the 3rd Battalion, having lost 12 killed and 30 wounded during the fighting and a further 10 men killed and 13 wounded by artillery. Sickness also took a heavy toll during this time due to the bad weather. In March, Lieutenant Colonel Rupert Raftery took over as commanding officer and the following month, as the Allied line was pushed further forward towards the Hindenburg Line, the 11th Battalion played a supporting role during the 3rd Brigade's attack around Boursies, before occupying the front around the village of Louverval.

His service record shows that he was wounded or ill on several occasions but was patched up and returned to duty.

Thomas Hatfield EVANS

Born : 1881

Father : Thomas

Mother : Alice

Birthplace : Huyton

Siblings : None

Occupation:Soldier

Connections with Bovingdon

Thomas was educated at Sedburgh and joined the army at the age of 18.

There is very little direct connection with Bovingdon although he referred to Bovingdon as his permanent address because his mother lived in Honour Mead.

He was not a poor man. Probate of his will was granted to his mother in 1918 and the total value was put at £14,565 7s. 9d

Thomas Hatfield EVANS

Service Record

| | | |
|---------------|--|----------------|
| Enlisted | 1889 | |
| Regiment | 3rd Battalion Australian Imperial Forces | |
| Rank | Lieutenant | |
| Date of Death | 26th April 1915 | |
| Age | 33 | |
| Memorial | SHRAPNEL VALLEY | Sp. Mem. A. 9. |

Circumstances

His remarkable story is best summed up in De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour which is reproduced in Appendix 3.

The detail of his service with the A I F can be found on the Australian Records web site. In it there are moving letters especially from his mother.

There is a marble plaque in Bovingdon Church in his memory.

Edgar Wormald FLINN

Born : 1894

Father : Joseph

Mother : Elizabeth Maria (nee Craner)

Birthplace : Bishop's Stortford

Siblings : Gerald Grafton (1892)

Occupation: Merchants Clerk

Connections with Bovingdon

His parents married in 1891 when Joseph was 63 and Elizabeth 28. Joseph died in 1895 leaving none of his £10,000 estate to his family.

Edgar was brought up in a well to do household, However (at the age of 4) he found himself living in Herne Bay with his step-father Frank Johnson (a man of independent means) with his mother having become Mrs Johnson. He became a boarder in Peckham and was employed as a Merchants Clerk.

The only connection I have established with Bovingdon is Florence Kate Foscett (1877) who was the daughter of Henry and Emily who lived at Shantock Farm. She was employed as a live in nurse by Frank Johnson and would have had some relationship with the boys. She married in 1903 and went to live in Canada where she died in 1961.

The placing of the name on the memorial may have been instigated by the Foscett family.

Edgar Wormald FLINN

Service Record

Enlisted

Regiment 34th Brigade RHA And RFA

Rank Second Lieutenant

Date of Death 13th November 1916

Age 22

Memorial Thiepval Memorial Pier and Face 1A and 8A

Circumstances

Need to go to Kew to see if I can find anything.
I Suspect that his body was not recovered for
burial.

Thomas Shirley GOOCH

Born : 1864

Father : Thomas

Mother : Emma (nee Etheridge)

Birthplace : St James, Westminster

Siblings : Evelyn (1868), Lionel (1873)

Occupation : Naval Officer

Connections with Bovingdon

Although born in London, Thomas grew up in Bovingdon. He lived in Bovingdon Green House with 6 family members and 10 staff including a Governess.

His father described himself as a Wharfinger and Warehouse Keeper.

By 1881 (at the age of 16) he was a midshipman in the Royal Navy although the family home remained in Bovingdon.

Thomas Shirley GOOCH

Service Record

| | |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| Enlisted | 1887 |
| Service | Royal Navy |
| Rank | Commander |
| Date of Death | 11th December 1918 |
| Age | 54 |
| Memorial | Brookwood Cemetary, Surrey |

Circumstances

Whether he should be on the memorial at all is doubtful although the service he gave is undoubted. This is his death notice from The Times.

Deeply Mourned. GOOCH—on the 11th December, at Newcastle-on-Tyne, the result of an accident at Elswick Works, Commander Thomas Shirley Gooch, R.N. 16 Regency-mansions, Hastings, on the staff of the Inspectorate of Steel, Newcastle Area, son of the late Mr Thomas Gooch J.P. Shantock Hall, Bovingdon and Brighton, aged 55. This the account of his death given in The Times. Commander Thomas Shirley Gooch, R.N., of 16, Regency-mansions, Hastings, who was killed on December 11, 1918, as the result of an accident, while on duty at the Elswick Works, Newcastle, was in his 55th year. He was the elder son of the late Thomas Gooch J.P., and nephew of the late captain Arthur Gooch, 17th Lancers, Windsor. He joined H.M.S. Britannia in 1877, became midshipman in 1880, sub-Lieutenant in 1884, lieutenant in 1887. In 1901 he was placed on the emergency list of officers, and in 1914 was appointed to the staff of the inspectorate of steel, Sheffield and Newcastle as lieutenant commander, and was promoted to commander in April 1915. He served in H.M.S. Monarch and Thunderer, Mediterranean Squadron, H.M.S. Volage, with the Training Squadron to the West Indies, and in H.M.S. Archer, West Coast of Africa and the China Station etc. He was present at the bombardment of Alexandria receiving the Egyptian medal and the Khedive's Star. Commander Gooch married in 1899, at St Jame's, Piccadilly, Amy St. John, third daughter of the late General Alfred Thomas Etheridge, R.E., Brighton, and leaves one son, Niel Shirley, born in 1903 and now a cadet at the Royal Naval School, Dartmouth, The Chief Inspector of Steel, Newcastle writes:- " We all appreciated the Zealous work of your husband during these last four years - work which many younger men would have hesitated to undertake." Sir. W.G. Armstrong Whitworth and Co. (Limited) have written to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, recording their appreciation of Commander Gooch's services, and their regret at his death while in execution of his duties at the works.

Harold Walter GRIFFITH

Born : 1878

Father : Walter

Mother : Helen (Ellen ? nee George)

Birthplace : Bovingdon

Siblings : None

Occupation: Army Officer

Connections with Bovingdon

Harold was born and christened in Bovingdon in 1878. His father died in Bovingdon in 1879 and by 1881 Harold was in London living with his mother who was described as an officer's widow. They had only been married for three years.

Harold Walter GRIFFITH

Service Record

Enlisted

Regiment Loyal North Lancashire Regiment

Rank Major

Date of Death 28th May 1915

Age 37

Memorial Freetown Memorial

Circumstances

His extraordinary story is given in Appendix 4.

George Frank GURNEY

Born :1896

Father : Thomas

Mother : Susan (nee Brackley)

Birthplace : Buckland

Siblings : Thomas (1894), Frank(1898), Herbert (1900), Joseph (1900), Ralph (1902),Meryle (1904), Alfred (1906) Henry (1908), Eleanor (1910)

Occupation:

Connections with Bovingdon

In 1901, the Gurney family were living in Buckland near Tring. Thomas the father was a stockman. By 1911, the family had moved to Lane Farm Cottages and the family had grown from 3 siblings to 9 and the father was now working as a roadman for the council. There is no record of George's employment when he left school.

George Frank GURNEY

Service Record

Enlisted

Regiment 6th Bedfordshire

No 31982 Rank Private

Date of Death 29th April 1917

Age 20

Memorial Sunken Road Cemetery, Fampoux I.E 22

Circumstances

The 6th Battalion was a 'Service' battalion raised specifically for the duration of the war in August 1914, as part of Lord Kitchener's K1 Army Group. The battalion served on the Western Front from August 1915 until its personnel transferred into the 1st/1st Hertfordshires in May 1918. An officer and NCO cadre trained recently arrived American units until the battalion was finally disbanded completely in August 1918.

In 1917 they were engaged at The Battle of Arras in April, specifically at the First Battle of the Scarpe, the Second Battle of the Scarpe and the Battle of Arleux (when they came out of their assault against Greenland Hill on 29th April 1917 with just 58 men). Very little is recorded because so few returned alive. However it appears that 6th Battalion who were part of the 112th Brigade and 37th Division were caught in withering cross fire as they tried to advance.

A monument to the division stands at Monchy.

William JOINER

Born : 1888

Father : Edwin

Mother : Harriet (nee ??????)

Birthplace : Bovingdon

Siblings : Frank (1888), Kate (1890), Annie (1892),
Maggie (1895), Henry (1900), Fred (1903),
Violet (1906), May (1910)

Occupation:

Connections with Bovingdon

In 1901 the family were living next to the Royal Oak on Bovingdon Green The father worked as a stockman.

By 1911 the family had moved to the High St. In Bovingdon and the father was working as a labourer.

At the time of William's death the parents may have been running the Royal Oak.

William JOINER

Service Record

Enlisted Hemel Hempstead into the Hertfordshire Regiment

Regiment 8th Battalion Gloucester Regiment

No 38567 Rank Private

Date of Death 18th November 1916

Age 19

Memorial THIEPVAL MEMORIAL Pier and Face 5A and 5B
Circumstances

The Battalion were part of the 57th Brigade which was part of the 19th (Western Division).'

In 1916 the regiment was in action during the Battle of the Somme, capturing La Boisselle and being involved in the attacks on High Wood, The Battles of Pozieres Ridge, the Ancre Heights and the Ancre.

The Battle of the Ancre was the last major British operation of the year. The Fifth (formerly Reserve) Army attacked into the Ancre valley to exploit German exhaustion after the Battle of the Ancre Heights and gain ground ready for a resumption of the offensive in 1917. The first snow fell on the night of 17/18 November and the final attack at 6:10 a.m. began in sleet, which later turned to rain; visibility being nil. The 19th Division attacked with two brigades. On the right the 57th Brigade advance reached German positions west of Stump road on the boundary of the 18th Division and pressed on before being cut off and taken prisoner; 70 British troops managing to escape much later on .

It was during this operation that William was killed.

Arthur MARRIOTT

Born : 1893

Father : John

Mother : Emma (nee Chapman)

Birthplace : Bovingdon

Siblings : Charles (1887), Fred (1888), Nellie (1894)

Occupation: Agricultural Labourer

Connections with Bovingdon

Arthurs' father John was born in Bovingdon and described himself as a ploughman. Emma came from Chesham. After they were married they lived at Puds Cross in the Three Horseshoes.

Arthurs' eldest brothers were agricultural labourers and the family moved to Water Lane Farm.

By 1911 Arthur was the only sibling still living with his parents and he was also an agricultural labourer.

Arthur MARRIOTT

Service Record

| | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Enlisted | Watford into Bedfordshire Regiment | |
| Regiment | 1st/6th Battalion Cheshire Regiment | |
| No | 31735 | Rank Private |
| Date of Death | 21st September 1918 | |
| Age | 25 | |
| Memorial | Tyne Cot Memorial Panel 61 to 63 | |

Circumstances

From July 1918 the 21st brigade comprised the following battalions:

7th (South Irish Horse Battalion, **The Royal Irish Regiment**

1/6th Battalion, **The Cheshire Regiment**

2/23rd (County of London) Battalion, The London Regiment

This was part of the 30th Division which took part in the capture of Neuve Eglise and the capture of Wulverghem which are phases of the Advance into Flanders. In the Final Advance into Flanders the Division took part in the Battle of Ypres and the Battle of Courtrai. Where Arthur died is not recorded.

The stone wall surrounding the cemetery makes-up the **Tyne Cot Memorial to the Missing**. Upon completion of the Menin Gate memorial to the missing in Ypres, builders discovered it was not large enough to contain all the names as originally planned. They selected an arbitrary cut-off date of 15 August 1917 and the names of the UK missing after this date were inscribed on the Tyne Cot memorial instead.

George MARRIOTT

Born : 1893

Father : James

Mother : Louisa (nee Coker)

Birthplace : Bovingdon

Siblings : Annie (1890), Louisa (1891), Edith (1895),
Frank (1897), William (1900), Elizabeth (1902),
Ernest (1894)

Occupation: Gardener, Mill Worker

Connections with Bovingdon

Both parents were born in Bovingdon. James was baptised when he was 14, Louisa may have had a joint wedding with her sister Maria.

In 1911 George worked as a gardener as did his father. although the father had described himself as a horseman in 1901.

George seems to have been employed at Apsley Paper Mill before enlisting.

The family lived in Green Lane.

George MARRIOTT

Service Record

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Enlisted | Bedfordshire Regiment |
| Regiment | 7th Northants Regiment |
| No | 43171 Rank Private |
| Date of Death | 31 July 1917 |
| Age | 24 |
| Memorial | Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial panels 43 and 45 |

Circumstances

7th (Service) Battalion

Formed at Northampton in September 1914 as part of K3 and came under command of 73rd Brigade in 24th Division. Moved to the South Downs and into billets in Southwick between November 1914 and April 1915. Moved on to Woking in June 1915.

After training in England, the Battalion was ordered to be sent to France on the 28th August 1915, to be part of the 73rd Brigade, 24th Division, where it remained to the end of the war.

During 1917 the battalion took part in The Battle of Vimy Ridge, The Battle of Messines, The Battle of Pilkem Ridge, The Battle of Langemarck, The Cambrai Operations.

George was killed on the opening day of the battle of Pilkern Ridge

The British Official History recorded Fifth Army casualties for 31 July – 3 August as 27,001, of whom 3,697 were killed. Second Army casualties 31 July – 2 August were 4,819 with, 769 killed. The 19th Division lost 870 casualties. German Fourth Army casualties for 21–31 July were approximately 30,000, excluding wounded whose recovery was to be expected in a reasonable time, for which J. E. Edmonds the British Official Historian, added another 10,000, a practice which has been questioned ever since. According to Albrecht von Thayer, a staff officer at Group Wytschaete, units may have survived physically but no longer had the mental ability to continue.

William MARRIOTT

Born : 1900

Father : James

Mother : Louisa (nee Coker)

Birthplace : Bovingdon

Siblings :

Occupation:

Connections with Bovingdon

See the page on his brother George.

William MARRIOTT

Service Record

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Enlisted | Hertford |
| Regiment | 7th Battalion Royal East Kent Regiment (The Buffs) |
| No | G/35629 Rank Private |
| Date of Death | 23rd October 1918 |
| Age | 18 |
| Memorial | Vis-en-Artois Memorial Panel 3 |

Circumstances

7th (Service) Battalion

Formed at Canterbury in September 1914 as part of K2.
September 1914 : under command of 55th Brigade, 18th (Eastern) Division.

During 1918 the battalion was involved in The Battle of Ba-paume, The First Battle of Arras 1918, The Battle of Amiens, The Battle of Albert, The Battle of Epehy, The Final Advance in Artois.

It was in this final advance (which lasted between 2nd Oct and 11th Nov) on Artois that William was killed.

Edward MINTER

Born : 1891

Father : Edward

Mother : Joanna (nee Seebrook)

Birthplace : Anerley, Surrey

Siblings : Edith (1889), Mabel (1893), Kate (1897),
Albert (1900), Alice (1900), Florence (1905),
George (1907)

Occupation: Builder's Carter

Connections with Bovingdon

Edwards's father had been born in Dalston but his mother was from Bovingdon. His father was a house painter. In 1911, Edward was living with his parents in Church Street.

In 1913 he married Emily Florence Lee and they set up home in 5 Adeyfield Cottages. They may have been living with Emily's parents. Her father was a brick-maker which may explain how a Builders Carter met a Brick-layers daughter. They may have had 2 children, Stanley born in 1914 and Herbert born in 1917.

At the time of his death his parents were living in Cowper Road, Boxmoor.

Edward MINTER

Service Record

Enlisted

Regiment 11th Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment)

No 50400 Rank Private

Date of Death 17th February 1917

Age 26

Memorial Thiepval Memorial Pier and Face 8C, 9A, and 16A

Circumstances

11th (Service) Battalion

Formed at Hounslow on 6 September 1914 as part of K2 and came under command of 54th Brigade, 18th (Eastern) Division.

Landed at Boulogne in July 1915.

On the night of February 15th/16th 1917 the Brigade took over the battle front for the operations of the 17th. These were part of a big attack on both banks of the Ancre, to seize the high ground giving observation over the upper Ancre Valley. Edward was on the south of the Ancre, below Miraumont, and had to attack from in front of Desire Trench due north towards South Miraumont Trench, first across Grand-court Trench, and then across the deep sunken road known as Boom Ravine, which, so far as this Brigade is concerned, gives its name the action.

Casualties were heavy, the Brigade losing in all 14 officers killed, 25 wounded, and 2 missing. Of other ranks, 115 were killed, 423 wounded, and 161 missing.

As an aside, the **Royal Fusiliers Monument** is a war memorial in London at Holborn Bar. It was erected in 1922 and dedicated to the nearly 22,000 soldiers of The Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) who died during the First World War. The Fusiliers museum is in the Tower of London.

Charles PHILBY

Born : 1883

Father : Edwin

Mother : Charlotte (nee Halsey)

Birthplace : Chesham

Siblings : David (1889), Ann (1901), Jane (1903)

Occupation : Agricultural Labourer/ Professional Soldier

Connections with Bovingdon

Philbey is incorrectly spelt on the memorial.

Edwin was a tailor from Hawridge and his mother came from Dagnell.

In 1901 Charles was living in Bovingdon as a boarder with the Robinson family in the High St. Next to "The Wheatsheaf". He was employed as an agricultural worker.

Some time after this Charles must have enlisted into the regular army because he joined the 1st Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment. He may have been out of the country when the 1911 census took place.

Charles PHILBY

Service Record

| | | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|------|---------|
| Enlisted | Hemel Hempstead | | |
| Regiment | 1st Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment | | |
| No | 7788 | Rank | Private |
| Date of Death | 7th November 1914 | | |
| Age | 31 | | |
| Memorial | LE TOURET MEMORIAL Panel 10 and 11 | | |

Circumstances

The 1st Battalion was a 'Regular Army' battalion, who were based at Mullingar in Ireland, at the outbreak of war. On mobilisation they left Ireland as part of 15th Infantry Brigade in the 5th Division and went down in history as one of the battalions of 'Old Contemptibles' who fought against the German Kaiser's larger armies in the early engagements of the war. - the title proudly adopted by the men of the original British Expeditionary Force (B.E.F.) who saw active service before 22nd November 1914.

Charles died in the First Battle of Ypres which was fought in October and November of 1914. Ypres was the last major obstacle to the German advance on Boulogne-sur-Mer and Calais.

There does not seem to have been a particular assault on the day that Charles died. However, it is not surprising that there is little detail.. British casualties from 14 October – 30 November were 58,155, French losses were 86,237 men and of the total German casualties in Belgium and northern France from 15 October – 24 November of 134,315 men.

Richard PHILBY

Born : 1887

Father : Edwin (1854)

Mother : Charlotte (nee Halsey) Died 1896

Birthplace : Hawridge

Siblings : Albert Thomas (1876), Rose (1878), Margaret Beatrice (1880), Charles (1883), David (1890), Ann (1891), Jane (1893)

Occupation: Thresher

Connections with Bovingdon

Edwin was a men's tailor and the family home was in Chesham.

Charlotte died in 1896 and Edwin then married Elizabeth Mead (1846) in 1900. She was widowed in 1898 and came with her own son David and 9 much older children

Richard's full name was Henry Richard Philbey and he was a brother of Charles.

In 1901 he was living in Bovingdon High St as a lodger (aged 14) with the Hobbs family as a thresher. His brother was lodging across the road. The large number of children from both marriages put pressure on living space at the family home.

Henry Richard married Lilian Butler in 1914 and they had a child Frederick C in 1915 and they may have moved to Bunstux Hill, Tring.

Richard PHILBY

Service Record

| | | |
|---------------|---|----------------|
| Enlisted | Berkhamsted | |
| Regiment | 2nd Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment | |
| No | 8785 | Lance Corporal |
| Date of Death | 26th July 1917 | |
| Age | 30 | |
| Memorial | DICKENBUSCH NEW MILITARY CEMETERY EXTENSION 111. F. 10 | |

Circumstances

The 2nd Battalion were regular soldiers. On 20th December 1915 the battalion became part of the 89th Brigade of the 30th Division of the British Army.

In 1917 they were involved in the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line in March, the Battle of Arras (specifically in the First Battle of the Scarpe) in April .

During the Battles of Ypres 1917 (known as the Third Battle of Ypres or Passchendaele), the battalion were engaged in the Battle of Pilkem in July and August. The Regiments diary for the period is given below.

25 Jul 1917 Battalion in the line at ZILLEBEKE and Reserve at CHATEAU SEGARD. casualties 2 O.R. wounded.

26 Jul 1917 Battalion in the Line at ZILLEBEKE and Reserve at CHATEAU SEGARD. **Major R.O.Wynne, D.S.O. [Richard Own WYNNE, DSO]** proceeded to 30th Division as Liaison Officer. **Lt.Colonel C.H.de.St.P. Bunbury [Charles Hamilton De St. Pierre BUNBURY]** proceeded to Trenches to Command Battalion. At 5 p.m. the 2nd Bn.Yorkshire Regiment and 18th Bn.Manchester Regiment carried out a raid in front of this Sector with successful results. No.**8718 Cpl.F.Aveling [Frank AVELING, MM]**, 2nd Bn.Bedfordshire Regiment, awarded the Military Medal for gallantry in this raid. Casualties. **2nd Lieutenant G. Lenton [Gerald LENTON]** wounded. Other Ranks: 11 Killed 19 wounded. These included a party under **C.S.Major R.Kirby [9517 Robert G. KIRBY, MM]**, killed in action that day] who were returning to CHATEAU SEGARD (17 Strong) and were knocked out by a shell near BEDFORD HOUSE, of which 6 were Killed. 5 Died of wounds. 6 Wounded.

Thomas Victor PIERCEY

Born : 1896

Father :

Mother : Agnes

Birthplace : Stockwell

Siblings :

Occupation:

Connections with Bovingdon

Thomas was born in Stockwell. He was baptised at All Saints, South Lambeth on 11th December along with several other children with different surnames. Curiously, only their mothers name is given in the registry and they are all living in "41 Jeffreys"

Note "Deeply concerned with the high death rate of mothers during childbirth, Dr. Annie McCall established a school of midwifery in her own home at 165 Clapham Road in 1885. In 1889 she opened the Clapham Maternity Hospital at 41-43 Jeffreys Road (there was also a Battersea branch at 31-33 Albert Bridge Road which had opened in 1892). The Hospital, which had 36 beds, was staffed only by women and only women students were admitted. As a member of the Temperance movement, Dr. McCall did not allow her nurses or patients to drink alcohol. Smoking was only permitted outside the Hospital".

No mention is found of his father but the baptism may have been arranged by the hospital as a standard.

His early life is hard to trace but it is possible that he was living at the School for Handicrafts for Poor Boys, Chertsey in 1911 at the age of 15. He was being trained to be a gardener. It seemed to be a home for about 40 boys with ages varying from 14 to 17.

How he is linked to Bovingdon remains to be solved.

Thomas Victor PIERCEY

Service Record

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Enlisted | Watford |
| Regiment | 7th Bedfordshire Regiment |
| No | 15540 Rank Sergeant |
| Date of Death | 7th April 1918 |
| Age | |
| Memorial | ST. SEVER CEMETERY EXTENSION, ROUEN P. IX. C. 1A. |

Circumstances

The conferment of the MM was announced in the London Gazette on 16th November 1917 and was awarded for bravery in the field.

PIERCEY Thomas

possibly: Thomas Victor PIERCY, M.M., [Listed as PERCY and both SDGW and CWGC] Sergeant 15540, 7th Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment. Died of wounds 7th April 1918 in France & Flanders. Born Stockwell, Surrey, enlisted Watford. Awarded the Military Medal (M.M.). Buried in ST. SEVER CEMETERY EXTENSION, ROUEN, Seine-Maritime, France. Grave P. IX. C. 1A.

Dudley William RYDER

Born : 1893

Father : William Henry Dudley

Mother : Catherine Mabel (nee Sutton)

Birthplace : Florida USA

Siblings :

Occupation: Naval Officer

Connections with Bovington

Dudley's father married Catherine in 1888 but she died in 1900.

Dudley seems to have been born in Florida but by 1901 had come back to live in Linslade with his father . They were living on their "own means". Subsequently in 1903 he married Florence Frances Augusta Campbell (from Ireland) by whom he had a son Frederick Granville Dudley who was born in 1905. They were living in The Cottage, Bovington. His father may have retired from the RN.

By this time Dudley William was stationed at Chatham and was a Naval cadet training as a mid-shipman.

Dudley was the Great-grandson of Granville Ryder who was a great benefactor of St Lawrence, and of the village of Bovington.

A memorial to Dudley can be found in the church.

Dudley William RYDER

Service Record

| | |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| Enlisted | 1914 |
| Service | Royal Navy |
| Rank | Lieutenant |
| Date of Death | 19th January 1917 |
| Age | 24 |
| Memorial | Portsmouth Naval Memorial Panel 24 |

Circumstances

Dudley Ryder was a submariner serving on E36.

Submarine E36 was launched 16th September 1916 and was lost on 17th January 1917.

Lost in North Sea possibly after collision with HMS E43. E36 and E43 left Harwich at 0730 on 19th January 1917 for two patrol areas off Ter-schelling. A strong north easterly was blowing. At 1126 just before they left the coast, E43 signalled to E36 to proceed independently. At 1330 E36 was on the port beam but was out of sight by 1500. The sea was running fairly high and at 1850 E43, having lost her bridge screen, eased to 5 knots and turned 16 points to fit a new one. This delay must have enabled E36 to overtake her, for at 1950 off the Haaks LV, E43 had just altered course to true north when she suddenly sighted a submarine 3 points on the port bow apparently steering east and only 50 yards off. The helm was put hard to starboard and engines full astern but E43 struck E36 aft from the stern, rode right over her and saw her vanish on the starboard quarter in the darkness. E43 went astern but nothing could be seen in the darkness and heavy sea. Nothing more was heard of E36.

However, possibly, the British HMS E-36 submarine was found in September 15th, 2013 by a Dutch fisherman in 8 metres deep water at the 'Razende Bol'.

Frank SIMMONS

Born : 1881

Father : Edward

Mother : Jane (nee Williamson)

Birthplace : Botley, Chesham

Siblings : Frederick (1871), Catherine Jane (1880)

Occupation: Farmer's Boy / labourer

Connections with Bovingdon

Frank was christened Francis George and by 1891 was living in Ashley Green where his father farmed Moor Farm.

His father was born in Berkhamstead and his mother came from Pitstone, His brother was born in Ivinghoe.

In 1901 Frank was employed as a farmer's boy. In 1908 he married Elizabeth Kempster (nee Oakley or Taylor) who had been married and came with a ready made family. Her husband Frank (who she had married in 1897) died in 1903. Francis suddenly became Frank and he declared in the 1911 census that he had been born in Wimborne where the family were living. Apart from his wife the family consisted of James (1900), Alfred (1901) and Ada (1904) Kempster as well as Frank Edward Simmons (1909). Frank was working as a labourer.

He had moved back to Wilstone from where he enlisted in 1915.

Frank SIMMONS

Service Record

| | | |
|---------------|--|---------------|
| Enlisted | Watford | |
| Regiment | 6th Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment | |
| No | 10695 | Rank Corporal |
| Date of Death | 28th April 1917 | |
| Age | 34 | |
| Memorial | CHILL TRENCH CEMETERY. Special memorial C. 12 | |

Circumstances

The 112th Brigade were made up of the following battalions that fought together as a tactical unit.

- 6th Battalion of the Bedfordshire Regiment.
- 8th Battalion of the East Lancashire Regiment.
- 10th Battalion of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment.
- 11th Battalion of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

In 1917 they were engaged at The Battle of Arras in April, specifically at the First Battle of the Scarpe, the Second Battle of the Scarpe and the Battle of Arleux (when they came out of their assault against Greenland Hill on 29th April 1917 with just 58 men). This phase of WW1 is known as "The Arras Offensive".

On April 28-29, British and Canadian forces fought a bitter battle at Arleux in an attempt to secure the southeast flank of Vimy Ridge. While this objective was attained, casualties were high.

Frederick Smith was also killed in the same encounter.

Frederick George Henry SMITH

Born : 1892

Father : John Slyth

Mother : Lucy (Nee ???)

Birthplace : Kentish Town

Siblings : Oliver (1882), Daisy (1886), Grace (1888)

Occupation: Farm Labourer

Connections with Bovingdon

In 1901 the family were living in The Boot PH in Chipperfield where the father was a publican/railway porter.

In 1911 Frederick was a farm labourer living in Rose Cottage, High St with his mother who described herself as a wife but her husband was not there on the night of the census. They had a lodger who was a gardener/domestic.

Frederick George Henry SMITH

Service Record

| | | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|------|----------------|
| Enlisted | Watford | | |
| Regiment | 6th Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment | | |
| No | 19577 | Rank | Lance Corporal |
| Date of Death | 29th April 1917 | | |
| Age | 25 | | |
| Memorial | ARRAS MEMORIAL Bay 5 | | |

Circumstances

The 112th Brigade were made up of the following battalions that fought together as a tactical unit.

- 6th Battalion of the Bedfordshire Regiment.
- 8th Battalion of the East Lancashire Regiment.
- 10th Battalion of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment.
- 11th Battalion of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

In 1917 they were engaged at The Battle of Arras in April, specifically at the First Battle of the Scarpe, the Second Battle of the Scarpe and the Battle of Arleux (when they came out of their assault against Greenland Hill on 29th April 1917 with just 58 men). This phase of WW1 is known as "The Arras Offensive".

On April 28-29, British and Canadian forces fought a bitter battle at Arleux in an attempt to secure the southeast flank of Vimy Ridge. While this objective was attained, casualties were high.

Frank Simmons was also killed in the same encounter.

Albert THOMPSON

Born :

Father :

Mother :

Birthplace :

Siblings :

Occupation:

Connections with Bovingdon

Although he is listed as Albert he was more commonly known as Arthur.

Thompson is a common name and his connection with Bovingdon has yet to be established.

Will need to get records from Kew to see his enlistment papers.

Albert THOMPSON

Service Record

Enlisted

Regiment 2nd Grenadier Guards

No 12601 Rank Guardsman

Date of Death 09 November 1914

Age

Memorial WIMEREUX COMMUNAL CEMETARY I. A. 22A

Circumstances

On the 8th August 1914 the 2nd Division were stationed at Chelsea as part of the 4th (Guards) Brigade of the 2nd Division.

On the 15th August 1914 they were mobilised for war and landed at Havre. The Division were engaged in various actions on the Western Front including The First Battle of Ypres.

The First Battle of Ypres was fought from 19 October to 22 November 1914 as one of the main engagements of the First World War. It was fought between mixed British Expeditionary Force, French eighth army and armies of the German Empire in northern France and Flanders. The B.E.F. 2nd Division (Monro) included the 4th (Guards) Brigade comprising 2nd Grenadier Guards, 2nd Coldstream Guards, 3rd Coldstream Guards, 1st Irish Guards, 1st Hertfordshire Regiment.

After the battle only 4 officers and 140 men remained of the Battalion.

Arthur died of his wounds but the date on which they were sustained has yet to be established.

Wimereux was the headquarters of the Queen Mary's Army Auxilliary Corps during the First World War and in 1919 it became the General Headquarters of the British Army.

From October 1914 onwards, Boulogne and Wimereux formed an important hospital centre and until June 1918, the medical units at Wimereux used the communal cemetery for burials, the south-eastern half having been set aside for Commonwealth graves, although a few burial were also made among the civilian graves.

Charles TURNER

Born :

Father :

Mother :

Birthplace :

Siblings :

Occupation:

Connections with Bovingdon

Turner, Private Charles Douglas, 2nd Grenadier Guards. Enlisted in August 1914. Killed in action in France on 5 October 1918. St Sever Cemetery Extension. ?

Charles TURNER

Service Record

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Enlisted | 1914 |
| Regiment | 2nd Grenadier Guards. |
| No | 30409 Rank: Private |
| Date of Death | 5th October 1918 |
| Age | |
| Memorial | St Sever Cemetery Extension S II. H. 7 |

Circumstances

Difficult to know where and when he sustained the wounds from which he died.

During the First World War, Commonwealth camps and hospitals were stationed on the southern outskirts of Rouen. A base supply depot and the 3rd Echelon of General Headquarters were also established in the city.

Almost all of the hospitals at Rouen remained there for practically the whole of the war. They included eight general, five stationary, one British Red Cross and one labour hospital, and No. 2 Convalescent Depot. A number of the dead from these hospitals were buried in other cemeteries, but the great majority were taken to the city cemetery of St. Sever. In September 1916, it was found necessary to begin an extension, where the last burial took place in April 1920.

Walter TURVEY

Born : 1884

Father : James

Mother : Susanna (nee Fowler)

Birthplace : Tottenhoe

Siblings : Eva (1895)

Occupation: Coachman/Driver

Connections with Bovingdon

James' father was a railway goods checker and his mother was as straw platter. Although the family were originally in Tottenhoe they had moved to Wednesbury in Staffordshire by 1901 and Walter was a fishmonger.

In 1904 he married Maud Helena Meredith in Wrexham. They had 3 children - Hilda Mary (1906), Walter (1909) and Guy Gordon (1910). The first two children were born in Liverpool and the last in Bovingdon.

They lived in Rose Cottage in Hempstead Lane, Bovingdon. He was employed as a coachman/domestic by Mrs Evans of Honours Mead.

Walter TURVEY

Service Record

Enlisted

Regiment Royal Army Service Corps

No M1/07176 Rank Driver

Date of Death 5th October 1915

Age 31

Memorial CHOCQUES Military Cemetery I.E. 143

Circumstances

The unsung heroes of the British army in the Great War - the ASC, *Ally Sloper's Cavalry*. Soldiers can not fight without food, equipment and ammunition. In the Great War, the vast majority of this tonnage, supplying a vast army on many fronts, was supplied from Britain. Using horsed and motor vehicles, railways and waterways, the ASC performed prodigious feats of logistics and were one of the great strengths of organisation by which the war was won.

Walter died of his wounds on 5th October but a record of where and when he sustained them has not come to light,

Chocques is close to Bethune and was occupied by Commonwealth forces from the late autumn of 1914 to the end of the war. The village was at one time the headquarters of I Corps and from January 1915 to April 1918, No.1 Casualty Clearing Station was posted there. Most of the burials from this period are of casualties who died at the clearing station from wounds received at the Bethune front.

Appendix 1

Memorial Hall

The names commemorated in St Lawrence and the Memorial Hall are identical except that Wilfred Anning is included in the Memorial Hall.

Anning, Rifleman Wilfred, 8th King's Royal Rifle Corps, of Bovingdon. Killed in action in France on 24 August 1916. Formerly employed at Kent's Brushes. Delville Wood Cemetery. (KB)

Appendix 2

Bovingdon soldiers not recorded on the War Memorials

These names have been culled from the Dacorum Heritage Web Site.

Fisher

William Henry Fisher was the son of James Fisher and Clazina Eleanor (nee Wren). He was baptised in Bovingdon on 20th June 1886 having been born on 31 Aug 1885. His siblings were Frederick (1884), Rebecca (1886), Gertrude (1890), Dorothy (1895) and Ernest (1897). By the age of 6 the family had moved to Weston (nr. Stevenage) and they then moved to Watford by 1901. The father was the village police constable and he seems to have been transferred around Hertfordshire at regular intervals because his children were all born in different locations. However, by the time the family had moved to Watford the father had become a wood-dealer and William was a stonemason.

William married Mary Elizabeth Narroway in June 1908 and they had three children:- William (1909), Gladys (1911) and Kenneth (1913). William was described as a confectionary sugar boiler and the family were living in Watford.

He enlisted, in London, into the 1st Battalion Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire Regiment) as a Private (no. 6453). This suggests that he had become a regular. The 1st battalion was formed at Tidworth in August and landed at Rouen on the 14th. 10 days later they were involved in the Battle of Mons followed by the retreat from Mons. The 'retreat' was a fighting withdrawal with a number of significant actions fought along that route. On the 18th October the Regiment became part of the 7th Brigade to the 25th Division. He died on 25th October 1914 at the age of 29. The regiment were at Neuve Chappelle and the Diary for the day states

(Sunday) Ordered to move Battn HQ further back to W of village. Had D Coy still in reserve. Trenches shelled pretty well all day, also HQ a certain amount. Regt on our left had party driven out of their trenches. Village reduced to ruins and roads cut up by heavy shells, difficult to get supplies up. Moved HQ up to village again after dark. Relieved A & B Coys in the trenches as far as possible by B & D Coys also withdrew what remained of the MG Section. Only three men left, guns alright. Capt Davis severely wounded. 37 men killed and 42 wounded. Lieut Ward - Tetley sent up to command A Coy vice Davis wounded."

William is commemorated on Panel 33 and 34 of the Thievpol Memorial.

Gilmore

Joseph Thomas Gilmore was the son of Thomas Batchelor Gilmore and Eliza Ann Gilmore. He was born in Bovingdon in 1890. His Father came from Chipperfield and by 1911 was running an Engineering business in Bourne End, Bucks. Joseph had three siblings :- Minnie Elizabeth (1891), Eunice Phoebe, (1895) and Miriam Eliza (1901). Joseph was employed by his father.

In 1915 he married Lillian Beatrice Levey of "Craylands", Seer Green, Bucks.

He was a private in the 1st/5th Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment.

On the 31 July 1918 the 1st/5 absorbed the 2/5th battalion as part of the 177th brigade, in 59th division.

The regimental diary states :-

The Battle of Bellenglise and the Breaking of the Hindenburg Line

September 20th was spent by the Battalion in building shelters for themselves at Tertry; fortunately the day was fine. On the 21st after the morning had been devoted to practising the attack the Battalion at dark moved up to the line and relieved the 46th and 48th Battalions Australian Infantry in the right sub-sector, the relief being completed at 11 p.m., A and B Companies being in the line, D in support, and C in reserve. The 22nd passed quietly, the area being shelled along the whole front with gas and H.E., but no casualties were sustained, although on the 23rd 2 Other Ranks were killed and 7 wounded.

This contrasts with his war record which says that he was killed on the 22nd September.

It is fair to say that there is some confusion in the various records.

His grave is located at the Roisel Communal Cemetery Extension (Ref 1. 1. 20.).

Goodman

Alfred was born in Bovingdon in 1885, the son of Joseph and Ann. His siblings were George (1876), Benjamin (1878), Annie (1880), and Frances (1893). His father was a general labourer and they lived in Chipperfield.

The family lived in Dunny Lane next to George Goodman and his family. However, Joseph died in 1906 and the family decamped to Kings Langley by 1911.

He enlisted at Kingston into the 2nd East Surrey Regiment (he seems to have been living in Putney at the time).

The Battalion was transferred to the Salonika Expeditionary Force, and spent the remainder of the War on the Struma Valley Front and east of Lake Doiran. The summer heat in Macedonia was intense, but

the principal scourge was malaria, which at one period reduced the strength of the Battalion to 186 Other Ranks.

He died of his wounds in Salonika on 18th October 1916 but there is no indication of where or when he received them. At the beginning of Oct 1916, the British in co-operation with her allies on other parts of the front, began operations on the River Struma towards Serres. The campaign was successful with the capture of the Rupell Pass and advances to within a few miles of Serres.

His grave is in the Mikra British Cemetery in Kalamaria (ref 1719).

Hill

Arthur(1895) and **Charles Henry**(1897) were brothers who were born in Bovingdon. Their parents Joseph and Sarah (nee Gurney) were also born in Bovingdon. They also had three daughters : - Annie (1891), Edith (1893) and Emily (1901). Joseph was a carter and Arthur was a butchers assistant. The family lived in the High Street in Rattle House Cottages next to the Baptist Chapel.

Arthur enlisted at Watford as a Private into the 4th Bedfordshire Regiment.

Charles Henry enlisted at Bedford as a Private with the Suffolk Regiment. and transferred into the 4th Bedfordshire Regiment.

In 1917 the regiment was involved in the continuing Operations on the Ancre, specifically at the actions at Miraumont in February. During the Battle of Arras they were heavily engaged in the Second Battle of the Scarpe (when they captured Gavrelle) and the phase of Arleux in April. In the Battles of Ypres 1917 (also referred to as the Third Battle of Ypres or Passchendaele), the battalion were engaged during the Second Battle of Passchendaele in October and November. Their final battle of the year was a localised defensive battle called the Action at Welch Ridge in December.

6-16 Feb 1917 [**The action at Miraumont**] Casualties Killed 68. Wounded 90. Missing 3. Missing believed Killed 45.

Arthur was killed in action at the Somme on 14 February 1917. Born in Bovingdon. Thiepval Memorial. Pier and Face 2.

30 Oct. [**The Battle of Ypres 1917 - the Second Battle of Passchendaele**] Battn. attacked at 5.50am 7RF on left, Artists Rifles on right, Canadian Corps on right of Artists. Canadians reached objectives but our attack was held up by very heavy and boggy ground surrounding the PADDEBEEK and a total advance of about 150-200 yards only was made. CASUALTIES OR Killed 52, wounded 180, missing 23. Battn relieved by NELSON Battn. at 7pm and marched out to IRISH FARM.

Charles Henry was killed in action at Passchendaele on 30 October 1917. Age 20 Tyne Cot Memorial. Panel 48 to 50 and 162A.

Norton

Private Ernest Albert, 23rd Royal Fusiliers, of Upper Edmonton. Enlisted at Ponders End, formerly with the Middlesex Regiment. Killed in action in France on 8 October 1918. Age 24. Born in Bovingdon. Son of Albert Frank and Caroline of 165 Angel Road, Edmonton.

Ernest Albert was born and baptised in Bovingdon in 1894. His parents were Albert Frank and Caroline (nee Burgin). Had three sisters :- Ellen Agnes (1896), Ethel Mary (1898) and Edith Mary (1904). By 1901 they were living in Edmonton. The father was a Wine Cellarman and Ernest became a corn merchant assistant.

He enlisted at Ponders End and eventually became a Private in the 23rd Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment). The 23rd (Service) Battalion, Royal Fusiliers^[1] and 24th (Service) Battalion (2nd Sportsman's), better known as the **Sportsmen's Battalions**, were among the Pals battalions formed in the Great War. Rather than be taken from a small geographical area, these particular battalions were largely made up of men who had made their name in sports such as cricket, boxing and football or the media. They were part of the 99th Brigade of the 2nd Division. Ernest was a signaller but his sports prowess has yet to be determined

In 1918 they fought on the Somme, in the Battles of the Hindenburg Line and The Battle of the Selle. 2nd Division was selected to advance into Germany and formed part of the Occupation Force after the Armistice.

The Battalion moved up to east of Rumilly on the night of 7th-8th, and delivered a successful attack on Forenville at dawn on the 8th. During a counter-attack the enemy used tanks against the Battalion in an endeavour to oust it from the positions secured, but without success. Ernest died on the 8th October 1918 and is buried at Masnieres British Cemetery (ref II. B. 14).

Appendix 3

EVANS, THOMAS HATFIELD, Lieut., 3rd Battn. Australian Imperial Forces, only s. of the late Thomas Evans, of Huyton, by his wife, Alice Stewart (Honors Mead, Bovington, Herts), dau. of John Smyth Hatfield, of Innellan, Argyleshire; b. Huyton, co. Lancaster, 18 May, 1881; educ. Sedbergh; joined the Leicester-



Thomas Hatfield Evans.

shire Imperial Yeomanry when 18 on the outbreak of the South African War, and served through that campaign, 1899-1901, receiving the Queen's medal with four clasps (Rhodesia, Cape Colony, Transvaal, South Africa). He went to Australia about May, 1913, but when war was declared in Aug. 1914, he volunteered and joined the Commonwealth Expeditionary Force, and was given a commission as Lieut. 1 Jan. 1915. He was killed at Gaba Tepe during the landing at the Dardanelles, 26 April, 1915; *unm.* He was mentioned in Sir Ian Hamilton's Despatch [London Gazette, 5 Aug. 1915] for gallant and distinguished conduct in the field. His commanding officer, Col. Owen, C.M.G., wrote: "On landing at Anzac Cove he showed great energy, courage and ability in the handling of his machine gun section, and notwithstanding the difficult country and absence of day transport, he had

his gun in action at an early hour in the front line of defence, where he remained till he fell. It devolved on him to stop the firing of a machine gun of another battn. which was firing too close to our troops, and the ground was swept by a heavy rifle and machine gun fire. However, he safely returned, to my great relief. Later, whilst I was temporarily at another part of the firing line, the same gun again became dangerous, and a message reached your son to that effect from Major Brown, of my battn. Lieut. Evans again went over, and when returning stopped to succour a wounded man who had been left in the open. Having bound up the man's wound, he tried to carry him back to safety, but was hit repeatedly. Though badly wounded he still tried to save his man, to the admiration of all those who saw his gallant conduct. An attempt was made by my men to rescue them, but your son was riddled with bullets and died a hero. I may mention that I recommended your son for the V.C. on account of his distinguished valour in the field, and his name is one of three in my battn. who were specially mentioned in Sir Ian Hamilton's Despatches"; and one of his men (Private F. G. Hallett): "Your son was a man to be proud of, for he carried four wounded men to the stretcher-bearer station under heavy fire." He also wrote: "We had to cross a deep gully which was infested with Turkish snipers. It seemed as if some of us would be killed, but we reached our destination without a single casualty, entirely owing to the cool and skilful way in which Lieut. Evans handled us. He was a fine example to us all." Capt. White also wrote: "From all accounts by men near him he died a hero's death. As a machine gunner himself he must have realised it was certain death that awaited him when he rushed to rescue a wounded comrade from a zone of bullets from one of the enemy's machine guns." Lieut. Evans was a keen sportsman and athlete, and exceptionally powerful swimmer and a first-class shot.

Appendix 4

The death in combat of Major H.W.G. Meyer Griffith, The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment.

The Freetown Memorial in Sierra Leone commemorates the names of the soldiers of Sierra Leone who died whilst serving with the Royal West African Frontier Force in West Africa, and whose graves are not known, or are not maintainable by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Inscribed on the memorial is the name of Major Harold Walter Gooch Meyer Griffith, The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, who was killed in action on 28th May 1915, aged 36 years. Harold had served as a subaltern with the South Wales Borderers in South Africa, gaining the Queen's Medal with three clasps and the King's Medal with two clasps. Later he joined the 3rd Bn The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment as a Captain, and in August 1910 he became Major (unattached) Territorial Force, commanding the Glenalmond Officers' Training Corps for three years.

In 1913 Harold took up the appointment of ADC and private secretary to the Governor of Sierra Leone. He was an Army Interpreter in French, and also an enthusiast in the Boy Scout movement, becoming Commissioner for Scouts in Sierra Leone. On the outbreak of war in August 1914 Harold resigned as ADC and purchased his own passage back to UK in order to enlist, but as the West African Frontier Force was expanded Harold was requested to stay and to serve in the Force.



After Britain suffered reverses with three small dispersed columns of West African soldiers sent across the border into Cameroon, an Allied Expeditionary Force composed of French, British and Belgian local infantry units was formed, under a British General. The German port of Douala was seized by the Allies on 27th September 1914, the Germans making fighting withdrawals in three different directions.

As there were no British Ordnance officers in the Expeditionary force Major Meyer Griffith was appointed Chief Ordnance Officer and based at Douala in the captured German barracks. As the Allies advanced into Cameroon, British units moving from the west, French forces from the north and south, and French and Belgian units from the east, Harold Meyer Griffith was appointed as Officer Commanding Lines of Communication. His base was at Wum Biagas, 75 miles east of Douala.

The "Bond of Sacrifice" in its two-page biography comments:

"This post was no sinecure. There was no railway line beyond Edea, the expedition was experiencing strong opposition, and his lines of communication grew longer and thinner. Furious tornadoes enlivened their long and scorching marches; insects of every description harried them. They had often to cut their way through dense bush and cross streams spanned by frail and broken bridges over which the guns had to be lifted. There was neither telegraph nor telephone: every message and dispatch had to be sent by runner. The carrier columns were sometimes two and three miles long, and difficulties of food and transport had all to be thought out and arranged for. At the end of a heavy march, when others could perhaps secure a little rest, the Chief Ordnance Officer, in sopping clothes and squelching boots, would have to hurry round for another two hours settling differences and arranging matters. Defence arrangements were often inadequate and native information perhaps received that a German force had concentrated four miles south-east, intending to attack!"

As the Allies pushed into the thick bush of Cameroon exhaustion and fever depleted the ranks. An Allied convoy of porters carrying medically evacuated soldiers was ambushed by the enemy in dense forest near Wum Biagas on 28 May 1915. Receiving a report of the ambush Harold immediately marched to the assistance of the convoy with a party of French Tirailleurs Senegalaise and a few British troops. Reaching the scene of the ambush Harold and his Tirailleurs rescued the convoy and, during a 90-minute engagement, drove the enemy for a mile down a bush track. On coming to a clearing he ordered **“A final volley. Fix bayonets and charge!”** Harold led the charge but he was killed and five of his men were shot down and wounded before the now leaderless Allied detachment withdrew.

The following day a British search party found a grave under a small cluster of palm leaves placed by the Germans. Harold's brother officers erected a large cross, but within weeks the grave would have been covered and concealed for ever by fast-growing bush. The French troops were impressed by Harold as a man and a soldier, and on page 12040 of the Supplement to the London Gazette dated 9th December 1916 notification was published of the award of the French Croix de Guerre to:

Major Harold Walter Gooch Meyer-Griffith, late Unattached List, Territorial Force, employed with West African Frontier Force. (Reserve of Officers, late North Lancashire Regiment, Special Reserve).

Below: The Freetown Memorial in Sierra Leone



The campaign continued for another nine months. Finally the Germans in the south of Cameroon escaped across the Spanish Guinea border into internment, and those in the north surrendered at Mora on 18th February 1916.

Because the British infantry used in Cameroon were West African and Indian the campaign is not well-known in Britain, but the combat was at times very fierce and the terrain always rough. Contacts were at extremely short range and strong and courageous leadership was required. Harold Walter Gooch Meyer Griffith was an outstanding and brave leader. The motto in his diary sent home to his widowed mother read:

“Give me leave, therefore, always to live and die in this mind : that he is not worthy to live at all that, for fear of danger or death, shunneth his country's service and his own honour.”

Appendix 5

War Graves

The table below shows where the dead are buried or commemorated. Those in bold type are maintained by The Commonwealth War Graves Commission who ensure that 1.7 million people who died in the two world wars will never be forgotten. They care for cemeteries and memorials at 23,000 locations, in 153 countries.



Thiepval Memorial

Deir el Belah

Identified Casualties: 719

Deir el Belah is in Palestine about 16 kilometres east of the Egyptian border. It is 20 kilometres South-West of Gaza.



Frank Alford

Ypres (Menin Gate)

Identified Casualties: 54406

Ypres (now Ieper) is a town in the Province of West Flanders. The Memorial is situated at the eastern side of the town on the road to Menin (Menen) and Courtrai (Kortrijk). Each night at 8 pm the traffic is stopped at the Menin Gate while members of the local Fire Brigade sound the Last Post in the roadway under the Memorial's arches.



William Allen
George Marriott

Frome Churchyard
Islington Cemetery

Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery

Identified Casualties: 9877

The Cemetery is located 12 Kms west of Ieper town centre, on the Boescheepseweg, a road connecting Ieper to Poperinge.

Arthur Clarke

Pozieres British Cemetery

Identified Casualties: 1378

Pozieres is a village some 6 kilometres north-east of Albert, and the Cemetery, which is enclosed by the Pozieres Memorial, is a little south-west of the village.

Ernest Coker

Le Touret Memorial

Identified Casualties: 13393

Le Touret Memorial is located at the east end of Le Touret Military Cemetery, on the south side of the Bethune-Armentieres main road.

Reubin Dean
Charles Philby

Baghdad War Cemetery

Identified Casualties: 4454

Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery is located in a very sensitive area in the Waziriah Area of the Al-Russafa district of Baghdad. In the current climate it is not possible for the Commission to manage or maintain this cemetery. Alternative arrangements for commemoration have therefore been implemented.

William Dean

H C A Brooking
Alfred Burgin



Serre Road Cemetery No 2

Identified Casualties: 2183

The village of Serre is 11 kilometres north-north-east of Albert.

Francis Dodgson



Caudry British Cemetery

Identified Casualties: 651

Caudry is a town some 13 kilometres east of Cambrai.

Guy Dodgson



Morchies Australian Cemetery

Identifies Casualties: 60

The cemetery is near the village of Beugny not far from Baupaume.

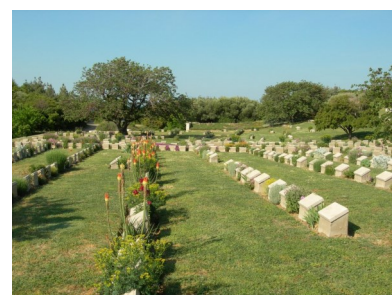
Edwin Elbourn



Shrapnel Valley Cemetery

Identified Casualties: 598

This is fairly remote site some distance in land from Anzac Cove in Turkey



T. Hatfield Evans

Brookwood Cemetery

Identified Casualties: 188

The cemetery is near Bagshot in Surrey.

T Shirley Googh



Sunken Road Cemetery, Fampoux

Identified Casualties: 170

Fampoux is a village and commune in the department of the Pas-de-Calais on the north bank of the Scarpe, 7 kilometres east of Arras and 1.6 kilometres west of Roeux.

Frank Gurney



Tyne Cot Memorial

Identified Casualties: 34949

The Tyne Cot Memorial to the Missing forms the north-eastern boundary of Tyne Cot Cemetery, which is located 9 kilometres north east of Ieper town centre.

Arthur Marriott



Vis-en Artois Memorial

Identified Casualties: 9834

The Memorial is the back drop to the Vis-en-Artois British Cemetery, which is west of Haucourt on the road from Arras to Cambrai.

William Marriot



Dickenbusch New Military Cemetery

Identified Casualties: 616

The cemetery is located in the village of Dikkebus which is not far from Ieper.

Richard Philby



St. Sever Cemetery

Identified Casualties: 3080

St Sever Cemetery and St Sever Cemetery Extension are located within a large communal cemetery situated in the suburbs of Rouen.

Thomas Piercey
Charles Turner



Portsmouth Naval Memorial

Identified Casualties: 24559

The Memorial is situated on Southsea Common overlooking the promenade.

Dudley W Ryder



Chili Trench Cemetery

Identified Casualties: 180

Chili Trench Cemetery is at Gavrelle which is a village about 10 kilometres east-north-east of Arras on the road to Douai

Frank Simmons.



Arras Memorial

Identified Casualties: 180

The Arras Memorial is in the Faubourg-d'Amiens Cemetery, which is in the western part of the town of Arras.

Frederick Smith



Wimereux Communal Cemetery

Identified Casualties: 2853

Wimereux is a small town situated approximately 5 kilometres north of Boulogne.

Albert Thompson



Chocques Military Cemetery

Identified Casualties: 180

Chocques is 4 kilometres north-west of Bethune on the road to Lillers.

Walter Turvey



Thiepval Memorial

Identified Casualties: 72192

The Thiepval Memorial is close to the village of Thiepval, off the main Bapaume to Albert road .

The memorial, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, was built between 1928 and 1932 and unveiled by the Prince of Wales, in the presence of the President of France, on 1 August 1932

**Edgar W Flinn
William Joiner
Edward Minter**



Freetown Memorial

Identified Casualties: 1356

The Freetown Memorial is located in the centre of Freetown.

H W M Griffith



The information in this booklet has been compiled from published sources and records available on the internet. If you have further information about any of the people mentioned, and would like to contribute to a revised and expanded edition of this work, please in the first instance contact Dick West richardscotwest@hotmail.com

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