

# STRATFORD-UPON-AVON WAR MEMORIAL 1914-1918

**Alfred George ALLCOCK** Lance Corporal 11067 2nd Bn., Royal Welsh Fusiliers

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon.

Died: Wednesday, 4th November 1914. Age 19.

Son of Mrs. Emily Green, of 50, Great William St., Stratford-on-Avon

Cemetery: PONT-DU-HEM MILITARY CEMETERY, LA GORGUE, Nord, France

Grave Reference XI. C. 3.

## LANCE CORPORAL GEORGE ALLCOCK

News has been received that Lance Corporal George Allcock of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers was killed in action on November 4th and Lord Kitchener in notifying the occurrence to his mother assures her of the true sympathy of his Majesty and Queen. Allcock who was well known in Stratford had served just over two years in the army.

**Herald 11th December 1914**

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**Frederick Charles ALLCOCK** Corporal 13306 King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regt.)

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon.

Died: Tuesday, 18th May 1915. Age 22.

Son of Mrs. Emily Green, of 50, Great William St., Stratford-on-Avon

Cemetery: STRATFORD-ON-AVON CEMETERY, Warwickshire, United Kingdom

Grave Reference 1554.

## CORPORAL F. C. ALLCOCK

The death is also announced of Corporal F. C. Allcock of the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, second son of Mrs. A. E. Green of Great William Street. A prominent member of the St. John's Football club Corporal Allcock was at Lytham on the declaration of war and joined Lord Kitchener's army in September. He encamped with his comrades at Blackdown, Aldershot where illness overtook him and he died at Connaught Hospital at the early age of 22. The body will be brought to Stratford today and the internment take place tomorrow afternoon. The deceased's younger brother was killed in action at Ypres and his elder brother has sustained such wounds as will debar him from further service on foreign soil.

**Herald 21st May 1915**

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**Frederick AMPHLETT** Rifleman 43737 1st Bn. 1, Royal Irish Rifles

Enlisted: London, May 1916.

Died: Tuesday, 31st July 1917. Age 39.

Son of the late Joe and Martha Amphlett, of 54, Henley St., Stratford-on-Avon.

Born in Stratford-on-Avon.



YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. : Panel 40

## THE WAR COURTS

F. Amphlett (37), rural postman, asked for total exemption on the ground that serious hardship would ensue if he were called up. He had an invalid father, and was the only son at home. – The Advisory Committee referred the case for further investigation. It transpired that Amphlett had had no notice to go, and so had appealed on his own initiative.

He had two brothers serving in France, and the father got an allowance in respect of these. The application was not entertained, the Tribunal being of the opinion that with the allowance he could claim there would be no hardship.

**Herald 14th April 1916**

## PRIVATE F. AMPHLETT

Miss. Amphlett of Henley Street, Stratford-on-Avon has just received notification from the War Office that her brother Rifleman F. Amphlett of the Royal Irish Rifles has been missing since an engagement at the Front in France on 31st July. Amphlett who was for upwards of twenty years a postman in the local office

and was well known, entered the Post Office Rifles last May and was afterwards transferred to the Royal Irish. Many friends who knew him there will deeply regret this news.

**Herald 14th September 1917**

**MISSING PRESUMED KILLED RIFLEMAN FRED AMPHLETT**

Rifleman Fred Amphlett of the 1st Battalion Irish Rifles has been missing since 31st July of last year. The Army Council have now come to the conclusion that he must be regarded as having made the supreme sacrifice. Fred Amphlett entered the service of the Post Office on leaving school and for many years did what was known as the Snitterfield round, being popular with his colleagues in the service and well esteemed by the citizens in the district. In May 1916 he joined up and five months later crossed the English channel since which date he has borne a good share of the fighting. His death at the age of 39 will be deplored by many and by none more than the Post Office with whom he had served nearly a quarter of a century.

**Herald 28th June 1918**

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**Thomas Reginald ARCHER** Private 74548 Royal Medical Army Corps

Enlisted October 1915 in Stratford-on-Avon

Died 28th October 1918. Age 24.

Son of Mr A. Archer 21 Arden Street, Stratford-on-Avon

Cemetery: STRATFORD-ON-AVON CEMETERY, Warwickshire, United Kingdom.

T. R. Archer enlisted November 1914 at the Territorial Office 4 Sheep Street. (not accepted)

**Herald 20th November 1914**

Discharged as unfit for further military service on Monday 7th January 1918, after being diagnosed as having tuberculosis of the lung.

**IN MEMORIAM**

On the 28th ult, after a short illness Thomas Reginald the beloved son of Mr A. Archer 21 Arden Street in his 25th year. Sadly missed by all.

**Herald 1st November 1918**

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**Edward ARTHUR** Private 12194 2nd Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, 1915.

Died: Tuesday, 9th October 1917. Age 42.

Son of Charles and Emma Arthur, of 23, Bull St., Stratford-on-Avon.

Born in Ilmington. Resided Stratford-on-Avon.



TYNE COT MEMORIAL, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.  
Panel 23 to 28 and 163A

**FOUR SONS WITH THE COLOURS** - Mrs. C. Arthur of 23 Bull street has four sons serving with the forces. Sergeant S. Arthur of the 1st King's Own Regiment Lancaster has been a prisoner of war since the end of August 1914; Pte. J. A. Arthur of the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards was called upon on the outbreak of war being then on the staff of the Tipton police. He has been twice wounded. Pte. A. Arthur of the 3rd Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment was wounded in the big battle of Loos and has since been home on sick leave, but has now returned to his regiment. Pte. E. Arthur, of the 12th Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment enlisted in September 1915. Mrs. Arthur has also two sons-in-law and four nephews with the colours.

**Herald December 3rd 1915**

**PRIVATE EDWARD ARTHUR**

Mrs. E. Arthur of Bull Street has received notification of the death of her son, Private Edward Arthur, who had been missing since last October. He joined the 2nd Royal Warwickshire Regiment on May 20th 1915 and served for some time under General Smuts, when he was wounded and remained in hospital some weeks. When he recovered he was sent to France and took part in some of the fiercest fighting there. His mother has received the usual expressions of sympathy from the King and Queen. Before joining the forces Private Arthur was employed by Messrs. Cox and Co.

**Herald 30th August 1918**

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**William Arthur BAILEY** Gunner 614360 1st/1st (Warwickshire) Bty., Royal Horse Artillery

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, 1914.

Died: Monday, 24th July 1917. Age 24.

Second son of Mr Arthur William & Mrs Elizabeth Bailey of Great William Street, Stratford-on-Avon Cemetery: MENDINGHEM MILITARY CEMETERY, WESTVLETEREN, Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

Grave Reference: III. E. 24.

**GUNNER A. W. BAILEY**

Sincere sympathy is extended to Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Bailey of Great William Street on the death of their second son. A young man full of promise he was at one time a member of the Church Lads Brigade and subsequently became associated with Mr. Robert Smith's troop of Boy Scouts and such was the confidence imposed in him that he obtained the position of Assistant Scout Master. Fair blossoms of youths developed into vigorous manhood and he joined the Warwickshire Royal Horse Artillery on August 4th 1914. He responded to the call of King and Country and on the following day left for a course of training with his unit at Newbury. In October of the same year W.R.H.A. crossed the channel and for a period of three years Gunner Bailey contributed his quota in the stern struggle against the central powers. On July 24th he yielded up his life at the early age of 24.

From boyhood days Gunner Bailey had been in the service of Mr. A. B. Smith of Chapel Street and the interest taken in him by his employer was of an elevating and unselfish character. Letters relating to his death from the late QMS A. B. Smith of a tragic interest writing to a friend in the town only four days before himself was fatally wounded QMS Smith says "I feel that trouble almost as deep as though he were my own brother having been the means indirectly of his being in the Battery I naturally feel it even keener. The fact that he also came from my place with all the best wishes and best esteem makes me take more interest in him than ever. It isn't that I feel in any way responsible for his sad ending though in these days when everyone is a soldier everybody is genuinely sorry about the misfortune. The fatality was caused by an unlucky shell which carried off two other good men of the Battery, the old members of which are dying off only too rapidly. I wish I could put cross to him if here long enough. When I get a chance I am going to find out the exact spot. The sad part about it is the frequency now with which these affairs occur".

In a letter to the bereaved mother he says "I can't help but write and sympathise with you in the loss of your young Bill. It was an exceptional bit of bad luck and we all feel it very much. Unfortunately one or two more of old favourites lost at the same time. This terrible war has indeed extorted a terrible toll and unfortunately I can't see any immediate prospect of it ceasing. I have yet to find the spot where the boy was buried but will put up a cross in remembrance when we get a chance to go and ascertain the locality."

Bombardier Sharp writes "I myself have known William since he first joined the Battery and I have always found him a very good friend and soldier. The sergeant for whom he was cook wished me to say how much they appreciated his services and to offer you their sympathy in your sad loss."

**Herald 24th August 1917**

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**Edward BAKER** Private PO/1627 Royal Marine Light Infantry

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, 1916.

Died: Sunday, 25th August 1918. Age 36.

Son of the late George and Anne Baker, of 19 Wellesbourne Grove, Stratford-on-Avon.



VIS-EN-ARTOIS MEMORIAL Panel 1. France.

**PRIVATE EDWARD BAKER**

Private Edward Baker of the 1st R.M. Battalion, 63rd (R.N.) Division was unfortunately killed in action on August 25th and to those who were acquainted with "Teddie" the news will come as a great shock. He was a bright, cheery specimen of humanity with a happy knack of making friends and keeping them; but, like many another individual, he had to answer the call, and left home and business in Stratford to do his bit for his country. He joined up two years ago and was popular with his comrades. Very sincere sympathy will go out to the brother and family who have received a message of condolence from the King and Queen, and a note of regret from the Board of Admiralty.

**Herald 13th September 1918**

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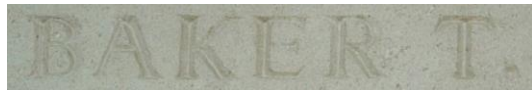
**Thomas BAKER** Lance Corporal 10522 2nd Bn., King's Royal Rifle Corps

Enlisted in Birmingham.

Died: Sunday, 9th May 1915. Age 22.

Eldest son of Richard and Mary Baker, of Lower Clopton, Stratford-on-Avon.

Born in Claydon, Oxford. Resided in Stratford-on-Avon.



Memorial: LE TOURET MEMORIAL, Pas de Calais, France.  
Panel 32 and 33.

**CLOPTON FAMILY'S HEAVY BEREAVEMENT  
LANCE CORPORAL THOMAS BAKER**

The sympathy of many friends will be extended to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Baker in their second bereavement which has overshadowed them in the past 12 months. Barely a year ago we recorded in these columns the death in action of their second son, Private William Richard Baker of the 2nd Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry and we now learn that their eldest son, Lance Corporal Thomas Baker of the King's Royal Rifles is now presumed to be dead as no further news has been received of him since he was reported missing on May 9th 1915. Lance Corporal Baker was in H.M. Forces when war broke out and went to France at the commencement of last year.

**Herald 21st April 1916**

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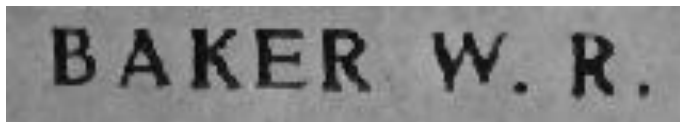
**William Richard BAKER** Private 16907 2nd Bn., Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry

Enlisted in Birmingham, 1914.

Died: Friday, 23rd April 1915. Age 20.

Son of Mary Baker, of Lower Clopton, Stratford-on-Avon, and the late Richard Baker.

Born in Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire. Resided in Stratford-on-Avon.



YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL, Ieper,  
West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 20

**FORMER BREWERY EMPLOYEE KILLED  
PRIVATE WILLIAM RICHARD BAKER**

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Baker of Lower Clopton have sustained a bereavement in the death of their second son Private William Richard Baker. An official notification of this was received by them on Wednesday. Private Baker who was in his 20th year was formerly in the employee of Messrs. Flower & Sons Limited and joined the 2nd Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry in November. He left for France on March 29th and was killed in action on 23rd April. Accompanying the notification is the following letter from Lord Kitchener: "the King commands me to assure of the true sympathy of his Majesty and the Queen in your sorrow".

**Herald 14th May 1915**

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**George BALL** Private 474205 46th Bn., Canadian Infantry (Saskatchewan Regt.)

Enlisted in Canada.

Died: Wednesday, 21st February 1917. Age 36.

Son of Frederick and Sarah Anne Ball, of Stratford-on-Avon, England.

Cemetery: BARLIN COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Reference: I. F. 57.

**DIED IN HOSPITAL PRIVATE G. BALL**

Intelligence has just been received of the death of Private Ball son of the late Frederick and Mrs. Ball of Stratford upon Avon. The deceased emigrated to Canada about fourteen years ago and when the war broke out he joined the Canadian Army and was sent to France. Here he saw a good deal of work in the trenches. He was invalided and sent to hospital where he died on 21st ult. Sympathy will be extended to his mother, brother and sisters.

**Herald 2nd March 1917**

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<b>Gordon Henderson BARBER. MC</b> Second Lieutenant 8th Bn., Worcestershire Regiment.
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Died: Sunday, 20th October 1918.

Age 19.

Son of Alexander and Rebecca Barber, of 8, Evesham Place, Stratford-on-Avon. Student of Birmingham University.

Cemetery: ST. SEVER CEMETERY EXTENSION, ROUEN, Seine-Maritime, France

Grave Reference: S. V. H. 14

**DIED OF SICKNESS**  
**SECOND LIEUTENANT G. H. BARBER**

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Gordon Henderson Barber Second Lieutenant 8th Worcestershire Regiment, eldest son of the Rev. Alexander and Mrs. Barber of this town which took place in the 8th General Hospital, Rouen, on Sunday evening last.

Lieutenant Barber, who was well known in Stratford-on-Avon spent several years at the Grammar School where his whole career in the words of the Head Master "was a credit to himself and an honour to the school" He took an active part in the life of the school as captain of football, vice-captain of cricket, secretary of the Debating Society and secretary of the Games Committee. As a cricketer he excelled in wicket-keeping, a feature which was recognised in Oxford where he played in a number of important matches when training for his commissions. In 1913 he was made head prefect of the school and on leaving was awarded the De la Warr scholarship for three years and the Honour medal for "industry integrity and honour."

He proceeded to Birmingham University where he matriculated in the first division and in 1916 was awarded the Kenrick Modern History prize for heading the list of successful candidates in the Intermediate Arts Modern History examination. After two years at the University he joined the Army being posted to No. 4 Officer Cadet Battalion, Wadham College, Oxford from which in November 1917 he was gazetted to a commission in the Worcestershire Regiment the report of his commanding officer being that "he would never fail to set a fine example to his men".

In January of this year he joined his regiment in Italy. While on the Italian front he saw much fighting passing through the great Austrian offensive of June, for services in which he was twice recommended for decorations. In September his regiment was brought to France and has played a great part in the British offensive between Cambrai and St. Quintin. In a recent letter he stated, not, in any spirit of complaint, but in his accustomed cheery way, that he had been out in the open for eight days and eight nights without any sleep whatever. This was in the campaign which resulted in the taking of Cambrai. But the rigours of the war proved too much even for his robust constitution and he succumbed to an attack of broncho- pneumonia. His passing is deeply mourned by a wide circle of friends who greatly regret that a life so noble in character and of such bright promise should be brought to such an early close. It should be added that Lieutenant Barber was associated with the Congregational Church in the activities of which he took a deep interest and shortly before leaving home assisted in the villages where he preached with great acceptance. A special memorial service is to be held in the Rother Street Congregational Church on Monday evening, November 3rd.

**Herald 25th October 1918**

Since the above account appears in the Stratford upon Herald news has been received that shortly after his admission into hospital at Rouen, Lieutenant Barber became delirious and did not regain consciousness. He, therefore was graciously spared the pain of parting. The funeral, which was conducted by a Nonconformist chaplain, took place at the officers' cemetery at Rouen, On Tuesday, October 22nd, accompanied by the usual military honours.

**November 1918 Stratford-on-Avon Congregationalist**

**LIEUTENANT G. H. BARBER MC**  
**POSTHUMOUS AWARD**

Two months ago the death was recorded in these columns of Gordon Henderson Barber, eldest son of the Reverend Alexander Barber of this town, who succumbed to pneumonia whilst serving with the Worcester Regiment in France.

He was in the prime of manhood, a brilliant future lay before him and the news of his demise came as a great shock to his many personal friends, and indeed to all who knew him. Warm testimony was borne to his prowess on the field of battle and on Wednesday last his father received the gratifying announcement that he had been awarded the Military Cross.

The official report reads as follows: In the attack on Beaureboir on October 5th 1918 he was commanding a support platoon and seeing that leading wave of the company was held up by machine gun fire he led his

platoon with great skill and dash round by the flank covered by the fire of the leading wave he went straight on through the village putting out of action a machine gun in the village square. With an excellent grasp of the situation he took over the role of the leading wave and consolidated a line to the east of the village, in addition to his own task of mopping up and getting in touch with the Battalion on the flank.

I am afraid, writes the Captain of his Company, the story sounds bold and convincing and in official language what it amounts to is the fact that Barber was detailed to act as a reserve platoon commander and when everyone else was held up he pushed on ahead and made his platoon do their own and everyone else's job. It was a splendid case of team spirit. An officer whose sole object was to win for his side. A Company were the only people in the northern part of the village for a very long time except for hordes of Bosch and if Barber had not acted with such rapidity and sound common-sense I rather think that we should have been slaughtered to a man. We certainly could not have stayed in our position.

**Herald 3rd January 1919**

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<b>Albert Ralph BARNACLE</b>	Private 25060 2nd Bn., South Wales Borderers
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Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon.

Died: Thursday, 6th April 1916. Age 24.

Formerly 65288 Royal Field Artillery.

Born in Stratford-on-Avon. Resided at 25 Ryland Street, Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: MESNIL RIDGE CEMETERY, MESNIL-MARTINSART, Somme, France

Grave Reference: C. 2.



#### IN MEMORIAM

On the 6th inst, killed in action, in France, Albert Ralph Barnacle, of 25 Ryland Street, Stratford-on-Avon.

**Herald April 21st 1916**

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<b>Adrian Hamilton Silverton BARRETT</b>	Second Lieutenant attd. 14th Bn., Royal Welsh Fusiliers
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Died: Monday, 10th July 1916.

Age 20.

Only son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Wilson Barrett, of St. Gregory's Road, Stratford-on-Avon.

BARRETT A. H. S.

THIEPVAL MEMORIAL. Pier and Face 4 A. Somme, France.

A. H. Barrett registered for service September 4th 1914

A letter received from Second Lieutenant H. A. Barrett, 13th Royal Welsh Fusiliers was received by Mrs. Barrett of Winterbourne, Stratford-on-Avon shows that the officer has had a startling experience and has narrowly escaped receiving his coitus. Good luck favoured him and at the present moment he feels quite equal to dealing with the enemy when the accounting comes about.

**Herald 2nd June 1916**

### SECOND LIEUTENANT A. S. H. BARRETT



We regret to record the death in action of Second Lieutenant Adrian S. H. Barrett, only son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Wilson Barrett, of St. Gregory's Road, Stratford-on-Avon. Before enlisting in the Black Watch he was a prominent member of the Stratford Troop B. P. Boy Scouts and by his industry obtained every badge for which he could qualify. Having served a period in the ranks of the Army he was given a commission in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and, by his bravery won for himself golden opinions. All who knew him will regret his death at the early age of twenty and will extend sincere sympathy

to the bereaved parents. In a letter to Mrs Wilson Barrett an officer of the regiment says "It may be of comfort to you know that we are all sorrowing with you in the loss of our cheery and bright comrade. I can only say that he died as an English officer best can. He was at the head of his men. Leading them to victory in the attack at Mametz Wood and his death was quick and painless. We have buried him near the wood with the men who fell with him. I am writing this because Colonel Flower fell in the same attack - otherwise this very sad task would not have fallen on me".

**Herald 21st July 1916**



Winterbourne House, St. Gregory's Road

### SECOND LIEUTENANT ADRIAN S. H. BARRETT R.W.F

In proud and loving memory of Second Lieutenant Adrian S. H. Barrett R.W.F, only son of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Barrett of Stratford-on-Avon, killed in action 10th July 1916. He died as an English officer best can at the head of his men leading them to victory in an attack at Mametz Wood.

**Herald 13th July 1917**



In recent years the heroic endeavours of the Welsh Division, have been fittingly commemorated, above all by the placing in 1987 of the Dragon Memorial on its prominent position overlooking the wood

### MAMETZ WOOD

Mametz Wood covers the area where the struggles of the summer of 1916 were considered vital to the development and overall success of the Somme battle. This, the largest of the woods, had to be taken before the next stage of the battle could proceed. It was to cost much in blood and reputations to those who fought there, especially the Welsh battalions who suffered

so many casualties as they struggled to overcome the approaches to the German second line.

The fighting that took place, chiefly between the 5th – 9th July, but carrying on until the 11th, is officially incorporated within the Battle of Albert.

Men of great literary renown fought through here, amongst them Frank Richards, Siegfried Sassoon and Robert Graves.

### GRAVES IN MAMETZ WOOD

At last, after months, even years I have visited Mametz Wood. I have seen it in my dreams. I have thought of the spot and pictured it to myself - the spot where my son fell and where my son was buried. I wanted to see the French wood, the scenery last looked upon by the blue eyes of an English boy - and that boy, my son.

I have seen it all, and truly it is wonderful, it is grand. Nature has done her best to soften the hard marks the war has made. The undergrowth has grown up in some parts quite high: there still remain the stumps and burnt trees all bare and ghostly, that shell-fire had spoilt. But this lovely, fresh, green undergrowth is what pleased me most - young May bushes, golden broom, wild bluebells and lots of other wild French flowers, some blue, some white. I found four crosses put up in memory of the brave Royal Welch Fusiliers.

The first three are to the 11th, 15th and 16th Battalions, and they stand to the south on the edge of the wood. The fourth one - to the memory of the officers and men of the 13th Royal Welch Fusiliers, July 10th 1916 when my boy fell - seemed to rise up as an emblem of peace and rest. It is quite a large dark brown cross, well preserved, and had a small wooden rail round it. There were many wild flowers growing near to it. On the left-hand side was a golden bush of broom; at the extreme right-hand side was a lovely little white May tree, and at the foot of the cross was moss and wild bluebells. I was able to plant my English forget-me-nots and pansies I had brought and as I was planting the flowers from the garden my boy had known, the sun came out after a heavy shower and brightened all the wood. There was a lark singing just near me. No one could believe that once in this lovely spot, there had been so much dreadful battle fire and our dear men had given their lives so bravely.

I stood and fixed the picture in my mind, so that I could carry it back with me to England, and after a few moments of prayer I looked for some small wild flowers I could take as a remembrance.

There may be other mothers, like myself, who longed to see the place where their sons had been buried. If these lines can comfort any, I hope they will.

Mametz Wood is a lovely place. The shell holes are filled with green growth and Nature's hand has covered our brave dead with a mantle of wild flowers, grasses and quaint mosses; so that we need not feel they live without a flower upon their soldier graves. There are many English helmets and many ammunition cases half-full of hand grenades. One could not take a helmet from the spot where it had fallen. I hope others going out to France will respect the very ground where the battlefields are. I do not know if Colonel Flower, Royal Welch Fusiliers would have been buried also under that cross. I hope to think he was, as the English forget-me-nots were for my boy, him and all the brave dead Fusiliers. This cross is to the west side of the wood, not far from two green roads the map of which I had, indicating the spot where Colonel Flower and 2nd Lieutenant A. S. H. Barrett fell. If Nature can make lovely marks all made terrible by war how much more can God make man beautiful, all disfigured also by war! I would rather rest myself out there in Mametz Wood "Nature's Garden" with the shell flowers growing near, all quiet and peaceful, far from a noisy town.

I visited still more graves on the Contal Maison road and replaced many crosses that had fallen down. I took the name of a grave I could read more easily and think, perhaps, someone might recognise and be pleased to hear - Lt. C. Gly. Roberts, Adj. 9th R.W.F., July 3rd 1916. I wish I could have done more.

One came across the field-telephone wires still there, the dug-outs and gun shelters. I am glad there were no "trippers" or picnic parties out in Mametz Wood - only Nature. The sunshine, April showers and singing of the birds and no one asking for a ticket or permission to pray for our own sons - just Nature, God's work, and God in her heart. Dear mothers, let these words comfort you. No-one on earth can separate us forever from our sons. There is freedom in the next world where our boys are; we need no tickets. Keep God's love in your heart, faith and perfect trust. My church is my son's grave that needs no tickets. My trust is in my Saviour. As he suffered and gave his life, so did our sons, and one day God will wipe away all tears. Not that I wish to convey that we are perfect and need no church, but that our church seems to hold itself away from the hearts that are broken. It shuts us out, and asked for "tickets" for us to hear prayers for our sons. God does not ask us for "tickets" when we pass beyond.

I would gladly see any mother and tell and help her about going out to France to visit her son's grave. Anyone who wants comfort from a broken-hearted mother let her come and see me. For the present I think the poorer mothers better wait, for a little later things will be easier for them in many ways, especially those going to Albert, where not one single house remains - all in ruins. One can give true sympathy to the Frenchman, who has had his country destroyed. Do some of us really understand what it would have meant if the Germans had got to England? Oh sons that sleep out there in France, yours was the sacrifice. We owe you all - our homes, our lives. Let us respect your memory and remember how much we do owe to you.

Little English flowers at the cross, let your seed spread and grow up as a token of a mother's love - not alone for her only son, who sleeps there but for all the dear dear soldiers to whom we owe our free England and who will never be forgotten.

R. W. B. (Mrs. R. Wilson. Barrett)

**Herald 7th May 1920**

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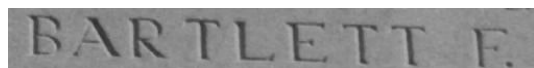
**Frederick BARTLETT** Private 16/1813 16th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon.

Died: Thursday, 27th July 1916. Age 19.

Son of Mr. Arthur and Mrs. Elizabeth Bartlett, of 67, West Street, Stratford-on-Avon.

Born in Stratford-on-Avon.



THIEPVAL MEMORIAL. Somme, France. Pier and Face  
Somme, France. 9 A 9 B and 10 B

**PRIVATE. F. BARTLETT**

Information has been received by his parents who live in West Street of the death of Private Bartlett of the Royal Warwicks which took place during the bombardment on the 27th ult. He was advancing towards the trenches when he was struck by shrapnel and killed. His death is reported to be a great blow to his many friends and officers. Bartlett went to the front in February last.

**Herald 11th August 1916**

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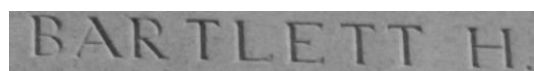
**Harold BARTLETT** Private 10947 11th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Birmingham.

Died: Saturday, 15th July 1916. Age 27.

Son of Mr. Arthur and Mrs. Elizabeth Bartlett, of 67, West Street, Stratford-on-Avon

Born & Resided in Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire.



THIEPVAL MEMORIAL, Somme, France. Pier and Face 9  
A 9 B and 10 B

**IN MEMORIAM**

In loving memory of our dear sons, Private Harold and Private Frederick Bartlett, who were killed in action July 15th and 27th, 1916. Never forgotten by mother and father, five sisters and four brothers.

**Herald 27th July 1917**

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**Percival Horace BATCHELOR** Second Lieutenant Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Attd. 2nd/6th Bn., North Staffordshire Regiment

Died: Wednesday, 10th April 1918.

Age 25.

Second son of Mrs. Batchelor of 37 Shakespeare Street, Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: MONS COMMUNAL CEMETERY, Mons, Hainaut, Belgium

Grave Reference: VIII. D. 8.

**MISSING**

**SECOND LIEUTENANT P. H. BATCHELOR**

Second Lieutenant P. H. Batchelor, Royal Warwickshire Regiment attached North Staffordshire Regiment of 89 Stamford Road, Handsworth is reported missing since March 21st. After serving in the ranks he gained a commission in November last. He went to France in January. In civilian life he was assistant clerk to Solihull Board of Guardians. Any information in respect of her son's fate to Mrs. Batchelor of 37 Shakespeare Street, Stratford upon Avon will be gratefully received.

**Herald 5th April 1918**

**PRISONER OF WAR**

**SECOND LIEUTENANT P. H. BATCHELOR**

Mrs. Batchelor of 37 Shakespeare Street has received news that her son, Second Lieutenant P. H. Batchelor of Royal Warwicks attached to the 2nd 6th North Staffs was reported missing from March 21st is now a prisoner of war.

**Herald 31st May 1918**

**DIED OF WOUNDS**

**SECOND LIEUTENANT P. H. BACHELOR**

It is with regret that we record the death of Second Lieutenant P. H. Batchelor Royal Warwickshire Regiment attached to the 2nd 6th North Staffordshire Regiment and the second son of Mrs. E. Batchelor of Shakespeare Street. This officer of 25 years of age was reported missing on March 21st. Later, at the end of May was reported wounded and a prisoner of war of Germany. He is now officially stated to have died of wounds in Germany. Enlisting at the beginning of the war and was at the army pay office Chester. He



obtained his commission in November last and crossed the channel in the following January. In civil life he was an assistance clerk at Solihull Board of Guardians.

**Herald 14th June 1918**

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**Richard BATCHELOR** Private 761 1st Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Oakfield Rugby.

Died: Sunday, 6th June 1915. Age 27.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Batchelor of 11, Shottery Road, Stratford-on-Avon.

Born in Elmanton Stratford upon Avon. Resided in Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: VLAMERTINGHE MILITARY CEMETERY, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

Grave Reference: I. H. 30.

It is with great regret that we record the death of Richard Batchelor, of the Royal Warwicks, whose name appears on our Roll of Honour. One of his comrades, writing from the front, to his brother Corporal Batchelor, has given particulars of his death on June 6th. "He got hit with shrapnel---writes Pte. G. Hibbs--- while he and I were just finishing cooking our officer's breakfast. I, Sergeant Roberts, and another officer's servant did all we could for him, to try and see if we could save his life, and we all three volunteered to risk taking him back, and did so under difficulties. He was one of the best. He is missed by all our officers, but you must keep a good heart and resign yourself to know that he died doing his duty for his country's cause, as he always did. I witnessed the burial and I am making progress to have a good cross made for him." He is laid to rest in the specially reserved cemetery at Vlamertinghe. Those who remember Pte. R. Batchelor, as a scholar in our Sunday School, will not be surprised to hear that in his last moments he manifested a brave and unselfish spirit. He felt that he was dying and asked those who were doing all they could for him to "see to someone else." We are proud to have numbered him amongst those on our Roll of Honour, and we tender to those who feel his loss so keenly, our heartfelt sympathy.

**July 1915 Stratford-on-Avon Congregationalist**

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**Ernest Charles BATES** Private 3576 2nd Bn, Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Warwick.

Died: Saturday, 25th September 1915. Age 33.

Born and resided in Stratford upon Avon. Son of Mary, 10 Russell Court.



LOOS MEMORIAL. Panel 22 to 25. France.

**IN MEMORIAM**

In loving memory of Earnest Charles Bates of the 2nd Royal Warwickshire Regiment who fell in action on September 25th 1915 at the battle of Loos. Lovingly remembered by wife and children.

**Herald 21st September 1916**

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**Harry BAYLISS** Private 27727 12th Bn., Royal Berkshire Regiment Labour Corps

Enlisted in Warwick.

Died: Saturday, 22nd September 1917. Age 48.

Husband of Mrs. R. A. Bayliss, of 9, Humphriss Street, Emscote, Warwick, and son of Emma Bayliss of 23 Ely Street, Stratford-on-Avon. Born in Stratford-on-Avon

Cemetery: BRANDHOEK NEW MILITARY CEMETERY No.3, VLAMERTINGHE, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

Grave Reference: I. H. 10.

**ROLL of HONOUR**

BAYLISS – Died of wounds on 22nd September 1917, Pte Harry Bayliss, 194th Labour Company, late, Royal Warwicks, the dearly loved husband of Rose Bayliss, 48, Parkes Street Warwick, in his 48th year.

Gone but not forgotten.

**The Warwick and Warwickshire Advertiser and Leamington Gazette, 6th October 1917**

The Germans used to drop three cornered steel spikes, from Zeppelins, to cripple horses. Harry Bayliss hadn't got his helmet on ; one hit him in the head, went straight through his brain, killed him.

**Extract from The Dillen.**

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**Albert James BEARLEY** Gunner 40797 152nd Siege Bty., Royal Garrison Artillery

Enlisted in Birmingham.

Died: Wednesday, 12th September 1917. Age 21.

Son of Alfred James and Louisa Bearley, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Born and resided in Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: ARTILLERY WOOD CEMETERY, BOEZINGE, Belgium.

Grave Reference: I. C. 17.



**KILLED IN ACTION**

**GUNNER ALBERT JAMES BEARLEY**

News has been received of the death of this young soldier. He was but 21 in action on the 12th inst. He joined the forces before war broke out and was attached to the RGA. The captain of his company writing to Bearley's sister says "he was killed in the early morning while on duty and was buried in the military cemetery. He was a most useful gunner and always did his work extremely well. Only the previous day an order was issued for Bearley to have a stripe and to be made a bombardier in recognition of his good work. Bearley gave his life while doing his duty manfully." In May 1916 Bearley was wounded in three places but recovered and went back to France at the end of September.

**Herald 28th September 1917**

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**George BEARLEY** Private 265959 1st/7th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, 1914.

Died: Tuesday, 25th July 1916. Age 20.

Third son of Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Bearley of Rother Street, Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire.



THIEPVAL MEMORIAL. Pier and Face 9 A 9 B and 10 B

**PRIVATE GEO. BEARLEY**

Among those posted as missing appears the name of Private George Bearley a well known member of the 1st Stratford Troop B.P. Boy Scouts. The third son of Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Bearley of Rother Street he joined the Royal Warwickshire Regiment in November 1914. He sailed for France in the following March and with the exception of one brief leave, has never been there ever since. He was posted as missing after an engagement with the British Expeditionary Force on 25th July. Private Bearley was 20 years of age and previous to joining up was employed at Messrs. Espley's brickworks. His leisure hours were, when opportunity afforded, given to the Boy Scout movement of which he was an ardent member. He joined the local troop upon its inauguration and for some time was an assistant scoutmaster.

**Herald 18th August 1916**

**PRIVATE GEORGE BEARLEY**

Official notification has been received by Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Bearley of Rother Street of the death of their son Private George Bearley of Royal Warwickshire Regiment. This soldier, who was a well known member of the local troop of BP Scouts had been reported missing since 16th July 1916 and now the Army Council have regretfully come to the conclusion that his death took place on that date. Mr. and Mrs. Bearley also received a letter expressing the sympathy of the King and Queen in their bereavement.

**Herald 4th May 1917**

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**Harry BECKETT** Private 3456 2nd/7th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, 1914.

Died: Wednesday, 19th July 1916. Age 28.

Son of the late Sarah Beckett, of Sheep St., Stratford-on-Avon; husband of Kate Eleanor Beckett, of 15, Meer St., Stratford-on-Avon.



Memorial: LOOS MEMORIAL. Panel 22 to 25. France.





**MISSING PRIVATE H. BECKETT.**

News has reached Stratford that Private H. Beckett of the 2nd 7th Royal Warwicks has been missing since July 19th. Beckett enlisted two years ago and went out to France on May 15th 1916. We hope his relatives will soon receive reassuring tidings as to his whereabouts.

**Herald 22nd December 1916**

**PRIVATE HARRY BECKETT**

Mrs. Beckett of Pinfield Court, Meer Street has been notified by the Territorial Force Record Office of the death of her husband. The cause is not stated but occurs while he was a prisoner of war on or since 19th July 1916. Private Beckett was lately in the employ of Mr. E. T. Atkins of Waterside and joined the Royal Warwickshire Regiment in November 1914. He was 29 years of age and in a previous communication from the Army Authorities the deceased was notified as missing.

**Herald 5th January 1917**

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<b>Leonard BECKETT</b>	Rifleman LR/343 12th Bn., King's Royal Rifle Corps
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Enlisted in Birmingham.

Died: Monday, 6th May 1918. Age 29.

Son of Mrs. Beckett of 51 Bull Street, Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire.

Born and resided in Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: MONS COMMUNAL CEMETERY, Mons, Hainaut, Belgium

Grave Reference: IX. B. 3.

**RIFLEMAN L. BECKETT.**

News has just reached Mrs. Beckett of 51 Bull Street that her son Leonard Beckett of the 12th King's Royal Rifles died on May 6th in Mons Hospital. He was 29 years of age and joined up on the outbreak of war. Previous to that he was employed at Messrs. Kendal & Sons Limited. Beckett was taken prisoner by the Germans in March last and sympathy will go out to the relatives in their great blow.

**Herald 20th September 1918**

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<b>Albert W BEESLEY</b>	Private 266208 2nd/7th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment
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Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon.

Died: Wednesday, 19th July 1916. Age 19.

Son of Thomas and Mary Ann Beesley, of 36, Guild St., Stratford-on-Avon.



LOOS MEMORIAL, France. Panel 22 to 25. France

**PRIVATE A. BEESLEY**

Mrs. Beesley of Guild Street has received a notification that her son Private A. Beesley 2-7th Royal Warwickshires who was in one of the engagements on the 19th July is missing. His brother who belonged to the Rifle Brigade was killed about ten weeks ago.

**Herald 11th August 1916**

**PRIVATE A. BEESLEY**

Mr. and Mrs. Beesley of Guild Street, Stratford upon Avon have just received notification from the Officer of his regiment that nothing has been heard of their son A. Beesley of the 2nd 7th Battalion Royal Warwickshire since he was reported missing last July. His name is not on the list of English prisoners in Germany so it is feared that he has been killed. He is the second son Mr. and Mrs. Beesley have lost, Henry Edward who was in the Rifle Brigade having been killed in France last May by a sniper. The youngest son Arthur Thomas only 18 years of age has just joined the Worcester Cycling Corps.

**Herald 27th April 1917**

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**Henry Edward BEESLEY** Rifleman S/2087 12th Bn., Rifle Brigade

Enlisted in Birmingham.

Died: Tuesday, 23rd May 1916. Age 20.

Second son of Thomas and Mary A. Beesley, of 36, Guild St., Stratford-on-Avon. Second son of Thomas and Mary A. Beesley, of 36, Guild St., Stratford-on-Avon.

Born and resided in Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: POTIJZE BURIAL GROUND CEMETERY, Belgium.

Grave Reference: C. 33.

**RIFLEMAN BEASLEY KILLED**

Mrs. Beasley of Guild Street has just received a letter announcing the death of her son who was killed on 23rd May. He was shot through the head by a German sniper just as it was getting dark. Beasley joined the forces in September 1914 and was in the battle of Loos and subsequent engagements. The Captain of his company writes to his mother "He was quite one of the most willing men I have ever had under me and anything that he was asked or told to do was done cheerfully and well. B Company has suffered a great loss by his death." Mrs. Beasley will have the sympathy of all her friends.

**Herald 2nd June 1916**

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**Henry William BENNETT** Private 58004 1st Bn., Worcestershire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon.

Died: Friday, 27th September 1918. Age 20.

Son of Elizabeth Bennett, of 1, The Barracks, Shottery, Stratford-on-Avon.

Born in Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: DUISANS BRITISH CEMETERY, ETRUN, Pas de Calais, France

Grave Reference: VII. A. 32.

**PRIVATE H. W. H BENNETT**

Private H. W. Bennett, Mrs. Bennett of Brooklands Cottage Shottery has received a painful missive from a sister in the 23rd casualty clearing station France informing her that her son Private H. W. Bennett of the Worcester Regiment died on September 27th. He was admitted to hospital on 24th suffering from a gunshot wound in his back penetrating the abdomen and an operation was performed in the hope of saving his life.

**Herald 4th October 1918**

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**Ernest Charles BERRY** Private 15585 1st/5th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon.

Died: Thursday, 4th October 1917. Age 19.

Son of Annie Berry, of 6, Barracks, Shottery, Stratford-on-Avon, and the late Charles Berry.

Born and resided in Shottery



TYNE COT MEMORIAL, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 23 to 28 and 163A

**KILLED IN ACTION PRIVATE C. BERRY**

Charles Ernest Berry who killed in France on 4th October at the early age of 19 was the only son of Mrs. C. Berry a widow living at Shottery. He was formerly in the employ of the Great Western Railway Company and responded to his country's call shortly after the outbreak of war. He went to France with the Royal Warwickshire Regiment and participated in many engagements being wounded at the battle of the Somme. Writing to his bereaved mother his Platoon Officer says "he was killed instantly and died a true soldier gallantly attacking the enemy to help us win a great victory on that day. Although he had been with the Regiment only a short time he soon became popular with his new comrades and gained the confidence of the officers. I assure you of my heartfelt sympathy in your great trouble."

**Herald 2nd November 1917**

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**Edward Bayes BERRY** Lance Serjeant 2030 15th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Birmingham.

Died: Sunday, 3rd September 1916. Age 32.

Youngest son of Thomas and Mary Berry, of 1, New St., Stratford-on-Avon.

Born and resided in Stratford-on-Avon.



THIEPVAL MEMORIAL. Pier and Face 9 A 9 B and 10 B. France

#### **MISSING ON 3rd SEPTEMBER 1916**

Now officially reported killed in action on that date Lance Sergeant E. B. Berry R.W.R. youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Berry, New Street, Stratford.

**Herald 23rd February 1917**

#### **DEATH OF LANCE SERGEANT E. BERRY**

Official intimation has been received of the death of Lance Sergeant E. B. Berry of 13th Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment which is presumed to have occurred with the expeditionary force in France on 3rd September. Berry who was 32 years of age was the first employee of Messrs. Flower & Sons Limited to enlist and for some time he was engaged at Parkhurst on clerical work. A good son, a trusted employee and a keen soldier he was very popular with all with whom he was brought in contact. On going to France in July last year he played the more serious game in the same fearless manner which he displayed on the football field and in other circles of sport. He was a general favourite and to us the words of Brian "Heaven gives its favourites early death".

**Herald 23rd February 1917**

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<b>Harold BERRY</b> Private 2685 Warwickshire Yeomanry
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Enlisted in Warwick.

Died: Saturday, 1st May 1915. Age 19.

Son of James and Elizabeth Berry, Swans Nest Cottage, Stratford-on-Avon.

Resided in Stratford-on-Avon

Cemetery: STRATFORD-ON-AVON CEMETERY, Warwickshire, United Kingdom

Grave Reference: 700.

#### **SAD DEATH OF A STRATFORD TROOPER**

News of the death of Trooper Harold Berry after a short illness came as a painful shock to his many friends. The youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Berry of Swans Nest Cottage he was only 19 years of age and had quite an amiable and willing disposition and had won the respect of all who knew him. For some years he was an active and popular member of Stratford on Avon troop of Boy Scouts. Responding to his country's call he left the employment of Mr. E.W. Bush to whom he was apprenticed in November last and joined the 2nd Warwickshire Yeomanry. His company encamped at Cirencester Park and he became an orderly to the Vicar of Stratford on Avon, the Reverend Canon Melville, Chaplain to the South Midland Mounted Brigade. Indisposition overtook him and he went to Cirencester Hospital where he passed away on Saturday last. On Monday the remains were conveyed to Stratford by military escort accompanied by the Canon Melville and Corporal R. M. Smith. Internment took place on Wednesday the service being taken by the Reverend F. R. Allwood. A wealth of handsome wreaths lay on the coffin which was covered with the Union Jack. Among the numerous sympathisers were Mr. and Mrs John Smith, Mr. and Mrs. E.W. Bush and members of his staff. In addition to the family and personal tributes a wreath was sent by Major Lord Willoughby de Broke and the officers of B Squadron 2nd Warwickshire Yeomanry, the NCO's and men of B. Squadron, fellow comrades of the third troop, Mr. and Mrs. E. Bush and his fellow workers in Bridge Street. One of the deceased's Trooper's brothers has recently returned wounded from France. Another is serving with the colours at the present moment and a third has presented himself for enlistment.

**Herald 7th May 1915**

#### **MEMORIAL TO A STRATFORD TROOPER**

##### **HAROLD BERRY**

There has recently been erected in the Stratford cemetery a memorial to the memory of a young townsman named Harold Berry. He was apprenticed to Mr. Bush, jeweller and like many other young fellows left his employment in answer to his country's call and joined the Warwickshire Imperial Yeomanry. The memorial is of Sicilian marble a plain Latin cross with three bases and a kerb enclosing the grave. In the centre of the arms of the cross is a neatly carved regimental badge - the bear and ragged staff. The following is the inscription : In loving memory of Harold Berry, Trooper 2nd 1st Warwickshire Imperial Yeomanry an affectionate brother and youngest dearly beloved son of James and Elizabeth Berry who passed away at Cirencester Park Camp, May 1st 1915 aged 19 years. The memorial is the work of Mr. George Clifford of Sanctus Street and is very skilfully executed.

**Herald 31st December 1915**

**James BERRY** Corporal 48656 2nd Bn., Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers

Enlisted in Shrewsbury, 1915.

Died: Sunday, 8th September 1918. Age 27.

Son of James and Elizabeth Berry, of Swan's Nest Cottage, Stratford-on-Avon.

Born in Stratford-on-Avon.



PLOEGSTEERT MEMORIAL, Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium.  
Panel 5

**CORPORAL J. BERRY**

Mr. and Mrs. Berry of Swans Nest Cottages Stratford on Avon have been notified from the War Office that their son, Corporal J. Berry was killed in action on 8th September. He served three years and four months in France and was 27 years of age. A letter received from the captain commanding his company expressed the sympathy of officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the company in their sad bereavement. He continues "I am very sorry indeed to state that your son Corporal Berry was killed by shell fire as we were returning from the lines to rest. Most fortunately, he did not suffer any pain as death was almost instantaneous. Corporal Berry was buried the following day on the outskirts of Baillens. The commanding officer and the whole of his company were present." This is the second son Mr. and Mrs. Berry have lost in the war.

**Herald 15th November 1918**

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**John Albert BERRY** Serjeant 1464 Leicestershire Yeomanry

Enlisted in Leicester.

Died: Thursday, 13th May 1915. Age 32.

Son of the late Thomas and Eliza Berry, of 36, Henley St., Stratford-on-Avon.

Born in Stratford-on-Avon. Resided in Oakham.



YPRES (MENIN GATE)  
MEMORIAL, Ieper, West-

Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 5

**LOCAL ROLL OF HONOUR**

Deep sympathy will be extended to Mr. and Mrs. T. Berry of Henley Street who have lost their only son Jack in the cruel war on the continent. Mr. J. A. Berry was extremely popular in Stratford and served as a learner at the local Post Office, afterwards taking an appointment as a sorting clerk and telegraphist at Evesham. From there he transferred to Leicester where he joined the Yeomanry and when the call came volunteered for active service. He quickly advanced to the position of serjeant and was held in general esteem by his comrades.

**Herald 21st May 1915**

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**Donald Sydney BIRCH** Private 2931 1st/7th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Coventry 1914.

Died: Friday, 18th February 1916. Age 22.

Son of Joseph and Mary Birch, of 27, Guild St., Stratford-on-Avon.

Resided in Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: FONCQUEVILLERS MILITARY CEMETERY, Pas de Calais, France

Grave Reference. I. D. 18.

**DONALD SIDNEY BIRCH**

The death of Donald Sidney Birch the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Birch of Guild Street, somewhere in France is reported. He joined the 1st 7th Royal Warwicks in October 1914 and has been nearly 12 months in the trenches. His comrade, George Bearley writing home to the parents. Says "Just these few lines to let you know how sorry we are in your great loss at the death of your son, Donald. He was always cheerful and was liked by everyone in the platoon and they send their greatest sympathy to you all. I am a Stratford lad myself. We enlisted together and have been chums ever since and I feel very much upset about it. He



was laid to rest two days later in a cemetery just behind the lines. He looked very peaceful in death. I hope these few words of sympathy will help you to bear your great loss and there is consolation of knowing that he died a painless death."

**Herald 3rd March 1916**

#### **DONALD SIDNEY BIRCH**

Mrs. Birch of Guild Street has received the following letter from Colonel L. H. Hanbury 1st 7th Royal Warwickshire Regiment. "I regret to say your son, Donald, was killed last week in the trenches by the explosion of a big shell and there is no doubt his death was instantaneous and with no suffering. We all regret his loss very much as he was a particularly nice fellow and a good soldier and I sympathise with you and Mr. Birch most deeply in his death. One must try and feel that he died the most glorious death a man can die, namely for his king and country. He was

buried in the little cemetery here and a cross with his name and regiment has been erected."

**Herald 10th March 1916**

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**William BLACKFORD** Private 242759 2nd/6th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, February 1915.

Died: Friday, 2nd November 1917. Age 37

Eldest son of Mrs. Prior of Ely Street, Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: SUNKEN ROAD CEMETERY, FAMPOUX, Pas de Calais, France

Grave Reference. Grave Reference I. C. 32.

#### **PRIVATE W. BLACKFORD**

Whilst guarding a water tank somewhere in France, Private W. Blackford of the 2nd 6th Royal Warwickshire Regiment was struck by a shell and killed instantaneously. He was just entering on his 37th year and was looking forward to a brief respite from the war when death claimed him. He was a bricklayer by trade working a good deal with his grandfather Mr. H. Hewins and he joined up three years ago February last in the early days of the war. After a period of training in the Blighty he took his turn across the water and was mixed up in a good deal of hard fighting this year. Blackford was the eldest son of Mrs. Prior of Ely Street and bore the best of characters both as a civilian and soldier.

**Herald 16th November 1917**

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**Arnold Grayson BLOOMER** Lieutenant 3rd, attd. 2nd Bn., Lincolnshire Regiment

Enlisted 1914.

Died: Friday, 3rd August 1917. Age 31.

Son of George Frost Bloomer and Eliza Jane Bloomer, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: BRANDHOEK NEW MILITARY CEMETERY, VLAMERTINGHE, BELGIUM

Grave Reference. II.G. 15.

#### **DIED OF WOUNDS - LIEUTENANT A.G. BLOOMER**



We are sure many Stratfordians will extend their sympathy to Mrs. and Mrs. Bloomer of Old Town in the loss of their second son. Lieutenant Arnold Grayson Bloomer who was educated at King Edward VI school, at Stratford on Avon and captained the rugby football team in 1902. At the outbreak of war he volunteered for service and joined the 1st Birmingham City Battalion. After some months training at Sutton Coldfield, he received a commission in the 3rd Lincolns and quickly went out to France where he remained for 18 months, when he came home on sick leave and underwent a serious operation. He returned to France on recovery in May and received a mortal wound on July 31st. Letters received from the sister and chaplain of the casualty clearing station showed that he received all possible care and attention but his wounds were too serious and he died on August 3rd aged 31.

**Herald 10th August 1917**



**Frank BOX** Private 20166 14th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, 1916.

Died: Friday, 26th October 1917. Age 19.

Youngest son of William and Clara Box, of 9, Mansell St., Stratford-on-Avon.

Born in Stratford-on-Avon



TYNE COT MEMORIAL, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.  
Panel 23 to 28 and 163A

**KILLED IN ACTION PRIVATE FRANK BOX**

Mr. and Mrs. Box of Mansell Street have been notified of the death of their younger son which took place on 26th October. Private Box joined the 14th Royal Warwicks in June 1916 and went out on 20th February last. His first engagement was at Vimy Ridge and he saw much fighting afterwards. His officer speaks of him in the highest terms. He acquitted himself admirably and the Regiment was quite proud of him. A companion of him says he was liked by everyone. He saw him a few minutes before he marched off and he was very cheerful and it came as a great shock.

**Herald 9th November 1917**

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**Walter BOX** Corporal 371940 8th Bn., London Regt (Post Office Rifles)

Enlisted in London. 1915.

Died: Monday, 8th April 1918. Age 25.

Eldest son of William and Clara Box, of 9, Mansell St., Stratford-on-Avon.

Resided in Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: ST. SEVER CEMETERY EXTENSION, ROUEN, Seine-Maritime, France

Grave Reference. P. IX. C. IOB

**WOUNDED CORPORAL WALTER BOX**

Corporal Walter Box with the 1st 17th London Regiment has been dangerously wounded in the big push of the Germans. The latest news received by the parents show that he is bright and cheerful. Corporal Box is the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Box of Mansell Street and before joining up was postman for the Wolverton and Langley districts. He signed on with the Post Office Rifles in August 1915 and in January of this year was attached to the London Regiment. Plenty of hard fighting has come his way at High Wood, Ypres and Cambrai and he was wounded in September 1916 at the former place.

**Herald 5th April 1918**

**DEATH**

On the 8th April at the General Hospital, Rouen, France, died of wounds in action Corporal Walter Box 1/8 London Regiment P.O.R.

**Herald 12th April 1918**

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**Frederick William BOYNE** Private 43686 2nd/8th Bn., Worcestershire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon.

Died: Thursday, 24th October 1918. Age 18.

Formerly 40462 Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

Son of George William and Mary Elizabeth Boyne, of 8, Greenhill St., Stratford-on-Avon.

Born in Birmingham. Resided in Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: CANONNE FARM BRITISH CEMETERY, SOMMAING, Nord, France

Grave Reference. C. 2.

**KILLED IN ACTION**

**PRIVATE FREDERICK WILLIAM BOYNE**

In the flush of victory, almost on the dawn of peace, Private Frederick William Boyne of 2nd/ 8th Worcester Regiment was called upon to make the great sacrifice and very real sympathy will go out to the bereaved parents Mr. and Mrs. Boyne of Greenhill Street. He was only 19 years of age and went across the channel on Easter Monday. Prior to joining up he was in the bottling department of the brewery. Another brother is serving with the colours.

**Herald 15th November 1918**

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**Albert Edward BRADSHAW** Private 20499 2nd Bn., Coldstream Guards

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, 1916.

Died: Friday, 30th August 1918. Age 23.

Son of John and Elizabeth Bradshaw, of 2, Mason Corner, Rother St., Stratford-on-Avon.

Born in Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: ST. SEVER CEMETERY EXTENSION, ROUEN, Seine-Maritime, France

Grave Reference. R. II. G. 25

**DIED OF WOUNDS**

**PRIVATE A. E. BRADSHAW**

Mrs. E. Bradshaw of Masons Court, Rother Street has been notified of the death of her youngest son, Private Albert Edward Bradshaw, 23 of the Coldstream Guards which occurred in number 1 Australian Hospital Rouen on August 30th as a result of wounds sustained in action. His commanding officer writes that he was buried in a recognised British Cemetery by an Army Chaplain and assures the widowed mother that his death is most deeply felt by everybody in this platoon by whom he was both liked and respected. He joined the Coldstreams in December 1916 and has seen twelve months service in France. An elder brother is on the Western Front with the Royal Garrison Artillery.

**Herald 30th September 1918**

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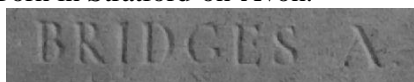
**Arthur Thomas BRIDGES** Private 18236 1st/6th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon.

Died: Thursday, 4th October 1917. Age 19.

Son of William Henry and Mary Elizabeth Bridges, of 5, Ryland St., Stratford-on-Avon.

Born in Stratford-on-Avon.



TYNE COT MEMORIAL Panel 23 to 28 and 163A. Belgium.

**MISSING PRIVATE A. T. BRIDGES**

Official information has been received that Arthur Thomas Bridges, third son of Pioneer W. H. Bridges of the Royal Engineers and Mrs. Bridges of Ryland Street has been missing since October 4th. He was the youngest of three brothers serving at the front and belonged to the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. Before enlisting he was in the employ of Mr. F. Balance.

**Herald 23rd November 1917**

**DIED OF WOUNDS**

**PRIVATE ARTHUR THOMAS BRIDGES**

Official news has reached Mrs. Bridges of Ryland Street that her third son Private Arthur Thomas Bridges who was reported missing since October 4th has now been reported as died of wounds received in action on or about that date. At the age of 18 he left Mr. F. Balance's employment and joined the 12th Royal Warwickshire Regiment. He was home as recently as September on sick leave and less than three weeks after he made the great sacrifice.

**Herald 21st December 1917**

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**Fred BRIDGES** Private 9634 9th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon.

Died: Friday, 12th May 1916. Age 35.

Husband of E. M. Bridges, of Church Row, Shottery, Stratford-on-Avon.

Born and Resided in Shottery.

Cemetery: AMARA WAR CEMETERY, Iraq

Grave Reference. XXI. F. 9.

**PRIVATE FRED BRIDGES**

Mrs. Bridges has received an intimation that her husband, Private Fred Bridges of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment died in Mesopotamia on May 12th. Bridges who was well known and respected in Shottery joined the colours nearly 18 months ago and after going through a period of training he went to the east with his Regiment. He was only 35 years of age and sympathy will go out to his widow in her bereavement.

**Herald 2nd June 1916**

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**George Henry BRIDGES** Private 21848 2nd Bn, Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, 1916.

Died: Thursday, 27th September 1917. Age 39.

Son of the late Henry and Sarah Bridges; husband of Annie Bridges, of 8, New Row, Shottery, Stratford-on-Avon. Born in Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: STRATFORD-ON-AVON CEMETERY

Grave Reference. 2645.



**THE WAR COURTS  
STRATFORD-ON-AVON BOROUGH**

After a week's rest this Tribunal sat on Wednesday evening at the Town Hall. Mr. F. Winter presided, supported by Messrs J. F. Burke, W. Hughes, F. G. Savage, and F. Crammer. Captain O'Flynn was present in the military interest.

Mr. John Butcher desired exemption for George Henry Bridges (38), whose principal work was tree grafting, budding and propagating. He had been in the same employ for fifteen years and five men from the nursery had joined the colours while two had gone to munitions. — Bridges said he had been examined at Budbrook and was passed for general service.—The Chairman : That is the difficulty. The army needs men, and he passed for general service.—Mr. Butcher said he had not appealed for any men before this.—Captain O'Flynn : Couldn't you do the work yourself ?—Mr. Butcher : I have not got the time.-- Captain O'Flynn suggested they could do without these luxuries.—Mr. Butcher : I don't call fruit trees luxuries. I sell 1,000 or 2,000 trees in a season.--- Mr. Burke asked if anyone were being trained on to take this man's place.—Bridges said the man who could have done his job had gone.—The Chairman : Suppose this man died to-morrow what would you do ? — Mr. Butcher : We should have to do without him then.—Bridges said he was a married man with two children, and his mother was partly dependent on him.--- Mr. Crammer observed that it would be a good thing if more fruit were grown.—Mr. Winter : And eaten too !. But the fact of this

man going won't affect the fruit grown very much.--- Exemption refused.

**Herald 15th September 1916**

**DIED IN HOSPITAL  
PRIVATE G. H. BRIDGES**

Notification has been received of the death of Private Bridges who formerly lived at Shottery. After some years in the employ of Mr. Butcher of the Warwick Road Nurseries he joined the 2nd Battalion of The Royal Warwickshires about twelve months since and saw a good deal of active service. He was in hospital in France for some little time when he was brought to St. George's Hospital London where he died on the 27th September after a serious operation. He was brought home and his remains are interred in Stratford upon Avon Cemetery on the 1st ins.

**Herald 12th October 1917**

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**Harold BROOKES** Private 10846 5th Bn., Oxford. and Bucks Light Infantry

Enlisted in Birmingham.

Died: Saturday, 25th September 1915. Age 23.

Born and resided in Stratford-on-Avon

**BROOKS H.**

YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.  
Panel 37 and 39

**DEATH PRESUMED PRIVATE BROOKES**

Private H. Brookes of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry has been missing since September 25th 1915 and the War Office has now written to his relatives presuming his death. Brookes joined up some two years ago and went across the Channel in August of last year He was 23 years of age and married and prior to enlisting he was in the employ of Mr. W. Pope of Croft Farm, Alveston.

**Herald 22nd September 1916**

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**Thomas BROOKES** Private 8515 2nd Bn., South Lancashire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-upon-Avon.

Died: Saturday, 24th October 1914. Age 29.

Son of Thomas and Lucy, of 12 Bull Street, Stratford-on-Avon

Born and resided in Clifford Chambers near Stratford-on-Avon.



Memorial: LE TOURET MEMORIAL, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 23

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**Herbert Cavis BROWN** Private 1341 2nd King Edward's Horse

Enlisted in Hampton Court.

Died: Tuesday, 25th May 1915. Age 31.

Second son of the late William and Mary Brown, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Born and resided in Stratford-on-Avon



Memorial: LE TOURET MEMORIAL, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 1

**STRATFORD PATRIOT KILLED IN ACTION**

**TROOPER HERBERT CAVIS BROWN**

The sad news of the death of Trooper Herbert Cavis Brown second son of the late Mr. William Brown, dental surgeon and of Mrs. Brown of this town was received yesterday. Born in 1884 Trooper Brown entered the grammar school in 1893 and upon the termination of his scholastic career was articled for six years to the engineering firm of Messrs. Paul and Horton. He then went to the north of England and subsequently to South America. Returning to this country after five years sojourn abroad he enlisted on 3rd January 1915 in the 2nd Battalion King Edward's Horse. He left for France on May 3rd and three weeks later on the evening of Whit Monday entered the trenches. The following night the company (who were serving as infantry) were preparing to attack a German trench at the point of bayonet and it was then that Trooper Brown was shot in the head and killed instantaneously. The sympathy of the Stratfordians and the deceased's Trooper's old school fellows will we are sure be extended to Mrs. Brown and her family in their bereavement.

**Herald 4th June 1915**

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**Jack BROWN** Private 267626 11th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Warwick.

Died: Wednesday, 25th April 1917. Age 19.

Son of John Brown, of Houndshill Cottages, Stratford-on-Avon. Resided in Ettington



ARRAS MEMORIAL. Bay 3. France

**DEATH OF A WHIP PRIVATE JACK BROWN**

J. Brown, late huntsman to the Warwickshire has lost his second son Jackie who was killed in action on 25th April last aged 19. He gave up his place in Ireland and came home to enlist. He was the second whip to the East Galway and was highly respected there and in West Neath. His eldest son had joined His Majesty's Forces in Salonica and was well the last was heard of him.

**Herald 18th May 1917**

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**Cecil Clive BRYAN DSO** Major 490th Field Coy., Royal Engineers

Died: Saturday, 11th August 1917.

Age 32.

Son of William and Elizabeth Bryan of 22 Arden Street, Stratford-on-Avon.

Resided at Holmwood College, Hastings Road, Bexhill on Sea, Sussex.

Cemetery: RENINGHELST NEW MILITARY CEMETERY, Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

Grave Reference. III. B. 2.

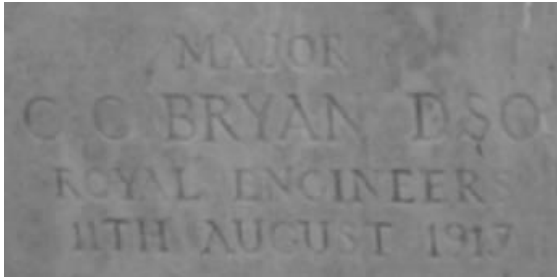
### **KILLED IN ACTION MAJOR C.C. BRYAN**

Major C.C. Bryan DSO Royal Engineers who was reported killed in action was well known in Stratford upon Avon where he was prominent in athletic games. He was mentioned in dispatches in January 1916 and received the DSO.

**Herald 7th September 1917**

### **KILLED IN ACTION MAJOR C. C BRYAN DSO**

Major C.C. Bryan who was killed in action at Ypres was one of three brothers well known in the football circles in the Midlands a quarter of a century back and according to the testimony of his men and what better evidence could one desire, he played as fine a game in the battle of life as he did in the football arena. He was educated at the grammar school and studied for several years abroad following which he settled down to educational work in the south of England.



He held a command in the Engineers before war broke out and when the call came he volunteered for service abroad. He received the command of a company and went across the water in December 1914. His military career was

marked by much good dispatches and the DSO was his latest distinction.

He has now made the great sacrifice leaving a record of honour which long be remembered by those served under him.

**Herald 28th September 1917**

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### **Thomas Campbell BURKE** Captain 1st King George's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Malaun Regt.)

Obtained a commission in 1897

Died: Saturday, 19th December 1914. Age 37.

Son of Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Francis Burke of Stratford-on-Avon

Memorial: NEUVE-CHAPELLE MEMORIAL, Pas de Calais, France

### **DEATH OF CAPTAIN BURKE**

It is with regret in which many Stratfordians will join that we announce the death of a brave young officer



Captain Thomas Campbell Burke of 1st King's Own Gurkha Rifles who fell in action on 19th December. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Francis Burke of Stratford on Avon and was 37 years of age. Educated at Trinity College he passed through Sandhurst and obtained a commission in 1897 in the Royal Irish Rifles preliminary to entering the Army. In the following year he was appointed into the 125th Napier Rifles and in 1900 served in China with 126th Rajputana Infantry during the Boxer rebellion receiving the medal. He served three years as Assistant Inspector of Imperial Service Troops in Raptunga and was promoted to Captain in 1906. After three years service as Adjutant at the Bangalor Voluntary Rifles during which time he started the first corps of boy scouts in India, he was transferred to the 1st King George Own Gurkha Rifles as double company commander stationed at Dharmasala Punjab.

On the outbreak of the present war the regiment was ordered to France but was detained for ten weeks guarding the Suez Canal and arrived at the Front in November last. Both Battalions of the regiment expressed deep regret at the loss of a gallant officer.

**Herald 1st January 1915**

### **THE LATE CAPTAIN BURKE A FORLORN HOPE**

The action in which Captain T. C. Burke was killed took place at Festhubert near Bethune and lasted from 19th December to the 22nd. He, with some seventy Gurkhas was entrenched in a marsh at the foot of the hill and was ordered as his Colonel's report testifies to effect a lodgement in the German lines. Really a forlorn hope. But orders had to be obeyed. "I had no choice but to entrust the dangerous work to him. He stepped over our parapet accompanied by Lieutenant Rundle and some twenty Gurkhas. He and Rundle were killed instantaneously in five yards of our parapet. The action was most gallant and well worthy of the VC. Words cannot express the bravery in which he so coolly went to certain death.

**Herald 8th January 1915**

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**David BURROWS** Private 8838 11th Bn, Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Birmingham.

Died: Saturday, 15th July 1916.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Burrows of 9, Ryland Street, Stratford-on-Avon.

Born and resided in Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: POZIERES BRITISH CEMETERY, OVILLERS-LA BOISSELLE, Somme, France.

Grave Reference. III. G. 29.

**PRIVATE DAVID BURROWS**

Mr. and Mrs. Burrows of 9, Ryland Street have received an intimation that their son, Private David Burrows is believed to be dead. He has been missing since 15th July last year. As nothing has since been heard of him, it is supposed that his death took place about that time. Private Burrows joined the Royal Warwicks in October 1915 and was sent to France early in July 1916. He took part in some hard fighting and had been wounded. Expressions of sorrow have been received from the King and Queen and the Captain of his Regiment.

**Herald 15th June 1917**

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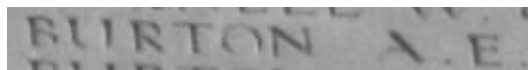
**Alfred Ernest BURTON** Private 10516 1st Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, 1915.

Died: Friday, 13th October 1916.

Husband of Mrs. Burton of Welcombe Stratford-on-Avon.

Born in Snitterfield.



THIEPVAL MEMORIAL. Pier and Face 9 A 9 B and 10 B. Somme, France.

**PRIVATE A. E. BURTON**

The sad intelligence had reached Mrs. Burton of Welcombe through the War Office that her husband Private A. E. Burton of the 1st Royal Warwicks was killed in action on October 23rd of last year while serving with the British Expeditionary Force in France. He had previously been reported as missing. Private Burton joined the Warwicks early in January 1915 and had been in France a year and 8 months participating in several engagements.

**Herald 29th June 1917**

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**Frederick BUTCHER** Major "A" Bty. 92nd Bde., Royal Field Artillery

Enlisted 1901.

Died: Wednesday, 22nd May 1918. Age 35.

Son of the late Mr. John Butcher, and of Mrs. Butcher, of 1, Gresham Rd., Cambridge; (formerly of Warwick Road, Stratford-on-Avon) husband of Nora Ester Dene Eccles (formerly Butcher), of London.

Cemetery: SUCRERIE CEMETERY, ABLAIN-ST.NAZAIRE, Pas de Calais, France

Grave Reference. V. B. 8.

Mr Fred Butcher, son of the late Mr John Butcher, of Warwick Road has been gazetted Second Lieutenant in the Royal Field Artillery, dating from November 11th. Mr Butcher who will be remembered by many Stratfordians, is a Grammar School old son, and served in the South African Campaign.

**Herald 19th November 1915**

Mr Fred Butcher, 2nd Lieutenant Royal Field Artillery, (spec. res) has been gazetted Lieutenant from July 1st, and Acting Captain from August 2nd 1917.

**Herald 2nd October 1917.**

**PROMOTION**

The London Gazette of the 24th ult. contained the following notice : "To be Acting Major, R.F.A. Lieutenant (Acting Captain) F. Butcher, Spec. Res., November 22nd 1917. Acting Major Butcher is the son of Mrs. Butcher, late of Warwick Road, Stratford-on-Avon and now of Cambridge.

**Herald 8th February 1918**

**KILLED IN ACTION**  
**MAJOR FRED BUTCHER R.F.A.**

We regret to record the death of this officer who fell in his country's service on May 22nd. He was the second son of the late Mr. John W. Butcher, of this town and of Mrs. Butcher Gresham Road, Cambridge. At the age of 18 he joined the Warwickshire Yeomanry and served in the South African campaign receiving the Queen's medal and four bars and the King's medal.

On the outbreak of the present war he was serving with the Natal Mounted Police. Having volunteered for the front, he was posted to German West Africa and served throughout General Botha's campaign. At the close of this he was offered a permanent position on the staff at Johannesburg but preferred to return to England and offer himself for service in the Western Theatre of war. Towards the close of 1915 he obtained a commission in the Royal Field Artillery and proceeded to the front in March 1916.

He participated in the heavy fighting on the Somme, at Cambrai and in the fierce battles which have characterised the German offensive this spring. He was gazetted acting major in November 1917 and was in command of his battery from that time onward. In a letter received from him in April he said: "For seven days and nights we have had no shave or wash, no boots off, no sleep, and lucky if we got a meal. Fighting all day and retiring at night it seemed like seven years. But in spite of everything there was a bit of real good sport about it and I wouldn't have missed it for worlds." A week before his death he sent home a field telegram from the officer in command of the Australians congratulating him on the number of Germans he had killed, and tendering the thanks of all ranks for the splendid barrage he had put up. He met his death on the evening of May 22nd while in a forward observation post with the observing officer. A stray shell fell near and a splinter went through his heart. He is buried in the military cemetery at Souchez near Arras.

His CO writes: "He is a great loss to the Brigade as well as a personal loss to me. He was an exceptionally good officer and most popular with his battery. During the few months that we have soldiered together he has always shown the same cheerful spirit in all circumstances and lately we have been through much. I shall miss him greatly and find him hard to replace."

His Captain writes: "The Major was extremely popular and speaking for myself I found it a pleasure to work with him. I have been with him in this Brigade from the beginning of 1916 and it is a very hard blow to lose a man and a friend."

Major Butcher received his education at Stratford Grammar School during the regime of the Rev. R. S. de Courcy Laffan. Although he left the town at an early age its Shakespearean association exercised a great influence on him. Three pocket volumes of the poet's plays were his constant companions and he was wont to turn to them as a relief from the stern demands of modern warfare.

**Herald 7th June 1918**

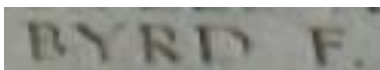
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<b>Frank BYRD</b> Private 17416 14th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment
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Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, March 1916.

Died: Sunday, 30th July 1916. Age 37.

Son of William and Helen Byrd, of Stratford-on-Avon. Born in Barcheston, Worcestershire.



THIEPVAL MEMORIAL. Pier and Face 9 A 9 B and 10 B. Somme, France

**MISSING PRIVATE F. BYRD**

Private Byrd who was formerly a clerk in the employ of Messrs. R. M. Bird & Co joined the colours on March 27th and after a short period of training he left England on July 19th to attach himself to the 14th Royal Warwicks at the front. Official news has been received at Stratford to the effect that Byrd had been missing since July 30th but hopes are entertained that he may be a prisoner of war.

**Herald 15th September 1916**

Remembered in our prayers and who for years has helped our work in Sunday School and as a sidesman Frank Byrd.

**Parish Magazine January 1917**

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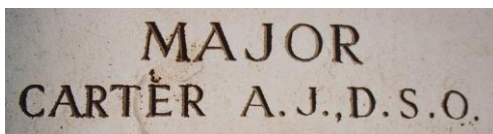
<b>Aubrey John CARTER DSO</b> Major 1st Bn., The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment
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Died: Wednesday, 4th November 1914.

Age 42.

Youngest son of the late Mr. T. A. Carter F.R.C.P and Mrs. Carter of Shottery Hall. Husband of Edith Mary Rigby.





YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 41 and 43

### DEATH OF MAJOR A. J. CARTER

#### KILLED IN ACTION

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Major Aubrey John Carter DSO of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment. He was killed in action on November 4th. Major Carter was the youngest son of the late Mr. T. A. Carter FRCP and Mrs. Carter of Shottery Hall and was born in 1872. He was educated at Oxford Military College where he won the Marquis of Hertford's sword for riding and tent pegging etc. He then went straight to Sandhurst as Captain of the rugby XV. He led Sandhurst to a year of unbroken victory.

In the South African war he served with distinction in Lord Mathune's column at Modder River and other engagements and was later ADC to General Sir Charles Douglas. He was mentioned in despatches and won the DSO. Shortly after the war he was appointed to the Staff of the School of Musketry, Hythe. Here he identified himself ardently with the new scheme of musketry instruction which eventually triumphed over great opposition. To his success here, for his energy was contagious and he was a fine lecturer. He owed his promotion in 1911 to the commandment of the Musketry School at Bloemfontein. There was a more delicate task for the attitude of the Boer element of the classes was uncertain but all difficulties disappeared, good temper, perfect fairness and the hospitality of the new commander and his wife made the school as popular with the Boer as with the Briton. Indeed the Boers themselves arranged a joint photograph of the two races and labelled it "the Great Reconciliation". Upon the reduction of the British Garrison Major Carter was requested by General Smuts on behalf of the union government to remain and instruct the Boers. He accepted and on more than one occasion was thanked by the government for his services.

At the beginning of this year he returned to take up an appointment of the General Staff of the Irish Command where he remained until the middle of October. The work of musketry inspection was important but he was eager to go to the war to see how his theories worked out in practice. A month ago he was hurriedly sent out to take command of the 1st Battalion of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment which had lost heavily in the officers and men. On the third day after his arrival the Regiment distinguished itself by capturing 200 Germans and he wrote from the front after a severe engagement that the officers, half trained or untrained had behaved very finely and the men were splendid and that all was well.

He lived long enough to see his teaching vindicated and the English infantry with rapid and accurate volume of fire doing once again what as he used to tell his classes, the English archers did on the stricken field of Crecy and Poitiers. The deceased officer married in 1906, Edith Mary Rigby, niece and adopted daughter of the late Right Honourable Sir John Rigby.

**Herald 13th November 1914**

#### MAJOR A. J. CARTER

Concerning the death of Major Carter a member of the Regiment writes "He was a tall soldier like figure standing 6'3" and as straight as the proverbial pine. His was a soldier's end. He went out from the trenches to direct machine gun fire on some large parties of the advancing enemy and had succeeded in driving them back but fell shot dead as the enemy retired. He was a gallant commander and a great leader."

**Herald 4th December 1914**

Our sympathy is offered to the family of Captain Carter of Shottery Hall, who gave his life for his Country in France.

**Parish Magazine December 1914.**

#### DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT IN THE FIELD

Among those whose names appear in Sir John French's list for gallant and distinguished conduct in the field is that of Major Carter, A. J., D.S.O. killed in action. Major Carter was son of Mrs. Carter of Shottery Hall, and had a distinguished military career.

**Herald 19th February 1915**

#### MEMORIAL TO THE LATE MAJOR A. J. CARTER D.S.O.

On Sunday week at matins the Reg. C. T. G. Payton dedicated a bronze tablet which has been placed on the north side of the nave at St. Andrew's Church "In proud and ever loving memory of my husband Major Aubrey John Carter D.S.O. who fell in action at the first battle of Ypres, November 4th 1914 while in command of the 1st Battalion Loyal North Lancashire Regiment." At the foot are the dates January 18th,

1872 and November 4th November 1914 with the epitaph "He has bought his eternity with a little hour and is not dead."

Major Carter was the youngest son of the late Mr. T. A. Carter, F.R.C.P. and Mrs. Carter of Shottery Hall and was born in 1872. He was educated at Oxford Military College and went straight to Sandhurst. In the South African War he served with distinction in Lord Methuen's column at Modder River and other engagements and later was A.D.C. to General Sir Charles Douglas. He was mentioned in dispatches and won the D.S.O. Shortly after the war he was appointed to the staff of the School of Musketry, Hythe and it was his pronounced success here that led to his promotion in 191 to be Commandant of the Musketry School at Bloemfontein. At the beginning of 1914 he returned to take up an appointment on the general staff of the Irish command where he remained until the middle of October. He was hurriedly sent out to take command of the 1st Batt. Of the Loyal North Lancashire Regt., which distinguished itself at the front. The deceased officer married in 1900 Edith Mary Rigby, niece and adopted daughter of the late Right Hon. Sir John Rigby.  
**Herald 14th May 1920**

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**Ernest CHANDLER** Private 81693 87th Coy., Machine Gun Corps (Inf)

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, 1916. Died: Monday, 14th May 1917. Age 29.  
Husband of Jessica Chandler, of 14, Holtom St., Stratford-on-Avon. Born in Stratford-on-Avon.  
Memorial: ARRAS MEMORIAL. Bay 10, France.

**KILLED IN ACTION PRIVATE ERNEST CHANDLER**

Official notification was received of the death of Private Ernest Chandler whose home is in Evesham Road. The deceased soldier was well known in Stratford and those intimately associated with him will regret the loss of a cheery unselfish friend. For eleven years he was in the service of Miss Marie Corelli and many will recall the picturesque figure, which propelled the stately gondola on Avon's placid stream. He subsequently entered the employ of Mrs. Legatt of Halls Croft. A medical reject in the first place Private Chandler was passed on re-examination for general service. He joined the County Regiment in October last and was afterwards transferred to the machine gun corps. On March 1st he sailed to France and on May 14<sup>th</sup> made the great sacrifice at the early age of 30. The sympathy of many friends extended to his widow and two young children. An office of his company writes "In the afternoon of our first day in the trenches he was killed by a shell which also killed his Sergeant and one of his companions. It is needless for me to say how sorry I am of this occurrence. Your husband was a fine man and popular with everybody. I can only offer you my deepest sympathy in your great bereavement but you will no doubt find some comfort in the knowledge that he met his death like a soldier and a man and that he made the great sacrifice for his country."

**Herald 15th June 1917**

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**Fred CHIVERS MM** Lance Corporal 203817 1st Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, July 1917. Died: Thursday, 19th September 1918. Age 37.  
Husband of Ada Beatrice Chivers, of 2, The Gardens, Scholars Lane, Stratford-on-Avon.  
Born in Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire.  
Cemetery: MONT HUON MILITARY CEMETERY, LE TREPORT, Seine-Maritime, France  
Grave Reference. VII. H. 7B.

**THE WAR COURTS**

Fred Chivers (36) of 2 Garden Row, Scholars Lane, said he was in business on his own account as a builder and contractor, and he also had a business in Broom. He had no partners, and no one who could manage the business in his absence. The advisory committee suggested one month to enable Chivers to settle up, but the Tribunal granted exemption till December 31st.

**Herald 7th July 1916.**

**FRED CHIVERS**

Private Fred Chivers, of the 1st Royal Warwicks, was awarded the Military Medal on April 15th of this year and complimented by the Major General of the division for his fine behaviour. When seven out of the eight in charge of a gun were either killed or wounded he worked it alone for several hours. Private Chivers went out in January 1918 and before joining up was a builder carrying on business at Stratford upon Avon and Broom.

**Herald 17th May 1918**



### **KILLED IN ACTION CORPORAL FRED CHIVERS MM**

Mrs. Chivers of Scholars Lane has sustained a heavy loss in the death of her husband Corporal Fred Chivers who will be remembered in Stratford and Broom as a builder and contractor. He joined the Royal Warwickshire Regiment in July 1917 and left for France in January. On April 15th he was awarded the Military Medal and complimented by the Major General of the division for his fine behaviour. When seven out of eight in charge of the gun had either been killed or wounded he worked it alone for several hours. About a month later he was promoted to Corporal. Earlier this month a letter was received from the captain of the number 1 casualty clearing station to the effect that Corporal Chivers was dangerously wounded in the neck and this was followed by a letter from the Corporal himself written from number 16 General Hospital Le Treport saying that he felt a little better. On Wednesday week Mrs. Chivers received a summons to his bedside and left for France the same evening. She arrived at the hospital late on Thursday night only to find that her husband had passed away earlier in the day. He was laid to rest on Saturday, his widow attending the last sad rites. Corporal Chivers was spoken of most highly by the doctor and the staff of the hospital.

**Herald 27th September 1918**

### **A WAR HONOUR**

The Military Medal awarded to the late Mr Fred Chivers of this town was presented to Mrs Chivers on Monday by Major General Walker K.C.B, K.C.M.G, D.S.O. at Birmingham.

**Herald 6th February 1920**

### **DEATHS**

On the 19th September, at the Treport Hospital, France, the result of wounds, Corporal Fred Chivers, of the 1st Royal Warwickshires formerly of Stratford-on-Avon aged 36 years. Deeply mourned by Wife and children.

**Herald 27th September 1918**

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<b>George CLARKEN</b> Major Royal Field Artillery
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Died: Friday, 3rd January 1919.

Age 58.

Husband of Annie Clarken, of 1, Windsor St., Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: RIPON CEMETERY, Yorkshire, United Kingdom

Grave Reference. D. 717.

### **In Memoriam**

On the 3rd inst at Ripon Military Hospital, after an operation, Major George Clarken Royal Field Artillery. Interred at Ripon Cemetery.

**Herald 7th January 1919**

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<b>Heber CLIMER</b> Private 16989 14th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment
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Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, 1916.

Died: Wednesday, 27th June 1917. Age 23.

Second son of Mr. Edward and Mrs. Patience Climer of 68, Cherry Orchard, Wellesbourne Hastings.

Born in Wellesbourne. Husband of Edith Edgington

Cemetery: ORCHARD DUMP CEMETERY, Arleux-en-Gohelle, France.

Grave Reference. IX. A. 26.

### **GUNNER CLIMER WOUNDED**

Mrs. H. Climer of Hawthorn, Birmingham Road has received news that her husband has been wounded in France and is now in the 11th Station Hospital Rouen. Gunner H. Climer only crossed to France 5 weeks ago. Previous to then he was in training with the Royal Warwickshire Regiment at Parkhurst, Isle of Wight.

**Herald 8th September 1916**

### **KILLED IN ACTION PRIVATE CLIMER**

Mrs. Climer of Birmingham Road has received from the War Office the sad intelligence that her husband Private H. Climer was killed in action on June 27th while serving with the British Expeditionary Force in France. Private Climer joined the Royal Warwicks in March last year and crossed to France four months later. Previously to leaving home he was an agent of the Pearl Insurance Company. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Climer of Wellesbourne Hastings.

**Herald 13th July 1917**

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**Reginald COLEMAN** Private 29402 1st Bn., Somerset Light Infantry

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon.

Died: Monday, 2nd September 1918. Age 19.

Son of James and Esther Coleman, of 8, Sheep St., Stratford-on-Avon.

Born in Stratford-on-Avon.



VIS-EN-ARTOIS MEMORIAL, Pas de Calais, France.  
Panel 4

**KILLED IN ACTION PRIVATE R. COLEMAN**

Mrs. R. Coleman of 8 Sheep Street has received official news of the death of her youngest son Private R. Coleman of the 1st Somerset Light Infantry. Prior to getting the notice his mother received a letter from an officer of his regiment who was only a few yards from him when he was killed instantly by a German sniper. At the time of his death he was on the lookout for his Lewis gun section. The officer and his chums said he was always willing and cheerful and liked by all his platoon. He crossed to France on February 18th of this year. Before joining up he was employed at the S. M. J railway in the carriage and wagon department. This is the second son Mrs. Coleman has lost in the war.

**Herald 27th September 1918**

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**William Harold COLEMAN** Private 10515 2nd Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, January 1915.

Died: Friday, 4th May 1917. Age 29.

Son of James and Esther Coleman, of 8, Sheep St., Stratford-on-Avon.

Born in Bishops Itchington, Warwickshire.



ARRAS MEMORIAL. Bay 3, France.

**MISSING LANCE CORPORAL W. H. COLEMAN**

Mrs. Coleman of 26 Sheep Street Stratford upon Avon has been notified from the War Office that her son, Lance Corporal W. H. Coleman of the 2nd Royal Warwickshire Regiment has been missing since 4th May this year. Previous to this he was wounded last July. He had been in France for over two years and has been in several engagements.

**Herald 15th June 1917**

**CORPORAL COLEMAN**

Mrs. Coleman of 26 Sheep Street has received official notification that her son Lance Corporal W.H. Coleman who was reported missing on May 14th 1917 was either killed or died of wounds on or shortly after that date. He enlisted in January 1915 and after three months training in the south of France he had been in several engagements being wounded and gassed in the big push last July. During service with the Colours he had only seven days leave. At the time of enlistment he worked for Mr. Bullen at the Head Press Printing works.

**Herald 5th October 1917**

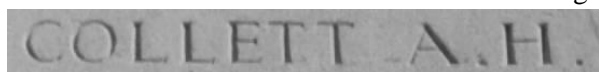
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**Albert Henry COLLETT** Private 265814 1st/7th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, October 1914.

Died: Tuesday, 25th July 1916. Age 21.

Eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Collett of Birmingham Road



THIEPVAL MEMORIAL, Somme, France. Pier and  
Face 9 A 9 B and 10 B

**FROM THE FRONT**

**PRIVATE A.H. COLLETT** of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment in a letter to his former employer, Mr. W. Hyatt of Henley Street says: "Good Friday night we went into the trenches: the part we went to is fairly quiet at present and there is no one from Stratford wounded.

I shall always remember Easter Monday. It rained all day long, and the trenches were up to your knees in water and mud. It was bad enough then, but what the soldiers went through in the winter must have been awful, when they had no shelter at all. The opinion among the majority of soldiers out here is that the war will be over soon.

I have witnessed one or two German exploits of bomb dropping. They drop two or three on helpless civilians' homes and then dart off in the clouds out of range of the guns and of the Allies' airmen. We passed through the place where the 1st Royal Warwicks were cut up and we saw the graves where they were buried. A soldier told us they were surprised and mown down by machine guns from the windows and places. The French people go about as though there was nothing on and in a place too, that if the Germans liked, they could blow to atoms.

No doubt this will be done when have to retire. If the people in England could see the ruined homes and deserted places it would make them tremble at the thought of a German "invasion".

**Herald 23rd April 1915**

#### **PRIVATE A.H. COLLETT**

Private Albert Henry Collett (21) eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Collett of Birmingham Road is posted as missing after an engagement with the British Expeditionary Force on July 25th. He joined the Royal Warwickshire Regiment in October 1914 and proceeded to France in March of last year. He was previously apprenticed to the saddlery business.

**Herald 18th August 1916**

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<b>Charles Edgar COLLETT</b> Private 203086 2nd/6th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment
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Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, May 1916.

Died: Tuesday, 16th July 1918. Age 21.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Collett of Birmingham Road, Stratford-on-Avon.

Born in Cleeve Prior, Worcestershire.

Cemetery: NIEDERZWEHREN CEMETERY, Germany

Grave Reference. II. B. 14.

#### **WOUNDED AND MISSING PRIVATE C. COLLETT**

Information has been received by Mr. and Mrs. Collett of Birmingham Road that their son, Private C. Collett, Royal Warwickshire Regiment is reported wounded and missing since March 21st. This young soldier is 21 years of age and before joining the colours in May 1916 was employed by Mr. Mitchell of Wood Street. He went to France about 18 months ago and was slightly wounded last September.

**Herald 3rd May 1918**

#### **PRIVATE C. COLLETT**

The friends of Private Charles Collett of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, son of Mr and Mrs Collett of Birmingham Road will be to some extent, relieved to learn that he is a prisoner of war in Germany. This young soldier was reported wounded and missing on March 21st, and a postcard has just been received from him (dated April 8th) stating that he is wounded and a prisoner. He is now in hospital in Wurtemberg.

**Herald 24th May 1918**

News has been received on the death of Charles Collett of Espley Cottages, Birmingham Road who was a wounded prisoner of war in Germany. For a long time he was reported missing and his parents were hoping that he would recover and return home after the war. He was an old choirboy and server at St. James.

**Parish Magazine, September 1918**

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<b>Cecil COLLINS</b> Private 2789 1st Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment
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Enlisted in Warwick August 1914.

Died: Monday, 26th April 1915. Age 22.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Collins, of 2, Clopton Rd., Stratford-on-Avon.

Born and resided in Stratford -on-Avon.



YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 8

#### **ANOTHER STRATFORD PATRIOT KILLED**

##### **PRIVATE CECIL COLLINS**

An official intimation of the death of Private Cecil Collins was received yesterday morning by his parents Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Harris Collins of Clopton Road. Private Collins joined the 1st Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment on 10th August and sailed for France on 11 November. Having participated in many stiff encounters he was killed in action on April 25th or 26th at the early age of 22. The deceased private regularly corresponded with his parents and his last letter reached its destination on 26th April. In this he said he was enjoying a short rest after some hard work in the trenches.

Private Collins has a younger brother in the 7th Royal Warwickshire Regiment which is now stationed at Colchester. Mr. and Mrs. Collins have received Lord Kitchener's letter expressing their Majesty's true sympathy with them in their sorrow.

**Herald 14th May 1915**

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**Harry Ernest COLLINS** Private 10083 11th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon.

Died: Tuesday, 21st November 1916. Age 28.

Son of Mrs. Harriett Collins, of 19, Ely St., Stratford-on-Avon. Born in Stratford-on-Avon

Cemetery: SERRE ROAD CEMETERY No. 1, Somme, France.

Grave Reference. II. E. 7.

**KILLED IN ACTION PRIVATE H.E. COLLINS**

Mrs. Collins of 19 Ely Street has received official intimation that her son Private H.E. Collins of the 11th Battalion Royal Warwicks. Was killed in action on November 21st. His Captain in a letter of condolence speaks of him as a good soldier.

**Herald 15th December 1916**

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**Frederick CONWAY** Sergeant 86105 6th Bde., Canadian Field Artillery

Enlisted in 1914.

Died: Friday, 10th March 1916. Age 37.

Son of Mrs. Charlotte Conway; husband of Lucy Mabel Mullins (formerly Conway), of 8, Mulberry St.,

Stratford-on-Avon. Born at Stratford-on-Avon. Served in the Sudan and South African Campaigns.

Cemetery: STRATFORD-ON-AVON CEMETERY, Warwickshire, United Kingdom

Grave Reference. 2613.

**DEATH AND FUNERAL OF SERGEANT F. CONWAY**

The passing of Sergeant F. Conway of the 6th Howitzer Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery at the age of 37 will be regretted by many in Stratford where he was well known and popular in the town having been in the respected employee of Messrs. Hutchins & Co. for several years. He was out in Canada for three years and some 18 months ago responded to the call of the mother country. His previous military experience for he had served in the Sudan War and the Afghan campaign, he had been the proud possessor of three medals, stood him in good stead for he was at once made Sergeant and in that capacity went to France where he saw much active service. In one of the recent engagements Conway did not come out unscathed and he was sent to a base hospital in Liverpool for treatment being brought to England on Monday of last week and conveyed to Lincoln Military Hospital where he passed away on the 10th, the cause of the death being given as nephritis. Much sympathy will be given to the widow and family in their great trouble. Mrs. Conway has received the usual notification of the death with a message of regret from Lord Kitchener. The body was brought to Stratford and the funeral took place on Tuesday. The Vicar, Canon Melville taking the first part of the service at S. James church and the Reverend H. Wilson the committal portion. In addition to the relatives, a contingent of the Warwickshire Yeomanry came over to pay a last tribute and respect and a number of the employees of Messrs. Hutchins & Co and some of the wounded soldiers from Clopton also followed.

**Herald 17th March 1916**

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**John Henry CONWAY** Private 4069 9th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-upon-Avon.

Died: Tuesday, 10th August 1915. Age 39.

Son of Mrs. Charlotte Conway, of Stratford-on-Avon; husband of Elizabeth Conway, of 2, Day's Court, Bull St., Stratford-on-Avon. Born in Stratford-upon-Avon.



HELLES MEMORIAL, Gallipoli, Turkey. Panel 35 to 37

We regret to learn that Mrs. Conway of Victoria terrace, Shakespeare Street has received an official communication that her husband Private John Henry Conway of the 9th Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment is posted as missing after an engagement in Gallipoli on August 10th. Private Conway who was thirty nine years of age had served his country during the South African campaign, and on November 9th 1914 – the day on which the local Recruiting Office was first opened he again enlisted joining the 3rd Royal Warwicks. He was subsequently transferred to the 9th Battalion, which forms a unit of the Mediterranean

Expeditionary Force. For many years Conway was employed at the Brewery having previously served a short term on the old East and West Junction Railway. Four little children, the eldest only seven years old were dependent upon him.

**Herald 17th September 1915**

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**Arthur Leonard COURT** Private 242717 1st/6th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Coventry 1916.

Died: Thursday, 4th October 1917. Age 22.

Son of Mr. O. G. and Mrs. M. A. Court, of 22, Church St., Stratford-on-Avon.

Born and resided in Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: TYNE COT CEMETERY, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

Grave Reference. V. F. 22.

#### **PRIVATE A. L. COURT**

The sad news of the death in action of this young soldier who was a son of Mr. and Mrs. O. G. Court of 22 Church Street, was received on Friday last. He served his apprenticeship to the watch making and jewellery of Mr. W. Bush of Wood Street and turned out a workman of no mean skill. On completing his term of five years he took a position in the works of Messrs. Rotherham & Sons, Coventry where his ability was recognised and they were sorry to lose him in June 1916 when he took up the gun. He was posted to the 1-6th Royal Warwickshire Regiment in France in September last year and served on the Somme all through the winter going through that terrific struggle without a scratch. No particulars as to his death are yet to hand but on two occasions previous to his death reports as to his sterling qualities were received. His quiet unassuming disposition won him many friends who received with deep feeling the news of his death.

**Herald 2nd November 1917**

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**Horace William COWLEY** Corporal 311208 2nd/1st, Warwickshire Yeomanry

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon 1914.

Died: Tuesday, 29th October 1918. Age 29.

Son of Mrs. Cowley of Albany Place, Stratford-on-Avon.

Born in Aston, Birmingham. Resided in Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: STRATFORD-ON-AVON CEMETERY, Warwickshire, United Kingdom

Grave Reference. 767.

#### **DIED OF SICKNESS CORPORAL H. W. COWLEY**

Sincere sympathy will go out to Mrs. Cowley of Albany Place in the great sorrow she has been called upon to bear by the death of her younger son, Horace William who was a corporal in the Warwickshire Yeomanry. Horace who was only 28 years of age came back from South Africa in 1914 to do his bit and was billeted at Warwick for some time, afterwards training at Epping and Brentwood. He then met with a serious accident splitting his knee and following a period in hospital was transferred to the Cavalry Records at York. Here he coped diligently for seventeen months being very popular with his colleagues. Last week he caught influenza, pneumonia followed and on Saturday his mother was wired for. She was present at his passing on Tuesday morning and her grief will be shared by many, by his comrades in khaki and by his numerous friends in Stratford who retained a pleasant memory of his happy buoyant nature. The body will be brought to Stratford today, Friday for internment.

**Herald 1st November 1918**

#### **FUNERAL OF CORPORAL H. W. COWLEY**

This young soldier died at York, following an attack of influenza and pneumonia, last week, and on Friday afternoon the funeral took place at the Stratford-on-Avon Cemetery, the Rev Cannon Melville conducting the sad rites. Six soldiers home on leave acted as bearers, and the chief mourners were Mrs Cowley (mother), Cousin Ethel, Miss Mallram and Mrs Ball.

**Herald 8th November 1918**

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**Sidney Douglas COX** Private 2130 6th Bn., Australian Infantry, A.I.F

Enlisted in Australia.

Died: Saturday, 8th May 1915. Age 25.

Son of Harry and Elizabeth Cox, of 20, Manners Rd., Ilkestone, Derbyshire, England. Native of Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire, England



**STRATFORDIAN KILLED IN ACTION**  
**PRIVATE SIDNEY DOUGLAS COX**

To the list of Stratfordians who have given their lives for their king and country has to be added another name, that of Private Sidney Douglas Cox of the 6th Battalion, 2nd Infantry Brigade, 1st Australian Contingent, who has been killed in action in the Gallipoli Peninsula. News of his death was received by his father Mr. H. Cox now staying in Bath, from the High Commissioner for Australia on Sunday. Accompanying was a note from Lord Kitchener in sympathetic terms and a message conveying the "true sympathy" of the King and Queen. The fourth and youngest son of Mr. Harry Cox who some twenty-five years ago took over the printing and stationery business previously conducted in this town by Mr. John Smith, Private Sidney Cox, who was unmarried was born at 27 High Street, Stratford on Avon in August 1891 and was thus twenty-four years of age. Mr. Cox will be remembered as an active member of the Baptist congregation at Payton Street where he conducted a large and successful Bible Class during the time that Mr. Baum of Wood Street was superintendent of the Sunday school.

While still a youth his son Sidney, who had always a passion for the open air life decided to take up an agricultural career in Australia and accordingly booked a passage on a P and O liner for Melbourne. His plans at this time were quite indefinite so far as any choice of his ultimate destination was concerned but



within a few days of his arrival an odd coincidence took him to Stratford on Avon, Victoria, where he made his home. Another singular circumstance was that the first friends he made in the Australian "Shakespeare-land" if one may so term it, were a family named Baum - an unusual patronymic - but in no way related we believe, to the family with which his father had been so closely identified at Payton Street. After some years spent in learning sheep farming in Victoria young Cox started a sheep run on his own account in partnership with a friend. The venture was successful and promised rapid extension till the great drought last year brought desolation upon vast tracts of land. It was one of the most severe droughts in the history of Australia, although less has been heard of its effects than would ordinarily have been the case owing to the fact that the space of the newspapers has been monopolised by war news. Sidney Cox, like hundreds of others suffered severely. "My poor beggars of sheep" he

wrote home "died at my feet as I rode amongst them. There was scarcely a blade of grass for them to eat". In a few weeks the blazing sun had brought the labour and hopes of years to nought and the young sheep raiser had to commence all over again. He was nothing, however, if not an optimist and cheerily he set to work to rebuild his fortunes. "This sort of thing" he wrote "doesn't trouble me. We get used to it out here and learn to take the good with the bad, the fat and lean together."

Then the war broke out. The call came from the mother country to the young dominions overseas for aid in an hour of dire extremity and with thousands of other representatives of young Australia Sidney Cox answered the call. He enrolled in the 1st Australian contingent and was sent with the first reinforcements to Egypt to take part in repulsing the Turkish attack on the Suez Canal. Anon came the operations in the Dardanelles, the toughest nut to crack of all and in the landing at Gallipoli where the troops had to dash ashore under a murderous fire forcing a way through barbed wire entanglements placed in the sea itself young Cox helped the Australians to write an imperishable page of British history. No details have yet been received of the action in which he met his fate but those who know him will have no fear but that he went to his death like the gallant young soldier he was, freely making the supreme sacrifice in a noble cause.

The late Private Cox has two sisters one of whom is the wife of Mr. Charles Hollick, of Fairhaven, Pathlow, the other Mrs. Milward residing in Derbyshire. One of his brothers, Mr. H. Stephenson Cox, at one time a member of the reporting staff of the Stratford on Avon Herald has for many years been the editor of the Waltham Weekly Telegraph. Another, Mr. C. T. Cox is in the merchant service, sailing to Australian ports, and has had many exciting experiences since the war broke out in eluding German submarines. On his present voyage, outward bound, his ship collided with another vessel in the channel whilst both were steaming in the dark with lights out and sirens silent. In consequence, both ships were compelled to lay up for a time for repairs. The third brother is Mr. W. E. Cox, news editor of the Bath Daily Chronicle, with whom the deceased's father is now staying. His mother died at Chester some years ago.

**Herald 2nd July 1915**

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**Edward CROWE** Serjeant 13398 9th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on Avon

Died: Wednesday, 19th April 1916.

Born in Stratford-on Avon

Resided at Budds Cottages, Bishopton.

Memorial: BASRA MEMORIAL, Iraq. Panel 9. Theatre of War. The Balkans. Killed in Action.

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**Edward CUSACK** Corporal 4438 1st Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Warwick.

Died: Monday, 31st January 1916. Age 33.

Son of Caleb Edward and Sarah Cusack, of Bridge St., Kineton, Warwickshire.

Born in Warwick.

Cemetery: SUCRERIE MILITARY CEMETERY, COLINCAMPS, Somme, France.

Grave Reference. III. G. 6.

**DEATH OF CORPORAL E. CUSACK**

News has just been received of the death at the front of Corporal E. Cusack of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. He was laid low by a sniper's bullet. "Teddy" Cusack was the only son of the late Superintendent Cusack and his many friends will regret his untimely end and offer their sympathy to the bereaved mother.

**Herald 11th February 1916**

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**Edward Thomas DAVIES** Private 50265 Worcestershire Regiment.

Enlisted in Warwick.

Died: Tuesday, 14th August 1918. Age 37.

Son of Mrs Davies of Emms Court, Sheep Street.

Born and resided in Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: STRATFORD-ON-AVON CEMETERY, Warwickshire, United Kingdom.

Grave Reference. 2068

**ACCIDENTALLY KILLED PRIVATE E. T. DAVIES**

On August 14th Private E. T. Davies (37) of the Worcestershire Regiment, son of Mrs. Davies of Emms Court, Sheep Street was engaged on labour duties with his unit at Liverpool docks when he fell a distance of twenty five feet sustaining severe injuries to the head. He was removed to Bootle Military Hospital where he received every care and attention but the case was hopeless from the outset and early on the morning of the 17th he passed away in an unconscious condition in the presence of his mother. Private Davies was an old soldier, having served with the Worcesters in the opening years of this century. Upon the expiration of his term he obtained employment in Stratford where he gained a reputation as a trustworthy and hard-working man. The autumn of 1914 found him once more under military discipline and, as the result of wounds sustained in France, he was eventually placed in a corps for labour duties at home. His commanding officer writes to his mother "On behalf of the officers and men I beg to express our sincere sympathy in your bereavement. Private Davies was always an efficient soldier and bore an excellent character." The remains were brought to Stratford for internment which took place on Thursday of last week, the service at the Parish Church and graveside being conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. Canon Melville). The Union Jack was draped over the coffin and the bearers were six members of the Stratford on Avon post of the Comrades of the Great War. A firing party from Budbrooke consisted of two non-commissioned officers, a bugler and twelve men. The sergeant major of deceased's unit was also present having journeyed from Liverpool.

**Herald 30th August 1918**

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**Thomas Henry DAVIS** Private 3231 2nd/7th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, September 1914.

Died: Wednesday, 19th July 1916. Age 21.

Grandson of Mrs. C. Davis at Emms Court, Sheep Street, Stratford-on-Avon.



LOOS MEMORIAL, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 22 to 25



### MISSING PRIVATE T. H. DAVIS

In a letter received yesterday by Mrs. C. Davis at Emms Court, Sheep Street, the Country Territorial Force Record Office unable to furnish further information regarding her grandson who was posted as missing after an engagement in France on July 19th. Private Davis enlisted in the Royal Warwicks in September 1914 but was discharged after a few months training on account of fluid on the knee. He returned home for a brief period and after his recovery he rejoined. Private Davis was formerly employed at the brewery.

**Herald 25th August 1916**

### PRIVATE THOMAS H DAVIS DIED PRISONER OF WAR

Mrs. C. Davis of 6 Emms Court has been notified of the death of her grandson, Private Thomas H. Davis of the 2nd 7th Royal Warwickshire Regiment while a prisoner of war. He was only 21 years of age and was formerly employed at the brewery. He enlisted at the start but met with an injury and was discharged. On recovering he joined up again.

**Herald 1st December 1916**

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**Albert Edwin DAY** Private 5147 8th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Warwick, March 1916.

Died: Thursday, 24th August 1916. Age 34.

Brother of Miss Day of Mansell Street, Stratford-on-Avon.

Resided in Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: PUCHEVILLERS BRITISH CEMETERY, France

Grave Reference. III. E. II.

### DIED OF WOUNDS PRIVATE A. E. DAY

Miss Day of Mansell Street has received information from the Territorial Force Record Office Warwick of the death of her brother, Private A. E. Day of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment which occurred at a casualty clearance station in France on the 24th August as a result of wounds received in action. Private Day who was 34 years of age enlisted in March last and had only been at the front five weeks. He was well known in local association football circles. In a letter to his sister dated August 24th the Reverend Carey Knivett, (Chaplain) says "Private Day was brought into the casualty clearing station on August 19th with very severe wounds which made amputation of both legs necessary. It was the one hope of bringing him home safely to you. As I went round his ward yesterday he beckoned to me and I went over to him.

We talked about his home, about Henley in Arden and about other places that I knew round there and about how he used to play football. I think he was pleased to think I knew his home. I then left him because I knew too much would tire him. This morning I went to see how he had slept and found that he had passed to his rest about 11.30. The nurse and orderly say he was in very little pain and lay quietly until he passed peacefully away. He was so very cheerful yesterday and I had so earnestly hoped that his brave heart would have brought him through home to you, but it was not to be. I shall lay him to rest in the little cemetery we have made at this camp amongst the cornfields and some few miles behind the lines. A wooden cross will be set up at his head with his name and regiment inscribed."

**Herald 29th September 1916**

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**Frederick James DRINKWATER** Private 265990 2nd/7th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon.

Died: Wednesday, 19th July 1916 Age 21.

Youngest son of Mr. E. Drinkwater of Great William Street, Stratford-on-Avon.



LOOS MEMORIAL, France.

### DEATH PRESUMED PRIVATE F. J. DRINKWATER

Mr. E. Drinkwater of Great William Street has been notified by the Warwickshire Territorial Force Record Office that as no further news has been received relative to his youngest son, Private Frederick James Drinkwater, of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, who has been missing since July 19th 1916, the Army Council have regrettably been constrained to conclude that he is dead. Private Drinkwater was 21 years of age and joined the County Regiment shortly after the outbreak of war. Previous to enlistment he was employed at the International Store.

**Herald 8th June 1917**

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**Albert George DYER** Private 35897 9th Bn., Worcestershire Regiment

Died: Saturday, 4th December 1920.

Age 23.

Son of George Herbert and Amy Dyer, of 54, Birmingham Rd., Stratford-on-Avon.

Born in Stratford-on-Avon

Cemetery: STRATFORD-ON-AVON CEMETERY, Warwickshire, United Kingdom

Grave Reference. 2110.

**DEATHS**

On the 4inst., at 54, Birmingham Road, Albert only and dearly-loved son of Mr. and Mrs. Dyer, aged 23 years.

**Herald 10th December 1920**

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**Fred EASON** Serjeant 11945 2nd Bn., Oxford. and Bucks Light Infantry

Enlisted in Birmingham.

Died: Monday, 13th November 1916. Age 20.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Eason, of The Cottage, Maidenhead Rd., Stratford-on-Avon.

Born and resided in Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: MUNICH TRENCH BRITISH CEMETERY, Somme, France.

Grave Reference. A. 31.

**MISSING SERGEANT F. EASON**

Mr. F. W. Eason has been notified that his son, Sergeant F. Eason of the Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry has been reported as missing after an engagement on November 13th

**Herald 8th December 1916**

No tidings have yet been received I am very sorry to say of Sergeant Fred Eason, who has been "missing" since early in November. Soon after the outbreak of the war he volunteered for service, and has throughout



manifested that brave and unselfish spirit which is characteristic of so many of our soldiers. His efficiency was early recognised, and for a long time he was detained in this country to train recruits, but he desired to do what he could at the front, and ultimately made a request that he might be allowed to

undertake service abroad. It is earnestly hoped that definite news about him may not long be delayed, and in the meantime I would express the deep sympathy many feel with the family, who are experiencing such a time of suspense.

**April 1917 Stratford-on-Avon Congregationalist**

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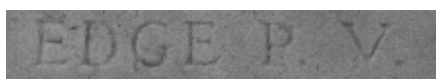
**Percival Vener EDGE** Private 57476 199th Coy., Machine Gun Corps (Inf)

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, 1916.

Died: Thursday, 11th October 1917. Age 28.

Son of John and Mary Ann Edge, of 20, Mansell St., Stratford-on-Avon.

Born in Stratford-on-Avon.



TYNE COT MEMORIAL, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.  
Panel 154 to 159 and 163A

**KILLED IN ACTION GUNNER P. EDGE**

Very sincere regret will be felt at the death of Gunner Percy Edge of the Machine Gun Corps. who had been another of Stratford's best sons has gone west. For thirteen years he had served with Mr. F. Balance as apprentice and assistant where his courtesy and business acumen was appreciated by his employer and patrons. In the field of sport he was equally keen and his prowess at the association game was no means order. As a clever dribbler and tactician he frequently led the Thursday football team to victory and he was very popular with his colleagues. He joined up last year and with such attributes as skill and manly bearing

he speedily became a warm favourite in the company. Percy was killed by shell fire on the evening of the 10th inst. Death being instantaneous. A Second Lieutenant writing to his mother pays the following tribute to his memory. "Percy was mild and beloved by all who knew him and the section joins with me in tendering deepest sympathies to you in your great loss. Our loss is also great for Percy was a very capable member of the section and company. Speaking personally, I had a very warm place in my heart for him and feel his removal greatly. He died for the cause of right and now lies honourably buried on the battlefield."

**Herald 19th October 1917**

Our thoughts go out in sympathy to the homes of some more of our brothers who lie in France in hero's graves. The week October 14th – 21st brought a sad list to Stratford. Percy Edge will never sit in church with us again.

**Parish Magazine November 1917**

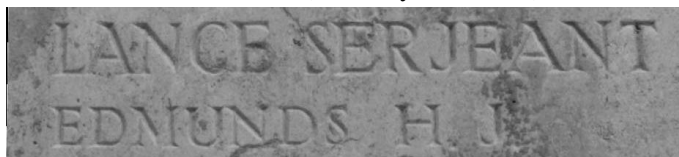
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**Harry James EDMUNDS** Lance Sergeant 193293 4th Canadian Mounted Rifles (Central Ontario Regt.)

Enlisted in Canada 1915.

Died: Friday, 26th October 1917. Age 32.

Second son of George and Charlotte Edmunds, of 1 Birmingham Road, Stratford-on-Avon, England; husband of Edith Burton (formerly Edmunds), of Markdale, Ontario



YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 30 and 32

#### **REPORTED KILLED SERGEANT H. J. EDMUNDS**

A comrade writing to Stratford upon Avon states that Sergeant H.J. Edmunds, son of Mr. Edmunds of Birmingham Road was killed by a sniper in France about five or six weeks since. The father so far has not received any official confirmation of this. Sergeant Edmunds who was very well known in the town joined up in the dominion with the 4th Canadian Mounted Rifles some two and a half years ago, returning to the old country with that troop. On December last he went to France. His wife and child are in France.

**Herald 23rd November 1917**

#### **KILLED IN ACTION**

##### **LANCE SERGEANT H.J. EDMUNDS**

It has now been established beyond doubt that Lance Sergeant H.J. Edmunds of the Canadian Mounted Rifles was killed during an attack on the enemy's lines in front of Passchendale on the morning of 26th October. Lance Sergeant H.J. Edmunds was the second son of Mr. G. Edmunds of Birmingham Road and had a wide circle of friends in the town. He enlisted in Canada two years ago and had seen a good deal of service in France where he fell for King and Country at the age of 33. Sympathy will go out to Mr. and Mrs. G. Edmunds and to the wife and little child in Canada now bereaved.

**Herald 28th December 1917**

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**Sidney Arthur EDWARDS** Private 152337 17th Bn., Machine Gun Corps

Died: Thursday, 9th January 1919.

Age 26.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. John Edwards, of Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire.

Cemetery: TOURGEVILLE MILITARY CEMETERY, Calvados, France.

Grave Reference. VII. C. 10.

#### **DEATH OF SIDNEY ARTHUR EDWARDS**

On the 9th inst. at a Military Hospital Trouville, France, of an embolism following an operation, Private Sidney Arthur Edwards, Machine Gun Corps of Laburnum Cottage, Grove Road, Stratford upon Avon aged 27 years.

**Herald 17th January 1919**

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**George F EVETTS** Private 6819 1st Bn., Lincolnshire Regiment

Enlisted in Lincoln.

Died: Wednesday, 16th June 1915. Age 28.

Son of the late Frederic Evetts, of 2 Sidney Court, Stratford-on-Avon.

Born in Stratford-on-Avon. Lived in Blackwood Warwick



YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.  
Panel 21

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**Walter Frederick FAULKNER** Private 2701 9th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Warwick.

Died: Tuesday, 10th August 1915. Age 25.

Son of Benjamin F. and Fanny F. Faulkner, of 21, Greenhill St., Stratford-on-Avon.

Born and resided in Stratford-on-Avon.

HELLES MEMORIAL, Gallipoli, Turkey. Panel 35 to 37

**PRIVATE WALTER FRED FAULKNER**

General sympathy will be extended to Mr. and Mrs. Faulkner of Greenhill Street on the death of their fifth son, Private Walter Fred. Faulkner of the 9th Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment. The sad intimation was conveyed by the Infantry Record Office of the Regiment in a communication which came to hand on Wednesday stating that Private Faulkner was killed in action with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force on August 10th. Faulkner was one of the patriotic young men who enlisted upon the outbreak of war. On June 20th he left Avonmouth on the Royal Edward for service in Gallipoli. He had yet to attain his 25th birthday.

**Herald 17th September 1915**



It is with great regret that we learn that Pte. W. Faulkner of the Royal Warwicks, has been killed in action in the Dardanelles. Although Pte. Faulkner was not connected with the Rother Street Church, several of his friends are associated with us, and we tender to them our very sincere sympathy, as well as to others who mourn his loss. Shortly before leaving Stratford finally, Pte. Faulkner was present at the special meeting held under the auspices of the Free Church Council in advocacy of the King's Pledge, when with only two exceptions, the whole congregation pledged themselves to total abstinence till the close of the war. A few days later after returning to camp – Pte. Faulkner returned his pledge card with the names of nine other soldiers written on the back of it. Such earnestness as this incident indicated will be remembered with pleasure, and we can but think of his having received the call to fuller services.

**October 1915 Stratford-on-Avon Congregationalist**

**IN MEMORIAM**

Also of my dear son Walter Fred. Faulkner killed at Suvla Bay. August 10th 1915. Always affectionately remembered by mother and brothers.

**Herald 5th August 1921.**

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**Dennis FIELD** Corporal 25140 8th Bn., East Surrey Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon.

Died: Sunday, 31st March 1918. Age 22.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Field, of 57, Shakespeare St., Stratford-on-Avon.

Born in Stratford-on-Avon

Cemetery: VILLERS-BRETONNEUX MILITARY CEMETERY, Somme, France.

Grave Reference. XV. C. 3.

**CORPORAL DENNIS FIELD**

Corporal Field of the 8th East Surrey Regiment who was shot through the head on April 4th death being instantaneous, was the second son of Mr. and Mrs. Field of Shakespeare Street. He enlisted in November 1914 in the Royal Warwicks and went to France the following May. After two months' service at the front he was wounded but returned to duty in September 1915 when he was posted to the Trench Mortar Battery, 8th East Surrey Regiment. He was home on fourteen days' leave in December 1917.

**Herald 3rd May 1918**

<b>Frank Walter FINCHER</b> Lance Corporal 203600 2nd Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment
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Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, 1916.

Died: Wednesday, 10th October 1917. Age 33.

Son of John and Catherine Fincher, of Ely St., Stratford-on-Avon; husband of Georgina Ada Fincher, of Albany Road, Stratford-on-Avon. Born in Aldershot, Hampshire.

Cemetery: MENIN ROAD SOUTH MILITARY CEMETERY, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Reference. III. L. 13.

#### **THE WAR COURTS STRATFORD-ON AVON BOROUGH**

The Tribunal had another four hours sitting on Wednesday, with the Mayor (Mr. A. D. Flower) in the chair, he being supported by Messers J. F. Burke, F. Winter, F. G. Savage, F. Cranmer, W. Hughes and E. Fox. Mr. F. L. Talbot attended as military representative.

The next case concerned Frank Walter Fincher (31), builder's and contractor's manager. His father said owing to his own defective health it was important that his son should remain. He had full charge of the Government contract at Warwick and district, which required his services three days a week. His two other sons had been in the army since the commencement of the war, and the firm had released 18 men for army purposes. The son also appealed on personal and domestic grounds. The military comment was "Not assented to,"—Mr F. W. Fincher said he wrote applying for a badge, and the application went from one department to another until it reached the local recruiting office, from which he got no reply.—Mr Talbot said Major Bairnsfather was opposed to the badging of Mr Fincher and wrote Colonel Browne to that effect.—Mr J. G. Fincher said the country had got his other two sons and a son-in-law. Someone had got to stay at home and keep the pot boiling.—Mr Talbot suggested that the father could manage the business all right. It was stated that the Government contract would run until next March. Exemption was resolved upon till March 31st.

**Herald 13th October 1916**

#### **DIED OF WOUNDS LANCE CORPORAL F. W. FINCHER**

Much regret will be felt at the announcement of the death of this young soldier which occurred on the 10<sup>th</sup> inst. from wounds received in recent engagements at the French front. His death was reported last week. The information was too indefinite to make public. A letter was received yesterday, which confirmed the sad news. Lance Corporal Fincher however had been in the army only six months and was the eldest son of Mr. J. G. Fincher, builder of this town, the business being carried on under the name of Fincher and Co. Some seven years ago, he took up his residence at Wellesbourne and actively interested himself in local matters. He was connected with the volunteers of that village and was sideman at the parish church. He was on the committee of the Working Men's Conservative Club and was identified with most of the organisations in Wellesbourne. He was also manager of the firm's branch there. He was a Freemason having joined the Swan of Avon lodge at Stratford in 1910 and so keenly did he interest himself in the craft that he was appointed WM at the annual lodge meeting in February last. After presiding at two of the meetings he received orders to join up and made a third visit before proceeding to the front. Lance Corporal Fincher had many excellent qualities, thoroughness and earnestness being the more conspicuous. Being so well known there will be general regret that he has been a victim of this merciless war. Genuine sympathy will go out to Mr. and Mrs. Fincher and family in their sad bereavement. He had been in France only three months and two brothers are now serving the country. He leaves a widow and a little boy.

**Herald 26th October 1917**

Our thoughts go out in sympathy to the homes of some more of our brothers who lie in France in hero's graves. The week October 14th – 21st brought a sad list to Stratford. To this list we must add the name of F. Fincher. There was hope that he was only severely wounded but the final report has reached his old home that he died on October 10th.

**Parish Magazine November 1917**

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<b>Archibald FLETCHER</b> Royal Warwickshire Regiment
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Died: First World War

Commemorated on the Memorial Screen and Reredos, Holy Trinity Church, and also on the St James Memorial, Stratford upon Avon.

*There are 99 soldiers who died, listed with the surname Fletcher and initial A or A and another initial in the First World War records, three of whom served in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. Unable to link this man to any of these records.*



## **Oswald Swift FLOWER** Lieutenant Colonel 13th Bn, Royal Welsh Fusiliers

Died: Wednesday, 12th July 1916.

Age 45.

Son of the late Edgar and Isabella Flower, of Middlehill Park, Broadway, Worcs.

Born in Stratford-on-Avon. Resided at The Hill Warwick Road.

Cemetery: MORLANCOURT BRITISH CEMETERY NO. 1, Somme, France.

Grave Reference. B. 21.

### **FALLEN OFFICERS COLONEL OSWALD FLOWER**

The news of the death of this gallant officer reached Stratford on Sunday but did not become generally known until the following day. Genuine regret was expressed at the sad event, not only because he was brother of our popular Mayor, but the third son of a much esteemed lady who had before been similarly bereaved.

Most Stratfordians will remember the great sorrow which pervaded the town and neighbourhood following the death of Lieutenant Fordham Flower, who fell gloriously in the Boer War and the sympathy which went out on that occasion to Mrs. Edgar Flower will be extended to that lady and the members of her family in this later tragic incident.

Colonel Flower was born at Stratford on Avon and received his education at Wellington College and Jesus College Cambridge. At an early age he entered upon a military career in



the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and was destined to see much service abroad. Having participated in fighting in Crete - where he almost succumbed to fever - he went to Hong Kong at the time of the Boxer rising, when his regiment took part in the relief of Tientsin and Peking. Burma and India were the next scenes of his career and in 1913 he was invalided home from Quetta. On being advised that it would be fatal to return to that station he retired from the army.

In 1914 he accompanied his brother Mr. Archie Flower, during the tour of the Stratford on Avon Players in the United States and Canada. Upon the outbreak of the present titanic conflict he rejoined the Fusiliers at their headquarters at Wrexham. He was appointed brigade major and raised many battalions. For twelve months the troops under his command were

quartered at Llandudno and during this period they reached a high state of proficiency. He was then given command of the 13th Battalion and went to Winchester.

In November of last year Colonel Flower sailed for France and entered at once into the thick of the fighting. During June he was home on ten days' leave and it was evident that the campaign had seriously affected his health. However, his ardent spirit refused to allow him to remain away longer and he was once again on French soil. On Tuesday, 11th July he was wounded while conducting operations at Mametz Wood and succumbed to his injuries the following day. His Brigadier writes that although utterly exhausted he continued with pluck and great ability to command. Colonel Flower was a keen sportsman, a fine rider to hounds and an excellent shot. Being a light weight he rode many winners. At the borough police court on Wednesday, Mr. J. Winter said that the magistrates were deeply grieved to hear of the death of the Mayor's brother and he felt sure that everyone in Stratford would deeply sympathise with the family. Colonel Oswald Flower died fighting for his country. It was a glorious death but the loss was very severe and the bench tendered their deepest sympathy to his mother (Mrs. Edgar Flower) with Mr. and Mrs. A.D. Flower and other members of the family.

**Herald 21st July 1916**



## **ATTACK ON MAMETZ WOOD**

**11th July 1916**

The 13th Royal Welsh Fusiliers still engaged at Wood Support Trench were left behind in the advance which had commenced. Lieutenant Colonel Flower having worked to the point of exhaustion, fainting several times, during the previous days would not give in and refused to retire. However they made contact with the other attacking battalions at about 5.30 p.m. They were held in the wood as general reserve. Lieutenant-Colonel Flower, his Major and adjutant were severely wounded at about that time, while resting under the trees by flying splinters of trees hit by a British shell.

### **FALLEN OFFICERS**

#### **THE LATE LIEUT-COLONEL FLOWER**

The very wide regret that is felt at the loss of this gallant and devoted officer is shown by the very many letters of condolence and sympathy received by his bereaved mother, Mrs. Edgar Flower. They come from all parts and from all conditions of people and are couched in terms which show the universal respect in which Colonel Flower was held and the keen sorrow felt at his sad end. The following letters from his brother officers show the kind of man he was, how thoroughly he was devoted to his profession and the splendid example he set his men:

Dear Mrs. Flower - I wish to offer you my sincerest sympathy at your great loss. Colonel Flower has indeed, set us all an example by his continual devotion to duty and more especially by his splendid and gallant conduct during the fight in [ ] Wood which unfortunately cost him his life. I look upon his performances as truly wonderful. By the evening of July 10th he was absolutely exhausted and kept continually falling down. In spite of this he continued to command his battalion with energy and spirit; nothing could have exceeded his grit and perseverance. I don't think we are likely to forget what he has done not only for his battalion, but for his brigade and his country. *Brigadier General.*

#### *From his Adjutant in Hospital*

Dear Mrs. Flower, I write to ask you to accept my very deepest sympathy with you in your tremendous loss. As your son's newly appointed adjutant I was with him almost every moment of his last few days and I know better than anyone how grand he was. Since the 5th when we went into the lines, he had very little sleep or rest, as he was continually going round the lines seeing that the men were as comfortable as possible and that everything was going on well. On the morning of the 10th when our division attacked ----- we had a lot of close fighting in the wood. The battalion did very well indeed, gained a lot of ground and took a lot of prisoners. Our Colonel set us all a fine example, and he was always up with the front line. It was very hard to get food and water up and he got very tired through his hard work. I tried to persuade him to rest a little and let us carry on, but he would not, and said "The boys are going on so I must go with them.". After that he fainted several times during the day but would not give in, though I tried to persuade him to rest. During the night of the 10th he slept pretty well in a shell-hole in our new line in the wood, and he was much better in the morning. About noon on the 11th we were relieved in the line and were held in the wood as a general reserve. It was then while he Major—and I were together that we were all hit. I could see that he was badly wounded..... The battalion has lost a fine commanding officer and I'm sure there never was a more gallant soldier in the whole regiment. For his work on the 10th and 11th he was deserving of the highest honours. Personally I have lost a friend and adviser for whom I had the greatest respect and admiration. I cannot tell you how keenly we all feel it....

**Herald 28th July 1916**

#### *From an old Brother Officer on the Staff*

....I know how you all loved him, just like we did. I heard from people and his General how brave he was. His general said to me this morning "He was splendid". He was "dead done" long before he got wounded, and fainted from fatigue several times, but would not give in, but was all the time reorganising men and making fresh attacks. He died a splendid death, and everybody is saying how magnificently he fought. As you know he was one of my greatest friends. I feel his death terribly. He had no enemies.....

**Herald 28th July 1916**

#### **Memorial Report: Stratford-on-Avon Herald 9th November 1917**

Vestry meeting. On Monday February 15th a meeting in the vestry of the parish was held to consider two additions to the Parish Church in connection with the war. The first was a gift of the brass sword stand to hold the ancient sword of state of the Mayor of the Borough by the present Mayor Mr. A.D. Flower in memory of his brother Colonel Oswald Flower of the Welsh 33rd Regiment who died on the field of battle in

France in 1916. This beautiful work of art has been entirely made in the town at the School Art under the direction of Mr. Holtom by Misses. Jackson and Scriven and is ornamented with passion flowers and leaves and the coats of arms in coloured enamels of the Flower family, the Welsh Regiment, the Borough of Stratford on Avon and the Cross of St. George. The meeting most gratefully accepted the gift which is hoped will be dedicated before morning service on Sunday this month.

**Parish Magazine November 1917**



MORLANCOURT BRITISH  
CEMETERY NO. 1,  
Somme, France

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**Charles FUTRILL** Private 5270 1st Bn., Coldstream Guards

Enlisted in Coventry.

Died: Monday, 14th September 1914. Age 29.

Son of George and Fanny Futrill, husband of Betsy S. A. Futrill, of 14, Pridmore Rd., Coventry.

Born in Foleshill

Cemetery: VAILLY BRITISH CEMETERY, Aisne, France.

Grave Reference. I. B. 21.

*Charles Futrill appears on the War Memorial at Stratford upon Avon and in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission records, but after extensive searches through the local newspapers and parish magazines this is the only known information for Charles Futrill. Nothing has as yet been found to connect him to Stratford upon Avon.*

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**William GARDNER** Private Northumberland Fusiliers

Died: Thursday 19th Aug 1915.

Second son of Charles Gardner of Stratford-on-Avon

Location: Dardenelles

#### PRIVATE WILLIAM GARDNER

News has been received of the death of William Gardner the second son of Mrs. Charles Gardner of this town who was killed in action at the Dardenelles on August 19th. He went through the South African war and was at the Hartlepoons when that place was bombarded, an incident which led to William to enlist in the Northumberland Fusiliers. Two other sons of Mrs. Gardner are fighting in France.

**Herald 8th October 1915**

#### DEATHS

Killed in action at the Dardenelles, August 19th, William 2nd son of Mrs. Charles Gardner late of Banbury Road now of 8 Shakespeare Court.

**Herald 8th October 1915**

## CASUALTIES IN THE EAST COAST RAID

The casualties at Hartlepool in the raid by German warships on Wednesday were 55 killed and 115 wounded. These figures are official.

*There are 117 soldiers listed who died with the surname Gardner and initial W or W and another initial in the First World War records. None of whom were in the Northumberland Fusiliers, and died on the 19th August 1915 in the Dardenelles.*

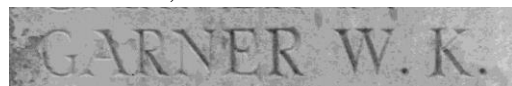
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**Walter Kenneth GARNER** Private G/39748 8th Bn., The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regt.)

Enlisted in Wood Green Middlesex.

Died: Thursday, 21st March 1918.

Born in Chile, South America. Resided in South Kensington, Middlesex.



POZIERES MEMORIAL, Somme, France.  
Panel 14 and 15.

*Walter Kenneth Garner appears on the War Memorial at Stratford upon Avon, in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission records, and is commemorated on the Memorial Screen and Reredos, Holy Trinity Church, and the St James Church Memorial. So far this is the only known information, nothing else has as yet been found to connect him to Stratford upon Avon.*

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**William Alfred GAZEY** Private 52499 4th Bn., Royal Fusiliers

Enlisted in London, December 1915.

Died: Monday, 9th April 1917. Age 22.

Son of Alfred John and Elizabeth Gazey, of 5, Narrow Lane, Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: TILLOY BRITISH CEMETERY, TILLOY-LES-MOFFLAINES, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Reference. IV. F. 25.

### PRIVATE GAZEY KILLED IN ACTION

In the great British advance on Easter Monday a bright and energetic Stratfordian sacrificed his life in the country's service. Private William Gazey was the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Gazey of Narrow Lane. He was in his 23rd year. On leaving school he was an apprentice at the Herald office where by industry and punctuality he opened a promising career. Having fulfilled his indentures he went to Gloucester and from there to London where he secured a position in a leading printing establishment. He was in the city when the war broke out and the following December joined the footballers battalion of the Middlesex Regiment. He saw service with the battalion in France and was invalided home consequent upon an attack of enteric fever. Upon recovery he was transferred to the Royal Fusiliers and crossed the channel for the second time in November last. The good opinion formed of him by his employers in civil life is confirmed by the officer commanding his company who writes "He was a splendid fellow, thoroughly reliable and was well liked and trusted by all officers and me. Had he lived he would have been recommended for promotion."

**Herald 20th April 1917**

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**Francis Edgar GIBBS MM** Private 2302 23rd Bn., Middlesex Regiment

Enlisted in Aldershot, Hampshire.

Died: Monday, 25th June 1917. Age 20.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. S. Gibbs, of 17, Bordon Place, Stratford-on-Avon.

Born and resided in Moreton in Marsh.

Cemetery: BUS HOUSE CEMETERY, VOORMEZEELE, Belgium.

Grave Reference. C. 1.

### PRIVATE F. E. GIBBS

Mr. And Mrs. Gibbs of Park Road, Stratford on Avon has received information of the death of their son, who was killed in action on the 25th June. The Captain of his company writes:- Private Gibbs was a signaller on duty in the battalion signal office at the time a shell came through the roof of the dugout and completely destroyed the signal office and the battalion orderly room. Everybody present at the time was killed. He had been signaller in my company for a long time, and was one of the most reliable members of the company. The whole company miss him very much and send you and his mother and father their deepest sympathy. Corporal G. A. Day, a companion of the deceased in a letter says his death will leave a gap in the section that can never be filled.

**Herald 13th July 1917**

### IN MEMORIAM

On the 25th Ult. : Killed in Action Private F. E. Gibbs after serving 14 months in France. Sadly missed by father, mother, sister and brothers. Late of 1 East Street, Moreton in Marsh – 19 Park Road, Stratford upon Avon

**Herald 23rd July 1917**

### PRIVATE F. E. GIBBS

Mr. and Mrs. S. Gibbs of Park Road, Stratford on Avon have received the Military Medal won by their son, the late Private F. E. Gibbs of the 23rd Middlesex Regiment for bravery on the field. This gallant soldier was awarded the medal for delivering two very important messages under heavy shell fire on June 7th 1917 but was unfortunately killed on 20th of the same month.

**Herald 21st December 1917**

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**John GIBSON** Second Lieutenant Royal Flying Corps and 2nd/7th Bn., Devonshire Regiment

Died: Monday, 19th June 1916.

Age 28.

Son of George Frederick Gibson, of Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Cemetery: WARLINCOURT HALTE BRITISH CEMETERY, SAULTY, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Reference. VII. D. 16

### AVIATOR'S UNTIMELY DEATH

Second Lieutenant John Gibson, R.F.C. had many warm friends in this neighbourhood and they will learn with regret of the fatal accident which recently overtook him while in service for his King and Country. The tragic circumstances are set forth in a letter from Lieutenant G. C. Barnard, R.E. who says "It seems that he was starting off for a flight and got in some severely long mowing grass. He was just getting up speed to rise when he struck a mowing machine which some Frenchman had left out the night before. The aeroplane somersaulted so that the tail was in front. It then broke in two and somersaulted a second time. The front part doubling over again on to the tail. The observer was badly shaken but apparently John's strapping in belt broke and he became pinned underneath. It was extraordinary bad luck him being killed by such an accident so early in his service out here. I saw his grave which is in a corner of a cornfield under a hedge near the hospital and also near the aerodrome. It is in a row with other officers and men and above it is a wooden cross with his name, regiment and date. It is a simple earth mound with a few plucked field flowers, dandelions, cornflowers, etc, placed on by some unknown friends.

**Herald 7th July 1916**

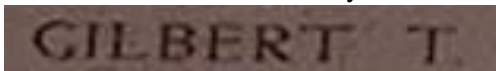
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**Thomas GILBERT** Bombardier 53110 132nd Bty. 1st Bde., Royal Field Artillery

Enlisted in Brecon, Wales.

Died: Sunday, 9th May 1915.

Fourth son of James and Mary Gilbert of 68 Clopton Road, Stratford upon Avon



YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 5 and 9

### KILLED IN ACTION AT YPRES BOMBARDIER TOM GILBERT

Killed in action at Ypres May 9th, Bombardier Tom Gilbert, fourth son of James and Mary Gilbert of 68 Clopton Road, Stratford upon Avon. Deeply mourned by the sorrowing family.

**Herald 11th June 1915**

### BOMBARDIER'S HEROIC DEATH

Our obituary columns of late have contained the names of many from this district who, in the flower of manhood have made the supreme sacrifice for King and country. Among them is Bombardier Tom Gilbert of the Royal Field Artillery, fourth son of Mr. and Mrs. James Gilbert of Clopton Road, who was killed in action at Ypres on May 9th. In response to a letter from his sister Miss Gilbert the following account of his heroic end has been penned by a comrade. "I can assure you that it is with the deepest regret that whoever has the task of letting your parents know of poor Tom's death but I thought it better to break the news than to wait for the official notice from the War Office. As regards the way poor Tom died I can assure you that no soldier has fought more bravely or died more gallantly than he. He was terribly knocked about. His right leg and left arm being practically blown off. It is wonderful how he showed such patience because he knew poor fellow that he had no chance of recovery. He asked for a cigarette and lingered nearly two hours



without once complaining. The same day the Battery lost very heavily but I can assure you that your brother's death came as the most severe blow to us all." His Commanding Officer writes for the Battery "He was loved by everyone. I'd been at the same gun with him for months before his death and knew his worth. Apart from the loss to his family, the country has been deprived of the services of a very gallant soldier." The late Bombardier had spent six years in India before proceeding to France.

**Herald 15th June 1915**

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**Ernest GILLETT** Rifleman 374695 2nd/8th Bn., London Regt (Post Office Rifles)

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon.

Died: Tuesday, 30th October 1917. Age 34.

Husband of Ada Gillett, of 40, Shottery Rd., Stratford-on-Avon.

Born and resided in Stratford-on-Avon.



TYNE COT MEMORIAL, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.  
Panel 150 to 151

#### PRIVATE ERNEST GILLETT

Private Ernest Gillett of the Post Office Rifles has made the great sacrifice and many in the Stratford and Binton area will mourn the loss for Gillett was a man of estimable qualities who made himself popular with all who brought into contact with him. He was a chorister in the Shottery church for several years and was a well known association footballer playing for Shottery and later for the town when the Warwick League competition was in vogue. He infused the same cheerful spirit and enthusiasm into his work and for close on fourteen years acted as rural postman on the Shottery and Binton route, gaining a large circle of friends among the villagers young and old and now at the age of 34 the last post has been sounded over his grave. Sympathy will go out to Mrs. Gillett and the family in their great trouble and it will be some consolation for them to feel that he was held in so high esteem. At Binton church on Sunday the Reverend L. Bruce made a touching reference to the passing hence and the dead march was played at the close of the evening service. The Reverend Napier Sharp at Shottery church in the evening also referred to the death of Private Gillett and the hymn "For all the saints" was sung. At the conclusion of the service the organist, Miss C. E. Large played the dead march and saw the congregation standing and afterwards "Oh Rest in the Lord".

**Herald 16th November 1917**



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**Leonard GILLETT** Private 41191 1st Bn., Worcestershire Regiment

Enlisted in Solihull.

Died: Friday, 27th July 1917. Age 32.

Son of William and Mary Ann Gillett; husband of Florence May Gillett, of Watts Rd., Studley, Warwickshire.

Resided in Solihull

Cemetery: PERTH CEMETERY (CHINA WALL), ZILLEBEKE, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

Grave Reference. I. B. 4.

#### IN MEMORIAM

In ever-loving memory of my dear son, Private Leonard Gillett, Killed in Action in France, July 27th 1917. Ever in the thoughts of his mother, brother and sisters.

**Herald 25th July 1919**

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**Walter Bernard GOODE** Private 94053 1st Bn., The King's (Liverpool Regiment)

Enlisted in Warwick.

Died: Sunday, 25th August 1918. Age 19.

Son of Thomas and Emma Goode, of 19A, Windsor St., Stratford-on-Avon.

Born and resided in Stratford-on-Avon.

Memorial: VIS-EN-ARTOIS MEMORIAL, France. Panel 3 and 4

**PRIVATE W. B. GOODE**

Another name has to be added to the long list of Stratfordians who have fought and died in the great cause. On Saturday morning Mr. and Mrs. T. Goode of Windsor Street received the sad intimation of the death in action of their youngest son, Bernard, at the early age of 19. He was called up for military service in March 1917, and after eleven months training went to France with a draft of the King's Liverpools. His brother Mr. J. H. Goode, butcher, late of Birmingham Road was discharged from the army in March last as the result of wounds. Bernard was associated with him for some time as a learner, and when the elder brother joined up he completed his term of civil life with Mr. G. H. Wimlett of Tiddington.

**Herald 13th September 1918**

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**Anthony Thomas GOODMAN** Gunner 614488 15th (Warwick) Bde., Royal Horse Artillery

Enlisted in Leamington, 1915.

Died: Thursday, 30th August 1917. Age 23.

Brother of Mr. Goodman of the Prince of Wales, Rother Street.

Born in Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: DUHALLOW A.D.S. CEMETERY, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Reference. VII. B. 15.

**KILLED IN ACTION  
GUNNER A. T. GOODMAN**

Mr. Goodman of the Prince of Wales, Rother Street, has received the news that his brother Gunner A. T. Goodman of the Warwickshire R.H.A. was killed in action on August 30th. He was 23 years of age and joined up two years ago. For the last fifteen months he had been on active service in France and an officer of the Battery writes "He was a most useful and good gunner, a cheerful worker and very popular. He went through many trying experiences with the Battery and his comrades greatly mourned his death which was instantaneous."

**Herald 5th October 1917**

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**Harry GREEN** Rifleman 12258 8th Bn., King's Royal Rifle Corps

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, January 1915.

Died: Thursday, 24th August 1916. Age 20.

Son of Mr. R. and Mrs. P. Green, of Cross O'The Hill, Stratford-on-Avon. Born in Stratford-on-Avon.



THIEPVAL MEMORIAL, Somme, France.  
Pier and Face 13 A and 13 B

**DEATH PRESUMED  
RIFLEMAN HARRY GREEN**

Mr. and Mrs. R. Green of Cross of the Hill have been notified by the military authorities that as no further news has been received relative to their second son, who has been missing since August 24th 1916, the Army Council are constrained to conclude that he is dead. Rifleman Harry Green was 21 years of age and joined the Kings Royal Rifles in January 1915. He was sent to France the following July and served there until the date of his death. He was formerly in the employ of Mr. West of Claverdon. A younger brother, John Green also of the King's Royal Rifles has been thrice wounded in his country's service and is now stationed at Sheerness.

**Herald 3rd August 1917**

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**Charles GUEST** Private 32016 Royal Berkshire Regiment Labour Corps

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon.

Died: Friday, 24th May 1918. Age 42.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Guest, of Dudley, Staffs; husband of Rose Ellen Guest, of 67, Birmingham Rd., Stratford-on-Avon.

Born in Stratford-on-Avon

In 1918 Charles's children were:- Charles Alfred aged 14, Ernest John aged 12, Harold aged 10 and Thomas William aged 7.

Cemetery: STRATFORD-ON-AVON CEMETERY, Warwickshire, United Kingdom.  
Grave Reference. 4530.

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**Albert GULLIVER** Private 9916 10th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon. Died: Saturday, 25th November 1916. Age 23.  
Son of Henry and Betsy Gulliver, of Shottery, Stratford-on-Avon. Native of Cubbington, Leamington.  
Resided in Shottery.  
Cemetery: ETRETAT CHURCHYARD, France.  
Grave Reference. II. A. 17A.

**DIED OF WOUNDS PRIVATE A. GULLIVER**

Private A. Gulliver, 23 of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment died from wounds in France on Saturday last, having been wounded in the head from a shell. He enlisted nearly two years ago and before that was employed by Messrs. Smith & Spencer of this town. Gulliver had been on active service in France for eighteen months without a break and generally sympathy will go out to the father, Mr. Gulliver of Shottery who has now lost two sons in the great cause, a third is incapacitated by wounds.

**Herald 1st December 1916**

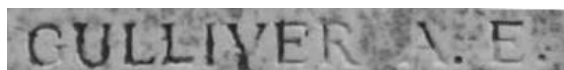
Our deep sympathy goes out to Mr. Gulliver and his family in the loss of his son, Albert, the news of whose death from wounds received in the war was officially announced to the family last month. This is the second son who has given his life for his country, another son has been disabled in the loss of his leg. We were glad to see Mr. Gulliver and his family at Church on December 10th when the subject of the sermon was "God's Hand in affliction".

**Parish Magazine January 1917**

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**Arthur Edward GULLIVER** Lance Corporal 10060 2nd Bn., Worcestershire Regiment

Enlisted in Worcester. Died: Saturday, 31st October 1914. Age 26.  
Son of Henry and Betsy Gulliver, of Shottery, Stratford-on-Avon.  
Born in Cubbington Warwick. Resided in Shottery Stratford-upon-Avon.



YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 34

**WAR NOTES**

News has reached his relatives of the death of Private A. E. Gulliver, of the Worcestershire Regiment, son of Mr Gulliver of Shottery, who was killed in action on October 31st 1914. The deceased had put in more than 7 years in India, and had been at home on the reserve for 8 months when war broke out and he was called up on mobilisation.

**Herald 15th January 1915**

**IN MEMORIAM**

In loving memory of Private A. E. Gulliver, Worcestershire Regiment, who fell in action October 31st 1914; also of Private A. Gulliver R.W.R., who died of wounds November 25th 1916. Ever remembered by father, brothers and sisters.

**Herald 22nd November 1918**

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**Henry HALL** Lance Corporal 1590 2nd Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Birmingham. Died: Saturday, 31st October 1914. Age 26. (Killed in action)  
Son of Thomas and Mary Hall, of 5, Shottery Rd., Stratford-on-Avon.  
Born and resided in Stratford-on-Avon



YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 8.

Of Henry Hall whose name appears first on the list (Roll of Honour) no tidings have been received since about the end of October. The War Office can give no information at present, further than that he is missing. Enquiries are being made through the official channels, and in addition the Congregational

Chaplain at Boulogne, the Rev. John Clayton is very kindly doing his best to secure the news which is so eagerly awaited. Mr. and Mrs. Hall may be assured of the sympathy of many in their long anxiety.

#### **March 1915 Stratford-on-Avon Congregationalist**

Definite information has at last been received regarding Henry Hall, whose name appears first on our roll of honour. The Rev. John Clayton, the Congregational chaplain at Boulogne, has been most kind in making enquiries, and has secured the following particulars through the British Red Cross Society at Boulogne-sur-Mer: - "Private J. Wright of the Royal Warwicks, who is in the Maritime Hospital here tells us that Lc. Cpl. Harry Hall was killed at Ypres though he could not remember the date. They were attacking the Germans at the time, and Hall, Wright and some others were kneeling in a ditch with a mangold field in front of them. Hall was shot in the head and became unconscious at once, dying shortly after. Wright said he knew him very well; they used to be in a Bible class together at Malta. He did not know whether he was buried or not. That ground was never lost, but they took up a fresh position and they never returned to the same place again." Much sympathy has been felt towards Mr. and Mrs. Hall in their long suspense, a sympathy, which they may be assured, is now with them in their bereavement.

#### **April 1915 Stratford-on-Avon Congregationalist**

##### **LANCE CORPORAL HENRY HALL**

Mr. and Mrs. Hall of Shottery Road have recently received notification from the War Office presuming the death of their son, Lance Corporal Henry Hall, 26 of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. Hall was reported missing as far back as October 1914 and no further information concerning him has come to hand.

**Herald 12th May 1916**

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**Albert Edward HANCOX** Sapper 139675 101st Field Coy., Royal Engineers

Enlisted in Banbury, Oxfordshire.

Died: Tuesday, 24th July 1917. Age 19.

Son of David and Ellen Hancox, of Grove Lodge, Deddington, Oxford.

Cemetery: GODEWAERSVELDE BRITISH CEMETERY, Nord, France

Grave. I.A.4.

*Albert Edward Hancox appears on the War Memorial at Stratford upon Avon, and is commemorated on the Memorial Screen and Reredos, Holy Trinity Church, and the St James Church Memorial. So far this is the only known information, nothing else has as yet been found to connect him to Stratford upon Avon.*

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**Joseph William HANCOX** Private 18092 1st Bn., Bedfordshire Regiment

Enlisted in Bedford.

Died: Thursday, 27th July 1916.

Born in Birmingham. Resided in Stratford-on-Avon.



THIEPVAL MEMORIAL, Somme, France.  
Pier and Face 2 C

*Joseph William Hancox also appears on the Wilmcote War Memorial. So far this is the only known information.*

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**William Henry HANDS** Private 7533 Norfolk Regiment Labour Corps

Enlisted in Birmingham, August 1916.

Died: Saturday, 8th June 1918. Age 33.

Son of Stephen and Helen Hands, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Born in Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: STRATFORD-ON-AVON CEMETERY, Warwickshire, United Kingdom.

Grave Reference. 809.

##### **PRIVATE W. H. HANDS**

Local sportsmen were greatly shocked this week by the intelligence that Private W. H. Hands was in one of the hospitals which had been so ruthlessly bombed by the Germans and that he had subsequently died of his wounds and injuries. "Tiny" joined the Labour Battalion in the August of 1916 and was attached to the Norfolk Regiment. After a spell of farm duty he accompanied a large draft to France doing consistently good work for nearly two years. When the enemy advanced in their hordes Private Hands was one of those who volunteered at a critical time to hold the lines and he was wounded and sent back to one of the Canadian Hospitals. Here he lay when the Huns bombed the buildings twice in Whitsun week and afterwards at his

earnest request, he was sent to England. He was tenderly treated at the 1st Southern General Hospital, Birmingham but there was no hope from the outset and he "fell asleep" on June 8th at the age of 31.

In the passing of "Tiny Hands" the Stratford on Avon Boat Club mourns the loss of another of its ever diminishing band of stalwarts who have brought fame to the Club and honour to their native town. In all probability it was his association with the Stratford Rugby Football Club whereby "Tiny" Hands was most widely known and his memory chiefly cherished. He was a glutton for work, both on and off the field and the fine example he set his team in the matter of training was no doubt mainly responsible for many a fine victory. Mosely, Old Edwardians, and Handsworth amongst the number. The untiring energy and zeal he bestowed on anything he took in hand, together with a most unassuming manner were, perhaps his chief characteristics. A thorough "sport" and a staunch friend he passing away has been received with the deepest regret by Midland Rugbyites.

The body was brought from Birmingham on Monday and was interred with full military honours on Tuesday afternoon at the Borough Cemetery. The coffin enswathed with the Union Jack was covered with choice floral tributes from the relatives and the Boat and Football Clubs and Sergeant W. Barnacle (Army Ordnance Corps) Private Reg. Ball (Royal Warwicks) Trooper Goodall and Private Savage acted as bearers. The scene at the graveside was an impressive one, and after Canon Melville had committed the body to the earth a firing party from Budbrooke paid their tribute to the memory of the departed comrade while the bugler sounded "the Last Post". No better epitaph could be found than the tribute attached to the Rugby Club wreath. "He played the game". The funeral arrangements were carried through by Mr. A. E. Bennett, Sheep Street.

**Herald 14th June 1918**

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**Harry HANDY** Driver T4/065312 Royal Army Service Corps

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon.

Died: Tuesday, 18th February 1919. Age 32.

Eldest son of Henry and Mary Ann Handy of "Old Farm House" Alderminster.

Born in Preston-on-Stour. Resided at 2 Park Road Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: STRATFORD-ON-AVON CEMETERY, Warwickshire, United Kingdom.

Grave Reference. 1917.

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**Percy Gerald HANDY** Private 201804 1st/5th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Warwick.

Died: Saturday, 25th August 1917. Age 22.

Youngest son of the late Mr & Mrs Henry Handy of Alderminster, and brother to Nelly and Joyce.

Born in Alderminster. Resided in Stratford -on-Avon.



TYNE COT MEMORIAL, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 23 to 28 and 163A

#### **KILLED IN ACTION PRIVATE P. G. HANDY**

Residents of Alderminster will regret to learn that Private P. G. Handy, youngest son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Henry Handy has been killed in action in France at the early age of 22. A native of Alderminster, he was for several years in the employ of Mr. John Ashby and at the age of 20 left for Northfield, entering the service of the Austin Motor Company Limited. He made his home with his sister, Mrs. George of Park Road, Stratford upon Avon where it was customary for him to spend the weekend. Sixteen months ago he joined the Royal Warwickshire Regiment and crossed the Channel on September 1st 1916. Early in the New Year he was invalided home with septic poisoning and returned to France on June 12th. On Monday afternoon, news of his death was conveyed to his sister by his platoon officer who writes "I regret to say that your brother who has been in my platoon for some time now has unfortunately been killed in action lately in a very dangerous part of the line. He was one of the best men I have and at the time he was killed was acting most bravely as a battalion runner. We all miss him very much and sincerely sympathise with you in your loss. We can ill afford to lose our best men like that and hope that this knowledge and our sincere sympathy may help make your sorrow less difficult to bear."

**Herald 17th September 1917**

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**Herbert John HARBORNE** Private 19988 10th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, June 1916.

Died: Thursday, 20th September 1917. Age 40.

Husband of Rhoda Jane Harborne, of 2, Brewery Cottages, Birmingham Rd., Stratford-on-Avon.



Born in Stratford-on-Avon. Son of Emma Harborne, 44 Henley Street, Stratford-on-Avon.  
Cemetery: BEDFORD HOUSE CEMETERY, ZILLEBEKE, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.  
Grave Reference. Enclosure No.4 XII. J. 21.

#### PRIVATE H. J. HARBORNE

Mrs. Harborne of Brewery Cottages, Birmingham Road, has this week received the sad news of the death of her husband. Private Harborne was 40 years of age and was formerly employed at the Brewery. He joined the Royal Warwicks in June 1916 and went to France in November. As lately as a month ago he enjoyed a brief leave in Stratford. His platoon officer writes "he was killed in action on September 20th. At the time of his death he was in a trench not far from me and when a shell burst close to him he and another man were killed instantly. During the whole morning the shelling was very heavy but I noticed that by his coolness and cheerfulness he set a fine example to the others in the platoon. He was very thorough in all his work and his loss leaves a gap in my platoon which will be hard to make up." The sympathy of many neighbours and friends is extended to his widow and six children.

**Herald 28th September 1917**

#### MARRIAGE

28th October 1899 at Parish Church Stratford. Herbert John Harborne aged 22 Labourer at 44 Henley Street, Stratford-on-Avon. Father Thomas Harborne deceased (machinist) married Rhoda Jane Canning aged 21 of 13 Henley Street, Stratford-on-Avon.

#### CHILDREN (Baptised)

October 1900	Doris Emma	
5th October 1904	Wallace Herbert	at 1 Brewery Street.
5th April 1911	George Edward	at 1 Clopton Lane.
5th April 1911	Beatrice May	at 1 Clopton Lane.
22nd January 1914	Edwin	at 2 Brewery Cottages.
28th October 1914	Albert	at 2 Brewery Cottages.

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**Arthur HARRIS** Private 4768 1st/5th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Birmingham. Died: Friday, 18th August 1916. Age 30.  
Son of Charles and Sarah Harris, of 8, Arden St., Stratford-on-Avon, husband of Hannah Jane Harris, of 16, Sunningdale, Alma Rd., Clifton, Bristol. Born in Stratford-on-Avon.  
Cemetery: LONSDALE CEMETERY, AUTHUILE, Somme, France.  
Grave Reference. III. Y. 5.

#### ARTHUR HARRIS

Official news has been received of the two sons of the late Charles Harris who formerly resided at 8 Arden Street. Arthur was killed in action on August 18th and his brother Fred wounded on July 21st. The latter has since been removed to Bournbrook Military Hospital and is now making satisfactory progress. Both brothers were in the Warwickshire Regiment.

**Herald 6th October 1916**

In June and July the regiment was serving on the Somme and when the battle commenced on 1st July they were holding trenches between Gommecourt and Serre. They were not involved in the attack that day. They were withdrawn from the line during July, returning to the line at Ovillers on 16th August. They were south of the strongpoint known as the Leipzig Redoubt, the objective of the attack, which commenced at 5 p.m. on Friday 18th August. This was a resounding success. Arthur Harris was almost certainly killed during this attack.

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**Ernest HARRIS** Private 265880 2nd/7th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon. Died: Thursday, 21st March 1918. Age 37.  
Husband of Isabel Harris, of 9, Mulberry St., Stratford-on-Avon. Born in Alcester.  
Cemetery: CHAPELLE BRITISH CEMETERY, HOLNON, Aisne, France.  
Grave Reference. I. J. 12.

### **KILLED IN ACTION PRIVATE. E HARRIS**

Private E. Harris of the 2/7th Royal Warwickshire Regiment has been killed in France by the bursting of a shell when going up to his Battalion. Harris, who is a native of Alcester, joined up at the start of the war. Before that he was in the employ of Mr E. T. Kennard. Harris leaves a widow and young family to whom sincere sympathy will go out.

**Herald 19th April 1918**

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**Frank HARRIS** Gunner 108859 192nd Heavy Bty., Royal Garrison Artillery

Enlisted in Glen Parva.

Died: Friday, 18th October 1918.

Husband of Lizze Harris of 7 Caldwell Street, Loughborough.

Born in Stratford-on-Avon. Resided in Loughborough

Cemetery: DOIRAN MILITARY CEMETERY, Greece.

Grave Reference. VI. H. 23.

### **DIED OF WOUNDS FRANK HARRIS**

Frank Harris who died (pneumonia) at a clearing station in the Balkans on October 18th 1918. Interred at Colonial Hill Military Cemetery, Greece.

**Herald 15th October 1920**

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**Charles William HATTEN** Private 30214 3rd Bn., Otago Regiment, N.Z.E.F.

Enlisted in New Zealand June 10th 1916.

Died: Sunday, 14th October 1917. Age 31.

Son of William Ford Hatten, of Ormond, Gisborne, New Zealand. Family had previously resided at 17 Ryland Street Stratford-on-Avon.

Born in New Zealand 20th June 1886

Cemetery: LIJSSENTHOEK MILITARY CEMETERY, Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Reference. XXI. F. IOA

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**John Henry HAYNES** Private 18208 16th Bn. attd. 15th Trench Mortar Bty., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Warwick April 1916.

Died: Monday, 2nd July 1917. Age 25.

Husband of J. T. Phipps (formerly Haynes), of 23, Ely St., Stratford-on-Avon.

Born in Wellesbourne. Resided in Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: ROCLINCOURT MILITARY CEMETERY, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Reference. III. C. 21.

### **PRIVATE J. H. HAYNES KILLED IN ACTION**

News has been received by Mrs. Haynes of 25 Ely Street, of the death of her husband Private J. H. Haynes who was attached to the 15th Trench Mortar Battery Royal Warwickshire Regiment. The information is contained in letters from his captain, the chaplain and a chum and from these it appears that Private Haynes was killed by a shell while in the trenches at about two on the morning of July 3rd. In the course of his letter the captain mentions that the deceased soldier was very popular with the Battery and will be greatly missed by all. One thing he suffered no pain. The chaplain writes "he was buried this morning in a little cemetery behind the line and lies next to a comrade who was killed at the same time. We wish to express our deep sympathy with you in your bereavement from the Battery and his old regiment. A cross is being erected on his grave and the exact position has been carefully noted and recorded." A private in the same regiment says "I myself feel the loss for we were close chums and as you know I did the majority of his writing for him. The men of the Battery wish me to tender their great sympathy to you for your great loss." Private Haynes joined the colours in April 1916 and after a short training was sent to France where he saw about 15 months active service.

**Herald 13th July 1917**

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**George HERITAGE** Private 16711 11th Bn., Cheshire Regiment

Enlisted in Birkenhead.

Died: Monday, 3rd July 1916. Age 29.

Born in Stratford-on-Avon.

Son of Charles and Vilantia Susanna of 39 Great William Street, Stratford-on-Avon.



THIEPVAL MEMORIAL, Somme,  
France. Pier and Face 3 C and 4 A

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**Thomas Harold HEWINS** Lance Corporal 31706 2nd Bn., Wiltshire Regiment

Enlisted in Winchester, Hampshire 1916.

Died: Monday, 3rd December 1917. Age 36.

Eldest son of Thomas and Mary Ann Hewins, of Stratford-on-Avon; husband of Emily Hewins, of Jessie Villa, Gordon Avenue, Highcliffe Park, Winchester.

Born in Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: Cemetery: HOOGE CRATER CEMETERY, Belgium.

Grave Reference. XVII. J. 14.

**OLD STRATFORD BOY KILLED**

News has been received by Mrs. Hewins of Jessie Villa, Gordon Avenue, Highcliffe Park, Winchester of the death in France on 3rd inst. of her husband Lance Corporal Harold Hewins, 35, an organ builder and old Stratfordian. His commanding officer writes of him as one of my most reliable Lance Corporals and says "whilst occupying with his platoon section one of our forward posts he met a soldierly death in a manner most instantaneous and without pain by being struck by a piece of shell which wounded all his companions. He was buried the same evening behind the Italian headquarters." Hewins will be remembered by a large circle of Stratford friends. The elder son of Mr. Thomas Hewins now of Kings Heath Birmingham, formerly a member of the well known local firm of organ builders he was educated at the Commercial School under Mr. Priest and was for some time a member of the Stratford Boat Club. He was also a volunteer. He joined the colours in 1916 and enlisted, entering the Royal Engineers from which he was transferred to the 6th Wilts. After serving 6 months in Belgium he was transferred to 2nd Wilts with which Battalion he was serving when he met his death.

**Herald 28th December 1917**

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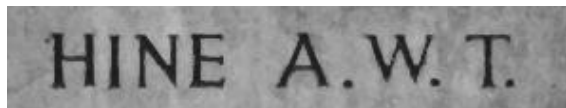
**Albert William Thomas HINE** Private 260111 No. 1 Coy. 13th Bn., Cheshire Regiment

Enlisted in Port Talbot, Glamorgan 1917.

Died: Friday, 10th August 1917. Age 23.

Second son of William and Mary Anna Hine, of 51, Shottery Rd., Stratford-on-Avon.

Born in Stratford-on-Avon.



YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL, Ieper,  
West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 19 – 22

**MISSING PRIVATE ALBERT HINE**

Many friends will regret to learn that Private Albert Hine, second son of Mr. and Mrs. William Hine of 51 Shottery Road was posted as missing on 10th August, Official notification having been received from the Territorial Force Record Office at Shrewsbury. The finely built young fellow standing 6' Private Hine was formerly employed in Stratford and gained a character for industry punctuality and integrity which augured well for his success in life. He subsequently entered the service of the Great Western Railway and was released by the company in the early part of this year in response to the insatiable man power demands of the Army. He joined the Monmouths and on arrival in France was transferred to the Cheshires.

**Herald 14th September 1917**

**PRIVATE ALBERT HINE**

Early in September Mr. and Mrs. Hine of 51 Shottery Road were notified by the territorial force record office at Shrewsbury that their second son, Private Albert Hine had been posted as missing on 10th August. From information subsequently received there was little doubt that this well built young man had fallen in the struggle. On Tuesday last an official communication from Shrewsbury stated that he was killed in action or died of wounds on 10th August. Private Hine was an exemplary character and his industry and rectitude

won for him the respect and confidence of those he served. Places of such men will be hard to fill when this ghastly war is over.

**Herald 23rd November 1917**

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<b>Francis Percival HITCHMAN</b>	Lance Corporal	16/1812	15th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment
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Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, November 1915

Died: Saturday, 6th October 1917. Age 22.

Only son of Thomas H. and Ada M. Hitchman, of Bridge Cottage, Warwick Rd., Stratford-on-Avon.

Born in Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: GODEWAERSVELDE BRITISH CEMETERY, Nord, France.

Grave Reference. I. N. 17

**EXODUS FROM THE S.M.J.** On Saturday last the following members of the office staff of the S.M.J. railway left their railway duties to do their "bit". W. E. Wright, F. Jackson, F. Hitchman and W. C. Kemp who have enlisted in the Birmingham City Battalion and P. Beckett who has joined the Black Watch. Before leaving each soldier was the recipient of the good wishes and something more substantial subscribed by those who are left behind to "carry on".

**Herald December 3rd 1915**

#### **WOUNDED LANCE CPL. FRANK HITCHMAN.**

On Wednesday last Mr. T. Hitchman received news that his son L. Cpl. F. Hitchman who joined one of the City Battalions (R.W.R.) IN November last and went to France in February had sustained a wound in the face in an engagement on Sunday 3rd September. In a bright letter home to his father Frank, who previous to entering the Army was engaged on the S.M.J. railway says that he has been sent to a rest camp and expects to be back in the firing line soon.

**Herald 15th September 1916**

#### **WOUNDED LANCE CORPORAL HITCHMAN**

Mr. T. H. Hitchman has received official notification that his son, Lance Corporal F. Hitchman, Royal Warwicks Regiment (City Battalion) was wounded in France on 9th inst. Fortunately the injury was not of a serious nature and he was making satisfactory progress at Bangour Hospital, Edinburgh. He has seen 15 months service and was slightly wounded last September

**Herald 25th May 1917**

#### **LANCE CORPORAL HITCHMAN**

Mr. T. Hitchman of Bridge Street, Stratford upon Avon, yesterday received notification of the death of his only son. He was in the great battle of yesterday week and was seriously wounded and died on Saturday last. Full particulars will appear later. In the meantime, Mr. and Mrs. Hitchman will have the deep sympathy of many friends.

**Herald 12th October 1917**

#### **LANCE CORPORAL FRANK HITCHMAN**

At the early age of 22 Frank Hitchman only son of Mr. and Mrs. T. Hitchman of this town has made the supreme sacrifice. On leaving school in 1910 he entered the service of the S.M.J Railway Company as a clerk in the traffic manager's office at Stratford upon Avon where he remained until November 1915 when with three colleagues he volunteered in the City Battalion of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. His training was carried through at Chiselden and in February 1916 he crossed to France. He participated in some exciting trench raids round Arras and was slightly wounded in the face in a hot engagement at Deauville Wood in September of that year. He took part in the storming of Vimy Ridge on Easter Monday 1917 and was again wounded at Fresnoy on May 9th. After two months rest at Edinburgh he came home on leave. July 26th saw him back in harness and the following week he had recrossed the channel, a short period having been spent at Rouen. He returned to his old battalion which was then on rest and received a warm welcome from his chums. On going into action on October 6th he sustained a bullet wound in the head and passed away at the clearing station without regaining consciousness.

In the latter part of his school days, Frank Hitchman was a valued cox to the Stratford on Avon boat club and one recalls with regret that he is the third member of the winning crew at Ross in 1908 to fall in the country's service. He evinced keen interest in rugby football and was a member of the second team and gave evidence of developing into a useful forward. His colleagues on the staff at the S.M.J railway write of him: "He was a promising youth and had he been spared undoubtedly he would have had a successful career. The news of

his death has come as a great shock and was received with genuine regret. He was a favourite with all the predominant feeling on hearing of his gallant end was one of personal bereavement."

**Herald 19th October 1917**

Our thoughts go out in sympathy to the homes of some more of our brothers who lie in France in hero's graves. The week October 14th – 21st brought a sad list to Stratford. The week before Frank Hitchman was reported killed. Only a week before he knelt at the Altar with one very dear to him the day before he returned to France to give himself for his country.

**Parish Magazine November 1917**

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<b>Frederick William HODGKINS</b> Private 15640 9th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment
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Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, November 1915.

Died: Thursday, 29th June 1916.

Step son of Mrs Arthur Bliss of Victoria Terrace, Shakespeare Street, Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: AMARA WAR CEMETERY, Iraq

Grave Reference. VIII. C. 14.

**SUCCUMBED TO DISEASE PRIVATE F. W. HODGKINS**

Mrs. Arthur Bliss of Victoria Terrace, Shakespeare Street, has just received from the Infantry Record Office, Warwick a notification of the death of Private F. W. Hodgkins who succumbed to disease on June 19th. Private Hodgkins was a native of Stratford and for nine years served in the capacity of porter to Dr. Norbury and Dr. Fox. He joined the Royal Warwickshire Regiment in November of last year and after completing his training in the Isle of Wight was drafted to Mesopotamia. On Wednesday afternoon the first post card dated June 7th was received from him since he landed and on this he stated that he was quite well. Lance Corporal Arthur Bliss, his step-brother is now serving with the Royal Warwickshire Regiment in France having left this country in May.

**Herald 14th July 1916**

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<b>Ralf Wakefield HODGKINS</b> Private 126685 21st Stat. Hosp, Royal Army Medical Corps
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Died: Saturday, 23rd November 1918.

Age 21.

Youngest son of Mrs. Hodgkins and of the late William Wakefield Hodgkins of 1 Shakespeare Street, Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: SOFIA WAR CEMETERY, Bulgaria.

Grave Reference. I.A. 3.

**WAR COURTS**

R.W. Hodgkins (22) single was described as boots at the Golden Lion. Miss Fry said they had tried to get someone to replace him, without success. He had been passed for B2, and the military referred the case to the tribunal for further inquiry.

The Military Representative said if Hodgkins were allowed to stay there was no reason why he should not join the volunteers. 6 months exemption conditional on joining the volunteers, Class B.

**Herald 2nd March 1917**

**WAR COURTS**

R.W. Hodgkins (22) employed as boots, ostler, and cellar man at the Golden Lion Hotel was also brought up for "review", Lieutenant Jackson's submission being that Hodgkins was a single man and scarcely doing work of national importance. He was classified B2 - Miss Fry remarked that Hodgkins was the only man employed on the premises and he was engaged because of the fact that he had been rejected for the army on several occasions. The enumeration of Hodgkins' duties led Mr. Savage to describe him as a sort of "domestic Mary Ann". The military application was granted. Hodgkins to be called up on September 1st.

**Herald 20th July 1917**

**DEATH OF R.W. HODGKINS**

On the 25th November of pneumonia 126685 Private Ralf Wakefield Hodgkins R.A.M.C., 21, Stationary Hospital with the Expeditionary Forces Salonica, youngest son of Mrs. Hodgkins and of the late William Wakefield Hodgkins of 1 Shakespeare Street.

**Herald 6th December 1918**

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**Thomas HORNSEY** Sapper 112720 179th Tunnelling Coy., Royal Engineers

Enlisted in London, September 1915.

Died: Friday, 31st December 1915. Age 45.

Second son of Mr. and Mrs. John Hornsley of Henley Street, Stratford-on-Avon.



THIEPVAL MEMORIAL, Somme, France. Pier and Face 8 A and 8 D

**STRATFORD FAMILY'S BEREAVEMENT SAPPER T. HORNSEY**

Mr. and Mrs. John Hornsley of Henley Street have been notified from Chatham that their second son, Sapper T. Hornsey 179th Company Royal Engineers was killed in action in France on December 31st. He was 45 years of age and had seen service in South Africa with the Royal Field Artillery. In September last he rejoined the colours and went to France after a few weeks training.

**Herald 21st January 1916**

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**Cecil John HOWE** Private 723454 "D" Coy. 1st/24th Bn., London Regiment

Enlisted in Southend, January 1916.

Died: Thursday, 21st March 1918. Age 30.

Son of John and Louisa Howe, Master and Matron of Cuckfield Workhouse; husband of Minnie Howe, of 10, Seafield Rd., Hove, Sussex. Born in Cuckfield

Cemetery: METZ-EN-COUTURE COMMUNAL CEMETERY, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Reference. IV. D. 8.

**KILLED IN ACTION PRIVATE C. J. HOWE**

Councillor and Mrs. J. Howe on Wednesday received the sad news that their youngest son Private Cecil J. Howe of the Queen's Own attached to the 1st 24th London Regiment was killed on the 21st ult., the first day of the great battle. Private Howe was 30 years of age and leaves a widow and one child aged 6. He was a cashier in the London County and [Westminster] Bank at Southend and has been in service of the bank 12 years. He joined 2nd 5th Buffs in January 1916. He volunteered for service in France after six months training. In November 1916 he contracted dysentery and was in hospital at Walcliffe, Sheffield during February 1917 when he was transferred to a convalescent hospital in Barton on Sea, rejoining his regiment in September of last year, going across the water again on December 6th 1917. Private Cecil Howe had many friends in Stratford and their sincere sympathy will go out to the bereaved widow and parents.

**Herald 19th April 1918**

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**Sidney Arthur HOWKINS** Driver 614097 2nd/1st (Warwick) Bty., Royal Horse Artillery

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon.

Died: Saturday, 29th September 1917. Age 26.

Second son of Mr & Mrs Howkins of Henley Street. Born in Loxley.

Cemetery: BARD COTTAGE CEMETERY, BOEZINGE, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

Grave Reference. III.H.37

**BOMBARDIER S.A. HOWKINS**

The name of Bombardier Sidney A. Howkins of the 2nd 1st Warwickshire Brigade R.H.A has to be added to the local death roll, news having been received that he passed away in France on 29th September from wounds received in action. Howkins was only 26 years of age and was in the Territorials when war broke out. He has served with the colours for nearly three years. He was a smart soldier, very popular with the members of the Battery. A short while back he was gassed but recovered and returned to his post. Howkins was expecting leave to come to Stratford for the purpose of getting married but the stern necessity of war kept him at duty's call and it was in the great cause that he was mortally wounded. The sympathy of our readers must go out to the family two members of whom have made the supreme sacrifice.

**Herald 19th October 1917**

Our thoughts go out in sympathy to the homes of some more of our brothers who lie in France in hero's graves. The week October 14th – 21st brought a sad list to Stratford. Sidney Howkins will never sit in church with us again.

**Parish Magazine November 1917**

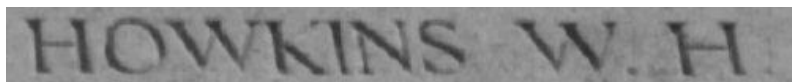
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**William Henry HOWKINS** Private 12733 11th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, June 1914.

Died: Saturday, 15th July 1916. Age 38.

Eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Howkins of Henley Street. Born in Loxley.



THIEPVAL MEMORIAL. Pier and Face 9 A 9 B and 10 B

#### **PRIVATE W. HOWKINS WOUNDED**

The news has been received that Private W. Howkins of this town who was with the Royal Warwickshire Regiment was wounded on 15th July but his relatives are anxious to hear further news. He enlisted twelve months ago last June and went to France about 6 weeks since.

**Herald 11th August 1916**

#### **DEATH PRESUMED PRIVATE W. H. HOWKINS**

Mr. and Mrs. Howkins of Henley Street have received notification of the presumed death of their son, Private W. H. Howkins of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. This soldier who was 38 years of age had been posted as missing since 15th July 1916 and as no further news has since been heard of him the Army Council have regretfully come to the conclusion that his death took place on that date. A letter expressing the sympathy of King and Queen in their bereavement was also forwarded to the parents.

**Herald 15th June 1917**

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**John William Willoughby HUDSON** Lieutenant "A" Coy. 1st/5th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

Died: Tuesday, 30th November 1915.

Age 20.

Son of Percy William and Kate Hudson, of "Meerend," 60, Salisbury Rd., Moseley, Birmingham.

Gazetted 19th Oct., 1914. Born at Edgbaston, Birmingham.

Cemetery: FONCQUEVILLERS MILITARY CEMETERY, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Reference. I. K. 30.

#### **LIEUTENANT HUDSON'S DEATH**

Another officer to fall in his country's service is Lieutenant John W. Hudson, elder son of Mr. Percy Hudson of Birmingham, a nephew of Mr. Reginald Hudson of Warwick Road, Stratford on Avon. He was well known in this town as his father, during the summer months, used to take up his residence in the neighbourhood.

Lieutenant Hudson who, prior to obtaining a commission was associated with his father in the firm of Hudson & Son, Printers of Livery Street and Edmund Street, was only 20 years of age. He was educated at King Edwards High School where he served in the cadet corps. He was gazetted 2nd Lieutenant on 24th November 1914 and attached to the 2nd or Reserve Battalion of the 5th Royal Warwicks. On the 19th March of this year however, he and one other subaltern were chosen for transference to the 1st 5th Royal Warwicks and a few days later on 22nd March left England with the Regiment for France.

Lieutenant Hudson had been at the front just over 8 months. He gave his young life in a noble cause. In these words Brigadier General Sir John Barnsley wrote "the supreme sacrifice made by Lieutenant Hudson" the letter proceeded "he died for his country just as if he had lost his life in fighting the Germans on their native soil. I want to say how much I admired him. When I was commanding the 2nd 5th Warwicks this time last year I formed a very high opinion of his capacity as an officer and always felt perfectly sure that when he joined the 1st 5th he would acquit himself well and from reports I have received he has done splendidly."

**Herald 10th December 1915**

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**Edward William HUNT** Private 8/4499 2nd Bn, Otago Regiment, N.Z.E.F.

Died: Wednesday, 12th July 1916.

Age 32.

Eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. John Hunt of Shakespeare Street.

Cemetery: CITE BONJEAN MILITARY CEMETERY, Armentieres, France.

Grave Reference. 11. D.7. (**Buried under the name of William Walker, see letter.**)



# **NATIVE OF SHOTTERY KILLED IN ACTION PRIVATE EDWIN WILLIAM HUNT**

Notification has been received of the death in action on July 12th of Private Edwin William Hunt of the New Zealand contingent, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. John Hunt of Shakespeare Street. Private Hunt was born at Shottery and was thirty-two years of age. Seven or eight years ago his family took up their residence in Stratford and in 1912, Hunt left the home circle to try his luck in New Zealand. In a letter to his sister his Chaplain says "I very much regret having to tell you that your very gallant brother was killed in action on July 12th. We have buried him in the cemetery at Armentieres where his grave is marked with a wooden cross, with his name on it on a metal plate. To you who live at the centre of the Empire - in the very cradle, so to speak, of all that is English - it must be a source of pride that one of your number fighting with the New Zealanders has sealed with his blood and by the sacrifice of his life the chains that bind the Empire together."

**Herald 21st July 1916**

In loving memory of Private Will Hunt (New Zealanders), eldest son of J. and E. Hunt, 8 Victoria Terrace, Shakespeare Street, killed in action July 12th 1916.

**Herald 13th July 1917**

Extract from the Battalion War Diary

12/14 July lost 54 killed and 104 wounded raiding trenches. Only 6 men returned unhurt from the large raiding party.

During the three months the Division incurred 2500 casualties, including 375 killed. Most buried in the Cite Bonjean Cemetery

Reinforcement:		HISTORY-SHEET.			E.F. Form No. 3A.
Unit.	Rank.	Surname.	Christian Name.	No.	
D. Coy	Pte	Walker	William	8/4499	
Identical with Hunt Edwin Wm (See memo from P. Trustee of 15.6.20)					
Occupation:	Labourer	Religion:	England	Last New Zealand address:	
Last employer:	Self	24.3.14	Kiwitahi		
Name, relationship, and address of next-of-kin (if not resident in New Zealand, insert also name and address of nearest relative in New Zealand):	Mrs W. D. G. (sister) Daniel Breaghgan (husb) 8 Victoria Terrace Stratford-on-Avon Stratford-on-Avon England 4 Victoria Terrace Shakespeare St Stratford-on-Avon England				

**Extract from a letter, War Graves, Department of Internal Affairs. New Zealand.**

Our research has established that Edwin William Hunt, service number 8/4499, did serve with New Zealand forces during World War I, however at the time of attestation he gave his name as William Walker, with the address of his sister as his next of kin, and this was the name he was known as during his time in the NZ Army.

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**Victor William HYATT** Private 6784 18th Bn., Royal Fusiliers

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, 1915.

Died: Sunday, 5th December 1915. Age 18.

Eldest son of Mr. William Hyatt of Wood Street, Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: BROWN'S ROAD MILITARY CEMETERY, FESTUBERT, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Reference. VIII. F. 19



**LOCAL ROLL OF HONOUR**  
**PRIVATE VICTOR W. HYATT**



full of promise cut off abruptly but there remains some consolation in the knowledge that he did his duty to his country and was very keen in doing it. He now lies buried side by side with his chum in the little cemetery at Le Plant, two crosses marking their last resting places.

**Herald 10th December 1915**

**Extracts from a letter to Mrs Hyatt December 15th 1915.**

(4 37 1) W 5687-1388 306,000 11/14 H W V 51 144  
Army Form B. 104-82.

No. *83/17/4/185*  
(If empty, please quote above No.)

INVENTORY RECORD OFFICE  
Date *26 December, 1915.*  
Record Office,  
Station,  
*HOUNSLOW*

Sir,

It is my painful duty to inform you that a report has this day been received from the War Office notifying the death of  
(No.) *225 6783* (Rank) *Private*  
(Name) *V. W. Hyatt* (Regiment) *18th Bn.*  
*Royal Fusiliers* which occurred at *place*  
*not stated* on the *5th*  
of *December 1915*, and I am to express to you the sympathy and regret of the Army Council at your loss. The cause of death was  
*"Accidentally killed through collapse of Dug-out"*

If any articles of private property left by the deceased are found, they will be forwarded to this Office, but some time will probably elapse before their receipt, and when received they cannot be disposed of until authority is received from the War Office.

Application regarding the disposal of any such personal effects, or of any amount that may eventually be found to be due to the late soldier's estate, should be addressed to "The Secretary, War Office, London, S.W.," and marked outside "Effects."

I am,  
Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,  
*R. Newland*

Dear Mrs Hyatt

I was sorry to hear of Victor's death on Dec 4th. I heard about it the next day, but before I wrote I wanted to make sure that you had heard of it from the Government. It is the greatest sorrow I have ever had, for after all he was the greatest friend I ever had. The only possible consolation I can hold out to you is the fact that he suffered no pain and death was practically instantaneous.

Victor, Thomas and Dix were sitting in a dug out together, Victor and Thomas were sitting on the grass, leaning against the inner wall Dix was lying in the middle. Owing to the wet and shell fire the dugout was in a cranky condition and fell on top of them, the wooden posts with the weight of the sand bags on top crushing Victor and Thomas, but Dix having no weight on him was dug out uninjured.



I am yours always in Sorrow and Sympathy.  
Pte Ronald Newland No 6783

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**Arthur JACKSON** Private 26243 5th Bn., Wiltshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, 1916.

Died: Thursday, 29th March 1917. Age 35.

Son of Elizabeth of 13, Waterside, Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: BASRA MEMORIAL, Iraq. Panel 30 and 64.

**PRIVATE A. JACKSON KILLED**

We regret to record that the news has been received of the death of Private A. Jackson, Wilts Regiment of Waterside, Stratford upon Avon who was killed in action at the Persian Gulf, Mesopotamia on 29th March. Private Jackson joined up about 12 months ago and left England in September last.

**Herald 13th April 1917**

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**Aubrey John JACKSON** Lance Corporal 310495 Warwickshire Yeomanry

Enlisted in Warwick, September 1914

Died: Thursday, 19th April 1917. Age 21.

Son of Fanny, of 7, New St., Stratford-on-Avon, and the late John Henry Jackson.

Memorial: JERUSALEM MEMORIAL, ISRAEL. Panel 16



**DEATH**

On the 19th ult. in Mesopotamia Lance Corporal Aubrey John Jackson , Warwickshire Yeomanry was killed in action aged 21 years.

**Herald 4th May 1917**

**LANCE CORPORAL A. J. JACKSON**

On Monday morning last Mrs. Jackson of New Street received official notification that her son Lance Corporal Aubrey J. Jackson, Warwickshire Yeomanry had been killed in action in Mesopotamia. This youth who was engaged in the brewery offices was barely 19 when hostilities broke out but like many other gallant lads, all honour to them, his country's call found him ready. He joined the Warwickshire Yeomanry in September 1914 and after

several month training in various parts of England proceeded to Egypt in August the following year. He shared the various experiences of his Regiment in many theatres of the war until he was killed in action on 19th ult. Mrs. Jackson who is a widow has an elder son Frank with the Warwickshire Battalion in France where he has served since February last year.

**Herald 4th May 1917**

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**Harold Saunders JAMES** Private 5471 8th Regt. South African Infantry

Died: Saturday, 19th July 1917.

Age 28.

Son of Mrs. E. James, of 1 Arthur Road., Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: DAR ES SALAAM WAR CEMETERY, Tanzania.

Grave Reference. Special Memorial No 2.

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**Henry Arthur JENNINGS** Second Lieutenant 6th attd. 3rd. Bn., Worcestershire Regiment

Enlisted in Birmingham.

Died: Sunday, 30th April 1916. Age 21.

Son of Howard Jennings, of Riverside, Tiddington, Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: ECOIVRES MILITARY CEMETERY, MONT-ST. ELOI, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Reference. I. H. 13.

**DEATH OF LIEUTENANT HENRY JENNINGS**

Another name has to be added to the Roll of Honour of the Stratford Grammar School, that of Henry Jennings, son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Jennings of Tiddington Road. Jennings originally joined one of the city battalions but was successful in gaining a commission and threw in his lot with the Worcestershire Regiment. Information that has come to hand shows that Jennings was an ideal officer beloved by his men and held in esteem by his brother officers. One of his Stratford comrades writing to the parents says "he was killed about 3.00 a.m. on the morning of April 30th and if anyone died like a hero he did. I will give you the details showing what magnificent work Henry did before he met with his end. The Germans exploded a mine on the evening of April 28th in our lines which they obtained complete possession of so an attack was ordered to be made on it the following morning. Henry was one of the officers chosen to take part in it. It turned out to be an impossible task as the position they had to attack was a stronghold. Three times with indomitable courage he led the men over and each time they were met with terrific gunfire and showers of bombs. The first time Henry got to the tip of the mine crater with another man but of course could not hold on as they had no support, most of his men being casualties. The third time he and a few men got into a shallow trench just this side of the crater but it was a hopeless position and they were ordered to retire at about 2.45 a.m. It was after getting back from the last grand effort that Henry met with his end. He was standing in the trench when a shell burst in front of him. Death was instantaneous. His name is on everybody's lips for the magnificent courage he showed all through that terrible business. I am sure his name will be recommended. We all deeply deplore the loss of a fine officer who made himself so popular with officers and men while he was with us."

Those who knew Henry Jennings will recall his fine manly figure even when he won his races as a Grammar School boy. But a boy when he enlisted he was just 21 and the cause of his king claimed him. From the very first day of war Henry begged to be allowed to join up. There was no hanging back from the beginning and his end, tragic as it is to those who loved him, proved him to be a fine soldier and an Englishman. It was just three years ago that Jennings and three other boys from his old school, R. Meadows, B. W. Hyatt and T. Pilkington were stationed on the roof of the United Counties Bank and fired a volley which formed a signal for releasing the National and Empire flags for the Shakespeare celebrations. Two of the four boys have given their lives for king and country.

**Herald 12th May 1916**

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**Herbert Howard JENNINGS** Lance Corporal S/41626 1st Bn., Cameron Highlanders

Enlisted in Houndslow, Middlesex.

Died: Thursday, 19th September 1918. Age 18.

Youngest son of Mr. H. Jennings, of Riverside, Tiddington, Stratford-on-Avon. Born in Birmingham.

Cemetery: BELLICOURT BRITISH CEMETERY, Aisne, France.

Grave Reference. IV. 3.

#### KILLED IN ACTION

#### PRIVATE H.H. JENNINGS - LONDON SCOTTISH

Sincere sympathy will be extended to Mr. and Mrs. Howard Jennings in the irreparable loss they have sustained on the death of their younger and only surviving son. So recently had he been seen in our streets in his picturesque Scottish attire which well became his manly and erect bearing that the news of his demise last weekend came as a profound shock to all who knew him. His bright young life had been cut short at the early age of 18. To the bereaved parents, what words of sympathy can correspond with the depth of their grief. They had only two sons and the great reaper has laid claim to both on the blood soaked fields of France.

**Herald 11th October 1918**

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**George JOHNSON** Serjeant 5048 2nd Bn., Coldstream Guards



Enlisted in Birmingham. Died: Thursday, 5th November 1914. Age 32.

Son of Mr. H. Johnson of Great William Street, Stratford-on-Avon. Born in Shottery.

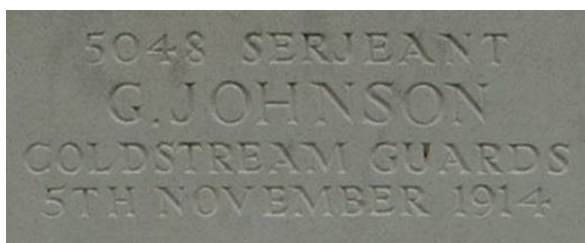
Cemetery: SANCTUARY WOOD CEMETERY, ZILLEBEKE, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Reference. IV. J. 8.

#### DEATH OF STRATFORD MAN SERGEANT GEORGE JOHNSON

News has been received of the death of Sergeant George Johnson of the Coldstream Guards, son of Mr. H. Johnson of Great William Street who was killed in action at Rentel, Belgium on 5th November.

Sergeant Johnson was held in great esteem by all who knew him and he had a fine military record. He was 32 years of age and had completed 12 years service having been a full sergeant for five years. In August of this year he was shooting at Pirbright and when the war was declared he sailed from Southampton with the first batch. He went through the battle of Mons and several subsequent engagements and in his last letter home dated October 27th he expressed the opinion that we were just getting the best of the Germans. His relatives have received a message from Lord Kitchener announcing his death and expressing the true sympathy of the King and





Queen. Another brother, Charles Johnson was wounded at the battle of Aisne being shot in the left arm but he has recovered and gone back to Felixstowe. A third is serving with the army in India.

**Herald 20th November 1914**

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**James KEELEY** Corporal 34952 16th Bn., Welsh Regiment

Died: Friday, 7th July 1916.

Age 40.

Eldest son of James and Ellen Keeley of Shottery, Stratford-on-Avon.

Born at 2 Hathaway Court, Stratford-on-Avon.

Grave Reference. VI. G. 8. FLATIRON COPSE CEMETERY, MAMETZ, Somme, France.

**KILLED IN ACTION  
CORPORAL JAMES KEELEY**

Mr. and Mrs. J. Keeley of Shottery have received notification of the death of their eldest son Corporal James Keeley who was killed in action on 7th July. He was 40 years of age and was serving in the Welch Regiment.

**Herald 11th August 1916**

**CORPORAL JAMES KEELEY**

Mr. and Mrs. J. Keeley of Shottery have been notified by the War Office that their eldest son Corporal James Keeley of the Welch Regiment who was killed in action on July 7th 1916 was buried between Mametz Wood and Caterpillar Wood 5 miles east of Albert.

**Herald 22nd December 1916**

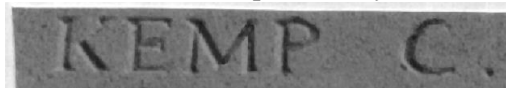
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**Charles KEMP** Private 16710 11th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, 1916.

Died: Tuesday, 25th September 1917. Age 28.

Husband of Mrs Kemp, Shottery, Stratford-on-Avon. Born in Stratford-on-Avon. Resided in Shottery.



TYNE COT MEMORIAL, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 23 to 28 and 163A

**DIED OF WOUNDS PRIVATE CHARLES KEMP**

General sympathy was extended to Mrs. Kemp, Shottery on the death of her husband at a field ambulance in France as a result of wounds sustained on September 25th. Private Kemp was a native of Stratford and spent the days of his boyhood and early youth in the town. He subsequently went to Coventry where he remained until February of last year. He then joined the Royal Warwickshire Regiment and after completion of his training was sent to France. In August 1916 he had the misfortune to be wounded and was brought to hospital in England. At the end of October he had sufficiently recovered to recross the Channel where he remained on active service until he received a fatal wound. Private Kemp who was 28 years of age leaves a widow and one child.

**Herald 12th October 1917**

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**Richard Charles KEMP** Lance Serjeant 7960 1st Bn., King's Royal Rifle Corps

Enlisted in Warwick.

Died: Friday, 17th August 1917. Age 28.

Son of Martha and Thomas Kemp of 31 Great William Street.

Born and resided in Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: BERLIN SOUTH-WESTERN CEMETERY, Brandenburg, Germany.

Grave Reference. XI. A. 10.

**DEATH WHILE PRISONER OF WAR  
SERGEANT R. C. KEMP**

The news has just reached Stratford of the death while a prisoner of war of Sergeant Richard Charles Kemp of the 1st Battalion Kings Royal Rifles. He was well known locally and had the bad luck to be captured by the Germans in November 1914. A chum, writing to his widow from Alten-Grabow Camp sent particulars



of his illness, adding that while in hospital he lacked nothing. It was on August 16th after a long period of unconsciousness that he peacefully passed away. Every Britisher in the camp was very sorry to hear of poor Dick's death. He had expected it for quite a while. Your husband had a soldier's funeral and a soldier's grave. British all through and then we left him in the little graveyard surrounded by pine trees and open to the sky. Sergeant Dixon carefully removed from the wreath the colours for you and intends that at some near future date to hand these and other personal souvenirs of poor old Dick to you personally. All that now remains for us to do is to convey to you and your little one our truest and deepest sympathy from every Britisher in Alten Grabow camp.

**Herald 12th October 1917**

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<b>Norman Walter KINMAN MM and Bar</b> Serjeant 614376 Warwickshire Royal Horse Artillery
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**Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon. August 1914.**

Died: Tuesday, 5th November 1918. Age 30.

Eldest son of Mr & Mrs W. M. Kinman of Stratford-on-Avon, and husband of Kate (Kitty) of 77, Clopton Road, Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: STRATFORD-ON-AVON CEMETERY, Warwickshire, United Kingdom.

Grave Reference. 1062.

#### **MARRIAGE**

On the 28th of April 1916, at the Parish Church Stratford, Bombardier W. N. Kinman W.R.H.A. to Kathleen Adams.

#### **MILITARY MEDAL FOR NORMAN KINMAN**

The Warwickshire R.H.A. were heavily engaged in Easter week and as a consequence many men were killed and wounded. The despatches did splendid work and we note that Corporal Norman Kinman son of Mr. W. Kinman of this town has been awarded the Military Medal for conspicuous bravery, being the first member of the Battery to gain this distinction. Norman Kinman came back from Australia when the war broke out to do his bit and his recent achievement will be read with pleasure by his many friends.

**Herald 25th May 1917**

Sergt. N. Kinman, Warwickshire R.H.A. of Stratford-on-Avon, has been awarded a bar to his Military Medal, for putting out a fire under heavy shell fire, caused by a shell falling on the ammunition. He saved two guns. Sergt. Kinman is a brother-in-law of Mrs J Sabin of 42, New Street, Leamington Spa.

**Leamington Spa Courier and Warwickshire Standard, 14th September 1917**

#### **NORMAN KINMAN'S EXPLOITS**

Sergeant Norman Kinman of the Warwickshire RHA has recently been awarded a bar to his Military Medal for putting out a fire. Under heavy shell fire caused by a shell falling on the ammunition his prompt action resulted in the saving of two guns.

**Herald 22nd September 1917.**

#### **THE ROYAL HORSE AT FOOTBALL**

We learn that after a recent hot action the Warwickshire Royal Horse Artillery played a football match behind the lines, the sides being picked from the left and right sections. Sergeant Kinman was the pivot of the left section, which won by two goals to nil.

**Herald 28th September 1917**

#### **29th DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY WAR RECORDS AND HONOURS**

Kinman W. N. 614376 Corporal. 1/1st Warwickshire Battery, R.H.A. 9T.F.O.

Arras, 1917 - On April 9th this N.C.O. under heavy enemy fire and without any regard to his own personal safety continued to serve his gun, notwithstanding that the next gun had received a direct hit, killing 10 and wounding 5. (M.M. (immediate) 9/7/17).

Flanders, 1917 - On the evening of August 10th the battery in action on the canal bank at Boesinghe was being heavily shelled. Two guns were put out of action and their camouflage as well as that of one other gun was set alight; the ammunition started exploding. 2nd Lieut. Philip at once collected a party, the detachments having been cleared to a flank, consisting of 2nd Lieut. Malby, Sergeant Kinman and Gunner Dixon, which worked for 20 minutes under continuous shell fire, with the ammunition continuing to explode, until all fires were extinguished and the guns recamouflaged. By their prompt action, a large quantity of ammunition was saved and the guns preserved from further damage. (Bar to M.M. (immediate) 18/10/17).

### GASSED SERGEANT NORMAN KINMAN

Norman Kinman had the privilege of going to France with the 1st Territorial Battery sent out in 1914. He has a fine record of service to his credit with the RHA. He speedily won promotion and was singled out for his bravery and awarded the Military Medal. Although many times in the thick of the fighting with the Battery he enjoyed a remarkable immunity from the Hun shell and shrapnel until Friday last when he was badly gassed. He is now in hospital at Rouen. From what we can gather three men from his section were buried as a consequence of the heavy shelling and Norman was busy digging them out when the Germans sent over some gas shells and the next thing Kinman knew was that he was in hospital in comfortable hands. His many friends will join in wishing a speedy recovery to Sergeant Kinman.

**Herald 7th December 1917**

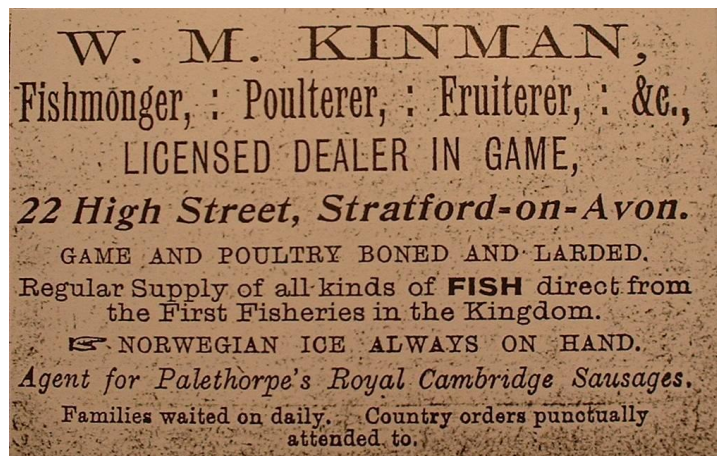
### DEATH -- KATE (KITTY) KINMAN

On the 28th of October 1918 at 77 Clopton Road, Kate (Kitty) the beloved wife of W. Norman Kinman aged 29 years.

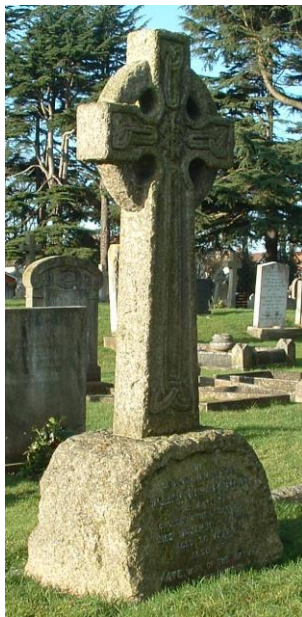
### DEATH OF EX-SERGEANT KINMAN A FINE ATHLETE

Norman Kinman did not survive his wife many days and although he fought hard against the malady which has stricken many in our midst his constitution had been badly undermined by German gas attacks in France and he was taken to his rest on Tuesday at the age of 30.

He was in Australia before the war broke out but returned in time to do his bit - Norman never failed in that respect - and volunteering in August 1914 he was soon out in France with the Warwickshire Royal Horse Artillery. Promotion came his way and on July 6th 1917 he was awarded the Military Medal, gaining a bar to that medal on October 18th of the same year. Soon after this he was badly gassed and in February of this year he was granted his discharge coming back to his native place and finding employment with Messrs. Flower and Sons.



He was wedded to Miss Kathleen Adams in 1916 and it is interesting to recall that two other sisters married well known local footballers. With the passing of Norman Kinman Stratford loses perhaps the finest all round athlete it has ever possessed. That it had had no superior for some forty years is the view of the writer of these few lines of appreciation who association with that athletic life of the town extends over that period. Nature had endowed him with magnificent physique, a fine turn of speed and a matchless courage, and there was no outdoor game or sport where he was not a most clever and skilful exponent. Football, cricket, swimming, boxing, or on the running path he could hold his own in the best company.



When a lad at the Commercial school his love and skill for sports were early apparent, and here he found ample opportunity to indulge his fancy. The son of a sterling sportsman (Mr. W. M. Kinman) parental encouragement and coaching assisted in no small degree in the development of his natural attainments and he had barely left school when he was gaining fame as a sprinter at most of the principal athletic festivals in the Midlands. Association football was his school game and his skill in this direction was recognised by one of the leading League clubs and had he chosen this code, it is quite certain that he must have gone a long way. He, however, preferred the Rugby game, it being Stratford's premium sport and here his distinction was most marked. As a wing-three quarter he was a great success - his fine turn of speed, together with his great strength and determination made him a most dangerous player - and when he

and his partner, Harold Coles, had an afternoon out it was usually pretty rough for their opponents. He was in the team which won the Midland cup at Leicester and his magnificent defence on that occasion had a great deal to do with the club's victory. His sterling play won him a place in the Midland Counties' team which he occupied with conspicuous advantage to the side and proof of which he gave his townsmen in the game against Middlesex on Pearcecroft some eight or nine seasons ago.

When in Australia some few years since his talent as a Rugby player was quickly recognised, and he held a place at three-quarter back for three seasons with the Balmain club, one of the leading organisations of New South Wales. On the cricket field he was a valuable acquisition to his side and his free and forceful batting was always refreshing to watch, while as an amateur boxer he was always regarded to use a purely sporting phrase as "pretty hot stuff". Plain and blunt, modest and retiring - for anything in the nature of show or fuss was anathema to Norman - he was a great "sport" and had a heart as true as steel for his friends. His end is in expressly sad and has come as a great shock to a wide circle of friends, not only here in his native town but throughout the Midlands where his memory will live for many a long day in the hearts of those who will speak with pride of how he won this race or scored that try.

The funeral will take place on Saturday at 8.30 pm at the Parish Church.

**Herald 8th November 1918**

#### **MILITARY FUNERAL EX-SERGEANT KINMAN**

On Saturday afternoon the remains were laid to rest of a man who had played his part in the Great War - ex Sergt. Kinman, M.M. Warwickshire Royal Horse Artillery, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Kinman of this town. The coffin was covered with the Union Jack and an impressive spectacle was presented as the cortege wended its way from Birmingham Road to the stately old church on Avon's banks where the first portion of the Burial Order was read by the Vicar (Lieut-Colonel the Rev. Canon Melville, chaplain of the Warwickshire R.H.A.) In addition to those who were nearest and dearest to him a squad of men from Section 12 under S. S. M. Penn followed their late comrade upon whose coffin were laid several floral tokens of affection and regret. Among those were tributes from his officers (a horse-shoe tied with A.S.C. colours) the warrant officer in charge and the N.C.O's and men of his Section. It was meet that ex-Sergt. Kinman's funeral should be largely attended by devotees of those sports of which he was so capable an exponent.

The services at the graveside were also taken by the Vicar. Six A.S.C. staff sergeants carried their late comrade to his last resting place and the bearers of the Military Medallist's coffin were Sergt. Smith, Cpl. Sharp, Gunner Rose, Gunner Berry (member of the battery to which deceased belonged and who were home on leave) ex-Cpl. H. Fox (late of the Warwickshire R.H.A.) and ex-Cpl. G. Horton (late of the Royal Engineers). Many beautiful wreaths were laid on the grave.

A firing party consisting of A.S.C. drivers under Corporal Cassidy was posted mid-way between the graves and at the close of the service three volleys were fired and the Last Post sounded.

The military arrangements were in the hands of S. S. M. Penn and the duties of undertaker were carried out by Mr. A. Bennett and Mr. Horace Freeman.

**Herald 15th November 1918**

In loving memory of Walter Norman Kinman, who died November 5th 1918 from the effect of gas poisoning at Cambrai. Always remembered by Mother, brothers and sister.

**Herald 5th November 1919**

#### **BAPTISM**

6th December 1918. Paul Norman Kinman. Father W. Norman, mother Kate (both deceased) late of 77 Clopton Road. Father - Clerk, ex Serjeant Royal Horse Artillery.

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<b>Thomas William KITCHEN</b> Private 26306 5th Bn., Oxford. and Bucks Light Infantry
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Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, June 1916.

Died: Monday, 1st April 1918.

Husband of Helen Kitchen, of 41, Shakespeare St., Stratford-on-Avon.

Born in Quinton, Gloucestershire.

Cemetery: ST. SEVER CEMETERY EXTENSION, ROUEN, Seine-Maritime, France.

Grave Reference. P. IX. K. 35.

#### **DIED OF WOUNDS SIGNALLER T. W. KITCHEN**

Signaller T. W. Kitchen 5th Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry of 41 Shakespeare Street, Stratford upon Avon formerly of Upper Quinton joined up in June 1916 and went to France in June 1917. He was gassed in September of the latter year. Before joining up he did good service in the town as bandsman in the local Salvation Army. He was wounded in the back on or about 23rd March and died on 1st April at the Station Hospital No. 3 Rouen, France. He leaves a widow and two children.

**Herald 12th April 1918**

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**George KNIGHT** Private 15641 9th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, November 1915.

Died: Tuesday, 17th October 1916. Age 36.

Son of the late Samuel and Sarah Knight, of 18, Meer St., Stratford-on-Avon.

Born in Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: ALEXANDRIA (HADRA) WAR MEMORIAL CEMETERY. Egypt.

Grave Reference. D. 63

**DIED OF FEVER  
PRIVATE G. KNIGHT**

Mrs. Ryman of Victoria Cottage, Shipston Road is notified by the Record Office of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment that her brother succumbed to enteric fever at the 21st General Hospital, Alexandria on 17th inst. Private Knight who was 36 years of age enlisted on the 9th November 1915 and sailed for India on the 25th April, being subsequently transferred to Egypt. He had been in hospital at Alexandria since July 7th.

**Herald October 27th 1916**

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**John Dunlop LAMBERT** Private 437748 14th Bn., Canadian Infantry (Quebec Regt.)

Enlisted in Canada.

Died: Thursday, 7th September 1916. Age 28.

Son of William George and Emma Lambert. Of Henley Street, Stratford-on-Avon.



VIMY MEMORIAL, Pas de Calais, France.

**KILLED IN ACTION CORPORAL J. D. LAMBERT**

Much sympathy will be extended to Mrs. Lambert of Henley Street in the loss she has sustained by the death of her youngest and only surviving son, who was killed in action in France on 7th inst. by the bursting of a shell.

On leaving the Grammar School Jack, as he was familiarly known entered the offices of Messrs. Flower & Sons brewery. Being a keen sportsman he soon found a place in the rugby football club's first team and also



distinguished himself as a rowing member of the boat club. Clerical work was scarcely exciting enough for Jack and he decided the following year to try his luck in Canada where, after a few years strenuous work success began to crown his efforts. Home for Christmas 1913, his love for rugger induced him to help his old club to win many fine victories and one remembers in particular, a brilliant game he played against the Old Edwardians at Kings Heath on February 28th 1914.

On the eve of his departure for Canada again in April, Jack was the recipient of what presented to him by his fellow members was an earnest of the esteem and regard in which he was held. His country's call found him prepared to sacrifice his personal interest for the freedom cause and after several months training in Canada he came to England in the spring of this year. Home on leave, he was suddenly called to rejoin his battalion and went to France in July. 28 years of age, standing, upwards of 6 feet and weighing nearly 15 stone was a magnificent specimen of English manhood. His unassuming manner and cheery disposition marked him in the very truth as a type of that happy breed of men of whom our immortal townsman wrote "and his memory will live long in the hearts of those who were fortunate enough to enjoy his friendship".

**Herald 22nd September 1916**

**THE LATE JACK LAMBERT**

Mr. U. Savage, formerly of Stratford now managing agent of the Cowichan Leader Duncan, British Columbia, in a letter received thus writes of his old friend the late Jack Lambert. Your notice drew attention to his doings in sport at home. His record in Canada was worthy of him. He arrived here in May 1909 and was plunged into the wilds of Northern Ontario on a prospecting trip. He speedily became adept with pack and canoe and his feats in carrying loads over the portages did not go unremarked. After a winter spent in the Cobalt district working on a large hydro plant installation he went out west finally locating a homestead



near what is now Sedalia Alberta. His life thereafter was spent either on the land or working out in the wilds. One summer he with a survey party explored the pass west of Rocky Mountain House in the Rocky Mountains and in 1912 he spent a summer travelling on a like mission in the Peace River district. Later he was with the Alberta Forestry Service. There is a saying amongst frontiersmen that "if you have been on the trail with a man, you know him". On the trails of Northern Ontario in the canyons of the Rockies and on the little known rivers of the northern British Columbia on the coast, as among homesteaders of the prairie, Jack was known and respected as a man and a white man. It was not only his splendid physique which demanded attention, character was his in large measure. For all his size he was quick and adaptable and wherever he went he found friends. To him and the old school which has given so many of her sons in this fight was indeed an alma mater. He was more than a typical Englishman he was a type of that race of empire builders who have faced untold hardship, privation and death to carve a home for themselves and blaze the others in the England overseas. Many hearts in Canada were sad and proud at the manner of his passing and those who knew him at home or abroad never doubted that he would play the game to the end.

**Herald 30th March 1917**

Corporal John Dunlop Lambert, Canadian Regiment, who was formerly employed at Stratford Brewery, and was a well known footballer, has been killed in action.

**The Warwick and Warwickshire Advertiser and Leamington Gazette, 23rd September 1916**

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**Arthur Vincent LANE** Private 9546 3rd Bn., Hampshire Regiment

Died: Saturday, 1st March 1919.

Age 23.

Son of Daniel William Mark Lane, of Portsmouth; husband of Harriet Lane, father of baby Arthur. Resided in 51, Birmingham Rd., Stratford-on-Avon. Born in Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: STRATFORD-ON-AVON CEMETERY, Warwickshire, United Kingdom.

Grave Reference: 1885.

Private A. V. Lane died in Woking Military Hospital on Saturday 1st March 1919.

#### **In Memoriam**

In loving memory of my dear husband, Arthur Vincent Lane, who died in Woking Military Hospital March 1st 1919. Ever in the thoughts of his sorrowing wife and baby Arthur.

**Herald 25th February 1921**

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**Robert LIDZY** Lance Corporal 2287 1st/1st, Warwickshire Yeomanry

Enlisted in Warwick.

Died: Saturday, 21st August 1915. Age 30.

Son of John and Kate Lidzy, of Stratford-on-Avon; husband of Constance Eleanor Lidzy, of 3, Percy St., Stratford-on-Avon.



Cemetery: GREEN HILL CEMETERY, Gallipoli, Turkey.

Grave Reference: II. F. 21

#### **LANCE CORPORAL ROBERT LIDZEY**

The Warwickshire Yeomanry had played a prolonged part in the recent operations at Gallipoli and we regret to learn that Lance Corporal Robert Lidzy of this town lost his life in the magnificent charge of the Yeomanry Division on August 21st. Lidzy entered the service of Messrs. R. M. Bird & Co., wine merchants, as a lad, some sixteen years ago, leaving them temporarily to join the Yeomanry in South Africa soon after the outbreak of the Boer War. At the termination of that campaign Messrs. Bird & Co., were glad to take him into their service again, where he occupied

the position of head cellar man until September last when he volunteered for foreign service with the Warwickshire Yeomanry. Lidzy was very much respected by his employers who speak of him as a most conscientious, reliable and steady employee who will be sadly missed by them as well as by his fellow workmen. He was a popular member of the town fire brigade and was ever ready to undertake any duty he was called upon to perform. He leaves a widow and one child to mourn their loss.

**Herald September 10th 1915**



### IN MEMORIAM

In ever loving memory of my dear husband Lance Corporal Robert Lidzy, Warwickshire Yeomanry who was killed in action at Gallipoli August 21st 1915. Lovingly remembered by his wife and little daughter Florrie.  
**Herald 18th August 1916**

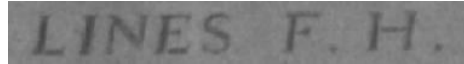
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**Frederick Henry LINES** Private 12532 2nd Bn., Scots Guards



Enlisted in Airdrie Lanark. Died: Saturday, 16th September 1916. Age 40.  
Son of Hannah Elizabeth Lines, of Stratford-on-Avon, and the late George Lines;  
husband of Amelia Lines, of 2, Park Rd., Stratford-on-Avon. Born in Stratford-on-Avon.

THIEPVAL MEMORIAL, Somme, France. Pier and Face 7 D



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**John LINES** Private 16579 4th Bn., Worcestershire Regiment

Enlisted in Upton-on-Severn .

Died: Friday, 6th August 1915.

Son of George and Hannah Elizabeth Lines, of Clopton Road, Stratford-on-Avon.



HELLES MEMORIAL, Gallipoli, Turkey. Panel 104 to 113

Mr George Lines of Clopton road has been notified by the Military authorities that his son Lance Corporal John Lines is posted as missing after an engagement at the Dardanelles on August 6th. Lines enlisted on August 8th 1914 at Upton-on-Severn . He joined the 6th Worcesters, but was transferred to the 4th Battalion of the regiment at the beginning of July last, when he sailed with his comrades for Gallipoli .

He was the proud possessor of the cross-guns for proficiency in musketry. His brother, Frederick, is serving with the Scots Guards.

**Herald 17th September 1917**

### MEMORIAM

In loving memory of Lance Corporal John Lines, 5th Worcesters who was killed in action at Cape Helles, Gallipoli on August 6th 1915. "Greater love have no man than this that he laid down his life for his friends"

**Herald 4th August 1916**

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**Frederick Charles LLOYD** Serjeant 4065 2nd Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon.

Died: Saturday, 25th September 1915. Age 24.

Born in Llanbadarn-Fawr, Radnor.

Son of Charles and Elizabeth, of 53 Station House.



LOOS MEMORIAL, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 22 to 25

Also commemorated on the South Midland Junction Railway Roll of Honour.

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**Henry John MARCHANT** Private 3237 1st/7th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon.

Died: Saturday, 19th June 1915. Age 29.

Son of Henry John and Charlotte Matilda Marchant, of Russell House, Mistley, Manningtree, Essex.

Cemetery: RIFLE HOUSE CEMETERY, Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium

Grave Reference: II. G. 2.

*Henry John Marchant enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, nothing else has as yet been found to connect him to the Town.*

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**Frederick William MATTHEWS** Private 300117 16th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, October 1916.

Died: Wednesday, 21st August 1918. Age 23.

Son of Jane Matthews, of 28, Shipston Rd., Stratford-on-Avon, and the late William Matthews.

Cemetery: GOMMECOURT BRITISH CEMETERY No. 2, HEBUTERNE, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Reference: IV. H. 20.

**WAR COURTS**

Mr. Horton, Senior, also applied for F. W. Matthews. (21) who was the only clerk he had left. His two sons had joined the army, and it was essential that he should have someone in the office to keep the accounts and look after the men in the shop, the case was put back to enable Matthews to be medically examined at Budbrook.

**Herald 21st July 1916**

**WAR COURTS**

The case of F. W. Mathews (21) clerk in the employ of Messrs. Horton & Son had been adjourned for two weeks to enable Matthews to be medically examined and he now appeared and stated that he had been passed for garrison duty abroad. Mr. Horton said his two sons had joined the army and he was obliged to be out a good deal of his time looking after the steam ploughing tackle Mr. Cranmer asked if he had tried to get an older person in Matthews place. Mr. Horton replied that he advertised and got one reply. Two months exemption was the verdict.

**Herald 25th August 1916**

**PRIVATE F. W. MATTHEWS**

Mrs. Matthews of Shipston Road has received information that her son Frederick William, has been wounded in France. In October last he entered the Norfolks but afterwards transferred to the Warwicks.

He was struck in the thigh by the bursting of shrapnel as he was leaving the trenches on the 13th inst. He was taken to the Canadian Hospital to be operated upon and was afterwards transferred to Guildford Surrey. Matthews was in the employ of Messrs. Horton and Son, engineers of this town. This is the third son of Mrs. Matthews who entered the army.

**Herald 24th August 1917**

**PRIVATE F. W. MATTHEWS**

Mrs. J. Matthews of Shipston Road has received a letter from Private J. White announcing the death of her son, Private F. W. Matthews, who joined the Royal Warwickshire Regiment two years ago. He was previously in the employ of Messrs. Horton and Son of this town. He was wounded last August. The writer of the letter says that he was present at the funeral of Private Matthews, which took place at the village of Burgouy. He believes his death occurred on the 21st August. The writer expresses the hope that the mother has received the personal property of the deceased, which was handed to his battalion's orderly room. No official notification of the death has been received. This is the second son Mrs. Matthews has lost, and great sympathy is extended to her.

**Herald 13th September 1918**

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**Alfred MAYNARD** Private 266093 1st/7th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, September 1914.

Died: Monday, 8th October 1917. Age 21.

Brother of Hubert Maynard, of 18, Mansell St., Stratford-on-Avon.



TYNE COT MEMORIAL, Belgium.  
Panel 23 to 28 and 163A

**PRIVATE ALFRED MAYNARD MISSING**

On Tuesday morning Mr. and Mrs. Maynard of Mansell Street were notified by the Infantry Record Office, Warwick that their third son, Private Alfred Maynard aged 21 was posted missing on 8th October. He joined the Royal Warwickshire Regiment in September 1914 and has seen over 2½ years service in France. He was home on leave several weeks ago. Private Alfred Maynard is one of four brothers who had donned khaki. Private William, 24 of the Royal Warwicks fell in action twelve months ago, Private Edward is in Clopton Hospital and Private Charles has been home on long leave preparatory to sterner work which awaits elsewhere.

**Herald 9th November 1917**

**KILLED IN ACTION  
PRIVATE A. MAYNARD**

Mr. and Mrs. Maynard of Mansell Street have been notified by the Infantry Record Office Warwick that as no further news has been received of Private Alfred Maynard of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment who has been missing since October 8th 1917 the Army Council are regretfully constrained to the conclusion that he is dead. Private Maynard was 22 years of age and was formerly employed in the bottling department of the Brewery. He has seen over two and a half years of service in France and had returned barely a month after a well earned leave when he was notified as missing. An elder brother was killed in action two years ago and three other brothers are now on active service.

**Herald 6th September 1918**

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<b>William MAYNARD</b> Private 11421 11th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment
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Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, March, 1915.  
Resided at 30 Arden Street, Stratford-on-Avon.

Died: Thursday, 16th November 1916. Age 24.



Memorial: THIEPVAL MEMORIAL, Somme, France. Pier and Face 9 A 9 B and 10 B

**KILLED IN ACTION PRIVATE W. MAYNARD**

A communication of November 29th from the Infantry Record Office, Warwick notifies the death of Private W. Maynard which occurred in France on the 14th or 16th ult. The deceased soldier who was 24 years of age formerly lived in Mansell Street and for several years has been in the employ of the corporation working with a steamroller. He joined the county regiment on March 30th 1915 and sailed for France at the end of July the same year. General sympathy will be extended to his widow who is left with two young children.

**Herald 8th December 1916**

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<b>Walter MEGAINNEY</b> Acting Lance Corporal M2/167096 Royal Army Service Corps att'd. 8th Siege Park
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Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon.

Died: Tuesday 27th November 1917. Age 38.

Husband of Winifred Megainney of Chapel St, Wellesbourne and the youngest son of Charles and Mary Ann Megainney of 6, Holtom Street, Stratford-on-Avon. Born and resided in Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: OXFORD ROAD CEMETERY, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Reference: V.A.5.

**IN MEMORIAM**

In sacred and loving memory of our affectionate son and brother Lance Corporal Walter Megainney, M T, A C S, killed on active service November 27th 1917. Sincerely mourned by his mother, sister and brothers. Never forgotten by his many friends in Wrexham and those out in France from Wrexham.

**Herald 29th November 1918**

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<b>Leopold Cecil MORGAN</b> Rifleman 22634 4th Bn. 3rd, N. Z. Rifle Brigade
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Died: Thursday, 7th June 1917.

Age 33.

Son of John and Mary Ann Morgan, of 11, High St., Stratford-on-Avon, England; husband of Mona Morgan. Known as "Non" in the Family



MESSINES RIDGE (N. Z.) MEMORIAL, Mesen, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

**RIFLEMAN L.C. MORGAN**

The glorious victory at Messines was not achieved without loss and among those who made the great sacrifice was Rifleman L.C. Morgan of the 3rd New Zealand Rifle Brigade and the youngest son of the late Mr. John Morgan and of Mrs. Morgan of this town. Many will recall that stalwart Stratfordian who set out from these shores eleven years ago to carve a name for himself in the Colonies. He had served his articles with Messrs. Fincher & Co. and fixed for New Zealand as his future home. There he held for some years an important appointment as clerk of the works of Messrs. Crichton & Mackay, Architects of Wellington. His last important work being the superintendent of a building of a hospital for wounded soldiers at Blenheim at



a cost of £20,000.00. On the completion of this he joined the British Expeditionary Force and arrived in England in October of last year. A month later he was in France in the trenches where he played his role gallantly. Morgan sailed to New Zealand with another well known footballer, Fred Cordingly and the two chummed together for years. In fact they enlisted at the same time but were posted to different battalions. Being anxious to get together again they curiously enough decided to exchange about the same time with the result that Morgan found himself en route for France while Cordingly's destination was Egypt with the Imperial Camel Corps.

Morgan was a man of splendid physique and in local and midland athletic circles he enjoyed a great reputation especially in regard to rowing and water sports. In 1905 he stroked the junior crew which had a striking sequence of victories at Evesham, Stratford, Stourport, Hereford, Derby, Burton, Worcester and the Nottingham regattas. On the August Bank Holiday Elsie Morgan and P. S. Thompson joined by two seniors E. R.

Thompson and W. J. Sawkins entered for the Toddington Challenge Vase at Tewkesbury and they were successful thus qualifying as seniors. The next season the crew was made up of Thompson, bow, Sawkins, Thompson, Morgan stroke, Hiron cox and again Morgan proved his prowess by stroking the crew to victory at Stratford, Stourport, Hereford, Burton, Worcester and Nottingham, a record that brought much prestige to the town aquatic circles. He was also associated with Pat Thompson in several pair oar events invariably meeting with success and was a swimmer of more than average ability. At rugby he was no mean exponent and figures in the second team which performed so well and was unluckily beaten in the final of the Midland Counties Junior Cup by Moseley Seconds. His sterling forward play was rewarded by a place in the senior team in which he continued his good work. At a complimentary dinner given before he left England at which the Reverend F. H. Hudson presided a gold watch and chain was presented to Mr. Morgan by the members of the club with every good wish for his future and his success. Very genuine sympathy will go out to the relatives there and to his young widow in Wellington New Zealand on the death of this brave son of Stratford.

**Herald 19th July 1917**



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**John Henry MOUND** Lance Corporal 62256 15th Signal Coy., Royal Engineers.

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon.

Died: Monday, 4th October 1915. Age 37.

Son of Thomas and Annie Mound, of Fairfield St., Manchester; husband of E. Mound, of 13, Arden Terrace, Birmingham Rd., Stratford-on-Avon. Born in Manchester.

Cemetery: LILLERS COMMUNAL CEMETERY, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Reference: IV. C. 7

#### **DIED FROM WOUNDS -- JOHN HENRY MOUND**

We regret to learn that Mrs. Mound of Arden Terrace, Birmingham Road has received a notification that her husband John Henry Mound had died from wounds sustained in action in France. He was attached to the Royal Engineers and left for active service on French soil on 8th July. Before enlisting Mound was employed as a district linesman on the Great Western Railway and served the company for many years. He will be remembered by his employers as an able and conscientious workman and by his fellow servants as a kindly disposed and trustworthy friend.

**Herald 22nd October 1915**

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**Charles William MUCKLOW** Private 17942 14th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon.

Died: Sunday, 30th July 1916. Age 22.

Son of Joseph and Sarah Ann Mucklow, of 12, Rother St., Stratford-on-Avon.

Born in Bishopton, Stratford-on-Avon.



THIEPVAL MEMORIAL, Somme, France. Pier and Face 9 A 9 B and 10 B

It is with great regret that we learn that private letters from the front seem to establish beyond doubt that Charles Mucklow has been killed in action. A private in the 7th East Yorks regiment picked up several photos on the battlefield bearing the Stratford-on-Avon address, and very kindly communicated the sad news to his friends. It was only a few weeks before his death that our friend was at home and attended the services at Rother Street Church, and we little thought that so soon after the final leave his life would be laid down for his country. He will be greatly missed at the Church where he always manifested the utmost willingness to do what he could. We tender our deep sympathy to his widow, to Mr. and Mrs. Mucklow, and to all who feel his loss so deeply.

**October 1916 Stratford-on-Avon Congregationalist**

**DEATH PRESUMED PRIVATE C. W. MUCKLOW**

Private C. W. Mucklow of the 14th Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment has been reported missing since July 30th of last year and the Army Council have now notified Mrs. Mucklow of 12 Rother Street that they have been constrained to conclude that his death took place on that date or since.

**Herald 8th June 1917**

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**Reginald Albert Butler MULLIS** Lance Corporal 52390 1st Bn., Worcestershire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, January 1917.

Died: Sunday, 25th August 1918. Age 19.

Son of Esther E. Mullis, of 18, Evesham Place, Stratford-on-Avon.

Born in Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: LIGNY-ST. FLOCHET BRITISH CEMETERY, AVERDOINGT, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Reference: II. D. 4

**DIED OF WOUNDS**

**LANCE CORPORAL REGGIE MULLIS**

It is our sad duty to record the death of this promising soldier at the age of 19 and the regret will be shared by many for Reginald Mullis was one of those happy individuals who could boast a host of friends. He did well at the Commercial School, and on leaving gained a position in the London City and Midland bank at Leamington, being promoted to the Warwick branch after six months service. He was held in high regard by the manager and the staff. A promising career seemed opening for him when war broke out, and, like many another lad, he was anxious on attaining 18, to do his bit for his country. He passed his examinations for a cadetship but joined up with the 1st Worcesters in January of last year hoping after a spell of trench work to qualify for a commission. In January 1918, he crossed the Channel and took his part in active operations. A few weeks back he had a slight attack of trench fever and was in hospital but he got over this quickly and was back with the battalion on Tuesday of last week. The Worcesters were soon engaged with the enemy and on Saturday Lance Corporal Mullis was severely wounded in the shoulder and also gassed. Every attention was bestowed upon him by doctor and nurses but he never rallied and died on the Sunday at 2.15 p.m. Very genuine sympathy will go out to the bereaved parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Mullis in their terrible loss.

**Herald 30th August 1918**

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**James Albert NEWMAN** Private 24638 14th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, March 1917.

Died: Friday, 27th September 1918.

Born in Pimlico, London. Husband of Alice.

Memorial: VIS-EN-ARTOIS MEMORIAL, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 3.

**KILLED IN ACTION LANCE CORPORAL J. A. NEWMAN**

Lance Corporal James Albert Newman of the 11th Royal Warwickshire Regiment was killed in action on September 17th on the Cambrai front and his commanding officer speaks of his death as a great loss, as he was a fine soldier. Newman's decease will be mourned by many in Stratford. On leaving school he entered



the employ of Mr. A. B. Smith rendering faithful service for some fifteen years and perfecting himself as a confectioner. He joined the colours in March 1917 and on June 21st of the same year crossed the Channel. In the November he was drafted to Italy but came back to the French front in April of this year. Newman was home on leave in August and on going back was in the thick of the fighting. The body was recovered by his comrades who erected a cross to his memory. Newman was an enthusiastic member of the Town Band and he was popular with all sorts and conditions of men. This makes a third from the firm of Messrs. Smith and Son who have made the great sacrifice and two others have been wounded.

**Herald 25th October 1918**

#### IN MEMORIAM

In ever-loving memory of my dear husband James Albert Newman who was killed in action in France, September 27th 1918. Lovingly remembered by his wife Alice.

**Herald 24th September 1920**

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<b>Hubert Edwin NICHOLLS</b>	Private 47289	22 Bn Northumberland Fusiliers
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Enlisted in Maidenhead, Berkshire.

Died: Monday, 9th April 1917. Age 40.

Son of Thomas and Jane Nicholls

Born in 37 Waterside, Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: ROCLINCOURT VALLEY CEMETERY, Pas de Calais, France.

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<b>Percy Douglas NICHOLLS</b>	Private 28859	6th Bn., Somerset Light Infantry
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Enlisted in Coventry, December 1916.

Died: Tuesday, 23rd October 1917. Age 19.

Youngest son of G. and M. A. Nicholls, of 57, West St., Stratford-on-Avon.

Born in Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: LIJSENTHOEK MILITARY CEMETERY, Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Reference: XXII. D. 12

#### DIED OF WOUNDS PRIVATE PERCY D. NICHOLLS



Sincere sympathy was extended to Mr. and Mrs. George Nichols of West Street on the loss of their youngest son, Percy who died of wounds in hospital in France on the 23rd of last month. Private Nichols, who was only 19 years of age entered the Army in December of last year. During his training in England he was attached first to the Hampshires and after to the Wiltshires, finally leaving to France with the Somerset Light Infantry on 9th of last month. Before joining up the deceased soldier was employed at the hairdressing establishment of Mr. Morris of Chapel Street and afterwards at Mr. Lands, Bridge Street, subsequently leaving to work in Coventry. He was generally liked and his death will be much regretted by his many friends. The sad news was conveyed to his parents in a letter from the sister at the No. 2 Canadian CCS dated 24th

October from which we give the following extract "I am very sorry to have to tell you of the death of your son Private P. Nichols who died in my ward yesterday at 5.00 p.m. The boy was brought into the hospital at about 11 o'clock in the morning. He was badly wounded the day previous in the head. The bullet penetrating the brain. There is one great comfort for you to know that he was not conscious of any pain after receiving such a wound. Your son will be buried this afternoon with full military honours in Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery where so many of his brave comrades are laid to rest. With this note goes a great sympathy for you in the loss of your boy as well as for all those of the bereaved."

**Herald 2nd November 1917**

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<b>Robert Foster NOAKES</b>	Serjeant 2943	2nd/7th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment
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Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, October 1914.

Died: Wednesday, 19th July 1916. Age 40.

Son of the late William and Kate Harriet Noakes.

Born in Islington, Middlesex, London.



LOOS MEMORIAL, Pas de Calais, France.  
Panel 22 to 25.



### **KILLED IN ACTION SERGEANT R. F. NOAKES**

Reports reached Stratford on Monday last that Sergeant Noakes who joined the Warwickshires early in the war had been killed in one of the recent engagements. Sergeant Noakes was in partnership with Mr. Crofts, grocer of High Street

**Herald 28th July 1916**

Remembered in our prayers, among others, a server at the Parish Church Altar, Robert Noakes.

**Parish Magazine January 1917**

### **KILLED IN ACTION SERGEANT R. F. NOAKES.**

News of the death of this popular tradesman has unhappily been confirmed. He came to Stratford on Avon some fourteen years ago to manage an important grocery business for his father and subsequently joined in partnership with Mr. F. Crofts. The outstanding trait in Mr. Noakes character was the remarkable keenness he displayed in anything he took up. This was exemplified in a striking way at the outset of the war when he cycled over a hundred miles to join up in the cycle corps. In this he was unsuccessful but in October 1914 he cast in his lot with the Royal Regiment where his soldierly qualities gained him quick promotion and some two months since he went out with the regiment to the front. Writing to the father the Reverend S. M. Rankin pens the following touching tribute; "As chaplain to the 2nd 7th Royal Warwicks it grieves me to write and inform you that your son was killed in action on 19th July fighting valiantly. You have our deepest sympathy yet try not to regret. He has joined the great multitude of heroes who have laid down their lives for their brethren. Henceforth there is laid up for them a crown of righteousness. He is in the hands of God and no torment can touch him. Laus Deo."

**Herald 4th August 1916**



### **PARISH CHURCH WAR MEMORIAL**

Sir

It is proposed to erect an oak screen to the chapel of St. Peter (south transept) and to adapt the shrine given to the memory of Sergeant R. Noakes, at present in the porch as a reredos with the names of all Stratford men engraved in copper plate as a perpetual reminder of their sacrifice for the Empire. The design for these are exhibited in the porch of the church. The Churchwarden and I will be glad to receive donations towards the cost of the memorial and I would venture to suggest that many of your readers may like to give a thanks offering for the safe return of their men as well as in memory of our fellow townsmen whom we delight to honour. I would further ask that all Stratford people who have lost relations in the war, whether they have already contributed or not would send me their names, rank and regiment so that our list may be correct and complete. I am,

Yours faithfully,

**WILLIAM G. MELVILLE.**

**Herald 21st February 1919**

Another War Memorial has been given to the Parish Church in the shape of a wall shrine to the memory of Robert Noakes of the firm of Noakes &

Crofts who was for several years a server at the altar at the Parish Church. As will be remembered Sergeant Noakes' relations were anxious to make a gift in his memory soon after he was killed. They kindly said they would join in a screen to St. Peter's Chapel which it is proposed to erect at the end of the war but as they wished not to wait any longer they have now given a shrine which is for the present placed in the north porch and will eventually find a permanent resting place in the chapel. It was unveiled and dedicated at evensong on Easter even and we were fortunate in having with us an officer who had been in the fighting line and took part in the ceremony. The Rev. W. Brown, Chaplain to the Forces dedicated the shrine. A Guard of Honour provided by the Machine Gun Company of the Warwickshire Cadet Brigade under Captain Frey who also provided a bugler to blow the Last Post at the end of the short ceremony. The shrine is made from teak and copper from HMS Britannia where Admiral Jellicoe and so many distinguished sailors were educated for the Royal Navy and which is now broken up. A plate on the bottom of the panel is engraved as follows: "In memoriam Sergeant Robert Noakes 2nd 7th Royal Warwickshire Regiment for fifteen years was a server in the church. RIP".

**Parish Magazine April 1918**

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<b>Francis Campbell NORBURY</b> Captain 6th Bn. attd. 1st Bn., King's Royal Rifle Corps
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Died: Sunday, 10th January 1915.

Age 32.

Son of Mrs. E. T. Norbury, of The Lench House, Stratford-on-Avon, and the late Mr. T. W. Norbury. Educated at Oundle and St. John's College, Cambridge. House-master at Oundle at outbreak of war.

Cemetery: LE TOURET MILITARY CEMETERY, RICHEBOURG-L'AVOUE, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Reference: I. E. 19.

#### LOCAL WAR NOTES

Captain F. Cambell Norbury, from the Officers Training Corps, has been gazetted Captain to the 6th Battalion Kings Royal Rifles, now at Sheerness.

**Herald 13th November 1914**

#### DEATH OF CAPTAIN FRANCIS CAMPBELL NORBURY

News was received at the beginning of the week of the death of this young and gallant officer which occurred in action at Bethune on 8th inst. He was the youngest son of Dr. and Mrs. Norbury of Lench House, Stratford upon Avon and was very popular with those who formed the younger portion of the population in his school days. The announcement of his death came as a great shock to his parents who are so well known and widely esteemed in the town and we are sure they will have the deep sympathy of the whole population in their sad bereavement. Captain Norbury at the outbreak of the war held a captain's commission in the OTC, was gazetted captain in the Kings Royal Rifles Corps 60th Rifles on October 21st of last year and jointed the Expeditionary Force on 23rd November. To show how promising a soldier he was and how largely he was respected we make the following extract from a letter received from his commanding officer: "I cannot tell you how well and gallantly your dear boy has commanded C company of my battalion since he came out, most ably helping me to make good soldiers out nearly raw material of special reservists enlisted or embodied mostly only since the war began. A shell fell most unfortunately this afternoon, 8th January into the dug-out in which your boy was resting. To our great grief he was instantaneously killed. He could have known nothing about it. I believe he was resting asleep after a long and hard night and day's work. He had only been with us a short time but he had made himself beloved and respected by us all and had proved himself a most brave and capable officer. I feel his loss and you must also most deeply. A final or more touching testimony could not be borne to a young soldier's merits."

**Herald 15th January 1915**

#### W.R.H.A. AGAIN IN ACTION

Corporal Fox then makes a sympathetic reference to the death of Captain Campbell Norbury and says "He is buried about half a mile from where they are fighting, in a cemetery where two to three hundred soldiers of different regiments are interred." He adds "Captain Norbury's is a nice grave with a wooden cross at the head and nicely mounded over with grass."

**Extract of report in Herald 5th February 1915**

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<b>Frederick Thomas PADDOCK</b> Private 21745 1st Bn., Worcestershire Regiment
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Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, March 1915.

Died: Wednesday, 5th June 1918. Age 20.

Eldest son of Mrs. Paddock of 45, Ely Street, Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: RETHEL FRENCH NATIONAL CEMETERY, Ardennes, France.

Grave Reference: 1724.

#### DEATH IN CAPTIVITY

##### PRIVATE FREDERICK THOMAS PADDOCK

Last summer Mrs. Paddock of 45, Ely Street was notified that her eldest son was posted as missing and a little later a Non-Commissioned Office wrote to the widowed mother stating that he had been severely wounded and taken prisoner of war on May 27th. Mrs. Paddock learnt nothing further in that respect until Friday last when the Infantry Record Office at Warwick notified her that he passed away in a field hospital at Asfeld la Ville on June 5th 1918 whilst a prisoner of war death resulting from a shot wound in the lung. Private Frederick Thomas Paddock who was 20 years of age was formerly employed by Mr. George Whateley. He joined the Worcesters in March 1915 and had seen 18 months service in France.

**Herald 14th February 1919.**

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**Archibald Kenneth PARK** Captain 1st Bn., 10th Gurkha Rifles

Died: Sunday, 9th May 1915.

Age 29.

Eldest son of A. E. and E. M. Park; husband of Effie F. S. Park, of Alveston Manor, Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: CABARET-ROUGE BRITISH CEMETERY, SOUCHEZ, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Reference: XVII. B. 45.

**DEATH OF CAPTAIN A. KENNETH PARK**

Another of Stratford's sons has sacrificed his life in the great battle now being waged in the interest of European liberty and civilisation. Captain Park is the eldest son of Alderman and Mr. Park of Rowley and died on the 9th inst. from wounds received from one of the fierce battles recently fought on French soil. Born in January 1886 he received his first commission in January 1905 and joined the Indian Army in March the following year. He reached Captain's rank in January 1914. This is the third brave young officer with Stratford associations who has fallen since the year opened. The deepest sympathy of the inhabitants will be extended to the bereaved parents.

**Herald 14th May 1915**

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**Raymond George PARKER** Lance Corporal 800 2nd Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Warwick.

Died: Saturday, 25th September 1915. Age 25.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Parker of Bull Street, Stratford-on-Avon. Born in Stratford-on-Avon.



LOOS MEMORIAL, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 22 to 25

**LOCAL WAR NOTES**

Private Raymond Parker of Warwickshire Regiment who lives in Bull Street in this town, and who went out with a draft from the Isle of Wight just before Christmas, is now at home on a few days leave, recovering from slight shrapnel wounds in the side and legs. He has seen a good deal of fighting in the Armentieres region, taking his turn with the other, four days in the trenches and eight out. After going with a ration party and getting food to the trenches, he went back to a barn in the hope of finding another Stratfordian, Private Deacon but the latter was in the trenches. Parker spent the night in the barn but early in the morning the place was shelled by the Germans, and eight of the men were wounded. Parker was taken to hospital and then sent back to the coast, coming over to England in the Asturias, the hospital ship which narrowly escaped being torpedoed on Tuesday. On reaching Cambridge Hospital he found the occupant in the next bed was a Stratford man, Private Wright who had been serving with the Worcesters and was suffering from frostbitten feet. Private Parker is due back at Parkhurst on Monday next.



**Herald 5th February 1915**

**DEATH PRESUMED  
LANCE CORPORAL R.G. PARKER**

Mr. and Mrs. Parker of Bull Street have received a communication from the Infantry Record Office, Warwick stating that as no further news has been received of Lance Corporal Raymond George Parker, 25, of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, who has been missing since September 25th 1915, the Army Council has been regretfully constrained to conclude that he is dead. Parker was stationed at the Isle of Wight at the outbreak of war and went out with the draft just before Christmas 1914. He saw a good deal of fighting in the Armentiers locality where he was wounded in the side and legs by shell fire. His injuries having been temporarily attended to, he returned to England on board the Asturias. He was then sent to Cambridge hospital where he made a quick recovery. Early in February 1915 he returned to Stratford on a few days leave before proceeding to Parkhurst.

**Herald 8th September 1916**

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**Thomas PARSONS** Lance Corporal 9159 1st Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Warwick.

Died: Sunday, 25th April 1915. Age 31.

Son of Isaac and Rosa Parsons, of King's Sutton; husband of Emily Parsons, of 12, Birmingham Rd., Stratford-on-Avon. Born in St Peters Banbury.

Cemetery: NEW IRISH FARM CEMETERY, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Reference: VIII. J. 15.

**William PAXTON** Sapper 69902 154th Field Coy., Royal Engineers

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon.

Died: Saturday, 1st July 1916. Age 35.

Son of William and Ellen Paxton, of Preston-on-Stour, Stratford-on-Avon; husband of Lily Paxton, of 18, Percy St., Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: BIENVILLERS MILITARY CEMETERY, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Reference: VIII. B. 6.

**SAPPER W. PAXTON**

News has been received in Stratford of the death of Sapper W. Paxton, R. E. who was killed in action by a shell on the 1st of this month when he was in France. In a letter to his widow the officer in charge of his section describes him as a willing, hard working man, always ready to do his bit. Paxton who hailed from Preston on Stour, leaves a widow and two young children to mourn their loss.

**Herald 7th July 1916**

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**Alfred George PAYNE** Private 2651 9th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Warwick.

Died: Thursday, 6th April 1916.

Son of Mr and Mrs Robert Payne. of Russell Court, Stratford-on-Avon.

Born in Stratford-on-Avon. Resided in Russell Court, Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: AMARA WAR CEMETERY, Iraq

Grave Reference: I. D. 15.

**PRIVATE ALFRED. GEORGE PAYNE**

Many in Stratford will learn with regret that Private Alfred George Payne of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment died from wounds received in action at the Persian Gulf on April 6th. Payne was formerly in the Army and was quite a good performer with the gloves. At other sports he also excelled and he was very popular with his mates.

**Herald 21st April 1916**

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**William A PELLING** Private 28463 14th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in November 1914.

Died: Saturday, 10th November 1917. Age 19.

Youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Pelling of 24 Shakespeare Street, Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: ETAPLES MILITARY CEMETERY, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Reference: XXX. K. 21

**DIED OF WOUNDS**

**DRUMMER W. A. PELLING**

Mr. and Mrs. Pelling of Shakespeare Street received official notice on Sunday morning that their youngest son, Drummer W. A. Pelling (Dick) was wounded on Friday last and lay very dangerously ill at number 7 Canadian General Hospital at Etaples. On Monday a telegram came to them stating that he had died from his wounds on Saturday and this was followed by a sympathetic letter from the matron of the hospital. Drummer Pelling joined the Royal Warwicks on 16th November 1914 and went to France in May 1916. He was wounded on July 19th and sent to hospital in England. He returned to France in January of this year and was present at Vimy Ridge engagements. Pelling was a keen member of the Boy Scouts being a drummer and leader in the Stratford troop. For three years before he joined up he was employed at International Stores.

**Herald 16th November 1917**

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**John PELOW** Private 19218 11th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, May 1916.

Died: Saturday, 17th February 1917. Age 29.

Son of Albert Peplow, of 6, Bevel Rd. Sidmore, Bromsgrove, Birmingham; husband of Mrs. Rose. Peplow, of Sunshine Cottage, Shottery.

Cemetery: CHOCQUES MILITARY CEMETERY, France.

Grave Reference: I. J. 142.

### PRIVATE J. PELOW

Mrs. J. Peplow of Shotton has just received intelligence of the death of her husband which took place in France on 17th ult. Peplow joined the 11th Warwicks on the 29th May and has seen service in the trenches. He had an attack of pneumonia and for some days was in hospital. The Chaplain in announcing his death to his widow says he was bright and hopeful to the end and that he will be buried in the British Soldiers' cemetery.

**Herald 2nd March 1917**

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**Thomas PITTAWAY** Corporal G/18706 23rd Bn., Royal Fusiliers

Enlisted in Whyteleafe, July 1915.

Died: Sunday, 24th March 1918. Age 23.

Only son of Mrs. Fanny Pittaway, of 1, Holtom St., Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: FINS NEW BRITISH CEMETERY, SOREL-LE-GRAND, Somme, France.

Grave Reference: IV. E. 2

### WOUNDED AND MISSING CORPORAL THOMAS PITTAWAY

Notification was received on Saturday last by Mrs. Pittaway of Holtom Street that her only son, Corporal Thomas Pittaway of the 23rd Royal Fusiliers was reported wounded and missing on March 23rd. Corporal Pittaway joined the forces in July 1915 and crossed to France in the following November. He has been twice wounded and was home on leave as recently as last March. He only rejoined his unit on 21st ult. For three and a half years he was in Mr. Stanley Warden's offices. He was then successful in obtaining an appointment at Shirley schools near Croydon, which he held until the time of joining. Any news of him will be greatly appreciated by his mother and sister.

**Herald 26th April 1918**

### DIED OF WOUNDS CORPORAL T. PITTAWAY

Notification has now been received by Mrs. Pittaway that her only son, Corporal Thomas Pittaway, 23rd Royal Fusiliers previously reported wounded and missing on 23rd March 1918 is now reported to have died as a prisoner of war at Thiennes on 24th March. Corporal Pittaway joined the forces in June 1915, was twice wounded and had seen much hard fighting. His commanding officer spoke of him in a letter to his mother as a most fearless and brave soldier. In civil life he was a storekeeper and clerk at the Shirley Schools near Croydon where he was held in high esteem. Many expressions of sympathy have been extended to his widowed mother and sister from the whole staff and members of the board.

**Herald 1st November 1918**

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**Edwin John Goodwin POOLE** Private 14512 5th Bn., Dorsetshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, May 1915.

Died: Tuesday, 26th September 1916. Age 26.

Son of Edwin and Isabella Poole of Waterside, Stratford-on-Avon. Born in Stratford-on-Avon.



THIEPVAL MEMORIAL, Somme, France. Pier and Face 7 B

### KILLED IN ACTION EDWIN POOLE

Mr. and Mrs. Poole of Waterside have been notified from the War Office that their son, Edwin was killed in action on September 26th 1916. He had previously been reported missing. The deceased joined the 5th Dorsets in May 1915 and was well known in Stratford. His parents have received a letter of sympathy from King and Queen.

**Herald 11th May 1917**

In affectionate remembrance of my darling fiancée Private E. Poole of the Dorset Regiment killed on the Somme September 29th 1916.

A soldier and a man  
A sweetheart and a friend  
Has left behind a broken heart  
Which only he can mend.

Always in the thoughts of his ever loving and devoted sweetheart Eva.

**Herald 28th September 1917**

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**Archibald William PRIEST** Driver 614431 15th (Warwick) Bde., Royal Horse Artillery

Died: Saturday, 21st April 1917.

Age 22.

Brother of Mrs. C. Neale, of 14A, Windsor St., Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: BEAURAINS ROAD CEMETERY, BEAURAINS, France.

Grave Reference: G. 49

**KILLED IN ACTION DRIVER W. A. PRIEST.**

This young man who had just given up his life for his country was a well known footballer with the St. John's team and he played the game on the more serious field as straight as he did on the sports ground. He joined up nearly two years ago and after a spell of training went out to France with the 15th Brigade Royal Horse Artillery. He was a grandson of Mrs. Sarah Stiles of this town and sympathy will go out to the relatives of one so suddenly cut off at the age of 22. He had been in France nearly a year and he was killed in action on 21st April.

**Herald 18th May 1917**

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**Harold QUINEY** Private 10756 2nd Bn., Royal Welsh Fusiliers

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon.

Died: Friday, 21st July 1916. Age 28.

Youngest son of Mrs. Mary Quiney of Waterside, Stratford-on-Avon. Born in Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: HEILLY STATION CEMETERY, MERICOURT-L'ABBE, Somme, France.

Grave Reference: II. C. 4.

**DIED FROM WOUNDS PRIVATE H. QUINEY**

Mrs. Quiney of Waterside will receive the sympathy of many friends in the death of her youngest son, Harold, of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, at the early age of 28. Private Quiney was stationed at Malta at the outbreak of war and was immediately drafted to England. Within a few days he crossed the Channel and soon found himself in the firing line. Having recovered from wounds sustained at the first great battle of Ypres, he went through engagements at Nouve Chapelle Hill 60, Festubert and Loos. He was again wounded on March 9th 1916 and succumbed to his injuries on July 21st.

**Herald 18th August 1916**

**IN MEMORIAM**

In loving memory of my dear son Harold Quiney aged 23, R.W.F. who died on 21st July 1916 from wounds received in action. Never will be forgotten by mother, sisters and brothers. Respected by all who knew him.

**Herald 18th August 1916**

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**George READING DCM, MM and Bar** Lance Corporal 96350 23rd Div. Signal Coy., Royal Engineers

Enlisted in Birmingham, 1915.

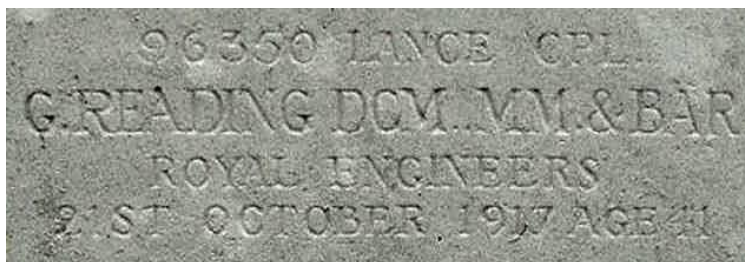
Died: Sunday, 21st October 1917. Age 40.

Son of Edward and Elizabeth Reading, of Stratford-on-Avon; husband of Phyllis Reading, 2 Back, 7, Sherborne St., Ladywood, Birmingham. Born in Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: BEDFORD HOUSE CEMETERY, ZILLEBEKE, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Reference: Enclosure No.4 XI. AA. 33.

**LANCE CORPORAL READING**



News has been received of the death in action of Lance Corporal George Reading of the Royal Engineers, the third son of Mr. Edward Reading of College Lane, Stratford upon Avon. Lance Corporal Reading was one of six sons to go to the Front. Reading, who was an engineer working in the post office department at

Birmingham when war broke, pressed to join the Army and ultimately enlisted early in 1915. He enjoyed a most distinguished career and in September 1916 was awarded the Military Medal for repairing broken telephone wires under shell fire the previous January and for displaying great bravery in May. He subsequently won a bar to the medal for displaying conspicuous bravery during an attack on Hill 60 in June



last when he remained under heavy fire from 3.30 a.m. until midnight laying and maintaining telephone wires. He has since been awarded posthumously the DCM. In a letter to Mrs. Reading the commanding officer writes "Lance Corporal Reading was the finest man I had in this company and must have been one of the pick of the whole British Army."

**Herald 16th November 1917**

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**Harry REASON** Gunner 110032 294th Siege Bty., Royal Garrison Artillery

Enlisted in Birmingham, 1916.

Died: Monday, 24th September 1917. Age 37.

Son of George and Elizabeth, Husband of Florence Reason, of 63, High St., King's Heath, Birmingham.

Born 29th December 1880 in Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: LIJSSENTHOEK MILITARY CEMETERY, Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Reference: XIX. C. 10.

**DIED OF WOUNDS GUNNER HARRY REASON**

Mrs. Reason of Kings Heath, Birmingham formerly of Stratford upon Avon has received official news of the death of her husband, Gunner Harry Reason of the Royal Garrison Artillery. The official intimation states that he died on 24th September at a casualty clearing station of gunshot wounds and a compound fracture of the skull received the same day. He was 37 years of age. Reason joined up 12 months ago and had only been in France 8 weeks.

**Herald 19th October 1917**

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**Christopher John RIDGEWELL** Private 204261 7th Bn., Somerset Light Infantry

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, 1915.

Died: Saturday, 1st December 1917. Age 29.

Son of H. and A. Ridgewell, of 42, Parkinson Avenue, Scunthorpe, Lincs; husband of Norah Ridgewell, and son Eric of 32, Waterside, Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: ETAPLES MILITARY CEMETERY, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Reference: XXX. N. 16A.

**DIED OF WOUNDS  
PRIVATE C. J. RIDGEWELL**

Many in Stratford will learn with regret of the death of Private C. J. Ridgewell who was a popular figure in the town as a professional for the cricket club in 1913 and the next season he acted as coach to the grammar school boys. Later he was employed by Messrs. Brooks Limited of Birmingham. In 1915 he joined the colours being attached to the Royal Warwicks. He was transferred to the Somerset Light Infantry this year and crossed to France in July doing his full share of work in the trenches. On November 24th Ridgewell was struck by shrapnel, his right arm and leg being fractured and he died on Saturday last. Mrs. Ridgewell and her father in law made the journey to France and had the satisfaction of seeing him before he passed away. They also desired to acknowledge the kindly aid of the YMCA, this body making all the arrangements for their quick transport and doing everything possible under the circumstances.

**Herald 7th December 1917**

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**William Charles James Edwin ROBINSON** Corporal 8018 2nd Bn., Hampshire  
Regiment

Enlisted in Aldershot, Hampshire.

Died: Wednesday, 9th August 1916. Age 27.

Husband of Emily V. Simpson (formerly Robinson), of 3, Welcombe Cottage, Mayfield Avenue, Stratford-on-Avon. Born in Aldershot, Hampshire

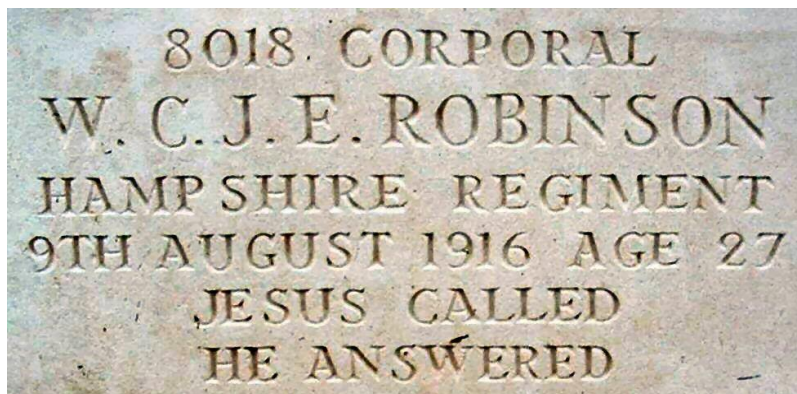
Cemetery: POTIJZE BURIAL GROUND CEMETERY, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Reference: U. 1

**NOT DEAD BUT WOUNDED  
LANCE CORPORAL W. C. J. E. ROBINSON**

Lance Corporal W. C. J. E. Robinson of the 2nd Hants who was billeted whilst at Stratford, in Bull Street asked us to publish the following: I have been reported as killed in action on the 28th April. I should like my friends to know that I am still alive and that I was only wounded and that, on the 4th June. The injury was to my right hand and I am now ready for active duty again.

**Herald 23rd July 1915**



#### **KILLED IN ACTION SERGEANT C. ROBINSON**

Official news has reached Stratford of the death of Sergeant C. Robinson of the 2nd Hampshire Regiment who was killed in action on August 9th. Robinson came to Stratford 18 months ago with the 2nd Hants and was married in June to Miss E. V. Colwell at the Parish Church.

**Herald 1st September 1916**

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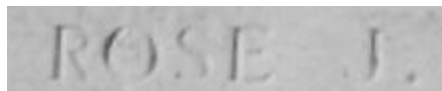
**John Wyatt ROSE** Lance Corporal 35125 11th Bn., Sherwood Foresters (Notts & Derby Regt.)

Enlisted in Derby, February 1915.

Died: Wednesday, 17th October 1917. Age 28.

Younger son of Mrs. Mary Rose, of 55 West St., Stratford-on-Avon, and the late Edwin Rose.

Born in Stratford-on-Avon.



TYNE COT MEMORIAL, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.  
Panel 99 to 102 and 162 to 162A

#### **LANCE CORPORAL J. W. ROSE**

The sympathy of many friends will be extended to Mrs. Rose of West Street in the sad loss on the battlefield of her younger son who was 28 years of age. Lance Corporal Rose was for many years in the service of Mr. John Newland with whom he served his apprenticeship. He then went to Mr. Wylies' ironmongery establishment at Warwick and subsequently to Messrs. Broadways at Worksop. In February 1915 he joined the Sherwood Foresters and four months later went to France. He was home on leave in August this year and announcing his death which occurred on 16th October Lieutenant L. H. Gibbs says "during very heavy shelling he was hit on the head by a small piece of shrapnel and died instantly. He was buried beyond the support trenches by our own company. Your great loss is shared by both officers and men. He was one of our best machine gunners and will be sadly missed." The deceased's elder brother is serving his country's interests in France.

**Herald 2nd November 1917**

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**Frederick George RUSSELL** Private 10082 1st Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, December 1914.

Died: Thursday, 10th May 1917. Age 21.

Youngest son of Mrs. S. Russell, of 13, Mansell St., Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: LEVEL CROSSING CEMETERY, FAMPOUX, FRANCE.

Grave Reference: I. B. 65.

#### **PRIVATE F. RUSSELL**

Mr. and Mrs. W. Russell late of Mansell Street, Stratford upon Avon, and now living in Birmingham have received this week an intimation of the death of their youngest son. The sad intelligence is conveyed in a letter from the Chaplain of the 2nd Seaforth Highlanders who writes "I am very sorry to inform you that your son was severely wounded on Thursday 10th May and afterwards died of his injuries. He was brought from the trenches to a collecting post for wounded and died just when he reached there. There was no time to speak to him and to get any message. He was beyond that when he arrived. He was buried this morning by a Church of England Chaplain. This is very sudden news for you but I hope you will bear up bravely like a brave mother of a brave son. It is sad to lose our lads but it is good to remember that in laying down their lives for their country they have gained the greatest honour that men can win." Private Russell was

formerly in the bottling department at the brewery and was 21 years of age. He joined the Royal Warwickshire Regiment in December 1914 and had just completed two years service in France. He was home on leave last Christmas.

**Herald 18th May 1917**

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<b>George Henry RUSSELL</b> Lance Corporal 310280 1st/1st, Warwickshire Yeomanry
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Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon .

Died: Monday, 2nd April 1917. Age 33.

Son of William Henry and Alice Elizabeth Russell, of College Street, Stratford-on-Avon.

Born and resided in Stratford -on-Avon

Cemetery: KANTARA WAR MEMORIAL CEMETERY

Grave Reference: F. 435.

#### **LANCE CORPORAL RUSSELL**

Mrs. Russell of College Street, Stratford upon Avon has received notification of the death of her son, Lance Corporal G. H. Russell, which took place on 2nd April. He was wounded on 26th March at the Battle of Gaza. He was also wounded in a Silver Bay incident. He remained in England for 6 months. He then returned to his regiment the Warwickshire Yeomanry stationed in Egypt. Mrs. Russell has another son serving his country in the RNAS.

**Herald 20th April 1917**

#### **LANCE CORPORAL RUSSELL**

A sergeant in the Royal Warwickshire writes to us "It is with very deep regret that I read in your recent issue of the Stratford upon Avon Herald of the death in action of an old chum, Lance Corporal G. Russell. On behalf of the Old Coventry Campers who have spent so many happy days in Stratford I would wish to express our sympathy with the bereaved and our regret at the loss of a real good pal. He was a staunch friend of the late H. J. Payne killed at Suvla Bay in August 1915, a Coventry soldier well known to Stratford. Such real men as these are all too scarce and their memory will ever be with us.

**Herald 4th May 1917**

#### **THE LATE CORPORAL RUSSELL**

Relative to the death in Palestine of Corporal George Russell, late of College Street, Stratford on Avon Captain Robert Good of the Warwickshire Yeomanry writes "He was acting as my personal orderly at the time, a position he had filled for six months. I cannot speak too highly of him for both as a soldier and as a man he was one of the best in my squadron. Always cheerful and ready to do his duty and popular with the officers and men alike. I have lost not only a good soldier but a man to whom I was personally attached. We were taking part in a big battle and had just dismounted from our horses. Corporal Russell was holding mine and his own when a big shell burst close to us killing both the horses and wounded him very severely. He never complained and showed the greatest bravery and unconcern for himself. We got him on a stretcher and to the field ambulance at once. He received every attention possible. My duties, I regret to say kept me from seeing him again although I should much liked to have done so. The chaplain of the 5th Mounted Brigade writes " he was brave good man and there is sincere grief throughout the brigade at his death. I saw him very briefly after he was wounded and he answered to all enquiries as to how he was "None too bad, none too bad. I mustn't complain" All through the night and the next morning he was just the same, cheerful and uncomplaining."

**Herald 22nd June 1917**

#### **IN MEMORIAM**

In loving memory of Lance Corporal George Henry Russell who died of wounds received in action at Gaza Palestine, on April 2nd 1917. Ever remembered by Nell.

**Herald 5th April 1918**

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<b>Frederick RYMAN</b> Private 3785 2nd/7th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment
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Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon.

Died: Tuesday, 6th February 1917. Age 29.

Son of Joseph and Jane Ryman, of 36, Clopton Rd., Stratford-on-Avon; husband of Mary Ryman, of 23, Meer Street, Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: ABBEVILLE COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION

Grave Reference: II. C. 3

**SIX SONS WITH THE COLOURS** - Mr. Ryman, of Clopton road has received the following letter from the Keeper of the Privy Purse : "I have the honour to inform you that the King has heard with much interest that you have at the present moment six sons serving in the Army. I am commanded to express to you the King's congratulations, and to assure you that His Majesty much appreciates the spirit of patriotism which prompted this example, in one family, of loyalty and devotion to their sovereign and empire."

**Herald 26th November 1915**

#### **DIED IN HOSPITAL PRIVATE RYMAN**

Mrs. Ryman of Meer Street has received notice that her husband died in No. 2 Stationary Hospital in France on 6th inst. His illness was very sudden and he was only in hospital for two days. He never regained consciousness.

**Herald 16th February 1917**

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<b>George SALMON</b> Private PLY/2104(S) 2nd R.M.Bn. R.N. Div. Royal Marine Light Infantry
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Died: 26th October 1917

Age 39.

Husband of Rose Elizabeth and Farther to Dorothy Clare, Colin George and John.

Born and resided in Stratford-on-Avon.



TYNE COT MEMORIAL, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.  
Panel 1 and 162A

#### **WAR COURTS**

George Salmon (37) married, was described as a pork butcher's manager for Mr. J. Lewis, Chapel Street, who claimed that the business was essential in the national interest. Salmon was the only man employed in the pork shop, and 10 pigs were killed a week. The Military Representative said the case was adjourned to see what happened with regard to Mr. Henson's slaughtermen. When the cases came on here he thought the Army should have one in both. They adjourned one case to see if a substitute could be found, but this was impossible, and so he (Mr. Talbot) took both men to Warwick. The men whose case at Stratford Tribunal adjourned he got at once, and the other received conditional exemption. In Mr. Lewis's case the slaughtering was done by his son.

Mr. Winter: If this man went would Mr. Lewis be in difficulty about the slaughtering? Mr. Lewis: No; anyone can get a slaughterman. Mr. Talbot: Why can't your son take the management of the Pork Shop? Mr. Lewis: He can't be in two places at once; he has the gas engine, the chopping, and the cattle to look after. Mr. Winter: You have not employed any women yet. Mr. Lewis: I have got one at home I keep pretty well employed - (laughter) - it was decided by a majority to refuse exemption.

**Herald 12th January 1917**

#### **DEATHS**

In loved and honoured memory of my dear husband, George Salmon, who fell in action October 26th, 1917 aged 39 years. Sadly missed by his sorrowing wife and children.

**Herald 16th November 1917**

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<b>John Harold SAVAGE</b> Serjeant 9214 1st Bn, South Wales Borderers
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Enlisted in London.

Died: Wednesday, 7th October 1914. Age 27.

Husband of Grace Maude Savage, of 59, Waterloo Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham and son of Mrs Davies of 24, Henley Street, Stratford upon Avon.

Born in Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: LODGE HILL CEMETERY, Birmingham, United Kingdom.

Grave Reference: B10.2.210C

#### **SERGEANT J. SAVAGE**

Sergeant J. Savage of the 1st South Wales Borderers, the son of Mrs. Davies of 24 Henley Street was wounded in the knee at the battle of Aisne where he went through a very trying experience. He was struck in the leg between 4 and 5 o'clock in the morning and lay in the trenches in the drenching rain until dark before being removed. Then with other wounded he had to travel some 32 miles in a motor lorry and thence by train a matter of 60 hours before being sent to England. He is now at Selly Oak hospital arriving on Friday last and on Saturday he underwent an operation to have a piece of shrapnel shell removed. This was successfully accomplished and Sergeant Savage is now going on very comfortably.

On the homeward journey Sergeant Savage and the other wounded comrades received many gifts of tobacco and cigarettes from kindly disposed persons as they passed through the different stations.

**Herald 2nd October 1914**

#### **SERGEANT J. H. SAVAGE**

General sympathy will be extended to Mr. and Mrs. Davies of Henley Street in the loss they have sustained by the death of Sergeant J. H. Savage of the South Wales Borderers and more especially to the widow and child of this gallant soldier who passed away at Bourn Brook Military Hospital from wounds received at the battle of Aisne. The devoted husband and father, Sergeant Savage was held in high respect by all who knew him. He will be interred with full military honours at the university burial ground tomorrow.

**Herald 9th October 1914**

#### **STRATFORD ON AVON VICTIM OF THE AISNE BATTLE**

##### **A MILITARY FUNERAL SERGEANT J. H. SAVAGE**

The first Stratfordian we believe to lose his life as a direct outcome of the war was Sergeant J. H. Savage of the South Wales Borderers who, as briefly stated in our last issue died on Wednesday, October 7th in the



Bournbrook Military Hospital having been struck by shrapnel at the battle of the Aisne. Deceased who was a son of Mrs. Davies of 24 Henley Street was educated at the Grammar School and his bright and genial disposition made him a favourite with all. He went to reside in the Kings Heath district and for some time acted as a conductor on the Moseley Road route of the Birmingham Corporation trams. The funeral took place on Saturday at the Lodge Hill cemetery, deceased being interred with full military honours and the scene was a very impressive one. The coffin containing the body was conveyed from the hospital to the cemetery on a gun carriage and was covered with the Union Jack. It was drawn by men of the Royal Army Medical Corps from the hospital under Quartermaster Sergeant Bennett and several of a detachment of the 8th Royal Warwickshire Regiment (territorials) ex-tramway men, who have joined the colours under Corporal Moore. Behind was a carriage containing a great number of wreaths including one from the Moseley Road depot and following the carriage containing the mourners -the widow (Mrs. Savage) and her little boy, Mr. and Mrs. Davies, and Mr. R. M. Smith ( of Stratford) - marched some forty tramway men in uniform and a like number of ex-tramway men who

have joined the 8th Warwicks and are at present in training at Witton. The remainder of the contingent of the battalion in uniform brought up the rear. Large numbers of people in the Selly Oak district assembled along the route to the cemetery where the service was conducted by the Rev. C. W. B. Buck of St. Mary's Selly Oak. The "Last Post" was sounded by Bugler Mourbey

**Herald 16th October 1914**

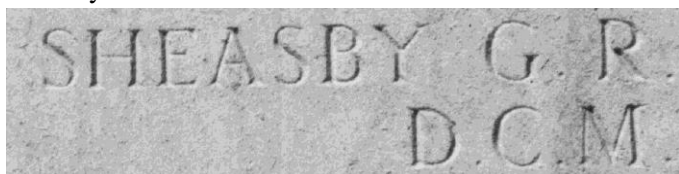
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**George Randolph SHEASBY DCM** Lance Corporal 11851 1st Bn., Royal Welsh Fusiliers

Enlisted in Warwick, August 1914.

Died: Tuesday, 29th August 1916. Age 21.

Son of Lucy Sheasby, of 8, Summer Row, Maidenhead Rd., Stratford-on-Avon, and the late Thomas Sheasby. Born in Alderminster.



THIEPVAL MEMORIAL, Somme, France. Pier and Face 4A

#### **A HEROIC STRATFORD SOLDIER PRIVATE G. R. SHEASBY**

Mr. and Mrs. Sheasby of Maidenhead Road have received news of their son, Private G. R. Sheasby 1st Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers referring to his gallantry in recent fighting. Private Sheasby has received a card from his commanding officer informing him that he has distinguished himself in the field and his gallant act has been greatly appreciated. On this occasion Private Sheasby rescued wounded men under heavy shellfire at Festubert on May 16th. Private Sheasby has had several narrow escapes and in one case a bullet



passing through his knapsack. Private Sheasby enlisted on the outbreak of war and saw foreign service after three months training. Since then he has been through some of the fiercest fighting in France and Flanders.

**Herald 12th November 1915**

#### **HONOURS FOR STRATFORD ON AVON**

Stratford on Avon has come out particularly in the list of honours and the glory of winning the first DCM in the town has fallen to Private George Randolph Sheasby, of the 1st Royal Welsh Fusiliers who enlisted on 12th August 1914. He went to Wrexham for his training and was out in the trenches by November 5th. Since then Sheasby has been in the thick of the fighting being in the important engagements at Festubert Neuve Chapelle and Loos and his conduct has been such as to win three recommendations, a high distinction for a lad of 20. On one occasion he saved the life of a captain in the Bedfordshire Regiment but it is for his fine work at the battle of Loos that he has been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. He was one of 16 stretcher bearers and all but two were picked off but Sheasby, who was a former member of Mr. R. M. Smith's company of Boy Scouts, and a well known footballer, has sent home a German helmet and several war trophies such as gas caps.

**Herald 28th January 1916**

#### **KILLED IN ACTION LANCE CORPORAL G. R. SHEASBY**

Lance Corporal George Randolph Sheasby of the Royal Welch Fusiliers was, we believe the first Stratfordian, to gain a military distinction in the war and has some time since received the DCM for his gallantry in bringing in a wounded officer. Now alas, news has been received that this young man has been killed in the action in August 29th. Sheasby was well known in the town first as a Scout and then as a footballer and many will regret his untimely though glorious end. The sympathy of all will go out to the parents in this severe blow.

**Herald 15th September 1916**

#### **MILITARY DECORATION SERGEANT G. R. SHEASBY**

Mr. and Mrs. Sheasby of Maidenhead Road, Stratford upon Avon received an invitation from Colonel Hart commanding the troops at Birmingham to attend the presentation of medals for bravery on the field to soldiers now in that city and to the relatives of deceased soldiers. Mr. and Mrs. Sheasby attended the ceremony and received from Lieutenant General Sir Henry Sclater GCB the medal awarded to their brave son, the late Sergeant Sheasby. The presentation made in Victoria Square was a very imposing one and the address referred in high terms to the services of the gallant recipients.

**Herald 25th May 1917**

A bronze medal (known as a "death penny") issued to commemorate the death of George Randolph Sheasby, was found in the canal at Stratford (Great William Street lock) when it was being dredged in 1964.

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**Thomas Roland SHEASBY** Private 242527 2nd/6th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon.

Died: Monday, 3rd September 1917. Age 20.

Son of Lucy Sheasby, of 8, Summer Row, Maidenhead Rd., Stratford-on-Avon, and the late Thomas Sheasby.



TYNE COT MEMORIAL, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, Panel 23 to 28 and 163A

Private T. R. Sheasby Royal Warwickshire Regiment reported missing September 3rd 1917, now presumed killed on that date.

**Herald 12th October 1917**

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**Hugh SEENEY** Private PO/14615 H.M.S. "Good Hope.", Royal Marine Light Infantry

Died: Sunday, 1st November 1914.

Age 25.

Son of John and Marcella Seenev, of 11, Warwick Rd., Stratford-on-Avon.

Memorial: PORTSMOUTH NAVAL MEMORIAL, Hampshire, United Kingdom. Panel Number: 6.

November 1st 1914 Sunk in action with German warships off Coronel, Chile. Flagship of Rear-Admiral Sir Christopher Cradock who was lost (919 dead, all lost).

Mrs Seeney, of Warwick Road, has this week received a communication from the Accountant-General of the Navy stating that her son, Private Hugh Seeney, Royal Marine Light Infantry, is believed to have been on board H.M.S. "Good Hope" when that vessel was sunk off the coast of Chile on the 1st inst.

In these circumstances it is feared that, in the absence of any evidence to the contrary, he must be regarded as having lost his life.

Private Seeney had been in the Navy exactly eight years on the day on which the "Good Hope" was lost, and was previously on the ill fated "Aboukir". Accompanying the notification from the Admiralty is the following message from Mr. Winston Churchill:-

"The King commands me to assure you of the true sympathy of His Majesty and the Queen in your Sorrow."

**Herald 27th November 1914**

Vice Admiral Graf von Spee's Report of the action off Coronel, Chile, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1914 and the Report of Captain John Luce of the *Glasgow*

**Extracts from Graf Von Spee's Report**

Wind and swell were head on and the vessels had heavy going, especially the small cruisers on both sides. Observation and distance estimation were under a severe handicap because of the seas which washed over the bridges. The swell was so great that it obscured the aim of the gunners at the six inch guns on the



middle deck, who could not see the sterns of the enemy ships at all and the bow but seldom. At 6.20 p.m. at a distance of 13,400 yards, I turned one point toward the enemy, and at 6.34 opened fire at a distance of 11,260 yards. The guns of both our armoured cruisers were effective, and by 6.39 already we could note the first hit on the *Good Hope*. I at once resumed a parallel course instead of bearing slightly towards the enemy.

The English opened their fire at this time. I assume that the heavy sea made more trouble for them than it did for us. Their two armoured cruisers remained covered by our fire, while they, so far as could be determined, hit the *Scharnhorst* but twice and the *Gneisenau* only four times.

At 6.53, when 6,500 yards apart, I ordered a course one point away from the enemy. They were firing more slowly at this time, while we were able to count numerous hits. We could see, among other things, that the top of the *Monmouth's* forward turret had been shot away and that a violent fire was burning in the turret. The *Scharnhorst*, it is thought, hit the *Good Hope* about thirty five times. At 7.23 a column of fire from an explosion was noticed between the stacks of the *Good Hope*.

**Extracts from The Report of Captain John Luce of the *Glasgow***

*Glasgow* left Coronel 9.0 a.m. on 1st November to rejoin *Good Hope* (flagship), *Monmouth* and *Otranto* at rendezvous. At 1.00 p.m. flagship signalled that apparently from wireless calls there was an enemy ship to northward. 5.47 squadron formed in line ahead in following order: *Good Hope*, *Monmouth*, *Glasgow*, *Otranto*. Enemy, who had turned south, were now in single line ahead 12 miles off, *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau* leading 6.18 p.m. speed ordered to 17 knots, and flagship signalled *Canopus* "I am going to attack enemy now". Enemy were now 15,000 yards away, and maintained this range, at the same time jamming wireless signals.

7.30 p.m. enemy opened fire 12,000 yards followed in quick succession by *Good Hope*, *Monmouth*, *Glasgow*. Two squadrons were now converging, and each ship engaged opposite number in the line. Growing darkness and heavy spray of head sea made firing difficult, particularly for main deck guns of *Good Hope* and *Monmouth*. Enemy firing salvos got range quickly and their third salvo caused fire to break out on fore part of both ships, which were constantly on fire drill till 7.45 p.m. 7.50 p.m. immense explosion occurred on *Good Hope* amid ships, flames reaching 200 feet high. Total destruction must have followed. It was not quite dark..

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**William Henry SETCHELL** Lance Corporal 9198 1st Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, 1914.

Died: Thursday, 30th May 1918. Age 24.

Eldest son of Thomas William and Martha Setchell, of 54, West St., Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire.

Cemetery: GONNEHEM BRITISH CEMETERY, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Reference: D. 6.

**KILLED IN ACTION  
LANCE CORPORAL W. SETCHELL**

Mr. T. Setchell of West Street has received a letter from Private A.G. Wood telling him of the death of his eldest son, Willie. He says : "We were in billets behind the line and while Willie was writing outside, a shell burst just outside the house and he was killed instantly by a piece of shrapnel. He was carried away immediately and buried in a quiet little cemetery near. All the boys convey their deepest sympathy. He was a fine pal, a good soldier and respected by all with whom he came in contact." Lance Corporal W. Setchell left the service of the S.M.J Railway in 1914 to join the Royal Warwickshires as a signaller and had been in France over three years.

**Herald 14th June 1918**

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**Thomas Charles SHARLOTT** Private 266353 2nd/7th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, January 1915.

Died Wednesday, 19th July 1916. Age 19.

Son of Mrs. Sharlott, Sunset, Loxley Lane, Stratford-on-Avon.



LOOS MEMORIAL, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 22 to 25

**MISSING PRIVATE T. C. SHARLOTT**

This young man, who enlisted with the 2nd-7th Royal Warwickshire Regiment and is a son of Mrs. Sharlott, Loxley Lane is reported as missing after the engagement in France on July 19th. This does not necessarily mean that he has been killed as he may be a prisoner of war or temporarily separated from his regiment.

**Herald 18th August 1916**

**DEATH PRESUMED  
PRIVATE THOMAS CHARLES SHARLOTT**

It is with regret that we record the death of Private T. C. Sharlott of The Royal Warwickshire Regiment of Sunset, Loxley Lane, who was reported missing on July 19th 1916 and notification was received by Mrs. Sharlott to the effect that nothing further having been heard of her son since that date, the Army Council had regretfully come to the conclusion that his death took place on 19th July or since. Private Sharlott before enlisting was employed by Mr. Davies of Waterside and responded to the call of his country in January 1915 at the early age of 17. After completing his training in England he sailed for France on May 21st 1916. A letter expressing the sympathy of the King and Queen in her bereavement has been forwarded to the mother.

**Herald 17th August 1917**

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**Leslie SHERIDAN** Private 10628 11th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon.

Died: Sunday, 16th July 1916.

Husband of Mrs. Sheridan of Prospect Row, Shottery Road.

Born in Saffron Walden, Essex.

Cemetery: POZIERES BRITISH CEMETERY, OVILLERS-LA BOISSELLE, Somme, France.

Grave Reference: III. J. 16.

**LANCE CORPORAL SHERIDAN**

Mrs. Sheridan of Prospect Row, Shottery Road, has had the misfortune to lose her husband in the recent advance. Lance Corporal Sheridan was formerly employed at the Brewery, and shortly after the outbreak of war he re-joined H.M. Forces, having previously belonged to the ranks. In a letter to the widow his Company QMS says: "It is with deep regret that I have to inform you of the loss of your husband, who was killed in action on July 15th. I may say that he is missed by all his Company as a brother. He was a good soldier and comrade, and all bear with me in offering you our deepest sympathy in your time of trouble."

**Herald 28th July 1916**

Mrs May Sheridan died January 11th 1917, aged 23 years.

#### IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of my daddy and mammy (Lance Corporal Sheridan, killed in action, and May Sheridan).  
From their little boy, Harold.

**Herald 9th January 1920**

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**Sidney SIMPSON** Private 11855 9th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, May 1915.

Died: Tuesday, 17th July 1917. Age 23.

Son of Mr. William and Mrs. Caroline Simpson, of 5, Percy St., Stratford-on-Avon.

Born in Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: AMARA WAR CEMETERY, Iraq

Grave Reference: IV. A. 16.

#### KILLED IN ACTION - PRIVATE S. SIMPSON

Mrs. C. Simpson of 5 Percy Street, Stratford on Avon had been notified of the death of her son Sidney from heatstroke in Mesopotamia on July 17th. Private S. Simpson who was formerly employed by Messrs. Archer & Son joined the colours on 14th May 1915 and was attached to the North Royal Warwickshire Regiment and notification was accompanied by messages of sympathy by the King and Queen and many friends in Stratford who will mourn the loss of this gallant son.

**Herald 27th July 1917**

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**Alfred Bennett SMITH** Quartermaster Serjeant 614345 1st/1st (Warwickshire) Bty., Royal Horse Artillery

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, August 1914.

Died: Tuesday, 14th August 1917. Age 39.

Son of Alfred Bennett Smith and Julia Ellen Smith, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Born at 9 Chapel Street, Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: DOZINGHEM MILITARY CEMETERY, WESTVLETEREN, Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Reference: III. G. 5.

#### MARRIAGE

On the 13th April 1916 by licence at Holy Trinity Church Stratford-on-Avon by the Vicar, Lillian Mary Hine to Alfred B Smith, 3rd Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

**Herald 14th April 1916**

#### Q.M.S. A. B. SMITH

Of the many familiar figures that have departed from our midst, never again to return to their native hearth, few have left a memory more enduring than Alfred Bennett Smith, jun., elder son of Mr. and Mrs. A. B.



Smith of this town. To the painfully long list of Stratford's sons who have made the supreme sacrifice his name unfortunately is the latest addition and his demise will be deeply regretted not only by his fellow sportsmen at home but by a large circle of friends who made his acquaintance in Midland football and rowing circles.

"Doc" Smith - he was known by no other name - was 39 years of age and received his education at Stratford Grammar School under the *regime* of the Rev. R. S. de Conroy Laffan. He was a man of many parts and he played them well. Beneath a somewhat rugged demeanour were traits which commanded respect and proclaimed him a large hearted Englishman. He was generous, straight-forward and in all his dealing thorough

in everything he undertook, and ever ready to assist others rather than to seek distinction for himself. Perhaps it was the quality of self-abnegation coupled with an unfailing fund of good humour which commended him so whole-heartedly to his friends and the Boat Club and Rugby Football Club especially owe him a deep debt of gratitude for the services he so freely placed at the disposal of younger members. The Rifle Club was another institution with which he was prominently identified and he took an active part in the resuscitation of the Grammar School Old Boys' Club. As a humorist he had few compeers and his services were largely in request in providing the lighter side of a musical programme. His country's interests were not overlooked and for some years he was a member of the Warwickshire Yeomanry.

In the spring of 1908 the Army Council sanctioned the creation of a battery of horse artillery for the county of Warwick, the terms of service to be similar to those laid down for the Yeomanry. Lord Brooke energetically prosecuted the scheme and one of the first recruits furnished by Stratford was "Doc" Smith. On August 4th 1914 came the call to arms and the following day "Doc" left for a course of training with the Warwickshire Royal Horse Artillery at Newbury. Accompanying him was William Bailey, a young man who had been in his service several years and in whose welfare he evinced the keenest interest and whose obituary alas, appears in our columns this week.

In October 1914 the battery crossed to France and for little short of three years "Doc" played the game for King and country. In more than one occasion a commission was offered him but he declined preferring to continue his duties as Q.M.S. While in France his period of service expired and he unhesitatingly signed on for the duration of the war.

Writing to a friend in Stratford only six days before his death he said "The weather here is wretched again which, of course, drags but the terrible business I suppose it will finish one day. I often wonder whether we shall ever see any sign of those old Rugger days and Regatta times once again. The prospect seems to get less and less. I had a look at the old canal this morning. When I last saw it it looked like a perfect regatta course. Now! - Imagine one old canal on the mill pond with the banks broken down and the water all, or nearly all, run out. Each army had burrowed into either bank and on a wet day the scene of desolation is indescribable. They say that further forward is far worse. God help us when we advance then."

**Herald August 24th 1917**

On Friday afternoon three letters were received by his parents notifying his death. One of them written by a gentleman signing himself F. Hayes runs as follows: "I much regret to have to tell you that your son, Alfred died at 5.30 on Tuesday morning of wounds he received about 9. pm. on the 12th inst. He was in charge of the pack-horses taking up ammunition to the guns and as they were passing through ----- village the enemy put up a barrage on the road. One of the shells burst quite close to "Doc" killing his horse instantly and wounding him in the side and chest. The dressing station was close at hand so his wounds were soon dressed and he went straight away to----- where I visited him on Monday afternoon. I found him quite cheerful though in considerable pain. He had been operated on in the morning and asked me to drop you a line to explain. He was very pleased with the way he was looked after in the hospital and I am sure that everything possible was done for him; but we were not surprised on visiting the hospital this morning to hear that he had passed away at dawn. The whole battery sympathise with you and your family in your great loss. We feel his loss too, so much had we taken "Doc" into our hearts the last three years. His kindness and never-failing good humour had made many a bad time bearable not only in the battery but throughout the whole brigade. There are many who mourn for him not only as a brave man but as a personal friend. He is buried in the cemetery of the C.C.S. and we shall, of course, put up a cross to mark his grave. The sergeants of the whole brigade and many of the men as well wish me to assure you of their sympathy to your loss. We trust that the knowledge of Alfred's sterling worth and his endeavours always to do his share will help you to bear it bravely."

**Herald August 31st 1917**

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<b>Eric Henry SCOTT-SMITH</b>	Second Lieutenant 14th Fortress Coy., Royal Engineers
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Died: Friday, 29th October 1915.

Age 20.

Son of the Hon. Mr. Justice H. Scott-Smith, of Lahore, Punjab, India. Born at Sialkot, Punjab. Educated at Clifton College.

Cemetery: PORTIANOS MILITARY CEMETERY, Greece.

Grave Reference: V. D. 173.

#### **FALLEN OFFICER, SECOND LIEUTENANT ERIC H. SCOTT-SMITH**

Second Lieutenant Eric H. Scott-Smith whose death from dysentery while serving with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force was recorded last week, was the only son of the Hon. Mr. Justice H. Scott-Smith of the Chief Court of Punjabi. He was educated at Clifton College from which he passed seventh into Woolwich just when the war was declared. He was gazetted Second Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers in February last and after completing his training at Chatham was ordered to the Dardanelles at the beginning of last September. He was only 20 years of age.

**Herald 12th November 1915**

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**Henry SMITH** Private 266253 2nd/7th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon.

Died: Thursday, 11th August 1918.

Husband of Annie Smith of 9, Birmingham Road, Stratford upon Avon, son of Charles and Harriet.

Born in Stratford-on-Avon.

Memorial: TANNAY BRITISH CEMETERY, Thiennes Nord France.

Grave Reference: Plot 5 Row C Grave 3

**KILLED IN ACTION PRIVATE H. SMITH**

Mrs. Smith of Birmingham Road has just received news from the War Office of the death of her husband Private H. Smith of The Royal Warwickshire Regiment who was killed on the 11th inst. in France. Private Smith joined up three years last Christmas, and has gone through some hard fighting. On one occasion he was taken prisoner with a number of others but managed with three of his comrades, to effect his escape. He had been wounded and had rendered fine service to his country.

**Herald 30th August 1918**

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**Percival Rainbow SMITH** Private 28608 1st Bn., Hampshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, 1917.

Died: Monday, 22nd April 1918. Age 18.

Son of Charles and Martha Smith, of Lime Kiln Cottage, Birmingham Rd., Stratford-on-Avon.

Born in Stratford-on-Avon.



LOOS MEMORIAL, Pas de Calais, France. Panel 73.

**KILLED IN ACTION PRIVATE P. R. SMITH**

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Smith of Brickyard, Birmingham Road have received this week from Exeter an official notification of the death in action in France on April 22nd of their son Private Percival Rainbow. Private Smith was called to the colours over a year ago and had served abroad with the Hants Regiment only a few weeks when he met his death at the early age of 18 years 11 months. The bereaved parents have two other sons serving in the forces. The eldest who has crossed to France three times and the second who is now at Bombay has had two periods of service across the channel.

**Herald 24th May 1918**

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**Sidney John SOLOMAN** Lance Corporal 9705 6th Bn., King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regt.)

Enlisted in Northampton.

Died: Thursday, 18th October 1917. Age 28.

Son of Mrs. Emma. E. Soloman, of 39, Vincent Avenue, Stratford-on-Avon. Born in Northampton.

Cemetery: AMARA WAR CEMETERY, Iraq.

Grave Reference: XIV. B. 14.

**DIED PRIVATE SIDNEY SOLOMAN**

The parents of this young soldier have received the sad intelligence of his death from fever in Mesopotamia. Private Soloman belonged to the King's Own Royal Lancashires and had been in action in three different theatres of the war. In January 1915 he was in France and was badly frostbitten. Upon recovery he was sent to the Dardanelles where he remained until the evacuation of the peninsula. He returned to England again to get fit and in October last he was sent to Mesopotamia, participating in the capture of Baghdad. A quiet and unassuming young man he made many friends and his death is most keenly felt by his parents who reside in Vincent Avenue.

**Herald 26th October 1917**

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**Frederick Henry SOUTH** Private 266091 1st/7th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, November 1914.

Died: Thursday, 4th October 1917. Age 23.

The eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry South of 17 Percy Street, Stratford-on-Avon.



TYNE COT MEMORIAL, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 23 to 28 and 163A.

### PRIVATE F. H. SOUTH

The sad official news was received yesterday of the death of Private Frederick Henry South who was killed in action on October 4th at the early age of 23. The eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. H. South of 17 Percy Street, he joined the 7th Warwicks in November 1914 and after about six months' training at various places, he crossed the channel for France on 26th July the following year. He was severely wounded in the arm by shrapnel in the Battle of the Somme on July 14th of last year but failed to reach England with his wounds. However, he was granted a leave in February of this year and whilst at home contracted a poisoned foot for which he was admitted into Whitegates Hospital for two months, returning back to France in April. He had been through several important battles during the two years and three months he had been in France. Previous to enlistment he was employed at the brewery for four years.

His younger brother, Private E. South was also wounded in the same battle two days after his brother's death but has now returned to duty.

**Herald 26th October 1917**

Our thoughts go out in sympathy to the homes of some more of our brothers who lie in France in hero's graves. The week October 14th – 21st brought a sad list to Stratford. Frederick South will never sit in church with us again.

**Parish Magazine November 1917**

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### **Ernest Edward SOUTHAM** Private 17984 2nd Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, April 1916.

Died: Friday, 4th May 1917.

Husband of Mrs. Southam of 26, Mansell Street, Stratford upon Avon. Born in Alderminster.



ARRAS MEMORIAL, FRANCE, Bay 3.

### **KILLED IN ACTION - PRIVATE E. SOUTHAM**

Mrs. Southam of 26, Mansell Street, Stratford upon Avon has just received the information that her husband, Private E. Southam who was said to be missing on 4th May is now reported to have been killed in action. Private Southam joined the Royal Warwicks on 10th April last year and was sent to the Front the following August. He had been in some very hard fighting. He was formerly a clerk with Messrs. Flower & Sons' Brewery.

**Herald 29th June 1917**

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### **Charles STANLEY** Private 17985 14th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, April 1916.

Died: Monday, 28th August 1916. Age 27.

Son of Mrs. Mary Ann Stanley, of 20, Bull St., Stratford-on-Avon, and husband of Ruth Stanley living at 22 Shakespeare Street, Stratford-on-Avon.



THIEPVAL MEMORIAL, Somme, France. Pier and Face 9 A 9 B and 10 B.

### **DIED OF WOUNDS PRIVATE C. STANLEY**

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley of Shakespeare Street, have received an official intimation that their son Private C. Stanley 14th Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment died on August 28th from wounds received when in action with the enemy. Stanley joined up on April 11th and went out to France about six weeks ago. He will be remembered by many as a vice captain of the junior rugby football club and sympathy will go out to relatives in their sad bereavement.

**Herald 15th September 1916**

### **PRIVATE C. STANLEY**

Mrs. Stanley living at 22 Shakespeare Street has received notification of the death of her husband. He was a second son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley of 20 Bull Street.

**Herald 22nd September 1916**

### **MEMORIAM**

In loving memory of Private C. Stanley who was killed in action August 28th 1916, aged 26 years: also Ruth the dearly loved wife of the above, who entered into rest on August 19th 1917 aged 22.

**Herald 29th June 1917**

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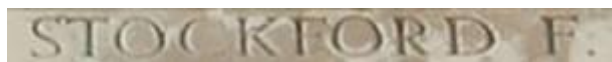
**Frederick STOCKFORD** Private 18996 2nd Bn., Oxford. and Bucks Light Infantry

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon.

Died: Sunday, 30th July 1916. Age 21.

Son of Mr. G. H. Stockford, of Low Farm, Stratford-on-Avon.

Born in Banbury.



THIEPVAL MEMORIAL, Somme, France. Pier and Face 10 A and 10 D

Private Frederick Stockford, who enlisted in the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry at the outbreak of the war has been killed in his Country's service at the early age of 23.

**Herald 26th October 1917**

In loving memory of Frederick Stockford (Low Farm Stratford-on-Avon), Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, who was missing July 30th 1916. Ever in the thoughts of Mother, father, sisters and brothers.

**Herald 3rd August 1923**

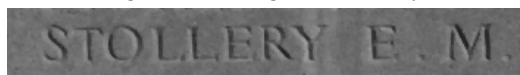
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**Edgar Musk STOLLERY** Private 18237 1st/7th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, April 1916.

Died: Monday, 27th August 1917. Age 19.

Son of Edgar and Margaret Stollery, of 47, College Lane, Stratford-on-Avon. Born in Stratford-on-Avon.



TYNE COT MEMORIAL, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 23 to 28 and 163A

**PRIVATE E. M. STOLLERY**

Posted early in September missing an official intimation was received on Sunday last of the death in action in France on 17th August of Private Edgar Stollery aged 19 only son of Mr. and Mrs. Stollery of College Lane. On leaving school Private Stollery entered the service of Mr. William White of Wood Street with whom he remained about 12 months. This was followed by two years' employment at Mr. James Henson's, at the termination of which Mr. Stollery went to the brewery. He attained the age of 18 in April 1916 and the same month joined the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. A year later he was sent to France.

**Herald 2nd November 1917**

Our thoughts go out in sympathy to the homes of some more of our brothers who lie in France in hero's graves. The week October 14th – 21st brought a sad list to Stratford. Edgar Stollery will never sit in church with us again.

**Parish Magazine November 1917**

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**Harry Gord SYMINGTON MM** Company Quartermaster Sergeant 3/7256 6th Bn., Somerset Light Infantry

Enlisted in Taunton, August 1914.

Died: Thursday, 17th October 1918. Age 41.

Son of Sam Symington; husband of Laura Symington, of 44, Monk Rd., Bishopston, Bristol.

Born in Warwick.

Cemetery: BRISTOL (ARNOS VALE) CEMETERY, Gloucestershire, United Kingdom.

Grave Reference: 5.683.

**SERGEANT H. G. SYMINGTON**

Sergeant H. G. Symington, Somerset Light Infantry only son of Mrs. S. Symington of this town has been awarded the Military Medal for distinguished conduct on September 16th.

**Herald 27th October 1916**

**PROMOTION**

Sergeant H. G. Symington of the 6th Somerset Light Infantry, son of Mr. and Mrs. Symington of this town has just been promoted to Company Quartermaster Sergeant the result of being awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the field in September last.

**Herald 16th March 1917**

**DIED OF SICKNESS**

**C.Q.M.S. H. G. SYMINGTON MM**

After a distinguished military career Harry Gold Symington, only son of Mr. Sam Symington of High Street passed away last week at the 2nd Southern Military Hospital, Southmead, Bristol. A native of Leamington, he achieved much success in his earlier years in swimming. He won his first prize when only eight or nine

years of age and this was followed by honours which made his name familiar in all swimming circles in the Midland Counties. To him fell the unique distinction of winning outright two silver challenge cups for the half mile championship of Warwickshire (each trophy having to be won three times before it became his property) and among numerous other prizes were gold medals won at Birmingham when he was the runner up on two occasions for the half mile championship of the Midland Counties. He was also a keen rifleman and was instrumental in founding a prosperous shooting club at Ilminster, Somerset. On two occasions he had the distinction of being a member of the team to compete in the county championship final at Bisley. Fifty medals in addition to other trophies, bear witness to his achievements in shooting and swimming.

When his country's call came in August 1914 he joined Kitchener's Army. He left for France in May 1915 as a corporal and the rapid promotion which attended him was solely due to his fine soldierly attributes and conspicuous service in the field. He was wounded on two occasions, but neither was of a serious nature. After three years; stern campaigning his health gave way and he was sent to hospital at Etaples, where his father visited him. At the end of July he was removed to London and about a month ago to the 2nd Southern Military Hospital at Southmead, Bristol. Unfortunately, his constitution was unable to withstand the ravages of three years' active service and although the end came somewhat suddenly at nine o'clock on Thursday night it was not unexpected. He would have completed his forty-second year on Tuesday last. To the bereaved father the sympathy of all Stratfordians will be extended. His cup of sorrow is full to overflowing. Nearly eighteen months ago his brother passed away to be followed at a brief interval by the tragic death of his talented daughter, Miss Mabel Symington. Another near relative to whom he was greatly attached sank to his rest shortly afterwards. On November 17th his son-in-law was killed in action after six weeks' service in France and two days later his wife passed over to the great majority. Now he mourns the death of his only son. The funeral took place at Arno's Vale cemetery on Wednesday. The first part of the service was held at the chapel attached to the Royal Bristol Infirmary and was conducted by the Vicar of St. Matthew's Moorfields. The mourners were Mrs. H. G. Symington (widow), Mr. S. Symington (father), Mrs. Cobb (sister) Mr. F. Beer, Mr. Hoare and Miss Beer. Many beautiful wreaths were laid on the grave.

**Herald 25th October 1918**

#### STRATFORD NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

##### Extract from report:

The Secretary invited any visitors present to join, and mentioned that a collection of birds' eggs, got together by the late Company Quartermaster Sergeant H. G. Symington, had been presented by the widow (per Mr. H. B. Walters), to the Society.

**Herald 6th December 1918**

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**Eric Lawrence TALBOT** Lieutenant "C" Bty., Royal Horse Artillery

Died: Friday, 23rd October 1914.

Age 30.

Son of the late John Arthur and Alice Buckley Talbot, of Newtown, Montgomeryshire.

Cemetery: YPRES TOWN CEMETERY, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Reference: E2. 7.

#### DEATH OF LIEUTENANT TALBOT

Information was received this week by Mr. F. L. Talbot of this town of the death of his nephew Lieutenant Eric Laurence Talbot of C Battery of the Royal Horse Artillery. The advice was that Lieutenant Talbot died of wounds on the 24th October. He only left for the front with the 7th division about three weeks before.

**Herald 30th October 1914**

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**James William TAPLIN** Private 242761 2nd/6th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon.

Died: Monday, 1st April 1918. Age 34.

Youngest son of Mrs Taplin of 21 Meer Street, Stratford-on-Avon.



POZIERES MEMORIAL, Somme, France.  
Panel 18 and 19.

### KILLED IN ACTION PRIVATE J. W. TAPLIN

News was received on Sunday by his mother of the death in action in France on April 1st of Private J. W. Taplin of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment at the age of 34. Before joining the colours he was employed by Mr. John Brook of College Street.

**Herald 3rd May 1918**

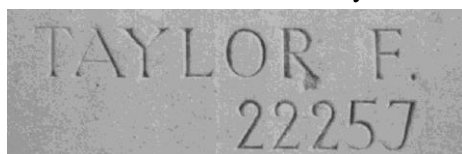
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### **Frederick TAYLOR** Private 22257 8th Bn., Royal Berkshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon.

Died: Friday, 18th August 1916. Age 22.

Son of John and Elizabeth Taylor, of 48, Shakespeare St., Stratford-on-Avon. Born in Newbold-on-Avon.



THIEPVAL MEMORIAL, Somme, France. Pier and Face 11 D

### **DEATH PRESUMED PRIVATE FRED TAYLOR**

Mrs. Taylor of 48 Shakespeare Street has received a communication stating that as no further news had been received relating to her son, who was reported wounded and missing on August 18th 1916, the Army Council has regretfully come to the conclusion that he was killed on or about that date. Private Fred Taylor belonged to the Berkshire Regiment and had been in the Front only five weeks. He was formerly engaged as a porter at Whytgate's VA Hospital. The bereaved mother has received a letter expressing the King's sympathy with her in her loss.

**Herald 29th June 1917**



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### **Ronald Arthur TAYLOR** Private 10611 1st Bn., Royal Welsh Fusiliers

Enlisted in Birmingham.

Died: Friday, 30th October 1914. Age 25.

Son of the late Frederic and Jane Ann Taylor, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Born in Stratford upon Avon.

Cemetery: WHITE HOUSE CEMETERY, ST. JEAN-LES-YPRES, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Reference: II. B. 31.

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### **William James TAYLOR** Seaman SS/956 H.M.S. "Good Hope".

Died: Sunday, 1st November 1914.

Age 25.

Born at 50, Arden Street, Stratford-on-Avon.

Memorial: PORTSMOUTH NAVAL MEMORIAL, Hampshire, United Kingdom.

Panel Number: 2.



### LOCAL WAR NOTES

The crew of the "Good Hope" included Seaman William James Taylor, a Stratfordian who was born at 50 Arden Street, and who, it is presumed, went down with the ship. Taylor entered the Navy, and after serving his period gained a good appointment in the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, from which he went to the call of duty to serve his Country.

**Herald 27th November 1914**

*November 1st 1914 Sunk in action with German warships off Coronel, Chile. Flagship of Rear-Admiral Sir Christopher Cradock who was lost (919 dead, all lost). Read reports of engagement on page 88/89.*

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<b>Patrick Stapler THOMPSON MC</b> Lieutenant 466th Field Coy., Royal Engineers
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Died: Saturday, 27th April 1918.

Age 32.

Son of Francis Ladbury Thompson and Mary Anne Thompson; husband of Lizzie Thompson, of 15, Pine Apple Rd., King's Heath, Birmingham.

Cemetery: FOUQUIERES CHURCHYARD EXTENSION, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Reference: II. C. 8.

### AWARD FOR GALLANTRY

Lieutenant Pat Thompson son of Mr. W. Thompson of Greenhill Street has been awarded the Military Cross for gallantry in the field.

**Herald 27th July 1917**

### SHAKESPEARE IN THE TRENCHES

Writing Home to his father in law (Mr. H. Bailey) Second Lieutenant "Pat" Thompson says : "On my tour round the trenches one day a short time back I came across something that will, I am sure, interest you; it was a carving in chalk of Shakespeare, and underneath was written "A rough carving of Shakespeare" by W. B. Kirk. Shakespeare, the celebrated poet and play writer of Stratford upon Avon! Stratford upon Avon once had a very fine Rugby football team which beat Leicester by one goal to nil in the Midland Counties Cup on the old Belgrave Road ground. After this Leicester shifted their ground to Welford Road where they set to and outed such teams as Stratford on Avon and won the Midland Counties Cup eighty years in succession, till there was no interest in the competition for them. Then they dropped out. The Welsh men used to bill Leicester as the Midland Counties cup holders. – W. B. Kirk. Whenever I pass this spot I always stop and my thoughts fly back to our good old footer days. Of course this celebrated team was before my time, but I guess you were there and on the ball.

**Herald 5th October 1917**

### PAT THOMPSON'S CONSPICUOUS GALLANTRY

Second Lieutenant Patrick Stapler Thompson RE, son of Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Thompson was awarded the Military Cross says The Times for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in taping out a jumping off line for infantry attack under exceptionally difficult and dangerous conditions. He crawled out and successfully completed his task working by means of a luminous compass. He was exposed the whole time to machine gun fire from the enemy who were posted in shell holes at close range. He had previously made a daring and successful reconnaissance of the captured ground under fire in order that no time would be lost in getting his men to work. He set a magnificent example.

**Herald 5th October 1917**

### KILLED IN ACTION LIEUTENANT PAT. THOMPSON M.C.

News reached Stratford on Avon yesterday that Lieutenant Patrick Stapler Thompson was killed in action on April 27th making yet another of the wonderful band of sportsmen from Stratford on Avon who has "gone west" He was the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. F. Thompson of Greenhill Street and at the outbreak of the war he was engaged in supervising a sewage scheme for Leek, leaving this work to join up voluntarily. As a Second Lieutenant in October 1917 he was awarded the Military Cross "for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in taping out a jumping off line for an infantry attack under exceptionally difficult and dangerous conditions." While at Stratford on Avon he gained the highest honours in rowing circles, stroking the local crew which had such a wonderful sequence of successes and as a Rugby player he was a tower of strength in the forward ranks. He married a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Bailey of Wood Street, and sincere sympathy will go out to the widow and little child in their sore trial.

**Herald 3rd May 1918**

### **KILLED IN ACTION LIEUTENANT P. S. THOMPSON M.C.**

Information is now to hand giving particulars of the death of this gallant officer, the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Thompson and a familiar figure to all in Stratford. He had just parted from his Company commander when a shell struck him and he died in half an hour without regaining consciousness. His death at the front was briefly mentioned in our last issue. The Brigadier General of the division writes to the widow:

"I am writing to express my most sincere sympathy at the terrible loss you have sustained in the death of your gallant husband. He was able, energetic, strong and fearless of danger, and commanded the respect of the senior officers and the men under him. He was loved and respected by all who knew him. He never failed however trying the task and I was hoping he would be spared to have gained early promotion. The action for which he received his M.C. was an exceptionally brave one and he never flinched in carrying out any dangerous work. It is particularly sad when such a brave soldier and perfect gentleman is taken in the promise of life, but it will be some consolation to know the example of his courage and devotion to duty has, and will, help many of his comrades and will never die". The Major General of his regiment writes: "I can hardly express fully enough my great sympathy with you in your great trouble. I only know that we, here, have lost a comrade who was beloved and respected by all ranks of his unit, and I personally, have to deplore the loss of a most valuable and promising officer, who it will be almost impossible to replace. I regarded your husband as one of my best Royal Engineer officers who would have obtained advancement had he lived - a very gallant English gentleman and soldier. It must be some consolation to you to know that he died doing his duty as such a man should. He was buried with full military honours at the British Military centre at .". Very touching is the tribute of the Company Commander: "Pat and I shared the same section and work for some months and I left him but a few minutes before he was hit. I have lost a real good chum, but it is impossible to measure what it means to you."

**Herald 10th May 1918**

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### **Harold TIMMS** Private 24675 2nd/7th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Warwick, April 1917.

Died: Thursday, 2nd May 1918. Age 29.

Son of William and Emma Timms, of Shottery, Stratford-on-Avon; husband of Nellie Timms, of 30, Evesham Rd., Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire. Born in Wootten Wawen, Warwick.

Cemetery: LES BARAQUES MILITARY CEMETERY, SANGATTE, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Reference: III. F. 5A

Pte Harold Timms, we are very sorry to hear, was seriously wounded on Friday April 12th. The early reports which were received gave cause for great anxiety, but as we write the news is distinctly reassuring. He has, we understand, been removed to the base, and a field-card received on April 23rd was in his own hand-writing. Many friends will join us in wishing for him a complete recovery.

**May 1918 Stratford-on-Avon Congregationalist**

### **DIED OF WOUNDS PRIVATE HAROLD TIMMS**

The sincere sympathy of many friends will be extended to the widow and little son of Private Harold Timms, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Timms of Shottery, who has yielded his life in his country's cause. Joining the Royal Warwickshire Regiment in April 1917 he went through a period of training a Sandown, Isle of Wight and in July left for France. He was present at the great battle of Ypres on April 12th when he was wounded in the abdomen. After receiving attention on the spot he was removed to hospital at Calais where he succumbed to his injuries on May 2nd at the age of 29. Private Timms was well known in this district and was generally respected. He was a member of the Congregational denomination and accomplished much good work as a local preacher.

**Herald 10th May 1918**

It is with very deep regret that we record the death of Pte. Harold Timms in Hospital in France. Hopes had been entertained of his recovery from the severe wound he had received, and up to the last he maintained a brave spirit, but succumbed to his injuries on Thursday, May 2nd. He was a bright Christian Sunday school teacher for a number of years and an earnest lay preacher in our village churches. His loss is deeply mourned by a large circle of friends. We tender our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Timms and to his people in their great bereavement.

**June 1918 Stratford-on-Avon Congregationalist**

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**Ernest Edward TROTMAN** Private 40279 4th Bn., Worcestershire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, March 1916 .

Died: Tuesday, 17th April 1917. Age 36.

Husband of Florence Trotman, of 2, Harborne Terrace, Shakespeare St., Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: CABARET-ROUGE BRITISH CEMETERY, SOUCHEZ, France.

Grave Reference: XVII. H. 15.

**PRIVATE E. E. TROTMAN**

A letter received by Mrs. Trotman of Shakespeare Street stated that her son Private E. E. Trotman of Worcester Regiment was killed on 17th April by the collapse of a wall in one of the shell stricken towns of France. His body was interred in a small cemetery close by and his platoon companions erected a cross to his memory.

**Herald 11th May 1917**

**KILLED IN ACTION PRIVATE ERNEST. E. TROTMAN.**

Mrs. Florence Trotman of this town has received notification of the death of her husband which took place on France on 17th April last. Private Trotman volunteered for active service on 7th March 1916 and joined the Royal Warwicks. He was transferred to the Worcesters in the following July.

**Herald 25th May 1917**

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**William TURVEY** Gunner 65151 "A" Bty. 108th Bde., Royal Field Artillery

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, 1914.

Died: Tuesday, 3rd December 1918. Age 25.

Son of William and Mary Elizabeth Turvey, of 41, Ely St., Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: TERLINCTHUN BRITISH CEMETERY, WIMILLE, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Reference: XII. B. 3.

**DEATH OF GUNNER WILLIAM TURVEY R.F.A.**

After serving right through the war without a scratch, he joined the colours in 1914 and went out to France in September of the same year. Gunner William Turvey of the R.F.A., son of Mr. and Mrs. Turvey of Ely Street had the misfortune to fall ill and the sad news has now come through that he died at the base from bronchial pneumonia and has been buried at Boulogne. Turvey who was 25 years of age went through the severe fighting at Mons and Loos and, for a long time was stationed at Ypres. He was a fine young fellow, and sympathy will go out to the parents in their heavy loss.

**Herald 13th December 1918**

At the Sunday evening service on December 15th, Mr. Barker made special reference to the death of W. Turvey of the R.F.A. who died at the age of 25 of broncho pneumonia, and was buried at Boulogne. He went to France as early as September 1914 and had gone through the war without a scratch. Deep sympathy was expressed for the relatives and special prayers offered.

**January 1919 Stratford-on-Avon Congregationalist**

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**Frank Andrew TYLER** Able Seaman J/21161 H.M. S/M, Royal Navy

Born 2nd December 1894

Died: Tuesday, 15th October 1918.

Son of Frederick and Phoebe Ellen Tyler, of 10, Wellesbourne Grove, Stratford-on-Avon.

Memorial: PLYMOUTH NAVAL MEMORIAL, Devon, United Kingdom. Panel Number: 27.

Drowned through accidental loss of vessel in North Sea 15th Oct 1918.

Joined the Royal Navy and was immediately made Petty Officer owing to his knowledge of signalling. Was transferred to H.M. Submarines and was killed somewhere in the North Sea.

The J6 was also the only submarine of her class to be sunk during the war. As there were few 'J' class in service the possibility of their unfamiliar outline being mistaken for that of a U-boat was always a greater hazard than usual. This, in part, is what happened on 15th October when J6 was mistaken for a U-boat by one of the cloak-and-dagger Q-ships. The Cymric was an old top-sail schooner which had been converted into a Q-ship. On the morning of Tuesday 15th she put to sea from the Firth of Forth and set a southerly course. Several U-boat sightings had been reported in the Blyth area. Perhaps a U-boat would be tempted to attack what would appear to be an easy victim.

It was four o'clock and the watch was about to change when a submarine was sighted. The sea was flat calm. Banks of mist made visibility a chance affair. The Q-ship slipped into her well rehearsed drill.

The submarine was not a U-boat. She was the J6 and was under the command of Lieutenant-Commander Geoffrey Warburton. The Cymric's officers had been influenced in their assessment by what they thought was a large U6 painted on her conning tower. This misunderstanding arose because of something hanging down the side of the conning tower and coincidentally completing the loop of the 'J', thus transforming it into a 'U'. The Captain gave the order to commence firing. Two men, one an officer were seen on the bridge. The officer's companion was in the act of raising a rifle to fire a recognition signal when the first shell wounded him and killed the officer. A second shell exploded in the control room, wrecking it completely. A hatch on the submarine was seen to open and an officer rushed out on deck and began waving what looked like a white tablecloth. Cymric ceased fire. J6 then altered course and made directly for a bank of fog. Just before she disappeared her signalman (F. A. Tyler ?) was able to work his lamp: H-E-L-P..... Only about 16 of the J6 crew survived the ordeal.

At an inquiry the following day the Q-ship was considered to have performed her duty correctly and consequently was absolved of blame. That the J6 which had mistaken Cymric for a German Q-ship - had been wrongly identified and was regarded as one of the unfortunate hazards of war.

**Extracts from Beneath the Waves.**

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**Amos Latham UNITT** Private 24305 2nd/7th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, February 1917.

Died: Saturday, 23rd March 1918. Age 29.

Husband of Mrs. E. M. Unitt of Henley Street, Stratford-on-Avon. Born in Stratford-on-Avon.



POZIERES MEMORIAL, Somme, France. Panel 18 and 19

#### WAR COURTS

Amos Latham Unit (28)

Lennards Ltd asked, through Mr J. R. Phillips, for exemption for their manager A. L. Unit (28) but the military thought that a substitute might be found. Mr. Phillips said this was the case of a man who was exempted with a block of other men employed by Messrs. Lennards and now that had been withdrawn, and so the firm were making an individual application. This firm employed 321 males before the war, and of these 240 joined the colours, 71 being exempted by the military. The firm had made no application for unmarried men or assistants.

It was an old fashioned business, and he asked for a substantial period of exemption for Unitt. The man had been to Budbrooke, and was passed for general service. He did important work in regard to boot and shoe repairing. The Military Representative said there were a good many boot makers in the town, and the question was whether it was necessary to keep the shop open. Mr. Phillips remarked that it was rather hard on Unitt, who had been granted a period of exemption on his own appeal, but allowed the time to lapse on the strength of his conditional exemption which was granted at Bristol and had now been withdrawn. The Mayor agreed that it was hard he had been deprived of the chance – Exemption was refused.

**Herald 5th January 1917**

#### MISSING

Mrs Unitt of High Street Stratford-on-Avon, in reply to an inquiry respecting her husband, who is missing, has received the following :- Your husband was slightly wounded, as far as can be ascertained, and was last seen together with numerous other comrades of whom very little is known yet. The writer holds out the hope that he is a prisoner.

**Herald 17th May 1918**

#### DEATH OF ANOTHER STRATFORD HERO

Mrs. E. M. Unitt of Henley Street, has just received notification of the death of her husband Amos Unitt, which is supposed to have taken place in the fierce fighting in March of last year. Unitt joined the forces on February 28th 1917 and was in training at Sandown for some months, being employed as an instructor during the latter part of the time. He left for France on December 13th 1917 and was in action several times. He originally belonged to the 4th Warwicks but was attached to the 2nd/7ths when he reached France. He attained the rank of Corporal but was reduced on going out. Unitt learned his business with Mr. D. Drinkwater and at the time he entered the army, was manager at Messrs. Lennards in High Street. One who knew him well writes that he was an acceptable local preacher, a teacher in the Wesleyan Sunday School and a member of the choir. He was a man of fine character and great promise and will be much missed by many who admired and loved him. The widow has received a letter of sympathy from the King and Queen.

**Herald June 17th 1919**

### IN MEMORIAM

In proud and loving memory of my dear husband, Private Amos Latham Unitt, 2/7th Royal Warwickshire Regiment, missing since March 23rd 1918, now presumed to have died on that date or since. Also fondly remembered by mother and all at home.

**Herald 27th June 1919**

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**Gerald WALKER** Lance Corporal 20632 1st Bn., Coldstream Guards

Enlisted in Birmingham, 1916.

Died: Wednesday, 15th May 1918. Age 20.

Sixth son of John and Ada Walker, of 12, Showell Green Lane, Sparkhill, Birmingham.

Born in Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: BIENVILLERS MILITARY CEMETERY, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Reference: XVII. D. 4.

### KILLED IN ACTION CORPORAL GERALD WALKER

Mr. and Mrs. Walker of 12, Showell Green Lane, Sparkhill, Birmingham, late of 17 Church Street, Stratford upon Avon have received a notification that their sixth son, Corporal Gerald Walker 1st Coldstream Guards was instantaneously killed by a shell in the front line trench on 15th May. He was 20 years of age and had been in the army two years. Mr. and Mrs. Walker had five sons serving, two of whom are now discharged with wounds. Their seventh and youngest son joins the colours next month.

**Herald 24th May 1918**

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**Walter WALKER** Private 22503 2nd/7th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Warwick.

Died: Monday, 3rd December 1917. Age 19.

Son of Fred and Emma Walker, of 68, Birmingham Rd., Stratford-on-Avon.

Born in Stratford-on-Avon.

Memorial: CAMBRAI MEMORIAL, LOUVERVAL, Nord, France. Panel 3.

### KILLED IN ACTION PRIVATE W. WALKER

Mr. and Mrs. Walker of Birmingham Road have received news from the War Office that their son, Private Walter Walker of the 2nd/7th Royal Warwickshire Regiment was killed in action on 3rd December in France. His captain writes that he was one of the best boys, always cheerful and brave. He goes on to say that time after time the enemy attacked them but were repulsed with heavy loss each time. The brave boy took his share in the struggle until a shell came over and killed him instantly. The place where he is buried is marked by a cross. His brother, Sergeant W. Walker RFA is in France as well as his brother in law, Corporal H. Wood. Lance Corporal H. Walker, who is serving with the unit of the Worcesters at Salonika has been wounded for the second time but no further news has reached his parents. Private J. Walker of the Duke of Cornwall Light Infantry is also at Salonika.

**Herald 4th January 1918**

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**Bernard David WALTON** Private 203324 1st/4th Bn., Norfolk Regiment

Enlisted in 1916.

Died; Monday, 14th May 1917. Age 41.

Son of George and Mary Ann Walton, of 10, Victoria Terrace, Shakespeare St., Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: ALEXANDRIA (HADRA) WAR MEMORIAL CEMETERY, EGYPT.

Grave Reference: D. 129.

### THE WAR COURTS

Bernard Daniel Walton (40) a labourer at the Brewery personally appealed on the ground that he was the sole support of his mother, who was 67 years of age. The military comment was, Not assented to : this man should go. Walton a single man was passed fit for general service at Budbrook, but he told the tribunal that he did not enjoy the best of health. Mr Talbot said the man had been employed for many years at the Brewery. His father fought in the Crimea and at the Mutiny.—Exempted till October 31st.

**Herald 20th October 1916**



**DIED OF SICKNESS -- PRIVATE B. D. WALTON**

News has been received of the death of Private Bernard David Walton, son of Mrs. Walton of Shakespeare Street, which took place on 14th inst. Private Walton was formerly employed in the brewery and joined the Norfolks about six months ago. He was sent to Egypt in February and had an attack of dysentery from which he died at the 17th Alexandria Hospital Egypt on the date named.

**Herald 25th May 1917**

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**Alfred James WARD** Private 13119 9th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Warwick.

Died: Monday, 10th April 1916. Age 20.

Son of Mrs. Clara Ward, of 3, Cherry St., Stratford-on-Avon. Born in Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: BASRA MEMORIAL Iraq. Panel 9

**PRIVATE A. J. WARD**

Notice of the death of Private A. J. Ward of the 9th Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment on 10th April while with the Expeditionary Force at the Persian Gulf has been received in Stratford. He was only 19 years of age and the sympathy of all will go out to the relatives in their irreparable loss.

**Herald 5th May 1916**

**IN MEMORIAM**

In loving memory of Alfred James Ward, who died of wounds received in action April 10th 1916 aged 19 years.

Where is my soldier boy to-night ?  
Laid in a soldier's grave  
Far far away in a foreign land  
He died like a soldier Brave.

From his loving Mother, brother and sister.

**Herald 12th May 1918**

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**Walter Ernest WARD** Private 17584 11th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Warwick.

Died: Sunday, 29th April 1917. Age 40.

Father of Miss Winifred Ward, of 91, Union Rd., Warwick.. Resided in Leamington Spa

Cemetery: AUBIGNY COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Reference: II. J. 16.

*Walter Earnest Ward appears on the War Memorial, nothing else has as yet been found to connect him to Stratford upon Avon.*

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**Alfred Thomas WASLEY** Private 20472 1st Bn., Wellington Regiment, N.Z.E.F.

Died: Saturday, 31st August 1918.

Age 25.

Son of William and Mary Wasley, of 6, Caladonia St., Hawera, New Zealand. Native of Stratford-on-Avon, England.

Cemetery: ACHIET-LE-GRAND COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Reference: IV. R. 11

**DIED OF WOUNDS PRIVATE A. T. WASLEY**

Private Alfred Thomas Wasley of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force has recently died of wounds received in action. He left Stratford for New Zealand five years ago and when war was declared joined the forces having served in France more than two years. His brother in law who hails from Wellesbourne was in the same hospital to which Private Wasley was taken.

**Herald 4th October 1918**

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**Rowland William WATERS** Lance Corporal 310370 Warwickshire Yeomanry

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon.

Died: Thursday, 19th April 1917. Age 25.

Eldest son of Harry and Ellen Waters, of 20, Great William St., Stratford-on-Avon.

Born in Alveston.

Memorial: JERUSALEM MEMORIAL, Panel 16, Israel.

### DEATH SERGEANT R. W. WATERS

On the 19th ult. Sergeant Rowland William Waters of Warwickshire Yeomanry eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Waters of Summer Row, Maidenhead Road, Stratford-on-Avon aged 25.

**Herald 4th May 1917**

### SERGEANT R. W. WATERS

News of the death in action of Sergeant Rowland William Waters eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Waters of Summer Row, Maidenhead Road, was received with general regret. A handsome well proportioned young man standing nearly 6 feet he had many personal friends in the town and those who chanced to meet him in a business capacity scarcely found to be struck by his unassuming demeanour and the infinite pains he took to meet their wishes. On leaving school in 1904 he entered the establishment of Mr. H. Humphries, house furnisher and exhibited his qualities which augured well for a successful future. His industry and integrity gained for him the respect and confidence of his employer and during the ten years he served in Henley Street he steadily advanced in position. He joined the Warwickshire Yeomanry in 1912 and in August 1914 he left his civil employment to enter upon his military training with his unit at Sheringham, Norfolk. In the Spring of the following year he left England for Egypt to complete his training. Unfortunately he contracted enteric fever and was a patient at Alexandria where his comrades took part in the Gallipoli expedition. In August 1915 he sufficiently recovered to enable him to return to England and for two months he stayed in his native town renewing acquaintances and many an old friend.

He then went to Warwick and was subsequently to Tidworth. February of this year saw him embark on the second journey to Egypt and on April 19th he was killed in action at the early age of 25. Sergeant Waters was a keen sportsman taking an active interest both in cricket and football. However, it was in the winter pastimes that he excelled. For four seasons he captained St. John's Club playing a first class game as centre forward. It was in this period his team succeeded in lifting the Warwick Charity Cup. He was also an energetic member of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade. Mr. and Mrs. Waters have two younger sons, one of whom, Corporal Reginald Waters is with the Warwickshire Yeomanry in Egypt.

**Herald 4th May 1917**

### SERGEANT ROWLAND WATERS

Twelve months ago today Sergeant Rowland Walters fell in action against the Turks. Within the past fortnight his parents have received from a comrade a postcard photograph of their son which he presumed he had with him at the time of his death. It was recovered quite recently from a Turkish officer who fell into the hands of the British and it is rather remarkable that it should have come under the notice of a yeoman who immediately recognised a former comrade. Upon the back of the photograph are pencil notes in Turkish and rudimentary French. The story seems to show that the Turks still methodically plunder the belongings of the dead.

**Herald 19th April 1918**

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<b>James Thomas WEBB</b> Serjeant 266321 2nd/7th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment
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Enlisted in Coventry.

Died: Monday, 22nd April 1918. Age 35.

Second son of Mrs. Emily Webb, of 19, Bull St., Stratford-on-Avon.

Born in Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: NIEDERZWEHREN CEMETERY, Germany.

Grave Reference: IX. D. 7.

### DIED OF WOUNDS SERGEANT JAMES THOMAS WEBB

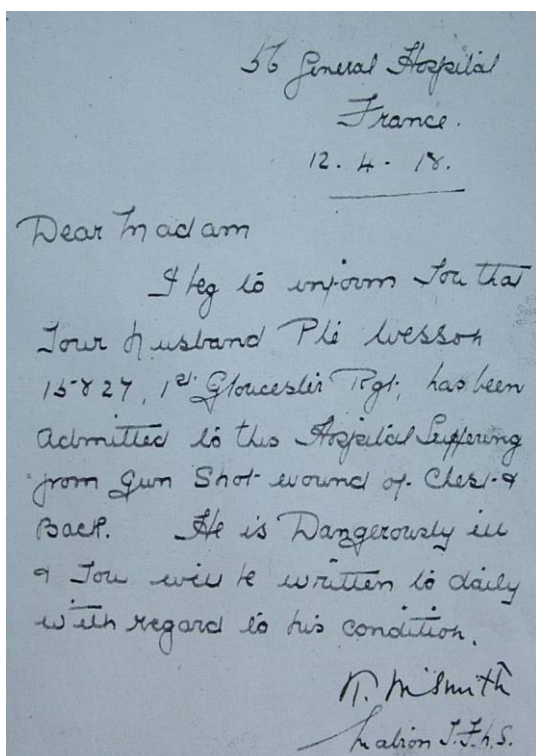
Mr. and Mrs. Webb of Bull Street, Stratford upon Avon have received official news that their second son, Sergeant James Thomas Webb of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment died on April 22nd at a prisoners of war camp hospital, Cassel (Germany) from wounds received in action. He was buried in the cemetery attached on April 23rd. He was taken prisoner on March 21st 1918 and had served in France two years.

**Herald 14th June 1918**

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**Albert Edward WESSON** Private 15827 1st Bn., Gloucestershire Regiment



Enlisted in Birmingham. Died: Saturday, 20th April 1918.  
Age 26.

Son of John and Sarah Wesson; husband of Mary Wesson, of  
25, Meer St., Stratford-on-Avon. Native of Stratford-on-  
Avon.

Born in Stratford-on-Avon

Cemetery: ETAPLES MILITARY CEMETERY, Pas de  
Calais, France.

Grave Reference: XXIX. H. 7.

**DEATHS**

On 20th April, died of wounds at 56th General Hospital,  
Etaples, France, Private A. E. Wesson, 1st Gloucester  
Regiment, the beloved husband of Mary Wesson, 25 Meer  
Street aged 26 years.

**Herald 26th April 1918**

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**Arthur WESSON** Serjeant 10575 4th Bn., Worcestershire Regiment

Enlisted in Worcester.

Died: Tuesday, 9th October 1917. Age 28.

Born and resided in Stratford-on-Avon. Son of John and Sarah Wesson



TYNE COT MEMORIAL, Zonnebeke,  
West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 75 to 77

**KILLED IN ACTION SERGEANT A. WESSON**

News has been received of the death in action in France on 9th October of Sergeant A. Wesson, 28 of the  
Worcester Regiment. A native of Stratford on Avon he was formerly in the employ of Mr. John Lewis of  
Chapel Street. Nearly 7 years before the present war broke he left his civil employment to join the  
Worcesters and was one of the men who helped to maintain the thin red line in France during the critical  
opening phases of the war. He had twice been wounded.

**Herald 26th October 1917**

**SERGEANT A. WESSON**

Last week we referred briefly to the death of Sergeant Arthur Wesson of 3rd Worcestershire Regiment, a  
native of Stratford upon Avon who has seen a lot of fighting. He was wounded in March 1915 and again in  
September of the same year but after being invalided home he went out again and was promoted sergeant and  
was daily expecting a higher rank. Death robbed him of this. Second Lieutenant Pegler writing to his wife  
says "he was a splendid soldier and was highly respected and esteemed by all who knew him and admired by  
the men for the smartness on parade and his fearlessness in action. I lost many good men on that day, 9th  
October but I feel his loss most of all as do his men for he was dear to everyone who knew him". Wesson  
who was 28 years of age was staying with his aunt Mrs. Harris of 1 Mansell Street when called to the  
colours. One brother is serving in France and another in the Navy

**Herald 2nd November 1917**

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**William WESSON** Ordinary Seaman J/40028 H.M.S. "Victory I", Royal Navy

Died: Tuesday, 16th April 1918.

Age 18.

Born 22nd August 1899, Union Workhouse

Cemetery: HASLAR ROYAL NAVAL CEMETERY, Hampshire, United Kingdom.

Grave Reference: E. 31. 12.

#### DEATH OF SEAMAN WILLIAM WESSON

Ordinary Seaman William Wesson of HMS Victory has died at the Naval Hospital Haslar of multiple injuries on April 16th. This announcement just come in from the Admiralty has reference to a brave young lad who was brought up by the guardians and for a time was in the employ of Mr. J. Allcock, baker of Ullenhall. He then decided on the navy where he shaped well and died, like many others at duty's call. One brother was killed fighting some while back and a third now lies seriously wounded in France.

**Herald 19th April 1918**

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**Albert WHATELEY** Private DM2/195375 706th M. T. Coy. Royal Army Service Corps

Died: Friday, 25th December 1919.

Age 22.

Memorial: HAIDAR PASHA MEMORIAL, Istanbul, Turkey.

No 27 Casualty clearing station, Batoun, Russia.

On the 26th ult at No 27 Casualty Clearing Station, Batoun, Russia, Albert youngest son of Mr and Mrs J. Whateley, Greenhill Street, aged 22. Not dead but gone before.

**Herald 9th January 1920.**

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**Joseph Robert WHATELEY** Lance Serjeant 2987 2nd/7th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon.

Died: Wednesday, 19th July 1916. Age 28.

Son of George and Maria Whateley, of Broad Walk, Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: CABARET-ROUGE BRITISH CEMETERY, SOUCHEZ, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Reference: Sp. Mem. 10.

#### REPORTED MISSING

##### LANCE SERGEANT J. R. WHATELEY



This young soldier, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Whateley of Broad Walk was one of the gallant band in the 2nd 7th Royal Warwicks which played such a dashing part in the recent British advance and the officer commanding in writing to the parents says "I deeply regret to have to inform you that your son 2987 Lance Sergeant J. H. Whateley was reported missing. The 2nd 7th Royal Warwickshire Regiment attacked the German line on July 19th. The men were magnificent and got through to the German second line and occupied it but owing to the attack failing on the flanks a number of our men were cut off. We have hopes that many of them are prisoners. This I trust is the case with

your son who was an excellent non-commissioned officer and very popular with the company."

**Herald 4th August 1916**

#### DIED PRISONER OF WAR

##### LANCE SERGEANT J. R. WHATELEY

Mr. G. Whateley of Broad Walk has received official notice that his son Lance Sergeant J. R. Whateley, 2nd 7th Royal Warwicks who was reported missing July 17th has died a prisoner of war. He will be mourned by a large circle of friends who admired his cheery optimistic spirit.

**Herald 1st December 1916**

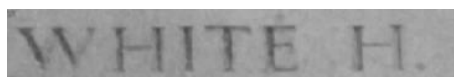
---oo0oo---

**Harry WHITE** Serjeant 10623 6th Bn., Bedfordshire Regiment

Enlisted in Hertford.

Died: Thursday, 16th November 1916. Age 24.

Son of Thomas White, of Almshouses, Stratford-on-Avon. Born in Stratford-on-Avon.



THIEPVAL MEMORIAL, Somme, France. Pier and Face 2 C

### MISSING SERGEANT H. WHITE

Mrs. White of Ely Street has been notified by the Warley Infantry Record Office that the above named soldier was posted as missing after an engagement in France on November 11th. Sergeant White joined the Bedfordshire Regiment nearly two years ago. Towards the end of 1915 he was wounded and brought to Manchester where he remained for six months under medical treatment. On his discharge from hospital he spent a few day at home and then went to Rochester to give musketry instruction. He returned to the front about three months ago.

**Herald 15th December 1916**

### DEATH PRESUMED ACTING SERGEANT HARRY WHITE

Mr. and Mrs. White of Ely Street have been notified by the Warley Infantry Record Office that as no further news has been received of their son who was posted as missing after an engagement in France on November 11th last it has concluded that he is dead. Sergeant White was at one time the manager of the Stratford branch of the Empire Meat Company and subsequently transferred to the Tring branch he joined the Bedfordshire Regiment. About two and a half years ago towards the end of 1915 he was wounded and brought to Manchester where he remained for six months under medical treatment. On his discharge from hospital he spent a few days at home and then went to Rochester to give musketry instruction. He returned to the front nearly a year ago.

**Herald 10th August 1917**

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<b>Hugh Holtom WHYTEHEAD</b> Second Lieutenant 29th Sqdn., Royal Flying Corps and, General List
--

Enlisted in 1914.

Died: Thursday, 12th July 1917. Age 21.

Son of the late Hugh Edward and Alice Maude Whytehead, of The Hermitage, Meyrick Rd., Babbacombe, Devon.



ARRAS FLYING SERVICES MEMORIAL,  
France

Among other Military affairs we have to congratulate Mr Hugh Whytehead on being gazetted as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 11th Warwickshire Regiment. He had volunteered in the ranks of the 5th South Staffs, and learnt his work among them.

**Parish Magazine February 1915**

### KILLED IN ACTION SECOND LIEUTENANT WHYTEHEAD

This gallant young officer who was killed in action in July was educated at St. Ninian's Moffatt at Shrewsbury. He entered Birmingham University in 1913 as a student of oil mining but left at the outbreak of war and joined the 5th North Staffordshire Regiment as a private. On August 17th 1914 he obtained a commission in the 9th North Staffs and served in France some months. He then came home and served as a motor despatch rider. Subsequently he joined the RFC and went out to France as a pilot on 23rd June 1917. His captain reported him missing on 12th July. He went over enemy lines that morning with a patrol of 8 and he and another pilot failed to return. News has just been received through another RFC prisoner in Germany that he was brought down and killed on that day.

**Herald 26th October 1917**

News reached Mrs. Whytehead, after long weeks of anxiety and hope, that 2nd Lieut. Hugh Whytehead, Royal Flying Corps. was killed, and so that sad word "missing" became the sadder one "Killed in action". Of them with all others who has "passed over" we would say, "May they rest in peace" and may God who called them to this sacrifice comfort those who lent them to him for England.

**Parish Magazine November 1917**

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<b>John Ernest WILKINS</b> Private 41460 9th Bn., South Staffordshire Regiment
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Died: Friday, 6th June 1919.

Age 42.

Husband of Sarah Ellen Wilkins, of 60, West St., Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: STRATFORD-ON-AVON CEMETERY.

Grave Reference: 2188.



### DIED

On the 6th inst, at 1st London General Hospital, Private J. E Wilkins (41460) of West Street, Stratford-on-Avon.

**Herald 13th June 1919**

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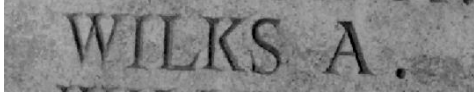
**Albert WILKS** Private 33149 5th Bn., Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon.

Died: Thursday, 4th April 1918. Age 35

Formerly 19528 Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

Born in Bilston Staffs. Son of Henry and Abigail, of 20 House Row, Lower Bradley, Bilston.



POZIERES MEMORIAL, Somme, France. Panel 50

*Albert Wilks appears on the War Memorial, nothing else has as yet been found to connect him to Stratford upon Avon.*

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**Albert WILLEY** Sapper 42337 71st Field Coy., Royal Engineers

Enlisted in Birmingham.

Died: Thursday, 9th December 1915. Age 40.

Husband of Emily of 21, Clopton Road, Stratford-on-Avon.

Born and resided in Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: GREEN HILL CEMETERY, Gallipoli, Turkey.

Grave Reference: I. G. 6.



### SAPPER ALBERT WILLEY

Sapper Albert Willey of 21, Clopton Road who went out to Gallipoli with the Royal Engineers was wounded and returned to his company in November, but now news has been received to the effect that he was killed in action on December 9th. Willey was well known in Stratford and his death will be generally regretted.

**Herald 21st January 1916**

### IN MEMORIAM

In ever-loving memory of my dear husband, Sapper Albert Willey, Royal Engineers, who was killed in action at Suvla Bay,

Gallipoli, December 9th 1915. Loving remembered by his wife and children.

**Herald December 1916**

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**Wilfred Henry WILMOT** Flight Sub-Lieutenant No. 10 Sqdn., Royal Naval Air Service

Died: Sunday, 3rd February 1918.

Age 19.

Son of Mr. W. H. and Ada K. Wilmot, of Warley Croft, Tiddington Rd., Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: DADIZEELE NEW BRITISH CEMETERY, Moorslede, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

Grave Reference: II. B. 19

### PRESUMED KILLED IN ACTION

#### FLIGHT SUB-LIEUTENANT WILFRED H. WILMOT

Flight Sub-Lieutenant Wilfred H. Wilmot RNAS who as reported missing on February 3rd is now officially presumed to have been killed in action on that date at the age of 20. He was the youngest son of Mr. W. H. Wilmot of Belmont, Maidenhead Road, Stratford upon Avon and was educated at Wellington College, Salop, where he excelled as an athlete. He distinguished himself as an athlete and held the sports championship cup. At 18 years of age he received a commission in the Royal Naval Air Service. The commander of his squadron in a letter to his father says "your son was a splendid pilot and a capable officer. I will find it very difficult to fill his place with anyone his equal."

**Herald 6th December 1918**

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<b>Frank WILLOUGHBY</b>	Gunner 212791 "D" Bty. 74th Bde., Royal Field Artillery
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Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, March 1917.

Died: Sunday, 2nd June 1918. Age 32.

Husband of Ada Willoughby, of 41, Bath St., Leamington Spa.

Cemetery: BIENVILLERS MILITARY CEMETERY, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Reference: XIX. C. II.

#### **GUNNER F. WILLOUGHBY**

Gunner Frank Willoughby of the Royal Field Artillery has "gone west", being killed instantaneously with two other signallers on the 2nd inst., and many in Stratford will mourn his loss for he was a popular man with good business capabilities and naturally gained the respect of those with whom he was brought into contact. He was for a time the manager at Fletcher's meat establishment in this town and joined up in March 1917 going to France in August of the same year. Before that, however, he performed useful war work giving his spare time willingly in the harvesting operations in 1916.

To use the words of his sergeant, Willoughby was "one of the most happy, contented and reliable of men" and much sympathy will go out to the widow. He was 32 years of age when he received the call to the higher tribunal.

**Herald 14th June 1918**

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<b>Harry Bernard WILSON</b>	Lieutenant 36th Training Depot Station, Royal Air Force
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Died: Thursday, 15th August 1918.

Age 27.

Third son of Mrs. Ada R. Wilson, of Harpford, Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: STRATFORD-ON-AVON CEMETERY, Warwickshire, United Kingdom.

Grave Reference: 362.

#### **PROMOTION**

Mr H. B. Wilson, third son of the Reverend H and Mrs Wilson of Rowley Crescent, who has been serving in the ranks of the Royal Fusiliers, has obtained a commission in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

**Herald 29th September 1916**

#### **ACCIDENTALLY KILLED LIEUTENANT**

##### **H. B. WILSON**

On Wednesday of last week Lieutenant H. B. Wilson 15th Royal Warwicks, was flying over Stratford on Avon and dropped a note to his mother; the following day he was testing one of our new machines somewhere in Wiltshire when a mishap occurred and this gallant pilot lost his life. His decease will be



mourned by many in the town for he was a young man of exceeding promise and enthusiasm who gave of his best whatever the call made upon him. When a boy at the Grammar School he displayed marked aptitude at football and cricket; he could always be relied upon never to let his side down and yet was capable of bringing off a daring coup and

changing defeat into victory. When the war broke out he was at Aden with the Eastern Telegraph Company and as soon as he conveniently could he joined up with the Fusiliers as a private, serving eighteen months in France and being wounded on two occasions. Later he obtained a commission in the 15th Royal Warwicks but his great ambition was to join the air force and when the opportunity arose in May of this year he joined the R.A.F. graduating as a pilot and showing much proficiency in the air. The body was brought to Stratford for burial on Monday and en route from the station to the cemetery there were many signs of sympathy with the family. The coffin which bore the inscription "Lieutenant H. B. Wilson 36 T.D.S. died August 15th 1918 aged 27 years" was covered with the Union Jack and four of his brother officers Lieutenant Davis (Royal Warwickshire Regiment) Lieutenant Black (Highland Light Infantry) Lieutenant Stackhouse (Royal Air Force) and Lieutenant Patterson (King's Liverpool Regiment) acted as bearers. The Lieutenant was buried with full military honours, a firing party being in attendance from Budbrooke. A number of beautiful floral tributes were sent by relatives and friends including a handsome wreath from his brother officers.

**Herald 23rd August 1918**

Our readers will wish to offer their sympathy to Mrs Wilson and her family in the loss of her son Harry who was killed while getting ready to take his part in that grand Air Force which is doing so much to win the war.

We buried him on Monday 19th August with full Military Honours, and his body rests with his father's "till that day".

**Parish Magazine September 1918**

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**William WILSON** Private 33022 6th Bn., Oxford. and Bucks Light Infantry

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, May 1916

Died: Friday, 10th August 1917. Age 22.

Third son of Mr. and Mrs. George Wilson of Shottery, Stratford-on-Avon.

Born in Stratford-on-Avon. Resided in Shottery.



TYNE COT MEMORIAL, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 96 to 98

**PRIVATE W. WILSON**

An official notification has been received by Mr. and Mrs. George Wilson of Shottery of the death of Private William Wilson, their third son at the early age of 22. Private Wilson joined the Oxford and Bucks. Light Infantry in May 1916 and three months later went to France. In October he sustained severe wounds in the shoulder and legs and upon recovery was transferred to the labour company of his regiment. The Officer in Command in the company writes "It is with the greatest regret that I have to inform you that your son was killed on August 10th. The whole company was engaged as a working party and we lost four men from a shell which burst nearby. Your son was in high esteem with all whom he came in contact and his cheerfulness and devotion to duty commanded my admiration and respect." Private Wilson was previously reported missing on August 14th. The Reverend H. B. Hargraves CF wrote that it was just possible that he was wounded and got to a dressing station belonging to another division. Hope was expressed that he might be reported to his regiment.

**Herald 7th September 1917**

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**Harry Stanley WING** Gunner 85898 70th Siege Bty., Royal Garrison Artillery

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon.

Died: Monday, 29th April 1918.

Son of W. and Letitia Wing, of 5, Irchester Rd., Rushden, Northants. His brother Bertie also fell.

Born in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.



TYNE COT MEMORIAL, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 6 to 7 and 162

**KILLED IN ACTION GUNNER H. S. WING**

News has come through of the death of Stan Wing, a gunner in the Royal Garrison Artillery, who will be remembered by many in Stratford as the exceedingly popular manager for a number of years of the London Central Meat Stores. He was a fine type of man, and by his character as well as his genial disposition, he set a high standard of an honest purposeful life. This he has given for his King and country. He was killed instantaneously on April 29th at his gun and the messages that have come through to the bereaved mother showed that Gunner Wing had a capital military record, and could be relied on by those in authority over him. The sincere sympathy of all who were acquainted with Gunner Wing will go out to the widowed mother at Rushden, who has now lost two sons in the great struggle.

**Herald 17th May 1918**

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**Alfred Edwin WINSPEAR** Private 57317 3rd Bn., Worcestershire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, February 1917

Died: Friday, 26th April 1918. Age 19.

Eldest son of Dora Ann and the late Ernest Alfred Winspear, of 28 Evesham Road, Stratford-on-Avon.

Born in Woolwich



TYNE COT MEMORIAL, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 75 to 77

**KILLED IN ACTION  
PRIVATE A. E. WINSPEAR**

Notification has been received of the death in action on April 26th of Alfred Edwin (Teddy) Winspear, eldest son of Mrs. Winspear of 28 Evesham Road at the early age of 19. Having served four years in Messrs. Flower & Sons offices, Private Winspear was called to the colours on February 22nd 1917 and was attached to the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars as a signaller. He completed his training in Ireland, qualifying for a first class certificate. On reaching France he was transferred to the Worcesters and had only seen a week's service with them when he was killed. Lieutenant Pertwee of the Oxfordshire Hussars writes to his widowed mother "Your boy was universally liked and he always had a bright smile for everybody. I remember that I asked him to come into the signals because he always seemed so keen and intelligent. I only wish there were more like him." Private Powell the deceased's chum has written a sympathetic letter to his mother in which he tells her that Teddy's death was instantaneous, a bullet passing right through his head.

**Herald 31st May 1918**

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<b>Walter Ernest WOOD</b> Lance Corporal 20908 5th Bn., Royal Berkshire Regiment
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Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon.

Died: Friday, 27th April 1917. Age 34.

Son of Mrs. Elizabeth Wood, of 45, West St., Stratford-on-Avon. Born in Stratford-on-Avon.



ARRAS MEMORIAL, Pas de Calais, France. Bay 7

**LANCE CORPORAL W. E. WOOD WOUNDED**

Lance Corporal W. E. Wood son of Mrs. Wood, of West Street, is in hospital at Strood (Kent), suffering from wounds sustained in action on August 18th. Shortly after the outbreak of war he entered upon work of a national character, through retaining his status as a civilian. He then joined the Royal Berkshire Regiment, and had scarcely crossed the Channel three weeks when he was wounded in the left side.

**Herald 8th September 1916**

**LANCE CORPORAL W. E. WOOD**

The sympathy of many friends will be extended to Mrs. Wood of West Street on the death of her son who fell in action in France on April 24th. Shortly after the outbreak of the war Lance Corporal Wood entered upon work of a national character while retaining his status as a civilian. He then joined the Royal Berkshire Regiment and had scarcely crossed the Channel three weeks when on August 18th 1916 was wounded in the left side.

**Herald 18th May 1917**

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<b>Reginald Joseph WOODWARD</b> Corporal 265948 1st/7th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment
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Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon, 1915.

Died: Friday, 14th July 1916. Age 24.

Son of Frank and Esther Woodward, of Kosy Kot, Evesham Rd., Stratford-on-Avon.



THIEPVAL MEMORIAL, Somme, France.  
Pier and Face 9 A 9 B and 10 B

**CORPORAL R.J. WOODWARD**

Mr. and Mrs. F. Woodward of Bordon View, Evesham Road, have just received from the Territorial Force Record Office, Warwick a notification that their only son was posted as missing after an engagement in France on July 14th. Corporal Woodward, who is 23 years of age, enlisted in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, and crossed the Channel twelve months last March. He renewed acquaintance with several old friends the week before Easter, when he was home on leave.

**Herald 18th August 1916**

**CORPORAL REGINALD J. WOODWARD**

A report has been received from the War Office notifying the death of Corporal Reginald J. Woodward of the 7th Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment which occurred with the British Expeditionary Force in

France on 14th July of last year. Previously this young soldier was reported as missing. Before joining up he was employed with Messrs. Kendal & Sons.

**Herald 13th April 1917**

#### IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of Corporal R.J. (Joe) Woodward, 1/7th Batt Royal Warwickshire Regiment, who fell in action July 14th 1916. Ever in the thoughts of fiancée Lizzie.

**Herald 16th July 1920**

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**Horace Edgar WOOLAND** Bombardier 9113 107th Bty. 23rd Bde., Royal Field Artillery

Died: Friday, 18th August 1916.

Age 22.

Son of Henry James and Elizabeth Wooland, of 446, Park Rd. North, Birkenhead.

Cemetery: PERONNE ROAD CEMETERY, MARICOURT, Somme, France.

Grave Reference: II. D. 27.

*Horace E Wooland appears on the Memorial Screen and Reredos, Holy Trinity Church, and the St James Church Memorial, nothing else has as yet been found to connect him to Stratford upon Avon.*

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**James Alfred WRIGHT** Private 1935 2nd Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon.

Died: Thursday, 7th October 1915. Age 26.

Third son of Mrs. E. Wright, of 53, Birmingham Rd., Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: WIMEREUX COMMUNAL CEMETERY, France.

#### PRIVATE JAMES ALFRED WRIGHT

We regret to record the death of Private James Alfred Wright of the 2nd Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment which occurred at the British General Hospital at Boulogne on October 7th from a gunshot wound in the head. Private Wright was the third son of the late Mr. Benjamin Wright and Mrs. Wright of Birmingham Road and had completed five years service in His Majesty's Forces. At the outbreak of the war he was stationed with the 2nd Warwicks at Malta and left for more strenuous work in France twelve months ago. The deceased private has three brothers serving at the front in the Royal Field Artillery, 3rd Worcesters and 1st Warwicks

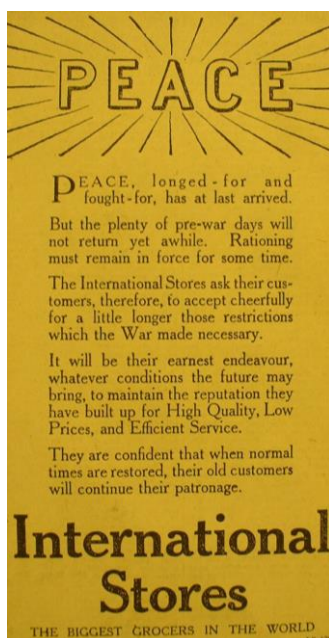
**Herald 15th October 1915**

#### IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of Private J. A. (Jim) Wright, Royal Warwickshire Regiment, who died from wounds received in the battle of Loos October 7th 1915, aged 26. Lovingly remembered by Fanny and Family

**Herald 5th October 1917**

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# THE DAWN OF PEACE

## STRATFORD-ON-AVON'S JOY

The first intimation of the good tidings at Shakespeare's town was a shrieking of train whistles, but just before 11 a.m. the official message was received over the wires, and the townspeople flocked to the Municipal buildings by the hundred. The Mayor (Alderman Flower), accompanied by his deputy (Councillor Winter), Councillor Ballance, the Rev. Canon Melville, the C. Watts and the Rev. T. B. Angold, appeared on the balcony, and, speaking with evident emotion, his Worship announced that the armistice had been signed by the Germans at dawn, that the last shot had been fired, the sword had been sheathed, and the world once more was at peace. Although not unexpected deep emotions were stirred in every heart, and the Mayor invited an expression of gratitude from the upturned faces by the singing of the Doxology, which was fervently rendered. In a very few minutes flags were flying from every point of vantage in the borough, and the majority of the business establishments closed down for the day. A special thanksgiving service was held in the Parish Church in the afternoon, the Mayor and Corporation, escorted by the Grammar School Cadets, the members of the Fire Brigade, and a large number of wounded soldiers, walking in procession to the Church of the Holy Trinity. The ancient Sword of state was again carried by Lieut. R. M. Smith, but on this auspicious occasion it was sheathed, denoting that the country was at peace. The transition from the municipal buildings to the shrine was quite in keeping with the solemn occasion, and hundreds of people anxious to return thanks to Almighty God were unable to obtain admittance, and stood in the porch or avenues leading to the fane. The service was brief, but none the less impressive, and as the beautiful music of the "Marseillaise" floated through the fane and the rich notes of the National Anthem pealed forth from the organ many eyes were dimmed with tears. The Vicar (the Rev. Canon Melville) conducted the service, assisted by the Rev. Dr. Taft and the Rev. F. H. Hodgson, and the Revs. F. C. Watts, T. B. Angold, and A. Hughes also sat in the clergy stalls. The hymn, "All people that on earth do dwell", was sung with intense feeling by the combined choirs and congregation, the Rev. T. B. Angold read part of the well known chapter from Ecclesiasticus, commencing "Let us now praise famous men," and the Vicar from the pulpit, based a short address on Psalm 116, 11th and 12th verses. This is not a moment, he said, for a sermon or for teaching. Our hearts are too full for words. We just want to be allowed to offer to Almighty God as a community our prayers and our thanksgiving for what we feel, for what we are practically unable to put into words and express. He has ordered the ways of man, has so strengthened and guided the arms of the King and his allies that what for four long weary years we have struggled for has been achieved. That is all. After a period of silent thanksgiving, Coleridge Taylor's "To Deum" was sung, prayers were offered, and a memorable service closed with the blessing and the singing of "God save the King".

(Extracts from the Herald 15th November 1918)

TOWN HALL, STRATFORD-ON-AVON.

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**GRAND MILITARY VICTORY BALL**

(Fancy Dress, Uniform and Evening Dress only)

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20th, 1919.**

UNDER THE DISTINGUISHED PATRONAGE OF  
THE MAYOR AND MAYORESS, MISS MARIE CORELLI,  
ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT, LIEUT.-COLONEL A. S. TOOGOOD,  
Commanding Depôt, Warwick, Officers, N.C.O.'s, and Men,  
Royal Air Force Officers, N.C.O.'s, and Men.

The whole of the proceeds will be devoted to the  
TESTIMONIAL FUND TO LANCE-CORPORAL VICKERS, V.C., C. De G.,  
WARWICKSHIRE 1st V.C.

Prizes for best Fancy Dress.  
M.C., MR. F. JUSTINS.

Hon. Sec.: Sergt.-Major BLYTHE (late R.E.), The Gables, 1, Handsworth New-road  
Birmingham.

TICKETS—Double 10s. 6d.; Single 6s.; Soldiers and Sailors 3s.

Tickets now on sale at MORGAN'S LIBRARY only.

## STRATFORD'S THANKSGIVING

### MASS MEETING AT THE THEATRE

The armistice celebrations in Stratford-on-Avon could scarcely be described as hilarious, although a great attempt was made on Saturday to raise the spirits of the residents to a pitch of exuberance by means of torchlight procession. There was quite a good display of bunting, but, if the truth be told, after such a protracted struggle as has been raging in France, Flanders, and other portions of Europe for four years Shakespeare's town has no heart for excessive demonstrations.

It remembers the fallen, those who have made the supreme sacrifice; the maimed and suffering; the widows and orphans; the parents left without well-loved sons. However, on Saturday evening the mass meeting at the Memorial Theatre served as a vent for many to express their feelings, and the stage, circle, and other parts of the Thespian temple were well beflagged. The Mayor (Alderman Flower) presided, supported by the Deputy-Mayor (Councillor Winter), Mr. Ludford Docker, the Rev. Cannon Melville, and the Rev. F. H. Hodgson. The local War Savings Associations, the nurses and staff from the War Hospitals, and other prominent citizens were also provided with seats on the stage, and before the oratory Mr. A. H. Callaway's band enlivened the proceedings with a bright selection of music.

The Mayor, who was heartily received, said there were times, at great periods of sorrow, when their grief had been pent up for so long that the only relief was in a flood of tears. There were times-and he thought this was one of them-after a long period of restraint and anxiety, when the goal was won, that the only relief they could find and feel was by opening their mouths to shout and sing-(applause). The speakers that evening would find their task a difficult one, because they could not put their feelings into words: all they could hope to do was to provide the audience with a certain number of pegs on which they could hang their own enthusiasm. On Monday last, as was most fitting, when they got the great news, their first thought, and their first action, was one of thanksgiving to Almighty God for giving them victory. To-night what they wanted to try and do was to show their gratitude to those who helped in achieving the victory. First he wanted to mention their king, who had set such a splendid example of service, work, and sacrifice, he then wanted Stratford-on-Avon to show what they thought of him by standing up and giving three cheers. This was heartily responded to, and the Mayor said their next thought was for the sailors, whether of the Navy or merchant service; the sailors who by their sleepless vigil had kept the shores of this little island inviolate, and alone made victory possible-(applause). Then their soldiers and airmen-(applause)-who had behaved like true-born Englishmen. Higher praise could not be bestowed. Their women, whether as guardian angels in the hospitals, engaged in munition works, on the land, or in one hundred other ways of helping to take the places of men. There was only one word for them, and it was "Splendid"- (applause).

Councillor Winter said for four years and more they had never had a moment free from anxiety. Sleeping or waking they had been thinking of King and country, of the brave men who were fighting for them. Now their arch enemy, that treacherous and inhuman foe, Germany, had been knocked out, they had the right to rejoice, and they meant to do so-(applause). They had been thinking of the nation generally, but what about little old Stratford?-[A Voice: Good old Warwicks]. Without boasting they could say confidently that Stratford-on-Avon had done its duty. It had a war record of which no one in the town need be ashamed.

They remembered with pride the work done in the hospitals at Stratford-on-Avon for the wounded soldiers-(applause). He was now going to break his rule, and mention the names of the Rev. F. H. And Mrs. Hodgson, who had done such splendid service throughout the war-(applause).

Mr Hodgson recalled the magnificent meeting held at Stratford in the first week of the war, when their old friend, Sir Frank Benson, did so much to stir them up to do their duty. They had continued well, and they had finished well-(hear,-hear). He did not suppose in the lives of any of them their hearts ever thumped harder than they did on Monday when the news was circulated that the armistice had been signed. They had to thank their brave soldiers and sailors, and after quoting Professor Ruskin's estimate of the British fighting man, the speaker said they were also grateful for the grand rally of the sons of the Empire to the Mother-country. The Australians, the Canadians, the New Zealanders, the Indians, had proved themselves magnificent men, and they had consolidated the Empire.

In Belgium, France, Serbia, beautiful cities had been demolished, homes plundered, and people outraged. They must also thank their American brothers- (applause). There could be no doubt whatever but that the entrance of the Americans into the war and their magnificent fighting during the last few months first turned the scale of victory in favour of the Allies. Their coming in gave the finishing touch to that terrible cruel foe, the Germans.

Mr. Ludford Docker said they could not sufficiently thank their wonderful fighting men for the splendid way in which they had gained the victory-(hear, hear). It was difficult, after four years of stress and strain, to realise that they were free from the German menace, which had hung like a nightmare over Europe for twenty years.

They owed a debt to the navy they could never discharge. No less wonderful had been the achievements of their "contemptible" little army. In the early days at Mons they would recall how the seven divisions of British troops held up the overwhelming German hordes, and by a marvellous series of rear-guard actions. The pity of it was that some of those who fought in the retreat from Mons were not able to take part in that extraordinary achievement in which Mons was re-taken on the very day the armistice was signed.

The Rev. F. C. Watts gave a short address, observing that peace had come as an immense relief to everyone except the Kaiser. Even in this country the stay-at-homes had felt a little of the danger, but they would all be in love with the moon after this. In London the other day a woman was softly crying, and when a man gently asked if he could help her her reply was, "I am not in distress. I have lost four sons in this war, and now I know it has not been in vain." Yes, there were brave souls in this England of ours. And also in succession the rev. gentleman touched the chords of gratitude, responsibility, faith, and hope.

*(Extracts from the Herald 22nd November 1918)*

## **Stratford-on-Avon War Memorial Design and Erection**

### **WAR MEMORIAL**

The Committee have now determined the design of the Memorial, which is to take the shape of a Cross of Hornton Stone, to be erected at the top of Bridge Street on the site selected by the Council. It is also proposed to inscribe the names of the Fallen on a panel to be erected in the Town Hall. A perspective view of the Cross in Water Colours by Mr. Quatremaine is on view in the window of 19 Bridge Street. The design of the Panel will be settled when it is known what funds are available for its construction. Subscriptions towards the Memorial are now invited and may be paid to either of the Banks or to the Borough Treasurer, and if wished, may be allocated either to the Cross or the Panel.

**Herald 11th March 1921**

### **THE WAR MEMORIAL**

A serious obstacle to the erection of this memorial has been removed. It was proposed to omit the names of those whose memories were to be perpetuated, and to place them in an obscure position elsewhere. The feeling against this course was so strong that all enthusiasm was stifled, and it is just probable that the erection of the Memorial might have been delayed for months. At Tuesday's meeting of the Council it was determined to place the names of the fallen on the Memorial itself, and now there will be unanimity in the Town on the proposal. It really seemed ludicrous to have a Memorial of this character with the names omitted of the local men who were to be honoured thereby.

**Herald 15th April 1921**

### **THE WAR MEMORIAL**

It has now been definitely decided to place the names of the fallen in relief letters on bronze plates on the base of the Memorial itself. No doubt many people who have withheld their subscriptions pending this decision will now take an early opportunity of subscribing so that the Memorial may be at once completed and paid for before the unveiling ceremony.

**Herald 22nd April 1921**

### **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

#### **WAR MEMORIAL**

SIR,---The Committee are anxious to have a complete and correct list of the fallen with the first Christian name of every man in full. A good many names have been sent to me, but there are still many names which I have not received. May I appeal for those names to be sent in at once, so that the tablets may be put in hand?

---- Yours truly.

ROBERT LUNN

Hon. Sec. To the Committee.

**Herald 20th May 1921**

### **OUR EXPERIENCES**

Sir,

Today I started my canvas for the War Memorial. One of the first visits was to an octogenarian, poor but kindly but who, nevertheless forced her mite upon me in simple gratitude. A few minutes later I called upon

a person whose war service was nil, and whose son was exempted and there, to my great surprise I was not only met with a refusal but a long harangue against the War Memorial in particular and all War Memorials in general. Might I suggest that if there are any more individuals of the same calibre, that they should make their refusal at least courteous. Collectors are doing their work as a labour of love and to be otherwise than civil to them is contemptible.

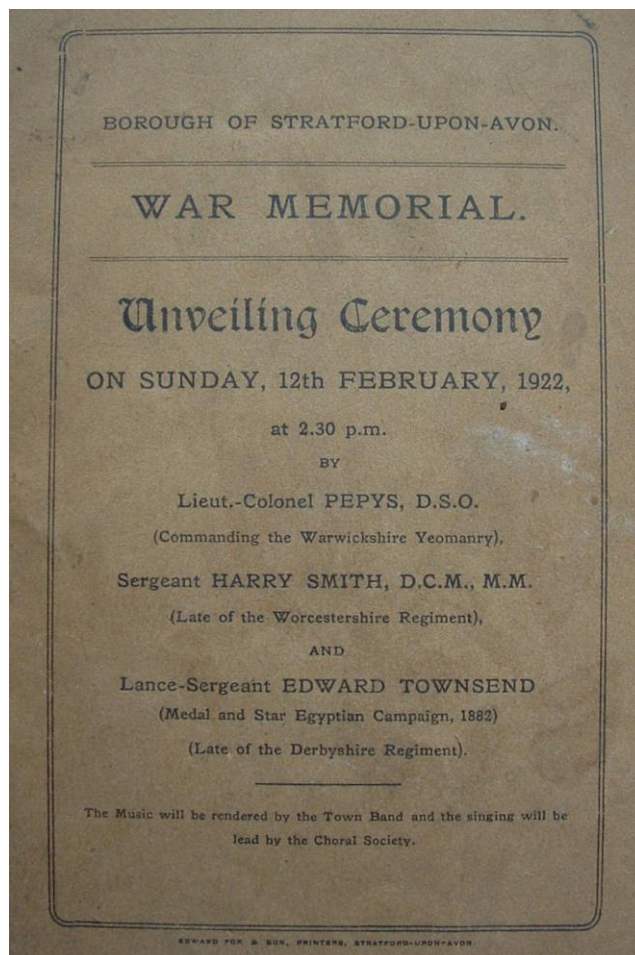
Old Regular.

**Herald 20th May 1921**

### UNVEILING OF WAR MEMORIAL IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY

At last after much delay, the War Memorial erected by the townspeople to commemorate the gallant men who went forth from Stratford and made the Great Sacrifice for King and country has been unveiled. The ceremony was performed on Sunday afternoon by Lieut-Colonel Pepys, D.S.O. (commanding the Warwickshire Yeomanry), Sergeant Harry Smith, D.C.M., MM. (late of the Worcestershire Regiment) and Lance-Sergeant Edward Townsend medal and star, Egyptian campaign, 1882, (late of the Derbyshire Regiment) and although the service was short and simple, it was of an impressive character and an occasion never to be forgotten. A large number assembled to pay homage to "the glorious dead", and during the ceremony there could have been but one thought in the mind of each - the contemplation of those dear ones who are no longer with us but who, in the prime of life passed into the Great Beyond.

The Mayor said that in the name of the town he wished to thank Lieut-Colonel Pepys, Sergeant Smith and Lance-Sergeant Townsend for coming that day to unveil the Memorial to their glorious dead. It was a monument which had been contributed to by all classes - the poor man's penny and the rich man's pound had been mingled to express a common gratitude - for to those whose lives had been offered in sacrifice on their country's altar and to their brave and loyal comrades who had fought and suffered with them, they owed whatever freedom they possessed that day. There were some who had said that the memorial should have been placed in a different position and taken a different form. He hoped that they would all ultimately agree that the Committee had chosen rightly. One thing, at least, could be said and that was that the one desire of the Committee was to find the highest place of honour in the borough and upon it to put the tribute to their gallant townsmen. So it was placed. Following the unveiling ceremony the "Last Post" and the "Reveille" were sounded by trumpeters of the Warwickshire Yeomanry after which Lieut-Colonel Pepys delivered a short address.



The Memorial takes the form of a Cross. It is 23 feet in height and is composed of selected blue Hornton stone from the quarries of Messrs. J. F. Booth and Son at Edge hill. It is a Warwickshire stone extremely hard and durable. The plates are of case bronze with raised letters executed by Messrs. Fraley and Sons Ltd., of Birmingham. There are seven plates with names on and one Dedicatory Plate. The designer is Mr. Guy Pemberton L.R.I.B.A. architect of Stratford on Avon acting in an honorary position and the stonework was executed by Mr. C.F. Taylor of Bridge Foot, Stratford on Avon as an ex-service man. The foundations etc. were carried out by Mr. F. Jones, the borough surveyor. It may be noted that the Memorial has been designed and carried out by Warwickshire men in Warwickshire materials.

The inscription and names on the Memorial are as follows:

"In grateful memory of the brave men of Stratford upon Avon who



laid down their lives in the Great War, 1914-1919”

“Be worthy of their sacrifice”

*Extracts from the Stratford-Upon-Avon Herald 17th February 1922*

### AN IMPRESSION

On Sunday, with becoming simplicity and befitting solemnity, the War Cross in memory of the gallant dead of Stratford upon Avon was unveiled at the Market Cross. Not in some quiet garden where only birds and the drone of insects might break the solemn silence, not in some sequestered square, but at the Market Cross, where the memory may be the better perpetuated and where the footsteps and trafficking of their townspeople may echo forever about their shrine. The service was short, the ceremony scant. It was better so, far better that the unveiling ceremony should be homely and unpretentious than that mothers and wives and children should feel, through a formal if beautiful pageant display of obsequies that their dear ones were now afar off, separated from them by a wide gulf. It is that awe inspiring pomp which has ever been observed at the death of great ones that makes men fear to die.

A great crowd gathered about the Old Market Cross - a crowd, not of one or two classes of mankind only - but representative of every class, of young and old, husbands, wives, widows and children, old men wearing proudly their dead sons' medals, and others, veterans of former campaigns with their own. The Guard of honour, composed of men of the Warwickshire Yeomanry, is drawn up in front of the Cross while on its left are the Mayor and Corporation of the Old Town with the Vicar of the Parish. The hymn “O God our Help” is sung, prayers are offered, and the great memorial hymn “O Valiant Hearts” is chanted reverently, sadly and perhaps a little proudly.

Then comes the moment for some many hardest to bear, as from the Guard of Honour rings out the Last Post, played as the printed form of service tells one, by the trumpeters. Trumpeters! What a fine old word. One would have called them buglers a few years ago, but now, how fitting that they should be trumpeters. Now the Blessing is falling like the rain from heaven over the throng, soothing grief and bidding sorrow give way to a sense of duty - proud duty - “Be worthy of their Sacrifice”.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### UNVEILING CEREMONY

Sir - I should like to express through your columns, my sincere thanks to the ex-service officers and men, and to all connected with the arrangements, for the honour bestowed on me in being elected to assist in the unveiling of our town Memorial, in memory of our glorious and gallant dead who gave their lives in the Great War.

As an old campaigner of 40 years ago it honours not only myself but is also an appreciation of the Army of so long ago, whose ranks, alas, are gradually thinning as time goes on. I am Sir, yours truly,

E. TOWNSEND (Lce-Sgt)

18 Evesham, Road, Feb. 14th 1922

**Herald Friday 17th February 1922**







Unveiling the Stratford-on-Avon War Memorial February 12th 1922 Bridge Street



### **War Memorial Damaged**

An amazing mishap overtook the War Memorial on Tuesday evening, when a five-ton Leyland lorry crashed into the structure, and moved it three feet along its base, displacing the surmounting column. It appears that



the lorry, which was on its way from Southampton to Manchester, laden with five tons of margarine, came up Bridge Street at five minutes to eight, and when within 17 or 18 yards of the cross the driver (P. J. Brown) put out his arm to indicate that he wishes to go into Henley Street, at the same time glancing to the rear. When he looked ahead again he was right on top of the Memorial, and could do nothing to avert the collision. Fortunately, the metal bar, or dowel, in the centre of the shaft was made of mild steel: had it been composed of a harder material it would almost certainly have snapped in two and nearly a ton of masonry would have fallen upon the driver. As it was, the cross and shaft tilted towards the lorry, but the dowel, merely bent with the weight, so that it was able to support the masonry at a precarious angle of 25 degrees. The centre part of the Memorial containing the panelling, though only slightly damaged, was moved an inch along the base, and the base itself, as already mentioned was moved three feet. The explanation of the accident is said to be that the lights of the town, shining on and perhaps magnified by, the rain splashed windscreen more or less blinded the driver, so that he did not see the Cross. In addition to this, Dr. Box had pulled up his car at the junction of the roads to speak to PC Ward who was on duty there and the lorry driver, seeing the rear light of the car tended to keep still further to the right. It seems that he had been through Stratford before, but had forgotten that there was a war memorial in the middle of the street. The lorry itself, which belongs to Marlowe's Transport Company of Kensington, escaped with surprisingly little damage. After three hours' labour, carried out under the

supervision of the Borough Surveyor, the lorry was extricated, and the leaning column supported by ladders, supplemented by the town's fire escape.

**Herald 25th February 1927**

### **WAR MEMORIAL CONTROVERSY (Local and District Notes)**

The displacement of the War Memorial as a result of Tuesday's accident has awakened the old controversy as to the suitability of the present site; and the mishap would appear to have strengthened the original opposition to placing the Cross so near to the cross roads. Those who defend the site admit its liability to accidents such as the one which has occurred but maintain that the danger could be overcome by placing "islands" with short lampposts in the centre, down Bridge Street, so that motorists approaching from the lower end would know that the middle of the road was closed to traffic. The views of the opposition differ. Some would have it moved ten yards below its present position; others think that it should be placed opposite the Red Horse Hotel; while others again would like to see it removed to some quieter place, where relatives of the fallen might go to meditate in peace. The last named proposal certainly has this much to commend it - if the Memorial were put in some less conspicuous position it would be less likely to occur to ignorant and vulgar tourists to clamber on to the ledge above the panelling for the purpose of being photographed! This disgusting sight was witnessed several times last summer. The likelihood however is that the structure will be reinstated in its old position and that the "islands" mentioned above will be placed down the road to prevent a recurrence of Tuesday's mishap.

One thing that certainly should be done while repairs are in progress is to dismantle the panelling and chip off the full stops which have been put between the Christian and surnames of Stratford's warrior dead. This matter entails no great difficulty, and no doubt the firm which undertook the work in the first place would welcome the opportunity to rectify so grievous an error. The bright marks could then be darkened with acid.

**Herald 25th February 1927**

**Letters to the Editor.**

**WAR MEMORIAL**

Sir – It is understood that the Town Council will permanently remove from Bridge Street the above dangerous structure. I hear that the Bancroft Gardens may now shelter the erection. If this is the case one cannot congratulate the Council on choice of fresh site.

This memorial partakes of a sacred nature carrying the gravest and saddest memories. To place it in a public pleasure ground, visited by hordes of trippers and mischievous children with their cart loads of litter and orange peel, is neither nice nor right. To have it anywhere near public dancing and jazz bands is unthinkable.

The most appropriate place of all is in the Hospital garden at the corner of Arden Street. The Hospital governors would doubtless be glad to bestow a small piece of their extensive frontage for the purpose. If placed there the memorial would be central, easily accessible and in peaceful surroundings for the recurrent service. Its transfer would also enable a much needed improvement to take place by rounding off that sharp danger corner.

All ex-servicemen and others I have consulted are in favour of this Hospital garden site, so I hope that the Council will reconsider their decision.

Yours truly,  
BEREAVED

**Herald 4th March 1927**

**THE WAR MEMORIAL** (Local and District Notes)

It is common knowledge that the General Purposes Committee have decided that the War Memorial should be removed to a site in the Bancroft Gardens. The wishes of a considerable number of residents will thus be fulfilled; although it would be interesting to know precisely where the structure is to be placed. Extensive alterations will be made in the gardens when the rebuilding scheme is a little further advanced, and one presumes that the Council have taken this fact into consideration before arriving at a decision. Criticism of the proposal will certainly be forthcoming. If the Memorial is re-erected in the Bancroft Gardens it will be impossible to prevent children clambering upon it. On the other hand, if it is left on its present site it will continue to offer itself to tourists as a suitable vantage point from which to be photographed; quite apart from the traffic danger which has recently been so startlingly exemplified. Neither site is ideal. It is a pity that the Memorial could not be put in the New Place Gardens, where is peace and quietude, and to half a year a wealth of beautiful blossoms which would serve to keep the memories of our warrior dead as fresh and fragrant as themselves. True the gardens do not belong to the town; but does that present any insuperable difficulty?

**Herald 4th March 1927**

**NEW SITE FOR WAR MEMORIAL** (General Purpose Committee)

The Mayor reported that he had been invited by the Sanitary and Highways Committee to call the meeting to discuss the question of repairs to the War Memorial which had been damaged and to decide whether the Memorial should be (1) re-erected on its present site; (2) removed lower down Bridge Street or (3) removed altogether to a safer site in the Bancroft Gardens.

Alderman Bullard moved, Councillor Mitchell seconded and it was resolved with one dissentient, that the Memorial should be re-erected in the Bancroft Gardens on a site proposed by the Sanitary and Highways Committee.

Alderman Smith said he was not at all sure that they had done right in coming to such a hurried decision as to the site of the War Memorial. There was a good deal of opposition in the town, he believed to the Bancroft Gardens site, and a letter appears in the Herald on the subject last week. They must remember that the memorial was put up in what was considered to be a place of honour in the town. There had been one accident at the spot in six years, and if the motor lorry had not struck the memorial it might have knocked down the bank. It was a hundred to one that such a thing would not happen again. To put it back on the original site would cost £50. but to move it anywhere else would mean an expenditure of hundreds – (oh; oh!). It was not a matter that should be decided in a hurry and he should like to hear the views of the townspeople on the subject. It was possible that they would not care about its being re-erected in a public playground.

Councillor Justins said that she should be very loth to have the memorial moved. It was erected in a place of honour, and the accident which caused the damage was a most extraordinary one, and would not happen again once in a hundred years. If it were moved a little lower down the street and a lamp placed in position it would remove any danger of people running into it. The Bancroft was used by holiday-makers and children in the summer months, and it did not seem quite a fitting spot for a war memorial. Some people might express the same opinion about the centre of the town, but a memorial there would not be open to such desecration as it would in the gardens. If it were moved lower down Bridge Street something in the nature of an island would have to be put at the top of that street to preserve the safety of pedestrians and the public. Several roads converged there and, as a motor-driver, she could testify that the memorial was of the greatest possible advantage if people would only observe the rule of the road.

Councillor Rowe said he had listened to some very remarkable reasons during the last few minutes. Alderman Smith said it would cost hundreds of pounds to remove the memorial but he (the speaker) did not know where the alderman got his figures from. They were perfectly absurd. Then Alderman Winter stated that if put in another place it would improve the corner of the road. It was the first time in his life that he had heard of a war memorial being erected for such a purpose. Of course, there were several sites, and, personally he thought that the best spot would be at the entrance to the churchyard. A reference was made in the local paper about putting it in a public playground but he should like to know what name they had for the present position on Mop Day or Friday afternoons. It was certainly not a sacred or a quiet spot. In the Bancroft Gardens the memorial might be protected by seats and flower beds.

**Herald 11th March 1927**

#### **WAR MEMORIAL (Local and District Notes)**

After long discussion it has been definitely decided to remove the War Memorial to the Bancroft Gardens. Many will cavil at the decision though most people must agree that the new site offers advantages over the old. No good purchase will be served by further labouring the matter though one little point which would appear to have passed unnoticed calls for comment. It was stated that the Memorial would be erected on the main path. Apparently the cross is to face Sheep street. What then, will be the position if a new approach road is cut to the theatre from Bridgefoot through the Bancroft? Doubtless the Memorial will be erected to stand athwart such a road but which way will the cross face? As the gardens are at present laid out the best position would be facing Sheep street, but should the new road eventuate there can be no two opinions that the cross ought to face Bridgefoot.

**Herald 11th March 1927**

#### **Letters to the Editor THE WAR MEMORIAL**

Sir – In my opinion the best site for the War Memorial's new home is in the churchyard between the north transept and the porch. There is space for it and for seats on each side where old folk could sit in safety with no fear of motor or cycle.

Yours &c.

AN OLD CHOIR BOY (1863-1868)

**Herald 18th March 1927**



## STRATFORD UPON AVON TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

The committee met in the Bancroft and agreed the exact site upon which the War Memorial should be re-erected.

Messrs. Clifford and Sons' tender of £60 for the repair of the Memorial and its re-erection in its present design upon foundations to be prepared by the Borough Surveyor, was accepted.

Councillor Cox, in moving the minutes for confirmation said a few words of explanation were needed with regard to the erection of the war memorial in the Bancroft grounds. The matter was transferred to this committee by the Sanitary and Highways Committee, and they were instructed to get on with the work. Messrs. Clifford's estimate was £60, but the committee were hoping that the work would be done for £55. The Borough Surveyor, in his sketch, provided for two six inch steps at the base, but that would entail an



extra cost of £80, and the committee turned it down simply on the score of expense. They were not against the Surveyor's design at all, but they thought that the Corporation would not sanction the cost.

Councillor Matthews seconded, but said he was sorry that the committee had not given some lead as to the design prepared by the Borough Surveyor. He

understood that the architect admitted that the appearance of the cross with the steps would be an improvement. He did not think that Stratford had much on which to congratulate itself with regard to its war memorial. It was not a beautiful structure and if an expenditure of £80 would improve it he thought they might have found the money without quibbling about it. Many villages had got nicer war memorials than Stratford on Avon possessed, and personally, his pride was injured when he went into less renowned places than Stratford, and saw beautiful war memorials erected at a great deal of cost, thought and sacrifice on the part of the inhabitants. He would suggest that, if the steps provided a better setting for the memorial the matter should be reconsidered by the committee.

The Mayor said that with regard to the war memorial the Surveyor had prepared a nice plan, which included a certain amount of crazy paving. The total cost would be £300. The two steps only would mean an addition of £60, and in his opinion would greatly improve the appearance of the memorial.

Alderman Smith said that the war memorial was given by public subscription, and they ought not to vote anything from the rates. There would be no trouble in getting the money from the public. He proposed that an appeal be issued.

Councillor Cox said that there was not time for anything of the sort. The bed was almost ready to receive the stone, and they wanted to get on with the work.

Councillor Matthews said personally he was sorry that the memorial was to be placed in the grounds. A more unfortunate choice could not have been made. The new theatre might be a tall imposing building and to put a squat cross against an elaborate erection would make the memorial look ridiculous. It was an unfortunate background. He thought that the cross should be elevated as much as possible and if could be done for £80 the ratepayers would not object.

After the Surveyor's design had been examined by the members, the following minute was accepted : That Messrs. Clifford and Son's tender of £135 for the repair of the memorial and its re-erection be accepted, this to include the additional steps as designed by the Borough Surveyor and approved by the architect.

Alderman Smith : "Do we get much back from the insurance company?"

The Town Clerk : We had better not go into that now.

The minutes, as amended were then passed.

**Herald 15th April 1927**



## ARMISTICE DAY

Armistice Day! What a troop of memories are recalled by this annual celebration! Ex-Servicemen may recapture the glamour of the moment when hostilities ceased and the glowing promise of peaceful days ahead lay before them. But other and sadder memories will quickly replace them. The merciful hand of Time has done much to take away the sting caused by the death of many a valued comrade, but on this Day of Remembrance few ex-Servicemen but will call to mind some of the tragedies of the far flung battlefields of the Great War. The civilian population too, will mourn the loss of husbands, sons, brothers and sweethearts, their sorrow being only assuaged by the proud recollections of the manner of their end. The Armistice celebrations are in no sense a commemoration of the victory of our arms. Rather are they a symbol of the nation's proud and grateful remembrance of the bravery of her sons. In common with every town and village in the country Stratford will hold its own celebration today. This year the scene will be the Bancroft Gardens, where a service will be held around the War Memorial. Here will gather all classes of the community united in a common bond of sympathy.

**Herald 11th November 1927**

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**IN ADDITION TO THE STRATFORD UPON AVON WAR MEMORIAL THERE WERE SEVERAL COMMEMORATIVE TABLETS OR ROLLS OF HONOUR RAISED BY LOCAL EMPLOYERS, SOCIETIES AND CHURCHES.**



### CONGREGATIONAL WAR MEMORIAL TABLET UNVEILING CEREMONY

Like many other places of worship throughout the country the Rother Street Congregational Church now possesses a memorial to those of its members who in the great war, left home and dear ones never to return. It takes the form of a tablet which has been placed on the right hand wall of the church, and is of white Sicilian marble, with fluted columns moulded bases and capitals. In the centre of the pediment above is a laurel wreath carved in relief, while the background is of polished dove marble. It bears the following inscription:

Erected by the members of the church and congregation. The work was designed and executed by Messrs. Taylor and Son of Evesham Road. Alderman Balance then unveiled the memorial (which had been draped with the Union Jack) and read out the names of the fallen.

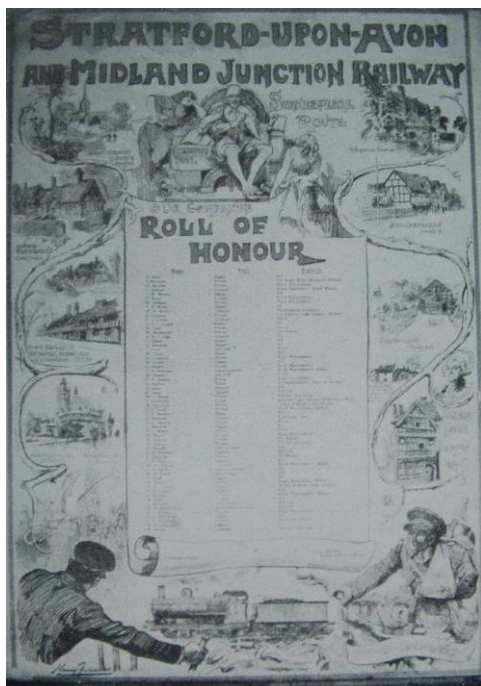
**August 14th 1914. November 11th 1918.**

To the glory of God and in proud and undying memory of those of our number who in the great War made the supreme sacrifice.

2nd Lieut. Gordon Henderson Barber, MC,  
Sergeant Fred Eason.  
Lance Corporal Henry Hall  
Lance Corporal Raymond George Parker  
Private Richard Batchelor  
Private Herbert Climer  
Private Charles William Mucklow  
Private Harold Timms  
Private Frederick William Boyne,  
Rifleman George Cyril Collett.  
Private William Alfred Gazey,  
Gunner William Turvey,  
**Herald 25th April 1920**

Worcestershire Regiment.  
Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry  
Royal Warwickshire Regiment.  
ditto  
ditto  
ditto  
ditto  
ditto  
Worcestershire Regiment  
Royal Irish Rifles.  
Royal Fusiliers.  
Royal Field Artillery.

## STRATFORD UPON AVON AND MIDLAND JUNCTION RAILWAY ROLL OF HONOUR



In order to perpetuate the names of the S.M.J. Railwaymen who fought in the great war 1914-1918 the Company has had prepared a roll of honour, and copies of this were framed. The roll is artistically conceived and executed, the design being carried out by Harry Furniss, and is quite a work of art. It gives the names, rank and regiments of the sixty soldiers who served, in the centre with views of Shakespeare's country, the poet himself and other symbolical figures and a copy was hung at each of their stations and the opportunity was not lost to advertise the Shakespeare Route around the periphery of the memorial! By 1918 the company had released 22% of its employees for the armed forces of which eight did not return.

Who are

Private J. Barnacle, 3rd South Wales Borderers (killed) [A. R. Barnacle ?]

Private R. Coleman, 1st Somerset Light Infantry (killed)

Lance-Corporal F. P. O. Hitchman, Royal Warwicks (killed)

Private A. Johnson, Northamptonshire (died on service)

Private F. C. Lloyd, Royal Warwicks. (killed)

Corporal W. H. Setchell, Royal Warwicks. (killed)

Private W. Stratford, Kings Royal Rifles (killed)

Private E. Trotman, Royal Warwicks. (killed)

**Herald 13th June 1919**

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### BOAT CLUB WAR MEMORIAL AN IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY

In the beautifully kept grounds contiguous to the boathouse - one of the most picturesque buildings on the banks of the local reaches of this classic stream, and resplendent today with the skill of the decorator - a Sundial has been erected to the memory of those men who went forth for God and the right and returned not again. It is a handsome memorial and quite apart from its commemorative character, adds to the dignity and charm of its peaceful setting. The dial is mounted on a four circle column with octagonal base standing on two shallow steps surrounded with old time paving. The stone employed is from the Leckhampton quarries and the inscription and names on the memorial are as follows:

*Stratford on Avon Boat Club War Memorial 1921.*

Their memory shall as a pattern or a measure live - 2 Henry IV, iv, 4 75  
1914-1919

“Let us remember with thankfulness the men who went forth from this place for God and the Right. Those who returned not again this Memorial was erected that their names may be held in remembrance for evermore.”

War. RHA - B.Q.M.S. A. B. Smith, Sergt. W. N. Kinman MM

War. Yeomanry - Corpl. H. W. Cowley

Royal Glos. Hussars Yeo.- Lieut. H. P. Ellis MC

K.E.H. - Tpr. H. C. Brown

R.G.A. - Gun. H. S. Wing New Zealand - Pte. L.C. Morgan

Royal Warwickshire Regt - Sergt. E. B. Berry, Sergt. J. R. Whateley, L/Cpl. F. P. Hitchman.

Royal Welsh Fusiliers - Lieut. C Col. O. S. Flower

Royal Fusiliers - Pte. R. Barton

R.A.S.C. - Driver A. Whateley

Norfolk Regt. - Pte. W. H. Hands

Sherwood Foresters - L/Cpl. J. W. Rose

R.F.A. - Major Fred Butcher

R.E. - Lieut. P. S. Thompson M.C.

Canada - Corpl. J.D. Lambert, Pte. G. Ball

A bronze figure of an oarsman kneeling, his right hand supporting an oar (the gnomon) and his left holding a wreath of laurel, surmounts the dial.

The memorial was unveiled and dedicated on Sunday evening, an impressive service being conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. Canon Melville.

Having unveiled the memorial and dedicated it to the members of the Club who died on active service in the Great War, the President (the Rev. Francis H. Hodgson) gave a short address. "We meet together this beautiful summer evening" he said "by the banks of the peaceful Avon with mingled feelings of pride and sorrow. We are proud of the brave Stratford men who were members of the Club and gave their lives for their country in the Great War; but our hearts are also full of sorrow for their loss, that we shall see them no more in this life." The President pointed out that the Stratford on Avon Boat Club had every reason to be proud of its record in the Great War. When hostilities commenced there were 92 members including ladies and honorary subscribers. During the war 61 members joined the forces and of these 19 returned not again. It was possible that other names might yet be added to this roll of honour. It had been said that England won the war because we were a nation of sportsmen, the definition of a sportsman being one who knew how to play the game; who thought, whatever the nature of the sport might be - rowing, cricket, football, polo or any other game needing skill or courage - who thought not of himself but of others. Therefore, it was not surprising to find that some of the very best of the local oarsmen perished in the cruel war - men like A. B. Smith, captain for several years and a painstaking coach to whom the Club owed much of its success: L.C. Morgan and P. S. Thompson who stroked in turn to victory on several occasions the senior fours; E. B. Berry, late secretary of the Club, who gave up the post to join the Army in 1911, and who rowed in the winning crew that year, as did W. H. Hands, a very hard-working oar; H. W. Cowley and F. P. Hitchman who were successful coxswains of the best fours. As the son of the first President of the Boat Club - who was as they all knew, a very eminent colonist, one of the makers of Queensland, Mr. Hodgson said he was glad to think that the Club had its representatives today in all parts of our great Empire. Subscriptions had been received from old members resident in the Australian colonies, in British Columbia, in Egypt and in Singapore and it would be remembered that L.C. Morgan and P. S. Thompson came each respectively from New Zealand and Western Australia to fight for the old country and were amongst those who lost their lives.

At the close of the service the club flag which had floated at half-mast was flown at the full.

The masonry of the memorial it should be added, was the skilled work of Mr. Carl Taylor of Bridgefoot and the bronze figure was specially cast by Messrs. W. H. Fraley & Sons Ltd., of Birmingham.

**Herald 27th May 1921**



## UNVEILING OF SCOUTS' MEMORIAL

On Saturday last, an important function took place at the Scouts' Hall in Rother Street when Colonel H. Davies came down to unveil a Memorial Roll of Honour of old Scouts, which had been kindly presented by Mr. E. P. Gem, and also to review the troops.

After a brief review, Mr. Gem read the following record of Scouts called in "higher service":

- A.H. Barrett - joined the Black Watch as private. Gained a commission and was posted to the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. Killed while leading his men into action at Mametz Wood.
- A. Tyler - joined the Royal Navy and was immediately made petty officer owing to his knowledge of signalling. Was transferred to H.M. submarines and was killed somewhere in the North Sea.
- G. Sheasby - joined as private in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. Saw much service in France and gained D.C.M. for bravery under fire. Was killed in action while in France.
- G. Beasley - joined the Royal Warwickshires and after his Company had come out of action was reported as missing. Nothing further having been heard was posted by War Office as missing, presumed killed.
- R. Pelling - joined Royal Warwickshire Regiment. Was made drummer. Died of wounds received in action.
- H. Berry - joined army soon after outbreak of war and died through illness contracted while on service.
- F. Boyne - enlisted in the Royal Warwicks, and was killed in action October 1918.
- W. Wesson - enlisted in the Royal Navy and was killed on his ship when in action.
- E. Collett - joined the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. Saw much fighting and was ultimately killed in action.
- T. Sheasby - killed in action.

Colonel Davies then unveiled the Memorial which proved to be a picture surmounted in a handsome frame of a British soldier guarding the Union Jack, underneath being the list of those scouts who had, or were still serving in H.M. Forces. A black cross was placed opposite each man who had been "called to higher service". After the salute the reveille was sounded on the bugle.

The National Anthem closed the proceedings.

**Herald 31st January 1919**

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## KING EDWARD VI SCHOOL STRATFORD-ON-AVON WAR MEMORIAL LIBRARY AND TABLET

The War Memorial Library was formally opened on Saturday afternoon by Lieut. General Sir H. R. Walker, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., and the impressive ceremony will linger long with the parents, the friends of the school and the pupils who had assembled for the occasion.

The north window contains stained glass panels representing Henry V, praying the night before the battle of Agincourt. The window has been put in by Mr. and Mrs. Howard Jennings in memory of their two sons 2nd Lieut. H. A. Jennings of the 3rd Worcesters, and Lance-Corporal H.H. Jennings, Cameron Highlanders.

The headmaster then read the thirty one names of the former scholars who made the great sacrifice, the names being recorded on a tablet in the library as follows: - George Ball, Gordon Henderson Barber, Adrian Silverton Hamilton Wilson Barrett, John Albert Berry, Arnold Grayson Bloomer, William John Beard, Herbert Cavis Brown, Cecil Clive Bryan, Albert Gordon Burt, Frank Eliot Burt, Fred Butcher, Frank Byrd, Reginald Charles Chapple, Edward Rupert Clarke, Geoffrey Boles Donaldson, Bertie Ellis, Percy Watkiss Fisher, Raymond Wadhams Fisher, Cyril Hoskins, Victor William Hyatt, Henry Arthur Jennings, Howard Herbert Jennings, John Dunlop Lambert, Alan Moray-Brown, John Harold Savage, Alfred Bennett Smith, Reginald Alexander Warneford, Albert Whateley, John Alwynne Wilkes, Henry Bernard Wilson and James Harbidge Yelf.

**Herald 18th May 1923**

**IN GRATEFUL MEMORY OF THE OLD BOYS OF KING EDWARDS SCHOOL  
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON WHO LAID DOWN THEIR LIVES IN THE SERVICE  
OF THEIR COUNTRY IN THE GREAT WAR 1914-1919**

G. BALL  
G. H. BARBER MC  
A. S. H. W. BARRETT  
J. A. BERRY  
A. G. BLOOMER  
W. J. BOARD  
H. CAVIS BROWN  
C. C. BRYAN DSO  
A. G. BURT  
F. E. BURT  
F. BUTCHER  
F. BYRD  
R. C. CHAPPLE  
E. R. CLARKE  
G. B. DONALDSON

B. ELLIS  
P. W. FISHER DCM  
R. W. FISHER  
C. HOSKINS  
V. W. HYATT  
H. H. JENNINGS  
J. D. LAMBERT  
A. MORAY-BROWN  
J. H. SAVAGE  
A. B. SMITH  
R. A. J. WARNFORD VC  
A. WHATELEY  
J. A. WILKES  
H. B. WILSON

J. H. YELF

WHO DIES, IF ENGLAND LIVE

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**THE WORKING MEN'S CLUB  
UNVEILING OF WAR MEMORIAL**

O valiant hearts, who to your glory came  
Through the dust of conflict and through battle flame;  
Tranquil you lie your knightly virtue proved  
Your memory hallowed in the land you loved.

This was the first verse of "the Supreme Sacrifice" which was joined in with such reverence and fervour at the ceremony at the Working Men's Club on Sunday evening, when the War Memorial was unveiled and a more appropriate hymn could not have been chosen. There was a crowded congregation which included a large representation of the relatives of those dear ones who gave their lives so valiantly for their King and their country, and the service was simply but impressively conducted.

In unveiling the memorial, Mr. E. P. Gem said "In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost we place here and dedicate this tablet to the honoured memory of our brothers of this Club who gave their lives for us in the Great War." Continuing, he said that those names, so familiar to them who were members of that Club, were true and loyal and when the hour of duty called they were at their post to lay down their lives, if required, in defence of their King and country. Might "we" prove "ourselves" worthy of their sacrifice. The Mayor said they were met there that night to dedicate that memorial to their brothers who gave their lives for their country in the Great War. He referred to the fact that many of them were men he had known from boyhood, and had met in class and other places. He felt that night that he was not able to say as much as he would like to. Reminded as they were of their great sufferings and sacrifice and victory it seemed to him a time for silence rather than speech. It was right, he would allow, that the Mayor, as representing the whole of the burgesses, should be there to pay, not a debt - that could never be repaid - but a tribute.

There were a few who asked "Was it worthwhile - all this suffering, all this pouring out of life and treasure, all that we have gone through in the past and all that, because of it, we shall have to endure in the future." If they could have foreseen in August 1914, all that they could see today, if those heroes whose names were on that roll could have known all that was to happen them would "we" and would they have chosen the thorny path that they had taken? Would the choice have been, as it was for the bloom of sacrifice and the light of duty or the blight of self alone, and the darkness of a dishonoured word. "Friends", continued the Mayor, "I know what I believe the great majority of this beloved land would have chosen - I am sure I know what would have been the choice of those whose memories we have met here to honour tonight. If we could have heard the last words of these our brothers as they embarked on that great and unknown sea that rolls round the whole world I think they would have been similar to those of Nurse Cavell in that prison cell at Brussels. "I am glad to die for my country". We mourn them, we miss them, we thank God for them, we

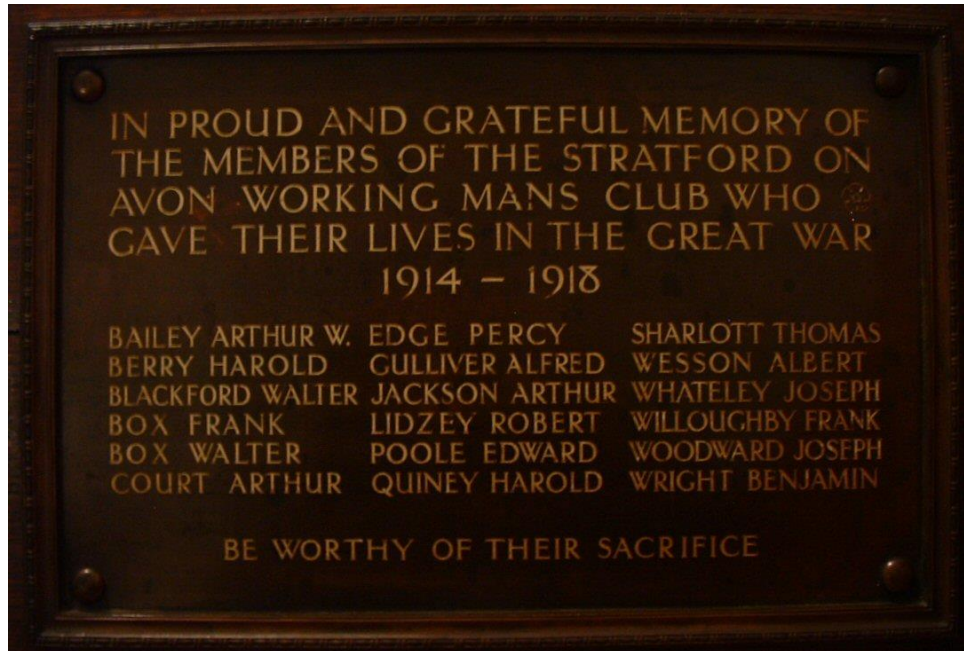


pray that we may be as faithful to our duty as they were faithful to theirs, even unto death. Their bodies lie in the corners of those foreign lands which are forever England but their souls go marching on."

The Memorial was executed by Messrs. F. Baker & Son of Birmingham. It is placed in the "Gem" Room and is a bronze tablet surmounted on oak, on which is inscribed:

"In proud and grateful memory of the members of the Stratford on Avon Working Men's Club who gave their lives in the Great War 1914-19, Bailey Arthur W., Berry Harold, Blackford Walter, Box Frank, Box Walter, Court Arthur, Edge Percy, Gulliver Alfred, Jackson Alfred, Lidzey Robert, Poole Edward, Quiney Harold, Sharlott Thomas, Wesson Albert, Whateley Joseph, Willoughby Frank, Woodward Joseph, Wright Benjamin. Be worthy of their sacrifice."

**Herald 18th November 1921**



#### HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL SCREEN AND REREDOS

Dedication of Memorial Screen and Reredos, 30th April 1920

It was singularly fitting that the dedication of the Memorial Screen and Reredos should take place on Shakespeare Sunday, a day on which honour is paid to our poet, for he, surely, has done more than any other writer to inspire in his countryman the spirit of patriotism, and in none was this spirit more manifest during the dark days of war than in Shakespeare's own townsmen. Many, as the list inscribed on the Reredos and also given below testifies gallantly gave their lives for "God, King, and Country.

**R.H.A. Warwicks,-** Q.M.S. A. B. Smith, Sergt. W. N. Kinman, M.M. and Clasp, Bombr. S. A. Howkins, Gnr. A. W. Bailey, Gnr. A. T. Goodman, and Driver, W. A. Priest.

**Warwickshire Yeomanry,-** Sergt. R. W. Waters, Corpl. H. W. Cowley, L.-Cpls. R. Lidzey, G. H. Russell, A. J. Jackson, and Trpr. H. Berry.

**R. Warwickshire Regt. -** Lieuts. J. W. W. Hudson, H. B. Wilson, and H. Jennings, 2nd. LT. P. H. Batchelor, Sergts. R. F. Noakes, J. T. Webb, E. B. Berry, J. R. Whateley, Corpls. F. Chivers, M.M., E. C. Cusack, R. J. Woodward, L.-Cpls. F. P. Hitchman, T. Parsons, W. H. Coleman, W. H. Setchell, J. A. Newman, W. Wheeler, F. W. Fincher, R. G. Parker, Privates. G. Bearley, F. Bridges, F. Box, F. Byrd, A. E. Hancox, P. Nicholls, A. G. Payne, T. C. Sharlotte, F. H. South, C. Stanley, E. E. Trotman, W. Walker, F. Russell, W. Howkins, E. M. Stollery, C. T. Ridgewell, H. Beckett, J. W. Taplin, S. A. Edwards, C. E. Berry, D. Birch, T. R. Sheasby, W. Maynard, A. L. Court, A. Harris, A. E. Day, G. H. Bridges, A. Gulliver, C. Kemp, D. Burrows, F. W. Matthews, C. W. Mucklow, F. J. Drinkwater, E. Southam, A. E. Burton, H. Climer, J. H. Haynes, H. J. Harborne, A. J. Ward, W. Blackford, H. Timms, A. W. Beesley, F. Ryman, L. Sheridan, P. G. Handy, J. H. Conway, H. E. Collins, J. A. Wright, A. Bridges, A. L. Unitt, A. Fletcher, T. H. Davis, J. Peplow, R. Batchelor, C. Collins, H. Smith, W. F. Faulkner, A. H. Collett, C. E. Collett, G. Knight, J. Brown, E. Harris, and Drmr. W. A. Pelling.

**Royal Navy.** - Lieuts. C. G. Denning, E. Baker, W. Wesson, W. J. Lawrence, and J. J. Smith. **R.N.A.S.**-Lieut. W. H. Wilmot. **Marine L.I.** - Private G. Salmon. **R.H.A.** - Lieut. E. L. Talbot. **Gloucs. Yeomanry.** Tpr. H. Viveash. **Leics. Yeomanry.** - Sergt. J. A. Berry. **Oxford. Yeomanry.**- Pte. A. E. Winspear. **K.E.H.** - Tpr. H. C. Brown. **Coldstream Guards.** - Sergt.- C. Johnson, Cpl. G. Walker, and Pte. A. E. Bradshaw. **R.F.A.** - Majors. F. Butcher, and G. Clarken, Bombr. H. E. Wooland, Gnrs. F. Willoughby and T. Gilbert. **R.G.A.** - Gnrs. A. J. Bearley, H. Reason, H. S. Wing, and Driver F. Harris. **R. E.** - Major. C. C. Bryan, D.S.O., Lieuts. P. S. Thompson, M.C., and E. H. S. Smith, L.-Cpl. J. T. Mound, Sprs. T. Hornsey, and A. Willey. **R.A.F.** - Lieut. D. F. C. Reid, 2nd Lt. H. H. Whytehead, Sergt. S. H. Quicke. **Scots Guards.** - F. H. Lines. **R. W. Surrey Regt.** - Pts. R. M. Chisholm and W. K. Garner. **K.O.R. Lancs. Regt.** -Sergt. W. Mason, Corporal F. C. Allcock, Pte. S. Solomon. **Northumb. Fusrs.** - Pte W. Gardner. **R. Fusiliers.** - Corpl. T. Pittaway, Privates. V. W. Hyatt, and W. A. Gazey. **K. L'pool. Regt.** - Pte W. B. Goode. **Norfolk Regt.** - Privates. W. H. Hands and B. D. Walton. **Lincs. Regt.** - Lieut. A. G. Bloomer, and Pte. G. F. Evetts. **Devon's Regt.** - 2nd Lt. J. Gibson. **Somerset L.I.** - Q.M.S. H. G. Symington, M.M., Privates. R. Coleman, C. J. Ridgewell, and P. D. Nicholls. **Beds. Regt.** - Sergt. H. White, and Pte. W. G. Hancox. **Cheshire Regt.** - Privates A. W. T. Hine and G. H. Heritage. **R. Welsh Fusrs.** - Lt. Col. O. S. Flower, 2nd Lt. A. S. H. Barrett, L. Cpl. A. G. Allcock, Privates. G. R. Sheasby, D.C.M., J. Keeley, H. C. Quiney, and R. A. Taylor. **S. Wales Bordrs.** - Sergt. J. H. Savage and Pte. A. R. Barnacle. **R. Innisk Fusrs.** - Corpl. J. Berry. **Gloucs. Regt.** - Pte. A. E. Wesson. **Wors. Regt.** - 2nd Lt. G. H. Barber, M.C., Sergt. A. Wesson, L-Cpl. R. A. B. Mullis, Privates. H. W. Bennett, A. E. Gulliver, L. Gillett, E. T. Davis and F. T. Paddock. **E. Surrey. Regt.** - Corpl. D. Field. **D. of Cornw. L.I.** - Pte. W. R. Baker. **Hants. Regt.** - Pte. P. R. Smith. **S. Staffs. Regt.** - Pte. J. E. Wilkins. **Dorsets Regt.** - Pte. E. J. G. Poole. **S. Lancs. Regt.** - Pte. T. Brooks. **Oxfrd. and Bucks. L.I.** - Sergt. F. Eason, Privates W. Wilson and A. M. Belcher. **Notts and Derby Regt.** - L. Cpl. J. W. Rose. **L. N. Lancs. Regt.** - Major. A. J. Carter, D.S.O. **Berks. Regt.** - Corpls. C. Callaway and W. E. Wood, Privates. F. Taylor and H. E. Nicholls. **Middx. Regt.** - Sigr. F. E. Gibbs, M.M. **K.R.R.** - F. C. Norbury, Sergt. R. C. Kemp, L.Cpl. T. Baker, Privates H. E. Beesley, H. Green and L. Beckett. **Wilts. Regt.** -L.Cpl. T. H. Hewins and Pte. A. Jackson. **N. Staffs. Regt.** - Pte. W. Redding. **Rifle. Brigade.** - 2nd. Lt. P. Powell. **London Regt.** - Corpl. W. Box, Rflm. E. Gillett and F. Amphlett and Pte. C. J. Howe. **London Scottish.** - Pte. H. H. Jennings. **L'pool Scottish.** - Lieut. P. D. Kendall. **R.A.M.C.** - Privates H. Butcher, T. R. Archer and R. W. Hodgkins. **R.A.S.C.** - L.Cpl. W. Megainey and Farrier H. Handy. **Tank Corps.** - Captain. W. H. Viveash. **M.G.C.** - Privates E. Chandler and P. V. Edge. **Gurkha Rifles.** - Captains T. C. Burke, A. K. Park, C. M. Mullaly and F. H. T. Mullaly. **Canada.** - Lieut. A. E. Evans, Col. Sergt. F. Conway, Sergt. H. J. Edmunds, Corpl. J. D Lambert, Privates F. Cobb, G. Ball, A. Eaves and S. C. L. Moore. **Australia.** - Private S. D. Cox. **New Zealand.** - Privates W. Singleton, L. C. Morgan, E. W. Hunt and C. W. Hatten.

The service was a simple, yet impressive one in reverent and grateful remembrance of the dear and honoured dead.

**Herald 30th April 1920**

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#### **P.T.E. (Pleasant Tuesday Evening) MEMORIAL SERVICE**

A service in memory of relatives of P.T.E. members who have made the supreme sacrifice was held in the Congregational Church on Monday evening last.

Very fittingly the service was not one of mourning, for thus should we not rightly honour those who have given their all in the cause of righteousness. But rather was it one in proud remembrance of loved ones and of trust in an all-wise Father.

The Chairman said they were holding their service that night in memorial of the relatives of members of the P.T.E. Society who had fallen in that great war. "Those brave men responded to their country's call to fight in defence of the weak against the strong and to save their land from the horrors of invasion by a cruel and barbarous foe." They honoured them that night by that service. The spirit with which they left those shores could be described best, he thought, by some words which were found in a front line trench in France, within pistol shot of the enemy and they were these "My body to the earth, my soul to God, my heart to France." And in the midst of their grief that night - and they did not want to strike a mournful note, they did not want to be downcast on that occasion - those of them who had lost husbands, had lost brothers, had lost sons, they were proud because those who were dearest to them had made the supreme sacrifice in that great cause. "Some of us" he said "have been privileged to shed a little blood for our country, but these we envy them, they have given their all, they have given their lives to save their wives and children."

The Chairman then read the names of those relatives of P.T.E. members who have made the great sacrifice, the congregation standing. The list was as follows:- William Gardner, Harold Berry, James Berry, William Francis Summerford, William Henry Setchell, Ernest Chandler, Frank Whitehouse, Percival Rainbow Smith, James William Taplin, Harry Hall, Fred Eason, Frederick William Haydon, Walter Fred Faulkner, William Maynard, Alfred Maynard, Gordon Henderson Barber, William Bailey, Harold Coleman, Reginald Coleman, Raymond George Parker, Charles William Mucklow, Bernard David Walton, Albert Guise, Frederick Russell, George Knight, Harold Quiney, George Bearley, Richard Batchelor and Harold Timms.

**Herald 6th December 1918**

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#### **RE-OPENING OF BAPTIST CHURCH: UNVEILING OF WAR MEMORIAL**

Sunday last was the occasion of the re-opening of the Baptist Church after undergoing entire renovation and redecoration and also, at the evening service of the unveiling of a War Memorial "in grateful memory of those associated with this congregation and school who gave their lives for King and Country in the Great War 1914- 1918". In spite of the inclement weather there was a large congregation, hardly a seat being vacant. The choir were heard to advantage in the anthems "Nearer my God to Thee", Miss Carvel rendering the solo in an effective manner, and "Hear us, O Lord" while, previous to the unveiling ceremony Miss Holtham sang most reverently and with expression "O rest in the Lord."

The Memorial Tablet which has been designed and carried out in oak, bears the names of seventeen men connected with the school and congregation who lost their lives. It contains the following inscription:- "To the Glory of God. In grateful memory of those associated with this congregation and school who gave their lives for King and Country in the Great War 1914- 1918". Underneath this are inscribed these names: Second Lieut. Percy Batchelor, Sergts. Harry. J. Edmunds, Richard Kemp, Rowland Waters, James T. Webb, Bombr. Thomas Gilbert, Gun. Alfred J. Bearley, Driver William A. Priest, L-Cpls. Harold Coleman and Robert Lidzy, Pts. William Bennett, David Burrows, Reg. Coleman, George Salmon, Fredk. Stockford, Bernard D. Walton and William Webb.

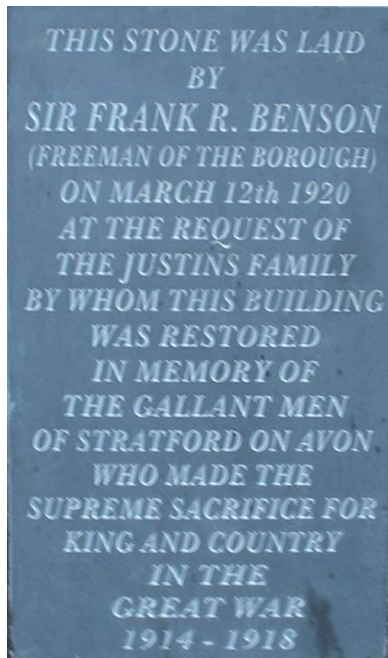
The work in connection with the tablet was carried out under the supervision of Sergt. Major Percy Kennard who served in the late war and who is a member of the Church.

**Herald July 30th 1920**

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## THE SHAKESPEARE HOTEL Memorial to the Fallen

The restoration of the frontage of the Shakespeare Hotel upon which considerable progress has lately been made, will serve to commemorate not only the association of the Justins family with that world renowned hostelry but the gallant men from this little town who sacrificed their lives in the great war. On Friday afternoon a few friends were invited to meet at the hotel and to witness a ceremony unique in character and charming in its simplicity. Miss Justins, on behalf of her brothers and sisters said that it had always been the intention of the family to restore the modern part of the frontage of that fourteenth century building and in 1918 they came to the conclusion that they could do it with no better object than as a tribute to the memory of those gallant townsmen who had made the supreme sacrifice for King and country in the great war.

### “Lost” war memorial to be re-dedicated

STRATFORD men who lost their lives in the First World War are to be remembered again when a war memorial lost for 32 years is to be re-dedicated on Saturday.

The memorial was taken down when St James’ Church, in Guild Street, closed in 1968. It languished under a stage in the parish hall until it was rediscovered by Gordon Rae of the Western Front Association. It will be unveiled in its new location in Stratford Cemetery Chapel by the Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire, Martin Dunne.

**Herald 10th August 2000**



## Addendum WW1 Plaque

On the 27th October 2007 a dedication service was held and a plaque with twelve names was added to the World War 1 Memorial

The service was conducted by the local clergy with three cadet units reading out the names of the men and then placing a simple poppy cross in the rose garden.

Local British Legion branches paraded their standards forming a guard of honour. While the *Last Post* and *Reveille* and a two minutes silence was observed.



**William ALLCOCK** Private 105370 Machine Gun Corps (Cav)

Died: Thursday 20th November 1919

Age 44.

Husband of Emily Allcock, of 17, Great William Street, Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: STRATFORD-ON-AVON.

Grave Reference: 4484

### FUNERAL OF EX-SOLDIER

The death took place yesterday week of Mr. William Allcock of Great William Street. He had served in the South African campaign and joined up for the recent war in October 1914. The cause of death was inflammation of the heart brought on through the hardship and strain of active service. The funeral took place last Monday and was conducted by the Reverend F. C. Watts, the first part of the service being held in the Baptist Church. Six bearers and an NCO and a bugler came from Budbrooke. The Last Post was given at the conclusion of the service at the graveside.

**Herald 28th November 1919**

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**Benjamin Harry BONELL** Private 2428 1st/5th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

Enlisted in Birmingham.

Died: Sunday 9th May 1915.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Bonehill, of Rother Street, Stratford-on-Avon.



Cemetery: PLOEGSTEERT MEMORIAL, Belgium.

Grave Reference: Panel 2 and 3

The death is announced of Private Benj. H. Bonehill, who joined the Warwicks in September last, and saw a good deal of fighting. He was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Bonehill, of Rother Street.

**Herald 21st May 1915**

*In the CWGC records, and on both memorials he is listed as Bonell.*

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**James BREBNER** Serjeant 60572 Royal Field Artillery

Died: Friday 3rd August 1917

Age 28.

Husband of Margaret Brebner, of 13, Russell Cottages, Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: ETAPLES MILITARY CEMETERY, France

Grave Reference XX11. M. 11.

**KILLED IN ACTION SERGEANT BREBNER**

Mrs. Brebner of Ely Street has received communication of the death of her husband of the RFA which took place on the 3rd instant. He was engaged in a recent action at Ypres and sustained a severe wound of the right side. He was taken straight away to the military hospital where he received every attention. He was in respect of these in command of the battery and is highly spoken of for his fine soldierly qualities.

Sergeant Brebner who came from -----had been 8 years in the army and had served in France. The widow has received a letter of sympathy from the King and Queen. He leaves three young children. He was in Stratford 6 weeks ago on a short rest.

**Herald August 17th 1917**

**THE NEW GENERATION**

Commentary on twentieth-century civilisation. Mr James Brebner, son of Mrs. Finch, of 11, Cherry – street, Stratford-on-Avon, is serving with the forces overseas and has written to tell his mother that he has visited the grave of his father, who was killed in 1917. He had no difficulty in finding it and was pleased to see that it is well kept.

Incidentally, Mrs. Finch's husband and two other sons are also serving their country.

**Herald 9th February 1940**

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**Frederick HOLTOM** Serjeant 280 1st Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

Enlisted in Warwick

Died: Monday 9th April 1917.

Born and resided in Stratford-on-Avon

Cemetery: STE CATHERINE BRITISH CEMETERY

Grave Reference: C. 12.

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**Norman KINGSLEY** Private 201867 4th Bn., East Yorkshire Regiment.

Enlisted in Hull

Died: Wednesday 25th April 1917.

Born and resided in Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: WARLINCOURT HALTE BRITISH CEMETERY

Grave Reference: X. E. 1.

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**Francis William NEVILLE** Serjeant 11851 1st Bn., Worcestershire Regiment.

Enlisted in Warwick.

Died: Friday 11th December 1914. Age 24.

Son of Mr. William and Elizabeth Neville, 30 Great William Street, Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: WIMEREUX COMMUNAL CEMETERY.

Grave Reference: I. C. 4A

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**John T RANDLE MM** Private 992 16th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Warwick

Died: Wednesday 16th October 1918. Age 25.

Born and resided in Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: CAUDRY BRITISH CEMETERY

Grave Reference: IV. E. 1.

-----oo0oo-----

**Ernest REASON** Private 9th Batt, Kings Royal Rifles

Died: Friday 30th July 1915.

Age 26.

Born: May 25th 1889. Son of George and Elizabeth, who resided at 25, Mansell Street, Stratford-on-Avon.

### EARNEST REASON KILLED AT FRONT

Mr. George Reason late of Mansell Street, Stratford-on-Avon, has received a letter from the front announcing the death of his son, Ernest, of the 9th Batt Kings Royal Rifles., which occurred on the 30th July. Reason who was 26 years of age, enlisted on the 10th December, and was in some of the fiercest fighting.

**Herald 27th August 1915**

*Ernest Reason cannot be found in the CWGC, Soldiers Died in the Great War records or in the 9th Battalion, Kings Royal Rifles.*

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**Alec STUART** Corporal 9293 1st Bn Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon

Died: Friday 30th November 1917

Born and resided in Alveston

Cemetery: WINDMILL BRITISH CEMETERY, MONCHY-LE-PREUX, France.

Grave Reference: I. G. 20.

In loving memory of Corporal Alec Stuart of Alveston, who fell in France, November 30th 1917.

**Herald 29th November 1918**

-----oo0oo-----

**George H TAYLOR** Private 7883 1st Bn Gloucestershire Regiment

Died: Sunday 9th May 1915

Age 25.

Son of Mrs. A. E. Taylor, of 3, Meer Street, Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: LE TOURET MEMORIAL, France.

Memorial: Panel 17

### WITH THE WARWICKSHIRES

Private G. H. Taylor (20139) of D. Company, writes under date of the 18th:- I thought I would drop you a line to tell you that all the Warwickshire lads are in the best of health and very cheerful. As you will see I am now in another regiment, and I and my chums are doing our very best towards ending the war, I am now a brigade orderly, and we have got a very tough job, as we are out all hours of the night and day under fire from guns and rifles. But we don't mind that so long as we get through all night. The snipers are our worst enemies. There are sad sights where we now are, and I think every man who is able should come out and do his best. I scarcely think the war will last very much longer, as the enemy has been getting it rather hot lately. – Taylor, formerly lived in the Birmingham-road, Stratford on Avon.

**Herald May 28th 1915**

Mrs. A. Taylor of Carters Lane, Tiddington was notified by the War Office this week that her son Private G. H. Taylor 3rd Bn. Gloucester Regiment had been reported missing since May 9th last, and was believed to have been killed. To add to her sorrow, Mrs. Taylor has learnt that another son, Lance-Corporal Thomas Taylor "C" Company, 1st Wiltshire Regiment lies in hospital in France with wounds in the head and face. The Lance Corporal is only eighteen years of age.

**Herald 17th September 1915**

Also Commemorated on the Quinton War Memorial

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**Reginald Alexander John WARNEFORD VC** Flight Sub-Lieutenant Royal Naval Air Service

Died: Thursday 17th June 1915

Age 23.

Son of Mrs. M. P. Corkery (formerly Warneford), of Kerry House, Comeytrowe, Taunton, Somerset and the late R. Warneford.

Cemetery: BROMPTON CEMETERY.

Grave Reference: E.6. 173185

### LIEUTENANT WARNEFORD KILLED

The regret will be national that this intrepid young Englishman, whose recent daring act in destroying a Zeppelin has been upon everyone's lips the last three weeks, has been killed. On Thursday in last week he engaged in testing a new aeroplane, being accompanied by Mr. Henry Needham, an American Magazine

Journalist. The accident occurred at the Buc Aerodrome, Versailles. Mr. Warneford was a careful flyer, not given to trick performances, and the fact that neither he nor his passenger, Mr. Henry Needham, had used safety straps shows that they were indulging in no fancy flying. Mr Warneford had been ordered to fly back to Dunkirk, where he was to resume duty. He had risen to 700 feet, when the machine wobbled violently for a few seconds, then overturned, throwing out Mr. Warneford and his passenger, who were killed instantaneously.

He was educated at the Stratford-on-Avon Grammar School, and afterwards entered the mercantile marine. An old schoolfellow has said of him that "he was a little dare-devil at school, but always ready to take his thrashing even when, as on one occasion, he took it on behalf of a number of boys who deserved it." After the outbreak of war, Warneford came home to "do something" for his country. He enlisted in the 2nd Sportsman's Battalion on January 7, but being greatly interested in aircraft, he was transferred within a month to the Royal Naval Air Service.



A month after obtaining his commission, Sub- Lieutenant Warneford went to France, and although he was unknown to the public before the engagement with the Zeppelin he appears to have made a name for himself among his comrades. It is related that on one occasion he was flying with a passenger when a Taube was encountered, and the passenger tried to shoot, but the gun jammed. Thereupon Sub-Lieutenant Warneford, without waiting for the passenger to take the second gun, left his controls, seized it himself, and stood up to fire at the hostile aircraft, which he brought down, his own machine being left meanwhile to take care of itself in mid-air. It was on the morning of June 7 at 3 a.m., that he attacked a Zeppelin, which he had chased from the coast of Flanders to Ghent, at a height of 6,000 ft., by dropping six bombs upon it. The airship exploded, fell to the ground, and burnt for some time, while the force of the explosion caused the Morane monoplane to turn upside down. The pilot righted his machine, but was forced to land in the enemy's country. He restarted the engine within fifteen minutes, however, and so reached the aerodrome safely.

Next day it was announced that King George had sent a telegram of congratulation to Sub-Lieutenant Warneford, and had conferred upon him the Victoria Cross, while a day afterwards the French War Minister, on the recommendation of General Joffre, awarded him the Cross of the Legion of Honour.

**Herald 25th June 1915**

GIFT TO SUB-LIEUTENANT WARNEFORD'S MOTHER – Mrs. Corkery, the mother of the late Sub-Lieutenant Warneford, who brought down the German Zeppelin, has been presented with a replica in jewels of the Cross of the French Legion of Honour awarded to him by the French Government. The gift is from workers who had helped to make the Morane biplane in which he was flying at the time of his gallant deed. The white enamel of the Cross is replaced by diamonds, the green part by emeralds, and the red by rubies. The workers proposed to present the cross to the airman, but his death came before this could be done. The subscribers, therefore, decided to present it to his mother.

**Herald 13th August 1915**

Also Commemorated on the King Edward's School Memorial

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**Albert R WILLIAMS** Sapper 62257 Royal Engineers

Died: Friday 3rd September 1920

Age 33.

Son of John and Ella Williams, of Stourbridge; husband of Lucy Zilpah Buckley (formerly Williams), of Fir Dene, Percy Street., Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: STRATFORD-ON-AVON CEMETERY.

#### DEATHS

On the 3rd inst, at Hollymoor Military Hospital, Albert. R. Williams, the dearly-loved husband of Lucy Williams, of 8 Park Road, Stratford-on-Avon.

**Herald 10th September 1920**

Commemorated on the Great Western Railway Roll of Honour, Birmingham

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# Alveston and Tiddington War Memorial

## 1914-1919



PTE W SIMMONDS  
HAMPSHIRE REGT  
PTE F KNIGHT  
MIDDLESEX REGT  
PTE F SALT  
THE KINGS ROYAL RIFLES  
PTE W SALT  
46TH CANADIAN REGT  
PTE T MANSELL  
MIDDLESEX REGT

SERGT A RAWLINS  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGT  
PTE W WARD  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGT  
PTE J WARD  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGT  
PTE T BIRD  
WORCESTERSHIRE REGT

GUNNER H. CLARK  
ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY  
GUNNER W. COX  
ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY  
GUNNER J. FELTHAM  
ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY  
GUNNER A. HARRIES  
ROYAL GARRISON ARTY.

ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGT.  
CPL A FRANKLIN  
PTE B ELLIS  
PTE W MAYNARD  
PTE W INSELL  
PTE H TIMMS

PTE W. COX  
COLDSTREAM GUARDS.  
PTE R. TANDY  
EAST SURREY REGT.  
PTE F. ROBINSON  
THE BORDER REGT.  
PTE F. REED  
DURHAM LIGHT INFY.  
MECHANIC B BAYLEY  
ROYAL AIR FORCE.

LIEUT-COMDR L.H. LINDNER  
ROYAL NAVY.  
LIEUT. H.A. JENNINGS.  
WORCESTERSHIRE REGT.  
LIEUT. H.H. JENNINGS.  
CAMERON HRS.  
1ST CLASS P.O.W. RAWLINGS  
H.M.S. VANGUARD.

### Alveston & Tiddington War Memorial

In order that the memory of those gallant men of these villages who fell in the Great War may not be forgotten, and also as a token of gratitude for the safety of those who returned, it was decided at a Meeting of Parishioners that a Stone Cross, as above design, should be erected to the fallen, and a Roll of Honour inscribed with the names of all those who served, should be placed in a public building.

The site for the Cross has been generously given by Mrs. Allfrey at the junction of the roads at Barnard's Corner. The Monument selected will cost between £300 and £400, so it is hoped that all will subscribe generously, in order that it may be a worthy token of the love, honour and gratitude of their fellows who, through the self-sacrifice of these men, were spared the horrors of an invasion by a ruthless foe.

*Subscriptions will be gratefully received by the Treasurer—*

MISS MABEL ALLFREY,  
Hemingford, Alveston.



## Alveston and Tiddington 1914-1919

The male population (18 years and upwards) of the two villages was 330, and of these 156 of all ranks served the king in the war, roughly one-half, the remainder being composed of men unfit or over-age. Of the total of 156 there were 99 casualties, 25 killed, 70 wounded, gassed and four prisoners of war. One out of every six who went forth was killed, 16 per cent., and when such a percentage were killed that force, unless a very highly disciplined one, was considered as defeated and broken. But that could never be said of the British fighting force.

A far higher average of fighting men went forth from these two villages than from other villages in the United Kingdom, and so they had every reason to be proud of their record.



**ALVESTON WAR MEMORIAL UNVEILING BY REAR ADMIRAL SIR W. COWAN.**

**Wednesday 17th March 1920**

At the junction of the Alveston and Wellesbourne roads, on a piece of ground expressly given for the purpose by members of the Allfrey family, there has been erected a type of an Old English wayside cross, surmounted by laurel and sword (an emblem of victory with honour), bearing the names of twenty-five fallen sons from Alveston and Tiddington, who in the Great War exhibited a steadfastness and courage "even until death." The memorial is of Portland stone, 12ft 6ins in height, and on the base inscribed the following pregnant sentence uttered on a notable occasion by General Sir Douglas Haig :- "By the long Road they trod with so much faith and with such devoted and self-sacrificing bravery we have received the victory and today they have their reward".

The dedication and unveiling of the Memorial Cross took place on Wednesday afternoon and with the occasion of a solemn and impressive service. Deep and widespread interest was manifested in the proceedings by the residents who gathered in very large numbers at the church.

A procession was formed, headed by the Band of the Norton Boys' Home and the cadets some forty-five in number and including Admiral Sir W. Cowan and officers, the V.A.D. nurses, the clergy (Revs. P. Llewellyn and O. Mordaunt), the choir and the relatives of the fallen, and having reached the memorial site, Captain B. Hargreave and his task was an easy one. There was no need to introduce Rear-Admiral Sir Walter Cowan, whom they were proud to number as one of the parishioners. He had very kindly promised to come and unveil that memorial for them. This was the only opportunity the parishioners had of paying an outward and public tribute to the memory of the gallant men who died fighting in the defence of their



country and these villages against the ravages of a ruthless foe. They could wish for nothing better than that one of their own parishioners, who had done so much for his country during the war, should perform the ceremony. Admiral Sir Walter Cowan said this was not the time to talk of himself but through his thirty six years of service he had been conscious of the never failing and warm hearted friendship that had been extended to him from Alveston and Tiddington, and he regarded this expression of their wish that he should unveil the memorial cross as one of the greatest honours which had ever been conferred upon him and it



would be an infinite pleasure for him to remember it.

The names on the cross-numbered 25. It might be that others connected with the village, who had fought and died were not included in the memorial and if it could be established that they hailed from Alveston or Tiddington, and were not mentioned on any other memorial, the committee would consider the possibility

of adding their names on the cross. The names on the Memorial would live forever, and the families bearing those names would be held in ever increasing honour and respect as having brought up and borne the men who had died for their country. The gallant Admiral then performed the unveiling. Canon Llewellyn dedicated the cross "to the men in the parish who fell in the great war".

The Memorial was executed by H. H. Martyn and Co., Ltd., of Cheltenham, and a garden seat has been thoughtfully provided by the Hamilton family for the convenience of friends visiting the shrine.

**Herald 19th March 1920**

**Bernard BAYLEY** Second Mechanic R.A.F.



Died: Wednesday 7th April 1920 Age 19.  
Cemetery: ALVESTON CHURCH, Stratford-on-Avon.

Son of William and Rose Bayley

#### DEATHS

On the 7th inst., at Alveston, Bernard Bayley, late Second Mechanic R.A.F., after a long and painful illness, aged 19 years. Funeral at Alveston Parish Church. Saturday the 10th at 12 o'clock.

**Herald 9th April 1920**

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**Thomas James BIRD** Corporal 260349 3rd Bn., Worcestershire Regiment

Enlisted in Worcester  
Resided in Alveston

Died: Thursday, 21st March 1918.



ARRAS MEMORIAL, Pas de Calais, France  
Panel Number: Bay 6

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**Herbert William CLARK** Driver 148756 86th Bty., Royal Field Artillery

Enlisted in Eastbourne Died: Thursday, 24th October 1918. Age 31.  
Born in Stratford on Avon, Warwickshire. Eldest son of Charles and Emily Clark  
Cemetery: ST. VAAST COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION, Nord, France  
Grave Reference: D. II.

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**Walter COX** Private 6964 3rd Bn, Coldstream Guards

Enlisted in Birmingham Died: Tuesday, 25th August 1914. Age 29.  
Born in Alveston, Fourth son of William and Maria Cox of Carters Lane, Alveston.  
Husband of Maria, Alveston, Stratford-on-Avon.  
Cemetery: LANDRECIES COMMUNAL CEMETERY, Nord, France.  
Grave Reference: B.9.

Private William Cox No 6964 3rd Bn., Coldstream Guards was officially reported as wounded and missing after the fighting at Landrecies on 23rd August 1914, and is now assumed to have been killed in action on that day.

**Herald 16th September 1914**

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**William Edward COX** Gunner 108181 "Y" 12th Trench Mortar Bty., Royal Field Artillery

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon. Died: Friday, 6th April 1917. Age 21.  
Born in Alveston, Son of John & Mary Cox, of Tiddington, Stratford-on-Avon.  
Cemetery: FAUBOURG D'AMIENS CEMETERY, ARRAS, Pas de Calais, France  
Grave Reference : II. P. 15.

#### **KILLED IN ACTION W. E. COX**

Mr. J. G. Cox of Alveston has been notified of the death of his son Gunner W. E. Cox, Royal Field Artillery in action on 6th April. A Lieutenant of the Battery writing to the father states that he found the son himself and would say that his death was instantaneous. He continued "In his death I have lost a brave and splendid soldier who was an example to the men he worked with. Your son is buried in the British Soldiers' Cemetery Arras. I have seen that his grave receives all possible care and attention".

**Herald 4th May 1917**

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**Bertie ELLIS** Private 265989 1st 7th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon. Died: Tuesday, 5th February 1918. Age 22.  
Son of Thomas and Dinah Ellis, of Hamilton Cottage, Tiddington, Stratford-on-Avon.  
Cemetery: GIAVERA BRITISH CEMETERY, ARCADE. Italy  
Grave Reference : Plot 6. Row A. Grave 5.

#### **DIED PRIVATE B. ELLIS**

It is with regret that we record the death of Private Bertie Ellis of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, a son of Mr. and Mrs. T. Ellis of Tiddington. This young soldier was serving his country at the Italian front and it was here that he fell ill and subsequently died. The sad news of his illness and death was conveyed to the parents through letters from Rev. W. H. M. Clark CF writing from the 24th CCS Italian Expeditionary Force. The chaplain stated in his first letter that Private Ellis was in the hospital with an attack of pneumonia but he was glad to say that he was going on well. Later however, he wrote as follows: "the sad news has probably reached you through the War Office of your poor boy's death. It was a long trying illness and for a while he seemed to be making a brave fight of it so that I was quite hopeful and then he took a turn for the worse. I prayed with him and gave him God's blessing, the last thing that night he passed away. He was buried in our British Cemetery and a cross has been put up to mark his grave. May God comfort you in this heavy sorrow. Sincere sympathy will be felt for the relatives in the loss they have sustained."

**Herald 15th February 1918**

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**John FELTHAM** Gunner 85739 69th Siege Bty., Royal Garrison Artillery

Enlisted in Hampstead, Middlesex.

Died: Monday, 16th July 1917. Age 30.

Son of Frederick and Elizabeth Feltham, of The Hill, Snitterfield, Stratford-on-Avon.

Born in Bracon Ash, Norfolk. Resided in Warwick.

Cemetery: COXYDE MILITARY CEMETERY, Koksijde, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

Grave Reference: I. J. 40

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**Arthur FRANKLIN** Lance Corporal 8548 15th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Coventry, August 1914.

Died: Monday, 28th August 1916. Age 21.

Born in Hillfields Coventry, Second son of Ernest & Charlotte Franklin of Gosford Street, Coventry.

FRANKLIN A.

THIEPVAL MEMORIAL, Somme, France

Grave Reference: Pier and Face 9 A 9 B and 10 B

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**Albert HARRIES** Gunner 110127 227th Siege Bty., Royal Garrison Artillery

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon

Died: Monday, 2nd July 1917. Age 35.

Son of Thomas and Ann Harris, of Sutton under Brailes, Banbury; husband of Amelia Harris.

Cemetery: STRAND MILITARY CEMETERY, Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium.

Grave Reference: V1.C.5.

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**William Henry INSELL** Private 5651 11th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Warwick.

Died Thursday, 16th November 1916. Age 17.

Born in Stratford-on-Avon. Resided in Alveston.

Son of Frederick and Emma Insell, of 33 Kings Lane, Snitterfield.

INSELL W. H.

THIEPVAL MEMORIAL, Somme, France

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**Henry Arthur JENNINGS** Second Lieutenant 6th attd. 3rd. Bn., Worcestershire Regiment

Enlisted in Birmingham.

Died: Sunday, 30th April 1916. Age 21.

Son of Howard Jennings, of Riverside, Tiddington, Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: ECOIVRES MILITARY CEMETERY, MONT-ST. ELOI, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Reference: I. H. 13.

H. A. Jennings is also commemorated on the Stratford-upon Avon War Memorial. \* see also page 57

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**Herbert Howard JENNINGS** Lance Corporal S/41626 1st Bn., Cameron Highlanders

Died: Thursday, 19th September 1918.

Age 18.

Youngest son of Mr. H. Jennings, of Riverside, Tiddington, Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: BELLICOURT BRITISH CEMETERY, Aisne, France.

Grave Reference: IV. 3

H. H. Jennings is also commemorated on the Stratford-upon Avon War Memorial \* see also page 58

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**Frank Wells KNIGHT** Private 293789 2nd Bn., Middlesex Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon.

Died: 27th September 1918. Age 32.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. George Knight of New Street, Tiddington.

Cemetery: LA TARGETTE BRITISH CEMETERY, NEUVILLE-ST VAAST, Pas de Calais, France.

Grave Reference: III. D. 6.

### TIDDINGTON SOLDIER KILLED

Official notification has been received by Mr. and Mrs. George Knight of New Street, Tiddington of the death in action on September 27th of their son Private Frank Wells Knight 2nd Battalion Middlesex Regiment. The deceased soldier has served in France for about 18 months and had just returned to that front after spending a short home leave when he met his death. He was 32 years of age.

**Herald 15th November 1918**

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**Leonard Hubert LINDNER** Lieut-Commander H.M.S. "Indefatigable.", Royal Navy

Died: Wednesday, 31st May 1916.

Age 35.

Son of Frederick William and Lucy Jane Lindner, of Bedwardine, Upper Wick, Worcester.

Memorial: PLYMOUTH NAVAL MEMORIAL, Devon, United Kingdom.

Panel Number: 10.



H.M.S. "Indefatigable" (1911) was a British Dreadnought Battlecruiser. She fought under Capt. C. F. Sowerb in the Battle of Jutland (1916), when a hit (probably from German Battlecruiser *Von der Tann*) penetrated the armour of her forward turret, leading to an explosion of the magazine and the sinking of the ship. All but four of her crew died.

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**Tom MANSELL** Private G/2346 23rd Bn., Middlesex Regiment

Enlisted in Aldershot, Hampshire.

Died: Friday, 15th September 1916. Age 19.

Son of William and Georgina Mansell, of 37, Wolseley St., Birmingham.



THIEPVAL MEMORIAL, Somme, France.

Panel Number: Pier and Face 12 D and 13 B

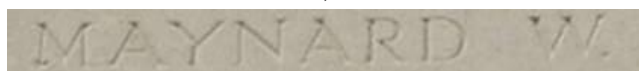
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**William MAYNARD** Private 11421 11th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon.

Died: Thursday, 16th November 1916. Age 24.

Resided at 30 Arden Street, Stratford-on-Avon.



THIEPVAL MEMORIAL, Somme, France.

Panel Number: Pier and Face 9 A 9 B and 10 B

Commemorated on the Stratford-upon Avon War Memorial. \* see also page 67

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**Albert RAWLINS** Lance Sergeant 20535 12th Service Bn, Gloucestershire Regiment

Died: Tuesday, 8th May 1917.

Age 26.

Son of the late Thomas and Charlotte Rawlins, of Carters Lane, Tiddington, Stratford-on-Avon.

Memorial: ARRAS MEMORIAL, Pas de Calais, France.

Panel Number: Bay 6

### LANCE SERGEANT A. RAWLINGS

Mrs. Rawlings of Tiddington has received information from the Infantry Record Office, Warwick to the effect that her son, Lance Sergeant A. Rawlings of the Gloucester Regiment was posted as missing on 8th of last month. This soldier who was 27 years of age joined His Majesty's Forces soon after war was declared

and had seen considerable active service. Last year he sustained a fracture of the collar bone and was sent to England for treatment, returning to France the beginning of December last.

**Herald 15th June 1917**

#### **SERGEANT ALBERT RAWLINGS KILLED IN ACTION**

In June last, it was announced in these columns that Sergeant Albert Rawlings, son of Mr. T. Rawlings of Carters Lane, Tiddington had been posted as missing after an engagement on May 8th. Many of his friends will regret to learn that his mother has now received an official intimation that he was killed in action on that date. Sergeant Rawlings, who was 27 years of age joined the 8th Gloucesters soon after war was declared and saw much active service before he had the misfortune to sustain a fractured collar bone last year. On recovery he was posted to the 12th Gloucesters, returning to France in December 1916. In a letter to his mother in June last, his Captain said that fighting had been very heavy and held out little hope that Rawlings had escaped with his life. He was one of the best and bravest men in the company, the letter continued and his loss is deeply regretted by us all.

**Herald 21st September 1917**

Sergeant Albert Rawlings, of Tiddington who was reported missing on May 8th, is now reported Killed in Action. "He was one of the best and bravest men in his regiment" (The Gloucesters).

**The Warwick and Warwickshire Advertiser and Leamington Gazette. 22nd September 1917**

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<b>Wilfred RAWLINGS</b>	Petty Officer	202329	H.M.S. "Vanguard.", Royal Navy
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Died: Monday, 9th July 1917.

Age 33.

Son of Peter and Marion Rawlings, of Tiddington; husband of Clair Sayner Rawlings, of 10, The Terrace, Tiddington, Stratford-on-Avon.

Memorial: CHATHAM MEMORIAL

Panel Number: 21.

#### **FIRST CLASS PETTY OFFICER WILFRED RAWLINGS.**

First Class Petty Officer Wilfred Rawlings who served on the Highflyer under Admiral Slade from 1909 to 1914 has just received a silver medal for services in the Persian Gulf. The Highflyer was engaged in stopping the gun running which at one time was notorious in the gulf.

**Herald 15th October 1915**

#### **LOSS OF THE "VANGUARD"**

##### **NATIVE OF TIDDINGTON AMONG THE VICTIMS.**

Of the eight hundred men who perished on the British Dreadnought "Vanguard" the destruction of which was officially announced on Friday night appears the name of Petty Officer (first-class) Wilfred Rawlings, a native of Tiddington. A seafaring life had been his ambition from schoolboy days and when 14½ years old he obtained admission to the training ship "Warspite". Though under age he was transferred to the Royal



Navy the same year, serving successively on H.M.S. "Lion" and H.M.S. "Vengeance". For three and a half years his ship was in Chinese and Japanese waters and during the Russo-Japanese conflict the "Vengeance" was instrumental in landing the survivors of a Russian man-of-war that had met with disaster. He was then transferred overland to H.M.S. "Egeria" a survey vessel in the North American station and, after two years' service in this

locality, was recommended as second-class petty officer. The following two years were spent in home waters on H.M.S. "Agamemnon" and he was then transferred to the "Highflyer" which was commissioned as the flagship of Admiral Slade for the Indian station. By a melancholy coincidence Captain James D. Dick, R.N., who perished on the "Vanguard" was at that time serving as commander of the "Highflyer". Having



participated in the suppression of gun-running in the Persian Gulf, Petty Officer Rawlings obtained his first-class rating with medal and ribbon. The ill-fated "Cressy" was the next scene of his labours, and in the early months of 1914 he was transferred to the "Vanguard". He was at the wheel during the battle off Jutland, in which the "Vanguard" took a leading part and emerged from the conflict with flying colours. Petty Officer Rawlings who held a medal for good conduct, and lately completed 19 years service and his tragic death at the age of thirty-three will be generally regretted. Much sympathy is felt for the widow, his little daughter and other relatives.

**Herald. Friday 20th July 1917**

#### H.M.S. VANGUARD

19250 Tons. Launched 22nd February 1909. Completed 1910.  
Lost 9th July 1917 at Scarpa Flow. Blown up by internal explosion.

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<b>Frederick REED</b>	Corporal	44595	13th Bn., Durham Light Infantry
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Enlisted in Northampton.

Died: Saturday, 22nd December 1917. Age 34.

Son of John and Helen Reed, of Alveston, Stratford-on-Avon. Resided, Lower Weedon, Northants.

Cemetery: GIAVERA BRITISH CEMETERY, ARCADE. Italy.

Grave Reference: Plot 4. Row E. Grave 4.

#### DEATHS

On the 22nd ult., died of pneumonia in Italy at the Clearing Station, Corporal F. Reed (Durham Light Infantry), second and dearly loved son of John and Helen Reed, the Exchange, Alveston.

**Herald 11th January 1918**

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<b>Frank ROBINSON</b>	Private	28908	8th Bn., Border Regiment
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Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon

Died: 6th April 1918. Age 35.

Born in Alveston. Son of Phillip and Sarah Robinson. Resided in Snitterfield, Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: SNITTERFIELD, Warwickshire, England.

Grave Reference: U.643

Died of wounds at King George Hospital Lambeth.

Also commemorated on the Snitterfield War Memorial.

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<b>Frederick Thomas SALT</b>	Rifleman	R/1750	10th Bn., Kings Royal Rifles Corps
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Enlisted in Birmingham.

Died: Friday, 18th February, 1916 Age 29.

Son of William and Elizabeth Salt of the Retreat, Tiddington

Born in Coleshill, resided in Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: ESSEX FARM CEMETERY, Ieper, Belgium.

Grave Reference: II. B. 18.

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<b>William SALT</b>	Private	426874	3rd Bn., Canadian Infantry (Central Ontario Regt.)
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Enlisted in Regina April 1915.

Died: Wednesday, 26th July 1916. Age 22.

Born in Kingsbury. Son of William and Elizabeth Salt of the Retreat, Tiddington.

Cemetery: RAILWAY DUGOUTS BURIAL GROUND, ZILLEBEKE, Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

Grave Reference: VI. C. 41.

#### KILLED IN ACTION PRIVATE SALT

Mrs. Salt of the Retreat, Tiddington has received a notification of the death of her son Private Salt who was with the 3rd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Canadian Division in France. Lieutenant Gray of this Battalion writes - "You have by this time been advised of the death of your son who was killed in action on the night of 25th July while doing duty in the trenches. I know how anxious relative are to find out the circumstances surrounding the death of those they love so dearly so am writing you a few lines. It may be of slight consolation for you to



know that he was instantly killed, being stuck by a machine gun bullet through the head and therefore suffered no pain. He had not been in my platoon long but I always found him a good boy and ready to do anything asked of him. I do extend my heartfelt sympathy to you in your loss. It does seem hard that yours should be the supreme sacrifice but I do know that bravely as your son went to his death so must we be brave to hear the sorrow and after all how can man die better than laying down his life for those he loves. His will be the great reward. We buried him in a small cemetery behind the lines. The grave is properly marked." Another son, Rifleman Salt of the King's Royal Rifles Corps died earlier in the year.

**Herald 18th August 1916**

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<b>Wilfred Rowland SIMMONDS</b> Private 17170 2nd Bn., Hampshire Regiment
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Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon.

Died: Friday, 6th August 1915. Age 18.

Youngest son of Henry and Janet Simmonds of School Lane, Tiddington.

Cemetery: TWELVE TREE COPSE CEMETERY, Gallipoli, Turkey

Grave Reference: II. A. 13.

#### PRIVATE WILFRED R. SIMMONDS

Mr. H. Simmonds of Tiddington has received a notification from the War Office that his son, Private Wilfred R. Simmonds has been posted as missing after an engagement at the Dardenelles on August 6th. He enlisted on August 31st 1914 in the Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry and was transferred at the end of June 1915 to the 2nd Battalion Hampshire Regiment leaving for the Dardenelles on June 18th last. Two other sons of Mr. Simmonds, Dennis, King's Royal Rifles and David, Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry, are serving in France.

**Herald 10th September 1915**

#### TIDDINGTON FAMILY'S BEREAVEMENT

##### PRIVATE WILFRED R. SIMMONDS

Mr. and Mrs. H. Simmonds of Tiddington have received notification from the Infantry Record Office, Exeter presuming the death of their third son, Private Wilfred R. Simmonds. Private Simmonds who was 18 years of age placed himself at his country's service shortly after the outbreak of war. He enlisted in the Oxford & Bucks. Light Infantry and was subsequently drafted to the 2nd Hants. Regiment which is engaging the Turks in Gallipoli. On August 6th 1915 his company participated in a stern encounter. Since then nothing has been seen or heard of him and the Army Council are regretfully constrained to conclude that he is dead. Private Simmonds has two elder brothers serving in France with the King George Rifles and Oxford & Bucks. Light Infantry and another recently attained the age when his country claimed him for military service.

**Herald 21st July 1916**

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<b>Bob TANDY</b> Lance Corporal 11266 7th Bn., East Surrey Regiment
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Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon.

Died: Thursday, 3rd May 1917. Age 23.

Born in Stratford-on-Avon. Grandson of Thomas and Martha Tandy of Carters Lane, Tiddington.

Memorial: ARRAS MEMORIAL, Pas de Calais, France

Panel Number: Bay 6

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<b>Harold TIMMS</b> Private 24675 2nd/7th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment
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Died: Thursday, 2nd May 1918.

Age 29.

Son of William and Emma Timms, of Shottery, Stratford-on-Avon; husband of Nellie Timms, of 30, Evesham Road, Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire.

Cemetery: LES BARAQUES MILITARY CEMETERY, SANGATTE, Pas de Calais, France

Grave Reference: III. F. 5A

Also commemorated on the Memorial Screen and Reredos, Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon Avon, and also on the Rother Street Congregational Church War Memorial Tablet. \* see also page 93

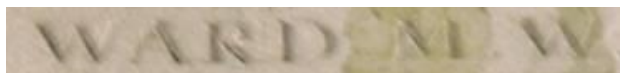
----oo0oo----

<b>Mark Whitworth WARD</b>	Private	17359	8th Bn., Gloucestershire Regiment
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Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon.

Died: Monday, 3rd July 1916. Age 24.

Son of George and Lydia Ward of Tiddington, Stratford-on-Avon. Born in Melton Mowbray.



THIEPVAL MEMORIAL, Somme, France.

Panel Number: Pier and Face 5 A and 5 B

#### **PRIVATE WARD**

Mrs Ward of Tiddington has received an intimation of the death of her husband, Private Ward, of the A Company, 8th Battalion Gloucester Regiment, after hearing that he was missing. He was in an engagement on July 3rd.

**Herald 11th August 1916**

#### **DEATH PRESUMED PRIVATE M. W. WARD**

Private Mark Whitworth Ward of Gloucester Regiment who has been missing since 3rd July last year and now the Army Council has come to the conclusion that he is dead and his death is presumed on the date given above. Sympathy will go out to the widow, Mrs. Ward at Tiddington in her bereavement.

**Herald 4th May 1917**

#### **In Memoriam**

In loving memory of my dear husband, Mark Whitworth Ward of Tiddington, who was killed in action in France July 3rd 1916. Not forgotten by his Wife and children.

**Herald 29th June 1917**

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<b>James Pailing WARD MM</b>	Private	20536	8th Bn., Gloucestershire Regiment
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Enlisted in Birmingham.

Died: Thursday, 9th April 1918. Age 23.

Son of George Pailing Ward and Lydia Ann Ward, of Tiddington.



TYNE COT MEMORIAL, Zonnebeke, West-Valaanderen, Belgium. Panel Number: Panel 72 to 75

#### **KILLED IN ACTION RUNNER J. P. WARD M.M.**

News was received on Tuesday by Mr. G. Ward of Tiddington of the death in action in France on April 9th of his son, Despatch Runner, James P. Ward, 8th Gloucester Regiment, at the age of 23. Runner Ward enlisted on August 31st 1914 and went to France in July of the following year. He won the Military Medal for conspicuous gallantry in the field on June 8th 1917. This is the second son that Mr. G. Ward has lost in the war.

**Herald 10th May 1918**

#### **THE LATE PRIVATE WARD**

Mrs. G. Ward, of Tiddington, has received the Military Medal won by her second son, Private J. P. Ward of the, 8th Gloucester Regiment, on June the 8th 1917, for the bravery on the field under heavy fire. Private Ward made the great sacrifice with his life on April 9th of this year. This is the second son that Mr. and Mrs. Ward have lost in this war. Private Ward's brother was posted as missing two years ago last July.

**Herald 20th Sept 1918**

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Tiddington 1910

# St ANDREW'S CHURCH SHOTTERY

## 1914-1918

Henry W. Bennett  
Charles E. Berry  
Fred Bridges  
George H. Bridges  
Aubrey J. Carter DSO  
George Evetts  
Frank Fincher  
Ernest Gillett  
Arthur Gulliver  
Albert W. Hine  
Richard Batchelor  
Albert Gulliver  
Charles Kemp  
James Keeley  
William Moore\*  
John Peplow  
Arthur Steel\*  
Harold Timms  
Alfred E. Winspear  
Reginald J Woodward  
William Wilson \*\*  
Henry Hall  
George Salmon  
Ernest Chandler  
Leslie Sheridan



## 1939-1945

Victor Bates  
John C. E. Black  
Charles E. Brayshaw DFC  
George Batsford  
Anthony Coleman  
John E. Gardner  
Charles Kenyon  
Reginald P. Mutton  
Harry G. Newberry  
Frederick L. Pope  
John M. Pritchard  
George H. Robbins  
Michael P. Walton

**\*William MOORE** Private 1195 12th (Service) Bn. Highland Light Infantry. 46th Brigade, 15th (Scottish) Division>

Enlisted in Stratford-on-Avon Died 4th September 1916 Age 24.  
Second son of George and Emily Moore, 2 Chigwell Road, Granville Bridge, Woodford, Essex.

**\*Arthur STEEL** Private 26302 2nd/5th Bn. Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regt.)

Enlisted in Birmingham Died 22nd May 1918 Age 21.  
Son of Mr. E. and Mrs. A. M. Steel, of "The Bungalow", Shuttery, Stratford-on-Avon.  
Cemetery: BIENVILLERS MILITARY CEMETERY, France.

\*\*Name inscribed on memorial H Wilson

*All other soldiers are commemorated on the Stratford-on-Avon War Memorial.*

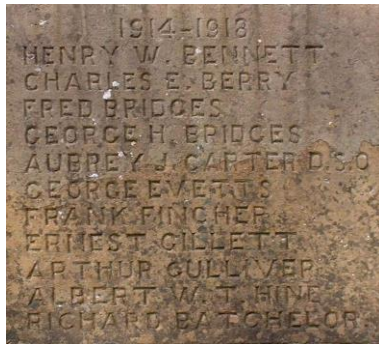
## SHOTTERY WAR MEMORIAL

### Unveiling Ceremony

Shuttery, the little village within the confines of our borough, now possesses a memorial to its gallant men – twenty four in number – who in the great war, left home and dears ones never to return. It takes the form of an wheel cross of Cotswold stone, 10ft. 6ins. in height and 5ft. 6ins. in dimension at its base, with four steps, and is placed on the high ground of the churchyard, in full view of passers-by. It is a copy of an ancient wayside cross erected in a Berkshire village in the time of Queen Elizabeth. On the cross are inscribed the words "For God, King and Country" while the two top steps bear the inscription : "In gratitude remember and pray for the brave men who had died for you on sea and land; that God will grant them mercy, light, rest and peace". 1914-1918. Major A. J. Carter, DSO., Corporals J. Keeley, L. Sheridan and R. J. Woodward, Lance-Corporals F. W. Fincher, H. Hall, and A. E. Gulliver, Rifleman E. Gillett, Privates F. Bridges, G. H. Bridges, C. E. Berry, H. W. Bennett, R. Batchelor, E. Chandler. G. F. Evetts, A. Gulliver A. W. T. Hine, C. Kemp, W. Moore, J. Pillow, G. Salmon, H. Timms, W. Wilson and A. E. Winspear.



The work was very creditably carried out by Mr. Taylor of Bridge Foot who has been responsible for a number of war memorials in neighbouring villages.



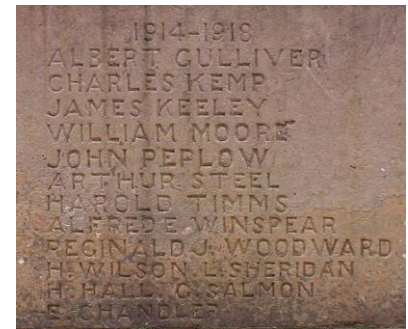
The dedication service and unveiling ceremony took place in the churchyard on Sunday afternoon last in glorious sunshine. Owing to the limited space tickets of admission had been issued to the relatives and subscribers, and most of the families in the village were represented. Outside the gate, too, there was a large assembly of people, many Stratfordians journeying over to witness the ceremony.

The unveiling ceremony was performed by Lieut. General Sir H. Walker, K.C.B. Commanding South Midland area.

Addressing the congregation Lieut. Walker said that the cross was one of

the many hundreds that had been or were being erected throughout the country, a fitting tribute to the memory of those of their fellow countrymen who had fallen on behalf of this country in the late war. The war found them unprepared because they had hoped up to the last that they should escape it. They went into it with reluctances, ill-prepared, but when the thunderbolt fell on them and they found themselves committed to the defence of their country and of freedom the demand on the manhood of the nation arose and every parish every county, sent forth its representatives. Of those many representative who went forth none, he might say, returned in full numbers to the parish they had left. Some came back, some parishes were more fortunate than others but studying the statistics of every parish throughout the South Midlands, they found that each one left a certain number of those representatives on the battle fields of France, Italy, Mesopotamia, Flanders and Gallipoli.

**Stratford-on-Avon Herald April 8th 1921**



## MEMORIAL RE-DEDICATION

“We must see to it, whether we be young or old, that our glorious dead did not die in vain. We must determine that we will make our contribution for good to our day and generation, and enrich the life of our country by our prayers, sacrifice and service,” said the Rev. R. French when he re-dedicated Shottery War Memorial on Saturday.



Relatives and friends of Shottery’s “valiant hearts,” who gave their lives in either of the world wars, and villagers who wished to pay their tribute to the men who had helped to preserve the peace of their green fields and country lanes, gathered together in Shottery’s beautiful little church for a memorial service, conducted by the Rev. G. H. Boggis. Despite its simplicity, it was a service of comfort and beauty; no one, however deep his or her grief, could have failed to find consolation in the hallowed words “I am the Resurrection and the Life, saith the Lord; he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die.” Faith was the keynote; those who accepted it were richer.

Outside, where the Rev. R. French unveiled the memorial of grey stone upon which 13 new names had been engraved. The standards of the British Legion fluttered in the breeze, the sun gilded the scene with golden glory, and the only sound that could be heard above the National Anthem, sung at the end of the simple ceremony, was the cawing of rooks as they flew to their nests in the tall trees in the background.

After the service the clergy, relatives and friends, and members of the British Legion, took tea at Burnside, the home of Mrs. J. L. T. Evans, who in this way again showed her unfailing interest in Servicemen and their families. Tea was served by members of the Church-women’s Guild.

**Extracts from the Herald 25th April 1952.**



## War Hospitals in Stratford-upon-Avon

When the Great War broke out, nobody realised that the volume of casualties would be so great. Initially it was thought that a V.A.D. (Voluntary Aid Detachment Hospital) would suffice. The Stratford Town Hall was chosen as the place most suitable. It held some fifty beds, and was under the supervision of Mrs O. Hodgson of Clopton. Local volunteers also did valuable work there. As the numbers of wounded increased, the Town Hall ceased to act as a hospital, and the activity of the nursing staff, and all their equipment was transferred to Clopton House here in the town. A further private property was handed over to the government by its owners, at 7 St Gregory's Road. Better known as "Whytgates", it served as a military hospital for the duration of the conflict.



7 St Gregory's Road

### THE VOLUNTARY AID HOSPITAL WHYTEGATES

Miss Field acknowledges, with many thanks, proceeds of sale of acrostic, per Miss Fry, £1. She would be glad if those ladies who kindly sent charwomen in the mornings to the Town Hall to help in cleaning the hospital will continue to assist her in the same way. She requires two or three women every day-Sundays included-and if the ladies will notify her at Whytgates, stating the days they can send help, and giving a choice of days if possible, she will be very grateful.

**Herald 21st May 1915**



Wounded and nursing staff, outside St Gregory's Road, Stratford-on-Avon

*(Photograph courtesy of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Records Office)*

### *Closing of Voluntary War Hospital*

This hospital (Whytgates) closed its doors on Friday last, after performing work which will favourably compare with other institutions of the kind.

It came into existence on the 24th May, 1915, in conjunction with the Clopton War Hospital . . . and has dealt with 946 cases. . . Miss Mabel Field has been commandant from the commencement, and most assiduously has she discharged the duties of this responsible and onerous position. Her splendid work was nobly seconded by the assistant commandant, Miss Mabel Allfrey, who showed equal zeal and capacity in dealing with the details such an establishment entailed.

**Herald 28th February 1919**



### THE TOWN HALL HOSPITAL

Sir.—You and many of the readers of the *Herald* have shown so much kindly interest in our work of the Red Cross that we should like, by your courtesy, to make a statement as to the affairs of the hospital under our control which closed on March the 19<sup>th</sup>, after working at the Town Hall for nearly five months.

During that period 139 patients, exclusive of out-patients, were treated. Subjoined will be found a financial

statement. A Government grant of 2s per day per bed occupied was received, and for the men of the Hampshire Regiment this was increased to 3s. From the public the most generous support was given.

The hospital will re-open on Monday next under the name of The Voluntary Aid Hospital at Whytegates, a house which has been rented for the purpose, since free quarters were not to be found. The move was made on account of the urgent need of a garden for the patients in hot weather.

Miss Field, one of the

Assistant Commandants of the Local Voluntary Aid Detachments, has been appointed to manage this hospital. — Yours Truly

ODEYNE HODGSON      *Herald* 21st May 1915



Wounded and nursing staff in the Stratford Town Hall

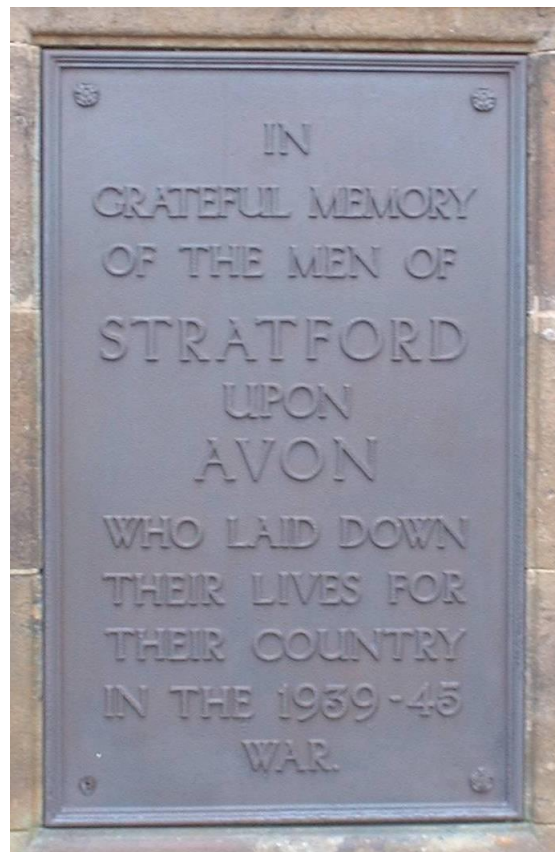


Wounded and nursing staff in the Grounds of Clopton House

(Photograph courtesy of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Records Office)



## STRATFORD-UPON-AVON WW2 MEMORIAL



# STRATFORD-UPON-AVON WAR MEMORIAL 1939-1945

**Walter Morris ALLIBONE** Chief Petty Officer D/J 8801 H.M.S. Orlando, Royal Navy

Died: Thursday, 30th July 1942.

Age 49.

Son of William and Almena Allibone; husband of Sarah Allibone, of Stratford-on Avon.

Cemetery: STRATFORD-ON-AVON CEMETERY, Warwickshire, United Kingdom

Grave Reference: Grave 4301.

## DIED ON FIRST DAY OF LEAVE.

### STRATFORD POSTMAN WHO REJOINED NAVY

Taken ill shortly after his arrival home on leave on Thursday morning of last week, Chief Petty Officer Walter Morris Allibone, of 114, Shottery Road, Stratford-on-Avon, was removed to the local Emergency Hospital, where he died the same evening.



Chief Petty Officer Allibone was well known to many Stratfordians, for, during seven years prior to the outbreak of war, he was a postman at the General Post Office. Before that he had served for 22 years in the Navy, going through the last War. He was called up in 1939.

Mr Allibone, who was 49 years of age, leaves a widow and a daughter.

### THE FUNERAL

At the funeral on Saturday the coffin was draped with the Union Jack.. The service at the Parish Church and at the graveside was conducted by the Rev. W. W. Harrison (chaplain of the local branch of the British Legion).

The principal mourners were Mrs Allibone (widow), Miss Freda Allibone (daughter) and Mr Allibone (brother).

**Herald 7th August 1942**

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**Peter Charles Reginald ARBUTHNOT** Lieutenant H.M.S. Neptune, Royal Navy

Died: Friday, 19th December 1941.

Son of Admiral Sir Geoffrey Arbuthnot, K.C.B., D.S.O., and Lady Arbuthnot, of Heyshott, Sussex.

Memorial: PLYMOUTH NAVAL MEMORIAL, Devon, United Kingdom

Panel Number: Panel 44, Column 2.

HMS Neptune sank with the loss of all but one of her ship's company on the night of 19th December 1941, 20 miles from Tripoli in the Mediterranean. The tragedy accounted for the lives of 757 officers and ratings with only one survivor Able Seaman John Norman Walton. It was blowing hard when Neptune triggered a mine with one of her paravanes. Neptune whilst going full astern triggered two more mines, which damaged her propellers and steering, she was in a deep-water minefield. During the next three hours there were many attempts to assist Neptune, then at four o'clock in the morning Neptune struck another mine and sank within a few minutes. Just sixteen men survived the ordeal and managed to climb aboard a raft, but one by one they died during the course of the next five days. John Norman Walton alone survived to be rescued by the Italians on Christmas Eve and made a prisoner of war.

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**Arthur ASTILL** Gunner 845230 8 Coast Regt., Royal Artillery

Died: Thursday, 1st October 1942.

Age 25.

Memorial: SAI WAN MEMORIAL, Hong Kong

Grave Reference: Column 3.

### REPORTED DROWNED WHEN JAP SHIP SANK

#### STRATFORD MAN AGAIN A PRISONER

Reported a prisoner-of-war after the fall of Hong Kong, then later presumed drowned when a ship carrying British prisoners-of-war in Japanese hands was sunk, Gunner Arthur Eric Astill, R.A. adopted son of Mrs. Mayrick, of 50 Rother Street, Stratford-on-Avon, has now written to say he is well and a prisoner.

Gunner Astill (better known as Eric Mayrick) was, before joining the Army at the age of 18, employed at the Royal Label Factory. He is 25 years of age.

**Herald 18th June 1943**

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**Arthur John AUST** Flying Officer 51962 68 Sqdn., Royal Air Force

Died: Sunday, 4th March 1945.

Age 27.

Son of Sydney John and Nora Winifred Aust, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: STRATFORD-ON-AVON CEMETERY, Warwickshire, United Kingdom

Grave Reference: Grave 4105.



Flying-Officer Arthur John Aust, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Aust of Birmingham Road, Stratford-on-Avon, has been killed while returning from an operational sortie.

Aged 27, he was an Old Boy of King Edward VI School. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1935. After the outbreak of war he saw service as a pilot in France and in North Africa, where he was mentioned in despatches. He held the Africa Star. He returned to this country after being commissioned in 1943 and served with a Mosquito night fighter squadron.

A keen cricketer, Flying-Officer Aust, played for the School XI and afterwards for Alscot Park. A brother is serving in the Royal Marines.

**Herald 9th March 1945**

**FUNERAL OF STRATFORD AIRMAN**

The funeral of Flying-Officer A. J. Aust, who, as reported in last week's *Herald*, was killed while returning from an operational flight, took place at Stratford-on-Avon on Friday. The first part of the service was conducted at St. James' Church by the Priest-in-Charge (the Rev. Brian Jukes), who also officiated at the internment in the services section of the Borough Cemetery. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack.

There was a large and representative congregation in church, including members of the staff, Corporation Gas Department, where Flying-Officer Aust, was formerly employed. The Commanding Officer, officers and crews of his R.A.F. station were represented by a Squadron Leader.

**Herald 16th March 1945**

Mosquito NF30, NT357 of 68 Squadron. Lost height on a single-engine overshoot and crashed on return from patrol, Coltishall, 4th March 1945. 2 crew killed.

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**Victor BATES** Gunner 4925154 6 Medium Regt., Royal Artillery

Died: Wednesday, 9th February 1944.

Age 34.

Son of Ernest Charles and Eliza Bates, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: TAUKKYAN WAR CEMETERY, Myanmar (Burma)

Grave Reference: 5. B. 15.

**WAR CASUALTY**



The mother of Gunner Victor Bates, who lives at 20, Lodge Road, Stratford-on-Avon, has received news that he has been killed in action in Burma. It is a sad coincidence that his father was killed in the 1914-18 war at the same age – 34. Before joining up Gunner Bates was employed in the water department of the corporation. Of a quiet disposition, he was well liked by all his colleagues, who will regret that he will not return to them. Keenly interested in pigeon racing, for which he held a cup, he was a member of the Pigeon Club, and was also a fishing enthusiast.

**Herald 10th March 1944**

Also commemorated on the St Andrew's Parish Church, Shottery

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**George BATSFORD** Fusilier 5125589 8th Bn., Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regt.)

Died: Tuesday, 18th January 1944.

Age 20.

Son of George and Julia Batsford, of 28, Swincotes, Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: MINTURNO WAR CEMETERY, Italy

Grave Reference: VII, C, 9.





### STRATFORD SOLDIER DIES FROM WOUNDS

Mr. And Mrs. G. Batsford of 28, Swincotes, Stratford on Avon, have received news that their eldest son, Fusilier George Batsford has died of wounds while serving with the Central Mediterranean Forces. Fusilier Batsford, who was in the Royal Fusiliers, would have been 21 on the day following his death. Educated at the Alcester Road Church of England School, he was employed at the Brewery and afterwards at the Great Western goods yard. As a youth he was well known in local boxing circles. He volunteered on reaching the age of 18 and went overseas last May.

**Herald 11th February 1944**

Also commemorated on the St Andrew's Parish Church, Shotton

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**Kenneth Arthur BEASLEY** Ordinary Seaman D/JX 155997 H.M.S. Matabele, Royal Navy

Died: Wednesday, 29th January 1941.

Age 18.

Son of Thomas William and Eleanor Beasley, of Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire.

Memorial: PLYMOUTH NAVAL MEMORIAL, Devon, United Kingdom

Panel Number: Panel 49, Column 1.

### DEATH OF A YOUNG SAILOR STRATFORD FAMILY AGAIN BEREAVED MANY ADVENTURES WITH THE ROYAL NAVY

To lose two sons in less than 12 months has been the sad experience of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Beasley, of 61, Bordon Place, Stratford-on-Avon.



Last April their 15-year-old boy, Herbert Hadland Oldham, died in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham. He was a pupil at K.E.S.

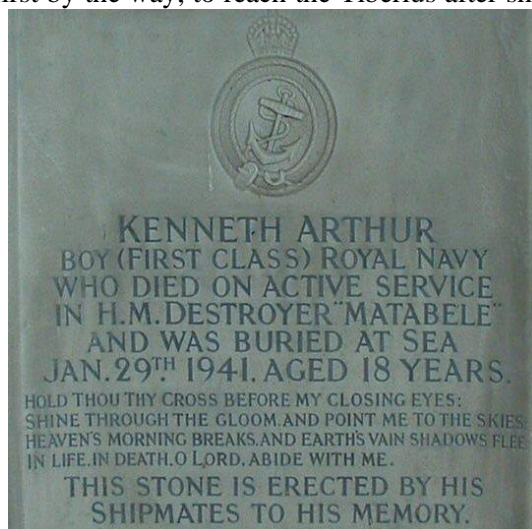
On Friday last they received a wire stating that their eldest boy, Kenneth Arthur, aged 18½ years, who was serving with the Royal Navy, had died from illness. A later wire says that he was buried at sea, but no further news has been received.

Mr. and Mrs. Beasley have two other sons (one a youngster and the other in the Corporation offices) and three daughters. Ken joined the Royal Navy in November 1937, and he had already had many thrilling experiences. His first boat after training was a cruiser and later he was posted to a destroyer – the first by the way, to reach the Tiberius after she had gone down in Liverpool Bay. He helped row the first boat that came alongside the uplifted end of the Tiberius and this

destroyer also went to pick up the divers and take them to the Tiberius. Ken, whose rank in the Navy was Boy First Class spent ten weeks on the Iceland Patrol – “the coldest ever” – he said and later took part in the convoy of Canadian soldiers to this country, including the first contingent. He took part in the Norwegian campaign and one of his recollections was of thirty-nine air raids one after another, during which his boat was not struck, thanks largely to the magnificent seamanship of the officer who stood on the bridge and as the aeroplanes appeared directed the course of the boat. He had used in that campaign the experience of seeing those German planes shot to pieces by the guns of his own boat. He was last on leave in July, and his parents' last message from him was a Christmas card.

He never regretted his choice of a career, and all who knew him will be sorry that death has cut short a life, which had started with such promise.

**Herald 7th February 1941**



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**Norman Cyril BENNETT** Engine Room Artificer 4th Class C/MX 68816 H.M.S. P, Royal Navy

Died: Sunday, 21st June 1942.

Age 36.

Cemetery: FERRYLAND OLD GENERAL CEMETERY, Newfoundland, Canada

**E.R.A. NORMAN BENNETT MISSING**



Mrs. Bennett of 242, Alcester Road, Stratford-on-Avon, has been notified that her husband, Engine-room Artificer Norman Cyril Bennett, is missing presumed killed. Mr Bennett joined the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve in 1940, at the age of 34, and has seen service at home and overseas.

A musician of no mean ability, he composed a number of songs, and possessed a particularly pleasing voice.

The sympathy of many friends will be extended to Mrs Bennett and the two young children.

**Herald 10th July 1942**

Sunk...HM Submarine P514, which sank off the coast of Newfoundland after being rammed by a Canadian minesweeper in a tragic error. All lives were lost on board.

Four months later a body was discovered on the shore, which was later identified as Norman Bennett.



**HM Submarine P514**

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**Joseph Henry BIRCH** Ordinary Telegraphist C/JX 258890 H.M.S. Anking, Royal Navy

Died: Wednesday, 4th March 1942.

Age 19.

Son of Victor Francis and Gertrude Charlotte Birch, of 6, Knights Lane, Tiddington, Stratford-on-Avon.

Memorial: CHATHAM NAVAL MEMORIAL, Kent, United Kingdom

Panel Number: 59, 2.

**PRINCE OF WALES SURVIVOR**



Mr. and Mrs. V. F. Birch, of 6, Knights Lane, Tiddington, have received the welcome news that their eldest son, Ordinary Telegraphist, Joe. H. Birch, is a survivor from the Prince of Wales.

Nineteen years of age, he joined the Navy 12 months ago, and the Prince of Wales was his first ship.

Before entering the Navy, he was at the Health Department, County Council Offices, Warwick, and prior to that, was trained at Mr S. C. Warden's office Stratford-on-Avon.

**Herald 19th December 1941**

**TIDDINGTON SURVIVOR OF PRINCE OF WALES IS NOW MISSING**

Ordinary Telegraphist Joseph Henry Birch eldest son of Mr and Mrs V. F. Birch, of 6, Knights Lane, Tiddington, is missing.

He was on board the Prince of Wales when it was lost in December and was rescued on that occasion, only to be reported missing in subsequent operations.

Before he joined the Navy about 15 months ago he was in the Health Department of the County Council Offices. Previously he was in Mr S. C. Warden's office at Stratford-on-Avon.

**Herald 27th March 1942**

**J. H. BIRCH**

Mr. and Mrs. V. F. Birch, of 6, Knights Lane, Tiddington, have just heard from the Royal Naval Barracks, Chatham, that the death of their eldest son, Ordinary Telegraphist Joseph H. Birch, must be presumed to have occurred on the 4th March, 1942, when H.M.S. Anking was sunk by Japanese cruisers while on passage

from Batavia to Australia. He was first reported missing from the Prince of Wales in December, 1941, but survived that disaster.

Eighteen years of age when he joined the Royal Navy, O/T. Birch was 19 when he was reported missing. Before joining up he was with the County Council Health Department, having previously trained at Mr. S. C. Warden's office. He was a member of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, and with his two brothers, who are still serving in the Royal Navy, he played in the local Salvation Army band from early boy-hood.

**Herald 14th December 1945**

#### MEMORIAL

Next Wednesday, at the Salvation Army Hall, a penitent form will be dedicated to the memory of Ordinary Telegraphist Joseph H. Birch, a Salvation Army bandsman, who lost his life while serving with the Royal Navy in the war. One of three brothers to serve their country on the sea, and a son of Mr. and Mrs. V. F. Birch, of 6, Knights Lane, Tiddington, O/T Birch was a survivor from the Prince of Wales, from which he was at first reported missing, but was drowned when H.M.S. Anking was sunk by Japanese in March, 1941. He was then 19 years of age. Both his brother and father are Salvation Army bandsman. The penitent form will be dedicated by Lieut. Colonel Andrew Donald (Div.-Com. Birmingham).

**Herald 5th December 1947**

HMS Anking a Base and Accommodation Ship lost on March 4th 1942. Sunk by naval gunfire from the Imperial Japanese Navy heavy cruisers and destroyers.

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<b>John Charles Eric BLACK</b> Sergeant 955681 214 Sqdn., Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
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Died: Tuesday, 24th June 1941.

Age 23.

Son of John Black and Kathleen Alice Black (nee Levy), of Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire.

Memorial: RUNNYMEDE MEMORIAL, Surrey, United Kingdom

Panel Number: Panel 39.

#### R.A.F. SERGEANT MISSING

Sergeant John Charles Eric Black (22), elder son of Mrs. Kathleen Black, of 17, Limes Avenue, Stratford-on-Avon, and the late Mr. Black, a wireless-operator air-gunner in the R.A.F., is missing.

Educated at Berwick-on-Tweed Grammar School, he was employed by the N.F.U. Mutual Insurance Society, and joined the Royal Air Force about 15 months ago.

The day after he was reported missing his mother received a letter from him saying that he was off on a raid over France.

Sergeant Black, who was popular with his fellow-employees, played cricket for the F.I.S.S.C.

**Herald 4th July 1941**

Wellington 1c R1609, 214 Squadron. Operations: Emden. Took-off at 23.59 hrs Stradishall. Lost without trace, all 6 crewmembers are commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial.

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<b>Peter Henry BLAGG</b> Lieutenant 121143 1st Bn., Royal Welch Fusiliers
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Died: Thursday, 18th March 1943.

Age 24.

Memorial: RANGOON MEMORIAL, Myanmar (Burma)

Panel Number: Face 9.

#### LIEUT. PETER BLAGG MISSING

Mr. and Mrs. T. Noel Blagg of Friar Gate, Tiddington Road, Stratford on Avon have been notified that their only son, Lieut. Peter Blagg, who was serving in the Indian theatre of war, is missing. Lieut. Blagg, who is 24 years of age, was educated at Shrewsbury School and Oxford.

At school he was captain of cricket in 1936 and 1937. At Oxford, where he was at Oriel College, he kept wicket and goal for the university, receiving his cricket blue in 1939. After two years he left the University in order to join the Forces, and was gazetted in February, 1940.

Sincere sympathy will be felt with Mr. and Mrs. Blagg in their anxiety.

**Herald 9th April 1943**

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**Michael St John BOOTH** Second Lieutenant 311465 Northamptonshire Regiment

Died: Tuesday, 25th July 1944.

Age 21.

Son of Sydney and Helen Booth, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: FONTENAY-LE-PESNEL WAR CEMETERY, TESSEL, Calvados, France

Grave Reference: III. B. 2.

Also commemorated on the Alveston War Memorial.

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**Charles Edward BRAIN** Private 14542120 8th Bn., York and Lancaster Regiment

Died: Thursday, 22nd June 1944.

Age 38.

Husband of Edith May Brain, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: MADRAS WAR CEMETERY, CHENNAI, India

Grave Reference: 8. C. 18.

**STRATFORD MAN WOUNDED IN BURMA**

Mrs E. Brain, of 59 Alcester Road Stratford-on-Avon, has been informed that her husband, Private Charles Edward Brain, is dangerously ill in hospital in Burma, with gunshot wounds in the chest and arm. Private Brain, who is 39 years of age is a native of Wilmcote, he moved to Stratford during boyhood and is a plasterer by trade. He joined the Army eighteen months ago, and was drafted over-seas seven months later. He has two small children.

**Herald 23rd June 1944**



**SOLDIER'S DEATH FROM WOUNDS IN BURMA**

Private Charles Edward Brain, of 59 Alcester Road Stratford-on-Avon, has died of wounds in a Burma hospital. His wife received the tragic news on Wednesday. As stated in last week's Herald, she had previously been informed that he was suffering from gunshot wounds in the chest and arm. Pte. Brain, who was 39 years of age, leaves two daughters, aged 13 and 2½.

**Herald 30th June 1944**

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**Charles Ellis BRAYSHAW DFC** Flight Lieutenant 66584 247 Sqdn., Royal Air Force

Died: Monday, 21st February 1944.

Age 22.

Son of William Herbert and Elsie Kathleen Brayshaw, of Shotton, Warwickshire.

Memorial: RUNNYMEDE MEMORIAL, 34, 6

Panel Number: 201.

**TRAPPED IN PLANE ON SEA BED  
SHOTTERY PILOT'S NARROW ESCAPE**

An R.A.F. pilot whose home is at the Hamlet, Shotton, zoomed into the news yesterday. He is F/Lieut. Charles Ellis Brayshaw.



For some time he was unconscious while strapped in the cockpit of a Typhoon as it lay on the bottom of the English Channel. He had just cleared the English coast, flying low, when his engine "cut". Bailing out was an impossibility, and "ditching" was the only alternative, the Air Ministry News Service says. Brayshaw got rid of his cockpit doors and "ditched" at approximately 140 m.p.h. The Typhoon skidded momentarily on the surface; then went down.

The impact pitched Brayshaw forward, a bump on the head caused unconsciousness, and when he recovered he found himself strapped in his cockpit, completely submerged. He quickly unfastened his straps, and the buoyancy of his uninflated "Mae West" was enough to draw him to the surface as he endeavoured to release the gas supply, which inflates the jacket.

Brayshaw "ditched" among a small fishing fleet operating close to shore. "We thought he had gone down for good", said one of the fishermen, "but suddenly a head bobbed up on the centre of the pool."

The fishermen rescued Brayshaw. The pilot's only after effects were a cut between the eyes and the feeling that he had "just about swallowed the English Channel." After a day in hospital, he was released on short

leave, little the worse for his experience 18 feet below the surface of the Channel. Flt-Lieut. Brayshaw is the only son of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Brayshaw. He is 22 years of age and was educated at Birmingham K.E.S.

**Herald 1st October 1943**

#### **FLT./LT. C. E. BRAYSHAW PRESUMED KILLED**

Flt./Lieut. Charles Ellis Brayshaw, only son of Mr and Mrs. W. H. Brayshaw, of Hathaway Hamlet, Shotton, is presumed to have been killed on air operations.

Twenty-two years of age, he achieved fame last September when he escaped after being trapped in the cockpit of his Typhoon as it lay on the bottom of the English Channel. The plane "ditched" at approximately 140 miles per hour, and when the pilot recovered consciousness he found himself strapped in the cockpit completely submerged. He unfastened the straps, and his "Mae West" brought him to the surface, where he was picked up by fishermen, little the worse for his experience. Educated at K.E.S. Camp Hill, when war broke out he was studying for a career in commercial art and publicity. He joined the R.A.F., received his commission and gained his wings on his 20th birthday. Before becoming a Typhoon pilot he served with a night fighter squadron.

#### **C.O.'s TRIBUTE**

A warm tribute is paid to him in a letter to his parents written on behalf of his commanding officer. "The loss of his beaming personality and very great experience," it states, "is a grievous one for the whole squadron. He has been a tremendous driving force, and nothing was so great that he could not take it in his stride. Most of us would gladly have 'cried off' flying after his experience, but he came up smiling and carried on apparently unperturbed. He was one of the finest pilots and the grandest man the squadron has ever had."

**Herald 7th April 1944**

#### **AWARDED D.F.C. DAY BEFORE HE WAS KILLED**

The D.F.C. has been awarded to the late Flt./Lieut. Charles Ellis Brayshaw, of 6, Hathaway Hamlet, Shotton. The award dates from February 20th, 1944—the day before he was killed in action.

Born in 1921, at Headingley, Leeds, Flt./Lieut. Brayshaw enlisted in 1940, and was commissioned the following year. He once escaped from his plane after it had crashed and come to rest on the bed of the English Channel.

The citation states: "This officer has made telling attacks on enemy railway sidings, shipping and airfields, often in the face of severe opposition.

He has always displayed a fine fighting spirit and an anxiety to engage the enemy, and has led his squadron on several occasions, attaining good results.

While engaged on operations Flt./Lieut. Brayshaw has had several cases of engine failure, and was once forced down on to the sea. He has destroyed one enemy aircraft".

**Herald 15th June 1945**

#### **SHOTTERY HERO**

Mr and Mrs. W. H. Brayshaw, of Shotton, attended an investiture at Buckingham Palace last week, when they received from the King the D.F.C. awarded to their son, the late Flight Lieutenant Charles Ellis Brayshaw, who was killed in 1944.

**Herald 17th May 1946**

Flight Lieutenant Brayshaw while flying Hawker Typhoon Mk 1b JR258 on a Ramrod sortie to Villers-Sur-Mer in the afternoon was hit by flak and crashed into the sea north of Cabourg.

**London Gazette 13th June 1944.** Awarded the D.F.C 15th May 1944

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<b>Frank Chasey BREMBRIDGE</b> Lance Corporal 7886522 5th, Royal Tank Regiment, R.A.C.
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Died: Thursday, 16th July 1942.

Age 24.

Son of Frederick George and Ada Mary Brembridge, of Tiddington, Warwickshire.

Memorial: ALAMEIN MEMORIAL, 82

Panel Number: Column 22.

Also commemorated on the Alveston War Memorial.

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**John Reginald BRIDGES** Leading Aircraftman 548638 Royal Air Force

Died: Friday, 26th September 1941.

Cemetery: STRATFORD-ON-AVON CEMETERY, Warwickshire, United Kingdom

Grave Reference: 4053.

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**John Ralph Auckland BROCKLEBANK** Lieutenant 219024 6th Bn., Grenadier Guards

Died: Monday, 8th November 1943.

Age 22.

Son of Lt.-Col. Richard Hugh Royds Brocklebank, D.S.O., and Charlotte Carissima Brocklebank, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: CASSINO WAR CEMETERY, Italy

Grave Reference: XIX. J. 14.

**LT. J. R. A. BROCKLEBANK KILLED IN ACTION**

Official news has been received that Lieut. John Ralph Auckland Brocklebank, Grenadier Guards, only surviving son of Lieut.-Colonel R. H. R. Brocklebank, D.S.O., and Mrs. Brocklebank, of Alveston House, Alveston, has been killed in action in the Mediterranean theatre of operations. He was 22 years of age.

Educated at Eton and Magdalen College, Oxford, Lieut. Brocklebank joined the Grenadier Guards in October, 1941. He rowed in the Eton Eight, stroked Magdalen College when they went head of the river, and also rowed in the Oxford University Eight.

**Herald 3rd December 1943**

Also commemorated on the Alveston War Memorial.

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**Frederick Norman BROOKES** Sapper 1909745 4 Field Sqn., Royal Engineers

Died: Sunday, 21st December 1941.

Age 22.

Son of Frederick and Rose Jane Brookes, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Memorial: ALAMEIN MEMORIAL, Egypt

Panel Number: Column 46.

**SAPPER NORMAN BROOKES KILLED IN ACTION  
POPULAR YOUNG STRATFORD SPORTSMAN**

Mr and Mrs F. Brookes, of 11, Ryland Street, Stratford-on-Avon, learned on Saturday that their only son, Sapper F. N. L. (Norman) Brookes, aged 22, was killed in action in December.

Norman Brookes joined the Royal Engineers in February, 1940, and left England for the Middle East in the same year.

Before joining the Army he was employed by Mr C. Huxley, the builder, with whom he learned plumbing and painting. He had a cheerful personality and was popular with the Huxley family and with his workmates. He was a keen sportsman, and football was his favourite game. Before leaving the Church of England school he was captain of the football team, and on leaving he joined the Rovers F.C. He gained medals with both the junior and senior teams. He then joined the W. M. C. and helped them win the Foster Shield for the first time.

Mr and Mrs F Brookes have one daughter.

**Herald 16th January 1942**

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**Christopher Albert Edward CLACK** Private 5111957 6th Bn., Gordon Highlanders

Died: Monday, 6th November 1944.

Age 22.

Son of William and Marion Clack, of Tiddington, Warwickshire.

Cemetery: FAENZA WAR CEMETERY, 27

Grave Reference: VI. D. 7.

**KILLED IN ITALY**

Pte. C. A. Clack, elder son of the late Mr. W. Clack and of Mrs Clack, of 1 Oak Road, Tiddington, has been killed in action in Italy. He was 22 years of age.

A member of the local Territorials, he was called up at the outbreak of War and served throughout the North African campaign. He had also seen considerable service in Italy.



From the time he left school until he was called up he was employed at Messrs Flower and Sons' brewery. A keen sportsman, he played football for Alveston and for his Battalion. He also won several prizes for cross-country running for his Battalion.

Mrs Clack's other son volunteered for the Navy and received his calling-up papers on the day his brother's death was notified.

**Herald 24th November 1944**

Also commemorated on the Alveston War Memorial.

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<b>Thomas Albert CLEMENT</b> Private 14654623 1st Bn., Leicestershire Regiment
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Died: Friday, 29th September 1944.

Age 19.

Son of Charles Henry and Ethel Clement, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: LEOPOLDSBURG WAR CEMETERY, Leopoldsburg, Limburg, Belgium

Grave Reference: II. B. 17.

#### STRATFORD FOOTBALLER KILLED

News has been received by Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Clement, 3, Vincent Avenue, Stratford-on-Avon, that their younger son, L/Cpl. Thomas Albert Clement, has been killed in action in North-West Europe.

L/Cpl. Clement, who was 19 years of age, was a native of Stockton-on Tees, Co. Durham, and moved to Stratford-on-Avon with his parents shortly before the outbreak of war. A keen footballer, he played for the Working Men's Club. He was an enthusiastic member of "C" company Home Guard until joining the Forces, and was employed by Messrs R. M. Bird and Co.

**Herald 20th October 1944**

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<b>Anthony COLEMAN</b> Guardsman 2739164 1st Bn., Welsh Guards
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Died: Monday, 18th September 1944.

Age 19.

Son of Ernest Francis and Alma Coleman, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: BRUSSELS TOWN CEMETERY, Evere, Vlaams-Brabant, Belgium

Grave Reference: X. 22. 9.

#### GUARDSMAN A. COLEMAN

Mr and Mrs E. F. Coleman, of 15, Swincotes, Stratford-on-Avon have received news that their third son Guardsman A. Coleman is dangerously ill in hospital as the result of gunshot wounds in the abdomen.

Guardsman Coleman, who was serving in France is 19 years of age and joined the Forces in the early part of this year.

He has two brothers serving in Italy. In civil life he was employed by Messrs Wheeler and Mansell of Evesham.

**Herald 22nd September 1944**

#### GUARDSMAN A. COLEMAN'S DEATH FROM WOUNDS

Guardsman Anthony Coleman, third son of Mr and Mrs E. F. Coleman, of 15, Swincotes, Stratford-on-Avon, who, as reported in last week's *Herald*, was wounded while serving in N. W. Europe, has since died.

Nineteen years of age, he joined the Army in the early part of this year. Mr and Mrs Coleman have two other sons who are serving in Italy.

**Herald 29th September 1944**

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<b>Gordon Robert COLLINS</b> Sergeant 1869001 622 Sqdn., Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
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Died: Friday, 31st March 1944.

Age 20.

Son of George Henry and Ethel Jemina Collins, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: HOTTON WAR CEMETERY, Hotton, Luxembourg, Belgium

Grave Reference: VIII. E. 7.

#### STRATFORD AIR-GUNNER MISSING

Sergeant-Air-Gunner Gordon Robert Collins, elder son of Mr and Mrs G. H. Collins, 5, Guild Street, Stratford-on-Avon, is missing from recent air ops. Age 20 Sergeant Collins was educated at King Edward

VI School, and played Rugby for the school first fifteen. On leaving school he was employed at the Treasury and in 1941 he joined the Fleet Air Arm. Afterwards he transferred to the R.A.F. He was a member of the local squadron of the A.T.C.

**Herald 21st April 1944**



#### **PRESUMED KILLED**

Sergeant-Air-Gunner Gordon Robert Collins, elder son of Mr and Mrs G. H. Collins, 5, Guild Street, Stratford-on-Avon, reported missing from air operations in March, is now presumed to have lost his life.

Age 20, he was educated at King Edward VI School. A member of the local squadron of the A.T.C., in 1941 he joined the Fleet Air Arm, later transferring to the R.A.F.

**Herald 15th December 1944**

Lancaster 111 ND767. 622 Squadron. Operations: Nurnberg.

Took-off 2230 hrs from Mildenhall. Returning from that raid collided with a 427 Squadron Halifax and both aircraft crashed, both aircraft plunging into the ground near Rachecourt (Luxembourg), 13km SW of Arlon, Belgium. All are

buried in Hotton War Cemetery. In all 15 aircrew were killed with one evading capture.

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**Charles Henry COOKE** Private 14740519 Pioneer Corps

Died: Wednesday, 4th July 1945.

Age 42.

Son of Henry and Bertha Ann Cooke, of Stratford-on-Avon; husband of Marjorie Cooke, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: CELLE WAR CEMETERY, Germany

Grave Reference: 2. B. 2.

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**George Edwin CROSS** Flying Officer 156644 185 Sqdn., Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Died; Wednesday, 23rd August 1944.

Age 22.

Cemetery: ANCONA WAR CEMETERY, Italy

Grave Reference: II. J. 12



#### **STRATFORD PILOT KILLED**

General sympathy will be extended to Mr and Mrs R. Cross, of Greenhill Street, Stratford-on-Avon, who have received news of the death in action in Italy during August of their elder son, Flying-Officer Geoffrey Cross, R.A.F.

Twenty-two years of age, Flying-Officer Cross, was educated at K.E.S., and played full-back in the Rugby XV. After leaving school he gained his Inter. B.Sc. as a research chemist under Dr. Stanley, himself an old Stratfordian.

On joining the R.A.F. in 1941 he received his training as a fighter pilot in Canada and America, and had been serving in the campaign based on Malta and Italy.

**Herald 8th September 1944**

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**Edmund Thomas CROW** Sergeant 1817244 Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Died: Sunday, 26th November 1944.

Age 19.

Son of Edmund Cecil and Edith Crow, of Stratford-on-Avon

Cemetery: STRATFORD-ON-AVON CEMETERY, Warwickshire, United Kingdom.

Grave Reference: 4802.

#### **SGT. A G. EDDIE CROW**

Well-known as the first drum-major in the Stratford-on-Avon Squadron of the A.C.T. Sergt Air-Gunner Eddie Crow, only son of Mr and Mrs Crow, 42 Shakespeare Street, Stratford-on-Avon, has been killed in a flying accident while serving with Coastal Command.

Educated at the Alcester Road School he joined the R.A.F. in April, 1943, and passed all his examinations for pilot. Due to the large number available, however, he became an air-gunner. He had practically completed his training and was looking forward to spending his twentieth birthday at home. Before joining the R.A.F. he was employed in the offices of Messrs Flower and Sons.



The funeral will take place in Stratford-on-Avon.

**Herald 1st December 1944**

#### AIRMAN'S FUNERAL

There was a large attendance at the funeral on Saturday last of Sergeant Air-Gunner Eddie Crow, whose death in a flying accident was reported in our last issue. The cortège was headed by a section of the A.T.C., under F/O Southam, and six of the members acted as bearers. The coffin, draped with the Union Jack, was followed by four friends in the uniforms of the navy, Army, Air Force and Fire Service. The first part of the funeral service, held at the Birmingham Road Methodist Church, was conducted by the Rev. George Anderson, assisted by Padre Jones (of the R.A.F.) both also officiated at the graveside.

**Herald 8th December 1944**

Killed while serving with 131 (Coastal) Operational Unit (OTU) at Killadeas Northern Island. He lost his life when Catalina JX252 lost control in bad visibility and crashed one mile south of Ely Lodge Fermanagh.

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**Herbert Gordon FREEMAN** Private 1555135 81st Coy., Pioneer Corps

Died: Wednesday, 25th November 1942.

Age 26.

Son of Horace and Nellie Freeman, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: BONE WAR CEMETERY, ANNABA, 182

Grave Reference: V. D. 16.

#### STRATFORD MAN KILLED IN NORTH AFRICA

Mrs. H. J. Freeman, of 33 Evesham Road, Stratford on Avon, has received news from the War Office that her second son, Private Hubert Gordon Freeman, has been killed in action in North Africa. Private Freeman, who was 26 years of age, was educated at the Alcester Road school and on leaving was apprenticed to Messrs. Joseph Burton and Sons Ltd., of Stratford. Later he was transferred to the firm's branch at Campden. He enlisted in the Royal Artillery in March, 1940. Mrs. Freeman's youngest son, now a Flight-Sergeant in the A.T.C., has been accepted for training as a member of an air crew in the R.A.F. and is awaiting call-up.

**Herald 11th December 1942**

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**John Edward GARDNER** Aircraftman 1st Class 1161983 209 Sqdn., Royal Air Force  
Volunteer Reserve

Died: Sunday, 22nd February 1942.

Age 32.

Son of Charles Edward and Rose Elizabeth Gardner, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Memorial: RUNNYMEDE MEMORIAL, Surrey, United Kingdom

Panel Number: 98.

#### "NUTTY" GARDNER REPORTED MISSING FORTNIGHT AFTER BEING HOME ON LEAVE

The relatives of Mr John E. ("Nutty") Gardner, aged 32, of Post Office-row, Shottery, have been notified that he is missing, presumed killed.

He had helped build a sound business as a turf accountant in Stratford, a cheery personality and a reputation for straightforward dealing standing him in good stead.

He joined the Royal Air Force, and was stationed in Northern Ireland, where he served on the ground staff.

Latterly he transferred to aircrew duty as an air-gunner and was posted to a station in this country.

He was home on leave a fortnight before his presumed death.

**Herald 27th February 1942**



**MR. JOHN E. GARDNER  
PRESUMED KILLED**

News has been received by Mr. And Mrs. C. Gardner, of Post Office-row, Shottery, that their son Mr John E. ("Nutt") Gardner, reported missing in February, must now be presumed killed. Serving first with the ground staff of the R.A.F., Mr Gardner, just before he was posted missing, transferred to aircrew as gunner.

Thirty-two years of age, he was well known in the town as a turf accountant.

**Herald 21st August 1942.**

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<b>Edgar Douglas GOODYEAR</b> Cook (S) C/MX 56668 H.M.S. Dee, Royal Navy
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Died: Saturday, 2nd November 1940.

Age 21.

Nephew of Mrs. F. J. Lunn, of Stratford-on-Avon. Sec

Cemetery: DUNFERMLINE (DOUGLAS BANK) CEMETERY, Fifeshire, United Kingdom

Grave Reference: A. Grave 165.

**MAN WHO HAD NARROW ESCAPES**

On Monday Mrs. F. Lunn, of 8 Great William Street, received a telegram to say that her nephew, Edgar Douglas (Sam) Goodyear (21), had been drowned. He had lived with his aunt since infancy.

Mrs Lunn has two relatives living with her, both of whom have husbands serving with the forces. When the telegram arrived, each was afraid to open it.

Sam Goodyear was well known and deservedly popular in the town, and his untimely death will bring regret to many. Educated at the Church of England school at one time he managed the Hippodrome roller skating rink, and was a good skater.

Two years last March he joined the Navy as a cook, and after training at Chatham he was posted to a minesweeper. His relatives last saw him on Sunday week, when he returned from leave.

**NARROW ESCAPES**



Both locally and among his pals in the Navy he had a reputation as a dare-devil (on one occasion he dived from the bridge of his ship into the sea and afterwards told his friends that he thought he never would reach the water), and he was admirably suited for service on a minesweeper, among a body of men whose service ranks with that of bomb disposal squads.

He had had many narrow escapes, yet always came up smiling. On one occasion a mine exploded when the ship was only 25 yards away. The craft was blown out of the water, and he confessed that this experience gave him a shaking. At one time he served on the ill-fated Laurel, but left her two days before she sank with all hands. He was also at the evacuation of Dunkirk.

He was popular with his shipmates and always in demand as an entertainer, both ashore and afloat. His impersonation of "Popeye the Sailor", will be remembered by friends and acquaintances.

The funeral took place at Rosyth yesterday (Thursday). Yesterday, Mr.

Goodyear's relatives received a letter from the Commodore stating that no details as to how he met his death are yet available and expressing the sympathy of the officers and men of the Royal Navy.

**Herald 8th November 1940**

**HOW SAILOR MET HIS DEATH**

Edgar Douglas (Sam) Goodyear, a cook in the Royal Navy, whose death was recorded last week, lost his life when he fell into the docks. He was returning to his ship to change before going to a dance, and missed his way in the black-out. He was wearing sea boots, and the fact that he managed to rid himself of these shows that he struggled to the last. The funeral took place at Rosyth on Thursday week, the coffin (draped with the Union Jack) being carried to the cemetery on a gun carriage drawn by his shipmates. The service was conducted by the ship's chaplain. "Last Post" was sounded at the graveside, and there was also a firing party. The mourners included Mrs. F. J. Lunn (with whom Mr. Goodyear made his home) and Mrs. Fisher (aunt), and the Commanding Officer (Captain Griffiths) and Mrs. Griffiths. The wreaths included one from his shipmates.

**Herald 15th November 1940**

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**Herbert Lionel GULLY** Driver T/226953 Royal Army Service Corps

Died: Thursday, 24th February 1944.

Age 38.

Son of Herbert B Gully and Florence Maud Gully; husband of Elizabeth May Gully, of Stratford-on-Avon

Cemetery: HELIOPOLIS WAR CEMETERY, Egypt

Grave Reference: 4. C. 5.



**WAR CASUALTY**

The death has occurred on active service of Driver Herbert Gully, of 12 Clopton Road, Stratford-on-Avon. His wife received the news on Monday in a letter from his friend, who stated that Driver Gully was killed in a lorry accident. Driver Gully who was the second son of Mr and Mrs H. B. Gully, of 29, Henley Street moved to Stratford about 1928 and for some ten years was employed by Messrs F. A. Birchill and Co Ltd, as a salesman. His job brought him into contact with many people, and his charm of manner won him considerable popularity. He was the firm's window dresser, and his efforts in this direction gained him an award in a national competition. He joined up in 1939, serving with the R.A.S.C. and had been in the Middle East for three years. He had seen considerable service, and was in the siege of Tobruck.

**Herald 10th March 1944**

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**Alfred John HANCOX** Lance Serjeant 2663539 2nd Bn., Coldstream Guards

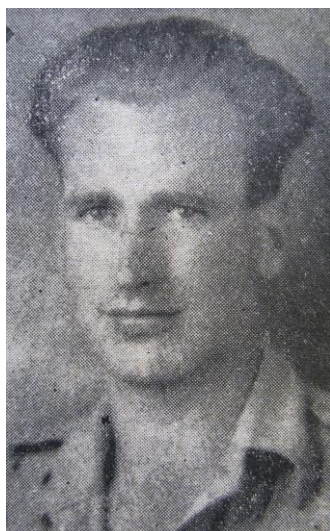
Died: Saturday, 16th September 1944.

Age 30.

Son of Arthur George and Grace Amelia Hancox; husband of Margaret Emily Hancox, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: FLORENCE WAR CEMETERY, Italy

Grave Reference: IV. D. 14.



**SERGT.'S DEATH IN ACTION**

The wife and parents of Sergt. Alfred John Hancox of The Woodlands, Ridgeway, Stratford on Avon have been informed of his death in action in Italy on the fourth anniversary of his enlistment. Sergt. Hancox, who was in the Guards and was an only son, was 30 years of age. Before joining the Forces he was employed by Mr. D. J. Dyer, the Stratford builder. He leaves a 16 months old daughter whom he has never seen.

A memorial service is being held in the Methodist Church on the evening of October 22nd.

**Herald 6th October 1944**

**MEMORIAL SERVICE**

A memorial service was held in the Methodist Church on Sunday for Sergt. Alfred J. Hancox, of the Coldstream Guards. The Rev. G. Anderson referred to the unbroken connection of the Hancox family with the Methodist church since the days of John Wesley, and in his sermon said that some people make

a brave show in public but in private their confidence drops away. To be cheerful and brave, even when hard hit, may be a public duty to others and a real public service, but a smile in the midst of sorrow should be the outcome of the heart's deepest convictions. It is possible in the presence of other people to make the face smile when the heart is cold, with little faith, hope or love left.

**Herald 27th October 1944**

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**Clement Joseph HANDS** Gunner Royal Artillery

C. J. Hands name appears on the War Memorial and also on the Holy Trinity Plaque, but after searching CWGC and local records no other information can be found.

*On 7th July 1950 the Vicar (Canon Noel Prentice) requested that relatives of C J Hands, in order to establish his identity, should get in touch with him. Unfortunately to no avail.*

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**Charles Henry HARRINGTON** Private 5111971 7th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Died: Monday, 27th May 1940.

Age 19.

Son of James Henry and Rose Edith Harrington, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: BAS-WARNETON (NEERWAASTEN) COMMUNAL CEMETERY, Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium

Grave Reference: 21.

**CHARLES HARRINGTON**

On Saturday Mr. and Mrs. J. Harrington, of 2, Vincent Avenue, received official news that their only son, Charles, aged 20, was killed in action in France on May 27th.

He had been serving with the Royal Warwickshire Regiment in France since January.

He was a keen member of the local St. John Ambulance Brigade and had gained several certificates in first-aid. Before the War he was employed by Messrs F. Kendall and Son. Ltd.

**Herald 12th July 1940**

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**John Henry HARRIS** Cook C/MX 56669 H.M.S. Curacoa, Royal Navy

Died: Wednesday, 24th April 1940.

Age 21.

Son of William and Emily Harris, of Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire.

Memorial: CHATHAM NAVAL MEMORIAL, Kent, United Kingdom

Panel Number: 39, 2.

**STRATFORD SAILOR'S DEATH**

On Saturday morning, Mrs. W. Harris of 33 Ryland Street, Stratford on Avon received a telegram from Chatham informing her of the death of her 21 year old son, John Henry who was serving in the Royal Navy.



She was expecting to see him on a short leave later in the day. He joined the Navy in the September crisis of 1938. He had been stationed at Chatham, training as chef, and had been sailing about a month. Previously he was employed by Messrs. F. A. Burchell and Co., Ltd., of Wood Street and he had served with "D" Squadron of the Warwickshire Yeomanry.

Mr. and Mrs. Harris's elder son is also with the Forces. Miss Dorothy Pinfold, of 32 Main Street Tiddington had a letter from Jack Harris on Saturday midday.

**Herald 3rd May 1940**

**STRATFORD MAN'S DEATH IN HAYFIELD**

Twice within two months tragedy has visited the home of Mrs. Harris of 33 Ryland Street, Stratford on Avon.

In May her younger son, John Henry, was killed in action while serving with the Royal Navy. On Tuesday her husband, Mr. William Harris (67), was found dead in a field at Wildmoor, where he had been haymaking. Death was due to natural causes and an inquest was not deemed necessary.

Mr. Harris was greatly upset by the death of his son. He leaves three daughters and a son, who is serving with the Forces.

**Herald 12th July 1940**

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**Norman Gordon HARRIS** Private 5123148 10th Bn., Royal Berkshire Regiment

Died: Tuesday, 8th February 1944.

Age 25.

Son of George and Alice Harris, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: BEACH HEAD WAR CEMETERY, ANZIO, Italy

Grave Reference: XVII. G. 9.

**MISSING, NOW SAID TO HAVE BEEN KILLED**

Pte. Norman G. Harris, of Birmingham Road, Stratford-on-Avon, who was reported missing while serving in Italy in 1944, is now stated to have been killed. His sister, Mrs. H. Goldby, of 4, Birmingham Road, with whom he made his home, has received information that two former prisoners of war from the unit state that they witnessed Pte. Harris' death during the fighting in the Anzio beach-head. Pte Harris was 26 years of age. Before joining the Army four years ago he was employed at the Royal Label

Factory, where he had been since leaving school. He had been abroad only a week when he was killed.

**Herald 20th April 1945**



Died: Thursday, 4th July 1940.

Age 21.

Son of Walter Robert and Mary Ann Hiron, of Stratford-on-Avon; husband of V. Hiron.

Memorial: PORTSMOUTH NAVAL MEMORIAL, Hampshire, United Kingdom

Panel Number: 43, Column 1.

#### **DENNIS HIRONS**

On Saturday Mrs. Hiron, of 11, Kendall Avenue, Stratford-on-Avon, received notification from the Admiralty that her husband of a few months, Mr. Dennis Arnold Hiron, is missing, believed killed in action. Earlier in the day she had received a letter from him saying that he would be home that day. They were married on October 21st her husband's 21st birthday. He was then in the Navy, having volunteered at the outbreak of war.



Dennis Hiron and his wife came to Stratford a little over three years ago, having moved from Newcastle on Tyne. As they could not get a house they lived with her sister in Kendall Avenue. Eventually Mrs. Hiron secured a house near that of her sister. This she furnished and, in spite of working on munitions, kept neat and clean ready at any time to welcome her husband home, but, of course, he has never seen it. "When my sister came to me at work on Saturday," she adds, "I said, 'He has come, has he?'" My sister shook her head and gave me the telegram."

Mr. Hiron is the younger son of Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Hiron of 1 Arden Terrace, Birmingham Road. He is a native of Stratford and a staunch member of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. "He is terribly keen on this type of work," said his wife, "and for this reason volunteered for medical work in the Navy. He is a sick berth attendant, and would not have gone in anything else. 'I still keep on hoping,' she said. 'I won't believe that he is dead.'" Mr. Hiron was employed by Messrs. A. Preedy & Sons as a driver. For some time he was a choirboy at Shottery and at St. James' Church. A keen cyclist he was a member of Stratford Cycling Club.

**Herald 12th July 1940**

#### **H.M.S. FOYLEBANK PORTLAND NAVAL BASE**



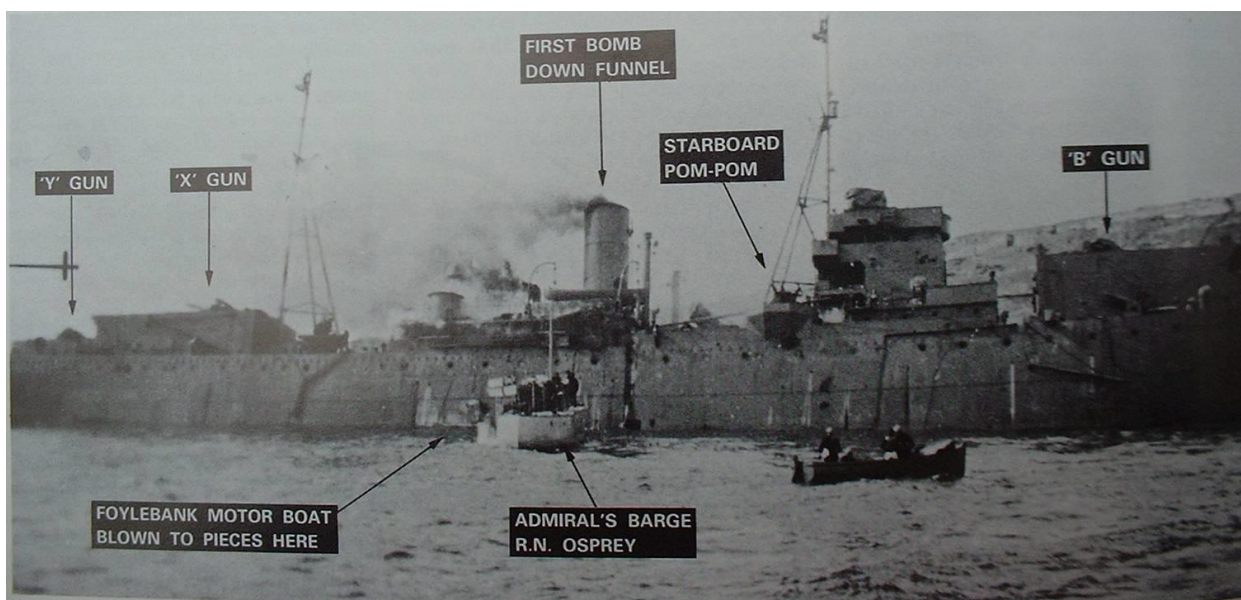
On the 4th July at 0840 hours the Germans attacked with 26 Stuka Dive Bombers, and for the next eight minutes H.M.S. Foylebank was bombarded, taking 22 direct hits. The "Foylebank" fought back with everything she had got, but with casualties mounting every second it soon became obvious she was fighting a losing battle. The cost was great, with 176 dead and only 40 who were not injured out of a crew of 300, the "Foylebank" sank to the bottom of the harbour.

As a result of the action a posthumous award of the Victoria Cross was made to Acting Leading Seaman Jack Foreman Mantle, who was Captain of the Starboard Pom-Pom.

Reports have circulated throughout the town that Dennis Arnold Hiron, previously reported missing, believed killed, is a prisoner, but his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Hiron of, 1, Arden Terrace, Birmingham Road, have received no official news.

**Herald 2nd August 1940**





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**Reidar Scott HOLTAN** Captain 246803 Royal Army Medical Corps

Died: Saturday, 19th August 1944.

Age 32.

Son of David and Ida Holtan. husband of Mary Frances Holtan, of Stratford-on-Avon. L.M.S.S.A.

Cemetery: VILLENEUVE-ST. GEORGES OLD COMMUNAL CEMETERY, Val de Marne, France

Grave Reference: 144.

#### MISS M. CLIFTON MARRIED

The wedding took place at St. Gregory's Church on Saturday of Lieutenant R. S. Holtan, R.A.M.C., The Parachute Regiment, and Miss Mary Clifton, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Clifton, of Lismore, Grove-road. The bride is well-known in the town, and is now secretary at the local Emergency Hospital. The Rev. Father Aspinwall, O.S.B. officiated.

A reception was held at the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre, and later Lieutenant and Mrs Holtan left for a honeymoon in Devon

**Herald 9th April 1943**

#### BELIEVED KILLED WHILE P.O.W.

News has been received from a reliable source that the death must be presumed of Captain Reidar Scott-Holtan, R.A.M.C., the Parachute Regiment. From February 1941, until he joined an Airborne Division in September 1942, Captain Holtan was resident surgical officer at Stratford on Avon Emergency Hospital. He married Miss Mary Clifton, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. N. Clifton of "Lismore", Grove Road. There is a baby daughter.



Captain Holtan, who landed on D-Day with the 6th Airborne Division, fell into enemy hands. The information brought to this country is that he lost his life in a train wreck while being moved with other prisoners of war. The report, which is being investigated, so far lacks official confirmation.

A Norwegian by birth, Captain Holtan was a naturalised British subject, having lived in this country since the age of 12. He was a nephew of Group-Captain and Mrs. R. S. Overton of Sutton Lodge, Surrey, with whom he made his home. He was educated in France and Heidelberg University for the Diplomatic Service, and later studied medicine at St. Thomas's Hospital and Birmingham University. A fine athlete he achieved much

success at Rugby football, playing for his hospital, for Surrey and for the North Midlands. He also played ice hockey, and in athletics won the Victor Ludorum at the United Hospitals sports.

**Herald 6th October 1944**

#### ON ACTIVE SERVICE

**HOLTAN.** – Now officially reported died of wounds in August 1944, at Chateau – Thierry, France, Captain Reidar Scott-Holtan, Royal Army Medical Corps., the Parachute Regiment, aged 32 years, beloved husband of Mary and father of Ann, 31 Grove Road, Stratford-on-Avon.

**Herald 9th February 1945**

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**Hugh Charles HOOD** Sergeant 1168679 49 Sqdn., Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Died: Saturday 6th June 1942

Age 33.

Son of Alfred Hugh and Daisy Julia Hood; husband of Margaret Constance Hood, of Totton, Hampshire.

Cemetery: RUNNYMEDE MEMORIAL Surrey, United Kingdom

Grave Reference: Panel 86

Sergeant Hood was lost on operations to Emden on the night 6/7th June 1942 in a Avro Manchester Mk I L7287 EA. Taking off at 2319 hrs from RAF Scampton, lost without trace. All the 7 crew members are commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial.

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**Donald KEELEY** Sergeant 1381057 115 Sqdn., Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Died: Friday, 24th March 1944.

Age 22.

Eldest son of Mr. L. J. Keeley, of Campden, Gloucestershire. and Mrs. H. Keeley, 12, Ely Street, Stratford-on-Avon

Memorial: RUNNYMEDE MEMORIAL, 34, 6. Panel Number: 232



**PRESUMED KILLED**

Sergeant Donald Keeley, R.A.F. elder son of Mrs. H. Keeley of 12, Ely Street, Stratford upon Avon who was reported missing from air operations over enemy territory in June is now presumed to have lost his life. Aged 22, he was serving as mid-upper gunner in a Lancaster. Before joining the R.A.F. in March, 1941, he was employed as a clerk in a London Bank. Mrs. Keeley's other son, Roy, aged 19, has recently returned having obtained his "Wings" and been commissioned in the Fleet Air Arm. He is the grandson of the late Mr. And Mrs. F. W. Newbery of Walton, Wellesbourne.

**Herald 15th September 1944**

115 Squadron took off at 18.44 hrs from their base at Witchford in Cambridgeshire, part of a force of 800 aircraft which took part in a raid on Berlin. Lancaster LL730.KO-G-Golf piloted by Flight Sergeant I. G.

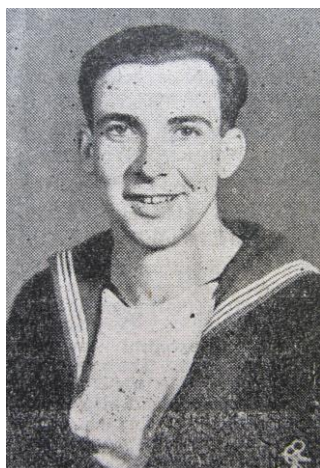
Williams was intercepted by a Junkers Ju88 night fighter, attacking from below losing two engines, and setting fire to the bomb bay. Jettisoning the burning bomb load the pilot set course for neutral Sweden, but losing height the crew were ordered to take up ditching stations. At about 1000 feet Sergeant Meike decided that he would sooner take his chances parachuting than ditching in a very rough sea. Upon landing he was dragged across a ploughed field by a very strong wind, before he could free himself from his harness. Moments after leaving the stricken Lancaster, it crashed near Ostseebad Rerik, 12 km NNW of Kropelin.

Sergeant Meike was the only survivor, he was taken prisoner, spending the rest of the war in POW Camp L1. The other six-crew members including Sgt D. Keeley were killed in the crash.

Also commemorated on the Chipping Campden War Memorial.

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**Roy KEELEY** Acting Sub Lieutenant (A) H.M.S. Begum., Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve



Died Sunday 29th July 1945.

Age 20.

Youngest son of Mr. L. J. Keeley, of Campden, Gloucestershire. and Mrs. H. Keeley, 12, Ely Street, Stratford upon Avon.

Cemetery: LEE-ON-SOLENT MEMORIAL Hampshire, UK.

Panel Number: Bay 6, Panel 5.

**ROY KEELEY**

Information has been received that Sub-Lieut. Roy Keeley, a Pilot in the Fleet Air Arm, has been killed in a flying accident in the Far East. His plane overturned when taking off from the aircraft carrier on which he was serving, and he was trapped in the cockpit. He died from his injuries two days later.

Twenty years of age only a few days before his death, he joined the Fleet Air Arm on leaving Cheltenham Grammar School in 1943. His elder brother, Sergt. Donald Keeley, R.A.F. gunner, was killed in March 1944 at the age of 22, while on operations. He is buried in Germany. They were the only sons of



Mrs. H. Keeley, 12 Ely Street, Stratford on Avon and Mr. L. J. Keeley, Elsley House, Campden, Glos., and grandsons of the late Mr. and Mrs. F. Newberry of Walton

**Herald 10th August 1945**

Seafire 111 LR808, 757 Squadron FAA. Port wheel failed to lock down and collapsed on landing on HMS Begum.

Also commemorated on the Chipping Campden War Memorial.

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**Edward Malcolm KENNARD** Apprentice S.S. Temple Moat (London), Merchant Navy

Died: Sunday, 23rd February 1941.

Age 16.

Son of Percy Edward and Fanny Awdry Kennard, of Stratford-on-Avon

Memorial: TOWER HILL MEMORIAL, London, United Kingdom

Panel Number: 106.

#### **MALCOLM KENNARD MISSING**

Malcolm Kennard, who will be 17 years of age this month, the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Percy Kennard, of Rother Street, Stratford-on-Avon, was serving on a merchant vessel that is seriously overdue and is regarded by the Admiralty as lost. Malcolm joined the Mercantile Marine when he left K.E.S. a year ago. On Wednesday his parents received the news in a letter from the ship-owners, who express sympathy with the anxiety the parents will suffer--sympathy that will be shared by the many local friends of the family. The company's letter also states: "Although we now feel there is little chance of her still being afloat, we have not given up hope for the safety of the crew. There have been numerous cases of crews being taken prisoner and landed in enemy territory, from which they have only been able to communicate with their homes after several months' captivity."



**Herald 2nd May 1941**

#### **MALCOLM KENNARD**

The sympathy of many friends will go out to Mr. and Mrs. Percy Kennard, of Stratford-on-Avon, whose son Malcolm, missing at sea early this year, has now been officially reported killed.

**Herald 24th October 1941**

#### **Report from the Log of U-122.**

23rd Feb 1941.

A little over two hours later, a lone merchant is spotted at 303 degrees. I opt for a submerged attack, so I get to a good firing position. At 18: 00 the first torpedo is launched. It's a dud, but a second torpedo sends the "S.S. Temple Moat", a cargo merchant of 3.146 BRT, in ballast, to the bottom.

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**Charles KENYON** Gunner 988139 73 Medium Regt., Royal Artillery

Died: Saturday, 6th December 1941.

Age 33.

Son of John William and Amelia Kenyon; husband of Helen Louisa Kenyon, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: HALFAYA SOLLUM WAR CEMETERY, 82. Egypt

Grave Reference: 15. A. 10.



#### **GUNNERS DEATH FROM WOUNDS**

News has been received of the death in December of Gunner Charles Kenyon, R.A., who died of wounds.

Mr. Kenyon lived at Albury, East Green Drive, Stratford-on-Avon, and was well known in the town and district. For several years he was on the staff at Clifford Manor. He volunteered for the Services in October, 1940, and went abroad in August, 1941. He leaves a widow, who is also well known in the town.

**Herald 16th January 1942**

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**Robert KERR** Guardsman 2663454 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn., Coldstream Guards

Died: Tuesday 25th January 1944

Age 33.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Campbell Kerr; husband of Elizabeth Susan Kerr, of Welford-on-Avon, Warwickshire.

Cemetery: MINTURNO WAR CEMETERY Italy

Grave Reference: IV. B. 17

#### MEMORIAM

Kerr---In January, Killed in Action, Robert Kerr, in the central Mediterranean, Coldstream Guards, beloved husband of Betty Kerr, Welford-on-Avon.

**Herald 4th February 1944**

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**William Arthur LOWTH** Captain 155843 124 Field Regt., Royal Artillery

Died: Tuesday, 2nd November 1943.

Age 30.

Son of John Arthur and Minerva Lowth; husband of Sheila Lowth, of Wootton Wawen, Warwickshire.

Cemetery: NAPLES WAR CEMETERY, 27. Italy

Grave Reference: III. J. 10.

#### CAPT. W. A. LOWTH KILLED

Official notification has been received this week of the death from wounds sustained on active service of Captain William Arthur Lowth, Royal Artillery, elder son of the late Mr. J. A. Lowth and of Mrs. Lowth, Town Clerk of Stratford.

Upon leaving King Edward VI School Captain "Bill" Lowth joined the staff of Lloyds Bank, Ltd., being appointed to the Banbury branch. When war clouds gathered he joined the Territorials there and served in an anti-tank corps.

A keen sportsman, he played Rugby for Stratford, and afterwards was vice-captain of Banbury R.F.C. Possessed of a rare charm, he won many friends, to whom his untimely death has brought keen sorrow.

Captain Lowth embarked for service in the Middle East in April, 1941, and served with the Eighth Army throughout the North African campaign, taking part in the siege of Tobruk, the Battle of El Alamein, the victorious advance into Tripoli and the invasion of Sicily and Italy. At the time of his death he was a Staff Captain at a formation headquarters.

In September, 1939, he married Miss Sheila Donaldson, daughter of the late Mr. H. M. Donaldson, and of Mrs. E. M. Donaldson, of Banbury Road, Stratford-on-Avon.

**Herald 12th November 1943**

#### MEMORIAL

At Rother Street Congregational Church on Sunday the Minister (the Rev. Harold R. Veale) dedicated an oak baptismal font presented by Mrs. J. A. Lowth, in memory of her elder son, Captain W. A. Lowth, who died of wounds in Italy on November 2nd, 1943. Mrs Lowth is closely associated with the church and for a long period played an active rôle in the Sunday School, which Captain Lowth attended.

**Herald 18th January 1946**

Also commemorated on the Alveston War Memorial.

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**Gillian Dulcie MARR** Aircraftwoman 2nd Class 2060503 Women's Aux. Air Force

Died: Wednesday, 19th August 1942.

Age 20.

Cemetery: STRATFORD-ON-AVON CEMETERY, Warwickshire, United Kingdom

Grave Reference: 1638.

#### W.A.A.F. GUARD OF HONOUR AT STRATFORD FUNERAL

The funeral took place at Stratford-on-Avon Parish Church on Tuesday of Miss Gillian Dulcie Marr, W.A.A.F., 20-year-old daughter of Mr and Mrs Shirley Hamilton Marr, and niece of the Misses Lambert, of Warwick Road. She and her parents are well known in the town.

She was one of two members of the W.A.A.F. who were killed when the lorry in which they were travelling collided with an Army lorry in the Orkneys on Wednesday week. Her tragic death ends a promising career. Educated at St. Cecilia's school, Hinckley, she came out top in the area.

Before joining the W.A.A.F. she was employed by the Hinckley Urban and District Council at the Free Library.

The Vicar (Canon Noel Prentice) officiated at the funeral. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, on which lay her cap. Six members of the W.A.A.F. provided a guard of honour.

**Herald 28th August 1942**

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**Philip MARSHALL** Corporal 5111944 13th Bn., The King's Regiment (Liverpool)

Died: Thursday, 10th February 1944.

Age 31.

Son of Philip and Frances Marshall; husband of Dora Helen Marshall, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: RANGOON WAR CEMETERY. Burma (now Myanmar)

Grave Reference: 5. A. 4.

#### **WOUNDED AT DUNKIRK: MISSING IN FAR EAST**

Mrs P. Marshall, of 41, Kendall Avenue, Stratford-on-Avon, has received news from the War Office that her husband, Corporal Phillip Marshall, is posted missing in the Indian theatre of war.

Corporal Marshall, who was in the Territorials, was wounded at Dunkirk. Before joining up he was employed at Messrs G. Mason's shop in High Street. He is 28 years of age, and married, in 1938, Miss Dora Neale, of Wilmcote. They have one little girl aged 18 months.

**Herald 30th July 1943**

#### **DIED IN JAP PRISON CAMP**

Mrs D. Marshall, of 41, Kendall Avenue, Stratford-on-Avon, has received news that her husband, Corporal Phillip Marshall, The King's Regiment, has died whilst a prisoner in Japanese hands. Mrs. Marshall, had received no other news of her husband except that he was missing, but the notification stated that he was taken prisoner on 31st March, 1943, and died on 10th February, 1944. She has one little girl, aged three. Before joining the Forces Cpl. Marshall was a van driver for Messrs George Mason, High Street.

**Herald 8th June 1945**

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**Rowland Henry MEGAINNEY** Pilot Officer 155071 433 Sqdn., Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Died: Saturday, 22nd January 1944.

Age 19.

Son of Frank Reginald and Ethel Daisy Megainney, of Bishopton, Warwickshire.

Memorial: RUNNYMEDE MEMORIAL, 34, 6

Panel Number: 212.



#### **FORMER STRATFORD A.T.C. CADET MISSING**

Mr and Mrs Frank Megainney, of Sunnymead, Birmingham Road, Stratford-on-Avon, have received news that their second son, Pilot Officer Rowland Henry Megainney, is missing from recent air operations. Pilot Officer Megainney, who is 19 years of age is an air-gunner and has served with the R.A.F. since September 1942. He was commissioned last August. Before joining up he helped his father on the farm. He was formerly a member of the Stratford Squadron of the A.T.C.

**Herald 28th January 1944**

#### **PRESUMED KILLED ON FIRST OPERATIONAL FLIGHT**

Pilot Officer Rowland H. Megainney, second son Mr and Mrs F. R. Megainney, of Sunnymead, Birmingham Road, Bishopton, reported missing from air operations in January, is now presumed to have lost his life.

At the time he was on his first operational flight and was acting as mid-upper gunner. He won his "Wings" in the previous December and was gaining experience prior to taking his final test as pilot.

Aged 20, he was formerly a member of the Stratford A.T.C. Squadron. He had served with the R.A.F. since September, 1942, and was commissioned in August, 1943.

**Herald 17th November 1944**

Halifax 111 HX289. 433 Squadron. Operations: Magdeburg. Took off from Skipton-on-Swale, lost without trace. All crew commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial.

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**John Garland MILLER** Pilot Officer 42865 149 Sqdn, Royal Air Force

Died: Monday , 12th August 1940.

Age 23.

Cemetery: RADFORD SEMELE (ST.NICHOLAS) CHURCHYARD, 36,6

#### PILOT BROTHERS

Both the sons of Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Miller of Alveston Pastures, are pilots in the R.A.F. It was recently reported in the Herald that Mr. Roger F. G. Miller, who is 19, had been gazetted acting pilot officer. He has now gained his wings. His brother, Mr. John G. Miller, who is 23, has also been gazetted acting pilot officer. Both are K.E.S. Old Boys.

**Herald 17th November 1939**

#### PILOT OFFICER JOHN MILLER KILLED

Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Miller of Alveston Pastures, Stratford on Avon, on Tuesday received the tragic news that their elder son, Pilot Officer John Garland Miller, had been killed on active service on the previous day.



The last member of the family to see him was his younger brother, Flying-Officer Rogers Miller, who received permission to fly from his Spitfire station on the South Coast to East Anglia, where his brother was stationed.

A particular tragic aspect is that while he was on leave earlier this month he became engaged to Miss Vera Purchase, of Moseley, Birmingham, the engagement being officially announced in the *Herald* last week—only three days before his death.

John Miller, who was only 23, was educated at Taunton Grammar School and later, when the family moved to Stratford 10 years ago, at King Edward VI school. Interested in farming he spent two years as a pupil and then took over the farm at Alveston Pastures. He joined the R.A.F. in August of last year, when war was imminent, and he was posted to a training school in the Midlands. He passed out as a Pilot Officer and took his part in the noble work of the R.A.F. He was the youngest member of his squadron. He saw much active service and had piloted a Wellington bomber in raids over Germany. John Miller, who was extremely popular in Stratford, was home on leave recently and had returned to duty only a few days before he was

killed.

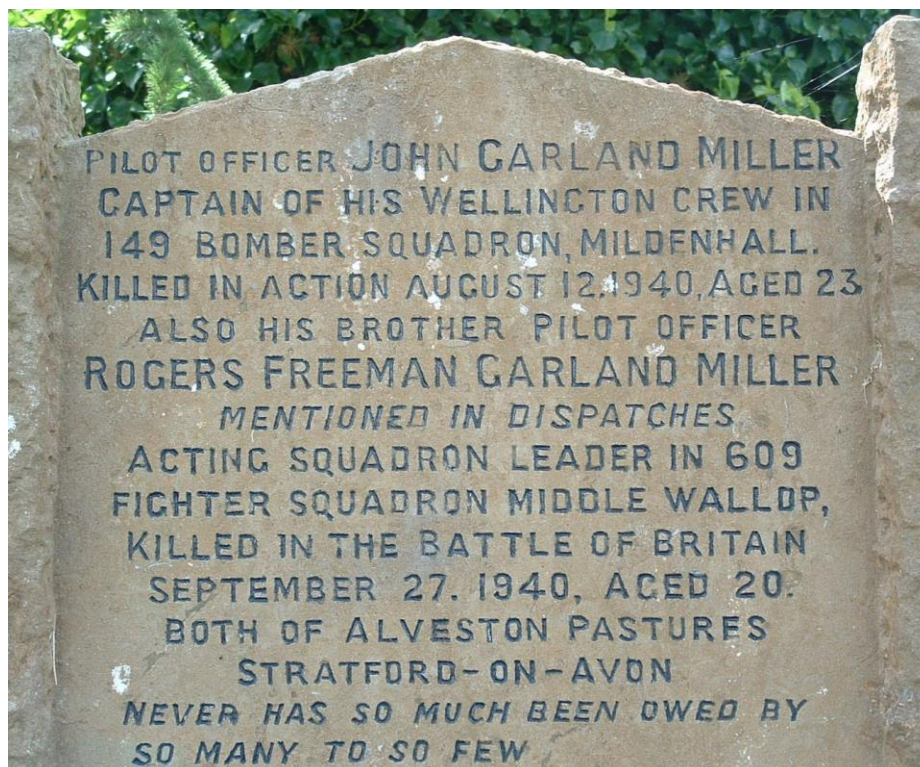
A private funeral service took place yesterday (Thursday) at Perry Barr, where the body was cremated.

**Herald 16th August 1940**

John Garland Miller was a Wellington pilot with 149 Squadron, he was lost on 12th August 1940, returning from operations, he had taken off from RAF Mildenhall Suffolk at 21.35 hrs. The target was to be Gelsenkirchen, after dropping its bombs the bomber returned to base at 03.48 hrs a flight of some six hours. While making an approach wide of the flare-path, the Wellington collided with a radio mast and crashed at Beck Row killing the six crew members. His Wellington that night, was Wellington Mk 1c P9244 OJ\*E

Note: Name on memorial is **J R Miller**

Also commemorated on the Alveston War Memorial.



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**Rogers Freeman Garland MILLER** Pilot Officer 42419 609 Sqdn., Royal Air Force

Died: Friday, 27th September 1940.

Age 20.

Cemetery: RADFORD SEMELE (ST. NICHOLAS) CHURCHYARD, 36, 6

**R.A.F. PILOT**

Mr. Roger F. G. Miller, of Alveston Pastures, Stratford on Avon, a K.E.S. Old Boy, has been gazetted to a commission with the rank of Pilot Officer in the R.A.F. He is stationed at Hatfield.

**Herald 25th August 1939**

**STRATFORD PARENTS LOSE THEIR TWO PILOT SONS**

Deep sympathy will be extended to Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Miller of Alveston Pastures, Stratford on Avon in the irreparable loss they have sustained by the death of their surviving son, Pilot Officer Rogers Freeman Garland Miller, of the Royal Air Force, who was killed in action on Friday. He was 20 years of age. Fate has dealt the family heavy blows. Only a few weeks ago (on August 12th) Pilot Officer John Miller, an elder son also in the Royal Air Force, was killed on active service. His brother was the last member of the family to see him, being granted permission to fly from his Spitfire station on the South Coast to East Anglia.



Only a few days before his death Pilot Officer John Miller had become engaged to Miss Vera Purchase, of Moseley. In March, 1938, Mr. and Mrs. Miller lost a baby daughter. They have one other daughter, Miss Lola Miller.

Mr. and Mrs. Miller heard of the death of their second son on Sunday. He had previously been reported missing. Pilot, and a section leader in a fighter squadron, he was on patrol over the West Country when he met his death. His body was found later. In a letter to his parents his commanding officer states: "I have had ample opportunity of judging your son's excellent qualities as officer and pilot. He was unwaveringly cheerful in all circumstances, and we all feel his loss very much indeed, and extend our sympathy to you and your family." Rogers Miller was educated at King Edward VI School and after gaining his school certificate he volunteered for the R.A.F. just before the war broke out and was given a short service commission. Following a period with a Midland squadron he went south. In his comparatively short career he had shot down three bombers – two Heinkels and a Dornier.

A sportsman in the finest sense of the term, while at school he took a prominent part in all sporting activities and was the possessor of 16 cups and eight medals. He won the Brickwood sculls three years running, but returned the trophy for further competition. In addition he was a member of the most successful crew that K.E.S. has put on the water. He also played Rugby football, while another school activity in which he took part was the Cadet Corps, in which he was a sergeant.

One of the few, as the Prime Minister has said, to whom so much is owed by so many – yet the people of Stratford remember him as a schoolboy only last year. His was a charming personality and he will be mourned by a host of friends.

The body was cremated yesterday (Thursday) at Perry Barr.

**Herald 14th October 1940**

**POSTHUMOUS TRIBUTE TO PILOT OFFICER  
ROGERS MILLER**

Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Miller of Alveston Pastures, Stratford on Avon, have this week been notified by the Air Ministry that their younger son, the late Pilot Officer R. F. G. Miller, (who was killed in the Battle of Britain on September 27th, 1940), was posthumously awarded a certificate of mention in despatches. The mention was in a despatch from Sir Hugh Dowding, dated 25th November, 1940, for gallant and distinguished services.

**Herald 18th July 1941**

Spitfire X4107 from 609 Squadron, stationed at RAF Warmwell in Dorset, collided head on with Bf110 of 9/zg26 exploding over Chesilbourne near Kingcombe at 11.45 am on Friday 27th September 1940 during the Battle of Britain.

Also commemorated on the Alveston War Memorial.

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**Arthur Farndell Martin MITCHELL** Lieutenant 302763 Royal Warwickshire Regiment  
attd. 1st Bn., Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment

Died: Friday, 30th June 1944.

Age 33.

Son of Charles Martin Mitchell and Gladys Mitchell; husband of Mary Vernon Mitchell, of Leicester.

Cemetery: ASSISI WAR CEMETERY, 27. Italy.

Grave Reference: VI, E, 4.

#### **LIEUT. A. F. M. MITCHELL**

News has been received by Dr. and Mrs. C. Martin Mitchell, of 17 Eton Road, Stratford-on-Avon, that their only son, Lieut. Arthur Farndell Martin Mitchell, has been killed in action in Italy. Lieut. Martin Mitchell, who was 32 years of age, was educated at Epsom College. He married Miss Mary Poyer of Leicester. There was one child.

Engaged for some time on war work in Coventry, he was a fireman all through the Coventry blitz. He obtained his commission last December after serving in the ranks, and left England in May.

**Herald 21st July 1944**

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**Joseph William MITCHELL** Private 14505931 1st Bn. Herefordshire Regt., King's  
Shropshire Light Infantry

Died: Monday, 31st January 1944.

Age 34.

Son of William and Emma Mary Mitchell; husband of Lilian Rosa Mitchell, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: ANZIO WAR CEMETERY, 27. Italy.

Grave Reference: III, U, 10.



#### **PTE. "BILL" MITCHELL'S DEATH FROM WOUNDS**

Since last February, when Pte. Joseph William Mitchell, of 54 West Street, Stratford on Avon was reported missing, known to have been wounded his wife and parents have been anxiously awaiting definite news. His many friends in the town will regret to learn that his wife has now received official notice that his grave has been found in Anzio Military Cemetery. He leaves four children, the eldest eight and the youngest born two months after his father's death.

Some months ago Mrs. Mitchell learned from a friend of her husband that he was seriously wounded in the head and neck with shrapnel, that his wounds were dressed by stretcher bearers, but that he had to be left. Pte. "Bill" Mitchell was well known and liked in Stratford. For many years he was a popular Scoutmaster, he played Rugby football for the Town, and was a trustee of the Methodist Church. For 18 years he was employed in the building trade by Messrs. Smith and Unitt. Thirty-four years of age at the time of his death he had been in the Forces about 12 months.

**Herald 10th November 1944**

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**Douglas John MOLE** Flying Officer 168506 W.Op. 10 Sqdn., Royal Air Force Volunteer  
Reserve

Died: Monday, 18th December 1944.

Age 29.

Son of Albert Edward and Violet Mole; husband of Lilian Mole, of East Boldon, Co. Durham.

Cemetery: TAILLETTE COMMUNAL CEMETERY, 207, 2

#### **MYSTERY OF LOCAL MAN'S LAST FLIGHT F/O D. J. MOLE PRESUMED KILLED**

Flying Officer Douglas John Mole of Stratford-on-Avon, returned home on short leave last December and saw his baby boy when only three days old. He never saw him again. Returning to duty F/O Mole was detailed for a raid on Duisburg. They set out on Sunday night, 17th December 1944, bombed their target and were over Belgium on their return journey when something occurred that still remains a mystery. Perhaps it

was a collision in mid-air but the tragic fact remains that the aeroplane never returned to base. On 24th March the Air Ministry (Casualty Branch) informed his wife and parents that four other members of the crew had lost their lives and had been buried in the American cemetery at Fosse, 9¼ miles south-west of Namur.



The family hoped, as all families so placed continue to hope, but no further news came until October. Then the Air Ministry reported that no evidence of survival had been received, so his death is now presumed to have occurred on 18th December 1944.

F/O Mole was born at Loxley on 16th December 1913. He attended school at Clifford Chambers, C.E. (Alcester Road) and at the Technical School. His only employment was with Mr. S.R. Henson, in Bridge Street. He served in the N.F.S. from the out-break of war until he joined the R.A.F. in January 1941. In September, 1943 he married Miss Lilian Johnson, of Darlington.

His father, Mr. Albert Edward Mole is station engineer at the Warwick Road pumping station. Mr. Mole served in the R.A.S.C. in the 1914-18 war; three of his brothers were lost in those years. Mr. and Mrs. Mole had a family of eight. All four girls are married and live in different parts of England. Of the other three boys, Ben (25) is serving with the R.A.F. in

Java; Norman (23) is at present *en route* for the Middle East after serving in North Africa, Italy and Germany, and the youngest is in his last year at K.E.S.

**Herald 21st December 1945**

#### FLYING/OFFICER D. J. MOLE

Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Mole, of Waterworks House, Warwick Road, Stratford-on-Avon, have been notified by the Air Ministry that research officers have established that the aircraft in which their son, Flying Officer D. J. Mole, was lost in December, 1944, collided in cloud with another Halifax on the same mission, both aircraft crashing at Taillette, near Charleville, in France. Owing to the severity of the crash, the remains of only 11 members of the crew of 14 who lost their lives were recovered. Ten of these were identified, but the eleventh body could not be identified. The Air Ministry state that Flying Officer Mole may be the unknown airman (buried at Clichy Cemetery, Paris) or one of those whose bodies were not recovered.

**Herald 22nd August 1947**

Flying Officer Mole took off from RAF Melbourne at 0257 hrs for operations on Duisbuck in Handly Page Halifax Mk III LV818 ZA-F, the aircraft crashed near Taillett (Ardennes) killing all eight crew members.

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<b>Norman Frank MORRICE</b> Private 5114313 4th Bn., Royal Norfolk Regiment
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Died: Monday, 19th October 1942.

Age 23.

Son of Andrew Richard and Frances Emily Morrice; husband of Molly Barbara Morrice, of Colchester, Essex.

Cemetery: KRANJI WAR CEMETERY, 46. Singapore.

Grave Reference: 13. E. 16.

#### STRATFORD MAN PRISONER OF JAPANESE

Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Morrice, of 33, Loxley Road, Stratford-on-Avon, have received a postcard from their youngest son, Norman, saying that he is safe and well, though a prisoner of the Japanese. He has been missing since the fall of Singapore.



Aged 24, Private Morrice joined the Royal Warwicks at the age of 20 and is an employee of the National Farmers' Union Mutual Insurance Society. He served in France and was at Dunkirk. Afterwards he was transferred to the Royal Norfolks.

**Herald 23rd July 1943**

#### NORMAN MORRICE

Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Morrice, of 33, Loxley Road, Stratford-on-Avon, have received news that their youngest son, Norman Frank died in a prisoner of war camp at Singapore. Mr. Smith, of Leeds, who was with Norman when he

died, writes to them of his courage and endurance during his illness and states that everything possible was done for him under trying conditions.

Before joining the Forces Norman was on the staff of the N.F.U. Mutual Insurance Society. He went to France with the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, was at Dunkirk and was later transferred to the Royal Norfolk Regiment. He married Miss Millie Cassell, second daughter of Mrs. and the late Mr. O. Cassell of Pershore Road, Selly Park, Birmingham, just before sailing abroad. Taken prisoner at Singapore, he died on October 19th 1942 at the age of 23.

**Herald 9th November 1945**

Also commemorated on the Alveston War Memorial.

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<b>Joseph Phillip MORRIS</b> Flight Lieutenant 130129 550 Sqdn., Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
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Died: Wednesday, 6th December 1944.

Age 23.

Son of Thomas and Edith May Morris; husband of Mary Eileen Morris, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: VENRAY WAR CEMETERY

Grave Reference: V. F. 4.

#### **FLT.-LIEUT. PHILIP MORRIS KILLED**

Mrs. Philip Morris, of 41, Percy Street, Stratford on Avon has received news that her husband, F/Lieut. Philip Morris, reported missing from air operations in December 1944, is now known to have been killed. On the night he was reported missing he was pilot of a Lancaster engaged in a raid on Merseburg.

Educated at K.E.S. he was for some time employed at the G.E.C. Birmingham, and, had he lived, would have been 24 last Sunday. He joined the R.A.F. in 1941 and was for two years flying instructor, but transferred to Bomber Command. In August 1941 he married Miss Eileen McKeown, of 41 Percy Street, and leaves a two years old son.

**Herald 14th September 1945**

Flight Lieutenant Morris took off at 1634 hrs from North Killingholm for operations to Leuna in Lancaster 111. NG251. Crashed after being crippled by flak, 1 km W of Dolzig, 12 km W from the centre of Leipzig, four crew including the pilot Flight Lieutenant Morris rest at Venray War Cemetery.

A seat in the Garden of Remembrance has been dedicated to him.

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<b>Reginald Percy MUTTON</b> Private 5124703 1st Bn., South Staffordshire Regiment
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Died: Saturday, 24th June 1944.

Age 22.

Son of Frederick T. Mutton and Sarah K. Mutton, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: DIGBOI WAR CEMETERY, 24. India.

Grave Reference: 3.G.3.

#### **DIED OF WOUNDS IN BURMA**

News has been received that Pte. Reg. Mutton, second son of the late Mr. F. Mutton and Mrs. Mutton, of 12, Swincotes, has died of wounds in Burma. Pte. Mutton, who was 21, volunteered for the Forces at the age of 18, and had been in Burma about 18 months. Before joining up he was employed by Messrs Hutchings and Co., coal merchants. Mrs Mutton has two other sons in the Services, one in Normandy and one in England.

**Herald 14th July 1944**

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<b>Harry George NEWBERRY</b> Flight Sergeant 1586987 Pilot 196 Sqdn., Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
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Died: Saturday 4th November 1944

Age 21.

Son of Albert Harry and Marguerite Blanche Newberry, husband of Elizabeth Joan Newberry, of Shottery, Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: RHEINBERG WAR CEMETERY Kamp Lintfort, Nordfhein-Westfal, Germany.

Grave Reference: 5. C. 9.

Flight Sergeant Newberry took off from RAF Witchford at 1142 hrs in Avro Lancaster HK658 A4-C for operations on Solingen, the Lancaster exploded with great force and scattered debris over the target area. All of the seven-man crew are buried in the Rheinberg War Cemetery.

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<b>Wilfred George NEWHEY DSO, TD</b> Lieutenant Colonel 32074 Royal Artillery
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Died: Thursday, 1st February 1945.

Age 38.

Son of James George and Ouida Ethel Newey; husband of Marjorie Newey, of Welford-on-Avon, Warwickshire.

Cemetery: IMTARFA MILITARY CEMETERY, 65

Grave Reference: Plot 1 Row 1C Joint Grave 5

**ALDERMINSTER MAN AWARDED D.S.O.**

Survivor of four of the fiercest campaigns of the War, Major (temporary Lieut.-Colonel) Wilfred George Newey, formerly of White Hill House, Alderminster, has been awarded the D.S.O. for gallant and distinguished service in the Middle East.

Lieut.-Colonel Newey, who is 35 is a son of Mr. J. G. Newey, formerly of Talton Mill, and is a director of Newey Bros. Ltd., and D.F. Taylor and Co., Ltd., Aston.

Through much of the War he has been in action with his younger brother Martin, now a Major at 26. Both were educated at Wrekin College, Wellington and they joined the Territorial Army at the age of 18. Lieut.-Colonel W. Newey has served at Dunkirk and in Greece, Crete and Libya. He bears a charmed life, for on three occasions his kit has been destroyed. The decoration is awarded for service in the Middle East between July and October last – the period before the second British advance into Libya.

**ALMOST SURROUNDED BY PARACHUTISTS**

In one of his letters after the Greek campaign he wrote: “ We were practically surrounded by parachutists early in the morning after three-quarters of an hour of the finest low flying blitz I ever saw, both bombs and machine-gunning. I think that my brother and I got away as much through our knowledge of mountains, woods, hedges and fields as anything – knowledge we picked up in hunting and shooting in Warwickshire and Gloucestershire and scrambling about the mountains of Scotland and Wales.

In another letter he wrote: “The odds against us in Greece and Crete were terrific. From the start we never had a chance, but I think subsequent events have shown that the resistance put up by the British troops has upset Hitler’s time table enough to lose him the War”.

Before the War Lieut.-Colonel Newey was a well known follower of the Warwickshire Hounds and he is also a good shot.

**Herald 24th April 1942**

**LT.-COL. W. G. NEWHEY**

**KILLED IN CRASH ON WAY TO “BIG THREE” MEETING**

Lieut.-Colonel Wilfred George Newey, D.S.O., of Talton House, was one of the 12 passengers killed when a ‘plane carrying some of the Prime Minister’s staff crashed on Thursday week on the way to the venue of the Big Three meeting.

Elder son of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Newey, of Avondale, Stratford-on-Avon, Colonel Newey has recently been engaged in confidential staff work. A Territorial, he had seen much service in this War. He was evacuated from Dunkirk and was awarded the D.S.O. for work during the first campaign in Greece.

Thirty-seven years of age, he was a director of the firm of Messrs Newey and Taylor, Ltd., Birmingham.

Colonel Newey leaves a widow and two young sons

**Herald 9th February 1945**

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<b>Arthur Charles NORTH</b> Sergeant 956820 105 Sqdn., Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
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Died: Friday, 16th May 1941.

Age 22.

Son of Charles Henry and Ethel North, of Stratford-on-Avon

Cemetery: BERGEN (MOLLENDAL) CHURCH CEMETERY. Norway.

Grave Reference:

**SERGT-OBSERVER ARTHUR NORTH**

News was received on Sunday that Sergeant Observer Arthur C. North, R.A.F. only son of Mrs. E. North of 22 Church Street and of the late Mr. C. North of Wrexham, is missing. A confirmatory letter states that “the aircraft on which Sergeant North was observer failed to return to its base on Friday, after an operational flight, but this does not necessarily mean that he is killed or wounded.”

Sympathy will be extended to his mother, sister and fiancée in their anxiety, and his many friends will share their hope that better news will soon be forthcoming.

Born in Stratford on Avon nearly 23 years ago, Sergeant North spent his early years in Wrexham, but was later sent to K.E.S. Stratford on Avon, where he lived with his grandparents, Mr. O. G. Court and the late

Mrs. Court. While at K.E.S. he played Rugby and rowed for the School, and later was in a Boat Club crew. After leaving school he went to Mr. L. MacGregor, insurance broker, of Birmingham, and was later with Messrs. Marshall and Co., Coventry, leaving them to join the R.A.F.

He finished training a few weeks ago and was attached to a bomber squadron. Sergeant North is engaged to Miss Marjorie Winwood of Evesham Road.

**Herald 23rd May 1941**

#### **R.A.F. SERGEANT KILLED IN ACTION**

We regret to announce that Sergeant Arthur C. North reported missing in May, when the bomber on which he was an observer failed to return to its base, is now stated to have been killed in action.



His mother, Mrs. E. North of Church Street has had a letter from the R.A.F. which says: "Further information received from the Norwegian Red Cross Society states that he was shot down near Bergen and was buried in the Haukeland Cemetery. The Air Council desires me, in conveying this information to you, to express their sympathy and deep regret at your son's death in his country's service."

The passing of this young airman – another of that fine band of youth to which this country owes so much will bring sorrow to his many friends. Their sympathy will go out to those near and dear to him in this tragic end to their months of anxiety.

Arthur North was an Old Boy of K.E.S. he rowed for the School and figures in the School XV, and he was also a member of the Town Boat Club. He entered the insurance business in Birmingham and later in Coventry. He was 22 years of age.

**Herald 12th September 1941**

Sergeant Arthur North took off from Lossiemouth in Blenheim IV T12118 on anti shipping operations, he was last seen at the entrance to a Norwegian Fjord. Sergeant North with the Pilot are buried at Bergen Church Cemetery. The other crew member has no known grave.

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<b>Charles Harry ODELL</b> Sapper 1889981 59 Field Coy., Royal Engineers
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Died: Thursday, 11th May 1944.

Age 26.

Son of Tom and Rosetta Odell, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: CASSINO WAR CEMETERY, 27. Italy.

Grave Reference: VII. H. 4.

#### **KILLED IN ITALY**

Mrs. T. O'Dell, of 21, Payton Street, has received news that her second son, Sapper Charles Harry O'Dell, reported missing at Cassino, 11th May, 1944, is now known to have been killed. Sapper O'Dell who was 26 years of age, was educated at K.E.S. and was later employed by Messrs F. Balance Ltd. He joined the Forces in December, 1939, and served throughout the North African campaign before going to Italy.

**Herald 8th December 1944**

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<b>Lawrence Charles O'NEILL</b> Lance Corporal 7607673 Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers
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Died: Wednesday, 15th November 1944.

Age 32.

Son of John Francis and Mildred O'Neill; husband of Dorothy Maud O'Neil, of Tiddington, Warwickshire.

Cemetery: ANCONA WAR CEMETERY, Italy

#### **L/CPL. L. O'NEIL**

Lance/Corporal Lawrence O'Neill of Landor, Knights Lane, Tiddington has died in Italy from injuries received in an accident. Thirty two years of age, at the outbreak of war he volunteered for the R.A.O.C. and served in France being evacuated from Dunkirk. He soon gained promotion to corporal, but after securing a transfer to the R.E.M.E. at the end of 1941, he reverted to craftsman, but quickly gained his first stripe. At the end of 1942 he was drafted to Africa and served throughout the campaign there, landing in Italy early this year.



Before the war he was employed by Messrs. C. Blake and Son, Loxley, for about six years and afterwards at the Brewery. His willingness, cheerful, unselfish and conscientious character endeared him to all who knew him. He leaves a widow and a daughter aged seven. His father was killed in the 1914-18 war. His mother lives at 36, Scholars Lane.

**Herald 1st December 1944**

#### HE NEVER MENTIONED HIS "MENTION"

Mrs. D. M. O'Neill of Landor, Knights Lane, Tiddington, has just learned that her husband, L/Cpl. Lawrence O'Neill, who died in Italy in November from injuries received in an accident, was mentioned in despatches "in recognition of distinguished service in connection with operations in the field, March-June, 1940." Then serving with the R.A.O.C., he was responsible for much good work during the Dunkirk evacuation, but,

characteristically, had said nothing.

**Herald 9th March 1945**

Also commemorated on the Alveston War Memorial.

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**John ONIONS** Corporal 7047714 6th Bn., Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers

Died: Wednesday 21st June 1944.

Age 22.

Cemetery: ORVIETO WAR CEMETERY

Grave Reference: I, D, 22.

#### STRATFORD MAN'S DEATH IN ITALY

News was received by Mrs. Onions of 9, Shipston Road, Stratford on Avon on Wednesday that her youngest son, Corporal John Onions, has been killed in Italy. Corporal Onions, who was 22 years of age, was employed by Messrs. T.J. Hartwell and Son before joining the Army over two years ago, and was well liked by all. He had been overseas for nearly two years. Mrs. Onion has two other sons serving, one in Italy and one in this country. Another son was discharged from the Forces after Dunkirk.

**Herald 7th July 1944**

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**John Philip ORGAN** Warrant Officer 581113 18 Sqdn., Royal Air Force

Died: Monday, 22nd May 1944.

Age 24.

Son of Douglas Organ, and of Helen Organ, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: MALTA MEMORIAL

Panel Number: 13, Column 2.

Warrant Officer Philip Organ was posted as missing from a raid over enemy territory about nine months ago, and nothing has since been heard of him.

**Herald 2nd March 1945**

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**Patrick Geoffrey Marshall OVERTON** Leading Aircraftman 1388720 Royal Air Force  
Volunteer Reserve

Died: Thursday, 21st May 1942.

Age 22.

Son of Sydney and Mabel Overton, of Porthcawl, Glamorgan, Wales.

Cemetery: MONTGOMERY (OAKWOOD) CEMETERY ANNEXE, Alabama, United States of America.

Grave Reference: Sec. N. Lot 113. Grave 3.

#### PATRICK OVERTON KILLED IN AMERICA

Friends of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Overton, late of Cherry Orchard, Sanctus Road, Stratford on Avon and now of Porthcawl, will regret to learn of the death in a flying accident in Florida, U.S.A. of their second son, Patrick, at the age of 23. Patrick, who was educated at King Edward VI School and joined the Metropolitan Police Force, volunteered for flying duties with the R.A.F. and was being trained in America. His elder brother Lieutenant David Overton, is serving in the East, and his younger brother, Bruce, is in the Navy.

**Herald 5th June 1942**

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**John PEARCE** Private 14430884 1/7th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Died: Monday, 7th August 1944.

Age 19.

Son of Frank and Violet Kathleen Pearce, grandson of Catherine Peplow, all of Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: ST. CHARLES DE PERCY WAR CEMETERY, 213, 2

Grave Reference: VI. D. 12.

**LEARNED OF GRANDSON'S  
DEATH ON EVE OF VE-DAY**

The sympathy of many friends will be extended to Mrs. Peplow, of Harvard House, Stratford-on-Avon, who on the eve of VE -Day received news that her grandson and adopted son, Pte. John Pearce, of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, was killed in action on August 7th, 1944. He was reported missing exactly nine months ago. Pte. Pearce, who was just over 19 years of age when he was killed, was educated at the Church of England School, Alcester Road, and later worked for Messrs N. C. Joseph, Ltd., joining the forces some two years ago.

**Herald 11th May 1945**

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**David Alwyne PEMBERTON DFC** Squadron Leader 33036 Pilot 1 Sqdn., Royal Air Force

Died: Sunday, 3rd November 1940.

Age 28.

Son of Guy Pemberton, F.R.I.B.A. and Emily Muriel Pemberton, of Broadway.

Cemetery: BROADWAY(ST. EADBURGH) NEW CHURCHYARD, Worcestershire, United Kingdom

Grave Reference: Row H. Grave 39.

**D.F.C. FOR STRATFORD BORN OFFICER**

Squadron Leader David Alwyne Pemberton, who was born in Stratford-on-Avon in 1912, the son of Mr. Guy Pemberton, has been awarded the D.F.C. He has displayed outstanding leadership since the return of his squadron from France. He has led the Squadron in almost every operation, during which time it had destroyed or damaged 51 enemy aircraft. His qualities of leadership and personal example had contributed largely to these successes. Squadron Leader Pemberton was educated at Stowe School and at the R.A.F. College, Cranwell. His home is at Leamington. He was commissioned in 1932, was promoted Flying Officer in 1934, Flight Lieutenant in 1936, and Squadron Leader in 1939.

**Herald 4th October 1940**

**SQUADRON LEADER  
D. A. PEMBERTON, D.F.C.**

Awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross little more than a month ago, Squadron Leader David Alwyne Pemberton, who was born in Stratford-on-Avon in 1913, the younger son of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Pemberton, has been killed on active service.

The official announcement of his award of the D.F.C. stated that he had displayed outstanding leadership since the return of his squadron from France. He had led the Squadron in almost every operation, during which time it had destroyed or damaged 31 enemy aircraft. His qualities of leadership and personal example had contributed largely to these successes.

Squadron Leader Pemberton was educated at Stowe School and at the R.A.F. College, Cranwell. He was commissioned in 1932, was promoted Flying Officer in 1934, Flight Lieutenant in 1936, and Squadron Leader in 1939.

The funeral will take place at Broadway at 2 p.m. to-day (Friday).

**Herald 8th November 1940**

Squadron Leader David Alwyne Pemberton D.F.C was known as one of the Few who fought in the Battle of Britain.

16th August 1940 in Hurricane P2751, was set alight by return fire from He 111 bomber over Surrey at 5.30 pm, returned to base Squadron Leader Pemberton unhurt, the aircraft repairable.

18th August 1940, Messerschmitt Bf 109E-4, crashed and burned out at Blue House Farm, Milebush, near Staplehurst at 6.15 pm, after combat with RAF fighters, Obergefr Basell killed. Claimed by Squadron Leader Pemberton, of No 1 Squadron, he was awarded the D.F.C on 1st October 1940.

At first light on the 3rd November 1940 Pemberton was flying back from Collywestern to Wittering, when he slow-rolled and flew into the ground and was killed. His crash could have been caused by lack of oxygen or simply falling asleep, we shall probably never know.

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**Stanley Richard PHILLIPS** Leading Aircraftman 1161590 Cadet Royal Air Force  
Volunteer Reserve

Died: Thursday, 12th December 1940.

Age 24.

Cemetery: STRATFORD-ON-AVON CEMETERY, 36, 6

Grave Reference: 4156.

#### DEATH OF ANOTHER STRATFORD PILOT

The N.F.U.M.I.S., Ltd has lost a popular member of the staff by the death on active service of Leading/Aircraftman Stanley Richard Phillips, R.A.F. Only about a week earlier he was in Stratford on leave and visited the offices. One of the best members of the N.F.U. cricket team a good hockey player, and good friend and colleague, he will be greatly missed by those among whom he worked and played.

A son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Phillips, now of Northampton, but formerly of Claverdon, he was 24 years of age. He was an old boy of King Edward VI School, and he had been on the N.F.U. staff for about seven years. He joined up in July and was training as a pilot in the R.A.F.



#### THE FUNERAL

The funeral took place at Stratford on Avon on Tuesday, the first part of the service being conducted at the Parish Church by the Vicar (the Rev. Noel Prentice) assisted by the Headmaster of King Edward VI School (the Rev. A. Cecil Knight). The Vicar officiated at the graveside in the Borough Cemetery.

The coffin was covered with the Union Jack, and four members of the N.F.U. staff – Messrs. Wiseman, Kemp, Samuel and Higgins – acted as

bearers, while there was a large attendance of the staff at the church.

The mourners were Mr. and Mrs. R. Phillips (parents), Mr. H.J. Phillips (brother), Miss D. Taylor, Mrs. Taylor and Miss M. Testar.

**Herald 20th December 1940**

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**Frederick Dennis PHIPPS** Private 4467100 9th Bn., Durham Light Infantry

Died: Thursday, 23rd September 1943.

Age 33.

Son of Fred and Nellie Phipps, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: SALERNO WAR CEMETERY, 27. Italy.

Grave Reference: II. C. 18.

#### STRATFORD SOLDIER KILLED IN ACTION

Mr. and Mrs, Fred Phipps, of 23, Bull Street, Stratford-on-Avon, received news on Saturday that their elder son, Private Frederick Dennis Phipps, has been killed in action while serving with the central Mediterranean Forces.

Thirty-three years of age, Private Phipps joined the Army two-and-a-half years ago, and was posted overseas 12 months later. He was formerly employed by the Alcester Co-operative Society as a coal deliverer.

Mr. and Mrs, Phipps's younger son who is also in the Army, has been overseas for four years.

**Herald 22nd October 1943**

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**Walter Edmund PLUMRIDGE** Staff Serjeant 7588130 9 Base Ammunition Depot, Royal  
Army Ordnance Corps

Died: Saturday, 26th April 1941.

Age 23.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Plumridge, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Memorial: ATHENS MEMORIAL, Greece.

Panel Number: Face 9.

#### REPORTED MISSING AFTER TWO YEARS

After more than two years without news, Police War Reserve Plumridge, and his wife, of 18, Mulberry Street, Stratford-on-Avon, have just learnt that their son, Staff Sergeant Walter Edmund Plumridge, R.A.O.C., has been posted missing in April, 1941, in Crete.

Over a long period the parents have explored every avenue in an endeavour to obtain information, but all efforts were in vain until Mr. Plumridge approached an Officer under whom he served in the Rifle Brigade during the last war.



This gentleman, now risen to the rank of General, set afoot inquiries and himself conveyed their result in a sympathetic letter to his old comrade-in-arms.

Staff Sergeant Plumridge, who is 25 years of age, is an old pupil of Aston Grammar School, Birmingham.

**Herald 25th June 1943**

#### **SERGEANT IS PRESUMED KILLED IN GREECE**

Police War Reserve Plumridge, of 18, Mulberry Street, Stratford-on-Avon, whose son, Sergeant W. E. Plumridge, was missing in operations in Greece in April 1941, has received notice from the War Office that his death must be presumed.

Sergeant Plumridge, who would have been 27 last February, was in the R.A.O.C., taking up the Army as a career when he left Aston Commercial School.

**Herald 10th August 1945**

#### **KILLED IN CRETE**

Mr. and Mrs. E. Plumridge, of 18, Mulberry Street, have been informed that their son Staff Sergeant W. E. Plumridge, who was killed in Crete on April 26th, 1941, has been mentioned in despatches.

**Herald 19th July 1946**

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<b>Frederick Lionel POPE</b> Petty Officer    C/J 79483    H.M.S. Firedrake, Royal Navy
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Died: Thursday, 17th December 1942.

Age 41.

Son of Arthur William and Alice Pope; husband of Elsie May Pope, of Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire.

Memorial: CHATHAM NAVAL MEMORIAL, Kent, United Kingdom

Panel Number: 52,1.

#### **MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES**

Leading Seaman Frederick Lionel Pope, of 57 Alcester Road, Stratford-on-Avon, has been mentioned in despatches. A postman employed at the Stratford Office, he was on the reserve and was called up at the outbreak of war.

**Herald 6th June 1941**

#### **FORMER POSTMAN MISSING PRESUMED KILLED**

Mrs. Pope, of 57 Alcester Road, Stratford-on-Avon, has received news that her husband, Acting/Petty Officer Frederick Lionel Pope, is missing, presumed killed.

Petty Officer Pope, was formerly a postman at the General Post Office, starting there in September, 1931. Prior to that he was in the Navy for 14 years, rejoining on September 1st, 1939.

Born in 1901 at Snitterfield, the greater part of his postal duties were carried out in the Snitterfield, Wilmcote, Bearley and Wolverton area.

About 12 months ago he was mentioned in despatches. Petty Officer Pope, has one little girl, aged 5 years.

**Herald 8th January 1943**

On the night of the 16th December 1942 HMS Firedrake, an "F" class Destroyer was the escort leader to convoy ON153 with 43 ships bound for Canada.

They sailed in a force 12 storm, the worst the Atlantic had seen for a very long time. At about 17.00 hours the ASDIC operator picked up a contact. HMS Firedrake tracked the contact to about 5 miles south of the convoy when at 20.10 hours she was hit by a torpedo fired by U-boat U211. The ship broke in two. The bow section sank immediately, with the stern just managing to stay afloat. Lieutenant D. J. Dampier RN had a tally up and found there were 35 still on board. He quickly got the men to work shoring up the bulkheads of No. 3 boiler room, and making safe and jettisoning the depth charges and torpedoes. The gun crew were ordered to fire star shells to attract the attention of the other escorts, because all the radio and signalling equipment had gone with the bow part of the ship. At about 22.00 hours, one of the other escorts – HMS Sunflower, a Flower class Corvette was attracted by the star shells so she made towards them, firing star shells herself. The skipper first thought that the stern section of Firedrake was a U-boat and was about to fire HE at it but then suddenly realised what it was. He tried to get his ship as close as possible to HMS Firedrake in order to get the survivors off but the weather was so bad and the sea too rough. There were

60 foot waves breaking over the two ships which were bobbing about like corks, so he decided to stand by and hope the weather would get better. At about 0040 hours on 17th December, the weather worsened and the bulkheads started to give way under the tremendous battering. The stern of HMS Firedrake started to sink, so the men had no option but to take to the water, and at 00.45 hours the stern sank.

The Sunflower moved in quickly to pick up the men in the water, a Newfoundland rating, G. J. Furey, had a rope tied around his waist and was lowered down the side of Sunflower. He would swim out to a man and grab hold of him, then his mates on board would heave them back to the ship and get him on board. He and his mates managed to get 27 on board but one died later. There were 168 of the Firedrake's crew lost and 3 others that had been picked up earlier that night.

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<b>George Edward PRINT</b> Leading Seaman    C/J 115194    H.M. Submarine P32, Royal Navy
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Died: Saturday, 23rd August 1941.

Age 31.

Son of John and Lily Print; husband of Lilian May Print, of Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire.

Memorial: CHATHAM NAVAL MEMORIAL, 17, 6

Panel Number: 42, 1.

#### **ABLE SEAMAN GEORGE PRINT**

Able Seaman L.T.O. George Edward George Print, the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Print, of 28, Bull Street, Stratford-on-Avon, who was reported, missing while on submarine service, has now been officially presumed dead. He leaves a widow and a daughter aged five years.

Mrs. George Print was bombed out of her home at Southsea early last year and moved to Stratford to join her parents-in-law. George Print, who was 32, was educated at King Edward VI School, Stratford-on-Avon, and joined the Royal Navy at the age of 15½. He was a keen sportsman and became prominent in football and hockey circles.

**Herald 20th February 1942**

#### **MEMORIAM**

PRINT.----Treasured and loving memories of my darling husband, George, and dear daddy of Marian, missing, presumed to have died on H.M. Submarine, August 23rd, 1941. Always in the thoughts of his devoted wife, Lily, mum and dad.

**Herald 24th August 1945**

P32. Sunk in Mediterranean, believed mined off Tripoli. 23rd August 1941.

P32 left Malta for a patrol off Tripoli 12th August 1941. On the 18th, P32 sighted a convoy of five merchant vessels heading towards Tripoli. As the submarine returned to periscope depth to check the convoy's position, she struck a mine on the port side, which caused her to sink with all hands.

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<b>John Max PRITCHARD</b> Lieutenant    189189    1/7th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment
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Died: Saturday, 8th July 1944.

Age 36.

Son of John and Florence Pritchard; husband of Joyce Mary Pritchard, of North Poulner, Hampshire.

Cemetery: LA DELIVRANDE WAR CEMETERY, DOUVRES, 213, 2. France

Grave Reference: II. D. 6.

#### **LIEUT. J. M. PRITCHARD**

News has been received of the death in action in Normandy of Lieut. John Max Pritchard. Lieut. Pritchard, who was 36 years of age, came to Messrs. Flower and Sons in 1938 as second brewer and married in 1940 Miss Joyce Mary Hanks, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Milward Hanks, Keepers Cottage Welcombe Park. He leaves one child.

A native of Walsall, he was educated at Denstone School, Staffs, and was a fine athlete, playing Rugger for Walsall, Blackburn and the North Midlands for several seasons. He had his county trial for the North Midlands at the age of 19. He won many cups for cross country running, jumping and golf and was also a strong swimmer. After moving to Stratford he played rugger for the town. In February 1941, he joined the Forces and was commissioned three months later. His brother died of wounds in Burma three months ago.

**Herald 21st July 1944**

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**William Frederick REEVES** Trooper

W. F. Reeves name appears on the War Memorial and also on the Holy Trinity Plaque, but after searching CWGC and local records no other information can be found.

*On 7th July 1950 the Vicar (Canon Noel Prentice) requested that relatives of W. F. Reeves, in order to establish his identity, should get in touch with him. Unfortunately to no avail.*

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**Anthony John REYNOLDS** Driver T/14857115 Royal Army Service Corps

Died; Saturday, 30th March 1946.

Age 20.

Son of Thomas and Elizabeth Reynolds; grandson of Mr. T. E. Reynolds, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: BARI WAR CEMETERY, 27. Italy.

Grave Reference: XI. F. 32.



**DIED FROM BURNS IN ITALY**

News has been received of the death in Italy from burns, sustained as the result of a road accident, of Driver Anthony J. (Tony) Reynolds, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. T. Reynolds, of 67 Bull Street, Stratford-on-Avon. Driver Reynolds who was 20 years of age, joined the Forces 12 months ago last October, and had been in Italy just over a year. He was a driver for Messrs Hutchings and Co., and he had served for three-and-a-half years with the Home Guard.

**Herald 12th April 1946**

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**George Henry ROBBINS** Able Seaman D/JX 134250 H.M.S. Jaguar, Royal Navy

Died: Thursday, 26th March 1942.

Age 28.

Son of Charles William and Lucy Robbins, of 41, Clopton Road, Stratford-on-Avon.



Memorial: PLYMOUTH NAVAL MEMORIAL, 9, 6 Panel Number: 66, Column 3.

**ONE OF FIVE SONS IN NAVY IS MISSING, BELIEVED KILLED**



News has been received by Mrs. Lucy Robbins, of 41, Clopton Road, that Henry, her fourth son, is missing, presumed killed.

He was the eldest but one of five sons serving with the Royal Navy. After the evacuation of Dunkirk he went to the near East. Altogether he had served in the Navy for 13 ½ years.

**Herald 17th April 1942**



**HIT BY U-BOAT**

Sunk on 26 Mar, 1942 by U-652 (Fraatz).

HMS Jaguar (Lt.Cdr. L. R. K. Thyrritt, R.N., DSO, DSC) was hit by two torpedoes from the German submarine U-652.

HMS Jaguar was escorting RFA 'Slavol' an oiler from Alexandria to Tobruk, at approx 0200-0227 hrs a torpedo struck between funnel and bridge followed immediately by another between funnel & pom pom. Taking a heavy list to starboard the ship broke in two. The fore part of the ship sank within one minute, the stern was gone in three minutes. Three officers and 190 ratings were lost. Eight officers and 45 ratings were picked up by the armed whaler HMS Klo and taken to Tobruk.

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**Lawrence Frederick SCRUBY** Aircraftman 1st Class 964338 84 Sqdn., Royal Air Force  
Volunteer Reserve

Died: Thursday, 12th October 1944.

Age 22.

Son of George and Sarah Ann Scruby, of 9, Holtom Street, Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire.

Memorial: SINGAPORE MEMORIAL, 46. Singapore

Panel Number: Column 441.

#### **STRATFORD AIRMAN IS PRISONER OF JAPS**

Mr and Mrs. G. Scruby, of 9 Holtom Street, Stratford-on-Avon, learned through the International Red Cross Committee on Tuesday that their younger son, A.C.1. Lawrence Frederick Scruby, is a prisoner in Japanese hands. This is the first news of him since he last wrote in February, 1942. He is in Java camp.

Aircraftman Scruby was educated at the Alcester Road School, and was later employed by Messrs W. P. Bullard and Co. Three years ago, at the age of 18, he volunteered for the R.A.F., and served in France, being evacuated from Dunkirk. He again went overseas in November, 1941.

Mr. and Mrs. Scruby's elder son is in the Army.

**Herald 26th March 1943**

#### **PRISONER IN JAVA**

Mr and Mrs. G. Scruby, of 9 Holtom Street, Stratford-on-Avon, on Thursday week received a card from their



younger son, A.C.1. Lawrence Frederick Scruby, saying that he is in a prisoner of war camp in Java, and that he is quite well. This was their first communication from him for twenty-two months, although, last June, they learned from the Red Cross that he was a prisoner. A.C.1. Scruby, who is 21 years of age, joined the R.A.F. nearly four years ago. He landed in Java early in 1941, and was taken prisoner almost immediately.

Educated at the Alcester Road School, he was formerly employed by Messrs W. P. Bullard and Co., auctioneers.

**Herald 7th January 1944**

#### **DIED IN JAPANESE HANDS**

The liberation of prisoners of war in Japanese hands has meant rejoicing in many local homes. To others it has brought grief.

Mr and Mrs. G. Scruby, of 9 Holtom Street, Stratford-on-Avon, have heard from the Air Ministry that their younger son, A.C.1. Lawrence Frederick

Scruby, died on 12th October, 1944, Lawrence, who was 22 years of age at the time of his death, was taken prisoner in 1942. Before joining the forces he was with Messrs W. P. Bullard and Co.

**Herald 9th November 1945**

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**Eric Walker SELBY** Private 14552977 6th Bn., Seaforth Highlanders

Died: Tuesday, 18th January 1944.

Age 20.

Son of Stanton and Sarah Ann Selby, of 11, Bordon Place, Stratford-on-Avon.

Memorial: CASSINO MEMORIAL, 27. Italy

Panel Number: 10.



#### **PTE. E. W. SELBY**

Private E. W. Selby, of the Seaforth Highlanders, son of Mr, and Mrs S.W. Selby, of 11, Bordon Place, Stratford-on-Avon, was reported missing in January. When last seen he was injured. The War Office now presumes that he succumbed to his wounds. He was 20 years of age.

**Herald 1st December 1944**

Selby – In fond remembrance of Eric, reported presumed died of wounds January 18th 1944.

**Herald 18th January 1946**

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**David Mark Claude SILVERMAN DFM** Pilot Officer 156594 Air Gnr. 156 Sqdn.,  
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Died: Thursday, 18th November 1943.

Age 20.

Son of Maurice David and May Silverman, of Bishopton, Warwickshire.

Cemetery: BERLIN 1939-1945 WAR CEMETERY, 180, 5. Germany

Grave Reference: 1. G. 4.

Pilot/Officer David Mark Claude Silverman, only son of Mr. and Mrs. M. D. Silverman, of Elmhurst, Bishopton has been awarded the D.F.M.

His parents are unaware of the deed that earned him the decoration but it must have been performed prior to August of this year, when Pilot/Officer Silverman was commissioned.

Twenty years of age, he was educated in Montreal and Preston, Lancs. On leaving school he was employed by his uncles, Mr. B.C. Joseph and Colonel N.C. Joseph, C.B.E. He enlisted in the R.A.F. as a gunner just before reaching the age of 18. Serving with a Pathfinder Squadron he has almost completed his second tour of operations.

**Herald 8th October 1943**

**P/O D. SILVERMAN, D.F.M., MISSING**

Mr. and Mrs. M. D. Silverman, of Elmhurst, Bishopton, have received the news that their only son, Pilot/Officer David Mark Claude Silverman, D.F.M., is missing from recent air operations.

He was serving with a bomber squadron and had almost completed his second tour of operations.

Twenty years of age, he enlisted in the R.A.F. as a gunner just before his eighteenth birthday. He was commissioned in August, and last month was awarded the D.F.M.

After leaving school he was employed by his uncles, Mr. B.C. Joseph and Colonel N.C. Joseph C.B.E. He has a host of friends whose sympathy will be extended to his parents in their great anxiety.

**Herald 26th November 1943**

**P/O SILVERMAN D.F.M., BELIEVED KILLED**



Mr. and Mrs. M. D. Silverman, of Elmhurst, Bishopton, yesterday (Thursday) received from the Air Ministry the tragic news that, according to information from the International Red Cross Committee, their only son, Pilot/Officer David Mark Claude Silverman, D.F.M., is believed to have lost his life as a result of air operations.

P/O Silverman, who was 20 years of age, was reported missing in November. Serving in a bomber squadron, he had almost completed his second tour of operations.

Educated in Montreal and Preston, Lancs, on leaving school he was employed by his uncles, Mr. B.C. Joseph and Colonel N.C. Joseph, C.B.E. Shortly before reaching the age of 18 he enlisted in the R.A.F. as a gunner. He was commissioned in August 1943, and in October was awarded the D.F.M.

Although quiet and unassuming, he had a charm of manner that brought him many friends who will miss him greatly. Much sympathy will be extended to Mr. and Mrs. Silverman in their irreparable loss.

**Herald 21st January 1944**

**P/O D. SILVERMAN**

Mr. and Mrs. M. D. Silverman, of Bishopton, have been informed that their son, Pilot/Officer David Mark Claude Silverman, D.F.M., has been buried at the Garrison Cemetery at Doberitz, 15 miles from Berlin. Pilot/Officer Silverman failed to return from bombing operations in November, 1943. In January, 1944, the Air Ministry reported him "believed killed." In April of the same year notification came from the German authorities that he and the crew of seven lost their lives. David Silverman was 20 years of age and the only son.

**Herald 3rd May 1946**

Pilot/Officer Silverman took off from Warboys in Lancaster 111 JB363 for operations on Berlin, crashed near Dobertz, where all are buried. The Pilot Wing Commander J. H. White DFC and both air gunners, lie in Berlins 1939-1945 War Cemetery, the rest of the crew have no known graves. It was unusual as all the crew of this aircraft had decorations 5 DFCs and 2 DFM.

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**John Fosbroke SLATTER** Flight Lieutenant 87660 105 Squadron Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Died: Saturday, 5th February 1944.

Age 24.

Son of Henry John Brandis Slatter and Kathleen Norah Slatter, of Stratford on Avon; husband of Cynthia Dorothy Slatter

Cemetery: SALFORD PRIORS (ST. MATTHEW) CHURCHYARD, 36, 6

Grave Reference: New Ground Row 6.

#### DEATH OF FLT.-LIEUT. JOHN SLATTER

We regret to record the death on active service of Flt.-Lieut. John Fosbroke Slatter, R.A.F.V.R. Only son of Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Slatter, of Maidenhead Road, Stratford-on-Avon, Flt.-Lieut. Slatter, who was 23 years of age, had seen several years' service as a pilot in the R.A.F. and had taken part in numerous operations. He married Miss Cynthia Todd, daughter of Mrs Todd of Shipston Road, and leaves a baby son. The funeral took place at Salford Priors on Wednesday.

**Herald 11th February 1944**

Flight Lieutenant Slatter took off from RAF Marham on a training sortie in De Havilland Mosquito DZ548 GB-J and collided with a USAAF Boeing B-17g bomber stationed at Snetterton Heath, Norfolk. The Mosquito crashed near St Ives Hunts killing the two crew members, the B-17 landed safely slightly damaged.

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**Harry Alfred Charles SMITH** Lance Serjeant 5111947 7th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Died: Monday, 27th May 1940.

Age 25.

Cemetery: BAS-WARNETON (NEERWAASTEN) COMMUNAL CEMETERY, 387, 10. Belgium.

Grave Reference: 17.

#### HARRY SMITH



On Friday Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Smith, of 100, Banbury Road, Stratford-on-Avon, received official news that their son, Harry, was killed in action in France on May 27th. Harry, better known as "Sonny" Smith, was born at Ashford, Kent, in 1915, and came with his parents to Union Street, Stratford-on-Avon, four years later. He was educated at King Edward VI School, and on leaving entered the offices of the N.F.U., joining the Territorial Army as soon as the Mayor asked for men. He had been in France with the Royal Warwickshire Regiment since January. He was grandson of the popular "Teddle" Smith, of St. Leonards-on-Sea, and his maternal grandparents were Mr. and Mrs. Bambrook, of Clifford Chambers.

His marriage to Miss Jean Stratford, of Greenhill Street, Stratford-on-Avon, had been arranged, and was to have taken place as soon as he could obtain leave.

**Herald 5th July 1940**

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**Harry SMITH** Lance Corporal 4914123 2nd (Airborne) Bn., South Staffordshire Regiment

Died: Friday, 9th July 1943.

Age 26.

Son of Henry and Martha Smith; husband of Winifred Ethel Smith, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: CASSINO MEMORIAL Italy

Grave Reference: Panel 7.

#### MEMORIAM

Smith--- Killed in action July 1943, Wife Win and daughter June.

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**Kenneth Alfred SMITH** Corporal 1101470 Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Died: Tuesday, 14th September 1943.

Age 28.

Son of Alfred L. and Eva Smith, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: SALERNO WAR CEMETERY, 27. Italy.

Grave Reference: VI. C. 23.



### CORPORAL KEN SMITH KILLED

News has been received by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Smith, of Greenhill Street, Stratford-on-Avon, that their only son, Corporal Kenneth Smith, has been killed in a motor accident while serving with the R.A.F. in the Middle East.



Corporal Smith, who was 28 years of age was educated at K.E.S., Stratford-on-Avon, and afterwards assisted his father in the business carried on at the Pet Stores. He joined the R.A.F. in 1940, and soon qualified as an equipment assistant. Posted overseas, he served throughout the North African campaign, and moved on to Sicily. He acted as an auxiliary driver.

Quiet and unassuming, Ken had many friends in the town and district. Keen on sport, he played cricket for the Early Closers, and he was also well known in local table tennis circles. But fishing was his particular hobby, and a sport at which he excelled. He won numerous prizes in contests. For a considerable time, until the outbreak of war, he regularly contributed angling notes to the *Herald*, under the pseudonym "Ruff and Ready." He also wrote for *The Fishing Gazette*.

He was closely associated with No 649 Lodge of the Ancient Order of Druids, and when he went overseas held the office of Immediate Post Arch.

His untimely death will be deplored by many, whose sympathy will be extended to Mr. and Mrs. Smith and their daughter, Mrs Dorothe Halvorsen, a sergeant in the A.T.S.

**Herald 24th September 1943**

### OFFICER'S TRIBUTE

Corporal Kenneth Smith, R.A.F., only son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Smith, of Greenhill Street, whose death on active service has been reported in the *Herald*, was killed when he was supervising the disembarkation of a vehicle from a landing craft on the beach near Reggio, Calabria, Italy. He was operating a braking device on the vehicle when it skidded, throwing him against the side of the ship. He died shortly afterwards. His commanding officer gives these details in a letter to Corporal Smith's parents, and adds: "We miss your son, who was such a cheerful and agreeable comrade. Since joining the unit a year ago he had proved himself a keen and efficient N.C.O., and a popular member."

**Herald 5th November 1943**

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<b>Richard William Osborne SPENDER</b> Captain 184635 2nd Bn., Parachute Regiment, A.A.C.
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Died: Sunday, 28th March 1943.

Age 21.

Son of Frank Osborne Spender and Elizabeth Arm Spender, of Letchworth, Hertfordshire.

Cemetery: TABARKA RAS RAJEL WAR CEMETERY, 95. Tunisia.

Grave Reference: 3. B. 20.



### SOLDIER-POET

Did you see the poem "Sussex Defence." By Richard Spender, in *The Observer*? Yes it was written by a former K.E.S. boy who is well known in Stratford.

Lieut. R. W. O. Spender, youngest son of Mr. F. O. Spender, of Banbury Road, is with the Airborne Forces, and until recently was acting-captain and instructor at a Battle School. He is 21 years of age, and has been invited to contribute poems regularly to the *New York Times*. His first book of poems will shortly be published by Sidgwick and Jackson

**Herald 9th October 1942**

### STRATFORD-ON-AVON SOLDIER-POET CAPT. R. W. O. SPENDER

### KILLED IN ACTION

### A YOUTH OF EXCEPTIONAL PROMISE

Captain Richard William Osborne Spender has been killed in action in North Africa. He was 21 years of age. Youngest son of Mr. F. O. Spender, of Banbury Road, Stratford-on-Avon, and the late Mrs Spender, he was a youth of exceptional promise, and his untimely death has frustrated what would undoubtedly have proved a notable career.

He excelled at everything he undertook. Educated at King Edward VI School, he became senior prefect and head boy and gained his first XV and IV colours. He was Company-Sergeant-Major in the Cadet Corps, and Debating Societies.



When he left in 1940 he had gained the Higher School Certificate, the Bracegirdle Exhibition in Modern History, St Catherine's Oxford, and a Warwickshire County Council leaving scholarship.

#### AWARDS SET ASIDE

It was typical that he should put aside these awards to volunteer for the Army. Before leaving school he had assisted in the training of the L.D.V. (as the Home Guard was then named), and by 1941 he was an instructor at an Army battle school, with the rank of Acting Captain. But he found this too tame and volunteered for service with the paratroops, holding the rank of Lieutenant. He was promoted only recently. Possessing real literary ability, even as a boy he showed promise as a poet; promise that was being fulfilled. Last year "Laughing Blood" his first – and, tragically, his last – book of poems was published. It is now in its second edition. He was a regular contributor to a leading New York paper and to prominent papers in this country including *Punch*.

#### COMMANDING OFFICER'S TRIBUTE

His commanding officer has written to Mr. and Mrs. Spender: "“Dicky” was a grand fellow and a brave and fearless officer." He goes on to tell how Captain Spender and his platoon were going forward when the enemy counter-attacked. "He and his men fought magnificently, but in the action he was hit by machine-gun fire and killed instantly. It was largely due to "Dicky" and his men that the counter-attack was repulsed and the enemy forced to withdraw several miles."

Captain Spender's poem "The Young Soldier" makes a fitting epitaph:

As we have lived  
So let us die  
In high proud exultation  
Let us repay  
Laughing blood with spilt  
Let youth assure the youth of later springs  
The sunshine and the joy that is has known.

**Herald 16th April 1943**

#### BROADCAST OF "DICK" SPENDER'S WORKS

A reading from the works of R. W. O. Spender, Stratford's young soldier-poet, who was killed in North Africa, will be given in the B.B.C. Home Service at 11 p.m. next Wednesday.

**Herald 18th June 1943**

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<b>George Richard STOKES-ROBERTS MC</b> Lieutenant 233183 6th Bn., Grenadier Guards
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Died: Saturday, 22nd January 1944.

Age 21.

Son of Arthur Edward and Evelyn Winifred Stokes-Roberts, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: MINTURNO WAR CEMETERY, 27. Italy.

Grave Reference: IV, J, 22.

#### M.C. FOR LIEUT. G. R. STOKES-ROBERTS

Lieutenant G. R. Stokes-Roberts, Grenadier Guards, has been awarded the M.C., after the landing on the Salerno front at Battiplagia, in September.

Lieutenant Stokes-Roberts, who has just celebrated his twenty first birthday is the younger son of Brigadier Stokes-Roberts, O.B.E., M.C. (commanding South Caribbean area), and Mrs. Stokes-Roberts, and a grandson of Lady Wallis, of Red Walls, Stratford-on-Avon.

His elder brother, Captain L. Stokes-Roberts, has spent three years in Malta.

**Herald 14th January 1944**

#### LT. G. R. STOKES-ROBERTS, M.C., KILLED IN ACTION

Lieutenant G. R. Stokes-Roberts M.C. Grenadier Guards, younger son of Brigadier Stokes-Roberts, O.B.E., M.C. and Mrs. Stokes-Roberts and grandson of Lady Wallis, Stratford on Avon was killed in action in January. Aged 21 he was educated at the "Old Hall School" Wellington, Salop, and at Malvern College. He entered Sandhurst in December 1941 and received a commission in the Grenadier Guards in May 1942.

Lieutenant Stokes-Roberts was an excellent runner and ran for Sandhurst College whilst a cadet. He had the honour as a Guards officer of being on duty at Windsor Castle and at Buckingham Palace, and on one occasion he was selected for special duty to guard the Prime Minister before the latter's embarkation for a secret destination. In the *Army Gazette* of January 28th his name appeared under an award of the Military Cross in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in Italy.

**Herald 4th February 1944**

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**Douglas Howard TALLIS** Ordinary Seaman D/JX 562026 H.M.S. Mahratta, Royal Navy

Died: Friday, 25th February 1944

Age 19.

Son of Hubert Henry and Nancy Victoria Tallis, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Memorial: PLYMOUTH NAVAL MEMORIAL, 9, 6

Panel Number: 88, Column 2.

**O. S. D. H. TALLIS**



Mrs H.Tallis, of 21, Birmingham Road Stratford-on-Avon, this week received the news that her elder son, OS Douglas Howard Tallis, is missing presumed killed, on war service.

OS Tallis, who was 19 years of age, was employed in the Brewery offices prior to joining the Navy about 12 months ago, and was a favourite with all. His father, who is serving with the R.A.F. in North Africa, had been employed in the Brewery offices for 24 years, and his younger brother is also employed there.

**Herald 10th March 1944**

**STRATFORD SAILOR KILLED**

Mrs Tallis, of 21, Birmingham Road Stratford-on-Avon, has now heard that her eldest son, OS Douglas Howard Tallis, last week reported missing presumed killed, has been killed on War service. His father is serving with the

R.A.F. in North Africa.

**Herald 17th March 1944.**

HMS Mahratta was escorting convoy JW-57 to Russia when struck by two torpedoes from U-990, on 25th February 1944. Only seventeen men survived out of 227 of her crew.

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**Derek Hugh TARVER** Sergeant 575807 102 Sqdn., Royal Air Force

Died: Thursday, 1st October 1942.

Age 19.

Son of Joseph and Rosalie Tarver, of Wilmcote, Warwickshire.

Memorial: RUNNYMEDE MEMORIAL, 34, 6

Panel Number: 94.

Sergeant Tarver lost on operations to Flensburg on the night of 1/2nd October 1942 in a Handley Page Halifax Mk II W7858 DY. Taking off at 1757 hrs from RAF Pocklington they crashed in sea, all 7 crew members are commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial.

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**Reginald Ernest TAYLOR** Rifleman 14780290 10th (2nd Bn. The Rangers) Bn., King's Royal Rifle Corps

Died: Friday, 20th July 1945.

Age 19.

Son of Frederick Darnton Taylor and Gertrude Florence Maud Edith Taylor, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: STRATFORD-ON-AVON CEMETERY, 36, 6

Grave Reference: 4908.

**LAKE WINDERMERE TRAGEDY**

**STRATFORD SOLDIER AMONG THE VICTIMS**

The capsizing of an Army assault craft on Lake Windermere on Thursday week, with the loss of one officer and five men of the King's Royal Rifles, brought tragedy to a Stratford home. One of the five men was the second of the four sons of Mr. and Mrs. F. Taylor of 45 Bordon Place – Rifleman Reginald Ernest Taylor. Rifleman Taylor, who was 19 years of age, was educated at the Senior School, Alcester Road and on leaving became a member of the staff of the N.F.U.M.I. Society Ltd. He joined the Forces just over 12 months ago. For some time a messenger at the First Aid Post, he later joined the Home Guard, and was popular with all who knew him. Mr. and Mrs. Taylor's eldest son is serving as a sergeant in the Coldstream Guards in Italy. The accident occurred during a special course, when an assault craft capsized in half a gale. Three men who clung to the sides of their overturned boat were rescued by comrades. In spite of dangerous conditions on the lake nine local men volunteered for dragging operations and worked for six hours, recovering bodies from 35 ft. of water. The men were with a Platoon of Riflemen from Barnard Castle, who set out in three

flat bottomed boats to cross the 300 yard strip of water between the mainland and Belle Isle at 5.30 in the morning.

#### RESCUE BID FAILED

The lake was rough, and the last of the three boats shipped a lot of water and capsized two thirds of the way across. The other two boats turned about at once to go to the rescue, but because of the difficult conditions could save only three of the men. As the quickest way of getting help from the mainland the lieutenant in charge of the party stripped off his clothes and swam across from the island. He refused to give his name saying his action could not have saved his comrades.

Rifleman Taylor was buried at Stratford on Avon yesterday (Thursday), the first part of the service being held at the Parish Church.

**Herald 27th July 1945**

#### FUNERAL OF DROWNED SOLDIER

The funeral took place at Stratford-on-Avon on Thursday week of Rifleman Reginald Ernest Taylor (10th K.R.R.C.), second son of Mr. and Mrs. F. Taylor, of 45, Bordon Place. The tragic death of this young soldier, through the capsizing of an Army assault craft on Lake Windermere.

**Herald 3rd Aug 1945**

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<b>Thomas Antony TESTAR</b> Lieutenant 92163 27 Field Regt., Royal Artillery
--

Died: Friday 23rd February 1945.

Age 27.

Son of Charles Herbert and Dorothy Mabel Testar, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: TAUUKYAN WAR CEMETERY Myanmar

Grave Reference: 10. A. 9.



#### LIEUT. TONY TESTAR KILLED

Mrs. Antony Testar, of 1, Mayfield Avenue, Stratford-on-Avon, has received news that her husband, Lieut. Thomas Antony Testar, R.A., was killed in action in Burma in February. Lieut. Testar, who was 27 years of age, was the only son of the late Mr. C. H. Testar, of Rowley Crescent, Stratford-on-Avon.

He married, in 1938, Miss Elaine Coleman, who was nursing at the local hospital, and there is a six-year-old son. Educated at King Edward VI School, where he was a prefect and a member of the School Debating Society and Cadet Corps, Lieut. Testar, was well known in the town. He took part in several productions by the local Amateur Dramatic Society. On leaving school he entered his father's manufacturing business in Birmingham. He joined the Territorials in April, 1939,

and served in this country until 1942, when he was drafted to the Far East.

**Herald 9th March 1945**

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<b>Eric John THORNE</b> Flight Sergeant 850080 139 Sqdn., Royal Air Force (Aux. Air Force)
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Died: Thursday, 15th July 1943.

Age 30.

Son of Frederick Witt Thorne and Florence Maud Thorne; husband of Olive Joyce Thorne, of Tiddington, Warwickshire.

Memorial: RUNNYMEDE MEMORIAL, 34, 6

Panel Number: 139.

#### BEARLEY AIRMAN POSTED MISSING

Recently home on leave, Flight-Sergeant-ObsERVER Eric John Thorne, husband of Mrs Thorne, of Bearley, and only son of Mrs Thorne, of 48 Grove Road, Stratford-on-Avon, is reported missing from operations. Flight-Sergeant Thorne, formerly lived in Stratford for ten years, and before joining the R.A.F. in April 1939, was in business in Birmingham.

His wife was formerly Miss Olive Tombs. They have one son, aged three months.

**Herald 23rd July 1943**

Mosquito 1V. DZ515 139 Squadron. Operations: Berlin

Took-off 2320 hrs from Wyton. Lost without trace. Both crew are commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial.

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**Raymond Morgan TIMMS** Boy 1st Class P/JX 171057 H.M.S. Dunedin, Royal Navy

Died: Monday, 24th November 1941.

Age 17.

Memorial: PORTSMOUTH NAVAL MEMORIAL, 14, 6

Panel Number: 51, Column 3.

**17-YEAR-OLD SAILOR MISSING**

Mr. and Mrs. Horace Timms, of Rother Street, Stratford-on-Avon, have been informed that their younger son, Raymond Morgan Timms, who is in the Royal Navy, is missing. He was 17 in July.



Since a small boy, Raymond Timms, has been keen on the Navy. While still at school he worried his parents to allow him to join, and on leaving the Council Central School, Broad Street, renewed his plea. He was employed by Messrs N. C. Joseph, Ltd., for 12 months, and joined the Navy in June, 1939, his parents having relented. He was called up shortly after the outbreak of war, at the age of 15.

On admission, he worked hard and made good progress. Before long, he had gained a certificate and medal for swimming and life saving. In his last letter home, written at the end of October, he said that he had passed a further examination, which meant that he would be made Ordinary Seaman at Christmas seven months ahead of schedule.

The sympathy of many friends will be extended to Mr. and Mrs. Timms in their anxiety. Their elder son, Donald, who is a sergeant in the local A. T. C., has been accepted as a pilot by the Royal Air Force

**Herald 19th December 1941****HMS Dunedin Light cruiser 4,850 tons. Complement 486 Sunk by U-124 24th November 1941**

In the afternoon of the 24th November 1941, U-124 (Mohr) sighted the unescorted HMS Dunedin. The U-boat raced ahead of the ship's path and dived for a submerged attack. The lookouts on the cruiser saw the periscope at 14.50 hours and changed course to chase the U-boat, but the course of the U-boat was misinterpreted so the HMS Dunedin turned away. The approaching U-124 suddenly came to the surface for a brief moment, but remained unseen. As Mohr was able to see through his periscope again the cruiser was spotted at a range of over three miles. Mohr decided to fire a spread of three torpedoes at 15.21 hours. After 5 minutes and 23 seconds, two torpedoes struck the cruiser, which started sinking stern first after 17 minutes. About 250 survivors managed to leave the ship by jumping overboard. They rescued themselves onto seven Carley floats and floating debris. Only 72 survivors were still alive on the six floats found by the American steam merchant Nishamaha, en route from Takoradi to Philadelphia, three days after the sinking. Many survivors drowned, some died of their injuries, others died of exhaustion. Five of the rescued men died before the merchant ship reached Trinidad, thus only four officers and 63 ratings survived the sinking.

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**James Frederick TOWNSEND** Private 7758173 Royal Army Veterinary Corps

Died: Saturday, 20th January 1940.

Age 26.

Son of Thomas and Ellen Townsend, of Stratford-on Avon.

Cemetery: STRATFORD-ON-AVON CEMETERY, 36, 6

Grave Reference: Grave 4158.

**SOLDIER'S DEATH**

Stratford-on-Avon has lost its first soldier in this war, though not on the field of battle. Frederick James Townsend, of 55, Birmingham – road, joined up as a private in the Royal Army Veterinary Corps three weeks ago yesterday (Thursday), and yesterday was laid to rest in the Borough Cemetery. Private Townsend, who was 26 years of age, was serving in England when he contracted a chill, and though his parents were summoned to his bedside, and the Army authorities facilitated their journey in every possible way, he passed away before they could reach him. The first part of the service was conducted at St. James' Church by the Rev. W. H. Harrison (chaplain to the Stratford branch of the British Legion), who also officiated at the graveside, where he used the Legion special service. A Union Jack, specially sent from the regiment, was draped round the coffin.

**Herald 26th January 1940**

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**Richard Frank Burnet TURNER** Ordinary Seaman C/JX 258954 H.M.S. Springbank., Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve

Died: Saturday, 27th September 1941.

Age 29.

Son of Frank J. Turner, M.A., and Florence Turner; husband of Moira L. M. Turner, of Lesmahagow, Lanarkshire.



Memorial: CHATHAM NAVAL MEMORIAL, 17, 6  
Panel Number: 45,

**MR. R. TURNER "MISSING PRESUMED KILLED"**

Mr. R. F. (Dick) Turner, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Turner, of Grasmere, St. Gregory's Road, Stratford-on-Avon, has been posted by the Admiralty as "Missing, presumed killed on war service." He was on his first voyage, training for a commission in the Navy.

Dick Turner, who was 28, was educated at K.E.S., and many people will remember him when he stroked the very successful junior four several years ago.

He was married and had one daughter. He and his family were bombed out of their London home, and Mrs. Turner and her daughter are now living at Leamington.

**Herald 10th October 1941**

HMS Springbank a Fighter Catapult Ship.

HMS Springbank took part in escorting Convoy HG 73 when she was torpedoed at 0208 on 27th September by U-201. Eight officers and 58 ratings were saved by HMS Jasmine.

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**Philip Andrew TYLER** Leading Aircraftman 541348 37 Sqdn., Royal Air Force

Died: Wednesday, 1st May 1940.

Age 20.

Son of Fredrick and Ellen Mary Tyler, of Stratford-on-Avon,

Memorial: RUNNYMEDE MEMORIAL, 34, 6

Panel Number: 24.

**STRATFORD YOUTH IN KIEL CANAL RAID**

Philip Tyler, the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Tyler, of Stratford-on-Avon, who has been in the R.A.F. for two-and-a-half years, took part in the raid on the Kiel Canal on September 4th. Philip Tyler, who is aged 20 and is a K.E.S. Old Boy, is a wireless operator and has also passed as air gunner "first class". Four other sons of Mr. Fred Tyler served in the last war, three in the Army and one in the Navy.

**Herald 22nd September 1939**

**PHILIP TYLER MISSING**

On Wednesday, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Tyler, of Evesham Road, Stratford on Avon were notified that their 20 year old son, a leading aircraftman in the R.A.F. is missing. Philip Tyler, who has been in the R.A.F. for three years, took part in the raid on the Kiel Canal in the early days of the War, and has since been on other important raids.

He was educated at K.E.S. He was a wireless operator and also passed as air-gunner "first-class". There is a chance that he may be a prisoner of war.

**Herald 3rd May 1940**

**NO NEWS OF PHILLIP TYLER**

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Tyler of Evesham Road, Stratford on Avon whose son, Leading Aircraftman Philip Andrew Tyler (21), was reported missing on April 30th, have now been officially informed that efforts to trace him have proved unavailing. The notification adds:

"although formal action to presume death for official purposes will

not be taken until a further period has elapsed, it is feared that all hope of finding him alive must be abandoned."

The note expressed the profound sympathy of the R.A.F. with the parents in their anxiety. Mrs. Tyler, however, has not abandoned hope, and until all Britishers are out of Norway, where he was lost, she will still keep her faith that he is alive.



His fiancée, too, is hopeful that good news will come. Engaged to Miss Betty Noble, of Leicester, last February, Leading-Aircraftman Tyler was to have been married last June.

A K.E.S. Old Boy, he chose, as did many of his fellows, the Royal Air Force as a career, joining up in pre-war times. A wireless operator, he had also passed as air gunner, first class, and was devoted to his work. In a Wellington bomber he had been in raids over Kiel, Berlin (with leaflets), Sylt, Stavanger and Heligoland.

**Herald 27th September 1940**

Wellington 1a P9213. 37 Squadron. Operations; Stavanger.

Took-off from Feltwell at 1735 hrs on 30th April 1940 for a raid on Stavanger Airfield at Sola in Norway. This aircraft was part of a force of 50 bombers detailed to attack Stavanger aerodrome, Fornebu & Aalberg airfields, three of which failed to return. Having bombed its target, Stavanger aerodrome, they turned for home but were intercepted by German fighters. Another aircraft last saw No 9213 in combat with enemy fighters off the Norwegian Coast. It is assumed that the aircraft was shot down. All of the crew were presumed killed.

All commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial.

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<b>Michael Patrick WALTON</b> Lieutenant 224586 Royal Engineers attd. 12 Field Coy., Queen Victoria's Own Madras Sappers & Miners
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Died: Tuesday, 16th March 1943.

Age 21.

Son of Joseph and Margaret Walton, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: SFAX WAR CEMETERY, 95. Tunisia.

Grave Reference: II. D. 7.

#### **LIEUT. "PAT" WALTON DIES OF WOUNDS IN NORTH AFRICA**

Lieutenant M. P. Walton youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Walton of Mount Pleasant, Stratford-on-Avon who was serving with the Eighth Army in North Africa has died of wounds. He was 21 years of age. Michael Patrick Walton was educated at King Edward VI School, Stratford on Avon and Ipswich School.



He was a fine Rugby player and captained an unbeaten 1st XV during his last season at Ipswich. Upon leaving school he began his studies for a quantity surveyor with Messrs. Wilson Lovatt, at Chester. At 18 he was the youngest member of the Chester R.F.C 1st XV during the 1940-41 season. Shortly after his nineteenth birthday he volunteered for service with the Royal Engineers. He was sent to an O.C.T.U. and received his commission before he was 20. In June of last year he went to the Indian Army and was posted to the Sappers and Miners subsequently serving with an Indian Division of the Eighth Army. His admiration and affection for the Indian soldiers were frequently expressed in his letters home.

#### **"SPLENDID OFFICER"**

The news of his death was first received by his mother in a letter from Lieutenant Donald Orchard, R.E. It has since been officially confirmed by the War Office. Lieutenant Orchard says: "Pat and I were the best of pals, and I know only too well how very great the loss must be to his dear ones... Pat's Jemadar wishes me to convey to you the sympathy of all the men in the section, to whom Pat was a splendid officer and friend. He was loved by all". Lieutenant-Walton was engaged to Miss Joyce Madelaine Watkins, of Eastham, Cheshire.

**Herald April 2nd 1943**

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<b>George William WATERS</b> Private 13107111 Pioneer Corps
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Died: Monday, 14th September 1942.

Age 41.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Waters, of Bearley.

Cemetery: STRATFORD-ON-AVON CEMETERY, 36, 6

Grave Reference: Grave 4200.

### STRATFORD SOLDIER'S FATAL FALL FROM WINDOW

On the first night after his arrival at a new billet at Norwich, George Waters, of 18, Swincotes, Stratford-on-Avon, a private in the Pioneer Corps, was found lying in the garden 30 feet below his garden window.

At the inquest evidence was given that he was quite sober and normal shortly before the occurrence. A sergeant suggested the possibility that he overbalanced when opening the window. It would only have been just possible for him to get through the window, but once through there was nothing to hold on to stay his fall.

In returning a verdict of "Accidental death due to a fractured spine" the Coroner said it was "one of those accidents that can't be explained".

### SERVED IN INDIA

Private Waters, who was 41 years of age, was a native of Bearley. He had been in the regular Army, and had served in India for seven years. He rejoined on the outbreak of war. The funeral took place at the Borough Cemetery on Monday, the Rev. W. H. Harrison (British Legion padre) officiating.

**Herald 25th September 1942**

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<b>Norman Roland Victor WATSON</b> Captain 121329 2nd Bn., Royal Ulster Rifles
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Died: Friday, 30th June 1944.

Age 23.

Son of Kenneth Edkins Watson and Lily Winifred Watson, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: LA DELIVRANDE WAR CEMETERY, DOUVRES, 213, 2. France.

Grave Reference: VII. K. 3.



### CAPTAIN NORMAN WATSON KILLED

News has been received by Mr. and Mrs. K. E. Watson of 95 Loxley Road Stratford on Avon, that their eldest son, Captain Norman Roland Victor Watson, has been killed in action in Normandy. Captain Watson, who was 23 years of age was educated at K.E.S. and played Rugger for the School and afterwards for the Old Edwardians. A member of the staff of the N.F.U. Mutual Insurance Society he joined the Territorial Army in August 1939, and was commissioned in February 1940 at the age of 18. He had served as A.D.C. to General Steele and prior to the invasion, was on the staff of Brigade headquarters. His engagement to Miss Maureen E. Sloan was announced only five weeks ago.

Two of Mr. and Mrs. Watson's three surviving sons are serving, Maurice in the R.A.F. in Canada and Brian in the Navy.

A friend writes: No tribute to Norman Watson could be complete without a reference to his work at school, in all of which he was particularly

earnest and dependable, and to his charming personality. His frank and unassuming character won him many friends who were the richer for his companionship, and to whom his loss will be sad indeed.

**Herald 14th July 1944**

Also commemorated on the Alveston War Memorial.

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<b>Cyril Jack WEATHERHEAD</b> Petty Officer Motor Mechanic D/MX 70811 H.M.S. Drake, Royal Navy
--

Died: Monday, 4th November 1940.

Age 34.

Son of Walter Arthur and Lily Weatherhead, of Stratford-on Avon, husband of Caroline Elizabeth

Weatherhead, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: STRATFORD-ON-AVON CEMETERY, 36, 6

Grave Reference: 4696.

### TWO STRATFORD SAILORS KILLED

#### ONE A VICTIM OF A RAIL CRASH

#### PINNED UNDER WRECKAGE FOR SEVEN HOURS

Two of Stratford's sailor sons have this week lost their lives, one while on active service and the other in the West Country rail disaster. Both were formerly employed at the Stratford Brewery. Petty Officer Cyril (Jack) Weatherhead, of 2 Greenhill Street, was returning to his base after a weekend leave when he was killed in the train disaster near Taunton in the early hours of Monday morning. The first intimation received by his wife and relatives was the news in the morning papers. They had seen him off on the



Sunday evening but had no idea that he was travelling in this train, for it was his original intention to travel via Birmingham and Bristol, spend the night at Bristol, and travel to Devonport (where he was training on H.M.S. Drake) next morning. He hoped to join some of his mates from the North at Birmingham. On arrival at Bristol they evidently learned that the Paddington express was running late, and they decided to join this train, which they would otherwise have missed.

#### PRESENTIMENT



Petty Officer Weatherhead seems to have had a presentiment of misfortune, for, though he was keenly interested in his work and was full of zeal for the Service, on this particular week-end he was loath to return to his base. He was probably standing in the corridor at the time of the accident, for he was wearing overcoat and cap. He received terrible injuries to the head and face, his arms were broken and a leg was amputated after he had been trapped for seven hours under the wreckage. He died shortly afterwards. Directly his wife and relatives heard the news they travelled to Taunton, where they identified the body.

#### STRATFORD FAMILY

Petty Officer Weatherhead, who was 34 years of age, belongs to a well-known Stratford family, all the members of which are in the town or neighbourhood. Nine years ago he married Miss Carrie Chamberlain, of Snitterfield, and to her and the members of his family general sympathy will be extended.

Educated at the Church of England School, Cyril Weatherhead was a chorister and soloist in the Parish Church choir for many years, three of his brothers also serving at the same time. On leaving school he commenced employment with Messrs Flower and Sons as electrician, but was afterwards moved to the fitting shops as mechanic, where he was employed when he volunteered for service in the Royal Navy last August. He was very happy in his new life, and had passed several examinations.

Although the Naval authorities had made arrangements for all Naval victims of the accident to be buried together at Taunton with Naval honours, it was decided to forgo this and bring him back to his native town, so that he might be buried in the place where he had lived all his life.

**Herald 8th November 1940**

#### FUNERAL OF RAIL CRASH VICTIM

The funeral took place on Friday of Petty Officer Cyril (Jack) Weatherhead, who, as reported last week, was killed in the train disaster near Taunton.

Among those present were friends among whom he had worked and lived and representatives of one or two organisations.

Four employees of the Brewery---where he had worked since leaving school until he joined up---acted as bearers. On the coffin, which was enfolded in the Union Jack, were his naval cap and a cross of red and pink carnations from his widow.

The first part of the service was conducted at the Parish Church, where as a boy he served in the choir for many years. The Vicar (the Rev. Noel Prentice) officiated.

**Herald 15th November 1940**

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<b>Gerald WILKINS</b>	Rifleman 14756388	Cameronians (Scottish Rifles)
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Died: Sunday, 7th September 1947.

Age 21.

Son of Walter Henry and Lily Wilkins, of Tiddington, Warwickshire; husband of Marion Edith Wilkins.

Cemetery: HAMBURG CEMETERY, 5. Germany.

Grave Reference: 9A. G. 2.

#### DIED IN GERMANY

News has been received of the death, in Germany, from diphtheria, of Rifleman Gerald Wilkins (Cameronians), eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Wilkins, of Knights Lane, Tiddington. Rfn. Wilkins was married just over 12 months ago to Miss Marion Proctor, of Justins Avenue, and she had made a home for him on his return from the Services, on the aerodrome site at Atherstone. Twenty-one years of age, Rfn



Wilkins saw service on the Continent in the final onslaught on Germany, and was twice wounded. Before he joined the Forces over three years ago he was employed by Mr. J. Hodges of Tiddington.

**Herald 12th September 1947**

Also commemorated on the Alveston War Memorial.

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**James WILSON** Leading Stoker C/KX 95124 H.M.S. Cornwall Royal Navy

Died: Sunday, 5th April 1942

Age 22.

Son of James and Elizabeth Ann Wilson, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: CHATHAM NAVAL MEMORIAL, Kent, UK.

Grave Reference: 61, 3.



#### SAILOR MISSING

Mr and Mrs E. A. Wilson, of 18, Elm Road, Stratford-on-Avon, have received news that their eldest son, Leading Stoker James Wilson, of H.M.S. Cornwall, is missing, presumed killed.

Twenty-two years of age, he joined the Navy in September, 1938.

He came to Stratford from Tyneside, and before joining the Navy was employed by Messrs N. C. Joseph, Ltd., where he was well liked by his fellow employees. He has five brothers and two sisters. The family moved to Stratford some time after James had been in the town as a "transferred juvenile" from Tyneside.

**Herald 1st May 1942**

#### IN MEMORIAM

WILSON. – Fondest memories of our son, Jim, R.N., missing presumed killed, on April 5th 1942

**Herald 6th April 1945**

HMS Cornwall Heavy cruiser. Lost: 5th April 1942 Sunk in the Indian Ocean south west of Ceylon by Japanese carrier dive bombers.

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**Thomas WILSON** Private 5111937 1/7th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Died: Friday, 21st July 1944.

Age 23.

Son of Thomas and E. M. Wilson, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: FONTENAY-LE-PESNEL WAR CEMETERY, TESSEL, 213, 2. France.

Grave Reference: III. E. 17.



#### STRATFORD TERRITORIAL KILLED

Mr. and Mrs. T. Wilson, of 4 New Street, Stratford-on-Avon, have been notified that their only surviving son Pte. Thomas Wilson, a driver in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, has been killed in Normandy. Pte. Wilson, who was 23 years of age was employed by Messrs Flower and Sons. He joined the Territorials in 1938, and was evacuated at Dunkirk. Of a cheerful disposition, he was engaged to Miss Margaret Robbins, of Wellesbourne Grove. A brother was killed in a motor accident in 1931. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson have one daughter.

**Herald 4th August 1944**

#### KILLED IN FRANCE

Pte. Thomas Wilson, of 4 New Street, Stratford-on-Avon, who as stated in last week's Herald, has been killed in Normandy.

**Herald 11th August 1944**

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**Alan Henry WOODWARD** Sergeant 580688 144 Sqdn., Royal Air Force

Died: Wednesday, 20th March 1940.

Age 19.

Son of William Henry and Mabelle Gertrude Woodward, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: STRATFORD-ON-AVON CEMETERY, 36, 6

Grave Reference: 4691.

**MILITARY FUNERAL FOR YOUNG AIRMAN  
KILLED ON ACTIVE SERVICE AT HE AGE OF 19  
COMMANDING OFFICER'S WARM TRIBUTE**

Alan Henry Woodward flight sergeant of the Royal Air Force, the only son of Mr and Mrs W. H. J. Woodward, of 7 Glencoe, Stratford-on-Avon, who was killed on active service at the age of 19, was buried with military honours in the Borough Cemetery on Easter Monday, following a service at the Parish Church at which the Rev. W. H. Harrison and the Rev A. C. Knight officiated.



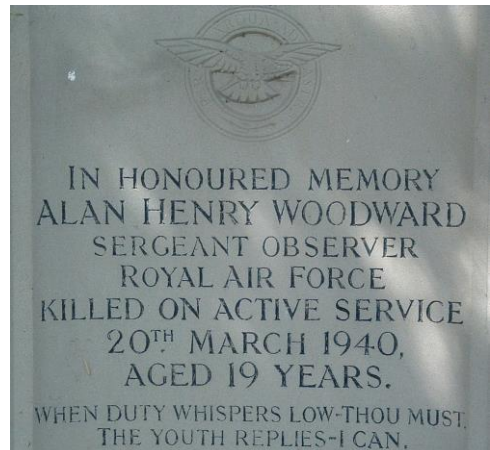
Woodward was at King Edward VI School from 1931 to April 1938, gaining his School Certificate in 1936. He was a keen Rugby footballer and cricketer, representing his school in the first fifteen and in the cricket eleven. He was fond of other outdoor sports and of country life, but his real passion was flying. He was able to gratify his ambition, for on leaving school he learnt to fly at the Worcestershire Flying Club, his instructor being Flight-Officer Bunning, and he soon obtained a pilot's "A" licence. Later he entered the R.A.F. Navigation School. Passing out from there he was posted to the squadron with which he was serving when War broke out. He was home on leave at the time, and had been in Stratford only a few days when he was recalled to his squadron. He took part in some of the first flights over enemy territory, including a number of flights over Heligoland Bight.

Woodward had flown both single and double engine machines, and had gained a good deal of experience. A high tribute to his keenness has been paid by his commanding officer, who in a letter to the parents wrote: "Your son's quiet efficiency and great keenness in every duty he carried out was a splendid example to his comrades. We in the squadron mourn with you the loss of a man whose quiet and unruffled temperament was such an inspiration to us all."

**Herald 29th March 1940**

Sergeant Woodward while flying Hampden 1 L4137 lost control while flying at night and the bomber dived into the ground near Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire. All three crew members were killed.

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**John Michael WYLEY** Flying Officer 86673 260 Sqdn., Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Died: Thursday, 27th November 1941.

Age 24.

Son of Maj. J. D. N. Wyley and Hilda M. Wyley, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Memorial: ALAMEIN MEMORIAL, 82. Egypt.  
Panel Number: Column 241.



**PILOT-OFFICER J. M. WYLEY**

Mrs. H. M. Wyley, of 19, Sheep Street, Stratford-on-Avon, has been notified that her son, Pilot Officer John Michael Wyley (24) is missing as a result of air operations in the Middle East.

Pilot Officer Wyley, who was educated at K.E.S., was in the Volunteer Reserve before the war. He had been on active service for 12 months, and in May of this year was sent to the Gold Coast, subsequently being transferred to the Middle East. He was a fighter pilot.

**Herald 5th December 1941**

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## **STRATFORD HONOURS THE FAITHFUL DEAD**

The names of 94 Stratford men who fell during the recent war were read from the pulpit of Holy Trinity Church on Remembrance Sunday. The congregation stood during the reading of these names. They are to be inscribed on a plaque to be placed in the church, and three bells of the new ring – the tenor bell, inscribed for the “Faithful Dead 1939-45”; the Youth bell, in memory of George Richard Stokes-Roberts; and the Peace bell – are specifically war memorials.

The Vicar (Canon Noel Prentice) announced these plans for commemoration during his sermon, and outlined the Christian doctrine of immortality and continuance of personality. “They that are in the grave shall hear the voice of the Son of Man and they that hear shall live”. The fame of the English dead had gone abroad throughout the land, and in Stratford the bells would ring every day to remind people of the faithful dead.

The service, attended by the Mayor (Lieut.-Col. Fordham Flower) and the Corporation, followed the traditional ceremony of the two minutes’ silence at the War Memorial and the laying of wreaths of poppies by the Mayor, representatives of the British Legion and others.

**Herald 12th November 1948**

### **WAR MEMORIAL IN THE PARISH CHURCH COUNCIL WILL BEAR WHOLE COST**

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, Stratford on Avon Town Council, meeting on Tuesday, agreed to bear the whole cost of a memorial plaque to be erected in Holy Trinity Church, to the men and women of the town who lost their lives in World War II.

The Vicar (Canon Noel Prentice) had written enclosing a sketch of the proposed plaque and an estimate in the sum of £300 from the Bromsgrove Guild. He asked the Council to approve the design and to contribute towards the cost.

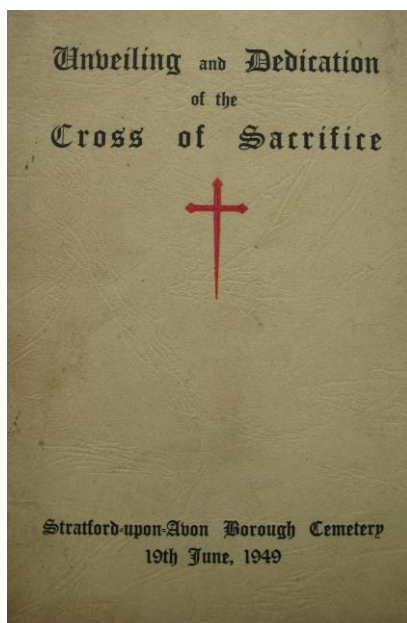
**Herald 17th December 1948**

## **DEDICATION OF MEMORIAL TO BRITISH AND CANADIAN DEAD**



“They lie here under the shadow of the Cross of Sacrifice, among English grass and the flowers that the people of Stratford have provided, sheltered by English trees and by maples from Ontario,” said the High Commissioner for Canada, Mr. L. D. Wilgress, as he unveiled the beautiful Cross of Sacrifice in the Stratford-on-Avon Borough Cemetery on Sunday.

The cross was erected by the Imperial War Graves Commission as a memorial to the 154 Servicemen from home and abroad who were killed in the locality during the Second World War. Among these were 94 Canadian airmen.



### **POIGNANT MEMORIES**

Those of the large crowd present at the Dedication Service who remembered the disastrous air crashes, which resulted in the tragic deaths of so many Canadian airmen training at Wellesbourne and Atherstone, must have found in their hearts an answering echo of the High Commissioner's words, for Stratford-on-Avon Cemetery never presented a more beautiful and peaceful scene. The tranquillity and graciousness of living for which the men had fought, and for which they had laid down their lives in selfless sacrifice, seemed to be epitomised in that small corner of the cemetery, which, were it not for the rows of headstones, gleaming whitely above the flower spangled graves, would resemble a well-loved garden tended with solicitous care.

### **IMPRESSIVE SERVICE**

The service, which was impressive in its beauty and symbolic dignity, was conducted by the Vicar (Canon Noel Prentice) and the Revs. A. R. Spooner and E. R. Tribbeck.

The High Commissioner, unveiling the Cross, spoke with warmth and obvious sincerity to the massed congregation.

### **ENDURING FRIENDSHIPS**

"We have come here to honour the memory of the men who died in the recent War and who lie in Stratford-on-Avon Borough Cemetery," he said. "I speak for the Government and the people of Canada when I thank you and your townspeople for the warm welcome you gave to our Canadian airmen and for the hospitality of your homes. We in Canada were glad to welcome the young airmen from the British Isles and from our other Dominions while they trained on our airfields. The memory of these kindnesses have made for a great and enduring friendship between our peoples. To-day in this town of great beauty and of world-wide fame we forge another link in that chain of friendship. To the honour of those gallant men and for the consolation of their relatives, I unveil this memorial."

At the conclusion of the service two wreaths were laid on the Memorial, one from Canada and one from the town of Stratford-on-Avon.

**Herald 24th June 1949**

## **"MONTY" TO UNVEIL WAR MEMORIAL PLAQUE IN CHURCH**

Field-Marshal Lord Montgomery will visit Stratford-on-Avon on 16th July to unveil in the Parish Church a plaque to commemorate the 93 local men who gave their lives in World War II.

The plaque is the work of the Bromsgrove Guild, and some time ago the Town Council agreed to defray the cost – in the nature of £300.

"Monty" was a popular visitor to Stratford in October 1948 when the Freedom of the Borough was presented to Service units.

**Herald 19th May 1950**

## **K.E.S. WAR MEMORIAL GATES TO BE DEDICATED**

K.E.S. Benefactors' Day will be observed next Saturday, 24th June. It is hoped that the Revs. E. F. S. Wilmot and T. M. Parker will be able to come back to their old school to dedicate the war memorial gates which have recently been erected. The Old Boys' Association has also provided a bronze plaque which will be erected in the tunnel under the Big School and unveiled at the same time.

The programme for the day will follow the usual lines. At the service in the Guild Chapel, the sermon will be preached by the Rev. Cornwall Robertson, a former headmaster. The customary boat race and cricket match will follow.

**Herald 16th June 1950**



## “FOUND FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH”

Two Old Boys of King Edward VI School, Stratford-on-Avon – the Rev. T. M. Parker and the Rev. E. F. S. Wilmot – on Saturday dedicated memorial gates and a tablet commemorating the sacrifice of 49 of their fellows known to have given their lives in World War II.

The iron gates, bearing the well known coat of arms, are situated at the main entrance through which generations of boys have passed into the school, and through which generations yet unborn will pass.

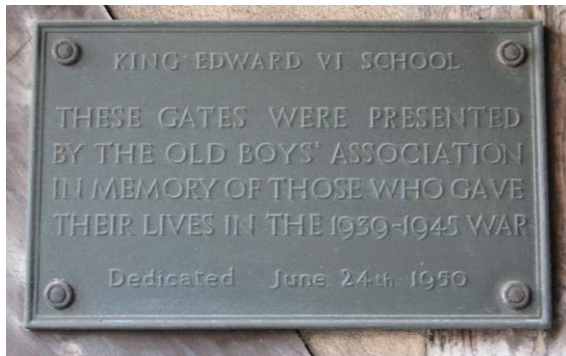
The simple ceremony was witnessed by a number of Old Boys and others gathered in the street, within the shadow of the ancient Guild Chapel.

The lesson, read by the Rev. E. F. S. Wilmot, was that comforting passage from the third chapter of the Book of Wisdom, beginning: “But the souls of the righteous are in the hands of God, and no

torment shall touch them.”

Alderman Smith associated with those whose sacrifice was being commemorated, former Old Boys who laid down their lives in a similar cause in World War I.

After the Headmaster had read the roll of honour, the Rev. T. M. Parker unveiled the tablet and dedicated the memorial “To the honour and glory of God and in the memory of those Old Stratfordians who laid down their



lives in the Second World War.

The ceremony ended with a prayer, said by the Rev. T. M. Parker, and the benediction, pronounced by the Vicar.

**Herald 30th June 1950**



## WAR MEMORIAL UNVEILING: SUNDAY'S CHURCH CEREMONY

On Sunday afternoon the town honours those 94 Stratfordians who died on active service during the 1939-1945 war.

A bronze tablet bearing the names, and provided by the Corporation, has been placed in the Holy Trinity Church and is now to be unveiled by Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery, and dedicated by the Bishop of Coventry (Dr. N. V. Gorton). On the southern wall of the church, close to the pulpit, it is an outstanding achievement in metal craftsmanship.

After lunching at Barford the Field Marshal will enter Stratford-on-Avon along Warwick Road. He will proceed along Waterside, up Sheep Street, and is due at the Town Hall at 2.45 p.m.

Five minutes later a procession will leave for Holy Trinity Church. Led by the police, it will include the Band of the 1st Battalion the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, with contingents from the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force. The Mayor (Alderman Trevor Matthews) will walk with Lord Montgomery, beadle and the maces preceding them. Aldermen, Councillors, Justices of the Peace, chief borough officials and others associated with the public life of the town will follow.

They will be met at the west door by the Bishop, the Vicar (Canon Prentice) other clergy and the choir.

### FOR RELATIVES

In the church special seats near the memorial have been allocated to relatives of the men who are to be remembered-two to each family. The British Legion, Royal Air Force Association and pre-service units are also invited.

The Vicar will read the names inscribed on the Memorial and Mr. Anthony Quayle (an ex-service man) will read Laurence Binyon's "For the Fallen". The National Anthem will conclude the service.

A programme of the service containing all 94 names has been prepared and copies will be placed in the church. Meticulous care has been taken to ensure that the list should be complete: if any omission occurs the responsibility rests upon those who failed to furnish particulars. Awards are recorded; rank is unmentioned.

**(Extracts from the Herald 14th July 1950)**

# F. M. LORD MONTGOMERY UNVEILS CHURCH WAR MEMORIAL

## BISHOP ON DANGER THAT GALLANT MEN MAY HAVE DIED IN VAIN

When Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery on Sunday unveiled in Stratford-on-Avon Parish Church a tablet commemorating the 94 Stratford men who gave their lives in the Second World War the Bishop of Coventry (Dr. N. V. Gorton), who performed the dedication ceremony, forcibly reminded the vast congregation of the danger that these men might yet have died in vain.



“We are moving into one of the great crises of history,” he said. “All around us is increasing chaos and mounting fear.”

Accompanied by the Mayor (Alderman Trevor Matthews) in civic state, the Field-Marshal marched through the streets of Stratford behind the band of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment and contingents of the Navy,

Army and Air Force. A crowd had gathered outside the Town Hall to watch the departure of the procession, which included ex-servicemen from both world wars, and the appearance of Field-Marshal Montgomery evoked a burst of spontaneous clapping. At the crowded church he took his place at the forefront of the relatives and friends of the fallen men.

## HALLOWED SETTING

The service, which was conducted by the Bishop and the Vicar (Canon Noel Prentice), was memorable for its poignant beauty and quiet reverence. There could be no more hallowed setting for a memorial service than this parish church, which has stood inviolate through the centuries, untouched by evil or wilful destruction, and imbued with tranquillity and peace. Many of these 94 gallant men had been christened at the ancient font; a number had stood before the altar to take their marriage vows. Now, prematurely, the trilogy had been completed, and even though their bodies might lie in some “corner of a foreign field,” we commended their souls to God.

## PROUD MEMORIES

Mothers, fathers, wives and close relatives sat with bowed heads, united in their loss, strengthened by their sorrow and proud in their memories, as the Vicar read the Roll of Honour, his voice echoing to the furthest corner of the church. As the names were called a memory flashed across the minds of those who knew them as they had been-confident in their youth and strength, living for the day and disregarding the to-morrow-the to-morrow that never came.

## SHADOW

It did not need the Bishop to remind the congregation of the hideous possibility that confronts the world to-day, of the shadow of a third world war, that even now is darkening the horizon of our brave new world. Field-Marshal Montgomery, who had seen men go with white lips, but cheery smiles, to almost certain death; who had known the agonies and frustrations of war and mourned the passing of so many lives, what were his thoughts as he read the words of the lesson; “The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God . . .”

## AWAKENING HOPE

Again, no one could have failed to find consolation in the “Reveille,” with its awakening hope and theme of resurrection shining like a star in the blackness of despair. And in the minute’s silence the thoughts of the congregation were with those “valiant hearts,” in sure and certain knowledge of the glory that was theirs.

*(Extracts from the Herald 21st July 1950)*

## 1954

### LEGION LAUNCHES £2,500 APPEAL FOR GARDEN OF REST

#### Hope that it will be opened by next Remembrance Day

Urging townspeople to support a £2,500 appeal which is being launched by the Stratford on Avon branch of the British Legion to cover the cost of a Garden of Rest near Stratford Parish Church, Mr. Charles Clifton (president) says that although Stratford prides itself on being a town with a sense of history after 40 years it still lacks the perfect setting for a war memorial.

Stratford on Avon Town Council although mindful of the need for a Garden of Rest in which can be embodied both the present Cenotaph in Bancroft Gardens and a new memorial commemorating those who fell in World War II, had regretfully to put aside a scheme prepared by the Borough Engineer (Mr. P.C. Smart) and the architect (Mr. Guy Pemberton), because the cost was greater than the town could afford.

The British Legion, however, anxious that the matter should not be postponed indefinitely, have offered to raise the necessary funds if the Corporation will carry out the work and also maintain the garden when it is finished. The Corporation are being recommended to donate £250 to the fund, and Col. N.C. Joseph (patron of the Stratford British Legion) has given 100 guineas.

#### “FAR SEEING” SCHEME

Mr. Smart told the *Herald* that the scheme for the Garden of Rest which will be sited on land bequeathed to the town, is a “far-seeing” one. It provides for the removal of the high wall on the south side of Southern Lane and the opening up of the vista from Southern Lane to the river. The Garden itself will have many attractive features, including a lawn, gravel paths, flower borders and clipped hedges, seats, a pool and a shelter.

#### SPIRIT OF THANKFULNESS

In connection with the appeal the Editor has received the following letter:

Sir, - As readers of the *Herald* already know, our offer to appeal for funds to defray the cost of laying out the Garden of Rest in Old Town has been cordially accepted by the Borough Council.

Our intervention in this matter is a practical expression of our desire to provide an appropriate setting for the Memorials to our fallen comrades of two World Wars. We feel very strongly that the cenotaph in memory of those who died in the 1914-18 War should no longer remain in the Bancroft Gardens where its environment is hurtful and disturbing to their relative and friends.

**Herald 29th January 1954**

#### START SOON TO BE MADE ON GARDEN OF REST SCHEME

Work on the site of the Garden of Rest in Old Town, Stratford's memorial to the fallen of two world wars, will begin in the near future, and good progress is being made with the necessary preparatory work.

The amount so far subscribed towards its cost in response to the British Legion Appeal is £1,369. To this must be added the profit on the Whit-Monday fête organised by the Legion, and also the proceeds of numerous efforts and collections which are still being made. A cheque for £250. from the Corporation will be paid today (Friday).

Mr. W. T. Bird has generously offered to carry out part of the work free of charge, including the removal of the 1914-18 war memorial from the Bancroft Gardens, but more money yet is needed, and the British Legion Committee are still appealing for further donations.

**Herald 2nd July 1954**

#### DISSENSION OVER REMOVAL OF WAR MEMORIAL

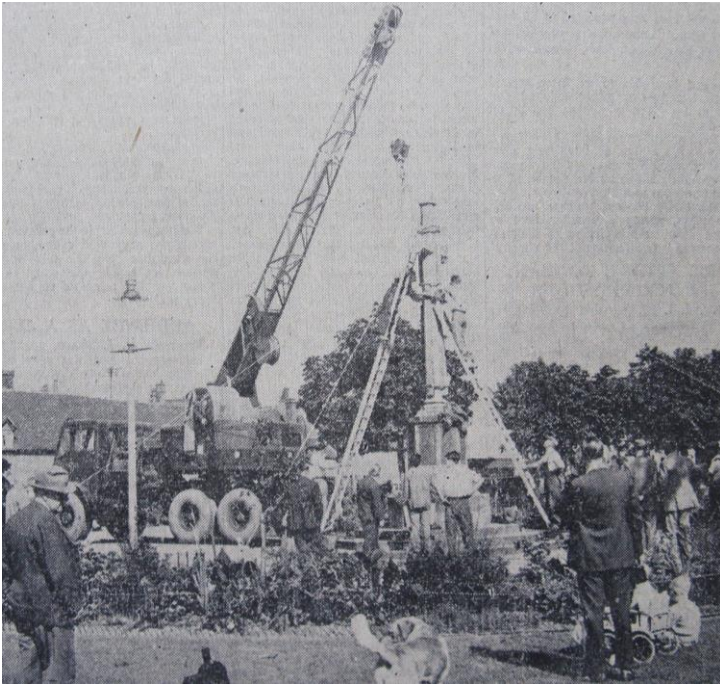
Removal of the war memorial from the Bancroft Gardens to the new Garden of Rest in Old Town, accomplished on Monday, has caused a considerable amount of dissension amongst townspeople, many of whom consider that it should have been left in a place which is always in the public eye rather than “tucked away where hardly anyone will ever see it.”

Removal of the memorial was arranged and supervised by Mr. W. T. Bird of Stratford on Avon as his contribution to the appeal fund launched by the Stratford on Avon branch of the British Legion.

For more than an hour men sawed through the cement which held the 25 cwt stone cross in position after which it was drawn off the copper core and suspended from the crane later to be taken to the Garden of Rest nearly half a mile away. By afternoon, the whole memorial, weighing almost eight tons, had been moved.

The work was done in three stages for although Mr. Bird had hoped at first to move the memorial in one piece, he later decided that the risk of damaging the stonework was too great. As it is the memorial is not even chipped.





### HISTORY REPEATED

Many of the spectators who watched the removal of the memorial were bitterly opposed to its transfer. History was thus repeated for in 1927, when the memorial was removed from the top of Bridge Street to the Bancroft Gardens following an accident when it was hit by a lorry, there was a storm of protest. The Bancroft, townspeople said then, was not a fitting spot for a war memorial.

The British Legion have, of course, long been worried by the way in which the memorial has been abused by holiday makers, who have been known to picnic on the stone steps. The new Garden of Rest, they say, is an ideal site.

**Herald 3rd September 1954**

### STRATFORD GARDEN IS LINKED WITH THOSE FOREIGN FIELDS THAT ARE FOR EVER ENGLAND

In the newly constructed Garden of Remembrance, beneath the shadow of the spire of Holy Trinity Church, Stratford on Avon, the town's memorials to the gallant dead of two world wars now stand. "I can think of no more perfect setting," said Major General K. G. Exham (Deputy G.O.C. Western Command) when on Saturday he unveiled the memorial to the fallen of the 1939-45 war.

"A garden is so truly English; it must stand for all for which they laid down their lives," he said and his words must have found an echo in the hearts of the several hundred townspeople who took part in the movingly beautiful service of remembrance. Many must have felt that this plot, now sacred to the memory of their dear ones, is irrevocably linked by the invisible strands of memory to those other corners "of a foreign field that are forever England."

The Garden, which has materialised from a piece of ground given to the town by Messrs. Helliwell, has become a reality through the efforts of the local branch of the British Legion, and it is particularly fitting that ex-Servicemen should have pioneered this memorial to fallen comrades. It was designed by Mr. Guy Pemberton, and much of the work has been carried out by employees of the Corporation, whose gardeners will see that, season by season, it is a thing of beauty.

Speaking of the mixed feelings with which all attended such a ceremony, General Exham said he felt that the men themselves would have wanted

relatives and friends to put aside personal sorrows and to think with pride and affection of them for all that they did. They would have thought that there was no better way in which their memory could be preserved than in such a garden. He had so often seen the cemeteries in France and Flanders, in Africa and Italy, in the Middle East, in Asia where our fallen soldiers lay and every one captured the atmosphere of an English garden.

**Herald 8th October 1954**





### **“...THEIR SOULS WERE SHOD WITH THE GOSPEL OF PEACE”**

Standing in the bleak chill of a November day around Stratford's memorials to the fallen of two world wars, townspeople on Sunday paid homage to their dead. In the newly opened Garden of Remembrance, an unfamiliar but perfect setting, the familiar short, simple service was conducted by the Vicar (Canon Noel Prentice), during which the usual silence was observed and the “Last Post” and “Reveille” were sounded by K.E.S cadets.

**Herald 12th November 1954**



**Brass plaque on seat in the Remembrance Gardens dedicated to Flt. Lt. P. Morris.**

### **OLDEST MEMBER UNVEILS WAR MEMORIAL**

Oldest member of Rother Street Congregational Church, Stratford-on-Avon, and one through whose hands hundreds of Sunday School scholars have passed, 89-year-old Mr. J. J. Wyatt on Sunday unveiled a memorial to those associated with the church who gave their lives in the second World War.

The memorial, a simple plaque in two tones of Sicilian marble, in marked contrast to that erected after the first World War, bears only three names-Capt. W. A. Lowth, Pte. N. F. Morrice and A.B. R. Timms.

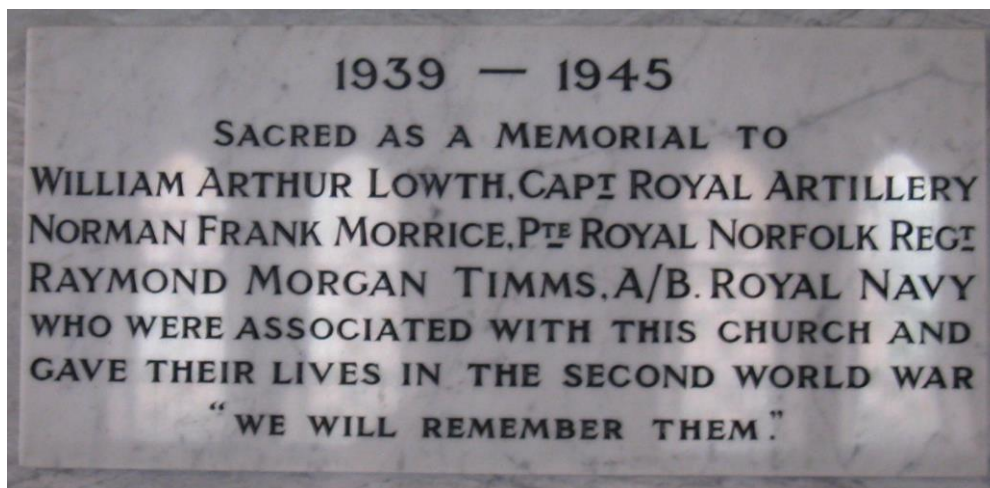
The service, conducted by the minister, the Rev. H. R. Veale, gained much from its simplicity. Among the large congregation were the Mayor (Councillor B. S. Cooper), the Mayoress (Miss Anne Cooper), contingents of the British Legion, with the standard of the local branch, Royal Air Forces Association and St. John Ambulance Brigade.

Following the lesson from the Wisdom of Solomon, beginning “The souls of the righteous . . .” Mr. Wyatt unveiled the memorial, which was draped with the Union Jack, “To the glory of God and in memory of those who gave their lives for freedom.” The minister then quoted Laurence Binyon’s immortal words: “They shall grow not old . . .” A wreath of poppies was placed by a representative of the British Legion.

The anthem “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace.” Was rendered by the choir, under Mr. Macdonald Goodall, who was at the organ.

Preaching from the text “. . . they without us should not be made perfect,” the Rev. H. R. Veale said that memory was a precious link that bound the generations together and held the seen and unseen worlds in unbreakable grasp. It must not, however, be a sedative, but a spur to action.

There was the red blood of sacrifice upon our freedom. We were free not to please ourselves, but to serve God and our fellow men and women. Freedom, gained at a great price, was safe only as we submitted to the leadership of Christ.



## LEGION HAND OVER £1,300 FOR GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

Handing over a cheque for £1,305 17s 8d to the Mayor ( Councillor A. F. Brownlow) to defray the cost of the Garden of Remembrance, Mr. Charles Clifton (president of Stratford-on-Avon branch of the British Legion) on Thursday week paid tribute to “the people of Stratford who responded so generously to the appeal we made.”

Their having done so, he said, was proof, if proof was needed, that the Stratford men and boys who died in war were not forgotten and that their fellow-townsmen and women really did want the garden made in remembrance of them.

Stating that the Legion had themselves paid accounts amounting to more than £137, Mr Clifton said that the total expenditure to date was £1,443 1s 4d. There was a considerable balance still in hand, and a meeting was being held to discuss what should be done with it.

Expressing the Appeal Committee’s gratitude to all subscribers and their appreciation of the help and encouragement given, Mr. Clifton thanked the Mayor, the members of the joint committee, Mr. T. Lowth (Town Clerk), Mr. P. C. Smart (Borough Engineer) and his staff, and Mr. W. T. Bird for all that they had done to make the scheme a success. He also thanked the members of the Appeal Committee for their help and support, paying special tribute to Mr. J. P. Morrice.

### PRIDE AND CARE

“We have no doubt at all that the Borough Council will tend the garden with special pride and care so that it will forever remain a fitting home for the war memorials,” Mr. Clifton declared.

The Mayor praised the way in which the British Legion had undertaken the responsibility of the Garden when it was discovered that the Council were unable to afford the project, pointing out that it had been made in “record time.” Work on the scheme had started less than six months before, but the British Legion had “got on with the job” so well that now the town had an acquisition which would be maintained in as perfect a condition as possible.

Thanking all who had helped with the scheme by giving money or services, the Mayor paid special tribute to Mr. W. T. Bird, Mr. Smart and the architect.

**Herald 31st December 1954**



Mr. Charles Clifton handing over a cheque for £1,305 17s 8d to the Mayor, Mr. A. F. Brownlow.



## ALVESTON WAR MEMORIAL 1939-1945

**Frank BERRY** Sergeant 1604340 408 Sqdn. Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Died: Saturday, 31st July 1943

Age 22.

Son of Howard and Alma Berry; husband of Beryl Cicely Berry, of Alveston, Warwickshire.

Cemetery: RUNNYMEDE MEMORIAL, UK

Grave Reference: Panel 142

### BIRTHS

Berry – On the 12th inst at Ellen Badger Hospital, Shipston-on-Stour, to Beryl (née Clark), wife of Sergt. F. Berry, R.A.F., a son Frank Howard.

**Herald 20th August 1943**

### ALVESTON AIR-GUNNER MISSING

Mrs. Frank Berry, of Alveston, to whom a son was born last week, has received news that her husband, Sergt. Frank Berry is missing from recent air operations.

Mrs. Berry was formerly Miss Beryl Clark, of Alveston, the marriage taking place in August of last year.

Sergt. Berry, who is 22 years of age, worked for a contracting firm before he joined the R.A.F. Although he volunteered from a reserved occupation as an air-gunner two-and-a-half years ago, he has been in the R.A.F. for little more than a year.

The sympathy of many friends will be extended to Mrs. Berry in her anxiety, together with the hope that better news will soon be forthcoming.

**Herald 20th August 1943**

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**Joseph Henry BIRCH** Ordinary Telegraphist C/JX 258890 H.M.S. Anking, Royal Navy

Also recorded on Stratford-on-Avon War Memorial, see page 148

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**Peter Henry BLAGG** Lieutenant 121143 1st Bn., Royal Welch Fusiliers

Also recorded on Stratford-on-Avon War Memorial, see page 149

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**Michael St John BOOTH** Second Lieutenant 311465 Northamptonshire Regiment

Also recorded on Stratford-on-Avon War Memorial, see page 150

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**Horace Edward BOWLY** Major 58092 Royal Warwickshire Regiment

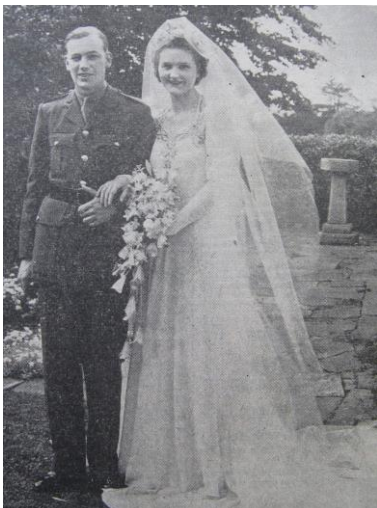
Died: Friday, 16th June 1944

Age 31.

Only son of Colonel W. A. T. Bowly, C.V.O., C.B.E., M.C., and Mrs. Bowly, of South Cerney, Gloucestershire; husband of D. J. Bowly.

Cemetery: BAYEUX WAR CEMETERY

Grave Reference: X. A. 2.



The wedding was solemnised at Stratford-on-Avon Parish Church on Saturday of Miss Diana Parkes, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Parkes, of the Dial House, Alveston, and Major H. E. Bowly, only son of Colonel W. A. T. Bowly, C.V.O., C.B.E., M.C., and Mrs. Bowly, of Dover.

The bridegroom had been granted 24 hours leave for the ceremony. The Rev. E. R. Wallace (vicar of Alveston) and the archdeacon of Aston officiated. Given away by her father, the Bride wore white crêpe romaine with embroidered neck, and her tulle veil was surmounted with orange blossom.

Mr. Jack Pearson was best man. There was a quiet family reception at the Dial House.

The bride's gift to the bridegroom was binoculars, and the bride received a gold watch.

**Herald 7th June 1940**

### MAJOR H. E. BOWLY KILLED

The death is announced in action in Normandy of Major H. E. Bowly, only son of Colonel W. A. T. Bowly, C.V.O., C.B.E., M.C., and Mrs. Bowly, of Dover, and husband of Mrs. Diana Bowly, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Parkes, of The Dial House, Alveston.

Major Bowly, who was married in June, 1940, leaves one small son. He had served with the Royal Warwickshire Regiment for about 10 or 11 years, had seen peace-time service in India, and war service in the Middle East.

While in the Middle East he was attached to the East Yorkshire Regiment and subsequently to the Green Howards.

**Herald 7th July 1944**

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**Frank Chasey BREMRIDGE** Lance Corporal 7886522 5th, Royal Tank Regiment, R.A.C.

Also recorded on Stratford-on-Avon War Memorial, see page 151

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**John Ralph Auckland BROCKLEBANK** Lieutenant 219024 6th Bn., Grenadier Guards

Also recorded on Stratford-on-Avon War Memorial, see page 152

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**Robert Peter CARTER** Private 14207780 1st Bn., East Surrey Regiment

Died: Tuesday, 24th October 1944

Age 21.

Son of Howard and Katherine Carter, of Welford-on-Avon, Warwickshire.

Cemetery: SANTERNO VALLEY WAR CEMETERY

Grave Reference: I. H. 7.

### ON ACTIVE SERVICE

Carter – Killed in action in October, Robert Peter Carter, dearly loved son of Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Carter, Wildflowers, Tiddington, aged 21 years.

**Herald 10th November 1944**

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**Christopher Albert Edward CLACK** Private 5111957 6th Bn., Gordon Highlanders

Also recorded on Stratford-on-Avon War Memorial, see page 152

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**Hubert Victor CLACK** Private 14579192 2nd Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Died: Monday, 24th July 1944

Age 19.

Son of Gilbert Frank and Dorothy M. Clack, of Tiddington, Warwickshire.

Cemetery: BANNEVILLE-LA-CAMPAGNE WAR CEMETERY, Calvados, France

Grave Reference: IX. B. 10.

### HOME GUARD'S STOLEN LAMP

Hubert Victor Clack and Gerald Wilkins, both of Tiddington, were fined 7s 6d (37p) each for riding pedal cycles without front or rear lights.

Clack said his lamps were stolen while he was on Home Guard duty, and it seemed hard that he should be fined and that the thief should get off scot free.

**Herald 21st August 1942**

### TIDDINGTON MAN KILLED

Pte. Hubert Victor (Bob) Clack, 19½ year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Clack, of 6, Oak Road, Tiddington, has been killed in action in Normandy. A native of Alveston, he was well known and liked in the neighbourhood. For two years he was a keen member of the Home Guard, and before joining the Army eighteen months ago was employed by Mr. D. J. Dyer, the Stratford builder.

**Herald 11th August 1944**





Pte. Hubert Victor (Bob) Clack, R.W.R., of Oak-road, Tiddington, have, as already stated, been killed in action. A memorial service for Pte. Clack was conducted at Alveston Church on Sunday by the priest-in-charge (the Rev. J. G. Sutton). In addition to relatives, many friends were present, including Mr. C. Taylor, representing the Home Guard.

**Herald 18th August 1944**

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**Bernard Frank HUDSON** Trooper 321513 12th Royal Lancers Royal Armoured Corps

Died: Wednesday, 22nd May 1940.

Age 20.

Son of Frank and Edith Hudson, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: CAMBLAIN L'ABBE COMMUNAL CEMETERY.

Grave Reference: Grave 2

#### OFFICER'S TRIBUTE TO A "FINE SOLDIER"

Trooper Bernard Frank Hudson, of the Lancers, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hudson, of 208, Loxley-road, Stratford-on-Avon, was killed in action in Belgium last month. He was 20.

His father is trainer for Mr. Brueton, of Tiddington, the racehorse owner and the family have lived in Stratford for about two years. They formerly lived at Solihull. The only other child is a boy aged two.

A tribute to Trooper Hudson is paid by his commanding officer in a letter to the parents which states: "Your son proved himself a fine soldier. He was cool and courageous. Before he met his death, he had seen a good man killed beside him but he stuck to his wireless job and got through his vital messages. I am glad to think that I was able to thank him for that. The next day he went out again on patrol, and a German heavy tank proved too much for him and two of his gallant comrades. His end was swift; his gallantry lives on. We bear a proud name, and the regiment has been singled out for special mention by Lord Gort. Some of the survivors have played their part in earning the praise but the bulk of the credit goes to those who sacrificed their lives. Their names will live forever."

This officer who was himself wounded, has been awarded the D.S.O.

**Herald 21st June 1940**

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**William Arthur LOWTH** Captain 155843 124 Field Regt., Royal Artillery

Also recorded on Stratford-on-Avon War Memorial, see page 163

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**John MILLER** Pilot Officer 42865 149 Sqdn, Royal Air Force

Also recorded on Stratford-on-Avon War Memorial, see page 165

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**Rogers MILLER** Pilot Officer 42419 609 Sqdn., Royal Air Force

Also recorded on Stratford-on-Avon War Memorial, see page 166

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**Norman Frank MORRICE** Private 5114313 4th Bn., Royal Norfolk Regiment

Also recorded on Stratford-on-Avon War Memorial, see page 168

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**Lawrence Charles O'NEILL** Lance Corporal 7607673 Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

Also recorded on Stratford-on-Avon War Memorial, see page 171

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**George Burden SMITH** Sapper 1902496 Royal Engineers

Died: Monday, 27th May 1940.

Age 33.

Son of Charles and Eliza Smith; husband of Edna Marie Smith, of Tiddington, Warwickshire.

Cemetery: DUNKIRK MEMORIAL

Grave Reference: Column 27.

**SAPPER GEORGE SMITH MISSING**

Sapper George B. Smith, of Alveston, is missing. He is 33 and is well known in the district as a plasterer. He joined the Royal Engineers in January and was moved to France in February. His last letter home was received on May 9th, and the War Office has now officially posted him as missing. He married, in 1930, Miss Edna Marie Pinfold, and there are two children, one aged nine and the other four.

**Herald 2nd August 1940**



**MISSING – BUT FAMILY STILL HOPE**

Although nothing has been heard from him since the end of May, the family of Sapper George B. Smith, of Alveston, refuses to give up hope.

The eldest son of the late Mr. Chas. Smith and of Mrs. Smith, of 14, Lodge Road, Stratford-on-Avon, he is 33 years of age, and is well known in the district as a plasterer. He joined the Royal Engineers in January and was moved to France the following month. He was officially posted as missing in July. He married in 1930 Miss Edna Marie Pinfold, and there are two children. His home is at Alveston.

**Herald 22nd November 1940**

**KILLED IN ACTION**

In 1940 the *Herald* published the news that Sapper George H. Smith of Alveston was missing. His family heard nothing more until Saturday, when the War Office reported that he was killed in action on May 27th 1940. He leaves a widow and two children aged 11 years and six years. He was a son of Mrs. E. Smith and the late Mr. C. Smith of Birmingham road, Stratford. He worked in the town as a plasterer, and he will be remembered as having served for seven years in the choir of St. James' Church and as a member of the Hathaway Lodge of the R.A.O.B. He volunteered in January 1940 and a month later he was in France. Sapper Smith was 35 years of age.

**Herald 15th May 1942**

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**Norman Roland Victor WATSON** Captain 121329 2nd Bn., Royal Ulster Rifles

Also recorded on Stratford-on-Avon War Memorial, see page 188

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**Gerald WILKINS** Rifleman 14756388 Cameronians (Scottish Rifles)

Also recorded on Stratford-on-Avon War Memorial, see page 189

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**Jack WORTH** Sergeant (Pilot) 513391 Royal Air Force

Died: Sunday, 9th June 1940.

Age 29.

Son of Alley and Annie Worth; husband of Elsie Vera Worth, of Banbury, Oxfordshire.

Cemetery: ANDOVER CEMETERY

Grave Reference: Plot H. Grave 6

**TIDDINGTON PILOT KILLED ON ACTIVE SERVICE**

Pilot-Instructor-Sergeant Worth, of Hamilton-terrace, Tiddington, has been killed on active service. Twenty-nine years of age, he had served for nine years in the R.A.F., and was promoted instructor recently. Sympathy will go out to his widow, to whom he had been married only two years. The military funeral took place on Wednesday.

**Herald 14th June 1940**

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Died: Friday, 15th February 1943

Age 31.

Son of Henry Charles and Eleanor Barnes; husband of Marjorie Barnes of Tiddington.

Cemetery: STRATFORD-ON-AVON

Grave Reference: Grave 4077.

### **R.A.F. MAN WHO WAS WORRIED**

#### **Found Hanging from Sluice Gate**

#### **MARRIED LOCAL GIRL SIX WEEKS AGO**

Walking in Stratford-on-Avon Recreation Ground on Monday morning, Mr. Eric Charles Pain, of Acocks Green, Birmingham, observed what at first he took to be an R.A.F. overcoat hanging on the railings of the sluice gate opposite the churchyard. He then saw that a man was hanging from the railings.

Subsequent investigation proved the man to be Flt./Sgt. Frank Stanley Barnes, a 31-year old P.T. instructor in the R.A.F.

The poignancy of the tragedy is intensified by the fact that it was only about six weeks ago-on December 31st- that the Sergeant was married to Miss Marjorie Gisbourne, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Gisbourne, of Tiddington.

An inquiry into the circumstances of death was conducted at the Town Hall on Tuesday by the Coroner for South-West Warwickshire (Mr. G. F. Lodder).

#### **“WORRYING TYPE”**

Mrs. Marjorie Barnes, living at 2, Grove-road, Stratford-on-Avon, said her husband complained that he had not slept well. Another Flight-Sergeant was in hospital, and her husband said everything had gone wrong and he could not keep up with the work. He did not like being wholly engaged on P.T. duty, but there was nothing the matter with him except that he did not sleep well. He went out about 7 p.m. on Sunday, saying he should be back about 8 p.m., but he did not return. He was not short of money and had no worry except his job. He was of a worrying type.

Eric Charles Pain, of 29a, Olton Boulevard, Acocks Green, said he immediately cut the rope, but the man was dead. He summoned assistance.

#### **COMPETENT MAN**

Squadron-Leader Cecil E. Knight said Flt.-Sgt. Barnes had been under him since June 14th, 1941. There was no ground for his worry, and witness had no complaint to make about his work. He had, perhaps, appeared slightly worried or depressed last week, but he was such a competent and capable man that witness put it down to slight depression that everyone feels at times. It did not appear to be serious, but looking back he now felt that Barnes was not himself. As far as the Squadron was concerned there was no cause for worry.

#### **PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENT**

Sergt. Mervyn Arthur Harris, of the R.A.F., a friend of Barnes, said he was of a cheerful disposition. He had been rather worried because he could not find a home for his wife, and when witness saw him on Saturday he was a little worried. He was conscientious about his job and had complained that he did not like P.T. There was a previous engagement, but, as far as he knew, that was forgotten. He knew of nothing connected with that that had affected him.

Medical evidence was that Barnes died from asphyxia, caused by strangulation. When found he had been dead at least six hours.

**Herald 19th February 1943**

*Frank Barnes is not commemorated on either Alveston or Stratford-on-Avon War Memorials but was connected by marriage to Marjorie Gisbourne of Tiddington.*

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### **IN THE RAIN THEY REMEMBERED**

#### **ALVESTON MEMORIAL PLAQUE UNVEILED**

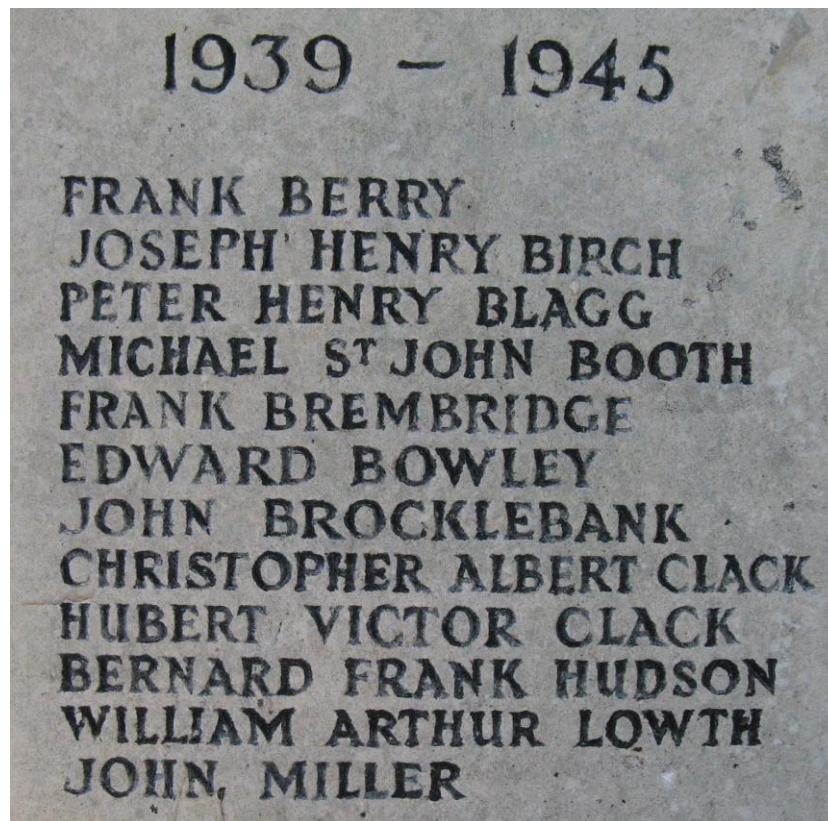
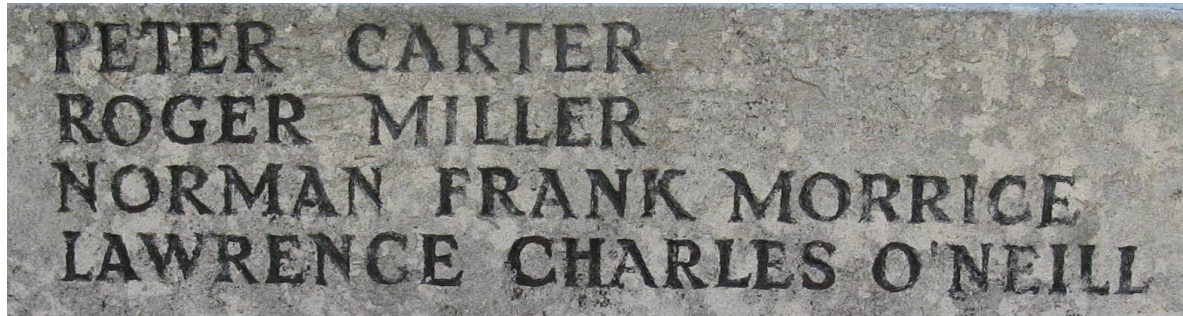
On Remembrance Sunday the Vicar of Alveston (the Rev. J. Carter) conducted, at the village war memorial, a service of dedication, and a panel, bearing the names of those who fell in World War II, was unveiled by Lieut-Colonel G. Bryant.

In spite of pouring rain, many were there to honour the dead, and to remember their sacrifice. Those present included the Mayor and Mayoress of Stratford (Alderman and Mrs. Trevor Matthews), the Town Clerk (Mr. T. B. Lowth), representatives of the British Legion, the Women's Institute and relatives.

After a few moments silent remembrance came the familiar notes of the "Last Post" and "Reveille." The Vicar read the 19 names of those who gave their lives, and wreaths were laid by the Mayor, the Stratford Squadron of the A.C.T., the British Legion, the Women's Institute, and of course, personal tributes.

The Vicar said that the cross stood, not only as a symbol of sacrifice, but of victory. Those who passed by should remember that whatever the future might bring, we could be certain that ultimately faith would triumph.

**Herald 17th November 1950**





## **HOW STRATFORD CELEBRATED VE-DAY**

### **MOOD OF SUBDUED THANKFULNESS PERVADED ALL**

At six on Monday evening we felt sure it would not be; at nine we knew it was. The great occasion for which hearts had been hungering this many a year, the defeat of the vilest enemy that had ever raised its gorgon head against the beauties of life, was at hand. Expectation was succeeded by realisation.

Within an hour streets were transformed. Flags, banners, streamers, bunting that had greeted the Coronation of our King fluttered in the gentle breeze, indicative of hearts uplifted and of spirits soaring because free. A mood of subdued thankfulness pervaded all. Liberty had triumphed (but at what a cost), freedom was victorious (yet the struggle had been hard), those who would have enslaved the world were shackled, while the prison camps were emptied of those whose only fault was a passion for the right.

Stratford celebrations were modest and obviously spontaneous. Flags representing the four great Allies—Great Britain, U.S.A., Russia and China—brightened the aspect of Bridge Street, and there they will remain until Sunday is past. (Yes, we all know that one about the rain, and, of course, it did). From the Town Hall, the Theatre, a hundred shops and offices, from ever so many private houses, flags of sorts appeared.

#### **WASHING ON THE SIEGFRIED LINE**

Great William Street did itself proud and Summer Row was not lagging; the Picture House almost hid itself in bunting and the Police Station flew the Greek flag as its second emblem. Humour burst into action when some wag managed to hang out the washing on the Siegfried Line, temporarily transferred to Guild Street. Colour schemes were mixed, but the intention was not obscure.

No plans had been prepared for the great occasion, and so each was left to follow his own devices. Churches were filled for the services held on Tuesday evening following the Prime Minister's official declaration. But so many went to Holy Trinity Church at noon that a preliminary service was held then. The bells sounded forth with merry acclaim as though saying "What about that invader we were to warn you of? Where is he now?" Ringers pulled with zest, glad of their tumultuous share in these celebrations. The Town Council met as appointed, and after passing an appropriate resolution without comment, scampered through its formal business almost without challenge. Councillors and chief officials, plus a quartet representing the general public, toasted the King and H.M. Forces. The Magistrates' Court sat as usual on Wednesday, for the Law never slumbers.

**Herald 11th May 1945**

#### **TIDDINGTON DAY TO REMEMBER**

The children of Tiddington will long remember VE-Day. For many it was their first public party—and what a party! The Parish Hall was filled to capacity, and the tables with their red, white and blue decorations were laden with delicacies. Councillor and Mrs. T. N. Waldron, Mr. P. R. Worth (headmaster), members of the Women's Institute and the children's mothers and Tiddington Bakeries were responsible for the celebrations. Mr. Worth and Mrs. Waldron, in a few happy words, stressed the great significance of the day.

The youngsters sang community songs and eventually departed for home, laden with more of the feast that had been greater even than their appetites could finish at one sitting.

**Herald 18th May 1945**

## **VJ CELEBRATIONS BEGAN AT LAST STROKE OF MIDNIGHT**

### **AMERICANS' QUICK REACTION OPENED DAY OF REJOICING**

Stratford-on-Avon people who were a-bed on Tuesday night—or, rather, Wednesday morning—got little sleep, and who shall say that any but the young and the old deserved to?

The news, the great news, came at midnight. Immediately Stratford was astir, for what mattered sleep when history was in the making? Had we had any doubts about whether we should or should not begin to celebrate immediately the Americans amongst us settled the question. All of us got together where the American fountain and the American Red Cross Club and the American flag and American service men make an American oasis in the Heart of England.

Somebody started a bonfire in the street and other somebodies kept it going. A dash of petrol now and then sent flames soaring high and fireworks, thrown among the embers, exploded intermittently, hurling clouds of sparks into the sky.

## **JOY RIDES FOR ALL**

American lorries gave joy rides to all and sundry, half the Festival Company forming one cargo. With screaming horns they wandered through the sleepy streets and into the countryside beyond. The youngster who was not a guest passenger on this great occasion was not wide-awake for the welcome was general and the capacity beyond expectation.

A piano appeared and set many singing; an accordion was a welcome competitor. A big drum invited processions.

Some had dressed, some preferred pyjamas and dressing gowns. We told each other how wonderful it was. While youth was ebullient age smilingly looked on.

## **THIS WAS DIFFERENT**

It was good to do things that we would not do at other times, because this was a time different from all others. Yes, even different from 1918. This was a beginning, and if we had not stirred in response to this joyous emotion what poor creatures we should be. On such occasions lethargy is shameful.

After we had gone back to bed and breakfast we re-awoke to a world of dampness. But the weather-wise were undismayed and their prophecies of brighter hours came true as morning changed into afternoon. Before others were astir Corporation workmen had erected flagpoles in Bridge Street so that the flags of the four chief Allies – Great Britain, U.S.A., Russia and China – might float in the breeze.

The Crown that distinguishes the Union Jack presented by King George VI also indicates that only one monarchy persists among the four participant States.

**Herald 17th August 1945**

## **STREET BY STREET STRATFORD HAS WELCOMED VICTORY**

### **CREATING MEMORIES THAT CHILDREN WILL NEVER FORGET**

Good neighbours are a blessing to themselves and to others. What a lot they can do when they co-operate.

That has received striking endorsement during Celebration Days. Street teas have been held in many parts of the town and by sharing the work and the expense residents have given the children a royal time and enjoyed themselves abundantly. Well done Stratford.

Rain partnered the music on Thursday week—VJ2 day—when dancing was resumed in Bridge Street. It began at eight o'clock, and so did the rain. It ended at midnight, and the rain ceased at the same time. Four hours of dancing and four hours of drizzle.

One wondered at the outset how many would come in such weather. The music played, a few responded; the music continued and the number increased until 300 were tripping it merrily amidst the flagstaffs and under the coloured lights. So it went on, numbers varying but not diminishing. Some wore mackintoshes, others covered their heads with gay handkerchiefs, but most never bothered. One gallant member of the R.A.F. doffed his tunic to give his partner the benefit of that protection, and danced in his shirt sleeves.

Not only did the dancers stay but spectators as well. They stood in door-ways to get some little shelter and, when those odd corners were filled, they seemed contented with the footpaths. What was a spot of rain when victory had come, was the attitude they expressed.

Thus it went on to midnight chimes boomed forth. Then all joined hands and, in pleasant harmony, sang "Auld Lang Syne". Cheers and happy farewells resounded all around. It was a fine ending to a joyful occasion.

*Three of the many street parties that went on in the town, reported in the Stratford Herald.*

### **WEST STREET, CHESTNUT WALK, NARROW LANE.**

Following the official announcement of the capitulation of Japan, an enthusiastic committee gathered together at short notice to make the final Victory celebrations an outstanding success.

The programme was designed primarily for children, and their excitement reached fever pitch when a char-a-banc, provided through the generosity of Mr. E. J. Lea, was filled to capacity and set off on a journey round Broadway and Evesham. During this hour or so of calm, numerous ladies prepared tea, which, in spite of the many difficulties, proved to be a sumptuous spread, all home-made. The feast was held in the street, and amongst the guests were the Mayor (Councillor Roderick Baker) and the Mayoress (Mrs. Philip Baker) and

Canon Prentice, each of whom spoke to the children at the conclusion of the tea. Each child was presented with a beaker by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wyatt.

An amusing and comprehensive sports programme in the Yeomanry Drill Hall field followed the tea. The ages of the competitors ranged from three to twelve years. There were three prizes for most of the races. The adults also joined in several of the novelty events, to the children's great amusement.

West Street, Chestnut Walk and Narrow Lane are justifiably proud of their efforts, which will fix this great day in the minds of all for many years.

### **BULL STREET**

Private William Conway, of the 1st Worcesters, who lost both legs in Holland, arrived home just in time to join the Bull Street party. A committee of seven, with Mr. W. H. Thomas as chairman, made arrangements. There were 60 children at tea, and that important event was followed by racing and other sports. Mr. and Mrs. F. Houghton and Mrs. W. H. Thomas had the difficult task of selecting the six winners and the six runners-up in the fancy dress parade. Illuminations and amplified music, provided by Mr. J. Birch, helped considerably when dancing began.

**Herald 24th August 1945**



### **SHAKESPEARE STREET**

To their celebrations, Shakespeare Street invited part of Mulberry Street. At the outset the children, dressed in fancy costumes, were taken for a joy-ride round the town. Nearly 70 of them had tea and afterwards 210 adults shared a meal, provided through the efforts of a committee of which Mr. R. H. Hancox was chairman and Mrs. F. Gardner was Treasurer. There was a baby show in which Margaret Stratton was the proud winner. The Rev. G. Anderson judged the fancy dress costumes. Rain came before the evening programme could be completed.

## Addendum WW2 Plaque

On the 27th October 2007 a dedication service was held and a plaque with sixteen names was added to the World War 2 Memorial.



The service was conducted by the local clergy with three cadet units reading out the names of the men and then placing a simple poppy cross in the rose garden.

Local British Legion branches paraded their standards forming a guard of honour. While the *Last Post* and *Reveille* and a two minutes silence was observed.

### **Deryck Bonny BEALE** Sergeant (Air Gunner) 7 Sqdn Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Died; Saturday, 10th November 1942

Cemetery: KIEL WAR CEMETERY

Grave Reference: 3. E. 17.

### **SERGEANT DONALD BEALE**

Previously reported missing, Sergt. Donald Beale, radio operator-air gunner, is now presumed to have been killed in action. Before joining the R.A.F. Donald Beale was engaged in journalism in Stratford. He interested himself in several local activities, and many friends mourn a boy of great charm and considerable promise.

**Herald 12th June 1942**

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### **David Walter BLOXHAM** Private 14207967 The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)



Died; Thursday 2nd March 1944

Age 21.

Cemetery: BEACH HEAD WAR CEMETERY, ANZIO, Italy.

Grave Reference:

### **Stratford Soldier Killed in Italy**

Mr. And Mrs. V. Bloxham, of Lower Welcombe Farm, Stratford-on-Avon, have been informed that their fourth son, Pte. David Walter Bloxham has been killed in action in Italy.

Pte. Bloxham, who was 21 years of age, joined the army at the beginning of 1942, and later that year was posted abroad. He served in the North African campaign, and in April, 1943, was wounded. He was formerly employed at Marraway Farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Bloxham have another son in the R.A.F.

**Herald 7th April 1944**

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**William John BUSHNELL** Private 5111958 Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Died; 17th November 1940

Age 32.

Son of John and Emily Bushnell, of Stratford-on-Avon, husband of Kathleen Olive Bushnell.

Cemetery: STRATFORD-ON-AVON, Warwickshire UK

Grave Reference: 4157

Deaths:- BUSHNELL – On the 17th inst., at the Emergency Hospital, Private William Bushnell of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, aged 32 years.

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**Sydney Leonard COLES** Private 5112191 1/7th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Died; Saturday, 10th October 1942

Age 22.

Son of Leonard and Annie Coles, of Stratford-on-Avon, husband of May Coles, of West Ashby, Lincolnshire.

Cemetery: STRATFORD-ON-AVON, Warwickshire UK

Grave Reference; 4117

**SOLDIERS DEATH**

Private Sidney Leonard Coles (22), son of Mr. and Mrs. Coles, of 52, Great William Street, died in a military hospital on Saturday, following an operation. Sympathy will go out to his young wife (he was married only a few months ago) and to the parents. Pte. Coles, who was employed in the office of Messrs T. J. Hartwell, was in the Territorials before the War. He served in France and was at Dunkirk. The funeral took place at Stratford on Wednesday, the first part of the service being conducted at St. James' Church by the Rev. Brian Jukes.

**Herald 16th October 1942**

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**Stanley Edward DUNNETT** Flight Sergeant 1395778 626 Sqdn Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Died: 12th September 1944

Age 28.

Son of Samuel and Annie Jenetta Dunnett; husband of Alice Mary Dunnett, of Tiddington, Warwickshire

Cemetery: DURNBACH WAR CEMETERY

Grave Reference: Coll grave 3.H. 14-16

**FLT/SERGT. S. E. DUNNETT**

News has been received by Mrs. S. E. Dunnett, formerly Miss Alice Batsford, of 3, Brewery Street, Stratford-on-Avon, that her husband, Flt/Sergt. Stanley Edward Dunnett, is missing from recent air operations. Bomb-aimer in a Lancaster, he was making his twenty-ninth operational flight over enemy territory. Before joining the R.A.F. Flt/Sergt. Edward Dunnett served with the East Suffolk Police Force, his home being at Grundisburgh, Suffolk. He volunteered for the R.A.F. in 1942 and for six months served as a bomb-aimer instructor. The sympathy of many friends in her anxiety will be extended to Mrs. Dunnett, who has an eight-months-old son.

**Herald 22nd September 1944**

**LOST ON HIS TWENTY-NINTH OPERATIONAL FLIGHT**

Mrs S. E. Dunnett, of 3, Brewery Street, Stratford-on-Avon, has been notified that her husband, Flight-Sergeant Stanley Edward Dunnett (27), reported missing in September, is now presumed to have been killed. Aged 27. Flight-Sergeant Dunnett was lost while making his twenty-ninth operational flight over enemy territory. There is a baby 12 months old.

**Herald 15th December 1944**

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**Owen Victor EVANS** Flight Sergeant (Pilot) 574100 Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Died: Friday, 22nd September 1944

Age 24.

Cemetery: SUEZ WAR MEMORIAL CEMETERY

Grave Reference: 3. G. 12.

**SERVICE WEDDING**

Two members of the services were married at Alveston Church on Saturday. The bridegroom was Sergt./Pilot O. V. Evans, of the R.A.F., elder son of Mr. and Mrs. Evans, of Northampton, and his bride Miss Joan Gardener, of the A.T.S., younger daughter of Mrs. A. Gardener, of 200 Loxley Road.

**Herald 24th September 1943**

### STRATFORD AIRMAN KILLED IN CRASH

Sergt – Pilot Owen Victor Evans, R.A.F., of 200, Loxley Road, Stratford-on-Avon, has been killed in a flying accident while serving in the Middle East.

A native of Northampton, he joined the R.A.F. eight years ago, at the age of 16. He received part of his training in Warwickshire, and in September 1943, married Miss Joan Gardener, who was then serving in the A.T.S. Mrs Evans obtained her discharge a few months ago after serving for two years.

Sergt – Pilot Evans, had almost finished training as a fighter pilot and was expected home shortly.

**Herald 29th September 1944**

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**Bernard Frank HUDSON** Trooper 321513 12th Royal Lancers Royal Armoured Corps

Died: Wednesday, 22nd May 1940.

Age 20.

Son of Frank and Edith Hudson, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: CAMBLAIN L'ABBE COMMUNAL CEMETERY.

Grave Reference: Grave 2

Also commemorated on Alveston War Memorial, see page 202

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**George KELLY** Trooper 557686 Royal Armoured Corps The Warwickshire Yeomanry

Died: Wednesday, 14th June 1944

Age 27.



Son of Mr. and Mrs. George Kelly, of South Shields, Co. Durham.

Cemetery: ORVIETO WAR CEMETERY, Italy

Grave Reference: 1. C. 15.

#### DIED OF WOUNDS IN ITALY

Mrs. Hadland of Lodge Road, Stratford-on-Avon, wife of Corporal Hadland, has been notified that trooper G. Kelly, who made his home at 37 Lodge Road, has died of wounds in Italy.

Trooper G. Kelly, whose parents are dead, moved to Stratford nine years ago from Tyneside, at the time of the depression. He was employed by Messrs N. C. Joseph Ltd. Joining the Yeomanry before the War, he was drafted overseas in 1939. The possessor of a happy personality, he made many friends in Stratford.

**Herald 30th June 1944**

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**Jack Rowland LAWRENCE** Lieutenant 92436, 44 Bty., 101 Lt. AA./ Anti-Tank Regt., Royal Artillery.

Died: Monday, 25th February 1946

Age 39.

Husband of Kathleen Mary Lawrence, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: STRATFORD-ON-AVON, Warwickshire UK

Grave Reference: 4072

Deaths:- On February 25th at Stratford-on-Avon General Hospital Lt J. R. Lawrence, of 20 Rother Street.

**Herald 1st March 1946**

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**Alan Percival MOUNTAIN DFC & BAR DFM** F/Lt 129770, 98 Sqdn Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve

Died: Monday, 23rd September 1946

Age 30.

Cemetery: HANOVER WAR CEMETERY, Germany.

Grave Reference: 13. A. 4.

**MOUNTAIN** – On July 29th, at Avon Cottage Nursing Home, to Betty (née Wood), wife of Flight / Lieut, A. P. (Rocky) Mountain, D.F.C., D.F.M., a daughter.

**Herald 2nd August 1946**



## Air Accident After 114 Operations.

### F/LT. A. P. MOUNTAIN KILLED IN GERMANY

Flt.-Lieut. A. P. (Rocky) Mountain, D.F.C. and bar, D.F.M., of 30, Banbury Road, Stratford-on-Avon, who during the war, completed 114 operational flights, has been killed in a flying accident in Germany. He was due for demobilisation in December.

Born in Bradford 30 years ago, he was educated at Carlton High School. He joined the R.A.F. in December, 1939, and trained in Canada, where he gained his wings. His first operational tour was carried out in Egypt in 1941-2, when he was awarded the D.F.M. Returning to England in 1942, for two years he was an instructor at Wellesbourne. During this period he became well-known in local cricket circles. In April, 1943, he married Miss Betty Wood, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Wood, of 30, Banbury Road, Stratford-on-Avon. There is one daughter, aged two months.

### PATHFINDER

Returning to operational flying in 1944, Flt.-Lieut. Mountain did three tours of operations on Pathfinder Mosquitos, winning the D.F.C. and later bar to the D.F.C. When the war ended he remained on Transport Command Mosquitos, flying as Continental couriers. He was posted to Germany last July.

Flt.-Lieut. Mountain's Commanding Officer, in a letter to Mrs. Mountain, says he regarded him as the leading personality on the squadron. His loss was a bitter blow.

The accident occurred when the squadron was returning from a demonstration in Denmark. Flt.-Lieut. Mountain's aircraft developed a fault over wooded country, and when he attempted a forced landing it struck a tree and more or less disintegrated. The crew were killed instantly.

**Herald 4th October 1946**

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<b>Frantisek POLICER</b> Flying Officer 138869 311 Sqdn., Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
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Died: Sunday, 29th October 1944

Age 32.

Cremated – ashes repatriated to Czechoslovakia (died in the UK)

**Policer** (Jean) 6th February 1943 a daughter Anna Jean.

### Miss Jean Kennard and Lieut. Frantisek Policer

Rose-coloured velvet, with matching posy and hat, was worn by Miss Jean Awdry Kennard, only surviving child of Mr. Percy E. Kennard and Mrs. Kennard, J.P., of Beaufort, Beech Close, Stratford-on-Avon, when at the Payton-street Baptist Church on Saturday she was married to 1st Lieut. Frantisek Policer, of the Czechoslovak Forces.



The bride is an ambulance driver at the First-Aid Post. The bridegroom often represents his Army in cross-country events.

There was no formal reception owing to the recent death of the bridegroom's brother on active service in the Air Force.

The honeymoon was spent at Malvern, the bride travelling in a brown costume, with hat and shoes to tone, and camel hair coat. Among the many presents was a case of fish knives and forks and table silver from the bridegroom's fellow

officers.

**Herald 3rd April 1942**

### FLT. / LT. F. POLICER KILLED IN FLYING ACCIDENT

Flight-Lieut. Frantisek J. Policer, of Beech Close, Stratford-on-Avon, has been killed in a flying accident while serving with Coastal Command.

In March, 1942, he married Miss Jean Kennard, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Percy Kennard, of Stratford-on-Avon. There is a daughter just over a year old.

Flight-Lieut. Policer, who was 32 years of age, formerly held a commission in the regular Czecho-Slovak Army. At the outbreak of war he served in France, where he was decorated by President Benes. About two-and-a-half ago he transferred to Coastal Command, and had almost completed his tour of operations. Shortly before the accident he spoke to his wife on the telephone. About three years ago Flight-Lieut. Policer's brother was also killed in a flying accident whilst serving with the R.A.F.

**Herald 3rd November 1944**

Policer – In proud and loving memory of my dear husband Franta, Flt. / Lt. 311 Squadron, Killed in Active Service 29th October 1944.

**Herald 25<sup>th</sup> October 1946**

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**Anthony John REYNOLDS** Driver T/14857115 Royal Army Service Corps

Died; Saturday, 30th March 1946.

Age 20.

Son of Thomas and Elizabeth Reynolds; grandson of Mr. T. E. Reynolds, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: BARI WAR CEMETERY, 27. Italy.

Grave Reference: XI. F. 32.

Commemorated on the Stratford-on-Avon Memorial, see page 177

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**Arthur Stewart King SCARF VC** Squadron Leader 37693 62 Sqdn., Royal Air Force

Died; Tuesday, 9th September 1941

Age 29.

Son of Arthur Samuel King Scarf and Florence Mary King Scarf, of Olton, Warwickshire.

Cemetery: TAIPING WAR CEMETERY, Malaya.

Grave Reference: 2. G. 14.



Squadron Leader Scarf was born in 1913 at Wimbledon in Surrey and worked for the NFU Insurance in Stratford in the 1930s before joining the RAF. He died from his wounds in December 1941 following a daylight attack on the Japanese base at Singora, Thailand. The aircraft were on the point of taking off when there was a combined dive-bombing and low level machine gun attack on the airfield. All the British aircraft, except the Blenheim flown by Squadron Leader Scarf, were destroyed or damaged. After circling the airfield, instead of returning to base, he decided to go on with the mission to Singora alone. After completing his attack successfully, the opposition from anti-aircraft guns and fighters, during which Squadron Leader Scarf was mortally wounded, was extremely heavy. He was hounded by enemy fighters right up to the Malayan border. He died very shortly after being admitted to hospital.

**Extract from the London Gazette of June 21st 1942**

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**George Eli STADDON** Sapper 1881658 Royal Engineers

Died; Wednesday, 29th May 1946

Age 27.

Husband of Joy Edith Ethel Staddon, of Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: STRATFORD-ON-AVON, Warwickshire UK

Grave Reference: 4071

#### UNTIMELY DEATH

The death at the early age of 27 years of Mr George Eli Staddon occurred at the Stratford-on-Avon Emergency Hospital on Wednesday week. He was the son of Mrs Arthur and step-son of Mr Arthur of 26 Lodge Road, Stratford-on-Avon. He served in the Royal Engineers, and was invalided out of the Army. The funeral service took place on Saturday at the Parish Church. The coffin was draped with the Union Jack, and among those present were Mr. W. H. Clack and fellow employees.

**Herald 7th June 1946**

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**John WHITE** Private 5257423 1st Bn., Worcestershire Regiment

Died: Tuesday, 8th August 1944

Age 30.

Son of the late Mr. Alfred and Mrs. Frances White, of 52 Birmingham Road, Stratford-on-Avon.

Cemetery: HOTTOT-LES-BAGUES WAR CEMETERY, France

Grave Reference: VI. A. 15.



#### **FIVE SONS IN FORCES**

Mrs. Frances Annie White died on Friday at her home, 52, Birmingham Road, at the age of 59 years, following a long illness. Widow of Fireman Alfred White (who died three ago), she leaves five sons (all of whom are serving in the forces) and three daughters.

The first part of the funeral service at St. James' Church on Tuesday was conducted by the Rev. Brian Jukes, who also officiated at the graveside in the Borough Cemetery.

The principal mourners were Messrs A. G. J. and R. White (sons), Mr. and Mrs. Colein (son-in-law and daughter), and Miss P. White (daughter). Mr C. White (son) is serving abroad and Mrs D. White is a Patient in hospital.

**Herald 7th January 1944**

#### **PTE. JOHN WHITE KILLED**

One of five brothers serving in the Forces, Pte. John White, of 52, Birmingham Road, Stratford-on-Avon, fourth son of the late Mr. and Mrs. White, has been killed in N.W. Europe. Thirty years of age, he joined the Army four years ago, having previously been employed by Messrs N. C. Joseph, Ltd. He was very popular with his workmates.

**Herald 25th August 1944**

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**Caradoc WILLIAMS** Trooper 14201895 Reconnaissance Corps, R.A.C. 3rd (8th Bn., The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers ) Regiment.

Died: Thursday, 21st September 1944

Age 21.

Cemetery: BUDEL (DORPLEIN) ROMAN CATHOLIC CEMETERY, Netherlands.

Trooper Caradoc Williams, of the Reconnaissance Corps, has been killed in action in North West Europe. Eleven months ago he married Miss M. E. Hayter, of 34 West Street, Stratford-on-Avon, who is employed in Mr Geoffrey Parker's Office.

Aged 21, Trooper Williams home was in Chester, but he lived in Stratford for several years before joining the Army two-and-a-half years ago, being engaged on public works in the district.

**Herald 6th October 1944**

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