



**WE REMEMBER
THOSE MEMBERS
OF THE LLOYD'S
COMMUNITY
WHO LOST THEIR
LIVES IN THE FIRST
WORLD WAR**



Introduction

by John Nelson,
Chairman of Lloyd's

Today, as we do each year, Lloyd's is holding a Remembrance Ceremony in the Underwriting Room, with many thousands of people attending.

This book, brilliantly researched by John Hamblin is another act of remembrance. It is the story of the Lloyd's men who did not return from the First World War.

Like every organisation in Britain, Lloyd's was deeply affected by World War One. The market's strong connections with the Territorial Army led to hundreds of underwriters, brokers, members and staff being mobilised within weeks of war being declared on 4 August 1914. Many of those who could not take part in actual combat also relinquished their business duties in order to serve the country in other ways.

Despite the numbers of men from Lloyd's who committed themselves to the war effort, business continued. The Great War saw the introduction of new technology, such as submarines, airships and planes, which presented new challenges when assessing risks at sea, in the air and on land.

Lloyd's long tradition of philanthropy was evident during the Great War. Over £100,000 was given to the Red Cross societies, £46,000 was donated to assist the Young Men's Christian Association with the provision of canteens and huts; £115,000 was contributed to the Lloyd's Patriotic Fund to help the relatives of soldiers and sailors. £38,500 was given to the French to fund ambulances at the time of the defence of Verdun.

But this book is the story of the Lloyd's men who fought. Many joined the County of London Regiment, either the 5th Battalion (known as the London Rifle Brigade) or the 14th Battalion (known as the London Scottish). By June 1916, when compulsory military service was introduced, 2485 men from Lloyd's had undertaken military service. Tragically, many did not return. This book honours those 214 men. Nine men from Lloyd's fell in the first day of the battle of the Somme. The list of those who were killed contains members of the famous family firms that dominated Lloyd's at the outbreak of war – Willis, Poland, Tyser, Walsham.

This book is a labour of love by John Hamblin who is well known to the market as the Active Underwriter of Cathedral Syndicate 2010. I am indebted to him for the hours he has spent chronicling this record, which is an important addition to the Lloyd's archive. John has spent almost forty years (and counting!) in the Lloyd's market and is well known for his underwriting. In future, we shall also know him as a historian.

In this book, John has made the names which are engraved on the Lloyd's War memorial come back to life. Their stories are both inspirational and tragic and above all a reminder of the horror of the First World War.

Lloyd's
11 November 2014

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Abbott
John Gurney
2nd Lieutenant



11th (Service) Battalion Rifle Brigade attached to the 59th Trench Mortar Battery. Killed in action on the 20th of September 1917, aged 27.

John Gurney Abbott was born in Anerley, Surrey on the 21st of October 1889, the second son of Donald Nicoll Abbott, a wine and spirit merchant, and Grace (née Gurney) Abbott of Moore House, 2 Overbury Avenue, Beckenham, Kent. He was christened in Penge, Surrey on the 17th of November 1889.

He was educated at Devonshire House Preparatory School on Hastings Road in Bexhill, where he was a boarder. He went on to attend Bradfield College from September 1903 to April 1906, where he served as a member of the Officer Training Corps for three years.

John worked as a clerk at Lloyd's and was also an Underwriting Member of Lloyd's.

He attested for the army at 10 Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn as Private 8707 in the Inns of Court Officer Training Corps on the 27th of November 1915. At his medical examination, held on the same day, it was recorded that John was five feet seven inches tall. He was called up on the 4th of January 1916. He then applied for a commission in the Special Reserve of Officers on the 16th of July 1916 in an application that was supported by the Chairman of Lloyd's.

On the 4th of November 1916 he joined the 13th Officer Cadet Battalion in Newmarket for officer training, after which he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 6th (Reserve) Battalion Rifle Brigade on the 28th of February 1917. He was posted to the 11th Battalion of his regiment for war service and was later seconded to the 59th Trench Mortar Battery.

His parents received the following telegram dated the 26th of September 1917: "Deeply regret to inform you 2/Lt J.G. Abbott, Rifle Brigade attd 59th Trench Mortar Battery was killed in action September twenty first. The Army Council express their sympathy."

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records his death as having occurred on the 21st of September 1917, but regimental records have it as the 20th of September 1917.

John is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Panels 145 to 147.

Adams
Geoffrey Julian
Balcombe
2nd Lieutenant



B Company, 1/5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade). Died of wounds on the 27th of September 1918, aged 24.

Geoffrey Julian Balcombe Adams was born in Gloucester in 1894, the son of Harold William Adams and Katherine Mary (née Balcombe) Adams of 44 Bessborough Street, Westminster, London.

He worked as a clerk for Willis Faber & Company Ltd.

Geoffrey enlisted as Private 9605 in the 1/5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade) and embarked for France with his battalion from Southampton on board the SS Chybassa on the 4th of November 1914, landing at Le Havre the following day.

He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the same battalion on the 13th of June 1918, and rejoined them in the field on the 21st of September 1918 where he entered B Company.

On the 26th of September 1918, B Company, 1/5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade) was detailed to cover the crossing of the Canal du Nord by the 1/16th (County of London) Battalion (Queen's Westminster Rifles), clear its western bank, establish posts and then send out patrols to make contact with the enemy.

As the Canadian Infantry, who were advancing further down the line, were held up, B Company's attack was delayed from 2.20pm until 3.25pm. When they did begin attacking, they were set back for a time by machine gun fire, but then managed to push forward and complete their task – although they suffered casualties. One officer was killed, and soldiers in several other ranks were left dead or wounded. Geoffrey Adams was one of those wounded during the mission. He was evacuated to the rear, but died the following day.

Geoffrey is commemorated on the Willis Faber war memorial at the Willis Building in Lime Street.

He is buried at Duisans British Cemetery, Plot VII, Row A, Grave 56.

Allen
Charles Robert
Rifleman 5893



1/16th (County of London) Battalion (Queen's Westminster Rifles). Killed in action on the 10th of September 1916, aged 19.

Charles Robert Allen was born in Islington in 1897, the son of Charles Cheeseman Allen, the manager of a pawnbrokers, and Ada Annie Allen of 95 Aden Grove, Stoke Newington. He worked as part of the Lloyd's staff in the Shipping Editor's Branch, and enlisted into the army in Hackney.

At 1.00am on the morning of the 10th of September 1916, orders were received at the battalion headquarters of the 1/16th (County of London) Battalion (Queen's Westminster Rifles) instructing them to carry out an attack on the Germans' positions at Loop Trench near Leuze Wood on the Somme. As information was scarce regarding exactly where the enemy trench was located, a patrol was sent out on a reconnaissance mission at 3.42am under 2nd Lieutenant E.F. Johnston, to make a reconnaissance and to report back. However, during the patrol a thick mist descended which hampered visibility, and even when the patrol returned, the position of the enemy was still unclear. Nevertheless, the attack, to be led by C and D Companies, was to commence at 7am, preceded by a short artillery barrage that would begin at 6.50am.

Before the assault could start, though, the German artillery began an accurate bombardment of the British positions, causing the death of two officers and killing or

wounding men from 40 other ranks. At 7am, C Company managed to move forward through the mist some 120 yards, but still without finding the enemy trench. A short time later the alarm was raised by the German defenders and a withering rifle and machine gun fire fell upon the Londoners. A message came back from C Company shortly afterwards: "Held up at the edge of the wood by rifle fire. Hopeless task I fear. No artillery." By the time the two companies were forced to withdraw, at around 8am, each had only 25 men left.

At 10.30am it was decided to launch a fresh attack in conjunction with a company from the 1/2nd (County of London) Battalion (Royal Fusiliers), and an artillery barrage was arranged which would be assisted by Stokes Mortar fire and was to be followed by a bombing attack on Loop Trench. At 3pm the attack began with the 1/2nd Londons nearly reaching their objective, but they lost all their officers and the survivors were forced to return to the starting line. A further attack could not be organised due to continued, accurate enemy artillery fire.

Casualties sustained by the battalion for this attack totalled four officers and 52 other ranks killed, with five officers and 166 other ranks wounded and 80 other ranks missing. Charles Allen was among the dead.

He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Pier and Face 13C.

Andrews
Robert Freeman
Lieutenant



10th (Service) Battalion, Loyal North Lancashire Regiment. Killed in action on the 15th of November 1916, aged 24.

Robert Freeman Andrews was born in Syston in Leicestershire on the 7th of April 1892, the eldest son of the Reverend Charles William Andrews and Ellen (née Alcock) Andrews of 11 Mortimer Road, Ealing, in London.

He was educated at Bolton and Leeds Grammar School and at Handsworth College in Birmingham. Robert became a Wesleyan Minister also worked as a clerk for Kennard, Arbon & Company at Lloyd's.

He enlisted in Hammersmith as Private Y/207 in the 5th (Reserve) Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps on the 31st of August 1914. At a medical examination, which took place on the same day, it was recorded that Robert was five feet seven and three quarter inches tall and weighed 137 and a half lbs.

He was attached to No. 5 Company and was sent for training at the Royal Garrison Artillery Barracks, Sheerness. On the 17th of September 1914, he was promoted to unpaid Lance Corporal, and to Lance Corporal on the 30th of October 1914. Robert served on the musketry staff. On the 8th of December 1914, he applied for a commission and hence became a 2nd Lieutenant in the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment on the 29th of December 1914. He was posted to the 10th Battalion of his regiment for war service.

Robert embarked for France with his battalion on the 31st of July 1915, landing in Boulogne at 2am on the morning of the 1st of August 1915.

On the 27th of June 1916 he was wounded by shrapnel at Gommecourt on the Somme and was evacuated back to England from Le Havre on the 1st of July 1916 aboard the SS Asturias. A Medical Board was convened at the 5th London General Hospital to report on his case, who recorded the following:

"A fragment of shell penetrated right side of back at level and angle of scapula. This wound, size of 3d bit, is nearly healed. The fragment of metal lies in muscle at level of 10th rib on that side. There is no evidence of injury to any important structure."

Robert was granted sick leave until the 15th of August.

A further Medical Board, held at Caxton Hall on the 18th of August 1916, concluded that he was fit for general service and he reported to the 11th (Reserve) Battalion Loyal North Lancashire Regiment in Seaford, Sussex on the 19th of August.

At 2am on the morning on the 15th of November 1916 the 10th Battalion Loyal North Lancashire Regiment formed up for an attack on the German positions at Munich Trench as part of the ongoing Battle of the Ancre, the closing stage of the Battle of the Somme. They advanced through a heavy

Andrews
Robert Freeman
Lieutenant

mist under a barrage of their own artillery, but inaccuracy by their own side's guns caused a great many casualties among the British men. By 1pm, reports came back that the battalion had been unable to capture the enemy trench and had been forced to retire to the shelter of Wagon Road. They had suffered casualties of eight officers either killed outright or who had sustained fatal wounds, with another three also wounded and scores of other ranks killed, wounded and missing.

Robert's father received the following telegram dated the 23rd of November 1916: "Deeply regret to inform you 2 Lieut. R.F. Andrews Loyal North Lancashire Regiment was killed in action Nov 15th. The Army Council express their sympathy."

Robert's brother, 2nd Lieutenant Charles Neville Andrews, 1st Battalion Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, was too killed in action, on the 24th of March 1915 .

He is buried at Frankfurt Trench British Cemetery, Row B, Grave 8.

Appleby
Edwin Alec
2nd Lieutenant



201 Training Depot Squadron, Royal Air Force. Killed on active service on the 24th of June 1918, aged 18.

Edwin Alec Appleby was born at 264 Brixton Hill on the 2nd of January 1900, the third son of Robert Appleby, a nurseryman florist, and Annie Maria Appleby, later of 82 Ederline Avenue, Norwood, Surrey. He was christened at St Matthew's Church, Brixton, on the 24th of January 1900, and went on to be educated at Acton College, Acton.

Edwin worked for Barber D'Ambrumenil Ltd at Lloyd's.

He joined the Royal Naval Air Service on the 28th of October 1917 and was posted to Greenwich for training. He was commissioned as a probationary Flight Officer in the Royal Naval Air Service on the 24th of October 1917, transferring to the Royal Air Force, on its formation, on the 1st of April 1918 with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant.

On the 11th of May 1918, Edwin was posted from Manston to 201 Training Depot Squadron based at Cranwell Aerodrome in Lincolnshire for instruction.

On the 24th of June 1918 he took off from Cranwell and was flying at 300 feet in Sopwith Camel B5701 when the aircraft span into the ground.

He is buried at Lambeth Cemetery, Plot E 1 200.

Appleton
Henry William
Rifleman 9714



1/5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade). Killed in action on the 11th of February 1915.

Henry William Appleton was born in Dalston in 1896, the son of Frederick William Appleton, a bookbinder's blocker, and Minnie Elizabeth (née Honching) Appleton of 69 Mayfield Road, Dalston, London.

He worked on the Lloyd's Staff in the Intelligence Department and was a pre-war member of the 1/5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade).

Following the outbreak of war, Henry was mobilised on the 5th of August 1914 and embarked for France with his battalion from Southampton on the 4th of November 1914 on board the SS Chyebassa, landing at Le Havre the following day.

On the 7th of January 1915 the battalion took over trenches in the Ploegsteert area in a line known as Essex Trench. The battalion was deployed with No. 4 Company in the front trench, No. 3 Company in support and No. 1 in reserve. During the month there was a considerable amount of shelling of the British positions and Henry Appleton was killed on what was described by the battalion war diary as a "normal day".

He is buried at London Rifle Brigade Cemetery, Plot III, Row B, Grave 2.

Arbon
Alfred Herbert
Private G/20928



8th (Service) Battalion Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Killed in action on the 9th of May 1918, aged 19.

Alfred Herbert Arbon was born in Shoreditch on the 31st of March 1899, the eldest son of Edward Arbon, a stock keeper, and Alice Annie (née White) Arbon of 30 Albion Road, Dalston, in London. He was christened at St James' Church, Shoreditch on the 7th of May 1899.

Alfred worked as a clerk for C.I. De Rougemont & Others at Lloyd's.

He was called up on the 21st of March 1917, and enlisted at Whitehall in London into 100th Training Reserve Battalion on the 1st of May 1917. At his medical examination it was recorded that Alfred was five feet eight and three quarter inches tall. He was posted to the 256th Infantry Battalion as Private 46416 on the 20th September 1917.

After a period of training, Alfred transferred to the 52nd (Graduated) Training Reserve Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment, and was later posted to a regular battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment. He embarked for France on the 31st of March 1918 and arrived at J Depot the following day where he was attached to the 8th Battalion Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) on the 4th of April. He joined his battalion in the field near Amiens on the 7th of April.

After darkness had fallen on the 5th of May 1918, the 8th Battalion Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) moved up from Cité St-Pierre to the front line to relieve the 1st Battalion North Staffordshire Regiment. The battalion was arranged with B and D Companies in the front line with A Company in support and C Company in reserve. Battalion Headquarters was situated in 'Counter Trench'. On the 8th of May a prisoner revealed under interrogation that the area was to be used as the jumping off point for a major German offensive on the front from Lens to Robecq which was planned to take place on the night of the 9th-10th of May. A barrage beginning on the 9th at 10.30pm would be followed by an infantry attack at 3am on the 10th.

The battalion spent the 8th and 9th of May preparing by strengthening their positions, all of which was completed by the afternoon of the 9th. However, the expected attack did not take place, although the battalion remained in readiness for the several more nights.

Alfred's personal effects were returned to his family on the 12th of September 1918, and his father received his medals on the 5th of October 1921.

He is buried at Aix-Noulette Communal Cemetery, Plot II, Row G, Grave 1.

Arnot
Colin
2nd Lieutenant



1st Battalion attached to B Company, 2/5th Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment. Killed in action on the 22nd of March 1918, aged 21.

Colin Arnot was born in Felixstowe, South Australia, the third son of Lieutenant Walter Oliphant Arnot, New Zealand Battery Royal Field Artillery, and Eleanor Frederica Rosevear (née Seabrook) Arnot of 100 Esmond Road, Bedford Park, London.

Colin worked as a clerk for Chandler Hargreaves and Whittall & Co Ltd, Lloyd's brokers.

He enlisted at 15 Gibson Square, London as Private 4282 in the 3/4th Battalion Seaforth Highlanders on the 13th of September 1915. At a medical examination which was held on the same day, it was recorded that Colin was five feet six and a half inches tall. He was posted to Fort George near Inverness for training. He was promoted to unpaid Lance Corporal on the 1st of June 1916 and embarked for France on the 2nd of July, where he joined the 1/4th Battalion of his regiment in the field. He was promoted again to Lance Corporal on the 28th of July 1916.

Colin returned to the UK and was posted to Officer Cadet School on the 13th of September 1916. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Gloucestershire Regiment on the 8th of November 1916, and joined the 1st Battalion of his regiment at the front on the 13th of

November 1916 where it was in Divisional Reserve at Mametz Wood on the Somme.

On the 8th of January 1917, Colin was evacuated from the front line at Eaucourt L'Abbaye suffering from trench foot and was taken to hospital in Rouen. He was evacuated to England on the 12th of January on board the Hospital Ship Aberdonian and landed at Southampton the same day, from where he was taken to the 3rd London General Hospital in Wandsworth.

On the 8th of February 1917, a Medical Board sat at the hospital which noted:

"Some discolouration of toes. He is just able to walk."

Colin was moved to the Prince of Wales Hospital for Convalescent Officers.

On the 30th of April 1917 a Medical Board at Chatham decided that he had recovered and that he was to report to duty with the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion of his regiment. He was subsequently posted to the 2/5th Battalion of his regiment and returned to the front.

On the 18th of March 1918, the 2/5th Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment relieved the 2/4th Battalion Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry in trenches in a salient at Holnon Wood near St-Quentin. Rumours were

Arnot
Colin
2nd Lieutenant

rife that a major German attack was imminent and this was confirmed on the morning of the 21st of March when a very heavy artillery bombardment of high explosive and gas shells began at 4.30am. Within minutes, all communications with brigade had been severed and linesmen were sent out to repair the wires. When the lines were restored the stark message came through from Headquarters: "Man battle positions".

The battalion was organised with B Company, under the command of Colin Arnot, along with A Company holding the eastern part of the salient with C Company holding the northern part and D Company in support. The bombardment lasted for four hours, with a thick mist prevailing until noon. When the mist cleared, the Germans could be seen in a line of newly dug trenches some five hundred yards away with artillery and machine guns being brought up in support. Using their artillery, and firing over open sights, the Germans inflicted heavy casualties among the Gloucesters, although attempts by their infantry were kept at bay until dusk with accurate rifle fire. During the night the Germans were very active in patrolling; one patrol entered the trenches between A and B Companies and began bombing along the trench towards a B Company strong point before they were ejected. Colin Arnot reported at midnight that the Germans were working round his right flank and shortly after this he was killed by a shell explosion when visiting one of his posts.

The battalion held their positions until they were ordered to withdraw at 3.30pm on the 22nd of March. They suffered around 200 casualties during the German offensive before it was halted.

Colin's brother, 2nd Lieutenant Laurian Anthony Deane Arnot, 2nd Battalion Gordon Highlanders, was killed in action on the 25th of September 1915.

He is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Panels 72 to 75.

Ashton
George Francis
Lieutenant



11th Battalion Essex Regiment, attached to the 42nd Battalion Machine Gun Corps (Infantry). Killed in action on the 20th of October 1918, aged 27.

George Francis Ashton was born in Balham in 1891, the son of Charles George Ashton, a printer's compositor, and Emily (née Leslie) Ashton of 6 Westlands Road, Streatham.

George worked as a clerk for Adam Brothers Ltd at Lloyd's.

He enlisted as Private 1511 in the 14th (County of London) Battalion (London Scottish) at their headquarters on the 18th of September 1911 under the name Frank Ashton Parren. At a medical examination held on the same day, it was recorded that he was five feet seven and a half inches tall. He attended their annual camp at Frith Hill, Abergavenny from the 18th of July to the 11th of August 1912.

Following the outbreak of war, George was mobilised on the 5th of August 1914 and embarked for France with his battalion from Southampton on board the SS Winifredian at 8am on the 15th of September 1914, landing at Le Havre the following morning.

He returned to the UK for officer training and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Essex Regiment on the 27th of November 1915, serving with the 11th Battalion of his regiment from the 28th of December 1915 to the 31st of July 1917.

He was married in West Ham in 1915 to Hilda Lavinia Josephine Caroline (née Mair) and they lived at 273 Shrewsbury Road, Forest Gate in Essex; they went on to have a son, Frank Peter, who was born on the 28th of February 1917. George transferred to the Machine Gun Corps on the 1st of August 1917.

He embarked for France once again from Southampton on the 14th of January 1918, landing at Le Havre the next day where he joined the 42nd Battalion Machine Gun Corps. On the 8th of March he was sent on a rifle grenade course and rejoined his unit on the 16th of March. On the 17th of May 1918 he went on a course at the 3rd Infantry School and returned to his unit on the 8th of June.

He went on leave from the 8th to the 22nd of September 1918.

George's wife received the following telegram dated the 24th of October 1918: "Deeply regret to inform you that Lt G.F. Ashton MGC killed in action Oct twentieth. The Army Council express their sympathy."

George was originally buried at Prayelle Farm Cemetery but his body was later exhumed and reburied at its present site in 1920. His wife applied for his medals on the 23rd of October 1919, by which time she was living at The Grove, Barnby Moor, Retford in Nottinghamshire.

George is now buried at St. Aubert British Cemetery, Plot V, Row E, Grave 10.

Baddeley
Kenneth
2nd Lieutenant



15th (Service) Battalion Hampshire Regiment. Killed in action on the 15th of September 1916, aged 32.

Kenneth Baddeley was born in Bromley in Kent on the 10th of July 1884, the son of Samuel Baddeley, an insurance broker, and Isabella (née Longmore) Baddeley of Netherton, 124 Widmore Road, Bromley.

He was educated at Tonbridge School from May 1897 to December 1900, where he was in Parkside House. On leaving school he went to work with his father as a clerk for Rose, Thompson, Young & Company, Lloyd's brokers.

He was married to Alice Marion (née McGillewie) in Dunkeld, Perthshire on the 6th of September 1913 and they lived at Cranford, 8 Grand Drive, Raynes Park, London; the pair had a son, Denis Irvine, who was born on the 19th of June 1916.

Kenneth enlisted as Private 3583 in the Inns of Court Officer Training Corps at 10 Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn on the 13th of May 1915. At his medical examination, which had taken place on the 1st of April 1915, it was recorded that he was five feet eight inches tall. He was posted to Berkhamstead for training and rose to the rank of Lance Corporal.

He applied for a commission on the 24th of August 1915 and was duly commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the

Hampshire Regiment on the 6th of October 1915. He was posted to the 13th (Reserve) Battalion of his regiment, based at Wareham in Dorset.

Before he was able to join his regiment, Kenneth was taken ill with bronchitis in Dunkeld. A Medical Board which was convened at the Military Hospital in Perth concluded that:

"He has been suffering from bronchitis but is now practically recovered."

He embarked for France on the 12th of June 1916.

On the 15th of September 1916 the 15th Battalion Hampshire Regiment was detailed to attack German positions at Delville Wood on the Somme. While they were moving up for the offensive, the battalion was heavily shelled by enemy artillery that killed several men involved in bringing rations. Captain Harold Edward Carrington, 2nd Lieutenant Frank Meridith Parry and Kenneth Baddeley were also killed by shellfire before the battalion went into the attack at 6.20am.

Kenneth's father received the following telegram dated the 21st of September 1916:

"Deeply regret to inform you 2/Lt Kenneth Baddeley Hampshire Regiment was killed in action Sept. 15th. The Army Council express their sympathy."

Baddeley
Kenneth
2nd Lieutenant

Kenneth was originally buried some 2,000 yards to the south of the village of Flers, but his body was exhumed and reburied in 1920.

A local Bromley newspaper wrote:

"During his residence in Bromley he made many friends, amongst whom he was very popular. It will be remembered that he took part in amateur theatricals in aid of the local hospitals. He was also for some time the Honorary Treasurer of the Bromley Habitation of the Primrose League. He took a keen interest in politics and was an efficient platform speaker."

Kenneth is now buried at Bulls Road Cemetery, Plot II, Row K, Grave 4.

Baird
William Frank
Gardiner Bart
Captain



4th Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment attached to the 1st Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment. Died of on the 5th of November 1914, aged 29.

William Frank Gardiner Baird was born on the 18th of April 1885, the second son of Sir William James Gardiner Baird 8th Bart, 7th Hussars, and the Hon Lady Arabella Rose Evelyn (née Hozier) Baird of Saughton Hall, Midlothian. He was educated at Eton College where he was in A.C. James H. Macnaghten's houses leaving in 1901. He went on to the Royal Military College Sandhurst from where he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 7th Dragoon Guards on the 4th of November 1904 and transferred to the Scots Guards with the same rank on the 25th of February 1905. He resigned his commission on the 10th of February 1906 and joined the Reserve of Officers, becoming a Lieutenant in the 4th Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment.

William was an Underwriting Member of Lloyd's.

He married Violet Mary (née Croft) of Wareside, Ware in Hertfordshire on the 24th of November 1910. They had three children: Lillias Mary, born on the 26th of September 1911; Sir James Richard Gardiner 10th Bart, born on the 12th of July 1913; and William Henry Gardiner born on the 11th of October 1914.

Following the outbreak of war, William was promoted to Captain on the 11th of August 1914 and went to France where he was attached to the 1st Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment.

At 3.30am on the morning of the 26th of October 1914, the 1st Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment were relieved in their positions along the Richebourg-Armentières Road by a battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers and marched the three miles back to billets at Rouge Croix. They had been involved in heavy fighting for days and were completely exhausted. At 3.30pm they were roused from their rest and moved forward to support 7th Brigade who were being hard pressed by enemy infantry attacks at Neuve Chapelle. At 11am on the 27th of October the Lincolns were ordered, along with the Royal Fusiliers and the South Lancashires, to attack and recapture Neuve Chapelle. At 3pm the battalion moved to the attack with C and B Companies leading and A and D Companies in support. The ground across which they advanced was dotted with cottages and other buildings, all of which offered good cover to enemy snipers and machine gunners. After an advance of eight hundred yards, and having taken heavy casualties, the Lincolns were forced to seek cover and return the enemy fire from behind whatever protection they could find.

They remained in these positions until dark, when they dug trenches to consolidate their gains. Their losses had been one officer and 13 other ranks killed with four officers and 70 other ranks wounded, plus seven other ranks missing.

Baird
William Frank Gardiner Bart
Captain

William Baird was one of those wounded during the attack; he was evacuated, but died in Hospital in Boulogne a week later.

William was member of the Cavalry Club and of the New Club, Edinburgh.

He is commemorated on the war memorial at Ware in Hertfordshire.

William is buried at Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, Plot II, Row B, Grave 5.

Baker
Thomas Gordon Owen
Gunner 146772



B Battery, 64th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery.
Killed in action on the 14th of August 1917.

Thomas Gordon Owen Baker was born in Stroud Green in London in 1898, the son of Edward Owen Baker, an insurance clerk, and Elizabeth Edith (née Pugh) Baker of 14 Nelson Road, Stroud Green, Hornsey in Middlesex.

He worked for C.E. Heath & Company Ltd, Lloyd's Brokers, and enlisted into the Royal Artillery at Woolwich.

From the beginning of August 1917, 64th Brigade Royal Field Artillery was based at Zillebekke near Ypres.

Thomas is buried at Vlamertinghe New Military Cemetery, Plot V, Row C, Grave 15.

Bambridge
Frederick Oliver
Charles
Sergeant STK/320



B Company, 10th (Service) Battalion Royal Fusiliers (Stockbrokers). Killed in action on the 13th of July 1916, aged 21.

Frederick Oliver Charles Bambridge was born in West Norwood in 1894, the third son of Edward Charles Bambridge, a Lloyd's insurance underwriter, and Kathleen Sylvia (née Bailey) Bambridge of The Elms, 22 Merton Hall Road, Wimbledon. He was christened at St Luke's Church, West Norwood on the 4th of January 1895.

Frederick worked as a clerk for H.G. Poland & Others at Lloyd's. He enlisted in London as Private 320 in the Royal Fusiliers on the 29th of August 1914. He underwent a medical examination on the 28th of August 1914, at which it was recorded that Frederick was five feet three and three quarter inches tall with grey eyes, brown hair and a sallow complexion. He was appointed as an unpaid Corporal on the 18th of December 1914 and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant on the 18th of November 1914, but the appointment was cancelled in the London Gazette of the 1st of December 1914. He was then promoted to Lance Corporal on the 13th of April 1915 and embarked for France on the 31st of July 1915. Frederick was again promoted to Corporal and to Lance Sergeant in the field on the 3rd of February 1916 and to Sergeant on the 9th of May 1916.

At 9pm on the 10th of July 1916, B and C Companies of the 10th Battalion Royal Fusiliers were pushed forward to relieve the 13th Battalion Rifle Brigade in their attack towards Pozieres on the Somme. The Fusiliers lay in exposed positions for the next two days under heavy shell fire, suffering a number of casualties but without engaging the enemy. Frederick Bambridge was wounded on the 13th of July and died later the same day.

His brother, Captain Rupert Charles Bambridge DSO MC and Bar MM 10th Battalion Royal Fusiliers, died of wounds on the 23rd of May 1918.

He is buried at Albert Communal Cemetery Extension, Plot I, Row I, Grave 8.

Barnes
Leslie
Private 2148



D Company, 1/2nd (County of London) Battalion (Royal Fusiliers). Killed in action on the 23rd of August 1915, aged 20.

Leslie Barnes was born in Stoke Newington, the son of Edward Barnes, an accounts clerk for an insurance company, and Helen Louisa (née Morris) Barnes of 91 Manor Road, Stoke Newington in London.

Leslie worked for Stephen White & Company at Lloyd's and enlisted into the Territorial Army at Westminster.

On the outbreak of war he was mobilised and, on the 4th of September 1914, he embarked with his battalion from Southampton on board the HT Nevasa, bound for Malta, where his battalion was to relieve the garrison of regular soldiers so that they could be deployed to the Western Front. They disembarked at Valetta on the 14th of September.

After a period of garrison duty in Malta, they re-embarked at Valletta on the 1st of January 1915 on board HT Neuralia and set sail the following day for service in France. They arrived at Marseilles on the 5th of January but did not disembark until the following day.

On the 10th of August 1915 the 1/2nd (County of London) Battalion (Royal Fusiliers) took over the line at Hooge in the Ypres Salient. The front line had recently been recaptured from the enemy and the battalion was initially engaged in consolidating the recaptured trenches; they formed working parties to bring supplies up to the front line, frequently under heavy shell fire. The enemy made bombing attacks along the line on the 14th and the 17th of August but these were repulsed with heavy enemy casualties. Leslie and his fellows were relieved by 3rd Division on the 24th of August and left the line for Poperinghe, having themselves suffered casualties during this period of ten other ranks killed with one officer and 22 other ranks wounded. Leslie Barnes was among the dead.

He is buried at Divisional Cemetery, Row E, Grave 8.

Barsted
Harold James
Private 265539



1st Battalion (Prince Albert's Own) Somerset Light Infantry. Killed in action on the 4th of June 1918, aged 24.

Harold James Barsted was born in Paddington on the 7th of June 1893, the son of James Barsted, a bank messenger, and Elizabeth Ann (née Hill) Barsted, a teacher, of 64 Paddenswick Road, Hammersmith. He was christened at St Michaels and All Angels Church, Paddington on the 2nd of July 1893.

Harold worked as an underwriter's clerk for L Hammond & Company Ltd at Lloyd's and enlisted into the army in Paddington.

He is buried at Lapugnoy Military Cemetery, Plot X, Row A, Grave 10.

Base
Samuel Davis
Rifleman A/200187



17th (Service) Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps.
Killed in action on the 21st of October, 1916.

Samuel Davis Base was born in Croydon on the 11th of September 1882, the second son of Edward William Base, a bank clerk, and Mary (née Davis) Base of Stoneleigh, Lowestoft in Suffolk, and later of Birdhurst Rise in Croydon. He was educated at Whitgift Grammar School from 1894 to 1898.

Samuel was employed as a mercantile clerk for a coal merchant before moving to W.S. Partridge & Company, Lloyd's brokers of 4 Billiter Street, London where he worked as a clerk.

He enlisted in the King's Royal Rifle Corps at Bunhill Row, Middlesex in the autumn of 1915.

On the 20th of October 1916, the 17th Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps moved into trenches at the Schwaben Redoubt on the Somme. The battalion was arranged with A Company on the left, C Company in the centre and D Company on the right, with B Company in support. At 4.45am the following morning an intense artillery barrage fell on the British front line trenches, which was followed at 5am by an infantry attack by German troops, some of whom were carrying flamethrowers.

Using both the flamethrowers and bombs, the enemy forced their way into the trench in two places, but men from B Company counterattacked and drove them out, in one case capturing a flamethrower and killing its operator. Where A Company were holding the line, fierce fighting also took place, with the enemy twice breaking into the trench but being forced back on both occasions. Again, men from B Company moved up in support and, by 8am, they had secured their position, captured an enemy officer, 30 other ranks and a flamethrower.

Casualties among the 17th Battalion for the action totalled two officers killed with one wounded, and 15 other ranks killed with 66 wounded and seven missing. Samuel Base was among the dead.

A Corporal wrote: Your brother was killed at his post in an attack by the Germans, doing his duty bravely and cheerfully, as he always did."

Samuel is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Pier and Face 13A and 13B.

Beard
Arthur Dunsford
Private 45154



99th Company Machine Gun Corps (Infantry).
Killed in action on the 16th of November 1916, aged 22.

Arthur Dunsford Beard was the son of William Abraham Beard and Helen Augusta (née Davidson) Beard of St. Just, Powell Road, Buckhurst Hill in Essex. He was christened at Hoole in Cheshire on the 4th of March 1894.

Arthur worked for Herbert Crosfield Esq. at Lloyd's.

He enlisted in London as Private 2909 in the London Regiment before transferring to the Machine Gun Corps where he was posted to the 99th Company.

Arthur is commemorated on the war memorial at Loughton.

He is also commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Pier and Face 5C and 12C.

Bennett
Reginald Howard
Private E/559



17th (Service) Battalion Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment). Killed in action on the 27th of April 1916, aged 20.

Reginald Howard Bennett was born in Thaxted in 1896, the third son of William Bennett, the manager of a confectionary factory, and Fanny Bennett of Bridge Foot, Thaxted in Essex.

Reginald worked for A. Bilbrough & Company Ltd at Lloyd's.

He enlisted in south west London and embarked with his battalion from Folkestone on the 16th of November 1915, arriving at Boulogne at 3pm the following day.

He served in the Machine Gun Section of the battalion.

He is buried at Tranchée de Meknès Cemetery, Row C, Grave 2.

Benton
Frank
2nd Lieutenant



15th (Reserve) Battalion attached to the 21st (Service) Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps. Killed in action on the 15th of September 1916, aged 35.

Frank Benton was born in Aveley in Essex on the 30th of March 1881, the eldest son of John Benton, an insurance broker, and Alice Mary (née Gurney) Benton, later of Ranelagh, Birdhurst Gardens, Croydon in Surrey. He was educated at Whitgift Grammar School from 1893 to 1897 before working as a Lloyd's insurance broker at 147 Leadenhall Street; he was an Annual Subscriber at Lloyd's.

After leaving school, Frank played cricket both for Old Whitgiftians, being their Hon Secretary from 1907 to 1914, and for the County of London. He also had a trial for Kent County Cricket Club. He played for Essex and Eastern Counties at rugby football and toured with Surrey Counties in France. In 1899 he enlisted as a Private in the London Rifle Brigade (Militia) and served with them until 1905 when he resigned "due to lack of spare time for volunteering."

Following the outbreak of war, Frank enlisted in London as Private STK/906 in the 10th (Service) Battalion Royal Fusiliers (Stockbrokers) on the 29th of August 1914. At a medical examination held on the same day it was recorded that he was five feet ten inches tall, weighed 148lbs and that he had a fresh complexion, brown eyes and black hair.

He embarked for France with his battalion as a member of 16 Platoon from Folkestone on the 30th of July 1915, landing at Boulogne the following day. He was promoted to Lance Corporal on the 24th of July 1915.

On the 7th of December 1915 Frank applied for a commission and returned to England for officer training on the 27th of January 1916. He was posted for training firstly to No. 1 Officer Cadet Battalion at Denham and then to No. 3 Officer Cadet Battalion at Warwick on the 25th of February 1916. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 15th Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps on the 8th of June 1916. Frank joined them at Seaford and returned to France where he was attached to the 21st Battalion of his regiment.

On the 15th of September 1916 the 21st Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps was detailed to attack the German lines in front of Delville Wood on the Somme.

After a preparatory barrage from the British artillery the men left their trenches, on the left of their Brigade's attack, at 6.30am and took the enemy first line, known as Switch Trench, without opposition, no enemy troops being encountered.

Benton
Frank
2nd Lieutenant

Following a further supporting barrage from the artillery they advanced towards their second objective of Flers Trench, where they met weak resistance and took a number of prisoners. During this stage of the advance the battalion suffered a number of casualties from their own artillery and were forced to stop moving forward due to lack of support on their flanks; instead they consolidated their gains, during which time they suffered further casualties among their officers of seven wounded and three killed – including Frank Benton, who was shot through the head.

The battalion mounted a further attack during the afternoon and finished the day some 400 yards further forward. They were relieved at 3am the following morning. His Sergeant wrote that Frank died:

“...well in front of everybody, and shouting for the boys to come on.”

His father received the following telegram dated the 24th of September 1916:

“Deeply regret to inform you that 2Lt F. Benton Kings Royal Rifle Corps was killed in action Sept 15th. The Army Council express their sympathy.”

Frank is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Pier and Face 13A and 13B.

Bibby
John Pengelly
Lieutenant



No. 3 Company, 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards.
Killed in action on the 12th of October 1917, aged 27.

John Pengelly Bibby was born at Acrefield House, Much Woolton near Liverpool in Lancashire on the 5th of October 1890, the third son of Herbert Kirkman Bibby, a ship owner of Bibby Bros Shipping Lines, Mincing Lane, London, and Julia (née Carless) Bibby of 7 Hyde Park Street, London.

He was educated at Eton College from September 1904, where he was in Mr E.L. Churchill's House and served as a Private in the Officer Training Corps until he left in July 1908. John worked as a clerk for Alexander Howden & Company, Lloyd's brokers.

Following the outbreak of war he enlisted at 64 Victoria Street, Westminster on the 15th of September 1914 as Private 1273 in the 18th (Service) Battalion Royal Fusiliers, University and Public Schools Corps. At a medical examination that was held on the same day it was recorded that John was five feet 11 and a half inches tall and weighed 14 stones. He had a fair complexion, hazel eyes and dark hair. He was promoted to Lance Corporal on the 4th of December 1914 and to Corporal on the 8th of January 1915.

John applied for a commission on the 29th of March 1915 and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 18th Battalion Royal Fusiliers on the 6th of April 1915. On the 23rd of November 1915 he applied for a commission in the

Special Reserve of the Grenadier Guards in an application that was supported by Mr Ernest Churchill, his former housemaster at Eton, and he transferred to his new regiment with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant on the 2nd of December 1915. He embarked for France on the 15th of March 1916 and joined the 4th Battalion in the field on the 23rd of March where he was attached to No. 4 Company.

On the 18th of June 1916, John left his unit to go on leave and embarked for England from Boulogne, landing at Folkestone on the same day. It became apparent during his leave that he was suffering from extreme trench fever and on the 21st of July 1916 a Medical Board sat at Caxton Hall in London to consider his case:

"This officer returned to England on June 18th on ordinary leave. He was at the time suffering from the effects of trench fever. While in England on leave he suffered from severe headaches and violent indigestion and constipation. He was granted 3 weeks extension of leave on medical grounds. He is still much below par, easily fatigued and sleeps badly. A further extension of leave is recommended by his M.O. and that the board confirm he's also suffering from bronchitis of a mild type."

On the 23rd of August 1916 a further Medical Board sat at Shoreham in Sussex: "He has improved considerably since the board on 21/7/16. He has gained weight. No fever for three weeks. He is still certified one month unfit."

Bibby
John Pengelly
Lieutenant

A board that sat in August concluded that John was fit enough for light duty in the UK and he joined his regiment's reserve battalion at Buckingham Gate in London. On the 27th of September 1916 a Medical Board sat once more at Caxton Hall and concluded: "He feels sick occasionally before food and sometimes after. Should continue his present duty for another month."

A further Board which sat at Caxton Hall on the 1st of November 1916 concluded that he was fit for home service.

However, on the 3rd of January 1917 a Medical Board which sat at Caxton Hall reported that: "He has not yet fully recovered. There is a tendency to dyspepsia and some weakness. He should continue general service at home for another month."

John was passed fit for overseas service in February 1917. In September 1917 he transferred to the 1st Battalion where he was attached to No. 3 Company.

On the 9th of October 1917 the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards assembled at Wood 15 while other battalions from the Guards Division took part in an attack across the Broembeek, as part of the ongoing Third Battle of Ypres. The 1st Battalion took no part in that attack but had been ordered to be prepared to exploit any breakthrough which may occur.

Although the Guards Division took all its objectives on the 9th, units on their right had met stern opposition and were

unable to capture the positions they had been allotted, with the result that there was a salient left which had to be reduced before a more general advance could resume. During the night of the 11th of October, No. 3 Company moved forward along the western edge of Vijfwegen, to a[AF1] spur near the edge of the Houthulst Forest to prepare for an attack the following morning. While the men waited, packed in their trenches, the Germans brought down a heavy concentration of gas shells across the British front line, which caused many casualties. The following morning a "ragged" British artillery barrage fell on the German trenches and the Guards began their advance. John Bibby was killed as he advanced across no man's land but the Grenadiers took and consolidated the enemy trench. Casualties during the attack totalled two officers killed with one wounded, plus 36 other ranks killed and another 200 wounded or missing.

John's father received the following telegram dated the 18th of October 1917: "Deeply regret to inform you that Lt J.P. Bibby 1st Grenadier Guards was killed in action October twelfth. The Army Council express their sympathy."

His father applied for his medals on the 5th of December 1921.

John is commemorated on the roll of honour at St James's Church, Piccadilly in London.

He is buried at Artillery Wood Cemetery, Plot IX, Row B, Grave 9.

Blackburn
Reginald Herbert
2nd Lieutenant



8th (Service) Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment.
Died on the 5th of November 1918.

Reginald Herbert Blackburn was born in Watford on the 13th of October 1889, the fourth son of Henry Blackburn, a gentleman, and Elizabeth Blackburn of Nascot Grange, Watford in Hertfordshire, later of The Woodlands, Surrenden Road, Preston Park, Brighton in Sussex.

He was educated at Radley College from September 1902 to 1906, where he was in Mr Kirkby's House. He went on to Exeter College, Oxford where he matriculated in 1907 and achieved a BA in 1910. Reginald became a partner in a firm of Lloyd's brokers and was an Underwriting Member of Lloyd's.

In June 1912, he was married to Hazel Isobel Constance Millicent (née Coghlan) at St George's Church Hanover Square, and they lived Brocton Gate Farm in Staffordshire.

He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 8th Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment on 10 February 1915 and landed in France on the 1st of January 1916. For the first part of the year the battalion was heavily involved in the defence of Ypres and in June they began preparations for a move to the Somme. In June 1916 Reginald Blackburn was involved in an accident and was invalided back to England in July.

On his recovery he was posted to the 27th (Training Reserve) Battalion and then to the 53rd (Young Soldiers) Battalion. In July 1917 he returned to France and served with his battalion at the Battle of Cambrai in November 1917 and at the capture of Bourlon Wood. In February 1918 the battalion was disbanded as part of the wider reorganisation of the army.

Reginald contracted influenza which developed into pneumonia, causing his death at Brocton Gate Farm six days from the end of the war.

His Commanding Officer, Lt Colonel Reginald Le Huguet, wrote: "He was a really good officer and a personal friend of mine. I shall miss him very much."

At the end of the war Reginald's wife was living at 22 Hove Park Villas, Hove in Sussex.

Reginald is commemorated on the war memorial at Patcham in Sussex and on the memorial at Brighton.

He is buried at West Norwood Cemetery and Crematorium, 104 34972.

Bolton
Frederic William
Major



D Company, 1/9th (County of London) Battalion (Queen Victoria's Rifles). Died on the 18th of June 1916, aged 33.

Frederic William Bolton was born in Islington in London on the 10th of December 1882, the elder son of Sir Frederic Bolton, a ship owner and Chairman of Lloyd's, and Anne Haycroft (née Pearse) Bolton of Westridge, 3 Prince Arthur's Road, Hampstead. He was educated at Rugby School from 1897 to 1901, where he was in School House. He was a member of the Rugby XV in 1899 and 1900 and of the Cricket XI in 1901. On leaving school, Frederic entered his father's firm where he worked as an insurance broker and was an Underwriting Member of Lloyd's.

Frederic enlisted as a Private in the Honourable Artillery Company in 1909 and applied for a commission in the 10th (County of London) Battalion (Paddington Rifles) on the 5th of May 1910. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the battalion on the 22nd of June 1910. When the 10th Battalion was disbanded on the 31st of May 1912 due to poor recruiting numbers, he transferred to the 9th (County of London) Battalion (Queen Victoria's Rifles) and was promoted to Lieutenant on the 1st of November 1912. He was promoted to Captain on the outbreak of war.

On the 4th of November 1914, he embarked with his battalion at Southampton on board the SS Oxonian, landing at Le Havre the following morning. Frederic served in France until the 24th of December 1914, when he embarked from Boulogne to come home on leave and landed at Dover the same day. He was not well enough to return to the front and a Medical Board that sat at Caxton Hall on the 26th of January 1915 found that he was suffering from frostbite and gastritis and granted him a further six weeks of leave. A series of Medical Boards sat over the next few months to monitor his condition but he was consistently found to be too ill to return to France and was attached to the reserve battalion of his regiment in July 1915. With his health continuing to deteriorate, Frederic underwent an operation on the 19th of February 1916.

He was promoted to temporary Major in January 1916.

On the 6th of March 1916 a Medical Board sat at Caxton Hall to consider Frederic's case:

"He is in a very serious condition. A large mass (growth) was found near the pyloric end of the stomach involving the pylorus, gall bladder and duets. He is much wasted and the skin is a bright yellow colour from jaundice. Sir Arbuthnot Lane operated on him on 19th Feb for drainage. It's doubtful whether the growth is malignant tubercular or whether it is of septic inflammatory origin, but in any case the prognosis is very grave."

Bolton
Frederic William
Major

It was decided that Frederic should be marked as permanently unfit for service and that he be placed on the Territorial Reserve List, which he was on the 12th of April 1916.

Frederic died at his parent's home in Hampstead with his brother by his side. The cause of death was given as carcinoma of the pylorus and duodenum with secondary deposits in the liver and jaundice.

His Commanding Officer wrote:

"All through the period of his connection with the Regiment, both at home and on active service, his ideals were so high and his patient unselfish devotion to duty was so thorough, that he constituted a very real and brilliant example to all of us. I often found he practically anticipated many orders or instructions one had to give him, largely, I think, the result of his training himself to seek for and to do the right thing however impossible it might seem to be. He was always cheery, though I very much fear that whilst on active service he must at times have suffered intensely, but such was his splendid pluck and fortitude that I never heard him complain. He leaves in the memories of all members of the Regiment who were privileged to work with him a very lasting and bright impression of a life lived entirely for others and willingly given for his country and spent in seeking to bring out the best and noblest in others by means of his own noble and heroic example."

A fellow officer wrote:

"Your son was greatly respected by all ranks and will ever be remembered; his great pluck and marvellous bravery was always admired by all who knew him. There never was a better soldier in the Regiment."

A former Rifleman from the Regiment wrote:

"His ready kindness and solicitude for our comfort and welfare, his readiness to help us on all occasions and his unfailing fortitude and pluck endeared him to us all, and we learned to love and regard him not only as our leader but as a friend and example to us all."

As Frederic had left the army before he died, his death is not commemorated by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

He is buried at Hendon Cemetery.

Booth
Cyril Talbot
2nd Lieutenant



3/17th (County of London) Battalion (Poplar and Stepney Rifles) attached to the 141st Light Trench Mortar Battery. Killed in action on the 10th of June 1917.

Cyril Talbot Booth was born at 98 Warren Road, Leyton in Essex on the 11th of July 1896, the elder son of Sydney Charles Booth, an insurance clerk, and Florence Mary (née Hewett) Booth of 29 Emperors Gate, South Kensington, London. He was christened in Leytonstone on the 11th of January 1897.

Cyril was educated at the Coopers Company School in Leyton and served for three and a half years with the Leytonstone Naval Cadets, where he held the rank of 1st Class Petty Officer on his retirement.

He worked as a clerk for C.A. Hewitt Esq. and Others at Lloyd's.

Cyril enlisted at Armoury House, Finsbury as Private 2435 in the Honourable Artillery Company on the 6th of October 1914. At his medical examination held on the same day it was recorded that he was 5 feet 10 inches tall. He transferred to the 2nd (Reserve) Battalion on the 12th of December 1914 and served with them until he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 3/17th (County of London) Battalion (Poplar and Stepney Rifles) on the 8th of September 1915.

He embarked for France on the 27th of October 1915 where he was seconded to the 141st Trench Light Mortar Battery.

On the 18th of May 1916, Cyril reported sick to 6th London Field Ambulance, was transferred to a Casualty Clearing Station and then to No. 8 General Hospital at Rouen where he was diagnosed with a disorder of the heart following being "blown up by a shell". He was then sent to a Depot at Dieppe and moved to base at Le Havre on the 4th of July 1916. On the 6th of July a report as to his condition was drawn up at Lazard Valley Camp, Le Havre:

"He is suffering from disordered artery of the heart, is debilitated and anaemic. He is not fit for any duty at present. Recommended for twenty one days sick leave to England".

Cyril returned to England from Le Havre on the 8th of July on board the SS Hantonia, landing at Southampton the following day.

On the 19th of September 1916 a Medical Board sat at the Military Hospital, Warley:

"His heart's action is now regular in force and frequency. There's no anaemia. He states, however, that he suffers periodically from pains in the chest and that he tires easily when walking."

Booth
Cyril Talbot
2nd Lieutenant

Cyril was promoted to Temporary Lieutenant on the 6th of January 1917, with precedence from the 1st of September 1916, and rejoined the 3/7th Battalion on the 8th of January, although he was considered "unfit to serve abroad."

A further Medical Board, which sat on the 1st of March 1917 at the Military Hospital Avington Park, concluded that he was "fit for general service."

He died while serving with the 141st Light Trench Mortar Battery.

Cyril is commemorated on the Menin Gate, Panels 52 to 54.

Booth
John Henry
2nd Lieutenant



6th Battalion Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment)
attached to the 8th Battalion Killed in action on the
7th of October 1916.

John Henry Booth worked for Robert Gardner Mountain & Company Ltd, Lloyd's brokers.

On the 7th of October 1916 the 8th Battalion Royal Fusiliers was detailed to attack the German position known as Bayonet Trench during the fighting on the Somme. The attack began at 1.45pm and initial reports received at Headquarters indicated that it was progressing well, but an hour later it had stalled. The battalion had not reached Bayonet Trench due to heavy enemy fire from small arms, machine guns and artillery. The assault had coincided with a relief in the German lines, with the result that the Germans had twice as many riflemen in their trench as was expected and, as a consequence, the front companies of the Fusiliers were mown down.

The attack was a failure, with casualties of nine officers and 244 other ranks. John Booth was among the dead.

General Boyd Moss sent the following message to the battalion on its return:

"Will you please thank all ranks of your battalion for the magnificent gallantry they displayed yesterday. They advanced steadily under a heavy fire which only the very best troops could have faced. Though unfortunately unsuccessful, their gallant conduct has added to the fine reputation which you have already won for yourselves."

He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Pier and Face 8C 9A and 16A.

Bowles
Geoffrey Charles
Sub Lieutenant RN



Drake Battalion, Royal Naval Division, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. Killed in action on the 25th of April 1917, aged 20.

Geoffrey Charles Bowles was born in Ilford in Essex on the 4th of August 1896, the son of Charles William Bowles, an architect and surveyor, and Amy Martha (née Dubber) Bowles of Ingleside, The Vine, Sevenoaks, and later of 9 Staple Inn, Holborn.

He worked for S.J. Aubrey Esq. and Others at Lloyd's.

Geoffrey enlisted as Private 3935 in the Inns of Court Officer Training Corps on the 3rd of June 1915 and was commissioned as a Sub Lieutenant in the Royal Naval Reserve on the 11th of February 1916. He was included in a draft for the Drake Battalion as bombing instructor on the 5th of December 1916 and joined them in the field on the 14th of December 1916.

On the 23rd of April 1917, the Royal Naval Division was ordered to attack enemy trenches in front of the village of Gavrelle, capture a road running north to south through the village and take a position known as Greenland Hill. The Drake Battalion was to be on the left of the Division. The battalion was in position for the attack by midnight on the 22nd of April and sent out patrols during the night.

The patrols reported back that the enemy wire on the right of the Drake's area of attack was still very much intact, in spite of the artillery barrage that was supposed to have cut it.

A message was sent back to Brigade Headquarters which asked: "Is the attack cancelled?"

Assuming it was not, the commanding officer of the Drake Battalion, Commander Bennett, decided to attack on a company front only and to cover his flank with an intensive Stokes Mortar barrage coupled with supporting fire from heavy machine guns .

At zero hour the Drake men left their trenches, huddled behind a creeping barrage and captured their first objective with light casualties. Fifteen minutes later they moved forward once more and attacked the second objective in conjunction with the Nelson Battalion. Once they reached the road they paused to reorganise, but with the pall of dust from shattered masonry coupled with enemy sniping and machine gun fire, some of it from close quarters, it proved impossible for the officers to gather their scattered battalion together. It was due to the personal intervention of Commander Bennett that the battalion moved forward once again under cover of a fresh barrage. They advanced another 250 yards through the ruins of the village with few casualties until they reached the Oppy-Gavrelle Road.

Bowles
Geoffrey Charles
Sub Lieutenant RN

They, and the battalions either side of them, now found themselves in a precarious position with a ridge with enemy-held trenches to their left and more enemy troops holding a line some three hundred yards to their right. They were now beyond the effective range of their own artillery and it was considered that there were too few men to move forward and take the final objective, so it was decided to consolidate their position where they were. The men dug in and a strong point was established in a nearby house that harassed the enemy on the ridge and delayed an inevitable counterattack.

By noon the battalion had dug in and at 1pm the expected German counterattack was launched, principally against the Drake Battalion, who drove the attack off with accurate rifle and machine gun fire, all the time suffering increasing numbers of casualties from enemy artillery that continued to pound their positions throughout.

At 4.30pm orders came through from Headquarters to attack and capture the original final objective but they were ignored by the battalion commanders. The battalion spent the night to the east of Gavrelle Cemetery.

Geoffrey is commemorated on the war memorial at Sevenoaks.

He is buried at Orchard Dump Cemetery, Plot IX, Row E, Grave 24.

Bragg
Alexander William
Private 2457



1/13th (County of London) Battalion (Kensington).
Killed in action on the 9th of May 1915.

Alexander William Bragg was born in Lambeth on the 26th of June 1894, the son of George William Bragg, a pawnbroker, and Harriett Maria (née Kimpton) Bragg of 68 Ringmer Avenue, Fulham. He was christened on the 2nd of October 1898 at St Dionis Church, Fulham.

Alexander worked as a clerk for Robert Bradford & Company, Lloyd's brokers. He enlisted into the army in Kensington and embarked for France on the 6th of March 1915.

On the evening of the 8th of May 1915 the 1/13th (County of London) Battalion (Kensington) moved forward to assault trenches in preparation for an attack on Aubers Ridge the following morning. By 2am on the 9th of May the wire had been cut in front of the battalion's trench to allow the men to pass into no man's land and at 5am the artillery bombardment of the enemy front line began. The barrage was intended to cut the enemy wire and to destroy the first line trench. However, in the event it was entirely ineffective. At 5.40am a series of underground mines were exploded under the German front lines and C and D Companies went over the top of their trench into a hail of rifle and machine gun fire. In spite of this, they managed to occupy one of the mine craters and the enemy line either side of it, which was cleared by the battalion's bombers.

A and B Companies came up in support and by 6.30am the battalion had taken all its objectives and captured about 30 prisoners. By 6.45am the line was extended to the south of Delangre Farm but casualties had been severe, bombs were running out and there was no sign of any other British troops either alongside or behind the battalion. Despite assurances from Brigade Headquarters that support was on the way, none materialised during the morning and the position was becoming increasingly desperate for the Kensington men. At 11.30am the Germans broke through one of the trench blocks and began bombing their way up the trench before they were repelled by machine gun fire. In spite of attempts by other battalions to get forward, all had failed; the captured trench was now packed with the dead and wounded of both sides and the last grenade had gone.

At 2.45pm orders were received for the few survivors of the battalion to fall back to the British line. Such was the intensity of fire that fell upon the survivors as they retired across the open ground of no man's land that further severe casualties were caused among the ranks as they scrambled back. Many men waited until darkness before crossing and, when the survivors gathered at Cellar Farm that evening, only 50 men remained from the attacking force although a few more arrived during the night. They remained there under shell fire until they were relieved on the morning of the 10th of May.

Casualties for the attack totalled 13 officers and 423 other ranks. Alexander is commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Panel 10.

Braithwaite
Eric Charles
Rifleman 530465



1/15th (County of London) Battalion (Civil Service Rifles). Killed in action on the 7th of June 1917.

Eric Charles Braithwaite was born in Islington in 1898, the eldest son of Charles Braithwaite, a warehouseman, and Maggie May (née Stevens) Braithwaite of 28 Myddleton Road, Bowes Park in London.

He worked for C.E. Heath & Company Ltd at Lloyd's and enlisted into the army in London.

At 10pm on the night of the 3rd of June 1917 the 1/15th (County of London) Battalion (Civil Service Rifles) set out for the front line trenches at Swan Chateau and Chateau Sergard in preparation for an attack at Messines three days later. As they moved up they came under a barrage of gas shells from enemy artillery but did not suffer any casualties from it. For the next three days they enjoyed a comparatively quiet period in the trenches and spent their time on preparation for the assault, which was timed for dawn on the morning of the 7th of June. They were to go into the attack with D Company on the right of the battalion, A Company on the left, and B Company forming the second wave with C Company in reserve. The attack was to be preceded by the exploding of a number of large mines under the Messines Ridge, which would be followed by an intense covering bombardment from British artillery, which, it was hoped, would eliminate enemy resistance against the infantry when they went over the top.

At 3.10am on the morning the 7th of June 1917 the mines blew and the 1/15th Battalion London Regiment (Civil Service Rifles), not being in the first waves of the attack, moved up to their jumping off trenches at 5.15am. Reports came back from the leading battalions that all objectives had been taken and the lead companies of the battalion's first wave moved to the attack in open order at 6.25am. They progressed through the leading battalions who had dug in and then paused for a time while the creeping barrage provided by the artillery moved further ahead of them. While they were waiting they sustained some casualties as the following waves, which were supposed to have arrived at five minute intervals, began to catch up with the leading waves, causing them to bunch up into one mass of infantry. As the leading troops moved forward they had great difficulty finding the enemy trench which was their objective due to the devastation caused by the British artillery. There were no living Germans to be found so they moved on and, with enemy fire now increasing, took their next objective of Oblong Trench where they captured a number of dazed prisoners. They then moved forward to their final objective of Delbeke Farm which they rushed, captured and consolidated in spite of some sniping.

Eric is commemorated Menin Gate, Panel 54.

Brown
Harold Atherton
2nd Lieutenant



**2nd Battalion Leicestershire Regiment. Killed in action
on the 15th of May 1915, aged 21.**

Harold Atherton Brown was born at Woodbridge in Suffolk in 1893, the eldest son of Philip Brown, a coal and timber merchant, and Charlotte Emily (née Ashley) Brown of Horley, 20 Warrington Road, Harrow-on-the-Hill in Middlesex.

He was educated at Ipswich School where he was a member of the Officer Training Corps. Harold worked as a clerk for James, Hartley, Cooper & Company, Lloyd's brokers of Coupers Court, Cornhill.

He enlisted as Private 1009 in the 28th (County of London) Battalion (Artist's Rifles) at Dukes Road, Euston Road on the 7th of November 1911. At a medical examination undertaken on the same day it was recorded that he was five feet seven inches tall. Harold attended the battalion's annual camp from the 27th of July to the 11th of August 1912. He was mobilised for war service on the 5th of August 1914 and reported for training to Abbots Langley. He was promoted to Lance Corporal on the 17th of October 1914 and embarked for France at Southampton on the 26th of October. Harold was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Leicestershire Regiment on the 2nd of March 1915.

On the 9th of May 1915 the 2nd Battalion Leicestershire Regiment was in support of an attack by its Division at Festubert. Although they did not take a direct part in the attack, they suffered some casualties though the day as they moved into position, in case they were needed in the event of a breakthrough. The lead battalions failed in their attempts to take the enemy front line and so a further attack was planned for the night of the 14th of May.

At 8.15pm on the evening of the 13th of May, the 2nd Battalion Leicestershire Regiment moved forward from its position to the north of Rue du Bois in preparation for the attack. By 10.30pm they were in position at Lansdown Post where they waited for the assault to begin.

At 8.30pm on the evening of the 15th of May the men moved forward to the section of the front line from where they would attack that night. They were to be in the first wave on the right of the attack with the Garhwal Rifles on their left and the 3rd Battalion London Regiment with two companies of the 2/3rd Gurkhas in support. A series of bridges had been built by the Royal Engineers across a number of streams which lay in the path of the advance. At 11.30pm the lead companies, closely followed by their support, rushed forward into the attack. They were met immediately by a hail of rifle, machine gun and trench mortar fire but pressed on.

Brown
Harold Atherton
2nd Lieutenant

Hand grenades were thrown at them from the enemy first line trench which illuminated the scene and, as a result, the number of men who made it to the enemy wire was few. Successive waves were hampered by the number of casualties who had fallen at the bridges and blocked the path of those who followed. At midnight it was decided that the attack had been a failure and orders were issued for a withdrawal.

Casualties for the attack totalled six officers and 24 other ranks killed with two officers and 220 other ranks wounded and five other ranks missing. Harold Brown was among the missing.

His mother received the following telegram dated the 20th of May 1915:

“Deeply regret to inform you that 2nd Lt H.A. Brown previously reported missing believed killed now reported killed in action.”

Harold is commemorated on the Le Touret Memorial, Panel 11.

Burdge
Randall Thomas
Rifleman 305815



5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade).
Died of wounds on the 21st of October 1918, aged 19.

Randall Thomas Burdge was born in Deptford in 1899, the second son of Harry Burdge, a railway porter, and Martha Burdge of 138 Ladywell Road, Lewisham.

He worked for James Hartley, Cooper & Company Ltd, Lloyd's brokers.

Randall enlisted into the army in Lewisham as Private 46834 in the Rifle Brigade, later transferring to the London Regiment.

He is commemorated on the war memorial at St Cyprian's Church, Brockley.

Randall is buried at Terlincthun British Cemetery, Plot VI, Row A, Grave 60.

Burrow
Victor Cecil
Private G/21914



8th (Service) Battalion Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment. Killed in action on the 21st of March 1918, aged 21.

Victor Cecil Burrow was born in Bermondsey in London on the 17th of March 1897, the son of Arthur Llewelyn Burrow, a brewer, and Annie (née Abell) Burrow later of 288 Derington Road, Tooting. He was christened at St Saviour's Church Southwark on the 2nd of June 1897.

Victor worked as a clerk for Choisy de Rougemont and Company Ltd at Lloyd's.

He was conscripted into the army and attested in Kingston-Upon-Thames as Private 15757 in the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion East Surrey Regiment on the 20th of June 1916. At his medical examination it was recorded that he was six feet four inches tall and that he weighed 123 lbs. He was later posted to the 8th Battalion Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment.

On the 21st of March 1918 the 8th Battalion Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment was holding a line to the east of Le Verguier with A and C Companies in the front. It was on this day that the Germans opened their long-expected spring offensive, and at 4.30am a bombardment consisting of high explosive and gas shells began falling on the British lines. The barrage initially focused on the rear lines and communication trenches and lasted some eight hours,

which took a heavy toll on the British guns supporting the 8th Queen's. The two companies in the front line had lost all communication with the rear areas by 7am but, in spite of sending out patrols, they saw no action in the early part of the morning. At 10.30am German infantry was seen coming from the direction of Priel Farm. A Company then came under heavy machine gun fire from positions to the north and the German infantry rapidly surrounded them, cutting them off from C Company and threatening their line of retreat. Yet, in a fighting retirement, the men of A Company fought their way back to the outskirts of Le Verguier while C Company also struggled back to the village.

The main enemy onslaught upon the village came at 3pm, when the northern flank was fiercely attacked, and at dusk a heavy bombardment resumed followed by repeated infantry attacks during the night. By the morning of the 22nd of March the village was close to being surrounded and, after documents were destroyed at battalion headquarters, the 8th Queen's fell back half a mile in an orderly retreat.

For the period from the 21st of March until the 5th of April, when the German advance was halted, the battalion suffered casualties of 20 officers and 380 other ranks.

Victor is commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial, Panels 14 and 15.

Campbell
Archibald
Douglas Lerags
Captain



15th (Service) Battalion Durham Light Infantry. Killed in action on the 18th of November 1915.

Archibald Douglas Lerags Campbell was born in Bayswater on the 16th of March 1883, the son of John Beverley Campbell, a yacht broker, and Maude Mary (née Savory) Campbell of 31 Powis Square. He was christened on the 6th of June 1883 at All Saints Church, Notting Hill.

Archibald was educated at Berkhamsted Collegiate School where he served as a Sergeant in the Officer Training Corps.

He was married to Clara Annie (née Hardman) on the 7th of April 1908 at St Philip's Church, Kennington; they had a daughter named Jean Elspeth Lerags Campbell who was born on the 26th of June 1910 and they lived at Karamaea, Great Missenden in Berkshire. Archibald worked as an insurance broker and was an Annual Subscriber at Lloyd's.

Following the outbreak of war he enlisted at Westminster as Private 3253 in the 1/14th Battalion London Regiment (London Scottish) on the 21st of September 1914. At his medical examination, which was held on the same day, it was recorded that Archibald was five feet seven and five eighths inches tall and in good health. He applied for a commission on the 29th of September 1914 and was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Durham Light Infantry.

Archibald was promoted to Temporary Captain on the 10th of November 1914. He embarked for France with his battalion from Folkestone on the 11th of September 1915, landing at Boulogne later the same day.

On the 10th of November 1915 the 15th Battalion Durham Light Infantry relieved the 8th and 9th Battalions of their regiment in waterlogged trenches between the Lille Road and the River Lys. Archibald Campbell was killed during their tour of duty in this sector of the line.

His wife received the following telegram dated the 20th of November 1915:

"Deeply regret to inform you that Capt. A.D.L. Campbell 15th Durham LI was killed in action 18th Nov. The Secretary of State expresses his sympathy."

He is commemorated on the war memorial at Ballinger in Berkshire and on the memorial at Great Missenden.

Archibald is buried at Houplines Communal Cemetery, Plot II, Row B, Grave 11.

Campbell
Charles Douglas
McKinnon
Private 633846



2/20th (County of London) Battalion (Blackheath and Woolwich). Died of on the 8th of November 1917, aged 29.

Charles Douglas McKinnon Campbell was born in East Dulwich, the son of Archibald Campbell, an agent for directories, and Mary Mabel Campbell of 77 South Croxted Road, Dulwich, London. He was educated at Christ's Hospital School in Barking.

Charles worked as a clerk in the Average Department at Lloyd's and enlisted into the army at St Paul's as Private 6287 in the 15th (County of London) Battalion (Civil Service Rifles), later transferring to the 2/20th (County of London) Battalion (Blackheath and Woolwich).

On the 6th of November 1917 an attack was launched against heavily defended Turkish positions at Khuweilfeh. The 2/20th (County of London) Battalion (Blackheath and Woolwich) was to be in close support of the two leading battalions and they assembled at Wadi Muweilah at 5am in preparation for the assault. When the attack began, the battalion advanced under occasional shelling until they halted at noon with the enemy positions in sight. As the leading battalions made their attack on the enemy trenches, A and D Companies of the 2/20th followed closely behind, with B and C Companies following some five hundred yards behind.

The leading battalions swept across the Turkish positions with D Company coming up to "mop up", where they

killed and captured a number of the defenders as well as capturing a machine gun. By 4pm the entire enemy trench system had fallen.

At 5pm a message came back from the leading companies to the effect that the enemy were in disarray and that a further advance should be undertaken lest they regroup during the night. As a result the battalion was ordered forward once again to secure Tel es Sheria and to establish a bridgehead over the railway line there. The attack began at just after 7pm but soon ran into fierce resistance from machine guns and stalled. It was decided to resume the attack once again at 3.30am with A and C Companies leading, B Company in support and D Company in reserve. At dawn on the 7th of November the battalion went forward again and in spite of fierce machine gun fire they took the enemy positions at the point of the bayonet, capturing the enemy battalion commander, 71 men and a lorry as well as a large amount of other materials. By the end of the attack the enemy was in full retreat and the ground was strewn with Turkish dead, many of who had been bayoneted by the advancing Londoners.

Casualties for the attack over the two days totalled one officer killed with four wounded and 12 other ranks killed with a further 73 wounded, of whom two, including Charles Campbell, later died of the their wounds.

Charles is buried at Beersheba War Cemetery, Row N, Grave 63.

Cartwright
Alfred
Private 44627



8th (Service) Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.
Died of on the 23rd of October 1918, aged 19.

Alfred Cartwright was born in Poplar, the third son of Charles Cartwright, a factory stoker, and Polly (née Hardy) Cartwright, a church caretaker, of 172 West Ferry Road, Millwall in London. He worked for the Lloyd's Intelligence Department.

Alfred enlisted in Poplar as Private 536779 in the 15th (County of London) Battalion London Regiment (Civil Service Rifles) before transferring to the Gloucestershire Regiment.

He is buried at Delsaux Farm Cemetery, Plot I, Row H, Grave 21.

Champ
Thomas Arthur
Private E/791



D Company, 17th (Service) Battalion Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment). Died of on the 29th of July 1916, aged 28.

Thomas Arthur Champ was born in Walthamstow in 1888, the second son of Alfred Jordan Champ, a mercantile clerk, and Agnes (née Townson) Champ, of Glenelg, Fullers Road, South Woodford in London.

Thomas worked as a clerk for E.E. St Quintin Esq. at Lloyds. He enlisted in the army at Pickering Court, St James in London.

He embarked with his battalion from Folkestone on the 16th of November 1915 and arrived at Boulogne at 3pm the following day.

On the evening of the 25th of July 1916, the 17th Battalion Royal Fusiliers moved up to the front line from 'Happy Valley', on the Somme, where they had been resting. D Company arrived at Trônes Wood at around midnight and sent two platoons out from the eastern edge of the forest, where they moved forward some two hundred yards without opposition before digging a new trench. They stayed there throughout the 26th, improving their position, and by the following night they had deepened the trench to five to six feet. Meanwhile, the other three companies were despatched to the trench known as Longueval Alley, where,

at 2.15pm on the 26th of July they heard the sounds of heavy fighting from Delville Wood. The battalion was "stood to" but were not required to join the fighting; instead they endured shelling with high explosives and shrapnel interspersed with tear gas shells throughout the day.

At 7.10am on the morning of the 27th of July, 2nd Division attacked Delville Wood and although the battalion was not directly involved in the assault, they suffered heavy casualties from the retaliatory fire unleashed by the German artillery. All communications were quickly lost as high explosives and shrapnel rained down throughout the day on the battalion who were crouching low in their trenches. Casualties totalled two officers killed, with two wounded and 15 other ranks killed with 90 wounded and seven missing. Thomas Champ was among the wounded and he died of his wounds the following day.

He is buried at La Neuville British Cemetery, Corbie Plot I, Row E, Grave 18.

Chandler
Cecil William
Captain MC



**1st Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers. Killed in action
on the 30th of March 1918, aged 30.**

Cecil William Chandler was born in Lee in Kent in 1888, the son of William Alfred Chandler, a marine insurance broker, and Martha (née Brown) Chandler of 43 Clarendon Road, Lewisham.

He was educated at Felsted School from January 1903 to April 1905, where he was a member of the Officer Training Corps. He was married to Dorothy Bridget Josephine of Stonecroft, Elmsleigh Road, Weston-Super-Mare in Somerset.

Cecil worked in marine insurance for Harris, Marrian & Company, Lloyd's brokers, was an Underwriting Member of Lloyd's and was a director of the Montreal and London Development Company Ltd.

He originally enlisted as a Private in the 20th Battalion Middlesex Regiment (Artist's Rifles) and re-enlisted at Dukes Road, Euston Road as Private 218/6665 in its successor, the 28th Battalion London Regiment (Artist's Rifles) on the 13th of April 1908 following the reorganisation of the Territorial Army that year. Cecil was promoted to Lance Corporal on the 24th of May 1910 and to Corporal on the 13th of February 1912.

He attended the Battalion's annual camp each year up until the outbreak of war, when he was mobilised on the 5th of August 1914 and applied for a commission shortly afterwards.

Cecil was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 8th (Service) Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers on the 28th of September 1914 and was promoted to Captain on the 1st of December 1915.

He was awarded the Military Cross for actions at Guillemont on the 3rd of September 1916, which was announced in the London Gazette on the 14th of November 1916. The citation read:

"For conspicuous gallantry in action. Although wounded, he led his men and beat off repeated enemy attacks, displaying great courage and initiative throughout."

On the 23rd of November 1916 the 8th Battalion was disbanded and the men were posted to the 1st Battalion of their regiment. Having recovered from his wounds, Cecil embarked for France once again on the 1st of May 1917 where he was attached to the 1st Battalion of his regiment.

He is buried at Longueval Road Cemetery, Row G, Grave 21.

Chandler
Frank Denison
Acting Corporal 300251



1/5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade). Killed in action on the 1st of July 1916, aged 23.

Frank Denison Chandler was born in Camberwell, the son of Gibbs William Chandler, a marine insurance broker, and Alice Anne Chandler of 23 Vanbrugh Park, Blackheath. He worked as a clerk for Nelson Donkin & Company, Lloyd's brokers, and enlisted in London.

The 1st of July 1916 was the opening day of the Battle of the Somme and the 1/5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade) was given the task of capturing the enemy-held village of Gommecourt. The British artillery had been bombarding the enemy lines along the line of attack for a week but at zero hour, 7.30am, they unleashed a terrific final bombardment on the enemy line which was to be the objective of the Londoners. Under the cover of smoke, which had been released to cover their advance, the men left their trenches and in spite of heavy casualties they crossed no man's land and captured the enemy trenches along with a large number of prisoners. It soon became evident, however, that the attack by the neighbouring Division had failed, and before long all the German artillery was concentrated against the London Division.

No man's land was saturated with shell fire which meant that the runners, carrying messages calling for extra bombs and ammunition, could not get through. Heavy German counterattacks followed and soon the defenders' bombs ran out and they were pushed back, trench by trench. By the evening most of the surviving members of the battalion were making their way back across no man's land.

Casualties for the attack totalled eight officers killed, with ten wounded and one missing, and over 500 other ranks killed wounded or missing, out of an original attacking strength of 23 officers and 803 other ranks.

Frank is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Pier and Face 9D.

Chennell
Leslie Francis
Rifleman 393088



1/9th (County of London) Battalion (Queen Victoria's Rifles). Died of on the 21st of March 1918, aged 20.

Leslie Francis Chennell was born in Hornsey in Middlesex in 1897, the son of Henry Charles Chennell, a paper buyer, and Flora Annie Elizabeth (née Denniss) Chennell of Ellerslie, 29 Dukes Avenue, Finchley in Middlesex.

He worked for the Lloyd's Intelligence Department.

Leslie enlisted into the army in London and was wounded in 1917.

He is buried at Grand Seraucourt British Cemetery, Plot III, Row J, Grave 4.

Chetwood
Ernest Stanley
Captain



C Company, 1/28th (County of London) Battalion (Artist's Rifles). Killed in action on the 30th of October 1917, aged 28.

Ernest Stanley Chetwood was born at Waltham Abbey in Essex in 1889, the youngest son of Stephen Chetwood, an auctioneer, and Mary (née Sell) Chetwood of 33 Sun Street, Waltham Abbey. He was educated at Felsted Preparatory School from September 1900 and at Felsted School until June 1907. He was a member of the Hockey XI in 1907 and was Captain of the Running VIII. He was also a Prefect.

Ernest worked as an underwriter's clerk for A. Cecil Chapman Esq. and Others at Lloyd's and lived at Shaftsbury Villa, Roydon in Essex.

He enlisted as a Private in the 28th (County of London) Battalion (Artist's Rifles), rising to the rank of Corporal before he was commissioned as a Temporary Lieutenant in the same battalion on the 17th of October 1914. He embarked for France on the 26th of October. Ernest was promoted to Lieutenant on the 31st of August 1916 and to Captain on the 18th of August 1917, with precedence from the 1st of June 1916.

On the 1st of October 1917 the 28th (County of London) Battalion (Artist's Rifles) received orders to proceed to the Ypres front to take part in the assault on the Passchendaele Ridge.

On the 28th of October they left their camp at Reigersburgh to move up to the front line in preparation for the attack which, due to the appalling state of ground, had been making slow progress up until then. They spent 30 hours waiting in reserve, during which time they suffered a number of casualties from long range artillery fire. On the 30th of October they went forward to the attack with A and B Companies in the vanguard of the assault and with C Company, under the command of Ernest Chetwood, in support. In order to reach their objective they had to cross the Paddebeek, a small stream which constant shelling had turned into a morass. As soon as the leading companies emerged from their trenches into "a deep sea of mud" they came under intense machine gun fire while a rain of artillery fire fell on the support troops. Both rifles and Lewis guns became clogged with mud within minutes and were rendered useless, with those men who were wounded drowning in the mud as they fell. The attack quickly came to a standstill and the survivors attempted to consolidate a new line on their side of the Paddebeek, but were forced to withdraw to their starting line having suffered casualties of around 350 men from an attacking force of 500. Ernest Chetwood was among the dead.

The survivors came out of the line the following day and marched to Eringhem.

Chetwood
Ernest Stanley
Captain

Sir Phillip Gibbs, a war correspondent, witnessed the attack:

“The Artist’s Rifles, Bedfords and Shropshires were trying to get forward to other blockhouses on the way to the rising ground beyond the Paddebeek. The Artist’s and their comrades were more severely tried by shellfire than the Londons. No doubt the enemy had been standing at his guns through the night ready to fire at the first streak of dawn, which might bring an English attack. A light went up and instantly there roared a great sweep of fire from heavy batteries and field guns; 4.2s and 5.9s fell densely and in depth and this bombardment did not slacken for hours. It was a tragic time for our men, struggling in the slime with their feet dragged down. They suffered but did not retreat; no man turned back but either fell under the shell fire or went on.”

Ernest was mentioned in General Sir Douglas Haig’s despatches of the 7th of November 1917.

He is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Panel 153.

Collens
Edwin Theobald
2nd Lieutenant



**1/1st (County of London) Battalion (Royal Fusiliers).
Died of wounds on the 3rd of September 1918,
aged 24.**

Edwin Theobald Collens was born in Seal in Kent in 1894, the second son of John Collens, a farm manager, and Kate (née Theobalds) Collens of Seal Chart Farm, Sevenoaks in Kent.

He worked for A Bilbrough & Company Ltd at Lloyd's.

Edwin enlisted at 24 Sun Street as Private 2966 in the 3/7th (County of London) Battalion on the 29th of September 1914. At his medical examination held the same day, it was recorded that he was five feet seven inches tall. He transferred to the 1/7th Battalion on the 31st of October 1914 and embarked for service in France from Southampton on the 17th of March 1915, landing at Le Havre the following day.

On the 25th of June 1915 he was docked two days' pay for disobeying an order at Mazingarbe. On the 25th of September 1915 the 7th (County of London) Battalion was detailed to attack the enemy held positions know as the Double Crassier along with 800 yards of enemy-held trenches nearby as part of the opening day of the British offensive at Loos. The battalion came under heavy artillery and machine gun fire during their advance but succeeded in taking and consolidating the Crassier in spite of very heavy casualties. Edwin Collens was gassed and wounded

in the knee during the attack and was evacuated by the 4th London Field Ambulance. He rejoined to his unit in the field on the 27th of September. On the 24th of December 1915 he was admitted to the 4th London Field Ambulance with a case of chilled feet. He was admitted to WR Casualty Clearing Station the following day and was admitted to the 8th General Hospital at Rouen on the 27th of December. He was evacuated to the UK on the 8th of January 1916 where he was taken to the Welsh Metropolitan War Hospital at Whitchurch after which he was posted to the 3/7th Battalion of his regiment.

Edwin was appointed to the rank of unpaid Lance Corporal on the 6th of December 1916 and Lance Corporal on the 20th of December.

He applied for a commission and joined No. 1 Officer Cadet Battalion at Newton Ferrers on the 7th of June 1917, and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 1/1st (County of London) Battalion (Royal Fusiliers) on the 26th of September 1917.

On the 24th of August 1918 the 1/1st (County of London) Battalion (Royal Fusiliers) relieved the 1/14th (County of London) Battalion (London Scottish) in trenches at Boiry near Bullecourt. They took part in a number of attacks over the next six days in an ongoing attempt to break the Hindenburg Line. By the 29th of August they had established themselves in the trenches of Tower Reserve, Gordon Reserve and Pelican Lane.

Collens
Edwin Theobald
2nd Lieutenant

At 6am on the morning of the 30th of August they were attacked from the rear by German infantry who had come through tunnels that ran through Bullecourt. The attack fell against A and B Companies, with the majority of the men in these two companies becoming casualties during the fighting. Although the enemy was driven off they managed to establish themselves in Bullecourt.

Casualties for the attack totalled one officer missing with two officers wounded and one other rank killed with 113 other ranks missing and 22 other ranks wounded. They were relieved by 168th Brigade that evening.

Edwin Collens was among the wounded and was evacuated to 48 Casualty Clearing Station where he died of his wounds four days later.

He is commemorated on the war memorial at St Lawrence's Church, Seal.

Edwin is buried at Bac-Du-Sud British Cemetery, Plot III, Row F, Grave 5.

Colson
William Henry West
Bombardier 547



15th Battery, 2/6th London Brigade, Royal Field Artillery. Died on the 13th of April 1915, aged 32.

William Henry West Colson was born in Clapham in 1882, the eldest son of William Mathias Colson, a bookkeeper, and Mary Mildred (née West) Colson of 9 Kendoa Road, Clapham, London. He was christened on the 14th of January 1883 at Holy Trinity Church in Clapham.

William was married to Fanny Harris Chapman (née Lewarne) on the 21st of September 1912 at St Peter's Church, Vauxhall, and they lived at 29 Bromfield Road, Clapham. They had a son, John William Lewarne, born on the 26th of July 1913. Following William's death, Fanny remarried, becoming Chapman, and lived at 72 Bolingbroke Grove, Wandsworth Common.

William worked as a clerk for the Lloyd's Intelligence Department.

He enlisted as a Gunner 547 in the London Brigade, Royal Artillery on the 2nd of February 1909 at 105 Holland Road, Brixton Hill. He had previously served with the 1st City of London, Royal Garrison Artillery (Volunteers). At his medical examination, which took place on the 15th of February 1909 conducted by Captain H Stedman RAMC, it was recorded that he was five feet eight inches tall and in good health.

William began training on the 18th of February 1909, was promoted to Bombardier on the 1st of July 1910 and to

Corporal on the 1st of December 1913. He attended a number of summer training camps; at Salisbury from the 1st to the 15th of August 1909; at Chatham from the 24th of July 1910 to the 8th of August 1910; at Shorncliffe from the 6th to the 22nd of August 1911; and at Salisbury from the 28th of July 1912 to the 11th of August 1912.

From the 13th of November to the 25th of November 1911 he attended a course of instruction at the School of Instruction, Woolwich. From the 4th to the 9th and from the 11th to the 16th of March 1912 he attended a further course of instruction at Woolwich. When his period of service had expired, he re-enlisted on the 26th of May 1913 with the rank of Gunner. He was mobilised for war service on the 4th of August 1914 and on the 8th of September 1914 he signed an agreement to serve overseas if required. He was promoted to Bombardier on the 5th of December 1914.

In mid-October 1914 William contracted pulmonary tuberculosis as the result of damp and cold accommodation. It manifested itself initially as a heavy cold but, by November, he had developed a bad cough and was losing weight. He was admitted to the 1st London General Hospital on the 2nd of January 1915 and was discharged on the 19th of February. It was recommended by a Medical Board which sat on the 15th of March 1915 that he be discharged from the army as permanently unfit for service but he died at Brompton Hospital before this could happen.

William is buried at Streatham Cemetery, Grave F, 409.

Comber
William
Rifleman 531891



1/15th (County of London) Battalion (Prince of Wales' Own Civil Service Rifles). Died of wounds on the 10th of April 1917, aged 19.

William Comber was born in New South Wales on the 23rd of April 1897, the son of William J.B Comber, a carpenter, and Clara L Comber of 44 Cotford Road, Thornton Heath in Surrey. He was educated at Winterbourne Road School and at Whitgift Grammar School from 1908 to 1914 where he won a scholarship, and was in Mason's House. He served as a Private in the Officer Training Corps and won his 2nd XI Football colours. On leaving school he worked as a clerk for Stephens White & Company, Lloyd's brokers.

In October 1915, William enlisted in London in the 15th (County of London) Battalion (Prince of Wales' Own Civil Service Rifles) and fought at Vimy Ridge, Souchez, the Somme, Ypres and at Arras.

On the night of the 7th of April 1917 the 1/15th (County of London) Battalion (Prince of Wales' Own Civil Service Rifles) relieved the 1/18th (County of London) Battalion (London Irish Rifles) in trenches in the Ypres Salient. At 6.30pm

on the night of the 9th of April the Germans attacked the British positions on the immediate left of the battalion and there was heavy shelling throughout the night. Although the battalion was not directly attacked they suffered casualties of 13 killed and 18 wounded, one of whom was William Comber, who sustained injuries in the back and right thigh during the evening. He was evacuated to No. 3 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station but died of his wounds the following day.

William is buried at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Plot XI, Row C, Grave 32A.

Cooper
Harold Roy
1st Class Petty Officer
AA/1251 RNVR



Anti-Aircraft Corps, Royal Naval Air Service.
Died on the 6th of August 1917, aged 27.

Harold Roy Cooper was born in Norwood in 1891, the third son of Frederick Cooper, a merchant, and Alice Ada (née Thirkell, later Poland) Cooper. He was christened at St Mary's Church, Caterham on the 19th of May 1896.

Following the early death of his father, Harold's mother remarried and he became the stepson of Henry Gordon Poland, Lloyd's underwriter. Harold worked as a clerk for Sadler Harrison & Company, Lloyd's brokers.

He joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve as an Able Seaman on HMS President on the 11th of March 1915. He was promoted to Petty Officer on the 26th of November 1915.

Harold died of pneumonia at his parents' home, Greenlands, Buxton Lane, Caterham in Surrey.

His funeral took place at 2.30pm on the 9th of August 1917.

His stepbrother, Lance Corporal Eric Henry Poland 1/5th Battalion London Regiment (London Rifle Brigade), was killed in action on the 1st of July 1916.

He is buried at St. Mary's Church, Caterham.

Cormack
Philip Frederick
2nd Lieutenant



204 Squadron Royal Air Force. Killed in action on the 27th of October 1918.

Philip Frederick Cormack was born in Leytonstone in Essex on the 21st of August 1899, the third son of William Oliver Cormack, manager of petroleum depots, and Edith (née Deek) Cormack of 43 Junction Road, Romford in Essex and later of Hammer Vale House, Haslemere in Surrey. He was educated at Kirkdale School, Leytonstone and went to work as an insurance broker's clerk for John Poole & Sons at Lloyd's.

Philip applied for a commission in the Royal Flying Corps on the 2nd of July 1917 in an application that was supported by the Reverend G.M. Bell, Vicar of Romford. He enlisted as Aircraftsman 2nd Class 92447 in the Royal Flying Corps at the Recruits Depot South Farnborough on the 22nd of August 1917. At a medical examination which was held the same day, it was recorded that he was five feet eight inches tall and weighed 134lbs. He was posted to No. 5 Officer Cadet Wing at Halton Park on the 17th of September 1917 and was designated as fit to be a pilot on the 19th of October. He was posted to No. 2 Officer Cadet Wing on the 7th of November 1917. On the 18th of January 1918 he was posted to No. 2 School of Aeronautics after which he undertook further instruction at Hendon. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant on probation in the Royal

Flying Corps on the 7th of March 1918. On the 16th of May 1918 he joined 42 Training Squadron. Philip graduated and was confirmed in his rank on the 11th of August 1918 and was posted to 2 Fighting School the following day.

On the 2nd of September 1918, he was posted to 204 Squadron in Belgium.

At 5pm on the afternoon of the 24th of September 1918 Philip Cormack took off in one of three flights from his squadron, who had been ordered to mount an offensive patrol between Ostend and Dixmunde. They had seen little during the flight and were making for home when they spotted some anti-aircraft fire in the distance and flew towards it to investigate. Cormack, along with Lieutenants Warburton and Craig, engaged one Fokker Triplane and eight Fokker DVIIIs, all with black and white markings and white tailplanes. Warburton shot one of the enemy aircraft down where it crashed in flames, a victory which was confirmed by Cormack.

On the morning of the 27th of October 1918 Philip Cormack took off with his squadron in Sopwith Camel E4387 for a high offensive patrol. Between 9am and 10am the squadron became engaged with 30 to 40 Fokker DVIIIs of Jasta 40 and Marine Feld Jagdstaffell 2 over St Denis Western, to the south of Ghent.

Cormack
Philip Frederick
2nd Lieutenant

During the combat three 204 Squadron pilots were shot down and killed with a further two aircraft being damaged. The casualties were:

Lieutenant Hudson Grand Murray
2nd Lieutenant Alan James Ferguson Ross
2nd Lieutenant Philip Frederick Cormack
Lieutenant Mc I Gordon – wounded.

204 Squadron suffered the highest casualty rate of any Royal Air Force squadron between the 1st of September 1918 and the end of the war.

Philip's brother, 2nd Lieutenant Reginald Ormiston Cormack 15th Battalion Durham Light Infantry, was killed in action on the 1st of July 1916.

He is buried at Machelen French Military Cemetery.

Corry
Frederick Wilberforce
Private 39214



1/5th Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.
Died on the 15th of June 1918, aged 20.

Frederick Wilberforce Corry was born in 1898 in Shepherds Bush, the son of Samuel Corry, a linen manufacturer's agent, and Ellen Maria Corry of 42 Kinfauns Road, Goodmayes in Essex.

He worked for Houlder Brothers & Company Ltd, Lloyd's brokers.

Frederick enlisted in Warley as Private 5166 9th Battalion Essex Regiment, later transferring to the Gloucestershire Regiment.

He is commemorated on the Giavera Memorial.

Cossar
Norman Thomson
2nd Lieutenant



7th (Service) Battalion Rifle Brigade. Killed in action on the 15th of May 1917, aged 29.

Norman Thomson Cossar was born in Palmers Green in Middlesex on the 24th of March 1887, the eldest son of James William Cossar, manager of a shipping company, and Elizabeth Thomson Cossar of 39 Seaward Avenue, West Southbourne, Bournemouth in Hampshire. He was christened in St. Pancras on the 2nd of July 1887.

Norman worked as a clerk for Shaw, Savill & Albion & Company Ltd at Lloyd's.

He enlisted into the army as Private 464 in the 28th Battalion London Regiment (Artist's Rifles) and embarked for France on the 26th of October 1914. He later returned to England for officer training and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Rifle Brigade on the 20th of November 1915.

Norman is buried at Hibernia Trench Cemetery, Row D, Grave 19.

Cramp
Stanley Frederick
Private 9542



B Company, 2nd Battalion Honourable Artillery Company (Infantry). Killed in action on the 15th of March 1917.

Stanley Frederick Cramp was born in Bow in 1897, the son of George Cramp, the manager of a confectionary works, and Elizabeth Cramp of 122 Roding Road, Clapton. He worked as a clerk for W.E. Found & Company at Lloyd's.

He attested for service on the 3rd of June 1916 and was called up into the Honourable Artillery Company at Stratford on the 30th of November 1916. At his medical examination it was recorded that he was five feet six and a quarter inches tall and was in good health. He was posted to the 1st Reserve Battalion of his regiment on the 1st of December 1916 and began training with them on the 8th of December.

Stanley was posted to the 1st Battalion of his regiment for war service and embarked for France from Southampton on the 11th of February 1917, landing at Le Havre the following day. On his arrival there he was posted to the 2nd Battalion on the 12th of February and spent 10 days at 81 Infantry Base Depot at Le Havre before joining his battalion in the field on the 23rd of February where he was attached to B Company.

At 11am on the morning of the 15th of March 1917 orders were received at the Headquarters of the 2nd Battalion Honourable Artillery Company to send two strong patrols forward into the German-held village of Bucquoy. In spite of the protestations of the battalion's commanding officer, Colonel Ward, to the effect that the village was held in considerable strength and that any such patrol would be disastrous, the order was confirmed.

At 2pm a platoon from each of A and B Companies was sent forward, without a preparatory barrage, across a "sea of mud" in extended order, but they had advanced no more than one hundred yards before they came under heavy fire, and quickly sustained heavy casualties. Held up by uncut barbed wire, they went to ground. D Company was moved forward to assist but these men also came under heavy artillery fire as soon as they showed themselves and were ordered to retire. Meanwhile, A and B Companies were ordered to hold their ground from where they took part in a further attack on the evening of the 16th of March, after which they were relieved by a battalion of the Royal Welch Fusiliers. Bucquoy was finally captured on the 17th of March 1917.

Stanley Cramp was killed during the engagement and was originally buried at H Hébuterne but was later exhumed and moved to Gommecourt.

He is now buried at Gommecourt British Cemetery, No 2, Plot IV, Row K, Grave 14.

Crawford
Cecil James
2nd Lieutenant



**D Company, 7th Battalion Middlesex Regiment
attached to the 12th (Service) Battalion. Killed in
action on the 23rd of October 1917, aged 21.**

Cecil James Crawford was born in Wood Green in London on the 9th of February 1896, the son of John William Crawford, a Telegraphist in the Intelligence Department of the Post Office, and Annie Agnes (née Kendall) Crawford of 28 Whymark Avenue, Wood Green. He was christened on the 15th of March 1896.

Cecil was educated at Owen's School, Islington and at the Higher Grade School, Wood Green. He worked as a shipping and insurance clerk for Thomas Stephens & Sons Ltd at Lloyd's.

He enlisted at Armoury House, Finsbury as Private 5719 in the 2nd Battalion Honourable Artillery Company (Infantry) on the 26th of November 1915. Cecil transferred to the 2/28th (County of London) Battalion (Artist's Rifles) Officer Training Corps and served in D Company at Hare Hall Camp, Romford in Essex. He applied for a commission in the 7th Battalion Middlesex Regiment on the 14th of September 1916 in an application that was supported by Mr. R.P. Cholmeley, Head Master of Owen's School. He underwent a medical examination the following day where it was recorded that he was five feet ten inches tall and weighed 10 stones.

Cecil was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 2/7th Battalion Middlesex Regiment on the 24th of January 1917, later being posted to the 12th Battalion of his regiment.

He is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Panels 113 to 115.

Crook
Stanley Arthur
Rifleman 302085



1/5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade). Killed in action on the 9th of October 1916, aged 21.

Stanley Arthur Crook was born in Kilburn on the 27th of October 1894, the son of Arthur Edwin Crook, a coach trimmer, and Martha Johanna (née Bumstead) Crook of 56 Dynham Road, West Hampstead. He was christened at the Holy Trinity Church, Kilburn on the 5th of February 1895.

From the 25th of August 1902 Stanley attended Netherwood Street School in West Hampstead. He worked as a clerk for Pitman Deane & Company Ltd, Lloyd's brokers. He enlisted into the army in London.

At 11pm on the 7th of October the 1/5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade) received orders to assemble and to relieve the 1/14th Battalion London Regiment (London Scottish) who had made an unsuccessful attack at Les Boeufs earlier in the day. The assembly was complete by midnight and the men marched off in single file due to the number of shell holes and the muddy ground. They did not arrive at their destination until dawn when they crossed the ridge between Les Boeufs and Morval in full view of the enemy and under occasional fire before entering the trenches. They had lost nine men during the relief.

Within an hour of being there they received orders for A and B Companies to make an attack on the enemy-held position of 'Hazy Trench' some 600 yards in front of them. C Company was to be in support of the attack with D Company in reserve.

D Company began bringing tools, ammunition and bombs forward in preparation, during which time they suffered casualties from shell fire. Final orders were received at 1pm and zero hour was set for 3.30pm.

With all the activity in preparation for the attack having been seen by the enemy, they were well readied for the coming British assault.

As soon as A and B Companies left their trenches, flares went up from the German front line which brought down a ferocious artillery barrage on top of the London men. Under the cover of a creeping barrage from their own artillery, the two companies pushed forward for some 500 yards, at which point they came under fire from a German howitzer which was positioned some 300 yards away and which fired over open sights at them with disastrous results. The two companies were wiped out almost to a man, with very few survivors reaching the objective, where it is thought they were quickly overwhelmed as nothing more was heard of them.

Crook
Stanley Arthur
Rifleman 302085

At 4.30pm D Company was ordered into the attack to reinforce the two lead companies but was subjected to a tremendous enemy artillery barrage as soon as they showed themselves. The few men who made it through took cover in a string of shell holes in no man's land where they sheltered from the onslaught. They consolidated along this line under heavy machine gun fire, with no officers from the three lead companies having survived to lead them.

On the 9th of October, stretcher bearers spent most of the day braving the shell fire and struggling through the thick mud to rescue the wounded from the previous day. At 5pm another terrific artillery bombardment began which was followed by machine gun fire which swept the British positions. It was feared that the Germans were about to mount a counterattack but, in the event, this did not develop.

The battalion was relieved by the Royal Warwickshire Regiment at around 6.30pm and returned to Trones Wood having suffered casualties of five officers killed, three missing and 13 officer wounded with only 108 men out of 542 having survived the attack.

Stanley is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Panel and Face 9D.

Daly
Valentine Maurice
2nd Lieutenant



**30th Battalion Machine Gun Corps (Infantry). Died of
on the 20th of April 1918, aged 24.**

Valentine Maurice Daly was born in Kingsland on the 14th of February 1895, the second son of Thomas Daly, a boot maker, and Margaret Daly of 25 Cadoxton Avenue, Stamford Hill in Middlesex. He was educated at St Ignatius' College in Stamford Hill after which he worked as a clerk for Leslie & Godwin Ltd, Lloyd's brokers.

Valentine volunteered for military service in Tottenham on the 18th of January 1916. At a medical examination, which was held on the same day, it was recorded that he was five feet eight and half inches tall. He was called up and reported to Mill Hill on the 18th of February, where he enlisted as Private 12555 in the 5th Battalion Middlesex Regiment. He was sent for training to Portslade near Brighton where he was part of 6 Section, No.1 Company. Following a period of training, Valentine was posted to the Middlesex Regiment base depot on the 11th of July.

He embarked for France on the 12th of July 1916, landing there the following day where he was transferred to the Royal Sussex Regiment as Private 17733, and joined the 2nd Battalion on the 18th of July. He was promoted to unpaid Lance Corporal on the 15th of March 1917 and to Lance Corporal on the 18th of June 1917. He applied for a commission on the 12th of April 1917 and returned to the England for officer training on the 14th of June 1917.

On the 6th of July 1917 he was accepted for officer training and reported to No. 36 Depot Machine Gun Corps Training Centre at Grantham before joining No.1 Machine Gun Corps Officer Cadet Battalion at Grantham on the 1st of September. He was commissioned as s 2nd Lieutenant in the Machine Gun Corps on the 28th of November 1917.

Valentine embarked for France on the 3rd of April 1918, landing there later the same day. He arrived at Camiers on the 4th of April and joined the 30th Battalion Machine Gun Corps in the field on the 8th of April 1918.

On the 13th of April 1918 he was admitted to 94 Field Ambulance suffering from a gunshot wound to the head and was admitted to 15 Casualty Clearing Station later the same day. On the 14th of April he was transferred to 5 British Red Cross Hospital at Wimereaux.

His sister, Margaret, received the following telegram dated the 15th of April 1918:

"You are permitted to visit 2/Lt V.M. Daly 30th Bttn MGC dangerously ill at 5 Red Cross Hospital Wimereaux. You must produce this telegram at War Office (Officer's Casualty Dept.) for exchange for permit. If you wish to substitute another name for visit your written authority must be attached to telegram."

Daly
Valentine Maurice
2nd Lieutenant

She then received the following telegram dated the 21st of April 1918:

“Deeply regret 5 Red cross Hospital Wimereaux reports
2 Lt V.M. Daly MGC died 9.30pm twentieth April.
The Army Council express their sympathy.”

Valentine is buried at Wimereux Communal Cemetery,
Plot IV, Row B, Grave 2.

Dando
Warren
Private 204498



2/1st (County of London) Battalion (Royal Fusiliers).
Killed in action on the 16th of June 1917, aged 19.

Warren Dando was born in Straits Settlement, Singapore, the second son of John William Dando, a traveller for Messrs. Robinson and Co Ltd Singapore, and Lois Frances (née Gurney) Dando later of 'Singapore', Beacon Road, St Peter's, Broadstairs in Kent. He was educated at Malden College in Surrey as a boarder.

Warren worked for the Daily Index Branch of the Lloyd's Staff. He enlisted into the army at Whitehall and lived in Stoke Newington.

On the 14th of June 1917 the 2/1st (County of London) Battalion (Royal Fusiliers) received orders to make two attacks on German positions on the Hindenburg Line. C Company was to attack at Ecoist Croiselles on the night of the 14th/15th of June with A, B and D Companies attacking the following evening.

On the night of the 14th of June C Company assembled at 'Tiger Trench' and attacked at 2.50am on the 15th, quickly gaining their objective and pushing on beyond it.

Later the same day, after darkness had fallen, the remainder of the battalion gathered at a railway embankment before receiving orders at 11pm to move forward to Tiger Trench. They were to attack in one wave

and take the German first line. If this was successful they were to attack the enemy second line, with any further move forward to be left to the discretion of the officers on the ground. Any men from C Company, who had attacked 24 hours earlier, were to be absorbed into the remainder of the battalion. The attack began at 2.50am behind a short barrage and the first German line was taken at 3am. A few survivors from C Company were found at their objective with just 17 men and a Vickers machine gun holding some 350 yards of line. As the men began advancing towards the second enemy line, some direction was lost, with the result that while D Company, on the right of the attack, reached the enemy line, B Company on the left were held up and took cover in a string of shell holes short of the enemy trenches at around 5.25am. A Company, in the middle of the attack, also captured their objective but the battalions either side had failed in their attack which left a gap in the Brigade line.

At about 5.55am a wounded signaller from the Company returned to say that the objective had been taken although a Lewis gun had been knocked out shortly after having wiped out a group of enemy infantry who were counterattacking. He also reported that 2nd Lieutenant Wiggin was holding a line in spite of being wounded in the ankle.

The remaining officers also set about organising the consolidation of their gains but were hampered by the large number of casualties they had taken during the

Dando
Warren
Private 204498

advance. The enemy counterattacked during the rest of the day and into the evening, firing barrages of rifle grenades to keep the defenders' heads down while their bombers crept closer. Due to the state of the ground, which had been badly cut up by the shelling, it proved difficult to see the enemy bombers before they were close enough to throw their stick grenades. Added to this, enemy snipers on the flanks also proved a menace. Before long the supply of bombs gave out and the Lewis guns had all been put out of action. At 3pm, with their numbers depleted, small parties of London men began to fall back to a sunken road and the wounded were concentrated at Battalion Headquarters. Enemy snipers had now crept very close and a number of men were shot as they fell back or gathered the wounded. The battalion was relieved at daybreak on the 17th of June.

Warren is commemorated on the Singapore Cenotaph, and on the Arras Memorial, Bay 9.

Daniels
William Edward
Corporal 115586



146th Company, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry).
Killed in action on the 10th of January 1918.

William Edward Daniels was born in Bermondsey, the son of William Thomas Daniels, a leather dresser, and Ellen Elizabeth Daniels of 3 Morden Street, Greenwich.

He worked for S.I. Da Costa & Sons at Lloyd's and enlisted into the army at Greenwich.

William is buried at Oxford Road Cemetery, Plot III, Row A, Grave 19.

Davis
John North
Rifleman 394733



9th (County of London) Battalion (Queen Victoria's Rifles) attached to A Company, 1/15th (County of London) Battalion (Prince of Wales' Own Civil Service Rifles). Killed in action on the 1st of September 1918, aged 19.

John North Davis was born in Epping in Essex on the 20th of April 1899, the only son of Alfred Brimley Davis, a stationer, and Ethel (née North) Davis of 1 Bower Hill, Epping. He was educated at Loughton School and worked as a clerk for C.E. Heath & Company at Lloyd's.

He enlisted at London in the 9th Battalion London Regiment (Queen Victoria's Rifles) on the 1st of May 1917 and served in France from March 1918. John was later attached to the A Company, 1/15th (County of London) Battalion (Prince of Wales' Own Civil Service Rifles) and saw action in the British offensive of the 8th of August 1918.

On the 1st of September 1918 the 1/15th (County of London) Battalion (Prince of Wales' Own Civil Service Rifles) was detailed to attack the enemy-held village of Rancourt. The battalion assembled for the attack between the Le Forest-Rancourt Road and the road from Rancourt at Marrieres Wood, about three quarters of a mile from the village. In spite of losing a few casualties from shelling while they moved up to the assembly point, the battalion was in place at 5am with the attack being set for 5.30am.

C and D Companies were to lead the attack with A and B Companies in support. Following a five-minute bombardment by supporting artillery, the lead companies of the battalion moved forward at the appointed hour. The attack was very successful with prisoners being sent down the line within ten minutes of the advance. By 7.30am all objectives had been taken and were being consolidated. Yet while they were consolidating their gains, B and D Companies came under attack from a German field gun which fired at them over open sights causing a number of casualties. The battalion also repelled a counterattack on their right, which they fought off with a Lewis gun and rifle fire.

They were relieved at 11.30pm having captured 150 enemy prisoners during the day. A comrade wrote of John:

"He was one of the coolest fellows under shell fire I have ever seen".

John is buried at Peronne Communal Cemetery, Extension Plot I, Row C, Grave 43.

De Rougemont
Maurice Henry
2nd Lieutenant



D Company, 2nd Battalion Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment). Killed in action on the 16th of May 1915, aged 25.

Maurice Henry De Rougemont was born at Sunderland Lodge, Westbourne Gardens on the 12th of June 1889, the only son of Arthur Francis De Rougemont, an insurance broker, and Janet Emma (née Hayter) De Rougemont of 5 Gloucester Terrace, Hyde Park in London. He was christened at St. Mary Magdalene Church in Paddington on the 15th of July 1889.

Maurice was educated at Charterhouse School from 1903 to 1907 and at Lausanne in 1908. He worked for Choisy De Rougemont & Company at Lloyd's.

In 1909 he enlisted in the 28th Battalion London Regiment (Artist's Rifles), rising to the rank of Sergeant, and he embarked for France with them on the 28th of October 1914.

Maurice applied for a commission and went through the Officer's School of Instruction in Bailleul before being commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant on the General List on the 27th of January 1915 and was attached to the 2nd Battalion Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).

On the 16th of May 1915 the 2nd Battalion Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment) was in trenches to the right of Rue des Cailloux near Festubert. They were ordered to attack the enemy lines opposite as part of a wider operation designed to take the pressure off their comrades fighting further north at Ypres. At 2.45am an artillery bombardment of the German front line began and continued for half an hour before half of A Company rushed over the top of their trenches and across no man's land. Yet as soon as their heads came above the parapet they came under accurate and sustained rifle fire from the German trenches, which seemed unaffected by the artillery. In spite of intense fire and mounting casualties the remainder of A Company and part of C Company followed their comrades towards the enemy line. The remainder of C Company and D Company were on their heels, and they forced the Germans out of their positions, shooting them down as they ran. The remaining Surrey men then crossed two more German lines, advancing some 800 yards before reaching their final objective at 6am. It was impossible to consolidate this new position in daylight and the survivors were subjected to heavy German artillery fire for the rest of the day. At 7.30pm they fell back to the old German first line.

De Rougemont
Maurice Henry
2nd Lieutenant

During the fighting, Maurice De Rougemont, his servant and two other men became separated from their company. After attending to some wounded in a nearby trench, they came across men from C Company which had lost all its officers. It was while leading this group that Maurice was shot as he was climbing the parapet of a German trench.

Casualties for the battalion were heavy, with 11 officers being killed or dying of their wounds, plus nine officers wounded out of the original 22 who had begun the advance. 153 other ranks were also killed, with 231 wounded and 45 men missing from the 773 men who had begun the attack.

Maurice's servant wrote: "It was on Sunday morning, the 16th of May at about 3.30pm, that we got the order for D and C Companies to advance. First of all, we advanced into an old trench with 2nd Lieutenant De Rougemont taking the lead; then secondly from there we advanced and lay down besides a trench, which was full of wounded from A and B Companies. Looking round we found that the company had lost us. Only 2nd Lieutenant De Rougemont and two men beside myself were there, so we assisted in bandaging the wounded until one of our comrades got killed. We then crawled to the left and found C Company, who had lost all their officers, so the first thought of 2nd Lieutenant De Rougemont was to get forward. We advanced again, C Company following, and as we were

getting over the German parapet 2nd Lieutenant De Rougemont got shot through the arm and chest and fell inside the trench. He never murmured."

An officer wrote of Maurice: "He was an excellent officer and very much liked by his men. His loss is a great trouble to them."

Another wrote: "If there is one thing that can help you in your loss, it will be knowing that he died doing his duty like a man and leading his platoon over the German trenches. He was shot when on top of the parapet."

Maurice is buried at Guards' Cemetery Cuincy, Plot III, Row V, Grave 11.

Denny
Leon Serena
Captain



1st (King's) Dragoon Guards. Killed in action on the 13th of May 1915, aged 38.

Leon Serena Denny was born in Dumbarton in Scotland in 1877, the second son of William Denny, a shipbuilder, and Lelia Mathilda (née Serena) Denny of Helenslee in Dumbarton.

He was educated at Clifton College from September 1888 to December 1894, where he was a member of the Junior VI and a member of the Bisley VIII.

Leon lived at 7 Welbeck House, Wigmore Street, was an Underwriting Member of Lloyd's and was a member of the Cavalry Club, Piccadilly.

He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 3rd Battalion Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment (Militia) on the 10th of February 1897 and transferred to the 1st (King's) Dragoon Guards on the 4th of January 1899 with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. Leon served in South Africa, where he was wounded on the 29th of March 1901 at Ventersburg and was awarded the Queen's medal with five clasps. On the 18th of July 1901 he was seconded for service with the Staff.

Leon was promoted to Lieutenant on the 3rd of September 1902 and to Captain on the 5th of April 1905. He resigned his commission on the 21st of April 1906 and moved to the Reserve of Officers.

Following the outbreak of war he was mobilised and appointed to the rank of Captain on the 29th of August 1914. He was posted to the 1st (King's) Dragoon Guards and went to France on the 23rd of October 1914.

Leon is commemorated on the war memorial at St Augustine's Episcopal Church in Dumbarton. His older brother, Captain Peter Robert Denny 1st (King's) Dragoon Guards attached 11th Hussars, was killed in action at Grootfontein, South Africa on the 24th of April 1900.

He is commemorated on the Menin Gate, Panel 3.

Dewar
James Evan
2nd Lieutenant



1/5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade). Killed in action on the 8th of October 1916, aged 29.

James Evan Dewar was born at 1 Colinette Road, Putney on the 1st of December 1886, the son of James Dewar, a corn merchant and Member of the Baltic Exchange, and Edith (née Evans) Dewar of 1 Colinette Road, Putney. He was christened on the 16th of January 1887 at St Mary's Church, Putney.

James was educated at Parkfield School, Haywards Heath and at Haileybury College from January 1901 until December 1903. He was granted the Freedom of the City of London on the 1st of January 1901, was a member of the Worshipful Company of Haberdashers and worked as an insurance broker for E Capel Cure & Company Ltd, Lloyd's brokers. He competed for several years with the London Rowing Club, where he rowed as bow during victories at Walton, Kingston, the Metropolitan, Molesey and Staines. In 1909 he was a member of the London grand eight at Henley and of the Wyfold four. In 1910 and 1911, James sculled at Henley for 'Diamonds' and in 1910 he won the senior sculls at Kingston. He was married to Phyllis Catherine (née Cooke) at St John's Church, Putney, on the 26th of October 1911, and they lived at 27 Rusholme Road, Putney. They had two children: Catherine, born on the 22nd of August 1912, and James born on the 19th of July 1914.

James enlisted as Private 8053 in the Inns of Court Officer Training Corps at 10 Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn on the 1st of December 1915. He was appointed to the rank of unpaid Lance Corporal on the 7th of July 1916. He was sent for training at Berkhamsted from where he applied for a commission in the 3/5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade) on the 29th of March 1916 in an application which was supported by Thomas Miles MP. At a medical examination held on the 5th of April it was recorded that he was five feet eight inches tall and weighed 148lbs. He volunteered for overseas service at Berkhamsted on the 27th of April. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the battalion on the 8th of July 1916 and embarked for France on the 21st of September 1916 where he joined the 1/5th Battalion of his regiment in the field on the 1st of October while they were in support lines at Guillemont on the Somme. The following day the battalion entered the trenches at Les Boeufs and spent their time digging a communication trench until they were relieved on the 4th and returned to Divisional Reserve between Trones Wood and Bernafay Wood.

At 11pm on the 7th of October the 1/5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade) received orders to assemble and to relieve the 1/14th Battalion London Regiment (London Scottish) who had made an unsuccessful attack at Les Boeufs earlier in the day. The assembly was complete by midnight and the men marched off in single file due to the number of shell holes and the muddy ground.

Dewar
James Evan
2nd Lieutenant

They did not arrive at their destination until dawn when they crossed the ridge between Les Boeufs and Morval in full view of the enemy and under occasional fire before entering the trenches. They had lost nine men during the relief.

Within an hour of being there they received orders for A and B Companies to make an attack on the enemy-held position of 'Hazy Trench' some 600 yards in front of them. C Company was to be in support of the attack with D Company in reserve.

D Company began bringing tools, ammunition and bombs forward in preparation, during which time they suffered casualties from shell fire. Final orders were received at 1pm and zero hour was set for 3.30pm.

With all the activity in preparation for the attack having been seen by the enemy, they were well readied for the coming British assault.

As soon as A and B Companies left their trenches, flares went up from the German front line which brought down a ferocious artillery barrage on top of the London men. Under the cover of a creeping barrage from their own artillery, the two companies pushed forward for some 500 yards, at which point they came under fire from a German howitzer which was positioned some 300 yards away and which fired over open sights at them with disastrous results.

The two companies were wiped out almost to a man, with very few survivors reaching the objective, where it is thought they were quickly overwhelmed as nothing more was heard of them.

At 4.30pm D Company was ordered into the attack to reinforce the two lead companies but was subjected to a tremendous enemy artillery barrage as soon as they showed themselves. The few men who made it through took cover in a string of shell holes in no man's land where they sheltered from the onslaught. They consolidated along this line under heavy machine gun fire, with no officers from the three lead companies having survived to lead them.

The battalion was relieved by the Royal Warwickshire Regiment at around 6.30pm the following day and returned to Trones Wood having suffered casualties of five officers killed, three missing and 13 officers wounded, with only 108 men out of 542 having survived the attack. John Dewar was among the missing. He was officially declared as dead on the 11th of May 1917.

John is commemorated on the war memorial at Haileybury College.

He is also commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Pier and Face 9D.

Dixey
Leicester Albert
Rifleman 301329



1/5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade). Killed in action on the 1st of July 1916, aged 23.

Leicester Albert Dixey was born in Finchley, the son of Gilbert Gent Dixey, an office manager, and Elisa (née Cortes) Dixey of Elmdene, East End Lane, Finchley in Middlesex, later of 1 Lansdowne Place, Hove in Sussex. He was christened on the 30th of September 1894 at St. Mary's Church, Finchley. His parents divorced on the 9th of December 1907.

Leicester worked for Howard Houlder & Partners Ltd at Lloyd's.

He enlisted into the army in London and embarked for France on the 28th of October 1915.

The 1st of July 1916 was the opening day of the Battle of the Somme and the 1/5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade) was given the task of capturing the enemy-held village of Gommecourt. The British artillery had been bombarding the enemy lines along the line of attack for a week but at zero hour, 7.30am, they unleashed a terrific bombardment on the enemy line opposite which would be their objective. Covered by smoke, which had been released to cover their advance, the men left the cover of their trenches and, in spite of their casualties,

crossed no man's land and captured the enemy trenches, gathering a large number of prisoners. It soon became evident, however, that the attack by the neighbouring Division had failed and soon all the German artillery was concentrated against the London Division. No man's land was saturated with shell fire which meant that runners carrying messages calling for extra bombs and ammunition could not get through. Heavy German counterattacks followed and soon the defenders' bombs ran out and they were pushed back, trench by trench. By the evening most of the surviving members of the battalion were making their way back across no man's land.

Casualties for the attack totalled eight officers killed, with ten wounded and one missing and over 500 other ranks killed wounded or missing, out of an original attacking strength of 23 officers and 803 other ranks.

Leicester is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Pier and Face 9D.

Druery
Dudley Victor
2nd Lieutenant



1/13th (County of London) Battalion (Kensington) attached to the 2/2nd (County of London) Battalion (Royal Fusiliers). Died of wounds on the 18th of October 1918.

Dudley Victor Druery was born at Craigleith, Piersfield Road in Putney on the 14th of November 1897, the third son of Henry Druery, an architect and surveyor, and Cecile Clara Louise (née Sargant) Druery, later of End House, Salisbury Road, Woking in Surrey. He was christened at Holy Trinity Church, Wandsworth on the 9th of January 1898.

Dudley was a pupil and chorister of Salisbury Cathedral Chorister School from the 29th of April 1907 to January 1913 and went on to Clark's College from 1913 to 1914. He worked as a clerk for Price Forces & Company, Lloyd's brokers, from 1914 and was assistant Scoutmaster of the 1st East Putney Scouts.

He enlisted at Kingston-upon-Thames as Private 5981 in the 3/13th (County of London) Battalion (Kensington) on the 30th of May 1916 and was posted to Reigate for training on the 17th of June where he joined A Company and was in the Signal Section. He applied for a commission in the battalion on the 4th of January 1917 and joined No. 1 Officer Cadet Battalion at Newton Ferrers on the 12th of February 1917. Dudley was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in his old battalion on the 29th of May 1917.

In September 1917 he was riding a faulty bicycle at Dunstable when he fell and injured his knee. A Medical Board sat at Shoreham on the 29th of January 1918 to consider his case and reported:

"He has now completely recovered. His left knee was cut and he carried on for 6 weeks. Wound was suppurating X-ray showed no fracture. The knee has become quite strong."

In April 1918, Dudley was attached to the 2/2nd (County of London) Battalion (Royal Fusiliers) and joined them in the field, along with 12 other officers, at Neuilly as a replacement for the losses the battalion had suffered during the German spring offensive in March.

A major British attack was planned for the 8th of August 1918, and the 2/2nd Battalion London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers) was to be in support of an offensive on the enemy-held village of Chipilly. On the night of the 7th of August the battalion moved into positions in a valley which ran to the north of Sailly-le-Sec.

At 4.20am the following morning the British artillery began its preparatory bombardment of the village and at the same time British tanks began moving slowly forward in a thick mist. They were followed shortly afterwards by the infantry, but direction was soon lost in the fog and the men became badly mixed up with elements of the neighbouring brigade.

Druery
Dudley Victor
2nd Lieutenant

Although the mist began to clear at around 8.30am it was not until the 2/22nd Londons arrived that some order began to be restored. Lieutenant Colonel Miller, their commanding officer, soon re-organised the attack and shortly afterwards Mallard Wood was cleared of the enemy, but further movement towards the village was considered impossible without the support of artillery or tanks, of which none were available. The artillery began firing on Chipilly Ridge as planned and small numbers of the initial assaulting troops are known to have moved forward behind it but none are thought to have got as far forward as the ridge.

The village itself remained firmly in enemy hands and in the afternoon it was decided that the 2/22nd Londons would make the final attack on it. Reports had been received that some British troops may have gained a foothold in the village and so there was to be no support from the artillery for the battalion attack for fear of causing casualties to British troops. At 3pm the battalion attacked towards Chipilly Ridge and immediately came under very heavy machine gun fire from both the village itself and from Gressaire Wood on their left. In spite of this the men pressed forward and reached the western slopes of the ridge, but their position was too exposed and, with casualties mounting, they were forced to fall back to the cover of Mallard Wood. An attack by another battalion later in the day also failed.

Dudley Druery was badly wounded during the attack and was evacuated to the rear where he died over two months later at No.8 General Hospital at Rouen.

He is commemorated on the war memorial at Woking.

Dudley is buried at St. Sever Cemetery, Extension Plot , Row H, Grave 11.

Dumbell
Leslie Sydney
Lance Corporal 107



**A Company, 17th Battalion Royal Fusiliers
(City of London Regiment). Killed in action
on the 7th of June 1916.**

Leslie Sydney Dumbell was born in Forest Gate in Essex on the 12th of December 1893, the youngest son of John Blackhouse Dumbell VD, a cotton inspection agent, and Isabella (née Austin) Dumbell of 51 Hamfrith Road, Stepney.

He worked as a marine clerk for H.G. Sicklemore Esq. at Lloyd's and was a member of Clapton Football Club.

He was married in Ilford to Alice (née Cutler) and lived in Chiswick.

Leslie enlisted into the army in London in November 1914 and embarked with his battalion from Folkestone on the 16th of November 1915, arriving at Boulogne at 3pm the following day.

On the 6th of June 1916 the 17th Battalion Royal Fusiliers entered trenches at Berthoval. The following day Leslie Dumbell was killed at a sap while on a wiring party.

He is buried at Zouave Valley Cemetery, Plot II, Row C, Grave 5.

Dupree
Robert Edward
Rifleman 554270



1/16th (County of London) Battalion (Queen's Westminster Rifles). Died of wounds on the 17th of June 1918, aged 19.

Robert Edward Dupree was born in Leytonstone in 1899, the son of Robert Dupree, a wire worker, and Emma (née Lines) Dupree of 82 Malvern Road, Leytonstone.

He worked for C.A. Hewitt Esq. at Lloyd's and enlisted into the army in Leyton.

On the 30th of May 1918 the 1/16th (County of London) Battalion (Queen's Westminster Rifles) relieved the 1/1st (County of London) Battalion (Royal Fusiliers) in trenches at Telegraph Hill near Dainville. During their tour of the front line they came under intermittent heavy shelling and lost their commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel PM Glazier, on the 2nd of June. The trenches were subjected to attack by low-flying enemy aircraft during the day and they suffered aerial bombing at night. During this time Robert Dupree was wounded and was evacuated to the rear but died on the day the battalion was relieved.

He is buried at Duisans British Cemetery, Plot VI, Row G, Grave 25.

Durling
Cecil Thomas
Rifleman 682694



2/22nd (County of London) Battalion (The Queen's).
Died of wounds on the 14th of March 1918, aged 22.

Cecil Thomas Durling was born in Brentwood in Essex in 1895, the only child of Thomas Walter Durling, a house painter, and Elizabeth (née Broid) Durling of 16 Gresham Road, Brentwood.

In 1911 he was working as an auctioneer's clerk but by the outbreak of war he was working for Leslie and Godwin Ltd, Lloyd's brokers.

On the 19th of November 1915, Cecil underwent a medical examination for the army at 130 Bunhill Row, London, which was conducted by Lieutenant A. H. Platt RAMC. It was recorded that he was five feet eight inches tall and in fair health. He enlisted at Bunhill Row on the 27th of November 1915 as Rifleman 3514 in the 5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade) but transferred on the 6th of June 1916 to become Rifleman 5498 in the 2/22nd (County of London) Battalion (The Queen's). Cecil embarked for the front with his battalion from Southampton on the 24th of June 1916 on board the troopship Caesarea, and landed at Le Havre the following day. On the 30th of June the battalion went into the line at Écurie and served in France until they were ordered to Salonica.

He embarked with his battalion at Marseilles on board the SS Megantic on the 15th of December 1916 and disembarked at Salonica on the 21st of December, where they marched to Unchantar Camp. On the 17th of January 1917 they entered the line at Saisali near Lake Doiran and served at Salonica until they were ordered to the Middle East. On the 17th of June 1917, Cecil embarked with his battalion from Salonica on board HMT Minnetonka and disembarked at Alexandria on the 20th of June where they moved by train to Ismilia, from where they next marched to Moascar Camp. On the 11th of July the battalion entrained for the front in Palestine, arriving at Deir-el-Belah the same day. They spent much of the next few weeks in training until entering the line once more at Gaza Shelia on the 20th of October 1917.

On the 7th of November 1917 the battalion took part in an attack on Turkish positions at Tel-El-Sheria, capturing four enemy field guns and two machine guns at a cost of two officers killed and three wounded with 19 other ranks killed and 99 wounded.

Cecil was admitted to the 2/6th London Field Ambulance on the 25th of November 1917 and returned to his unit on the 1st of December. At 5.30am on the morning of the 8th of March 1918 the battalion moved into position for an attack on Khel Aujah. The attack went forward at dawn and, in spite of being initially held up by enemy sniper fire, the troops carried out their objective at 3pm and dug in.

Durling
Cecil Thomas
Rifleman 682694

At 9.45pm on the morning of the 10th of March 1918, enemy 77mm artillery fire fell on the London positions and Cecil Durling was wounded in the abdomen by shrapnel. He was evacuated and admitted to 66 Casualty Clearing Station where he died four days later.

He is buried at Jerusalem War Cemetery, Row S, Grave 83.

Eberli
John Frederick
2nd Lieutenant



2nd Battalion Royal Irish Regiment attached to the attached to the 49th Trench Mortar Battery. Died of on the 16th of August 1917.

John "Jack" Frederick Eberli was born at 33 Balfour Road, Islington on the 13th of March 1894, the third son of Johann Jacob Eberli, an insurance broker, and Harriette Ada Lucy (née Perryman) Eberli, later of 42 Highbury New Park in Middlesex. He was christened at St. Paul's Church, Balls Pond in Islington on the 8th of June 1894.

John was educated at Merchant Taylors' School from January 1907 to 1910. On leaving education, he travelled firstly to Vienna and later to Switzerland before going to work as a clerk for L Hammond & Company Ltd, Lloyd's brokers.

John enlisted at 10 Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn as Private 6/2/5504 in the Inns of Court Officer Training Corps on the 9th of August 1915 and was sent for training at Berkhamstead, during which time he was promoted to Lance Corporal. On the 31st of December 1915 he applied for a commission in the Special Reserve of Officers and underwent a medical examination on the 8th of December. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion Royal Irish Regiment on the 22nd of April 1916 and was attached to the 2nd Battalion of his regiment for war service. He saw service in Dublin in 1916 and later went to France where he was attached to the 49th Trench Mortar Battery.

John was severely wounded at St. Julien and died from shock and loss of blood on his way to a Casualty Clearing Station.

His father received the following telegram dated the 17th of August 1917:

"Deeply regret to inform you 2/Lt J.F. Eberli died of wounds August sixteenth. The Army Council express their sympathy."

John is buried at Brandhoek New Military Cemetery, No 3 Plot II, Row D, Grave 1.

Elmslie
Kenward Wallace
Lieutenant



**4th (Royal Irish) Dragoon Guards. Killed in action
on the 4th of November 1914, aged 25.**

Kenward Wallace Elmslie was born in Twickenham in Middlesex on the 21st of May 1889, the second son of Kenward Wallace Elmslie, an average adjuster, and Annie Maude (née Funnell) Elmslie of May Place, Broom Road, Hampton Wick in Middlesex. He was educated at King's College Cambridge from 1906 where he achieved LLB, after which he worked as a barrister at law and was a member of the Inner Temple. He was an Associate Member of Lloyd's.

Kenward was commissioned as a probationary 2nd Lieutenant in the 4th (Royal Irish) Dragoon Guards, Special Reserve on the 12th of May 1909 and was confirmed in his rank on the 21st of December 1906. He was promoted to Lieutenant on the 12th of May 1914.

Following the outbreak of war, Kenward was mobilised and embarked for France on the 16th of September 1914 where he joined his regiment and was placed in command of the machine gun detachment.

On the 30th of October 1914 the 4th (Royal Irish) Dragoon Guards arrived at Messines, where they were to be in of support the 1st Cavalry Brigade. The regiment established itself, building barricades and occupying positions in buildings in the southeast of the village.

They were shelled during the night of the 3rd of November and by morning supporting troops either side of the village were seen to be falling back. Trenches had been dug further back at Wolverghem in case a retirement became necessary and, under the cover of B Squadron who were manning the barricades, the rest of the regiment fell back to the new defensive line. During the fighting for the village and the subsequent retirement the regiment sustained casualties of two officers killed with four wounded and 40 other ranks left killed, wounded, or missing.

The enemy had been reinforced and appeared in great numbers, advancing on the new trench line. They broke through the British line on the Wolverghem-Messines Road and B Squadron was sent to recapture and hold the lost position.

Meanwhile, the rest of the regiment was once more forced back and occupied a line which had formerly been held by French infantry. Here the shelling from German howitzers became intense and waves of enemy infantry attacks followed. Kenward Elmslie was killed by a shrapnel burst early in the attack and command of the machine section fell to Sergeant George William Woodland who, although in an isolated position, halted the attacks of a German battalion on two occasions. For his gallantry Sergeant Woodland was recommended for the Victoria Cross but received the Distinguished Conduct Medal instead.

Elmslie
Kenward Wallace
Lieutenant

Kenward's father received the following telegram dated the 7th of November 1914:

"Deeply regret to inform you that Lieut. K.W. Elmslie 4 D Guards was killed in action 4 November. No further details. Lord Kitchener expresses his sympathy."

Lieutenant N. Thwaites, 4th Dragoon Guards wrote the following to Kenward's mother in a letter dated the 13th of November 1914:

"I had heard of his being wounded on the same day I was hit. Later I heard he was killed."

Major H.S. Sewell also wrote to Kenward's mother in a letter dated the 13th of December 1914:

"On morning of Nov 3rd the Regt were holding... just west of Messines... one of the first shells burst just over the gun your son was with, he was mortally wounded and died very soon afterwards... your son was buried where he fell."

Lieutenant Colonel Dietz, 4th Reserve Regiment of Cavalry wrote:

"I have just had a letter from Thwaites who has returned wounded. He says "Poor Elmslie was killed the same day I was hit and Norman Ramsay died two hours after being struck by a fragment of shell."

Kenward is commemorated on the war memorial at the Inner Temple and on the memorial at King's College Cambridge, as well as on the Menin Gate, Panels 3-5.

Emslie Peter
Regimental Sergeant
Major 11625 DCM
Medaille Militaire (France)



Scots Guards attached to the 1/28th (County of London) Battalion (Artist's Rifles). Killed in action on the 23rd of August 1918, aged 46.

Peter Emslie was born in Linlithgow in 1873, the son of Peter Emslie of 27 Elder Street, Edinburgh.

He attested for the Scots Guards at Edinburgh on the 15th of September 1881 and at his medical examination it was recorded that he was five feet nine and one quarter inches tall with a sallow complexion, grey eyes and dark brown hair. His application was approved on the 18th of September and he travelled to London where he enlisted as Guardsman 9158 in the 3rd Battalion Scots Guards on the 21st of September 1891 for a period of five years, giving his occupation as an engineer. He had previously served in the Submarine Miners, Royal Engineer Volunteers. On the 9th of September 1892, Peter was convicted of being drunk and absent from his barracks in London, for which he received a verbal admonishment from the Colonel of the battalion on the 11th of September.

Peter was married in Lambeth to Helen Anne (née Moon) on the 17th of June 1898; they had two children, Helen Anne born in Caterham on the 10th of January 1899, and Elizabeth Janet born in London on the 20th of December 1900.

Peter was promoted to Lance Corporal on the 19th of April 1893 and to Corporal on the 8th of August 1895. He was further promoted to Lance Sergeant on the 30th of June

1896 and to Sergeant on the 14th of October 1897, which was antedated to the 3rd of October. On the 4th of June 1898 Peter extended his period of service to 12 years.

He was promoted to Colour Sergeant 11625 on the 7th of March 1900 and transferred to the 2nd Battalion on the 31st of March 1900. On the 1st of April 1903 he was promoted to Junior Drill Sergeant and transferred back to the 3rd Battalion.

On the 11th of April 1903 he re-engaged to complete 21 years with the army.

On the 1st of October 1906 he was promoted to Drill Sergeant and transferred to the 2nd Battalion. He was promoted to Sergeant Instructor on the 11th of October 1907.

On the 24th of July 1912, Peter applied for a transfer to the 28th (County of London) Battalion (Artist's Rifles) of the Territorial Army, with the following recommendation attached to his application from Colonel Cuthbert, Officer Commanding the Scots Guards:

"Colour Sergeant Peter Emslie is a most invaluable instructor in this battalion, hardworking, painstaking and thoroughly reliable. He is especially excellent as Drill Instructor and I strongly recommend that his application be favourably considered."

He transferred on the 14th of September 1912.

Emslie Peter
Regimental Sergeant Major 11625
DCM Medaille Militaire (France)

Peter was discharged from the army on the 31st of July 1914 with the rank of Colour Sergeant with both the Long Service and Good Conduct Medals. He was a member of the Rosemary Lodge No. 2851 of the Freemasons.

On the 17th of July 1914, Captain A. S Blackwood, Adjutant of the Artist's Rifles wrote on his discharge papers:

"A thoroughly trustworthy, painstaking and industrious N.C.O., who has given every satisfaction in his present position, and is fully qualified for any appointment in civilian life. He is temperate in his habits, is of a very tactful disposition and is really conscientious in the execution of his duties. He is in possession of a 1st Class Certificate for gymnastics and fencing."

On leaving the army, Peter worked on the Lloyd's Staff as Assistant Caller.

Following the outbreak of war he was mobilised with the Artist's Rifles and, after a period of training at St Albans, he embarked for France with his battalion on the 26th of October 1914.

He was awarded the Medaille Militaire by the Government of France which was announced by the War Office on the 24th of February 1916.

Peter was also awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal on the 14th of January 1916, the citation for which appeared in the London Gazette of the 10th of March 1916 and reads:

"For conspicuously good and devoted work since the commencement of the campaign as an Instructor of Cadet Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers. He has invariably displayed great ability and energy in the performance of his duties, and has always been ready to undertake any work, however difficult or hazardous."

On the 21st of August 1918 the 1/28th (County of London) Battalion (Artist's Rifles) was in support of a Divisional attack at Fonquevillers. Supported themselves by a heavy British artillery barrage, they moved forward in thick mist in support of another battalion. The leading battalion lost direction with the result that the Artist's Rifles soon found themselves in the front of the advance as they had passed though the leading battalion without seeing them. On the 23rd of August the Commanding Officer, the Adjutant, Captain Barnett and Peter Emslie were killed.

The Battalion history records: "We sustained our most deeply regretted casualty in the death of RSM Peter Emslie, who was ever a magnificent stand by in the line, where his courageous efficiency rendered him at all times invaluable."

Peter is buried at Serre Road Cemetery, No. 2 Plot X, Row G, Grave 11.

English
Robert Ernest
Captain



1/1st North Somerset Yeomanry. Killed in action on the 13th of May 1915, aged 31.

Robert Ernest English was born in Kimberley in the Cape Colony on the 6th of November 1883, the second son of Robert English, a gentleman, and Mary Ann English of 21 Portman Square, Marylebone.

He was educated at Harrow School where he was in West Acre from 1897 to 1901 after which he went on to Magdalen College, Oxford in 1902 where he took a great interest in the Magdalen College Mission. Robert worked as an insurance broker, was an Underwriting Member of Lloyd's and lived at 58 great Cumberland Place, Hyde Park in London. He was a member of the Bath Club and was devoted to all kinds of shooting and fishing. In 1913 he went to Nairobi for big game shooting.

Robert was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the North Somerset Yeomanry on the 5th of April 1909 and was promoted to Lieutenant on the 24th of August 1912. He was further promoted to Captain on the 12th of September 1914. He embarked for France with his regiment on board the SS Rosetti on the 2nd of November 1914, disembarking at Le Havre at 3pm the following day.

He saw action at Zillebeke near Ypres.

At 8pm on the 12th of May 1915 the 1/1st North Somerset Yeomanry, consisting of 16 officers and 320 men, moved into trenches between the north end of Bellewaarde village and Bellewaarde Farm. The trenches were found to be in a very poor state of repair, being shallow and prone to flooding if attempts were made to deepen them. In addition, the supply of sand bags had run out, making the construction of parapets impossible. There were no proper communication trenches and the field of fire was poor.

At 1am on the morning of the 13th of May a message was received from the General Officer Commanding that the line held by the 1st and 3rd Cavalry Divisions must be held at all costs. At 4am a heavy artillery bombardment was opened on the Cavalry's positions and by 4.45am communication to the rear had been cut.

At 8.35am a message was received at Headquarters from the North Somerset Yeomanry which reported that following a heavy bombardment of their positions by enemy artillery, a mass infantry attack had been made against their line which had been driven back, but not without the loss of nearly the whole of their right hand squadron. At 1.30pm the Royal Dragoons was sent to reinforce the Yeomanry, but their lines had been bombarded so heavily that their trenches were practically obliterated. It was impossible to evacuate the wounded and many men were buried alive.

English
Robert Ernest
Captain

Robert English was killed during the bombardment when a shell landed in his trench. The survivors of the North Somerset Yeomanry were relieved at 9.30pm on the evening of the 14th of May and they arrived back at Vlamertinghe in the early hours of the 15th of May having lost all their senior officers during the fighting.

The President of Magdalen wrote:

“Robert Ernest English was certainly one of the most pleasant and popular of the many pleasant and popular men Harrow has sent to this college in the last dozen years. Without any special or specialised ability, either in athletics or in the schools, he soon became a leading man in the College, known and liked by all, and exercising an undemonstrative but valuable influence. His healthy, sensible, pleasant, and very kindly disposition, and unselfish love of his fellows, displayed itself no less when he went down. He devoted himself with much ardour and readiness to the College Mission, and in particular to the Boys’ Clubs, for which no one ever did more. When the war came he gave up business to join the North Somerset Yeomanry. Every Magdalen man knew what a good officer he would make, but, alas! Very little scope was given him; for the end came almost directly he had got abroad. Simple, unselfish, good-hearted, no one was ever more ready to sacrifice himself. For none will there be more unqualified regret, among those who knew him here.”

Robert is commemorated on the Menin Gate, Panel 5.

Evans
Walter George
Lieutenant



213 Squadron Royal Air Force. Killed in action on the 27th of June 1918.

Walter George Evans was born in Forest Gate on the 28th of November 1899, the son of Walter Evans, a contractor, and Ethel Evans of 114 Hampton Road, West Ham. He was educated at Chatham House College in Ramsgate and went on to work for Kaye, Son & Company (Insurance) Ltd at Lloyd's.

He enlisted in the Royal Naval Air Service in Greenwich on the 28th of October 1917 with the rank of Temporary Flying Officer. Walter was posted to Eastbourne on the 8th of December and to Cranwell in the 8th of March 1918. He was promoted to Sub Lieutenant on the 22nd of March 1918. During his training he qualified on the following aircraft: BE2c, Sopwith Pup, Sopwith Camel, DH6, MF Avro and Bristol Bullet. He was awarded a First Class Pilot Certificate.

On the 9th of April 1918, Walter was posted to Manston and went to Dunkirk on the 3rd of May to join 213 Squadron, Royal Air Force which had been formed on the 1st of April 1918 from 13 (Naval) Squadron, based at Bergues in Belgium.

On the 27th of June 1918 he took off with his squadron in Sopwith Camel B7186. They became involved in combat with German fighters near Blankenberghe during which his aircraft was shot down and crashed at Wenduine. The victory was claimed by the German ace Vizeflugmeister Alexander Zenzes of MFJ II who was flying a Fokker D VII; Evans was his third victory of an eventual 19.

Walter is commemorated on the Arras Flying Services Memorial.

**Fawcett
Woodford
2nd Lieutenant**



**5th (Service) Battalion Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire
Light Infantry. Killed in action on the 21st of March
1918.**

Woodford Fawcett was born in West Norwood on the 20th of September 1898, the son of Woodford Fawcett, a newspaper proprietor, and Eleanor Ann (née Redpath) Fawcett of 41 Grove Lane, Kingston-upon-Thames in Surrey.

He was educated at Kingston Commercial Secondary School and went to work as a clerk for H.G. Sickelmore Esq. at Lloyd's.

Woodford enlisted as Private 762432 in the 2/28th Battalion London Regiment (Artist's Rifles) Officer Training Corps at Dukes Road, Euston Road on the 21st of September 1916. He applied for a commission in the army on the 21st of October 1916 and underwent a medical examination at Hare Hall Camp, Romford where it was recorded that he was five feet ten inches tall and weighed 147lbs. He was discharged from the Artist's Rifles on the 31st of March 1917 and was sent for officer training, joining the 2nd Officer Cadet Battalion at Cambridge on the 7th of April. Woodford was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry on the 1st of August 1917.

He embarked for overseas service from Southampton on the 24th of September 1917, landing at Le Havre the following day. On the 27th of September he arrived at the 55th Infantry Brigade Depot at Rouen and was posted to the 5th Battalion of his regiment on the 1st of October, joining them in the field later on that same date.

On the 18th of January 1918 he was admitted to 42 Field Ambulance with tonsillitis and was taken on to 41 Stationary Hospital. Woodford was evacuated by train to Rouen on the 21st of January and was admitted to No. 2 British Red Cross Hospital the next day. He was discharged from hospital on the 28th of January and was sent to Michelham Convalescent Home until he was discharged to base on the 4th of March. He rejoined his battalion in the field on the 10th of March 1918.

On the morning of the 21st of March 1918, the Germans launched their long awaited spring offensive against the allies. At 6.05am the 5th Battalion Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry advanced through the mist towards the battle area with A and D Companies losing a number of casualties to artillery fire during the move. At 11.30am the enemy infantry attacked the Oxfordshire men and their front post was wiped out by shell fire before the enemy swept towards their second line of defence along the Benay-Essigny Road.

Fawcett
Woodford
2nd Lieutenant

This line, which was in front of Brigade Headquarters, was held during hand-to-hand fighting and eight enemy prisoners were taken. The enemy then massed for another attack in Lambay Wood but the battalion withdrew during the night and retired behind the canal at Flavy. Casualties for the day were two officers killed with three wounded and three missing and 180 other ranks killed, wounded, and missing. Woodford Fawcett was among the dead.

His father received the following telegram dated the 31st of March 1918:

“Deeply regret to inform you that 2 Lt W. Fawcett Oxford and Buck Light Infantry killed in action March twenty first. The Army Council express their sympathy”

Woodford is buried at Grand Seraucourt British Cemetery, Plot IV, Row F, Grave 2.

Fielder
Cecil Buckler
Company Sergeant
Major 1231



1/9th (County of London) Battalion (Queen Victoria's Rifles). Killed in action on the 1st of July 1916, aged 28.

Cecil Buckler Fielder was born in Finchley in 1888, the eldest son of George Buckler Fielder, a cashier, and Henrietta Peever (née MacKay) Fielder of 58 Manor Park Road, East Finchley. He was christened at St. Silas' Church, Pentonville Road, Islington on the 25th of August 1888. He worked as a clerk for Willis Faber & Company Ltd at 70 Cornhill, London.

Cecil attested for the 9th Battalion London Regiment (Queen Victoria's Rifles) at 5 Davis Street, Berkeley Square in London on the 24th of October 1910 and underwent a medical examination three days later where it was recorded that he was five feet eight inches tall and was fit for general service. He enlisted on the 27th of October 1910 for a period of four years and re-enlisted on the 16th of March 1914 for a further period of one year from the 27th of July 1914.

Cecil attended summer camps at Burley Camp from the 6th of August to the 13th of August 1911, Worgrit Farm from the 27th of July to the 10th of August 1912 and at Perham Down from the 3rd to the 17th of August 1913. He was promoted to Corporal on the 1st of March 1914.

Following the outbreak of war he was mobilised and embarked for France with his battalion from Southampton on board the SS Oxonian on the 4th of November 1914, landing at Le Havre early the following morning.

On the 1st of February 1915 he was admitted to 8 Casualty Station at Baillieul and was transferred to No. 12 Ambulance train on the same day, arriving at a General Hospital on the 3rd of February. On the 11th of February he transferred to a rest camp and returned to duty on the 10th of April 1915. He was promoted to Sergeant on the 15th of April 1915 and to Company Sergeant Major on the 13th of January 1916.

From the 3rd of May to the 31st of May 1916 he attended a course at the 3rd Army School.

The 1st of July 1916 was the opening day of the long awaited British offensive on the Somme. The 1/9th Battalion London Regiment (Queen Victoria's Rifles) was tasked with the capture of the enemy-held village of Gommecourt, which was planned as a diversionary attack to draw German attention away from the main offensive further to the south east. They left their billets in St. Amand at between 8pm and 9.30pm on the night of the 30th of June 1916 and made their way to their assembly trenches. A and C Companies would lead the attack with B Company in support and D Company in reserve. The British artillery had been bombarding the enemy lines for a week but at 6.25am on the morning of the 1st of July the artillery fire intensified to a crescendo, with smoke being fired at 7.20am to cover the assault troops when they moved forward, and at 7.25am the lead companies crawled out into no man's land. At 7.30am they got to their feet and began advancing toward the enemy lines. As soon as they

Felder
Cecil Buckler
Company Sergeant Major 1231

were seen by the enemy, a barrage of German artillery fire fell on the British trenches which intensified during the morning.

At 9.48am the lead companies reported that they had taken their initial objectives of Feud, Fellow and Fell Trenches in the enemy third line and that at the same time B Company was consolidating the enemy second line. German counterattacks began almost immediately, and by 11am the shortage of bombs among the London men became critical as they fought desperately to hang on to their earlier gains. Between 12.30pm and 1.30pm the Londoners were driven back out of the captured third line and through the second line. By 2pm they were battling in the old German front line as the fighting intensified and casualties mounted. At 4.30pm orders were received to gather together all stragglers and to hold the enemy first line but by 7pm the survivors were finally driven out and made their way back across no man's land to their original trenches where they remained until the following day when they were relieved and withdrew to Bayencourt.

Casualties for the attack were six officer killed with five wounded and five missing along with 51 other ranks killed with 290 wounded and 188 men missing.

Cecil is commemorated on the Willis Faber war memorial at the Willis Building in Lime Street, and on the Thiepval Memorial, Pier and Face 9C.

Fieldhouse
George Ernest
Private 316158



9th (Service) Battalion Cameronians (Scottish Rifles).
Died of wounds on the 27th of April 1918, aged 20.

George Ernest Fieldhouse was born in West Ham in 1898, the son of Henry George Fieldhouse and Emma (née Roberts) Fieldhouse of 43 Warwick Road, Stratford in London.

He worked for Pitman Deane Ltd, Lloyd's brokers.

George enlisted at New Court, St Swithin's Lane as Private 4953 in a territorial battalion of the East Kent Regiment, but later transferred to the 9th Battalion Cameronians (Scottish Rifles).

On the 21st of March 1918 the Germans had launched their long awaited spring offensive and the 9th Battalion Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) were heavily engaged during the subsequent Allied retreat. By the 8th of April they were at Villers-Bretonneux when they were pulled out of the line to be rested. On the 24th of April they returned to the line, relieving a battalion of the Black Watch in trenches to the immediate north of the village of Vierstraat near Kemmel. The relief was completed by midnight. They were deployed with D Company in outposts in front of C Company who were in the rear near Vierstraat. A Company was holding a line known as Cheapside and B Company was with Battalion Headquarters at Hallebast, a depth of defence some 4,000 yards deep.

At 2.30am on the morning of the 25th of April 1918, the Germans opened a massive bombardment along the front in what was the second phase of their spring attack. At 7am a message was received at Battalion Headquarters that the line at Cheapside was holding but that nothing had been heard of D Company in the forward outposts. At 8.30am British guns were passing the headquarters as part of a general retreat and headquarters' defence was strengthened with the addition of a party from the 7th Battalion Seaforth Highlanders. At 10am Lieutenant Lumsden, commanding officer of the Cameronians, went forward with his Adjutant to find that the two forward companies were still holding their positions. Elsewhere, other British units were being forced back by the weight of the attack and before long the forward companies were joined by elements of other battalions to form a defensive flank facing to the south east in anticipation of the next German move. By the evening D Company had fallen back to join the other companies in the line at Cheapside.

On the 26th of April an attack was planned by the French which was to begin at 3am. At the same time, the 9th Cameronians were to push strong patrols forward with the aim of recapturing the Vierstraat Line to their immediate front. In the event the order didn't reach the battalion until 3.30am, half an hour after the French attack had begun, and the push forward was delayed until 4.25am. The venture was abandoned when it was realised that the two battalions either side of them had received no orders.

Fieldhouse
George Ernest
Private 316158

At 5am enemy infantry was seen massing to the front and at 6.30am a heavy bombardment fell on the line held by the battalion. As it was very foggy, the distress flares fired by the battalion were not seen by the supporting British artillery and no counter barrage was fired. At 7am the German infantry moved to the attack under a supporting barrage, capturing Brasserie Farm which was defended by D Company, but the Scots drove them back with fire from their rifles and Lewis guns. From 10.30am until noon there was a lull in the fighting. At 2.30pm the German artillery fire, which had been lighter, suddenly intensified and their infantry rushed forward once again but were decimated by rifle and Lewis gun fire along with support from the artillery. Later in the day a large party of Germans was seen moving across the battalion's front at a range of three hundred yards; according to the regimental history they were "exterminated".

George Fieldhouse was wounded during the fighting and was evacuated to the rear where he succumbed to his wounds.

He is buried at Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, Plot IX, Row A, Grave 36.

**Forbes
Kenneth
2nd Lieutenant**



No. 4 Company, 1/5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade). Killed in action on the 10th of February 1915, aged 21.

Kenneth Forbes was born on the 13th of June 1893, the son of Thomas Forbes and Alice Forbes of Coleshill, Amersham in Buckinghamshire.

He was educated at Winchester College from 1906 to 1912 where he was Head of House and was a Prefect. He was also a member of the Officer Training Corps and was Joint Editor of the Wykehamist. He worked for Price Forbes Ltd, Lloyd's brokers.

Kenneth was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade) on the 2nd of January 1914. Following the outbreak of war he was mobilised on the 5th of August 1914 and embarked for France with his battalion from Southampton on board the SS Chyebassa on the 4th of November, landing at Le Havre the following day.

On the 7th of January 1915 the battalion took over trenches in the Ploegsteert area in a line known as Essex Trench. The battalion was deployed with No. 4 Company in the front trench, No. 3 Company in support and No. 1 in reserve.

During the month there was a considerable amount of shelling of the British positions and Kenneth Forbes was killed on the 10th of February 1915, on what was otherwise described by the battalion war diary as a "normal day".

Kenneth is buried at London Rifle Brigade Cemetery, Plot III, Row A, Grave 8.

**Forbes
Lawrence
Lieutenant**



**B Company, 2/5th (County of London) Battalion
(London Rifle Brigade). Died of wounds on the
9th of July 1917, aged 36.**

Lawrence Forbes was born in Hampstead on the 13th of May 1881, the youngest son of Thomas Lawrence Forbes and Charlotte Ann (née Hawkins) Forbes of 4 Frognal Lane, Hampstead, London.

He was educated at Marlborough College from September 1892 to July 1898 where he was in Mitre House. He went to work in Lloyd's in 1903 as an underwriting assistant to his brother James, became an Underwriting Member of Lloyd's later that year and then began underwriting for his own account in 1911.

Lawrence enlisted as Private 3524 the 28th (County of London) Battalion (Artist's Rifles) at Dukes Road, Euston Road in London on the 22nd of March 1915. At a medical examination, which was held on the same day, it was recorded that he was five feet ten inches tall. He was promoted to Lance Corporal on the 17th of July 1915.

Lawrence was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 2/9th Battalion Middlesex Regiment on the 5th of August 1915 and was posted to Falmer in Sussex. He transferred to the 2/5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade) on the 14th of September 1915 and he embarked for France with his battalion from Southampton on board the SS Duchess of Argyll on the 24th of January 1917, landing at Le

Havre in the early hours of the following morning.

On the 14th of June 1917 the 2/5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade) moved up to St Leger and at 2am on the morning of the 16th of June they received orders to move to support an attack which had been made earlier by 173rd Infantry Brigade against the Hindenburg Line to the east of Croisilles. At 9pm that evening they were ordered to relieve a portion of the line and when they arrived there, D Company was ordered to move forward to assist elements of the 173rd who were believed to be holding out on a line further forward. The remaining three companies relieved the Hindenburg front line. The men of D Company soon returned with the news that the line to the front was strongly held by enemy troops. For the next four days the battalion held the line under a blazing sun alternated with torrential rain. They also suffered from heavy artillery fire and persistent sniping which took a heavy toll among their ranks. During this time they rescued a large number of men from the 173rd brigade who had been laying wounded in the shell holes in no man's land since the attack on the 16th of June.

Casualties for the battalion were one officer killed with six officers wounded, and 28 other ranks killed and 74 wounded. Lawrence Forbes was badly wounded in the thigh and was evacuated back to England where he was admitted to the Samuelson Hospital at 58 Grosvenor Street, Middlesex. He died there from septicaemia at 10.55pm on the 9th of July 1917.

Lawrence is buried at Hampstead Cemetery, Grave Q 11.23.

Fortescue
Grenville
Captain



11th (Service) Battalion Rifle Brigade. Killed in action on the 4th of September 1915, aged 28.

Grenville Fortescue was born in Chelsea in London on the 15th of March 1887, the only son of Captain the Hon Arthur Grenville Fortescue, Coldstream Guards, and Lilla Gertrude Ellen (née Fane) Fortescue of Enisbury Manor, Kinson near Portsmouth.

He was educated at Mr Locke's School at Winchfield, at Winchester College from 1900 to July 1904 where he was in Sergeant's House and then at Yateley Grange School, Camberly from September to December 1904. He was educated by W Trevor Esq., a private tutor, from January to April 1905.

Grenville applied for admission to the Royal Military College Sandhurst on the 2nd of May 1905, following which he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 4th Battalion Rifle Brigade on the 29th of August 1906. He resigned his commission on the 9th of November 1910 and passed into the Reserve of Officers.

He was married at the Parish Church Kensington to Adelaide (nee Jephson) on the 27th of November 1912; they lived at Thornley Wood Christchurch in Hampshire and at 217 Gloucester Terrace, Hyde Park. They had two children, Arthur Henry Grenville born on the 6th of September 1913, and Diana born on the 2nd of January 1915.

Grenville was an Underwriting Member of Lloyd's.

Following the outbreak of war he was mobilised and was granted the rank of Temporary 2nd Lieutenant in the newly formed 11th Battalion Rifle Brigade on the 4th of September 1914. He was promoted to Temporary Captain on the 14th of November 1914.

Grenville embarked for France with his battalion on the 21st of July 1915, landing at Boulogne. By the beginning of September 1915 the 11th Battalion Rifle Brigade was in trenches to the east of Laventie. They spent the 1st to the 4th of September improving the trenches and the barbed wire in front of them as well as patrolling during the day and at night. On the 4th of September Grenville Fortescue and another man were killed, while a further soldier was wounded. The battalion was relieved by the 10th Battalion Rifle Brigade at between 7.45pm and 9.40pm on the 6th of September.

Fortescue
Grenville
Captain

Grenville's wife received the following telegram dated the 6th of September 1915:

"Deeply regret to inform you that Captain G. Fortescue 11th Rifle Brigade was killed in action 4th September. Lord Kitchener expresses his sympathy."

His wife applied for Grenville's medals on the 18th of February 1921.

He is commemorated on the war memorial at Filleigh in Devon and on the memorial at Burley in Hampshire.

Grenville is buried at Rue-Du-Bacquerot (13th London) Graveyard, Row D, Grave 14.

Forward
Charles Arthur
2nd Lieutenant



B Company, 2nd Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment. Killed in action on the 25th of September 1915, aged 19.

Charles Arthur Forward was born in Calcutta in India on the 25th of December 1895 the son of Arthur Forward and Ellen Gertrude Forward of Beech House, Lodge Road, Sundridge in Kent and later of Beechcroft, Bickley in Kent.

He was educated at Monkton Combe School in Somerset. Charles worked for Bland Welch & Company, Lloyd's brokers.

He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Bedfordshire Regiment on the 17th of April 1915. He embarked for France on the 22nd of June 1915 where he joined the 2nd Battalion in the field on the 11th of July and was posted to B Company. Charles was appointed as Battalion Grenade Officer on the 28th of August and served in that role at the Battle of Loos.

At 12.05 am on the morning of the 25th of September 1915 the 2nd Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment moved forward to assembly positions at Noyelles in preparation for their part in the opening day of the British offensive at Loos. Their objective was the capture and consolidation of the German-held position known as Gun Trench, beyond the German first line. By 3.35am they had arrived at Noyelles and they moved forward once more at 6.05am and moved up Chapel Alley towards the village of Vermelles. At 11.30am they left their trenches for the attack on a front of two companies and with their right resting on the Hulluch Road.

The battalion reached the old German first line almost without loss, but as soon as they crossed it they came under very heavy rifle fire from the direction of the Quarries and from houses on the northern edge of the village of Cité St. Elie.

In spite of the heavy casualties, the battalion continued to advance; Charles Forward was one of several officers killed as he led his platoon forward. During this stage of the attack the battalion lost five officers and between two and three hundred of its number but the survivors managed to gain a foothold in Gun Trench and were still holding it at nightfall.

Charles' father received the following telegram dated the 29th of September 1915:

"Deeply regret to inform you that 2 Lt C.A. Forward Bedford Regt was killed in action between 25/26 Sept. Lord Kitchener expresses his sympathy."

His father applied for his medals on the 11th of August 1920.

Charles is commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Panel 41.

Foster
Reginald Samuel
Private 2521



B Company, 7th (County of London) Battalion. Died on the 22nd of April 1915, aged 19.

Reginald Samuel Foster was born in Woolwich in 1895, the son of William Joseph Foster, Beadle to the City of London, and Jane Foster of 29 Belmont Avenue, West Green, Tottenham in North London.

He worked as a marine clerk for J.W. Hobbs & Company, Lloyd's brokers.

Reginald enlisted as a Private in the 7th (County of London) Battalion at 24 Sun Street, London, on the 11th of September 1914. At his medical examination it was recorded that he was five feet eight and a half inches tall and in good health.

On the 28th of December 1914, a medical report was issued at Brighton following a diagnosis that Reginald was suffering from tuberculosis of the left lung. He had been suffering from the symptoms since the end of October 1914 and had contracted the condition while in billets at Beckenham.

The report read that: "He states that illness began with cough; that this was moderate in degree until he was moved to Burgess Hill in November when the cough became severe and he felt too ill to be marched or drill."

The conclusion was that Reginald's condition was not caused by active service but that it had been aggravated by it. It was recommended that he be discharged from the service as permanently unfit. This recommendation was approved by a Medical Board on the 8th of January 1915.

He was hence discharged from the service on the 22nd of January 1915 and died from tuberculosis on the 22nd of April.

As Reginald was no longer in the army at the time of his death he is not commemorated by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Fowler
Norman John
2nd Lieutenant



1st Battalion Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment.
Killed in action on the 23rd of April 1917, aged 20.

Norman John Fowler was born at 54 Tunmarsh Lane, Plaistow in Essex on the 15th of May 1896, the eldest son of John Robert Fowler, the manager of a pawnbrokers and jewellers, and Edith (née Lakin) Fowler of 101 St John's Park, Blackheath and later of 86 Erlanger Road, New Cross. He was educated at Holborn Estate Grammar School, Aldwych, and worked as an underwriter's clerk for P.G. Mackinnon Esq. and Others at Lloyd's.

Norman enlisted as Private 2373 in the 3/20th (County of London) Battalion (Blackheath and Woolwich) at Holly Hedge House, Blackheath on the 2nd of September 1914 and was sent for training at Hazely Down Camp near Winchester. He was posted to the 1/20th Battalion of his regiment on the 18th of August 1915 and embarked for France the following day. Norman was evacuated from France on the 17th of November 1915, suffering from trench foot, and returned to the 3/20th Battalion with effect from the 31st of December. He was admitted to hospital on the 17th of January 1916 and was finally discharged on the 6th of July 1916. He applied for a commission on the 30th of June 1916 in an application which was supported by Mr. W.P. Fuller, Head Master of Holborn Estate Grammar School.

Norman was sent for officer training at 10 Officer Cadet Battalion at Gaile on the 5th of October 1916 and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment on the 24th of January 1917. He was posted to the 1st Battalion of his regiment.

On the 22nd of April 1917 the 1st Battalion Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment moved up to the line through the village of Hamlincourt, where they picked up extra bombs and ammunition before moving up to their assembly point at 11.30pm for an attack the following morning. The attack was to be over 1,000 yards of open ground along the Sensee Valley to capture the German front line trench, which was protected by deep belts of barbed wire. The battalion deployed D and A Companies in the first wave, with platoons from C and B Companies that would follow the first wave and "mop up". They were to have the support of two tanks but, in the event, these both broke down before zero hour. At 4.15am the men moved across the Croiselles-Fontaine Road and lay down in a sunken area in preparation for the advance. Next, at 4.45am, under the protection of a creeping artillery barrage, they worked their way up to within 50 yards of the enemy trench. As the barrage lifted they fought their way into the trench with few casualties and made short work of the small number of defenders. The trench was taken at 5.08am. The leading companies then moved on towards the second line but found themselves faced with strong lengths of uncut barbed wire, with the protective artillery barrage moving further and further ahead of them.

Fowler
Norman John
2nd Lieutenant

The German defenders rallied and brought fire to bear on the Queen's who were forced to take cover in shell holes between the two lines. At 7.30am, 2nd Lieutenant Carpenter arrived back at Battalion Headquarters to report that the front companies were running short of bombs.

At 6.45am another message was received which reported that stocks of Lewis gun ammunition and bombs were now critically low. Over the next few hours some 1,500 bombs were carried up to the front.

On the right of the attack, two German strong points were captured and bombing parties pushed forward until they were held up by a third strong point. Here they dug in and at 11am they were counterattacked by a determined force of enemy infantry who rained bombs and rifle grenades on them until they were driven back.

By midday, messages came back to headquarters that stocks of bombs were again running low and at 1.20pm another 800 were moved up to the front companies but, by the time they arrived, the Germans had attacked in strength once again and forced the right of the Queen's line to retire, cutting off the men in the centre. As they fell back they came under accurate and sustained fire from a number of well positioned machine guns who "picked them off like rabbits, and scarcely a man returned unwounded."

The survivors rallied at battalion headquarters where they endured further heavy shelling. At 8pm they were relieved and moved to a railway cutting near Judas Trench.

Casualties for the attack were three officers killed, two officers wounded and nine missing, with only one officer coming through the attack unscathed. There were 26 other ranks killed with 101 wounded and 308 missing. By the end of the attack the battalion numbered just 43 men. Norman Fowler was among the dead.

His father received the following telegram dated the 28th of April 1917:

"Deeply regret to inform you Second Lieut. H.J. Fowler 1 Royal West Surrey Regt. was killed in action April twenty third. The Army Council express sympathy. Presumably this refers to Second Lieut. N.J. Fowler 1 Royal West Surrey Regt."

Norman is commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Bay 2.

Francis
Arthur Noel
Private G/50356



11th (Service) Battalion Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment). Killed in action on the 17th of February 1917, aged 32.

Arthur Noel Francis was born in Kilburn, the son of William Francis, a verger, and Mary Ann Francis of West Ham. He was christened at St Augustine's Church, Kilburn on the 25th of January 1885.

He was the husband of Ella Francis of 46 Ickburgh Road, Clapton in London. He worked for Hamilton, Smith & Company Ltd at Lloyd's.

Arthur enlisted into the army at St Swithin's Lane in London.

On the night of the 16th of February 1917 the 11th Battalion Royal Fusiliers moved to their assembly positions for an attack on an enemy trench across the sunken road known as Boom Ravine on the Somme. Their objective was to advance from in front of Desire Trench, then to move across Grandcourt Trench and Boom Ravine to capture South Miraumont Trench. The night was dark and misty as the battalion assembled at 4.45am and the men were packed together in an assembly area in a gully. Unfortunately, the Germans had uncovered the details of the attack and opened a heavy fire just before zero hour, taking a heavy toll upon the Fusiliers. At zero hour A and B Companies rushed forward, in spite of only having two officers remaining after the artillery barrage.

These two officers also became casualties early in the attack, but the men continued forward regardless, across ground made boggy and slippery by the rain which was falling. The advance was held up at Grandcourt Trench by uncut wire but this was soon overcome and the advance continued into Boom Ravine, led by Company Sergeant Major Fitterer, who pushed the men forward in spite of a wound to his thigh. Dawn broke at 6.05am and at 6.30am the Fusiliers advanced on from Boom Ravine, capturing 100 prisoners, but the covering barrage from the British artillery had crept too far ahead and as a result the men met the obstacle of uncut wire in front of South Miraumont Trench along with its defenders who were now fully alerted. Heavy fire from the German trench followed and the Fusiliers were forced to take cover in muddy shell holes. They were later compelled to retire when the Germans counterattacked at 8.30am.

Casualties for the attack were three officers killed with 11 wounded and 36 other ranks killed with 162 wounded and 69 missing.

Arthur is buried at Regina Trench Cemetery, Plot VIII, Row C, Grave 11.

Franklin
Thomas Alderman
Captain MC Croix
de Guerre



1/5th Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment. Died of on the 27th of November 1917, aged 25.

Thomas Alderman Franklin was born in Stevenage in Hertfordshire on the 1st of August 1892, the son of Thomas Franklin, a coal, wool and corn merchant, and Alice Alderman Franklin of 2 Conduit Road, Bedford. He was christened in Stevenage on the 28th of August 1892. Thomas was educated at Bedford Grammar School where he served as a Corporal in the Officer Training Corps. He went to work for E.R.R. Starr Esq. and Others at Lloyd's.

On the 30th of April 1914 he applied for a commission in the 5th Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the battalion on the 3rd of June 1914. On the 16th of October 1914 he was seconded as Aide de Camp to Captain CCM Kennedy of the 1st Battalion Hertfordshire Regiment.

He embarked for overseas service with his battalion at Devonport on board the SS Braemar Castle on the 29th of July 1915. At 9am on the 10th of August they arrived at Mudros, then at 3pm came into Imbros, where they received orders to land at Gallipoli. They landed at Suvla Bay at around 5.30am the following morning.

On the 15th of August they attacked Turkish positions on an unnamed ridge, carried the enemy line and moved on to their second objective of 'Kidney Hill'. As they rallied for

the second stage of their attack they came under artillery fire, in spite of which they advanced across nearly a mile of open ground under continuous artillery and small arms fire until they rushed the enemy positions and took them at the point of the bayonet. They clung on to their position during the night despite having their flanks exposed as attacks either side of them were not as successful. All the following day they fought off Turkish counterattacks and they were eventually relieved that night.

The battalion had sustained casualties in the attack of seven officers killed with a further seven wounded and 60 other ranks killed, with over 300 other ranks wounded and missing.

Thomas was promoted to Lieutenant and to Temporary Captain on the 15th of August 1915 but relinquished the rank on the 19th of December 1915 when he was seconded for duty as a General Staff Officer Grade 3. On the 23rd of April 1916 he was posted to the staff of 9th Army Corps based at Port Tewfik. He was promoted to Temporary Captain once more on the 15th of May 1916 and to Captain on the 28th of June 1916 with precedence from the 1st of June.

On the 6th of February 1917, Thomas was awarded the Croix de Guerre and was promoted to Brigade Major of 156th Infantry Brigade. He was mentioned in despatches on the 1st of March 1917.

Franklin
Thomas Alderman
Captain MC Croix
de Guerre

On the 25th of August 1917 he was granted four weeks leave to the UK and he embarked at Port Said on board the MM Dumbaa on the 3rd of September, bound for Marseilles. He returned on the 30th of October on board the SS Kaiser-I-Hind, landing at Port Said from Marseilles, and rejoined his unit the following day.

On the 2nd and 3rd of November 1917 the 1/5th Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment was involved in the Third battle of Gaza where they suffered a number of casualties during their advance. Between the capture of Gaza and the attacks to capture Jerusalem, continuous skirmishes and counterattacks occurred between the Bedfords and Turkish patrols in the area.

On the 19th of November the battalion relieved the Yeomanry in trenches at Haditheh. They spent the next few days consolidating these positions and sent patrols out to reconnoitre the surrounding hills and villages.

At 2.30am on the morning of the 27th of November 1917, a Turkish soldier gave himself up to C Company and passed on information that there was a large group of Turkish soldiers at Shokhah. At 8.15am a party of around 150 Turkish troops was seen advancing in close order down a wadi between Zeify Hill and Deir Toreif. The battalion Lewis guns opened fire on them at a range of between 1,300 and 1,500 yards, which inflicted some casualties and caused the group to scatter to cover. From this position the Turks

began sniping at the British positions and a long range sniping duel took place between the two sides.

At 10.30am a strong patrol was pushed forward to Cistern Hill and a post was established with two Lewis guns and a section of riflemen to defend it. At 3pm a battalion of enemy troops, along with their transport, was seen moving east from Et Tireh and at 3.15pm they came in range of the post on Cistern Hill who opened fire at a range of 1,400 yards. It was observed that the enemy suffered casualties from this fire, particularly amongst their transport. As a result of this fire the enemy was seen to change direction towards Cistern Hill and, when they were 300 yards from the post, the Bedford men withdrew and the enemy occupied the hill at dusk.

Thomas Franklin was badly wounded during the sniping exchange and was evacuated to the 1/1st (Lowland) Field Ambulance where he died later the same day.

He is buried at Jerusalem War Cemetery, Grave C73.

French
Edwin Valentine
Flight Cadet



199 (Night) Training Squadron Royal Air Force. Killed on active service on the 16th of October 1918, aged 18.

Edwin Valentine French was born in Walthamstow on the 26th of October 1899, the son of Albert Valentine French, a railway clerk, and Elizabeth French of 1 Millicent Villas, Havering Road, Romford in Essex. He worked for R.K. Harrison Esq. and Others at Lloyd's.

Edwin enlisted in the Royal Flying Corps on the 28th of November 1917 and was posted to 5 Officer Cadet Wing on the 16th of December 1917. He was then posted to No. 6 School of Aeronautics on the 8th of March 1918 and to Aviation School on the 1st of June 1918. On the 22nd of June 1918 he was again posted to 200 (Night) Training Squadron and on the 13th of October 1918 to 199 (Night) Training Squadron.

On the 16th of October 1918 Edwin French took off from East Retford in Nottinghamshire in FE2b A5648. He was killed when the aircraft hit a tree during a forced landing.

He is buried at Romford Cemetery, Row H, Grave 31.

Furby
Reginald Alfred
Aircraftsman First
Class F/13925



No 5 (Naval) Squadron Royal Naval Air Service. Killed in action on the 19th of December 1917, aged 20.

Reginald Alfred Furby was born in Peckham on the 22nd of May 1897, the eldest son of Alfred Furby, a process printer, and Rose Edith (née Shuckard) Furby of 14 McKennell Road, Peckham, later of 62 Braxfield Road, Brockley in Kent. He was educated at Colls Road School from the 9th of July 1902 and later at Brockley School.

Reginald worked on the Lloyd's Staff as a clerk in the Average Department.

He enlisted in the Royal Naval Air Service at President II on the 10th of May 1916 and at a medical examination, which was held on the same day, it was recorded that he was five feet nine and a half inches tall with a dark complexion, dark hair and brown eyes.

He was posted for training firstly at Hendon and then at Eastchurch from the 8th of May to the 30th of June 1917. He was next posted to HMS Daedalus at Lee-on-Solent from the 1st of July 1917 and to Scarborough, on the 23rd of October 1917.

On the 19th of December 1917 Reginald Furby and his pilot, Flight Sub Lieutenant Samuel Spaulding Richardson, took off in Airco DH4 N6008 for a bombing raid on Blankenberghe in Belgium. At 12.47pm they were engaged in combat by OberFIM Buhl of the German Seefrontstaffel. Their aircraft was shot down and crashed into the sea off Ostend, killing both men.

Reginald is commemorated on the war memorial at Brockley School, and on the Chatham Naval Memorial, Panel 25.

Furze
Claude
Captain



C Company, 1/28th (County of London) Battalion (Artist's Rifles). Died of wounds on the 6th of April 1918, aged 27.

Claude Furze was born in Beckenham on the 31st of May 1891, the younger son of Frederic Furze, a wine merchant, and Helen Eliza (née Hubbuck) Furze of 6 Welbeck House, Wigmore Street, London, and of 10 Chiswick Place, Eastbourne in Sussex.

He was educated at Repton School from January 1906 to December 1907 and went on to Jesus College, Cambridge, from 1910 to 1913. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant on the Unattached List for the Territorial Army on the 25th of August 1911 and went to Dublin to spend some time with the 1st Battalion East Kent Regiment (Bufs), leaving them on the 6th of October 1911, the same date he applied for a commission in the battalion as a university candidate. He was attached to the Cambridge Officer Training Corps on the 16th of March 1912 and achieved a BA in 1913, resigning from the Cambridge Officer Training Corps on the 13th of January 1914.

On leaving university, Claude went to work for Hamilton Smith & Company Ltd at Lloyd's.

He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 5th Battalion London Regiment (London Rifle Brigade) on the 18th of February 1914 and was mobilised for war service

on the 5th of August 1914. However, Claude could not go out with 1/5th Battalion on the outbreak of war due to ill health; instead, he stayed behind at the Battalion Headquarters at Bunhill Row, being the only remaining officer, and was instrumental in the formation of a second battalion, the 2/5th Battalion.

The history of the London Rifle Brigade recorded that "He threw himself into it with the energy and cheeriness which he showed in so many other duties later on, and endeared himself to all."

By the 21st of September 1914 the new battalion was complete in an eight company formation; Claude was in command of P Company and was promoted to Lieutenant on the 23rd of September 1914. In January 1915 his Company was merged with Q Company to become D Company under the new four company system.

The new battalion went into training, but was constantly depleted by departing drafts of replacements to make up for the losses of the first battalion in France.

Claude embarked for France with his battalion, as commanding officer of A Company, from Southampton on board the SS Duchess of Argyll on the 24th of January 1917, landing at Le Havre in the early hours of the following morning.

Furze
Claude
Captain

He was promoted to Captain on the 1st of July 1916.
In June 1917 he left the battalion for a time on his appointment as an instructor at base.

On the 29th of January 1918 the battalion was paraded to be told that it was to be broken up as part of the reorganisation of the army. Claude Furze, along with 17 other officers and 450 other ranks, left later the same day to join the 1/28th (County of London) Battalion (Artists Rifles) who were in reserve at Beaulancourt, a few miles to the south of Bapaume.

He was mortally wounded on the 6th of April 1918 and died at a Casualty Clearing Station later the same day.

The Battalion history relates:

“A gallant soldier and cheery comrade, his loss made a large gap in the small band of those who had left England with the 2nd LRB.”

Claude's brother, Captain Frederic Furze 2/5th Battalion London Regiment (London Rifle Brigade, was killed in action on the 20th of September 1917.

He is commemorated on the war memorial at Repton School and on the memorial at Jesus College Cambridge.

He is buried at Forceville Communal Cemetery and Extension, Plot 4, Row A, Grave 1.

Genaway
William George Albert
Sergeant 63265



3rd Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery. Killed in action on the 5th of October 1918, aged 30.

William George Albert Genaway was born in Deptford in 1888, the eldest son of William Genaway, a labourer, and Mercy Hannah (née Bartlett) Genaway of 20 Stanley Street, New Cross. He was christened at St Mark's Church Deptford on the 5th of January 1888.

William worked as a clerk for Sedgwick, Collins & Company Ltd, Lloyd's brokers.

He attested for the army and underwent a medical at New Cross on the 29th of October 1915. It was recorded at his medical examination that he was five feet seven and one quarter inches tall and in good health. He enlisted as a Gunner at No. 4 Depot, Royal Garrison Artillery in London on the 1st of November 1915. On the 4th of November, William was mobilised and posted for training to Great Yarmouth, and on the 6th of November he was posted again to Cromer. On the 30th of November he was posted once more to Spike Island and on the 22nd of January 1916 he went on to Fort Camden. On the 19th of February, William was posted to 36 Company, Royal Garrison Artillery at Plymouth. He was appointed as an Acting Bombardier and was later promoted to Bombardier on the 28th of August 1916. He was appointed as an Acting Corporal on the 26th of July 1916 and was promoted to Corporal on the 14th of November 1916.

He was promoted to Sergeant on the 22nd of January 1917. On the 1st of December 1917 he was posted to 45 Company Royal Garrison Artillery based in Plymouth.

On the 30th of March 1918, he was posted to France.

William is buried at Bellicourt British Cemetery, Plot I, Row C, Grave 15.

Gillett
Howard Raymond
2nd Lieutenant



Manston War School, Royal Air Force. Killed on active service on the 6th of April 1918, aged 18.

Howard Raymond Gillett was born in Hampstead on the 15th of August 1899, the only child of Raymond Gillett, a manufacturer, and Helena Gillett of 101 Broadhurst Gardens, West Hampstead, London. He was educated at Malvern College from 1914 to 1916 where he was a member of the Officer Training Corps. He worked for G.P. Turner & Company at Lloyd's.

Howard enlisted in the Royal Naval Air Service with the rank of Probationary Flying Officer on the 19th of August 1917 and was posted to Crystal Palace on the 22nd of August 1917. He was then posted to Chingford for pilot training on the 22nd of September. He was posted to Cranwell for further instruction on the 9th of February 1918 and was promoted to Flight Sub Lieutenant on the 13th of March 1918 with seniority from the 13th of January.

Howard was posted to Manston War School on the 28th of March 1918. On the 6th of April 1918 he took off from the Royal Air Station at Manston in Sopwith Camel B5688 F for a training flight. The aircraft crashed and Howard Gillett was killed.

He is buried at Hampstead Cemetery, WC 620.

Goepel
Robert Mackie
Lieutenant



5th Battalion Seaforth Highlanders attached to the 123rd Company, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry). Killed in action on the 17th of September 1916, aged 21.

Robert Mackie Goepel was born in Battersea on the 17th of November 1894, the third son of William Harris Goepel, an advertising manager for a newspaper, and Florence Frances (née Douty) Goepel of 8 Thurleigh Road, Wandsworth Common in London. He was christened at St Luke's Church, Battersea on the 6th of January 1895.

Robert was educated at the Strand School, Elm Park, Lambeth and at Battersea Grammar School from January 1907 to the 20th of December 1912, where he achieved his school certificate in July 1909. He matriculated for London University in 1912 and on leaving university he went to work for E.S. Lamplough Esq. and Others at Lloyd's.

At the outbreak of war he was Private 2843 in the 14th (County of London) Battalion (London Scottish). He was mobilised on the 5th of August 1914 and embarked for France with his battalion from Southampton on board the SS Winifredian at 8am on the 15th of September 1914, landing at Le Havre the following morning.

Robert saw action in the fighting at Messines Ridge on the night of the 31st October/1st of November 1914.

He returned to England for officer training and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Seaforth

Highlanders on the 30th of August 1915. He transferred to the Machine Gun Corps on its formation on the 14th of February 1916 and was promoted to Lieutenant on the 7th of July 1916.

On the 15th of September 1916 the 123rd Machine Gun Company came under orders to move from Divisional reserve into the front line near the village of Flers on the Somme. Two guns, each under the command of an officer, were attached to each battalion in the Brigade with eight guns ordered to form a reserve based at 123rd Brigade Headquarters in Catiron Trench. A major attack had begun that day at Flers, the first engagement involving tanks in military history. With the initial offensive, going well the battalions and their machine guns moved forward during the afternoon to occupy the old British front line. At 11pm that night they moved to a new line to the south of Flers. The following day Brigade Headquarters, along with the reserve machine guns, moved forward to the new line and the battalions took up fresh positions to the right of Flers. Casualties were very slight during the day and the guns were not brought into action.

On the 17th of September 1916 the new positions were heavily shelled during the day and at 2.30pm a shell landed which killed both Robert Goepel and Captain Amar Leslie Auchinleck, as well as wounding 2nd Lieutenant MacIntosh. The shelling continued for the rest of the day, killing Private Yardley and wounding a further 13 other ranks.

Robert's father applied for his medals on the 22nd of June 1920. Robert is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Pier and Face 15C.

Gore
Leonard Joseph
Captain



1/7th Battalion Middlesex Regiment attached to the 12th (Service) Battalion. Killed in action on the 3rd of May 1917.

Leonard Joseph Gore was born in Walworth in London in 1890, the son of Joseph Gore, a furniture salesman, and Emily Gore of 11 Hayter Road in Brixton. In 1911 he was working as a bank clerk but by 1914 he had moved to work for Arthur H. Brandt & Company Lloyd's brokers. He was married to Margaret Ethel (née Hatton) on the 17th of June 1916 at St Leonard's Church, Streatham and they lived at 61 Pretoria Road, Streatham.

Leonard was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 1/7th Battalion Middlesex Regiment. He was attached to the 12th Battalion of his regiment and was promoted to Lieutenant on the 17th of December 1915. He was appointed as Adjutant of his battalion on the 26th of March 1916 and he embarked for France on the 30th of September 1916.

On the 1st of May 1917 the 12th Battalion Middlesex Regiment moved into the front line trenches opposite the enemy-held village of Chérisy in preparation for an attack. They were to be one of the leading battalions in the assault and were to be on the left of the Divisional attack. The front of the village was well protected with thick belts of barbed wire and with machine gun positions, both in strong points near the enemy trenches, and hidden in the abundance of

sunken roads which surrounded the village. D Company was to be on the right of the attack with C Company on the left. A and B Companies were to be in support.

The attack was set for 3.45am on the 3rd of May 1917 and would take place in pitch darkness. At zero hour the British artillery opened their barrage and the Middlesex men left their trenches at the same moment, rushing into the darkness and heading for the enemy-held first line of Fontaine Trench. They soon lost contact with each other in the dark and when D Company arrived at the enemy trench they found the wire to be uncut and took cover. A shout of "retire" was heard down the line and the men fell back to their starting position, from where they were sent forward again. C Company fared better and were able to establish a line along the western banks of the Sensee River, while A Company passed through them and a few of its men managed to establish a strong point in the village itself. During the day most of the men in this strong point became casualties and the survivors were eventually forced to make a dash for their own lines, leaving the only gains for the day being those achieved by C Company.

The attack cost the battalion casualties of 14 officers and 304 other ranks killed, wounded, and missing. Joseph Gore was among the dead.

He is commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Bay 7.

Goudie
William John
Corporal 3142



**1/14th (County of London) Battalion (London Scottish).
Killed in action on the 6th of April 1915.**

William John Goudie was born on St. Thomas Mount in India in 1888, the eldest son of the Reverend William Goudie, a missionary, and Elizabeth (née Routledge) Goudie of 31 Cholmeley Park, Highgate.

He was educated at Kingswood School at Bath from 1900 to 1905 where he played rugby for the Kingswood Juniors in 1900, was capped for the school 2nd Rugby XV in 1904 and played as a forward for school 1st Rugby XV in 1904 and 1905. He played cricket for the school 2nd XI in 1903 and for the 1st XI in 1905. William was Junior Secretary for the Junior Literary Society in 1904. He attended the Old Boys dinner in May 1914.

William worked as a marine clerk for Thomas Matheson & Company, Lloyd's brokers.

Following the outbreak of war he enlisted in London in the 2/14th (County of London) Battalion (London Scottish) and embarked for service in France on the 24th of November 1914 with a draft of five officers and 189 men to join the 1/14th Battalion, replacing the losses they had suffered at Messines Ridge earlier in the month. He joined his new battalion in the field on the 28th of November 1914.

In early April 1915 the battalion was in trenches at Rue de l'Épinette. On the 6th of April 1915 William Goudie was in the front line trench when he stood up to speak to an officer and was shot through the head by a sniper and killed instantly.

A memorial service was held in his memory at the church he attended in London.

His brother, Lieutenant Alexander Malcolm Goudie 2nd Battalion Leinster Regiment attached to the 17th Company Machine Gun Corps, was killed in action on the 18th of August 1916.

William is commemorated on the war memorial at Kingswood School.

He is buried at Le Touret Military Cemetery, Plot I, Row E, Grave 24.

Green
Henry Edwin
Captain



1/22nd (County of London) Battalion (The Queen's).
Died of wounds on the 13th of October 1916, aged 28.

Henry Edwin Green was born at 31 Connaught Road, Hornsey in Middlesex on the 2nd of June 1888, the son of Frederick William Green, a diamond merchant, and Elizabeth Louisa (née Poole) Green later of Collyers, Nazeing in Essex. He was educated at Repton School where he was in Mitre House from 1903 to 1906. He worked as an insurance broker for James Hartley, Cooper & Company Ltd, Lloyd's brokers.

Henry enlisted as a Private B/221 in the Inns of Court Officer Training Corps on the 15th of November 1906. At his medical examination it was recorded that he was five feet six inches tall. He applied for a commission in the 22nd (County of London) Battalion (The Queen's) on the 28th of June 1911 and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the battalion on the 29th of June 1911. He was promoted to Lieutenant on the 1st of May 1913 and then to Captain on the 25th of May 1915. Henry went to France in March 1915, returning to the UK on leave on the 14th of December 1915. His leave was due to expire on the 24th of December but while at home he contracted diarrhoea, and later, tonsillitis and was admitted to the Military Hospital, Avington. He went in front of a Medical Board at the hospital on the 22nd of June 1916 where it was concluded that he was fit for general service and he returned to the front in July 1916.

On the 9th of October 1916 the battalion was detailed to make a night attack on Snag Trench.

An account of the raid was given by Private R. Derby Holmes:

"A general cleaning of rifles started, although it was dark. Mine was already in good shape, and I leaned it against the side of the trench and went below for the rest of my equipment. While I was gone, a shell fragment undid all my work by smashing the breech. I had seen a new short German rifle in the dug-out with a bayonet and ammo, and decided to use that. I hid all my souvenirs, planning to get them when I came out if I ever came out. I hadn't much nerve left after the bashing I had taken a fortnight before and didn't hold much hope. Our instructions were of the briefest. It was the old story that there would probably be little resistance, if any. There would be a few machine guns to stop us, but nothing more. The situation we had to handle was this: A certain small sector had held up the attacks of the few previous days, and the line had bent back around it. All we had to do was to straighten the line. We had heard this old ghost story too often to believe a word of it.

Our place had been designated where we were to get into extended formation, and our general direction was clear. We filed out of the trench at eight-thirty, and as we passed the other platoons,—we had been to the rear—they tossed us the familiar farewell hail, "The best o' luck, mytie."

Green
Henry Edwin
Captain

We soon found ourselves in the old sunken road that ran in front of Eaucourt Abbaye. At this point we were not under observation, as a rise in the ground would have protected us even though it had been daylight. The moon was shining brilliantly, and we knew that it would not be anything in the nature of a surprise attack. We got into extended formation and waited for the order to advance. I thought I should go crazy during that short wait. Shells had begun to burst over and around us, and I was sure the next would be mine. Presently one burst a little behind me, and down went Captain Green and the Sergeant Major with whom he had been talking. Captain Green died a few days later at Rouen (sic), and the Sergeant Major lost an arm."

The battalion managed to establish forward posts on the Eaucourt l'Abbaye-Wancourt Road and were relieved on the 10th of October.

Henry was evacuated to the 1/1st South Midland Divisional Casualty Clearing Station where he later died of his wounds.

His father applied for his medals on the 28th of December 1918.

Henry is commemorated on the war memorial at Nazeing Congregational Church and on the memorial at Repton School.

He is buried at Dernancourt Communal Cemetery, Plot III, Row G, Grave 47.

Grieve
Archibald Douglas
Corporal 10257



14 Platoon, D Company, 2nd Battalion Honourable Artillery Company (Infantry). Died of on the 24th of October 1918, aged 20.

Archibald Douglas Grieve was born in Hackney on the 10th of May 1898, the eldest son of Archibald Grieve, a wine shipper, and Janet Honor (née Julyan) Grieve of 32A Clapton Common, Clapton in London. He was christened at St Mary's Church, Haggerston on the 21st of June 1899.

He worked as a clerk for C.E. Heath & Company at Lloyd's. Archibald attested for the army at Stratford on the 5th of August 1916 and at his medical examination it was recorded that he was five feet six and three eighths inches tall. He was mobilised for service on the 9th of February 1917 and was posted to the 1st Reserve Training Regiment on the 16th of February.

On the 7th of July 1917, Archibald was appointed as an Acting Lance Corporal and reverted to the rank of Private at his own request on the 4th of October as he was proceeding overseas.

He embarked from Southampton on the 4th of October 1917, landing at Le Havre the following day when he marched to No. 8 Infantry Base Depot at Le Havre. He left to join the 1st Battalion of his regiment on the 8th of October and joined them in the field on the 10th.

After a month in France he was posted to the 2nd Battalion of his regiment and served in Italy from the 25th of November 1917. On the 18th of December 1917 he was admitted to 22nd Field Ambulance with a sprained foot and returned to his unit the following day.

On the 12th of March 1918 he was appointed to Lance Corporal (unpaid) and was promoted to Corporal on the 19th of August 1918.

Archibald was accidentally wounded at Papadopoli and later died of his injuries.

He is buried at Tezze British Cemetery, Plot 1, Row C, Grave 3.

Griffiths
Frank Harden
Private G/43657



17th (Service) Battalion Middlesex Regiment (1st Football). Killed in action on the 28th of April 1917, aged 22.

Frank Harden Griffiths was born in Clifton in Gloucestershire in 1895, the second son of Henry Thomas Griffiths, the drug manager for a chemist, and Florence Mabel Griffiths (later Thirkell), a midwife, of 369 High Road, Wood Green in London.

He worked as a clerk for S.I. Da Costa & Son, Lloyd's brokers.

Frank enlisted into the army at Hornsey in Middlesex.

On the evening of the 27th of April 1917 the 17th Battalion Middlesex Regiment marched from Roelincourt near Arras and moved into position opposite Oppy Wood for an attack the following day. The battalion formed up for the attack on a four company front in three waves with D Company on the right, then B and C Company, with A company on the left of the attack. At 4.25am the following morning the supporting artillery barrage began and by 4.33am the Middlesex men had entered the enemy front trench, which was found to be practically empty. The men advanced once more behind a creeping barrage and gained their first objective, the eastern outskirts of Oppy Wood, with few casualties. On reaching it the battalion came under heavy

rifle and machine gun fire from some nearby houses on the edge of the village of Oppy. Having completed the first part of their task they pressed on towards their second objective, the village of Oppy itself. Here the fighting became very heavy and casualties began to mount with enemy resistance increasing. By 8am reports came back to Battalion Headquarters that enemy units were attempting to work around both flanks of A Company. Before long the enemy had forced both A and C Companies back to the old German first line where they made a stand but suffered heavily in the process. Enemy troops had also managed to get between the old German first line and the village, cutting off those men who were still fighting there. Of these only ten survived the onslaught and, when they finally fell back, only one officer and three men made it back to the British lines. There was no news of the men still fighting in the old German first line until a wounded officer came back to report that they had fought to the last and that the few survivors had most probably been forced to surrender. The battalion's casualties for the attack were 11 officers and 451 other ranks killed wounded or missing.

Frank is commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Bay 7.

Gross
Geoffrey Yates
Captain



D Company, 1st Battalion Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Killed in action on the 9th April 1916.

Geoffrey Yates Gross was born at the Infirmary, East Dulwich on the 10th of August 1890, the son of Dr Charles Gross FRCS and Constance (née Yates) Gross of St. Saviours Infirmary, East Dulwich Grove, Dulwich, later of 11 Downe Terrace, The Hill, Richmond in Surrey. He was christened at St. John the Evangelist Church, Dulwich on the 18th of January 1891.

Geoffrey was educated at Epsom College from 1903 to 1909 where he won an Exhibition. He was a School Prefect, a member of the School Council and was a member of the Rugby XV. He served as a Sergeant in the Officer Training Corps, achieving Certificate A, and was Captain of the Shooting VIII.

He went to work as a clerk for C.T. Bowring (Insurance) Ltd, Lloyd's brokers.

Geoffrey enlisted as Private B/441 in the Inns of Court Officer Training Corps at 10 Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn on the 5th of November 1909. He attended a medical examination at 5 Kensington Square on the same day where it was recorded that he was five feet 11 and a half inches tall. He attended their annual camps from 1910 to 1914 and served with them until the 4th of November 1913.

Following the outbreak of war, Geoffrey was recalled for service on the 5th of August 1914 and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment on the 15th of August 1914. He embarked for France on the 9th of October 1914 where he was attached to B Company, 1st Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment and joined them in the field. On the 20th of October 1914 the 1st Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment marched from Ypres to Wietje where they were to be in support of an attack by 5th Brigade. In the event they were not needed, and were instead detached from their own Brigade and attached to the Guards Brigade that evening. The following day, B Company was ordered to dig trenches near Zonnebeke on the right of the Brigade. Here they suffered three casualties when their new position was shelled by the enemy.

On the 24th, the battalion was reunited and received orders for an attack. B Company reached the ridge running from Zonnebeke to Becelaere without serious opposition but D Company, on one side of them, and the French on the other had not been as successful and the men had to take cover in a ditch where they came under fire all night from the Germans who could see their position, which was lit by two burning farm buildings. On the 25th of October the Berkshires' positions were shelled all day. During the day Geoffrey Gross was moving down a road to the left of B Company's position when he met a German officer who had no idea the British had penetrated as far as they had. Gross promptly took him prisoner.

Gross
Geoffrey Yates
Captain

On the 26th of October the line came under further shelling and Geoffrey Gross was wounded in the knee by a piece of shrapnel. He was evacuated to the rear and then to England where he was taken to the Officers Convalescence Home at Osborne on the Isle of Wight.

For reasons unknown, the Times newspaper of the 4th of November reported that he had been killed in action.

The Military Secretary received the following letter from Cox & Company, bankers dated the 4th of November 1914:

"Sir, we have the honour to inform you that we have received a telegram from Osborne dated today, purporting to come from Lieutenant G.Y. Gross 3rd Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment which reads as follows: "Not killed in action. Slightly wounded left knee, now at Osborne, take necessary action, Gross West Kents."

In spite of this news his father received the following telegram dated the 30th of November 1914:

"Deeply regret to inform you that 2Lt G.Y. Gross R West Kent Regt has been killed in action 27th Oct. No further details received. Lord Kitchener expresses his sympathy."

The War Office received a further letter dated the 1st of December 1914 from Captain C.H. Tindell-Lucas, 1st

Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment, from Foxholes, Hitchin in Hertfordshire, who was in England on seven days leave:

"A report has appeared in the Times casualty list recently (I forget the date) announcing the death of 2nd Lt G.Y. Gross of the Royal West Kents who was attached to the 1st Royal Berks Regiment. He was wounded at Zonnebeke on Oct 26th in the morning, he walked some 100 yards immediately afterwards to a trench occupied by Major Finch and myself. The wound was inflicted by a piece of shell which struck his kneecap without penetrating the skin. As it was giving him some pain, he was sent back on a stretcher but we never had any reason to believe that death had subsequently occurred. Would you kindly verify the matter and inform the 1st Royal Berks Regt."

The War Office replied on the 4th of December 1914:

"The Military Secretary begs to thank Captain C.H. Tindall-Lucas for his letter of December 1st. The announcement of the death of 2nd Lieutenant G.Y. Gross Royal West Kent Regiment has been cancelled in the press."

While recovering from his wounds, Geoffrey was married at Marylebone Registry Office on the 14th of November 1914 to Maud Mary (widow of the Hon John Ashburnham) and they lived at 29 Inverna Gardens in Kensington.

Gross
Geoffrey Yates
Captain

On the 2nd of September 1915 he was posted to a base depot to train recruits.

He returned to France where he joined the 1st Battalion of his regiment in the field on the 7th of October 1915. He was promoted to Temporary Captain on the 1st of November 1915 and to Captain on the 22nd of December 1915. Geoffrey was appointed as commanding officer of D Company.

On the morning of the 9th of April 1916, the 1st Battalion Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) was in trenches near Arras. Conditions were misty and, using the cover of the fog, Geoffrey Gross and Lieutenant William Murray Dobie went out to inspect the condition of the wire in front of their trench, which had been repaired by a wiring party the night before. While they were doing this the enemy suddenly opened fire from a range of thirty five yards, wounding Gross and killing Dobie, who fell dead into a crater. Company Sergeant Major Fred John Crossley DCM, Sergeant A. Hammond and Corporal F. Liddamore crawled forward to where Geoffrey Gross was lying and managed to drag him back to the British lines where he died of his wounds a few minutes later. During the course of the rescue, Crossley was killed and Liddamore got a bullet through his jacket.

Geoffrey's wife received the following telegram dated the 11th of April 1916:

"Deeply regret to inform you that Capt. G.Y. Gross Royal West Kent Regiment was killed in action April 9th. Lord Kitchener expresses his sympathy."

He is commemorated on the war memorial at Epsom College.

Geoffrey is buried at Faubourg D'Amiens Cemetery, Plot I, Row A, Grave 21.

Gunn
Marcus Sinclair
Lieutenant MC



1st Battalion Black Watch (Royal Highlanders).
Died of wounds on the 6th September 1916.

Marcus Sinclair Gunn was born in Cardiff on the 29th of May 1890, the son of Marcus Gunn, a shipbuilder, and Mary Elizabeth Gunn of St Alban's, Cathedral Road, Cardiff.

He was educated at Blundell's School from January 1902 to April 1906 where he was in Petergate House and was a member of the Officer Training Corps.

Marcus worked as an insurance broker for C.T. Bowring (Insurance) Ltd, Lloyd's brokers and lived at 26 North Gate, Regent's Park in London.

He served as Private 2139 in the London Scottish from 1905 to 1908, leaving when the battalion became part of the Territorial Army. On the 4th of August 1914 he applied for a commission and expressed a preference for the South Staffordshire Regiment in his application. Unable to wait for a response, he re-enlisted at 59 Buckingham Gate on the 5th of August 1914 as a Private for a four-year term of service in his old battalion the 1/14th Battalion London Regiment (London Scottish). At his medical examination it was recorded that Marcus was five feet 11 and three quarter inches tall and that he weighed 13 stone 4 pounds. After five weeks of training at St Albans he embarked for France with his battalion from Southampton on board the SS Winifredian at 8am on the 15th of September 1914, landing at Le Havre the following morning. They became

the first Territorial Army unit to see action on the Western Front during the Great War. Marcus was wounded by a gunshot in his left arm on the 1st of November 1914 during the heavy fighting at Messines Ridge, was evacuated, and admitted to No. 7 Stationary Hospital at Boulogne the following day.

On his recovery he was granted leave and he applied for a commission on the 6th of January 1915, citing a preference for either the Gordon Highlanders or the Black Watch.

He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 3rd Battalion Black Watch (Royal Highlanders), Special Reserve on the 3rd of February 1915 and was posted to Nigg, Cromarty in Scotland. He went to France where he joined the 1st Battalion of his regiment in the field on the 22nd of May 1915 and was promoted to Lieutenant on the 19th of August 1915.

At 6.45pm on the 24th of September 1915, the 1st Battalion Black Watch moved forward to positions to the east of Vermelles for an attack the following morning. The British planned to attack the enemy front line at Loos as part of a wider offensive to gain ground before the onset of winter. A Company of the Black Watch was detailed to support the Cameron Highlanders who were in turn supporting a battalion of the Royal Berkshire Regiment in their attack on the village of Hulluch with the rest of the 1st Black Watch being ordered to move into the front line trenches as soon as the attack began and to await orders.

Gunn
Marcus Sinclair
Lieutenant MC

At 6am on the morning of the 25th of September 1915, gas was released from the British trenches which was coupled with a heavy bombardment from the artillery on the German front lines. The Berkshire men advanced into the smoke at 6.30am and at 7.20am word came back that the Berkshires and Camerons were in the German front line. By 8am they had moved to within 500 yards of Hulluch and had captured two field guns along the way. Shortly afterwards it became clear that the attack had stalled and B Company of the Black Watch was sent forward at 9.10am with orders to advance on Bois Carre, gain the first line trench and then swing to its right. As they advanced it became evident that the Germans had regained their front trench and only 30 men of the Black Watch made it that far, the rest falling to heavy enfilade fire from enemy machine guns. A further attack was made at 2pm involving two battalions which was supported by A and C Companies of the Black Watch but this also failed and the men settled down for the night where they were. An attack which was planned for noon the following day was cancelled, and the battalion was withdrawn on the 27th having suffered casualties of four officers and 60 other ranks killed, with six officers and 151 other ranks wounded. 61 other ranks were missing. Marcus Gunn was among the wounded.

For his part in this action Marcus Gunn was awarded the Military Cross, which was announced in the London Gazette of the 4th of November 1915. The citation read:

“For conspicuous gallantry near Hulluch from 25th to 27th September, 1915. He brought his machine guns into action on two occasions under very heavy rifle and shell fire in order to support attacks. He also rescued many wounded men who were lying under fire between the lines.”

On the 10th of July 1916 the 1st Battalion Black Watch took over the old British front line trenches in front of the village of Becourt on the Somme, in a position known as Scott's Redoubt. The following night they relieved troops of 23rd Division who had been involved in an advance on the village of Contalmaison during the day. Within a couple of hours of the relief the Germans launched a counterattack, which was driven off, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy. Later that day, the 12th of July, the battalion was part of an advance that brought the British line up to Contalmaison Wood where four enemy guns were captured by the battalion.

On the 14th of July two platoons advanced under the cover of darkness to capture the enemy position of Contalmaison Villa but there was difficulty in organising the new line. Marcus Gunn and Lieutenant Duncan Murray-Menzies, who were attached to Battalion Headquarters, had “exceeded their instructions” by becoming involved in the fighting, but were instrumental in organising the new line. As Gunn returned to report the new line he entered an old dugout and discovered 12 Germans who had taken refuge there after the failure of their counterattack two days earlier.

Gunn
Marcus Sinclair
Lieutenant MC

Despite only being armed with a clasp knife he managed to convince them that it was a revolver and brought all of them in as prisoners. Among the casualties of the days fighting was Gunn's servant, Private W. George DCM, who was killed.

On the 2nd of September 1916 the battalion moved into trenches in front of High Wood in preparation for an attack in conjunction with a battalion of the Cameron Highlanders the following day. A, C and D Companies were in the front line, and would lead the attack, with B Company in support. The attack was to be preceded by the exploding of a mine under the German front line. At 12 noon on the 3rd of September 1916 the mine was fired and the supporting artillery barrage was supplemented with flamethrowers and oil can projectors. With the firing of the mine, the Black Watch rushed forward and the right hand company was able to seize the lip of the crater. On the left of the attack, A Company met with disaster when a British trench mortar barrage fell among them, causing 75% casualties in a matter of minutes and stalling the advance.

Casualties for the attack totalled three officers missing with two wounded and 37 other ranks killed, 123 wounded and 36 missing.

Marcus Gunn was among the wounded and was evacuated to 36 Casualty Clearing Station at Heilly.

His brother received a telegram dated the 4th of September:

"Regret to inform you that M.S. Gunn, Black Watch, was wounded on 3rd September 1916. Further reports sent when received."

He died of his wounds three days later.

Two days after that, his brother received a further telegram dated the 7th of September:

"Deeply regret to inform you that Lt. M.S. Gunn Black Watch died of wounds Sept 6th. The Army Council express their regret."

The regimental historian of the Black Watch wrote:

"By the death of Lieutenant Gunn the battalion lost an officer who had for eighteen months displayed all the qualities of a leader of men, and who had shown a wonderful example of coolness and great courage in many critical periods."

He is commemorated on the Caithness Roll of Honour and on the memorial at Blundell's School.

Marcus is buried at Heilly Station Cemetery, Plot III, Row E, Grave 22.

Hales
Henry Laing
Lance Corporal
G/33898



**32nd Battalion Middlesex Regiment. Died on the
27th of October 1918.**

Henry Laing Hales was born in St Pancras in London in 1892, the son of Henry J Hales, a marble mason, and Hetty L Hales of 17 Lismore Road, Kentish Town, London.

He worked as a clerk at the Lloyd's Shipping Office and enlisted into the army at Mill Hill. He was married in 1915 to Edith M. (née Butler or Fowler).

Henry is buried at St Pancras Cemetery, W6 Grave 221.

Hall
Henry Herbert
Lance Corporal
652259



1/21st (County of London) Battalion (First Surrey Rifles). Killed in action on the 9th of December 1917.

Henry Herbert Hall was born in Southwark and lived in Camberwell. He worked at Lloyd's for Herbert Crosfield Esq.

He enlisted into the army in Camberwell.

On the 9th of December 1917 the 1/21st (County of London) Battalion (First Surrey Rifles) was in positions near Bourlon Wood which they had been consolidating since the 5th of December. During the morning, German infantry attacked the 1/23rd (County of London) Battalion, who were on the left of the Surrey Rifles and occupied part of a position known as 'Durrant's Post', named after a Captain of the 23rd Battalion, at 7am. Instead of attacking by coming over the top of their trenches they had used a sunken road and some old unoccupied trenches as cover. At 11am it was decided at Brigade Headquarters that the Surrey Rifles would attack the sunken road and clear it of the enemy.

A short but heavy artillery barrage was arranged which fell on the sunken road but also forced Durrant and his men from the post. Under the cover of the barrage the Londoners reached the sunken road but met with a fierce machine gun fire and were forced to retire with heavy casualties. The loss of Durrant's position led to the decision that it should be destroyed rather than be used by the enemy. When night fell a small party under Lieutenant Gilkes crept out to the position and destroyed it with phosphorus bombs, setting fire to the dugouts and rendering it useless to the Germans. The battalion was relieved on the 12th of December

Henry is buried at Flesquieres Hill British Cemetery, Plot VIII, Row F, Grave 2.

Hamilton
James Roy
Lance Corporal 785



1/14th (County of London) Battalion (London Scottish).
Killed in action on the 1st of November 1914, aged 25.

James Roy Hamilton was born in Stoke Newington on the 23rd of July 1889, the second son of James Hamilton JP, an insurance company manager, and Jane Mc C. (née Selkirk) Hamilton later of West Bank in Yorkshire. He was christened on the 11th of August 1889 at Park Presbyterian Church in Islington.

James worked as a clerk for C.E. Heath & Company Ltd, Lloyd's Underwriters and lived with his older brother, Robert Morton Hamilton, at 16 Brookfield, West Hill, Highgate. He enlisted in London as a Private in the 14th (County of London) Battalion (London Scottish) and rose to the rank of Lance Corporal.

Following the outbreak of war he was mobilised on the 5th of August 1914 and moved to Abbots Langley for training. He embarked for France with his battalion from Southampton on the 15th of September 1914 on board the SS Winifredian, landing at Havre in the early hours of the following morning.

At 4am on the morning of the 31st of October 1914 the 1/14th (County of London) Battalion (London Scottish) was paraded along the St. Eloi road in preparation for a move towards the front line where the beleaguered regulars of the British Army were under relentless attacks in what was to become the First Battle of Ypres. They marched

about a mile to a wood to the south east of St. Eloi and dug in. They were not there long before orders came for a move to support some cavalry who were in positions along the Wytschaete-Messines Ridge. At about 8am they moved through columns of refugees who were fleeing the advancing Germans. As they neared the front line they passed through the British artillery lines and came under German artillery fire for the first time, as well as witnessing a direct hit on a British gun which killed its crew.

They then moved along the Steenbeek and at about 10am they were given directions towards the firing line where units of the 4th Cavalry Brigade were desperately hanging on to their trenches and where a gap had been opened in their line which the London Scottish was ordered to fill. As they advanced towards the front line they were under shell fire and received several casualties before arriving at their appointed positions. When they arrived they lay with little cover under a sustained artillery bombardment until dusk.

Being Territorial troops, the men had been equipped with Mark 1 rifles, which had been adapted to take the more modern Mark VII ammunition. In the event, the Mark VII clips did not fit the rifles and as a result they could only be used to fire single rounds or else they would jam.

At about 9pm the Germans attacked in a dense mass with bands playing and officers urging their men forward from the rear. Despite their inadequate weapons the Scots drove off the German attack, causing many enemy casualties.

Hamilton
James Roy
Lance Corporal 785

When a large group of the enemy broke through on the left, 35 Scots fixed bayonets and attacked them and drove them off despite being outnumbered by some ten to one.

The Germans retired and the bombardment resumed at about midnight, setting fire to a number of surrounding farm buildings and a nearby windmill. The Germans attacked again shortly afterwards and the Scots fought off rush after rush for about an hour, assisted by the light of the fires and a full moon as they poured ammo into the enemy ranks. At 2am the Germans attacked again with a huge group of men. By the sheer weight of numbers and at the point of the bayonet, they forced a gap between the Scots and the cavalry. The situation was saved by part of the reserve coming forward and cutting the German attackers down at a range of only thirty yards.

Eventually Colonel Malcom, the commanding officer, was forced to order a withdrawal and arranged for the evacuation of the wounded before moving the men back across the Steenbeek to a new line at Wulverghem. The Germans were too spent to follow and used the lull in the fighting to consolidate and remove their wounded.

The 1/14th Battalion London Regiment (London Scottish) were the first territorial infantry to see action in the Great War and had suffered casualties of 394 officers and men during their first engagement – but they had held the line.

James was one of five brothers, all of whom served during the Great War.

He is commemorated on the Menin Gate, Panel 54.

Hamilton
John Percy
2nd Lieutenant



23 Training Squadron, Royal Flying Corps. Killed on active service on the 8th of March 1918, aged 20.

John Percy Hamilton was born in London on the 14th of October 1897, the son of Percy Hamilton, an estate agent's clerk, and Janet Hamilton of 6 Greenhill Crescent, Harrow-on-the-Hill in Middlesex. He worked Price Forbes & Company Ltd, Lloyd's brokers.

John enlisted as Private S4/184909 in the Army Service Corps and embarked for France on the 8th of July 1916. He returned to the UK to join the Royal Flying Corps and was commissioned as a probationary 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Flying Corps on the 9th of September 1917; then, on the 11th of September he was posted to 24 Training Squadron. He was posted to 67 Training Squadron on the 16th of October 1917 and was promoted to Flying Officer on the 17th of January 1918. John was next posted to 23 Training Squadron based in Egypt.

On the 8th of March 1918 he was flying as a passenger in RE8 B6557 when the aircraft suffered engine failure before crashing out of control at Aboukir near Alexandria, killing him and injuring his pilot, Lieutenant W.B. Maitland.

He is buried at Alexandria War Memorial Cemetery, Row B, Grave 53.

Hampton
Walter
Rifleman 9794



1/5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade). Died of on the 14th of May 1915, aged 23.

Walter Hampton was born in Ewell, the son of Charles Alfred Hampton, a ship owner, and Emma (née Latham) Hampton of Seleng House, Epsom Road, Ewell in Surrey.

He worked as a clerk for a firm of Lloyd's insurance brokers and was an Annual Subscriber at Lloyds. Walter enlisted into the army in London.

He embarked for France with his battalion from Southampton on board the SS Chyeabassa on the 4th of November 1914, landing at Le Havre the following day.

On the 7th of January 1915, the battalion took over trenches in the Ploegsteert area in a line known as Essex Trench. The battalion was deployed with No. 4 Company in the front trench, No. 3 Company in support and No. 1 in reserve. During the month there was a considerable amount of shelling of the British positions and Walter Hampton was wounded on the 16th of January 1915, the only man hurt on what was described as a "quiet day". He was one of five men from the battalion who were wounded during January, with a further eight men being killed.

Walter was evacuated back to England where he died of his wounds four months later.

His brother, Lance Corporal John Latham Hampton 1/5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade), was killed in action on the 3rd of May 1915 at the age of 38.

Walter is buried at St Mary's Churchyard, Ewell, Old Ground Grave 182A.

Harding
Ferdinando
Welch Smithers
Private 514713



1/14th (County of London) Battalion (London Scottish).
Died of wounds on the 17th of August 1917, aged 31.

Ferdinando Welch Smithers Harding was born at South Camp, Aldershot in 1886, the only son of Ferdinando Welch Smithers-Harding and Mary Smithers-Harding of 21 Westbury Road, Croydon.

He was married to Dorothy Bennetto (née Cole) at St Margaret's Church, Norwood on the 14th of April 1913 and they lived at 49 Alexandra Road, Upper Norwood; they had a daughter, Dorothy Eileen born in Croydon on the 23rd of November 1914.

In 1911, Ferdinando was a bookkeeper for a grain merchant, but by 1914 he was working as an accountant for J.W. Hobbs & Company, Lloyd's brokers.

He attested for service at New Court, St Swithin's Lane in London in the 14th (Reserve) Battalion London Regiment on the 7th of December 1915 where it was recorded at his medical examination that he was five feet ten inches tall. His mobilisation was deferred until the 29th of July 1916 by a Medical Board which sat in Battersea on the 7th of July 1916. The Board delayed his mobilisation as he needed to have dentures fitted. He was mobilised on the 24th of January 1917 when he was sent for training at Hazeley Down Camp at Winchester.

Ferdinando embarked for France from Southampton on the 29th of May 1917, landing at Le Havre the following day where he reported at the Depot and was later posted to the 1st Battalion of his regiment.

He was injured by multiple gunshot wounds near Hoge on the 17th of August 1917 and died at 17 Casualty Clearing Station later the same day.

He is buried at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Plot XVII, Row H, Grave 4.

Harding
Robert Denis Stewart
Lieutenant



4th Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment attached to the 1st Battalion. Killed in action on the 7th of November 1914, aged 28.

Robert Denis Stewart Harding was born in Kensington on the 8th of January 1883, the only child of Stanley Greville Harding, a builder and contractor, and Edith Harding, later of Lake House, Salisbury in Wiltshire. He was christened at St Luke's Church, Kensington on the 27th of December 1885.

Robert was educated at Harrow School where he was in Rendall's House from 1889 to 1903 and went on to Christ Church, Oxford in 1905.

He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 4th Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment on the 4th of May 1912 and was promoted to Lieutenant on the 17th of March 1913.

Robert was an Underwriting Member of Lloyd's and also a member of the Bath Club.

Following the outbreak of war he was mobilised and was attached to the 1st Battalion of his regiment which he joined in the field on the 14th of October 1914 at La Bassée along with two other officers and a large draft of reinforcements for the battalion.

On the morning of the 6th of November 1914 the 1st Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment moved along the streets of Ypres and through the Menin Gate towards Hooze. After a short rest there they moved once more towards Gheluvelt and turned off the road short of the village into Klein Zillebeke Wood where they arrived around midnight, relieving their 2nd Battalion in the line. As dawn broke on the morning of the 7th of November they awoke to find a thick mist enveloping the area. Attempts to deepen the shallow trenches proved impossible due to the water level and they settled down to await events with little intelligence as to the German troop positions in front of them. At 3.30pm firing broke out to their left rear and groups of Germans could be seen only 15 yards away, but it was unclear whether these were prisoners so fire was not opened on them. News came through that the Germans had broken through on their left and part of the battalion on the left flank retired in the confusion. Captain Monteith, in command of the reserve company, ordered bayonets to be fixed and called for a charge to recover the lost trenches and, with a loud cheer, the Bedfords rushed forward to the attack. They recovered the lost trench and captured 25 enemy prisoners at the point of the bayonet. During the attack Robert Harding fell at the head of his platoon.

Harding
Robert Denis Stewart
Lieutenant

His Company Commander, Captain Monteith, wrote:

“The enemy had broken through the line of trenches held by the battalion on our left, and its break caused part of our trenches to be vacated also. Our company was in reserve, and we formed up and brought off an entirely successful counterattack, driving the enemy back, killing many and capturing 25 prisoners. It was in this counterattack that Harding fell, leading his men up a lightly wooded hill. I did not see him fall, but missed him when we got to the ridge, and on going back found him quite dead. Death had evidently been instantaneous. I had formed a very high opinion of his gallantry and coolness. I could rely on him always and he had gained the confidence of his men, though he had only been with the company a month. He was always bright and cheery and it was a real pleasure to have his company on the line of march or in the trenches.”

Robert is commemorated on the war memorial at Christ Church, Oxford.

He is commemorated on the Menin Gate, Panels 31 and 33.

Harris
Claude Leslie
Captain



A Battery, Honourable Artillery Company. Died of on the 2nd of May 1918, aged 28.

Claude "Jim" Leslie Harris was born in Wimbledon in 1890, the second son of John Parrott Harris, a Lloyd's underwriter, and his second wife, Marianne "Minnie" Louisa (née Ripley) Harris of Wrayfield, Wray Common Road, Reigate in Surrey. He was christened at St. Mary's Church, Wimbledon on the 4th of June 1890.

Claude was educated at Tonbridge School from May 1902 to July 1906 where he was in Parkside House and was a member of the Officer Training Corps. On leaving school he went to Switzerland for a year.

On his return he went to work as a clerk for a firm of insurance brokers and was elected as an Annual Subscriber at Lloyd's in 1914.

Claude enlisted at Armoury House, Finsbury as Private 95 in the Honourable Artillery Company on the 27th of November 1908. At his medical examination, held on the same day, it was recorded that he was five feet ten inches tall with fair hair, grey eyes and a fresh complexion. He served with A Battery, initially as a Driver, and was promoted to Bombardier on the 9th of March 1911. He was promoted again to Corporal on the 11th of March 1912 and to Sergeant on the 20th of October 1913.

He attended all annual camps while he was serving, including at Fargo Camp from the 23th of May to the 6th of June 1914.

Following the outbreak of war, Claude was mobilised on the 5th of August 1914 and by the 1st of February 1915 he was based at North Walsham with 1/A Battery. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in A Battery on the 7th of March 1915. He embarked for Egypt with his battery from Avonmouth on the 9th of April 1915 on board the SS Karoa, setting sail the following day. They landed at Alexandria on the 21st of April and disembarked there the next day. They then moved to Kantara where they were involved in the defence of the Suez Canal until December 1915.

In October 1915 his Major wrote to his father, John Harris:

"I want to tell you how well your son is doing and how invaluable he is to the Battery and to me. He has already done wonders with his section, is very popular with the men and by far the best horsemaster we have... Jim has never grumbled once, and has done no end to keep the men cheerful and contented."

They saw further service in Egypt in 1916 and in Palestine in 1917.

Harris
Claude Leslie
Captain

Claude was promoted to Lieutenant on the 1st of June 1916 and to Acting Captain on the 17th of June 1916.

On the 23rd of August 1917 he was on a reconnaissance mission at Tel el Fara when he fell and suffered a contusion and strained his hip. He was admitted to hospital at Fukhari but soon recovered and rejoined his Battery.

His Battery was the first to enter Beersheba after the battle to take the city on the 31st of October 1917.

On the night of the 29th of April 1918 an attack was planned by British forces on Turkish positions to the east of the River Jordan. The Australian Division was to cross the River Jordan and march some 15 miles before dawn to hold the ford at Jisr-el Damieh and protect the western flank of the British advance. Two Brigades would then make their way up a series of goat tracks and take part in a combined attack at Es Salt. Despite initial resistance in the early hours of the 30th of April the enemy positions were taken and consolidated. Later that day A Battery Honourable Artillery Company moved into a position which dominated the ford and began engaging targets on the west bank of the river.

It soon became evident that the Turks had both regrouped and been reinforced and they launched a counterattack at 6am on the morning of the 1st of May. The HAC and other British artillery batteries engaged them but a large part

of the force continued in open formation and threatened to cut the HAC off from the main force. It was decided to abandon their position and orders were received to retire and take up another position some two miles further back. The Turks were soon threatening the battery's line of retreat and it proved difficult to move the guns and limbers over the broken ground. As the retirement began, the Turks cut off the road and began sniping at the retreating artillerymen and before long the ammunition wagons had to be abandoned. One gun overturned in the confusion and Claude Harris rode over to it and removed the breach, which he carried on his saddle. It then proved necessary to disable and abandon the guns, which were unhooked from their horse teams to allow the men to get away. During this operation, Claude Harris was hit by a bullet in the groin and was persuaded, reluctantly, to leave the guns and seek shelter behind a boulder. While in shelter, his wounds were dressed by another officer after which he was carried away, still under fire, firstly on foot and then on a horse before being placed in a camel drawn ambulance. He was taken to a Divisional Casualty Clearing Station at Jericho where he died of his wounds the following day.

His former Battery Commander wrote:

"He was a fearless, clean living sportsman and it was only when I left the Battery that I realised what a help he was to me and how loyally and hard he worked."

Harris
Claude Leslie
Captain

His Commanding Officer wrote:

"Although I had only known him a short time, I had found in him a man in the finest and truest sense of the word. He had been in this Battery for a very long time and his whole life was wrapped up in it, his energy on behalf of man and horse at all times was untiring, and he loved all, as he was loved by all."

A brother HAC officer wrote:

"What I chiefly want to say is how much we all admired his energy and ability, and how wholeheartedly he devoted himself to the welfare of the Battery at all times... The gallant way he carried out his work till wounded and the still more gallant way he acted after being hit will always be remembered by us."

The Battery Chaplain wrote:

"He was universally beloved by everyone, officers and men, throughout the Division. I shall miss him in my work, as he was a regular communicant and did everything he could to help me."

Other officers wrote:

"The oldest and newest members all thought no end of him; he was always so cheerful and kind hearted."

"His loss was felt by us all as one of the oldest and keenest members of the battery."

"Everyone who was present says that Jim acted magnificently and by his coolness and wonderful personality inspired everybody. The old Battery is very proud indeed of him."

His brother, Lieutenant Hugh Ripley Harris Royal Field Artillery attached to the 1st Trench Mortar Battery, died of influenza on the 20th November 1918.

Claude is buried at Jerusalem War Cemetery, Row O, Grave 41.

Harrison
Wilfred Ernest
Captain MC



A Company, 11th (Service) Battalion Suffolk Regiment.
Died of on the 10th of April 1918, aged 26.

Wilfred Ernest Harrison was born in Constantine in Cornwall, the son of the Reverend Arthur Harrison and Margaret Harrison of Bowers Gifford Rectory, Pitsea in Essex and later of The Manor House, West Bradenham, Thetford in Suffolk. He was christened in Constantine on the 14th of February 1892. Wilfred was educated at Mr Deakin's School, The School House, Wood Lane in Falmouth and at Chigwell Grammar School in Essex. He went to work as a clerk for Kleinwort, Sons & Company, Lloyd's brokers.

Wilfred enlisted at 10 Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn as Private 3265 in the Inns of Court Officer Training Corps on the 15th of April 1915. At a medical examination held on the same day it was recorded that he was five feet 11 and a half inches tall. He was posted for training to Berkhamstead where he joined No. 2 Company. He applied for a commission on the 23rd of June 1915, expressing a preference for the 9th Battalion Suffolk Regiment where he had been "accepted by officer commanding."

He embarked for service in France from Folkestone on the 13th of July 1916 and joined his battalion in the field on the 18th of July. He was promoted to the rank of Acting Captain while in command of a company on the 27th of December 1916 and again promoted to Lieutenant on the 13th of February 1917.

On the 8th of April 1917 the 11th Battalion Suffolk Regiment moved into positions half a mile to the south east of Roclincourt near Arras for an attack the following morning.

At 5.30am on the morning of the 9th of April the British guns began firing a supporting barrage on the enemy trench system opposite. The battalion advanced, coming under machine gun fire immediately, but captured the German first line at the allotted time. Just after eight o'clock, Battalion Headquarters moved forward to occupy a dugout in the newly captured German second line, capturing 20 enemy prisoners in the process. By dusk they had taken all their objectives and were consolidating the captured positions. Casualties had been two officers killed with seven wounded and around 140 other ranks killed, wounded, or missing. Wilfred Harrison, who had been leading a Company during the day, was wounded in the right thigh by shrapnel.

He was evacuated to 6 Red Cross Hospital at Etaples, also known as the Liverpool Merchants Hospital, where he underwent an operation to remove the shrapnel on the 12th of April. He relinquished the rank of Acting Captain with effect from the 9th of April.

His mother received the following telegram dated the 13th of April 1917: "Beg to inform you Capt. W.E. Harrison 11th Suffolk Regt. admitted to 6 Red X Hospital Etaples April tenth with gunshot wounds right leg slight. Please supply War Office M.S13 casualties 520/2 address and relationship next of kin."

Harrison
Wilfred Ernest
Captain MC

He was evacuated to England from Calais on the 13th of April on board the SS Stad Antwerpen and landed at Dover from where he was sent to the 2nd Western General Hospital at Whitworth Street in Manchester where he arrived on the 15th of April.

A Medical Board sat at the hospital on the 30th of April to consider his case: "He was wounded on the outer posterior aspect of the right thigh by a shrapnel bullet. Entrance above middle of thigh. No exit. The bullet was removed in France, through an incision on the inner side of thigh about same level. There was no injury to bone and both wounds are now healed."

On the 15th of May 1917 a Medical Board was convened at the King's Lancashire Military Convalescent Hospital at Squire's Gate, Blackpool: "The wound has now healed, general health good, return to service."

On his recovery, Wilfred joined the reserve battalion of his regiment on the 6th of June 1917. He embarked for France once again from Folkestone on the 25th of June 1917, landing at Boulogne, and joined 15 Entrenching Battalion at Calais later the same day. He rejoined his battalion in the field on the 3rd of July 1917 and was promoted to the rank of Acting Captain while commanding a company on the 20th of July 1917. He was promoted to again Captain on the 12th of September 1917. Wilfred returned to England on leave from the 24th of November to the 17th of December 1917.

On the 23rd of January 1918 he was posted to General Headquarters for a course at the Lewis Gun School there.

On the morning of the 21st of March 1918 the 11th Battalion Suffolk Regiment was in positions in the Sensee Valley. That morning saw the opening of the long expected German spring offensive and at 5am a heavy bombardment of gas and high explosive fell on the Suffolk positions, which was followed by an infantry attack on the neighbouring battalion's trenches which was driven back. At 3pm a heavy barrage lasting half an hour fell once more on the Suffolk lines which was closely followed by a wave of German infantry from which C Company took a heavy toll. Although their line was broken at around sunset, this was quickly restored.

During the night news came through that the enemy had broken through further down the line and orders were received for the battalion to withdraw. At 8.30pm the battalion began to retire and they fell back to Henin Hill. On the 22nd of March the battalion was subjected to the heaviest bombardment it had experienced during the war, which was followed by further infantry attacks and throughout the day they struggled to hang on to their positions at Henin. At around 7pm one of the companies finally gave way and an hour later the Suffolks began to fall back with A Company, under the command of Wilfred Harrison, falling back to trenches at Boyelles where they were relieved on the morning of the 23rd.

Harrison
Wilfred Ernest
Captain MC

The battalion suffered casualties during March 1918, the vast majority of which were sustained from the 21st to the 23rd, of three officers killed with five officers wounded and one taken prisoner and a large number of other ranks killed, wounded, and missing.

For his actions during the German attack Wilfred Harrison was awarded the Military Cross, which was announced in the London Gazette of the 16th of September 1918. The citation read: "For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He handled his company with great skill against heavy enemy attacks, and set a fine example by his courage and quickness in grasping situations".

On the 30th of March 1918 the 11th Battalion Suffolk Regiment moved into reserve behind the line which ran in front of the town of Armentieres. Before dawn on the 9th of April the Germans opened a bombardment along the Lille Railway but no attack developed along the line held by the Suffolks. During the day news was received that the enemy had broken through on the frontage further down the line held by the Portuguese and the battalion moved, along with the rest of their Brigade, to the village of St. Maur. When they arrived there they found that the Germans had already entered and, instead, they took up positions near Fort Rompu.

On the 10th of April the battalion was forming a defensive flank for the rest of the Brigade when they came under heavy attack. The assaults were relentless throughout the day and wave after wave of enemy infantry was beaten back.

The Germans broke through the line on two occasions but were beaten back both times.

At 3.20pm, Lieutenant Colonel Tuck, the commanding officer of the battalion, received orders to withdraw behind the River Lys. He telephoned the commanding officer of the battalion on his left who said that he would be in no position to move his men for two hours and needed his flank protected until then. Tuck agreed to hang on until 5pm, which he did at the cost of further heavy casualties.

The battalion was not relieved until the night of the 17th/18th of April, by which time they had suffered casualties of nine officers killed or who had died of wounds with a further nine wounded and five who had become prisoners of war. Casualties among the other ranks amounted to some 500 men.

Wilfred Harrison was among the wounded, with gunshot wounds to the abdomen and right hand. He was evacuated by 103 Field Ambulance but died of his wounds on the way to a casualty clearing station.

His mother received the following telegram dated the 11th of April 1918: "Deeply regret Capt. W.E. Harrison 11th Suffolk Regt. died of wounds April tenth. The Army Council express sympathy."

Wilfred is commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Panel 3.

Hart
Conway John
Lieutenant



16th (Service) Battalion Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment) (Chatsworth Rifles). Killed in action on the 10th of October 1916, aged 34.

Conway John Hart was born in Kensington in London on the 4th of October 1883, the son of Rochester William Lee Hart, a bank official, and Fanny Maud (née Warren) Hart of 24a Victoria Road, Upper Norwood.

He was member of Rosslyn Park Rugby Football Club, and captained the 'A' XV for four years, becoming Treasurer and Vice President in 1912-13. He worked as an underwriter at Lloyd's for Willis Faber & Company Ltd.

Conway enlisted at 10 Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn on the 31st of May 1915 as Private 2844 in the Inns of Court Officer Training Corps. At a medical examination, which took place on the 27th of May, it was recorded that he was five feet nine inches tall.

He was sent to Berkhamstead for training and was appointed as an unpaid Lance Corporal on the 12th of August 1915. He was promoted to Lance Corporal on the 28th of September 1915. On the 1st of October 1915 he applied for a commission in the 16th Battalion Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment) and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant on the 18th of October 1915. He was promoted to Lieutenant on the 22nd of August 1916.

On the 5th of October 1916 the 16th Battalion Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment) moved into the front line at the Schwaben Redoubt on the Somme. On the evening of the 7th of October the Germans, who were occupying part of the redoubt, made a counterattack in an attempt to recover the British-held portion of their lost strongpoint. In spite of their use of flamethrowers during the attack, the Notts and Derby men managed to beat them off.

Two days later the 16th Battalion were ordered to make an attack in order to complete the capture of the redoubt.

At 4.30am on the morning of the 9th of October they advanced under the cover of darkness with all four companies and reached halfway across no man's land before they came under heavy machine gun fire. In spite of the onslaught, B Company managed to reach their objective and to capture and consolidate it. Meanwhile, C Company was held up by the wire in front of the enemy trench and D Company was unable to advance further due to the weight of fire. After a fight lasting some two hours, the battalion was forced back to its starting positions having suffered casualties of 13 officers and 224 other ranks of whom 29 officers and men were killed. Conway Hart was among the dead.

Hart
Conway John
Lieutenant

His father received the following telegram dated the 13th of October 1916:

“Deeply regret to inform you Lieut. C.J. Hart Notts and Derby Regt was killed in action Oct 9th. The Army Council express their sympathy.”

Conway is commemorated on the Willis Faber war memorial at the Willis Building in Lime Street.

He is buried at Mill Road Cemetery, Plot XVII, Row G, Grave 5.

Hawkins
William Edward
Sergeant 2158



1/16th (County of London) Battalion (Queen's Westminster Rifles). Died on the 7th of November 1916, aged 25.

William Edward Hawkins was born in Finsbury Park in 1891, the son of William Hawkins and Kate Hawkins of 51 Charterhouse Street, London. He was educated at Felsted School from September 1906 to April 1909 and worked as an insurance clerk for Joseph Hadley Esq. at Lloyd's. He lived in Ealing.

He enlisted into the army at Westminster.

William embarked for France with his battalion at Southampton on board the SS Maidan on the 1st of November 1914, landing at Le Havre at 9am on the morning of the 3rd of November.

He died as a prisoner of war.

William is buried at Rue-Petillon Military Cemetery, Special Memorial 1 J 13.

Head
Leslie Dymoke
Captain



**A Company, 9th (Service) Battalion King's Own
Yorkshire Light Infantry. Killed in action on the
1st of July 1916.**

Leslie Dymoke Head was born in Eastbourne in Sussex on the 29th of February 1888, the younger son of Dr Percy Turner Jones Head, a surgeon, and Louisa Augusta (nee Wraith) Head later of The Gables, Staines in Middlesex.

He was educated at Eastbourne College from 1902 to 1903 and at Bradfield College from January 1904 to December 1905 where he served as a Private with the 1st Berkshire Cadets for two years. On leaving school he went to work as a clerk for F.G.A. Povah Esq. and Others at Lloyd's.

Leslie applied for a commission in the 3rd (County of London) Battalion (Royal Fusiliers) on the 26th of March 1909 and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the battalion on the 19th of April 1909.

Following the outbreak of war, he applied for a commission in the infantry on the 21st of August 1914 in an application which was supported by E.L. Richardson MA, assistant master and housemaster at Bradfield. At a medical examination held at Hounslow on the 1st of September it was recorded that he was five feet six inches tall and weighed 144lbs.

Leslie was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry on the 22nd of September 1914, was promoted to Lieutenant on the 31st of October 1914 and was commanding officer of A Company.

He was married at All Saints Church, Margaret Street, Marylebone on the 12th of June 1915 to Caroline Annette (née Hind later Marris) later of Lucerne, Slinfold in Sussex.

Leslie was promoted to Captain on the 10th of September 1915 and embarked for France with his battalion from Folkestone on board the SS St. Seriol on the same day, docking at Boulogne at 1am the following morning.

The 1st of July 1916 was the opening day of the Battle of the Somme and the 9th Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry was tasked with the capture of enemy positions to the north of the village of Fricourt. Following a week of preparatory artillery fire the battalion advanced at 7.30am but immediately came under intense machine gun fire with A and B Companies suffering very heavy casualties as they crossed no man's land. In spite of their losses the survivors merged with the remnants of other battalions and gained the German front line before moving on and driving the enemy out of their support trenches. By nightfall they had consolidated the captured German line known as Crucifix Trench, having suffered casualties of 14 officers killed with nine wounded, of whom two died of their injuries. They also had casualties of 475 other ranks of whom 145 were killed. Leslie Head had been killed as he led A Company across no man's land.

His mother applied for his medals on the 30th of May 1920.

Leslie is buried at Gordon Dump Cemetery, Plot X, Row A, Grave 6.

Heath
Geoffrey Malcolm
Private 3895



2nd Battalion Honourable Artillery Company (Infantry).
Killed in action on the 9th of October 1917, aged 20.

Geoffrey Malcolm Heath was born in Hackney in 1897, the third son of Benjamin Howard Heath, the manager of a merchants, and Sarah Elizabeth (née Nicolson) Heath of 124 The Common, Upper Clapton, Clapton Common in London.

He was educated at Felsted School where he was a member of the Officer training Corps. He worked as a clerk for Alexander Howden & Co Lloyd's brokers.

Geoffrey enlisted in the 2nd Battalion Honourable Artillery Company at Armoury House, Finsbury on the 21st of June 1915. It was recorded at his medical examination that he was five feet seven inches tall. He transferred to the 3rd Battalion on the 15th of July for training and was appointed as an unpaid Lance Corporal on the 5th of February 1916 and then promoted to Lance Corporal on the 17th of July 1916. Geoffrey was again promoted to Acting Corporal on the 11th of November 1916 and to Acting Sergeant on the 29th of December 1916. He qualified as a first class shot on the 21st of July 1917 and reverted to the rank of Private prior to embarking for France on the 17th of September 1917 before being posted to the 2nd Battalion of his regiment on the 25th of September.

On the 8th of October 1917 the 2nd Battalion Honourable Artillery Company received orders for an attack on the enemy-held village of Reutel in the Ypres Salient.

They were specifically tasked with the capture of Judge Copse and Judge Cottage as well as the land immediately to the east of the village. That evening they moved in to position for the attack and were ready by 4am although they had sustained casualties of two officers and about 40 other ranks during their move forward. They formed up for the attack with C Company on the right and D Company on the left, with A Company in support and B Company in reserve. At 5.30am the men moved out of their trenches and began advancing across no man's land towards the enemy positions. Five minutes later, a counter barrage fell on them which caused heavy casualties among A Company in particular. At about the same time, machine guns, situated in Judge Copse, began firing as well. In spite of the opposition, by 6am small groups of men had managed to take their objectives and by midday news was received that the battalion had reached the outskirts of Reutel, "shooting down many Germans as they retreated".

The battalion was relieved on the night of the 10th of October by the 13th Battalion Durham Light Infantry. Casualties for the attack had been very heavy, with eight officers killed and seven wounded, along with 49 other ranks being killed, 189 wounded and 42 missing.

Geoffrey is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Panel 7.

Herdman
Arthur Widdrington
Lieutenant



B Company, 1st Battalion King's Shropshire Light Infantry. Killed in action on the 25th of October 1914, aged 28.

Arthur Widdrington Herdman was born at Holy Trinity Vicarage, Chirton on the 31st of January 1886, the only son of the Reverend Robert Morrison Herdman, Vicar of Holy Trinity Church, and Mary (née Wearmouth) Herdman later of Sunnyholme, Crescent Parade, Ripon in Yorkshire. He was educated at Trent College and at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, from 1905 where he achieved a BA.

He lived at Ewhurst Place in East Sussex and was an Underwriting Member of Lloyd's.

Arthur was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 3rd Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment (Militia) on the 2nd of January 1907. He was then commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Shropshire Light Infantry on the 18th of September 1909 and served in Ireland from 1912. He was promoted to Lieutenant on the 30th of October 1913.

Following the outbreak of war he went with his battalion to Queenstown in August 1914 and on the 10th of September 1914 he embarked with them from Southampton and landed at St. Nazaire. They then proceeded by train to Paris and marched to Crecy. During the Battle of the Aisne he and his battalion were in the trenches there for nearly a month.

Just before dawn on the 20th of October 1914 the 1st Battalion King's Shropshire Light Infantry relieved a battalion of the York and Lancaster Regiment in trenches over looking Le Quesne near Lille. As dawn broke through a heavy mist on the 23rd it was evident that the Germans were digging a new trench only 100 yards from the British positions and seven men from the battalion volunteered to creep down a ditch and remove them at the point of the bayonet, but they were quickly spotted and forced to retire. Shortly afterwards the Germans attacked but were repulsed, leaving an estimated 200 dead on the field. During the day the Germans continued to dig and, in places, were as close as 50 yards from the Shropshire men's line.

Due to the increased enemy activity it was decided to construct a new British support line some 500 yards to the rear and orders were issued to the effect that the existing line should be held at all costs until the new line was completed.

At 4pm on the 24th of October the Shropshire line came under heavy artillery fire, particularly on the flank, where they dispatched some of their reserve troops at 10pm to close a gap in the line between them and their neighbours, the 1st Battalion Leicestershire Regiment.

At dawn on the 25th of October 1914 a very heavy artillery bombardment fell on the Shropshire lines and on their headquarters in particular, which was shelled out on three occasions. This was followed by an infantry attack which

Herdman
Arthur Widdrington
Lieutenant

principally fell against the Leicesters who were at the level crossing near La Houssoye. While much of the fighting was hand-to-hand, the Shropshire machine guns caused a large number of enemy casualties and one of the platoons held on to their position in spite of heavy howitzer and enfilade fire from rifle and machine guns.

When the battalion was relieved at 9pm they had suffered casualties for the day of two officers and 16 other ranks killed with one officer and 25 other ranks wounded. Arthur Herdman was among the dead.

His mother received the following telegram dated the 28th of October 1914:

"Deeply regret to inform you that Lt. A.W. Herdman was killed in action Oct 25th. Lord Kitchener expresses his sympathy."

Major Luard, of his battalion, wrote:

"He is indeed a great loss to the regiment, and was very popular. The men of his platoon would do anything he asked of them."

His orderly, Private Griffiths, on hearing that he had been wounded, went out to look for him and was himself wounded in the arm in so doing. He found the body, which is believed to have been buried at Ration Farm Cemetery but Arthur's grave was subsequently lost. Griffiths wrote "When I told his men that he was dead they all took it very hard because he was the best friend we ever had."

In his will, Arthur left three acres of ground to the village of Ewhurst to be used for by the villagers for recreation. He also left a sum of £300 in trust for its upkeep and included a provision that excess funds be distributed at Christmas to the children of Ewhurst Green School. The children received this money every year from 1915 until the school closed in 1962. The Herdman Association was formed at Ewhurst in his memory and the Arthur Herdman Pavilion in the village was officially opened on the 27th of July 2013.

He is commemorated on the Tynemouth Roll of Honour and on the war memorial at Ewhurst .

Arthur is also commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Panel 8.

Hinde
George Clarence
Rifleman 3466



C Company, 1/16th (County of London) Battalion
(Queen's Westminster Rifles). Killed in action on the
19th of December 1915.

George Clarence Hinde was born in Leytonstone in 1893, the son of William Icely Hinde, a sorter at the General Post Office, and Agnes Louisa Hinde of 56 Harold Road, Leytonstone. He worked as a clerk for Alexander Howden & Co, Lloyd's brokers.

George enlisted in Westminster and embarked for France on the 17th of August 1915.

On the 15th of December 1915 the 1/16th Battalion London Regiment (Queen's Westminster Rifles) moved into trenches between the Ypres-Roulers railway line and Wieltje, in the centre of their Brigade's front. At around that time a German soldier was taken prisoner and had reported that the Germans were planning a gas attack in the area and that they were waiting for the wind to be in the right direction.

At 5.15am on the morning of the 19th of December a sentry from A Company, who were holding the front line, saw two red rockets fired from German lines to the left of the QWR positions. This was followed by a dense cloud of gas, which rolled across the trenches to their left. The Westminster men prepared for action, pulling on their gas

masks in anticipation of an enemy attack. In the event, the gas cloud dispersed in about ten minutes and was followed by very heavy shelling of the front line, communication trenches and the buildings just behind the lines. The British artillery retaliated with heavy fire on the German first line but also saw a number of their shells drop short into their own front line, although there were no casualties from this. At 8.30am the enemy shelling ceased.

While the fighting was going on, at 6.30am C Company were ordered by the Brigade commander to move position to nearby trenches in the Kaaie Salient where, in a very short time, they suffered casualties of four men killed and 11 wounded before they were ordered back to their original positions at 9am. George Hinde was among the dead.

He is commemorated on the Leytonstone war memorial.

George is buried at Ypres Reservoir Cemetery, Plot I, Row B, Grave 72.

Hoade
Reginald William
2nd Lieutenant



1/7th Middlesex Regiment attached to the 1st Battalion. Killed in action on the 15th of July 1916, aged 26.

Reginald William Hoade was born in Addlestone on the 13th of March 1890, the elder son of William Hoade, an underwriter, and Elizabeth (née Adams) Hoade of Oakley Lodge, Addlestone in Surrey. He was christened at St Paul's Church, Addlestone on the 15th of May 1890, and educated at St George's College, Weybridge.

Reginald worked as an underwriter at Lloyd's and was an Underwriting Member of Lloyd's.

Following the outbreak of war he enlisted at 10 Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn as Private 1745 in the Inns of Court Officer Training Corps on the 5th of October 1914. At a medical examination it was recorded that he was six feet and one quarter of an inch tall. He was appointed to the rank of unpaid Lance Corporal on the 14th of November 1914 and to Corporal on the 25th of November. He applied for a commission on the 17th of December 1914 and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 7th Battalion Middlesex Regiment on the 2nd of February 1915. Reginald was initially posted to a reserve battalion and was later attached to the 1st Battalion of his regiment.

On evening of the 14th of July 1916 the 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment was in a bivouac to the north of the village of Fricourt on the Somme. At 3am the following

morning they received orders for an attack later in the day and they moved out at 6.30am for the village of Bazentin-le-Petit from where their assault would begin. They moved forward through a gas cloud which, although "uncomfortable", caused no casualties among the ranks. When they reached the church at Bazentin-le-Petit, they were deployed for the attack with B and C Companies at the northern side of the village and A and D Companies pushing straight down the main road. Their objective was the German-held Switch Trench.

As soon as they began to move forward they came under heavy machine gun fire from an enemy position in the northern edge of Bazentin-le-Petit Wood. This caused heavy casualties among those Middlesex men who were on the left of the attack. German troops in the enemy front line sent up red and white flares as a signal to their artillery for support which soon arrived in the form of heavy fire from field guns and howitzers. By this time the Middlesex men were under fire from three sides as more machine guns opened fire on them from the direction of High Wood. They attempted to dig in where they were but were soon forced to fall back to their start lines. They were relieved at 10pm that night.

Casualties for the attack were six officers killed and seven wounded, including the battalion commanding officer Lieutenant Colonel H. Lloyd, with 44 other ranks killed, 201 wounded and 63 missing.

Hoade
Reginald William
2nd Lieutenant

Reginald was commemorated on the war memorial which hung in St Augustine's Church, Addlestone. The memorial is now in private hands following the de-consecration of the church in 2007.

He is also commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Pier and Face 12D and 13B.

Hobson
Alan Faber
Major DSO



2/1st (West Riding) Field Company, Royal Engineers.
Killed in action on the 28th of August 1916, aged 23.

Alan Faber Hobson was born in Sheffield in Yorkshire on the 25th of March 1893, the elder son of Alderman Albert John Hobson, a steel cutlery manufacturer, and Maud Langrish (née Faber) Hobson of Eshott, Ranmoor, Sheffield. He was educated at St Andrew's School Eastbourne and at Rugby School from 1907 to 1911 where he was in Stallard House and was a member of the Officer Training Corps. In 1911 he went on to Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, where he served in the Cambridge University Officers Training Corps until 1912 and from where he graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1914. Alan was an Underwriting Member of Lloyd's.

Following the outbreak of war he applied for a commission in the West Riding Divisional Engineers on the 28th of August 1914 and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the regiment on the 12th of September 1914. He was promoted to Lieutenant on the 3rd of November 1914 and to Captain on the 18th of June 1915. He embarked for France on the 21st of June 1915. In July 1915, Alan took command of his Company due to the illness of his Commanding Officer.

He was promoted to Major on the 28th of August 1915 and was mentioned in Sir John French's despatches of the 1st of January 1916 and in Sir Douglas Haig's despatches of the 4th of January 1917.

Alan was struck in the neck by shrapnel at Thiepval and died on his way to the dressing station.

He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order which appeared in the London Gazette of the 22nd of September 1916. The citation read:

"For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on many occasions. By his absolute coolness in danger, he has set a magnificent example to his company, and has carried out important work under trying conditions."

The General commanding 49th Division wrote:

"He was a very capable and reliable officer and was always cheerful; his brother officers and men were devoted to him. He behaved with great gallantry, especially on the occasion when he gained the DSO. I feel that his death means a serious loss to the Division."

The Royal Engineers Divisional Adjutant wrote:

"On August 28th he was up at the front working as usual -- he never did anything but work and try to make people happy -- when he was hit in the neck by a piece of shell, and died whilst he was being taken to the dressing station. Alan was one of the finest men I have ever met, just as brave and fearless as a man can be."

Hobson
Alan Faber
Major DSO

One of his men wrote:

"Yesterday, we had the great misfortune to lose our Major. I can tell you he was one of the best. The news came as a thunderbolt to us all, for we all liked him; he was always thoughtful and considerate for our welfare, as far as lay in his power. In an English Military Cemetery behind the lines our last respects were paid to a gallant officer and a gentleman, and we all came away knowing that we had lost not only a good officer but a really good friend."

A fellow officer wrote:

"One has read much of loveable, brave leaders in personal histories of previous wars. Hobson was one of those men that writers love to describe as the best and truest type of Englishman. He never asked one of us to go where he would not go himself. He was always happy, even tempered and just. The difficulty was for either of us Section Leaders to persuade him to do less and let us do more to help him. He joined in our frolics, laughed at our rough and tumbles. He made the Company Mess noted for its gaiety and good fellowship. The men adored him, though he never sought popularity with them. He was laid to rest, the guns thundering all the time, not as minute guns for a soldier away from the field of battle, but sending our repayment for our dead hero."

Alan's parents were sent his Distinguished Service Order on the 23rd of December 1916.

His elder brother, 2nd Lieutenant Leslie Faber Hobson 4th Battalion York and Lancaster Regiment, was killed in action on the 12th of July 1915.

Alan is commemorated on the war memorial at St. John's Church, Ramnour in Yorkshire.

He is buried at Bouzincourt Communal Cemetery, Extension Plot I, Row F, Grave 6.

Hodder
William James
Corporal 015999



**134th Company, Royal Ordnance Corps. Died on the
22nd of October 1918, aged 28.**

William James Hodder was born in East Dulwich in 1890, the son of Josiah James Hodder, a carpenter, and Emily (née Ackerman) Hodder of 242 Chrystal Palace Road, East Dulwich.

He worked on the Lloyd's Staff as a carpenter and was married in 1914 to Olive Louisa (née Huchinson) of 90 Barry Hill Road, East Dulwich in London.

William enlisted into the army in Camberwell as a Private in the Royal Ordnance Corps and rose to the rank of Acting Corporal.

He died of pneumonia.

William is buried at Jerusalem War Cemetery, Row W, Grave 7.

Holliday
Alfred Rowland
2nd Lieutenant



3/5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade) attached to A Company, 12th (Service) Battalion Rifle Brigade. Killed in action on the 20th of November 1917, aged 23.

Alfred Rowland Holliday was born at 19 Belmont Road, Tottenham on the 12th of November 1893, the son of Alfred Holliday, a cashier for an oil merchant, and Constance Charlotte Theophilia (née Howe) Holliday of Kintore, 42 The Mall, Southgate. He was educated at Stationers School and at Southgate County School from May 1907. Alfred worked as a clerk for Fester Fothergill & Hartung, Lloyd's brokers, and later as an advertising journalist.

He enlisted as Private 1115 in the 28th Battalion London Regiment (Artist's Rifles) on the 5th of November 1912. He then transferred to the London Army Troop Regiment, Royal Engineers and was a member of the Signal Company with the rank of Driver on the 11th of July 1913.

He was married in 1915 to Edna Mary (née Mobbs) and they lived at Clematis Villa, Avenue Road, Southgate in London.

Alfred transferred to the 3/5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade) as Private 1699 on the 3rd of March 1915 and was promoted to Lance Corporal on the 8th of December 1915. On the 4th of March 1916, while he was at Fovant Camp near Salisbury, he applied for a commission in the 3/5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle

Brigade) in an application which was supported by Mr A.J. Warren, Head Master of Southgate County School. He was passed as fit for general service at a medical examination held at Fovant on the same day.

He joined No 8 Officer Cadet Battalion at Lichfield on the 3rd of July 1916 and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in 3/5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade) on the 24th of October 1916.

Alfred went to France on the 5th of January 1917, where he was posted to the 12th Battalion Rifle Brigade. On the 27th of September he embarked from Boulogne for home leave, landing at Folkestone the same day. He returned to the front on the 7th of October.

At 5pm on the afternoon of the 19th of November 1917 the 12th Battalion Rifle Brigade moved from their camp at Heudicourt and arrived at Villers-Plouich at 9pm in preparation for an attack at Cambrai the following day. The battalion was to be on the left of the Brigade attack, in the second wave of the advance, and was to be supported by nine tanks in their task. They were to attack on a 600 yard frontage for a distance of some two miles. Ten minutes before zero hour on the morning on the 20th of November 1917 the first wave of tanks began moving forward, quickly followed by the infantry, some thousand yards in front of the enemy first line. At zero hour all the British guns began firing a supporting barrage over the heads of the

Holliday
Alfred Rowland
2nd Lieutenant

advancing tanks and infantry. At 6.40am the Rifle Brigade men began forming up some seventy yards behind their tanks and began their advance at 7.20am, by which time the tanks from the first wave could be seen moving down the Hindenburg Line. After a short time in front of the now captured enemy first line trench, the battalion moved forward at 8.50am towards their first objective. D Company, on the battalion's left, encountered little opposition with the enemy either running away or surrendering. Meanwhile, B Company, in the centre, came under machine gun fire, but pushed on to take its objective.

A Company lost the support of its tank which went too far to the left and the men continued on unsupported. With Lewis gun and rifle fire for support, the Company bombers got within two hundred yards of the Hindenburg Support Line but were held up by a nest of five machine guns and some enemy trench mortars. The Company Commander, Captain Fraser, managed to communicate with a nearby tank, which was persuaded to advance against the machine gun nest. While doing so, it received a direct hit from a trench mortar which disabled the tank and killed or wounded most of its crew. Men from B Company, assisted by the surviving tank crew, rushed the nest and forced its occupants to surrender. The final objective was then taken without much difficulty at 11am. Here the battalion consolidated its position and the following tanks and infantry passed through the captured position during the rest of the day.

Casualties for the attack were one officer killed, being Alfred Holliday, one wounded, and less than 40 other ranks killed wounded or missing.

Alfred is buried at Fifteen Ravine British Cemetery, Special Memorial A 21.

Holmes Albert Arundel Captain



2/5th (Cinque Ports) Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment. Died on the 19th of May 1915, aged 43.

Albert Arundel Holmes was born in Upminster on the 9th of November 1871, the son of Henry Holmes and Emilie Helena Mary (née Wogener) Holmes of Grey Towers, Hornchurch in Essex.

He was educated at Brighton College where he was in School House from January 1885 to until April 1888, after which he became a farmer and was an Underwriting Member of Lloyd's. Albert was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Forfar and Kincardine Artillery (Southern Division) on the 14th of March 1891 and was promoted to Captain in the 1st Essex (Eastern Division, Royal Artillery Militia) on the 22nd of May 1895.

He was married to Ellen (née Lambard) at St Barnabus' Church, Mayland in Essex on the 27th of July 1898 and they lived at of Northiam Place, Northiam in Sussex. She later lived at Sharigh, 122 London Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea. They had four sons: Albert John, born on the 30th of June 1899; Gerald Edwin, born on the 17th of July 1901; Henry, born on the 3rd of August 1906; and Douglas who was born on the 23rd of December 1908.

Following the outbreak of war Albert was appointed as a Captain on the General List on the 3rd of October 1914 and was attached to the 2/5th Battalion Royal Sussex on the 27th of October 1914 where he acted as a Company

Commander and was involved in training the new battalion.

He died from pneumonia at the Queen's Hotel, Hastings. A letter describing the illness which led to his death was written to the Administration Centre of the 5th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment on the 15th of May 1916:

"Sir, I have the honour to report as follows:

In my capacity as M.O. I/C the 2/5th (CP) Bn Royal Sussex Regt. I attended the late Captain Albert Arundel Holmes at the Queen's Hotel, Hastings, during the last illness in conjunction with Dr Wynne of Northiam, who was his family medical attendant.

Captain Holmes was a keen and enthusiastic soldier and very devoted to his work. By no means a strong man, he was very active and wiry. He was tall and somewhat thin and had a curious flat contour of chest, with some sinking in of the ribs and lower part of the sternum. There was a heart bruit to be heard over the aortic region, but this had not been a barrier to his taking part in shooting and lawn tennis, both of which sports he was very fond of. During the last few days of his illness the aortic murmur, which had been faint, became very loud and harsh, and a loud mitral murmur developed. He was known to complain of some fatigue after route marching.

The deceased had been in good health up to the 28th of March 1915, on which date he took his Company over to Northiam for some field training. He remained there up to the 4th of April when the Company returned to Hastings.

Holmes
Albert Arundel
Captain

The weather during that time was excessively cold and wet and the men suffered accordingly. From April 4th deceased suffered from a cold and on April 22nd developed influenza and was in a low and depressed state of mind. On April 25th pneumonia set in and developed very rapidly into a very severe attack; there being a large amount of bright haemorrhage and very pronounced cyanosis. The trouble was chiefly confined to the base of the right lung, where there was a marked consolidation but there was also crepitations in the left lung. The temperature chart is attached. During the next week delirium of a very marked kind set in, his servant being required as well as the nurses in attendance to restrain his movements. The delirium took the form of raving about his military duties and at times he would start up in bed and give military orders to his servant as if on parade. Apart from this delirium, the pneumonia gradually subsided under treatment, and, on May 8th the patient was so far well that it was proposed to remove him to his home at Northiam during the following week.

The next day, in the early morning, an acute abdominal attack occurred, giving rise to great pain in the epigastric and hepatic regions, accompanied by vomiting and marked rigors. A condition of general peritonitis developed, and the patient died on the May 19th. Dr. Lauriston Shaw, of Harley Street was called in consultation on May 10th and Dr. Batterham of St Leonards, Senior Surgeon to the East Sussex Hospl was called in, from time to time, to give a surgical opinion. Dr. A. Hoadley Huckle of Clive vale was

also consulted and made a blood count, which pointed to a marked condition of leucocytosis.

The question of an operation was carefully considered but there was never any clear indication for this and nothing was attempted. The consensus of opinion was that there was a general pneumococcal septicaemia, with evidence of acute peritonitis and acute endocarditis. No treatment had any permanent benefit, and the patient died on the date aforesaid.

I am of the opinion that the death of the late Captain A.A. Holmes was directly attributable to the stress of military service and to the fact that he suffered from wet and exposure whilst training his company at Northiam.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

H.R. Mansell
M.O. 2/5th (C.P.) Bn. R Sussex Regt."

Below it reads: "I have satisfied myself with the general accuracy of this report and concur therewith.
Walter Wynne MB, Northiam, Sussex."

Albert is commemorated on the war memorial at Brighton College and on the memorial at Northiam.

He is buried at St Andrew's Churchyard, Hornchurch, Grave IV.

Hoodless
Albert Ernest
Ordinary Seaman
Z/9202 RN



HMS President IV, Royal Navy. Died on the 27th of June 1918, aged 18.

Albert Ernest Hoodless was born in St Pancras on the 23rd of May 1900, the son of Ernest Albert Hoodless, a sawyer, and Beatrice Lilian (née Woodley) Hoodless of 121 Gaisford Street, Kentish Town. He worked as a clerk for A.W. Street Esq. and Others, Lloyd's underwriters.

Albert enlisted into the Royal Navy at the shore-based training establishment HMS Victory II on the 27th of May 1918 and at a medical examination it was recorded that he was six feet two inches tall with brown hair, grey eyes and a fresh complexion.

On the 7th of June 1918 he was posted to HMS President IV, a naval accounting base in Felixstowe. Shortly afterwards he contracted influenza which developed into pneumonia and he died in Felixstowe.

Albert is buried at Finchley (St Pancras) Cemetery, Plot 8, Row B, Grave 73.

Hoole
Geoffrey
2nd Lieutenant



**C Company, 1/15th (County of London) Battalion
(Prince of Wales' Own Civil Service Rifles). Killed in
action on the 15th of September 1916, aged 20.**

Geoffrey Hoole was born at St. Aubyn's, The Vale, Hampstead on the 13th of March 1896, the youngest son of Dr. Henry Hoole MD, a general practitioner, and Emily S. (née Adams) Hoole of 12 Madeira Road, Streatham, London. He was educated at Streatham Modern School and worked as an accounts clerk on the Lloyd's Staff in the Accountant's Branch.

Geoffrey enlisted at Dukes Road, Euston Road as Private 4574 in the 3/28th (County of London) Battalion (Artist's Rifles) on the 20th of September 1915. At a medical examination, which was held the same day, it was recorded that he was five feet eight and a half inches tall. He applied for a commission in the 3/15th (County of London) Battalion (Prince of Wales' Own Civil Service Rifles) on the 15th of December 1915 and was posted to a cadet unit for officer training on the 4th of March 1916. Geoffrey was then commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 3/15th (County of London) Battalion (Prince of Wales' Own Civil Service Rifles) on the 11th of June 1916.

He was posted to France, where he joined the 1st Battalion of his regiment.

On the 15th of September 1916 the 1/15th (County of London) Battalion (Prince of Wales' Own Civil Service Rifles) was detailed to attack and capture the German-held positions at High Wood. The wood had been attacked before during the ongoing Battle of the Somme, but had resisted all attempts to capture it up until that time and, as a result, it was a scarred tangle of shattered tree limbs and stumps. On the night of the 14th of September the battalion moved into Black Watch Trench ready for the attack in the morning. At 5.30am B, C and D Companies crept out into no man's land with the intention of springing forward at zero hour, set for 5.50am. Although the attack was to be supported by tanks, none appeared in the minutes before zero hour.

As soon as the men crawled forward they came under rifle fire, which was soon joined by machine guns, and within minutes some 80% of the three companies had become casualties, including all their officers. The survivors, now led by NCOs, withdrew to the assembly trenches. Meanwhile, A Company had been held in their trenches until zero hour when they crossed no man's land and captured the German first and second lines, taking a number of prisoners.

At 11am, a nearby Stokes Mortar Battery brought down heavy fire on the German lines, releasing some 800 rounds in just 20 minutes, which gave C and D Companies the chance to charge forward once again. They took their objectives, and by noon, High Wood had been captured at last.

Hoole
Geoffrey
2nd Lieutenant

Corporal M.J. Guiton of C Company, who lost a leg during the attack, wrote the following:

"That day I saw sights which were passing strange to a man of peace. I saw men in their madness bayonet each other without mercy, without thought. I saw the hot life's blood of German and Englishman flow out together, and drench the fair soil of France. I saw men torn to fragments by the near explosion of bombs, and ---worse than any sight---I heard the agonised cries and shrieks of men in mortal pain who were giving up their souls to their Maker. The mental picture painted through the medium of the eye may fade, but the cries of those poor, tortured and torn men I can never forget; they are with me always. I would I had been deaf at the time."

In 1920, Geoffrey's body was exhumed from its original burial site and reinterred.

The War Office received the following letter dated the 6th of December 1920:

"Dear Sir, I shall be much obliged if you will kindly have the accompanying form, with particulars for Lloyd's war memorial, sent to the nearest relative or friend of the deceased, with a request that the form may be completed and returned to me in the enclosed envelope, as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully
E.F. Inglefield
Secretary of Lloyd's"

Geoffrey is now buried at Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, Plot XVI, Row G, Grave 12.

Horman-Fisher
Robert Blake
Rifleman 3047



1/5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade). Died of wounds on the 2nd of July 1916.

Robert Blake Horman-Fisher was born in Tottenham on the 3rd of September 1896, the second son of Frederick John Horman-Fisher, a solicitor's clerk, and Elizabeth Horman-Fisher of 24 Somerford Grove, Park Lane, Tottenham and later of 14 Trafalgar Square, Peckham Park Road in London. He was christened at St Anne's Church, Tottenham on the 29th of October 1896.

Robert worked as a clerk for Houlder Brothers & Company Ltd at Lloyd's and enlisted into the army in London.

The 1st of July 1916 was the opening day of the Battle of the Somme and the 1/5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade) was given the task of capturing the enemy-held village of Gommecourt. The British artillery had been bombarding the enemy lines along the line of attack for a week but at zero hour, 7.30am, they unleashed a terrific final bombardment on the enemy line which was to be the objective of the Londoners. Under the cover of smoke, which had been released to cover their advance, the men left their trenches and in spite of heavy casualties they crossed no man's land and captured the enemy trenches along with a large number of prisoners.

It soon became evident, however, that the attack by the neighbouring Division had failed, and before long all the German artillery was concentrated against the London Division. No man's land was saturated with shell fire which meant that the runners, carrying messages calling for extra bombs and ammunition, could not get through. Heavy German counterattacks followed and soon the defenders' bombs ran out and they were pushed back, trench by trench. By the evening most of the surviving members of the battalion were making their way back across no man's land.

Casualties for the attack totalled eight officers killed, with ten wounded and one missing, and over 500 other ranks killed wounded or missing, out of an original attacking strength of 23 officers and 803 other ranks.

Robert Horman-Fisher was wounded during the attack, was evacuated, and died from his wounds the following day.

He is buried at Couin British Cemetery, Plot I, Row C, Grave 7.

Hulbert
Egbert Wilfred
Leslie Ravenhill
Sub Lieutenant RN



**Hood Battalion, Royal Naval Division. Killed in action
on the 25th of May 1918, aged 19.**

Egbert Wilfred Leslie Ravenhill Hulbert was born in Hove in Sussex on the 6th of December 1898, the youngest son of Major Harry Ravenhill Hulbert, East Kent Regiment, and May (née Soper) Hulbert of 11 Palace Gardens Mansions, London and of The Chestnuts, Watton-at-Stone in Hertfordshire.

He was educated at Brighton College where he was in Durnford House from May 1912 to July 1914 and where he was a member of the Officer Training Corps. Egbert worked as a clerk for the Lloyd's Insurance Brokers Institute.

He was granted special permission to enlist due to his age and he attested at Canterbury as Private 7846 on the 10th of August 1916 in the 101st Provisional Battalion Honourable Artillery Company (Infantry). At his medical examination, held on the same day, it was recorded that he was five feet nine and a half inches tall and weighed 133lbs. Egbert transferred to the 3rd Battalion of his regiment on the 9th of October 1916 and qualified as a First Class Shot on the 8th of December 1916.

On the 27th of February 1917 he was admitted to the City of London Hospital at Clapton suffering from influenza; he was discharged to duty on the 19th of March 1917.

He was next appointed to the rank of Acting Lance Corporal on the 23rd of July 1917 and was promoted to Lance Corporal on the 17th of December 1917.

On the 7th of September 1917, Egbert transferred to No 11 Officer Cadet Battalion at Pirbright for officer training and was commissioned as a Sub Lieutenant in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve on the 18th of December 1917.

On the 30th of January 1918 he was posted to the 3rd Reserve Battalion at Blandford where he reported on the 9th of February. On the 31st of March 1918 he joined the 2nd Reserve Battalion at Aldershot.

Egbert was posted to the Hood Battalion and embarked with a draft of reinforcements from Folkestone on the 20th of April 1918, landing at Boulogne the following day, and proceeded to L Infantry Base Depot at Calais before joining his battalion in the field on the 23rd of April.

On the night of the 24th of May 1918, a raid was planned in co-operation with the neighbouring division to take prisoners and to obtain intelligence on the enemy units facing the division by seizing maps and papers. It was also expected that as much damage as possible should be inflicted on the enemy positions through the destruction of dugouts, emplacements and shelters. The Hood Battalion was to cover the area from the Beaucourt railway line to the River Ancre.

Hulbert
Egbert Wilfred
Leslie Ravenhill
Sub Lieutenant RN

As the raid unfolded on the early morning of the 25th of May, A Company met little opposition and achieved all its objectives, while D Company suffered badly from carefully concealed enemy positions which were hitherto unknown. When B Company came to their aid they too took casualties.

By the time Hood's raiders had withdrawn they had one officer killed (Egbert Hulbert), three wounded and two missing with five other ranks killed, 71 wounded and three missing.

Egbert is commemorated on the war memorial at Burgess Hill and on the memorial at Brighton College.

He is buried at Mesnil Communal Cemetery, Plot II, Row E, Grave 17.

Hunter
Norman Frederick
Lieutenant



4th Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment attached to W Company, 4th Battalion Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment). Died of on the 16th of June 1915, aged 36.

Norman Frederick Hunter was born in Edinburgh in 1879, the second and youngest son of Dr. James Adam Hunter and Marion C. (née Mansfield) Hunter of 18 Abercromby Place, Edinburgh.

He was educated at Clare College Cambridge from 1897 where he was a keen amateur golfer and was a 'Blue' in 1898, 1900 and 1901.

Norman was the husband of Elizabeth Hunter of Huntingdon, Ascot in Berkshire and lived off his own means. He was an Underwriting Member of Lloyd's and served as the Captain of Sunningdale Golf Club in 1914 and 1915.

Norman was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 4th Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment (Special Reserve) on the 8th of October 1914 and was promoted to Lieutenant on the 24th of December 1914. He embarked for France in March 1915 where he was attached to W Company, 4th Battalion Royal Fusiliers.

On the 16th of June 1916 the 4th Battalion Royal Fusiliers was detailed to attack enemy trenches on the Bellewaarde Ridge to the north of the Menin Road near Hooze in the Ypres Salient.

The battalion was in position at 1.30am, and at 2.50am the British artillery opened fire, firing almost continuously until 4.15am when the Royal Fusiliers left their trenches and moved across no man's land. They captured the enemy first line where they met little resistance due to the wire being cut by an effective barrage, and immediately went forward to their next objective, the second and third lines. During this phase of the attack they had run ahead of the scheduled artillery barrage and lost a large number of officers and men to their own artillery. They fell back to a former German communication trench and consolidated this position. From here they drove off a number of German counterattacks until they were ordered to leave the trench some time after noon.

The battalion was relieved at around 5am the following day having suffered casualties of 50 men killed, 205 wounded and 114 missing of all ranks which included the loss of 15 officers. Norman Hunter was posted as wounded and missing.

In order to determine what had happened to him a number of interviews were conducted with soldiers from the battalion.

Hunter
Norman Frederick
Lieutenant

Testimony of Private 12687 B. Pearson 4th Battalion Royal Fusiliers taken at Boulogne Maritime Hospital on the 31st of August 1915:

"A man named Riley of W Company, who has since come down the line with the war worn veterans, was with Lt Hunter after he was wounded in the leg and foot, I think. He was with him in the wood at the left of the position where we were attacking, at Hooze on June 16th and it was at the back of the lake. Private Riley stayed with him some time and made him as comfortable as possible and put him in a sort of ditch so he says, and then he had to leave him because his officer was calling. This is the last that was seen of Lt Hunter. The wood was beyond the third line of trenches, that we eventually fell back into."

Testimony of Lance Corporal 12949 Halstead, 4th Battalion Royal Fusiliers taken at 23 General Hospital Boulogne on the 12th of July 1915:

"Lt Hunter was wounded on June 16th and some men carried him into safety, that is, put him in a dugout where he would have been safe but the regiment retired and the Germans took the trench. Therefore he must be a prisoner if alive."

His wife received the following telegram dated the 21st of June 1915:

"Regret to inform you that Lieut. N.F. Hunter Warwickshire Regt reported wounded and missing June 16th. Further news will be telegraphed when received."

From the time she received the telegram until the end of the war Elizabeth Hunter searched for information as to the fate of her husband. At the end of the war he did not return with the prisoners of war as they were released and the German government insisted that he had not been captured. He was officially declared as dead on the 8th of May 1919.

Norman is commemorated on the war memorial at Sunningdale Golf Club and also on the memorial at Clare College, Cambridge, and on the Menin Gate, Panel 8.

Hutchinson
Samuel Francis
Lance Corporal 6508



2nd Battalion Honourable Artillery Company (Infantry).
Killed in action on the 31st of March 1917, aged 30.

Samuel Francis Hutchinson was born at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, the son of Samuel Hutchinson, a bank clerk, and Marie Louise Hutchinson, later of Glenrock, 95 Park Lane, Wallington in Surrey.

He worked as a marine insurance clerk for Henry Head & Company Ltd, Lloyd's brokers.

Samuel enlisted at the Headquarters of the Honourable Artillery Company at Armoury House, Finsbury on the 20th of December 1915 where it was recorded at his medical examination that he was five feet 11 inches tall. He gave his address as Westleigh, Theale Road, Streatham in South London.

He transferred to the 2nd Battalion on the 7th of September 1916 and embarked for France on the 2nd of October 1916. He was appointed to the rank of unpaid Lance Corporal on the 18th of January 1917.

At 6.50am on the 30th of March 1917 the 2nd Battalion Honourable Artillery Company completed the relief of a battalion of the Border Regiment in trenches at Mory in a line which ran midway between Mory and Ecoist-St.-Mein. At dusk the following day an advanced post on the Mory-Bullecourt Road was heavily shelled by the enemy which was quickly followed by an attack by a large force of their infantry, resulting in its capture. An attack was made on another post at the same time but this was repulsed. As the first post to fall was of considerable importance it was decided that A Company was to recapture it at the earliest opportunity and an attack was mounted at 2am on the 1st of April, but this attack failed, as did a later one by C Company.

The Battalion suffered total casualties during this engagement of some 200 officers and men of whom two officers and 28 men were killed, one of whom was Samuel Hutchinson.

He is buried at H.A.C. Cemetery, Plot I, Row A, Grave 21.

Ide
Thomas Norman
2nd Lieutenant



**2nd Battalion Essex Regiment. Killed in action on the
2nd of July 1916, aged 23.**

Thomas Norman Ide was born at 3 Glendall Villas, Wanstead on the 4th of January 1893, the eldest son of Thomas John Ide, a glass merchant, and Jane Alexandra (née Macnab) Ide of Henley, 175 Golders Green Road, London. He was educated at Wanstead College, Woodford House School, Birchington-on-Sea and at St. Paul's School from September 1908 to December 1910 where he was a member of the 3rd XI Cricket team.

Thomas worked as a clerk for Kaye, Son Company Ltd, Lloyd's brokers.

Following the outbreak of war, he enlisted at Westminster on the 15th of September 1914 as Private 5104 in the 20th (Service) Battalion Royal Fusiliers. At his medical examination, the following day, it was recorded that he was five feet seven and a half inches tall, weighed ten stone and that he had brown eyes black hair and a dark complexion.

Thomas applied for Sandhurst but failed the medical examination due to him having a case of varicocele. He underwent an operation for this and was declared fit for active service at a Medical Board on the 23rd of February 1915.

He was discharged from the Royal Fusiliers on the 24th of February 1915 when he entered the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Essex Regiment on the 11th of August 1915.

Thomas embarked for France on the 29th of May 1916, where he joined the 2nd Battalion of his regiment who were engaged in preparations for the Somme offensive.

The attack was due to start on the 29th of June 1916 but was delayed until the morning of the 1st of July to allow a prolonged artillery barrage to destroy as much as possible of the enemy trench systems and their defenders before the planned infantry attack. The 2nd Battalion Essex Regiment was to support the attack on the enemy positions at Beaumont Hamel. At 7.26am the leading battalion left their trenches and moved to the attack with the two following battalions following at 7.29am and 7.30am. Despite suffering badly from enemy machine gun, rifle and artillery fire elements, these battalions established themselves in the enemy front line and where they were reinforced. The Essex men left their assembly trenches at 8.36am and immediately encountered heavy artillery and machine gun fire. Led by A and D Companies, they were able to reinforce survivors from the Rifle Brigade and the Royal Warwickshire Regiments and a small number of men reached as far as the enemy-held position of Munich Trench.

Ide
Thomas Norman
2nd Lieutenant

From 11.00am these men were forced out of the trench and by 17.00pm they had been driven back to the base of the German defensive position known as the 'Quadrilateral', by which time only two unwounded Essex officers remained to lead the resistance to the relentless enemy counterattack. In spite of lack of ammunition and, at one point, being shelled by their own artillery, they held on. By noon on the 2nd of July the 2nd Essex had been forced back to the old British front line where they suffered another 20 casualties from artillery fire. They finished the day collecting their dead and wounded and repairing their trenches.

Of the 24 officers and 606 other ranks that went into the attack, only two officers and 192 other ranks returned.

"He fell in the trenches among his own men."

Thomas is buried at Sucrerie Military Cemetery, Plot I, Row H, Grave 6.

Jackson

Ernest William
Squadron Quartermaster
Sergeant 1905



**A Squadron, 1/2nd County of London Yeomanry
(Westminster Dragoons). Died on the 24th of
December 1916.**

Ernest William Jackson was born in Richmond in Surrey, the son of Charles James Jackson, a gentleman, and Eliza Sarah Jackson of 11 Southdean Gardens, Wimbledon Park, London.

He worked as a clerk for Tyser & Company, Lloyd's brokers.

Ernest enlisted into the army at Elverton Street, London, and was mobilised for active service on the outbreak of war, embarking for Egypt on the 5th of November 1914. The regiment served in Gallipoli in 1915 before returning to Egypt.

He died at the Military Hospital, Devonport.

Ernest is buried at Weston Mill Cemetery, Plymouth, Grave C 3592.

Jackson
Herbert Rolls
Rifleman 473361



1/12th (County of London) Battalion (The Rangers).
Killed in action on the 7th of October 1916.

Herbert Rolls Jackson was born in Stoke Newington in 1893, the son of John Brown Jackson, a licensed victualler, and Charlotte (née Rolls) Jackson of 272 Mount Pleasant Road, Tottenham. He was christened at All Angels Church, Stoke Newington on the 2nd of February 1893.

Herbert worked as an accounting clerk for F.G.A. Povah & Others, Lloyd's underwriters.

He enlisted in London as Private 6291 in the 16th (County of London) Battalion (Queen's Westminster Rifles) but later transferred to the 1/12th (County of London) Battalion (The Rangers).

On the 6th of October 1916 the 1/12th (County of London) Battalion (The Rangers) was holding Rainy Trench when they received orders to attack the enemy-held position known as Dewdrop Trench, part of a wider by attack by their Brigade between Les Boeufs and Le Transloy on the Somme. The Rangers were to attack on a three platoon front in four waves, spaced 50 yards apart. At 1.45pm on the 7th of October the battalion moved forward over ground which was slippery from recent rains and came under heavy fire as soon as they left their trench. After moving forward fifty yards there were only 15 men

remaining from the first wave and the attack stalled. The second wave suffered a similar fate. The third and fourth waves began their attack at 2.05pm from Burnaby Trench, some 50 yards behind the jumping off trenches of the first wave. They had been under heavy shell fire from the time the first waves had begun their attack and had suffered many casualties before they left cover. When the third wave went into the attack they also came under intense fire and before they had gone 40 to 50 yards there were no men left standing. The fourth wave suffered a similar fate. The survivors hung on in the shelter of shell holes until dusk when they made their way back to their starting line. The battalion was relieved at 2am the following morning.

Herbert is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Pier and Face 9C.

Jeaffreson
Ronald Percy
Lance Corporal 5019



2nd Battalion Honourable Artillery Company (Infantry).
Killed in action on the 3rd of May 1917, aged 19.

Ronald Percy Jeaffreson was born in Highbury on the 5th of October 1897, the son of Henry John Jeaffreson, an insurance broker, and Edith Margaret Rendell (née Gregory) Jeaffreson of Belmont, Bycullah Road, Enfield in Middlesex.

He was christened on the 4th of December 1897 at St. Mary's Church, Stoke Newington.

Ronald worked for E. Uzielli & Company Ltd at Lloyd's. He enlisted at the Honourable Artillery Headquarters at Armoury House, Finsbury Circus on the 15th of November 1915. After training he embarked for service in France on the 1st of October 1916.

On the 1st of May 1917 the 2nd Battalion Honourable Artillery Company received orders to be in support of a planned attack by 62nd Division at Bullecourt two days later. On the 2nd they marched to Mory and at 1.45am on the 3rd of May they took up position in a field to the rear of the village of Ecoist-St. Mein.

The attack by 62nd Division saw them gain the village, but after two strong German counterattacks they were driven back, dangerously exposing the left flank of an Australian Division. As a consequence, General Steele ordered the Honourable Artillery Company and the 1st Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers to retake the village at all costs.

The attack was initially set for 6pm but was rescheduled to 10.30pm due to the amount of organisation required. The starting point was to be the railway line running between Bullecourt and Ecoist and A and B Companies were to take the German first line of Tower Trench with C and D Companies passing through them to take the village itself. The two battalions were expected to succeed where an entire Division had failed earlier in the day. Colonel Ward of the Honourable Artillery Company went forward with Captain Amoor to reconnoitre the area and they noted that the Germans had clearly ranged their guns on the area of the railway line. As a result, Ward decided to form the two companies up some 300 yards behind the line and to begin moving forward three minutes before zero hour.

At exactly 10.30pm the leading companies crossed the start line and immediately came under heavy rifle and machine gun fire but pressed on, fighting their way through the barbed wire, which had been largely cut but was still a fearsome obstacle. Despite their casualties, the HAC and the Royal Welch fought their way into Tower Trench where heavy hand-to-hand fighting took place before it was captured along with 50 enemy prisoners. C and D Companies then moved past the trench and headed for the second objective of Bullecourt itself. As they advanced, it became evident that they were exposed on their flank as the Australians on their right had suffered badly from shellfire and were unable to assist them. There was also German infantry behind them who had been hiding in deep dugouts so that by this stage of the fighting they

Jeaffreson
Ronald Percy
Lance Corporal 5019

were being fired on from three sides and went to ground taking whatever cover they could find. At 12.30am on the morning of the 4th of May, C Company faced a strong enemy counterattack which forced them back to Tower Trench and by 2am reports came back that the HAC had lost touch with both the Australians on their left and with the units to their right. Shortly afterwards Captain Drury came back wounded and reported that he had lost the greater part of his company during heavy fighting in the village. Captain Bower reported that he had only thirty men remaining from his company and that they had been driven out of the village and were sheltering in holes outside the German wire.

At 3.30am word came through that there was to be an attack by a battalion of the Manchester Regiment and by one from the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, and these two units formed up to the rear of the HAC ready to advance across the railway line. At 4am an intense barrage fell on the Manchesters, which devastated their ranks in a cloud of smoke and dust. Bodies could be seen being thrown through the air and men were running in all directions to escape the carnage. In the event the battalion did not advance, having suffered 75% casualties before leaving their start line. The Royal Warwicks managed to get forward and to enter the village but were driven back by further counterattacks.

The battalion was relieved at 9pm on the 5th of May having suffered casualties of seven officers killed and five wounded, with well over 200 other ranks being killed, wounded or missing.

Bullecourt finally fell on the 7th of May when it was found that a party of 12 to 15 men from the HAC under Corporal Bellingham had been holding out in the village without food or water since the attack on the 3rd. For their gallant conduct they were each awarded the Military Medal by order of the Corps Commander.

Ronald is commemorated by a stained glass window at St. Mary Magdalene Church Enfield, Middlesex, and on the Arras Memorial, Bay 1.

Jones
Horace Hugh
Private 633750



1/20th (County of London) Battalion (Blackheath and Woolwich). Died on the 17th of July 1917, aged 24.

Horace Hugh Jones was born in Muswell Hill on the 11th of June 1893, the son of Evan Hugh Jones, a merchant tailor, and Agnes Palmer Jones of 47 Tollington Park in London. He was christened at St. James' Church, Muswell Hill on the 20th of August 1893.

He worked as a clerk for Robert Gardner, Mountain, & Company Ltd, Lloyd's brokers.

Horace enlisted into the army in Mansion House as Private 4545 in the 18th (County of London) Battalion (London Irish Rifles) later transferring to the 1/20th (County of London) Battalion (Blackheath and Woolwich).

He is buried at Reninghelst New Military Cemetery, Plot III, Row E, Grave 8.

Kendall
Frederick Denys
2nd Lieutenant



67th Wing, Royal Air Force. Killed in action on the 30th of August 1918, aged 19.

Frederick Denys Kendall was born at Bangalore in India on the 27th of October 1898, the son of Richard Henry Kendall and Laura Kendall, later of Brazil and of Emerson Park, Hornchurch in Essex.

He was educated at Clifford School, 2 Clifford Villas, Beckington in Bath and at Kent College in Canterbury from the 5th of September 1913 to the 22nd of December 1915. On the 23rd of February 1916, Frederick joined Willis Faber & Company Ltd, Lloyd's brokers, where he worked as a junior broker until the 1st of February 1917.

He enlisted as Rifleman 305069 in the 3/5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade) before joining the Royal Flying Corps. He was posted to No. 1 Officer Cadet Wing on the 8th of October 1917 and was posted to Bristol on the 8th of February 1918. On the 28th of April 1918 he was posted to No. 6 School of Aeronautics and on the 25th of May he joined the Armament School at Uxbridge. Frederick later joined No. 1 Fighting School where he qualified as a DH4 pilot.

67th Wing was formed from aircraft and crew from 226 and 227 Squadrons and was based at Taranto in Italy, operating DH4 aircraft in a bomber role.

On the 30th of August 1918 aircraft from 67th Wing, Royal Air Force set out on a bombing raid from Taranto, routing over the Adriatic, to attack targets at Cattaro in Austria. On their return three aircraft crashed in bad weather and a fourth crashed while trying to land at Valona.

The dead were:

Lieutenant Jack Eric Watkins
2nd Lieutenant Frederick Denys Kendall
Gunlayer Observer Arthur H. Wynn
2nd Lieutenant George William Cooper
2nd Lieutenant Hugh Belmont Hubbard
Corporal Edward Sutcliffe

Frederick is commemorated on the Willis Faber war memorial at the Willis Building in Lime Street and on the memorial at Kent College.

He is buried at Lembet Road Military Cemetery, Grave 1620.

Kent
Harold
2nd Lieutenant



**2nd Battalion South Wales Borderers attached to
A Company, 5th (Service) Battalion (Pioneers).
Killed in action on the 4th of August 1917.**

Harold Kent was born at Rochester House, St Albans on the 20th of June 1882, the son of Thomas Kent, a brewer and maltster, and Emily Selina Kent, later of Holywell Lodge, Holywell Hill, St Albans in Hertfordshire. He was educated at Merchant Taylors' School from September 1895 to 1901. Harold worked as a clerk for Matthews, Wrightson & Company Ltd, Lloyd's brokers.

He enlisted as Private 595 in the 28th (County of London) Battalion (Artist's Rifles) on the 23rd of February 1909 and attended the battalion's annual camp every summer thereafter. Following the outbreak of war he embarked for France with his battalion on the 27th of October 1914 and landed there the following day. He was promoted to Corporal on the 11th of September 1915 and to Sergeant on the 2nd of November 1915.

On the 2nd of September 1915, Harold was going on sentry duty when saw that a French soldier had fallen into the canal lock at St Bertin. The water was some ten feet deep and there was no means of the man getting out. Harold jumped into the water and supported the man until help arrived. For this action he was awarded the Royal Humane Society's Bronze Medal for saving life.

On the 11th of February 1916 he returned to England and on the 3rd of March 1916 his term of service with the battalion expired. He applied for a commission in the Special Reserve of Officers on the 10th of March in an application which was supported by a note of recommendation from the Head Master of Merchant Taylors' School, which read:

"He reached a good standard of educational attainment, such as is required of those who apply for a commission."

Harold re-enlisted at Watford for officer training in his old battalion as Private 8077 on the 13th of April 1916 and was posted to No. 5 Officer Cadet Battalion based at Trinity College, Cambridge, on the following day. At his medical examination it was recorded that he was five feet eight inches tall.

On completion of his training he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 3rd Battalion South Wales Borderers on the 5th of September 1916 and joined them at Hightown near Liverpool on the 18th of September 1916. He was attached firstly to the 1st Battalion of his regiment and later to the 5th Battalion.

Kent
Harold
2nd Lieutenant

On the 31st of July 1917, the A and C Companies of the 5th Battalion South Wales Borderers were attached to 56th Brigade for an attack to the south of Hollebeke in the Ypres Salient. They were to follow the attacking waves and construct a communication trench from Preston Trench, across no man's land, to the new line once it had been captured. In the event they came under such heavy shell fire while they were undertaking this task that they had to abandon it and take shelter. Although the Brigade took all their objectives, they soon came under repeated counterattacks and the 5th Battalion sent A Company up to assist in the defence and consolidation of the new line. During this defence Harold Kent and nine other ranks were killed with ten other ranks being wounded. The rest of the battalion spent the next ten days in the line before they were relieved.

Harold's brother Reginald received the following telegram dated the 8th of August 1917:

"Deeply regret to inform you that 2/Lt H. Kent South Wales Borderers was killed in action August fourth. The Army Council express their regret."

Harold was buried at a chateau at Kruisstraat, Vlamertinghe but was later reburied.

He is now laid to rest at White House Cemetery, Plot III, Row R, Grave 26.

Kimber
Charles Edmund
Air Mechanic 2nd Class
59534



54 Squadron Royal Air Force. Died on the 14th of May 1918, aged 21.

Charles Edmund Kimber was born in Cheshunt, the son of Edmund Kimber, a nursery worker, and Emily (née Jeans) Kimber of 18 Forest Road, Cheshunt in Hertfordshire. He worked for Bland Welch Ltd, Lloyd's brokers.

Charles landed in France in January 1918 where he worked as a despatch rider.

He died at Boulogne Hospital from pneumonia.

He is buried at Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, Plot IX, Row B, Grave 79.

King
Arthur William
2nd Lieutenant



1/17th (County of London) Battalion (Poplar and Stepney Rifles). Killed in action on the 15th of September 1916, aged 23.

Arthur William King was born at 51 Fortune Gate, Harlesden on the 27th of April 1893, the son of Isaac King, a marine insurance underwriter, and Louisa Marian (née Dawborn) King of The Hollies, 14 Forest Drive, West Leytonstone in London. He was educated at Leytonstone College and at Pitman's School.

Arthur worked as an insurance broker for Alfred Blackmore & Company, Lloyd's brokers.

He enlisted as a Private in the 3/9th (County of London) Battalion (Queen Victoria's Rifles) and was sent for training at Tadworth Camp in Surrey. He applied for a commission in the 3/17th (County of London) Battalion (Poplar and Stepney Rifles) on the 31st of March 1915. At a medical examination, which was held the following day, it was recorded that he was five feet seven and a half inches tall. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the battalion on the 27th of May 1915 and embarked for France later that year where he joined the 1st Battalion of his regiment in the field.

On the night of the 14th of September 1916 the 1/17th (County of London) Battalion (Poplar and Stepney Rifles) moved forward to assembly positions for an attack on High Wood the following morning. By midnight all four companies were in position in trenches just inside the

south eastern corner of the wood itself. The trench had been in use for two months and the parapet was made up of the dead from the earlier fighting; the trees in the wood had become shattered stumps with the ground being a tangle of branches and shattered tree trunks.

In preparation for the attack a barrage had been underway since the 7th of September which, unknown to the British, had been falling behind the German first line, leaving it fully manned. In addition, as the attack was to be supported by tanks, a lane of one hundred yards was left to allow the ground to be good enough for the tanks to pass over in what would be the first time they were to be used in history.

The attack was set for 6.20am but for reasons unknown the neighbouring battalion, the 1/15th County of London) Battalion (Civil Service Rifles) had set their watches for 5.50am. At 5.50am they went over the top to the amazement of the British troops either side of them. They were met immediately by heavy fire from enemy machine guns and rifles. At 6.05am the first tank any of the London men had ever seen appeared behind them, crossed the line and slowly crept along in the wake of the 1/15th Battalion. At 6.20am the Poplar men attacked with all four companies on a platoon front in four waves. They were met by a "blizzard" of machine gun fire from the now fully alerted enemy trenches and their trench became so choked with the dead and wounded that the supporting battalions which followed couldn't get into it. The survivors were left pinned down in front of their own line.

King
Arthur William
2nd Lieutenant

At 10am, the 140th Trench Mortar Battery, which had not been permitted to fire before zero hour, unleashed a heavy and very accurate bombing of the enemy positions, firing some 800 shells in just 15 minutes. They followed this with another bombardment at 11am which broke the nerve of the Bavarian Regiment which was defending the woods and they began to surrender in large numbers, emerging from the woods with their hands raised. Those of the enemy who chose not to surrender were massacred by the surviving Londoners and by 12.25pm High Wood was in British hands after two months of fighting.

Casualties for the battalion amounted to some 332 men of all ranks killed wounded and missing.

Arthur is commemorated on the war memorial at Leytonstone.

He is buried at Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, Plot VI, Row G, Grave 32.

Kirby
Cecil William
G/28872 Private



**1st Battalion East Surrey Regiment. Killed in action
on the 24th of August 1918, aged 19.**

Cecil William Kirby was born in Moreton in Dorset on the 15th of September 1899, the third son of John Richard Kirby, a stationmaster, and Mary Ruth (née Bracher) Kirby of the Railway Station, Moreton. He was christened on the 15th of October 1899 at Moreton. The family moved to London and lived at Station House, Brookwood Road, Southfields where he was admitted to Southfield School, Merton Road Wandsworth on the 22nd of May 1906.

Cecil worked for H.G. Poland Esq. and Others at Lloyd's and was married in 1916 in Wandsworth to Gwendoline Gertrude (née Gillett later Wolfe) of Wandsworth.

He joined the Royal Flying Corps and was posted to 2 Officer Cadet Wing on the 30th of September 1917. On the 19th of October 1917 he was declared as unfit to be a Flying Officer "in any capacity" and transferred to the army, joining the 10th (Reserve) (County of London) Battalion (Hackney) with the rank of Private.

He was posted to the 19th (County of London) Battalion (Finsbury Rifles) as Private 96238 before transferring to the 1/21st (County of London) Battalion (Surrey Rifles) as Private 28872 and later to the East Surrey Regiment.

On the night of the 22nd/23rd of August 1918 the 1st Battalion East Surrey Regiment received orders to mount an attack with their Brigade. The battalion was deployed on the right of the Brigade's attack on the village of Irles, with C Company on the left of the battalion's attack, B Company on the right and D Company in support, with A Company in reserve. At 11am the covering artillery barrage commenced and the leading companies moved forward over difficult ground, meeting strong resistance in places which was soon overcome with accurate rifle and Lewis gun fire. By 11.37am the battalion had advanced some 1,000 yards and had taken its objective. However, the right of the attack had failed to take the village itself, but a further assault by a battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment saw the village fall in the late afternoon. Casualties for the battalion were two officers and 15 other ranks killed with two officers and 35 men wounded.

The following day the battalion held its new positions under occasional shell fire.

Cecil is commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Addenda Panel.

Lamb
Edward Woollard
Penistone
2nd Lieutenant



11 Squadron Royal Air Force. Killed in action on the 24th of April 1918, aged 25.

Edward Woollard Lamb was born at Brockley in Kent on the 9th of June 1892, the son of Edward Beckett Lamb, an architect with the Office of Works, and Bathea Emily (née Woollard) Lamb of 1 Romola Road, Herne Hill, London.

He worked as an indexing clerk for the Lloyd's Shipping Branch of the Lloyd's Staff.

Edward enlisted at the Royal Flying Corps Recruits Depot South Farnborough as Aircraftsman 2nd Class 11364 on the 27th of October 1915. At a medical examination, which was held on the same day, it was recorded that he was five feet ten and a half inches tall and weighed 146lbs. He went to France where he served with 22 Squadron as a motorcycle despatch rider. He was promoted to Aircraftsman 1st Class on the 1st of September 1916, to Acting Corporal on the 1st of December 1916 and to Corporal on the 1st of April 1917. On the 21st of March 1917 he applied for a commission in the Royal Flying Corps in an application which was supported by Rear Admiral E.F. Inglefield, Secretary of Lloyd's. Edward returned from France for officer training on the 11th of June 1917.

On the 12th of July 1917 he was posted to South Farnborough and on the 23rd of July he was posted to No. 1 Officer Cadet Wing at West Down.

He was posted to Denham Camp in Buckinghamshire on the 13th of August and on the 15th of August he was graded as being suitable to be a pilot. On the 7th of September 1917, Edward was posted to the School of Military Aeronautics at Oxford and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant on probation in the Royal Flying Corps on the 25th of October 1917. He was next posted to 2 Training Squadron on the 30th of October 1917 and obtained his Aero Certificate (5449) on the 15th of November 1917 at the Military School Ruislip flying a Maurice Farman Biplane.

Edward was further posted to No. 3 Flying School on the 18th of November 1917 and was promoted to Flying Officer on the 14th of February 1918. He was posted to 2 School of Air Gunnery on the 26th of February 1918.

On the 30th of March 1918 he was posted to 11 Squadron and joined them in France.

At dawn on the 24th of April 1918 Edward Lamb took off for a reconnaissance mission in Bristol F2b Fighter C4673 with his Observer, Sergeant Bertie Joseph Maisey. The aircraft crashed into trees in thick fog at Heuzecourt, due west of Doullens, killing both men.

Edward is buried at Doullens Communal Cemetery, Extension No. 1, Plot VI, Row A, Grave 42.

Large
Ernest Lynton
Captain



**C Company, 1/5th (County of London) Battalion
(London Rifle Brigade). Died of wounds on the
21st of May 1915.**

Ernest Lynton Large was born in Enfield in Middlesex on the 15th of December 1886, the only son of Frederick Northcott Large, Lloyd's marine underwriter, and Constance Maud (née Baden) Large of 2 Sloane Court in Chelsea. He was educated at Charterhouse School from January 1901 to July 1905 where he served in the Cadets and was a member of the Shooting VIII in 1904 and 1905. He went on to New College, Oxford, in 1905.

Ernest worked as a clerk for an insurance broker and was an Underwriting Member of Lloyd's.

He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade) on the 8th of February 1913 and was promoted to Lieutenant in 1914. He embarked for France from Southampton with G Company of his battalion on board the SS Chyebassa on the 4th of November 1914 and landed at Le Havre the following day. He was promoted to Captain on the 1st of April 1915.

On the morning of the 2nd of May 1915 the Germans began a heavy shelling of the positions of the London Rifle Brigade which increased in intensity during the afternoon.

At 5.20pm they released a heavy cloud of gas that covered the front line for around ten minutes before dispersing. The primitive respirators available to the men were only partially effective and a number of men were incapacitated by its effects. The Germans then advanced from their positions, which were on a ridge beyond the Haanebeke Stream, into some dead ground on the British side of the stream where they began digging in only 300 yards from the British front line. On the left of the line some of the enemy troops took shelter in small houses nearby.

Casualties had been heavy and it took all night to evacuate all the wounded; by the early morning of the 3rd of May the survivors were in the support trenches.

Having suffered a large number of casualties, with 16 officers and 392 other ranks killed, wounded and missing during the period from the 25th of April to the 4th of May, the London men withdrew to bivouacs in woods behind Vlamertinghe during the night of the 4th of May. Ernest Large was wounded on the 2nd of May and was evacuated to a base hospital where he died of his wounds nearly three weeks later.

He is buried at Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, Plot II, Row B, Grave 41.

Leaver
Stanley Horace
2nd Lieutenant



**17th (Service) Battalion Middlesex Regiment
(1st Football) attached to the 21st (Service) Battalion.
Killed in action on the 9th of April 1918, aged 19.**

Stanley Horace Leaver was born at Hornsey in Middlesex on the 7th of September 1898, the second son of Willie Horace Leaver, Company Secretary to a produce broker, and his first wife Emily Charlotte (née Costello) Leaver of 40 Old Park Road, Palmer's Green in London. He was christened in Hornsey on the 11th of December 1898. He was educated at Southgate County School after which he went to work as an insurance broker for William France, Fenwick & Company at Lloyd's.

Stanley attested for service as Private 762507 in the 2/28th (County of London) Battalion (Artist's Rifles) in Wood Green on the 19th of August 1916. At a medical examination, which was held on the same day, it was recorded that he was five feet ten and a half inches tall and weighed 138lbs. He was mobilised on the 25th of September and was posted to Hare Hall Camp in Romford, Essex. He applied for a commission in the infantry on the 14th of November 1916 and was posted to 2 Officer Cadet Battalion at Cambridge for officer training on the 4th of December.

He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Middlesex Regiment on the 26th of April 1917.

On the 6th of February 1918 the 17th Battalion Middlesex Regiment was relieved in the trenches by the 1st Battalion King's (Liverpool Regiment) and they marched to billets at Metz in preparation for the disbandment of the battalion as part of a wider reorganisation of the army. On the 9th of February the officers held a farewell dinner and on the 15th of February, Stanley Leaver, along with 14 other officers and 300 other ranks, left to join the 21st Battalion of their regiment at Mercatel.

On the morning of the 9th of April 1918 the 21st Battalion Middlesex Regiment was in Brigade reserve between Laventie and Fleurbaix. At 4am they were roused and readied due to a major enemy attack at the front. They moved up to battle positions and at 10am C and D Companies were ordered forward to occupy reserve trenches but the enemy had broken through and got there before them, and instead, they took up a line to the south east of Rue du Quesnes. Within minutes it became clear that the enemy had advanced either side of them and they were forced into a fighting retreat with battalion headquarters having no choice but to fall back several times and losing half of its personnel during the battle. By 4pm the battalion quartermaster ordered the battalion stores to be destroyed and the remnants of the battalion fell back across a bridge over the River Lys which was blown up by the Royal Engineers as soon as they were across.

Leaver
Stanley Horace
2nd Lieutenant

Stanley's father received the following telegram dated the 22nd of April 1918:

"Deeply regret to inform you that 2/Lieut. S.H. Leaver Middlesex Regt killed in action April ninth. The Army Council express sympathy."

Stanley is commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Panel 8.

Lemon
Vincent Bertie
Private 202004



8th Battalion Tank Corps. Killed in action on the 21st of March 1918, aged 32.

Vincent Bertie Lemon was born in Beckenham in Kent on the 13th of March 1886, the son of Robert Bertie Lemon JP, manager of the Marine Insurance Company, and Kathleen (née Vincent) Lemon of Wraylands, Reigate in Surrey. He was educated at Banstead School and at Cheltenham College where he was in Hazelwell House as a boarder from September 1900 to July 1903.

Vincent worked as a clerk for James Hartley, Cooper & Company Ltd, Lloyd's brokers. He was married in Surrey in 1913 to Evelyn Frances Mary (née Hobdell) and they lived at Crossland Road, Redhill Surrey. She later remarried to Noel G. Blake in 1923.

He enlisted in London as Private 38496 in H Battalion, Machine Gun Corps (Heavy Battery), which later became the 8th Battalion Tank Corps.

He was killed at Happlincourt.

Vincent is commemorated on the war memorial at Cheltenham College.

He is buried at Hermies Hill British Cemetery, Plot III, Row C, Grave 24.

Lines
Sidney Martin
2nd Lieutenant TEM



1/5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade). Killed in action on the 13th of May 1915, aged 29.

Sidney Martin Lines was born in Hackney on the 19th of March 1886, the son of Richard Lines, a timber merchant, and Ellen Lines of 41 Mayfield Avenue, Southgate in Middlesex. He was christened at St. John's Church in Hackney on the 21st of January 1898.

Sidney was educated at St. John's College, Finsbury Park and went to work as a shipping clerk for Birt, Potter & Hughes Ltd at Lloyd's. On the 13th of January 1902 he joined the 1st Cadet Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps where he rose to the rank of Sergeant and became a musketry instructor. He attended eight annual camps with them.

On the 21st of October 1909 he enlisted at 130 Bunhill Row, as Rifleman 9064 in the 5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade). At a medical examination, which was undertaken on the same day, it was recorded that he was five feet nine and a quarter inches tall. He was promoted to Lance Corporal on the 24th of June 1910, to Corporal on the 28th of July 1912 and to Sergeant on the 7th of April 1913. He attended annual camps with the battalion from 1910 to 1912 and re-engaged for four more years of service with the battalion on the 4th of August 1913. Sidney was awarded the Territorial Force Efficiency Medal in May 1914.

Following the outbreak of war he was mobilised on the 5th of August 1914 and went for training at Camp Hill Camp at Crowborough.

Sidney embarked for France with his battalion from Southampton on board the SS Chyebassa on the 4th of November 1914, landing at Le Havre the following day. He was promoted to Company Sergeant Major on the 28th of April 1915.

On the 8th of May 1915 a telegram was received at Battalion Headquarters granting Sidney Lines a field commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the battalion, to be effective the same day.

On the 12th of May 1915 the 1/5th Battalion London Regiment (London Rifle Brigade) moved into the line near Wietje to relieve a battalion of the Dublin Fusiliers. Due to heavy fighting in the preceding days the battalion numbered only 290 men when it crossed a low ridge and passed into the trenches during the night of the 12th/13th of May. The enemy had spotted a relief further down the line and swept the area with continuous machine gun fire during the night. A heavy rain began in the early hours of the morning and at 4am enemy artillery fire began falling on the front trenches, cutting communications with the rear by 4.40am. Later in the morning those of the wounded who could no longer use a rifle but were able to crawl were evacuated by dragging themselves along a nearby hedge, but most of those that did were not heard of again.

Lines
Sidney Martin
2nd Lieutenant TEM

At 6.43am, with communications restored, an order was received from Brigade Headquarters that the front line trench was to be held against enemy attack at all costs. As a result of this order a number of reinforcements were moved up to join the defenders at the front line where conditions were appalling due to flooding and heavy artillery fire. In the event there wasn't enough room for all the reinforcements, some of who were forced to shelter in shell holes under fire for much of the morning.

Early in the afternoon the Germans sent a small force of skirmishers to attack the London men and, although they were all shot down, they inflicted casualties on the Londoners in return. The strength of resistance from the British trenches convinced the Germans that the trench was still strongly held, despite the terrible artillery fire. In one small section of trench Sergeant Belcher and 18 of his men poured volley after volley at the enemy until they were forced out of their trench by artillery fire, whereupon they occupied a nearby vacant trench which they held for nine hours under heavy shelling, firing at any of the enemy who appeared. Sergeant Belcher was awarded the Victoria Cross, the first awarded to an enlisted man from the Territorial Army during the Great War.

During the night the survivors of the day's fighting moved back to a line near Essex Farm.

The War Office received the following letter dated the 10th of December 1920:

"Dear Sir, I shall be much obliged if you will kindly have the accompanying form, with particulars for Lloyd's war memorial, sent to the nearest relative or friend of the deceased, with a request that the form may be completed and returned to me in the enclosed envelope, as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully
E.F. Inglefield
Secretary of Lloyd's"

Sidney's brother, Rifleman William Arthur Lines
1st Battalion, 3rd New Zealand Rifle Brigade,
died on the 1st of September 1918.

He is buried at Sanctuary Wood Cemetery, Plot V,
Row G, Grave 20.

Looker
Leonard Davies
2nd Lieutenant



**5th (Reserve) Battalion Queen's (Royal West Surrey)
Regiment attached to the 8th (Service) Battalion.
Killed in action on the 1st of August 1917.**

Leonard Davies Looker was born at 268 Vauxhall Bridge Road on the 16th of September 1888, the only son of William Looker, a master florist, and Catherine Ann (née Davies) Looker of 1 Princes Mansions, 64 Victoria Street, Westminster.

He was educated at Westminster School from the 27th of September 1900 to December 1906. He went on to the University of London. Leonard was elected as an Underwriting Member of Lloyd's in 1911.

He was married at St. Stephen's Church, Clapham Park on the 21st of September 1916 to Ethel Mary (née Davies) and they lived at Beamsley, Westbury Road, Finchley in London. Leonard enlisted at 10 Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn as Private 8838 in the Inns of Court Officer Training Corps on the 10th of January 1916 and applied for a commission in the 5th Battalion Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment) on the 25th of March 1916. He underwent a medical examination on the 30th of March where it was recorded that he was five feet four inches tall and weighed 121 lbs. He was sent for officer training at the 14th Officer Cadet

Battalion before being commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 3/5th (Reserve) Battalion Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment on the 18th of December 1916. Leonard went to France in January 1917 where he was attached to the 8th Battalion of his regiment and joined them in the field at Hulluch.

On the 29th of July 1917 the 8th Battalion Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment moved into the line, to the left of Klein Zillebeke in the Ypres sector, for an attack on the 31st. During this manoeuvre they suffered casualties from shell fire of one officer and 28 other ranks.

Their objectives were a line surrounding a concrete dug out known as Job's Post, and the main German front line known as Jehovah's Trench, with a final objective being the capture of Jordan Trench. By 3.45am on the morning of the 31st of July they were in position with D Company on the right of the attack, A Company on the left, C Company in support and B Company in reserve. At 3.50am the British artillery barrage came down which brought immediate retaliation from the German artillery and, at 3.54am, the battalion began its advance.

Looker
Leonard Davies
2nd Lieutenant

Job's Post fell after a sharp engagement and Jehovah's Trench was reached at around 5am where the two leading companies stopped and left two platoons from C Company behind to "mop up" before the remainder of the attacking force moved on to their next and final objective which they captured and began to consolidate.

Heavy rain fell during the course of the afternoon and the battalion found itself in a weak position as the two battalions which were attacking either side of it had failed to take their objectives, leaving both the Queen's flanks badly exposed. They formed defensive flanks and were counterattacked by a large enemy force just before dusk which they managed to drive off. Heavy shelling continued throughout the night and the following day with continuous rain flooding the trenches, which caused many of the wounded to drown where they lay.

The battalion was relieved on the night of the 1st of August by the 9th Battalion East Surrey Regiment, by which time they had suffered casualties of three officers killed with nine officers wounded and 32 other ranks killed, with 156 wounded and 105 missing.

Leonard is commemorated on the Menin Gate,
Panels 11-13 and 14.

Lowry
Vyvyan Charles
Lieutenant



5th (Reserve) Battalion East Surrey Regiment attached to D Company, 40th Battalion Machine Gun Corps (Infantry). Killed in action on the 9th of April 1918.

Vyvyan Charles Lowry was born in Beckenham on the 1st of September 1888, the only child of Arthur Stephen Lowry, a wine merchant, and Clara (née Cooper) Lowry of 43 Manor Road, Beckenham in Kent. He was educated at Sutton Valance School where he was a member of the Cricket XI in 1904.

Vyvyan worked as a clerk for Pickford, Watson & Hampton Ltd, Lloyd's brokers.

He enlisted at Duke's Road, Euston as Private 2316 in the 28th (County of London) Battalion (Artist's Rifles) on the 3rd of September 1914. At his medical examination, which was held on the same day, it was recorded that he was five feet six inches tall. He was attached to the 104th Provisional Training Battalion on the 26th of June 1915. Vyvyan was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 5th (Reserve) Battalion East Surrey Regiment on the 6th of November 1915 and was seconded for service with the 70th Provisional Battalion the same day.

He embarked for France on the 22nd of March 1917 where he was attached to the 2/4th Battalion Leicestershire Regiment. On the 20th of June 1917 he left his unit to proceed to hospital for an operation for paraphimosis.

On the 29th of August he embarked at Boulogne for a period of sick leave and arrived at Folkestone later the same day. He was promoted to Lieutenant on the 1st of July 1917.

A Medical Board sat at the Royal Herbert Hospital on the 28th of September 1917 to report on his condition:

"He was operated on for paraphimosis about the end of June. He became very much run down and was granted three weeks leave to England on 29 Aug. He has since suffered from attack of neurasthenia from which he is now recovering. To join 5th East Surrey Regiment at Tonbridge 29/9/17."

On the 5th of November 1917 a Medical Board which sat at Crowborough Camp in Sussex reported: "His general condition has improved. He has been ordered to report to his unit."

A further Medical Board sat at Crowborough Camp on the 11th of December 1917 and concluded that: "Disabled by paraphimosis. He has now recovered and is fit for general service."

Vyvyan was seconded for service to the Machine Gun Corps on the 7th of January 1918.

On the 8th of April 1918 D Company, 40th Battalion Machine Gun Corps was detailed to support a raid which was to be undertaken that night by the 21st Battalion Middlesex Regiment at Hazebrouck.

Lowry
Vyvyan Charles
Lieutenant

The rest of the battalion was to be in support. At dawn on the 9th of April the Germans began an intensive artillery barrage which was followed at 4.15am by a mass infantry attack. Although the line was held the 40th Battalion suffered heavy casualties, which left Vyvyan Lowry and five other officers dead with five wounded and five missing, as well as a large number of other ranks killed wounded and missing.

On the 8th of December 1920 a letter was sent from Lloyd's to the War Office:

"Dear Sir,
Lloyd's War Memorial
Lieut. Vyvyan C. Lowry
40th Machine Gun Corps
I shall be much obliged if you will kindly have the accompanying form, with particulars for Lloyd's War Memorial, sent to the nearest relative or friend of the deceased, with a request that the form may be completed and returned to me in the enclosed envelope, as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully
E.J. Inglefield
Secretary of Lloyd's"

Vyvyan is buried at Croix-Du-Bac British Cemetery,
Plot III, Row E, Grave 5.

Martin
Arthur
2nd Lieutenant



**4/10th Battalion Middlesex Regiment attached to the
1/4th Battalion Loyal North Lancashire Regiment.
Killed in action on the 28th of June 1916.**

Arthur Martin was born in Stoke Newington, the son of Arthur Martin, managing clerk to a firm of solicitors, and Jane Bennett Martin of Montano, 36 Honiton Road Southend-on-Sea. He worked as a clerk for G.P. Turner & Company Ltd, Lloyd's brokers.

Arthur enlisted as Private 24 in the 5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade) and was mobilised on the 5th of August 1914. He embarked for France with his battalion at Southampton on board the SS Chyebassa on the 4th of November 1914, landing at Le Havre the following day.

He later returned to England and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Middlesex Regiment on the 26th of September 1915, and was afterwards attached to the 1/4th Battalion Loyal North Lancashire Regiment.

In the middle of June 1916 the 1/4th Battalion Loyal North Lancashire Regiment were in trenches in the southern sector of Arras between Wailly and Bretencourt when they received orders to begin preparations for a raid on the German trenches in order to obtain information on the enemy opposite them. The party of some 60 men was to be led by Captain Edward Maurice Gregson with Lieutenants Roscoe, J.S. Walker and Arthur Martin.

They trained intensively behind the lines for several days. In all, there were to be six raiding parties, the other five being provided by other battalions, and the attack would take place in daylight. Gas and smoke was to be released on a two-mile front in advance of the attack to cover the raiders. However, when the gas and smoke was released the wind changed and, as a result, its effect was only partially successful. Nonetheless, the raiding parties rushed from their trenches but two of the groups were unable to gain the enemy trench due to heavy rifle and machine gun fire. One of these was the men of the Loyal North Lancashires who were forced back to their starting positions with casualties of three officers and 27 other ranks, ten of whom died.

One of the Private soldiers wrote the following account of the attack:

"Captain Gregson was there – I never saw him look better, he was always one of the smartest officers in the Battalion, but he seems to have been got up for the show with greater care than usual. The smoke lifted like a curtain. We were in full view of the Boche trench. We went on till within fifty yards of it, and then he opened up with machine guns, rifles and trench mortars. It was all hell let loose and someone shouted "On the Kellys", and on we went but were cut down like corn. The Jerrys were two deep in their trench and we realised we were done".

Arthur is commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Bay 7.

Mason
George
2nd Lieutenant



26 Reserve Squadron, Royal Flying Corps. Killed on active service on the 4th of May 1917, aged 18.

George Mason was born in Stratford on the 5th of September 1898, the son of Joseph Mason, a barrister, and Helen Maria Mason of 50 Oakfield Road, Stroud Green in London. He was educated at St. Augustine's School and at Acton Commercial College, after which he went to work as a clerk for S.A. Boulton Esq. and Others at Lloyd's.

George enlisted into the army at Duke's Road, Euston as Private 9069 in the 2/28th Battalion London Regiment (Artist's Rifles) Officer Training Corps on the 23rd of December 1916. At his medical examination, which was held on the same day, it was recorded that he was five feet six and a half inches tall and weighed nine stone and two lbs. He was posted to A Company and was sent for training to Hare Hall Camp at Romford in Essex where he was accommodated in Hut 44. He applied for a commission on the 23rd of December 1916 and was recommended as being a suitable candidate by his battalion commanding officer on the 8th of March 1917. He was discharged on the 19th of April before being commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Flying Corps on the 21st of April 1917. George was posted to Turnhouse airfield near Edinburgh to undergo pilot training.

On the 4th of May 1917 George Mason took off from Turnhouse in Maurice Farman Shorthorn A7029 for his first solo flight when the aircraft side slipped, nose dived and then crashed. The plane was destroyed.

Later that day a telegram was sent from Turnhouse to London:

"4/5/17 MFSH 7029 totally wrecked. This morning 2nd Lieut. G Mason General List officer under instruction on first solo killed. Mrs Mason 50 Oakfield Road Stroud Green informed. Aeronautics 26 Edinburgh."

George is buried at Comely Bank Cemetery, Edinburgh, Grave K887.

Mason
William Charles Edward
Sergeant 93268



57 Squadron, Royal Air Force. Died of on the 26th of September 1918.

William Charles Edward Mason was born in Ilford on the 8th of September 1899, the son of William Edwin Mason, the foreman of a timber yard, and Sarah Anne (née Linsell) Mason of 30 Harcourt Avenue, Manor Park.

He worked for Woods & Maslen at Lloyd's.

William enlisted as a 2nd Lieutenant Cadet in the Royal Flying Corps on the 29th of August 1917 and was posted to No. 5 Officer Cadet Wing at Halton Park on the 18th of September 1917. On the 12th of October 1917 he was declared as unsuitable to be pilot but was considered fit to be an Observer. He was posted to No. 5 Officer Cadet Wing at Norton Barracks, Worcester on the 15th of February 1918 and to No. 1 School of Aeronautics on the 13th of March 1918.

When he had completed his training, William was posted as an Observer to 57 Squadron based at Le Quesnoy in France.

On the 26th of September 1918 William Mason took off as the Observer in DH4 F6187 piloted by Lieutenant F.G. Pym for a bombing and photographic mission over Cambrai. At 6.20pm, while at a height of 10,000 feet, they were attacked by aircraft from Jasta 5, were both wounded, forced to crash land and were taken prisoner. Pym recovered but William Mason died of his wounds later that day.

He is buried at Awoingt Churchyard, Grave 2.

Maynard
Harry Litten
Private G/10299



10th (Service) Battalion Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Killed in action on the 23rd of March 1918, aged 23.

Harry Litten Maynard was born in Catford in 1895, the son of William John Maynard, the manager of an ironmongers, and Arabella Amy (née Hoyton) Maynard of 41 Davenport Road, Catford.

He worked for P Wigham-Richardson & Company Ltd, Lloyd's brokers.

Harry enlisted in Lewisham in the 11st Battalion Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment and served with them until February 1918 when the battalion was disbanded. He was then posted to the 10th Battalion of his regiment.

On the 21st of March 1918 the long anticipated German spring offensive began with massive attacks on the British front line on a wide front. That morning the 10th Battalion Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) was on its way to Albert on the Somme but, following the German attack, their transport was diverted and they de-trained at Achiet le Grand instead. The following day they moved to Flemicourt on the Albert-Bapaume road but, at 5pm, they received orders to relieve troops holding the line to the north of Beugny – troops who had been fighting hard for two days, who had been undertaking a fighting retreat and were exhausted.

By 3am on the morning of the 23rd of March the battalion was in position and had dug a new trench before daybreak. All four

companies were in the front line with a gap of 1,000 yards between them, with friendly forces on their left flank and with the 11th Battalion Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment to their immediate right. The early part of the morning remained quiet but at 8am the enemy began shelling and harassing the battalion with machine gun fire which caused some casualties. At about 10am the German infantry started to attack in strength with the battalion's Lewis gunners taking a heavy toll from the advancing enemy infantry, but by 11am the enemy were passing through the gap on the battalion's left and, at about the same time, the battalion to the right of the 11th Queen's retired to the rear. As a result of this, orders were issued by Divisional Headquarters ordering the advanced battalions to fall back to Beugny. These orders reached the 11th Queen's who began to fall back at around 2.30pm but they did not, for some reason, reach the 10th Royal West Kents who continued to hold the line on their own, in an increasingly isolated position, surrounded by the enemy. The battalion's position was overrun at around 6pm, and although a large part of A Company under Captain Holden fought its way back to a new defensive line at Beugnatre, the majority of the battalion did not get back, with the survivors numbering around 100 officers and men.

The casualties for the day's fighting amounted to two officers and 50 other ranks known to have been killed or wounded with some 14 officers and 4000 men posted as missing.

Harry is commemorated on the war memorial at Christ Church in Forest Hill, and on the Arras Memorial, Bay 7.

McKay
William Eric
Private 2853



**1/14th (County of London) Battalion (London Scottish).
Killed in action on the 1st of November 1914.**

William Eric McKay lived at Overbury, Watford in Hertfordshire. He worked for Anthony Gibbs & Son, Lloyd's brokers and he enlisted in London as Private 2853 in the 14th (County of London) Battalion (London Scottish).

Following the outbreak of war he was mobilised on the 5th of August 1914 and embarked for France with his battalion from Southampton on board the SS Winifredian on the 15th of September 1914, landing at Havre in the early hours of the following morning.

At 4am on the morning of the 31st of October 1914 the 1/14th (County of London) Battalion (London Scottish) was paraded along the St. Eloi road in preparation for a move towards the front line where the beleaguered regulars of the British Army were under relentless attacks in what was to become the First Battle of Ypres. They marched about a mile to a wood to the south east of St. Eloi and dug in. They were not there long before orders came for a move to support some cavalry who were in positions along the Wytschaete-Messines Ridge. At about 8am they moved through columns of refugees who were fleeing the advancing Germans. As they neared the front line they passed through the British artillery lines and came under German artillery fire for the first time, as well as witnessing a direct hit on a British gun which killed its crew.

They then moved along the Steenbeek and at about 10am they were given directions towards the firing line where units of the 4th Cavalry Brigade were desperately hanging on to their trenches and where a gap had been opened in their line which the London Scottish was ordered to fill. As they advanced towards the front line they were under shell fire and received several casualties before arriving at their appointed positions. When they arrived they lay with little cover under a sustained artillery bombardment until dusk.

Being Territorial troops, the men had been equipped with Mark 1 rifles, which had been adapted to take the more modern Mark VII ammunition. In the event, the Mark VII clips did not fit the rifles and as a result they could only be used to fire single rounds or else they would jam.

At about 9pm the Germans attacked in a dense mass with bands playing and officers urging their men forward from the rear. Despite their inadequate weapons the Scots drove off the German attack, causing many enemy casualties. When a large group of the enemy broke through on the left, 35 Scots fixed bayonets and attacked them and drove them off despite being outnumbered by some ten to one.

The Germans retired and the bombardment resumed at about midnight, setting fire to a number of surrounding farm buildings and a nearby windmill. The Germans attacked again shortly afterwards and the Scots fought off rush after rush for about an hour, assisted by the light of

McKay
William Eric
Private 2853

the fires and a full moon as they poured ammo into the enemy ranks. At 2am the Germans attacked again with a huge group of men. By the sheer weight of numbers and at the point of the bayonet, they forced a gap between the Scots and the cavalry. The situation was saved by part of the reserve coming forward and cutting the German attackers down at a range of only thirty yards.

Eventually Colonel Malcom, the commanding officer, was forced to order a withdrawal and arranged for the evacuation of the wounded before moving the men back across the Steenbeek to a new line at Wulverghem. The Germans were too spent to follow and used the lull in the fighting to consolidate and remove their wounded.

The 1/14th (County of London) Battalion (London Scottish) was the first territorial infantry to see action in the Great War and had suffered casualties of 394 officers and men during their first engagement but they had held the line.

William is commemorated on the Menin Gate, Panel 54.

McLachlan
John
Private 513799



1/14th (County of London) Battalion (London Scottish).
Died of wounds on the 8th of May 1917.

John McLachlan lived at 18 Mornington Crescent,
Regents Park.

He worked for S.I. Da Costa & Son at Lloyd's and enlisted
into the army in London.

On the 3rd of May 1917 the British made an attack against
the German lines on a 16-mile front to the east of Arras.
The London Scottish spent the day at Tilloy-lez-Mofflaines
and did not move into the line until night had fallen,
when they took over the front line to the north of the
Arras-Cambrai Road from one of the assaulting battalions.
For the next three days they spent their time consolidating
the captured positions, all the time under enemy shelling.
The pipe band were acting as stretcher bearers at this
time and suffered heavy losses when a high explosive
shell made a direct hit on their dressing station.

The battalion was relieved on the 8th of May and
moved back to Wancourt.

John is buried at Duisans British Cemetery, Plot III,
Row K, Grave 55.

Middleton
Ernest Raymond
Private G/40662



12th (Service) Battalion Middlesex Regiment.
Died on the 15th of January 1917, aged 19.

Ernest Raymond Middleton was born in New Cross in 1897, the son of Frederick John Middleton, a railway inspector, and Eliza (née Beard) Middleton of 39 Hunsdon Road, New Cross. He was christened at St. James' Church, Hatcham, Surrey on the 5th of December 1897.

He worked on the Lloyd's Staff in the Intelligence Department.

Ernest enlisted in Chelsea as Private 4516 in the 1st County of London Yeomanry before transferring to the Middlesex Regiment.

He died at No. 1 Casualty Clearing Station.

Ernest is buried at Puchevillers British Cemetery, Plot VII, Row F, Grave 20.

Mitchell
Leslie James
2nd Lieutenant



94 Squadron Royal Flying Corps. Killed on active service on the 22nd of December 1917, aged 20.

Leslie James Mitchell was born in Peckham on the 31st of August 1898, the elder son of James Mitchell, a stock broker, and Clara (née Ellis) Mitchell of Rozell", Burden Lane, Belmont in Surrey. He worked for Glanvill Enthoven, Lloyd's brokers.

Leslie enlisted as a Cadet in the Royal Flying Corps on the 14th of March 1917 and joined the Officer Cadet Wing at Denham in Buckinghamshire on the 9th of April 1917.

He was posted to the School of Military Aeronautics in Oxford on the 13th of July 1917. On the 16th of August he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Flying Cops and on the 19th of August he was posted to the Central Flying School at Hendon. He obtained his Aero Certificate (No. 5212) at the Beatty School, Cricklewood flying a Beatty-Wright Biplane on the 9th of September 1917. On the 19th of September 1917, Leslie was posted to 83 Squadron at Wyton and on the 18th of November 1917 he was promoted to Flying Officer and was posted to 94 Squadron based at Harling Road airfield at Thetford in Norfolk.

On the 22nd of December 1917 Leslie Mitchell was flying Avro 504J B4258 when it crashed accidentally at Harling Road. Although there was an announcement that he would be buried at Banstead, his place of burial is unknown.

He is commemorated on the Brookwood Memorial, Addenda Panel.

Moorcroft
Frederick John
Air Mechanic 1st Class
13076



**42 Squadron Royal Flying Corps. Killed in action
on the 3rd of August 1917, aged 20.**

Frederick John Moorcroft was born in Epsom on the 29th of August 1896, the eldest son of Richard Knight Moorcroft, a travelling coal salesman, and Agnes Lydia (nee Lee) Moorcroft of Farmhurst, 6 Mill Road, Epsom. He was christened at St. John's Church, Horsleydown in Surrey on the 2nd of October 1896.

Frederick worked for the Lloyd's Staff in the Paying Cashier's Branch.

Frederick Moorcroft was a wireless operator and is most likely to have been stationed with an artillery battery to receive signals from the squadron's aircraft as they carried out reconnaissance flights to locate enemy artillery battery. He and Corporal Benjamin Lawson, also from 42 Squadron, were killed on the same day, most probably from counter battery artillery fire.

He is commemorated on the Epsom war memorial.

Frederick is buried at Maple Leaf Cemetery, Row L, Grave 2.

Moore
Leonard
Private 612202



Grenadier Platoon, 1/19th (County of London) Battalion (St Pancras). Killed in action on the 29th of September 1916, aged 24.

Leonard Moore was born in Leytonstone, the son of William Arthur Moore, a tobacco broker's manager, and Emma Susannah (née Hill) Moore of 33 Station Parade, Church Lane, Leytonstone in London.

He worked as a clerk for the Daily Index Branch of the Lloyd's Staff.

Leonard enlisted into the army at the Royal Exchange as Private 18756 in the King's Royal Rifle Corps but later transferred to the London Regiment.

On the 27th of September 1916 the 1/19th (County of London) Battalion (St Pancras) moved into support trenches at Bazentin-le-Grand on the Somme. The following day they moved to the Flers Line, to the south east of Eaucourt l'Abbaye. On the 29th of September the Grenadier Platoon was sent out to make bombing attacks on the German positions along the Flers Line and Flers Support trench system. It was during this attack that Leonard Moore lost his life.

He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Pier and Face 9D, 9C, 13C and 12C.

Moore
Reginald John
Rifleman 3739



1/5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade). Killed in action on the 9th of October 1916, aged 20.

Reginald John Moore was the son of John William Moore and Mary Lydia Moore of 9 Albert Road, Stroud Green in London. He worked for the Shipping Editor's Branch of the Lloyd's Staff and enlisted into the army in London.

At 11pm on the 7th of October the 1/5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade) received orders to assemble and to relieve the 1/14th Battalion London Regiment (London Scottish) who had made an unsuccessful attack at Les Boeufs earlier in the day. The assembly was complete by midnight and the men marched off in single file due to the number of shell holes and the muddy ground. They did not arrive at their destination until dawn when they crossed the ridge between Les Boeufs and Morval in full view of the enemy and under occasional fire before entering the trenches. They had lost nine men during the relief.

Within an hour of being there they received orders for A and B Companies to make an attack on the enemy-held position of 'Hazy Trench' some 600 yards in front of them. C Company was to be in support of the attack with D Company in reserve.

D Company began bringing tools, ammunition and bombs forward in preparation, during which time they suffered casualties from shell fire. Final orders were received at 1pm and zero hour was set for 3.30pm.

With all the activity in preparation for the attack having been seen by the enemy, they were well readied for the coming British assault.

As soon as A and B Companies left their trenches, flares went up from the German front line which brought down a ferocious artillery barrage on top of the London men. Under the cover of a creeping barrage from their own artillery, the two companies pushed forward for some 500 yards, at which point they came under fire from a German howitzer which was positioned some 300 yards away and which fired over open sights at them with disastrous results. The two companies were wiped out almost to a man, with very few survivors reaching the objective, where it is thought they were quickly overwhelmed as nothing more was heard of them.

At 4.30pm D Company was ordered into the attack to reinforce the two lead companies but was subjected to a tremendous enemy artillery barrage as soon as they showed themselves. The few men who made it through took cover in a string of shell holes in no man's land where they sheltered from the onslaught. They consolidated along this line under heavy machine gun fire, with no officers from the three lead companies having survived to lead them.

Moore

Reginald John
Rifleman 3739

On the 9th of October, stretcher bearers spent most of the day braving the shell fire and struggling through the thick mud to rescue the wounded from the previous day. At 5pm another terrific artillery bombardment began which was followed by machine gun fire which swept the British positions. It was feared that the Germans were about to mount a counterattack but, in the event, this did not develop.

The battalion was relieved by the Royal Warwickshire Regiment at around 6.30pm and returned to Trones Wood having suffered casualties of five officers killed, three missing and 13 officer wounded with only 108 men out of 542 having survived the attack.

Reginald is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Pier and Face 9D.

Morrison
William Henry Stanley
Lieutenant



1/24th (County of London) Battalion (The Queen's).
Killed in action on the 26th of May 1915, aged 26.

William Henry Stanley Morrison was born at Strathearn, Trewsbury Road, Sydenham on the 27th of February 1889, the youngest son of William Morrison, a commercial traveller for a confectioners, and Priscilla Harrison Waters (née Stewart) Morrison of Stonifers, Reigate in Surrey.

He was educated at Mill Hill School from September 1902 to December 1905 where he was in School House. He worked firstly as a clerk at the Atlas Assurance Company Limited and later as an insurance inspector for Howson F. Devitt Esq. at Lloyd's.

On the 18th of February 1911, William applied for a commission in the 24th (County of London) Battalion (The Queen's) and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the battalion on the 1st of March 1911. At a medical examination it was recorded that he was five feet 11 inches tall. He was promoted to Lieutenant on the 18th of February 1913.

William was mobilised for war service on the 5th of August 1914 and embarked for France with his battalion on the 15th of March 1915, landing at Le Havre the following day. At 5.30pm on the 25th of May 1915, the 1/24th (County of London) Battalion (The Queen's) took over trenches to the north of Givenchy. They were to attack German positions known as the S Bend and were to capture and hold points '14' and 'J7'.

At 6.30pm, following a short artillery barrage, the Londoners moved forward to the attack with A Company taking the lead and capturing its objective with few casualties. Half an hour later the support companies, who came under heavy rifle fire during their crossing of no man's land, had joined them and began consolidating the captured position. During this time there was a sustained bombing fight on their right flank during which Private Lionel James Keyworth of the battalion won the Victoria Cross for his courage in driving back the attacking Germans.

The captured trench was held during the night and all the next day, during which time the battalion was under heavy shell and rifle fire. The battalion was relieved by the 1/20th (County of London) Battalion (Blackheath and Woolwich) at 8pm on the evening of the 26th of May, having suffered casualties of five officers killed with three wounded and -400 other ranks killed, wounded or missing.

William was mentioned in Field Marshall Sir John French's despatches of the 30th of November 1915.

His Colonel wrote: "Morrison behaved with the greatest gallantry after the assault had succeeded. Carrying bombs and directing his men in the same work. He was killed on the spot. The fighting was of a very desperate character. His behaviour was simply splendid, and it was an achievement of which any regiment could be more than proud."

William is commemorated on the Le Touret Memorial, Panels 45 and 46.

Mountcastle
Herbert William
Lance Corporal 761258



D Company, 1/28th (County of London) Battalion (Artist's Rifles). Killed in action on the 30th of October 1917, aged 28.

Herbert William Mountcastle was born in Hornsey in 1889, the eldest son of Herbert Horwill Mountcastle, a bank clerk, and his first wife, Margaret Milton Mayston (née Brett) Mountcastle of 31 Collingwood Avenue, Muswell Hill in London.

He worked as a shipping clerk for the insurance brokers McIlwraith, McEacharan & Company Proprietary Ltd.

Herbert was married to Annie Rosabelle (née Ellor) on the 22nd of December 1916 at St. James' Church, Muswell Hill and they lived at 61 Parliament Hill in Hampstead. Following his death she remarried, becoming Thynne, and lived at Cholmely Villas, Long Ditton in Surrey.

Herbert volunteered for active service on the 10th of December 1915 with the 28th (County of London) Battalion (Artist's Rifles) and was called up, reporting at Duke's Road on the 28th of January 1916. At his medical examination it was recorded that he was five feet five and a half inches tall. He embarked for France from Southampton on the 26th of May 1917, arriving at Le Havre the following day, and joined his battalion in the field on the 1st of June.

On the 1st of October 1917 the 1/28th (County of London) Battalion (Artist's Rifles) received orders to proceed to the Ypres front to take part in the assault on the Passchendaele Ridge.

On the 28th of October they left their camp at Reigersburgh to move to the front line in preparation for the attack, which due to the appalling state of ground, had been making slow progress up until then. They spent 30 hours waiting in reserve during which time they suffered a number of casualties from long range artillery fire. On the 30th of October they went forward to the attack with A and B Companies in the vanguard of the assault, C Company in support and D Company in reserve. In order to reach their objective they had to cross the Paddebeek, a small stream which had turned into a morass. As soon as the first companies emerged from their trenches into "a deep sea of mud" they came under intense machine gun fire and a rain of artillery fell on the support troops. Rifles and Lewis guns became clogged with mud and were rendered useless within minutes with the wounded drowning in the mud as they fell. The attack quickly came to a standstill and the men attempted to consolidate their position on their side of the Paddebeek but were forced to withdraw to their start line, having suffered casualties of around 350 men from an attacking force of 500. The survivors came out of the line the following day and marched to Eringhem.

Mountcastle
Herbert William
Lance Corporal 761258

Sir Phillip Gibbs, a correspondent, witnessed the attack:

“The Artist’s Rifles, Bedfords and Shropshires were trying to get forward to other blockhouses on the way to the rising ground beyond the Paddebeek. The Artist’s and their comrades were more severely tried by shellfire than the Londons. No doubt the enemy had been standing at his guns through the night ready to fire at the first streak of dawn, which might bring an English attack. A light went up and instantly there roared a great sweep of fire from heavy batteries and field guns; 4.2s and 5.9s fell densely and in depth and this bombardment did not slacken for hours. It was a tragic time for our men, struggling in the slime with their feet dragged down. They suffered but did not retreat; no man turned back but either fell under the shell fire or went on.”

Herbert is buried at Passchendaele New British Cemetery, Special Memorial 2.

**Mowatt
Osmond
Lieutenant**



**10th (Prince of Wales' Own Royal) Hussars.
Died of on the 22nd of April 1917, aged 36.**

Osmond Mowatt was born at 5 Notting Hill Square, Kensington on the 24th of May 1880, the younger son of James Mowatt, a barrister at law, and Fanny Louisa (née Akroyd) Mowatt of Kingswood Firs, Bramshott, Haslemere in Hampshire.

He was educated by private tutor and matriculated for Gonville and Caius College Cambridge in 1899, being admitted on the 2nd of October.

Following the outbreak of the war in South Africa, Osmond left Cambridge and enlisted as a Private in 4th Volunteer Battalion (Imperial Yeomanry) in 1900. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Suffolk Regiment on the 9th of March 1901 and was promoted to Lieutenant on the 11th of October 1901. He served in the South African War as a Lieutenant with the 50th Company, 17th Battalion Imperial Yeomanry and was wounded at Plessisdam on the 26th of June 1901. He transferred to the 53rd Company, 11th Battalion with the rank of Lieutenant on the 11th of October 1901 and was wounded again on the 25th of December 1901 at Tweefontein. Osmond was awarded the Queen's Medal with three clasps and the King's Medal with two clasps and retired to the Reserve of Officers with the rank of Honorary Lieutenant on the 29th of September 1902.

After that war ended, he returned to Cambridge where he achieved a BSc with high honours in 1904, and an MA with honours in 1907. He was a Sergeant in the Cambridge University Cavalry Squadron and represented the university at Bisley.

Upon completing university, Osmond became an Underwriting Member of Lloyd's and lived at 40 St James's Place, London. On the 3rd of June 1903 he became a Freeman of the City of London and a member of the Worshipful Company of Merchant Taylors.

Following the outbreak of World War I, he applied for a commission on the 16th of September 1914, expressing a preference for either the 8th or the 10th Hussars. At his medical examination, which was held at Tidworth on the same day, it was recorded that he was five feet seven inches tall and weighed 139lbs.

Osmond was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant on the 25th of September 1914, embarking for France on the 3rd of November 1914 and landing there the following day. He was attached to the 2nd Life Guards and joined them in the field on the 27th of November where he saw action at Ypres. He served with them for a short time before transferring to the 10th (Prince of Wales' Own Royal) Hussars and served with them until he returned to their base in France on the 23rd of March 1915.

Mowatt
Osmond
Lieutenant

On the 25th of March he embarked on board a ship to return to England. On his departure his commanding officer wrote a letter of commendation:

“Has been attached to the regiment under my command for the last four months. Prior to that he served with the 2nd Life Guards throughout the fighting around Ypres in November. I consider him an efficient cavalry officer, very keen and conscientious and I have requested that in the event of casualties he may be sent out to me. I have been most satisfied with his work in the regiment.”

Eustace Shearman, Lieutenant Colonel, 10th Hussars

On the 18th of May, Osmond boarded a ship once again to return to France, landing there the following day. On the 24th of March he rejoined the 10th Hussars in the field. He was promoted to Lieutenant on the 18th of May 1915.

On the 9th of April 1917 the British and Canadians began an attack which would become known as the Battle of Arras. The opening day was a spectacular success with the Canadians capturing Vimy Ridge but the British cavalry was held back too far behind the lines to exploit the temporary disarray in the German defences. At dawn on the 11th of April, elements of the 15th (Scottish) and 37th Divisions were holding positions in and around the village of Monchy-le-Preux. The 10th (Prince of Wales' Own Royal) Hussars, along with other regiments from their Brigade, were ordered to circle round the village and advance to a

position between Monchy and the River Scarpe. At 8.30am, the Hussars began their advance along with the Essex Yeomanry and, as they crossed the southern slope of Orange Hill to the north of Monchy, they came under shell and machine gun fire which caused a number of casualties and forced the survivors to take shelter in the streets of Monchy itself. Here they became engaged in heavy fighting with the streets being strewn with the bodies of troopers and their horses.

One eyewitness recounted that:

“The main street of Monchy was indeed a terrible sight, and the horrors are not being exaggerated when it is described as being littered with dead men and horses. In one place the horses were lying so thick that it was necessary to climb over them in order to pass along the street.”

The Hussars lost 27 men killed during the attack. Osmond Mowatt was badly wounded and was evacuated to 8 Casualty Clearing Station.

His father received the following telegram dated the 14th of April 1917:

“Regret to inform you report dated April thirteenth states that Lt O. Mowatt 10 Hussars has been wounded. Details sent when received.”

Mowatt
Osmond
Lieutenant

On the 22nd of April 1917 he received a further telegram:

“Regret to inform you Lt O. Mowatt 10th Hussars in No. 8 Casualty Clearing Station dangerously wounded condition grave. Regret permission to travel cannot be permitted. Further reports when received.”

Oswald Mowatt died in the early morning of the 22nd of April 1917.

His father received a final telegram dated the 23rd of April 1917:

“Deeply regret to inform you Lt O. Mowatt 10th Hussars died of wounds April 22nd. The Army Council express their sympathy.”

His father applied for his medals on the 1st of January 1919; they were sold at auction in London in 2012.

Osmond is commemorated on a memorial tablet in St. George’s Church, Bramshott, and on the war memorial at St Mary’s Church, Bramshott.

He is buried at Duisans British Cemetery, Plot IV, Row A, Grave 37.

Nash
John Stanley
Private 53573



2nd Battalion Durham Light Infantry. Died of wounds on the 21st of November 1917.

John Stanley Nash was born in Buxton in Derbyshire, the son of Amos Nash, a bookseller's clerk, and Ellen Nash of Glenorchy, Sudbury, Harrow. He worked as a junior clerk for James Hartley, Cooper & Company Ltd, Lloyd's brokers.

John enlisted at Mansion House as Private 5621 in the 8th Battalion Middlesex Regiment on the 31st of January 1916 and was called up on the 2nd of March 1916, reporting to Ealing. He later transferred to the 2nd Battalion Durham Light Infantry.

At 7.30pm on the evening of the 19th of November 1917, the 2nd Battalion Durham Light Infantry left Dessart Wood and marched up to an assembly trench to the south of Beaucamp where they arrived at 1.30am the following morning. The battalion was tasked with the capture of Pemy Chapel Ridge and was deployed in "artillery formation" with D Company on the right front, C Company on the left front and A and B Companies in support. At 6.10am the supporting tanks moved forward, which were followed ten minutes later by the first waves of infantry under the protection of a terrific barrage from their artillery.

The 2nd Durhams moved to the attack at 8.20am, passing through Beaucamp, and arriving at Beaucamp Trench at 9.15am. Here they paused for half an hour before moving on again to Unseen Trench, arriving there at 10.45am.

While they were in the trench they came under enemy artillery fire but suffered no casualties. At 11.45am they moved forward once more towards their final objective. They advanced through the western outskirts of Ribecourt village and up the Flesquires Ridge where they came under machine gun fire, but still sustained no casualties as they reached Kaiser Support Trench. When C Company began their advance again they came under heavy fire from five enemy field guns and were forced to fall back to the trench where their company commander, Captain Fawcett, reorganised them into smaller groups and, under the cover of fire from Lewis guns, they fixed bayonets and rushed the enemy positions, taking a number of prisoners and capturing the guns.

A neighbouring enemy battery of howitzers, seeing what had happened to their comrades, took to their heels, leaving the Durhams to capture their guns too. In all they captured 11 guns and 18 prisoners. They then dug in and consolidated their gains, bringing another fleeing enemy gun battery under Lewis gun and rifle fire at a range of 1,000 yards. Their casualties during a very successful attack were six other ranks killed with a number of wounded, one of which was John Nash, who was evacuated to the rear but died in an ambulance train during the journey.

He is buried at Abbeville Communal Cemetery, Extension Plot III, Row E, Grave 9.

Nealon
John Henry
Private G/75502



4th Battalion Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).
Died of wounds on the 5th of May 1918, aged 19.

John Henry Nealon was born in Dalston on the 26th of July 1898, the son of William James Nealon, a bank messenger, and Elizabeth Annie (née Lawrence) Nealon later of 63 Gonville Road, Thornton Heath in Surrey. He was christened at the Holy Trinity Church, Dalston on the 11th of June 1905.

John worked for H.W. Edmunds Esq. and Others at Lloyd's and enlisted into the army in London as Private 38894 in the East Surrey Regiment, later transferring to the 4th Battalion Royal Fusiliers.

He is buried at Lapugnoy Military Cemetery, Plot VII, Row F, Grave 6.

Ness
Gordon Stewart
Lieutenant



3rd Battalion Royal Scots Fusiliers attached to the 1st Battalion. Killed in action on the 11th of November 1914.

Gordon Stewart Ness was born in Kensington, London on the 4th of November 1885, the youngest son of Patrick Ness and Charlotte Jane Wells (née Powell) Ness of Braco Castle in Perthshire. He was educated at Westminster School from the 27th of September 1900 to July 1902 and went on to Clare College, Cambridge, in October 1904.

Gordon was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 3rd Battalion (Royal Ayr and Wigtown Militia) Royal Scots Fusiliers on the 7th of April 1906 and was promoted to Lieutenant on the 9th of December 1909. He was elected as an Underwriting Member of Lloyd's in 1909. Gordon married Gladys Frances May (née Harrison); they had a son Patrick, born on the 15th of June 1914, and a daughter, Marguerite Gordon, born on the 3rd of June 1915.

He went to France on the 11th of September 1914, where he joined the 1st Battalion of his regiment in the field. On the 10th of November 1914 the 1st Battalion Royal Scots Fusiliers moved into reserve positions to the east of Hooze in the Ypres Salient. On the 11th of November they took part in a counterattack against the Prussian Guard and drove them back, with the Fusiliers taking up new positions about half a mile to the east of Herenthage. During the attack, Gordon Ness and two other officers were killed.

Gordon is commemorated on a memorial plaque on the boundary wall of Ardoch Parish Church in Perthshire and on the war memorial at Clare College, Cambridge.

He is also commemorated on the Menin Gate, Panels 19 and 33.

Nickels
Christopher
Charles Gordon
Lieutenant



324 Flight, Royal Air Force. Killed on active service on the 9th of June 1918, aged 18.

Christopher Charles Gordon Nickels was born in West Ham on the 23rd of October 1899, the son of Christopher Charles William Nickels, an export buyer for a wholesale drapery, and Lily Amelia (née Nickels) Nickels of Ness Bank, 41 Wanstead Park Avenue, Wanstead.

He worked for Alfred Blackmore & Company Ltd at Lloyd's.

Christopher enlisted as a Trooper in the Imperial Border Yeomanry before transferring to the Royal Naval Air Service in Greenwich on the 7th of October 1917.

He was posted to Tendome on the 6th of November and was promoted from Probationary Flight Officer to Flight Sub Lieutenant on the 22nd of November 1917 in the Royal Naval Air Service.

Christopher was posted to Calshot on the 2nd of December 1917. During this period he gained flying experience on a wide range of aircraft, including the Caudron, Curtiss aeroplanes, Shorts aeroplanes, FBA and GAC flying boats. It was noted that he was "very good" at aerial gunnery and was "average" as a pilot. He passed his examinations on the 15th of March 1918 with the comment:

"V.G. good pilot officer. Seconded for large patrol boat."

He was appointed as a Flight Sub Lieutenant on the same date but with seniority from the 22nd of November 1917, and was posted to 324 Flight at HM Air Station Great Yarmouth on the 20th of March 1918.

On the 9th of June 1918, Christopher took off from Great Yarmouth in Short 184 Seaplane N1658. While making a steep turn in bad weather, the aircraft entered a spin and crashed into the sea off Gorleston. Christopher Nickels was drowned in the accident while his Observer, 2nd Lieutenant C.J. Lewis, was slightly injured.

He is buried at City of London Cemetery, 80.90195.

Norton
Bertram Harrison
Rifleman 301333 (2132)



1/5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade). Killed in action on the 1st of July 1916, aged 26.

Bertram Harrison Norton was born in Tottenham in 1890, the second son of David Norton, a schoolmaster at the London County School, and Louisa Constance (née Harrison) Norton of Hazelmere, 48 Upper Walthamstow Road, Walthamstow in Essex. He worked as a clerk for C.T. Bowring (Insurance) Ltd, Lloyd's brokers. He enlisted into the army in London.

The 1st of July 1916 was the opening day of the Battle of the Somme and the 1/5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade) was given the task of capturing the enemy-held village of Gommecourt. The British artillery had been bombarding the enemy lines along the line of attack for a week but at zero hour, 7.30am, they unleashed a terrific final bombardment on the enemy line which was to be the objective of the Londoners. Under the cover of smoke, which had been released to cover their advance, the men left their trenches and in spite of heavy casualties they crossed no man's land and captured the enemy trenches along with a large number of prisoners. It soon became evident, however, that the attack by the neighbouring Division had failed, and before long all the German artillery was concentrated against the London Division. No man's land was saturated with shell fire which meant that the runners, carrying messages calling for extra bombs and ammunition, could not get through.

Heavy German counterattacks followed and soon the defenders' bombs ran out and they were pushed back, trench by trench. By the evening most of the surviving members of the battalion were making their way back across no man's land.

Casualties for the attack totalled eight officers killed, with ten wounded and one missing, and over 500 other ranks killed wounded or missing, out of an original attacking strength of 23 officers and 803 other ranks.

Bertram is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Pier and Face 9D.

Owen
Frank
Lieutenant Colonel



**3/8th (County of London) Battalion (Post Office Rifles).
Died on the 24th of December 1918, aged 55.**

Frank Owen was born in Woodstown, Waterford, Ireland, on the 13th of March 1864, the son of the Reverend Frank Owen and Mary (née McCormick) Owen of Waterford.

He saw active service during the Louis Riel Rebellion in North West Canada in August 1885. He subsequently joined the 8th (County of London) Battalion (Post Office Rifles), retiring with the rank of Captain. He was married in Cuckfield in Sussex to Laura Maud (née Bevan) on the 24th of October 1900. They lived at 81 Cadogan Place in Chelsea.

Frank was a director of Matthews Wrightson & Company (Limited) and was an Underwriting Member of Lloyd's.

On the outbreak of war he rejoined his old battalion and was promoted to Major on the 4th of August 1914.

Frank suffered from chronic colitis and a Medical Board which sat at Caxton Hall on the 10th of August 1915 reported the following:

"Since the outbreak of war he has been engaged in raising 3 battalions of his regiment and this has entailed extremely strenuous work. His present condition is that he is much run down. His pulse is soft and weak and he requires six weeks leave to recover his strength. He's suffering from gastralgia and symptoms of colitis are present. He has to diet himself."

He was granted six weeks leave from the 11th of August.

On the 21st of September 1915 he wrote to the War Office saying that he felt better and was ready to resume active service. He was given command of the 3/8th Battalion of his regiment the same day, but his health continued to decline.

On the 28th of October 1915 a further Medical Board sat at Caxton Hall which concluded that he was:

"Possibly permanently unfit. Maybe do some light duty (but it must be strictly light)."

On the 8th of July 1916 a Medical Board which sat at the Military Hospital at Newport, Gwent, concluded that Frank was suffering from acute colitis and was indeed unfit for general service. On the 15th of July he was transferred to the Territorial Reserve due to ill health with the rank of Captain.

Again, he managed to convince his commanders that he was fit for duty and, as a result, he was seconded and went to France in April 1917 but was invalided home on the 6th of August when his health broke down once more. He was evacuated from Le Havre on the 10th of August 1917 and landed at Southampton on the following day.

He died at Kelvedon in Essex after a long period of illness.

Frank is buried at St Mary's Churchyard Extension, Kelvedon.

Pacey
Frank Byrne
Private E/439



B Company, 17th Battalion Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment). Killed in action on the 29th of February 1916, aged 26.

Frank Byrne Pacey was born in Paddington in 1890, the son of Thomas Pacey, a motor taxi driver, and Elizabeth Pacey of 39 Crossley Road, Maida Hill, Paddington and later of 63 Southwood Road, Ramsgate. He was christened at Emmanuel Church, Paddington, on the 5th of October 1890.

In 1911, Frank was working as a law clerk, but by the outbreak of war he was employed by Pitman & Dean Ltd at Lloyd's. He enlisted into the army in South West London.

Frank embarked for overseas service with his battalion at Folkestone on the 16th of November 1915 and arrived at Boulogne at 3pm the following day.

On the night of the 27th of February 1916, the 17th Battalion Royal Fusiliers took over trenches in the Etonnoir sector at Calonne from the 7th French Hussars. The trenches held by the battalion were some 500 yards long and 150 yards from the German front line. On the 1st of March they moved back to billets at Coron D'Aix after a "quiet" time in the line. Frank Pacey was killed on the second day of their tour.

He is buried at Tranchee De Mecknes Cemetery, Row A, Grave 6.

Page
Alfred Edward
Private 2584



9th (Service) Battalion East Surrey Regiment.
Killed in action on the 26th of September 1915.

Alfred Edward Page was born in Sutton, the son of Henry Page, a jobbing gardener, and Sarah Page of 2 Vernon Villas, Upper Vernon Road, Sutton in Surrey.

He worked for Alexander Howden & Company Ltd, Lloyd's Brokers.

Alfred enlisted into the army in Sutton and embarked for France with 9th Battalion East Surrey Regiment from Folkestone on the 31st of August 1915, landing at Boulogne the following day. They moved to Bethune where, at 7am on the morning of the 25th of September, they were assembled at their billets for a move to Loos where the British offensive had begun at dawn. In the event, they didn't begin their march until 11am but by 5.50pm, after a gruelling march in the rain, they had arrived at a road junction, 400 yards to the south of Le Rutoire Farm near the village of Vermelles. At 6.50pm they advanced on a compass bearing in open formation coming under occasional shelling from the direction of the German lines at Hulluch. At 11.05pm the East Surreys crossed the old German front line trench system which had been taken during the fighting earlier in the day. The battalion was ordered to dig a new trench about half a mile to the south west of the village of Hulluch, which was still held by the Germans. They spent the period from midnight to dawn digging the trench in the pouring rain.

At 10am on the morning of the 26th of September 1915 the battalion received orders to advance some 1,700 yards and capture an enemy-held line which ran south from Puits No. 13 to the south of Hulluch. At 11am, C and D Companies of the battalion, with A and B Companies in support, left their trenches and moved forward to the attack. The initial phase of the offensive came under little enemy fire, but as the leading men crossed the Hulluch-Lens Road they came under increasingly heavy rifle and machine gun fire, particularly from their flank. In spite of very heavy casualties the survivors reached the wire in front of enemy third line at around noon. This position consisted of thick belts of wire with trenches which were 15 to 25 feet deep, all of which was undamaged by the preparatory artillery barrage. In spite of repeated attempts to get through the wire, all the time under grenade attack from the defenders, the battalion was forced to fall back to the trenches they had started from, having suffered casualties during the attack of 16 officers and 438 other ranks.

Alfred is commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Panels 65 to 67.

Pappa
Armaud Francis
2nd Lieutenant



8th (Service) Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment.
Killed in action on the 5th of May 1917.

Armaud Francis "Frank" Pappa was born at 181 Poelsdon Road, Maida Vale on the 19th of June 1891, the son of Demosthenes George Pappa, a financial agent, and Francesca (née Jacobi) Pappa of 66 Avonmore Road, West Kensington.

He was educated at Dulwich College from September 1904 to April 1905 and he worked as a clerk for E.C. Mumford Esq. and Others at Lloyd's.

Armaud was commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant in the 9th Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment on the 22nd of July 1915, later transferring to the 8th Battalion.

On the morning of the 3rd of May 1917 the 8th Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment was in support of an attack on enemy positions at Bois du Vert and Bois du Sart to the east of Monchy. The leading battalions went forward at 3.45am under the cover of an artillery barrage, and within a few minutes the German artillery retaliated, causing a number of casualties among the East Yorks before they'd left their assembly positions. The leading battalions suffered badly from rifle and machine gun fire from both the heavily defended Tool Trench and from Infantry Hill, with the result that the attack quickly came to a standstill.

Despite repeated efforts to get forward, an advance of only a few yards was achieved and the now scattered survivors took shelter in shell holes. Any sign of movement from them was met with heavy fire and it was only when darkness fell that they were able to make their way back to the start line.

The battalion suffered casualties of six officers killed or who died of wounds with one officer injured, and 35 other ranks were killed with 161 wounded and 39 missing. During the night the battalion replaced a group of the Royal Scots Fusiliers in the front line and they spent the following day gathering in the wounded from the attack under the cover of a truce which had been arranged with the Germans. At nightfall, the battalion began to reorganise and to improve their positions with working parties. Battalion Headquarters was the target for intermittent shelling throughout the night but the working parties concentrated on posts in the front line and improving the communication trenches which led to them.

The work continued under occasional shelling and heavy sniper fire for the rest of the day. Casualties during on that date totalled 20 men of all ranks.

Armaud Pappa was in charge of a party that was building a fire step in Dale Trench when a shell fell into the trench and killed him. He was buried where he fell.

Pappa
Arnaud Francis
2nd Lieutenant

His sister received the following telegram dated the 14th of May 1917:

“Deeply regret to inform you Second Lieut. A.F. Pappa 8 East Yorkshire Regt. was killed in action May six. The Army Council express their sympathy. Please supply War Officer M.S.3. Cas: 520/2 with address of this officer’s mother”

Arnaud is commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Bay 4 and 5.

Parfitt
Frank Ernest
Private 50018



**1st Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers. Killed in action
on the 2nd of September 1918, aged 18.**

Frank Ernest Parfitt was born in Stoke Newington in 1899, the son of George Herbert Parfitt, a salesman of wholesale drapery, and Jessie Camilla (née Smith) Parfitt of 64 Dowanhill Road, Catford, London.

He worked as a marine clerk for Harris & Dixon Ltd, Lloyd's brokers.

Frank enlisted at Lewisham as Private 557148 in the London Regiment and later transferred to the Royal Irish Fusiliers.

At 3am on the morning of the 2nd of September 1918, the 1st Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers received orders by telephone to attack enemy positions in the line from White Gate on Hill 63 to North Midland Farm on the Wolverghem-Messines Road near Ypres. The advance was made with A and D Companies leading, B Company in support and C Company in reserve. By 6.30am the battalion was held up by machine gun fire, principally from guns located in the village of Neuve Eglise, but after an artillery barrage from the British guns, the village was taken by the 12th Battalion Royal Irish Rifles. After dark the advance continued and the battalion settled for the night on a line along the Neuve Eglise-Wolverghem Road.

Frank is buried at Wolverghem-Lindenhoek Road Military Cemetery, Plot IV, Row G, Grave 8.

Peacock
William James Leonard
2nd Lieutenant



8th Battalion East Kent Regiment (The Buffs). Killed in action on the 18th of August 1916.

William James Leonard Peacock was born at 26 Cavendish Flats, Gilbert Street, Grosvenor Square on the 7th of November 1896, the only son of William Peacock, a bank messenger, and Elizabeth Peacock of 58 Hannover Flats, Thomas Street, Grosvenor Square.

He worked on the Lloyd's Staff in the Intelligence Department.

William enlisted at 130 Bunhill Row as Rifleman 9715 in the 5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade) on the 12th of March 1914 and was mobilised for war service on the 5th of August 1914.

He embarked for France from Southampton on board the SS Chybassa on the 4th of November 1914, landing at Le Havre the following day. He returned to England for officer training on the 30th of March 1915.

William applied for a commission on the 21st of August 1915, expressing a preference for either the 9th Battalion East Kent Regiment (The Buffs) of the 13th Battalion East Surrey Regiment. He attended the School of Instruction at Pembroke College, Cambridge, before being commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the East Kent Regiment (The Buffs) on the 7th of October 1915. He joined the 8th Battalion of his regiment in the field on the 11th of October 1915.

On the 18th of August 1916, the 8th Battalion East Kent Regiment was detailed to attack German positions at Delville Wood on the Somme. A Company were given the task of capturing the enemy position of Machine Gun House, which they were to convert into a strong point in order to support an attack by the Rifle Brigade on their left. C Company and half of B Company were to attack and hold 'ZZ' Trench and to form a strong point there. D Company was to remain in reserve.

At 2.45pm on the 18th of August, the lead companies left their trenches for the attack, supported by a creeping barrage from their artillery. They remained close to their barrage and although casualties were few, William Peacock was killed when halfway across no man's land. The remaining Buffs rushed the enemy trench and took most of the occupants by surprise, capturing a machine gun and turning it on the German infantry nearby. Machine Gun House was captured and strengthened and the battalion set about consolidating the position.

Casualties for the attack were one officer and 38 other ranks killed, with six officers and 297 other ranks wounded and 16 other ranks missing. William Peacock was the sole dead officer.

His father received the following telegram dated the 27th of August 1916: "Deeply regret to inform you that 2/Lt W.J.L. Peacock 8th East Kents was killed in action August 18th. The Army Council express their sympathy."

William is buried at Bray Military Cemetery, Plot I, Row B, Grave 18.

**Pears
Stuart
Sergeant 974**



**1/14th (County of London) Battalion (London Scottish).
Killed in action on the 22nd of December 1914, aged 23.**

Stuart Pears was born at Camberwell on the 29th of October 1891, the twin son of Ernest Pears, a company secretary, and Gertrude (née Campbell) Pears of 69 Palace Road, Streatham Hill in London. He was educated at Streatham Grammar School.

Stuart worked as a marine clerk for R.W. Vick, Junr & Company, Lloyd's brokers.

He enlisted in the 14th (County of London) Battalion (London Scottish) in London in 1909, and was mobilised on the outbreak of war. He embarked for France with his battalion from Southampton on board the SS Winifredian on the 15th of September 1914, landing at Le Havre in the early hours of the following morning.

On the 22nd of December 1914, the 1/14th (County of London) Battalion (London Scottish) marched from Bethune at noon and arrived at Beuvry, near Cuincy, at 2.30pm, where they entered the second line of trenches in support of the Coldstream Guards, 1st Battalion Cameron Highlanders and the Scots Guards. At 3.30pm the front line was attacked by enemy infantry but managed to drive them off. At 7.30pm, No.1 Company from the London Scottish was sent to fill a gap that had opened on the right

of the Coldstream Guards. At 11.30pm a party from No.2 Company was sent to patrol the north flank of a nearby canal and returned at 1.30am the next morning.

At 2.30am on the morning of the 22nd of December 1914, half of No.3 Company was pushed forward to prolong the line of the Cameron Highlanders and at 10am the battalion's machine guns were moved forward to support the Coldstreams. At 1pm No.2 Company was moved to fill a gap in the line on the right to link with French troops who were holding trenches there. During the day, Stuart Pears was killed by a sniper while in the trenches.

He is buried at Cabaret Rouge British Cemetery, Givenchy Churchyard, Memorial 5.

Perryman
Edward William
Private 718217



D Company, 1/23rd (County of London) Battalion (The Queens). Killed in action on the 5th of April 1918, aged 27.

Edward William Perryman was born in Clapham in 1891, the only son of Edward William Perryman and Emilie Cordelia (née Wright) Perryman of 35 Kingswood Road, Brixton Hill, Clapham in London.

He worked as a clerk for Dumas & Wylie Ltd at Lloyd's.

Edward enlisted as Private 4446 in the 3/12th (County of London) Battalion (Rangers) at the 12th Battalion London Regiment Depot, 14 Chenies Street, London on the 20th of November 1915. At his medical examination, which took place at East Sheen on the 8th of November, it was recorded that he was five feet four inches tall.

He embarked from Southampton on the 26th of May 1916, landing at Rouen on the 28th of May, and joined the 1/12th Battalion in the field on the 6th of June.

On the opening day of the Battle of the Somme on the 1st of July 1916, the 1/12th (County of London) Battalion (Rangers) attacked the German lines at Gommecourt. Edward Perryman was wounded by a gunshot to the right shoulder and was evacuated to 43 Casualty Clearing Station, moving to 16 General Hospital at Le Treport on the 2nd of July. On the 3rd of July he transferred again to 5 Stationary Hospital at Dieppe and was evacuated by hospital ship to the UK on the 12th of July 1916.

On the 13th of July Edward was admitted to No. 5 Temporary Hospital at Exeter and on the 22nd of July he moved to a convalescent camp at Eastbourne. He was discharged to duty on the 22nd of August 1916.

Edward embarked again from Southampton on the 20th of March 1917, and landed at Le Havre the following day, joining his unit in the field on the 23rd of April 1917. On the 5th of February 1918 he was granted 14 days leave in England and returned to France where he was posted to the 1/23rd Battalion of his regiment.

On the 21st of March 1918 the Germans launched their long awaited spring offensive. On the 30th of March the 1/23rd (County of London) Battalion (The Queen's) took over a line on the old Somme battlefield at the River Ancre to resist the continued enemy advance of the previous week. At midnight on the 4th of April 1918, information was received at Brigade Headquarters that a major German attack was imminent. On the morning of the 5th of April 1918 the battalion was holding the line on the right of their Brigade with the 1/24th (County of London) Battalion The Queen's) holding the left when, at 6.30am, a very heavy barrage fell across the entire divisional front and in the rear areas. At 7.20am, gas and smoke was added to the high explosives which heralded an attack by three divisions of German infantry, part of which fell against the battalion.

Perryman
Edward William
Private 718217

The battalion's left was turned by the weight of the assault, with enemy elements getting in behind some defensive posts in Aveluy Wood, but the enemy lost heavily to sustained rifle, machine gun and artillery fire from the London men. At 10.30am the enemy managed to break the line between the 1/24th and the 1/23rd Battalions, with the left company of the latter being cut off and almost annihilated after desperate resistance. The battalion fell back, and a counterattack at 4pm by the 1/22nd (County of London) Battalion (The Queen's) failed to restore the original line.

By 6pm the enemy shelling had slackened and the two sides prepared for further fighting the following day.

Edward is commemorated on the Willis Faber war memorial at the Willis Building in Lime Street, and on the Arras Memorial, Bays 9 and 10.

Petty
Harry Arthur
Corporal 8042



1/5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade). Died on the 31st of January 1915, aged 30.

Harry Arthur Petty was born at Norcott Road, Stoke Newington on the 31st of January 1885, the son of George John Petty, a commercial clerk, and Marion Reeve (née Davy) Petty of 41 Norcott Road, Stoke Newington. He was christened at All Saints Church, Clapton, on the 3rd of March 1885.

Harry was married to Hilda May (née Judkins) at St Michael's Church, Stoke Newington on the 31st of October 1914; she later lived at 15 Park Street, Taunton in Somerset.

He worked as a clerk for Pitman & Deane Ltd at Lloyd's.

Harry enlisted before the war in London into the 5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade). Following the outbreak of war he was mobilised on the 5th of August 1914, and he embarked for France with his battalion from Southampton on board the SS Chyebassa on the 4th of November 1914, landing at Le Havre the following day.

He died at No. 9 General Hospital at Rouen from an illness contracted on active service.

He is buried at St. Sever Cemetery, Grave A3 9.

Pinkerton
Stanley
Private 5665



1/14th (County of London) Battalion (London Scottish).
Killed in action on the 1st of July 1916, aged 21.

Stanley Pinkerton was born in Battersea in 1895 the son of Thomas Robert Pinkerton, a commercial traveller, and Florence (née Dilly) Pinkerton of 1 Airedale Road, Balham in South London. He was christened at St. Luke's Church, Battersea on the 2nd of May 1895.

Stanley worked for Crawley Dixon & Bowring Ltd, Underwriting Agents at Lloyd's.

The 1st of July 1916 was the opening day of the British offensive on the Somme and the 1/14th Battalion London Regiment (London Scottish) was detailed to attack German trenches to the east of Hébuterne as part of a diversionary attack to tie up German forces and draw them away from the main British thrust further east.

At 11pm on the 30th of June they sent scouts forward to examine the German wire in front of their trenches and found 100 yards of it to be uncut. They placed a Bangalore torpedo under the wire which exploded but left the majority of the wire still uncut. At 1.30am, on their return, a message was sent to the artillery requesting that they fire on the enemy wire to clear it.

At 7.30am on the morning of the 1st of July, the battalion left their trenches with all four companies side by side,

with A Company on the right and with a frontage of one platoon. Moving forward under the cover of smoke, A Company reported back at 8am that they had occupied their objective, had bombed down the trench and were constructing a block and placing snipers to cover their position. B Company had taken the enemy position of Fable Trench by 7.45am and had driven off an enemy bombing attack. C Company had also taken a section of Fable Trench but had been pushed back to it when they had tried to move forward. D Company had suffered badly from artillery fire as they crossed no man's land but, after heavy fighting, had managed to gain a foothold in Fate Trench and had bombed their way up the trench, taking more casualties as they went. By 2.30pm the Germans were raining high explosive on the captured positions with local counterattacks causing casualties from rifle and machine gun fire.

By 4pm the position had become desperate and when a battalion on their left began to fall back, exposing their flank, they were forced to withdraw. Covered by Lewis gunners, the surviving Scots fell back across no man's land taking as many of their wounded with them as they could.

The battalion had attacked with 23 officers and 811 men of whom 9 officers and 257 men returned

Stanley is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Pier and Face 9C and 13C.

Pointing
Leslie James
Lance Corporal 4330



B Company, 1st Battalion Honourable Artillery Company (Infantry). Killed in action on the 13th of November 1916, aged 26.

Leslie James Pointing was born in Finchley in 1892, the only son of James Pointing, a council building inspector, and Mary Anne Pointing of Doreen, 22 Churchfield Avenue, North Finchley in Middlesex.

He worked as a shipping clerk for the Daily Index Branch of the Lloyd's Staff.

Leslie enlisted in the Honourable Artillery Company at Armoury House on the 13th of September 1915 and, after training, he embarked for service in France on the 23rd of January 1916.

On the 11th of November 1916, final orders were issued to the officers of the Honourable Artillery Company for an attack to be made in two days' time at Beaumont-Hamel on the Somme. The battalion moved out from their billets at 3.30pm under the cover of a barrage from some 1,000 British guns which were shelling the enemy lines in preparation for the attack. They assembled in front of the village of Hamel where they rested before the offensive.

At 5.45am the guns opened fire in what was the most heavily concentrated barrage of the war up to that time. The HAC advanced with D Company in close support of the Hood Battalion and with A Company on the right, B

Company in the centre and C Company on the left, in loose formation and in a dense fog which reduced visibility to less than 50 yards. However, the fog helped greatly in shielding A Company from enemy view and they advanced in good order a distance of one and a quarter miles before digging in, in front of Beaucourt. Meanwhile, the other three companies had met strong resistance as they crossed a ridge and suffered a large number of casualties from machine gun and rifle fire from entrenched enemy positions. In spite of this they captured the enemy first line trench at 6.30am. B Company moved forward once more and by 11.20am they were digging in at their newly captured position, but were suffering losses from persistent sniping while they were consolidating their position. They moved forward again in support of the Hood Battalion and took the next enemy line where they were engaged for a time in clearing enemy blockhouses of the last of the enemy resistance. The fighting died down at dusk.

Casualties for the battalion for the operations during this battle totalled 81 officers and men killed, with 184 wounded.

Although the Commonwealth War Graves Commission record his death as being on the 15th of November 1916, the regimental records show that Leslie Pointing was killed on the 13th of November.

He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Pier and Face 8A.

Poland
Eric Henry
Lance Corporal 301905



1/5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade). Killed in action on the 1st of July 1916.

Eric Henry Poland was born in Caterham in 1892, the son of Henry Gordon Poland, a Lloyd's underwriter, and his first wife Constance Rose (née White) Poland of Greenlands, Buxton Lane, Caterham in Surrey. He was christened at St. Mary's Church, Caterham on the 17th of May 1892.

He worked as an insurance clerk and was an Underwriting Member of Lloyd's.

Eric enlisted into the army in London.

The 1st of July 1916 was the opening day of the Battle of the Somme and the 1/5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade) was given the task of capturing the enemy-held village of Gommecourt. The British artillery had been bombarding the enemy lines along the line of attack for a week but at zero hour, 7.30am, they unleashed a terrific final bombardment on the enemy line which was to be the objective of the Londoners. Under the cover of smoke, which had been released to cover their advance, the men left their trenches and in spite of heavy casualties they crossed no man's land and captured the enemy trenches along with a large number of prisoners. It soon became evident, however, that the attack by the neighbouring Division had failed, and before long all the German artillery was concentrated against the London Division. No man's land was saturated

with shell fire which meant that the runners, carrying messages calling for extra bombs and ammunition, could not get through. Heavy German counterattacks followed and soon the defenders' bombs ran out and they were pushed back, trench by trench. By the evening most of the surviving members of the battalion were making their way back across no man's land.

Casualties for the attack totalled eight officers killed, with ten wounded and one missing, and over 500 other ranks killed wounded or missing, out of an original attacking strength of 23 officers and 803 other ranks.

Eric's step brother, Petty Officer Harold Roy Cooper, Anti Aircraft Corps, Royal Naval Air Service, died on the 6th of August 1917.

He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Pier and Face 9D.

Pond
William Henry
Corporal R/29027



**4th Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps. Died on the
9th of November 1918, aged 20.**

William Henry Pond was born in Islington in 1898, the son of William Henry Pond, an electroplater in the motor industry, and Ada (née Jenkinson) Pond of 66 Dagenham Road, Lea Bridge Road, Leyton in Essex. He worked for F.C. Bowring Esq. and Others at Lloyd's.

William enlisted at Leyton as Private TR/13/9646 and was posted to the 18th Training Battalion and later to the 4th Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps.

He is buried at Busigny Communal Cemetery, Extension Plot VIII, Row A, Grave 33.

Porter
George Horsley
Sub Lieutenant



Royal Naval Air Service. Died on the 4th of January 1917.

George Horsley Porter was born in Stoke Newington on the 24th of November 1892, the eldest son of George Porter, managing clerk at a firm of solicitors, and Jane Sophia (née Grout) Porter of 49 Clarence Road, Wood Green in North London. He was christened at St. Jude's Church, Whitechapel, on the 2nd of July 1893.

George was educated at the Higher Grade School, Wood Green. In June 1912 he applied for a position at the Handley Page & Grahame-White Aviation Companies but was turned down. In December 1912 he became a member of the Aeronautical Society of Great Britain and attended aviation classes at Northampton Polytechnic.

George worked as a clerk for Choisy & Simson Ltd at Lloyd's.

He enlisted in the 5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade) in September 1910 and took part in the London to Brighton March on the night of the 18th/19th of April 1914 when the battalion broke the world record, covering 52 miles in 14 hours and 23 minutes. Following the outbreak of war, George was mobilised on the 5th of August 1914 and embarked for France with his battalion from Southampton on board the SS Chyeabassa on the 4th of November, landing at Le Havre the following day. He saw action in the Second Battle of Ypres in May 1915.

George was commissioned as a Flight Sub Lieutenant in the Royal Naval Air Service on the 18th of September 1915. He obtained his Aero Certificate (No. 2112) at the Royal Naval Air Station, Eastchurch, flying a Grahame-White biplane on the 25th of November 1915. He was then posted to Chingford Aerodrome where he was stationed until August 1916.

He sent in his resignation due to ill health brought on by having been gassed while in France but instead was transferred to the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve on the 21st of August 1916 where he was reclassified as an Observer so he would not be in control of an aircraft if taken ill.

He was posted to Crystal Palace on the 27th of August 1916 and to Portsmouth on the 11th of September 1916. He attended Gunnery School at Portsmouth from the 12th of November 1916 and was posted to Roehampton on the 9th of December 1916.

George died of a brain haemorrhage at the Royal Naval Air Station, Roehampton.

He is buried at New Southgate Cemetery, Grave B2677.

Power
Richard Lawrence
Lance Corporal 39134



**2/7th Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers. Died of on the
16th of December 1917, aged 28.**

Richard Lawrence Power was born in Bermondsey in 1889, the third son of James Power, a porter, and Catherine Power of 86 East Lane, Bermondsey. He worked for the News Editor's Branch of the Lloyd's Staff.

He enlisted into the army at Rotherhithe as Private 43065 in the Royal Fusiliers, later transferring to the Lancashire Fusiliers.

He died in hospital at Etaples.

Richard is buried at Etaples Military Cemetery, Plot XXXI, Row D, Grave 17.

Pratt
Henry Edward
Private 86255



13th (Service) Battalion King's (Liverpool Regiment).
Killed in action on the 27th of September 1917.

Henry "Harry" Edward Pratt was born in Romford in Essex in 1893, the son of George Pratt, a railway clerk, of 2 Kyme Road, Romford.

He worked as an accounts clerk for F.G.A Povah Esq. at Lloyd's and lived at Upton Manor in Essex.

Henry enlisted in London as Private 17612 in the Army Cyclist Corps, later transferring to the King's (Liverpool Regiment).

He is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Panels 31 to 34 and 162, 162A and 163A.

Price
Harold Strachan
Lieutenant



3rd Battalion Royal Fusiliers. Killed in action on the 24th of May 1915, aged 33.

Harold Strachan Price was born in Lancaster Gate on the 12th of October 1881, the second son of Edward George Price, a timber merchant, and Henrietta Deane Price of Broadwater, Godalming in Surrey. He was christened at Christ Church, Lancaster Gate on the 10th of December 1881.

Harold was educated at Charterhouse School from September 1895 to July 1900.

He worked as a timber agent for the firm of Price & Pierce Ltd and lived at 1 Craven Hill Hyde Park. He was an Underwriting Member of Lloyd's.

He enlisted as Private 292 in the 28th (County of London) Battalion (Artist's Rifles) on the 24th of February 1903. He was promoted to Lance Corporal on the 27th of March 1906 and to Corporal on the 22nd of January 1907. Harold reverted to the rank of Private on the 31st of March 1908 following the creation of the Territorial Army. He attended annual camps with the battalion from 1908 to 1913.

Following the outbreak of war he was mobilised on the 5th of August 1914 and went with the battalion to Abbots Langley for training. He was promoted to Lance Corporal on the 21st of October 1914.

Harold volunteered for overseas service on the 23rd of October 1914 and embarked for France with his battalion from Southampton on the 26th of October. He returned from France in April 1915 and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant on the General List on the 23rd of April 1915, then was attached to the 3rd Battalion Royal Fusiliers.

On the morning of the 24th of May 1915 the 3rd Battalion Royal Fusiliers was in positions to the south of the Ypres/Roulers railway line when the Germans opened fire with an artillery barrage and a gas attack. After 5am communications with Brigade Headquarters were cut, and to make matters worse, the unit on the battalion's left had vacated their trenches, leaving the Fusiliers' flank dangerously exposed. As the German infantry advanced, small groups of Fusiliers fought on despite the fragmentation of the battalion.

Harold Price was in command of a platoon in an advanced position to the south of the Ypres/Roulers railway. His position came under heavy artillery fire as well as attack from gas, on what was the opening of the German offensive at Bellewarde Ridge. The order was given to him for his platoon to retire but he and many of his men became casualties during their retreat.

Price
Harold Strachan
Lieutenant

The commanding officer, Major Johnson, received orders to counterattack and he mustered half of No. 2 Company and some stragglers from other companies and was supported by two companies of the East Kent Regiment in their attempt to retake the Bellewarde Ridge. This group crossed the railway line while the other half of No. 2 Company, under Lieutenant Sealey, moved forward to retake an old trench line 350 yards to the east. Johnson's attack failed and the survivors of his attempt were rallied in a wood to the south of the railway by Major Baker, who placed them in the third line trenches. They were soon outflanked once more and moved to a ditch near a road where they were able to return the German fire. The ranks of the East Kents were so thinned out by artillery fire that by the time they arrived they numbered less than 200 men. Reinforced by the East Kents, the Fusiliers were able to hold their position until the end of the day.

By this time, the 3rd Battalion Royal Fusiliers mustered some 150 men from an original strength of 880 at the beginning of the attack. Harold Price was among those missing.

His mother received the following telegram dated the 31st of May 1915:

"Deeply regret to inform you that Lieut. H.S. Price Royal Fusiliers is now reported missing believed killed. Lord Kitchener expresses his sympathy."

On the 8th of June 1915 she received a further telegram:

"Regret to inform you that the late Lt H.S. Price previously reported missing believed killed now reported killed in action May 24th."

Harold is commemorated on a memorial in the churchyard at Westwell in Oxfordshire.

His brother, Lieutenant Edward John Price RN HM Submarine E15 Royal Navy, died on the 16th of October 1918.

He is commemorated on the Menin Gate, Panels 6 and 8.

Reid
Stuart Keppel
Captain MC Order
of the Nile 4th Class



1/4th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment. Died of on the 29th of July 1918, aged 30.

Stuart Keppel Reid was born in Elmers End in Kent on the 31st of October 1886, the third and youngest son of Percy Lester Reid, Lloyd's underwriter, and Florence Reid of Mill Hall, Cuckfield in Sussex. He was christened in Beckenham in Kent on the 4th of December 1886.

Stuart was an Underwriting Member of Lloyd's and was a free mason, being a member of the Lutine Lodge at Lloyd's. He lived at 8 Buckingham Gate Gardens, London.

He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 4th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment on the 13th of March 1909 and was promoted to Lieutenant on the 14th of May 1913.

He embarked with his battalion from Devonport on board HMT Ulysses on the 17th of July 1915 for service at Gallipoli. The battalion landed on C Beach at Suvla Bay at 6.15pm on the 8th of August and moved into Divisional reserve. The following day they were in support of an attack on Chocolate Hill in which they suffered casualties of four officers and 71 other ranks killed or wounded. They remained in Gallipoli until the 13th of December 1915 when they were evacuated from the peninsular and sailed for Mudros. Stuart also saw action in Egypt and in Palestine.

He was awarded the Order of the Nile 4th Class which was announced in the London Gazette on the 13th of March 1917. He was then promoted to Captain on the 25th of May 1917 with precedence from the 29th of March 1917.

Stuart was awarded the Military Cross, which was announced in the London Gazette on the 20th of August 1917. The citation read:

"For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in the operations near Gaza. This officer showed great judgment and coolness when leading his Company under heavy fire in the attack on Sampson's Ridge on 19th April 1917. In appreciating the danger of his right flank, which he protected by skilful use of his Lewis guns at the right moment, he prevented a counter-attack on this exposed flank."

On the 17th of June 1918 the battalion left Alexandria on board HMT Malwa and arrived at Taranto on the 22nd of June. From there they travelled by train and arrived at Etaples on the 29th of June where they journeyed to a rest camp before moving up to the front.

On the 28th of July 1918, the 1/4th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment was in bivouacs at the Bois de Boeuf, to the west of St.-Rémy-Blanzy, when orders came through for an attack to be made the following morning. At 9.10pm they began to march along a railway line towards their assembly point but their French guide became lost and they didn't reach their destination until 2.45am on the 29th of July.

Reid
Stuart Keppel
Captain MC Order
of the Nile 4th Class

At 3am an enemy shell landed which killed Captain Arthur Nelson Hampton Weeks MC, of B Company, and seriously wounded Stuart Reid. Command of the battalion passed to Captain Middleton MC. At 4.20am the battalion attacked with some success but with heavy casualties. Stuart Reid was evacuated to 103 Field Ambulance but died of his wounds later in the day.

He is buried at Vauxbuin French National Cemetery,
Plot II, Row A, Grave 1.

Renwick
Charles Richard
Private 53172



15th (Service) Battalion Durham Light Infantry.
Killed in action on the 9th of April 1917, aged 19.

Charles Richard Renwick was born in Bermondsey on the 30th of November 1897, the fifth son of Adolphus Renwick, a wool rug dresser, and Annie Maria (née Burnham) Renwick of 25 Blue Anchor Lane, Bermondsey, London. He was christened at St. Augustine's Church, Bermondsey on the 3rd of November 1897.

He worked as a clerk for De Falbe, Halsey & Company, Lloyd's brokers.

Charles attested for the army at New Court, St. Swithin's Lane on the 12th of January 1916; at his medical examination, which was held on the same day, it was recorded that he was five feet two inches tall. He was mobilised as Private R/31604 in the 14th (Service) Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps on the 29th of July 1916. He transferred to the Durham Light Infantry on the 18th of December 1916, the day he landed in France.

The 9th of April 1917 was the opening day of the British offensive at Arras. The 15th Battalion Durham Light Infantry was on the extreme right of the attack on the strongly held enemy defensive positions of the Hindenburg Line. They were not involved in the early part of the battle but instead moved forward to the attack at around 4pm with C Company on the right and D Company on the left.

Ahead of them, some 1,000 yards away, lay thick belts of barbed wire in front of the German first line. The leading companies advanced through a weak enemy artillery barrage and captured the German first line, while A and B Companies, which were in support, waited in a sunken road. During its capture, D Company became held up by resistance on their left; 2nd Lieutenant K.H. Saunders hence led a bombing party that cleared 300 yards of enemy trench.

As B and A Companies passed over the German first line on their way to attack the second line, they came under accurate artillery fire which caused some chaos and confusion. During this time a battalion of the East Yorkshire Regiment on their left had been unable to advance which would have left the flank of the DLI exposed had they gone forward. It was decided to send a patrol ahead to reconnoitre the ground before a further advance was to be made. The patrol reported that the enemy line was protected by three belts of barbed wire which had been uncut and any further advance would be impossible without further artillery preparation.

The battalion then settled about consolidating the first line and did not attack again until the following day.

Casualties for the attack were one officer killed with eight wounded and 241 other ranks killed, wounded or missing.

Charles is buried at Cojeul British Cemetery, Row D, Grave 43.

Richards
Henry Heaton
2nd Lieutenant



3rd Battalion Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment attached to the 2nd Battalion. Killed in action on the 2nd of April 1917, aged 26.

Henry Heaton Richards was born in Streatham on the 12th of February 1891, the son of Thomas Richards, a wine merchant, and Harriett Elizabeth Richards of Engadine, 42 Palace Road, Streatham Hill. He was christened at St. Giles Church, Camberwell, on the 31st of May 1891.

He was educated at Dulwich College and at Chateau de Lancy in Geneva. He was an Underwriting member of Lloyd's and worked as a brewer and wine merchant. Following the outbreak of war, he enlisted at Westminster as Private 1989 in the 18th (Service) Battalion Royal Fusiliers, University and Public Schools Corps on the 15th of September 1914, and was sent for training at Woodcote Park Camp, Epsom.

He applied for a commission in the Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment, Special Reserve on the 30th of April 1915 in an application which was supported by the Reverend W.R.M. Leake, Assistant Master at Dulwich College. He underwent a medical examination on the 11th of May where it was recorded that he was five feet nine inches tall and weighed ten stones. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 3rd Battalion Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment on the 12th of May 1915 and reported for duty with them on the 15th of May 1915 at Rochester.

Henry embarked for France where he was attached to the B Company of the 1st Battalion of his regiment.

On the morning of the 14th of July 1916, the 1st Battalion Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment moved to a position to the south of the Mametz Road on the Somme in preparation for an attack on the village of Martinpuich the following morning. By the evening they were at Flat Iron Copse and digging in for the night. The advance was to be on a 500 yard frontage with A, B and C Companies leading the attack and D Company in reserve. The battalion was to cover 900 yards before reaching the enemy front line. The assaulting companies were to be in position by 8am and a supporting artillery barrage would take place at 8.30am. This would cease when the first wave was to move forward at 8.55am.

While the men were getting into position the German artillery opened fire and was joined by rifle and machine gun fire in enfilade which caused a number of casualties. As soon as the first wave of the attack emerged from their trenches they were met with fire from both flanks but pushed forward and were soon joined by the second wave. When the advancing men reached a position 200 yards from the enemy first line they were impeded by trip wires which had been hidden in the long grass and the attack soon became a "shambles". The Adjutant, Major Parnell, rallied the men but was killed as soon as the line moved forward. At 9.25am A Company reported that they were within 100 yards of the enemy trenches and at 10am Lieutenant Thrupp reported that his men were held up by

Richards
Henry Heaton
2nd Lieutenant

wire on the left of the attack and called for reinforcements and for a renewed artillery barrage, neither of which were forthcoming. At 12.30pm the surviving officers agreed that they would have to retire and the battalion began to fall back to their starting line where they endured further shelling for the rest of the afternoon.

Casualties for the attack were five officers killed with 11 officers wounded and 28 other ranks killed with 207 other ranks wounded with 58 missing.

Henry Richards was wounded in the right calf by machine gun fire and was evacuated back to the UK from Rouen on board the Hospital Ship Western Australia on the 18th of July 1916, landing at Southampton the following day from where he was sent to 1 Western General Hospital at Fazakerley in Liverpool.

His father received the following telegram dated the 19th of July 1916:

"Regret to inform you that 2nd Lieut. H.H. Richards Royal West Surrey Regt was admitted 2 Red Cross Hospital Rouen 16th July with gunshot wound in leg slight."

He was later moved to Croxteth Hall Hospital for Officers.

A Medical Board sat at the Western General Hospital on the 15th of August 1916 to consider his case:

"He received a serious machine gun wound of R calf. A bullet was removed in France and thence he was sent to Fazakerley and thence to Croxteth Hall where the second bullet was removed. Both wounds are still open and he is still under treatment."

Henry remained at Croxteth Hall until the 19th of September and was granted leave until the 18th of November 1916. He attended a Medical Board at Caxton Hall on the 2nd of December which noted:

"The wounds are now quite healed. There is still slight swelling of the foot after walking and the circulation is not fully restored--his nervous system is below par--is restless, not sleeping well--should be fit for some duty in a month's time."

A Medical Board which sat at Caxton Hall on the 18th of January 1917 decided that Henry was fit for home service and he joined the 2nd (Reserve) Battalion of his regiment the following day at Gore Court, Sittingbourne in Kent.

A further Medical Board convened at Chatham on the 19th of February 1917 which concluded that he was fit for active service. He returned to France on the 8th of March 1917, where he joined the 2nd Battalion of his regiment in the field on the 15th of March.

Richards
Henry Heaton
2nd Lieutenant

On the evening of the 1st of April 1917 the 2nd Battalion Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment moved forward in preparation for an attack the following morning on enemy positions at "Factory Road" near Croiselles. The battalion was shelled during its approach to its assembly positions but was in place at 1am on the 2nd of April. Although zero hour had been set for 5.15am, there was a brief delay in the advance which was caused by British artillery shells falling short. B and C Companies led the advance and met with a hail of machine gun fire from a railway cutting on their left as soon as they left their trenches. Covering fire was given by two Lewis guns and the enemy line was secured by 7.30am. By this time all the officers from B Company had become casualties but both companies were reorganised and deployed at strong points in order to cut off the retreat of any enemy forces from Croiselles.

In the meantime, D Company had also moved forward under heavy fire but managed to establish Lewis gun posts which commanded the village of Croiselles and its northern exits. The enemy suffered heavy casualties from these positions throughout the day.

The battalion was relieved at 10.50pm having suffered casualties of four officers killed with three wounded and 25 other ranks killed with a further 42 wounded.

Henry's father received the following telegram dated the 7th of April 1917:

"Deeply regret to inform you Second Lieutenant H.H. Richards 3rd Royal West Surrey Regt was killed in action April second. The Army Council express their sympathy."

Some 20 years later a letter arrived at the War Office dated the 8th of September 1936:

"Dear Sir,
We are sorry to trouble you but we have here a gold pencil with a bullet in one end and the pencil is engraved "Lieut. H.H. Richards, wounded by this bullet on the Somme, July 15th 1916". The pencil was found in the Club Enclosure at Lewes races, August 7th 1936. As, no doubt, the pencil has great sentimental value, we shall be obliged if you can kindly put us in touch with Lieut. Richards or any of his relations.

Yours Faithfully, Pratt & Co,
9 George Street, Hanover Square, London W1."

Henry is buried at Croiselles British Cemetery, Plot I, Row A, Grave 5.

Richardson
John Wesley
Rifleman 554869



16th (County of London) Battalion (Queen's Westminster Rifles) attached to the 1/13th Battalion (Kensington). Died of on the 25th of March 1918, aged 19.

John Wesley Richardson was born in Barnet in 1899, the son of Frank Richardson, a grocer, and Florence Richardson of The Lodge, Alston Road, Barnet in London.

He worked for H.G. Poland Esq. and Others at Lloyd's.

John enlisted in the 16th (County of London) Battalion (Queen's Westminster Rifles) at Westminster and later transferred to the 1/13th (County of London) Battalion (Kensington).

On the 14th of February 1918, the 1/13th (County of London) Battalion (Kensington) moved into trenches at Roclincourt near Arras. They spent the next few weeks in the routine of trench warfare, coming under frequent shelling, often including gas shells which caused many casualties. They made a raid on the enemy lines on the 9th of March and suffered casualties of one officer and 42 men during a gas attack against Ballieul East Post on the 21st of March. It was during this period that John Richardson was wounded, was evacuated to the rear and died at a Casualty Clearing Station to the north west of Arras.

He is buried at Aubigny Communal Cemetery, Extension Plot III, Row C, Grave 32.

Richardson
William Arthur Ingham
2nd Lieutenant



**1st Battalion Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment).
Died of wounds on the 31st of August 1915, aged 20.**

William Arthur Ingham was born in Shortland in Kent on the 5th of July 1895, the third son of William Ridley Richardson MA and Elizabeth Harriott (née Tweedy) Richardson of Lacelles Hall, Barton Road, Torquay in Devon. He was educated at Harrow School where he was in Rendall's House from 1902 to 1908 and where he was a member of the Officer Training Corps.

William worked as a clerk for Price Forbes & Company Ltd at Lloyd's.

Following the outbreak of war he enlisted at Queen's Hall, Westminster as Rifleman 2199 in the 1/16th Battalion (County of London) Battalion (Queen's Westminster Rifles) on the 7th of August 1914. At his medical examination, held on the same day, it was recorded that he was five feet eight and a half inches tall.

William embarked with his battalion from Southampton on board the SS Maidan on the evening of the 1st of November 1914, disembarking at Le Havre at 9am on the morning of the 3rd of November.

On the 9th of December 1914 the 1/16th Battalion (County of London) Battalion (Queen's Westminster Rifles) relieved a

battalion of the Durham Light Infantry in trenches opposite Wez Macquart. Heavy rain fell for the next three days and conditions in the trenches deteriorated, with flooding being a major problem. During this period the parapet kept collapsing and attempts to dig new trenches failed as the water table was so high. Throughout these operations the enemy continued shelling and sniping and on the 14th of December William Richardson was wounded in the left ear. He served with the battalion there for a further five months before returning to England on the 9th of May 1915 in order to obtain a commission.

He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) in May 1915 and joined the 1st Battalion of his regiment in the field on the 15th of May 1915.

On the 16th of July 1915 William was in the trenches when they came under heavy shell fire with one shell bringing down a heavy brick wall, burying one of his men. While trying to dig the man out William Richardson was hit by shrapnel, was badly wounded in the leg and knocked back into the trench. The man whose life he had saved bound his wounds and he was evacuated by 14th Field Ambulance and taken to No. 3 Casualty Clearing Station. Later the same day he was taken to the 7th Stationary Hospital at Boulogne where his leg was later amputated, after which septic poisoning set in.

Richardson
William Arthur Ingham
2nd Lieutenant

His father received a series of telegrams:

18th of July 1915: "2nd Lt W.A.I. Richardson, West Kent Regt, wounded 16th July further news when received will be wired to you."

17th of July 1915: "2nd Lieut. W.A.I. Richardson West Kent Regt reported today from 7 Stationary Hospital Boulogne dangerously ill. May be visited. If you wish to visit him produce this telegram at office of Assistant Embarkation Commandant Folkestone. No passport needed only one visitor allowed."

19th of July 1915: "2nd Lieut. W.A.I. Richardson West Kent Regiment reported today from 7 Stationary Hospital Boulogne dangerously ill gunshot wound leg. Intending visitor should produce this telegram at office of Assistant Embarkation Commandant Folkestone. No passport needed only one visitor allowed."

26th of July 1915: "2nd Lieut. W.A.I. Richardson West Kent reported progressing satisfactorily 25th inst."

4th of August 1915: "Hospital reports 2 Lt W.A.I. Richardson West Kent Regt still serious satisfactory."

18th of August 1915: "2nd Lieut. W.A.I. Richardson West Kent Regt 7th Stationary Hospital Boulogne reported Aug 15th serious condition satisfactory."

26th of August 1915: "2 Lieut. W.A.I. Richardson reported 22nd August condition serious satisfactory."

1st of September 1915: "2nd Lieut. W.A. Richardson West Kents hospital report August 30th dangerously ill."

2nd September 1915: "Deeply regret to inform you that 2nd Lieut. W.A.I. Richardson West Kent Regt died from wounds on the 31st inst. Lord Kitchener expresses his sympathy."

William's body was brought back to England where he was buried with full military honours on the 4th of September 1915.

His Captain wrote:

"I must tell you how sorry I was to see in the paper that your son had died of his wounds. I had a cheery letter from him after the amputation and hoped all was going well with him. For his service, he was a long way the best subaltern I ever had, exceedingly keen and capable, and his Platoon was the best in the Company."

William is buried at Bromley Hill Cemetery, Row H, Grave 140.

Robb
James
Captain



**156th Brigade and 33rd Divisional Ammunition Column,
Royal Field Artillery. Died on the 13th of December
1918.**

James Robb was born in Manchester on the 8th of October 1866, the second son of James E. Robb, an insurance company surveyor, and Jane E. Robb of 122 Upper Brook Street in Manchester.

He worked as an insurance broker and was an Annual Subscriber at Lloyd's.

James served with the Middlesex Regiment from January 1900 and served during the South African War. He rose to the rank of Sergeant and held the South African Medal with five clasps. He left the army in December 1900.

He applied for a commission in the 156th Brigade Royal Artillery on the 16th of April 1915, asking to be appointed to the Camberwell Division. He underwent a medical examination on the 28th of April at which he was passed fit for general service.

James went to France with his Division in the middle of December 1915 and was posted to No. 3 Section, 33rd Divisional Ammunition Column. He fought on the Somme in 1916 during which time he was gassed, contracted trench fever and was awarded the Silver Wound Badge.

He left his unit on the 27th of February 1917 suffering from influenza and rheumatism. The following day he was loaded on to the SS Formosa and arrived at Southampton on the 1st of March from where he was transferred to the 5th London Hospital.

On his recovery, James was posted to the Royal Horse and Royal Field Artillery Records Office at Woolwich on the 20th of April 1917.

On the 22nd of October 1917 a Medical Board sat at the Royal Herbert Hospital to consider his case and concluded:

"He is weak and has some enlargement of the heart and degeneration of the arteries. He is not fit for active duties, but is quite fit for light employment--to rejoin unit."

On the 30th of July 1918 James Robb wrote the following letter to the Colonel in charge of Royal Horse and Royal Field Artillery Records at Woolwich:

"Dear Sir, I have the honour to request that you will be good enough to forward and recommend this my application to resign my commission in the army on the following grounds:

At the medical board I attended at Herbert Hospital, Woolwich some weeks ago I was certified as unfit for any further service except that of a sedentary nature. Since that date, as you are aware, I have been employed in clerical duties in the offices under your command.

Robb
James
Captain

Prior to offering my services to the state I was an insurance broker at Lloyd's and had to take a partner to carry on the business in my absence. This partnership expires at the end of this year and it's most essential that I should resume control of my business (which is of years standing) as soon as it may be convenient to the military authorities. I have served three years commissioned rank, 15 months of which were performed in France and my age is 51 7/12 years. I therefore earnestly request that my release from military duties may be favourably considered.

I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,
J Robb Lieut."

On the 12th of August 1918 a friend wrote a letter to J Macpherson MP in support of Robb's request:

"My Dear Macpherson,
When I raised some men for the gunners in Dulwich, James Robb, a member of Lloyds, applied to me for a commission. He was an elderly man, but I knew him to be a good administrator, and knowing he had served in the South African War, I put him in my ammunition column. Speaking from memory, he will be about 51 or 52 and he has written me that his partnership at Lloyds ceases this year. As he is permanently unfit to fight any more--having had trench fever and been slightly gassed--he has applied

for his discharge from the army, and if on looking in to the facts of the case you can assist him to realise his desire, I shall be extremely grateful."

James Robb resigned his commission on the 12th of October 1918 on account of ill health contracted on active service, leaving with the rank of Honorary Lieutenant. He died at a West End nursing home from pneumonia brought on by influenza and was buried on the 18th of December 1918 at 2.30pm.

His death is not commemorated by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

James is buried at Beckenham Cemetery, Grave M3 2768.

Rogers
Martyn Samuel
Sergeant 1109



No. 2 Company, 1/16th (County of London) Battalion (Queen's Westminster Rifles). Died of wounds on the 15th of January 1915, aged 22.

Martyn Samuel Rogers was born in Bermondsey, the son of George Charles Rogers, a grocer, and Eliza Rogers of 68 Muirkirk Road, Catford in Kent.

He worked for Price Forbes & Company Ltd Lloyd's brokers.

Martyn enlisted at Westminster as a Private in the 16th (County of London) Battalion (Queen's Westminster Rifles) and rose to the rank of Sergeant with D Company. On the outbreak of war he was mobilised on the 5th of August 1914 and volunteered for overseas service. He embarked with his battalion from Southampton on board the SS Maidan on the 1st of November 1914, landing at Le Havre at 9am on the 3rd of November. On their arrival in France the battalion was reorganised from eight to four companies with C and D Companies becoming No. 2 Company.

On the 9th of December 1914 the battalion moved into trenches opposite Wez Macquart where conditions were appalling with deep mud and flooded dugouts which defied attempts to drain them. The men were in and out of the front line for the next couple of weeks, interspersed with periods of rest just behind the firing line.

On the 23rd of December 1914 they relieved the 1st Battalion Royal Fusiliers in trenches which were now waist deep in places, and subject to occasional artillery fire and to the constant attention of snipers. On the 24th of December 1914 the snipers were particularly active, killing one of the London men and wounding four others, including Martyn Rogers who was evacuated to No. 2 Casualty Clearing Station at Ballieul but died of his wounds three weeks later without regaining consciousness.

Martyn is buried at Ballieul Communal Cemetery, Row G, Grave 12.

Scoones
Fitzmaurice Valentine
2nd Lieutenant



**3rd (Special Reserve) Battalion Black Watch
(Royal Highlanders). Killed on active service
on the 18th of August 1916, aged 20.**

Fitzmaurice Valentine Scoones was born in Cheltenham in 1895, the third son of Major Fitzmaurice Thomas Farre Scoones, Royal Fusiliers, and Florence (née Osborne) Scoones of Hermitage, Sutton Lane, Heston in Middlesex.

He was educated at Wellington College from 1909 to 1913.

He worked for Choisy, De Rougemont & Company Ltd at Lloyd's.

Fitzmaurice enlisted into the army in 1914 and served in France for 18 months as a Private in the Royal Fusiliers before returning to England to train as an officer. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Black Watch, Special Reserve of Officers on the 9th of June 1916.

He was training his men in bombing techniques at Nigg Camp, Cromarty in Scotland when he was killed by an accidental explosion.

He is buried at Cromarty Cemetery, Row E, Grave 1.

Shepard
Cyril Harry
2nd Lieutenant



9th (Service) Battalion Devonshire Regiment.
Killed in action on the 1st of July 1916, aged 39.

Cyril Harry Shepard was born in St. John's Wood on the 20th of December 1877, the elder son of Ernest Henry Dunkin Shepard FRIBA, an architect, and Harriette Jessie (née Lee) Shepard of 3 Boscobel Place. He was christened on the 23rd of January 1878 at Christ Church, Marylebone.

Cyril worked as an underwriter's clerk for A.C. Brown Esq. and Others at Lloyd's. He was married to Rosemary.

He enlisted as Private 123 in the Inns of Court Officer Training Corps on the 18th of April 1908 and was discharged on the 17th of April 1912. Following the outbreak of war he rejoined them as Private 2950 at 10 Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn on the 18th of February 1915. At his medical examination, which was held on the same day, it was recorded that he was five feet ten inches tall. He was sent to Berkhamstead for training.

Cyril applied for a commission in the infantry on the 9th of April 1915 and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 11th (Reserve) Battalion of the Devonshire Regiment on the 29th of April 1915. He was posted to the 9th Battalion of his regiment on the 18th of May 1916 and embarked for France on the 22nd of May, joining his battalion the same day.

The 1st of July 1916 was the opening day of the Battle of the Somme and for the preceding week the British artillery had been pounding the German lines in preparation for the attack. The 9th Battalion Devonshire Regiment had been given the task of capturing both Danube Trench and Shrine Alley in front of the village of Mametz. They were deployed with A and B Companies in the first and second lines, with C Company in support and D Company in reserve.

The artillery continued a steady fire during the night of the 30th of June and at 6.25am on the 1st of July they intensified the rate of fire and were joined at 7.27am by the fire from 16 Stokes Mortars who added to the weight of attack concentrated on the enemy first line. As soon as the mortars opened up, the first wave of the 9th Devons climbed up the scaling ladders from their trenches and into no man's land. As they moved across the space they were met by a hail of rifle and machine gun fire.

On the right of the attack, A Company came under fire from a machine gun in Shrine Trench, some 800 yards away, which decimated their ranks. The left of the attack fared slightly better, being protected somewhat by the sloping ground. They crossed Danube Trench and headed for their second objective, Shrine Alley. At 8.14am German prisoners from Shrine Alley began to come back to the rear and at 9.30am a runner returned with the message that the remaining men from the first wave were being counterattacked by enemy bombers from Mametz and that they needed reinforcements.

Shepard
Cyril Harry
2nd Lieutenant

C Company, along with a Company from the 8th Devons was immediately despatched to bolster the position. D Company was also sent forward but came under heavy fire and lost all its officers before it reached the German front line. The battalion hung onto its gains throughout the day but at a terrible cost.

Casualties that day were eight officers killed with nine wounded and 141 other ranks killed with 267 wounded and 55 missing – all except one officer and well over half the men who had gone over the top that morning had been hit.

Cyril's parents received the following telegram dated the 3rd of July 1916:

""Deeply regret to inform you that 2/Lt C.H. Shepard 9 Devonshire Regt was killed in action July 1. The Army Council express their sympathy""

He is commemorated on the war memorial at St Margaret's Church, Lee.

Cyril is buried at Devonshire Cemetery, Row B, Grave 6.

Skinner
Frederick Charles
Gunner 153860



182nd Siege Battery Royal Garrison Artillery.
Killed in action on the 29th of November 1917.

Frederick Charles Skinner was born in Stoke Newington in 1890, the third son of Alexander Skinner and Florence Skinner of 12 Seward Road, Hanwell in Middlesex. He was christened at St. Jude's Church, Whitechapel on the 22nd of June 1890.

He worked as a clerk for Percy Janson Esq. and Others at Lloyd's.

Frederick enlisted into the army in Southend-on-Sea and was a signaller attached to the 182nd Siege Battery.

He is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Panels 6 to 7 and 162.

Smith
Alan Joseph
2nd Lieutenant



49th Siege Battery Royal Garrison Artillery.
Killed in action on the 9th of July 1918.

Alan Joseph Smith was born at Chipping Hill, Witham in Essex in 1899, the second son of Joseph Ernest Smith, a builder and contractor, and Florence Mabel Smith of Earlsmead, Witham. He was educated at Newbury House School, Bishop's Stortford where he was a boarder.

He worked for Chandler, Hargreaves & Whittall & Company, Lloyd's brokers.

Alan enlisted as Gunner 241120 in the Royal Garrison Artillery and rose to the rank of Acting Bombardier before being sent for officer training at an Officer Cadet Unit. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Garrison Artillery on the 15th of April 1918.

He is buried at Le Grand Hasard Military Cemetery, Plot 2, Row A, Grave 9.

Smith
Owen
Rifleman 394527



1/9th (County of London) Battalion (Queen Victoria's Rifles). Killed in action on the 29th of October 1918.

Owen Smith was born in Greenwich, the son of Thomas J. Smith, a rate collector, and Mary E. Smith of 2 Annandale Road, Greenwich. He worked as clerk to the Committee of Lloyd's and lived as a boarder at 73 Davenport Road, Catford in London. He enlisted into the army in Lewisham.

He is buried at St. Souplet British Cemetery, Plot I, Row F, Grave 2.

Spark
Bertram Edgar
Rifleman 554118



1/16th (County of London) Battalion (Queen's Westminster Rifles). Killed in action on the 16th of December 1917, aged 19.

Bertram Edgar Spark was born in Bromley in 1898, the son of Edgar Spark, an assurance agent, and Ella Mary (née Perry) Spark of 13 Warner Road, Bromley in Kent.

He worked in the Shipping Editor's branch of the Lloyd's Staff.

Bertram enlisted into the army in Bromley.

On the 14th of December 1917 the 1/16th (County of London) Battalion (Queen's Westminster Rifles) relieved the 1/2nd (County of London) Battalion (Royal Fusiliers) in trenches near Gavrelle. This tour was described as "quiet" but was marked by occasional shelling with a period when the enemy trench mortars and machine guns were particularly active. On the 18th of December an enemy aircraft was brought down by fire from a Lewis gun and crashed in the enemy lines. The battalion was relieved on the 20th of December by which time Bertram Spark had been killed.

He is buried at Roelincourt Military Cemetery, Plot I, Row F, Grave 20.

Sparks
Frank Ernest
Lance Corporal 8380



1/5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade). Killed in action on the 13th of May 1915, aged 30.

Frank Ernest Sparks was born in Harlesden in 1885, the son of Francis John Sparks, a clerk and England footballer, and Jane Sarah (née Billinghamurst) Sparks of London. He worked as a clerk for Harris & Dixon Ltd, Lloyd's brokers. He lived with his uncle at 54 Croydon Road, Beckenham, Kent and enlisted into the army in London.

He was mobilised for on the 5th of August 1914 and embarked for France with his battalion from Southampton on board the SS Chyebassa on the 4th of November 1914, landing at Le Havre the following day.

On the 12th of May 1915 the 1/5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade) moved into the line near Wietje to relieve a battalion of the Dublin Fusiliers. Due to heavy fighting in the preceding days the battalion numbered only 290 men when it crossed a low ridge and passed into the trenches during the night of the 12th/13th of May. The enemy had spotted a relief further down the line and swept the area with continuous machine gun fire during the night. Heavy rain began to fall in the early hours of the morning and at 4am enemy artillery fire began hitting the front trenches, cutting communications with the rear by 4.40am. Later in the morning those of the wounded who could no longer use a rifle, but could crawl, were evacuated by dragging themselves along a nearby hedge, but most

of those that did were not heard of again. At 6.43am, with communications restored, an order was received from Brigade Headquarters that the front line trench was to be held against enemy attack at all costs. As a result of this order a number of reinforcements were moved up to join the defenders of the front line where conditions were appalling due to flooding and heavy artillery fire. In the event, there wasn't enough room for all the reinforcements, many of whom were forced to shelter in shell holes, under fire, for much of the morning.

Early in the afternoon the Germans sent a small force of skirmishers to attack the London men and, although they were all shot down, they inflicted casualties on the Londoners in return. The strength of resistance from the British trenches convinced the Germans that the trench was still strongly held, despite the terrible artillery fire. In one small section of trench Sergeant Belcher and 18 of his men poured volley after volley at the enemy until they were forced out of their position by artillery fire, whereupon they occupied a nearby vacant trench which they held for nine hours under heavy shell fire, attacking any of the enemy who appeared. Sergeant Belcher was awarded the Victoria Cross, the first awarded to an enlisted man from the Territorial Army during the Great War.

During the night the survivors of the day's fighting moved back to a line near Essex Farm.

Frank is commemorated on the Menin Gate Panels 52 and 54.

Spencer
Thomas Charlton
Lance Corporal 6670



2nd Battalion Honourable Artillery Company (Infantry).
Killed in action on the 3rd of October 1917, aged 21.

Thomas Charlton Spencer was born in Hanwell in Middlesex in 1896, the son of Thomas Spencer and Helen Spencer of Newstead, Russell Hill Road in Purley.

He worked for Alexander Howden & Company Ltd, Lloyd's brokers.

Thomas enlisted at the Headquarters of the Honourable Artillery Company at Armoury House, City Road, Finsbury on the 13th of January 1916. After a period of training he embarked for service in France on the 1st of October 1916.

On the evening of the 1st of October 1917 the 2nd Battalion Honourable Artillery Company left their billets at Zillebeeke and relieved a battalion of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment in the area of Ritz Trench in the Ypres Salient. During the day of the 3rd of October two companies from the battalion were engaged for several hours in carrying duckboards from the rear to the front line. It was during this time that Thomas Spencer lost his life.

He is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Panel 7.

Sprigg
Henry Aldwin Guildford
Captain



14th (Portsmouth) Battalion Hampshire Regiment attached to the 2/5th Battalion. Killed in action on the 9th of April 1918.

Henry Aldwin Guildford Sprigg was born in Christ Church Vicarage, Battersea on the 10th of October 1882, the son of the Reverend Herbert Guildford Sprigg, Vicar of Christ Church, Battersea, later Rector of Emsworth and Rural Dean of Havant, and Florence Amelia (née Soames) Sprigg of Kingsey House Emsworth in Hampshire. He was christened by his father in Christ Church, Battersea on the 4th of November 1882.

Henry was educated at Summerfield Preparatory School in Oxfordshire and at Eton College where he was in Mr H.E. Luxmoore's House, leaving in 1901. He served as a member of the Officer Training Corps in 1900 and 1901.

He went on to Trinity College, Cambridge, from the 25th of June 1901 where he achieved a BA in history in 1904. He was called to the bar and became an Underwriting Member of Lloyd's.

Henry enlisted at St. Paul's Churchyard as a Private in the Middlesex Regiment, Public Schools Battalion on the 4th of September 1914. At a medical examination held on the same day it was recorded that he was five feet nine inches tall and weighed ten stones. He was posted to D Company. He applied for a commission on the 5th of December 1914.

He was commissioned as Temporary 2nd Lieutenant in the 14th Battalion Hampshire Regiment on the 30th of January 1915 and was posted to Hassley Camp near Winchester.

On the 28th of September 1915 he was returning to camp at night when he fell and fractured his leg, also injuring his hip. He was taken to the 5th Southern General Hospital on the 6th of October. On the 4th of February 1916 a Medical Board at Witley Camp in Surrey concluded that he was fit for general service.

He left Witley Camp with his battalion on the 5th of March 1916 and embarked for France at Southampton, landing at Le Havre the following day.

On the 7th of June 1916 the 14th Battalion Hampshire Regiment raided enemy trenches at Cuinchy in a raid led by Lieutenant Ashmore, supported by another party under 2nd Lieutenant Fairlie-Cunninghame. The raid was a success, with the enemy being driven from their trenches for a time by a bombing attack which caused a number of enemy casualties. Henry Sprigg was one of five men wounded during the raid when he was peppered with shrapnel in the arm, shoulder and head by a rifle grenade. He also suffered shell shock. He was evacuated from Calais on the 14th of June and landed at Dover the following day.

Sprigg
Henry Aldwin Guildford
Captain

A Medical Board sat at Caxton Hall on the 29th of June to consider his case:

“Wounds from rifle grenade sustained shrapnel multiple wounds and shell shock. Granted three months leave.”

On the 20th of September 1916 a Medical Board which sat at Alexandra Hospital, Cosham concluded that Henry was fit for general service.

He was promoted to Acting Captain while in command of a company on the 3rd of January 1917 and was promoted to Temporary Captain on the 9th of January 1917.

On the 14th of May 1917 he left his unit suffering from trench foot, was evacuated from Boulogne on the 22nd of May and arrived in Dover the same day. He was taken to Lady Ridley's Hospital. On the 24th of July 1917 a Medical Board, which sat at Caxton Hall, concluded that he was fit for light duty and he reported to the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion at Gosport on the 14th of August. On the 29th of November 1917 a Medical Board at the Reception Centre, Portsmouth concluded that he was fit for general service following which he was posted to the 2/5th Battalion of his regiment in Palestine.

At 5am on the morning of the 9th of April 1918, the 2/5th Battalion Hampshire Regiment was in support of the 2/3rd Gurkhas in their attack on El Kufr, part of a wider attack towards Berukin in Palestine. The Gurkhas took

their objectives without difficulty and A and D Companies from the Hampshires moved through them and attacked Turkish positions to the east of the village. A Company was halted by heavy rifle and artillery fire while D Company established themselves on Necklace Hill, but by 10am their advance had also been stopped. At 5pm B Company was sent forward from Necklace Hill and advanced against Toogood Hill to relieve the pressure on the other companies. They took this position and settled down for the night. The fighting continued the next day and the battalion was relieved on the evening of the 10th of April.

Casualties for the two days of fighting totalled four officers killed with nine officers wounded and 50 other ranks killed or missing, with a further 90 other ranks wounded.

Henry's father received the following telegram dated the 14th of April 1916:

“Deeply regret Capt. H.A.G. Sprigg Hampshire Regt. killed in action April ninth Egyptian Forces. The Army Council express sympathy.”

He is commemorated on the war memorial at St. Thomas Beckett's Church, Warblington in Hampshire and on the war memorial at Trinity College, Cambridge. His medals were sold at auction in June 2002.

Henry is buried at Ramleh War Cemetery, Row S, Grave 18.

Stephens
Dudley Eric
2nd Lieutenant



B Battery, 70th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery. Died of wounds on the 29th of March 1918, aged 19.

Dudley Eric Stephens was born in Kensington on the 28th of April 1898, the youngest son of Robert Ernest Stephens, a ship owner and Underwriting Member of Lloyd's, and Alice Maud (née Bennett) Stephens of 20 Melbury Road, Kensington, London. He was christened at St. Barnabus' Church Kensington on the 1st of July 1898.

Dudley was educated at Wellesley House School, Broadstairs, and at Marlborough College where he was in Summerfield House from April 1912 until July 1915. He was a member of the Officer Training Corps from May 1912. He went on to the University of London where he was a member of the Officer Training Corps. On leaving university he went to work for Morgan, Lyons & Company at Lloyd's.

He enlisted as Gunner 176275 in the Royal Field Artillery in St. John's Wood on the 5th of June 1916. At his medical examination it was recorded that he was five feet eight and a half inches tall with a fresh complexion, brown eyes and brown hair. Dudley applied for a commission in the Royal Artillery on the 1st of November 1916. He joined the Royal Artillery Cadet School at St. John's Wood on the 28th of December 1916 and was commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery on the 17th of June 1917.

He embarked for France on the 15th of August 1917 and left the base depot on the 21st of August before joining 70th Brigade Royal Field Artillery in the field on the 25th of August. He went home to England on leave from the 22nd of December 1917 to the 6th of January 1918.

On the 21st of March 1918 the Germans began their long expected spring offensive, forcing the British forces back on a wide front. By the 28th of March 1918 the 70th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery was in positions at Tilloy Wood in the area of the Monchy in the Scarpe Valley near Arras when they came under a heavy bombardment at 2.30am from enemy batteries firing a mixture of gas and high explosive shells. This was followed at 7am by a massed infantry attack which forced the British defenders to fall back. The 70th Brigade was under heavy fire throughout the morning but maintained their own rapid fire until 10am when they withdrew to Ronville with all their guns arriving there safely.

Casualties during the morning were two officers and seven other ranks killed, two officers and 28 other ranks wounded and two officers and six other ranks missing. Dudley Stephens was among the wounded, having suffered gunshot wounds to the legs and face. He was evacuated to No. 8 Casualty Clearing Station where he died the following day.

Stephens
Dudley Eric
2nd Lieutenant

His mother received the following telegram dated the 31st of March 1918:

“Deeply regret to inform you that 2nd Lt D.E. Stephens RFA B/70 Brigade died of wounds twenty ninth. The Army council express sympathy.”

Dudley is buried at Duisans British Cemetery, Plot V, Row F, Grave 59.

Stolzle
Otto Joseph Wallis
Corporal 197899



5th Army Wireless Company, Royal Engineers. Killed on active service on the 25th of April 1917, aged 23.

Otto Joseph Wallis Stolzle was born in Peckham on the 19th of February 1894, the eldest son of Gustav Adolf Otto Karl Stolzle, a buyer for a South African export firm, and Elizabeth Mary (née Wallis) Stolzle of Lyndhurst, Chudleigh Road, Crofton Park, Brockley in Kent. He was christened at St. Anthony's Church, Nunhead on the 18th of March 1894.

Otto was educated at Mantle Park Higher Grade School and at St Dunstan's College from September 1906 to July 1908 where he was a member of the Debating Society and won a school prize for drawing in 1908.

He worked as an insurance agent for C.T. Bowring & Company Ltd at Lloyd's and was scoutmaster for the 1st Crofton Park (St Hilda's) Scout Troop.

He enlisted in Blackheath in August 1914 as Private 2104 in the Old Dunstonian Company of the 20th Battalion (County of London) Battalion (Blackheath and Woolwich) where he rose to the rank of Lance Corporal. He embarked for France with his battalion on the 10th of March 1915 and saw action at the battles of Festubert and Givenchy. He was also present on the first day of the Battle of Loos on the 25th of September 1915 which he came through uninjured and he transferred to the Intelligence Department in 1916. In November 1916, Otto transferred from the London

Regiment, where he had attained the rank of Sergeant and then transferred to the Royal Engineers with the rank of Corporal being attached to the 5th Army Wireless Company.

On the 25th of April 1917, Otto was killed in a road traffic accident at Varennes.

His Commanding Officer wrote:

"His death has given all his company a great blow. He was a good soldier, and is a loss to us all. Only yesterday I received a most flattering report about him from the officer under whom he was working. He has been promoted 2nd Corporal for good work, and was on the high road to further promotion, which he richly merited. Your dear son had endeared himself to us all during the weeks he had been with us, by his cheerfulness, his devotion to duty and his outstanding unselfishness."

His younger brother, Pilot Officer Ronald Walter Stolzle 78 Squadron Royal Air Force, was killed in action on the 9th of May 1941.

Otto is commemorated on the war memorial at St Dunstan's College and on the memorial at St. Hilda's Church, Brockley.

He is buried at Varennes Military Cemetery, Plot I, Row K, Grave 2.

Strange
Hugh Gordon
Rifleman 304680



1/5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade). Died of wounds on the 2nd of September 1918.

Hugh Gordon Strange was born in Ealing in 1899, the fifth son of Vincent William Strange, a stockbroker, and Mary Elizabeth (née Noonan) Strange of 57 Warwick Road, Ealing. He worked for Price, Forbes & Company Ltd, Lloyd's brokers. He enlisted at Ealing.

At 6.15pm on the 26th of August 1918 the 1/5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade) left Boyelles Trench and advanced to Summit Trench to relieve the 1/7th Battalion Middlesex Regiment and to prepare for an attack. At 9pm they advanced to the attack with C and D Companies leading, B Company in support and A Company in reserve. After an advance of some 400 yards to a sunken road, they came under intense machine gun fire and at 3.30am they received orders to fall back to Summit Trench for a fresh attack later in the morning.

At 9.30am on the 27th of August they advanced once more with A Company along with one platoon of B Company in the lead and the rest of the battalion in support. Once again they had moved forward about 400 yards when they were stopped by fierce machine gun fire from Croiselles which caused so many casualties that no further progress could be made. As no retreat could be made in daylight the battalion remained where they were until they received fresh orders at 3.30pm to make a further attack to encircle

the village of Croiselles from the north. They did this by moving down the Hindenburg Line. This advance passed without incident until they reached the River Sensee, where they came under heavy machine gun fire yet again. They fell back a little and made a long detour before occupying two trenches some 500 yards to the east-north-east of Croiselles where they spent the night.

At 1pm on the 29th of August the battalion was sent back into the attack with the remaining 100 men it had available. They dashed forward and took an enemy trench, capturing 60 prisoners and consolidating their gains. By 6.40am on the 30th of August the survivors of the battalion had been relieved.

Casualties during these attacks totalled three officers killed and 54 other ranks killed with 14 officers wounded and 280 other ranks wounded, of whom 54 died of their wounds. A further three other ranks were missing.

Hugh Strange was among the wounded and he died of his injuries a few days later.

His brother, 2nd Lieutenant Lionel Cresswell Strange 9th Battalion Essex Regiment, died of wounds on the 22nd of July 1917.

Hugh is buried at Bagneux British Cemetery, Plot V, Row F, Grave 9.

Street
Edmund Alger
2nd Lieutenant



A Company, 22nd (Service) Battalion Manchester Regiment (7th City). Killed in action on the 2nd of June 1916, aged 34.

Edmund Alger Street was born in Caterham on the 27th of June 1882, the youngest son of Joseph Edward Street, a Lloyd's underwriter, and Edith Jane (née Sheppard) Street of Woodside, Caterham in Surrey. He was christened at St. Mark's Church in Marylebone on the 28th of July 1882.

He was educated at Marlborough College from April 1896 to December 1898 where he was in Star House.

Edmund worked as a ship owner, a shipbroker and was an Underwriting Member of Lloyd's.

On the 1st of September 1908 he was married at St John's Church, South Norwood to Margaret Constance (née Eyre), a professional musician; they lived at 43 Overstrand Mansion Battersea and later at Fir Cottage, Queens Park, Caterham in Surrey and they had three children; John Edward, born on the 30th of June 1909, Janet Constance, born on the 25th of April 1911 and David Harold, born on the 7th of September 1915.

Edmund served for a time with the London Wall Drill Corps.

He enlisted on the 19th of January 1915 at Dukes Road, Euston, London WC as Private 3200 in the 3/28th Battalion London Regiment (Artist's Rifles).

At his medical examination held the same day it was recorded that he was six feet and one quarter inch tall. He was called up on the 23rd of February and was promoted to Lance Corporal on the 27th of February. On the 27th of April 1915 he applied for a commission in the 22nd Battalion Manchester Regiment in an application that was supported by the head master of Marlborough. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the on the 5th of April 1915 and reported for duty with them at Morecambe the same day.

Edmund embarked for France on the 17th of February 1916.

In the build up to the opening of the Somme offensive on the 1st of July 1916 the British High Command ordered a number of local raids on the German trenches to gather information on the units opposite. On the 2nd of June 1916, A Company, 22nd Battalion Manchester Regiment were ordered to mount a raid on the German position known as "Bulgar Point", a German listening post located in a sap in no man's land to the south of Mametz. For five weeks prior to the attack they practised on a model of the enemy position which had been constructed behind British lines to the south of Bonfray. The raiding party of 40 men was to be led by Lieutenant Oldham with 2nd Lieutenant Edmund Street and his second in command and 2nd Lieutenant Joshua Cansino in charge of the covering party, consisting of a further 20 men.

Street
Edmund Alger
2nd Lieutenant

At 10.20pm a preparatory bombardment was fired on the German position by British Artillery and at 11pm the raiders went over the top into no man's land. After forcing gaps in the enemy wire, the raiders entered the German trench without much difficulty. While Oldham waited at the gap in the wire, Edmund Street led a bombing party in the destruction of five large enemy dugouts, containing an unknown number of enemy troops, and killed a further 15 of the enemy in nearby trenches. They also captured four prisoners from the 23rd Silesian Regiment, two of whom were killed when they offered resistance. As the raiders came to withdraw they had considerable difficulty in locating the gap in the wire to make good their escape. As they scrambled to find the route out the Germans rallied, spraying them with machine gun fire and a bombing attack. Street was last seen stuck fast in the wire and did not return to the British lines.

His parents received the following telegram dated the 6th of June 1916: "Regret to inform you that 2/Lieut. E.A. Street Manchester Regt. reported wounded and missing 2 June. This does not necessarily mean that he is a prisoner. Further reports will be wired on receipt."

A little later his parents received another telegram: "Deeply regret to inform you that 2/Lieut. E.A. Street Manchester Regt previously reported wounded and missing is now reported killed in action. The Army Council express their regret."

On the 4th of June 1916 Captain Alfred Bland wrote the following account of the raid:

"I have borrowed two B Coy officers. It's extraordinary. All the original A Coy officers are gone, and I alone am left. Yes, at one blow we have lost four officers, three killed and Oldham wounded. Street, Burchill and Cansino are dead. Oldham and Cansino with sixty NCOs and men raided the German trenches opposite on Friday night last. They had been practising the show for three weeks and all was arranged, every man to his task, perfect in every detail. As a show it was a success. They did considerable damage, secured two prisoners and dealt destruction to a great many more. The only hitch was the enemy wire, which had not been cut by the artillery preparation. Street, as last to leave the Bosche trench, ran greatest risks, and got stuck fast on the wire. Burchill went across to help him and received a fatal stomach wound, and Cansino did likewise and, so far as we know, was killed in attempting to save Street. The two latter have not been recovered. Oldham is alright, with a "blighty" in the shoulder. Six men are missing. The officer casualties are appallingly heavy, but the task attempted was magnificently accomplished. We mourn our three beyond speech. Street leaves a widow and three children. Cansino a widow and an unborn babe."

A series of statements were taken from members of his battalion in order to establish Edmund's fate.

Street
Edmund Alger
2nd Lieutenant

Testimony of 20192 Lance Corporal C. Tomkinson 22nd battalion Manchester Regiment taken at Etaples on the 20th July 1916:

"I knew Mr Street, he was in A and was missing from London Road at Bulgar Point near Bray. I was told by one of the bombers who went out with Mr Street that night on a raid that Mr Street was caught fast in the German wire badly wounded and Mr Street ordered them to leave him as he was dying. Lt Burchill, a machine gun officer, was also killed that night. We were relieved that night, but I heard that the Germans took his body in as he could not be seen the next day."

Testimony of 20766 Sergeant Aldcroft, A Company 22nd Battalion Manchester Regiment taken at Rouen:

"Witness said he knew Mr Street. He went out on a bombing party of A Coy, this was at Minden Point opposite Mametz. He maintained that Mr Street was killed and his body was seen by the German barbed wire but never recovered. The raid was successful."

Testimony of 25726 Private W.H. Wilkinson:

"Informant states that on a Friday at the end of May or the beginning of June--at the east of Mametz, Lieut. Street was in charge of a bombing raid on Bulgar Point; he and two more officers and 60 men got over, entered the German trenches, and had a good look round, and were returning without any casualties, when they were held up by unbroken barbed wire. While trying to get through, the Germans opened machine gun fire and bombs causing heavy casualties. All the officer were hit, and two or three days afterwards, according to the evidence of observers, (both officers and men) the bodies of two officers who had not returned, were seen hanging in the barbed wire, and were afterwards taken in by the Germans. The bodies were those of Lieut. Street and Lieut. Cansino, an Englishman of Italian extraction. The Brigadier especially commended the orderly way the raid was carried out and the results achieved."

Edmund is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Pier and Face 13A and 14C.

**Stuart
Kenneth
Flying Officer**



Royal Naval Air Service. Died of on the 13th of June 1917.

Kenneth Stuart was born in Penge on the 15th of December 1898, the son of William Thomas Stuart, a headmaster, and Annie Stuart of 8 Thicket Road, Anerley in London. He worked for the S.G. Fletcher Esq. and Others, Lloyd's underwriters.

He was commissioned as a probationary Flying Officer in the Royal Naval Air Service in December 1916 and was posted to Chrystal Palace on the 26th of December 1916. He was next posted to Redcar on the 17th of February 1917 and later to Chingford.

On the 12th of June 1917, Kenneth took off for a training flight from Chingford Aerodrome with Flying Officer William George Parry in a Curtiss JN4 Biplane. When approaching to land the aircraft went into a dive from 300 feet and crashed, killing Parry and seriously injuring Kenneth Stuart. He was taken to Edmonton Military Hospital where he died from his injuries the following day.

He is buried at Beckenham Cemetery Grave, T5 4486.

Thompson
Frank Dickinson
2nd Lieutenant



1/15th (County of London) Battalion (Prince of Wales' Own Civil Service Rifles) attached to the 17th (Service) Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps (British Empire League). Killed in action on the 13th of January 1917, aged 23.

Frank Dickinson Thompson was born in Tranby, Llandrillo yn Rhos, Colwyn Bay on the 20th of February 1893, the second and youngest son of the Reverend John Moses Thompson, Wesleyan Minister, and Elizabeth (née Penney) Thompson later of 355, Norton Way, South Letchworth.

He was educated at Sir George Monoux Grammar School, Walthamstow, and at Kingswood School in Bath where he was in Upper House from September 1904 to the 23rd of November 1908. He was a member of the Rugby XV where he was a "prominent scrummager". On leaving school he went to work for Messrs. J.M. Dent & Company, Publishers but later worked as a marine insurance clerk for Leslie and Godwin Ltd, Lloyd's brokers.

Frank enlisted as Private 4664 in the 2/28th (County of London) Battalion (Artist's Rifles) Officer Training Corps on the 4th of October 1915 and was sent for training at Gidea Park in Essex. He applied for a commission in the 3/15th (County of London) Battalion (Prince of Wales' Own Civil Service Rifles) on the 20th of April 1916 in an application supported by Mr W.R. Workman, Head Master of Kingswood School.

He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 2/15th (County of London) Battalion (Prince of Wales' Own Civil Service Rifles) on the 1st of June 1916 and went to France in September 1916. He was attached to the 17th Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps on the 1st of December 1916.

On the 13th of January 1917, Frank was shot and killed by enemy sniper and was buried the following day at Boesinghe.

He is buried at Essex Farm Cemetery, Plot III, Row A, Grave 37.

Thorn
Harold Lewis
2nd Lieutenant



1/20th (County of London) Battalion (Blackheath and Woolwich) attached to the 20th (Service) Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps (Pioneers) . Killed in action on the 15th of June 1917, aged 23.

Harold Lewis Thorn was born in West Ham in 1895, the son of Alfred Lewis Thorn, a master printer, and Charlotte 'Lottie' Crouch (née Pattison) Thorn of Northcote, St. Chad's Road, Chadwell Heath in Essex.

He worked as a clerk for Woods & Maslen Ltd, Lloyd's brokers.

Harold enlisted at Armoury House, Finsbury as a Private in the Honourable Artillery Company on the 27th of November 1911. He was mobilised on the 5th of August 1914. On the 26th of June 1915 he transferred to the 104th Provisional Training Battalion and, on completion of his training he was posted to the 2/13th (County of London) Battalion (Kensington) as Private 492537 on the 29th of April 1916. He embarked for France on the 21st of June 1916 and served there until the 2nd of October 1916 when he returned to England for officer training and reported to the battalion depot the following day. Harold was then posted to No. 13 Officer Cadet Battalion on the 3rd of November 1916 and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 20th (County of London) Battalion (Blackheath and Woolwich) on the 1st of March 1917.

On the 31st of May 1917 he was attached to the 20th (Service) Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps (Pioneers).

He was killed during operations at Monchy-le-Preux.

Harold is buried at Tilloy-les-Mofflaines British Cemetery, Plot I, Row H, Grave 4.

Thornton-Smith
Arthur Donald
Captain DSO



12th (Service) Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps.
Killed in action on the 16th of August 1917, aged 25.

Arthur Donald Thornton-Smith was born in Anerley on the 16th of November 1891, the younger son of the Reverend Edward Thornton-Smith, a Wesleyan Minister, and Anne Helena (née Wood) Thornton-Smith of 630 Clarence Road, Bickley, Bromley in Kent. He was educated at Whitgift Grammar School from 1902 to 1906 and at University College School Hampstead from 1906 to 1909. On leaving school he played as a forward for Old Whigiftians Rugby Football Club. Arthur was a keen musician and was a licentiate of the Guildhall School of Music; he was an accomplished organist and a choirmaster. On leaving school he went to work as an insurance broker for Glanvill Enthoven, Lloyd's brokers.

He enlisted as Private 8042 in the Inns of Court Officer Training Corps at 10 Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn on the 30th of November 1915. At a medical examination, which was held on the same day, it was recorded that he was five feet nine and a half inches tall and weighed 136lbs. He was posted to Berkhamstead for training where he was attached to No.3 Company. He was appointed as an unpaid Lance Corporal on the 22nd of May 1916.

Arthur was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 6th Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps on the 4th of September 1916. On the 12th of September he was posted to the 23rd (Reserve) Battalion of his regiment and he embarked for

France on the 2nd of October 1916 where he joined the 12th Battalion in the field.

On the 8th of January 1917 his father received the following telegram: "Beg to inform you 2Lt A.D. Thornton-Smith Kings Royal Rifles admitted 8 General Hospital Rouen January sixth with pyrexia uncertain origin slight. Will report any further news"

Arthur was discharged from hospital on the 2nd of March 1917.

He was promoted to Lieutenant on the 24th of February 1917.

On the 21st of April 1917, during an attack by a neighbouring Division, patrols from the 12th Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps pushed forward and established posts to the south of the village of Trescault, which was still held by the enemy. The following day D Company, under Lieutenant T Sampson, moved forward and captured the village.

For his actions during these operations, Arthur Thornton-Smith was awarded the Distinguished Service Order, the citation for which appeared in the London Gazette of the 26th of July 1917 and read:

"For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He carried out a daring reconnaissance of a village still occupied by the enemy. He went over a distance of 1,000 yards,

Thornton-Smith
Arthur Donald
Captain DSO

and exposed to the enemy the whole way. His valuable information enabled the village to be captured with very light casualties."

On the 22nd of June 1917, Arthur was working in a trench in the Lagnicourt sector of the front line when he was struck by a pick and accidentally injured, causing damage to the index finger of his right hand. Due to the nature of the injury it was considered that it could have been self-inflicted and so an enquiry was held to establish what had taken place.

A testimony was taken from Sergeant Redmile who had been present at the time:

"Sir, on the morning of the 22nd inst Lt Thornton-Smith and myself was working on a sniper's post at about D7CO1. Mr Thornton-Smith was using a shovel and myself was using a pick. Mr Thornton-Smith was working with his back to me, and as he was squaring the sides of the post, his hand came too far back. Before I had time to notice him my pick struck on the back of his hand. He asked me if I could manage the work and I said yes so he left the post."

His father received the following telegram dated the 25th of June 1917:

"Regret to inform you 2Lt A.D. Thornton-Smith Kings Royal Rifles was wounded accidentally June twenty second. Details wired when received."

The enquiry concluded that Arthur Thornton-Smith had been accidentally injured.

He was promoted to Acting Captain on the 20th of July 1917.

On the 15th of August 1917 the 12th Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps paraded in full battle order in preparation for an attack. Their task was the capture of a section of the enemy held Langemark-Gheluvelt line in the Ypres sector. They moved to their assembly area which had been marked out with white tape by Arthur Thornton-Smith. During the night logs were thrown across the Steenbeek to act as bridges as the depth of the mud made it otherwise impassable.

The covering bombardment reached a crescendo and then ceased at 4.40am and the battalion began their advance five minutes later. They reached their first objective, about 3,400 yards short of Langemark where they reorganised for around 20 minutes, during which time they were subjected to heavy machine gun fire and lost a number of men. The officer commanding the battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Prioleau MC, was wounded at this time and Arthur Thornton-Smith bound his wounds before rejoining his men. He was killed ten minutes later: "a bullet from a machine gun shot him through the head, and death was instantaneous."

Thornton-Smith
Arthur Donald
Captain DSO

Captain T. Lycett assumed command of the battalion and ordered an attack on an enemy pillbox some 250 yards away from where most of the fire was coming. Sergeant Edward Cooper led a party forward, of whom four were killed. In spite of this he advanced and captured the enemy position, capturing an officer and 44 enemy soldiers. For his actions he was awarded the Victoria Cross.

At 5.45am the battalion resumed their advance and moved forward to the eastern side of Langemark. From there they moved forward once more and captured their final objective at 7.50am. The enemy counterattacked during the afternoon causing heavy casualties on both sides before the captured line was able to be consolidated.

Casualties for the operation were five officers killed with one died of wounds and two wounded and missing. In addition, forty other ranks were killed, seventeen died of wounds, forty seven were missing and one hundred and thirty four were wounded.

Arthur's father received the following telegram dated the 19th of August 1917:

"Deeply regret to inform you that 2Lt A.D. Thornton-Smith DSO KRRC was killed in action on August sixteenth. The Army Council express their sympathy."

His Colonel wrote:

"He was the bravest man I ever known. That he did not die in vain is very clear, for he refreshed and strengthened many lives."

Arthur was mentioned in despatches.

He is commemorated on the war memorial at Bromley Methodist Church, and on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Panels 115 to 119 and 162A and 163A

Tompson
Alan Hawtin
2nd Lieutenant



No 3 Company, 4th Battalion Grenadier Guards. Killed in action on the 27th of September 1915, aged 35.

Alan Hawtin Tompson was born in Denham in Buckinghamshire on the 23rd of January 1880, the second son of John Alfred Tompson, a barrister at law, and Marie Louise Clifford (née Kimber) Tompson of Dromenagh, Iver Heath in Buckinghamshire. He was christened in Denham on the 29th of February 1880.

Alan was educated at Denham School in Uxbridge and at Charterhouse School where he was in Robinites and Verites Houses from April 1894 to July 1899. He was a Senior Scholar and was a member of the Cricket XI in 1897, 1898 and 1899, being Captain in the latter year, and was a member of the Football XI in the 1898/99 season.

He matriculated for Trinity College, Cambridge, arriving there on the 30th of September 1899 where won an Exhibition and achieved a BA in 1902.

He played cricket for Buckinghamshire on one occasion on the 11th of August 1899 at the County Ground, Kensington Road, Reading where he opened the batting in the first innings and scored 13 runs before being bowled. Buckinghamshire won by seven wickets. He was a member of the MCC from 1901 and was an Underwriting Member of Lloyd's. Alan then moved to Kenya where he became a sheep farmer.

Following the outbreak of war he served as a 2nd Lieutenant with the 4th Battalion East African Mounted Rifles. In early 1915 he was married to Gladys (née Bullough) later of Glenlyon in Perthshire.

He embarked for France on the 15th of August 1915.

The 25th of September 1915 was the opening day of the British offensive at Loos. After two days of heavy fighting some ground had been taken, but at huge cost. On the 27th of September the 4th Battalion Grenadier Guards, who had been in reserve up until then, were given orders to attack and capture the German position known as Hill 70. At 2.30pm they led their Brigade across ground devoid of cover in open formation. For one and a half miles they maintained formation as they advanced through heavy fire from German high explosive shells and continuous machine gun fire from their right. The regimental history records that:

"Perfect order was maintained in spite of the shells which burst all around, and there was not a man out of his place. Nothing more splendid has ever been recorded in the annals of the Guards than the manner in which every battalion in the Brigade faced this trying ordeal."

On nearing Loos, the battalion dashed down a slope and into a trench which ran through some houses, all the time under enemy artillery fire made up principally of gas shells.

Tompson
Alan Hawtin
2nd Lieutenant

As they entered an old German communication trench the battalion was split into two, but Alan Tompson, who was leading two platoons from his Company, unaware of the division of the battalion behind him, continued down the trench under the leadership of Captain Morrison. When they reached the point at which they were supposed to rendezvous with the other units they found themselves alone, so Morrison sent a runner to Brigade Headquarters for further orders. A further three runners were sent but none got through and no orders came back. Morrison decided that his force should do something towards furthering the attack and, seeing elements of 2nd Guards Brigade attacking towards the German positions at Puits 14, he ordered his men into open formation and they came up on the right of the 1st Battalion Scots Guards as they attacked Puits 14. They very soon found themselves under intense machine gun fire and, when the Scots Guards fell back, they became completely isolated. Morrison ordered his men to lay down where they were and, shortly afterwards, he ordered them to crawl to the rear and dig themselves in along the line of the Hulluch-Loos Road. Alan Tompson was among the casualties for the attack.

He is commemorated on the war memorials at Innerwick, Glen Lyon in Scotland, at the Muthaiga Club in Kenya, at Iver Heath, on the MCC memorial at Lords and on the war memorial at Trinity College, Cambridge.

Alan is commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Panels 5 to 7.

Tothill
Geoffrey Ivan Francis
2nd Lieutenant



4th Battalion Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).
Killed in action on the 27th of March 1916, aged 22.

Geoffrey Ivan Francis Tothill was born in St. Helier in Jersey on the 21st of March 1894, the only son of Colonel Francis William Galbraith Tothill, Royal Artillery, and Winifred Arnold (née Pittis) Tothill of Combe Grange, Monkton Combe in Bath. He was christened at St. Mark's Church, St Helier, Jersey on the 12th of May 1894.

Geoffrey was educated at Wellington College from 1907 to September 1910 where he was in Pearson's House and was a member of the Officer Training Corps with the rank of Private. He underwent the examination for the Royal Military College Sandhurst in November 1912 and entered the College but, in 1913, he withdrew midterm and went to work for Choisy, de Rougemont & Company Ltd at Lloyd's.

He was appointed as a Midshipman in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve on the 11th of August 1914 and saw action with the Howe Battalion, Royal Naval Division at Antwerp in October 1914.

Geoffrey transferred to the army on the 17th of January 1915 and applied for a commission in the 6th Battalion Royal Fusiliers, Special Reserve of Officers on the 30th of January 1915. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Fusiliers on the 22nd of June 1915.

On the 9th of September 1915, he applied for a commission in the regular army, expressing a preference for the 4th Battalion Royal Fusiliers. At a medical examination held on the 10th of September it was recorded that he was five feet nine inches tall and weighed 142 lbs.

On the 27th of March 1916 the 4th Battalion Royal Fusiliers was ordered to attack the German lines at St. Eloi in order to straighten the line and to remove a small German salient which protruded into the British lines. Six large mines had been dug underneath the German lines, and shortly before 4.45am they were fired in an explosion which was heard many miles away and in which a large number of enemy troops were killed. At the same time the Fusiliers rushed forward with W and X Companies on the left and Y and Z Companies on the right. In spite of the devastation caused to the German lines by the explosion of the mines, the defenders were ready for the attack and the Fusiliers were met by intense rifle and machine gun fire, losing heavily as they crossed no man's land. When the survivors reached the German wire they found it to be intact; in spite of this they forced their way through and took the first line. As so few men remained they were unable to advance further and they consolidated their positions where they were. There then followed an artillery duel between the two sides, which meant that reinforcements were unable to effect a relief until 6am the following morning. The 4th Battalion Royal Fusiliers suffered casualties during the attack of ten officers and 255 other ranks. Geoffrey Tothill was among the fallen.

Tothill
Geoffrey Ivan Francis
2nd Lieutenant

His father received the following telegram dated the 30th of March 1916:

“Deeply regret to inform you that 2/Lt G.F. Tothill Royal Fusiliers was killed in action 27-3-16. Lord Kitchener expresses his sympathy.”

Geoffrey is commemorated on the war memorial at Wellington College, and on the Menin Gate, Panels 6 and 8.

Towers
Wilfred Goodwin
2nd Lieutenant



**4th (Extra Reserve) Battalion Manchester Regiment
attached to the 22nd (Service Battalion) (7th City).
Killed in action on the 2nd of April 1917, aged 19.**

Wilfred Goodwin Towers was born at 35 Cavendish Road, Willesden in Middlesex on the 18th of February 1898, the third son of George James Towers, a lace merchant, and Lucy (née Goodwin) Towers later of Meadow Lodge, Cambridge Park, Twickenham in Middlesex. He was christened at St. Paul's Church, Kilburn Square on the 27th of March 1898. Wilfred was educated at Cranleigh School from September 1911 to the 27th of July 1914 where he served as a member of the Officer Training Corps and rose to the rank of Sergeant.

On leaving school he worked for E. Capel-Cure & Company Ltd at Lloyd's.

Wilfred enlisted at Dukes Road, Euston Road as Private 3775 in the 3/28th Battalion London Regiment (Artist's Rifles) on the 3rd of May 1915. He was given a medical examination the same day at which it was recorded that he was five feet nine and three quarter inches tall.

He applied for a commission in the Special Reserve on the 5th of September 1915, requesting the Manchester Regiment. His application was supported by a letter of recommendation dated the 6th of September from

H.A. Rhodes, the Headmaster of Cranleigh. He left the London Regiment on the 19th of October 1915 and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 4th (Extra Reserve) Battalion Manchester Regiment on the 21st of October 1915 and joined them at Riby Park, Grimsby on the 25th of October 1915.

On the 10th of October 1916, Wilfred was injured by the premature explosion of a bomb during a live throwing exercise and was hospitalised.

On the 20th of October 1916 a Medical Board was held which reported:

"While live bomb throwing he was injured through the premature explosion of a bomb; puncture wound on upper 1/3rd of left forearm. The chin, both shoulders and nose were peppered with small fragments. There is still some stiffness and swelling of arms. His wounds are soundly healed and this officer was quite recovered from the accident, except for a little weakness of the muscles of the left arm."

At a Medical Board held at the Military Hospital Grimsby on the 4th of December 1916 it was recorded that he was fit for general service.

Wilfred embarked for France on the 16th of March 1917.

Towers

Wilfred Goodwin
2nd Lieutenant

At 5.15am on the 28th of March 1917 the 22nd Battalion Manchester Regiment moved forward from St Leger in preparation for an attack on the village of Croiselles. The village was known to be heavily defended by both machine guns and by barbed wire which in some places was more than 20 yards deep. At 5.45am they began their advance but came under heavy fire from both machine guns and artillery as soon as they emerged from their trenches. Although one small party managed to get into the village, the bulk of the battalion were unable to get through the wire and lay in an exposed position, digging in where they were until darkness when they were joined by other units.

A further attack was planned for the 2nd of April but this attack was to be on a ten-mile front. For this offensive, the 22nd Manchesters would begin the day at St. Leger in reserve and were to mop up in Croiselles after it had been taken in the main attack.

In spite of heavy opposition and casualties, the lead battalions managed to take the village and by 11.30am the 22nd Manchesters had moved forward to a position some 200 yards to the north east of St Leger Wood. At 1.45pm they moved forward into the village, which still had large numbers of the enemy within its confines. During the mopping up operation the battalion lost five officers and 20 other ranks killed with 68 other ranks wounded, mostly as a result of snipers, shell fire and booby traps. Wilfred Towers was among the dead.

His father received a telegram dated the 9th of April 1917:

"Deeply regret to inform you 2nd Lieut. W.G. Towers Manchester Regiment was killed in action at Arras April second. The Army Council express their sympathy."

He is buried at St. Leger British Cemetery, Row B, Grave 1.

Townsend
Sidney John
2nd Lieutenant



2nd Life Guards. Killed in action on the 13th of May 1915, aged 31.

Sidney John Townsend was born in Garden City, Long Island, USA on the 19th of March 1884, the younger son of Alfred Markham Townsend, London manager of the Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank, and Mary Alice (née Houchen) Townsend of 29 Palace Gate, Kensington in London.

He had worked as an insurance broker for C. T Bowring & Company Ltd and was an Underwriting Member of Lloyd's for nine years. On the outbreak of war he was Managing Director of the Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank in New York but, leaving his wife in the United States, he gave up his £2,500 salary and immediately returned to England to join the army. He enlisted as Trooper 1192 in the 3rd County of London Yeomanry on the 27th of August 1914. At his medical examination, which was held on the same day, it was recorded that he was six feet tall. He applied for a commission in the 20th Hussars on the 31st of August and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant on the 5th of September 1914 after which he proceeded to France where he joined the 2nd Life Guards.

At 8pm on the night of the 12th of May 1915, 250 officers and men of the 2nd Life Guards moved forward from their billets in Breilen, though the town of Ypres into trenches on the Frezenberg Ridge on the outskirts of the town. At 7.30am the following day, reports came back to their headquarters at Poitijze that the Life Guards trenches had been heavily shelled causing many casualties and that the

line had been broken as a result. The shelling had begun at 3.30am on the morning of the 13th of May and lasted until 1.30pm. During this time the 2nd Life Guards were "blasted out of their trenches" with casualties of seven officers killed and four officers wounded, plus 180 other ranks killed, wounded or missing. Sidney Townsend was among the missing. Counterattacks later in the day restored the line.

On the 15th of May 1915 his father received the following telegram: "Regret to inform you that 2nd Lieut. S.J. Townsend Second Life Guards reported wounded and missing 13th May."

He received a further telegram dated the 27th of May 1915:

"Deeply regret to inform you that 2 Lt S.J. Townsend 2 Life Guards formerly reported wounded and missing is now reported killed. Lord Kitchener expresses his regret."

Sidney was buried by men of the 12th Lancers but his grave was lost in subsequent fighting. He was a member of the Bath Club.

His brother was a student in China in 1900 and volunteered for service as an interpreter at the siege of Peking during the Boxer Rebellion. During a sortie from the Legation on the 1st of July he was wounded in both the leg and the shoulder, and died from typhoid fever a few weeks later.

Sidney is commemorated on the Menin Gate, Panel 3.

Tricker
Hector Chafer
Gunner 292966



42nd Brigade, (Deptford) Royal Garrison Artillery.
Died on the 4th of June 1919.

Hector Chafer Tricker was born at Honor Oak Park on the 11th of June 1891, the son of William John Tricker, a merchant engineer, and Ellen (née Chafen) Tricker of 6 Wickham Gardens, Brockley in south east London.

He worked as a shipping clerk for the Lloyd's Intelligence Department.

Hector attested for war service in Deptford on the 6th of December 1915. At his medical examination it was recorded that he was five feet ten and a half inches tall. He embarked for France on the 5th of June 1916 and joined 42nd Brigade, Royal Garrison Artillery in the field on the 14th of June. On the 2nd of December 1916 he was admitted to hospital but returned to his unit on the 8th of December. Hector returned to the UK on leave from the 18th to the 28th of September 1917 and went on leave again, via Boulogne, from the 7th to the 21st of October 1918. He was admitted to hospital on the 27th of October 1918 suffering from diarrhoea and was invalided back to the UK from 56 General Hospital at Etaples on the 8th of January 1919 on board the Hospital Ship Jan Breydel, landing in England the following day. On the 7th of April 1919 he was discharged from the army as being no longer fit for war service and he died shortly afterwards.

Hector is not commemorated by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Turner
George Herbert
2nd Lieutenant



13th (Reserve) Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment attached to A Company, 15th (Service) Battalion (2nd Birmingham). Died of on the 14th of June 1916, aged 25.

George Herbert Turner was born in Forest Gate on the 17th of January 1891, the son of James Turner, a solicitor, and Marian Turner of Dernceugh, Grove Park, Wanstead in Essex. He worked as a clerk for W.F. Barker & Company, Lloyd's brokers.

Following the outbreak of war, George enlisted at Armoury House, Finsbury as Private 1727 in the 1st Battalion Honourable Artillery Company (Infantry) on the 28th of August 1914. On the 19th of September he embarked with his battalion at Southampton on board the SS Westmeath, landing at St. Nazaire the following morning.

On the 21st of February 1915 he was admitted to the 7th Field Ambulance at Loire suffering from diarrhoea and was admitted to No. 8 Casualty Clearing Station at Ballieul on the 23rd of February. The following day he was loaded onto an ambulance train and was admitted to 11 Stationary Hospital with colitis. He was discharged to duty on the 10th of March 1915 and rejoined his battalion in the field on the 1st of April.

George was promoted to Acting Corporal on the 20th of April 1915 and to Corporal on the 9th of May 1915. On the 17th of June 1915 he was admitted to the 9th Field Ambulance with gunshot wounds to the left arm and was

evacuated firstly to No. 3 Casualty Clearing Station and then to Lahore General Hospital the following day. He was evacuated back to England on the 21st of June 1915.

He applied for a commission in the infantry on the 4th of July 1915 and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 13th (Reserve) Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment on the 29th of November 1915. He was attached to the 15th Battalion of his regiment for war service.

On the 30th of May 1916, the 15th Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment relieved the 2nd Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers in trenches near Arras with A Company on the left of the battalion line. The following day George Turner was badly wounded and was evacuated to the rear.

His father received the following telegram dated the 2nd of June 1916:

"Regret to inform you that 2 Lt. G.H. Turner 13th att'd 15th Royal Warwicks was wounded 31/5/16. Any further news will be wired when received."

The following day he received a further telegram:

"Beg to inform you 2/Lt G.H. Turner Royal Warwicks admitted 3 General Hospital Le Treport. Gunshot wound shoulder and right lung serious. Any further news will be wired."

Turner
George Herbert
2nd Lieutenant

He received a further telegram dated the 14th of June:

“Regret to inform you 2 Lt. G.H. Turner now reported dangerously ill in No. 3 General Hospital Le Treport. You are permitted to visit him. No passport is necessary this telegram must be produced to Assistant Embarkation Commandant Folkestone when you must satisfy as to identity.”

George Turner died at 6pm on the 14th of June from gunshot wounds to his right shoulder and a perforated right lung.

The following day his father received a final telegram:

“Deeply regret to inform you that 2/Lieut. G.H. Turner 13 Warwick Regt attached 15th died of wounds at 3 General Hospital Le Treport. The Army Council express their sympathy.”

George is buried at Le Treport Military Cemetery,
Plot 2, Row O, Grave 15.

Tyser
Henry Erskine
2nd Lieutenant



D Company, 8th (Service) Battalion Black Watch (Royal Highlanders). Killed in action on the 9th of April 1917, aged 43.

Henry Erskine Tyser was born at Vinesgate, Brasted in Kent on the 9th of December 1873, the only son of William Haviside Tyser, ship owner, and Emily Jane (née Erskine) Tyser of Binfield House, Binfield in Berkshire. He was christened at St. Andrew's Church, Marylebone on the 15th of January 1874.

Henry was educated at Eton College where he was in Mr H.E. Luxmoore's House until he left in 1892 and went on to Trinity College Oxford, leaving there in 1895. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 1st Volunteer Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment on the 31st of January 1900. Due to business commitments which involved a trip to Australia and New Zealand lasting nearly two years he was unable to remain as an officer and resigned his commission on the 19th of October 1901.

On leaving university he went to work for his father's firm of Messrs Tyser & Company where he became a Partner and was also managing director of the shipping company, Tyser Line, until the 31st of December 1913. He was elected as an Underwriting Member of Lloyd's in 1898 and resigned his membership with effect from the 1st of January 1917. He was fond of opera and bridge and lived at 44 Hans Place in London.

In 1914, Henry retired from business and applied for a commission in the army on the 15th of January 1915. At his medical examination, which took place at Hounslow on the 16th of January, it was recorded that he was six feet one inch tall, weighed 188lbs and was in good health. He made two donations to the Army Council of £3,000 each in December 1915 and January 1916 for the purchase of guns and machine guns for the army.

Henry was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Black Watch (Royal Highlanders) on the 15th of February 1915 and embarked for France on the 22nd of March 1916 where he joined the 8th Battalion of his regiment in the field on the 21st of April 1916.

The 9th of April 1917 was the opening day of the British offensive at Arras and the 8th Battalion Black Watch was detailed to capture the village of Athies. In order to reach their objective they had to cross 100 yards of no man's land and capture the German 3rd trench system, then move a further 1,000 yards to take the Arras-Douai railway line before attacking the village itself. The bombardment leading up to the attack had lasted for three days, and at 5.20am on the morning of the 9th of April it reached its zenith before the leading companies left their trenches at 5.30am in four waves, 15 yards apart. Due to the confusion and the difficult nature of the ground the waves soon merged into a single line, sweeping forward and meeting little resistance at the German first line with the garrison being anxious to surrender after the long barrage.

Tyser
Henry Erskine
2nd Lieutenant

By 6.10am the first objective had been taken and consolidated, the battalions on each side had been contacted and 150 prisoners had been taken.

At 7.35am, A and D Companies formed up and began to advance towards the second objective but came under heavy shell fire almost at once. Machine gun fire from the south of the River Scarpe also added to the casualties but the Black Watch pressed forward and gained the railway cutting at the northern end. It was during this phase of the attack that Henry Tyser was killed. After an exchange of bombs by each side at the railway cutting the line was taken and consolidated with another seven enemy officers and 100 men being taken prisoner. Following this action the men of the Black Watch remained in this position while other battalions from their Brigade captured the village. The battalion was relieved the following day having suffered casualties of five officers killed and 50 other ranks killed with six officers and 147 other ranks wounded plus three other ranks missing.

A telegram arrived at home dated the 14th of April 1917:

"Deeply regret to inform you that 2 Lieut. H.E. Tyser Black Watch was killed in action April 9th. The Army Council express their sympathy."

A friend from university wrote:

"Those who knew Tyser at Trinity Oxford, 20 odd years ago, recall a simple, straight and lovable soul. He was happier at lawn tennis or other games than with a book; but whatever the occupation, there was a quiet imperturbable intentness on it which spoke of latent strength. There are choice memories of a reading party in Wales, with not too much reading and no stint of mountain wanderings. It was the morning sight to see him, shivering from Ogwen's icy waters, turning slowly blue, as he struggled silently and fruitlessly to climb back into the Noah's Ark from which we bathed, taking with his wonted calm, the helpless laughter of the less chilly rest of us. It was the evening joy to hear him, with a loud but tuneless rendering of a hymn well loved in our college chapel drowning the somewhat intrusive psalm singing of our Welsh hosts in the kitchen. He appeared to be destined to a safe life of business and affluence. For 20 years he had it. His old quality of serene directness and simplicity emerges in his surrendering all and giving his life for his country in the lowest commissioned rank at the age of 42 (sic)."

Henry was a member of the MCC and is commemorated on the war memorial at Lords.

He is buried at Mindel Trench British Cemetery, Row B, Grave 1.

Uppleby
Wyvill Charles Spinola
Captain



7th (Service) Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment. Killed in action on the 9th of February 1918, aged 35.

Wyvill Charles Spinola Uppleby was born at 28 Croxteth Road, Liverpool on the 26th of January 1883, the only son of Colonel John George Uppleby, Royal Artillery, and Louise Christine (née MacDonald) Uppleby later of 33 Leinster Gardens, Lancaster Gate in London. He was christened at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church on the 3rd of February 1883.

Wyvill was educated at Edgbaston and at Malvern College from January 1898 to December 1900 where he was in Lyon House. He won the Ledbury Cup as the winner of the seven and half mile cross country race run by the school every year.

He worked for Willis Faber & Company Ltd and was an Underwriting Member of Lloyd's.

On the 29th of August 1914, he enlisted as Private STK/14 in the 10th Battalion Royal Fusiliers (Stockbrokers). At his medical examination it was recorded that he was five feet six and a half inches tall, weighed 150lbs and that he had a fresh complexion with blue eyes and slightly balding brown hair. He was appointed as an unpaid Lance Corporal on the 26th of June 1915. His battalion went to France on the 17th of July 1915 and he joined them there on the 30th of July where he served with them for six months during which time he was slightly wounded on the 6th of September 1915.

He was promoted to Lance Corporal on the 28th of November 1915 and he applied for a commission on the 3rd of December 1915. On the 16th of January 1916 he returned to England and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 10th (Reserve) Battalion East Surrey Regiment on the 27th of January 1916. On the 31st of January he was posted to the School of Instruction at Chatham.

Wyvill served with them until the 26th of June 1916 when he transferred to a reserve battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant but with seniority from the 26th of January 1916. He moved from the reserve battalion on the 7th of September 1916 when he was posted to the 12th Battalion of his regiment. He sustained gunshot injuries to both legs on the 15th of October 1916 and was evacuated to England from Boulogne on the 18th of October on board the St. Denis, landing at Dover the following day. He relinquished the rank of Acting Captain on the 19th of October 1916 upon ceasing to command a company.

On the 27th of November 1916 a Medical Board was convened at Millbank which reported the following:

"He is suffering from the effects of gunshot wounds of right and left legs. The wound of right leg has quite healed, that of left leg is still open but doing well."

Uppleby
Wyvill Charles Spinola
Captain

On the 22nd of January 1917 a Medical Board sat at Newhaven which concluded that:

“He has sufficiently recovered to return to service at home.”

Wyvill reported to the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment at Newhaven on the 24th of January 1917. On the 22nd of February 1917 a Medical Board was convened at Newhaven which passed him as fit for general service.

In March 1917 he journeyed back to the front where he returned to the 12th Battalion and was promoted to Acting Captain while in command of a company on the 14th of April 1917. He was promoted to Acting Major on the 23rd of September 1917 while acting as second in command of his battalion.

Wyvill was again wounded on the 27th of October 1917 and returned to his battalion on the 4th of December 1917.

On the 6th of February 1918 the 12th Battalion Royal Sussex was disbanded and Wyvill Uppleby led a draft of men from the battalion to join the 7th Battalion of his regiment where they arrived on the 8th of February.

He was once again wounded the following day when his billet in the Rue de Bataille was hit by a shell and he died later in the day at the 38th Field Ambulance, Advanced Dressing Station.

He is commemorated on the war memorials at Eastbourne, at Malvern College and is listed on the Catholic Roll of Honour. He is also commemorated on the Willis Faber war memorial at the Willis Building in Lime Street.

Wyvill is buried at Croix-du-Bac British Cemetery, Plot I, Row E, Grave 5.

Wade
George Edward Ahern
2nd Lieutenant



A Company, 9th (Service) Battalion Rifle Brigade. Killed in action on the 3rd of May 1917, aged 23.

George Edward Ahern Wade was born at Carter Street, Liverpool on the 30th of December 1893, the eldest son of George Edward Wade, a surveyor for HM Customs and Excise, and Eleanor Agatha (née Ahern) Wade of 19 Oakfield Road, West Croydon in Surrey. He was educated at Winton House, Croydon at Purley Preparatory School and at Selhurst Grammar School for Boys from the spring term of 1908. In 1911 he was working as a sample room clerk at a paper manufacturer but by 1914 he was working as an insurance broker for R.W. Vick, Junr & Company at Lloyd's.

In July 1914, George enrolled in the Surrey Squadron of the Legion of Frontiersmen and served with them for eight months. He applied for a commission in the Royal Artillery on the 25th of May 1915 but the War Office misplaced his application form.

Instead he enlisted at Dukes Road, Euston Road as Private 4376 in the 3/28th (County of London) Battalion (Artist's Rifles) on the 17th of August 1915. He had undertaken a medical examination on the 27th of July where it had been recorded that he was five feet seven and three quarter inches tall and weighed ten stones.

He was promoted to the rank of unpaid Lance Corporal on the 5th of October 1915 and to Lance Corporal on the 23rd of November 1915. He applied for a commission in the 17th (Reserve) Battalion Rifle Brigade on the 6th of May 1916 and joined an officer cadet unit for officer training on the 9th of May. He transferred to the 2/28th Battalion of his regiment on the 1st of July 1916 and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Rifle Brigade on the 7th of July 1916. He was posted to the 17th Battalion Rifle Brigade on the 10th of July 1916 and joined them at Wimbledon Common Camp three days later.

George was posted to the 112th training Reserve Battalion from where he applied for a transfer to the Royal Flying Corps on the 20th of October 1916. He was passed as being fit for service with them on the 31st of October but his orders for the front came through before he could be transferred. He embarked for France where he was attached to A Company, 9th Battalion Rifle Brigade.

Wade
George Edward Ahern
2nd Lieutenant

On the 3rd of May 1917, the 9th Battalion Rifle Brigade was ordered to attack German positions at Cherisy. A Company were to be in the first wave on the right of the attack with C Company on the left. Three platoons of B Company would form the second wave on the right with three platoons of D Company on the left. The battalion attacked at 4.03am. A Company swung too far to the right as they moved forward and encountered a new German trench which was heavily wired and strongly held by the enemy but this was cleared by 4.25am and the battalion moved forward leaving a small number of men to "mop up" behind them. All eight officers in the first wave, including George Wade, had become casualties by this point, some of them being hit a number of times, but, in spite of this setback, the men moved forward through heavy machine gun fire which was by now coming from both flanks. Due to the weight of fire few if any men reached their objective. The second wave followed and kept direction but due to the increasing daylight they came under fire much earlier than the first wave. They managed to advance some 500 yards where they dug a new line in a line of shell holes. Here they were pinned down by continuous machine gun fire from both flanks and a rain of bombs and eventually they were sent orders to fall back to their original starting line.

Casualties suffered by the battalion during the attack totalled five officers wounded and missing with seven officers wounded and 257 other ranks killed wounded and missing.

George's father received the following telegram dated the 11th of May 1917:

"Regret to inform you that 2/Lieut. G.E.A. Wade 9th RB is reported wounded and missing May third. Further particulars will be sent on receipt."

On the 4th of February 1918 his parents received the following letter from the War Office:

"No further information has been received, and in view of the lapse of time since he was reported missing his death has now been accepted for official purposes as having occurred on or since the 3rd of May 1917."

George is commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Bay 9.

Walsham
Harold
2nd Lieutenant



7th (Service) Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps.
Died of on the 18th of September 1915, aged 21.

Harold "Harry" Walsham was born at Westcliffe-on-Sea on the 16th of September 1894, the second son of Alfred Henry Walsham, sugar broker, and Emma Ellen (née Stevens) Walsham of Elmhurst, Broxbourne in Hertfordshire.

He was educated at Christ's Hospital School from 1905 where he was a Private in the Officer Training Corps from 1910 and left the same year.

He worked as a clerk for his uncle, Frank Herbert Walsham, who ran the firm of Walsham Bros, Lloyd's Brokers and he lived at Claremont Road, Westcliffe-on-Sea. He enlisted at 10 Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn as Private 2235 in the Inns of Court Officer Training Corps on the 3rd of December 1914. At a medical examination which was held the following day it was recorded that he was five feet five and a half inches tall and weighed 141lbs. On the 15th of March 1915, Harold applied for a commission in the 7th Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps and he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant on the 7th of April 1915.

On the 13th of August 1915 the 7th Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps paraded at 5.30pm before loading onto motor buses for transportation to the front line. They relieved a battalion of the Royal Fusiliers at 1.30am in trenches to the north of Railway Wood, about a mile to the east of Ypres.

On the 27th of August the trenches came under shell fire. Harry Walsham was removing the puttee of a wounded man when a shell exploded near him, badly wounding him. In all, he and nine other ranks were wounded during the day.

Although the trenches were described as quiet they suffered casualties almost every day from the time they arrived until they were relieved on the 30th of August; the battalions casualties during this period numbered three other ranks killed with two officers and 41 other ranks wounded.

Harry Walsham was evacuated from the front line and was taken to 10 Casualty Clearing Station at Abeile.

His brother Alfred received the following telegram dated the 29th of August 1915:

"Regret to inform you that 2/Lt H Walsham KRRC was wounded 27th August. Further news will be wired on receipt."

His brother received a further telegram dated the 30th of August 1915:

"2/Lieut. H Walsham 7 KRRC admitted to 10 Casualty Clearing Station Abeile with shrapnel wounds back. Spine fractured dangerously wounded. Report dated 29th August. Progress will be reported. It is regretted that permission to visit cannot be granted."

Walsham
Harold
2nd Lieutenant

His brother then received the following telegram:

"2/Lieut. H Walsham reported dangerously ill at 6 Red Cross Hospital. Paris Plage. You are permitted to visit him. No passport necessary. This telegram must be presented to assistant embarkation commandant Folkestone by addressee only who must satisfy him as to identity. Nobody else may go with you."

Harold Walsham died of his wounds on the 18th of September 1915 at the Liverpool Merchant's Hospital at Etaples with his mother at his side.

His brother received a telegram dated the 18th of September 1915:

"Deeply regret to inform you that Lieut. Harold Walsham Kings Royal Rifle Corps died of wounds at 8.25 this morning. Lord Kitchener expresses his regret."

His funeral was attended by 100 men of the King's Royal Rifle Corps and his coffin was borne by eight officers.

Harold is commemorated on the war memorial at St Mary the Virgin, at Prittlewell in Essex and on the Southend and District Roll of Honour.

He is buried at Etaples Military Cemetery, Plot I, Row A, Grave 4.

Wayman
Harry Oliver
Gunner 146485



94th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery. Died of wounds on the 29th of October 1917, aged 26.

Harry Oliver Wayman was born at Ealing in 1891, the son of George Wayman, a police inspector, and Alice (née Oliver) Wayman of 50 Coningsby Road, Ealing and later of 44 Carshalton Grove, Sutton, Surrey. He was christened at St. Mary's Church in Barnes on the 26th of July 1891.

Harry was educated at Sutton Grammar School and worked as a marine insurance clerk for Wintle & Company, Lloyd's brokers.

He married Winifred Kate (née Hancock) in 1915 and they lived at 107 Barcombe Avenue, Streatham in South London. She later remarried becoming Wright and lived at Berwyn, Churton Road in Chester.

Harry enlisted in London and was called up in early 1917, embarking for France in July 1917. He joined the 94th Siege Battery in the field on the 15th of August 1917 when they were in positions 1,000 yards to the north east of the village of Oost Dunkerke on the Belgian Coast. Due to heavy enemy counter battery fire the battery had to move to a new position which was some 1,500 yards to the east of the village to the south side of the Oost Dunkerke-Nieuport Road.

While in these positions, Harry Wayman had just finished writing a letter to his wife and had stepped out of his dugout, when a shell fell and mortally wounded him. He was evacuated to the rear where he died of his injuries.

He is commemorated on the war memorial at Carshalton and on the memorial at Sutton Grammar School.

Harry is buried at Zuydcoote Military Cemetery, Plot II, Row C, Grave 4.

Wheeler
John Arthur
Lance Corporal G/1308



7th (Service) Battalion East Kent Regiment (Buffs).
Killed in action on the 1st of July 1916, aged 23.

John Arthur Wheeler was born in St Pancras in 1893, the son of Samuel Charles Wheeler, landlord of a public house, and Elizabeth Ann (née Clenshaw) Wheeler of 28 Lower Clapton Road in London.

He worked as a clerk for Robert Gardner, Mountain & Company Ltd, Lloyd's brokers and enlisted into the army at Holborn.

On the 1st of July 1916, the opening day of the Battle of the Somme, the 7th Battalion East Kent Regiment (Buffs) was in trenches at Carnoy. They were in support of an attack on enemy trenches along the Montauban-Fricourt Road, some 200 yards to their front. They were specifically tasked with clearing the Carnoy mine craters of the enemy. At 7am the British bombardment, which had been firing for a week, intensified and at 7.22am it was joined by an intense barrage of trench mortar fire. At 7.30am, when the attack began, the Buffs left their trenches and followed the leading battalions of their Brigade across no man's land. Two platoons from B Company under 2nd Lieutenant Tatam headed for the Carnoy Crater while the other two platoons assisted in "mopping up" in the trenches taken by the leading battalions. C Company was tasked with occupying and consolidating Pommiers Trench while D Company provided carrying parties.

The fighting at Carnoy Crater lasted for some six hours and the opposition encountered was far in excess of what the planners had expected. In the event, the battalion took all its objectives for the day.

Casualties during the day were four officers killed with two wounded and 48 other ranks killed with 144 wounded and seven missing.

John is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Pier and Face 5D.

White
Cecil James Laurence
Rifleman 608552



1/18th (County of London) Battalion (London Irish Rifles). Killed in action on the 21st of March 1918.

Cecil James Laurence White was born at 55 Finsbury Park Road, South Hornsey on the 9th of June 1883, the son of James Samuel White, a manufacturer, and Sarah Jane Rose (née Lawrence) White of 11 Cranley Gardens, South Hornsey.

He was educated at the City of London School, Victoria Embankment.

Cecil worked as an underwriting clerk for C.E. Heath & Company Ltd at Lloyd's and was a Freeman of the City of London. He was married in 1914 to Daisy M (née Collins) and they lived at Apsley House, Surbiton Crescent, Kingston in Surrey.

He enlisted at 130 Bunhill Row, London on the 29th of November 1915 as Private 302258 in the 2/5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade) but later transferred to the 1/18th (County of London) Battalion (London Irish Rifles).

On the 21st of March 1918 the 1/18th (County of London) Battalion (London Irish Rifles) was in trenches near Metz-en-Couture. A and B Companies were deployed in the front line with C and D Companies in support. At 3.00am the Germans launched their long expected spring offensive and the front line came under very heavy shell fire with a mixture of high explosives and gas being used.

Runners soon came back to Battalion Headquarters to report that A Company was suffering very badly. Deciding to investigate for himself the battalion commanding officer, Colonel GH Neely DSO MC, went forward to try to make contact with A Company. Initially stopped by shell fire his group eventually found a small party from the beleaguered company who reported that the Germans now occupied a portion of the line. As darkness fell, the survivors from A and B Companies made their way back to Battalion Headquarters whence the whole battalion fell back to new defensive positions.

Cecil White was killed at Metz-en-Couture and was buried at the sugar refinery there, but his grave was lost in subsequent fighting.

He is commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Bay 10.

White
Victor Francis
Private 235345



C Company, 8th (Service) Battalion York and Lancaster Regiment. Killed in action on the 17th of September 1917, aged 39.

Victor Francis White was born in Westbourne Grove in 1877, the son of Stephen White, a Lloyd's insurance broker, and Rebecca M White of Oakwood, Crayford in Kent. He worked as an insurance broker for his father's firm of Stephen White & Company Ltd, Lloyd's brokers.

He attested for service on the 23rd of March 1916. At his medical examination, which was held on the same day, it was recorded that he was five feet seven and a quarter inches tall and weighed 147lbs. He was called up and enlisted at Woolwich as Private 5993 in the 2/5th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers on the 29th of August 1916. He embarked for service in France at Folkestone on the 16th of June 1917, arriving at Boulogne and later at Etaples the following day where he reported to the 32nd Infantry Base Depot. Victor was transferred to the 8th Battalion York and Lancaster Regiment on the 1st of July 1917 and joined his battalion in the field on the 6th of July.

On the 16th of September 1917, the 8th (Service) Battalion York and Lancaster Regiment relieved the 11th Battalion Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment (Sherwood Foresters) in the front line at "Clapham Junction" in the Ypres Salient. During this tour of the front line, which included a raid on the enemy trenches at 6am on the 18th of September, the battalion suffered casualties of two officers killed with three wounded and 23 other ranks killed with 50 wounded and 20 men reported sick. C Company was reported to have suffered particularly badly.

Victor is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Panels 125 to 128.

Wilkinson
William Thomas
Captain



C Company, 9th (Service) Battalion Yorkshire Regiment (Green Howards). Killed in action on the 5th of July 1916, aged 29.

William Thomas Wilkinson was born in St. John's, Hampstead on the 6th of November 1886, the fifth son of John R Wilkinson, a tailor, and Jane Wilkinson of 4 Agate Road, Clacton-on-Sea in Essex, later of Sidney in British Columbia.

He was educated at University College School Hampstead from 1900 to 1902 where he was a keen member of the Officer Training Corps.

William worked for Thomas Stephenson & Company Ltd, Lloyd's brokers and lived at Countess Gardens, Henley-on-Thames. He served as a Private with the 28th (County of London) Battalion (Artist's Rifles) from 1909 to 1912.

Following the outbreak of war he enlisted as a Private in a Public Schools Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers in August 1914. He applied for a commission on the 28th of August and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 9th Battalion Yorkshire Regiment on the 22nd of September 1914.

He embarked for France with his battalion from Folkestone on the 26th of August 1915 and landed at Le Havre in the early hours of the following day. For the remainder of 1915 and the early part of 1916 the battalion served in the Bois Grenier sector to the south of Armentieres. In March 1916 they moved to the Souchez River sector and then to the area around Angres until June when they moved to the Somme.

On the 5th of July 1916, the 9th Battalion Yorkshire Regiment was in support of an attack by its Brigade on the German-held position of Horseshoe Trench near Contalmaison on the Somme. As the attack by the leading battalions had progressed better than expected, a further attack which had been planned for the 8th and 9th Battalions Yorkshire Regiment was cancelled.

Instead, it was decided that the 9th Battalion would attack on its own at 6pm. As soon as they left their trenches they came under a heavy fire and William Wilkinson, commanding C Company, was killed shortly after leaving the trench. The battalion pressed on and captured Horseshoe Trench, capturing 146 prisoners and two machine guns. During this attack 2nd Lieutenant Donald Simpson Bell was awarded the Victoria Cross for destroying an enemy machine gun post and thus enabling the battalion to reach and capture its objective.

William's brother John received the following telegram dated the 10th of July 1916:

"Deeply regret to inform you that Capt. W.T. Wilkinson Yorkshire Regiment was killed in action 5th July. The Army Council express their regret."

William is commemorated on the war memorial at University College School.

He is buried at Becourt Military Cemetery, Plot I, Row Q, Grave 1.

Williams
Kenneth Oscar
Able Seaman
London 10/3489



Drake Battalion, Royal Naval Division. Died on the 22nd of January 1917, aged 25.

Kenneth Oscar Williams was born in New Barnet on the 6th of September 1891, the youngest son of William Williams, a draper, and Alice Williams of Lyndon House, High Road, East Finchley.

He worked as a clerk for Dumas & Wylie Ltd, marine insurance brokers at Lloyd's.

He enlisted as Able Seaman 10/3489 in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve on the 8th of August 1914 and was posted to the Drake Battalion on the 22nd of August 1914. He embarked for overseas service with his battalion at Avonmouth on board the SS Franconia on the 28th of February 1915. Having spent time in Malta and Egypt they sailed from Port Said on the 10th of April 1915 and landed at Cape Helles on the Gallipoli peninsular on the 26th of April.

Kenneth was wounded in Achi Baba on the 27th of May 1915 by a gunshot wound to the back and was invalided back to the UK on the 6th of July. He was discharged as medically unfit at Chatham on the 1st of April 1916 due to spinal injuries as a result of his wound. He died at the Star and Garter Home at Richmond in Surrey of cardiac failure following an operation on his bladder.

He is commemorated on the Willis Faber war memorial at the Willis Building in Lime Street.

He is buried at East Finchley Cemetery, Grave G.2.51.

Willis
Raymond
Lieutenant



5th Reserve Regiment of Cavalry attached to 18th (Queen Mary's Own) Hussars. Killed in action on the 25th of March 1918, aged 37.

Raymond Willis was born at 26 Douglas Road, Islington on the 5th of November 1880, the fourth son of David Willis, an insurance broker, and Charlotte Louisa (née Aston) Willis of Galbrand Hall, Ewell in Surrey, later of Cliff Cottage, Seaford in Sussex.

He was educated at Haileybury School where he was in Le Bas House from September 1893 until December 1898. He was a member of the Rugby XV in 1897/98 and served as a Senior Cadet in the Officer Training Corps.

On leaving school he worked initially as a clerk at a Lloyd's insurance brokers but rose to becoming a partner at Willis Faber & Company Ltd and was an Underwriting Member of Lloyd's.

Raymond was the husband of Emmie a'Court Allan (née Cassells later Wolff) and they lived at Woodgate Cottage, Ewell and at St. John's House, Smith Square in London. They had a son, Raymond Allan Willis, born on the 22nd of February 1918.

Following the outbreak of war, Raymond enlisted at Maidstone as Private 1136 in the West Kent Yeomanry on the 31st of August 1914.

He was discharged from the West Kent Yeomanry on the 22nd of December 1914 and applied for a commission in the North Somerset Yeomanry the following day. At his medical examination it was recorded that he was six feet one and a half inches tall and was in good health. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the North Somerset Yeomanry on the 15th of January 1915. He transferred to the 5th Reserve Regiment of Cavalry on the 9th of January 1917 before being attached to the 18th (Queen Mary's Own) Hussars on the 28th of February 1917.

On the 20th of October 1917, Raymond embarked for France from Southampton, landing at Le Havre the following day and joining his regiment in the field on the 26th of October.

On the 21st of March 1918, the Germans launched their long expected spring offensive, making widespread gains along the British front line. On the 24th of March the 2nd Cavalry Brigade sent a request for a dismounted section of the 18th Hussars to be seconded to 21st Division in order to close a gap in the line between 9th Division and V Corps which had been opened up by the German advance. That night a party of six officers and 160 men, under Lieutenant MacIlwayne, were sent to Trones Wood to defend the Carnoy Valley near Bernafay Wood the following day.

On the 25th of March 1918 they were engaged with enemy at close quarters and caused "great execution amongst the enemy, killing many Germans at point-blank range."

Willis
Raymond
Lieutenant

They rejoined their regiment on the 26th of March have suffered casualties of one officer – Raymond Willis – and nine other ranks killed, along with one officer and 26 men wounded, and seven men missing.

His father received the following telegram dated the 1st of April 1918:

“Deeply regret to inform you that R. Willis 18th Hussars killed in action twenty fifth. The Army Council express sympathy.”

His brother, Major Ernest Willis, Kite Balloon Section Royal Air Force, died on the 1st of July 1918 at the age of 35.

Raymond is commemorated on the Willis Faber war memorial at the Willis Building in Lime Street.

He is buried at Carnoy Military Cemetery, Row G, Grave 1A.

Winch
Gordon Bluett
Major DSO



West Lancashire Brigade, Royal Field Artillery.
Died of wounds on the 10th of April 1918, aged 42.

Gordon Bluett Winch was born in Chatham in Kent on the 26th of December 1876, the fifth and youngest son of George Winch MBE, a stock broker, and Mary Clarke (née Bluett) Winch of Chatham. He was educated at the Abbey School in Beckenham, at the King's School Rochester and at Charterhouse School from September 1891 until the April 1894. He went on to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he was admitted as a pensioner on the 29th of June 1895. He achieved a BA in 1899 and a MA in 1902. He founded the Trinity Field Club, was promoter and First Secretary of the Cambridge Football League and was a member of the Tomtit Cricket Club.

Gordon was married to Gertrude Dale (née Uzielli) at Marylebone Church on the 5th of January 1904 and they lived at Ridgecoat, Vine Court Road, Sevenoaks in Kent. The couple had five children: Theodore Gordon Bluett, born on the 5th of March 1905; George Alec, born on the 3rd of November 1906; and Gertrude Ursula Desiree born on the 7th of October 1911. The other two did not survive.

Gordon worked as an insurance broker, was an Underwriting Member of Lloyd's and was a member of the London Stock Exchange from 1901 in the firm of Messrs Levieu and Winch. He was also a director of Messrs Uzielli, Insurance Brokers and was called to the bar at the

Middle Temple in 1902. He was a freemason and member of the Lutine Lodge.

He joined A Battery of the Honourable Artillery Company in 1905 and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 6th London Brigade, Royal Field Artillery on the 16th of April 1913. He transferred to the 5th London Brigade, Royal Field Artillery on the 2nd of April 1914 and was promoted to Lieutenant in September 1914. He was mobilised with his battery on the 4th of August 1914, volunteered for foreign service and embarked for France with A Battery, 235th Brigade Royal Field Artillery on the 15th of March 1915. He saw action at Givency, Festubert, La Bassee and at Loos.

Gordon was promoted to temporary Captain on the 26th of February 1915 and to Acting Captain in February 1916. He was again promoted to Captain on the 1st of June 1916 and returned to the UK the same month to train and command a new battery, A Battery 258th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery. He was further promoted to temporary Major on the 24th of July 1916 while engaged in that task. Gordon returned to France with them in February 1917. He relinquished the rank of Temporary Major on the 27th of November 1917 and was promoted to Acting Major while in command of a battery with precedence from the 24th of July 1916.

He was mentioned in Sir Douglas Haig's despatches of the 14th of December 1917.

Winch
Gordon Bluett
Major DSO

He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order for gallantry and service in the field at Langemarck which was announced in the King's New Year Honours List of the 1st of January 1918.

Gordon relinquished the rank of Temporary Major on the 27th of November 1917 and was promoted to Acting Major while in command of a battery with precedence from the 24th of July 1916.

He was wounded during the retreat from Armentieres on the 9th of April 1918 and died at No. 33 Casualty Clearing Station the following day.

General Wray, Officer Commanding 57th Division Artillery, wrote:

"I cannot tell you how we shall miss him, nor what a loss he will be to us all, especially to me, as we had worked together for so many years. He was an exceptionally gallant officer, and his quiet manner was entirely proof against any ruffling, no matter how upsetting the conditions might be. His conduct on 9 April was quite admirable, and inspired all ranks, who, as a result of the example he had constantly given them, did splendidly. "

His Commanding Officer wrote:

"He is a tremendous loss to me, and was a tower of strength in every way. On the day of the big attack he worked simply wonderfully, and solely by his gallantry and example, kept his battery in action under exceedingly severe conditions."

Gordon is commemorated on the war memorial at Sevenoaks.

He is buried at Haverskerque British Cemetery, Row E, Grave 16.

Wolfe
Frederick
Derrick Sennett
Rifleman 303850



1/5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade). Killed in action on the 10th of August 1918, aged 20.

Fredrick Derrick Sennett Wolfe was born in Manchester in 1898, the son of Frederick Charles Wolfe, an insurance clerk, and Gertrude Annie May (née Sennett) Wolfe of 40 Pickwick Road, Dulwich in London.

He worked for Harvey Trinder & Company Ltd, Lloyd's brokers.

Frederick enlisted in Camberwell in the 5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade) but spent some time in the 8th (County of London) Battalion (Post Office Rifles) before returning to his old unit.

On the 7th of August 1918 the 1/5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade) relieved the 1/16th (County of London) Battalion (Queen's Westminster Rifles) at trenches in the line at Telegraph Hill. They were there until the 17th of August during which time Frederick Wolfe lost his life.

He is buried at Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery, Plot IV, Row C, Grave 10.

Wollen
Douglas Charles
2nd Lieutenant



25 Squadron Royal Flying Corps. Killed in action on the 13th of April 1917, aged 23.

Douglas Charles Wollen was born in Walthamstow on the 17th of April 1893, the son of Frederick James Wollen, a brace and belt manufacturer, and Eliza (née Dicks) Wollen later of Lismore, Palmerston Road, Buckhurst Hill in Essex.

He was educated at Dalway College and at Parminter's Foundation School in Bethnal Green.

Douglas worked as an insurance broker for Henry Head & Company Ltd, Lloyd's brokers.

He was married in early 1917 to Dorothy Alberta Wederell (née Tween); she lived at 29 Hartley Road, Leytonstone in London.

Douglas enlisted in the Inns of Court Officer Training Corps as Private 4375 at 10 Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn on the 21st of June 1915. At his medical examination, which was held on the 29th of June, it was recorded that he was five feet nine and three quarter inches tall. He was appointed to the rank of unpaid Lance Corporal on the 7th of March 1916. He applied for a commission in the 20th Battalion Highland Light Infantry, based at Dundee, on the 1st of March 1916 where he had already been accepted as a suitable candidate by their commanding officer. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 17th (Service) Battalion Highland

Infantry on the 1st of June 1916. On the 6th of February 1917 he transferred to the General List with seniority from the 4th of December 1916. Douglas moved to the Royal Flying Corps with the rank of Flying Officer (Observer) on the 13th of February 1917, with seniority from the 4th of December 1916 and was posted to 25 Squadron.

On the 17th of March 1917, Douglas was flying with Captain Lancelot Lytton Richardson MC when they shared in the destruction of an Albatross DII at 11am near Oppy.

At 6.40pm on the 13th of April 1917, Douglas Wollen took off in FE2b A6372 as one of nine aircraft for a bombing mission on Henin-Lietard with Captain Richardson as his pilot. The squadron was escorted to the target by an escort of Nieuport fighters which left them immediately after they had dropped their bombs. On their return they were intercepted by enemy fighters led by the German fighter ace, Baron Manfred von Richthofen, which they may have mistaken for their escort returning. They were over Henin when, at 7.10pm, Richardson and Wollen were shot down and crashed near Vimy with the victory being claimed by Leutnant Hans Klein of Jasta 4, his second of the day, and one of 22 victories during the war.

Wollen
Douglas Charles
2nd Lieutenant

Douglas' wife received the following telegram dated the 16th of April 1917:

"Regret to inform you 2/Lt D.C. Wollen RFC 25 Squadron reported missing April thirteenth. This does not necessarily mean either killed or wounded. Further reports sent when received."

A report dated the 28th of May 1917 recorded the following:

Lieut. C. Wollen, General List (late 17th HLI) att'd R.F.C.
"The remains of the aeroplane in which this officer (with Capt. L.L. Richardson) was flying has been found. Two graves were found at B7 Central Sheet 51b in the vicinity of wrecked machine, "One officer RFC" One Lieut. HLI British airman. Do you consider this sufficient evidence on which to presume death?"

The evidence as to his death was officially accepted on the 31st of May 1917 and the two bodies were exhumed and reburied in 1919.

Douglas is buried at Bois Carre British Cemetery, Plot II, Row C, Grave 15.

Wood
Peter Norris
2nd Lieutenant



**10th (Reserve) Battalion King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment) attached to the 6th (Service) Battalion.
Died of on the 19th of January 1917, aged 36.**

Peter Norris Wood was born in Southport in Lancashire on the 18th of July 1880, the eldest son of Peter Frederick Wood, a worsted spinner, and Emily (née Hodgson) Wood of Camden Lodge, Lubbock Road, Chislehurst in Kent. He was educated at the Leys School in Cambridge and went to work as a clerk for Bland Welch & Company Ltd, Lloyd's brokers.

He was married in Worcestershire in 1915 to Kathleen Mildred (née Mawe) of Rose Bank, Malvern Wells in Worcestershire.

Peter enlisted into the army at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, as Private 1975 in the 2/4th London Field Ambulance on the 24th of November 1914. He was posted to Saffron Walden and was promoted to unpaid Lance Corporal on the 13th of March 1915.

On the 10th of June 1915 he applied for a transfer to the Inns of Court Officer Training Corps and underwent a medical where it was recorded that he was five feet nine and half inches tall. He transferred on the 26th of June and joined them for training at Berkhamstead as Private 4479. He was posted to the 2nd Company. While he was there he applied for a commission on the 11th of October 1915.

He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 10th (Reserve) Battalion King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment)

on the 28th of November 1915 and reported to them at Yelverton in Devon on the 3rd of December 1915.

Peter embarked for overseas service from Devonport on the 6th of September 1916 and landed at Basra on the 2nd of October where he was attached to the 6th Battalion of his regiment.

He was wounded in the leg on the 15th of January 1917 and was evacuated to 16 Casualty Clearing Station.

His wife received the following telegram dated the 18th of January 1917:

"Regret to inform you that 2Lt P.N. Wood 10 att 6 Royal Lancaster Regt. was wounded gunshot wound fractured leg severe. Any further news will be sent on receipt."

She received a further telegram dated the 22nd of January 1917:

"Deeply regret to inform you that 2/Lt P.N. Wood 10 att 6 Royal Lancaster Regt, died of wounds January nineteen. The Army Council express their sympathy."

His wife applied for his medals on the 23rd of July 1919.

Peter is buried at Amara War Cemetery, Plot XXVII, Row G, Grave 6.

Wood
Stanley Kenneth
Rifleman A/200107



11th (Service) Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps. Killed in action on the 20th of September 1917.

Stanley Kenneth Wood was born in Hornsey in 1892, the son of William Henry Wood, an insurance broker, and Margaret Jane (née Sargent) Wood of 23 Hillfield Park, Muswell Hill in North London.

He worked as a marine clerk for W.H. Wood & Others, at Lloyd's.

Stanley enlisted into the army as Private 4074 in the 5th Battalion London Regiment (London Rifle Brigade) before transferring to the King's Royal Rifle Corps.

On the 18th of September 1917 the 11th Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps moved up to the front line for an attack at Broembek as part of the ongoing third battle of Ypres. On the night of the 19th/20th of September they formed up for the attack in three waves astride the Langemarck-Coedervesten Road with their objective being the capture of Eagle Trench. At 5.40am the British artillery laid down a barrage on the German trench, and the first wave of troops moved into no man's land and laid down 50 yards from their objective. When the barrage lifted they resumed their advance, but the right of the line came under heavy machine guns fire from as many as six machine guns which had been unaffected by the bombardment.

The British advance was checked just ten yards short of their objective from where the enemy trench was attacked with grenades and two unsuccessful attempts were made to rush it under 2nd Lieutenant Charleston who was killed in the second of the attacks. On the left of the line there was less resistance and the trench was carried and consolidated by the leading wave. The two succeeding waves met with a similar story, with the infantry on the left crossing Eagle Trench and advancing to the German position known as "Chinese House" but were forced to withdraw as they were exposed on both flanks. The survivors of the attack established themselves in Eagle Trench and were relieved at dawn the following morning by the 11th Battalion Rifle Brigade.

Casualties for the attack totalled six officers killed and three wounded with 36 other ranks killed, 127 wounded and 43 missing.

Stanley is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Panels 115 to 119 and 162A and 163A.

Woodward
Samuel Henry Ellicott
Private 28365



9th (Service) Battalion Loyal North Lancashire Regiment.
Died of on the 27th of August 1918, aged 33.

Samuel Henry Ellicott Woodward was born in Tiverton in 1886, the son of Henry Woodward, a mechanic, and Harriett Woodward of 30 Seymour Drive, Tiverton in Devon. He was married to Lizzie Caroline (née Tennant) on the 1st of September 1917 at St. Anthony's Church, Nunhead and they lived at 65 Barnet Road, Nunhead in London. He worked on the Lloyd's Staff as a printer.

Samuel enlisted into the army at Islington as Private 17368 in the Army Cyclist Corps and trained at Chiseldon Camp in Wiltshire before transferring to the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment.

He died of wounds as a prisoner of war at Glessen in Germany.

Samuel is buried at Neiderwehren Cemetery, Germany.

Wynne
Robert Albert Joseph
Driver 46184



**5th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery. Killed in action
on the 2nd of November 1918, aged 22.**

Robert Albert Joseph Wynne was born in Milton in Hampshire in 1896, the son of Sergeant Major David Wynne, Royal Marines, and Hannah Elizabeth (née Lloyd) Wynne of 95 Devonshire Road, Forest Hill in London and of Poplar Cottage, Llanbadarn, Aberystwyth.

He worked as a clerk for Morgan, Lyons & Company at Lloyd's and lived at North Road House, North Road, Clapham, London SW4. He enlisted into the army at Camberwell and embarked for France on the 20th of July 1915.

Robert is commemorated on the war memorial at Llandre in West Wales.

He is buried at Highland Cemetery, Le Cateau, Plot III, Row H, Grave 1.

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If you have any information on the men on our memorial, no matter how small, please contact us and we would be delighted to add it to what we have so far.

Email John Hamblin - jc.hamblin@btopenworld.com