

Nettleton War Memorial

John Belcher



*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

John McCrae, In Flanders Fields (1915)



First World War



Nettleton – Roll of Honour Boards

The Wiltshire Times newspaper of 28th August 1915 reported that Nettleton had decided to record the names of the men from the parish who were serving in the forces. This was before any thought would have been given to an actual War Memorial. The paper stated that “the boards are made of oak with letters carved and painted red. They indicate the names of 25 men serving in His Majesty’s Forces.”

The report continued to say how the board would be paid for, “at a meeting held in the parish church, a collection was made to defer the cost of the boards (which will be about £7), amounting to £8 1s 10d leaving a balance of £1 1s 10d.”

The newspaper’s edition of 18th September 1915 reported that the board had been completed and that the names of 25 men from the parish had been inscribed.

LAUS DEO

The following men from this village served in His Majesty’s Forces during the great war of 1914: -

| | | |
|-------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Albert C | Bailey | 7 th Bedfordshire Regt |
| George A | Beames | Leicestershire Yeomanry |
| Ralph A | Brookman | 7 th Bedfordshire Regt |
| Herbert W | Brown ¹ | 7 th Bedfordshire Regt |
| Charles T | Clark ² | 1 st Bedfordshire Regt |
| John | Cook | Gloucester Yeomanry |
| Albert G | Davis | 3 rd Somerset Light Infantry |
| William | Dickenson ³ | HMS Lion |
| Frederick S | Edmonds | MT ASC |
| Joseph L | Elliott | A Battery Canadian RHA |
| Charles J | Flooks | RFA |
| Walter G | Greenman | 16 th Welsh Regt |
| Edwin | Kent | 2 nd Wilts |
| Charles | Mundy | 3 rd Wilts |
| Arthur | Reed | 3 rd Grenadier Guards |
| Walter | Reed ⁴ | 3 rd Grenadier Guards |
| Frederick C | Strange | 16 th Welsh Regt |
| Percy | Strange | 1 st Monmouthshire Regt |
| Tom | Stump | Gloucester Yeomanry |
| Richard | Tarling | 11 th Worcestershire Regt |
| Victor | Tarling | 6 th Somerset Light Infantry |
| Surlina J | Timbrell | 3 rd Wilts |
| John | Wicks | 13 th Welsh Regt |
| George | Wilkins | 3 rd Wilts |
| Edward J | Wright | 7 th Bedfordshire Regt |
| Frederick J | Young | 6 th Wilts |



Wooden Roll of Honour board

It would appear that the intention may have been to have further boards made when more men joined the forces later on the war. Perhaps because of the cost of this original board, no further wooden board were made but the complete list of names of the men who served was made on paper and framed as the “Nettleton Parish Roll of Honour.”

¹ Between the boards being commissioned, inscribed and erected, Herbert Brown had been transferred to the 7th Battery Motor Machine Gun Service.

² Charles Clark was wounded and captured by the Germans. As a result of his wound, one of his legs was removed. After his capture, he spent the rest of the war in a prisoner of war camp

³ William Dickenson from Burton, a stoker aboard HMS Lion, took part in the Battle of Heligoland Bight.

⁴ William Reed was classed as very seriously ill with enteric fever in January 1915.



Albert Edward Boucher

| Surname | Christian Names | | Service Number | Rank | Regiment |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Boucher | Albert Edward | | 23157 | Pte | 16 Welsh Regt |
| Born | Age | Enlisted at | Address | | |
| Cardiff | | Cardiff | | | |
| Date of Death | Where killed | | | Cause of Death | |
| 07/07/1916 | Somme | | | | |
| Cemetery | Plot | | | Country | |
| Thiepval Memorial | Pier and Face 7A and 10A | | | France | |
| Next of Kin | Next of kin address | | | Town | |
| | | | | | |
| Notes | | | | | |
| The Thiepval memorial stands near the rebuilt village of the same name some 4 miles north of Albert in the Somme Region of France. It commemorates over 70,000 British and 830 South African soldiers who died during the period starting in July 1915 when the British Third Army took over from the French until 20 March 1918. The village of Thiepval was totally destroyed in the battle and, at one stage after the War, was considered for permanent erasure from the list of French villages. | | | | | |

Percy George Brookman

| Surname | Christian Names | | Service Number | Rank | Regiment |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Brookman | Percy George | | 40130 | Pte | 12 Gloucs |
| Born | Age | Enlisted at | Address | | |
| Acton Turville | | Caerphilly | | | |
| Date of Death | Where killed | | | Cause of Death | |
| 31/08/1918 | | | | Missing | |
| Cemetery | Plot | | | Country | |
| Vis-en-Artois Memorial | Panel 6 | | | France | |
| Next of Kin | Next of kin address | | | Town | |
| | | | | | |
| Notes | | | | | |
| <p>Within the grounds of Vis-en-Artois British Cemetery, which is west of Haucourt on the north side of the main road, is the Vis-en-Artois Memorial. This Memorial bears the names of over 9,000 men who fell in the period from 8 August 1918 to the date of the Armistice in the Advance to Victory in Picardy and Artois, between the Somme and Loos, and who have no known grave. The names are men who served with the forces of Great Britain, Ireland and South Africa. The Canadian, Australian and New Zealand forces are commemorated on other memorials to the missing.</p> <p>The Memorial consists of a screen wall in three parts. The middle part of the screen wall is concave and carries stone panels on which names are carved. It is 26 feet high flanked by pylons 70 feet high. The Stone of Remembrance stands exactly between the pylons and behind it, in the middle of the screen, is a group in relief representing St George and the Dragon. The flanking parts of the screen wall are also curved and carry stone panels carved with names. Each of them forms the back of a roofed colonnade; and at the far end of each is a small building.</p> | | | | | |

Ernest William Hacker

| Surname | Christian Names | | Service Number | Rank | Regiment |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------------------------|
| Hacker | Ernest William | | G/21764 | Pte | 7 The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regt) |
| Born | Age | Enlisted at | | Address | |
| Hillmarton | 25 | Chippenham | | Chippenham | |
| Date of Death | Where killed | | | Cause of Death | |
| 26/10/1916 | Somme | | | Missing | |
| Cemetery | Plot | | | Country | |
| Thiepval Memorial | Pier and Face 5D and 6D | | | France | |
| Next of Kin | Next of kin address | | | Town | |
| Eli and Elizabeth Hacker | The Keepers Lodge | | | Nettleton | |
| Notes | | | | | |
| The Thiepval memorial stands near the rebuilt village of the same name some 4 miles north of Albert in the Somme Region of France. It commemorates over 70,000 British and 830 South African soldiers who died during the period starting in July 1915 when the British Third Army took over from the French until 20 March 1918. The village of Thiepval was totally destroyed in the battle and, at one stage after the War, was considered for permanent erasure from the list of French villages. | | | | | |

Percival John Hacker

| Surname | Christian Names | Service Number | Rank | Regiment |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Hacker | Percival John | 205147 | Pte | 1 Devons |
| Born | Age | Enlisted at | Address | |
| Hillmarton | 23 | Chippenham | | |
| Date of Death | Where killed | | Cause of Death | |
| 06/11/1917 | Ypres | | Killed | |
| Cemetery | Plot | | Country | |
| Hooe Crater Cemetery | IXA. A. 12. | | Belgium | |
| Next of Kin | Next of kin address | | Town | |
| Eli and Elizabeth Hacker | Keepers Cottage | | West Kington | |

Notes

Percy John Hacker was a cowman and carter in the employ of Mr AJ Adams of Fosse Farm, Nettleton. Mr Adams applied to have Percy exempted from conscription in June 1916. The exemption was allowed until the 1st October 1916 on the condition that he did not reapply.

Hooe Chateau and its stables, on the North side of the road, were the scene of very fierce fighting during the War. On the 31st October, 1914, the staff of the 1st and 2nd Divisions were wiped out by shell fire in the Chateau. From the 24th May to the 3rd June, 1915, the Chateau was defended against German attacks. In July, 1915, the Crater, on the North side of the road, was made by a mine sprung by the 3rd Division. On the 30th the Germans took the Chateau, and on the 9th August, it and the Crater were regained by the 6th Division. The Germans retook Hooe on the 6th June, 1916; and on the 31st July, 1917, the 8th Division advanced 1.6 kilometres beyond it. It was lost for the last time in April, 1918, and regained by the 9th (Scottish) and 29th Divisions on the 28th September. The King's Royal Rifle Corps Memorial stands near the Chateau.

Hooe Crater Cemetery was begun by the 7th Division Burial Officer early in October, 1917. It contained originally 76 graves, in Rows A to D, of Plot I. It was greatly increased after the Armistice by the concentration of graves from smaller cemeteries and from the battlefields of Zillebeke, Zantvoorde and Gheluvelt. There are now nearly 6,000, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, over 3,500 are unidentified, and special memorials record the names of soldiers from the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, known or believed to be among them. Other special memorials bear the names of twelve soldiers from the United Kingdom, buried at La Chapelle Farm, and two buried in Kruiseecke German Cemetery, whose graves were destroyed by shell fire.

The cemetery covers an area of 14,263 square metres. Among the smaller burial grounds from which graves were concentrated to Hooe Crater Cemetery are listed below:

KOELENBERG GERMAN CEMETERIES, GHELUWE, close together on the South side of the Menin Road, in which were buried ten soldiers from the United Kingdom

SANCTUARY WOOD OLD BRITISH CEMETERY, ZILLEBEKE, within the wood and North-East of the present cemetery; there were buried in it, in 1915-1917, 50 soldiers from the United Kingdom (of whom 30 were unidentified) and four from Canada.

TOWER HAMLETS CEMETERY, GHELUVELT, between Gheluvelt and Bass Wood, on the West side of a row of "pillboxes" called Tower Hamlets; it contained the graves of 36 soldiers from the United Kingdom who fell in the winter of 1917-1918.

Edwin Kent

| Surname | Christian Names | | Service Number | Rank | Regiment |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|----------|
| Kent | Edwin | | 18255 | Pte | 2 Wilts |
| Born | Age | Enlisted at | | Address | |
| Binfield, London | 32 | Devizes | | The Gib | |
| Date of Death | Where killed | | | Cause of Death | |
| 22/10/1915 | Norwich | | | Wounds | |
| Cemetery | Plot | | | Country | |
| Nettleton (St Mary) Church Cemetery | | | | England | |
| Next of Kin | Next of kin address | | | Town | |
| Mrs Kent | | | | The Gib | |
| Notes | | | | | |

The Wiltshire Times of 30th October 1915 published the following report concerning the death and funeral of Edwin Kent.

Died of Wounds

Great sympathy is felt in the village for Mrs E Kent and her child in the loss of their husband and father. Pte E Kent, 3rd Wilts who died of wounds received in the recent advance in Flanders

Pte Edwin Kent was 32 years old when he died of wounds (shot through the spine) in hospital in Norwich.

He was a native of Yatton Keynell but had lived at The Gib until he enlisted in January 1915. Before joining the Army, he had been employed by a Mr Higg, a coal merchant in Burton. Pte Kent was married and had a daughter.

Pte Edwin Kent aged 32 of the 2nd Wiltshire who was wounded whilst at the front, being shot through the spine, died in hospital in Norwich on Friday last week. He was a native of Yatton Keynell but prior to enlisting in January last, was residing at The Gibb being employed by Mr Higg, coal merchant of Burton. He leaves a widow and one little girl.

As Kent had died in hospital in England, Mrs Kent asked for the body to be buried in her local church. The local recruiting office, with the help of Lt Col Sir Audley Neeld, the Colonel steward of the Devizes depot, arranged for a military funeral.

The funeral took place on Wednesday 27th October with Rev Stafford James officiated The funeral procession from The Gibb to Burton was headed by the band of the 2nd Wilts under Bandmaster Easton. A firing party under Sgt Bridle and Cpl Ings followed the band with their rifles reversed. At the graveside, the firing party fired three volleys and Bugler Ford sounded the "Last Post".

The mourners at the church included:

The widow and deceased daughter, Mrs Humphries (Mother), Mr H Kent ASC (in khaki) and Cpl W Kent (10th Royal Hussars) brothers, Miss E Kent (sister), Mr and Mrs J Taylor (brother in law and sister) Mr J Kent and deceased sister and her son.

Others who followed included Mr and Mrs Fry and Mr Brown (Gibb), Mr and Mrs H Booy, Mr and Mrs A Booy (Castle Combe), Mr and Mrs AR Dolman (Castle Combe) Mr Higgs and Mr Hill (former employers of the late Pte Kent).

Pte Kent's daughter was a pupil at Castle Combe school. Her fellow pupils sent 2 wreaths to the funeral.



Arthur George Reed

| Surname | Christian Names | Service Number | Rank | Regiment |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------|
| Reed | Arthur George | 14577 | L/Cpl | 3 Grenadier Gds |
| Born | Age | Enlisted at | Address | |
| Nettleton | 23 | Bath | | |
| Date of Death | Where killed | | Cause of Death | |
| 31/07/1917 | Ypres | | Killed | |
| Cemetery | Plot | | Country | |
| Artillery Wood Cemetery | IV. F. 3 | | Belgium | |
| Next of Kin | Next of kin address | | Town | |
| | | | | |

Notes

L/Cpl Reed had joined the Grenadier Guards, aged 15 and completed his service. His brother W Reed had also served with the Grenadier Guards and they both remained on the on the reserve list. This meant that they were recalled to their unit, the 3rd Grenadier Guards, at the outbreak of the War. The Battalion was sent to France on 13th August 1914. L/Cpl Reed fought in the Retreat from Mons (23rd – 5th Sept), The Marne (5th – 10th Sept) and Aisne (14th Sept) battles, at the First Battle of Ypres (18th Oct – 11th Nov) before being wounded at La Basse (Oct / Nov 1914) by an explosive bullet, which struck him in the head. He returned to England for treatment. After recovering for just 6 weeks, Reed returned to France and remained there until his death. He fought with his battalion in the First battle of Loos (25th Sep – 8th Oct 1915), going through the Somme (1st July - 18th Nov 1916) and taking part in the capture Vimy (9th – 12th April 1917) and Messines Ridge (7th June 1917). He was killed in action on the 31st July 1917. The Wilts Times of 25th August 1917 said of Sgt Reed “At the time of his death he had been in France for 3 years with just 6 weeks in England. This is a splendid example of the Old Brigade that did so much to dispel the Huns dream of world dominion”. He was only 23 years old and left a widow and 1 son.

Boezinge lies on the West side of the Yser Canal. The village was, until July 1917, directly faced by the German front line on the East side; but in the Battle of Pilckem Ridge, begun on the 31st July, the British front was pushed forward. The Guards Division captured Artillery Wood, a copse on the North side of the railway to Thourout. It was in this battle that Reed was killed.

Artillery Wood Cemetery was begun by the Guards Division after the fight. It was used as a front-line cemetery until March 1918. It contained, at the time of the Armistice, 141 graves (of which 42 belonged to the Royal Artillery); but it was then greatly enlarged by the concentration of graves from the battlefields and small cemeteries of 1914-1918 on all sides of Boezinge. There are now over 1,000, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, over 500 are unidentified and special memorials are erected to twelve soldiers from the United Kingdom, known or believed to be buried in the cemetery. The cemetery covers an area of 4,441 square metres and is enclosed on the road side by a red brick wall and on the other sides by a low curb.

The more important of the small cemeteries concentrated into Artillery Wood Cemetery were the following:

BOESINGHE CHATEAU GROUNDS CEMETERY, on the South-West side of the road between the village and the station. This cemetery contained 19 graves of soldiers from the United Kingdom (mainly of the Guards Division) who fell in June-August 1917. The Chateau grounds contained other British graves, now removed to Artillery Wood Cemetery, and also a French Military Cemetery.

BRISSEIN HOUSE CEMETERY, BIXSCHOOTE, 2 kilometres North of Langemarck village, a French Military Cemetery in which 22 soldiers from the United Kingdom were buried in December 1917-March 1918.

CAPTAIN'S FARM CEMETERY, LANGEMARCK, 2.4 kilometres West of Langemarck village, a group of graves in which 63 soldiers from the United Kingdom were buried in July 1917-March 1918, chiefly by the Guards and 29th Divisions.

Victor Clark Tarling

| Surname | Christian Names | Service Number | Rank | Regiment |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Tarling | Victor Clark | 11266 | Pte | 6 SLI |
| Born | Age | Enlisted at | Address | |
| Lacock | 21 | Bristol | Chippenham | |
| Date of Death | Where killed | | Cause of Death | |
| 16/09/1916 | Somme | | Killed | |
| Cemetery | Plot | | Country | |
| Guards Cemetery, Lesboeufts | IV. M. 3 | | France | |
| Next of Kin | Next of kin address | | Town | |
| Richard and Helen Tarling | | | | |

Notes

This is the same cemetery that Pte Josiah Whitmore from Castle Combe is buried (plot XIII. K. 2).

Lesboeufts was attacked by the Guards Division on the 15th September, 1916, and captured by them on the 25th. It was lost on the 24th March, 1918, after a stubborn resistance by part of the 63rd Machine Gun Battalion, and recaptured on the following 29th August by the 10th Bn. South Wales Borderers.

The cemetery consisted, at the time of the Armistice, of 40 graves (now Plot I), mainly those of officers and men of the 2nd Grenadier Guards who fell on the 25th September, 1916. It was very greatly increased by the concentration of graves from the battlefields and small cemeteries round Lesboeufts. There are now over 3,000, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, over half are unidentified and special memorials are erected to 76 soldiers from the United Kingdom and seven from Australia, known or believed to be buried among them. Other special memorials record the names of five soldiers from the United Kingdom, buried in Ginchy A.D.S. Cemetery, whose graves were destroyed by shell fire. The graves of 39 French soldiers have been removed to other cemeteries. The cemetery covers an area of 8,797 square metres and is enclosed by a rubble wall.

The some of the burial grounds that were concentrated into this cemetery were the following:-

FLERS DRESSING STATION CEMETERY, GINCHY, between Delville Wood and Flers, containing the graves of 33 soldiers from Australia and eight from the United Kingdom who fell in September 1916 - March 1917.

SWITCH TRENCH CEMETERY, FLERS, a little East of the Flers-Longueval road, containing 110 (mainly Australian) graves of 1916-17. On the site of another part of Switch Trench, further West, the New Zealand Government have erected one of their two Battlefield Memorials in France.

WINDMILL TRENCH CEMETERY, LESBOEUFS, on the road leading North from Lesboeufts. It was used from September 1916 to March 1917, and it contained the graves of 27 soldiers from the United Kingdom and 16 from Australia.

Frederick James Young

| Surname | Christian Names | | Service Number | Rank | Regiment |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Young | Frederick James | | 10024 | Pte | 6 Wilts |
| Born | Age | Enlisted at | | Address | |
| Nettleton | 21 | Bristol | | Chippenham | |
| Date of Death | Where killed | | | Cause of Death | |
| 04/11/1916 | Somme | | | Wounds | |
| Cemetery | Plot | | | Country | |
| Puchevillers British Cemetery | V. E. 41 | | | France | |
| Next of Kin | Next of kin address | | | Town | |
| Charles and Kate Young | | | | Nettleton | |
| Notes | | | | | |
| <p>In June 1916 just before the opening of the Battles of the Somme, the 3rd and 44th Casualty Clearing Stations came to Puchevillers, and Plots I. to V., and almost the whole of Plot VI. were made by those hospitals before the end of March, 1917. For the next two months the 2nd/1st South Midland Casualty Clearing Station used the Cemetery. Plot VII. contains for the most part the graves of men who fell in the German advance in 1918, and many of whom were buried by the 49th Clearing Station in March, 1918, or by the 48th Labour Group in August. There are now nearly 2,000, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. The Cemetery covers an area of 3,973 square metres and is surrounded by a brick wall with a stone coping.</p> | | | | | |

Robert Barclay

In the church cemetery is the grave of Janet Barclay, Her headstone has the inscription ‘Robert Barclay, son of Janet and John Barclay, Kings Liverpool Regt. Killed on active service, 21st July 1916, in France.’”

Although Robert Barclay does not appear on the War Memorial, it seems that he was living in the parish, probably with his parents, when he decided to join up, probably at the time that the Service (or Pals) battalions were being formed. Originally from Liverpool, he naturally wanted to join with relatives or friends so he returned to Liverpool and enlisted into the 20th Battalion of the Kings Regiment. However the Commonwealth War Graves Commission records his parents ‘of Liverpool’. Whether they were still living in Liverpool during the war or, more likely, they said they were from Liverpool.

| Surname | Christian Names | | Service Number | Rank | Regiment |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Barclay | Robert | | 22921 | Pte | 20 th Btn The Kings (Liverpool) Regt |
| Born | Age | Enlisted at | Address | | |
| Liverpool | | Liverpool | Chippenham | | |
| Date of Death | Where killed | | | Cause of Death | |
| 21/7/1916 | Somme | | | Wounds | |
| Cemetery | Plot | | | Country | |
| Bronfray Farm Military Cemetery | II.A.26 | | | France | |
| Next of Kin | Next of kin address | | | Town | |
| John and Janet Barclay | | | | Liverpool | |
| Notes | | | | | |

The cemetery was begun by French troops in October 1914, but little used by them. It was used by Commonwealth troops from August 1915 to February 1917 (particularly in the Battles of the Somme, when the XIV Corps Main Dressing station was at the farm), and a few French soldiers from the Division fighting on the British right were buried here in September; and in the retreat and advance of 1918 further burials were made. After the Armistice, graves of March, August and September 1918, were brought in from the fields between Bronfay Farm and Bray. There are now 537 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-18 war commemorated in this site. Of these, 13 are unidentified. Special Memorials are erected to 2 soldiers from the United Kingdom believed to be buried among them. The cemetery covers an area of 2,625 square metres and is enclosed by a brick wall.



Second World War



George Lewis Copeland

| Surname | Christian Names | Service Number | Rank | Regiment |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Copeland | George Lewis | 622353 | Sgt | 100 Sqn, RAF |
| Born | Age | Enlisted at | Address | |
| | 23 | | | |
| Date of Death | Where killed | | Cause of Death | |
| 31/7/1944 | | | | |
| Cemetery | Plot | | Country | |
| Haverskerque British Cemetery | Row B. Grave 18 | | France | |
| Next of Kin | Next of kin address | | Town | |
| George and Mabel Copeland | | | Chippenham | |

Notes

Haverskerque remained in British hands from October, 1914, to the end of the War, but from April to August, 1918, it was within 5 kilometres of the front line. The Cemetery was begun in March, 1918, by the 33rd and 54th Casualty Clearing Stations, and carried on by fighting units during the Battles of the Lys. After the Armistice a small number of graves were brought in from isolated positions, and two Portuguese graves were removed. There are now nearly 100, 1914-18 and 50, 1939-45 war casualties commemorated in this site. Thirteen graves from the 1914-18 War cannot be located, and are represented by special memorials and by five unnamed headstones. From the 1939-45 War, over 20 are unidentified. The Cemetery covers an area of 403 square metres and is enclosed by a stone rubble wall.

In July 1944, 100 Sqn was part of 1 Group, Bomber Command and were flying Lancaster bombers from RAF Waltham, Grimsby. During the war, 1 Group Lancasters made 43,836 sorties and lost 1016 aircraft. Throughout the course of the bombing campaign in the Second World War, 100 Squadron dropped 18,108 tons of bombs in 3,984 individual sorties. Out of the 59 Squadrons in Bomber Command equipped with the Lancaster, 100 Squadron managed to fly the 12th highest number of sorties during the bombing campaign. However, these impressive figures were not achieved without cost. The squadron lost 113 Lancasters during the War, costing the lives of 593 young men.

On the night of 31st Jul / 1st Aug 1944, the Sgt Copeland and the crew of Lancaster LM585 took off from Grimsby at 2156 to attack a flying bomb storage depot. The Lancaster crashed at 2335 north west of Haverskerque and 12km south of Hazebruck. All the crew were killed. Their bodies were buried in the Haverskerque British cemetery. They are the only RAF graves, the rest from the Second war are all Army personnel who were killed during the retreat to Dunkirk in 1940.

The other members of the crew were:

FS JR Toner RNZAF

Sgt FJ Smith

Sgt LA Miller

Sgt ACE Sinclair (served as Sgt RA Gale)

FS JD Syverston RZAF

Sgt A Osborn

Sydney Raymond Edridge

| Surname | Christian Names | Service Number | Rank | Regiment |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Edridge | Sydney Raymond | 4857745 | Pte | 1 Leics |
| Born | Age | Enlisted at | Address | |
| | 27 | | | |
| Date of Death | Where killed | | Cause of Death | |
| 28/9/1944 | | | | |
| Cemetery | Plot | | Country | |
| Singapore Memorial | Column 65 | | Singapore | |
| Next of Kin | Next of kin address | | Town | |
| | | | | |

Notes

The 1st Battalion of the Leicestershire Regiment served in an Indian formation during the Malayan Campaign. Because of casualties it was merged with the 1st East Surrey Regiment in a provisional unit known as the "British Battalion". This unit was captured at Singapore in February 1942.

As Private Edridge died in September 1944 he must then have been a prisoner of the Japanese. He may have been sent to a labour camp in one of the Malay states.

In the Far East at Singapore, the Singapore Memorial bears, on its columns, the names of over 24,000 soldiers and airmen of the British Commonwealth and Empire who have no known grave. The airmen whose names are inscribed on the Memorial died during operations over the whole of southern and eastern Asia and the surrounding seas and oceans. The Memorial stands in Kranji War Cemetery. The central avenue of the Cemetery rises gently from the Stone of Remembrance, near the entrance, to the Cross of Sacrifice, beyond which flights of steps lead to a terrace on top of a hill on which the Memorial stands. Twelve wide columns bear the name panels and support a flat roof, which gives protection to the inscribed names and shade and shelter to the visitor. Rising through the roof in the centre, to a height of 24 metres, is a great pylon surmounted by a star.

On a curved panel at the foot of this pylon are inscribed in English these words:

1939 - 1945 ON THE WALLS OF THIS MEMORIAL ARE RECORDED THE NAMES OF TWENTY-FOUR THOUSAND SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN OF MANY RACES UNITED IN SERVICE TO THE BRITISH CROWN WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN MALAYA AND NEIGHBOURING LANDS AND SEAS IN THE AIR OVER SOUTHERN AND EASTERN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC BUT TO WHOM THE FORTUNE OF WAR DENIED THE CUSTOMARY RITES ACCORDED TO THEIR COMRADES IN DEATH.

An additional inscription, "They Died for All Free Men" is engraved in Hindi, Urdu, Gurmukhi, Chinese and Malay. Kranji War Cemetery is 22 kilometres north of the city of Singapore, on the north side of Singapore Island overlooking the Straits of Johore. It is just off the Singapore-Johore road (Woodlands road) at milestone 13 1/2 and there is a short approach road from the main road. The Cemetery is known locally as Kranji Memorial.

Kenneth Arthur Rawlings

| Surname | Christian Names | | Service Number | Rank | Regiment |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------------------------|
| Rawlings | Kenneth Arthur | | 5575656 | Trooper | 44th Royal Tank Regt |
| Born | Age | Enlisted at | Address | | |
| | 23 | | | | |
| Date of Death | Where killed | | | Cause of Death | |
| 7/11/1943 | | | | | |
| Cemetery | Plot | | | Country | |
| Sangro River War Cemetery | Panel number XIV.D.38 | | | Italy | |
| Next of Kin | Next of kin address | | | Town | |
| WE and Mary A Rawlings | Burton | | | | |

Notes

The site of Sangro River War Cemetery was selected by the 5th Corps. Into it were concentrated the graves of men who lost their lives in the fierce fighting on the Adriatic sector of the front in November-December 1943, and during the subsequent static period there. The 8th Indian Division was on this sector during these months; the 4th Indian Division arrived in January 1944, and the 10th Indian Division in April 1944. There are therefore many Muslim burials in the cemetery, in plots VI, VII, XIII and XVIII; and the cemetery contains one of the three cremation memorials in Italy (the others being in Forlì Indian Army War Cemetery and in Rimini Gurkha War Cemetery). The New Zealand Division also suffered heavily in the fighting for and beyond the Sangro River, and many of their graves are here. The Canadians have their own cemetery not far off, at Moro River. Sangro River War Cemetery contains, besides the graves of those who died in battle or of wounds, those of quite a number of British prisoners of war who escaped and died either of exposure or otherwise while trying to reach the British lines. There are now 2,500, 1939-45 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, nearly 100 are unidentified.

Frederick Albert John Webb

| Surname | Christian Names | Service Number | Rank | Regiment |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Webb | Frederick Albert John | D/JX199782 | AB | HMSubmarine Thorn |
| Born | Age | Enlisted at | Address | |
| | 22 | | | |
| Date of Death | Where killed | | Cause of Death | |
| 11/8/1942 | Off Crete | | | |
| Cemetery | Plot | | Country | |
| Plymouth Naval Memorial | Panel 67, Column 1 | | UK | |
| Next of Kin | Next of kin address | | Town | |
| Walter Frederick and Rowena Sarah Jane Webb | Nettleton | | | |

Notes

The Memorial is situated centrally on The Hoe which looks directly towards Plymouth Sound. It is accessible at all times. After the 1914-1918 War, an appropriate way had to be found of commemorating those members of the Royal Navy who had no known grave, the majority of deaths having occurred at sea where no permanent memorial could be provided. An Admiralty Committee recommended that the three manning ports in Great Britain - Chatham, Plymouth and Portsmouth - should each have an identical memorial of unmistakable naval form; an obelisk which would serve as a leading mark for shipping. The memorials consist of a stone tower supported by four corner buttresses, each with a lion couchant. Towards the top, the tower branches out in the form of four ships' prows. Above them are representations of the four winds, which in turn support a larger copper sphere symbolising the globe. The names of over 7,000 sailors commemorated on the memorial at Plymouth are cast on bronze panels placed on the buttresses, and the sides of the tower bear the names of the principal naval engagements fought in the war and an inscription that reads: IN HONOUR OF THE NAVY AND TO THE ABIDING MEMORY OF THOSE RANKS AND RATINGS OF THIS PORT WHO LAID DOWN THEIR LIVES IN THE DEFENCE OF THE EMPIRE AND HAVE NO OTHER GRAVE THAN THE SEA

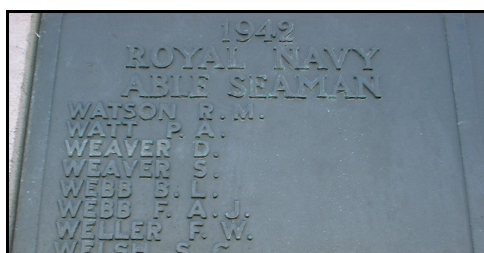


After the Second World War it was decided that the naval memorials should be extended to provide space for commemorating the naval dead without graves of that war. For Plymouth, a sheltered sunken garden was created on the landward side of the memorial with bronze name panels fixed to the curved retaining wall. There are over 15,000 names on the 1939-1945 extension to the memorial. The central section of the wall is inscribed with the following words from Chapter 44 of the Book of Ecclesiasticus: ALL THESE WERE HONOURED IN THEIR GENERATIONS AND WERE THE GLORY OF THEIR TIMES.

HM Submarine Thorn

HMSub Thorn was a T class submarine built by Cammell Laird, Birkenhead. She sank the Italian submarine *Medusa* in the Gulf of Venice in the Adriatic on the 30th January 1942 and attacked a tanker off southwest Crete on the 6th August 1942.

On the 14th August 1942 *Thorn* encountered the Italian torpedo boat *Pegaso*, escorting the steamer *Istria* from Benghazi, 30 miles south west of Gaudhos Island off southern Crete. At 1255 an escorting aircraft was seen to machine-gun the surface of the sea and *Pegaso* moved in to investigate. Four minutes after the aircraft attack *Pegaso* picked-up a contact and carried out seven attacks after which contact was lost. *Thorn* failed to return from the patrol and is believed to have been lost in this attack.



Francis Young

| Surname | Christian Names | | Service Number | Rank | Regiment |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| Young | Francis | | D/JX199780 | AB | HMS Warwick |
| Born | Age | Enlisted at | Address | | |
| | 24 | | | | |
| Date of Death | Where killed | | | Cause of Death | |
| 20/2/1944 | Off Trevoze Head, Cornwall | | | | |
| Cemetery | Plot | | | Country | |
| St Merryn Churchyard, Cornwall | Grave 10 | | | UK | |
| Next of Kin | Next of kin address | | | Town | |
| Sidney Thomas and Nellie Louisa Young | Nettleton | | | | |
| Notes | | | | | |
| HMS Warwick was sunk by U-413 off Trevoze Head, North Cornwall. | | | | | |