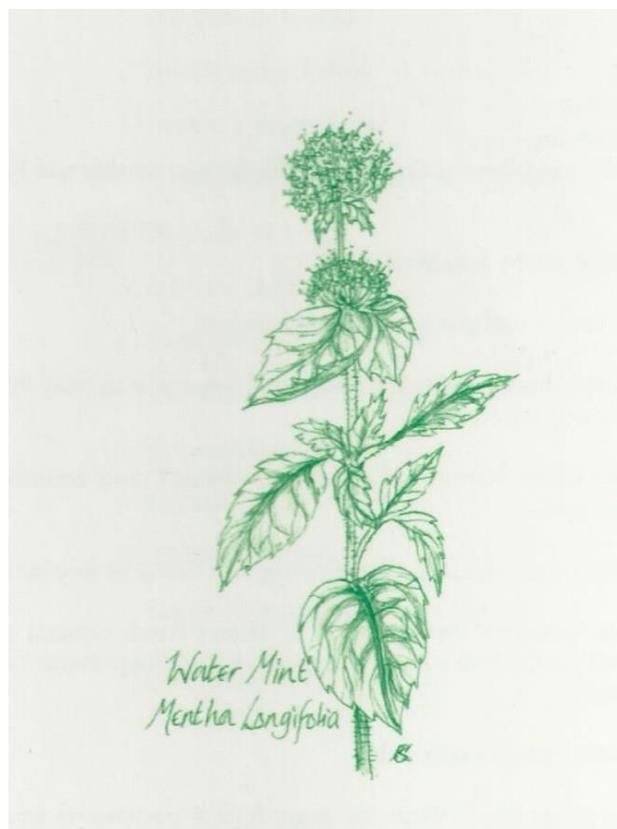


First World War 1914 to 1919

We Will Remember
those Men of Minety
who lost their lives



Charles Cook



Foreword

It was February 2014. At a meeting of the Royal British Legion Minety Branch we were discussing how we could commemorate the centenary of the First World War. Recently, and for the first time, I had visited a Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery in France. I suggested I could research the lives and deaths of the soldiers of Minety who had been killed during the war with a view to publishing the results in each of the appropriate months in the parish magazine, the Minety Newsletter.

My original plan was to research those names we see and hear every Remembrance Sunday, as listed on the memorial in Minety Church.



However, very quickly it became apparent that there were more than these 12 and that others, perhaps born in Minety and then moved away, or who had lived in Minety and then moved away, who were not remembered each year. This memorial book is the result of my researches into all of these. I cannot guarantee that it is the whole story and can only apologise to the memory of anyone I have left out. The error is mine and mine alone.

The casualties are listed in an order determined by the month in which they died.

My researches were through the internet using all the resources I could find but mainly including:

Findmypast.co.uk	(Family history research tool)
Wiltshiresoldiers.co.uk	(a database of Great War soldiers with connections to Wiltshire)
Longlongtrail.co.uk	(The British Army in the Great War)
Cwgc.org	(The Commonwealth War Graves Commission with records of all known casualties from both world wars)

Three of our soldiers were killed whilst serving with Canadian regiments and I am especially grateful to Suzanne Happe, Veteran Affairs Officer at the Canadian High Commission in London, for her help

in providing details on them from Canadian military and other records. Whilst some information was available in the British archives, she was able to provide considerably more about their lives after their emigrating to Canada.

I am also indebted to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission for permission to include the details and pictures of the cemeteries and memorials which I have taken directly from the website.

Other pictures are my own work from a visit made to all the sites in Northern France and Belgium where our soldiers were laid to rest or, where no known grave exists, are still commemorated.

Charles Cook
Upper Minety

October 2018.

Introduction

As a result of the First World War, Britain's economy plummeted and in 1921 there were 2 million people unemployed. Over 6 million men had served in the war - 725,000 never returned. Of those who came back, 1.75 million had suffered some kind of disability and half of these were permanently disabled. Then there were others who depended on those who had gone to war - the wives and children, widows, and orphans, as well as the parents who had lost sons in the war - on whom they were often financially dependent. 2 separate and distinct organisations formed to provide for both those who had died and those who remained behind:

The Imperial War Graves Commission was to mark, record and maintain the graves and places of commemoration of those who had died. In 1980, to reflect the changing times, this organisation became the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The British Legion was to provide financial, social and emotional support to members and veterans of the British Armed Forces, their families and dependants. The Legion was granted "Royal" status in 1971 when it adopted the title of the Royal British Legion.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission, as we know it today, owes its existence to the vision and determination of one man - Sir Fabian Ware. Neither a soldier nor a politician, Ware was nevertheless well placed to respond to the public's reaction to the enormous losses in the war. At the age of 45 he was too old to fight but he became the commander of a mobile unit of the British Red Cross. Saddened by the sheer number of casualties, he felt driven to find a way to ensure the final resting places of the dead would not be lost forever.

His vision chimed with the times. Under his dynamic leadership, his unit began recording and caring for all the graves they could find. By 1915, their work was given official recognition by the War Office and incorporated into the British Army as the Graves Registration Commission.

Ware was keen that the spirit of Imperial cooperation evident in the war was reflected in the work of his organisation. Encouraged by the Prince of Wales, he submitted a memorandum to the Imperial War Conference. In May 1917, the Imperial War Graves Commission was established by *Royal Charter*, with the Prince serving as President and Ware as Vice-Chairman. The Commission's work began in earnest after the Armistice. Once land for cemeteries and memorials had been guaranteed, the enormous task of recording the details of the dead began. By 1918, some 587,000 graves had been identified and a further 559,000 casualties were registered as having no known grave.

The Commission set the highest standards for all its work. Three of the most eminent architects of the day - Sir Edwin Lutyens, Sir Herbert Baker and Sir Reginald Blomfield - were chosen to begin the work of designing and constructing the cemeteries and memorials. Rudyard Kipling was tasked as literary advisor to recommend inscriptions. Ware asked Sir Frederic Kenyon, Director of the British Museum, to interpret the differing approaches of the principal architects. The report he presented to the Commission in November 1918 emphasised equality as the core ideology, outlining the principles still abided by today.

The Commission seeks to provide value for money and to respect the environment in which the cemeteries and memorials are located. Its work is funded by the partner governments of the Commonwealth nations who share the cost of the Commission's work proportionately to the number of their graves – United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and India.

The main purpose of the Legion was straightforward: to care for those who had suffered as a result of service in the Armed Forces during the Great War, whether through their own service or through that of a husband, father, or son. The suffering took many forms; from the effect of a war wound on a man's ability to earn a living and support his family, to a war widow's struggle to give her children an education.

The social situation immediately after the War moved Lance Bombardier Tom Lister, a Lancastrian, who decided that if the Government was either unable or unwilling to do anything to improve the lives of ex-Service men, he would do something about it himself.

At the Unity Conference held at the Queen's Hall, Langham Place, London on Saturday 14th May and Sunday 15th May 1921, the Conference adopted the Draft Constitution, together with amendments, alterations, and additions agreed by the Conference as the Constitution of the British Legion. This Constitution became operative on the 15th May 1921.

The Legion was formed with the amalgamation of 4 other associations:

The National Association of Discharged Sailors and Soldiers (1916).

The British National Federation of Discharged and Demobilized Sailors and Soldiers (1917).

The Comrades of The Great War (1917).

The Officers' Association (1920).

The amalgamation of these 4 diverse bodies can be attributed largely to two men: Field Marshall Earl Haig and Mr Tom F Lister of The Federation of Discharged and Demobilized Sailors and Soldiers.

By the time of the Legion's formation in 1921, the tradition of an annual Two Minute Silence in memory of the dead had been established. The first ever Poppy Appeal was held that year, with the first Poppy Day on 11th November 1921. Although it had had royal patronage from its founding in 1921, the Legion only received its "Royal" appellation on 29th May 1971, on its golden anniversary. After an earlier local meeting, date unrecorded, the Minety Branch of the Legion was formally formed on 2nd January 1931.

Minety and the First World War

(Minety Newsletter August 2014)



On 4th August 1914, in support of France, Britain declared war on Germany and the first shots were fired in what was to be known in Britain as the First World War, the Great War or the War to end all Wars. Across the Globe more than 9,000,000 combatants died in what became the costliest war in history.

Every year in Minety on Armistice Day (11th November) and Remembrance Sunday (the second Sunday in November) we commemorate by name 12 soldiers from Minety who were killed during the conflict. Their names are recorded in Minety Church on a brass plaque to the left of the Chancel Steps.

However, further research showed that, rather than just these 12, there were 24 men with apparent connections to Minety who were killed during the War.



More obvious commemoration can be seen in the War Memorial at the top end of Silver Street by the Old Silver Street School. This is dedicated to the memory of the men of Minety who gave their lives for their King and Country in the Great War AD 1914-1919. "Also of the War 1939-1945" was then added later. On each of the side faces of the plinth are inscribed the words "Is it nothing to you all ye that pass by", a quotation from Lamentations (I:12)

It seems that the idea for a memorial was first mooted at a Parish Council meeting on November 15th 1918 when Mr Hatton introduced the idea. The legal situation meant that it would have to be provided through public subscription and a Parish Meeting then took place on 9th January 1919.

The War Memorial Committee held its first meeting one week later. There are no records of any of its meetings or deliberations. The next mention in the Parish Council is not until April and May 1922 referring to the deed of transfer of the land from the School Trustees. The only other reference is in 1925 when an outstanding bill of £37 still remained on the Memorial. There are no other records but it seemed that it was erected sometime between 1922 and 1925.



But the dead are not the only ones to be remembered. In addition, some 95 men of Minety are commemorated on a Roll of Honour asking for our prayers for them. This also is in the Church on the right hand wall of the nave just in front of the pulpit. Unfortunately, it is undated. The war in many cases would have a lasting effect on them as well, perhaps best illustrated by the fate of Harry Balfour Thomas Ludlow-Hewitt.

Harry was born at Wick House, Pershore on 17th May 1888, the third son of Rev Thomas Ludlow-Hewitt, vicar of Minety from 1901 to 1936. He left Marlborough College in 1906 to go into business and served in the 16th (Public Schools) Battalion of the London Regiment from 1914 to very early 1917. He was commissioned into the 2nd Battalion Worcestershire Regiment as a 2nd Lieutenant but was severely wounded at the Second Battle of Arras on either 20th or 21st May 1917 in action against the Hindenburg Line where the battalion strength was reduced from 530 officers and men to just 280 with 36 dead, 139 wounded and 75 missing Harry died in June 1938 in North West Surrey at the early age of 50, presumably as an eventual result of his

wounds. It was to help such men as Harry Ludlow-Hewitt, as well as the families of the dead and wounded, that Field Marshal Earl Haig, who commanded the British Expeditionary Force from 1915, and others, including Lance Bombardier Tom Lister from Lancashire, founded the British Legion on 15th May 1921, bringing together 4 national ex-service men's organizations that had established themselves both during and after the War. The Minety Branch of the British Legion was founded in 1931.

The purpose of the Legion was: to care for those who suffered as a result of service in the Armed Forces, whether themselves or through that of a husband, father or son. Suffering took many forms: the effect of a war wound on a man's ability to earn a living; or a war widow's struggle to educate her children. Even those who came through the war relatively unscathed struggled. Britain's economy plummeted and by 1921 two million men were unemployed. Over 6 million men had served in the war - 725,000 never returned. Of those who came back, 1.75 million had some kind of disability and half of these were permanently disabled. To this figure had to be added those who depended on men who had gone to war - the widows and orphans and the parents who had lost sons, on whom they were often financially dependent.

Today the Royal British Legion continues this work with ex-servicemen and their families, and also the families of the dead of later conflicts. The Legion continues to need your help to continue this essential work and is grateful for Minety's generosity every November during the Poppy Appeal.

The Route to the Minety War Memorials

(Minety Newsletter November 2014)



Initial research into Minety's war memorials concentrated on the Parish Council meeting minutes the originals of which are retained in the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre in Chippenham. These suggested that the War Memorial had been erected between 1922 and 1925. However, an entry in Kelly's Directory for Wiltshire published in October 1920 mentioned "a granite obelisk has been erected at Silver Street corner in memory of the men of the village who fell in the Great War, 1914 – 1918". This starting point allowed a search of the Wilts and Gloucestershire Standard through 1919 and 1920, providing much more information. The History Centre holds past editions of the Standard on microfiche. This led to a more comprehensive, although still flimsy, early history of the 2 Minety memorials and what follows is a synthesis of these 2 sources.

15th November 1918 At the Parish Council meeting Councillor Hatton drew the attention of Council to the desirability of erecting some permanent memorial to all those men of the village who had taken part in the Great War. The members heartily agreed the suggestion, directing the Clerk to ask the auditor if he would sanction any sum voted for the purpose.

Saturday 21 December 1918 At the PC meeting, the Clerk reported that the auditor could give no sanction for expenditure by the Council on a war memorial. In the meantime, the Vicar had held his own public meeting although the Chairman took exception, arguing that a Parish Meeting should be called by the Council. Eventually on the motion of Mr Hatton, seconded by Mr AS Clarke, it was resolved to convene a Parish Meeting to discuss the question of a War Memorial.

Thursday 9 January 1919 At 7 o'clock the Parish Meeting took place. In the Chair, Mr J Read stated that any decision affecting the inhabitants of Minety the Parish Council, as the only elected representatives of the village, should be the first ones consulted. He took exception to the proposal from the Vicar's meeting, that a monument should be in the Church, on the grounds that "a great proportion of the population would never see it – some were Nonconformists, and a great many people attended no place of worship, and in a memorial affecting young fellows of church, chapel or of no denomination, but who all served this country the form of handing their names down to posterity should be kept free from any form of sectarianism". He felt that a shrine in the centre of the village where all could see it would be the best form of memorial. Many agreed with him but others expressed the view that we should have a memorial in the church and build a much-needed village hall.

The cost of a war shrine was estimated at between £200 and £250, collected by house to house visits "which should not cause embarrassment for such an excellent cause. There was no scarcity of money in Minety as both farmers and tradesmen had prospered financially by the war. Those who had lost sons had given of their loved ones and could not be expected to give much more, but everyone should give something". Mr Hucks then stated that "**Anyone who refused to subscribe to such a worthy cause was unworthy of the name of Englishman**". These young fellows had offered their all, many of them had made the supreme sacrifice and however mighty the effort we made it would fall lamentably short of the honour they deserved".

22 February 1919 The question was at a deadlock. During the house to house collections many had expressed a wish for a village hall but this was ruled out. As the Committee's remit was to provide monuments they could not divert the funds already collected into another project. At the same time the Vicar deprecated the erection of a shrine - "It was typical for Roman Catholic countries but he could not see any use for it in Minety". By 22 March 1919 **only £60** had been collected.

The Charity Commission was asked by the managers of the Silver Street School to give permission for the Memorial to be placed in a corner of the school yard, as the most central part of the village.

10 April 1919 The War Memorial Committee reported progress, resolving to erect a monument 6ft high on a 2ft foundation on a block of cement of a similar height at the corner of Silver Street. The schoolmaster, Mr Davis, kindly offered to give up a portion of his land for the purpose, subject to the consent of the Charity Commissioners.

19 April 1919 Although the Vicar had done his best to obtain the consent to a piece of school yard being transferred to the Parish Council, he had failed. The Commissioners stated that such action "would negative the gift of the site to them for educational purposes, and the land, in such an event, would revert to the original donor" (a Mrs Paul).

31 May 1919 It was decided to fix the tablet to the memory of the fallen above the entrance to the chancel in St Leonard's Church, and the contract for the Monument of Mr CE Hughes of Malmesbury had been accepted, with work due to commence shortly.

10 July 1919 At a meeting of the Silver Street School managers, it was unanimously agreed to hand over a piece of land in the direct corner of Silver Street and Station Road, on which to erect the War Memorial.

29 November 1919 There was an announcement that "Owing to the scarcity of cement the contractor is unable to proceed with the erection of the monument. This is the sole cause of the delay in the matter."

7 February 1920 Despite all the differences of opinion and the set-backs, the War Memorial Committee was able to report that the brass tablet for the Church had arrived and would be fixed in the church at once. Mr Clark said the Monument would be ready for delivery in 10 days and Messrs AM Clarke, E Hatton and A Garland would supervise its erection on a foundation of 3 feet of stone and cement with the unveiling being on **28 February**. Mrs CC Gouldsmith would carry out the unveiling whilst the Vicar and a minister from the Primitive Methodist and Calvinistic Baptist denominations would be invited to take part in a ceremony of dedication.



Minety War Memorials – The Dedication

(Minety Newsletter December 2014)

For a report on the dedication of the Minety War Memorials we can do nothing better than to quote verbatim the report in the Wilts and Gloucestershire Standard of 13th March 1920:

“The work having been somewhat delayed by troubles in the labour market, during the last week 2 memorials to the men of Minety who made the supreme sacrifice in the Great War have been erected, one in the Church and the other at the top of Silver Street.

The first to be unveiled was the brass tablet in St Leonard’s Church, which ceremony took place on Wednesday evening (3rd March 1920) when the Church was crowded. The Vicar, the Rev TA Ludlow- Hewitt, intoned the special form of service and Archdeacon Talbot delivered an address, pleading for greater consecration of life in honour of valiant men who had laid down their lives for us. The ringers rang several muffled peals with excellent precision, and at the close of the service Miss Ludlow-Hewitt played a funeral march and “On the Resurrection Morning” on the organ. Seats were reserved for the members of the Parish Council: Mr J Read, Major CC Gouldsmith, Messrs AS Clark, AE Townsend, CS Stratford, Ed Hatton, T Read, G Clayton, EJ Hinder and the clerk, Mr EE Taylor. As the Archdeacon unveiled the tablet Bugler Bert Jones sounded the “Last Post”.



The tablet on which is inscribed the name of all those villagers who were killed in the war is fixed to the north side of the wall of the church, contiguous to the chancel screen, and previous to being unveiled by the Archdeacon was covered by a Union Jack; a laurel wreath was also placed over it, and a similar emblem was placed over the Memorial Card in the chancel window.



On Saturday (6th March 1920) afternoon a large concourse of people assembled near the Silver Street School to witness the unveiling of the monument which has been erected in the corner of the schoolyard. The monument of solid grey granite stands on a foundation of 3 tiers on which wreaths may be placed from time to time in honour of fallen relatives or friends. The height from the base is 10ft, and the land, originally a piece of waste, has been built up in a workmanlike manner with stone and gravel, and railed completely off from the schoolyard and master’s residence, a gate being left through which persons desirous of placing wreaths etc may enter. The monument stands quite conspicuously just at the corner of the street, and on 2 sides is the quotation in inch letters “Is it nothing to you all ye that pass by” and on the front “Dedicated to the memory of the men of Minety who gave their lives for King and Country in the Great War AD 1914 to 1919”.

The monument was built by Messrs Hughes and Son, Malmesbury, and the preparation of the site and the laying of the foundation was carried out under the supervision of Messrs AM Clarke, E Hatton, and A Garland.

. The site was given by the Foundation Managers of the Silver Street School, and is now vested in the Parish Council who will take over responsibility of keeping the fence etc. The funds were collected by an energetic committee of ladies and gentlemen whose names have already been published, the Rev TA Ludlow-Hewitt, Mr AM Clarke and Mr EE Taylor having the more senior management.

At 3.30 on Saturday afternoon the Minety Primitive Methodist Brass Band started the proceedings by playing the National Anthem. Then the hymn “Glorious things of thee are spoken” was sung by the surpliced choir of the Church accompanied by the Band, after which Mrs CC Gouldsmith, of Minety House, released the ropes to which the Union Jack had been attached, and thus unveiled the monument. The Vicar then offered a prayer, and the hymn, “When I survey the wondrous Cross” followed, after which the Vicar delivered a short address.

The monument was erected, he said, to memorialise those brave men of Minety who gave their lives in the great battle for freedom, Christ, right and justice, and to remind us in the midst of our pleasures that there was such a thing as sacrifice – that it was owing to that spirit of sacrifice and sympathy that we were able to live, for since the secrets of the war had been revealed, we knew only too well how near we were to a most terrible disaster, which would have meant the greatest humiliation the British race had ever known. But, thanks be to God, the spirit of sacrifice set forth first by Christ for a fallen race still formed an echo in this Christian land – still Christian despite our numerous acts of forgetfulness and of sin – and so our brave men went forth, to battle against those cruel and aggressive foes, and God had given us victory. They that afternoon asked Almighty God to accept that monument to His glory, and to cause us as we passed it to remember His continued mercies to our favoured land, and to live and pray for a better feeling amongst all classes, politically and nationally, so as to advance Christ's kingdom and enhance the glory of this great nation.

Amongst the company present were Major and Mrs CC Gouldsmith, Mrs Ludlow-Hewitt, Miss Betty Gouldsmith, Miss Ludlow-Hewitt, Miss Dorinda Ludlow-Hewitt, Miss Harrison (Coates) Mr AM Clarke (secretary) and the members of the Parish Council.

The band rendered the dead March from “Saul”, the cornets sounded the “Last Post” and the National Anthem brought an impressive service to a close.

Amongst the numerous floral tributes placed on the monument was a large laurel wreath bearing the inscription “To the glory of God and in honour of those who have given their lives in the late war, from Major and Mrs CC Gouldsmith, Minety House”.

**Bromley (St Luke's) Cemetery
Magpie Hall Lane, Bromley.**



Country: United Kingdom

Locality: Kent

Identified Casualties: 28 from First and Second World Wars

We will remember Gunner Albert Edward Baker, 140071



Albert Baker was born in Minety. Aged 15, in the 1891 census he is listed as the son of Fredrick and Rhoda Baker with 3 younger sisters. They are living at Level Crossing Cottage, Minty (sic). His father's occupation is shown as a Railway Gate Keeper whilst his is that of Agricultural Labourer. At some stage in the next 20 years he moved to Bromley, it being very common then for people to need to move to seek work. He married Francis Helena and they were living at 51 Addison Road,



Bromley when he died.

He enlisted in the Royal Garrison Artillery and was serving in its 57th Company based at Pembroke Dock, Haverfordwest under the control of No 25 Coastal Fire Command, Milford Haven. The role of the RGA was coastal defence with fortress-based artillery located at strategic ports and coastal installations.

He died, possibly, at home on 30th January 1917, aged 41, and is buried in Bromley (St Luke's) Cemetery, Kent.

*"He shall grow not old as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary him nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember him."*

Weymouth Cemetery Quibo Lane, Weymouth.



Country: United Kingdom

Locality: Dorset

Identified Casualties: 77

Historical Information

During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe. There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease. The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards.

Weymouth Cemetery contains 62 burials of the First World War and 15 from the Second World War, all scattered.

Weymouth Crematorium is situated in the cemetery and 16 servicemen and women of the Second World War whose remains were cremated there are commemorated on bronze panels in the chapel.

We will remember Gunner William George West Freeth, 24669



William Freeth was born in Minety but we do not know the exact date. The 1891 census shows that his father, also William, was a railway labourer and his mother, Annie, a shop keeper. At that time, they were 29 and 28 years old and already had 2 sons – Charles aged 3 and Joseph aged 1. The census shows their address as “Cottage, Silver Street, Minty”. It is reasonable to assume that William was born shortly after.

There appears to be no further record of this Freeth family which at some stage moved to Twerton, Somerset, just outside Bath although there was another Freeth family shown in the 1911 census

as living on Sawyers Hill. William, in the meantime, must also have left home and moved to work and live in Chippenham. He signed up in Bristol, joining the Royal Garrison Artillery, and was a member of No 30 Company based in Weymouth under the command of the Southern Coast Defences. The unit was part of the defensive structure for Portland Harbour which was especially important as a main base for the Home Fleet and as a depot for submarines.

William died on 7th February 1915 but is buried in Weymouth Cemetery. He can have been no more than 24 years old. His parents, William G and Annie E Freeth, are shown as his next of kin, still living in Twerton.

“He shall grow not old as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary him nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember him.”



Swindon (Radnor Street) Cemetery Radnor Street, Swindon



Country: United Kingdom

Locality: Wiltshire

Identified Casualties: 103

Historical Information

During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe. There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease. The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards.

Swindon (Radnor Street) Cemetery contains 86 First World War burials and 14 from the Second World War.

We will remember Private Charles Edgar Haggard 8380



Charles Edgar Haggard was born in 1883, the son of Samuel G and Sarah Haggard who in 1881 were the Innkeepers of the Old Red Lion Public House, Minty. Charles was the third of 7 children (2 older sisters, 2 younger sisters and 2 younger brothers). The family moved to Swindon, possibly in about 1890 as all Charles' siblings were born in Minety, the last in 1887. In the 1891 and 1901 censuses the family is living at 60 Stafford Street, Swindon with Charles's occupation shown as Scholar and then Steam Engine Tender Maker Fitter. Samuel does not appear to be living with them in 1891 but by the 1911 Census had moved back to Stafford Street. His occupation is now shown as carpenter. Charles, in 1911, would be 28 and appears to have left the family home

In March 1916 the Military Service Act was passed, imposing conscription on all single men aged between 18 and 41, but exempting the medically unfit, clergymen, teachers and certain classes of industrial worker. It is possibly this last category that

meant that Charles did not join up until late 1918. He served in the 3rd Battalion, the Wiltshire Regiment. This was the reserve battalion and formed a depot/training unit. It moved to Sittingbourne, Kent in September 1917 as part of the Thames & Medway Garrison.

Charles died on 7th February 1919 aged 36 and is buried in the Radnor Road Cemetery, Swindon about 100 metres from the family home in Stafford Street



60 Stafford Street (the white house on the left) today with the Radnor Street Cemetery beyond.

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

Arras Memorial
Faubourg-d'Amiens Cemetery
Boulevard du General de Gaulle, Arras



Country: France

Locality: Pas de Calais

Identified Casualties: 34764

Historical Information

The French handed over Arras to Commonwealth forces in the spring of 1916 and the system of tunnels upon which the town is built were used and developed in preparation for the major offensive planned for April 1917. The Commonwealth section of the FAUBOURG D'AMIENS CEMETERY was begun in March 1916, behind the French military cemetery established earlier. It continued to be used by field ambulances and fighting units until November 1918. The cemetery was enlarged after the Armistice when graves were brought in from the battlefields and from two smaller cemeteries in the vicinity.

The cemetery contains over 2,650 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, 10 of which are unidentified. The graves in the French military cemetery were removed after the war to other burial grounds and the land they had occupied was used for the construction of the Arras Memorial and Arras Flying Services Memorial.

The adjacent ARRAS MEMORIAL commemorates almost 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom, South Africa and New Zealand who died in the Arras sector between the spring of 1916 and 7 August 1918, the eve of the Advance to Victory, and have no known grave. The most conspicuous events of this period were the Arras offensive of April-May 1917, and the German attack in the spring of 1918. Canadian and Australian servicemen killed in these operations are commemorated by memorials at Vimy and Villers-Bretonneux. A separate memorial remembers those killed in the Battle of Cambrai in 1917.

The adjacent ARRAS FLYING SERVICES MEMORIAL commemorates almost 1,000 airmen of the Royal Naval Air Service, the Royal Flying Corps, and the Royal Air Force, either by attachment from other arms of the forces of the Commonwealth or by original enlistment, who were killed on the whole Western Front and who have no known grave.

Both cemetery and memorial were designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, with sculpture by Sir William Reid Dick. The memorial was unveiled by Marshal of the Royal Air Force Lord Trenchard, on the 31st July 1932 (originally it had been scheduled for 15th May, but due to the sudden death of French President Doumer, as a mark of respect, the ceremony was postponed until July).

We will remember Private Francis Edward Baker 203224

Francis Edward Baker was born in Minety in 1897, the son of Francis W, a farmer, and Jessie Amelia Baker, his wife. In the 1901 census Francis Edward (3 years old) is shown as the eldest of 3 boys and the family is living at Leigh Road, Cricklade.



Francis joined the Wiltshire Regiment and was posted to the 6th (Service) Battalion which in September 1917 had amalgamated with the Wiltshire Yeomanry to become the 6th (Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry) Battalion. During the night of 22/23rd March 1918 the troops in front fell back on the 6Bn line which now became the line of resistance. Troops on the right flank South of the BAPAUME Road fell back leaving the flank unprotected. A general attack on all positions by the enemy started at 8a.m. All frontal enemy advances were repulsed by steady and controlled rifle and Lewis gun fire. At 2.15p.m the order came from Brigade to fall back. Owing to a general attack being in progress and the nature of the ground - a glaciis upward slope - heavily barraged and swept by cross fire from enemy machine guns - it was decided to try to hold on until nightfall

and then withdraw. It was not known until later that troops on the right had fallen back to such an extent as to give no covering fire to the battalion's flank. At 4p.m. the enemy, entirely checked in front by the steadiness of the men, began an enveloping movement on the right and left flanks. At 4.30p.m. as the battalion was being outflanked, orders were issued to withdraw to next system of defence behind BEUGNY. At 5p.m. the Battalion withdrew by a rear guard action, many men sacrificing their lives in covering the withdrawal of their comrades.



Presumably it is during this withdrawal that Francis lost his life. His death is recorded as being on 23rd March 1918. He has no known grave but along with 34,774 others is remembered on the Arras Memorial in France. His next of kin is shown as his mother, living at Knapp Farm, Leigh.

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

Ham British Cemetery Muille-Villette



Country: France

Locality: Somme

Identified Casualties: 267

Historical Information

In January, February and March 1918, the 61st (South Midland) Casualty Clearing Station was posted at Ham, but on the 23rd March the Germans, in their advance towards Amiens, crossed the Somme at Ham, and the town remained in German hands until the French First Army re-entered it on the following 6th September.

Ham British Cemetery was begun in January-March 1918 as an extension of MUILLE-VILLETTE GERMAN CEMETERY, made by the Casualty Clearing Station. In 1919 these graves were regrouped and others were added from the German cemetery and from the following:

CROIX-MOLIGNAUX GERMAN CEMETERY (March and April 1918); ESMERY HALLON CHURCHYARD; VILLERS ST. CHRISTOPHE CHURCHYARD (March 1918); EPPEVILLE COMMUNAL CEMETERY GERMAN EXTENSION (March 1918); and ST. SULPICE COMMUNAL CEMETERY.

Ham British Cemetery contains 485 Commonwealth burials and commemorations of the First World War. 218 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to 14 soldiers, believed to be buried among them. Other special memorials record the names of 39 casualties known to have been buried in other cemeteries whose graves were not found.

We will remember Serjeant William Henry Edward Carey 202762



William Carey was born in Minety in 1876 but there is no further record of him and his family within the village. At the age of 18 he joined the Militia in the form of the 3rd Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment. His attestation papers show that he was then living in Faringdon and had been working as a farm labourer. In 1904, by then a Corporal with the 2nd Battalion, he transferred to the reserve. That term of service would have expired in June 1910 but he then extended his commitment for another 4 years.

By the outbreak of the War he would have been free of military obligations but over the next few years must have re-enlisted in the 2/4th Battalion, Princess Charlotte of Wales's (Royal Berkshire) Regiment. By now he was married to Alice Edna Carey, and living at Coxwell St., Faringdon, Berks. He achieved the rank of Serjeant and the award of a Military Medal for acts of gallantry and devotion to duty under fire

By 13th March 1918 the Battalion was entrenched in the Gricourt-Fayet area to the NW of St Quentin.

The Battalion War Diary recorded: "2/Lt G CHAMPION spent the day in NO MAN'S LAND observing the enemy lines. He was connected by telephone direct with Bn HQ who were in telephonic communication with an 18 Pounder Battery. Shortly before 11a.m. parties were observed working on the enemy trenches. Gun-fire was directed on the target, and all parties at once scattered in disorder. No further movement except of isolated individuals took place in that sector for the rest of the day. 2/Lt CHAMPION remained out till dusk and returned to our lines. He reported that an enemy aeroplane came over his position and, dropping to within 50 feet of the ground, thoroughly searched the vicinity, but gave no signs of having noticed the presence of the observers. Enemy activity was slight. Our forward trenches and the road east of Bn HQ were shelled lightly during the day. At 2.20pm a German Red Paper Balloon of some 5 feet in diameter landed near Bn HQ. No messages or matter of any kind were attached. During the night 12th/13th we sent out Three Fighting Patrols."



It was in this period that William was wounded and died of his wounds on 15th March 1918 possibly whilst being cared for at the Casualty Clearing Station. He is buried in the Ham British Cemetery at Muille-Villette, some 20km SW of St Quentin.

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

Guards Cemetery Combles



Country: France

Locality: Somme

Identified Casualties: 171

Historical Information

Combles village was entered in the early morning of the 26th September, 1916, by units of the 56th (London) Division and the French Army; and it remained in Allied occupation until the 24th March, 1918, when the place was captured after a stubborn stand by the South African Brigade at Marrieres Wood. It was retaken on the 29th August, 1918, by the 18th Division.

The village was later "adopted", with Flers, by the County Borough of Portsmouth.

Guards' Cemetery was begun by the Guards Division in September, 1916, and carried on by other units until March, 1917, and to a small extent in March, August and September, 1918. It contained at the Armistice 100 graves, of which 19 were those of officers and men of the Foot Guards; and it was then increased by the concentration into Plot II of graves from Priez Farm Cemetery. Six German graves of 1918 have been removed to another burial ground.

There are now nearly 200, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, over 10 are unidentified and special memorials are erected to 30 soldiers from the United Kingdom, buried in Priez Farm Cemetery and Combles German Cemetery, whose graves were destroyed by shell fire.

The cemetery covers an area of 989 square metres and is enclosed by a rubble wall.

COMBLES GERMAN CEMETERY contained the grave of one soldier from the United Kingdom who fell in August, 1918.

PRIEZ FARM CEMETERY, COMBLES, stood at the South-East corner of Le Priez Farm, on the North side of the road from Combles to Rancourt. The farm was taken by the 18th Division on the 1st September 1918, after very heavy fighting. The cemetery contained the graves of 79 soldiers from the United Kingdom who fell in the winter of 1916-17 and in August and September, 1918.

We will remember L/Corporal Jonas George Garland M1/07510



George was born in Minety in 1893, the youngest son of Abel, a grocer, and Sarah Garland. In the 1891 census the family, already comprising 6 daughters and 2 sons, lived Near Post Office Shop, Emmett Hill, Minty. By 1901 only George, 2 older brothers and an older sister remained and the family lived in Silver Street, Minety, Minty. However, his 23 year old sister, Thirza, is shown as the Cook at Mansells House, Oaksey Road. In 1911 the family was still living in Silver Street but Abel is shown as a hurdle maker as well as grocer and George is now a farm labourer.

Over the next few years George appears to have moved around. He is recorded as living in Worcester but enlisted in London and also married Gladys Josephine.

George joined the Army Service Corps which makes it very difficult to determine the circumstances of his death. He was attached to the 145th Siege Battery of the Royal Garrison Artillery which would have been equipped with heavy howitzers, sending large calibre high explosive shells in high trajectory plunging fire. George, therefore, was probably an ammunition expert receiving, storing and issuing ammunition to his battery. The battery was serving in the Combles area, just south of Bapaume, supporting the assault, part of the aftermath of the main Battle of the Somme, during which the Germans carried out a strategic withdrawal to the Hindenburg Line.

George is buried in the Combles Guards Cemetery and his next of kin are shown as his parents and his wife then living at No 261, Barton St., Gloucester. He is also recorded on the memorial in Minety Church.



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

**Arras Memorial
Faubourg-d'Amiens Cemetery
Boulevard du General de Gaulle, Arras**



Country: France

Locality: Pas de Calais

Identified Casualties: 34764

Historical Information

The French handed over Arras to Commonwealth forces in the spring of 1916 and the system of tunnels upon which the town is built were used and developed in preparation for the major offensive planned for April 1917. The Commonwealth section of the FAUBOURG D'AMIENS CEMETERY was begun in March 1916, behind the French military cemetery established earlier. It continued to be used by field ambulances and fighting units until November 1918. The cemetery was enlarged after the Armistice when graves were brought in from the battlefields and from two smaller cemeteries in the vicinity.

The cemetery contains over 2,650 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, 10 of which are unidentified. The graves in the French military cemetery were removed after the war to other burial grounds and the land they had occupied was used for the construction of the Arras Memorial and Arras Flying Services Memorial.

The adjacent ARRAS MEMORIAL commemorates almost 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom, South Africa and New Zealand who died in the Arras sector between the spring of 1916 and 7th August 1918, the eve of the Advance to Victory, and have no known grave. The most conspicuous events of this period were the Arras offensive of April-May 1917, and the German attack in the spring of 1918. Canadian and Australian servicemen killed in these operations are commemorated by memorials at Vimy and Villers-Bretonneux. A separate memorial remembers those killed in the Battle of Cambrai in 1917.

The adjacent ARRAS FLYING SERVICES MEMORIAL commemorates almost 1,000 airmen of the Royal Naval Air Service, the Royal Flying Corps, and the Royal Air Force, either by attachment from other arms of the forces of the Commonwealth or by original enlistment, who were killed on the whole Western Front and who have no known grave.

Both cemetery and memorial were designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, with sculpture by Sir William Reid Dick. The memorial was unveiled by Marshal of the Royal Air Force Lord Trenchard, on the 31st July 1932 (originally it had been scheduled for 15th May, but due to the sudden death of French President Doumer, as a mark of respect, the ceremony was postponed until July).

We will remember Gunner Herbert Frank Read 269447

Herbert Frank Read (known as Frank) was born in Minety in 1885, the son of George (a farmer and dealer) and Frances Read who in 1891 were living Near Tidling Corner Farm House, Minty. Frank was the oldest of 4 brothers and a sister. By 1901 the family had moved to Sawyers Hill and Frank, at 16, worked as a farm labourer. By 1911 he had apparently married Florence Alice Brooks and had 2 sons, both born in Dauntsey, Herbert John (2yrs) and George James (0yrs). She and they were living with her parents in Winsley, Bradford on Avon.

Frank enlisted in Chippenham, joining the Royal Garrison Artillery. He served with the 1/1st Kent Heavy Battery, a territorial unit, which first moved to France in December 1915. Heavy Batteries RGA were equipped with heavy guns, sending large calibre high explosive shells in fairly flat trajectory fire. The usual armaments were 60 pounder (5 inch) guns, although some had larger howitzers. As British artillery tactics developed, the Heavy Batteries were



. A 9.2 inch howitzer of the RGA – a sight which would have been very familiar to Frank

most often employed in destroying or neutralising the enemy artillery, as well as putting destructive fire down on strongpoints, ammunition dumps, stores, roads and railways behind enemy lines.

Frank was killed in action on 24th March 1918 during the opening days of the 2nd Battle of the Somme, possibly the same action as that in which Frank Baker also was killed. His unit would have been assisting in the defence of the line against the German's Spring Offensive known as Operation Michael or Kaiserschlacht. His next of kin are noted as being his parents (still at Sawyers Hill) and his wife although now she is recorded as Florence Alice Godwin (formerly Read) of Vasterne Wharf, Wootton Bassett. Frank has no known grave and is another of the 34,775 casualties recorded on the Arras Memorial. He is also recorded on the memorial brass in Minety Church.

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



Duisans British Cemetery Etrun



Country: France

Locality: Pas de Calais

Identified Casualties: 3201

Historical Information

The area around Duisans was occupied by Commonwealth forces from March 1916, but it was not until February 1917 that the site of this cemetery was selected for the 8th Casualty Clearing Station. The first burials took place in March and from the beginning of April the cemetery grew very quickly, with burials being made from the 8th Casualty Clearing Station (until April 1918), the 19th (until March 1918), and the 41st (until July 1917).

Most of the graves relate to the Battles of Arras in 1917, and the trench warfare that followed. From May to August 1918, the cemetery was used by divisions and smaller fighting units for burials from the front line. In the Autumn of 1918 the 23rd, 1st Canadian and 4th Canadian Clearing Stations remained at Duisans for two months, and the 7th was there from November 1918 to November 1920.

There are now 3,207 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated at Duisans British Cemetery. There are also 88 German war graves.

The cemetery was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield.

We will remember Gunner Ernest Edwin Burdock 78026

Ernest Burdock was born in Minety in 1892, the first of 3 sons and a daughter of Edward (a farmer) and Annie Burdock recorded in the 1901 Census as living at Cow Lase (Lease?) Farm, Minety, Minty. Albert, the youngest, had only been born 9 months earlier that year. By 1911 the family had moved to Cockroad Farm (The Green?) Minety but Edward and Albert had both died (or moved away). Ernest was working on the farm along with his younger brother and his mother's single brother all recorded as farm labourers.

Ernest signed his Army Attestation Form on 10th December 1915 giving his address as 4 Station Road, Minety, and his employment as plumber's mate. His height was 5ft 7 ½ inches with an expanded chest measurement of 41 inches and a range of expansion of 2 inches. He joined the Royal Garrison Artillery, reporting to No 3 Depot RGA in Plymouth where he remained until 25th September 1916 by when he had also qualified as a Signaller First Class. He was then posted overseas to the 135th Siege Battery which had moved to France only in August and which he joined on 3rd November 1916.

The battery was based at La Houssoye on the Somme and equipped with 8-inch howitzers, which had a range of about



8-inch howitzers of 135th Siege Battery at La Houssoye on the Somme, 25 August 1916.

12,300 yards (11.2km) firing a 200lb (91kg) shell.

Ernest joined the Unit as the First Battle of the Somme was ending, mired in the mud of winter which made fighting all but impossible.

By March 1917 the Battery was engaged in the Battle of Arras as the Germans began their strategic withdrawal to the Hindenburg Line.

The Unit History records:

"Meanwhile the F.O.O.s (Forward Observation Officers) and signallers had been having an equally bad time. The O.P. (Observation Post) established by Lieutenant Wood on Orange Hill on April 12th, had been pushed on to Monchy on the following day by Lieutenant Allen. This was a most unhealthy spot, being shelled all day by all sorts of stuff. He established the O.P. in a house on the north side of the village, but it proved quite impossible to keep the (telephone) line through. In those days, a linesman's job called for infinite grit and pluck. When a line went

"down" at any time of the day or night it was his business to go out to find the break and repair it, no matter how severe the shelling. On occasions the shelling might be so bad that the line was cut as rapidly as the linesman could find the breaks and repair them. The signallers, all of them, took their turn as linesmen, and in every case the same spirit of courage and devotion to duty was shown. On the night of the 12th some of these splendid fellows laboured under these heartbreaking conditions to try to put this O.P. line through to the Battery. The whole O.P. party, Lieutenant Allen and Gunners West and Burdock, struggled for hours on this line, until finally West and Burdock were wounded - the latter fatally - and they had to take cover until daybreak."

Ernest's personnel records show he was actually wounded on 14th April 1917 and evacuated to No 19 Casualty Clearing Station then located at Agnez-les-Duisans, just outside Arras. He died of his wounds on 21st April and, along with 3,205 Commonwealth casualties either buried or commemorated there, is buried in the Duisans British Cemetery. There are also 88 German war graves. His younger brother, Arthur, was also serving in France, with the Royal Field Artillery, at that time. Ernest is recorded on the memorial brass in Minety Church.

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

**St. Quentin Cabaret Military Cemetery
Sint Kwintenstraat, Wulvergem**



Country: Belgium

Locality: West-Vlaanderen

Identified Casualties: 454

Historical Information

St. Quentin Cabaret was an inn about 460 metres east of Kandahar Farm, near the village of Wulverghem (now Wulvergem) and the front line. At times, the inn was used as battalion headquarters.

The cemetery was begun in February 1915 by the 46th (North Midland) Division and continued to be used by the divisions holding the sector until it fell into German hands with the capture of Wulverghem in April 1918. The village and cemetery were recovered in September, but only two further burials were made.

There are 460 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in the cemetery.

The cemetery was designed by Charles Holden.

We will remember Serjeant Victor Grenville Albert Pickering 20640



Victor Pickering was born in Minety in 1898 the second of 3 sons of William, a Railway Signal Fitter, and his wife Belinda. At the time of the 1901 census they were living on Sawyers Hill, Minety, Minty. There is no further record of the family in Minety although between 1901 and 1917 it is apparent that it had moved to Swindon and that William had died.

Victor joined the Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire Regiment) and was allocated to the 1st Battalion which had mobilised for war on 14th August 1914 and had been almost continuously engaged since. Victor was obviously a rising star because at the age of only 19 he had already reached the rank of Serjeant. In May 1917 the Battalion was engaged in preparations for what became the Battle of Messines which ran from 7th to 14th June 1917.

The War Diary reports: *“Two large parties were provided by the Battn on the night of 30th/31st (May). One party of 200 was employed with other Battns of the Bde digging a new fire trench in No Man's Land in the WULVERGHEM Sector. The second party was responsible for the wiring of it. The work was carried out successfully, but casualties were sustained*

*subsequently owing to a heavy hostile artillery barrage upon the Support trenches into which 2 Coys had moved after work. The casualties upon the 30th & 31st were:- 30th killed: 10641 Pte Bull, D. 23398 Pte Thumwood, S R. 32313 Pte Hand, J. 33179 Pte Sillence, A J W. 31595 Pte Valentine, F W. Wounded: Capt G B Russell, DSO. 9196 L/Cpl Huntley, A 33123 Cpl Godfrey, C. 26172 Sgt Pearce, H. 11182 Pte Helm, T H. 19632 Pte Towlson, E C. 10869 Pte Stone, A V. 26630 Pte Chappell, E. 3/112 Pte Cook, S. 24164 Pte Lugg, R. 25432 Pte Harris, H. 26683 Pte Masters, C. 29808 Pte King, E. Still at duty. 8700 L/Sgt Selley, F. 31st killed: **20640 Sgt Pickering, V G M.** 25610 Pte Cox, E. 10103 Pte Vallis, C. On the 30th the "B" team of the Battn, 14 officers and 117 other ranks left for MORBECQUES. On 31st A & B Coys took the place of C & D Coys in Support to the 8th LN (Loyal North) Lancs Regt and C & D Coys bivouacked near NEUVE EGLISE.”*



Victor is buried in the St Quentin Cabaret Military Cemetery which is near Heuvelland, West-Vlaanderen in Belgium along with 459 other Commonwealth servicemen. His mother is shown as his next of kin, then living at 39, Florence St., Swindon.

“He shall grow not old as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary him nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember him.”

Sandpits British Cemetery Fouquereuil



Country: France

Locality: Pas de Calais

Identified Casualties: 394

Historical Information

The cemetery was begun by XIII Corps at the outset of the German advance in April 1918 and continued to be used by them until September 1918.

There are now 394 First World War burials in the cemetery.

The cemetery was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens.

We will remember Gunner William George Vizer 78473

William Vizer was born in Minety in 1893. By the 1901 census his father, also William George, had died and he and his mother, Annie, were living with her parents, John (Innkeeper) and Emma Godwin at the Vale of the White Horse, Minety. By the 1911 census Emma has also died and John (now registered as licensed victualler) is still running the Vale assisted by his 2 daughters and 15 year old John Waldron who is the Boots. William is now employed as a Carpenter and Wheelwright.

William enlisted in the Royal Garrison Artillery at Cirencester on 8th December 1915. At that time, he was 24 years and 210 days old, 5 ft 9 ½ ins tall, weighed 149 lbs and had a chest girth of 36 ins when fully expanded and a range of expansion of 4 ins. He also had a misplaced second toe on his left foot and was initially marked down for "Garrison duties only". Another medical on 16th March 1916, after an army training regime, shows him to be 5 ft 8 ¾ ins, weighed 165 lbs, a chest of 37 ins expanded and a range of 2 ½ ins.

He was mobilised on 8th March 1916 serving with the Home Brigade until 11th May 1917 spending most of his time at No 3 Depot, Plymouth. However, on 5th March 1917 he was sent to Spike Island which was part of the defences for Queenstown Harbour, nr Cork in Southern Ireland where he remained until he was posted to the BEF in France on 12th May 1917.

He then joined 148th Siege Battery (22nd May), returned to Base (14th July) before joining 81st Siege Battery (25th July). He was then hospitalized on 3rd September with Rheumatic Fever being discharged on 22nd November. On 3rd December 1917 he moved for the final time to 157th Siege Battery and was soon engaged in the 1918 First Battle of the Somme. On 9th March 1918 he departed for Boulogne to go on home leave but returned to his unit soon after.

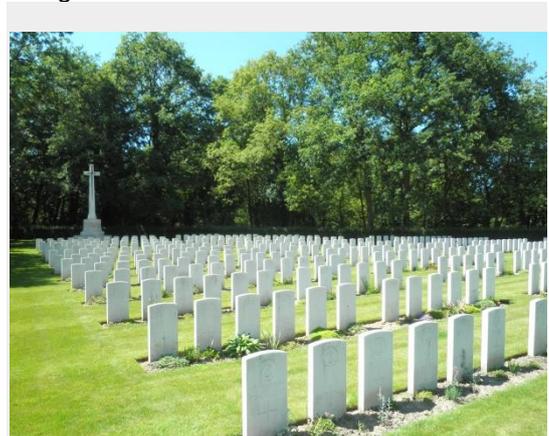


9.2 inch howitzers of a Siege Battery in action

William died of his wounds on 12th May 1918 whilst being cared for at the 7th Field Ambulance Unit. On his death his personal effects were listed as: 2 farthings, (Identity) Discs, Letters, Religious medal, Photos, Text book, Wallet, Knife, Razor, Pens, Pouch, Rosary, Notebook and Cards. These were forwarded to his listed next of kin which was his grandfather, John Godwin, now living at the Royal George Inn, Pavenhill, Purton.

William is buried in the Sandpits Cemetery just outside the small village of Fouquereuil nr Bethune, a delightful site although nestling alongside the Autoroute des Anglais leading to Calais. He is also remembered on the plaque in Minety Church.

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



Portsmouth Naval Memorial Southsea Common



Country: United Kingdom

Region: Hampshire

Identified Casualties: 24,664 from First and Second World Wars

Historical Information

More than 45,000 men and women lost their lives while serving with the Royal Navy during the First World War. After the Armistice, the naval authorities and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission were determined to find an appropriate way to commemorate naval personnel who had no grave. 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.

All three memorials were designed by Sir Robert Lorimer with sculpture by Henry Poole. Each design is the same with an obelisk of Portland stone surmounted by a copper sphere

The Portsmouth memorial commemorates nearly 10,000 sailors of the First World War and almost 15,000 of the Second World War. The memorial was unveiled by the Duke of York, the future George VI, on 15th October 1924. In 1916, the prince was serving as a Midshipman on HMS *Collingwood* during the Battle of Jutland.

We will remember Boy 1st Class Frederick Stanley Allsop, J36007

Frederick Stanley Allsop was born on 2nd May 1899. There seems to be some uncertainty as to where, as his birth record shows Malmesbury, the 1901 Census Oaksey and his Service Records Minety.



HMS Black Prince at anchor

However, in the 1901 Census his parents, George (49 years old and a Police Sergeant) and Martha (44) were living at the Police Station, Emmett Hill, Minty, Minety (now Carhampton House). Frederick possibly had 2 older sisters and 5 older brothers. By 1911, George had retired and is shown in the Census as being a Police Pensioner living at Townsend, Urchfont, Devizes with a further daughter born in 1902. Frederick is recorded as being at school. One sister and 2 brothers had left home.

Frederick joined the Royal Navy as a Boy Seaman on 23rd March 1915 signing on for 18 years' service from 2nd May 1917 when

he would be 18. The record shows he was a page boy before enlistment and was 5 ft 3 ½ ins tall with a chest measurement of 32 ins, brown hair and eyes and a fresh complexion.



Urchfont War Memorial

He served first on HMS Impregnable, a training ship at Devonport. After further training with HMS Victory in Portsmouth, on 26th July 1915, as a Boy First Class, he joined HMS Black Prince, a Duke of Edinburgh class armoured cruiser then part of the Grand Fleet at Rosyth. On 30th May 1916 Black Prince sailed with the rest of the Grand Fleet to intercept the Imperial German Navy's High Seas Fleet in the North Sea.

During the Battle of Jutland, Black Prince lost contact with the rest of the Fleet as it came into contact with German forces, at about 17:42 and was last heard from at 20:45 reporting a submarine sighting. There is doubt about what exactly happened to her but it is probable that in the confusion of the battle she stumbled across a squadron of German Dreadnought battleships and, being heavily outgunned, was severely damaged before exploding with the loss of all hands (37 officers and 820 men) about midnight. Her sinking is recorded as being on 31st May 1916. Frederick had only just had his 17th birthday.

In the records of those lost at sea Frederick is shown as being killed or died as a direct result of enemy action with his body not being recovered for burial.

George had died in 1914 and Frederick's oldest sister, Elsie Minter of. Walnut Cottage, Urchfont, is shown as the relative notified of his death. His family were paid the War Gratuity which would have amounted to no more than £6 or £7. Frederick is remembered on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial and also on the War Memorial in the churchyard of St Michael and All Angels Church, Urchfont

He shall not grow old as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember him.

Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial

leper



Country: Belgium

Locality: West-Vlaanderen

Identified Casualties: 54395

Historical Information

The Menin Gate is one of four memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders which cover the area known as the Ypres Salient. Broadly speaking, the Salient stretched from Langemarck in the north to the northern edge of Ploegsteert Wood in the south, but it varied in area and shape throughout the war. The Salient was formed during the First Battle of Ypres in October and November 1914, when a small British Expeditionary Force succeeded in securing the town before the onset of winter, pushing the German forces back to the Passchendaele Ridge. The Second Battle of Ypres began in April 1915 when the Germans released poison gas into the Allied lines north of Ypres. This was the first time gas had been used by either side and the violence of the attack forced an Allied withdrawal and a shortening of the line of defence.

There was little more significant activity on this front until 1917. In the Third Battle of Ypres an offensive was mounted by Commonwealth forces to divert German attention from a weakened French front further south. The initial attempt in June to dislodge the Germans from the Messines Ridge was a complete success, but the main assault north-eastward, beginning at the end of July, quickly became a dogged struggle against determined opposition and the rapidly deteriorating weather. The campaign finally came to a close in November with the capture of Passchendaele. The German offensive of March 1918 met with some initial success but was eventually checked and repulsed in a combined effort by the Allies in September.

The battles of the Ypres Salient claimed many lives on both sides and it quickly became clear that the commemoration of members of the Commonwealth forces with no known grave would have to be divided between several different sites. The site of the Menin Gate was chosen because of the hundreds of thousands of men who passed through it on their way to the battlefields. It commemorates casualties from the forces of Australia, Canada, India, South Africa and United Kingdom who died in the Salient. In the case of United Kingdom casualties, only those prior to 16th August 1917 (with some exceptions). United Kingdom and New Zealand servicemen who died after that date are named on the memorial at Tyne Cot, which marks the furthest point reached by Commonwealth forces in Belgium until nearly the end of the war. New Zealand casualties that died prior to 16th August 1917 are commemorated on memorials at Buttes New British Cemetery and Messines Ridge British Cemetery.

The YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL now bears the names of more than 54,000 officers and men whose graves are not known. The memorial, designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield with sculpture by Sir William Reid-Dick, was unveiled by Lord Plumer on 24th July 1927.

We will remember Private Joseph Robert Bateman Morse 126812

Joseph Morse appears to have led 2 separate and separated lives. He was born in Minety on 7th February 1880. His parents, Robert (a Railway Signaller) and Caroline (nee Bateman) had married in Q4 1867



and by 1881 already had 6 children aged between 1 and 10 years, 3 boys and 3 girls. The family was living at 12 Station Road, Minety. By 1891, and still living at Station Road, the 3 oldest children had left home and 4 more brothers had arrived, the youngest being Cecil who, at the date of the Census, was 5 months old.

On 21st February 1898 Joseph enlisted in the Duke of Edinburgh's Wiltshire Regiment (62nd and 99th Foot) at Devizes (the Regimental Depot) for 7 years with the Colours and 5 years in the Reserve. He was, apparently, already a member of the Militia and gave his occupation as labourer. His attestation showed him to be 5ft 5 1/2 ins tall, weighing 129 lbs with brown hair and eyes and no distinctive marks. After 3 months in Devizes he was posted to the 2nd Battalion in Guernsey. However, in 1899 the Battalion was posted to South Africa, with General Lord Roberts to take part in the Boer War. Landing at Port Elizabeth on 12th January 1900 (although Joseph's

Service Record gives his date in theatre as 19th March 1900), the Battalion hurriedly went up country to join General French's Force, engaged in holding up a threatened Boer invasion of Cape Colony. The 2nd Wiltshire's then fought in all the major engagements of the War. Joseph trained as Mounted Infantry remaining in South Africa until May 1903 and would have been awarded both the Queen's (Victoria) and King's (Edward VII) South Africa Medals for his services. He remained with the 2nd Bn until transferring to the 1st Class Army Reserve on 20th February 1905, finally being discharged on 20th February 1910.



Men of the 2nd Wiltshire Regiment along the Orange River c. 1900

By the 1911 census Caroline was a widow living alone but still at Station Road. However, Joseph had started the second part of his life by departing from Liverpool on the ship "Canada", arriving in Montreal on 8th May 1911. The ship's manifest shows that he was single, heading for Toronto and planning to work as a "Railway Man" which he claimed had always been his occupation (but no mention of previous military service). He joined the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force (Army), attesting on 21st September 1915. His papers say he was a labourer but this is crossed out and "brass dresser" inserted instead. He is married to Harriet, living at

63 Albert Road, Guelph, Ontario and service with the Wiltshire Regiment, shown as being 5ft 6ins tall but now one arm, actress on left arm and a anterior surface. He joined the 58th which embarked for Great Britain on disembarked in France on 22nd Infantry Brigade, 3rd Canadian Division 1916 the battalion was engaged in the Diary noting:

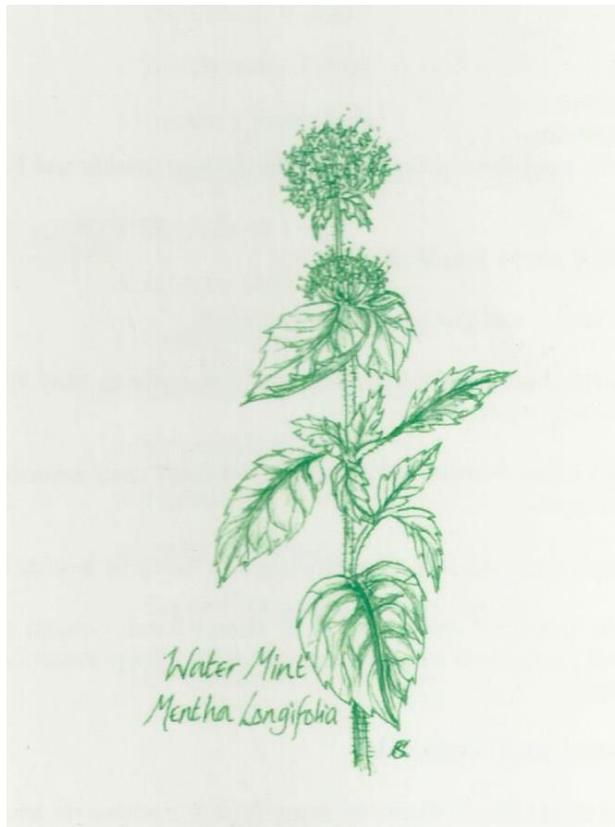


admits to 7 years previous England. At his medical he is has several tattoos – ladies bust fairy nude figure right forearm (Central Ontario) Infantry Batt'n 22nd November 1915. It February 1916 to fight within 9th in France and Flanders. By June Battle of Mount Sorrell, the War

10 Jun 1916 - Usual early morning shelling. Battalion resting in morning. Casualties: Wounded : 5 other ranks, Shell shock: 3 Other Ranks. Relieved by the 43 Bn. and marched to Belgian chateau for rations. Rain and cool.

11 Jun 1916 - 1.35am - Relief completed. Casualties : Killed : 1 other rank, Wounded : 5 other rank, Shell shock : 1 other rank. Ordered to relieve 43rd Bn. in trenches , quiet all night. Rain and cool.

12 Jun 1916 - 3.30am - Relief completed. Casualties : Wounded : 1 officer + 7 other ranks . Rations at Zillebeke



village. Rain and cool.

13 Jun 1916 - Ordered by Brigade to make a bombing attack up "Gourock Road, Hill and Vigo Streets, Durham Lane (all trenches) with the object of retaking old front line. Heavy artillery support in evening. 1.30am - Attack was made and a complete success. The enemy retaliated with heavy and light artillery fire on our old frontline communication trenches and Maple Copse. We captured 28 unwounded prisoners and accounted for many of the enemy's casualties. Casualties: Killed 3 officers and 20 other ranks.

Joseph was reported as missing on 12th June following the attack on Sanctuary Wood (Hill 62) and confirmed as killed on 13th. He has no known grave and is recorded on the Menin Gate, Ypres (Jeper) amongst 54399 casualties and on the bronze plaque in Minety Church.

As a footnote to Joseph's story, his widow, Harriet, apparently returned to Canada aboard the "Justica" in 1917, heading back to Guelph and her brother. Her occupation is given as Housekeeper but she then appears to have died from influenza on 24th December 1918 in the General Hospital in Guelph.



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

Dickebusch New Military Cemetery
Kerkstraat, Dikkebus



Country: Belgium

Region: West Vlaanderen

Total Identified Casualties: 619 from: First World War

Historical Information

The New Military Cemetery was begun in February 1915 and was used until May 1917 by fighting units and field ambulances, with a few further burials taking place in March and April 1918. The Extension was used from May 1917 to January 1918. The New Military Cemetery contains 624 First World War burials, including 8 unidentified, the Extension contains 547 including 5 unidentified.

The site was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens

We will remember Gunner Heber Theodore Smart 102334



Heber Smart was born in Minety in 1896, the son of Edmund (a cowman on a farm) and Thirza (nee Read, the aunt of Herbert Read). Thirza must have been Edmund's second wife as there was a son whose birth pre-dated the marriage in 1883 from which Heber was the youngest of 3 boys and 2 girls. We will meet his older brother, Thomas, in September. In 1901



the family was living at Lower Moor, Ashton Road, Minety but by 1911 had moved to Sawyer's Hill and only Heber, working as a farm labourer, and one sister, a general servant, were still at home. Edmund, at 66 years old, was still working also as a farm labourer.

Heber joined the Royal Field Artillery although we have no record of this. He was serving with a Medium Trench Mortar Battery with the 41st Division and was killed on 6th June 1917, the day before the Battle of Messines Ridge, during the artillery barrage which heralded the British attack on the German positions. He is buried in the Dickebusch New Military Cemetery with 1170 other casualties of the First World War and is also remembered in Minety Church.



A Medium Trench Mortar in action

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

Ramscappelle Road Military Cemetery Nieuwpoort



Country: Belgium

Region: West-Vlaanderen

Identified Casualties: 530 from First World War

Historical Information

From June to November 1917, Commonwealth Forces (XV Corps) held the front line in Belgium from St. Georges (now Sint Joris), near Ramscappelle, to the sea. Most of Plot I of Ramscappelle Road Military Cemetery was made in July and August 1917, but the cemetery was considerably enlarged after the Armistice when graves were brought in from the battlefields and the following smaller burial grounds:- BOITSHOUCKE CHURCHYARD, where three men of the R.G.A. were buried in July and August, 1917. GHISTELLES GERMAN CEMETERY, on the road to Hagebrugge, where four airmen were buried by the enemy in 1917 and 1918 and two by their comrades in October, 1918. MIDDELKERKE GERMAN CEMETERY, on the coast road to Ostende, where twelve Canadian and ten United Kingdom soldiers were buried in 1915-1917. NIEUPOORT MILITARY CEMETERY, on the South side of the town, a French cemetery in which 107 British soldiers and one sailor were buried. It was closed in July, 1917 as excessively dangerous. NIEUPOORT-BAINS MILITARY CEMETERIES No.1, No.2 and No.3, OOST-DUNKERKE, French cemeteries close together at the West end of Nieuport-Bains. No.1 contained one British grave of 1917, No.2 two of 1918, and No.3 91 (including two Australian) of 1916-17. There are now 841 Commonwealth casualties of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 312 of the burials are unidentified, but special memorials commemorate two casualties known or believed to be buried among them. Also within this number are 26 special memorials to casualties originally buried at Nieuport or Nieuport-Bains whose graves were destroyed by shell fire. There are an additional 2 unidentified Foreign National burials here.

The cemetery was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens.

We will remember Private Albert Jesse Davis 23742

Albert Jesse Davis was born in Chalford apparently in 1888 although I can find no other information about his early life.

He joined the 1st Battalion, Gloucestershire Regt, which had moved to France in August 1914 as part of 3rd Brigade, 1st Division, with which it remained throughout the War. In the Summer of 1917 the Division was ordered to prepare for a special operation and moved to the Dunkirk area to train for Operation HUSH, a planned seaborne invasion of the Belgian coast to the SW of Ostend. The plan was to circumvent the German Marine Corps opposing the front line on the Ijzer Canal to relieve and link up with the forces engaged in the 3rd Battle of Ypres. However, the Germans became aware of the preparations for HUSH and, with three Marine Divisions, launched a counter-offensive, known as Operation Strandfest, on 7th July. This attack reached its climax on 10th July. 1st Division, along with the Glosters, was then in a sector at the mouth of the Ijzer between Nieuwpoort and the sea and it would be



during this battle that Albert was killed in action on 11th July 1917. In fact, as the expected gains around Ypres were never achieved HUSH was cancelled and no landing took place.



In May 1920 Albert is included in a Graves Registration Report as being buried in Nieuwpoort-Bains Military Cemetery No 3. However, in May 1924 in a Concentration of Graves (Exhumations and Reburials) Burial Return he is shown initially as an "Unknown British Soldier" but then identified by name when he and others were removed to the Ramscappelle Road Cemetery, just to the East of Nieuwpoort, where his memorial bears the additional words "Their glory shall not be blotted out". He is also remembered in Minety Church.

His next of kin are shown as his parents, Thomas and Ellen Davis, living at Level Crossing, Minety.

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

Queant Road Cemetery Buissy



Country: France

Region: Pas de Calais

Identified Casualties: 942 from First World War

Historical Information

Buissy was reached by the Third Army on 2nd September 1918, after the storming of the Drocourt-Queant line, and it was evacuated by the Germans on the following day. Queant Cemetery was made by the 2nd and 57th Casualty Clearing Stations in October and November 1918. It then consisted of 71 graves (now Plot I, Rows A and B), but was greatly enlarged after the Armistice when 2200 graves were brought in from the battlefields of 1917-1918 between Arras and Bapaume, and from the following smaller burial grounds in the area:- BARALLE COMMUNAL CEMETERY BRITISH EXTENSION, which was made in September 1918, contained the graves of 25 soldiers from the United Kingdom; and the GERMAN EXTENSION, from which two graves were brought. CAGNICOURT COMMUNAL CEMETERY, contained the grave of one soldier from the United Kingdom who fell in September 1918. LAGNICOURT (6th JAEGER REGIMENT) GERMAN CEMETERY, East of the village, contained 137 German graves and one British. NOREUIL BRITISH CEMETERIES No.1 and No.2. These were close together, about 400 metres North of Noreuil village. They were made in April-August 1917, and they contained the graves of 50 soldiers from Australia and 16 from the United Kingdom (some of these were re-buried in H.A.C. Cemetery, Ecoust-St. Mein). NOREUIL GERMAN CEMETERY No.1, next to Noreuil Australian Cemetery, contained 78 German graves and ten British. PRONVILLE GERMAN CEMETERY "near the Cave", on the Western outskirts of Pronville, contained 17 British graves. PRONVILLE GERMAN CEMETERY No.4, South of Pronville on the road to Beaumetz, contained 83 German and 83 British graves (52 of the British being those of soldiers of the Black Watch). PROVILLE CHURCHYARD, contained two British graves. There are now 2,377 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 1,441 of the burials are unidentified, but there are special memorials to 56 casualties known or believed to be buried among them. Other special memorials commemorate 26 casualties buried in German cemeteries in the neighbourhood, whose graves could not be found on concentration.

The cemetery was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens.

We will remember Sapper Percy James Miles 20117

Percy James Miles was born in Minety in 1892, son of Maurice (self-employed Wheelwright) and Emma Miles of The Moor, Lower Moor, Minety. He had 3 older brothers all wheelwrights, the youngest of whom was 10 years older. His grandfather, Joseph, and great grandfather, Morris Edmund, had both been carpenters and coopers.

By 1911 Percy had apparently left home and his parents were now living at Askew Bridge Cottage, whilst his father at 61 was still working as a wheelwright. His workshop still exists as the private house on that site. Percy enlisted in Swindon joining the Royal Engineers and eventually was posted to the 54th Field Company, attached to the 7th Division, described as "One of the greatest fighting formations Britain ever put into the field."

In May 1917 the Division was positioned to the Southeast of Arras and fought during the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line and in the



flanking operations round Bullecourt during the Arras Offensive, before moving to Flanders for the Third Battle of Ypres. It would be during this move that Percy was wounded, still in the area of Arras, and he died of his wounds on 6th July 1917.

Originally buried elsewhere, his grave was moved to the Queant Road Cemetery (Buissy) when, under the consolidation programme after the Armistice, 2200 graves were brought in from the battlefields of 1917-1918 between Arras and Bapaume, and from smaller burial grounds in the area. His next of kin are recorded as being the late Maurice Henry Miles and Emma Miles.

Emma was still living at Askew Bridge. It was she who requested the inclusion on his gravestone of words from Hebrews (XIII v14) "No continuing city here but we seek one to come".

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

Helles Memorial Dardanelles



Country: Turkey (including Gallipoli)

Identified Casualties: 20,956 from First World War

Historical Information

The eight month campaign in Gallipoli was fought by Commonwealth and French forces in an attempt to force Turkey out of the war, to relieve the deadlock of the Western Front in France and Belgium, and to open a supply route to Russia through the Dardanelles and the Black Sea. The Allies landed on the peninsula on 25th – 26th April 1915; the 29th Division at Cape Helles in the south and the Australian and New Zealand Corps north of Gaba Tepe on the west coast, an area soon known as Anzac Cove. On 6th August, further landings were made at Suvla, just north of Anzac Cove, and the climax of the campaign came in early August when simultaneous assaults were launched on all three fronts. However, the difficult terrain and stiff Turkish resistance soon led to the stalemate of trench warfare. From the end of August, no further serious action was fought and the lines remained unchanged. The peninsula was successfully evacuated in December and early January 1916. The Helles Memorial serves the dual function of Commonwealth battle memorial for the whole Gallipoli campaign and place of commemoration for many of those Commonwealth servicemen who died there and have no known grave. The United Kingdom and Indian forces named on the memorial died in operations throughout the peninsula, the Australians at Helles. There are also panels for those who died or were buried at sea in Gallipoli waters. Over 20,000 names are commemorated on this memorial. There are four other Memorials to the Missing at Gallipoli. The Lone Pine, Hill 60, and Chunuk Bair Memorials commemorate Australian and New Zealanders at Anzac Cove. The Twelve Tree Copse Memorial commemorates the New Zealanders at Helles. Naval casualties of the United Kingdom lost or buried at sea are recorded on their respective Memorials at Portsmouth, Plymouth and Chatham, in the United Kingdom.

We will remember Private Francis Timbrell 8876

Francis Timbrell was born in Minety in 1890, the second child and older son, of William (a labourer then cowman on a farm) and Elizabeth, living in 1891 at Cottage, Moor, Minty. By 1901 the family had moved to Griffins Barn, Malmesbury St Paul Without and another brother and sister had arrived.

Francis joined the 7th (Service) Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment, giving Bristol as his then town of residence. The Battalion sailed from Avonmouth on 19th June 1915 and landed on Gallipoli the following month. Its major commitment to battle was the attempt to take the

hill of Chunuk Bair, just inland from Anzac Cove. On 7th August the Battalion went into battle almost 1,000 strong, but only 181 emerged from it completely unscathed, the rest being either killed or wounded.

Private Domican from Bristol, who had to have his right hand amputated as a result of a wound he suffered in the battle, recalled:



"The big attack took place on Sunday morning. As soon as day broke we had orders to rush for the ridge, about 600 yards away, in extended order, and this we did amidst a hail of shrapnel. Our orders were to extend out two yards, take all possible shelter, and one man was to dig and the next one to open fire on the enemy who were about forty yards away. It was my duty to follow out the firing order while my companion was digging I was struck in the face by shrapnel early in the attack and my wrist was shattered. With some 250 Australians (actually New Zealanders), Ghurkas, and Gloucesters, I remained in the gully until eight o'clock in the evening. When sunset came those of us who were able crawled back to our lines and had our wounds attended to."

Francis was killed during that attack on 8th August 1915 and with 20878 others with no known grave is remembered on the Helles Memorial on the tip of the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey.

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

Alexandria (Chatby) Military and War Memorial Cemetery Alexandria



Country: Egypt

Identified Casualties: 2694 from First and Second World Wars

Historical Information

Chatby Military and War Memorial Cemetery (originally the Garrison cemetery) was used for burials until April 1916, when a new cemetery was opened at Hadra. Thereafter, burials at Chatby were infrequent, although some graves were brought into the cemetery after the war from other burial grounds in the area. During the Second World War, Alexandria was again an important hospital centre, taking casualties from campaigns in the Western Desert, Greece, Crete, the Aegean Islands and the Mediterranean. Rest camps and hostels were also established there together with a powerful anti-aircraft base. Alexandria was also the communications centre for the middle and near east and became the headquarters of the Military Police. There are now 2,259 First World War burials in the cemetery and 503 from the Second World War. The cemetery also contains war graves of other nationalities and many non-war and military graves, some of which date from 1882. The CHATBY MEMORIAL stands at the eastern end of the cemetery and commemorates almost 1,000 Commonwealth servicemen who died during the First World War and have no other grave but the sea. Many of them were lost when hospital ships or transports were sunk in the Mediterranean, sailing to or from Alexandria. Others died of wounds or sickness while aboard such vessels and were buried at sea.

We will remember Private Charles Baker 6/968

Charles Baker was born in 1896 apparently in Malmesbury. The 1901 Census he is shown as grandson of Rhoda Baker (56), a widow living at The Green, Minety with Rhoda's daughter, Mabel (15), and Rhoda's mother, Anne Beale (80). Rhoda was also the mother of Albert Baker. Charles has neither mother nor father shown in the census return. The 1911 Census shows Rhoda and Charles alone at The Green and he, at 15, is recorded as a Farmers Labourer.



Charles enlisted in the 6th (Service) Battalion, the Leinster Regiment, more properly known as the Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians) which was actually a regiment in the British Army, the Battalion forming in Dublin in late August 1914, as a unit of Kitchener's First New Army (K1). The battalion became attached to 29th Infantry Brigade of 10th (Irish) Division moving in May 1915 to England and concentrating around Basingstoke.

On 1st July orders were received to prepare for service on Gallipoli, and khaki drill clothing was issued.

Embarkation began on 9th July 1915 at Liverpool, and by the end of July the Division was on Lemnos; the first all-Irish formation ever to take the field of war:

1 July	Basingstoke	Warned for overseas service 32 Officers 994 men.
6 July		A Corporal, 5 men and 9 mules embark S.S. Kinstonian.
9 July	Liverpool	Embark S.S. Mauretania 4.30 am.
12 July	Mauretania	Call at Gibraltar.
20 July	Lemnos	Land and bivouack on harbourside.
1 August	Lemnos	Rejoin 29 th Infantry Brigade.
6-7 August	Gallipoli	29 th Brigade land at Anzac Cove.
10 August	Gallipoli	Attack at Gallipoli

Charles must have been a very early casualty at Anzac Cove, being wounded and evacuated to Egypt where he died on 24th August 1915. He is buried in the Alexandria (Chatby) Military and War Memorial Cemetery. In his headstone registration Rhoda is shown as the next of kin but now with an address at 14 Bourne Road, Bromley, having apparently moved to be near her daughter-in-law.

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

Thiepval Memorial



Country: France

Region: Somme

Identified Casualties: 72346 from First World War

Historical Information

On 1st July 1916, supported by a French attack to the south, 13 divisions of Commonwealth forces launched an offensive on a line from north of Gommecourt to Maricourt. Despite a preliminary bombardment lasting seven days, the German defences were barely touched and the attack met unexpectedly fierce resistance. Losses were catastrophic and with only minimal advances on the southern flank, the initial attack was a failure. In the following weeks, huge resources of manpower and equipment were deployed in an attempt to exploit the modest successes of the first day. However, the German Army resisted tenaciously and repeated attacks and counter attacks meant a major battle for every village, copse and farmhouse gained. At the end of September, Thiepval was finally captured. The village had been an original objective of 1st July. Attacks north and east continued throughout October and into November in increasingly difficult weather conditions. The Battle of the Somme finally ended on 18th November with the onset of winter.

In the spring of 1917, the German forces fell back to their newly prepared defences, the Hindenburg Line, and there were no further significant engagements in the Somme sector until the Germans mounted their major offensive in March 1918.

The Thiepval Memorial, the Memorial to the Missing of the Somme, bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20 March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916. Following lengthy negotiations about the site, construction at Thiepval began in 1928 and was finished in 1932. Foundations were dug to a depth of 30 feet, uncovering wartime tunnels and unexploded ordnance.

The memorial also serves as an Anglo-French Battle Memorial in recognition of the joint nature of the 1916 offensive and a small cemetery containing equal numbers of Commonwealth and French graves lies at the foot of the memorial. Notable commemorations include cricketer Kenneth Hutchings, writer Hector Hugh Munro, also known as Saki and Cedric Dickens, grandson of novelist Charles Dickens. There are also seven holders of the Victoria Cross.

On 1st August 1932, Prince Edward, Prince of Wales unveiled the memorial. Albert Lebrun, President of France and Sir Edwin Lutyens, the memorial's architect, attended the ceremony which was in English and French.

We will remember Private Edgar Percy Law 1076

Edgar Percy Law was born in 1890 in Malmesbury, the second son of Anthony (Groom) and Matilda Law living Near Church, Minety. He was one of 6 with 2 sisters and 3 brothers.

By 1911 his father, now a domestic groom, had moved the family to Cloatley whilst Edgar had married Sarah Strong in Q3 1908 and had 2 small sons of his own Thomas (2) and Jack (born in 1911). He is shown as being a farm labourer living at Swillbrook Minety.

Edgar joined the 2nd Battalion, the Leinster Regiment, one of the original battalions of the Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment (Royal Canadians) when it was formed in 1881. The Battalion had moved to France in September 1914, joining the 24th Division and by the summer of 1916 was heavily involved in the Battle of the Somme



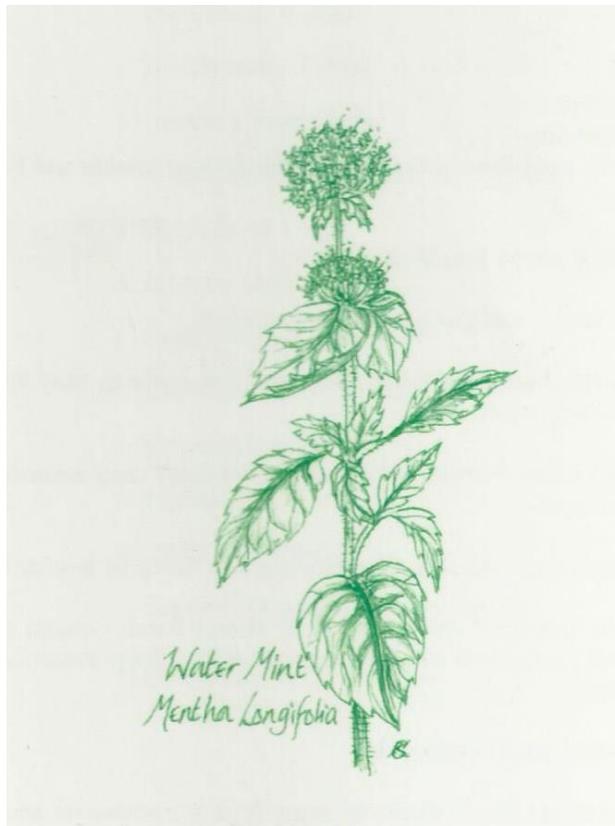
. During the night of 9/10 August the Division relieved the 2nd Division in the line near the village of Guillemont. "The 24th Division on the left was subjected to much German artillery-fire but parties from two battalions occupied the remainder of ZZ Trench leading into Guillemont unopposed. In attacks at 4:30 p.m., the Division attacked the quarry with a battalion of the 72nd Brigade The attack on the quarry failed after a long bombing fight and the attack was costly to both sides, the Division being too depleted to hold the captured ground."

In the continued fighting in and around Guillemont, Edgar was killed on 25 August 1916. He has no known grave and is one of the 72,197 named casualties of the Somme listed on the Lutyens designed Thiepval Memorial.

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

Each year on 1st July a ceremony is held at the memorial to mark the first day of the Battle of the Somme. On 1st July 2016, to mark the centenary of the Battle of the Somme, thousands of people attended a special ceremony including members of the British Royal family, UK Prime Minister David Cameron, and French President François Hollande.

Behind the memorial is the Thiepval Anglo-French Cemetery. The cemetery contains the graves of 300 Commonwealth servicemen and 300 French servicemen. The majority of these men died during the Battle of the Somme, but some also fell in the battles near Loos and Le Quesnel. In the winter of 1931-32, it was decided that a small mixed cemetery be made at the memorial's foot to represent the loss of both the French and Commonwealth nations. Of the 300 Commonwealth burials in the cemetery, 239 are unidentified. The bodies were found in December 1931 and January-March 1932, some as far north as Loos and as far south as Le Quesnel, but the majority came from the Somme battlefields of July-November 1916. Of the 300 French dead, 253 are unidentified.



Quarry Wood Cemetery Sains Les Marquion



Country: France

Region: Pas de Calais

Identified Casualties: 278 from First World War

Historical Information

The cemetery was made by the 102nd Canadian Battalion in October 1918. There are now over 250, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, a small number are unidentified and a special memorial is erected to one Canadian Officer believed to be buried among them. The cemetery covers an area of 1,249 square metres and is enclosed by a rubble wall.

We will remember Private Frank Barrett 2138541

Frank was born Ernest Frank Barrett in Minety on 31st July 1894, the first son of Ernest John (a general labourer) and Alice May Barrett. In the 1901 census the family is living at Flisteridge Road, Minety, although in 1911 this was named as Crudwell Road, Minety. There was an older sister (Ruby Gladys), who by 1911 at the age of 19 had left home, a younger brother (Charles Joseph/Josiah) and 3 younger sisters (Daisy Blanche, Virginia Rose and Anne Elizabeth). All were born in Minety and Frank is shown as a farm labourer.



Sometime after 1911 Frank emigrated to Canada and was drafted, under the Canadian Military Service Act of 1917, into the Canadian Infantry 72nd Battalion, the British Columbia Regiment, on 29th October 1917 at Hazelton, BC. His address then is shown as Telkwa, BC, and although he is married he gives his father as next of kin. His occupation is given as Shoeing Smith and he is 5 ft 7 ½ ins tall, with a chest expansion of 2 ½ ins to 35 ½ ins, ruddy complexion, brown eyes and black hair with a scar over his right patella.

On 25th September 1918 the Battalion moved by train from the Arras Supply Station to Riencourt to the west of Cambrai. The Battle of the Canal du Nord began on 27th September with an attack on Bourslon Wood and as the start of the 100 Day Offensive which led to the final end to hostilities, and Frank “during an advance on enemy positions in the vicinity of Bourslon was hit in the back by enemy shrapnel and almost instantly killed”.

Frank is buried in the Quarry Wood Cemetery near Inchy-en-Artois and is remembered in Minety Church. According to my contact at the Canadian High Commission in London, he is named in a family tree on Ancestry which states that he married Amy Harbridge. Their son, Ernest George Barrett was born in Hazelton, BC, Canada on 11th August 1918, less than a month before his father was killed. Ernest George is survived by two children who now live in Vancouver.



“He shall grow not old as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary him nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember him.”

Loos Memorial Loos-en-Gohelle



Country: France

Region: Pas de Calais

Identified Casualties: 20,660 from First World War

Historical Information

Dud Corner Cemetery stands almost on the site of a German strong point, the Lens Road Redoubt, captured by the 15th (Scottish) Division on the first day of the Battle of Loos. The name "Dud Corner" is believed to be due to the large number of unexploded enemy shells found in the neighbourhood after the Armistice. The Loos Memorial commemorates over 20,000 officers and men who have no known grave, who fell in the area from the River Lys to the old southern boundary of the First Army, east and west of Grenay, from the first day of the Battle of Loos to the end of the war. On either side of the cemetery is a wall 15 feet high, to which are fixed tablets on which are carved the names of those commemorated. At the back are four small circular courts, open to the sky, in which the lines of tablets are continued, and between these courts are three semi-circular walls or apses, two of which carry tablets, while on the centre apse is erected the Cross of Sacrifice.

The memorial was designed by Sir Herbert Baker with sculpture by Charles Wheeler. It was unveiled by Sir Nevil Macready on 4th August 1930.

The cemetery itself started during hostilities with the burial of 4 officers and one private. The remainder were brought in from isolated positions near Loos and to the North, and from certain small cemeteries including Tosh, Crucifix and Le Rutoire. There are now nearly 2,000, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, over half are unidentified and special headstones have been erected to 15 soldiers from the United Kingdom who are believed to be buried among them. The great majority of the dead buried here fell in the Battle of Loos 1915; but some were killed in succeeding years. The cemetery now covers an area of 5,550 square metres and is bounded by a low rubble wall except on the road side, where the War Stone is raised on a grass terrace and flanked by buildings.

We will remember Private Tom Canter 14509

For the 1891 Census Tom is 5 yrs old. His mother, Dina A Canter, is shown as a widow with 4 sons and a daughter all below the age of 16. Tom was born in 1886 and the family was then living at Cottage, Silver Street, Minety. In 1911 Tom, now 25 and employed as a labourer boilermaker is boarding with Ephraim and Elizabeth Ellwood and their 18 year old daughter Cicely at 27 Butterworth Street, Swindon. Ephraim is also a boilermaker. Tom enlisted in Swindon and must have volunteered his services almost as the War broke out. He joined the 8th Battalion, the Royal Berkshire Regiment which formed in September 1914 as part of Kitchener's Third Army. The Battalion landed at Le Havre on 8 August 1915 joining 1st Brigade, 1st Division in time for the Battle of Loos.



The War Diary recorded:

"5:50AM. The intensive Bombardment, ahead of the attack on the German position SOUTH of the HULLOCH ROAD, began. Simultaneously, the gas company began to operate the gas cylinders which were in the frontline trench, and there were then several casualties from poisoning, caused by leakages in the cylinders. 6:28AM. The gas ceased, and smoke bombs, thrown from the front-line trenches, proved entirely successful in screening our Advance. 6:30AM. Our artillery lifted, and Battalion advanced in quick time, to assault the first line Enemy Trenches. The advance was opposed by heavy artillery and machine-gun fire, while the wire in front of the German trenches was scarcely damaged, and it was in cutting a way through this obstacle that most of the regiment's heavy casualties occurred. Mainly overland, but with some men working up the communication trench, our line advanced successively to the 2nd and 3rd German lines, and met with but slight opposition. 3:30PM The Germans counter-attacked, driving in our flanks and as the support had not yet arrived we were compelled to retire, holding a position about 100 yds WEST of the road.



6:30PM circa. Whilst the Battalion was negotiating the German wire about 50 of the 8th R. Berks R became separated and attached themselves to the Gordons advancing and taking the German guns in the 4th line German trench. They then advanced and occupied the road WEST of HULLUCH. Starting to dig ourselves in, we waited for support to come up. The Berks numbers were reduced to about half. On receiving news that the supports were coming up we again advanced to the road which we proceeded to place in a state of defence. 11:30PM. The Germans again counter-attacked in large numbers driving in our right flank. We retired to the position we had held in the afternoon. The Germans continued to push the counter-attack. Our support line then opened fire and we were caught between the two fires. We then made our way to our supporting line. Only 6 of the Berkshires returned safely."

Tom was killed on the opening day of the Battle on 25th September 1915 but has no known grave. With 20,616 others, he is recorded on the Loos Memorial at Dud Corner near Loos-en-Gohelle and is also named on the Minety Church Memorial. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission notes that he was the son of Thomas and Dinah Canter and the husband of Ella Alice Taylor (formerly Canter) of 11 Unity Street, Chippenham.

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

Triangle Cemetery Inchy-en-Artois



Country: France

Region: Pas de Calais

Identified Casualties: 81 from First World War

Historical Information

The line between Inchy and Moeuvres was broken by the 4th Canadian Division on the morning of the 27th September 1918, and the cemetery was made after the battle by fighting units and Field Ambulances. There are now nearly 100, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, a small number are unidentified. The cemetery covers an area of 472 square metres and is enclosed by a brick wall.

We will remember Private Thomas William Smart 255645



Thomas William Smart was born in Minety on 11th October 1886, the second son of the union of Edmund Wilson (general labourer) and Thirza Smart and older brother of Heber Smart whom we met in June. The family was living at Ashton Road Cottage, Minety.

Thomas emigrated to Canada possibly sometime between 1901 and 1911. However, the first record available seems to be his attestation papers, dated 19th May 1916, completed in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. His occupation is given as farmer and he is single. He gives his mother's name as next of kin. He is 5ft 8 ins tall and of fair complexion with green eyes and dark hair.

He joined the 1st Battalion Canadian Mounted Rifles (Saskatchewan Regiment). The Battalion formed part of the 8th Canadian Brigade in the 3rd Canadian Division which in August and September 1918 was deployed in the region of Cambrai in preparation for the Battle of the Canal du Nord and the 100 Day Offensive.

On 28th September the Battalion was in reserve but at 0600 began its move to trenches in the front line, arriving in place at 0900 – Field Kitchens followed the Battalion. At 0800 the next day:

"the Battalion made an attack supported by the 9th Canadian Infantry Bn on its right and the 2nd Canadian Mounted Infantry on its left. Boundaries were a SUNKEN ROAD to the CANAL and the ARRAS-CAMBRAI ROAD to a BRIDGEHEAD. Objectives were first a bridgehead over the CANAL d'ESCAUT and then press on and exploit as far as BROWN LINE. The attack was supported by a rolling artillery barrage. The Battalion advanced but was forced to withdraw owing to our artillery firing short. Machine gun posts still existed in the town of ST OLLE in the church and the main street to the East of the church, these positions were shelled by our artillery. Battle casualties for the day were very heavy with 76 killed and 253 wounded. Approximately 75 prisoners were taken."

This was the opening phase of the main Battle in which Thomas possibly was wounded but then dying when with a Field Ambulance Unit to the rear on 29th September 1918. He is buried in Triangle Cemetery, Inchy-en-Artois approximately 13 km from Cambrai. There are 80 other named casualties in this cemetery along with some 20 unnamed. His grave stone has the additional words "Peace Perfect Peace" inscribed, requested by his younger sister, Miss ME Smart, Mabel or possibly known as May, then living at Sawyers Hill, Minety. His name is also on the Memorial in Minety Church.



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

Chocques Military Cemetery Bethune



Country: France

Region: Pas de Calais

Identified Casualties: 1,702 from First World War

Historical Information

Chocques was occupied by Commonwealth forces from the late autumn of 1914 to the end of the war. The village was at one time the headquarters of I Corps and from January 1915 to April 1918, No.1 Casualty Clearing Station was posted there. Most of the burials from this period are of casualties who died at the clearing station from wounds received at the Bethune front. From April to September 1918, during the German advance on this front, the burials were carried out by field ambulances, divisions and fighting units. The groups of graves of a single Royal Artillery brigade in Plot II, Row A, and of the 2nd Seaforths in II D, and III A, are significant of the casualties of the 4th Division at that time. The big collective grave in VI A contains the remains of 29 soldiers of the 4th King's Liverpool Regiment killed in a troop train in April 1918. The stone memorial in IA is placed behind the graves of eight men of the 3rd Squadron, RFC, killed in a bomb explosion on the aerodrome at Merville in March 1915. After the Armistice it was found necessary to concentrate into this Cemetery (Plots II, III, IV and VI) a large number of isolated graves plus some small graveyards from the country between Chocques and Bethune. Among the small cemeteries thus removed were:- ANNEZIN Communal Cemetery Extension, a short distance West of Bethune, made by the 3rd Division in April, 1918, which contained 38 graves. LES HARISOIRS British Cemetery, Mont-Bernenchon, 4.8 Kms North East of Chocques, made by the 4th Division in April, 1918, which contained 27 graves. CANAL Cemetery, Les Harisoirs, made by the 4th Division in April, 1918, which contained 17 graves. BOIS-DES-MONTAGNES British Cemetery, Vaudricourt, 3.2 Kms South West of Bethune, made by the 46th Field Ambulance in September, 1915, which contained 8 graves. Chocques Military Cemetery now contains 1,801 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, 134 of them unidentified. There are also 82 German war graves, 47 being unidentified.

The cemetery was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens.

We will remember Serjeant Charles William Scriven 19155



Charles William Scriven was born in 1887 probably in Minety although there seems some confusion over the place. Charles is one of the few British Army soldiers for whom we have an Army Record. The bulk of the Army's records were destroyed in the Second World War when bombing left only 37% either undamaged or partially legible.

The 1901 Census return lists his birthplace as Minety whilst his Army records show he was born in the Parish of Oaksey. He is the oldest of the 5 sons and a daughter of Edwin Scriven (Agricultural Labourer) and his wife Anne who in 1891 lived in Common Lane, Oaksey. By 1901 the family was living at The Street, Hullavington and Edwin was a plate layer on the railway whilst Charles, aged only 14, had joined him as a point turner.

On 14th November 1904, Charles joined the Wiltshire Regiment Militia saying then that he was single, living in the Parish of St Paul's, Chippenham and employed as an iron moulders labourer by Messrs Saxbys and Farmers of Chippenham. On 4th January 1905, presumably shortly after his 18th birthday, he transferred to the Regular Army, for 9 years' service and 3 in the Reserve. Both his attestation certificates state that he was born in Oaksey and this remained throughout his army career. He is described as 5ft 6ins tall, weighing 117lbs with a chest measurement of 34½ ins expanding to 36½, fresh complexion and brown hair and eyes.

He joined 2nd Battalion Wiltshire Regiment on 4th April 1905, earned 2 good conduct badges and a 4 (old) pence pay rise before being transferred to the reserve on 23rd June 1911, still in the rank of Private. However, on declaration of war he was mobilised on 5th August 1914, joining 6th (Service) Battalion on 29th August 1914 at Perham Down, about 2 miles east of Tidworth. There on 28th November 1914 he was declared medically unfit, having suffered a recurrence of varicocele whilst on manoeuvres, and discharged in the rank of Lance Corporal. It was noted that his military character was very good and he had experience as an officer's servant and "made a very good one". He intended living at 83 Tower Hill, Stroud, possibly now having a wife, Sarah Ann.

That could have been the end of his military career but, after surgery, he was once more declared fully fit and, on 14th March 1915, re-enlisted returning to 2nd Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment.

On 25th October, Charles by now was an Acting Serjeant in C Company, the Battalion took over trenches at Cuinchy, to the East of Bethune and North of the La Basse- Bethune Canal. There was heavy rain and both the communication and fire trenches were flooded.

The enemy shelled on 26th with no result but shelling again on 27th of the front and support trench led to 2 casualties. Possibly one of these was Charles who died of his wounds on 28th October 1915 probably whilst in the care of the No 1 Casualty Clearing Station at Chocques. He is one of the 1,801 Commonwealth casualties buried in the Chocques Military Cemetery and his grave stone bears the additional message, requested by his wife, "Thy will be done". She is recorded as Mrs Sarah Ann Tanner (formally Scriven) living at Ivy Court, Hullavington and his parents are also named in Hullavington and as a result Charles is also recorded on the Hullavington War Memorial.



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

Cambrai Memorial Louveral



Country: France

Region: Nord

Identified Casualties: 7116 from First World War

Historical Information

On an elevated terrace in Louveral Military Cemetery, stands the Cambrai Memorial, designed by Harold Chalton Bradshaw.. It commemorates more than 7,000 servicemen from Britain and South Africa who died in the Battle of Cambrai and whose graves are not known.

On 20th November 1917, the British Third Army launched an attack towards Cambrai. The method of assault was new, with no preliminary artillery bombardment. Instead, a large number of tanks were used to break through the German wire, with the infantry following under the cover of smoke barrages. Sir Douglas Haig described the object of the Cambrai operations as the gaining of a 'local success by a sudden attack at a point where the enemy did not expect it' and to some extent they succeeded

The attack began early in the morning and initial advances were remarkable. However, by 22nd November, a halt was called for rest and reorganisation, allowing the Germans to reinforce. From 23rd to 28th November, the fighting was concentrated almost entirely around Bourlon Wood and by 29th November, it was clear that the Germans were ready for a major counter-attack. During the fierce fighting of the next five days, much of the ground gained in the initial days of the attack was lost.

For the Allies, the results of the battle were ultimately disappointing but valuable lessons were learnt about new strategies and tactical approaches to fighting. The Germans had also discovered that their fixed lines of defence, no matter how well prepared, were vulnerable. At the end of the battle on 6th December 1917, losses to both sides were great.

The chateau at Louveral, was taken by the 56th Australian Infantry Battalion at dawn on 2nd April 1917. The hamlet stayed in Allied hands until the 51st (Highland) Division was driven from it on 21st March 1918 during the great German advance, and it was retaken in the following September.

The memorial holds the names of seven recipients of the Victoria Cross.

The memorial was unveiled by Lieutenant-General Sir Louis Vaughan on 4th August 1930. It was unveiled at the same hour on the same day as the memorials at Le Touret, Vis-en-Artois and Pozières in France.

We will remember Lance Corporal George Pennell 27980



George Pennell was born in Hankerton in 1884 the second son of Charles and Elizabeth (Betsy) Pennell who remained in Hankerton throughout their married life. Charles is shown variously as an agricultural labourer and farmer but also as a carrier and coal seller. George appears to have left home but by 1911, at the age of 27, was still single and had moved back in with his parents to be described as a general carrier to Cirencester and Swindon. Soon after this he married Ruby Gladys.

George joined the Grenadier Guards and was posted to the 3rd Battalion but we have no record of the date he enlisted.

By November 1917 George was a Lance Corporal and on 24th November the Battalion moved to the RIBECOURT area to trenches in the HINDENBURG SUPPORT LINE (previously German trenches behind their front line). On the night of 25th/26th November the Battalion took over the line round the S E edge of

BOURLON WOOD, astride the BAPAUME-CAMBRAI road opposite the village of FONTAINE NOTRE DAME (just to the west of Cambrai). The line was taken over very quickly from the 3rd Bn COLDSTREAM GUARDS. Orders to attack the village of FONTAINE NOTRE DAME in the morning were issued late that afternoon. At 6.20 am the next day, 27th November, the Battalion went into action. There is supposed to be a separate detailed account of the battle but none appears to have been retained with the Battalion War Diary. That night 3rd Bn GG was relieved by 1st Bn GG & moved to LA JUSTICE.

This battle for FONTAINE NOTRE DAME was close to the furthest advance made during the Cambrai Offensive before the Germans counter-attacked. During it George was killed. He has no known grave but is one of the 7059 casualties recorded on the Cambrai Memorial.



His next of kin are recorded to be his father, Charles Pennell (who would now be 67 years old) of Chapel Lane, Hankerton, and his wife, Ruby Gladys Pennell of Flistridge Hill, Upper Minety. George was 34 years old.

"He shall grow not old as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary him nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember him."

Beauval Communal Cemetery **Rue de L'Eglise, Beauval**



Country: France

Region: Somme

Identified Casualties: 250 from First and Second World Wars

Historical Information

The 4th Casualty Clearing Station was at Beauval from June 1915 to October 1916 and the 47th from October to December 1916. The great majority of the burials were carried out from these hospitals, but a few were made as late as March 1918. After the Armistice, graves from Lucheux Military Cemetery were moved to Rows A and G of this cemetery. LUCHEUX MILITARY CEMETERY was made by French troops and used at intervals from 1916 to 1918 by British units. It stood at the South end of the village of Lucheux, in wooded country North-East of Doullens. It contained the graves of 48 French soldiers, twelve British and one New Zealand, and two men of the Chinese Labour Corps. Beauval Communal Cemetery contains 249 Commonwealth burials of the First World War. There is also one Second World War burial.

The Commonwealth plot was designed by G H Goldsmith.

We will remember Private Cecil Thomas Packer 20550



Cecil Thomas Packer was born in Minety in July 1885. His father, Thomas a farm labourer, had been living in Emmet Hill in Upper Minety until he married Ellen Skuse in about 1876 when they set up home at 11 Eastcourt Road, Minety. By 1911 the family had moved to West End, Poole Keynes, and Cecil had 2 older sisters and an older brother, who had apparently left home, and a younger brother and sister. On 28th September 1909 Cecil married Florence Annie Davis in Poole Keynes. By 1911 they had 2 young sons, Francis (born 1909) and John (born 1910) and were living at 105 Poole Keynes. Cecil was working as a farm labourer.

Before then, on 4th February 1904, Cecil had joined the Gloucestershire Regiment, 28th & 61st Foot. His army record, only a small part of which survives, shows that, at 18 years and 6 months, he was 5 ft 10 ½ ins tall with a chest expansion from 33 ½ to 35 ¾ ins with fresh complexion, grey eyes and brown hair. Cecil was plainly not suited to Army life and on 31st March he was discharged from the Army having paid £10 for his release

There appears to be no record of Cecil's having joined up for wartime service although he enlisted in Cirencester and by December 1916 was a member of the 8th Battalion, the Gloucestershire Regiment, deployed in the Somme region during the aftermath of that great battle. Neither is there a record of how exactly Cecil was killed. It is possible he died of wounds, or from injuries sustained in an accident, whilst in the care of the 47th Casualty Clearing Station which was then based at Beauval. Cecil is buried in the Beauval Communal Cemetery which is just outside the village of Beauval roughly 24 km north of Amiens. His next of kin are recorded as his parents, Thomas and Ellen Packer of Poole Keynes, and his wife, Florence A. Packer of 105 Poole Keynes, Cirencester. He is remembered, along with 5 others, on the war memorial plaque in the Church of St Michael and All Angels, Poole Keynes.



*"He shall grow not old as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary him nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember him."*

