

The villagers of Writtle who gave their lives in the Great War

1914 – 4 men (4 Army, 0 Navy) (Average age: 30)

1915 – 7 men (6 Army, 1 Navy) (Average age: 22)

1916 – 14 men (12 Army, 2 Navy) (Average age: 26)

1917 – 28 men (25 Army, 3 Navy) (Average age: 24)

1918 – 11 men and 1 woman (9 Army, 2 unknown and 1 Nurse) (Average age: 31)

Summary 64 men and 1 woman (56 Army, 6 Navy, 1 Nurse and 2 Unknown) (Average age: 27)

Date of Death Order



09/09/1914	Adams	John William
12/09/1914	Harvey	Walter Harry
21/10/1914	Gayler	James
02/11/1914	Brewster	Arthur
24/04/1915	Jones	Percy
28/04/1915	Brewster	James Robert
12/06/1915	Brewster	William Thomas
14/08/1915	Woodhouse	Robert Cecil
27/09/1915	Green	Martin Vail
04/10/1915	Gooch	Lancelot Edward Daniel
09/11/1915	Gardener	Charles William
29/02/1916	Betts	Ernest John William
31/05/1916	Ottley	Albert Charles
06/06/1916	Rose	Edward Leigh Mildmay
01/07/1916	Brewster	Robert Arthur
01/07/1916	Broyde	Dick
01/07/1916	Cresswell	William
17/07/1916	Bowtell	William
20/07/1916	Osborne	Christopher John
03/09/1916	Garwood	William H
24/09/1916	Arnold-Wallinger	The Reverend Geoffrey Seldon
28/09/1916	Everard	Percy Edward
29/09/1916	Jones	Frank
12/10/1916	Broyde	Sam
15/10/1916	Whybird	Arthur Edward
10/01/1917	Harvey	Edward George
19/01/1917	Little	John William
07/02/1917	Gentry	Amos Harry
08/02/1917	Hart	Henry George
26/03/1917	Jeayes	Henry Lawrence
26/03/1917	Malyon	Frederick Charles
26/03/1917	Perrin	Henry Frederick
27/03/1917	Young	Joseph
01/04/1917	Moss	Leonard George
14/04/1917	Eaton	Richard
29/04/1917	Usborne	Alfred James
04/05/1917	Poole	John
10/06/1917	Sharp	Ernest



10/07/1917	White	Basil Harold
09/07/1917	Jones	George
16/07/1917	Wilkinson	Charles
17/07/1917	Gowers	Bertie
31/07/1917	Pearson	Frank
01/08/1917	Anstee	George
04/08/1917	Bearup	John W
16/08/1917	Fayers	Alfred Charles
30/10/1917	Poole	William Ernest
02/11/1917	Barker	Stephen John
02/11/1917	Marshall	John (Jack)
02/11/1917	Fitch	Edward James
04/11/1917	Skingley	William Stephen
28/11/1917	Page	Edwin Francis
11/12/1917	Ellis	Ernest Edward
05/02/1918	Adams	Samuel William
02/05/1918	Everard	William Henry
28/08/1918	Little	Thomas
19/09/1918	Blanks	William
21/09/1918	Townsend	Martha
24/09/1918	Wood	A W
29/09/1918	Garwood	George Frederick
08/11/1918	Dale	Frank or Francis
28/11/1918	Everard	Isaac John
11/02/1919	Fitch	George Bennett
17/08/1919	Rumsey	James
Not known	Beckett	Richard



Surname Order

09/09/1914	Adams	John William
05/02/1918	Adams	Samuel William
01/08/1917	Anstee	George
24/09/1916	Arnold-Wallinger	The Reverend Geoffrey Seldon
02/11/1917	Barker	Stephen John
04/08/1917	Bearup	John W
Not known	Beckett	Richard
29/02/1916	Betts	Ernest John William
29/09/1918	Blanks	William
17/07/1916	Bowtell	William
02/11/1914	Brewster	Arthur
28/04/1915	Brewster	James Robert
01/07/1916	Brewster	Robert Arthur
12/06/1915	Brewster	William Thomas
01/07/1916	Broyde	Dick
12/10/1916	Broyde	Sam
01/07/1916	Cresswell	William
08/11/1918	Dale	Frank or Francis

14/04/1917	Eaton	Richard
11/12/1917	Ellis	Ernest Edward
28/11/1918	Everard	Isaac John
28/09/1916	Everard	Percy Edward
02/05/1918	Everard	William Henry
16/08/1917	Fayers	Alfred Charles
02/11/1917	Fitch	Edward James
11/02/1919	Fitch	George Bennett
09/11/1915	Gardener	Charles William
29/09/1918	Garwood	George Frederick
03/09/1916	Garwood	William H
21/10/1914	Gayler	James
07/02/1917	Gentry	Amos Harry
04/10/1915	Gooch	Lancelot Edward Daniel
17/07/1917	Gowers	Bertie
27/09/1915	Green	Martin Vail
08/02/1917	Hart	Henry George
10/01/1917	Harvey	Edward George
12/09/1914	Harvey	Walter Harry
26/03/1917	Jeayes	Henry Lawrence
29/09/1916	Jones	Frank
09/07/1917	Jones	George
24/04/1915	Jones	Percy
19/01/1917	Little	John William
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31/05/1916	Ottley	Albert Charles
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30/10/1917	Poole	William Ernest
06/06/1916	Rose	Edward Leigh Mildmay
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10/06/1917	Sharp	Ernest
04/11/1917	Skingley	William Stephen
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29/04/1917	Usborne	Alfred James
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16/07/1917	Wilkinson	Charles
24/09/1918	Wood	A W
14/08/1915	Woodhouse	Robert Cecil
27/03/1917	Young	Joseph

MEMORIAL	SURNAME	SERVICE DETAILS	CEMETERY/MEMORIAL PHOTO
CWGC Not named on the War Memorial but lived in the village	Adams, John William	ADAMS, JOHN WILLIAM Private, 6436 1 st Bn, Norfolk Regiment KILLED IN ACTION 9th September 1914 Age: Unknown Commemorated at: La Ferté-sous-Jouarre Memorial Ile-de-France, France Panel stone No 8	
<p>La Ferté-sous-Jouarre Memorial to the Missing</p> <p>The La Ferté-sous-Jouarre Memorial commemorates 3,740 officers and men of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) who fell at the battles of Mons, Le Cateau, the Marne and the Aisne between the end of August and early October 1914 and have no known graves. The monument is constructed of white Massangis stone and surmounted by a sarcophagus onto which military trophies are laid. At the four corners of the pavement on which the monument stands are stone columns supporting urns which bear the coats of arms of the four constituent nations of the United Kingdom. The memorial was designed by George H. Goldsmith, a decorated veteran of the Western Front, and unveiled by Sir William Pulteney, who had commanded the III Corps of the BEF in 1914, on 4 November 1928.</p> <p>Close to the bridge on both banks of the river stand the stone columns which make up the 4th Division Royal Engineers Memorial. The columns are surmounted with the flaming grenade of the Royal Engineers and mark the spot at which British sappers constructed a floating assault bridge under German artillery fire on 9 and 10 September 1914.</p> <p>The British Expeditionary Force at the Battle of the Marne.</p> <p>By the beginning of September 1914, the German Imperial Army had swept through much of Belgium and north-eastern France and was fast approaching Paris. By 3 September, the British and French forces had been retreating south west for over two weeks, German victory was a definite possibility, and the Allied Commander, Général Joffre, prepared to launch a major counter offensive. As night fell on 5 September, the men of the British Expeditionary Force began to halt approximately 40 kilometres south east of Paris and their gruelling retreat was at an end. For the next two days, British I, II and III Corps advanced north eastward, encountering only minor resistance from the German forces in the area, which had reached the limit of their advance and were now carrying out a tactical retreat. On 8 September, British infantry brigades advancing toward the Marne came under heavy machine-gun and artillery fire from German units in La Ferté sous Jouarre and on the north bank of the river where they had formed a bridgehead. The British withdrew, began bombarding the German positions, and by mid-afternoon had entered the town in force. Both of the local bridges had been blown, but the Royal Engineers immediately began to construct a floating bridge, over which III Corps crossed the Marne on 10 September and joined I and II Corps which had crossed the river further to the east the previous day.</p> <p>The German armies were now in full retreat to the north and east, hotly pursued by the combined British and French forces. Retreating German units fought rear-guard actions under heavy rainfall throughout the day on 11 September and by the morning of the 12th they had occupied defensive positions on the high ground overlooking the northern banks of the River Aisne.</p> <p>The Battle of the Marne, referred to in the French press as the 'Miracle of the Marne', halted the month-long advance of the German forces toward Paris and decisively ended the possibility of an early German victory. The battle also marked the beginning of trench warfare as Allied and German forces entrenched during and after the Battle of the Aisne in mid-September. By November battle lines had been drawn that would remain virtually unchanged for almost four years. The British Expeditionary Force suffered almost 13,000 casualties during the Battle of the Marne, of whom some 7,000 had been killed.</p>			
CWGC Named on the War Memorial	Harvey, Walter Harry	HARVEY, WALTER HARRY Private, 6683 16 th (The Queen's) Lancers KILLED IN ACTION 12th September 1914 Age: Unknown Commemorated at: La Ferté-sous-Jouarre Memorial Ile-de-France, France Panel stone No 2A	
<p>Born in Messing and lived in Highwood. His death is recorded as being 12th September although there is some confusion about this and it may have been the 15th. The Lancers' records state that he was killed in action on the 15th September although the CWGC show it as the 12th.</p> <p>Memorial as for J W Adams</p>			

CWGC Named on the War Memorial	Gayler, James	GAYLER, JAMES Private, 6568 2 nd Bn, Essex Regiment KILLED IN ACTION 21 st October 1914 Age: 32 Commemorated at: Ploegsteert Memorial Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium Panel No 7D	
<p>James Gayler came from a family of farmworkers. The 1901 Census show the family was living at Sturgeons Farm Cottage with his father James, the farm stockman, and his wife Louisa and four children, James then 19, and his sisters Ellen, Lucy and Mary. James later moved to work at Hoffmans. When war broke out he enlisted as a private in the 2nd battalion, the Essex Regiment.</p> <p>The PLOEGSTEERT MEMORIAL commemorates more than 11,000 servicemen of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in this sector during the First World War and have no known grave. The memorial serves the area from the line Caestre-Dranoutre-Warneton to the north, to Haverskerque-Estaires-Fournes to the south, including the towns of Hazebrouck, Merville, Bailleul and Armentieres, the Forest of Nieppe, and Ploegsteert Wood. The original intention had been to erect the memorial in Lille.</p> <p>Most of those commemorated by the memorial did not die in major offensives, such as those which took place around Ypres to the north, or Loos to the south. Most were killed in the course of the day-to-day trench warfare which characterised this part of the line, or in small scale set engagements, usually carried out in support of the major attacks taking place elsewhere. It does not include the names of officers and men of Canadian or Indian regiments (they are found on the Memorials at Vimy and Neuve-Chapelle) and those lost at the Battle of Aubers Ridge, 9 May 1915, who were involved in the Southern Pincer (the 1st, 2nd, Meerut and 47th Divisions - they are commemorated on the Le Touret Memorial).</p>			
CWGC Named on the War Memorial	Brewster, Arthur Brother of William Thomas Brewster, killed on 12 th June 1915	BREWSTER, ARTHUR Private, 13021 2 nd Bn, Grenadier Guards KILLED IN ACTION 2 nd November 1914 Age: 28 Commemorated at: Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial Leper, West Vlaanderen, Belgium Panel 9 & 11	
<p>The 1901 Census shows Arthur as aged 15, a gardener living at Bridge Street with his father Thomas, a widower and his brothers, Joseph aged 18 and William aged 10. Their mother Martha died in childbirth in 1892. Arthur enlisted in the Grenadier Guards on 11th December 1906 under the false name of Arthur Watson. He was transferred to the Reserve on 5th July 1914 but was remobilized on the 5th August</p> <p>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 in Ploegsteert Wood in the south, but it varied in area and shape throughout the war.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>There was little more significant activity on this front until 1917, when 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, which began 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 16 August 1917 (with some exceptions). United Kingdom and New Zealand servicemen who died after that date are named on the memorial at Tyne Cot, a site 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 16 August 1917 are commemorated on memorials at Buttes New British Cemetery and Messines Ridge British Cemetery.</p>			

The YPRES (MENIN GATE) MEMORIAL now bears the names of more than 54,000 officers and men whose graves are not known.			
CWGC Named on the War Memorial	Jones, Percy	JONES, PERCY Private, 3/2311 2 nd Bn, Essex Regiment KILLED IN ACTION 24 th April 1915 Age: Unknown Buried at: Strand Military Cemetery Hainaut, Belgium Grave Ref: X E 8	
<p>Born in Ingatestone and subsequently moved to Writtle, Percy was one of the first to enlist. He joined the Essex Regiment who were sent to stem the German advance on Ypres. By the evening of 23rd April, the line had been stabilized but the Essex had sustained many casualties. Amongst these was Percy who was severely wounded and died the next day.</p> <p>'Charing Cross' was the name given by the troops to a point at the end of a trench called the Strand, which led into Ploegsteert Wood. In October 1914, two burials were made at this place, close to an Advanced Dressing Station.</p> <p>The cemetery was not used between October 1914 and April 1917, but in April-July 1917 Plots I to VI were completed. Plots VII to X were made after the Armistice, when graves were brought in from some small cemeteries and from the battlefields lying mainly between Wytschaete and Armentieres. The cemetery was in German hands for a few months in 1918, but was very little used by them.</p> <p>The following are some of the burial grounds concentrated into Strand Military Cemetery:- EPINETTE ROAD CEMETERY, HOUPLINES (Nord), on the Southern outskirts of Houplines village, contained the graves of 24 soldiers from the United Kingdom who fell in November, 1914-September, 1915. LA BASSE-VILLE GERMAN CEMETERY, WARNETON (West Flanders), on the road from La Basse-Ville to Warneton, contained the graves of 68 soldiers from the United Kingdom and one from South Africa who died in German hands, April-August, 1918. LE BIZET CONVENT MILITARY CEMETERY, PLOEGSTEERT, was in the grounds of the Assumptionist Convent between Le Bizet and Motor Car Corner. It contained the graves of 88 soldiers from the United Kingdom and one from Canada who fell in October, 1914-October, 1916. NACHTEGAAL No.1 GERMAN CEMETERY, MERCKEM (West Flanders), midway between Merckem and Houthulst, made in April, 1916, contained the graves of two R.F.C. officers who fell in June, 1917. It was closed in July, 1917. PLOEGSTEERT WOOD NEW CEMETERY, WARNETON, in the South-East corner of the wood, contained the graves of 19 soldiers from the United Kingdom who fell in the loss and recapture of Le Gheer, October, 1914. PROWSE POINT LOWER CEMETERY, WARNETON, was a little North of Ploegsteert Wood. It was made by the 1st Rifle Brigade, and it contained the graves of 13 soldiers from the United Kingdom who fell in 1915 and 1916. TOUQUET-BERTHE GERMAN CEMETERY, PLOEGSTEERT, on the road from Ploegsteert to Le Gheer, contained two unidentified R.A.F. graves of July, 1918. WARNETON CHURCHYARD was destroyed in the War. It contained the grave of one soldier from the United Kingdom, buried by the Germans in December, 1914.</p> <p>There are now 1,143 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 354 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to six casualties known or believed to be buried among them, and to 13 whose graves in four of the concentrated cemeteries were destroyed by shell fire. The eight Second World War burials (three of which are unidentified) all date from May 1940 and the withdrawal of the British Expeditionary force to Dunkirk ahead of the German advance. The cemetery was designed by Charles Holden.</p>			
CWGC Named on the War Memorial	Brewster, James Robert Brother of Robert Arthur Brewster, killed on 1 st July 1916	BREWSTER, JAMES ROBERT Lance Corporal, 7591 1 st Bn, Essex Regiment KILLED IN ACTION 28 th April 1915 Age: 29 Commemorated at: Helles Memorial Gallipoli, Turkey Panel 144 to 150 or 229 to 233	
<p>James Robert Brewster was born in Highwood and brought up in Oxney Green and Writtle. He lost his father in strange circumstances in 1893 and ten years later joined the army. At the start of the war he was in Mauritius, before returning to England in December 1914. In April 1915, he participated in the invasion of Gallipoli and was killed in action there three days after landing. His mother lived in Queen Street. A brother was also killed during the war.</p> <p>James was born in Highwood near Writtle around 1886, the son of James Brewster (1885-1893) and Ann Marie Randall (born 1856 in Norfolk). His siblings were: Alice Mary Brewster (born 1881), Elizabeth Maria Brewster (born 1883), Frederick Brewster (born 1889), Robert Arthur Brewster (1890-1916), and Edith Brewster (born 1893). In 1891 the census recorded him, aged five, with his parents and four siblings at Little Oxney Green near Writtle where his father was an agricultural labourer. James lost his father in strange circumstances in January 1893. A report in the Essex County Chronicle on Friday 27 January 1893 read: "Early on Sunday morning the dead body of James Brewster, aged 37, an engine driver, was found in a ditch near his home at Oxney Green, Writtle. Brewster had been suffering from erysipelas in the</p>			

face, which is supposed have been caused by a blow received rather more than a week ago. Mrs. French, wife of Win. French, neighbour, sat up with him Saturday night. About five o'clock on Sunday morning he went out, although advised not to do so. As he did not return, Mr. and Mrs. French went in search of him, and discovered him lying face downwards in ditch, containing about eight inches of water. How the deceased got into the water is a mystery. There is nothing to lead to the supposition that committed suicide. The deceased worked for Mr. White, threshing machine proprietor, of Margaretting, and he leaves a widow and several children."

The next census in 1901 found James, aged 15, with his widowed mother, his two brothers and three sisters at Vine Cottage, The Causeway in Writtle. In June 1903 James enlisted into the army at Warley, going on to serve as Lance-Corporal 7591 James Robert Brewster of the 1st Battalion of the Essex Regiment. At the start of the First World War James' battalion was in Mauritius. It returned to England in December 1914 and between April 1915 and January 1916 it was in Gallipoli. James landed there on 25th April 1915, but just three days later he was killed in action. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Helles Memorial in Gallipoli, the Moulsham War Memorial and the Writtle War Memorial. James' brother, Robert Arthur Brewster, was killed in action on 1st July 1916 on the opening day of the Battle of the Somme. To date no connection of James to Moulsham has been found beyond the 1918 Register of Electors which shows his mother, Ann Marie Brewster, living at 6 Queen Street in the Moulsham part of Chelmsford.

In June 1903 James enlisted into the army at Warley, going on to serve as Lance-Corporal 7591 James Robert Brewster of the 1st Battalion of the Essex Regiment. At the start of the First World War James' battalion was in Mauritius. It returned to England in December 1914 and between April 1915 and January 1916 it was in Gallipoli. James landed there on 25th April 1915, but just three days later he was killed in action. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Helles Memorial in Gallipoli, the Moulsham War Memorial and the Writtle War Memorial. James' brother, Robert Arthur Brewster, was killed in action on 1st July 1916 on the opening day of the Battle of the Somme. [Source: By kind permission of Andrew J Begent Chelmsford War Memorial website) Further information on James Robert Brewster can be found at <http://www.chelmsfordwarmemorial.co.uk/first-world-war/chelmsford/x-brewster-james-robert.html>


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 25-26 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. On 6 August, further landings were made at Suvla, just north of Anzac, 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. The memorial bears more than 21,000 names.

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. 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.

<p>CWGC Named on the War Memorial</p>	<p>Brewster, William Thomas</p> <p>Brother of Arthur Brewster, killed on 2nd November 1914</p>	<p>BREWSTER, WILLIAM THOMAS Driver, T/31141 Army Service Corps, GHQ KILLED IN ACTION 12th June 1915 Age: 24 Buried at: Longuenesse (St Omer) Souvenir Cemetery Pas de Calais, France Panel I A 155</p>	
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Born in Writtle, living in West Croydon, enlisted at Warley, Essex. Enlistment date unknown. Died on the 12th June 1915. Buried in Longuenesse (St Omer) Souvenir Cemetery, France.


St. Omer was the General Headquarters of the British Expeditionary Force from October 1914 to March 1916. Lord Roberts died there in November 1914. The town was a considerable hospital centre with the 4th, 10th, 7th Canadian, 9th Canadian and New Zealand Stationary Hospitals, the 7th, 58th (Scottish) and 59th (Northern) General Hospitals, and the 17th, 18th and 1st and 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Stations all stationed there at some time during the war. St. Omer suffered air raids in November 1917 and May 1918, with serious loss of life.

The cemetery takes its names from the triangular cemetery of the St. Omer garrison, properly called the Souvenir Cemetery (Cimetiere du Souvenir Francais) which is located next to the War Cemetery.

The Commonwealth section of the cemetery contains 2,874 Commonwealth burials of the First World War (6 unidentified), with special memorials commemorating 23 men of the Chinese Labour Corps whose graves could not be exactly located. Second World War burials number 403, (93 unidentified). Within the Commonwealth section there are also 34 non-war burials and 239 war graves of other nationalities.

The cemetery was designed by Sir Herbert Baker.

The man in the centre of the above image is believed to be William Thomas Brewster.

<p>CWGC Named on the War Memorial</p>	<p>Woodhouse, Robert Cecil</p>	<p>WOODHOUSE, ROBERT CECIL Lieutenant Royal Horse Artillery (Warwickshire Battery) TF KILLED IN ACTION 14th August 1915 Age: 21 Buried at: Birr Cross Roads Cemetery West Vlaanderen, Belgium Union St. Graveyard No. 1 Cem. Mem. 7</p>	
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The son of Major Robert Woodhouse (B 1868-1872) and Cecilia Woodhouse, nee Menzies. He came to Winchester from Wixenford School. He was a House Prefect and shot for Cadet Pair at Bisley. His activities between leaving school and the outbreak of the war are not recorded. He served with the Warwickshire Battery of the Royal Horse Artillery. The 1/1st was the first Territorial artillery unit to go overseas on active service. He fell at Hooge on 14th August 1915 and was buried at Birr Cross Road Cemetery, although his grave was subsequently lost to shell fire and he is commemorated on the Special Memorial there.

Winchester College: House: H, Years in School: 1906-1911, Rank: Lieutenant, Regiment: Royal Horse Artillery, Date of Birth: 29th November 1893, Location in War Cloister: Outer D6, Decoration: NA, Burial Site: BIRR CROSS ROADS CEMETERY: UNION STREET GRAVEYARD No. 1; SPECIAL MEMORIAL 7.

Robert Woodhouse JP lived at Longmeads, a Victorian mansion which had been built on his instruction in the 1870s. The Woodhouse family had formerly lived at The Priory. With him at Longmeads were his wife Ellen and their three daughters together with seven live-in servants. One of the daughters was Dorothy. In 1901 she was aged 26 and her son Robert Cecil Woodhouse was then aged 7. On 14th August, the Battery were billeted at Ledringham working on drill, inspections and digging when Lieutenant Woodhouse was killed by a shell whilst commanding the 26th Trench Howitzer Battery near

Hooge. The shell had fallen in a communication trench and killed him and the other officers of the battery.

The village and the greater part of the commune of Zillebeke were within the Allied lines until taken by the Germans at the end of April 1918. The village was recovered by the II Corps on 8 September 1918.

Birr Cross Roads was named by the 1st Leinsters from their depot. The cemetery was begun in August 1917 and used as a Dressing Station cemetery until, and after, the German advance in 1918. At the Armistice, it contained nine irregular rows of graves, now part of Plot I, but was greatly enlarged when graves were brought in from the surrounding battlefields and from certain smaller cemeteries, including:-

BELLEWAARDE RIDGE MILITARY CEMETERY, ZONNEBEKE, was a little way North-East of Bellewaarde Lake, almost on the top of the low hill which rises northwards from the Menin Road between Hooze and Clapham Junction. It contained the graves of 17 soldiers from Australia, and eleven from the United Kingdom, who fell in September and October, 1917. The Battle of Bellewaarde Ridge was fought on the 24th-25th May, 1915; the Attacks on Bellewaarde were delivered, unsuccessfully, in June and September, 1915; and the Ridge, taken in July, 1917, and given up in April, 1918, was finally retaken by the 9th (Scottish) Division on the 28th September, 1918.

BIRR CROSS ROADS CEMETERY No.2, seventy-five metres South of No.1 (the present cemetery), contained the graves of 18 soldiers from the United Kingdom who fell in July and August, 1917.


UNION STREET GRAVEYARDS No.1 and No.2, ZILLEBEKE, were due North of Zillebeke village, between Gordon House and Hell Fire Corner. They contained the graves of 19 soldiers from the United Kingdom who fell in August and September, 1915.



There are now 833 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 336 of the burials are unidentified, but there are special memorials to nine casualties known or believed to be buried among them. Other special memorials commemorate 18 casualties buried in Birr Cross Roads Cemetery No.2 and the Union Street Graveyards, whose graves were destroyed by shell fire, and one Belgian interpreter whose grave cannot now be found.

The cemetery was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens.

This commemorative tablet can be seen in the church at Writtle in Essex.

CWGC Named on the War Memorial	Green, Martin Vail Son of Herbert and Emily Green, of Montpelier Farm, Writtle, Essex	GREEN, MARTIN VAIL Lance Serjeant, 13590 7 th Bn, Northamptonshire Regiment KILLED IN ACTION 27 th September 1915 Age: 21 Commemorated at: Loos Memorial Pas de Calais, France Panel 91 to 93	
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Martin Vail Green was born in Writtle on 14th September 1894 and was baptized at All Saints Church on 4th November. His parents were Herbert and Emily Green. Herbert was a butcher and slaughterer and owned the butcher's shop (now the vets) on The Green. In 1906 he took over Montpelier Farm.

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.

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. 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 4 August 1930.

CWGC Named on the War Memorial	Gooch, Lancelot Daniel Edward Elder son of Sir Daniel and Lady Gooch of Hylands House, Writtle	GOOCH, LANCELOT DANIEL EDWARD Midshipman Royal Navy, HMS Implacable DIED 4 th October 1915 from asphyxia caused by paralysis Age: 18 Buried at: Widford (St Mary) Churchyard In south west part	
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Lancelot Gooch, the beloved son of Sir Daniel and Lady Gooch of Hylands, died on HMS Implacable off Malta, just after his 18th birthday.

Lancelot Daniel Edward Gooch came to the Chelmsford area from Berkshire in 1906 when his father purchased the Hylands Estate. He served in the Royal Navy as a Midshipman on board H.M.S. Implacable and died in Malta in October 1915 from influenza. The following month his body was brought back to England by his parents and interred at St. Mary's Church, Widford. His home was Hylands House.

Lancelot was born in London on 18th September 1897, the elder son of Sir Daniel Fulthorpe Gooch (1869-1926) and Mary Winifred Gooch (nee Munro) (1874-1921). His siblings were Phyllis Evelyn Gooch (born 1900), Robert Douglas Gooch (1909-1989), and Daphne Gooch (1910-1954).

In 1906 Lancelot and his family left Clewer Park near Reading and moved to the Chelmsford area when his father rented and later purchased the Hylands Estate in Widford.

Lancelot's father was a friend of Sir Ernest Shackleton and in 1914 agreed at Hylands to accompany the great explorer on an Antarctic expedition. Lancelot's father was also grandson of the celebrated engineer, Chairman

of the Great Western Railway, and M.P. for Cricklade, Sir Daniel Gooch (1816-1889).

During the First World War Lancelot served in the Royal Navy as a Midshipman on board H.M.S. Implacable. Lancelot died in Malta from influenza on 4th October 1915, aged 18.

On Saturday 9th October 1915, the Essex Newsman reported:

"On Tuesday Sir Daniel and Lady Gooch received a cable message from the Dardanelles stating that their elder son. Midshipman Lancelot Edward Daniel Gooch, of H.M.S. Implacable, was very ill, and paralysed in both legs. They hastened to the Foreign Office on their way to go him, but before they had left London a second message arrived to say that the gallant young sailor had unfortunately passed away. His parents have now started the voyage to bring the body home for burial at Widford. The young Midshipman reached his 18th birthday only last month. He was handsome lad, the heir of the house, very bright and very popular, devoted to and very successful in his profession, loving also his home, and much interested in shooting. He was educated at Wexingford School, near Wokingham, and thence he went to Oxbridge, going from there to the Implacable, which was through the landing at the Dardanelles. Implacable has been specially mentioned for her good work and Midshipman Gooch had been complimented more than once upon the services he personally rendered. He twice had a landing boat sunk under him. Only last week a cheerful letter was received from him, stating that he was quite well, and his death occurred on Monday.

Before this sad event, Sir Daniel and Lady Gooch had two sons, the deceased and Robert Douglas aged 10 years, now becomes the heir. There also two daughters. On Thursday Sir Daniel and Lady Gooch, received the following telegram at Hylands, Chelmsford, from the Keeper of the Privy Purse: '*The King and Queen deeply regret the loss you and the Navy have sustained by the death your son in the service of his country. Their Majesties sympathise with you in your sorrow. Sir Daniel and Lady Gooch leave to-day for Naples, en route to where their brave son's body lies, to arrange for its being brought England. It is expected that the funeral will be in Widford Churchyard in about fortnight's time. It is not yet known at home how the deceased received his fatal wounds or injuries."

On Saturday 13th November 1915, the Essex Newsman reported:

"The body of Lancelot D. E. Gooch, R.N. elder son of Sir Daniel Gooch Baronet, and Lady Gooch. of Hylands, near Chelmsford, arrived, in England on Wednesday, and the interment took place in a brick grave in Widford Churchyard on Thursday. The deceased officer, who was, in H.M.S. Implacable, had just entered his 18th year and while in the Eastern waters contracted influenza. Paralysis supervened, and he died at Malta on October 4. Sir Daniel and Lady at once proceeded to the East to bring the body home, and after various delays the coffin was conveyed to Bordeaux by water, thence overland and across the North Sea to England. It was brought by road to Widford on Wednesday evening, and reposed in state in the church all night, watchers keeping a silent vigil. Tall palms and ferns graced the chancel entrance. Yesterday morning Sir Daniel and Lady attended Holy Communion, conducted by the Rector, the Rev. F. K. Thurlow. Later, the public funeral service was held. While the large congregation was assembling a powerful aeroplane hovered overhead. This, the presence of few officers in uniform, and the naval ensign which covered the coffin, were the only signs of military or naval show. The service began with movement from Beethoven the organist, Mr. G. W. Saunders. Then the Rector proceeded with the Burial Service, the lesson being read the Rev. L. W. Wright, St. John's, Chelmsford. The hymns were "The Saints of God! their conflict past" and "On the Resurrection morning," while Psalm was chanted, the surpliced choir being in attendance. The mourners present were Sir Daniel Gooch, Mr. Charles Gooch Hatfield. Kent (uncle of Sir Daniel). Mr. E. A. D. Liebert, Capt. A. H. Stracey and Lieut. E. Lambert."







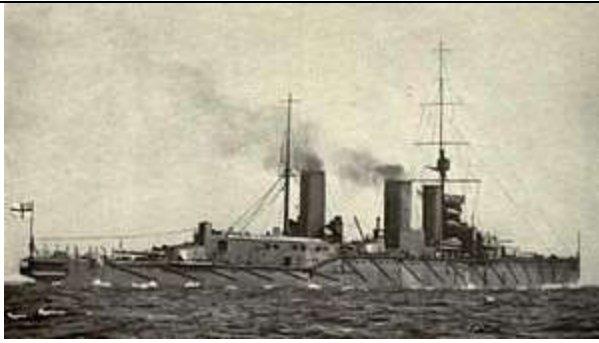
On 8th January 1916, the Essex Newsman reported that a memorial in remembrance of Lancelot had been erected at Widford:

"This consists of a very fine specimen of the Ionic cross in Sicilian marble, most beautifully carved. There is a curb in front, and the monument is intended to be that for the Gooch family. The inscription under: — In everlasting memory Midshipman Lancelot D. E. Gooch, R.N., His Majesty's Ship Implacable, Born Sept. 18th, 1897; died October 4th, 1915. ♦" He asked life of Thee, and Thou him a long life, even forever and ever."

The memorial had been created by Messrs. Wray and Fuller, monumental masons, of Springfield Road in Chelmsford. He is commemorated on the Widford War Memorial at St. Mary's Church. [Source: By kind

permission of Andrew J Begent Chelmsford War Memorial website) Further information on Lancelot Daniel Edward Gooch can be found at <http://www.chelmsfordwarmemorial.co.uk/first-world-war/chelmsford/b-gooch-lancelot-daniel-edward.html>

<p>Not in CWGC records but named on the War Memorial</p>	<p>Gardener, Charles William</p>	<p>GARDENER, CHARLES WILLIAM Driver, T/505 Army Service Corps DIED 9th November 1915 from acute dysentery Age: 21 Buried at: Writtle (All Saints) Churchyard</p>	
<p>Charles Gardener was baptized on 29th April 1894. He was the son of Robert, a blacksmith, and berth. The family lived at Waterloo Road (now part of Lodge Road between the junction with Bridge Street and up to Paradise Road).</p> <p>According to Writtle Archives, Charles William gardener is buried in All Saints Writtle churchyard but his grave is not marked and appears to have been grassed over. Charles Gardener died in University War Hospital, Southampton, aged 21, from acute dysentery.</p>			
<p>CWGC Named on the War Memorial</p>	<p>Betts, Ernest John William</p> <p>Son of John and Grace M. Betts, of Chancery Place, Writtle, Chelmsford, Essex.</p>	<p>BETTS, ERNEST JOHN WILLIAM Armourer's Crew, M/2897 (PO) Royal Navy, HMA Alcantara KILLED IN ACTION 29th February 1916 Age: 24 Buried at: Lyness Royal Naval Cemetery, Hoy, Orkney B27</p>	
<p>Ernest Betts father had a boot repairs shop in Bridge Street. He was the eldest of three children having been born in Aldershot on 18th January 1892. He joined the Navy on 3rd March 1911 and served in a number of ships before joining Alcantara.</p> <div data-bbox="105 898 552 1182">  </div> <p>HMS Alcantara was built at Belfast by Harland & Wolff as an ocean-going passenger liner for the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. Ltd. She made her maiden voyage in June 1914 but on the outbreak of war she was soon requisitioned and fitted out with 6-inch guns, anti-aircraft guns, and depth charges in order to serve as an armed Merchant Cruiser. She served with the 10th Cruiser Squadron on the Northern Patrol in the seas between Scotland and Norway. Her war service commenced on the 10th March 1915; her log books for the period April 1915 to January 1916 can be seen at naval-history.net. Her log books for February 1916 were presumably lost when she sank on the 29th February 1916 after engaging the German cruiser SMS Greif. Seventy-four British sailors were lost as a result of the incident as were 187 German crewman aboard the Greif. Ernest's body was recovered and he is buried at Lyness Royal Naval Cemetery, Hoy and Graemsay, is on Hoy, between Mill Bay and Ore Bay.</p> <p>Lyness Royal Naval Cemetery was begun in 1915 when Scapa Flow was the base of the Grand Fleet. Lyness remained as a Royal Naval base until July 1946 and the cemetery contains graves from both wars.</p> <p>There are 445 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, 109 of which are unidentified. The majority of the graves are of officers, ratings, and members of the land forces lost from H.M.S. "Hampshire," "Vanguard," "Narborough" and "Opal."</p> <p>The 200 burials of the Second World War in the cemetery include those of 26 men from H.M.S. "Royal Oak", which was sunk off Longhope in Scapa Flow by a German U-boat on 14 October 1939. 8 of these burials are unidentified.</p> <p>The cemetery also contains the graves of 14 sailors of the German Navy - the High Seas Fleet was interned at Scapa Flow after the 1918 Armistice - 4 further German burials including 2 unidentified airmen and 1 Norwegian war grave. There are 30 non-war Service burials, 2 being unidentified British soldiers. The features of the cemetery were designed by Ralph Hobday.</p>			
<p>CWGC Not named on the War Memorial but lived in the village</p>	<p>Ottley, Albert Charles</p> <p>Son of William Ottley, of Cooks Mill Green, Writtle, Chelmsford, Essex.</p>	<p>OTTLEY, ALBERY CHARLES Stoker 1st Class, K/16601 Royal Navy, HMS Queen Mary KILLED IN ACTION 31st May 1916 Age: 26 Commemorated at: Portsmouth Naval Memorial 19</p>	
<p>Albert Ottley was born in Writtle and the son of William of Causeway Cottages. He enlisted at Portsmouth</p>			



HMS Queen Mary was the last battlecruiser built by the Royal Navy before World War I. The sole member of her class, Queen Mary shared many features with the Lion-class battlecruisers, including her eight 13.5-inch (343 mm) guns. She was completed in 1913 and participated in the Battle of Heligoland Bight as part of the Grand Fleet in 1914. Like most of the modern British battlecruisers, she never left the North Sea during the war. As part of the 1st Battlecruiser Squadron, she attempted to intercept a German force that bombarded the North Sea coast of England in December 1914, but was unsuccessful. She was refitting in early 1915 and missed the Battle of Dogger Bank in January, but participated in the largest fleet action of the war, the Battle of Jutland in mid-1916. She was hit twice by the German battlecruiser Derfflinger during the early part of the battle and her magazines exploded

shortly afterwards, sinking the ship.



Her wreck was discovered in 1991 and rests in pieces, some of which are upside down, on the floor of the North Sea. Queen Mary is designated as a protected place under the Protection of Military Remains Act 1986 as it is the grave of 1,266 officers and men. Being a Stoker, Albert Ottley would be unlikely to have stood a chance of escape. Deep in the bowels of the ship the stokers would not have been able to ascend through the many decks before the ship sank. Albert Ottley is commemorated on the organ loft in Highwood Church.

The Memorial is situated on Southsea Common overlooking the promenade, and is accessible at all times. A copy of the Memorial Register is kept at the Civic Offices in Guildhall Square and may be consulted there. <http://www.memorials.inportsmouth.co.uk/southsea/naval.htm>

After the First World War, an appropriate way had to be found of commemorating those members of the Royal Navy who had no known grave, the majority of deaths having occurred at sea where no permanent memorial could be provided.

An Admiralty committee recommended that the three manning ports in Great Britain - Chatham, Plymouth and Portsmouth - should each have an identical memorial of unmistakable naval form, an obelisk, which would serve as a leading mark for shipping. The memorials were designed by Sir Robert Lorimer, who had already carried out a considerable amount of work for the Commission, with sculpture by Henry Poole. The Portsmouth Naval Memorial was unveiled by the Duke of York (the future George VI) on 15 October 1924.

After the Second World War it was decided that the naval memorials should be extended to provide space for commemorating the naval dead without graves of that war, but since the three sites were dissimilar, a different architectural treatment was required for each. The architect for the Second World War extension at Portsmouth was Sir Edward Maufe (who also designed the Air Forces memorial at Runnymede) and the additional sculpture was by Charles Wheeler, William McMillan, and Esmond Burton. The Extension was unveiled by the Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother on 29 April 1953.

Portsmouth Naval Memorial commemorates around 10,000 sailors of the First World War and almost 15,000 of the Second World War.

<p>CWGC Not named on the War Memorial but lived in the village</p>	<p>Rose, Edward Leigh Mildmay</p>	<p>ROSE, EDWARD LEIGH MILDMA Lieutenant, 1st Bn Canadian Scottish Pioneers KILLED IN ACTION 6th June 1916 Age: 32 Buried at: Railway Dugouts Burial Ground (Transport Farm) West Vlaanderen, Belgium VI.G14</p>	
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There is a memorial plaque to him in All Saints Church

Canadian Great War Project <http://www.canadiangreatwarproject.com/searches/soldierDetail.asp?id=30615>



The commune of Zillebeke contains many Commonwealth cemeteries as the front line trenches ran through it during the greater part of the First World War.

Railway Dugouts Cemetery is 2 Kms west of Zillebeke village, where the railway runs on an embankment overlooking a small farmstead, which was known to the troops as Transport Farm. The site of the cemetery was screened by slightly rising ground to the east, and burials began there in April 1915. They continued until the Armistice, especially in 1916 and 1917, when Advanced Dressing Stations were placed in the dugouts and the farm. They were made in small groups, without any definite arrangement and in the summer of 1917 a considerable number were obliterated by shell fire before they could be marked. The names "Railway Dugouts" and "Transport Farm" were both used for the cemetery.


At the time of the Armistice, more than 1,700 graves in the cemetery were known and marked. Other graves were then brought in from the battlefields and small cemeteries in the vicinity, and a number of the known graves destroyed by artillery fire were specially commemorated. The latter were mainly in the present Plots IV and VII.

The cemetery now contains 2,459 Commonwealth burials and commemorations of the First World War. 430 of the burials are unidentified and 261 casualties are represented by special memorials. Other special memorials record the names of 72 casualties buried in Valley Cottages and Transport Farm Annexe Cemeteries whose graves were destroyed in later fighting.

VALLEY COTTAGES CEMETERY, ZILLEBEKE, was among a group of cottages on "Observatory Road", which runs Eastward from Zillebeke village. It contained the graves of 111 soldiers from the United Kingdom and Canada. It was in an exposed position during the greater part of the war.

TRANSPORT FARM ANNEXE was about 100 metres South-East of the Railway Dugouts Cemetery, on the road to Verbrandenmolen. The graves in it were removed to Perth Cemetery (China Wall), Zillebeke, but one officer, whose grave could not be found, is specially commemorated here.

The cemetery was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens.

<p>CWGC Named on the War Memorial</p>	<p>Brewster, Robert Arthur</p> <p>Son of Mrs. A. M. Brewster, of Oxney Green, Writtle, Essex, and the late J. Brewster.</p> <p>Brother of James Robert Brewster, killed on 28th April 1915</p>	<p>BREWSTER, ROBERT ARTHUR</p> <p>Lance Corporal, 3/3536 "C" Coy. 2nd Bn, Essex Regiment</p> <p>KILLED IN ACTION</p> <p>1st July 1916 Age: 26 Buried at:</p> <p>Serre Road Cemetery No 2 Somme, France I.F.3</p>	
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Robert Arthur Brewster was born on 21st September 1891 and baptised at All Saints on 6th November. His parents were James and Maria. By the time of the War his father had died leaving the family to be brought up by their mother. He was brought up in Writtle where he worked as an agricultural labourer. He joined the Army in November 1914 and in January 1916 married at Writtle. He was killed on the opening day of the Battle of the Somme in July 1916. His mother lived in Queen Street and his widow lived in Lower Anchor Street. A brother was also killed during the war at Gallipoli.

Robert was born in Writtle around 1890, the son of James Brewster (1885-1893) and Ann Marie Randall (born 1856 in Norfolk). His siblings were: Alice Mary Brewster (born 1881), Elizabeth Maria Brewster (born 1883), James Robert Brewster (1886-1915), Frederick Brewster (born 1889), and Edith Brewster (born 1893). In 1891 the census recorded him, aged eleven months, with his parents and four siblings at Little Oxney Green near Writtle where his father was an agricultural labourer. Robert lost his father in strange circumstances in January 1893. A report in the Essex County Chronicle on Friday 27 January 1893 read:

"Early on Sunday morning the dead body of James Brewster, aged 37, an engine driver, was found in a ditch near his home at Oxney-green, Writtle. Brewster had been suffering from erysipelas in the face, which is supposed have been caused by a blow received rather more than a week ago. Mrs. French, wife of Win. French, neighbour, sat up with him Saturday night. About five o'clock on Sunday morning he went out, although advised not to do so. As he did not return, Mr. and Mrs. French went in search of him, and discovered him lying face downwards in ditch, containing about eight inches of water. How the deceased got into the water is a mystery. There is nothing to lead to the supposition that committed suicide. The deceased worked for Mr. White, threshing machine proprietor, of Margaretting, and he leaves a widow and several children."

The next census in 1901 found Robert, aged 15, with his widowed mother, his two brothers and three sisters at Vine Cottage, The Causeway in Writtle. In 1911 he was recorded by the census aged 20, working as an agricultural labourer and living with his mother and youngest sister at Vera Cottage in Writtle. In November 1914 Robert enlisted at Chelmsford into the 3rd (Special Reserve) Battalion of the Essex Regiment and he was subsequently posted to C Company in the regiment's 2nd Battalion where he was a Lance-Corporal. His service number was 3/3536. On 16th January 1916 Robert married Sarah Hannah Horsley at All Saints' Church in Writtle. At the time he was aged 25, serving as a Lance-Corporal in the 2nd Battalion of the Essex Regiment, with his home in Writtle. His bride was aged 26, lived in Princes Risborough in Buckinghamshire and was the daughter of John Horsley (deceased). Less than six months later Robert was killed in action, on the opening day of the Battle of the Somme on 1st July 1916. Today he lies at Serre Road Cemetery No 2 (grave I. F. 3.). Robert's brother, James Robert Brewster, was killed in action in Gallipoli on 28th April 1915. Robert's widow died, following illness, aged 31 in October 1920, days before the

unveiling of the Moulsham War Memorial which included his name. At the time of her death she was living with her sister and brother-in-law at 61 Lower Anchor Street in the Moulsham area of Chelmsford (pictured opposite column left). Robert's other connection to Moulsham was via his mother, who was resident at 6 Queen Street in 1918 (pictured above). [Source: By kind permission of Andrew J Begent Chelmsford War Memorial website] Further information on Robert Arthur Brewster can be found at <http://www.chelmsfordwarmemorial.co.uk/first-world-war/chelmsford/x-brewster-robert-arthur.html>


In June 1916, the road out of Mailly-Maillet to Serre and Puisieux entered No Man's Land about 1,300 metres south-west of Serre. On 1 July 1916, the 31st and 4th Divisions attacked north and south of this road and although parties of the 31st Division reached Serre, the attack failed. The 3rd and 31st Divisions attacked once more on the 13 November, but again without success.

Early in 1917, the Germans fell back to the Hindenburg Line and on 25 February, Serre was occupied by the 22nd Manchesters. The village changed hands once more in March 1918 and remained under German occupation, until they withdrew in August.

In the spring of 1917, the battlefields of the Somme and Ancre were cleared by V Corps and a number of new cemeteries were made, three of which are now named from the Serre Road. Serre Road Cemetery No.2 was begun in May 1917 and by the end of the war it contained approximately 475 graves (Plots I and II, except for Row E, Plot II which was added in 1922 and Row AA, Plot I which was added in 1927), but it was greatly enlarged after the Armistice by the addition of further graves from the surrounding area, including graves from the following smaller cemeteries:-

BAIZIEUX COMMUNAL CEMETERY (Somme): one United Kingdom grave March 1918.
 BOISMONT CHURCHYARD (Somme): one United Kingdom grave of October 1914.
 BUCQUOY COMMUNAL CEMETERY (Pas-de-Calais): 25 United Kingdom graves of August 1918.
 ERCHEU CHURCHYARD (Somme): one United Kingdom grave of March 1918.
 FRETTECUISSIE CHURCHYARD (Somme): one United Kingdom grave September 1916.
 HERVILLY CHURCHYARD (Somme): one R.F.C. grave of September 1916.
 HOLNON COMMUNAL CEMETERY (Aisne): five United Kingdom graves April 1917.
 LABOISSIERE CHURCHYARD (Somme): one United Kingdom grave of April 1917.
 LE SARS GERMAN CEMETERY (Pas-de-Calais): one United Kingdom grave.
 MADAME MILITARY CEMETERY, CLERY-SUR-SOMME (Somme): three United Kingdom graves of February 1917.
 MEAULTE CHURCHYARD (Somme): one United Kingdom grave of April 1916.
 POZIERES COMMUNAL CEMETERY (Somme): one Canadian grave of September 1916.
 REMIENCOURT COMMUNAL CEMETERY (Somme): one United Kingdom grave of April 1918.
 SOMME AMERICAN CEMETERY, BONY (Aisne): two United Kingdom graves of July and October 1918, and one Australian of September 1918.
 VOYENNES CHURCHYARD (Somme): seven United Kingdom graves of March 1918.
 YTRES CHURCHYARD (Pas-de-Calais): 14 United Kingdom and four New Zealand graves of September 1918, mainly from the 15th Field Ambulance.

There are now 7,127 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in the cemetery, mostly dating from 1916. Of these, 4,944 are unidentified

<p>CWGC Named on the War Memorial</p>	<p>Broyde, Dick</p> <p>Son of Andrew John and Frances Elizabeth Broyde, of St. John's Green, Writtle, Essex. Brother of Sam Broyde, killed on 12th October 1916</p>	<p>BROYDE, DICK Private, 19246 2nd Bn, Essex Regiment KILLED IN ACTION 1st July 1916 Age: 29 Buried at: Serre Road Cemetery No 2 Somme, France I.J.18</p>	
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Dick Broyde was born and brought up in Writtle. He was baptized on 29th September 1889 at All Saints. He joined the army and was killed on the opening day of the Battle of the Somme in July 1916. A brother also lost his life during the war.

He was born in 1887 in Writtle, one of ten children of Andrew John 'John' Broyde and Frances Elizabeth Broyde (nee Willis). Dick's father had been born c1851 in Finchingfield; his mother in 1848 at Steeple Bumpstead. The couple married in 1873 and in 1876 came to Writtle where Andrew was a horseman at Shakestone's Farm. In 1881 the census recorded them living at Shaxton's Cottage, Shaxton's Farm (today 'Shakestones'), Writtle, with five of Dick's elder siblings. His nine siblings were: Elizabeth Amelia Broyde (1874-1952), Frederick William Broyde (1875-1950), William Broyde (1876-1971), Susannah Broyde (1878-1975), Julia Broyde (born 1881), George Broyde (born 1882), Jack Broyde (1884-1973), Martha Broyde (born 1st July 1889), and Sam Broyde (1893-1916). Elizabeth and Frederick were born in Finchingfield, the others at Writtle.

The 1891 census found Dick, aged four, living with his parents and siblings at Shactons in Writtle. His father and brother Frederick were agricultural labourers. Ten years later the family remained at the premises. Dick and two brothers were general agricultural labourers; their father was a horseman on a farm. In 1911 the census listed 24 year-old Dick living with his parents and brother Jack at St. John's Green in Writtle. All three men in the household were employed as horsemen on a farm. Dick enlisted into the army at Chelmsford and served with the 2nd Battalion of the Essex Regiment, a regular army unit that was at Sheerness in Kent at the start of the war. The battalion, possibly including Dick, crossed the English Channel from Southampton on the S.S. Corsican, landing in Le Havre early on 24th August 1914.

At the end of June 1916 Dick's battalion, part of the 12th Brigade of the Army's 4th Division was in Bertrancourt, to the north of Albert in the Somme region of France. On the evening of 30th June 1916 troops of the battalion left the village and proceeded to assembly trenches, ready to form part of the following day's attack to seize high ground between Puisieux and Grandcourt.

When the attack was launched at 9 a.m. on 1st July 1916 Dick's battalion emerged from their trenches an hour and a half after an attack from colleagues in the 11th Brigade to advance past those comrades and capture a portion of the Puisieux to Grandcourt ridge. It was rolling chalky country, overlooked by enemy positions, with the hamlet of Serre on top of the slopes that faced the Essex men. Their line of attack was by the right of Pendant Copse, directly on the church spire at Miraumont, which lay in a hollow on the River Ancre beyond the ridge. The battalion suffered considerably from shell-fire, but were able to reach and reinforce comrades in the Rifle Brigade and Warwickshire Regiment. Some troops entered the enemy's Munich trench and the western edge of Pendant Copse. From around 11 a.m. they were gradually pushed back in bitter fighting from those locations throughout the rest of the day to a position known as the 'Quadrilateral'. The survivors were replaced by fresh troops around midnight.

At the start of the day 24 officers and 606 other ranks of Dick's battalion had gone into action, and by the evening had been reduced to only two officers and 192 other ranks. Among the dead was Dick who was killed in action while serving as Private 19246. He was aged 29. Today he lies in Serre Road Cemetery No.2, some 11 kilometres north of Albert (grave: I. J. 18). The cemetery, close to the site of the 'Quadrilateral', was begun in May 1917.

Dick is commemorated on the Civic Centre Memorial, Chelmsford, and by the Writtle War Memorial at The Green in Writtle. He was entitled to the British War Medal and Victory Medal. The 1918 register of electors recorded Dick's parent's resident at St. John's Green, Writtle. Dick's brother Sam also lost his life in the war, but is not commemorated on the Civic Centre Memorial, Chelmsford. He was killed in action on 12th October 1916 while serving as Private 19477 of the 1st Battalion of the Essex Regiment and his name appears on the Writtle war memorial.

Dick's father died in 1927, aged 76. His mother had reached the ripe age of 97 when she died in 1946. At the time she was the oldest resident in Writtle and known as 'The Grand Old Lady of Writtle.'). *[Source: By kind permission of Andrew J Begent Chelmsford War Memorial website]* Further information on Dick Broyde can be found at <http://www.chelmsfordwarmemorial.co.uk/first-world-war/chelmsford/broyde-dick.html>


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 BUCQUOY COMMUNAL CEMETERY (Pas-de-Calais): 25 United Kingdom graves of August 1918.
 ERCHEU CHURCHYARD (Somme): one United Kingdom grave of March 1918.
 FRETTECUISSIE CHURCHYARD (Somme): one United Kingdom grave September 1916.
 HERVILLY CHURCHYARD (Somme): one R.F.C. grave of September 1916.
 HOLNON COMMUNAL CEMETERY (Aisne): five United Kingdom graves April 1917.
 LABOISSIERE CHURCHYARD (Somme): one United Kingdom grave of April 1917.
 LE SARS GERMAN CEMETERY (Pas-de-Calais): one United Kingdom grave.
 MADAME MILITARY CEMETERY, CLERY-SUR-SOMME (Somme): three United Kingdom graves of February 1917.
 MEAULTE CHURCHYARD (Somme): one United Kingdom grave of April 1916.
 POZIERES COMMUNAL CEMETERY (Somme): one Canadian grave of September 1916.
 REMIENCOURT COMMUNAL CEMETERY (Somme): one United Kingdom grave of April 1918.
 SOMME AMERICAN CEMETERY, BONY (Aisne): two United Kingdom graves of July and October 1918, and one Australian of September 1918.
 VOYENNES CHURCHYARD (Somme): seven United Kingdom graves of March 1918.
 YTRES CHURCHYARD (Pas-de-Calais): 14 United Kingdom and four New Zealand graves of September 1918, mainly from the 15th Field Ambulance.

There are now 7,127 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in the cemetery, mostly dating from 1916. Of these, 4,944 are unidentified

CWGC Named on the War Memorial (misspelt as Creswell)	Cresswell, William	CRESSWELL, WILLIAM Lance Corporal, 4872 1st Bn, Essex Regiment KILLED IN ACTION 1 st July 1916 Age: 39 Commemorated at: Thiepval Memorial Somme, France Pier and Face 10D	
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“My grandfather’s brother, William Cresswell was a regular soldier who had served through the Boer War and I have his campaign medal for South Africa 1901-1902 Transvaal and Orange Free State. I believe he returned home wounded in the early part of the war but was killed on the first day in the Battle of the Somme. He was 39 years old so had served at least 17 years and has no known grave and is commemorated by name on the Thiepval Memorial, France.”

Maurice Cresswell

William Cresswell was born in Writtle in 1877. The family originally came from Chalk Hill, Highwood and then moved to Chancery Place. He was a regular soldier having joined up in 1897, serving in India and South Africa. In May 1915, he was wounded but was fit again for action and ready to take part in the Battle of the Somme.

The Weekly News of 21st July 1916 reported: “Mr William Cresswell, eldest son of the late Mr W Cresswell of the Rifle Brigade and Mrs Cresswell of Chancery Place, Writtle has been killed in action. Deceased was born in 1877, and after being in the service of the late Judge Abdy, of High Beech, Loughton, joined the Essex Regiment in 1897. He served in India, South Africa, Malta, Ireland and France. He was the possessor of the South Africa Medal with four clasps for service during the Boer War, he was sent to France at the beginning of the present war and after being in the firing line for many months was wounded and had to return home. He quickly recovered and returned to the Front and was killed in the great offensive on 1 July, after serving his country for 19 years. Great sympathy is felt with his mother and family, another of which is serving with the Royal West Surrey Regiment at the Front.”



The Cresswell family grave in All Saints churchyard with a memorial to their “Dear Son Willie”.

On 1 July 1916, supported by a French attack to the south, thirteen 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 1 July. Attacks north and east continued throughout October and into November in increasingly difficult weather conditions. The Battle of the Somme finally ended on 18 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. 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.

The memorial, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, was built between 1928 and 1932 and unveiled by the Prince of Wales, in the presence of the President of France, on 1 August 1932 (originally scheduled for 16 May but due to the death of French President Doumer the ceremony was postponed until August).

The dead of other Commonwealth countries, who died on the Somme and have no known graves, are commemorated on national memorials elsewhere.

CWGC Named on the War Memorial (William 'H')	Bowtell, William Son of William and Maria Bowtell, of "The Prince of Wales," Newney Green, Writtle, Chelmsford, Essex.	BOWTELL, WILLIAM Private, 20730 1 st Bn, Grenadier Guards KILLED IN ACTION 17 th July 1916 Age: 18 Buried at: Essex Farm Cemetery West Vlaandaren, Belgium 1.A.2	
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William Bowtell was born on 4th October 1896 at Nine Ashes, Ongar. He enlisted at Warley on 20th November 1914. At the outbreak of war his parents William and Maria Bowtell kept the Prince of Wales. It remained in the family for 3 generations. Maria Bowtell passed the pub to her daughter Elizabeth Porter (Nee Bowtell) and her husband Charles who kept it until the mid-1980s when it was sold and became the Newney Inn for a couple of years then was renamed The Duck Inn which is now run by Shepherd Neame


The land south of Essex Farm was used as a dressing station cemetery from April 1915 to August 1917. The burials were made without definite plan and some of the divisions which occupied this sector may be traced in almost every part of the cemetery, but the 49th (West Riding) Division buried their dead of 1915 in Plot I, and the 38th (Welsh) Division used Plot III in the autumn of 1916.

There are 1,200 servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 103 of the burials are unidentified but special memorials commemorate 19 casualties known or believed to be buried among them.

The cemetery was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield.

It was in Essex Farm Cemetery that Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae of the Canadian Army Medical Corps wrote the poem 'In Flanders Fields' in May 1915.

The 49th Division Memorial is immediately behind the cemetery, on the canal bank.


CWGC Named on the War Memorial	Osborne, Christopher John Son of John and Sarah Ann Osborne.	OSBORNE, CHRISTOPHER JOHN Private, 26615 10 th Bn, Essex Regiment KILLED IN ACTION 20 th July 1916 Age: 27 Commemorated at: Thiepval Memorial Somme, France Pier and Face 10D	
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Christopher Osborne was the eldest child of John and Sarah Ann. John was a bricklayer and the family lived in Oxney Green Road although by 1920 had moved to 3 Clifton Villas, St Johns Green.

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. 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.

The memorial, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, was built between 1928 and 1932 and unveiled by the Prince of Wales, in the presence of the President of France, on 1 August 1932 (originally scheduled for 16 May but due to the death of French President Doumer the ceremony was postponed until August).

The dead of other Commonwealth countries, who died on the Somme and have no known graves, are commemorated on national memorials elsewhere.


CWGC (Listed as William Garwood) Named on the War Memorial	Garwood, William H	GARWOOD, WILLIAM H Private, 5406 12 th Bn, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) KILLED IN ACTION 3 rd September 1916 Age unknown Commemorated at: Thiepval Memorial Somme, France Pier and Face 8 C 9 A and 16 A	
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William H Garwood was born in Writtle in early 1873, the son of Robert and Elizabeth of Back Road. In 1901 he was aged 29 and living in Walthamstow with his wife Sarah and young family. 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. 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.

The memorial, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, was built between 1928 and 1932 and unveiled by the Prince of Wales, in the presence of the President of France, on 1 August 1932 (originally scheduled for 16 May but due to the death of French President Doumer the ceremony was postponed until August).

The dead of other Commonwealth countries, who died on the Somme and have no known graves, are commemorated on national memorials elsewhere.


CWGC Named on the War Memorial	Arnold-Wallinger, The Revd Geoffrey Seldon Son of Robert Nasmyth Arnold-Wallinger, and Maud Arnold-Wallinger, of Kitts Croft, Writtle. B.A. Trinity College (Cambs); Clerk in Holy Orders.	ARNOLD-WALLINGER, THE REVD GEOFFREY SELDON Lance Corporal, 8778 Inns of Court Officer Training Corps KILLED IN ACTION 24 th September 1916 Age: 27 Buried in: Writtle (All Saints) Churchyard	
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Born: 15 May 1889 in Writtle, Essex. Son of Maud and Robert Naysmyth Arnold-Wallinger of Kitts Croft. Robert was the local GP and a churchwarden. Geoffrey was baptised at All Saints on 10th July 1889. Brother of Frank Arnold-Wallinger (1905-07). Senior prefect. Sub Editor of the Old Framlinghamian. Hon Sec Debating Society. Maths Prize 1906, 1907 & 1908. Lucas Prize 1907. Packard Prize for Science. Mantle



Essay Prize 1908. Obtained BA at Trinity College, Cambridge. Assistant Master at St George's School, Harpenden in 1913. Ordained Deacon in 1915. Died in Aylesbury Military Hospital. It is believed that he was injured during training and died of his wounds. Geoffrey enlisted on 7th January 1916 in the Inns of Court Officer Training Corps and served in Nos 4 & 6 Companies, Berkhamsted Training Ground, Hertfordshire.

The Times of 26th September 1916 reported: "The death has occurred at the Military Hospital at Aylesbury of the Rev Geoffrey Seldon Arnold-Wallinger, a lance-corporal in the Inns of Court OTC. He was the elder son of Mr and Mrs Robert Naysmyth Arnold-Wallinger of Kitts Croft, Writtle, Essex and was 27 years of age. An MA at Trinity College, Cambridge, he was ordained last year by the Bishop of St Albans and when he joined the Inns of Court he was an assistant master at St George's School, Harpenden."

CWGC Named on the War Memorial	Everard, Percy Edward Son of Joseph and Margaret Everard, of 4, Front Rd., Oxney Green, Writtle, Chelmsford.	EVERARD, PERCY EDWARD Private, L/11300 7 th Bn, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment) KILLED IN ACTION 28 th September 1916 Age: 19 Buried at: Connaught Cemetery, Thiepval Somme, France X.C.7	
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Percy Everard was born on 16th September 1897 and was baptized at All Saints on 21st November. The 1901 Census shows the family as Joseph, a brewer's labourer, and his wife Margaret together with Percy then aged 3, and his elder sisters Gertrude and Daisy and brother Leonard together with the baby of family Sidney then aged 1.

The German Army took the area around Thiepval at the end of September 1914. It then established a line through the area with troops from its 26th Reserve Division. Men from this Division were still in occupation when Commonwealth forces launched their assault on the 1 July 1916. During this attack, the 36th (Ulster) Division were detailed to attack the German positions north of Thiepval, known as the Hansa Line and the Schwaben Redoubt. Launched from Thiepval Wood, initially their assault was successful and some leading elements even reached as far as the German's second line of defence (Stuff Redoubt). However, by the end of the day, as a result of the units on either side of it failing to take their objectives (in particular the 32nd Division's failure to take Thiepval), it had been forced back to the original German front line. It would take until the 26 September 1916, before Thiepval finally fell to the 18th Division. Thiepval then remained under Allied occupation until 25 March 1918, when it was lost during the great German offensive, but it was retaken on the following 24 August by the 17th and 38th (Welsh) Divisions.

Connaught Cemetery was begun during the early autumn of 1916 and at the Armistice it contained 228 burials (the whole of Plot I except 10 graves). It was then very greatly increased when graves were brought in from battlefields in the immediate area and the following small cemeteries: -

THIEPVAL VILLAGE CEMETERY, on the summit of the ridge, West of the road to Grandcourt. It contained the graves of 215 British soldiers who fell in 1916 (or in a few cases in 1918).

THIEPVAL VALLEY CEMETERY, on the South-East side of Thiepval Wood, contained 11 British graves.

QUARRY PALACE CEMETERY, THIEPVAL, close to the river and a little North-East of the hamlet of St. Pierre-Divion, contained 23 British graves of the autumn of 1916-17.

ST. PIERRE-DIVION CEMETERY No.1, THIEPVAL, a little South-East of that hamlet contained 10 British graves of November, 1916.

DIVION ROAD CEMETERY No.2, THIEPVAL, almost adjoining St. Pierre-Divion Cemetery No.1 contained 60 British graves of July, August and September, 1916.

SMALL CONNAUGHT CEMETERY, THIEPVAL, opposite Connaught Cemetery, across the road. It was made by the 11th Division in November, 1916, and contained the graves of 41 British soldiers who fell for the most part on the 1st July.

BATTERY VALLEY CEMETERY, GRANDCOURT, 800 metres South-West of that village, contained 56 British graves of November and December, 1916, and one of July, 1917.

PAISLEY HILLSIDE CEMETERY, AUTHUILE, on the South side of Thiepval Wood, alongside Paisley Avenue Cemetery, and named from the same trench. It contained 32 British graves of July and August, 1916, mainly of the 49th (West Riding) Division.


GORDON CASTLE CEMETERY, AUTHUILE, just inside the South border of Thiepval Wood. It contained 33 British graves (26 belonging to the 49th Division) of July-September, 1916 and the grave of one French soldier who fell in October, 1914.

BLUFF CEMETERY, AUTHUILE, 800 metres North of Authuille village, contained 43 British graves of July and September, 1916.

The vast majority of the burials are those of officers and men who died in the summer and autumn of 1916.

There are now 1,268 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in the cemetery. Half of the burials are unidentified, but special memorials commemorate two casualties believed to be buried among them and five buried in Divion Wood Cemetery No.2, whose graves could not be found on concentration.


The cemetery was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield.

<p>CWGC Named on the War Memorial</p>	<p>Jones, Frank</p>	<p>JONES, FRANK Gunner, 33275 No 2 Depot, Royal Garrison Artillery KILLED IN ACTION 29th September 1916 Age unknown Buried in: Hampstead Cemetery Screen Wall WE.B.214</p>	
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Frank Jones is shown in the 1901 Census as one of five children of Julia Jones housekeeper to William Hutley of Bridge Street. He was a Gunner with the Royal Garrison Artillery but, having been brought back to England, unfortunately died from his wounds.

There are 216 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-18 war and a further 44 of the 1939-45 war here. In addition, there is 1 Polish soldier and 1 Czech soldier burials and 1 non-war military burial.

Those whose graves cannot be marked by headstone are recorded by name on a Screen Wall memorial in the Special Plot where the majority of the burials are to be found, near the Northern boundary, to the right of the main entrance.





<p>CWGC Named on the War Memorial</p>	<p>Broyde, Sam Son of Andrew John and Frances Elizabeth Broyde, of St. John's Green, Writtle, Essex. Brother of Dick Broyde, killed on 1st July 1916</p>	<p>BROYDE, SAM Private, 19477 1st Bn, Essex Regiment KILLED IN ACTION 12th October 1916 Age unknown Commemorated at: Thiepval Memorial Somme, France Pier and face 10D</p>	
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See [Dick Broyde](#) above. Sam Broyde is not commemorated on the Chelmsford Civic Centre War Memorial.

On 1 July 1916, supported by a French attack to the south, thirteen 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 1 July. Attacks north and east continued throughout October and into November in increasingly difficult weather conditions. The Battle of the Somme finally ended on 18 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. 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

<p>memorial.</p> <p>The memorial, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, was built between 1928 and 1932 and unveiled by the Prince of Wales, in the presence of the President of France, on 1 August 1932 (originally scheduled for 16 May but due to the death of French President Doumer the ceremony was postponed until August).</p> <p>The dead of other Commonwealth countries, who died on the Somme and have no known graves, are commemorated on national memorials elsewhere.</p>				
<p>CWGC Not named on the War Memorial but lived in the village</p>	<p>Whybird, Arthur Edward</p>	<p>WHYBIRD, ARTHUR EDWARD Lance Corporal, 10487 11th Bn, Essex Regiment KILLED IN ACTION 15th October 1916 Age: 21 Commemorated at: Thiepval Memorial Somme, France Pier and Face 10.D</p>		
<div>  <p>Lance Corporal Arthur Edward Whybird of the Essex Regiment, 11th Battalion. Born 1895, the 4th of 8 children of James and Emily Whybird of Highwood, Essex. He fought and was wounded in Gallipoli, and died in Trones Wood, the Somme, on 15 October 1916. He is commemorated on the war memorials at Thiepval, France, and Highwood church, Essex.</p> <p>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. 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.</p> <p>The memorial, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, was built between 1928 and 1932 and unveiled by the Prince of Wales, in the presence of the President of France, on 1 August 1932 (originally scheduled for 16 May but due to the death of French President Doumer the ceremony was postponed until August).</p> <p>The dead of other Commonwealth countries, who died on the Somme and have no known graves, are commemorated on national memorials elsewhere.</p> </div> <div>  </div>				
<p>CWGC Named on the War Memorial</p>	<p>Harvey, Edward George</p>	<p>HARVEY, EDWARD GEORGE Gunner, 76323 216th Siege Bty, Royal Garrison Artillery KILLED IN ACTION 10th January 1917 Age: 24 Buried at: Guards Cemetery Lesboeufs Somme XI.E.9</p>		
<p>Born in Colchester in 1892. He married Britannia Webb in Chelmsford on 20th October 1914. They had two children, Patrick Charles, born 11th October 1915 and Edward born 19th November 1916. The family lived at Little Oxney Green. Edward enlisted on 20th November 1915. He arrived in France on 22nd December 1916 but was wounded shortly after. He was treated by the 60th Field Ambulance but died on 10th January 1917.</p> <p>Lesboeufs was attacked by the Guards Division on 15 September 1916 and captured by them on the 25th. It was lost on 24 March 1918 during the great German offensive, after a stubborn resistance by part of the 63rd Bn. Machine Gun Corps, and recaptured on 29 August by the 10th Bn. South Wales Borderers.</p> <p>At the time of the Armistice, the cemetery consisted of only 40 graves (now Plot I), mainly those of officers and men of the 2nd Grenadier Guards who died on 25 September 1916, but it was very greatly increased when graves were brought in from the battlefields and small cemeteries around Lesboeufs.</p> <p>There are now 3,137 casualties of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 1,644 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to 83 soldiers known or believed to be buried among them. Other special memorials record the names of five casualties buried in Ginchy A.D.S. Cemetery, whose graves were destroyed by shell fire, and three officers of the 2nd Bn. Coldstream Guards, killed in action on 26 September 1916 and known to have been buried together by the roadside near Lesboeufs, whose grave could not later be located. The cemetery was designed by Sir Herbert Baker.</p>				

The more considerable burial grounds concentrated into this cemetery were the following: -

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

FLERS ROAD CEMETERY, FLERS, on the Flers-Longueval road, containing the graves of 17 soldiers from the United Kingdom, three from New Zealand and one from Australia, who fell in October, 1916.

GINCHY A.D.S. CEMETERY, on the North side of Ginchy village. This was a Field Ambulance cemetery, used from November, 1916 TO March, 1917, and containing the graves of 77 soldiers from the United Kingdom and one from Australia.

GINCHY R.F.A. CEMETERY, between Ginchy and Flers, containing the graves of 16 Artillerymen from the United Kingdom and five from Australia who fell in October, 1916-February, 1917.


GUARDS' BURIAL GROUND, GINCHY, on the East side of the village, containing the graves of 21 officers and men of the Guards Division who fell on the 15th September, 1916.

NEEDLE DUMP CEMETERY, LESBOEUFS, on the road to Flers, containing the graves of 23 soldiers from Australia and four from the United Kingdom who fell in October, 1916-March, 1917.

NEEDLE DUMP SOUTH CEMETERY, LESBOEUFS, about 50 yards South of Needle Dump Cemetery, containing the graves of 14 soldiers from Australia and nine from the United Kingdom who fell in October, 1916-March, 1917.

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

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

CWGC Named on the War Memorial	Little, John William Son of William and Emma E. Little, of 21, Sunnyside, Oxney Green, Writtle, Chelmsford, Essex.	LITTLE, JOHN WILLIAM Stoker 1st Class, K/16569 HM S/M "E36", Royal Navy KILLED IN ACTION 19 th January 1917 Age: 25 Commemorated at: Portsmouth Naval Memorial 26	
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Jon little was the eldest child of William and Emma Little. William was an omnibus proprietor and the family lived at Sunnyside, Oxney Green. He was a groom and joined the navy on 18th October 1912.

- Build Group. E3
- Length. 181 ft.
- Diving Depth. 200 ft.
- Speed. 15.25 Knots
- Complement. 30
- Fate. Lost 19/01/1917



E36 was built by John Brown, Clydebank and was launched on the 16th September 1916. E36 and E43 left Harwich at 0730 on 19th January 1917 for two patrol areas off Terschelling. A strong north easterly was blowing. At 1126 just before they left the coast, E43 signalled to E36 to proceed independently. At 1330 E36 was on the port beam but was out of sight by 1500. The sea was running fairly high and at 1850 E43, having lost her bridge screen, eased to 5 knots and turned 16 points to fit a new one. This delay must have enabled E36 to overtake her, for at 1950 off the Haaks LV, E43 had just altered course to true north when she suddenly sighted a submarine 3 points on the port bow apparently steering east and only 50 yards off. The

helm was put hard to starboard and engines full astern but E43 struck E36 aft from the stern, rode right over her and saw her vanish on the starboard quarter in the darkness. E43 went astern but nothing could be seen in the darkness and heavy sea. Nothing more was heard of E36.

CWGC Not named on the War Memorial but born in the village	Gentry, Amos Harry Son of Maria Gentry, of Oxney Green, Writtle, Chelmsford, Essex, and the late Walter William Gentry. Born at Writtle, Essex.	GENTRY, AMOS HARRY Second cook, Mercantile Marine SS Vedamore KILLED IN ACTION 7 th February 1917 Age: 21 Commemorated on Tower Hill Memorial	
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S.S. Vedamore was a British cargo ship. She was built at Belfast in 1906 by Harland & Wolff Ltd. for the Johnston Line of Liverpool. The Johnston Line was bought out by Furness Withy & Co of London in 1916. On the 7th February 1917 Vedamore was en route from Baltimore to Liverpool when she was sunk by German submarine U-85, some 20 nautical miles west of the Fastnet Rock, Ireland.

'Deaths at Sea' gives his home address as 5 Kenilworth Street, Bootle.

The 'Vedamore' was the fifth ship built by Harland & Wolff, Ltd. for the Johnston Line, Ltd. of Furness, Withy. Weighing in at 6,330 tons, she was of steel construction and she had a single screw, three-cylinder triple expansion engine, which produced 627 horsepower.

The 'Vedamore' was 450 feet long, has a 48-foot beam, and came equipped with a sufficient number of winches and derricks about each of her cargo holds to easily load and unload whatever cargo she was to carry. She was officially launched in October, 1895; her usual route took her between Liverpool and Baltimore. Originally designed as a cattle transport, she was built with pens for this purpose both on the spar and on the upper decks, both fore and aft; she later switched to coal and general cargo. Her Official Number was 105378.

At 6:00 a.m. on February 7th, 1917, a clear but bitterly cold morning, the passengers and crew of the SS 'Vedamore' were making the final leg of their voyage through the war zone, and were quietly hoping that their luck would hold until they were safely in port. Little did they know that they had, since first light, been sighted and tailed by a German U-boat, and once it was light enough to have a clear view of the 'Vedamore', were set upon by Kpl. Willy Petz and the crew aboard U-85 just off Fastnet Rock, Ireland. Without warning, U-85 fired a single torpedo, which struck the ship with devastating effect abreast of the engine room. Fourteen of the fifteen men in the engine room were killed instantly, torn to pieces by both the detonation of the torpedo and the ensuing explosion of the boilers. The one man who was not blown to pieces, a slight Philippino Stoker by the name of Balbino Batiansilo, was blasted out of his clothing; the force of the explosion literally blew him through the deck above, and off the ship into the frigid waters of the Atlantic. The Vedamore immediately began to sink, and the Captain, W. Henry, sensing time was of the essence, ordered all to abandon ship. Moments later, the deck was awash, and the 'Vedamore' slipped beneath the surface and began her final plunge to the bottom of the Celtic Sea; she had sunk in only five minutes. Stoker Balbino Batiansilo miraculously managed to stay conscious after being blown out of the 'Vedamore', and somehow made his way to a waterlogged lifeboat that had also been blown off the 'Vedamore' in the initial explosion. He managed to climb on board, and without food, water or clothing, continuously bailed the crumbling lifeboat with his hands in freezing weather for some ten hours before being rescued. Ultimately, thirty-three members of the crew and the three passengers got away in the lifeboats; 24 members of the crew drowned or were killed in the initial explosion of the torpedo.

The Tower Hill Memorial commemorates men and women of the Merchant Navy and Fishing Fleets who died in both World Wars and who have no known grave. It stands on the south side of the garden of Trinity Square, London, close to The Tower of London.




In the First World War, the civilian navy's duty was to be the supply service of the Royal Navy, to transport troops and supplies to the armies, to transport raw materials to overseas munitions factories and munitions from those factories, to maintain, on a reduced scale, the ordinary import and export trade, to supply food to the home country and - in spite of greatly enlarged risks and responsibilities - to provide both personnel and ships to supplement the existing resources of the Royal Navy.




Losses of vessels were high from the outset, but had peaked in 1917 when in January the German government announced the adoption of "unrestricted submarine warfare". The subsequent preventative measures introduced by the Ministry of Shipping - including the setting up of the convoy system where warships were used to escort merchant vessels - led to a decrease in losses but by the end of the war, 3,305 merchant ships had been lost with a total of 17,000 lives.

In the Second World War, losses were again considerable in the early years, reaching a peak in 1942. The heaviest losses were suffered in the Atlantic, but convoys making their way to Russia around the North Cape, and those supplying Malta in the Mediterranean were also particularly vulnerable to attack. In all, 4,786 merchant ships were lost during the war with a total of 32,000 lives. More than one quarter of this total were lost in home waters.

The First World War section of the Tower Hill Memorial commemorates almost 12,000 Mercantile Marine casualties who have no grave but the sea. The memorial was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens with sculpture by Sir William Reid-Dick. It was unveiled by Queen Mary on 12 December 1928.

The Second World War extension, which commemorates almost 24,000 casualties, was designed by Sir Edward Maufe, with sculpture by Charles Wheeler. It was unveiled by Queen Elizabeth II on 5 November 1955.

<p>CWGC Named on the War Memorial</p>	<p>Hart, Henry George Son of George and Lucy Hart; husband of Mrs. Hart, of Oxney Green Rd., Writtle, Chelmsford, Essex.</p>	<p>HART, HENRY GEORGE Private, M2/178274 Aux Petrol Coy, Army Service Corps KILLED IN ACTION 8th February 1917 Age: 30 Buried at Abbeville Communal Cemetery Extension</p>	
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<p>The 1901 Census shows the family living in Lawford Lane. Subsequently the family moved to Deadmans Lane (now St Johns Road). During the course of the war he was wounded and subsequently died on Thursday 8th February.</p> <p>For much of the First World War, Abbeville was headquarters of the Commonwealth lines of communication and No.3 BRCS, No.5 and No.2 Stationary Hospitals were stationed there variously from October 1914 to January 1920. The communal cemetery was used for burials from November 1914 to September 1916, the earliest being made among the French military graves. The extension was begun in September 1916.</p> <p>During the early part of the Second World War, Abbeville was a major operational aerodrome, but the town fell to the Germans at the end of May 1940. On 4 June, an attempt was made by the 51st Division, in conjunction with the French, to break the German bridgehead, but without success. Towards the end of 1943, eight large ski shaped buildings appeared near Abbeville. These proved to be storage units for flying bomb components and they were heavily bombed by Commonwealth air forces. Abbeville was retaken on 4 September 1944 by Canadian and Polish units.</p> <p>Abbeville Communal Cemetery contains 774 Commonwealth burials of First World War and 30 from the Second. The Extension contains 1,754 First World War burials and 348 from the Second.</p> <p>The Commonwealth sections of both cemetery and extension were designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield.</p>			
CWGC Named on the War Memorial	Jeayes, Henry Lawrence	JEAYES, HENRY LAWRENCE Lance Serjeant, 250727 1st/5th Bn, Essex Regiment, KILLED IN ACTION 26 th March 1917 Age: 26 Buried in Gaza War Cemetery X. G. 13	
<p>Originally rejected by the Public Schools brigade because of defective eyesight he enlisted in the Essex Regiment. He was the son of Isaac Herbert and Eva Mary Jeaves of Sunnyside, The Green. Henry is also commemorated on the Old Merchant Taylors School Memorial</p> <p>Gaza was bombarded by French warships in April 1915. At the end of March 1917, it was attacked and surrounded by the Egyptian Expeditionary Force in the First Battle of Gaza, but the attack was broken off when Turkish reinforcements appeared. The Second Battle of Gaza, 17-19 April, left the Turks in possession and the Third Battle of Gaza, begun on 27 October, ended with the capture of the ruined and deserted city on 7 November 1917. Casualty Clearing Stations arrived later that month and General and Stationary hospitals in 1918.</p> <p>Some of the earliest burials were made by the troops that captured the city. About two-thirds of the total were brought into the cemetery from the battlefields after the Armistice. The remainder were made by medical units after the Third Battle of Gaza, or, in some cases, represent reburials from the battlefields by the troops who captured the city. Of the British Soldiers, the great majority belong to the 52nd (Lowland), the 53rd (Welsh), the 54th (East Anglian) and the 74th (Yeomanry) Divisions.</p> <p>During the Second World War, Gaza was an Australian hospital base, and the AIF Headquarters were posted there. Among the military hospitals in Gaza were 2/1st Australian General Hospital, 2/6th Australian General Hospital, 8th Australian Special Hospital, and from July 1943 until May 1945, 91 British General Hospital. There was a Royal Air Force aerodrome at Gaza, which was considerably developed from 1941 onwards.</p> <p>Gaza War Cemetery contains 3,217 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, 781 of them unidentified. Second World War burials number 210. There are also 30 post war burials and 234 war graves of other nationalities.</p>			
CWGC Named on the War Memorial	Malyon, Frederick Charles	MALYON, FREDERICK CHARLES Private, 250957 "A" Coy 1 st /5 th Bn, Essex Regiment, KILLED IN ACTION 26 th March 1917 Age: 23 Buried in Gaza War Cemetery XXII. F. 4	
<p>Frederick Charles Malyon was born on 20th November 1894 and was baptized at All Saints Writtle on the 23rd December. He was the eldest child of Walter, a labourer, and Mary Ann who lived at St Johns Green</p> <p>Gaza War Cemetery (as for Henry Lawrence Jeayes above)</p>			
CWGC Named on the War Memorial	Perrin, Henry Frederick	PERRIN, HENRY FREDERICK Private, 250512 5 th Bn, Essex Regiment KILLED IN ACTION 26 th March 1917 Age: 19 Commemorated on Jerusalem Memorial Panels 32 to 38	

Henry Frederick Perrin was born on the 10th May 1897 and baptized at All Saints Writtle on the 18th July. He was one of six children of Henry, a labourer and Annie Hannah Perrin of Oxney Green. Harry was 19 when he died and his body was not recovered and he is commemorated at the Jerusalem memorial

At the outbreak of the First World War, Palestine (now Israel) was part of the Turkish Empire and it was not entered by Allied forces until December 1916. The advance to Jerusalem took a further year, but from 1914 to December 1917, about 250 Commonwealth prisoners of war were buried in the German and Anglo-German cemeteries of the city.

By 21 November 1917, the Egyptian Expeditionary Force had gained a line about five kilometres west of Jerusalem, but the city was deliberately spared bombardment and direct attack. Very severe fighting followed, lasting until the evening of 8 December, when the 53rd (Welsh) Division on the south, and the 60th (London) and 74th (Yeomanry) Divisions on the west, had captured all the city's prepared defences. Turkish forces left Jerusalem throughout that night and in the morning of 9 December, the Mayor came to the Allied lines with the Turkish Governor's letter of surrender. Jerusalem was occupied that day and on 11 December, General Allenby formally entered the city, followed by representatives of France and Italy.


Meanwhile, the 60th Division pushed across the road to Nablus, and the 53rd across the eastern road. From 26 to 30 December, severe fighting took place to the north and east of the city but it remained in Allied hands.

JERUSALEM WAR CEMETERY was begun after the occupation of the city, with 270 burials. It was later enlarged to take graves from the battlefields and smaller cemeteries in the neighbourhood.

There are now 2,514 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in the cemetery, 100 of them unidentified.


Within the cemetery stands the JERUSALEM MEMORIAL, commemorating 3,300 Commonwealth servicemen who died during the First World War in operations in Egypt or Palestine and who have no known grave.

The memorial was designed by Sir John Burnet, with sculpture by Gilbert Bayes. In addition, the mosaic in the Memorial Chapel was designed by Robert Anning Bell. The Memorial was unveiled by Lord Allenby and Sir James Parr on 7 May 1927.

CWGC Named on the War Memorial	Young, Joseph Son of Joseph and Elizabeth Young, of Writtle Wick Cottages, Chignal Rd., Chelmsford	YOUNG, JOSEPH Private, 276107 6 th Bn, Essex Regiment KILLED IN ACTION 27 th March 1917 Age: 21 Commemorated on Jerusalem Memorial Panels 32 to 38	
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Joseph Young was the son of Joseph and Elizabeth Young of Writtle Wick Cottages, Chignal Road – then part of Writtle Parish.

Jerusalem Memorial (as for Henry Frederick Perrin above)

CWGC Named on the War Memorial	Moss, Leonard George Son of Frederick and Elizabeth Moss, of Sycamore House, Writtle, Chelmsford	MOSS, LEONARD GEORGE Private, 6900 2 nd Bn, Honourable Artillery Company KILLED IN ACTION 1 st April 1917 Age: 22 HAC Cemetery, Ecoust-St. Mein Pas de Calais, France I. A. 33	
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Leonard George Moss was born on 31st May 1894 and baptized at All Saints, Writtle on 29th July. He was the youngest of four children of Frederick and Elizabeth Moss. Leonard enlisted on the 25th November 1915 and the Attestation shows that he was a clerk with the London County and Westminster bank and lived at Musgrave Road, New Cross. He was admitted to the Honourable Artillery Company on 2nd February 1916, initially with B Company of the 3rd Battalion, he transferred to the 2nd Battalion and arrived in France on 1st October 1916. On 3rd August 1917, the War Office authorized the release of Leonard's personal property to his father. The possessions comprised a pipe, flash lamp, air pillow, razor strop, pair of mittens, a French book and a scarf.

Ecoust-St.Mein is a village between Arras, Cambrai and Bapaume. H.A.C. Cemetery is about 800 metres south of the village on the west side of the D956 road to Beugnatre. The enemy positions from Doignies to Henin-sur-Cojeul, including the village of Ecoust, were captured on 2 April 1917, by the 4th Australian and 7th Divisions. This cemetery was begun by the 7th Division after the battle, when 27 of the 2nd H.A.C., who fell (with one exception) on the 31st March or the 1st April, were buried in what is now Plot I, Row A. After the German counter-attack near Lagnicourt on the 15th April, twelve Australian gunners were buried in the same row. Rows B, C and part of D were made in August and September 1918, when the ground had been recaptured by the 3rd Division after five months enemy occupation. The 120 graves thus made were the original H.A.C. Cemetery; but after the Armistice graves were added from the battlefields of Bullecourt and Ecoust and from a number of smaller burial grounds, including:-

BARASTRE COMMUNAL CEMETERY GERMAN EXTENSION, which contained 284 German graves, 46 French, and those of 39 soldiers from the

United Kingdom, four from New Zealand and one from Australia.

BULLECOURT CHURCHYARD, which contained the graves of two airmen from the United Kingdom, and BULLECOURT GERMAN CEMETERY (South of the village, just beyond the railway line), in which 200 German soldiers and 30 from the United Kingdom were buried. Bullecourt was the scene of very fierce fighting from the 3rd to the 17th May 1917, on the 21st March 1918, and on the 31st August and the 1st September 1918.

CAGNICOURT COMMUNAL CEMETERY GERMAN EXTENSION, which contained 333 German and six Russian graves, and those of 17 soldiers from the United Kingdom and one from Australia.

CROISILLES GERMAN CEMETERIES, both on the road to Ecoust, which contained, in total, the graves of 505 German soldiers, one French, and eleven from the United Kingdom.

EPINOY CHURCHYARD, which contained the graves of three airmen from the United Kingdom and one from Canada, as well as 136 German graves. The church was destroyed in the War.

IMPERIAL CEMETERY, 800 metres West of HENDECOURT-LESCAGNICOURT, which contained the graves of ten soldiers and two sailors from the United Kingdom and seven Canadian soldiers, who fell in August-September 1918.

INCHY-EN-ARTOIS CHURCHYARD, which contained the grave of one R.N.A.S. officer.

LECLUSE CHURCHYARD, which contained the grave of one R.F.C. officer.

L'HOMME MORT CEMETERY No.2, ECOUST-ST. MEIN (between L'Homme Mort and Vraucourt), which contained the graves of 19 soldiers from the United Kingdom who fell in August-September 1918.

MARQUION GERMAN CEMETERY, in the village of Marquion. It contained the graves of 211 German soldiers, eight Russian, and 17 from the United Kingdom.


MORY-ECOUST ROAD CEMETERIES No.1 AND No.2, ECOUST-ST. MEIN, both very near the road. They were made in March, April and May 1917, and they contained the graves of 63 soldiers from the United Kingdom (almost all 8th and 9th Devons and R.F.A.) and one from Australia.

QUEANT GERMAN CEMETERY, at the North-East exit of the village, which contained the graves of 22 soldiers from the United Kingdom who fell in March, 1918.


VILLERS-LES-CAGNICOURT COMMUNAL CEMETERY, which contained the graves of 25 German soldiers and two from the United Kingdom.

There are now nearly 2,000, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, over half are unidentified and special memorials are erected to 17 soldiers from the United Kingdom and 14 from Australia, known or believed to be buried among them. Other special memorials record the names of 34 soldiers from the United Kingdom, buried in other cemeteries, whose graves were destroyed by shell fire.

The cemetery covers an area of 5,801 square metres and is enclosed by a low red brick wall.

<p>CWGC Named on the War Memorial</p>	<p>Eaton, Richard</p>	<p>EATON, RICHARD Gunner, 71175 122nd Bty, Royal Field Artillery KILLED IN ACTION 14th April 1917 Age: unknown Buried at: Athies Communal Cemetery Extension B.5 Pas de Calais, France</p>	
<p>Little is known of his family. Probably born in Camberwell and enlisted in Stratford and was a Gunner in the 122nd battery, Royal Field Artillery/Royal Horse Artillery.</p> <p>Athies was captured by the 9th (Scottish) Division, which included the South African Brigade, on 9 April 1917, and from then it remained in Allied hands.</p> <p>ATHIES COMMUNAL CEMETERY contains one Commonwealth burial of the First World War.</p> <p>The adjoining COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION was begun immediately after the capture of the village and used by field ambulances and fighting units until May 1918, and again in September 1918.</p> <p>The extension contains 312 Commonwealth burials and commemorations of the First World War. 32 of the burials are unidentified but</p>			

special memorials commemorate three casualties known to be buried among them. The extension also contains 41 Second World War burials, ten of them unidentified, mostly dating from May 1940 and the German advance across northern France.

<p>CWGC Named on the War Memorial</p>	<p>Usborne, Alfred James</p>	<p>USBORNE, ALFRED JAMES Major 50th Bde, Royal Field Artillery KILLED IN ACTION 29th April 1917 Age: 27 Buried at: Ste Catherine British Cemetery K. 9 Pas De Calais, France</p>	
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Sixth son of the late Thomas and Frances Alice Usborne of Writtle, Chelmsford. Husband of Nell Gordon Uscombe of 57 Harrington Gardens S.W. Educated: Wellington College, Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. College: St Thomas' Hospital 1913-14.

Born June 13th.1889 at Writtle. Married October 8th.1913 to Nell Gordon daughter of Gordon Price at Ootacamund, India. Died April 29th.1917. Memorial at Writtle Church where a screen across the south aisle was erected by his sister Margaret in his memory James was educated at Wellington and became a T/Major in the R.F.A. He was killed in action in France having recovered from earlier wounds. According to one newspaper report he was survived by his widow and one son (though none appears on family tree). Elsewhere reported as one daughter. He was "buried at night in a wood near Arras"



Killed in action on Sunday, the 29th April, Alfred James Usborne, Major, R.F.A., husband of Nell Gordon Uscombe of 57 Harrington Gardens S.W., and sixth son of the late Thomas and Frances Alice Usborne of Writtle, Chelmsford, aged 27. *The Times 9th May 1917.*

From March 1916 to the Armistice, Ste. Catherine was occupied by Commonwealth forces and for much of that time it was within the range of German artillery fire. The cemetery was started in March 1916 and used by the divisions and field ambulances stationed on that side of Arras until the autumn of 1917. The cemetery was enlarged after the Armistice when graves were brought in from the surrounding area.

Ste Catherine British Cemetery contains 339 First World War burials.


The cemetery was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield.

Cuddesdon, Oxfordshire



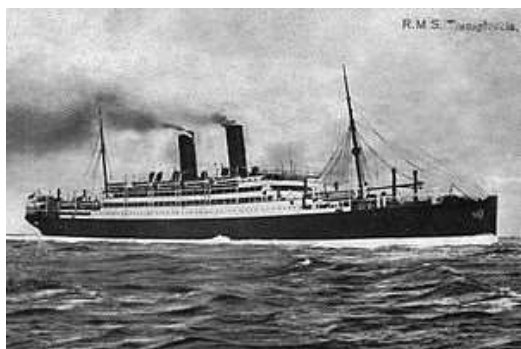
In the context of our remembering the centenary of the start of the First World War, it is interesting to add a further note on the origins of our village clock. It was installed in 1919 in memory of Major Alfred James Usborne, of the Royal Field Artillery (RFA) by his sister and it replaced an earlier clock, also installed by John Smith and Sons in 1776. A small plaque in the ringing chamber records the clock's dedication on St James's day, July 25th, 1919 and a larger plaque is on the SW pier of the crossing in the south transept. Major Usborne came of a well-to-do family in Writtle, Essex, was killed in action in April 1917, having been previously wounded and returned to the front, and was buried at Arras. There is apparently a memorial screen dedicated to his memory in the church at Writtle, also paid for by his sister. The connection with Cuddesdon was through their uncle, Sir Edward O'Malley of Denton House.

Alfred James on the far left as a small boy

<p>CWGC Named on the War Memorial</p>	<p>Poole, John Son of John and Esther Poole, of St. John's Green, Writtle, Chelmsford</p>	<p>POOLE, JOHN Private, T/201668 4th Bn, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) KILLED IN ACTION 4th May 2017 Age: 33 Commemorated at: Savona Memorial Italy</p>	
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John's family lived in St Johns Green. The head of the family was John Poole Senior an agricultural labourer and also Church Sexton.

From the Summer of 1917 until late 1918, the Mediterranean lines of communication for the British Salonika Force ran the length of Italy from Taranto in the south-east, to Turin in the north-west.



On 4 May 1917, the Hired Transport "Transylvania", proceeding to Salonika with reinforcements, was sunk by torpedo off Cape Vado, a few kilometres south of Savona, with the loss of more than 400 lives.

The bodies recovered at Savona were buried two days later, from the Hospital of San Paulo, in a special plot in the town cemetery. Others are buried elsewhere in Italy, France, Monaco and Spain.

SAVONA TOWN CEMETERY contains 85 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, all but two of them casualties of the "Transylvania".

Within the cemetery is the SAVONA MEMORIAL, which commemorates a further 275 casualties who died when the "Transylvania" went down, but whose graves are not known.

The **SS Transylvania** was a passenger liner of the Cunard subsidiary Anchor Line, and a sister ship to *SS Tuscania*. She was torpedoed and sunk on May 4, 1917 by the German U-boat *U-63* at while carrying Allied troops to Egypt and sank with a loss of 412 lives.

Completed just before the outbreak of World War I, the *Transylvania* was taken over for service as a troopship upon completion. She was designed to accommodate 1,379 passengers but the Admiralty fixed her capacity at 200 officers and 2,860 men, besides crew, when she was commissioned in May 1915

On May 3 1917, the *Transylvania* sailed from Marseille to Alexandria with a full complement of troops, escorted by the Japanese destroyers *Matsu* and *Sakaki*.

At 10 am on May 4 the *Transylvania* was struck in the port engine room by a torpedo fired by the German U-boat *U-63* under the command of Otto Schultze. At the time the ship was about 2.5 miles (2.2 nmi; 4.0 km) south of Cape Vado near Savona, in the Gulf of Genoa. The *Matsu* came alongside the *Transylvania* and began to take on board troops while the *Sakaki* circled to force the submarine to remain submerged.

Twenty minutes later a second torpedo was seen coming straight for the *Matsu*, which saved herself by going astern at full speed. The torpedo hit the *Transylvania* instead, which sank immediately. Ten crew members, 29 army officers and 373 soldiers lost their lives.


Many bodies of victims were recovered at Savona and buried two days later, in a special plot in the town cemetery. Others are buried elsewhere in Italy, France, Monaco and Spain. Savona Town Cemetery contains 85 Commonwealth burials from the First World War, all but two of them casualties from the *Transylvania*. Within the cemetery is the Savona Memorial which commemorates a further 275 casualties who died when the *Transylvania* sank, but whose graves are unknown.

Transylvania was discovered on 8 October 2011 off the coast of the island of Bergeggi at a depth of 130 metres.





6 May 1917 Savona Memorial Celebration for the British sailors of Transylvania and photos of the funeral procession of the deceased British Sailors through the City.

<p>CWGC Named on the War Memorial as Ernest W Sharp</p>	<p>Sharp, Ernest Son of Arthur and Sarah Sharp, of Lordship Rd, Writtle, Chelmsford, Essex</p>	<p>SHARP, ERNEST Private, G/42749 13th Bn, Middlesex Regiment KILLED IN ACTION 10th June 2017 Age: 19 Commemorated at Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial Panel 49 and 51</p>	
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Ernest Sharp appears to have been the only child of Arthur and Sarah Sharp, living at Town End, Lordship Road.

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 in 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, when 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, which began 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 16 August 1917 (with some exceptions). United Kingdom and New Zealand servicemen who died after that date are named on the memorial at Tyne Cot, a site 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 16 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 24 July 1927.

<p>CWGC Named on the War Memorial</p>	<p>Jones, George Son of William and Julia Jones, of Bridge St., Writtle, Chelmsford</p>	<p>JONES, GEORGE Gunner, RMA/13276 Royal Marine Artillery, HMS Vanguard KILLED IN ACTION 9th July 1917 Age: 25 Commemorated on Portsmouth Naval Memorial 27</p>	
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George was the son of William and Julia Jones of Bridge Street and the brother of Frank Jones who died on the 29th September 1916. The CWGC shows Frank's mother Julia as being housekeeper to William Huntley of Bridge Street. George was born in April 1892 and joined the

RMA on 15th January 1913 when he was 20. He gave his trade as a general labourer. On 3rd March 1914, he joined HMS Duke of Edinburgh and shortly afterwards transferred to HMS Vanguard. His rank being Gunner.



HMS Vanguard came to a tragic end on 9 July 1917 while anchored in Scapa Flow. An internal explosion destroyed the ship, killing 843 of the 845 men on board at the time.

The vessel was a St Vincent Class battleship built in Barrow-in-Furness. The class consisted of three ships, the other two being HMS *Collingwood* and HMS *St Vincent*.

HMS *Vanguard* was laid down on 2 April 1908 and launched on 22 February 1909. She was the eighth ship to bear the name and was commissioned into the Royal Navy at Devonport on 1 March 1910.

She served in the I Battle Squadron during 1914, then in IV Battle Squadron at the Battle of Jutland in May 1916. The ship was involved in action

throughout the battle, but did not suffer any damage or casualties. Beyond the Battle of Jutland, the ship was involved in very little significant action.

On 9 July 1917, *Vanguard* was anchored in Scapa Flow. Nothing seemed amiss. At 11.20pm the entire ship was destroyed in an instant by an internal explosion. Neighbouring ships were showered with wreckage and human remains.

A total of 845 men were on board. Only three survived the explosion: Lieutenant Commander ACH Duke, Marine J Williams and Stoker 1st Class FW Cox. Lieutenant Commander Duke later died of his injuries. In what could be described as a small blessing amongst such a grievous loss of life, a number of officers were attending a concert on another ship at the time and thus survived.

The Court of Inquiry attributed the tragedy to the internal explosion of faulty cordite thought to be in either P or Q magazine (ammunition storage area).

On 12 September 1975 a detailed investigation carried out by the Royal Navy's Command Clearance Diving Team confirmed that the original explosion destroyed virtually all the explosive ordnance on board and blew the wreck apart.

The bodies that could be recovered now lie in Lyness Royal Naval Cemetery, Hoy, where there is also a memorial.

The wreck itself lies in 14.2 metres of water, well south of the Barrel of Butter, to the north of the island of Flotta and to the west of Calf of Flotta. Today the wreck is afforded statutory protection as a designated war grave under the Protection of Military Remains Act 1986.


In terms of loss of life, the destruction of the *Vanguard* remains the most catastrophic accidental explosion in the history of the UK, and one of the worst accidental losses of the Royal Navy.

After the First World War, an appropriate way had to be found of commemorating those members of the Royal Navy who had no known grave, the majority of deaths having occurred at sea where no permanent memorial could be provided.

An Admiralty committee recommended that the three manning ports in Great Britain - Chatham, Plymouth and Portsmouth - should each have an identical memorial of unmistakable naval form, an obelisk, which would serve as a leading mark for shipping. The memorials were designed by Sir Robert Lorimer, who had already carried out a considerable amount of work for the Commission, with sculpture by Henry Poole. The Portsmouth Naval Memorial was unveiled by the Duke of York (the future George VI) on 15 October 1924.

After the Second World War it was decided that the naval memorials should be extended to provide space for commemorating the naval dead without graves of that war, but since the three sites were dissimilar, a different architectural treatment was required for each. The architect for the Second World War extension at Portsmouth was Sir Edward Maufe (who also designed the Air Forces memorial at Runnymede) and the additional sculpture was by Charles Wheeler, William McMillan, and Esmond Burton. The Extension was unveiled by the Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother on 29 April 1953.

Portsmouth Naval Memorial commemorates around 10,000 sailors of the First World War and almost 15,000 of the Second World War.

<p>CWGC Names on the War Memorial</p>	<p>White, Basil Harold Son of Mrs. H. and the late Mr. E. I. White</p>	<p>WHITE, BASIL HAROLD Private, 27796 1st Bn, Northamptonshire Regiment KILLED IN ACTION 10th July 1917 Age: 28 Commemorated at Nieuport Memorial West Vlaanderen, Belgium</p>	
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Son of Edwin and Harriet White, Ernest was a market gardener owning the Lawford Nursery. Basil had been born when they lived at Takely. After his death the Essex Chronicle reported some nine months later on 19th April 1918 "Mr and Mrs E T White of Lawford Nurseries Writtle

having previously been notified that their son Pte B H White, Northanst Regt was missing on 10th July 1917 the Army Council now inform them that it is concluded that his death took place on that date (or since)".

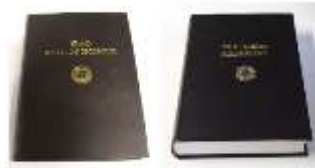
The Nieuport Memorial commemorates 566 Commonwealth officers and men who were killed in Allied operations on the Belgian coast during the First World War and have no known grave. Twenty of those commemorated served with the Royal Naval Division and were killed or mortally wounded during the siege of Antwerp in October 1914. Almost all of the remainder fell in heavy fighting in the region of Nieuport in the summer of 1917. The memorial is constructed of Euville limestone and stands eight metres high. It was designed by William Bryce Binnie, an Imperial War Graves Commission architect who served with The Black Watch during the war and was twice decorated for bravery. The lions standing at each point of the triangular platform were designed by Charles Sergeant Jagger, a celebrated British sculptor and decorated veteran of the Western Front. The memorial was officially unveiled by Sir George Macdonogh in July 1928.

British Operations on the Belgian Coast

The armies of the German Empire invaded Belgium on 4 August 1914. Within three weeks the fortified cities of Liege and Namur were in German hands and the Belgian forces had retreated to Antwerp, which was well defended and ringed by a series of forts. To begin with, the German First Army under General von Kluck bypassed the city and moved south-west toward the Franco-Belgian border. Yet on September 28, after weeks of heavy fighting in northern France, German artillery batteries began to shell the outer forts from the south-east. The accuracy of the German long-range guns had a devastating effect on the defences of the outer forts, and by the beginning of October the German infantry was slowly closing in on the city.

Fearing that the fall of Antwerp would expose the channel ports and leave Britain vulnerable to attack, the British deployed the newly formed Royal Naval Division to assist their Belgian allies in defending the city. The first British reinforcements, a brigade of Royal Marines, arrived at Antwerp on 4 October and relieved the 21st Belgian Regiment. On the following day the German forces crossed the river Nethe at Lie, 20 kilometres south of Antwerp. Two more British naval brigades arrived at Antwerp early on 6 October, yet while their arrival lifted the morale of the soldiers and civilians in the city, they could do little to alter the strategic position of the Belgian garrison, which was now critical. On the night of 6 October, the Belgian fortress troops under General Paris retired to the inner forts on the outskirts of the city, and over the course of the next day the German forces crossed the river Scheldt and began to shell the streets and houses of Antwerp. By 8 October, the Belgian Field Army had evacuated the city, which was now defended by mixed units of Belgian and British troops. The first German troops entered the city, following heavy shelling, on 9 October and the siege was at an end.

British units did not return to this sector of the Western Front until June 1917, when the 32nd Division relieved French troops stationed at Nieuport in preparation for planned Allied landings on German-held territory along the Belgian coast. German marines launched a pre-emptive attack against the British forces on the river Yser in July and the landings, codenamed 'Operation Hush', never took place. Over 260 men commemorated on the Nieuport Memorial were killed or mortally wounded during heavy fighting with units of the German Marine-Korps Flandern on July 10 1917.

<p>CWGC Named on the War Memorial (the letter 'O' in the surname is missing)</p>	<p>Wilkinson, Charles</p>	<p>WILKINSON, CHARLES Private, 25210 2nd (Garrison) Bn, Essex Regiment KILLED IN ACTION 16th July 1917 Age unknown Buried at Basra War Cemetery IV.B.I</p>	
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It is believed Charles Wilkinson lived at St Johns Green, possibly in Maypole House

During the First World War, Basra was occupied by the 6th (Poona) Division in November 1914, from which date the town became the base of the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force. A number of cemeteries were used by the MEF in and around Basra; Makina Masul Old Cemetery was used from December 1914 to October 1916 and the Makina Masul New Extension was begun alongside the old cemetery in August 1917. These two sites, enlarged later when more than 1,000 graves were brought in from other burial grounds, now form Basra War Cemetery.



The cemetery now contains 2,551 burials of the First World War, 74 of them unidentified. The headstones marking these graves were removed in 1935 when it was discovered that salts in the soil were causing them to deteriorate. The names of those buried in the graves affected are now recorded on a screen wall.

The cemetery also contains the Basra (Tanooma Chinese) Memorial, commemorating 227 unidentified casualties of the Chinese Labour Corps who were attached to the Inland Water Transport during the First World War. A panel in their memory was added to the screen wall when it became evident that their graves in Tanooma Chinese Cemetery could no longer be maintained.

During the Second World War, Basra was the scene of fighting from 2 - 7 May 1941 when Iraqi forces were driven from the town, which then became a base for Commonwealth forces. Basra War Cemetery was used once again and after the war, further graves were brought in from other burials grounds in Iraq and Iran.

There are now 365 Second World War burials in the cemetery. In addition, there are 36 war graves of other nationalities, many of them Polish, and 16 non-war burials.

Directly opposite Basra War Cemetery is the Basra Indian Forces Cemetery containing burials of both wars, and the Basra Cremation Memorial commemorating Indian casualties of the Second World War whose remains were cremated in accordance with their faith.			
CWGC Named on the War Memorial	Gowers, Bertie Son of Henry Joseph and Sarah Gowers; husband of Phyllis Mary Gowers, of 27, Angel St., Hadleigh, Suffolk	GOWERS, BERTIE Private, 41293 9 th Bn, Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own (Yorkshire Regiment) (formerly 26292, Essex Regiment) KILLED IN ACTION 17 th July 1917 Age: 26 Buried in Larch Wood (Railway Cutting) Cemetery West Vlaanderen, Belgium Sp.Mem.B.5	
	<p>Bertie Gowers was born in Writtle on 29th May 1891 and was baptised at All Saints on 2nd August. The 1901 census shows his parents as Joseph, a brewery labourer, and Sarah and their children comprising Henry, 19 an agricultural labourer, Emily, 17, a domestic servant, Alfred, 15 a bricklayer's labourer and Bertie, aged 9. They lived in Bridge Street. Sarah died in 1908 aged 56 and her husband died in 1917. By the time of the war Bertie was married to Phyllis Mary and they lived at 27 Angel Street, Hadleigh, Suffolk. Bertie enlisted in the Essex Regiment but then transferred to the 9th Battalion, Yorkshire Regiment. The war diary for the battalion does not show any deaths on 17th July 1917 whereas the CWGC does. The war diary does show four suffered wounds on the 15th and possibly Bertie was one of those and died two days later and for various reasons the death was not recorded. Bertie is known to be buried in Larch Wood cemetery but the exact location of the grave has been lost.</p> <p>Link to Hadleigh Great War Centenary Project and Bertie Gowers story.</p> <p>Family of First World War private Bertie Gowers reunited with war medal bought at auction in Kent by Hadleigh collector (see link) http://www.eadt.co.uk/news/family_of_first_world_war_private_bertie_gowers_reunited_with_war_medal_bought_at_auction</p> <p>The cemetery was begun in April 1915 at the North-end of a small plantation of larches. It was used by troops holding this sector, particularly the 46th (North Midland) Division and the 1st Dorsets, until April 1918. It was enlarged after the Armistice when graves were brought in from the battlefields of Ypres and from the following smaller cemeteries: -</p> <p></p> <p>AMERICA CROSS ROADS GERMAN CEMETERY, WERVICQ, (named from a cabaret between Wervicq and Kruseebecke) contained the graves of five soldiers from the United Kingdom who fell in October, 1914.</p> <p>BRUGES GENERAL CEMETERY, ST. MICHEL, contained the graves of 32 soldiers and airmen from the United Kingdom and one Canadian merchant seaman.</p> <p>CORTEMARCK GERMAN CEMETERY, No.1, a little North-West of the village, contained the grave of two R.F.C. officers.</p> <p>EERNEGHEM GERMAN CEMETERY, a little East of Eerneghem, that of one R.A.F. officer.</p> <p>GHISTELLES CHURCHYARD contained the graves of two British soldiers who fell in July, 1917. There was a German aerodrome at Ghisteltes, and the Germans used a plot in the Churchyard for war burials.</p> <p>GROENENBERG GERMAN CEMETERY, ZANTVOORDE (on the South side of "Shrewsbury Forest"), contained the graves of four soldiers from the United Kingdom who fell in February, 1915,</p> <p>HANDZAEME GERMAN CEMETERY (on the North side of the village) those of two Canadian soldiers who fell in May, 1915, and</p> <p>ICHTEGHEM GERMAN CEMETERY (a little West of Ichteghem) those of two unknown R.A.F. officers.</p> <p>LEFFINGHE GERMAN CEMETERY (on the North side of the village) contained the graves of one R.F.C. officer who fell in July, 1917, and three unknown soldiers from the United Kingdom; and</p> <p>MARCKHOVE GERMAN CEMETERY, CORTEMARCK, those of ten soldiers and airmen from the United Kingdom who fell in 1918.</p> <p>OUDENBURG CHURCHYARD contained the graves of two soldiers from the United Kingdom who fell in 1917, and TENBRIELEN COMMUNAL CEMETERY GERMAN EXTENSION those of six who fell in 1914.</p> <p>THOUROUT GERMAN CEMETERY No.2 (on the road to Jabbeke, beyond the railway line), contained the graves of seven soldiers and airmen from the United Kingdom and one from Canada; VLADSLOO GERMAN CEMETERY (near the Church) those of two R.F.C. officers who fell in 1917; and WARNETON SUD-ET-BAS GERMAN CEMETERY those of two unknown British soldiers who fell in 1918.</p> <p>WERVICQ COMMUNAL CEMETERY and its EXTENSIONS (on the Belgian side of the Lys) contained the graves of 62 soldiers from the United Kingdom and six from Canada.</p> <p>WIJNENDAELE GERMAN CEMETERY, THOUROUT, contained the graves of two flying officers from the United Kingdom and one from Canada; and ZANTVOORDE GERMAN CEMETERY (called also De Voorstraat No.49) those of eleven soldiers from the United Kingdom who fell in 1914.</p> <p>The cemetery contains 856 burials and commemorations of the First World War. 321 of the burials are unidentified and there are special memorials to 82 casualties known or believed to be buried in the cemetery. Other special memorials record the names of five casualties buried in German cemeteries whose graves could not be found on concentration.</p> <p>The cemetery was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens.</p>		

CWGC Named on the War Memorial	Pearson, Frank	PEARSON, FRANK Private, 60559 17 th Bn, Royal Welsh Fusiliers KILLED IN ACTION 31 st July 1917 Age unknown Commemorated at the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial Panel 22	
<p>Frank Pearson was the first Writtle casualty of the 3rd Ypres. He was born in Writtle about 1889, son of George and Sarah of Chequers Lane. George was a journeyman baker. There were three brothers all older than Frank. Frank enlisted with the Royal Army Service Corps but then switched to the Royal Welsh Fusiliers</p> <p>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 in Ploegsteert Wood in the south, but it varied in area and shape throughout the war.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>There was little more significant activity on this front until 1917, when 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, which began 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 16 August 1917 (with some exceptions). United Kingdom and New Zealand servicemen who died after that date are named on the memorial at Tyne Cot, a site 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 16 August 1917 are commemorated on memorials at Buttes New British Cemetery and Messines Ridge British Cemetery.</p> <p>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 24 July 1927.</p>			
CWGC Named on the War Memorial	Anstee, George Son of George Frederick William and Alice Ellen Anstee, of "Heroffs," Writtle Green. Chelmsford	ANSTEE, GEORGE Private, 16401 1 st Bn, Royal Fusiliers KILLED IN ACTION 1 st August 1917 Age: 24 Buried in The Huts Cemetery West Vlaanderen, Belgium I.B.I	

George Anstee was born in Writtle and was baptised at All Saints on 26th May 1893. His father, George Frederick William Anstee was a butcher. He and his wife, Alice Ellen and their children lived at Heroffs, Writtle Green. It is said the house was built with stone from the collapsed tower of All Saints. George was formerly with the 9th Reserve Cavalry Regt, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regt). By the time of 3rd Ypres he was a private with the 1st Battalion. The Battalion Diary says they went into battle at 3.50am on 31st July. George was one of those wounded and died of his wounds on 1st August.




Also known as the **City of London Regiment**, the Royal Fusiliers raised no fewer than 47 battalions for service in the Great War. This makes it the fifth largest after the London Regiment, Northumberland Fusiliers, Middlesex Regiment and King's (Liverpool Regiment).

This cemetery takes its name from a line of huts strung along the road from Dickebusch (now Dikkebus) to Brandhoek, which were used by field ambulances during the 1917 Allied offensive on this front. Plots I to X and XII to XIV were filled between July and November 1917. Plots XV and XI followed. Nearly two-thirds of the burials are of gunners as many artillery positions existed nearby.

The cemetery was closed in April 1918 when the German advance (the Battle of the Lys) brought the front line very close. The advance was finally halted on the eastern side of the village, following fierce fighting at Dickebusch Lake, on 8 May.

There are now 1,094 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in the cemetery.

The cemetery was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens.

<p>CWGC Named on the War Memorial (named as John W on the memorial)</p>	<p>Bearup, John William Son of William Henry and Elizabeth Ann Bearup, of Patrington, Holderness</p>	<p>BEARUP, JOHN WILLIAM Quartermaster Serjeant, 55338 "D" Bty, 119th Bde, Royal Field Artillery KILLED IN ACTION 4th August 1917 Age: 32 Buried at Calais Southern Cemetery Pas de Calais, France Plot H. Row 1. Grave 18</p>	
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Little is known about John William Bearup. Although an unusual name there was a Margaret Bearup living in Brosely Villa in Writtle in 1920.

In April 1915, No 6 Base Supply Depot was started at Calais to help relieve the pressure on Boulogne and to provide a base nearer to the front than Le Havre or Rouen. The base remained open until the last Commonwealth forces left France in March 1921.

The 30th, 35th and 38th General Hospitals, No 9 British Red Cross Hospital and No 10 Canadian Stationary Hospital were also stationed in the town, providing about 2,500 beds. From May 1915 to March 1918, Commonwealth burials were made in Calais Southern Cemetery. Subsequent interments were made in the new military cemetery at Les Baraques.

The cemetery now contains 721 First World War burials. There are also 224 burials of the Second World War, 56 of them unidentified, the majority dating from May 1940.

The Commonwealth plot was designed by Sir Herbert Baker.

<p>CWGC Named on the War Memorial</p>	<p>Fayers, Alfred Charles Son of Herbert Fayers, of St. John's Green, Writtle, Essex</p>	<p>FAYERS, ALFRED CHARLES Private, G/34404 1st/8th Bn, Middlesex Regiment KILLED IN ACTION 16th August 1917 Age: 22 Commemorated at Tyne Cot Memorial Panel 113 to 115 West Vlaanderen, Belgium</p>	
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Alfred was born on 6th January 1895 and baptised at All Saints on the 24th February. His parents were Herbert Charles and Bathsheba Rebecca. Alfred is shown on the 1901 Census as the eldest of three children. Herbert was a carpenter and the family lived at 3 Clifton Cottages, St Johns Green. Bethsheba died in 1902 aged just 27. Alfred enlisted in the 4th December 1915 when he was 20 and gave his occupation as a grinder. He joined the Essex Regiment but later transferred to the Middlesex Regiment where he was a Private.

The Tyne Cot Memorial 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 in 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, when 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, which began 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 those of all Commonwealth nations, except New Zealand, who died in the Salient, in the case of United Kingdom casualties before 16 August 1917 (with some exceptions). Those United Kingdom and New Zealand servicemen who died after that date are named on the memorial at Tyne Cot, a site which marks the furthest point reached by Commonwealth forces in Belgium until nearly the end of the war. Other New Zealand casualties are commemorated on memorials at Buttes New British Cemetery and Messines Ridge British Cemetery.

The TYNE COT MEMORIAL now bears the names of almost 35,000 officers and men whose graves are not known. The memorial, designed by Sir Herbert Baker with sculpture by Joseph Armitage and F.V. Blundstone, was unveiled by Sir Gilbert Dyett on 20 June 1927.


The memorial forms the north-eastern boundary of TYNE COT CEMETERY, which was established around a captured German blockhouse or pill-box used as an advanced dressing station. The original battlefield cemetery of 343 graves was greatly enlarged after the Armistice when remains were brought in from the battlefields of Passchendaele and Langemarck, and from a few small burial grounds. It is now the largest Commonwealth war cemetery in the world in terms of burials. At the suggestion of King George V, who visited the cemetery in 1922, the Cross of Sacrifice was placed on the original large pill-box. There are three other pill-boxes in the cemetery.

There are now 11,961 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in Tyne Cot Cemetery, 8,373 of these are unidentified. The cemetery was designed by Sir Herbert Baker.

CWGC Named on the War Memorial	Poole, William Ernest	POOLE, WILLIAM ERNEST Private, 12255 4 th Bn, Bedfordshire Regiment KILLED IN ACTION 30 th October 1917 Age unknown Commemorated at Tyne Cot Memorial Panel 48 to 50 & 162A West Vlaanderen, Belgium	
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William Ernest Poole, known as Dick, was the brother of John Poole who was killed on 4th May 1917. Dick was born in Writtle on 21st February 1896, the son of John and Elizabeth Poole of St Johns Green. By the time he came Dick's address was Back Road.

See previous entry for details of Tyne Cot Memorial.

CWGC Named on the War Memorial	Barker, Stephen John	BARKER, STEPHEN JOHN Private, 250887 1 st /5 th Bn, Essex Regiment KILLED IN ACTION 2 nd November 1917 Age: unknown Buried at: Gaza War Cemetery XXIX. F. 8	
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Stephen John Barker lived in Writtle and was educated in Chelmsford. Stephen left a wife and 7 children. It is believed that his widow was E Barker of Pitt Cottage.

Gaza was bombarded by French warships in April 1915. At the end of March 1917, it was attacked and surrounded by the Egyptian Expeditionary Force in the First Battle of Gaza, but the attack was broken off when Turkish reinforcements appeared. The Second Battle of Gaza, 17-19 April, left the Turks in possession and the Third Battle of Gaza, begun on 27 October, ended with the capture of the ruined and deserted city on 7 November 1917. Casualty Clearing Stations arrived later that month and General and Stationary hospitals in 1918.

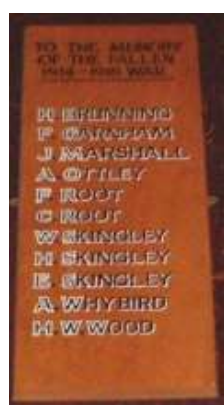
Some of the earliest burials were made by the troops that captured the city. About two-thirds of the total were brought into the cemetery from the battlefields after the Armistice. The remainder were made by medical units after the Third Battle of Gaza, or, in some cases,

represent reburials from the battlefields by the troops who captured the city. Of the British Soldiers, the great majority belong to the 52nd (Lowland), the 53rd (Welsh), the 54th (East Anglian) and the 74th (Yeomanry) Divisions.

During the Second World War, Gaza was an Australian hospital base, and the AIF Headquarters were posted there. Among the military hospitals in Gaza were 2/1st Australian General Hospital, 2/6th Australian General Hospital, 8th Australian Special Hospital, and from July 1943 until May 1945, 91 British General Hospital. There was a Royal Air Force aerodrome at Gaza, which was considerably developed from 1941 onwards.

Gaza War Cemetery contains 3,217 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, 781 of them unidentified. Second World War burials number 210. There are also 30 post war burials and 234 war graves of other nationalities.

CWGC Not named on the War Memorial	Marshall, John	MARSHALL JOHN Private, 252767 5 th Bn, Essex Regiment KILLED IN ACTION 2 nd November 1917 Age: 21 Commemorated at Jerusalem Memorial Panels 32 to 38	
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John Marshall, known as Jack, was born in Writtle and baptised at All Saints on 19th January 1896. By 1917 he had moved to Hatfield Peverel. His family continued to live in Writtle. After the battle on 2nd November 1917 his body was never traced and he is commemorated on the Jerusalem Memorial. He is not recorded on the Writtle War memorial but must have had a connection with Highwood as his name is on the plaque on the organ loft in Highwood Church

At the outbreak of the First World War, Palestine (now Israel) was part of the Turkish Empire and it was not entered by Allied forces until December 1916. The advance to Jerusalem took a further year, but from 1914 to December 1917, about 250 Commonwealth prisoners of war were buried in the German and Anglo-German cemeteries of the city.

By 21 November 1917, the Egyptian Expeditionary Force had gained a line about five kilometres west of Jerusalem, but the city was deliberately spared bombardment and direct attack. Very severe fighting followed, lasting until the evening of 8 December, when the 53rd (Welsh) Division on the south, and the 60th (London) and 74th (Yeomanry) Divisions on the west, had captured all the city's prepared defences. Turkish forces left Jerusalem throughout that night and in the morning of 9 December, the Mayor came to the Allied lines with the Turkish Governor's letter of surrender. Jerusalem was occupied that day and on 11 December, General Allenby formally entered the city, followed by representatives of France and Italy.


Meanwhile, the 60th Division pushed across the road to Nablus, and the 53rd across the eastern road. From 26 to 30 December, severe fighting took place to the north and east of the city but it remained in Allied hands.

JERUSALEM WAR CEMETERY was begun after the occupation of the city, with 270 burials. It was later enlarged to take graves from the battlefields and smaller cemeteries in the neighbourhood.

There are now 2,514 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in the cemetery, 100 of them unidentified.


Within the cemetery stands the JERUSALEM MEMORIAL, commemorating 3,300 Commonwealth servicemen who died during the First World War in operations in Egypt or Palestine and who have no known grave.

The memorial was designed by Sir John Burnet, with sculpture by Gilbert Bayes. In addition, the mosaic in the Memorial Chapel was designed by Robert Anning Bell. The Memorial was unveiled by Lord Allenby and Sir James Parr on 7 May 1927.

CWGC Named on the War Memorial	Fitch, Edward James Son of Mrs. R. Fitch, of 3, Oxney Green, Writtle, Chelmsford	FITCH, EDWARD JAMES Private, 251162 5 th Bn, Essex Regiment KILLED IN ACTION 2 nd November 1917 Age: 27 Commemorated at Jerusalem Memorial Panels 32 to 38	
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Edward J Fitch was the son of Mrs Rachael Fitch of 3 Oxney Green. Edward had been wounded in March 1917 but had recovered and was fit to take part in the attack on 2nd November. His body was never found and, aged 27, he is commemorated on the Jerusalem memorial

See above for details of the Jerusalem Memorial.

CWGC Named on the War Memorial	Skingley, William Stephen Son of Henry and Lucy Skingley, of Montpeliers Cottages, Writtle, Chelmsford.	SKINGLEY, WILLIAM STEPHEN Private, 250892 1 st /5 th Bn, Essex Regiment KILLED IN ACTION 4 th November 1917 Age: 22 Buried at Deir Belah War Cemetery B96 Israel and Palestine	
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At the time of the war William S Skingley lived in Highwood and is commemorated on the Highwood Church organ loft.




W Skingley is 250892 Private William Stephen Skingley who died of wounds on the 4th November 1917 whilst serving with the 5th Battalion, The Essex Regiment. His number indicates that he joined the battalion in May 1915. He was the son of Henry and Lucy Skingley, of Montpeliers Cottages, Writtle, and is buried in the Deir El Belah War Cemetery in Israel (Palestine, at the time). He was 22 years old. Soldiers Died in the Great War records that he was living at Highwood and enlisted there.

On 28 February 1917, the cavalry of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force entered Khan Yunus, midway between the Egyptian border and Deir el Belah causing the Turks to withdraw to Gaza and Beersheba. The railway was pushed forward to Deir el Belah, which became the railhead in April 1917, and an aerodrome and camps were established there.

The cemetery was begun towards the end of March and remained in use until March 1919. Most of the burials were made either from field ambulances from March to June 1917, or from the 53rd, 54th, 66th and 74th Casualty Clearing Stations, and the 69th General Hospital, from April 1917 until the Armistice with Turkey. A number of graves, the majority of which were originally at Khan Yunus, were brought into the cemetery after the Armistice.

The cemetery contains 724 Commonwealth burials of the First World War; the names are now recorded on panels erected within the cemetery. Five of these burials are unidentified. There are also ten war graves of other nationalities, two being unidentified.

CWGC Not named on the War Memorial	Page, Edwin Francis	PAGE, EDWIN FRANCIS Private, 251099 5 th Bn, Essex Regiment KILLED IN ACTION 28 th November 1917 Age: 20 Commemorated at Jerusalem Memorial Panels 32 to 38	
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Edwin Francis Page lived in Writtle although his name does not appear on the War Memorial.

EDWIN FRANCIS PAGE was born in 1897 in Beckenham, Surrey, the son of Edwin and Maude Ellen Page, and brother of Rhoda Alice (born Warnham 1911). In 1911 the family were living in Hill Cottage, Ends Place, Warnham.

Edwin's personal service records appear to have been destroyed by enemy action during the Second World War, however surviving records show that he enlisted for service in Chelmsford, to serve with the 3/5th Battalion Essex Regiment, becoming Private 3864. His service number indicates that he enlisted on 27th August 1915.


The 5th Battalion Essex Regiment was a Territorial battalion of the Essex Regiment. At the start of the First World War there was a surge of men enlisting in the Territorial battalions, which rapidly filled. It was decided, therefore, to create 'sections' of these Territorial battalions, numbered 1/5th, 2/5th, 3/5th. The terms of enlistment for Territorial soldiers was for 4 years' service, to be subject to call-up in the event of an emergency but with no obligation to serve overseas. This last restriction was negated by a waiver which Edwin signed with his enlistment papers.



On 24th November, the 54th Division took part in an attack crossing the Nahr el Auja, 3 miles north of Jaffa (now known as the Yarkon River in the northern suburbs of Tel Aviv). After establishing a bridgehead on the northern side of the river, the force was pushed back by an Ottoman attack on the 25th. 5/Essex experienced no casualties until the 28th November, when 9 members of the battalion died, including Private Edwin Page from Rudgwick.

On the night of 28th November, the Ottoman forces had launched a counter attack against the Allied forces east of Jaffa. It is likely that Edwin and the men of 5/Essex were killed in this counter attack. It appears that at this time 161st Brigade was detached from 54th Division and located approximately 2 miles north east of Jaffa (in what is now Tel Aviv). Of the 9 men, Edwin and six others have no known grave and are commemorated on the Jerusalem Memorial. Edwin was posthumously awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

See above for details of the Jerusalem Memorial.

<p>CWGC Not named on the War Memorial</p>	<p>Ellis, Ernest Edward Son of James and Kate Ellis, of 11, Crompton Terrace, Writtle Rd., Chelmsford, Essex</p>	<p>ELLIS, ERNEST EDWARD Private, 201376 "B" Coy. 1st/4th Bn, Norfolk Regiment KILLED IN ACTION 11th December 1917 Age; 20 Buried at Ramleh War Cemetery D.22</p>	
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The last death of 1917, Ernest Edward Ellis was not recorded on the War memorial. He was born in Writtle and enlisted at Chelmsford.

Ernest Edward Ellis was born in Writtle and brought up in Chelmsford where he worked for Crompton's. A pre-war Territorial he joined the regular army in April 1916 having been initially rejected. He was posted to Middle East, wounded in April 1917 and killed in action in Palestine in December 1917. His home was in Crompton Street.

Ernest was born at Writtle on 19th June 1898, the son of James Ellis (born 1870 in Roxwell) and Kate Ellis (nee Skingsley born 1872 in Writtle). Ernest was christened at Writtle on 14th August 1898. At the time his father was a labourer living at Writtle.

His parents had married on 14th July 1894 at All Saints' Church in Writtle. At the time, his father was aged 23, a labourer of Writtle, and the son of Charles Ellis, a labourer. His mother was aged 22, of Writtle, and the daughter of Samuel Skingsley, a labourer.

Ernest was one of five children born by 1911. His elder brother was Arthur James Ellis (born 1895 in Writtle, died in 1945). His younger siblings, all Chelmsford-born, were Daisy Ellis (born in 1902), Lilly Ellis (born in 1904) and Walter Cyril Ellis (born in 1906, died in 1967). Later he gained two brothers, Anthony Ellis (born 1911, died in 2003) and Terence Ellis (born 1912, died in 1989).

The 1901 census found the family living at 2 Seymour Street, Chelmsford. Ernest's father was an electrical machinist.

A decade later the 1911 census recorded Ernest, his parents and four siblings at 10 Crompton Terrace, Chelmsford (today's 51 Crompton Street), on what was known as the Waterhouse Estate. Ernest was a newsboy; his father was a metal driller at an electrical engineer's (probably Crompton and Company); while elder brother Arthur was a metal turner, also probably at Crompton's.

Ernest served as a Territorial in the Chelmsford-based 5th Battalion of the Essex Regiment and was subsequently rejected as unfit for the military due to 'poor physique'. However, he persisted, passed a medical at Chelmsford on 21st April 1916 and two days later he attested to join the regular army for five years in the colours and seven in reserve, stating a preference to join the Bedfordshire Regiment.

At the time, he was only 16, though he claimed to be 18, and was an engineer's labourer. He was five feet four and a quarter inches tall, weighed 98 pounds with a chest of 32 and a half inches. He had a pale complexion, grey eyes and light brown hair and was a Roman Catholic. On 1st May 1915 Ernest was posted as Private 10870 in the 3rd Battalion of the Bedfordshire Regiment. In December 1915, he was at Landguard.

On 5th January 1916, he was transferred to the 3/4th Battalion of the Norfolk Regiment as Private 5744, before being posted to his final battalion, the 1/4th Battalion of the Norfolk Regiment on 16th March 1916. He was given a new service number - 201376. That day he embarked from Devonport, Devon on the ship H. T. Scotian as part of the Eastern Expeditionary Force. The ship docked in Alexandria, Egypt 13 days later. Ernest's battalion arrived in Shalufa on 11th April 1917. He was wounded in action on 19th April 1917 with gunshot wounds to his right foot. After recovering in Romani he rejoined his unit on 20th June 1917. During September 1917, he fell ill with sandfly fever, recovered and rejoined his unit on 12th October 1917.

Two months later Ernest was killed in action on 11th December 1917 in Palestine. At the time he was serving in B Company 1/4th Battalion of the Norfolk Regiment. He was aged 19 and had served for two years and 233 days, of which one year and 271 days had been overseas. His parents were informed of his death on 31st December 1917.

On 4th January 1918, the Essex Weekly News reported:



"Mrs. Ellis, of 10, Crompton-ter., Chelmsford, has received information that her son Ernie, Norfolk regt., was killed in action on Dec. 11. He was 19 years old and had served with the Expeditionary Force for nearly two years, and fought and was wounded at the battle of Gaza on April 19. Having enlisted at the age of 16 years he had served his country for nearly three years, An elder brother serving in the R.F.C. has also seen active service in France, and his father is in the R.D.C. Deceased was formerly employed at the Arc Works."

Ernest was buried in the Jehudiyeh District, but later exhumed and today lies at Ramleh War Cemetery, twelve and a half miles south-east of Jaffa in modern-day Israel (grave: D. 22).

On 8th April 1918, the War Office wrote to Infantry Records at Warley and directed that any of Ernest's property in their possession should be despatched to his father, Private James Ellis, at 10 Crompton Terrace.

Ernest is commemorated on the Civic Centre Memorial, Chelmsford, and on the War Memorial at Church of Our Lady Immaculate in New London Road, Chelmsford (pictured).

He is not commemorated on the war memorial at St. John's Church in Moulsham Street.

He was entitled to the British War Medal and Victory Medal.

The 1918 register of electors listed Ernest's absent father, and his mother at 11 Crompton Street, Chelmsford (today's number 51). However, his mother died in 1918, aged 46 during the influenza

pandemic. His father remarried, on 26th September 1921, to a widow, Mary Jane Downes and the couple had a child. Ernest's father died in 1939, aged 68.

[Source: By kind permission of Andrew J Begent Chelmsford War Memorial website]



The cemetery dates from the First World War, when Ramleh (now Ramla) was occupied by the 1st Australian Light Horse Brigade on 1 November 1917. Field Ambulances, and later Casualty Clearing Stations, were posted at Ramleh and Lydda from December 1917 onwards. The cemetery was begun by the medical units, but some graves were brought in later from the battlefields and from Latron, Sarona and Wilhema Military and Indian Cemeteries.

During the Second World War, this cemetery was used by the Ramla Royal Air Force Station and by various Commonwealth hospitals posted in turn to the area for varying periods.


RAMLEH WAR CEMETERY contains 3,300 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, 964 of them unidentified. Second World War burials number 1,168. There are also 892 war graves of other nationalities from both wars, and 525 non-war burials, many from the RAF and garrison stations that were at Ramleh in the inter war years and until the end of the British Mandate in Palestine in 1948.

Within Ramleh War Cemetery will be found:


The RAMLEH 1914-18 MEMORIAL, erected in 1961 to commemorate more than 300 Commonwealth, German and Turkish servicemen of the First World War who lie buried in cemeteries elsewhere in Israel where their graves could no longer be maintained. Only 74 of the casualties are named.

The RAMLEH 1939-45 MEMORIAL, commemorating 28 Jewish and non-Arab servicemen of the Second World War, and six non-war casualties of the Palestine Police Force, who lie buried in cemeteries elsewhere in Israel where their graves could not be maintained in perpetuity.

The original war cemetery was designed by Sir John J. Burnet, but following the addition of the 1939-45 war graves, the site was extensively remodelled in the 1950s by Alan Stewart, ARIBA.

<p>CWGC Named on the War Memorial</p>	<p>Adams, Samuel William Son of Mr. W. and Mrs. E. Adams, of Hoe Street Cottages, Roxwell, Chelmsford</p>	<p>ADAMS, SAMUEL WILLIAM Lance Corporal, 29468 13th Bn, Essex Regiment KILLED IN ACTION 5th February 1918 Age 29 Buried at Fins New British Cemetery, Sorel-le-Grand Somme, France IV.A.24</p>	
<p>Samuel William Adams is shown in 1901 as living with his family at Sycamore Cottages, Roxwell Road. The family comprised William aged 48, his wife Emily, aged 35, her mother Emma Ellis a widow, and then Samuel aged 11, Emily 5, Lucy 3, and Frederick just 1 month old. By the time of the War the address of the family was Hoe Street Cottages, Roxwell.</p>			

Fins and Sorel were occupied at the beginning of April 1917, in the German Retreat to the Hindenburg Line. They were lost on the 23 March 1918, after a stubborn defence of Sorel by the 6th K.O.S.B. and the staff of the South African Brigade; and they were regained in the following September. The first British burials at Fins were carried out in the Churchyard and the Churchyard Extension, and the New British Cemetery was not begun until July 1917. It was used by fighting units (especially the 40th, 61st (South Midland) and 9th (Scottish) Divisions) and Field Ambulances until March, 1918, when it comprised about 590 graves in Plots I to IV. It was then used by the Germans, who added 255 burials, including 26 British, in Plots IV, V, and VI. In September and October 1918, about 73 British soldiers were buried by the 33rd and other Divisions, partly in Plots I and II, but mainly in Plots V and VI. Lastly, Plots VII and VIII were made, and other Plots completed, by the concentration of 591 graves after Armistice from the surrounding battlefields and from other smaller cemeteries, including:- EQUANCOURT CHURCHYARD, where three soldiers from the United Kingdom were buried in 1917 and 1918. FINS CHURCHYARD, in which nine soldiers from the United Kingdom were buried in April, 1917. FINS CHURCHYARD EXTENSION, which was on the North side of the churchyard, within the enclosure of a house. It contained the graves of 121 soldiers from the United Kingdom and one from Canada, who fell in April July 1917, and one German soldier who fell in March 1918. SOREL-LE-GRAND GERMAN CEMETERY, on the West side of the village, opposite the Communal Cemetery. Here were buried, some by the enemy and some by their comrades, 17 soldiers from the United Kingdom who fell in 1916-1918. There are now 1289, First World War casualties commemorated in this site. Of these 208 are unidentified, and special memorials are erected to nine soldiers from the United Kingdom who are believed to be buried among them. Another special memorial records the name of a soldier from the United Kingdom, buried in Fins Churchyard Extension, whose grave could not be found on concentration. Nine graves in Plot VIII, Row E, identified as a whole but not individually, are marked by headstones bearing the words: "Buried near this spot." There are also 276 German burials here, 89 being unidentified. This cemetery was designed by Sir Herbert Baker.

CWGC Named on the War Memorial and Hoffmann's Roll of Honour	Everard, William Henry Son of Frederick and Sarah Everard, of Writtle, Essex. Native of Writtle	EVERARD, WILLIAM HENRY Private, 88286 25 th Bn, Machine Gun Corps KILLED IN ACTION 2 nd May 1918 Age 22 Buried at Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France LXV.A.35	
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William Henry Everard was the second Everard to die. He was baptised at All Saints on the 24th May 1896 and was one of the children of Frederick and Sarah. Two of the sons, Frederick and Charles were maltsters labourers. The other children were Dorothy and Bertie. The address of the family was at Writtle Green at the time of William's baptism but by 1901 the family had moved to St Johns Green. William enlisted at the age of 20 years and 7 months at Chelmsford on the 17th November 1915. His occupation was that of a grinder at Hoffmans, one of the major employers in Chelmsford. By this time the family had moved again and gave his address and that of his father as Writtle Green once more. William originally enlisted in the Norfolk Regiment but transferred to the 25th Battalion Machine Gun Corps on 13th March 1917. He is commemorated on the Hoffmann Roll of Honour in Chelmsford Cathedral.

ROLL OF HONOUR 1914 - 1918			
NAME	REGT.	UNIT	DATE OF DEATH
BACON W.M.GEO.	C.	MACHINE GUN CORPS	PTF. 24 AUG 1918
BERRY L.A.	C.	1ST. ESSEX	A.C. 12 OCT 1918
BROWN C.A.	C.	WEST KENT REGT.	CONF. 12 MAY 1918
BROYD W.O.	V.	MACHINE GUN CORPS	L.C. 10 SEP 1917
CLARK W.	L.B.	1ST. ESSEX	PTF. 14 AUG 1915
CLIFT H.J.	G.	2ND. ESSEX	PTF. 16 JUN 1915
COOPER (D.C.M.) W.M.	G.	1/5TH. ESSEX REGT.	SERG. 2 NOV 1917
COFFIN A.J.	G.	V.L.	L.C. 14 APR. 1917
DAY J.	G.	9TH. ESSEX	PTF. 3 SEP 1917
DEURY V.	V.	2ND. ESSEX	PTF.
EVERARD W.H.	G.	MACHINE GUN CORPS	PTF. 2 MAY 1918
GREEN F.	H.	ESSEX REGT.	PTF. 15 SEP 1918
GRIDLEY O.A.	V.	16TH. ROYAL FUSILIERS	PTF. 20 JUN 1917
HARRIS C.	C.	11TH. ROYAL WORCESTERS	PTF. JAN. 1916
HUNT F.C.	T.	A.S.C. (MECH. TRANSPORT)	PTF. DEC. 1917
KAUFMANN L.	B.	ESSEX REGT.	PTF. 31 AUG 1918
LING B.	T.	GLoucester REGT.	PTF. 4 JULY 1917
LOVE J.L.	B.	5TH. BEDFORDSHIRE REGT.	PTF. 12 FEB. 1917
MANTILL G.	G.	1ST. MIDDLESEX	PTF. 23 OCT 1914
MINNIS F.W.	T.	2ND. ESSEX	PTF. 1 JULY 1916
MINNIS H.L.	G.	2ND. ESSEX	PTF. 19 JUN 1915
MYALL H.L.	T.	GRENADIER GUARDS	PTF. 19 JULY 1918
NORRIS H.	G.	9TH. BATTN. ESSEX REGT.	PTF. 9 APR. 1917
PAYNE F.	B.	M.G. C. 18TH. INF. BDE.	PTF. 27 SEP 1916
PELLEY C.	C.	9TH. ESSEX	PTF. 15 OCT 1915
PRESTNEY F.	G.	18TH. HUSSARS	PTF. 15 MAY 1915
RADLEY BERT	G.	2ND. ESSEX	CPL. 1 JULY 1916
RAWLINSON A.	G.	HIGHLAND LIGHT INF.	PTF. 21 OCT 1914
REDMAN F.S.	G.	A.S.C.	CPL. 22 MAR 1916
ROFFE F.C.	B.	11TH. BATTN. ROYAL FUS.	L.C. 4 NOV 1916
RUFFELL F.	M.T.S.	1ST. ESSEX	L.C. 13 MAY 1915
RUTLEDGE H.A.	G.	1ST. NORFOLK	PTF. 25 OCT 1914
SMITH C.G.	STAFF	R. A. M. C.	PTF. 30 SEP 1918
STEVENS F.M.	H.	MOUNTED POLICE	S.M. 15 MAY 1917
THURSTON D.J.	TREY	23RD. SUPPL. COY. R.E.	CPL. 1 JUNE 1917
TUFFIN H.	B.	3RD. QUEEN'S	PTF. 23 DEC 1916
TWINN H.J.	B.	10TH. ESSEX	L.C. 17 MAY 1917
TYLER F.J.	M.	1ST. 5TH. ESSEX	PTF. 5 OCT 1915
WILLIS B.	G.	LEICESTERSHIRE REGT.	PTF. 26 AUG 1916
WILLIS S.	G.	ROYAL WEST KENT	PTF. 22 NOV 1917
WRIGHT C.	G.	10TH. ESSEX	PTF. 17 JULY 1917
WRIGHT H.	G.	9TH. NORFOLK	PTF. 21 MAR 1918

DULCE ET DECORUM EST
PRO PATRIA MORI

The Machine Gun Corps (MGC) was a corps of the British Army, formed in October 1915 in response to the need for more effective use of machine guns on the Western Front in the First World War. The Heavy Branch of the MGC was the first to use tanks in combat and was subsequently turned into the Tank Corps, later called the Royal Tank Regiment. The MGC remained in existence after the war until it was disbanded in 1922.

During the First World War, the area around the small fishing port of Etaples was the scene of immense concentrations of Commonwealth reinforcement camps and hospitals. It was remote from attack, except from aircraft, and accessible by railway from both the northern or the southern battlefields. At its peak, 100,000 troops were housed there with Commonwealth army training and reinforcement camps and an extensive complex of hospitals.

In 1917, 100,000 troops were camped among the sand dunes and the hospitals, which included eleven general, one stationary, four Red Cross hospitals and a convalescent depot, could deal with 22,000 wounded or sick. In September 1919, 10 months after the Armistice, three hospitals and the Q.M.A.A.C. convalescent depot remained.

The cemetery is the final resting place of 20 women, including nurses, army auxiliaries and civilian volunteers of the YMCA and Scottish Church Huts organisations. They were killed in air raids or by disease.


By the latter part of the war, more than 2,500 women were serving at the Etaples base. Hailing from many parts of the British Empire as well as France and America, they included ambulance drivers, nurses, members of the Voluntary Aid Detachment and those employed by the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps as bakers, clerks, telephonists and gardeners.

In its early years, the cemetery was visible as the train from Boulogne to Paris passed close by. Sir Fabian Ware, the founder of the Imperial War Graves Commission, ensured that trains would linger for a minute or so to allow passengers a glimpse.

Hospitals were stationed again at Etaples during the Second World War. The cemetery was used for burials from January 1940 until the evacuation at the end of May 1940. After the war, a number of graves were brought into the cemetery from other French burial grounds. Of the 119 Second World War burials, 38 are unidentified.

Etaples Military Cemetery also contains 662 Non-Commonwealth burials, mainly German, including six unidentified. There are also now five Non-World War service burials here.


The cemetery was unveiled on 14 May 1922, by King George V and General Douglas Haig.

CWGC Named on the War Memorial	Little, Thomas Son of Mrs. W. Little, of Chequer Lane, Writtle, Chelmsford	LITTLE, THOMAS Private, G/18140 7th Bn. Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) KILLED IN ACTION 28th August 1918 Age 21 Buried at Dartmoor Cemetery, Becordel, Becourt Somme, France II.E.61	
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Thomas Little was the only son of William and Elizabeth Little of 7 Chequers Lane. He was baptised at All Saints on the 29th March 1896. William was shown in the 1901 census as a general dealer but by 1918 Elizabeth was shown as Thomas' parent. Thomas took the oath of attestation at Chelmsford on 9th December 1915 and enlisted in the 3/1 Suffolk Yeomanry on the 27th April 1916. The Suffolks left Folkestone and arrived in Boulogne on the 27th August. On enlistment he gave his occupation as greengrocer. On the 7th September, Thomas was posted to 7th Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment – the Queens Own. Whilst with the West Kents he was awarded the Military Medal, a military decoration awarded to personnel of the British Army and other services below commissioned rank for bravery in battle on land

On the 28th August, Thomas was wounded during the fighting and died of his wounds. The CWGC are normally very reliable but their records give Thomas headstone show the year of his death as being 1916. The telegram which arrived at his mother's on 5th September says "It is regretted that Thomas had died at 56 Field Ambulance from a shell wound to his chest and left arm.


Dartmoor Cemetery was begun (as Becordel-Becourt Military Cemetery) in August 1915 and was used by the battalions holding that part of the line; its name was changed in May 1916 at the request of the 8th and 9th Battalions of the Devonshire Regiment. In September 1916, the XV Corps Main Dressing Station was established in the neighbourhood, but throughout 1917, the cemetery was scarcely used. It passed into German hands on 26 March 1918, but was retaken on 24 August by the 12th Division. There are five burials of August 1918, in Plot II, Row E. In adjoining graves in Plot I, Row A, are buried a father and son, who served in the same artillery battery, and were killed in action on the same day. Dartmoor Cemetery contains 768 Commonwealth burials of the First World War. The cemetery was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens.

CWGC Named on the War Memorial	Blanks, William Son of William W. Blanks, of Malting House, Writtle, Chelmsford	BLANKS. WILLIAM Private, 251211 "B" Coy. 5th Bn. Essex Regiment KILLED IN ACTION 19 th September 1918 Age 33 Commemorated at Jerusalem Memorial Israel Panels 32 to 38	
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William Blanks was the son of Eliza and William Walter Blanks a maltster of Malting House, Writtle. William was baptised on 27th May 1888 and as the son of a prosperous brewer would have had a comfortable upbringing.

At the outbreak of the First World War, Palestine (now Israel) was part of the Turkish Empire and it was not entered by Allied forces until December 1916. The advance to Jerusalem took a further year, but from 1914 to December 1917, about 250 Commonwealth prisoners of war were buried in the German and Anglo-German cemeteries of the city. By 21 November 1917, the Egyptian Expeditionary Force had gained a line about five kilometres west of Jerusalem, but the city was deliberately spared bombardment and direct attack. Very severe fighting followed, lasting until the evening of 8 December, when the 53rd (Welsh) Division on the south, and the 60th (London) and 74th (Yeomanry) Divisions on the west, had captured all the city's prepared defences. Turkish forces left Jerusalem throughout that night and in the morning of 9 December, the Mayor came to the Allied lines with the Turkish Governor's letter of surrender. Jerusalem was occupied that day and on 11 December, General Allenby formally entered the city, followed by representatives of France and Italy. Meanwhile, the 60th Division pushed across the road to Nablus, and the 53rd across the eastern road. From 26 to 30 December, severe fighting took place to the north and east of the city but it remained in Allied hands. JERUSALEM WAR CEMETERY was begun after the occupation of the city, with 270 burials. It was later enlarged to take graves from the battlefields and smaller cemeteries in the neighbourhood. There are now 2,514 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in the cemetery, 100 of them unidentified. Within the cemetery stands the JERUSALEM MEMORIAL, commemorating 3,300 Commonwealth servicemen who died during the First World War in operations in Egypt or Palestine and who have no known grave.

The memorial was designed by Sir John Burnet, with sculpture by Gilbert Bayes. In addition, the mosaic in the Memorial Chapel was designed by Robert Anning Bell. The Memorial was unveiled by Lord Allenby and Sir James Parr on 7 May 1927.

<p>CWGC Named on the War Memorial</p>	<p>Townsend, Martha Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Townsend, of "Redwalls," Rollstones Rd., Writtle, Chelmsford, Essex</p>	<p>TOWNSEND, MARTHA Staff Nurse Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE 21st September 1918 Age 44 Buried at Mikra British Cemetery, Kalamaria, Greece 310</p>	
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Martha Townsend is the woman commemorated on Writtle War Memorial. Martha was a Staff Nurse with Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. She was the daughter of James and Mary Townsend of "Redwalls", Rolleston Road. The Service had been established in 1902 and was the successor to the Army Nursing Service formed in 1881. In turn that Service had come about due to the efforts of Florence Nightingale after the Crimean War. Martha was born on 11 February 1883. She was educated at a private school in Chelmsford and trained as a nurse at Lewisham Infirmary from July 1903 to July 1906 by which time she had attained the position of Staff

Nurse. She was then engaged in private nursing until applying to join Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Service in 1916. On the 13th November 1916 she embarked for Salonika to nurse the casualties from that theatre of war. Martha, then aged 35, arrived in Salonika on 25th May 1918. On 20th September, Martha fell ill. Her medical case sheet said *"patient was quite well until 2.30pm yesterday when she complained of headache and pains in the back. At 5pm as her temperature had risen to 105° it was decided not to move her to No 43 General Hospital but to treat her here. At 5am this morning she developed capillary bronchitis and broncho-pneumonia which increased at an alarming rate. The Consulting Physician came to see her at 6.45am. At 4pm she became very ?? the breathing became laboured, heart action very feeble and she died at 5.35pm. Disease was contracted on active service, subsequent to her posting to QAIMNSR."*

Following her death, a gratuity of £13-18s-7d (£13.93) was paid and her personal belongings shipped back to her parents.


Her father, James was born in Tolleshunt D'Arcy, Essex. in 1891 he and his family were living in Rettendon, Essex where he was an agricultural labourer. He died aged 80 and his wife, Mary died less than two months later. They lay together in All Saints, Writtle churchyard. Children living with them in 1891, all born in Essex were Ernest, Rose, May, Catherine, Walter and Martha.



The Five Sisters Window in the North Transept of York Minster is the only memorial in the country to women of the British Empire who lost their lives during the First World War. The window, which dates from the mid-1200s, was restored and rededicated between 1923 and 1925 after it was removed during the First World War to protect it during Zeppelin raids. The names of the 1,400 women commemorated are inscribed on oak screens on the north side of the St Nicholas' Chapel.


At the invitation of the Greek Prime Minister, M.Eleftherios Venizelos, Salonika (now Thessaloniki) was occupied by three French Divisions and the 10th (Irish) Division from Gallipoli in October 1915. Other French and Commonwealth forces landed during the year and in the summer of 1916, they were joined by Russian and Italian troops. In August 1916, a Greek revolution broke out at Salonika, with the result that the Greek national army came into the war on the Allied side. The town was the base of the British Salonika Force and it contained, from time to time, eighteen general and stationary hospitals. Three of these hospitals were Canadian, although there were no other Canadian units in the force. The earliest Commonwealth burials took place in the local Protestant and Roman Catholic cemeteries, and the Anglo-French (now Lembet Road) Military Cemetery was used from November 1915 to October 1918. The British cemetery at Mikra was opened in April 1917, remaining in use until 1920. The cemetery was greatly enlarged after the Armistice when graves were brought in from a number of burial grounds in the area. MIKRA BRITISH CEMETERY now contains 1,810 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, as well as 147 war graves of other nationalities. Within the cemetery will be found the MIKRA MEMORIAL, commemorating almost 500 nurses, officers and men of the Commonwealth forces who died when troop transports and hospital ships were lost in the Mediterranean, and who have no grave but the sea. They are commemorated here because others who went down in the same vessels were washed ashore and identified, and are now buried at Thessaloniki.



CWGC Not Named on the War Memorial	Wood, A W Husband of Ellen C. Wood, of Town End, Writtle, Chelmsford, Essex.	WOOD, A W Private, 29693 12th Bn, Hampshire Regiment DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE 24 th September 1918 Age 36 Buried at Kirechkoi-Hortakoi Military Cemetery Greece 104	
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Little information is known about A W Wood. He was married to Ellen and they lived at Town End. He enlisted in the Essex Regiment but transferred to the 12th Battalion, Hampshire Regiment

XVI Corps Headquarters were at Kirechkoi from January 1916, soon after the opening of the Salonika campaign, until the advance to the Struma in September 1916. The cemetery was begun in March 1916, but it remained a very small one until September 1917, when the 60th, 65th and 66th General Hospitals came to the neighbourhood. In June, July and September 1918, other hospitals were brought to the high and healthy country beside the Salonika-Hortakoi road and in September 1918, the influenza epidemic began which raged for three months and filled three-quarters of the cemetery. The last burial took place in January 1919, but in 1937, 12 graves were brought into the cemetery from Salonika Protestant Cemetery where their permanent maintenance could not be assured. The cemetery now contains 588 Commonwealth burials of the First World War and 58 Bulgarian war graves. There are also 17 burials from the Second World War.

CWGC Named on the War Memorial	Garwood, George Frederick Son of George and Kathleen Garwood, of Oxney Green, Writtle; husband of Lilian Garwood, of 33, Nelson Rd., Chelmsford	GARWOOD, GEORGE FREDERICK Private, 32301 1st Bn. Middlesex Regiment KILLED IN ACTION 29 th September 1918 Age 31 Buried at Villiers Hill British Cemetery Villiers-Guislan Nord, France I.C.17	
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George Frederick Garwood was the son of George and Catherine (also described as Kathleen) Garwood of Back Road, Oxney Green. He is assumed to be the cousin of William Garwood who was killed in 1916. George Senior was a farm horseman. In 1901, in addition to George, there were two younger children, Bertie, then 9, and Elizabeth, then 1. George married Lilian and they set up home at 33 Nelson Road, Chelmsford. In 1918 he was a Private in the 1st battalion, Middlesex Regiment, The Duke of Cambridge's Own, the Regiment more commonly known as the 'Die Hards'.


George Frederick Garwood was born and brought up in Oxney Green where he worked on a farm. He married in 1914 and later joined the army. He was killed in action at the Battle of the St. Quentin Canal in September 1918. His home was in Nelson Road. George was born in Writtle on 21st June 1887, the eldest son of George Garwood and Catherine Garwood (nee Howard). He was baptised at Writtle on 31st July 1887. At the time his father was a labourer living in Writtle. His father had been born in 1860 in Writtle; his mother in 1859 in Chelmsford. The couple had married on 19th April 1884 at All Saints' Church in Writtle, the village where both were resident. George had six siblings, all born in Writtle, one of whom died before 1911. They were: Ada Ellen Garwood (1885-1963), Arthur Garwood (born in 1889), Bertie William Garwood (1891-1972), Caroline Garwood (1894-1899) Ernest Sidney 'Tim' Garwood (1897-1976), and Elizabeth Garwood (1900-1969). The 1891 census recorded three year-old George living with his parents and younger brother at Nine Rods in Oxney Green, Writtle. His father was an agricultural labourer. A decade later the next census found 13 year-old George living with his parents and two brothers, still at Oxney Green. His father remained employed in agriculture. In 1911 the census found 23 year-old George living with his parents and two siblings at Oxney Green. George was a stockman on a farm; his father was a horseman on a farm; while his brother Ernest was a grocer's errand boy. George married Lilian Garwood in 1914. George lived at Chelmsford, and enlisted at Warley, serving as Private 29693 in the 1st Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment. The battalion was part of the regular army and had been based at Woolwich at the outbreak of the war, landing in France soon afterwards.

On 25th October 1918 the Essex County Chronicle reported: "Pt. George Fredk. Garwood, Middlesex R., of 33 Nelson Road, Chelmsford, has been killed in action in France. Pt. Garwood. who had been on active service for about two years, was 31 years of age. He was the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. George Garwood, of Oxney Green, Writtle, who have two other sons on active service, while another is a prisoner of war in Germany. An officer of the Middlesex Regt. writes to the deceased's widow that her husband died without pain, and was buried in a small graveyard with others who died the same day. He describes Pt. Garwood as a very gallant soldier, who faced death unflinching. His devotion to duty and bravery under fire undoubtedly assisted the operations, and his loss is felt keenly by both officers and men."

George is commemorated on the Civic Centre Memorial, Chelmsford, by the Chelmsford Parish Great War Memorial in Chelmsford Cathedral, and by the Writtle War Memorial at The Green in Writtle. He was entitled to the British War Medal and Victory Medal. The 1918 register of electors listed an absent George and his wife at 33 Nelson Road, Chelmsford. George's brother, Ernest, served in the East Surrey Regiment during the First World War in France. He was captured there and taken to a prisoner of war camp in Poland. Upon release he returned to Writtle, and eventually died at Oxney Green in 1976. George's mother died in 1939. His father died in 1947. [Source: By kind permission of

Andrew J Begent Chelmsford War Memorial website) Further information on George Frederick Garwood can be found at <http://www.chelmsfordwarmemorial.co.uk/first-world-war/chelmsford/garwood-george-frederick.html>

Villers-Guislain was occupied by Commonwealth forces from April 1917 until the German counter attacks (in the Battle of Cambrai) at the end of November 1917. It was lost on 30 November and retained by the Germans on 1 December in spite of the fierce attacks of the Guards Division and tanks. The village was finally abandoned by the Germans on 30 September 1918, after heavy fighting. Villers Hill British Cemetery was begun (as the Middlesex Cemetery, Gloucester Road) by the 33rd Division Burial Officer on 3 October 1918, and used until the middle of October. The original cemetery (now Plot I) contained 100 graves, of which 50 belonged to the 1st Middlesex and 35 to the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. Plot II and VII were added after the Armistice when graves were brought in from the battlefields and from the following German cemeteries:- GONNELIEU COMMUNAL CEMETERY GERMAN EXTENSION, in which eight soldiers from the United Kingdom, who fell on the 6th May 1917, were buried by their comrades. This extension was enlarged after the Armistice to contain 400 German graves. The Communal Cemetery contains one British grave which is permanently marked, and seven others now represented by special memorials at Villers Hill. HONNECOURT GERMAN CEMETERY, which was near the road from Honnecourt to Gonnelleu, and contained 20 German and three British graves. VILLERS-GUISLAIN GERMAN CEMETERY, which was on the south side of "Cemetery Road" (leading to Gouzeaucourt), and nearly opposite the Communal Cemetery. One British officer was buried here in April 1917 and 21 British soldiers in September and October 1918. The 600 German graves (some of which were brought in after the Armistice) were removed in 1922. The great majority of the graves in this cemetery are those of officers and men who died in April 1917, November-December 1917, March 1918 and September 1918. The cemetery now contains 732 Commonwealth burials and commemorations of the First World War. 350 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to seven casualties known or believed to be buried among them. Other special memorials commemorate casualties buried in Gonnelleu Communal Cemetery and Honnecourt German Cemetery whose grave could not be found. The cemetery also contains 13 German burials. The cemetery was designed by Charles Holden.

<p>CWGC Not Named on the War Memorial</p>	<p>Dale, Frank or Francis Son of Mrs Frances Dale, of 8, North Rd., Leominster, Herefordshire</p>	<p>DALE, FRANK OR FRANCIS Gunner, 201060 "A" Bty. 147th Bde Royal Field Artillery DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE 8th November 1918 Age 24 Buried at Writtle (All Saints) Churchyard UK Row 17, Grave 1</p>	
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Frank Dale was originally from Rugby and subsequently moved to Writtle. He was a Gunner in the Royal Field Artillery. He died on 8th November 1918 at the Military Hospital at Warley, aged 24 or 26 (both ages are given) and was buried 5 days later at All Saints Writtle.



It is likely he was a victim of the influenza epidemic sweeping Europe which was responsible for millions more deaths.

Francis Dale is mentioned on the Croft Roll of Honour (Croft & Yarpole is a small parish near Leominster). Here he is listed as a Corporal with the RFA.




CWGC Named on the War Memorial	Everard, Isaac John	EVERARD, ISAAC JOHN Gunner, 125412 Royal Garrison Artillery DIED ON ACTIVE SERVICE 28 th November 1918 Age 33 Buried at Writtle (All Saints) Churchyard UK	
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Isaac John Everard is the third Everard to be commemorated on Writtle War Memorial. The 1901 census gave the family details as Samuel, an agricultural labourer, aged 48, his wife Sarah, aged 52 and their children Emily 18, Isaac 15, Thomas 13 and Minnie 10. The family lived at 10 Victoria Road, Oxney Green. Also in the household was a daughter, Alice Woodman aged 20 and her baby son of three months, George.



Isaac had enlisted in October 1916 in a part of the country somewhat removed from Writtle, namely Rugely in Staffordshire. He gave his address as Causeway Cottages, Writtle, his age is 31 and trade that of a labourer. He also gave his next of kin as his wife Rose Ella Everard, nee Day, they had married at Writtle on 25th December 1909. Isaac was posted to the Royal Garrison Artillery on 1st November 1916. He was a Gunner with 52 Seige Brigade and they left Southampton on the 25th April arriving at Le Havre a day later. Whilst on leave, starting on 25th November 1918, Isaac was admitted to the Isolation Hospital at Roman Road, East Ham suffering from influenza with chest complications. He died there on 28th November from pneumonia and was buried on the 5th December at All Saints. Isaac's headstone is not one of the usual War Graves Commission type and it will be seen that also buried with him is his wife Rose. She died just six days before him Mon 22nd November also at East Ham Isolation Hospital and also suffering from influenza and pneumonia.

CWGC Not Named on the War Memorial	Fitch, George Bennett	FITCH, GEORGE BENNETT Private, 7172 Suffolk Regiment transf. to (161891) Labour Corps DIED 11 th February 1919 Age 28 Buried at Writtle (All Saints) Churchyard UK	
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George Bennett Fitch is not recorded on the War Memorial. He lived at Little Oxney Green. He enlisted in the Essex Yeomanry but then transferred to the Suffolk Regiment. His final transfer was to the Labour Corps. There is little else know about George Fitch. He died on the 11th February 1919 aged 28 and was buried six days later in Writtle Churchyard.

George Fitch is however named on the Great Leighs War Memorial. Private 7172, Suffolk Regiment transferred to 161891, Labour Corps. Died at Eastbourne Hospital 11 February 1919. Born Birdbrook. Attested aged 18 years 2 months 20 December 1905, passed fit 22 December 1905, posted to Suffolk Regiment Depot, 23 December 1905 and the 1st Battalion 8 March 1905. Posted to 3rd Battalion 14 December 1915. Farm Labourer by trade. Father Walter Fitch of Little London, near Finchingfield, Essex. He was 5 feet 5 inches, weighed 117 lbs, chest 33

inches, complexion fresh, eyes blue, hair brown; religion Church of England. Suffered pleurisy 16 September to 1 November 1907 at Woolwich. He went with the Egypt Campaign 5 August to 21 October 1914, was back in the UK 24 October 1914 to 15 January 1915 and went with the Expeditionary Force to France 16 January 1915. Wounded in the right hand at Malta, sick 15 to 27 May 1908. He suffered frostbite treated at Netley between 10-19 March 1915. At Bury St Edmunds 15 June to 10 August 1915 with gunshot wounds to the right hand and again between 18 August and 13 November 1915. Posted to the 5th Battalion, Labour Corps 15 May 1917 by the authorisation for the Commander Hospital Eastbourne. He was admitted to Central Military Hospital, Eastbourne, 20 January 1919 with a Septic Throat and Pericarditis and Bronchitis. The 30 January he was getting worse, 31 January Capillary Bronchitis in both lungs. 6 February worse again, 10 February both lungs



collapsed, died 7:30pm 11 February. Copyright <http://www.roll-of-honour.com/Essex/GreatLeighs.html>

<p>CWGC Named on the War Memorial</p>	<p>Rumsey, James</p>	<p>RUMSEY, JAMES DIED 17th August 1919 Age 37 Buried at Writtle (All Saints) Churchyard UK</p>	
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James comes from a well-known Writtle family but although commemorated on the War Memorial there is not a lot known about his service. The War Graves Commission has no details about him.

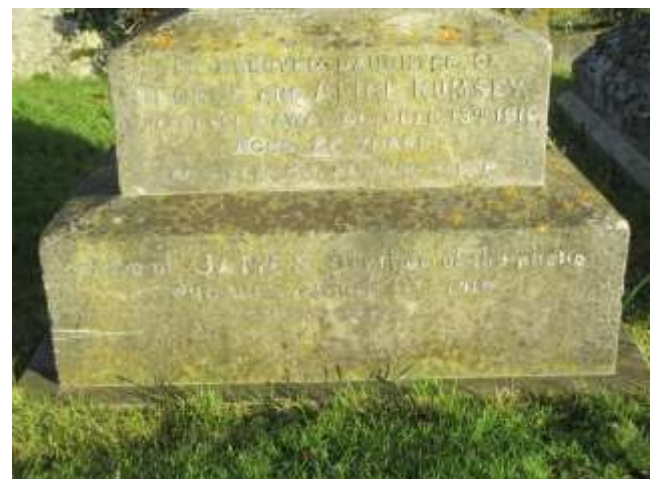


James was born on 24th February 1882 and was baptised at All Saints on the 15th May. His parents were George James and Alice Rumsey and George's occupation was given as a wheelwright. The 1901 census shows the Rumsey family of some considerable size, living at Oxney Green. George was then a beer retailer and Alice a landlady. The children were: George 17, Sarah 16, Frances 14, Bertha 12, James 9, Blanche Alice 6 and Percy 5. Subsequently George took over as Landlord of the Rose and Crown where he was in charge for 41 years.

When Blanche Alice died in 1916, James and another brother Percy were unable to attend as they on active service in France. Eldest brother George was also in the Army and it is believed that he suffered a shrapnel wound. Percy was in the Royal Flying Corps.

It is understood that James suffered from being gassed in France and was discharged from the Army

in 1918. He died on the 17th August 1919 and is buried in the family grave in All Saints churchyard.



Further research has confirmed James Rumsey is commemorated on the war memorial in Hasland, Derbyshire and on the war memorial tablet in St Pauls Church, Hasland.



James Rumsey's name appears on the bottom left of the tablet.

Report from the Derbyshire Courier newspaper on 30th March 1918

Private J. Rumsey, Middlesex Regiment of Hasland was gassed on 16th March. He enlisted in the early part of 1916. His home is at The Rose & Crown Hotel, Writtle near Chelmsford, but previous to joining up he was employed at Messrs. Woodhead & Sons Hasland branch for about 5 years. He is now in Stollrill Hospital, Glasgow.

Woodheads was a grocery shop. They had numerous other small stores in the surrounding areas and the Hasland one would have been where James worked

I am indebted to Margaret Hartshorn for this information.

Stollrill Hospital is possibly Stobhill Hospital in Glasgow. In September 1914, at the beginning of the First World War, the hospital was requisitioned by Royal Army Medical Corps staff of the Territorial Force and the complex split and redesignated as the 3rd and 4th Scottish General Hospitals. Wounded servicemen arrived by specially converted Hospital trains terminating at a temporary railway platform built within the hospital grounds. A staff of 240 TF nurses as well as volunteers from the St. Andrew's Ambulance Association cared for over 1,000 patients at a time, suffering from battlefield wounds to venereal disease, until the return of the hospital to civilian use in the spring of 1920.

CWGC Named on the War Memorial	Beckett, Richard	BECKETT, RICHARD	
Nothing is known of Richard Beckett who is named on the Writtle War Memorial.			