Coventry London Road Cemetery

War Graves & Family Memorials of the First World War

by Andrew & Nicola Hallam

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INTRODUCTION

There are 95 Commonwealth War Graves in London Road Cemetery. On top of this we have located 65 other men killed as a result of the First World War who are commemorated on headstones around the cemetery. There are probably many other men who died as a result of the war buried in the cemetery but for the purposes of this work we have only included those whose families have commemorated them on their headstones.

There are a wide variety of people commemorated in the cemetery including: 1 woman, 1 Victoria Cross winner, 1 Admiral and 1 murder victim. There are some well known Coventry families eg the Newsomes and the Hoods who are included but not everyone is from Coventry, there are Canadians and Australians as well as men from other parts of the UK. Some of these just died in hospital in Coventry or died in the vicinity of the city and so were buried here.

All arms of the services are represented: Army, Navy and Royal Air Force. Many different ranks are represented from sailor to admiral, from private to captain and Air mechanic 3rd class to Pilot Officer.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission graves are quite easy to spot being made from white Portland stone and uniform in size. However of the 23,000 cemeteries and burial plots over half are to be found in the UK. We are used to seeing them in rows in the huge cemeteries in France and Belgium but here they are scattered

Having a war grave does not mean that the serviceman or woman served overseas or was killed in action on some muddied battlefield. To qualify for a war grave someone had to have died during the designated war years of the First World War, 4 August 1914 and 31 August 1921, in service or of causes attributable to service. In London Road Cemetery, of the 95 CWGC graves: 13 died in accidents (from drownings to plane crashes), 31 died of illness (from flu to leukaemia), 13 died of wounds, 34 died of unknown causes, of these half of them had served overseas and so it is likely they died as the result of wounds. In addition, there are 2 suicides, 1 man who was murdered and 1 man who was struck by lightning.

Of the other 65 commemorated on family headstones: 59 were killed in action, 1 was killed in a flying accident, 3 died of illness and 1 died of wounds.

We hope you enjoy reading this guide. If you want to find one of the graves you will find the information you need in the individual listings.

Please take care when exploring the cemetery as the ground is often uneven. Please note that due to the age and condition of the memorials some of them are difficult to read and sometimes unsteady, do not attempt to remove any vegetation attached to the headstone.

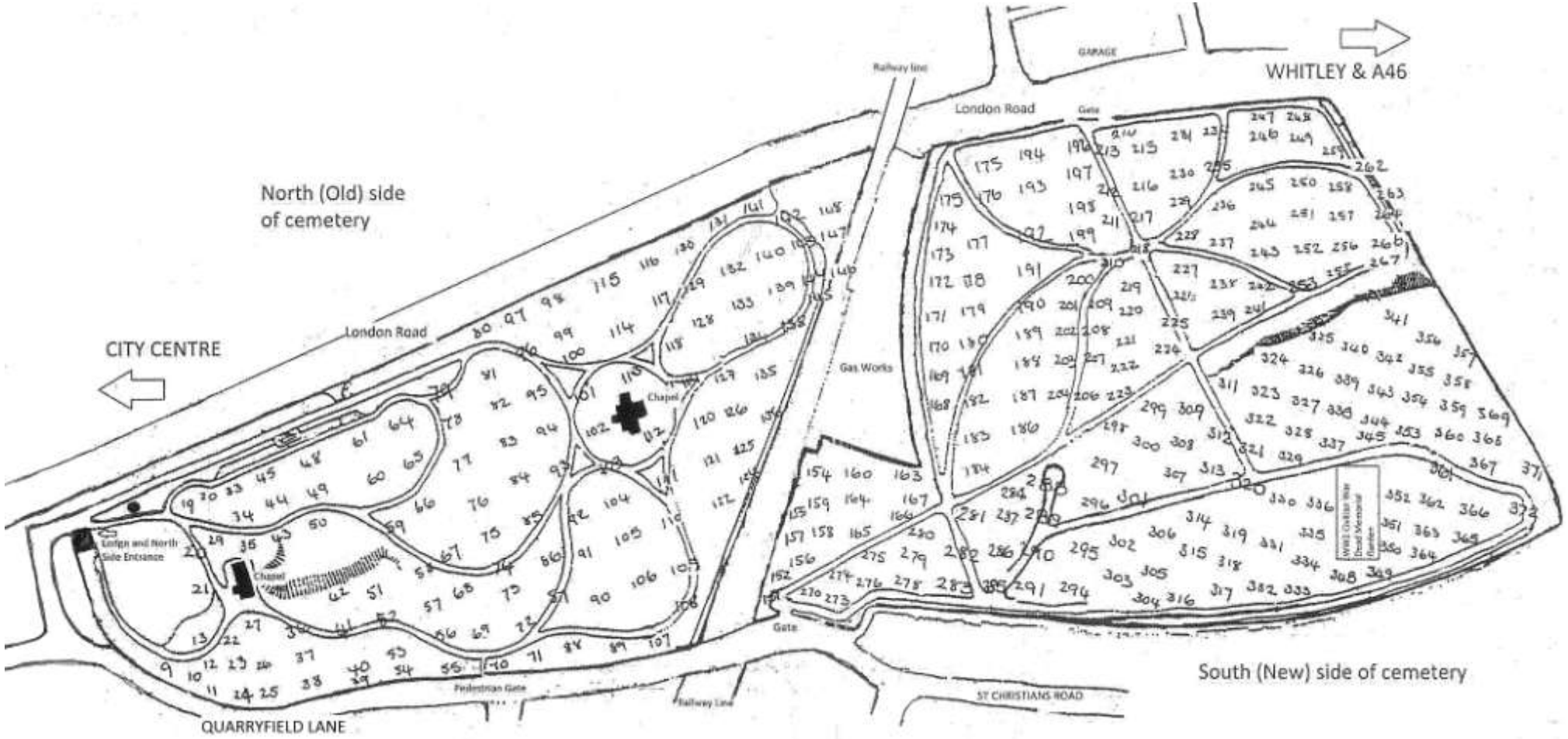
Finding a grave

The cemetery is divided into invisible squares that are numbered starting at square 9, by the main lodge, through to 372 at the opposite end of the 'new side'. See map. All graves are referenced by the square number and the grave number, for example, if you want to find the VC winner in the cemetery: Charles Parker, his grave reference is 198, 1, which translates as Square 198, grave 1. Each square has at its corners a concrete numbered post starting at 6 at the lodge and running through to 456. These are in varying conditions and some are quite well hidden!

All our listings give the square, grave and post number.

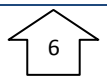
1. Find the square number on the map and this will give you the approx area to search
2. Get the post number from the listing eg Parker's is 251
3. Look around and find the post! This may take some time!
4. Stand facing the number on the post
5. Follow the directions in the listing eg for Parker: 1 grave forward and 1 grave to the right

6. Remember that you have to count invisible graves as well as the obvious ones with headstones/kerb sets etc on them.
7. This should bring you to the grave you are seeking.
8. If the memorial is a Commonwealth War Grave it may be easy to spot or you might be able to recognise it from the photograph.


North (Old) side
of cemetery
CITY CENTRE
London Road
Railway line
GARAGE
WHITLEY & A46
London Road
Gate
Gas Works
Chapel
Chapel
Lodge and North
Side Entrance
Gate
Pedestrian Gate
Railway Line
QUARRYFIELD LANE
ST CHRISTIANS ROAD
South (New) side of cemetery

CHARLES ADKINS

Square 163
Post 217



PRIVATE

7TH RESERVE BN, ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NO 3194

DATE OF DEATH: 8TH MARCH 1916

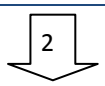
LOCATION: Square 163, Grave 145

Charles Adkins was 38 years old when he died in Hampshire on 8th March 1916. He did not receive any medals for his First World War service so he did not serve overseas.

You could be forgiven for thinking that Charles never saw any action but he had joined the army years before. He initially joined the 5th Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment on 24 January 1899 at the age of 21. However on 5th April the same year he purchased his discharge. In November 1901 he joined up again into the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, this time in the name of Atkins. He completed 12 years service. During this time he was abroad for 7 years serving with the 3rd Battalion in Bermuda, Gibraltar, South Africa and with 1st Battalion in India before returning to the UK in 1909. He was discharged to the reserve in 1913. He would have been called up almost immediately on the outbreak of war but for some reason did not make it overseas.

SAM ALLEN

Square 211
Post 272



AIR MECHANIC 3RD CLASS

ROYAL AIR FORCE

SERVICE NO 148539

DATE OF DEATH: 17TH NOVEMBER 1918

LOCATION: Square 211, Grave 129

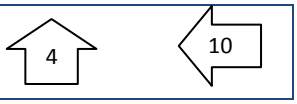
The war had been over for 6 days when Sam Allen died. His killer was not shells, bullets or gas. It was flu. 'Spanish flu' killed millions around the world, in Britain, as many as

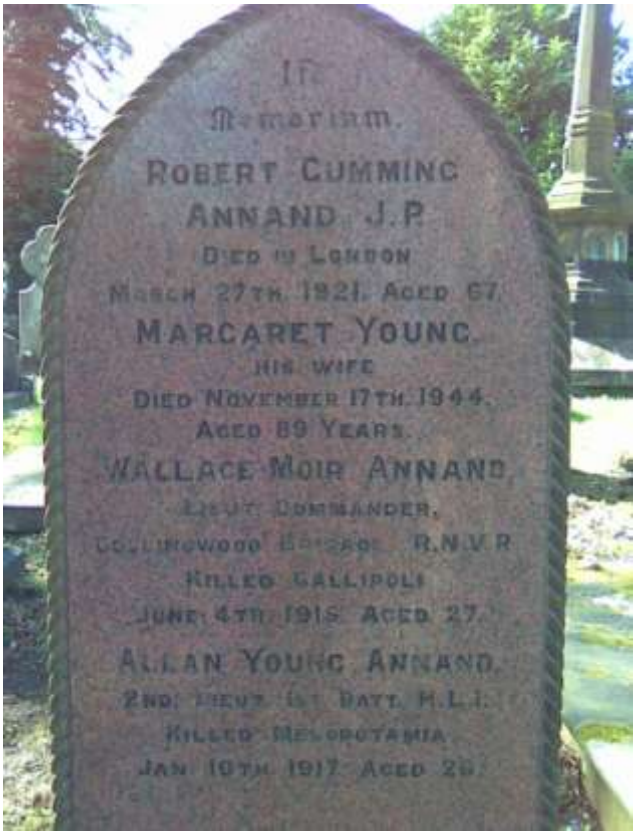
250,000 died. An unusual feature of this pandemic was that it mostly killed young adults, with 99% of pandemic influenza deaths occurring in people under 65, and more than half in young adults 20 to 40 years old. Several of the men buried in London Road Cemetery who died late in 1918 or early in 1919 succumbed to flu or pneumonia.

Sam had served overseas having initially joined the 14th Welsh Regiment. He had been wounded in France and was transferred to the RAF. Sam was working as an Air Mechanic 3rd class at 3rd Flying School. Air mechanic 3rd class was the lowest rank in the RAF technical trades on 2 shillings per day.

ALLAN YOUNG ANNAND

Square 53
Post 54





SECOND LIEUTENANT

1ST BN, HIGHLAND LIGHT INFANTRY

DATE OF DEATH: 10TH JANUARY 1917

LOCATION: Square 53 Grave 98

When war broke out a young solicitor, Allan Annand joined the 28th London Regiment (Artists Rifles) as a private. He arrived in France with them on 29th December 1914. He was commissioned as an officer into the Highland Light Infantry in June 1915. In December they were sent to Mesopotamia. He was wounded at Es Sinn in early March 1916 in an attack that killed 71 men of the battalion but he was back with his regiment as Acting Captain in April. He was killed in action at Kut on the night of 10/11 January 1917 while leading his men on a bombing raid. He was one of over 50 men killed. His Company Commander wrote to his parents "If any one deserves praise it is 2nd Lieutenant Annand, who not only led his men with great gallantry, but kept a firm grip of them in a rather difficult situation. He had been with the battalion

longer than most of us and was very much liked by us all. His hearty laugh and good-tempered cheerfulness will be very much missed." He was 26 years old.

It is not known where he is buried; his name appears on the Basra memorial in Iraq.

Allan was not from Coventry, his mother died here in 1944 and memorialised her husband and 2 lost sons on her headstone.

WALLACE MOIR ANNAND

Square 53
Post 54

TEMPORARY LIEUTENANT COMMANDER

COLLINGWOOD BATTALION, ROYAL NAVAL DIVISION

DATE OF DEATH: 4TH JUNE 1915

LOCATION: Square 53 Grave 98

Wallace Annand was the older brother of Allan Young Annand, born in South Shields.

He joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve on 11 April 1907 as a midshipman. He became a lieutenant in the Royal Naval Division on its creation and on the outbreak of the war he volunteered for overseas service. Just before leaving the UK in May 1915 he was gazetted as Lieutenant Commander of the Collingwood Battalion.

On 4 June, the seven hundred strong Collingwood Battalion took part in the second phase of the attack on Achi Baba in Gallipoli. The battle started with a heavy bombardment and at 1200 hours the RND advanced and captured the enemy front line but suffered heavy causalities. At 1215 hours the Collingwood Battalion was to take over the advance but the communication trenches were choked with stretcher-bearers and wounded, which delayed the Battalion's move forward.

The attack finally went ahead, from the captured enemy trenches the Collingwoods seized the Turkish second lines four hundred yards further on. However, the neighbouring French Senegalese troops were driven back by a counter-attack, leaving the Battalion's right flank exposed. Flanking fire caused devastating casualties amongst the Collingwoods, with over five hundred men killed or wounded. The remnants of the Battalion withdrew but so heavy were the casualties that the Battalion was not reformed

The battalion biography of Wallace Annand states that "he was shot early in the engagement...He was a man of infinite tact and strong personal character." He was buried on

the battlefield but the site of his grave was lost and his name now appears on the Helles Memorial.

Wallace had married in early 1914 and became a father on 5 November 1914 when his son Richard Wallace Annand was born. Richard would go on to be an officer in the Durham Light Infantry during the early part of the Second World War.

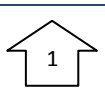
On the night of 15th- 16th May 1940 during the retreat of the British Expeditionary Force to Dunkirk 2nd Lieutenant Richard Annand's action led to him being awarded the first Victoria Cross of the Second World War:

> *"For most conspicuous gallantry when the platoon under his command was on the south side of the River Dyle, astride a blown bridge. During the night a strong attack was beaten off, but about 11 a.m. the enemy again launched a violent attack and pushed forward a bridging party into the sunken bottom of the river. Second Lieutenant Annand attacked this party, but when ammunition ran out he went forward himself over open ground, with total disregard for enemy mortar and machine-gun fire. Reaching the top of the bridge, he drove out the party below, inflicting over twenty casualties with hand grenades. Having been wounded he rejoined his platoon, had his wound dressed, and then carried on in command.*
>
> *During the evening another attack was launched and again Second Lieutenant Annand went forward with hand grenades and inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy. When the order to withdraw was received, he withdrew his platoon, but learning on the way back that his batman was wounded and had been left behind, he returned at once to the former position and brought him back in a wheelbarrow, before losing consciousness as the result of wounds.*

His platoon sergeant said later "Mr Annand came to me at platoon headquarters and asked for a box of grenades as they could hear Jerry trying to repair the bridge. Off he went and he sure must have given them a lovely time because it wasn't a great while before he was back for more."

FRANK ASTON

Square 24
Post 34



GUNNER

ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY,

SERVICE NO 183886

DATE OF DEATH: 2 JULY 1918

LOCATION: Square 11, Grave 3

This gravestone commemorates two brothers: Frank and Harry Aston.

In 1911 Frank Aston, younger brother of Harry Aston, was living at 22 Colchester Street, Coventry and working as a builder's clerk.

His brother Harry died in November 1914. Frank enlisted in November 1916 into the Royal Field Artillery.

He died on 2nd July 1918 as a result of being gassed. He was buried in the Tourgeville Military Cemetery in France. Like his brother Harry he was 24 when he died.

HARRY ASTON

Square 24
Post 34

SERGEANT

9TH LANCERS

SERVICE NO L/1777

DATE OF DEATH: 25 NOVEMBER 1914

LOCATION: Square 11, Grave 3

Harry Aston was already in the army when the war broke out. He landed in France on 15 August 1914 with the Cavalry Division

Harry died at Fazakerley Hospital, Liverpool following an operation to treat an abscess of the liver which was thought to have been caused after he was kicked by a horse.

The following account from *The War Illustrated* dated October 9th 1915 describes what happened to the 9th Lancers in the first weeks of the war:

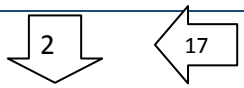
"When the war broke out, the 9th Lancers left Tidworth for the front, as one of the three regiments in the 2nd Cavalry Brigade, the one under General De Lisle. During the fighting around Mons on Sunday, August 23rd, they were in reserve, but not for long did they remain there. On the 24th our 5th Division was in a very tight place, and the cavalry was sent to its assistance, the 2nd Brigade reaching the scene of the action first. The Germans were advancing in great masses, so near the village of Audregnies, General De Lisle ordered his men to dismount and to open fire on them. They did so, but the enemy still came on in good order. The general then decided on a charge and for this chose the 9th Lancers who, at the word of command, mounted their horses and rode steadily at the enemy.

It was Balaclava over again. The squadrons rode to death, and the colonel, so we were told, said that he never expected a single lancer to return. In face of a torrent of shot and shell from guns and rifles, they dashed on until they found themselves against two lines of barbed wire, where men and horses fell over in all directions. This ended the charge. The survivors were ordered to return into shelter, and out of more than four hundred who had ridden out, only seventy two at first answered their names, Later some two hundred others turned up, but the regiment had lost heavily. Major V. R. Brooke DSO was among the killed. However, the charge was not altogether fruitless. The Lancers had drawn the enemy's fire and so had done something to help the harassed 5th Division. One trooper described the charge as "magnificent but horrible", while a Frenchman who rode with them wrote: "My God! How they fell."

However, the Lancers had not yet finished their day's work. When the survivors arrived at a railway embankment near Doubon, they found themselves in the company of some gunners, who had been driven from their guns with heavy loss. Captain F O Grenfell, now the senior officer of the Lancers, who had been wounded in the charge, but had managed to keep his squadron together, went out into the open, and at the peril of his life found a way of saving the guns. On his return he asked the men to follow him. Leaving their horses, they rushed out, reached the abandoned guns, and trundled them into safety. For this heroic deed Captain Grenfell received the Victoria Cross."

HAROLD SAMUEL ATKINS

Square 111
Post 124



LANCE CORPORAL

2ND BN, ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NO 34642

DATE OF DEATH: 27 OCTOBER 1917

LOCATION: Square 111.161

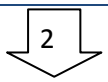
This gravestone commemorates two brothers: Harold and Wilfred Atkins who were killed in action barely a month apart.

Harold was born in Kidderminster, Worcestershire. He was initially in the Worcestershire Regiment but ended up serving in the 2nd Bn Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

Harold was killed on 27 October 1917. The battalion war diary for that day shows that the 2nd Bn were in reserve in the Hedge Street and Canada Street trenches in the Zillebeke area just outside Ypres. They were not on the front line but were very close to it. 1 Officer and 50 men were sent as a work party to a place called Bardenbrug Dump "for detonating bombs". Presumably this was to dispose of unexploded ordnance – a very dangerous job! Casualty figures for that day were reported as 10 wounded and 1 missing. It shouldn't be assumed that the men were wounded whilst doing this job as due to the proximity of the frontline they could easily have been shelled or shot by snipers. Harold was buried in the Hooge Crater Cemetery not far from where they were working.

WILFRED ATKINS

Square 111
Post 124



PRIVATE

10TH BN, ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NO 16857

DATE OF DEATH: 28 SEPTEMBER 1917

LOCATION: Square 111.161

Wilfred was also from Kidderminster, Worcestershire. On the 1911 census he gives his occupation as a designer for a carpet manufacturer. He was also a bell ringer at Worcester Cathedral and there is a memorial stained glass window there to all the bellringers killed in the war. Before enlisting he lived at 20 Harefield Road, Coventry and was a wages clerk.

He entered the war sometime after 1 January 1916 as he qualified for the British War and Victory medals and not the star. The 10th Bn Royal Warwickshire Regiment landed in France in July 1915 so Wilfred was probably a draft replacement to the battalion presumably following losses the previous autumn at the Battle of Loos.

Serving with the battalion during this period he would have experienced some, if not all, of the battle of the Somme during July to November 1916. Later the 10th Battalion was at Messine Ridge in June 1917 when British Expeditionary Force, who had tunnelled under the German lines on the ridge, produced the largest manmade explosion in the world (up to that point). It was heard by Lloyd George in his study at Downing Street and was even audible as far away as Dublin. 10,000 German troops were killed instantaneously in that explosion. Messine Ridge is one of the overlooked successful operations of the war with all objectives achieved.

The 10th served during the disastrous campaign known as the Third Battle of Ypres which was made up of several smaller actions and it is likely that Wilfred received his fatal wound at either the Menin Road (20th to 25 September) or Polygon Wood (26th September to 3rd October).

He died of wounds on 28 September 1917 and is buried at Outtersteene Communal Cemetery Extension in Bailleul. His brother Harold Samuel Atkins also served in the army and was killed the following month.

WILLIAM JOSEPH ATKINS

Square 53
Post 54

PRIVATE

ARMY SERVICE CORPS

SERVICE NO 2317

DATE OF DEATH: 24 NOVEMBER 1916

LOCATION: Square 53, Grave 93

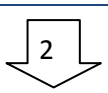
Wilfred Atkins lived at 27 Thomas Street. He was a fitter who worked at Rover and he played rugby for Holy Trinity and Coventry Albions, part of Coventry District League. He joined the Mechanical Transport section of the Army Service Corps in February 1914.

He arrived in France on 30 October 1914. Stationed at Hazebrouck in January 1915 there was a period where he worked for 72 hours without a break in pouring rain. Not surprisingly, he caught a severe cold and cough. He was home on leave in the summer of 1915 and was so unwell that it was decided that he was unfit to return to the front. His cold had developed into tuberculosis. He was discharged from the army on 20 August 1915 after 1 year and 188 days service.

He died on 24 November 1916 in Coventry. The Coventry Graphic (8 December 1916) reported his funeral. His coffin draped with a union jack was carried by eight military representatives. He left a wife and one child.

LUKE BARKER

Square 188
Post 255



PIONEER

ROYAL ENGINEERS

SERVICE NO 162444

DATE OF DEATH: 27 JUNE 1917

LOCATION: Square 188, Grave 3

On the 1911 census Luke is living with his wife, Amy at 59 Eagle Street. He gave his occupation as Fried Fish and chip potato dealer – it was a chip shop!

Luke died at Cambridge Hospital in Aldershot. This hospital was the first hospital to receive casualties directly from the Western Front. It was also the first hospital to do plastic surgery in the British Empire.

He does appear to have served overseas as he was entitled to the British War and Victory medals, this would have been after 1 January 1916. As an older married man it was likely that he enlisted as part of the Derby Scheme.

On 11 October 1915 Lord Derby was appointed Director-General of Recruiting. He brought forward a programme five days later, often called the Derby Scheme although its official title was the Group Scheme, for raising the numbers. Men aged 18 to 40 were informed that under the scheme they could continue to enlist voluntarily or attest with an obligation to come if called up later on. The War Office notified the public that voluntary enlistment would soon cease and that the last day of registration would be 15 December 1915.

Men who attested under the Derby Scheme, who were accepted for service and chose to defer it were classified as being in "Class A". Those who agreed to immediate service were "Class B". The Class A men were paid a day's army pay for the day they attested; were given a grey armband with a red crown as a sign that they had so volunteered; were officially transferred into Section B Army Reserve; and were sent back to their homes and jobs until they were called up.

HARRY CECIL BARNES

Square 227
Post 294

LANCE CORPORAL

6TH BN ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NO 6/386

DATE OF DEATH: 5 JULY 1921

LOCATION: Square 227, Grave 137

In 1911 Harry Barnes was living in Catford, London with his parents Thomas Charles and Eleanor Jane and an older brother Thomas Percy.

Harry was 18 years old when he died in Coventry of pneumonia.

He is not entitled to any First World War medals so does not appear to have served overseas.

After the war the 6th Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment became part of the Territorial Army. They were based at Thorp Street in central Birmingham.

JOSEPH BARR

Square 242
Post 298

RIFLEMAN

5TH BN, RIFLE BRIGADE

SERVICE NO S/11273

DATE OF DEATH: 9 APRIL 1920

LOCATION: Square 242, Grave 33

On 1911 census Joseph Barr was living with his father, Charles and his three younger sisters at 78 Godiva Street, Coventry. Joseph gave his occupation as 'stamper'.

Joseph Barr arrived in France on 27 May 1915. He had enlisted into 5th Battalion, who were based in the UK and supplied drafts to the other battalions serving at the front so

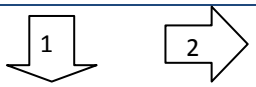
it is not possible to say which battalion he was serving with when he was wounded.

He was discharged as no longer physically fit for war service on 12 May 1916.

He died on 9th April 1920 and the additional epitaph on the grave is a fitting tribute to him and many others who lingered on too long.

JAMES BEESTON

Square 184
Post 239



COMPANY SERJEANT MAJOR

1ST BN ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NO 8436

DATE OF DEATH: 19 MARCH 1920

LOCATION: Square 184, Grave 73

On 26 March 1920 the Coventry Graphic reported that the funeral of Company Sergeant Major James Beeston MM had taken place at Coventry Cemetery. "The deceased had seen 17 years service in Egypt, on the Indian Frontier, the Boer War and the late European War and was entitled to wear eight medals."

James Beeston was born around 1885 in Warwick. In 1901 he is living at 5 Barrack Street Warwick with his widowed mother and 4 siblings. His occupation is given as 'drummer' so it appears that James was following the family tradition of joining the armed forces. His father John had served as a Lance Corporal in the 6th Foot (later Royal Warwickshire Regiment). His mother's father was in the Warwickshire Militia. His eldest brother John Amos also joined the army.

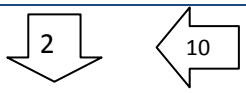
The Army medal rolls show that at the turn of the century James had served in the Boer War with 6th Royal Warwickshire. During 1908 he was with 1st Bn Royal Warwickshire Regiment and he served in India on the North West Frontier. He arrived in France on 12 September 1914 to join the 1st Bn Royal Warwickshire as a Company Sergeant Major.

During his time with them he was awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the field which appeared in the London Gazette on 14 December 1916. This is likely therefore to relate to an act of bravery during August or September 1916 when the 1st Royal Warwicks were near Ypres.

At the time of his death he was living at 3 Windsor Street, the Butts. He does not appear to have been married.

WILLIAM FRANK BELLIS

Square 111
Post 124



ARMOURER'S MATE

ROYAL NAVY

SERVICE NO M20240

DATE OF DEATH: 7 NOVEMBER 1918

LOCATION: Square 111, Grave 155

William Frank Bellis joined the Royal Navy on 5th May 1916 as Armourer's crew. He has previously enlisted in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment on 10 December 1915 and was posted to 13th Battalion who supplied drafts to other battalions overseas. He was discharged on 5th May 1916 and joined the navy the following day – perhaps he got tired of waiting to do his bit!

He had been a fitter in Coventry and so was ideal for armourer's crew who were responsible for maintaining and repairing all the weapons on the ships including the large calibre guns and torpedoes.

After completing 7 months training he was posted to his first ship HMS Thunderer on 1 January 1917. Thunderer was an Orion class battleship and had seen service at the Battle of Jutland (31st May 1916). In 1917 while he was on the ship Thunderer was fitted with flying off platforms for seaplanes.

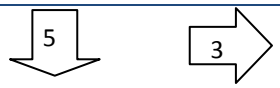
After Thunderer he was posted to a couple of other vessels before finding himself on HMS Glory on 6 October 1918.

Glory was a Canopus class ship and was flagship of the British North Russia Squadron. In this duty, she was based at Archangel to protect supplies that arrived there for the Russian Army.

Bellis died of flu on 7 November 1918. He was one of five men who died on Glory of illness who are memorialised in the Murmansk New British Cemetery in Russia.

HORACE FREDERICK BENNETT

Square 183
Post 234



GUNNER

2/2 4TH SOUTH MIDLAND BRIGADE, ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY

SERVICE NO 936

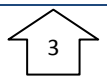
DATE OF DEATH: 1 FEBRUARY 1916

LOCATION: Square 183, Grave 109

Horace was a water meter fitter for the Coventry Corporation (City Council). In 1911 he was living at 36 Sherbourne Street Coventry. He joined the 4th South Midland Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery in April 1915. He was admitted to Colchester Hospital on 8 December 1915 with chronic bronchitis and died on 1st February 1916. He accrued only 296 days service in the army. He was never posted overseas and was probably barely out of training.

ARTHUR JOHN BLACKSHAW

Square 180
Post 232



RIFLEMAN

3RD BN, RIFLE BRIGADE

SERVICE NO B/203081

DATE OF DEATH: 27 MARCH 1918

LOCATION: Square 180, Grave 43

On 3 May 1918 the Coventry Graphic reported that Mr and Mrs Blackshaw of 72 King William Street, Coventry had been notified that their son had been killed instantaneously by shell fire, in France, on 27 March 1918.

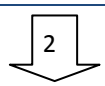
Arthur joined the Kings Royal Rifle Brigade on 25 November 1915 and was later transferred to the Rifle Brigade.

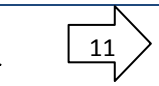
His Captain wrote to his parents: "I regret to have to write and tell you that your son, Rifleman A Blackshaw, was instantly killed in action by shell fire in the great battle in which his Battalion did so well. Please accept my deepest sympathy with you in your sad loss. Your boy was always a good soldier and, had he been spared, would have been a great help to me at a time like this, when so many have gone, It may be a consolation to you to know that his death was absolutely instantaneous, and that he knew nothing and did not suffer. If one is to be killed, one cannot ask for anything better, fighting bravely one minute and then the end."

He has no known grave; his name appears on the Pozieres Memorial.

HARRY BLYTHE

Square 187
Post 240





AIR MECHANIC 3RD CLASS

2ND AIRCRAFT DEPOT, ROYAL AIR FORCE

SERVICE NO 189606

DATE OF DEATH: 23 OCTOBER 1918

LOCATION: Square 187, Grave 179

In 1911 Harry was living with his parents at 2 Mill Terrace, Godiva Street, Coventry and was employed in the motor trade.

Like Sam Allen, he was an Air mechanic 3rd class, the lowest rank in the RAF technical trades on 2 shillings per day. His duties would be prop swinging, handling aircraft movements, fuelling and assisting senior mechanics.

He did not serve overseas with the RAF; he may have served in the army before joining the Flying Corps.

It is not clear whether he died as the result of an accident or illness.

ARTHUR BOON

Square 141
Post 163

SECOND LIEUTENANT

37 RESERVE SQUADRON, ROYAL FLYING CORPS

DATE OF DEATH: 29TH MARCH 1917

LOCATION: Square 141, Grave 175

Arthur Boon was from Stockport and had originally joined the 2/7 Manchester Regiment. It seems unlikely that he served overseas as he has no medal entitlement.

Whilst collecting a new RE8 to deliver it to the 37 Reserve Squadron he was killed when it crashed at Radford aerodrome, in a spin.

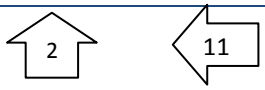
The Royal Aircraft Factory R.E.8 was a British two-seat

biplane reconnaissance and bomber aircraft of the First World War. Intended as a replacement for the vulnerable B.E.2, the R.E.8 was much more difficult to fly, and was regarded with great suspicion at first in the Royal Flying Corps. Although eventually it gave reasonably satisfactory service, it was never an outstanding combat aircraft. In spite of this, the R.E.8 served as the standard British reconnaissance and artillery spotting aircraft from mid-1917 to the end of the war with over 4,000 R.E.8s eventually produced.

Other men buried in London Road Cemetery were killed whilst flying RE8s: Sydney Leith and Roy Cumestree Trout.

JOSEPH HENRY BOURNE

Square 199
Post 284



DRIVER

ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY

SERVICE NUMBER: 59008

DATE OF DEATH: 4TH MARCH 1915

LOCATION: Square 199, Grave 20

Joseph Henry Bourne was born around 1879 and in 1911 he was living at 22 Warwick Lane, Coventry with his wife, Florence and their 6 children. He worked in a foundry as an Iron Dresser. He enlisted in January 1915.

He died of a brain haemorrhage at Lewes while still undergoing training.

ERNEST BROWN

Square 44
Post 46

SERGEANT

7TH BN, ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NUMBER: 265999

DATE OF DEATH: 18TH APRIL 1917

LOCATION: Square 44, Grave 24

Ernest Brown was a bricklayer who lived at 23 Bradford Street with his wife and five children. He was a member of Godiva Harriers.

Ernest joined up in October 1914 and at the time of his death was a sergeant. He was one of 3 men of the 7th Royal Warwickshire Regiment killed in action that day. All 3 of them had enlisted in Coventry and had service numbers beginning with 265. According to a letter written by one of his officers Ernest was killed by a shell while sitting in a shelter. "Shells were raining over fast and thick and he happened to be one of the unlucky ones."

Ernest is one of the 72,203 men memorialised on the Thiepval Memorial in France. These are men who have no known grave.

JOHN HENRY BROWN

Square 70
Post 86

LANCE CORPORAL

10TH COMPANY, ROYAL GARRISON ARTILLERY

SERVICE NUMBER: 278492

DATE OF DEATH: 27TH OCTOBER 1918

LOCATION: Square 70, Grave 45

John Henry Brown was already in the army at the time of the 1911 census. He appears to have left between the census and the outbreak of the war as

his service record shows that he re-enlisted 20 October 1914 into the Royal Garrison Artillery.

He arrived in France on 25 April 1915 with 13th Siege Battery. The 13th Siege Battery used 9.2 inch calibre howitzers, mounted in massive concrete emplacements. Howitzers of this size were used to attack enemy fortifications and artillery positions. On 3 October 1915 he was transferred to 9th Siege Battery and he was still with this unit when he arrived back in the UK on 16 September 1916.

On 15 October 1917 he was posted to Spike Island in Cork Harbour.

He died in Central Military Hospital Cork of flu on 27 October 1918. He was 35 years old. His next of Kin was his adopted Aunt Jane Covington who lived on Bishop Street Coventry. She confirmed that she believed both of his parents to be dead. There was some correspondence between her and the army as she tried to track down his will.

ROBERT BROWN

Square 12
Post 21

PRIVATE

ARMY SERVICE CORPS

SERVICE NUMBER: CMT/2321

DATE OF DEATH: 11TH NOVEMBER 1914

LOCATION: Square 12, Grave 132

In 1911, Robert Brown was living at 34 Sherbourne Street, Coventry with his widowed mother and two brothers. He married Susannah Cook in the spring of 1913. He was a driver by trade so enlisting in the Army Service Corps was perhaps an obvious choice. He appears to have joined up before the outbreak of war as he has a low service number and because his medal index card shows he arrived in France on 13th August 1914, only 8 days after the war began.

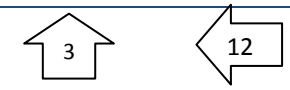
He died on 11th November 1914. There is an article in a local newspaper which appears to relate to Robert despite them having got the name wrong. The burial record at the Cemetery gives Robert's address as Pridmore Road the same as in the article below –

"The tragic circumstances surrounding the death of Herbert Brown aged 25 which took place on Tuesday was investigated by the coroner. It appeared from the evidence the deceased man was attached as motor lorry driver to the ASC and had been invalided home from France. The widow lived in Pridmore Road, Foleshill. Her husband at the outbreak of war was a car tester at the Rover works. On August 7th he was called up to join the ASC and went to France,

Whilst there he contracted rheumatic fever and on being sent home was admitted to Bristol hospital. He came back on November 10th and seemed strangely depressed and weak on his legs. He spoke scarcely a word and witness had to make all the conversation. At 7pm he said he was going out to get a drink. A goods porter describes finding his body on the railway line on night of November 10th just after 1.00am. The Dr said it was possible the deceased was suffering from a temporary aberration of the mind following rheumatic fever. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death as it was assumed he was in a standing position as opposed to the lying posture in the case of suicide."

WILLIAM BROWN

Square 198
Post 265



2ND AIR MECHANIC

2ND NORTHERN AIRCRAFT REPAIR DEPOT, ROYAL AIR FORCE

SERVICE NUMBER: 129531

DATE OF DEATH: 21ST JUNE 1918

LOCATION: Square 198, Grave 52

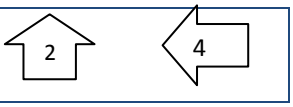
The Northern Aircraft Repair Depot was near Sheffield and was responsible for repairing damaged aircraft.

William Brown had initially joined the Royal Engineers and had seen service overseas, arriving in a theatre of war after 1 January 1916.

He died of blood poisoning following an injury to his hand.

BASIL BURROWS

Square 110
Post 124



PRIVATE

ARMY SERVICE CORPS

SERVICE NUMBER: M4/160000

DATE OF DEATH: 18 FEBRUARY 1919

LOCATION: Square 110, Grave 103

In 1911, Basil was living at 77 Craven Street, Coventry with his sister and widowed mother. At the time he was working as a clerk for a motor company.

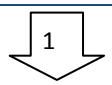
He enlisted on 1 December 1915 into the Army Service Corps with whom he served overseas. He was a driver in the Mechanised Transport section.

In 1914 the Army Service Corps had 6,500 all ranks with 1,200 motor vehicles. By 1918 there were 330,000 service personnel with 47,300 vehicles.

He was discharged on 7th June 1918 on the grounds of illness. He died in the Coventry & Warwickshire hospital on 18 February 1919 leaving a widow, Rosina.

BERT CARTER

Square 23
Post 34



CORPORAL

1ST BN, ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NUMBER: 27952

DATE OF DEATH: 3 MAY 1917

LOCATION: Square 23, Grave 49

The Coventry Graphic on 29 June 1917 contained an appeal for information from Bert Carter's mother. Her son had been missing since 2 May that year. It would be eight months before she received official word that her son had been killed in action on 3rd May. His name appears on the Arras memorial.

Bert had enlisted in September 1914 into the Royal Warwickshire Regiment joining B Company, 81st Platoon of the 1st Battalion.

The War Diary tells what is often considered a 'typical tale' of the First World War: lots of men sent off across no man's land to secure objectives, confused fighting for very little gain. The officer writing the war diary states that he feels the attack failed because of the darkness and insufficient men. The ordinary ranks casualty figures at the end of the attack were: 5 killed, 78 wounded and 109 missing. With so many missing it is easy to see why there was some confusion over whether Bert was captured so that it took 8 months to clarify. In time it was confirmed that 52 men of the 1st Royal Warwickshire regiment were killed in

action on 3 May 1917.

At 5pm on the 3rd May the war diary states:

About this hour a Sgt Murrell returned from the front to say he had been sent back from OC [Officer Commanding] B Coy to gain information and he informed me that very few men were seen by him on his way back – he had come back from some shell holes just SW of CHATEAU – where OC B and a few men were.

WILLIAM CHITTEM

Square 64-65
Post 76

PRIVATE

9TH BN, ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NO 19760

DATE OF DEATH: 21ST SEPTEMBER 1918

LOCATION: Square 64-65, Grave 17

In 1911, William was living at 103 Smith Street, Coventry with his wife and daughter, Beatrice.

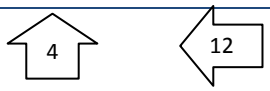
William's name appears on the Tehran Memorial which commemorates casualties of the Indian, United Kingdom and New Zealand Forces who lost their lives during the campaign in Iran and who have no known grave. He is one of 29 men from the Royal Warwickshire regiment listed.

He is listed as having 'died' as opposed to 'killed in action' so it is possible that he died as a result of wounds, or like many men in this theatre of war, of sickness.

At this time the 9th Royal Warwickshire were around the oil port and town called Baku on the west coast of the Caspian Sea. There was desperate fighting between Turkish forces and a special British unit known as 'Dunsterforce' and their Armenian and Russian allies between 26 August and 14 September 1918. In line with its goal of organising resistance to Turkish and German advances in the region, Dunsterforce - under its commander, Major-General Lionel Dunsterville - had attempted to bolster the local forces totalling 6,000 men which were holding a 20-kilometre-long defensive line across the Baku peninsula against some 14,000 Turkish troops.

RAYMOND COATES

Square 136
Post 147



PRIVATE

5TH BN, ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NO 201798

DATE OF DEATH: 29TH JANUARY 1919

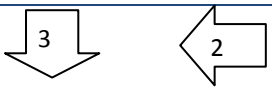
LOCATION: Square 136, Grave 142

Raymond appears on the 1911 census living with his family at 13 New Street, Coventry. His occupation was chimneysweep.

His death is registered in the South Stoneham district near Southampton. He doesn't have a medal index card so does not appear to have served overseas. Perhaps another victim of the flu?

SIDNEY COLLETT

Square 180
Post 243



PRIVATE

16TH BN, ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NO 18137

DATE OF DEATH: 28TH JANUARY 1917

LOCATION: Square 180, Grave 149

Sidney was born on 26 November 1896 in Coventry to Sidney Collett, a fish merchant, and his wife Charlotte.

Sidney enlisted into the 16th Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment at Warwick. This was a Pals Battalion which means that it was made up of men who had enlisted together in local recruiting drives, with the promise that they would be able to serve alongside their friends, neighbours and work colleagues. The idea being that men would fight for their 'pals'. The downside of this was that whole streets were wiped out in one go.

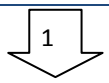
He is entitled to the British War and Victory medals so did serve overseas.

It is not clear what Sidney died of, it is possible that he died of injuries sustained in action overseas.

Sidney's older brother Joseph Henry was killed in action on 1st July 1916 at the Battle of the Somme. He has no known grave and appears on the Thiepval memorial.

JAMES POWLES COLLYER

Square 74
Post 92



SAPPER

9TH FIELD COMPANY, CANADIAN ENGINEERS

SERVICE NO 541814

DATE OF DEATH: 15TH DECEMBER 1916

LOCATION: Square 74, Grave 52

James emigrated to Canada in 1913, arriving on 16th March 1913 on the Empress of Britain.

James joined up on 28 June 1915. On his attestation papers he gives his occupation as Cook and his next of kin as Francis Samuel Collyer of Hill House, Hill Street, Coventry. He was 5ft 9 ¾ with blue eyes and brown hair.

On 19 February 1916 he married Mary Dorothy Dunn in Ottawa, Canada probably shortly before shipping out.

The War Diary for 24 July 1916 reports that Driver JP Collyer was wounded (shellshock) on the road south of Camp G and sent to hospital. The war diary includes a map which shows that the Field Company was working on the Menin Road, Belgium at the time.

The Toronto Star of 18 December 1916 reports his death in hospital. His death was registered in Elham district in Kent whose workhouse had recently been converted to a hospital for Canadian soldiers.

JAMES CONNOLLY

Square 212
Post 265

PRIVATE

20TH BN ROYAL FUSILIERS

SERVICE NO 49350

DATE OF DEATH: 7TH MAY 1917

LOCATION: Square 212, Grave 20

In 1911 James lived with his 4 younger siblings at 13 Carmelite Road, Coventry. With his parents, an uncle and 2 boarders it must have been quite crowded.

20th Bn of the Royal Fusiliers was also known as 3rd Public Schools Battalion. James had attended Bablake School.

He died in London at the age of 19. He had served overseas as he was entitled to the British War and Victory medals. It is impossible to know whether he died of illness or wounds. The battalion had been through the battle of the Somme in 1916 and the battle of the Scarpe in the Spring of 1917.

WILLIAM HERBERT COOKE

Square 202
Post 255

PRIVATE

20TH BN LONDON REGIMENT

SERVICE NO 6659

DATE OF DEATH: 1ST OCT 1916

LOCATION: Square 202, Grave 81

William H Cooke lived at 42 Bond Street, Coventry. He was a cycle repairer living with his parents and younger brother Albert. He was a well known junior footballer playing for Heath Rovers, Britannia Foundry and Newdigate Vics.

William joined up in the Spring of 1916 so he cannot have been in France very long before he was killed.

On 1st October 1916 the war diary places the 20th London Regiment at Eaucourt l'Abbaye. The attack that day began at 7am with an artillery barrage. The advance began across no man's land at 3.15pm. The 20th Battalion secured their objective and dug in. Two tanks were used on the battlefield. This was only a few weeks after tanks were first used in combat. It must have been quite a sight. This was the first day of the battle of le Transloy.

He was one of 106 men of the 20th Bn, London Regiment killed in action that day. His name appears on the Thiepval memorial.

AGNES HILDA COOME

Square 225
Post 281

MEMBER

WOMEN'S ROYAL AIR FORCE

SERVICE NO 10879

DATE OF DEATH: 19TH DECEMBER 1918

LOCATION: Square 225, Grave 136

On the 1911 census, Agnes was living with her parents in Exeter. Her father Henry was a house painter.

On 22 April 1918, Agnes was 20 years old and living at 11 Stanton Street, Stoney Stanton Road, Coventry when she joined the Women's Royal Air Force.

She signed up for Home Service only. She was assigned in Category C, I (L) IV. She was assigned to the No 1 Aircraft Acceptance Park at Radford, Coventry. This is where planes from local manufacturers, including the RE8, DH9 and SE5a, were fully assembled and tested before being delivered to their squadrons.

Agnes died in Coventry. Perhaps she was another victim of the flu?

WALTER HENRY COOPER

Square 183
Post 234

GUNNER

92ND BRIGADE, ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY

SERVICE NO 16307

DATE OF DEATH: 30TH NOVEMBER 1918

LOCATION: Square 183, Grave 117

On the 1911 census Walter Henry Cooper was living at 6 Warwick Lane, Coventry, he was an iron polisher.

He enlisted in September 1914. He entered France on 24 July 1915. The 92nd Brigade Royal Field Artillery was a howitzer brigade and part of the 20th Division; they saw action throughout France and Flanders. He was wounded twice and gassed badly at Verdun. He never really recovered from this. He died of pneumonia at Fulwood Military Hospital near Preston on 30th November 1918.

LAWRENCE CECIL COX

Square 180
Post 232

PRIVATE

B COMPANY, 7TH BN, ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NO 4515

DATE OF DEATH: 14TH JULY 1916

LOCATION: Square 180, Grave 115

Lawrence was the manager of the Cooperative store on Pridmore Road, Coventry when he enlisted in to the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. He had married Gertrude Arnold in the winter of 1914.

Lawrence made it through the first day of

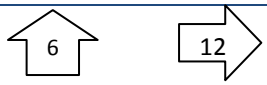
the Battle of the Somme. The 7th Bn was not very active on that most infamous of days. The war diary describes no man's land being strewn with bodies.

Lawrence was killed in action on 14th July 1916 in an attack near La Boisselle. The war diary reports that there were 150 casualties that day, mainly from machine gun fire, 68 of whom were killed. Many of the men who died that day were from Coventry (see Ernest Edward Waring). B Company apparently achieved its objective but there were many casualties mainly due to machine gun fire.

His name appears on the Thiepval Memorial. There is a plaque with his name on in the War Memorial Park Coventry.

HENRY SMITH CRAVEN

Square 180
Post 232



SERGEANT

6TH BN, EAST KENT REGIMENT

SERVICE NUMBER: G/3896

DATE OF DEATH: 6TH MARCH 1916

LOCATION: Square 93, Grave 56

Henry was from Coventry. In 1911 he was lodging in Edgbaston and working as a sorting clerk and telegraphist.

He arrived in France on 1st June 1915 with 6th Bn, East Kent regiment. They were in trenches at Ploegsteert shortly after arrival and then were moved to Loos.

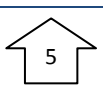
The 6th Buffs were to be committed on October 13th and their objective was the quarries. The attack was to be made with the aid of gas and artillery and was to take place at midday. The Buffs crossed no man's land to find the wire uncut. The battalion could make no headway and was machine gunned before withdrawing. Ten of the 13 officers who took part were killed, 450 other ranks were also casualties that day. The battalion had suffered many casualties before Loos and was now a shadow of its former self and was redirected to work with the Royal Engineers as a fatigue party afterwards until it could be bought up to strength. Henry made it through this attack.

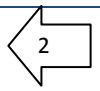
On the 6 March 1916, the 6th battalion Buffs made a notable attack on a German held crater at Givenchy. This enemy held crater was called Triangle Crater and it was quite near to the Hohenzollern Redoubt. One company was detailed to attack – C Company. Henry must have been killed during this assault.

His name appears on the Loos Memorial.

ARTHUR CRIBDON

Square 145
Post 160





DRIVER

ARMY SERVICE CORPS

SERVICE NO 2123

DATE OF DEATH: 18TH MAY 1915

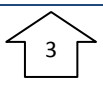
LOCATION: Square 145, Grave 29

Arthur was an engine fitter according to the 1911 census; he was living at 391 Stoney Stanton Road. Given his occupation it was perhaps not surprising that he joined the Army Service Corps.

He did not serve overseas. He died at Chelmsford Military Hospital.

CHARLES CROSSLAND

Square 198
Post 265



PRIVATE 2ND CLASS

ROYAL AIR FORCE

SERVICE NO 127366

DATE OF DEATH: 30TH JUNE 1918

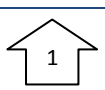
LOCATION: Square 198, Grave 59

Charles was born in Dukinfield in Cheshire. He was stationed at the No 1 Aircraft Acceptance Park at Coventry.

He did not serve overseas. He died of pneumonia.

FREDERICK CROWTON

Square 193
Post 251



PRIVATE

6TH BN, ROYAL BERKSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NO 33022

DATE OF DEATH: 26TH OCTOBER 1917

LOCATION: Square 193, Grave 13

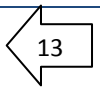
Frederick worked for Mills and Fulford Ltd, the side-car manufacturers based on Stoney Stanton Road, Coventry. On the 1911 census he was living with his parents on Well Street.

He enlisted on May 8th 1916 and served overseas with 6th Royal Berkshire Regiment.

It was a case of third time unlucky for him. He had already been wounded twice before he received the wound that would take his life. He was hit by shrapnel and died at London Military Hospital aged 19.

BERTIE DARLOW

Square 220
Post 281



BOY 1ST CLASS

HMS REPULSE, ROYAL NAVY

SERVICE NO J/67322

DATE OF DEATH: 25TH OCTOBER 1918

LOCATION: Square 220, Grave 76

In 1911 Bertie was living in Hill Street Coventry with his parents and 4 siblings.

Bertie joined the Navy on 19th February 1917. His occupation is given as schoolboy so he obviously joined straight from

school. He initially served on HMS Powerful as a Boy 2nd Class. He was promoted to Boy 1st Class on 5th May 1917 and this was followed shortly after with a move to HMS Repulse on 30th May.

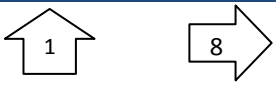
HMS Repulse was involved in the second Battle of Heligoland Bight on 17th November 1917. The Admiralty had been concerned about the German Navy managing to clear paths through the minefields in the North Sea and assigned two light cruiser squadrons to investigate. The German ships were spotted at 7:30 a.m. silhouetted by the rising sun. The light battlecruiser *Courageous* and the light cruiser *Cardiff* opened fire with their forward guns seven minutes later. The Germans responded by laying an effective smoke screen. The British continued in pursuit, but lost track of most of the smaller ships in the smoke and concentrated fire on the light cruisers as opportunity permitted. *Repulse* was detached not long after and raced forward at full speed to engage the enemy ships. She opened fire at about 9:00 scoring a single hit on the light cruiser SMS *Königsberg* during the battle. When the German battleships SMS *Kaiser* and SMS *Kaiserin* were spotted about 9:50 the British broke off their pursuit and *Repulse* covered their retreat, aided by a heavy fog that came down around 10:40. The ship fired a total of 54 15-inch shells during the battle and scored one hit on the light cruiser SMS *Königsberg* that temporarily reduced her speed.

On 12 December 1917, *Repulse* was damaged in a collision with the battlecruiser HMAS *Australia.*

Bertie died of peritonitis in Coventry and Warwickshire hospital on 25 October 1918.

ERNEST WILLIAM DARVILL

Square 187
Post 239



PRIVATE

7TH BN, ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NO 4537

DATE OF DEATH: 27TH NOVEMBER 1916

LOCATION: Square 187, Grave 8

Ernest Darvill lived at 106 Newcombe Road, Coventry.

He was in the 7th Bn Royal Warwickshire Regiment which was largely made up of men from Coventry. He was in D Company.

The 7th saw a lot of action during the battle of the Somme that started on 1st July 1916 and continued until 13th November.

Ernest was killed in action on 27th November 1916. Only one other man, Fergus Benson, was killed that day. They were both killed by shellfire while the battalion was moving back from the front line into reserve.

He is buried in Martinpuich Cemetery, France.

JOSEPH DAY

Square 219
Post 274

PRIVATE

8TH BN, OXFORD & BUCKS LIGHT INFANTRY

SERVICE NO 16196

DATE OF DEATH: 5TH MAY 1919

LOCATION: Square 219, Grave 39

Joseph arrived in France on 18th September 1915. He wasn't there for long. In November the 8th Bn, Oxford & Bucks left for Macedonia where they would remain for the rest of the conflict; taking part in actions around Dojran:

10-18 August 1916: Horsehill Hill southwest of Dojran.
25-25 April and 8-9 May 1917: Battle of Dojran.
18-19 September 1918: Battle of Dojran.
22 to 30 September 1918: Pursuit to the Strumica Valley

It's not clear what he died of, it could have been wounds or sickness, considering his time in the exotic climes of Salonika it could well have been malaria or something similar.

He died at Coventry on 5th May 1919.

JOHN WESLEY EDWARDS

Square 227
Post 282

SECOND LIEUTENANT

WORCESTER YEOMANRY

DATE OF DEATH: 8TH NOVEMBER 1917

LOCATION: Square 227, Grave 11

John Wesley Edwards was a clerk on the 1911 census; he was visiting the Bye Family in Smethwick at the time.

Initially John was a sergeant in the Staffordshire Yeomanry. He arrived in Egypt on 10th November 1915.

He was commissioned into the Worcestershire Yeomanry on 30 September 1916.

He was recommended for a Military Cross "Amongst a number of good junior officers in this unit this officer's military value stands out conspicuously. He has shown consistently good leadership during his service especially in the actions at Gaza on March 26th and April 19th [1917] (at the first of which he was wounded) and on two occasions since when on reconnaissance." The award of the Military Cross appeared in the London Gazette on 1st January 1918, by which time John had been killed during the cavalry charge at Huj. The following account is taken from the Marquess of Anglesey's History of the British Cavalry:

'The Worcesters led the way: Major M. C. Albright's 'A' Squadron of the Worcesters, followed by two troops of 'C' Squadron under Second-Lieutenant J. W. Edwards. Bringing up the rear was Captain R. Valentine's 'B' Squadron of the Warwicks, followed by two troops of 'C' Squadron.

As they advanced at a brisk trot from the south-west end of the ridge they could not see the hostile guns firing at the infantry of the 60th about 11,350 yards away. They then moved north-eastwards under (as they thought) the ridge's protection, in line of troop columns. When they were some 300 yards from the northern tip of the ridge, these hitherto unseen guns - a 75mm Austrian battery - came into sight about 1,000 yards almost due west. Between them and the cavalry it was noticed that the ground, though undulating, was perfectly open.

As the yeomen trotted on they raised clouds of dust. This alerted the Austrian gunners who swung round two of their guns and fired at the horsemen as they came on. Little harm was done for by now the yeomen were gathering speed and it was difficult for the gunners to pick up the range quickly enough. The squadrons halted for a brief moment near to the northern tip of the ridge, but they were instantly subjected to heavy fire from four mountain battery guns and some 200 riflemen, numbers of whom stood up to take aim. These were positioned on a slight ridge to the north-west, some 600 yards distant.

Albright, realizing that the attack on the main target to the left could not go ahead while these guns and infantrymen were in a position to enfilade it, formed his men in column of half squadrons and 'went,' according to Wiggin, 'straight on to attack this lot immediately he realized the position and without waiting for further orders either from me or from Lieutenant-Colonel Cheape.' To avoid the shock, some of the Turkish infantry fired wildly, others wavered, but the majority 'fled down the reverse slope with the victorious horsemen thundering at their heels.' Although many more Turks could have been put to the sword (considerable numbers were) and although the guns of a retreating 5.9 howitzer battery which they were protecting, as well as the mountain guns, were at 'A' Squadron's mercy, Wiggin instantly ordered Albright to break off the pursuit. This wise decision was occasioned by what he saw of the troubled position which Valentine's Warwicks and Edwards's Worcesters were in.

A few moments after Albright had launched his charge, Cheape had ordered Valentine, with Edwards's two troops slightly echeloned to the right, to lead them over the crest of the northern end of the boomerang ridge and to charge the Austrian 75mm guns in flank. Valentine, like Albright before him, formed his men into column of half-squadrons with swords at the 'engage' and the moment they cleared the crest the Austrian gunners opened fire on them with 'an absolute inferno of shells.' Four machine guns behind them and about two companies of riflemen, all protecting the 75mm guns, also opened a fierce fire upon the galloping, shouting yeomen. The distance they had to cover was some 900 yards down a slope and up the other side, 'with the last 100-150 yards very steep indeed'. The Austrians depressed their muzzles to the maximum and set their fuses at zero so that the shells exploded almost as soon as they left the barrels. It was only a matter of moments before Albright, having rallied and reformed his men, joined in the charge in echelon from the right, sweeping down on the gunners' left flank. The Austrians stuck most heroically to their guns. Their final shot, indeed, 'passed through a horse that was almost at the gun's muzzle'. 'Few,' according to Lieutenant Alan-Williams, 'remained standing and, where they did, they were instantly sabred. Others, running away from the guns, threw themselves on the ground on being overtaken and thus saved themselves, for it was found almost impossible to sabre a man lying down at the pace we were travelling.'

Despite terribly high casualties, the yeomen, equally heroically, broke right through the

battery, riding down the gunners, sabreing numbers of them, and then hurled themselves, by now perhaps only twenty in number, against the machine guns. These were taken a few seconds later by Albright's Worcesters as they swung to the right. Most of the Turkish foot soldiers, possibly 200 in number, when they saw this second charge bearing down on them, quickly broke and fled, a few stopping to take pot shots at the yeomen who managed to cut down quite a number. They probably thought that the troops opposed to them were far more numerous than they were. The fact that they were not ruled out any question of a pursuit, but at this moment the machine-gun sub-section which had followed the squadrons arrived on the scene and turned its two guns, as well as the four captured ones, on the fleeing Turkish riflemen, mowing down many of them. Some seventy were made prisoner.

While this formidable charge, lasting, from start to finish, according to one authority, about twenty minutes, was in progress, Cheape had led his two remaining troops of the Warwicks off to the right, where he intercepted the 5.9 howitzer battery. This he captured complete, as well as the abandoned camel-pack mountain-gun battery. At this moment Lieutenant-Colonel Williams returned from his mission to bring up the 4th Australian Brigade which failed to reach the scene of action in time to take up the pursuit. He found a horrible scene of carnage and in its midst the three remaining officers of his regiment arranging the defence of the captured ridge with the few unwounded men who remained. He was helped by the Warwicks' Second-in-Command who brought to the task the few men of his regiment who had been unhorsed or outpaced in the charge. The position was consolidated and the 60th Division, meeting little further opposition, was at once able to establish itself three miles north-west of Huj.

“Suddenly,” noted the Worcesters' Medical Officer as he rode up to the battlefield, “the terrific din of shrieking and exploding shells ceased and we knew the end had come. A wonderful and terrible sight met our view.... The ground was strewn with horses and fallen yeomen, many of whom were lying close to, and some beyond, the batteries.... [The guns] were in various positions surrounded by Austrian and German gunners, many of whom were dead or wounded.... Our squadrons had not fired a shot and every single casualty we inflicted was caused by our sword-thrusts. Our Second-in-Command had fallen wounded under a gun and was on the point of being dispatched by a gunner with his saw-bayonet when a yeoman from the former's old squadron killed the Austrian....

“We commenced to dress the wounded at once and found them scattered in all directions. Wounded Turks came crawling in and one could not help contrasting their clean wounds caused by our sword-thrusts with the ghastly wounds sustained by our men from shell fire and saw-bayonet. Part of a Turco-German Field Ambulance, which had been unable to escape, was found in a hollow behind the batteries, and their equipment was invaluable to us, as our dressings soon ran out and our Field Ambulance had not yet arrived; the Turkish orderlies were put to work amongst their own men and the intelligent German sergeants

proved quite useful."

It seems that a majority of the grievous casualties sustained by the yeomanry were caused by machine-gun fire. The exact total is difficult to establish but estimates vary between a minimum of seventy and a maximum of ninety, not all of them suffered in the actual charge. All three leaders, Albright, Valentine, and Edwards lost their lives, and Wiggin was wounded. Out of about 170 horses, between 100 and 140 seem to have been actually killed and others were wounded or missing - a horrifying total.

John is buried in Gaza War Cemetery. His Military Cross was presented to his father in a ceremony in Cannon Hill Park in Birmingham.

ALFRED LEONARD FAWSON

Square 189
Post 257

SERGEANT

15TH BN, ROYAL IRISH RIFLES

SERVICE NUMBER: 52386

DATE OF DEATH: 20TH OCTOBER 1918

LOCATION: Square 189, Grave 19

Alfred was the eldest of the 6 children of James and Mary Fawson. On the 1911 census he was living with his parents in Oxford Street, Coventry. He gave his occupation as Cycle Wheel Maker.

Alfred was initially in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. He arrived in France after 1 January 1916. He was awarded a Military Medal for bravery in the field. This appeared in the London Gazette on 14th May 1919. It is likely that this was for the action that killed him.

On 20th October the battalion were attacking a position called Gaverbeek with the 1st Royal Irish Rifles whose war diary reports:

> *2am crossed the Lys and formed up on the Beveren-Desselghem road. Advanced until 5pm in support of the 15/RIR. One platoon captured a mill near the Deerlych-Waereghem road. 1/RIR went through the 15/RIR and reached the Gaverbeke stream during the night 20th/21st.*

In the action, the 15th Bn suffered 15 men killed and 51 wounded.

Alfred is buried in Harlebeke Cemetery along with 13 other men from the Royal Irish Rifles killed in action on 20th October 1918.

His younger brother James had been killed in action on 13 October 1915.

JAMES FAWSON

Square 189
Post 257

SERGEANT

8TH BN, ROYAL BERKSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NUMBER: 14583

DATE OF DEATH: 13TH OCTOBER 1915

LOCATION: Square 189, Grave 19

James was the second oldest of the 6 children of James and Mary Fawson. On the 1911 census he was living with his parents in Oxford Street, Coventry. He gave his occupation as Metal Polisher.

James arrived in France on 7th August 1915 with the 8th Bn Royal Berkshire Regiment.

It seems that initially there was some confusion over James's fate, on 14th January 1916 his wife posted a notice in the Coventry Graphic asking for news of him as he had been missing since 13th October.

The war diary for 13th October:

> *1:0PM. Precisely at 1:0pm the Chlorine gas discharge began and was continued at intervals until 1:50pm. During this time smoke bombs were thrown out by our men from the front line trench. The wind seemed very favourable and carried the gas and smoke towards the enemy's trench.*
>
> *1:50PM. The gas discharge ceased, the artillery lifted and the Battalion wire-cutters accompanied by men carrying smoke bombs went forward under cover of the smoke. During the whole time of the smoke discharge hostile machine gun fire from our right flank could be heard.*

2:0PM. The remainder of the two companies in the front line went over. From reports I have since received it appears than only about six of these men reached the Estimate across the road owing to heavy machine-gun fire from the right flank which seemed to come from the direction of the CHALK PITS. These men remained at the Estimate until dark and then crawled back.

2:10PM. At 2:10PM a report reached me that our first lines had attained the road but were being enfiladed; I then ordered two platoons of the supporting companies to go over. As these men crossed our first line, the Machine Gun Officer, with his team, joined them. This Officer reports that by this time the smoke was beginning to thin and that his team only got about 75 yards beyond our parapet when they came under machine-gun fire and were cut down. From inquiries I have made from NCOs it appears that about fifteen men of this line reached the road but did not cross it. They report that there was little rifle fire from the German trench. Hand grenades were thrown at them from the enemy's trench, but these fell short by about ten yards.

2:20PM. The remainder of the Battalion went over, but were no more successful that the others in reaching their objective. During the night those men who had escaped crawled back to out front-line trench. I Attribute the failure of the attack to the inability of our artillery to silence the German machine-guns, and to the complete absence of support.

66 men were killed in action from the 8th Bn, Royal Berkshire Regiment that day. James's name appears on the Loos memorial which commemorates over 20,000 officers and men who died in the Loos area and who have no known grave.

ERNEST JAMES FLANNAGAN

Square 188
Post 257

PRIVATE

2ND BN, ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NUMBER: 3326

DATE OF DEATH: 14TH SEPTEMBER 1917

LOCATION: Square 188, Grave 188

In 1911 Ernest was living at 29 Spon Street, Coventry with his parents: James and Annie, and his siblings: Ethel, Henry, Lawrence, Frank and Mabel.

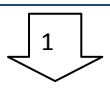
Ernest arrived in the Balkan Theatre of war on 13 July 1915. The only Warwickshire Battalion to arrive there at this time was 9th Bn so it looks like he wasn't with 2nd Bn initially.

It is unclear when he joined the 2nd Bn Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

Ernest died of wounds in hospital in Lincoln.

JOHN FLINT

Square 110
Post 125



RIFLEMAN

4TH BN, KING'S ROYAL RIFLE CORPS

SERVICE NUMBER: 8851

DATE OF DEATH: 1ST MARCH 1919

LOCATION: Square 110, Grave 2

John Flint was in India when war broke out. He had been there since at least 1911 where he appears on census in barracks. These overseas garrisons quickly returned to the UK and then were shipped to the front. John arrived in France on 20th December 1914.

On the 5th January, after some days of training and instruction in the novel methods of trench warfare, the Battalion marched and took over trenches from the French at Dickebusch, near St. Eloi, north of Ypres. Conditions in the trenches, especially when compared to the weather in India they had left behind, were particularly horrible, and on one morning, after three days in their section of trenches deep in mud and water, it had five officers and 500 men temporarily incapacitated from trench feet and unable to walk.

The 4th battalion's first major action came on 1st-2nd March 1915. The Germans had been gradually approaching the line by means of open trenches, until at one point they were only ten yards distant, and the time had arrived to stop this aggressiveness. The 4th Battalion, about 300 strong, was accordingly ordered to attack the whole of a section of new German trenches by entering a trench called No. 21.

The attack was described in despatches as "A very gallant attack was made by the 4th Battalion of "The King's Royal Rifle Corps of the 80th Brigade on the enemy's trenches in the

early hours of March 2nd. The Battalion was led by Major Widdrington, who launched it at 12.30 a.m., covered by an extremely accurate and effective artillery fire, but the attack was brought to a standstill by a very strong barricade in attempting to storm which many casualties were incurred." — (Despatch, April 5th, 1915.)

The strength of the Battalion was 300. Losses: Officers: killed 3, wounded 3; Other Ranks: 108.

In November 1915 the battalion moved to Macedonia where it took part in actions around Dojran.

In June 1918 the battalion returned to France as part of the 50th Division, taking part in actions around St Quentin and Cambrai.

John died at home on 1st March 1919 so it is unclear when he returned to the UK and whether he died of wounds or sickness.

PERCY JOHN FRANCIS

Square 145
Post 160

SAPPER

90TH COMPANY, ROYAL ENGINEERS

SERVICE NUMBER: 32431

DATE OF DEATH: 3RD JULY 1916

LOCATION: Square 145, Grave 83

Percy John Francis, who was known as Jack, was killed along with two comrades whilst working on the defences of a village on the Somme, which had been stormed and taken by the British.

He enlisted in December 1914. His service record shows that he often overstayed his leave and got into trouble on his return to training.

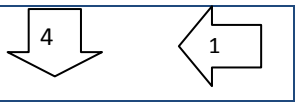
He arrived in France on 23 August 1915 just in time for the battle of Loos in September.

His parents lived at the Fox and Vivian public house at 48-49 Gosford Street.

He is buried in Quarry Cemetery, Montauban a short distance east of Albert.

HOLLISTER CLARE FRANKLIN

Square 119
Post 133



PRIVATE

2ND BN, HONOURABLE ARTILLERY COMPANY

SERVICE NUMBER: 10888

DATE OF DEATH: 22ND JANUARY 1918

LOCATION: Square 119, Grave 34

Hollister was a bank cashier when he enlisted into the Honourable Artillery Company Infantry in December 1915. On 4th November 1914 he had married Florence Ellen Harris in Coventry. Their son Hollister Edward was born on 24 September 1915. Their daughter Joan Mary was born on 23 August 1917.

On 4th August 1917 Hollister embarked for France, arriving at Boulogne the same day. He was just in time for Passchendale. He was not there for long as the Division moved to Italy towards the end of 1917.

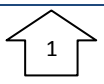
He died at 24 Casualty Clearing Station on 22 January 1918, of wounds received in action. His personal belongings were returned to his widow:

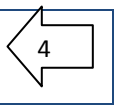
Silver strap	Letters	Photo
Pipe	Wallet	Notebooks
Papers	2 religious books	Pouch
Psalm books	Pocket mirror	Pocket knife
Pocket pencil	Drinking cup	Hair comb
Lanyard	Cap badge	2 numerals
Scissors	Wristwatch	2 books of poems
Cheque book	coins	

He is buried in Giavera British Cemetery in Italy.

JAMES FRENCH

Square 212
Post 272





PRIVATE

13TH BN, KING'S LIVERPOOL REGIMENT

SERVICE NUMBER: 41185

DATE OF DEATH: 15TH MAY 1917

LOCATION: Square 212, Grave 4

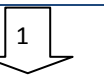
James French died of wounds in a London Hospital. He was wounded exactly 12 months after he enlisted. He had been in France for 6 months.

James had been an office clerk employed at a cycle works.

Coventry Roll of Honour reports that he died of wounds received at Arras. This ties in with the actions of 13th Bn Liverpools who played their part in the First Battle of Scarpe 9th to 14th April 1917, this was one of the battles that made up the larger Battle of Arras.

PERCY FRY

Square 238
Post 293



PRIVATE

MACHINE GUN CORPS

SERVICE NUMBER: 7813295

DATE OF DEATH: 4 JULY 1921

LOCATION: Square 238, Grave 209

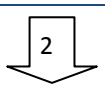
In 1911, Percy was living with his family in Creaton in Northamptonshire where his father, an ex-soldier, ran the Horseshoe Inn. Later the family moved to Coventry, living at 19 Grafton Street.

Percy was when the war started and only 16 when it ended. He did not serve overseas.

Percy drowned at Ballyvonare Camp, County Cork, Ireland on 4th July 1921. The Machine Gun Corps had been stationed there since January.

SAMUEL HUSSELBY GARRETT

Square 183
Post 234



SIGNALLER

2/7TH BN, ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NUMBER: 3065

DATE OF DEATH: 15 JULY 1915

LOCATION: Square 183, Grave 92

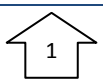
Samuel's gravestone tells his sad story: he drowned whilst bathing in Chelmsford.

He does not have any medal entitlement so did not serve overseas – poor lad didn't get the chance!

On the 1911 census Samuel appears with his widowed father and six siblings at 18 Broomfield Road, Coventry. His father, George was an engine driver for the L&NW railway.

JACK GARSIDE

Square 30
Post 30



SECOND LIEUTENANT

ROYAL AIR FORCE

DATE OF DEATH: 18 NOVEMBER 1918

LOCATION: Square 30, Grave 2

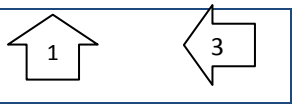
Jack initially enlisted in the Royal Garrison Artillery in November 1915. He transferred into the 2/4 Bn Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry. He arrived in France on 24th May 1916 just in time to take part in the start of the battle of the Somme on 1st July 1916.

He transferred in to the Royal Flying Corps in November 1917 and was commissioned as a Lieutenant on 17 October 1918.

He was stationed at No 3 Fighting Schools and was accidentally killed while flying a Sopwith Camel at Sedgeford in Norfolk.

STEPHEN WALTER GILES

Square 201
Post 262



PRIVATE

1st BN, ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NO: 1400

DATE OF DEATH: 15 FEBRUARY 1918

LOCATION: Square 201, Grave 19

Stephen joined up on 23rd May 1913. He was assigned to the 4th Bn Royal Warwickshire regiment but was transferred to 1st Bn when he arrived in France on 19th May 1915.

After less than a week in France he was gassed on 24th May 1915 when the 1st Royal Warwicks were supporting the Royal Dublin Fusiliers in their attack on Shelltrap Farm (later called Mousetrap Farm). The gas mainly affected his eyes and he was later prescribed glasses.

On 17th October 1915 he was admitted to hospital with pneumonia. He was transferred to England 10 days later. He had served 162 days overseas. On his return to the UK he was assigned to the Royal Berkshire regiment and then later to the Labour Corps.

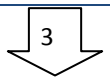
In August 1916 the Coventry Graphic printed Stephen's picture alongside that of his three

brothers who were also serving.

He died of cerebro spinal fever (meningitis) in the Isolation ward of Tidworth hospital on 15th February 1918.

FREDERICK GILL

Square 34
Post 40



PRIVATE

15TH BN ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NUMBER: 330744

DATE OF DEATH: 10 OCTOBER 1917

LOCATION: Square 34 Grave 50

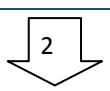
Before the war broke out Frederick Gill was employed at the Rover works in Coventry. On the 1911 census he is living with his parents at 88 Godiva Street. He joined the army in December 1915. He arrived in France in May 1917.

He was a private in the 15th battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment, a Pals battalion.

Frederick was killed in action on 10 October 1917 and buried in Voormezeele cemetery just outside of Ypres. At this time the 15th Bn was literally bogged down in the area around Polderhoek Chateau. There was no attack taking place that day but the enemy were bombing behind the lines and so it is possible they were killed in a bombing attack. Two other men were killed that day as well, they both appear on the Tyne Cot memorial and so have no known grave. His death was announced in the Coventry Graphic in November 1917.

WILLIAM HENRY GRAINGER

Square 36
Post 38



LANCE CORPORAL

PRINCESS PATRICIA'S CANADIAN LIGHT INFANTRY

SERVICE NO: 51186

DATE OF DEATH: 16 APRIL 1917

LOCATION: Square 36, Grave 60

William enlisted at Montreal in November 1914. He gave his father, landlord of the Rose & Crown Inn on the High Street, Coventry as his next of kin.

He declared that he already had some military experience having spent 4 years in the South Midland Howitzer Brigade.

He joined the Princess Patricia's in the field on 15th March 1915.

The historic battle of Frezenberg was fought on 8 May, 1915 at Bellewaerde Lake. The enemy attacked behind clouds of poison gas, however the Regiment held the front even though they were fighting from ditches and shell holes and were under fire from three sides.

On 22 December, 1915, the Regiment became part of the newly formed 3rd Canadian Division and in 1916 fought major battles at Mount Sorrel and on the Somme. They were also part of the Canadian Corp which stormed Vimy Ridge on 9 April, 1917 and it was here that William received his wounds. He died a week later.

JOSEPH HENRY GREEN

Square 202
Post 255

SERGEANT

CANADIAN ENGINEERS

SERVICE NUMBER: 45285

DATE OF DEATH: 11TH FEBRUARY 1917

LOCATION: Square 202, Grave 46

Joseph Green died at Crowborough Camp in Sussex.

He had served 16 years in the army, 14 of these years in Canada. He was too ill to go to the front.

His mother lived at 54 Gilbert Street, Coventry.

HENRY EDWIN GUNN

Square 188
Post 240

PRIVATE

7TH BN, ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NO 2830

DATE OF DEATH: 26 JUNE 1918

LOCATION: Square 111.161

Harry arrived in France on 22 March 1915 with 7th Bn Royal Warwickshire Regiment. After 2 weeks, they were in trenches at the front south of Ypres.

The 7th saw action at the Somme and then all through the mud of France and Flanders until being shipped off to Italy at the end of 1917.

Harry died of wounds and was buried at Montecchio Precalcino Communal Cemetery extension in Northern Italy. The 7th Bn had been involved in a large battle on 15th to 16th June during which the brigade had 189 other ranks killed, wounded, missing or captured. It is possible that Harry was one of these wounded.

He and 3 of his brothers were featured in the Coventry Graphic of 7th April 1916 as one of Coventry's patriotic families.

Horace was serving on board HMS King George V.

William was with the 4th Worcestershire Regiment

Walter had attested as part of the Derby Scheme and was expected to be called up shortly.

PERCY GUY

Square 211
Post 272

GUNNER

HAMPSHIRE HEAVY BATTERY, ROYAL GARRISON ARTILLERY

SERVICE NO 352276

DATE OF DEATH: 2 NOVEMBER 1918

LOCATION: Square 211.141

Percy's full name was Percy George Thorne Guy. He was born in Dorset and in 1911 was working as a gardener on the Isle of Wight.

In 1916 he was in Coventry where he married Elsie Evelyn Moulding, a local lass from Foleshill.

Hampshire Heavy Battery of the Royal Garrison Artillery was also known as 154 Heavy Battery and it saw action around Ypres during the conflict. It does not appear that Percy served overseas.

Percy's death was registered in the Isle of Wight but he was buried in London Road Cemetery. His home address was given as 381 Stoney Stanton Road. Elsie remarried later but was buried with Percy when she died in 1940.

FREDERICK HALL

Square 222
Post 280

PRIVATE

1ST BN KINGS OWN YORKSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY

SERVICE NO 4059

DATE OF DEATH: 21 MARCH 1918

LOCATION: Square 222.19

Frederick had served in South Africa with the 2nd Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry (KOYLI).

In 1911 Frederick was stationed in Singapore with 1st Bn KOYLI. He was 40 years old. His census entry gives his birthplace as Wolverhampton.

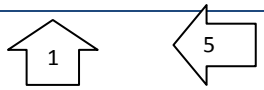
Frederick Hall arrived in France on 5th May 1915 to join his battalion who were at this point in action around Ypres.

It is not clear whether Frederick was wounded or died of illness. It is also not clear how he ended up buried in Coventry.

He was issued with the trio of medals: Star, British War and Victory. However, these medals were returned to the War Office in 1920. If they were not reclaimed within 10 years they would have been destroyed.

RONALD ERIC HAMILTON

Square 60
Post 63



SECOND LIEUTENANT

1ST BN, DEVONSHIRE REGIMENT

DATE OF DEATH: 23 APRIL 1917

LOCATION: Square 60 Grave 152

Ronald Eric Hamilton was born in Worcester. In 1911 he was living in Luton with his parents: Adam, who was a doctor, and Emma.

On his medal index card his father's address was given as 20 London Road, Coventry.

Ronald joined the 19th Royal Fusiliers as a private; this was the 2nd Public Schools battalion. He entered France on 12th November 1915.

In April 1916, the battalion was disbanded and many of the men were commissioned. Ronald was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant into the Devonshire Regiment in August 1916 and he was serving with 1st Devonshire Regiment when he was killed. 81 men from that battalion were killed in action on 23rd April 1917 during the attack on La Coulotte, part of the battle of Arras.

He is memorialised on the Arras Memorial.

FREDERICK HARGREAVES

Square 219
Post 274

PRIVATE

2ND BN, ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NUMBER: 1016

DATE OF DEATH: 18/19 DECEMBER 1914

LOCATION: Square 219, Grave 44

In 1911, Frederick was with the 1st Royal Warwickshire Regiment stationed in Bombay.

His medal index card shows that he arrived in France on 4th October 1914, which means he had changed battalion to 2nd Royal Warwickshire since the census in 1911. They quickly returned to the UK where there was a short period of training.

The regiment disembarked at Zeebrugge. Three days later they were camped outside Ghent in Belgium and able to hear artillery bombardment from the nearby front line.

They saw action around Ypres in the autumn of 1914 until in mid December they ended up just south of Armentieres near a place called Fleurbaix.

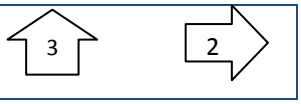
On the day that Frederick was killed they had been ordered to attack and take the German trenches. The battalion advanced but the enemy opened up with very heavy machine gun and rifle fire. The attack was unsuccessful. Many of the men killed were found just yards from the German trenches. 57 killed, 87 wounded and 219 missing. The final tally according to Soldiers Died in the Great War was 16 killed in action on 18th and 90 on the 19th.

Frederick's name appears on the Ploegsteert Memorial.

As you can see from the grave two of Frederick's brothers were killed as well: Herbert and John Henry.

HERBERT HARGREAVES

Square 219
Post 274



PRIVATE

1ST BN, WORCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NUMBER: 12910

DATE OF DEATH: 25 JANUARY 1915

LOCATION: Square 219, Grave 44

The gravestone says that Herbert was in 1st Worcestershire Regiment. However the Commonwealth War Graves Commission says he was in 2nd Bn. The 1st Bn were in Cairo when war broke out and did not arrive in France until November 1914. The 2nd Bn arrived in France in August 1914 and this matches the date of 12 August which is on Herbert's medal index card.

Within 2 weeks of his arrival Herbert and his battalion were engaged with the enemy around Mons and the subsequent retreat.

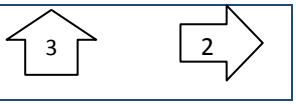
Herbert was killed on 25th January 1915 while the battalion was stationed around Festubert. Unlike his brother Frederick he wasn't killed during a big battle; he was the only man killed in action from 2nd Bn Worcestershire regiment that day. A history of the battalion refers to a great deal of sniping going on so this might be what killed Herbert.

He is buried in the Guards Cemetery, Cuinchy, France.

In 1911 Herbert and his brother, John Henry were living with their parents at 8 Gulson Road, Coventry.

JOHN HENRY HARGREAVES

Square 219
Post 274



PRIVATE

11TH BN, SOMERSET LIGHT INFANTRY

SERVICE NUMBER: 266506

DATE OF DEATH: 5TH OCTOBER 1918

LOCATION: Square 219, Grave 44

John Henry was originally in 7th Bn Royal Warwickshire Regiment and it was with this battalion that he arrived in France on 22 March 1915.

John was wounded on 26th June 1916 during an artillery bombardment.

The 11th battalion, Somerset Light Infantry was a Home Service battalion made up of B Category fitness men and was not intended for front line duty. It is likely that he was posted to this battalion after being wounded and probably did not expect to see action again. It arrived in France in May 1918 and was initially just employed in digging trenches but later, with a shortage of men at the front they became a fighting battalion and posted to a line south of Arras

The battalion was in action again in early October when on the 3rd they moved to the line at Bois Grenier, a strongly held enemy position. An attempt by several battalions to advance and clear a wood was met with heavy resistance and caused casualties.

On 5th October only 2 other men were killed in action on 5th October, it seems unlikely

this was during a major attack.

John is buried in Croix du Bac British Cemetery, Steenwerck near Armentieres.

ERNEST HARROW

Square 198
Post 251

AIR MECHANIC 2ND CLASS

ROYAL AIR FORCE

SERVICE NUMBER: 405442

DATE OF DEATH: 11TH JUNE 1918

LOCATION: Square 198, Grave 45

In 1911, Ernest was living at 33 Whitefriars Street, Coventry with his wife Fanny and 2 children Walter and William. He was an iron polisher at the Triumph and Gloria works.

Ernest joined the Royal Field Artillery on January 4th 1915. After being wounded in action he was invalided home and transferred into the Royal Flying Corps. He died as a result of injuries received in an accident near Oxford whilst serving with No 24 Training Squadron.

WILLIAM HARVEY

Square 131
Post 152

PRIVATE

1/5TH BN, LEICESTERSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NUMBER: 9517

DATE OF DEATH: 11TH OCTOBER 1918

LOCATION: Square 131, Grave 183

William Harvey was a difficult man to track down for the simple reason that he joined the army using his stepfather's surname of Bates. He is therefore recorded on the Commonwealth War Graves database as William Bates. He arrived in France on 9th September 1914 with the 1st Bn Leicestershire Regiment.

He was killed while serving with the 1st/5th Bn, Leicestershire Regiment. It is unclear when he was posted to this battalion. At the time of his death on 11th October 1918 the Leicesters were involved in the pursuit to the Selle at the end of the Battle of Cambrai. 20 other men of the battalion were killed on the same day. He is buried in Busigny Communal Cemetery Extension in France.

SYDNEY CORNELIUS HATHAWAY

Square 41
Post 49

SECOND LIEUTENANT

ROYAL FLYING CORPS

DATE OF DEATH: 12TH JANUARY 1916

LOCATION: Square 41, Grave 33

Sydney's father Charles, was the manager of the Triumph and Gloria Factory.

Sydney was a gunner in the Machine Gun Corps with a very low service number of 172. He arrived in France on 9 March 1915.

He was commissioned into the Royal Flying Corps on 27th December 1915. He was killed in action around 2 weeks later, he was 17 years old having lied about his age in order to join up. He is buried in Achiet le Grand Communal Cemetery in France.

He was serving as an observer with 11 Squadron on the Somme.

On the 12th of January he set off on a reconnaissance mission in an FB5 aircraft piloted by a Lt H.T. Kemp. Some time into their mission they had the misfortune to be attacked by the German ace Max Immellman. When attacked both aircraft began to circle but Immelmann's Fokker was able to turn tighter and got behind Hathaway and Kemp, he fired over 100 rounds. Sydney was killed and Kemp was wounded. The plane caught fire but Kemp managed to land it safely. He was captured and at first it was thought that Hathaway too had been taken prisoner.

Max Immelmann was the first German ace. He was responsible for bringing down 17 planes. He was highly decorated and in fact, he was presented with the Pour le Merite, Germany's highest honour, by Kaiser Wilhelm on the very day he shot Sydney down.

PATRICK HEALEY

Square 198
Post 266

PRIVATE

1ST BN ROYAL MUNSTER FUSILIERS

SERVICE NO 6930

DATE OF DEATH: 10 APRIL 1918

LOCATION: Square 198, Grave 112

Patrick Healey joined the army in 1902.

He was in the 1st Bn Munster Fusiliers. At the outbreak of war they were in Rangoon, Burma. They had to wait for Territorial Battalions to relieve them before they could return to the UK. They arrived back on 10th January 1915 and were stationed in Coventry until they sailed for Gallipoli on 16 March 1915. They arrived at Cape Helles on 25 April 1915. They lost 70% of their men in the first moments of arrival, mowed down as they disembarked.

They were evacuated on 1 January 1916 to Egypt. When they had arrived in Gallipoli there were 28 officers and 1,002 other ranks. When they disembarked there were 24 officers and 287 men. From Egypt they were sent to France arriving at the end of April 1916.

Patrick was discharged from the army on 12 May 1917 following the loss of his arm. After a short illness, he died in Coventry on 30 April 1918 and was buried with full military honours in London Road Cemetery. As his family could not be traced the funeral was paid for by local benevolent funds.

HENRY HEWITT

Square 199
Post 251

BOMBARDIER

93RD D BATTERY, ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY

SERVICE NO 11895

DATE OF DEATH: 13 OCTOBER 1916

LOCATION: Square 199, Grave 118

Henry lived at 136 Eden St, Coventry with his parents and 3 siblings.

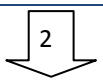
He arrived in France on 24 July 1915. 93rd Battery was part of 20th Division.

The extremely detailed headstone informs us he was killed at Ginchy near Guillemont on 13th October 1916. One other man: Christopher Hemmings was also killed that day. This date puts us in the middle of the Battle of Le Transloy.

He is buried in the Guards Cemetery, Lesboeufs.

THOMAS HICKMAN

Square 183
Post 234



BOMBARDIER

ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY, 4TH SOUTH MIDLAND (HOWITZER) BRIGADE, COVENTRY BATTERY

SERVICE NO 301

DATE OF DEATH: 9 APRIL 1915

LOCATION: Square 183, Grave 91

On 27 March 1913 a 17 year old Thomas Hickman enlisted in the 4th South Midland Howitzer Brigade. He was assigned the service number of 301. He gave his occupation as Capstan Hand working for the Swift Motor Company in Coventry. He lived at 1 court, 8 house Union Street. This appears to have been his second attempt at joining up; his service record shows that he had previously served with the Royal Artillery after providing a "misstatement of age".

He served 2 years and 2 days at home before being shipped to France. He arrived at Le Havre on 30th March 1915; he died just 11 days later.

He was killed in action near Petit Point while occupying an occupation post. On 6 April, the battery to which he was attached was assigned to the 14th Field Artillery Brigade. He was the first man of the 4th South Midland Brigade to be killed. He was 19 years old.

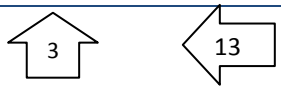
His commanding officer, Colonel West, wrote a long letter of sympathy to his mother: "You have our deepest sympathy in your loss, but let me assure you that it is ours as well. Your son was always thought well of by both officers and men since he joined us. He was one of our best telephonists, and as such, he was given the post of honour and danger of going with his officer into the firing line. He was posted in a small outhouse where he should have been safe, while the officer

climbed into a high roof to watch the enemy, but by ill luck the shell missed the big house and struck the small one by its side, and out of sight. He died at his post, with his instrument still in his hands, and was buried by a clergyman in a graveyard full of British soldiers, at the Convent of La Bizee. He suffered nothing being killed instantly, and we are left awhile to mourn his loss." Later the Colonel sent Mrs Hickman a drawing of her son's grave which was published in the Coventry Graphic. Interestingly, the gravestone in London Road Cemetery also says that it was erected by the Officers and Men of the battery. Mrs Hickman was later buried in this grave.

Thomas Hickman's war grave is in the Strand Cemetery near Ypres in Belgium.

JOSEPH HILL

Square 198
Post 265



GUNNER

ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY

SERVICE NUMBER: 61770

DATE OF DEATH: 1 JULY 1918

LOCATION: Square 198, Grave 51

In 1911 Joseph was living at 22 Tower Street, Coventry with his wife Lizzie and their five children.

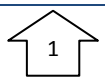
Joseph arrived in France on 13 May 1915.

It seems likely that he was wounded and returned home as he was actually enlisted into the Labour Corps when he died. Coventry Roll of Honour says that he was gassed.

His widow Lizzie married a Frederick Jones in 1921 but it was clear that Joseph wasn't forgotten – an application was made for his medals in 1924.

ALBINE GORDON HIPPERSON

Square 54
Post 68



PRIVATE

6TH BN, ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NUMBER: 20249

DATE OF DEATH: 4 FEBRUARY 1917

LOCATION: Square 54, Grave 13

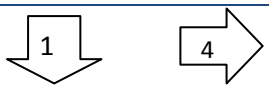
In 1911 Albine was living at 4 Humber Avenue, Coventry with his wife Annie. Annie's brother, William Garlick who had joined up with Albine was killed on the same day as Albine.

According to the Coventry Graphic Albine enlisted in May 1916. Before enlisting he worked in the Cooperative Society tailoring department.

Albine was stationed with 6th Bn Royal Warwickshire Regiment on the Somme, near Biaches. At noon on Sunday 4th February the battalion was in the trenches when the enemy artillery opened up. "The next minute shells of all calibres up to 9 inches began arriving too fast to be counted. The frozen ground broke up into jagged fragments as dangerous as the shell splinters themselves, and the trenches where not blown in by direct hits became littered deep with debris. Dugouts were broken in bodily and men inside buried without hope of rescue." After the bombardment came the hand to hand fighting in the trench. At the end of which 37 were dead, 70 wounded and 14 missing.

FRANCIS JOSEPH HOGAN

Square 193
Post 246



PRIVATE

3RD BN, IRISH GUARDS

DATE OF DEATH: 27TH MARCH 1918

LOCATION: Square 193 Grave 207

Francis was an Iron Polisher in the cycle trade in Coventry. He lived at 35 New Buildings with his wife and three daughters.

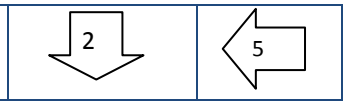
He was in the 3rd Bn of the Irish Guards which was based at Warley in Middlesex and supplied drafts to the other two battalions of the Irish Guards.

Francis was wounded in the throat during the retreat from Mons. After he was discharged from the army he worked in munitions at the Rolls Royce works in Derby.

On 27 March 1918 in his lodgings in Derby he committed suicide by cutting his throat. A verdict of suicide while temporarily insane was recorded by the coroner.

HORACE LAMBERT ALEXANDER HOOD

Square 51
Post 55



ADMIRAL

HMS INVINCIBLE, ROYAL NAVY

DATE OF DEATH: 31ST MAY 1916

LOCATION: Square 51 Grave

A little off the main drive in London Road cemetery stands the large white stone memorial to the Hood family. Impressive as this memorial is there is only one person buried beneath its foundations: Lady Caroline Hood of Whitley, who died on 6th December 1858 aged 77.

One of the metal plaques is named to Admiral Horace Lambert Hood killed in action at the naval battle of Jutland on May 31st 1916.

Horace Lambert Alexander Hood was born on 2nd October 1870 in London and was the second son of the 4th Viscount Whitley, Francis Wheler Hood and Edith Lydia Drummond Ward. Horace was born into a long and illustrious line: his great, great grandfather was Samuel 1st Viscount Hood who fought with Nelson at the Battle of the Nile in 1798. His conduct caused Nelson to remark 'He was the greatest sea officer I ever knew'.

Horace entered the Royal Navy during 1883 and seemed to be predisposed to some of his predecessor's talents. During the late 1880's he served on Nile Gunboats in Egypt, where he was mentioned in despatches and promoted to commander. During further operations in Africa during the early 1900's, he was again mentioned in despatch and awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DSO). By 1910 Hood was back in Britain where he had a shore posting at the Royal Naval College at Osbourne. On 19th January 1910 Horace Hood married Ellen Touzalin. The couple had two children Samuel, born 15th October 1910 and Alexander Lambert, born 11th March 1914.

Hood went on to become Secretary to the then first Sea Lord Winston Churchill in 1913, succeeding Admiral David Beatty who was appointed Commander of the Battlecruisers of the Grand Fleet, which would go on to fight at Jutland. A further promotion occurred when he was transferred from the Dover patrol to became commander of the 3rd Battle cruiser squadron of the Grand Fleet commanded by Sir John Jellicoe, during 1915, aboard HMS Invincible with Inflexible and Indomitable, her two sister ships, making up the squadron.

HMS Invincible was launched and built at Tyneside, on 13th April 1907, and was armed with eight twelve inch guns and had a top speed of around 25 knots, a high speed for the time. This speed was thought to be the battle cruiser's protection in battle, but it came at a price; lighter, thinner armour. As war broke out in August 1914 both the British and German fleets hoped that a major naval clash would quickly follow but only minor naval clashes took place and it wasn't until May 31st 1916 off the coast of Denmark that the main British and German fleets finally clashed. Massive 13.5 inch shells from some of the British ships could be hurled distances of up to 24,000 yards. The German 12 inch guns were effective to 21,000 yards, a gap they had to close. When a shell did strike home the effects could be devastating. The British may have had some of the larger calibre weapons, but the German gunnery was more accurate. By 4.30pm the grand fleet had lost HMS Indefatigable and the Queen Mary.

At around 6.15pm Admiral Hood and his squadron joined the fray. Initially the third Battlecruiser squadron returned accurate fire at their German counterparts.

> *"Invincible….came into action at 6.15pm with the leading enemy battlecruiser which was thought to be the Derfflinger. Fire was opened at the enemy at about 8,000 yards and several hits were*

observed. Admiral Hood hailed the control officer….Your firing is very good, keep it as quickly as you can every shot is telling. This was the last order heard from the Admiral or the Captain who were both on the bridge at the end"

Commander Hubert Danreuther, HMS Invincible. Jutland 1916 Nigel Steel and Peter Hart, 2004 p229

Suddenly at approximately 6.34pm Invincible exploded in a ball of flame. The German fire was yet again more accurate and devastating than the British. Witnesses concluded that the ironically named Invincible had sunk in fifteen seconds. The German shells had found her achilles heel: the Invincible's thinner armour. Of her crew of 1,032 just six survived. In true naval tradition, Admiral Horace Hood went down with his ship.

Two other men commemorated in the cemetery were present at the Battle of Jutland: Joseph Jordan on HMS Warrior and William Hughes on HMS Southampton. They both survived this battle.

CHRISTOPHER HORSLEY

Square 44
Post 47

PRIVATE

7TH BN, ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT

DATE OF DEATH: 21ST JANUARY 1915

LOCATION: Square 44 Grave 8

Although the initial on the grave is G, this soldier's name was Christopher. He had joined the Royal Warwickshire Regiment in January 1914 and being so young was placed in the Reserve Battalion. He did not get the opportunity to serve overseas.

Christopher died of pneumonia at the barracks. His funeral was described in the Coventry Graphic:

"The military funeral was no mere ceremonial but a spontaneous manifestation of genuine sorrow on the part of his comrades at his early death. It was attended by 225 men of D company, the band of the Munsters [Fusiliers] and the drums of the 7th battalion, while a number of officers were also present. The sad procession was witnessed by large and sympathetic crowds of spectators, many of whom were visibly touched at the sight of the coffin covered by the Union Jack and surmounted by the deceased's cap and belt. The service was conducted by the Rev L Richardson, Chaplain of the Battalion and at the conclusion the Last Post was sounded and three volleys were fired over the grave."

He had a brother called Orlando who also served and survived the conflict despite having trench foot.

JAMES BENJAMIN HOWDLE

Square 112 Post 133	2	1

QUARTERMASTER SERJEANT

121 BATTERY, ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY

DATE OF DEATH: 12TH DECEMBER 1916

LOCATION: Square 112 Grave 2

James Howdle's father was in the Royal Field Artillery so it is perhaps not surprising that this is where he ended up as well.

He served over nine years in the army. He was amongst some of the first men to be sent to France, arriving on 19th August 1914.

In August 1916 while his division was fighting at the Somme he became very ill. He was so unwell that he was sent back to England and was a patient at Netley Hospital near Southampton. He was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia. He died at home, 13 Cambridge Street, Coventry.

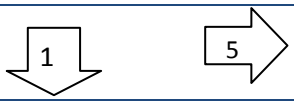
He was buried with full military honours.

He had two brothers who also served: John Charles McKenzie Howdle was in the Royal Artillery and William McLeod Howdle was in the Royal Engineers. John was mentioned in dispatches while William was awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the field, the award

appears in the London Gazette dated 28th September 1917, which means it was probably for action around Ypres in the summer of 1917.

JOHN THOMAS HUGHES

Square 239
Post 294



PRIVATE

GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NUMBER: 21391

DATE OF DEATH: 17TH MARCH 1927

LOCATION: Square 239, Grave 206

In 1911 John Thomas was living at home, 39 Grove Street Coventry with his parents and 5 siblings.

Before joining the army John worked as a cycle and motor polisher for Murray Plating works on Union Street in Coventry.

John arrived in France on 30th January 1916 with the 14th Bn, Gloucestershire Regiment. This battalion was what was known as a bantam battalion. This means that it was made up of men who were below the regulation height of 5ft 3. John was 5ft 1 ½.

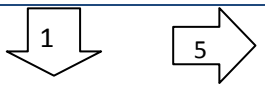
He was shot in the left knee on 4 May 1916 and was immediately sent back to the UK. One man, Sidney Stone, was killed that day. John was discharged from the army in November that year as a result of being no longer physically fit. His service record shows that he was looking for employment in any job in Coventry that did not require walking or standing.

He died on 17th March 1927. It is not clear what he died of but it must have been attributable to his war service.

His younger brother William Hughes is buried in the same grave.

WILLIAM HUGHES

Square 239
Post 294



STOKER 1ST CLASS

HMS SOUTHAMPTON, ROYAL NAVY

SERVICE NUMBER: S/115891

DATE OF DEATH: 20TH JANUARY 1919

LOCATION: Square 239, Grave 206

In 1911 William was living at home, 39 Grove Street Coventry with his parents and 5 siblings. William was an errand boy. William joined the Royal Navy on 31 July 1914 for a period of 12 years.

On 24 March 1915 he was posted to HMS Southampton as a Stoker 2nd class. He was promoted to Stoker 1st class a month later.

As a stoker he would have spent most of his time below decks, shovelling coal into the boilers.

HMS Southampton was a light cruiser with a crew of around 400 men. On 30th May 1916 the Southampton was lying at Rosyth when it got the order to prepare to get underway. Little did they know they were heading out to the major sea battle of the war.

The battle of Jutland kicked off in the afternoon of 31st May, Southampton was steaming alongside the huge battlecruisers HMS Lion, Tiger and Indefatigable. At times during the battle the ship was steaming at its full speed 25 knots, William and his fellow stokers must have been shovelling like mad. She was heavily shelled and suffered so many explosions that the German sailors watching from SMS Frauenlob thought the ship had been destroyed. They must have been surprised when the 'destroyed' ship fired a torpedo and blew their ship in half! Only 7 of the 300 German crew survived. As the Southampton's crew worked to clear up the mess, stokers were involved in this work removing bodies. 35 men were killed including 5 stokers.

He was discharged from the Navy on 31st December 1917 due to ill health. It is noted on his service record that he had diabetes which at this time was untreatable.

THOMAS LAW HUSSELBY

Square 26
Post 37

CADET

ROYAL AIR FORCE

SERVICE NUMBER: 184427

DATE OF DEATH: 30TH OCTOBER 1918

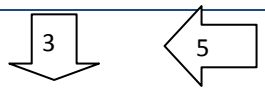
LOCATION: Square 26, Grave 139

In the 1911 census Thomas was living at 9 Regent St, Coventry with his widowed mother and 3 siblings.

According to his gravestone Thomas died in Shorncliffe Military Hospital in Kent at the age of 18. He did not serve overseas; he had only left Coventry three weeks earlier in order to join up. He was another victim of the flu.

ALFRED HUTT

Square 199
Post 265



PRIVATE

DORSETSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NUMBER: 25029

DATE OF DEATH: 27TH NOVEMBER 1918

LOCATION: Square 199, Grave 152

Alfred was living on Castle Street when he joined up in September 1914, enlisting in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. He was discharged after a few weeks being found unfit for service.

He was probably called up later as part of the Derby Scheme. He joined the Dorsetshire Regiment and later the Agricultural Corps. He did not serve overseas.

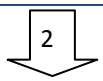
He died of pneumonia in hospital at Devonport.

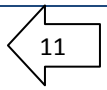
Alfred's brother Arthur was to become a celebrity as the first Coventry man to be awarded the Victoria Cross. His citation reads:

"On 4th October, 1917, during the attack by the 48th Division before St.Julien, the 7th Battalion had as their objective Tweed House. "A" Company captured their first objective but when they continued their advance, all the officers and non-commissioned officers in private Hutt's platoon were hit. Private Hutt thereupon took command and led forward the platoon. He was held up by a strong point on his right, but immediately ran forward alone, shot the officer and three men in the post, and caused forty or fifty others to surrender. Presently realising that he had pushed too far ahead, Hutt withdrew his party. He personally covered the withdrawal, sniping the enemy and killing a number of them. Then he carried back a comrade, who had been badly wounded, and put him under shelter. After he had organised and consolidated his position, he learnt that some wounded men still lay out in the open, where they were likely to be taken prisoners. As no stretcher-bearers were available, Hutt went out himself and carried in four men under heavy fire. He held his post until relieved on 7/8 Oct."

RONALD VERNON HYDE

Square 200
Post 264





GUNNER

48TH DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY COLUMN, ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY

SERVICE NUMBER: 845221

DATE OF DEATH: 19TH JUNE 1918

LOCATION: Square 200, Grave 125

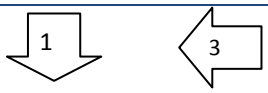
In the 1911 census Ronald was living with his brother and two sisters at 14 Brunswick Road in Coventry.

48th Divisional Artillery Column, part of the 48th South Midland Division proceeded to France in March 1915 embarking from Folkestone and sailing to Boulogne. The Division had concentrated near Cassel. In 1916 they were in action in the Battle of the Somme, suffering heavy casualties on the 1st of July. They were also in action at The Battle of Bazentin Ridge, capturing Ovillers, the Battle of Pozieres Ridge, the Battle of the Ancre Heights and the Battle of the Ancre. In 1917 the Division occupied Peronne during the German Retreat to the Hindenburg Line and were in action in the Third Battles of Ypres. On the 21st of November 1917 they set off for Italy. In 1918 they were involved in the fighting on the Asiago Plateau and it is probably here that Ronald was wounded.

Ronald died at 39th Casualty Clearing Station in Italy and he is buried in Montecchio Precalcino Communal Cemetery Extension.

ERNEST ARTHUR INGRAM

Square 72
Post 87



GUNNER

4TH SOUTH MIDLAND BRIGADE, ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY

SERVICE NO 362

DATE OF DEATH: 17TH NOVEMBER 1914

LOCATION: Square 72, Grave 82

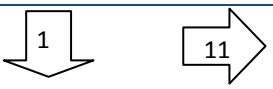
Ernest was a turner who worked for the Crouch Motor Company in Coventry.

He joined the army in April 1913 at the age of 18. You would therefore think that this put him in the position of being one of the first to arrive overseas. However, Ernest never had the opportunity to fight. He died of peritonitis following an operation for appendicitis at Chelmsford Hospital.

This grave is a commonwealth war grave despite having a 'family' headstone.

CHARLES ERNEST JEACOCK

Square 178
Post 229



GUNNER

31ST TRENCH MORTAR BATTERY, ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY

SERVICE NO 115871

DATE OF DEATH: 11TH JANUARY 1919

LOCATION: Square 178, Grave 200

Charles lived on Stanley Road, Coventry in 1911.

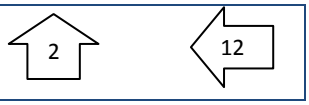
He joined the army in 1916 and served in France and Egypt.

Trench mortars were used in a variety of defensive and offensive roles, from the suppression of an enemy machine-gun, sniper post or other local feature, to the coordinated firing of barrages. Larger mortars were sometimes used for cutting barbed wire, especially where field artillery could not be used, either because of the danger of hitting British troops or where the effect of the fire could not be observed

He died at Weymouth Hospital of appendicitis after being ill for six months.

GEORGE REGINALD JENKINS

Square 141
Post 153



GUNNER

ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY, 4TH SOUTH MIDLAND (HOWITZER) BRIGADE, COVENTRY BATTERY

SERVICE NO 353

DATE OF DEATH: 14 MARCH 1916

LOCATION: Square 141, Grave 146

On 12 June 1913 the 18 year old, George Jenkins enlisted in the 4th South Midland Howitzer Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery. He gave his home address as 46 Craven Street, Coventry and his occupation as signwriter.

At the outbreak of war George's unit moved to Swindon to join the 1st South Midland Division, from there they moved to Great Baddow in Essex where they stayed until it was time to leave for France. On 14 October they were inspected by the King at Hylands Park, Chelmsford.

On 30 March 1915 they embarked from Southampton for Le Havre. From there they travelled by train to Abbeville.

This was a section of the front where new arrivals worked alongside regular units, a period of induction into the realities of life on the frontline. Less than a week later George would have taken part in his first action at Petit Point, near Ploegsteert.

In March 1916 the brigade was at Hebuterne, 15 miles southwest of Arras. On 14 March George was admitted to 4th Casualty Clearing station with shrapnel wounds to his abdomen, thigh, right leg, head and arms. He died shortly after and was buried in Beauval Communal Cemetery. It was later reported that his death was caused by the premature exploding of a shell he was loading into his gun. His commanding officer Major Towler, wrote to George's mother "You will be proud to hear that when he was being taken to the field ambulance he showed the true pluck and spirit of an Englishman." He was 20 years old. On 9th April 1916 a memorial service was held for George at Lord Street Sunday School in Coventry. His death was reported in the Coventry Graphic dated 14th April 1916.

His memorial plaque and scroll were sent to his mother Sarah Ann Jenkins at Craven Street. She would also have received his medals: a 1915 star, British War and Victory medals.

While his grave lies in France his family have memorialised him on their family gravestone in London Road Cemetery. The first burial listed on the stone is Lizzie, George's infant sister who died in 1886 at the age of 1 year. George's father Alfred who was buried in 1912. George's mother Sarah Ann died in 1932.

WILLIAM JENNINGS

Square 177
Post 246

PRIVATE

ROYAL BERKSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NO 20274

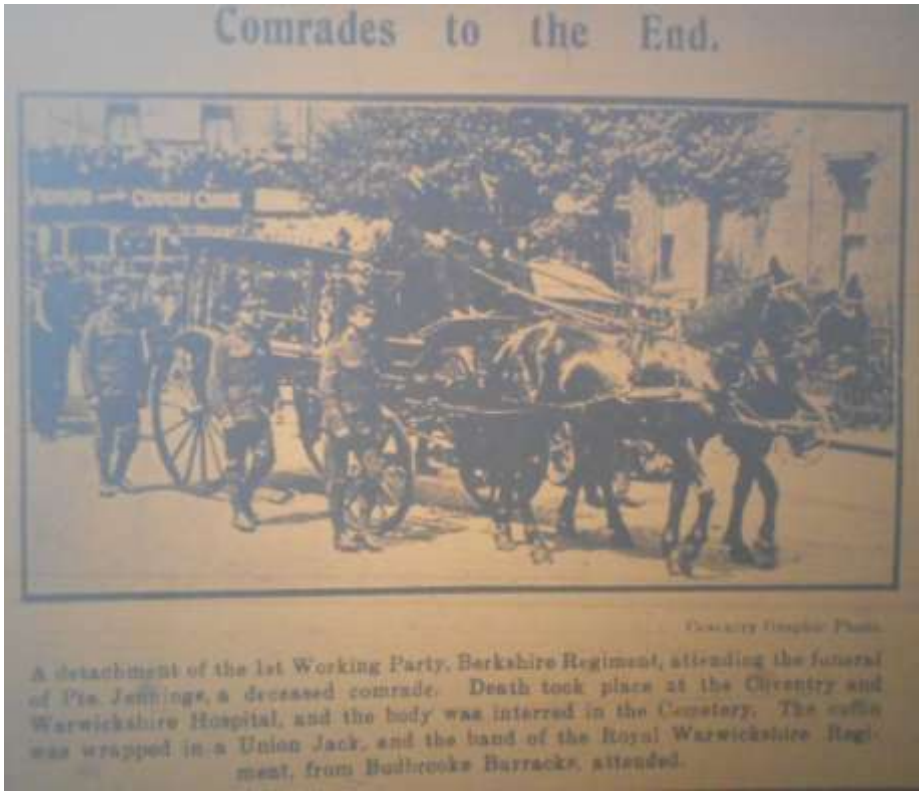
DATE OF DEATH: 24TH JULY 1916

LOCATION: Square 177, Grave 170

William Jennings was born in Cornwall, he enlisted in Reading and died in Coventry.

On the 1911 census he is listed as living with his parents in Reading. His occupation is given as a Carter.

He died at Coventry & Warwickshire Hospital but it is not clear what the cause of death was. There is no medal card for him so he did not serve overseas. He was 30 years old.



JOHN THOMAS JONES

Square 42
Post 55

DRIVER

667TH HEAVY TRANSPORT COMPANY, RO

YAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS

SERVICE NO T/364502

DATE OF DEATH: 10TH NOVEMBER 1918

LOCATION: Square 42 Grave 34

667TH Heavy Transport Company was based at Blackheath in London.

John served overseas as a driver with the Army Service Corps some time after 1st January 1916.

John was 29 years old when he died at the Royal Herbert Hospital, Kidbrooke, Woolwich.

His wife, Clara, purchased the grave and the burial was scheduled for 17th November 1918. However the army didn't release the body in time and so the burial had to be delayed until 20th November. Clara was buried with him following her death on 11th January 1945.

JOSEPH JORDAN

Square 238
Post 298

2

5

STOKER PETTY OFFICER

ROYAL NAVY

SERVICE NUMBER: K18078

DATE OF DEATH: 13 FEBRUARY 1920

LOCATION: Square 283, Grave 26

Joseph joined the navy on 24 February 1913. He gave his occupation as 'sail maker', which seems an unusual occupation for someone born in landlocked Coventry!

In 1911 Joseph was an inmate at the Akbar Nautical Training School in Heswall, in the Wirral. It was a reformatory school for runaways, offenders and orphans. Both Joseph's parents died after him so he wasn't an orphan.

The school had only just opened in its new buildings on the Wirral in 1910 so Joseph was one of the first ones there. However, the school quickly made a name for itself – but not in a good way!

In October 1910, *John Bull* magazine published an account of "Reformatory School Horrors — How Boys at the Akbar School are Tortured — Several Deaths". The story was based on information given to the paper by Mr and Mrs Adams, the former deputy superintendent and matron. Amongst their accusations were that boys were gagged before being birched, that boys who were ill were caned as malingerers, that punishments included boys being drenched with cold water or being made to stand up all night for a trivial misdemeanour. It was further alleged that boys had died because of such punishments. A subsequent Home Office investigation rejected all the charges although found that there had been instances of "irregular punishments". *John Bull* stood its ground, calling the report a "white-washing."

Joseph was a stoker on HMS Warrior from 1st June 1913 until 13 June 1916, which means that he was present at the battle of Jutland on 31st May 1916. **HMS *Warrior*** was a *Duke of Edinburgh*-class armoured cruiser built in the mid-1900s. She was stationed in the Mediterranean when the First World War began and participated in the pursuit of the German battlecruiser SMS *Goeben* and light cruiser SMS *Breslau*. *Warrior* was transferred to the Grand Fleet in December 1914 and remained there for the rest of her career.

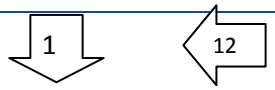
At the Battle of Jutland on 31 May 1916, the 1st Cruiser Squadron was in front of the Grand Fleet. At 5:47 pm, the squadron flagship, HMS *Defence*, and *Warrior* spotted the German II Scouting Group and opened fire. Their shells fell short and the two ships turned in pursuit, cutting in front of the battlecruiser HMS *Lion*, which was forced to turn away to avoid a collision. Shortly afterwards they spotted the disabled German light cruiser SMS *Wiesbaden* and closed to engage. When the two ships reached a range of 5,500 yards from *Wiesbaden* they were spotted at 6:05 by the German battlecruiser SMS *Derfflinger* and four battleships who were less than 8,000 yards away. The fire from the German ships was heavy and *Defence* blew up at 6:20. *Warrior* was hit by at least fifteen 11 inch and six 5.9 inch shells, but was saved when the German ships switched their fire to the battleship HMS *Warspite*.

Warrior was heavily damaged by the German shells, which caused large fires and heavy flooding, although her engines continued running for long enough to allow her to withdraw to the west. She was taken in tow by the seaplane tender HMS *Engadine* who took off her surviving crew of 743. She was abandoned in a rising sea at 08:25 a.m. on 1 June when her upper deck was only 4 feet (1.2 m) above the water, and subsequently foundered.

After a six month period at the Vivid naval base, he was on the battleship HMS Resolution where he was promoted to Leading Stoker and then Stoker Petty Officer. Later he spent a year on HMS Argus, the first aircraft carrier.

His service shows that he left Vivid base on 28 January 1920 and there is a note to say that he joined the Royal Fleet Reserve. He died in Coventry.

Square 25
Post 35



SIDNEY KIMBERLEY

DRIVER

ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY

SERVICE NO 793

DATE OF DEATH: 5 APRIL 1916

LOCATION: Square 25, Grave 106

Sidney was one of the 7 children of Alfred and Annie Kimberley. On the 1911 census Sidney was living with his family in Coventry. Sidney joined the Warwickshire Royal Horse Artillery in October 1915.

His service records state that he died at 10.30pm on 5th April 1916 at the 1st Eastern General Hospital in Cambridge of tuberculosis, pleurisy, emphysema and general peritonitis. He had been in the army for 169 days.

Sidney's older brother Frank served in the Machine Gun Corps and Tank Corps. His brother Ernest also served in 240 Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery. Ernest was gassed in the field on 15th April 1918 and was shipped back to England, spending 81 days in Leeds hospital. They both survived the war.

FRANK LEE

Square 40-41
Post 50

PRIVATE

4TH BN, YORKSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NO 42392

DATE OF DEATH: 12TH APRIL 1918

LOCATION: Square 40-41, Grave 80

Frank was a coal miner living with his wife Catherine and 6 year old daughter at 27 Riley Street, Coventry in 1911.

His wife, Catherine, died in the winter of 1914.

Frank served overseas with the 4th Bn, Yorkshire Regiment, arriving some time after 1st January 1916.

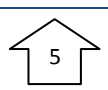
Frank was killed in action at the Battle of Estaires. 42 members of his battalion were killed that day. The diary reports:

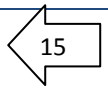
> *At 5.0 a.m. the party which was reinforced by another party of stragglers took up a line East of Pt Tournant. The 3rd Bn Coldstream Guards were on our left and a party of stragglers from 151st Brigade on the right. This line was held until about 4.0 p.m. when it was forced back in considerable disorder.*
> *Stragglers were collected and a very thin line was formed.*
> *No attack was made on this line. About 3.0 p.m. the party was relieved by a batch of another Division and marched to La Motte Au Bois where the night was spent in huts.*

His name appears on the Ploegsteert Memorial to the missing.

SYDNEY ANGUS LEITH

Square 198
Post 265





LIEUTENANT

38TH SQUADRON, ROYAL AIR FORCE

DATE OF DEATH: 19TH APRIL 1918

LOCATION: Square 198, Grave 91

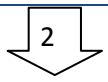
Sydney Leith was originally a private in the Royal Highlanders (Black Watch). He first arrived in France on 7th July 1915, which makes it likely that he was with the 9th Battalion. In September came the initially successful but horrifically costly attacks at Loos in which the battalion suffered over 700 casualties.

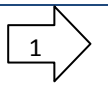
Sydney was commissioned as a lieutenant in the Royal Flying Corps in April 1916.

Sydney was from Forest Hall, Northumberland. He was flying an RE8, serial number C2373 when it spun off a turn at Radford. He was killed instantly in the ensuing crash and as he died at Coventry he was buried in London Road Cemetery. The coroner recorded a verdict of accidental death, noting that he had turned at lower altitude than was safe and the tail of the plane was too high.

ARTHUR WILLIAM LUCAS

Square 111
Post 132





PRIVATE

1ST BN, ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NO 241621

DATE OF DEATH: 1ST NOVEMBER 1919

LOCATION: Square 111, Grave 164

On the 1911 census Arthur was a tailor living with his mother and siblings at Dolphin Inn, Market Square, Coventry.

He arrived in a theatre of war on or after 1st January 1916.

Interestingly *Soldiers Died in the Great War* lists Arthur as having died on 1st November 1916 not 1919. His death is registered in 1919 so this is clearly a mistake. Arthur was 36 years old when he died.

ALFRED ERNEST MANDER

Square 135
Post 157

CAPTAIN

4TH BN, DUKE OF WELLINGTONS REGIMENT

DATE OF DEATH: 9TH OCTOBER 1917

LOCATION: Square 135, Grave 218

In 1901 Alfred was living with his parents Henry and Rosina at 75 Spon End, his father was a watch material dealer. In the next census in 1911 he was working as a schoolmaster at a school in Halifax.

Alfred joined the army on 14th September 1914. He arrived in France in December 1915. He was made Captain in June 1916.

On 21 July 1916 the Coventry Graphic reported that he had been wounded and was in hospital in Paris where he was making a good recovery. He rejoined his unit on 8th August 1916.

His death was reported in the Times on 18th October 1917.

CAPTAIN ALFRED E. MANDER, Duke of Wellington's Regiment, was killed on October 9 while gallantly leading his men to the attack. He received his commission in the autumn of 1914, proceeded to the front in 1915, and was wounded in July 1916. He was the third son of Alderman and Mrs. Mander, of Coventry, and a graduate in Arts of Trinity College, Dublin. He had been second master at the Crossley Schools, Halifax, for about 10 years.

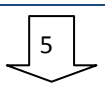
The attack on 9th October 1917 is described in the history of the 1/4 Battalion:

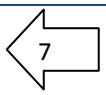
"With A Coy leading and B Coy support they moved off in Artillery Formation, until they reached the swamps at Ravebeke. Here heavy machine gun and accurate sniping which affected the rest of the Battalion forced them to extend. Capt AE Mander was hit in the head by a sniper during the advance and died instantly. His death to the Batt was a great loss for not only was he a most conscientious officer but a general favourite with all ranks"

His name appears on the Tyne Cot Memorial.

ERNEST HAROLD MASTERS

Square 278
Post 343





LIEUTENANT

45 SQUADRON, ROYAL FLYING CORPS

DATE OF DEATH: 24 DECEMBER 1918

LOCATION: Square 278 Grave 112

Ernest was fatally injured in a midair collision and died at 7th Casualty Clearing Station at Agnez-les-Duisans on Christmas Eve 1918.

Ernest was born in Oldbury in 1899 but by 1911 was living at 1 Swan Lane, Coventry with his parents.

He appears to have joined the Royal Flying Corps as a cadet in July 1917. In his short time in the air he was very successful and is listed as an ace on the Aerodrome website with the following successes:

Date	Time	Unit	Aircraft	Opponent	Location
13 May 1918	0620	45	Sopwith Camel (B2379)	Albatros D.III (DES)	Costa
13 May 1918	0630	45	Sopwith Camel (B2379)	LVG C (DES)	Frison
19 Jun 1918	0933	45	Sopwith Camel (D1974)	Albatros D.V (DES)	Mt. Meatta
19 Jun 1918	0935	45	Sopwith Camel (D1974)	Albatros D.V (OOC)	Asiago
14 Jul 1918	0945	45	Sopwith Camel (D1974)	D (DES)	Mt. Cismon
10 Aug 1918	0650	45	Sopwith Camel (C54)	LVG C (DES)	Foclatti
20 Aug 1918	1910	45	Sopwith Camel (C54)	C (DES)	S of Asiago

23 Oct 1918	1200	45	Sopwith Camel (F7212)	Rumpler C (OOC)	Coincourt

A description of one air battle on 20th August 1918 is taken from Spinks Catalogue dated 22 November 2011

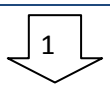
"...when flying on close patrol with Captain J. Cottle and Lieutenant E.H. Masters, 20.8.1918, 'Saw 3 E.A [enemy aircraft]. 2/Strs (type unknown) at 7.10pm at 14,000ft. S[outh]. Asiago. Capt. Cottle shot one down. Lt. Masters shot one down. Lt. Gibson shot one down' (Squadron Record Book refers); once again the Combat Report offers more detail, 'While on No.12 C.O.P. Capt. Cottle observed 3 2/Str. E.A. W.of Asiago travelling S.E. Capt. Cottle climbed his Patrol into the sun and cut them off from the rear. Each member of the patrol singled out one E.A. and attacked it at close range...At the same time Lt. Masters attacked another E.A. which immediately dived towards Mt. Forcellona. Obtaining a good position he fired two long bursts at very close range after which the E.A. seemed to explode and burst into pieces (Lt. Gibson confirms). He was unable to ascertain where the wreckage fell owing to the low clouds."

In the London Gazette dated 2nd November 1918 he was awarded a Croix de Guerre with Palme from the French Government.

He is buried in the Duisans British Cemetery at Etrun, just west of Arras in France

CHARLES HENRY MILLERCHIP

Square 9
Post 17



PIONEER

203RD COMPANY, ROYAL ENGINEERS

SERVICE NUMBER: 44851

DATE OF DEATH: 6TH OCTOBER 1916

LOCATION: Square 9, Grave 8

Charles worked at the Singer Cycle Company. He joined up in September 1914.

He arrived in France on 22 July 1915.

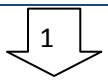
He was wounded in the shoulder and spent three months in a base hospital with blood poisoning. He had only been back at the front for 2 weeks when he was shot by a sniper as he was returning from mending barbed wire. He died later in a casualty clearing station. He was 24 years old.

He is buried in Grove Cemetery Meaulte on the Somme.

This headstone also memorialises his older brother William and his cousin Edward who were also killed in action.

EDWARD JAMES MILLERCHIP

Square 9
Post 17



PRIVATE

6TH BN, ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NUMBER: 5174

DATE OF DEATH: 18TH AUGUST 1916

LOCATION: Square 9, Grave 8

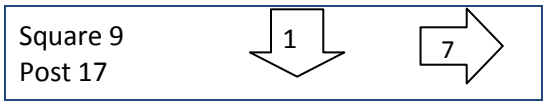
Edward was a bottle washer at a beer works. On the 1911 census he was living with his grandparents, Humphrey and Ann at 20 Sherbourne St, Coventry.

Edward arrived in France some time after 1st January 1916.

He was killed in action on 18th August 1916 when the 6th Bn, along with the 5th and 7th battalions of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment attacked the Leipzig Redoubt. The attack began at 5pm on 18th August. In the featureless battlefield the battalion got lost and so it took them until 8pm to achieve their objectives. It was classed as a success. Soldiers Died in the Great War lists 29 men from 6th Bn killed in action that day.

Edward has no known grave; his name appears on the Thiepval Memorial.

WILLIAM ERNEST MILLERCHIP



DRIVER

61ST DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY COLUMN, ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY

SERVICE NUMBER: 840679

DATE OF DEATH: 23RD MAY 1918

LOCATION: Square 9, Grave 8

William was a cabdriver, living with his wife Annie (nee Stokes) and their 9 week old son William Ernest in Sherbourne Street, Coventry at the time of the 1911 census.

As an experienced driver it is perhaps not a surprise that he became a driver in the Royal Field Artillery when he joined up. He arrived in France sometime after 1st January 1916.

William was killed in action on 23rd May 1918. He is buried in the small cemetery in the village of Berguette, Pas de Calais. Annie was left with three young children to raise. She married again in 1919.

William and Annie's son William was in the Royal Marines during the Second World War and was killed on 25th November 1941 when HMS Barham was sunk by a U-boat in the Mediterranean.

ALFRED MOLESWORTH

Square 41 Post 55	3	3

PRIVATE

35TH BN, TRAINING RESERVE

SERVICE NUMBER: TR/8/9402

DATE OF DEATH: 18TH APRIL 1917

LOCATION: Square 41, Grave 51

In 1911 Alfred Molesworth was living with his parents and three siblings at 6 Princess Street, Coventry.

Alfred Molesworth died in Wiltshire in 1917 having never set foot overseas. He appears to have died of illness.

His brothers Albert and Harry also served. Harry was killed in action on 29th September 1918 and his name is on the other side of this memorial. Albert served throughout the war with the Worcestershire Regiment and survived.

HARRY MOLESWORTH

Square 41 Post 55	3	3

PRIVATE

4TH BN, WORCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NUMBER: 29733

DATE OF DEATH: 29TH SEPTEMBER 1918

LOCATION: Square 41, Grave 51

In 1911 Harry Molesworth was living with his parents and three siblings at 6 Princess Street, Coventry.

Harry was killed in action on 29th September 1918. He is buried at Hooge Crater Cemetery outside Ypres.

The following description is taken from the Worcestershire Regiment website (www.worcestershiregiment.com)

At dawn next morning (September 29th) the British guns opened fire; and at 7.0 a.m. the 4th Worcestershire rose to their feet, soaked to the skin, stiff with the cold, but still full of fight. The companies opened out into "artillery formation" advanced through the line of the 2nd Leinster, and pushed on to the attack. The rain had ceased, the nearest enemy were falling back, and the troops went forward splendidly up the slope past Oude Kruiseecke and then forward along the high ground under a galling fire from machine-guns in front. Rossignol Cabaret was taken, and the leading platoons advanced up the slope of the ridge on which stands the little village of Koelenberg. There, for the first time that day, the advance met definite opposition. The ridge was strongly held and the open slopes were swept by the fire of several machine-guns.

The platoons worked forward from cover to cover to attack the machine-gun posts. Captain A. H. Bowman brought his leading platoons into action against one concrete blockhouse: then, discovering a way of approach he made his way forward, accompanied only by one runner, surprised the garrison of the blockhouse and forced them to surrender, twelve in all (Capt. Bowman was awarded the M.C.). Further to the left Sergeant W. J. Smith single-handed attacked another blockhouse, creeping round the flank of the building under very heavy fire and capturing the six occupants (Sergt. Smith was awarded the D.C.M.). - Thanks to those brave efforts the advancing platoons were able to gain some ground; but the machine-guns on the upper slopes were so posted as to sweep all the intervening ground, and by 4 p.m. the attack was definitely held up.

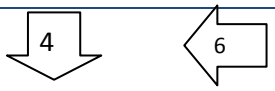
Word was sent back to the artillery and a bombardment was arranged. At 7 p.m. the guns opened fire, and as their shells struck along the ridge the platoons again pressed forward to the attack; but the bombardment was not heavy enough to beat down the German machine-gunners, and although one or two of the nearer posts were rushed, the hail of bullets from the higher ground soon forced the attackers to seek cover. A few prisoners had been taken (Twenty-five in all, including those taken by Capt. Bowman and Sergt. Smith) but the enemy's defence was not broken, and the attempt had cost the Battalion dear. The casualties included two of the company commanders, Captain G. P. O'Donovan and Captain C. E. Hackett, with

several of their subalterns (Killed, 2/Lt. J. Cowherd, M.C. Wounded, Capt. G. P. O. Donovan, M.C., Capt. C. Hackett, D.C.M., Lt. H. N. Newey, 2/Lt. D. L. Downes, 2/Lt. J. C. Marriott.), and the loss of those two fine fighting leaders had a dispiriting effect on their men. [21 other ranks had also been killed]

The memorial on the Stretton on Dunsmore roundabout A45 to London, to the 29th Division commemorates when they were inspected by the king before leaving for France.

THOMAS MOORE

Square 119
Post 133



PRIVATE

2/7TH BN, ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NO 3515

DATE OF DEATH: 19TH JULY 1916

LOCATION: Square 119, Grave 62

Thomas, his wife Agnes and their 1 year old son Thomas lived on Cow Lane, Coventry. He was a Chain Rivetter.

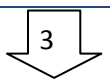
The 2/7th Bn, Royal Warwickshire regiment was formed at Coventry as the second line of the 7th Bn. They arrived in France in May 1916 as part of 61st (2nd South Midland Division). The Battle of Fromelles on 19th July 1916 was their first major action.

It was also the first major battle fought by Australian troops on the Western Front. Directed against a strong German position known as the Sugar Loaf salient, the attack was intended primarily as a feint to draw German troops away from the Somme offensive then going on further to the south. A seven-hour preparatory bombardment deprived the attack of any hope of surprise, and ultimately proved ineffective in subduing the well-entrenched defenders. When the troops attacked at 6 pm, they suffered heavily at the hands of German machine-gunners. Small parts of the German trenches were captured by the Australians, but, without flanking support and subjected to fierce counter-attacks, they were forced to withdraw. By 8am on 20 July 1916, the battle was over. The 5th Australian Division suffered 5,533 casualties, the 61st British Division suffered 1,547. The German casualties were little more than 1,000. The attack was a complete failure as the Germans realised within a few hours it was merely a feint. It therefore had no impact whatsoever upon the progress of the Somme offensive.

Soldiers Died in the Great War records 74 men of the 2/7th Bn were killed in action that day. The name of Thomas Moore appears on the Loos Memorial; Thomas has no known grave.

THOMAS MORAN

Square 30
Post 30



PRIVATE

4TH KINGS ROYAL RIFLES

SERVICE NO R/5618

DATE OF DEATH: 3RD SEPTEMBER 1915

LOCATION: Square 30, Grave 151

Thomas worked at Courtaulds and lived with his wife and four children at 8 Days Lane, Coventry.

He had been in the army for 20 years and had fought in the Boer War. He re-enlisted into his own unit in direct response to Kitchener's appeal to the men who had served with him in the South African war.

Thomas arrived in France on 14th April 1915. He died of wounds on 3rd September 1915; the headstone refers to Hill 60 so it seems likely that he was wounded in May 1915 during the intense fighting there. He was 51 years old when he died in hospital in Calais. He is buried in the Calais Southern Cemetery.

The Kings Royal Rifle Corps Chronicle records the fighting at Hill 60 on 10 May 1915:

> *At 5 a.m. the enemy started shelling with heavy howitzers. Towards 7 a.m. the bombardment increased in intensity. At 9 a.m. a very hot burst of rifle and machine gun, apparently occasioned by a few men of A Company, wounded, etc., falling back on the support trenches. These men were immediately re-organised in the support trench, and together with some Rifle Brigade re-occupied the front line.*
>
> *At 10 a.m. Lieutenant Poole left Headquarters, went up to the support trench in front of the log hut in Bellewaarde Wood, and took Lieutenant Antrobus and about twenty men up into the firing line. The strength of the Battalion now appeared to be about 200 men. At 10.30 a.m. a heavy battery opened, from the direction of St. Eloi and Hill 60; another from the N.E., and field guns from E. and N.E. A terrific bombardment was kept up until about 1.30 p.m., when the few survivors fell back on the Cavalry lines now held by Rifle Brigade, Camerons, and*

a Company of 3rd K.R.R.C. The Bellewaarde Wood was now an almost impenetrable abattis, and it was immediately decided to consolidate the Cavalry Line, and hold it with every available man. Though this was bombarded, the fire was not so accurate as it had been on the front line, probably owing to difficulties of communications and observations. The Camerons on our right, by previous arrangement, echeloned their left flank backwards to conform to our new line. The Officer Commanding the Camerons immediately called up two Companies Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders to man the line at Hooge and two more Companies were sent up by 80th Brigade in rear of Hooge Chateau. The situation after mid-day became so serious that the 80th Infantry Brigade were appealed to for strong support.

This resulted in the 1st Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders being sent up to Hooge, arriving between 3 and 4 p.m. The enemy again made no determined attack, but moved forward in small parties and halting or falling back if met with infantry fire.

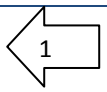
At 2 p.m. a few of the enemy crept forward towards Cavalry trench, but no attack' was made. From this moment things became quieter and the fight seemed to fizzle out.

The 3rd Battalion from West bank of the Lake obtained good oblique fire on small parties visible in the Wood and checked any further advance. This seemed to mark the limit of the enemy's aspirations for the day as no further serious movements took place. A draft of 150 men under Second Lieutenant Walton came up at about 9.30 p.m., and was taken into the General Headquarters line south of Menin Road to be organised. Meanwhile orders had been received to withdraw the remnants of the Battalion from the trenches and return to the west of Ypres to reorganise. By midnight the Battalion was drawn out to the number of about 100, which included signallers and stretcher-bearers, the C.O. (Major Majendie), Adjutant and Second Lieutenant Antrobus being the sole surviving officers. One machine gun, very much knocked about, was also brought away, the other three being destroyed. Only seven men of the machine gun section remained.

The losses in the past three days in killed, wounded and missing amounted to about 15 officers and 478 rank and file.

FREDERICK MORRIS

Square 194
Post 250



PRIVATE

1ST RESERVE MT DEPOT (Grove Park), ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS

SERVICE NO DM2/189620

DATE OF DEATH: 6TH SEPTEMBER 1916

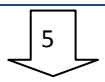
LOCATION: Square 194 Grave 81

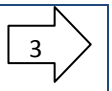
Frederick Morris was 40 years old when he died at Sydenham. He does not have any medal entitlement so he did not serve overseas.

At Grove Park 400 residents of the workhouse were expelled to other institutions when the building was taken over by the Army Service Corps as a mobilisation and training centre. Between 1914 and 1919 nearly 300,000 men and women passed through it. Some of the troops were at Grove Park for less than 24 hours while others were on 12-week training courses for the maintenance of various motor vehicles, which ranged from staff cars to lorries and buses.

BERTIE MOXHAM

Square 226
Post 282





PRIVATE

1ST BN WILTSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NO 33033

DATE OF DEATH: 9TH APRIL 1917

LOCATION: Square 226 Grave 124

This grave is interesting as it has two headstones one at the head and one at the foot, one for each casualty buried there. The grave was bought by governors of Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital. The other occupant of the grave is Walter Peckham.

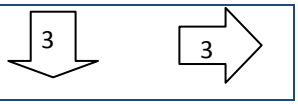
In 1911, Bertie who was born in Ebbesbourne Wiltshire, was

living with his Uncle and Aunt in Salisbury and was working as a gamekeeper.

He served overseas, arriving in a theatre of war sometime after 1st January 1916.

He was 27 years old when he died, presumably at Coventry & Warwickshire hospital. Whether he died from wounds received in action or from illness is impossible to say for sure.

Square 159
Post 208



HERBERT NELSON

SECOND LIEUTENANT

ROYAL FLYING CORPS

DATE OF DEATH: 19TH MARCH 1918

LOCATION: Square 159 Grave 166

In 1911 Herbert was living with this parents and siblings at 136 Earlsdon Lane, Coventry.

He was in 105 Squadron. Formed at Andover as a day bomber unit on 14 September 1917, it was redesignated as a Corps Reconnaissance unit in April 1918. Equipped with RE8s it was sent to Ireland, instead of France as originally planned, to provide support to local security units

Herbert Nelson died at the West Hertfordshire Hospital, Hemel Hempstead after a flying accident. He was 23 years old.

He left a widow called Lily Dorothy. They had been married less than a year.

THEO EDWARD NEWSOME

Square 37
Post 49

SECOND LIEUTENANT

2ND BN ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT

DATE OF DEATH: 25TH SEPTEMBER 1915

LOCATION: Square 37 Grave 11

In 1911, Theo was a university student at Birmingham University, living with his family at Sherbourne House, The Butts, Coventry.

When war broke out he was working with the Daimler Company. He joined the Army Service Corps on 8th August 1914 and was in France on 16th August with the first batch of Daimler cars and lorries. In the Motor Transport Section he was despatch rider and later as a consulting engineer. He was commissioned into the 2nd Royal Warwickshire Regiment in July 1915.

He was killed at the Battle of Loos along with 152 other men of his regiment. The war diary reads:

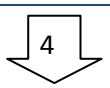
In Trenches

5.50 am our bombardment ceased. Our advance commenced at 6.30am. Took German front line trench then support trench then on to the Quarries as far as St. Elie. Captured about 60 prisoners; arrived at this position at 9.30 am. Kept to it till after dark when we had to retire owing to the 9th Division on our left retiring. Occupied "Quarries" until midnight when we took up a position in the support trench 400 yards west of the Quarries. Up to this time the following officers were killed: Lt Col B.P. Lefroy D.S.O. (died of wounds), Capt N.H.L. Matear, Lieut F.R. Elderton, Lieut H.E. Edwards, Lieut J. Pennington, Lieut J.L.O. Mansergh, 2/

Lieut K.M. Gaunt and 2/ Lieut T.E. Newsome.

RICHARD NORTON

Square 88
Post 108



PRIVATE

19TH BN, LONDON REGIMENT

SERVICE NUMBER: 612370

DATE OF DEATH: 18TH FEBRUARY 1919

LOCATION: Square 88 Grave 41

Richard Norton died at the age of 19, the Coventry Roll of Honour states that this was because of illness contracted while a prisoner of war.

In 1911 Richard was living on Much Park Street with his parents and siblings.

He served overseas, arriving in a theatre of war after 1st January 1916, with 19th London Regiment.

CHARLES EDWARD HAYDON PARKER VC

Square 198
Post 251

BATTERY SERGEANT MAJOR

ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY

SERVICE NUMBER: 90029

DATE OF DEATH: 9TH AUGUST 1918

LOCATION: Square 198 Grave 1

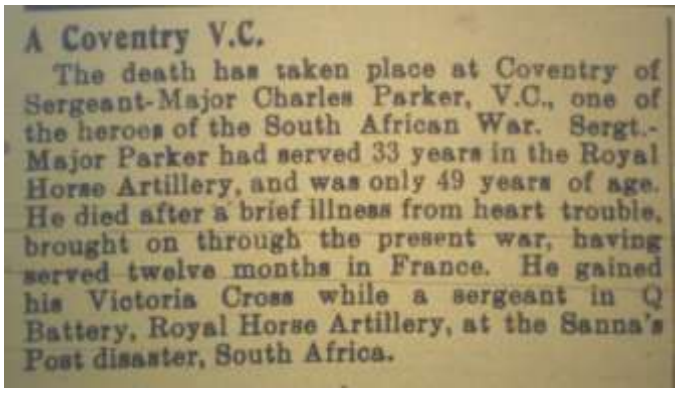
Charles Parker enlisted in the army in 1885 at the age of 15.

He served six years in India and almost a year in South Africa.

Parker was 30 years old, and a sergeant in 'Q' Battery, Royal Horse Artillery during the Second Boer War when the

following deed took place for which he was awarded the VC:

On the occasion of the action at Korn Spruit on the 31st March, 1900, a British force, including two batteries of the Royal Horse Artillery, was retiring from Thabanchu towards Bloemfontein. The enemy had formed an ambush at Korn Spruit, and before their presence was discovered by the main body had captured the greater portion of the baggage column and five out of the six guns of the leading battery. When the alarm was given Q Battery, Royal Horse Artillery, was within 300 yards of the Spruit. Major Phipps-Hornby, who commanded it, at once wheeled about and moved off at a gallop under a very heavy fire. One gun upset when a wheel horse was shot, and had to be abandoned, together with a waggon, the horses of which were killed. The remainder of the battery reached a position close to some unfinished railway buildings and came into action 1,150 yards from the Spruit, remaining in action until ordered to retire. When the order to retire was received Major Phipps-Hornby ordered the guns and their limbers to be run back by hand to where the teams of uninjured horses stood behind the unfinished buildings. The few remaining gunners, assisted by a number of Officers and men of a party of Mounted Infantry, and directed by Major Phipps-Hornby and Captain Humphreys, the only remaining Officers of the battery, succeeded in running back four of the guns under shelter. One or two of the limbers were similarly withdrawn by hand, but the work was most severe and the distance considerable. In consequence all concerned were so exhausted that they were unable to drag in the remaining limbers or the fifth gun. It now became necessary to risk the horses, and volunteers were called for from among the drivers, who readily responded. This most exhausting operation was carried out by, among others, Sergeant Parker, Gunner Isaac Lodge and Driver Horace Glasock. Several horses were killed and men wounded, but at length only one gun and one limber were left exposed. Four separate attempts were made to rescue these, but when no more hordes were available the attempt had to be given up and the gun and limber were abandoned. Meanwhile the other guns had been sent on, one at a time, and after passing within 700 or 800 yards of the enemy, in rounding the head of a donga and crossing two spruits they eventually reached a place of safety, where the battery was re-formed. After full consideration of the circumstances of the case the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-chief in South Africa formed the opinion that the conduct of all ranks of Q Battery, Royal Horse Artillery, was conspicuously gallant and daring, but that all were equally brave and devoted in their behaviour. He therefore decided to treat the case of the battery as one of collective gallantry under Rule 13 of the Victoria Cross Warrant, and directed that one Officer should be selected for the decoration of the Victoria Cross by the Officers, one non-commissioned officer by the non-commissioned



A Coventry V.C.

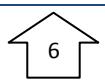
The death has taken place at Coventry of Sergeant-Major Charles Parker, V.C., one of the heroes of the South African War. Sergt.-Major Parker had served 33 years in the Royal Horse Artillery, and was only 49 years of age. He died after a brief illness from heart trouble, brought on through the present war, having served twelve months in France. He gained his Victoria Cross while a sergeant in Q Battery, Royal Horse Artillery, at the Sanna's Post disaster, South Africa.

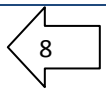
officers, and two gunners or drivers by the gunners and drivers. A difficulty arose with regard to the Officer because there were only two unwounded Officers — Major Phipps-Hornby and Captain Humphreys — available for the work of saving the guns, and both of these had been conspicuous by their gallantry and by the fearless manner in which they exposed themselves and each of them nominated the other for the decoration. It was ultimately decided in favour of Major Phipps-Hornby as having been the senior concerned. Parker was elected by the non-commissioned officers as described above. He returned to the United Kingdom in early 1901, and received the VC from the king on 25 July 1901

After 23 years in the army he was discharged in 1908. However, when war broke out in 1914 he rejoined arriving in France on 19th July 1915. He served there for 12 months before eventually being discharged as physically unfit on 6th June 1917 as a result of strain and exposure during active service.

HARRY PAUL

Square 197
Post 266





PRIVATE

7TH BN OXFORD & BUCKS LIGHT INFANTRY

SERVICE NO 13636

DATE OF DEATH: 11TH OCTOBER 1919

LOCATION: Square 197, Grave 119

Harry arrived in France on 21st September 1915 with the 7th Bn, Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry. They were moved to Salonika in November 1915 where they remained until 30th September 1918 taking part in actions around Dojran in 1916, 1917 and 1918.

He was reported as missing from April 1917. In June 1918 his mother received word that he had been captured and was a prisoner of the Germans.

He was discharged to the reserve on 20th March 1919.

He died in Coventry on 11th October 1919, he was 23 years old.

WALTER PECKHAM

Square 226 Post 282	5	3

SERJEANT

1ST BN DORSETSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NO 5788

DATE OF DEATH: 1ST JUNE 1915

LOCATION: Square 226 Grave 124

This grave has two headstones one at the head and one at the foot, one for each casualty buried there. The grave was paid for by the governors of Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital. The other occupant of the grave is Bertie Moxham.

Walter was from Ringwood in Hampshire. On the 1911 census he was a Corporal in the 1st Bn Dorsetshire Regiment. When war broke out the battalion was in Ireland, they made their way to France, arriving on 28th August 1914.

As Walter died in England of wounds it is hard to say when and where he received those wounds. The 1st Dorsets were in action during the first battle of the war, which was fought in the industrial landscape around Mons in Belgium. Outnumbered, but not outfought, the Dorsets took part in the retreat from Mons and the battle of Le Cateau, both of which severely tested the stamina of the troops.

GEORGE THOMAS RADFORD

Square 197 Post 266	4	7

SERGEANT

16TH BN, ROYAL FUSILIERS

SERVICE NO SR/508

DATE OF DEATH: 19TH NOVEMBER 1918

LOCATION: Square 197 Grave 78

The 16th Bn, Royal Fusiliers stayed in the UK and supplied drafts to overseas. As an older married man George did not go overseas – he has no medal entitlement.

He had been in the army before: in 1900, the baptism record for his son George Thomas Buller Radford, his occupation is given as Private, 2nd East Surrey Regiment. He was no longer in the army by the census in 1901.

In 1911 George was living in Streatham with his wife Phoebe Elizabeth and three children. He was working as a boot repairer.

According to the National Probate Index his occupation at his death was munitions worker and army pensioner. His address in 1918 was 59 Smith Street, Coventry

ERNEST RADLEY

Square 183
Post 234

LANCE CORPORAL

2ND BN, OXFORD & BUCKS LIGHT INFANTRY

SERVICE NO 8085

DATE OF DEATH: 25TH NOVEMBER 1914

LOCATION: Square 183 Grave 88

Ernest was from Romford in Essex. He joined the army in 1902 and served eight years. After leaving the army he settled in Coventry. In 1911 he was living with his brother at 34 Trentham Road, Coventry. He was a millwright's labourer. He was well known in Coventry as a footballer, playing for Great Heath Football Club.

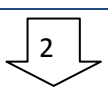
When war broke out as a member of the reserve he was immediately called up and arrived in France on 14th August 1914.

He was wounded in the arm and hand on 6th November near Ypres. The amputation of a finger was necessary while in hospital in France. He was transferred to Exeter hospital. Complications set in and he died in Exeter with his wife at his side.

Ernest was Mentioned in Despatches posthumously, the notice appeared in the London Gazette dated 17 February 1915 and was reported in local newspapers.

JOSEPH WILLIAM REED

Square 119
Post 133



CORPORAL

ROYAL ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS

SERVICE NO 09325

DATE OF DEATH: 14TH OCTOBER 1918

LOCATION: Square 119 Grave 69

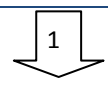
Joseph Reed enlisted on 16th August 1915. His address at the time was 33 Ludlow Road, Coventry. He was working as a clerk and after enlisting he continued to work as a clerk for the Army Ordnance Corps at Woolwich. In his service record he is described as a "superior, intelligent, smart recruit".

He was discharged on 6th October 1917 due to sickness, he had bronchitis, after 2 years and 52 days service. He was issued with a silver war badge to wear to show that he had served.

In 1919 his mother wrote to the War Office to ask why she had not received a memorial scroll or plaque for Joseph. The War Office informed her that his wife, Henrietta, was the official next of kin and as such she would receive the scroll and plaque. In her letter his mother referred to another son she had lost. This was George Edward Reed, a Lance Corporal in the Warwickshire Yeomanry. He died on 29 December 1917 and is buried in Twyford Church.

LEONARD NEVIL REYNOLDS

Square 239
Post 299



SAPPER

214 ARMY TROOP COMPANY, ROYAL ENGINEERS

SERVICE NO 91824

DATE OF DEATH: 27TH FEBRUARY 1919

LOCATION: Square 239 Grave 196

Leonard was a plumber from Stourport. He lived in Coventry with his widowed mother Adelaide at 76 Princess Street, Coventry

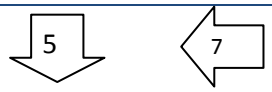
He served overseas – arriving in a theatre of war after 1st January 1916 as he is entitled to a British War and Victory Medal, not a star.

The Army Troop Companies were responsible for bridging and water work behind the lines. Unlike the Field Companies of the Royal Engineers they were not attached to a particular division and so could go where required.

He died in Coventry on 27th February 1919.

EDMUND GABRIEL RICE

Square 34-35
Post 46



LIEUTENANT

ROYAL AIR FORCE

DATE OF DEATH: 3RD MAY 1918

LOCATION: Square 34/35, Grave 42

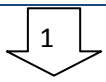
Edmund Rice was born in Hampstead, London in 1899 and attended Wolverhampton Grammar School and later Bedale School. He joined the Royal Naval Air Service in 1917 and trained at Crystal Palace and Manston before serving in France between December 1917 and March 1918. In March 1918 he was flying an aircraft on a scouting flight when he passed out at around 18,000ft, the aircraft entered a dive from which he came round in time to pull out of and land safely but he was posted back to England. He was assigned to instructional duties at Redcar soon after returning to England.

On 3rd May 1918 his aircraft spun into the ground near Redcar killing him and his pupil 2nd Lt Lionel Richard Thacker King RAF, aged 26, of West Kirby, Cheshire. Thacker is buried West Kirby Churchyard, Cheshire.

Edmund's father was living at 28 Much Park Street, Coventry, so that is why Edmund was buried in London Road Cemetery. This photograph of Edmund's funeral appeared in the Coventry Graphic dated 10 May 1918.

WILLIAM ROBERTS

Square 86
Post 106



PRIVATE

1ST BN, ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NO 8961

DATE OF DEATH: 19TH OCTOBER 1914

LOCATION: Square 86, Grave 6

In 1911 William was living with his parents and two brothers in Hill Street, Coventry. He gave his occupation as Cycle Finisher.

He was a keen cyclist and member of Stratford Cycling Club.

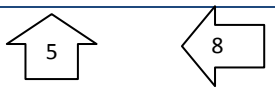
William had already served in the army before the war broke out and so was called up straight away. He was in France with the Royal Warwickshire Regiment within 2 weeks of the start of the war.

William was wounded during an attack on the village of Meteren. He was wounded in the body, arm and ankle by shell, shrapnel and rife fire. The 1st Battalion lost 41 men and had 85 wounded in that attack. He was brought back to England and died in Leeds hospital with his family and friends by his side.

Of his two brothers: Herbert and Percy Fred, Herbert served with 10th Bn Royal Warwickshire Regiment and was killed in action on 20 September 1917. Percy served with the Royal Warwickshire Regiment in Mesopotamia – he survived the war.

ERNEST CHARLES ROBINSON

Square 44
Post 46



LIEUTENANT

10TH SQUADRON, ROYAL AIR FORCE

DATE OF DEATH: 20TH JANUARY 1919

LOCATION: Square 44, Grave 26

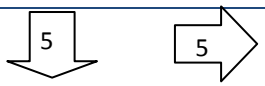
Ernest was from Stafford. In 1911 he was living in Coventry and working at the Ordnance Works.

He joined the Royal Air Force on 17th April 1918.

On 11 January 1919 he was admitted to 39 Stationary Hospital, Lille. He died on 20th January of pleurisy. He was buried in Lille Southern Cemetery in France. His obituary in the Coventry Graphic states that he joined up in August 1914 so it is possible that he served in the army before joining the RAF.

WILLIAM ROBINSON

Square 197
Post 249



COMPANY SERJEANT MAJOR

ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT/LABOUR CORPS

SERVICE NO 95401

DATE OF DEATH: 25TH MAY 1919

LOCATION: Square 197, Grave 143

William enlisted into the Royal Warwickshire Regiment on 27th January 1915.

He lived at 24 Warwick Lane in Coventry.

He was posted to 3rd Bn, Royal Warwickshire Regiment on 9th February 1915. This battalion would remain in the UK and supply drafts overseas.

On 21 June 1916 he was transferred to the Royal Berkshire Regiment and posted to 11th Labour Battalion. It was with this battalion that he was posted overseas on 24th July 1916.

He was transferred to 160 Labour Company on 9th May 1917.

He returned from France on 14th December 1918. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, this award appeared in the London Gazette of 18th January 1919. During 1916–1919, army NCOs could be awarded the medal immediately for meritorious service in the field. They could also be awarded the medal for acts of non-combat gallantry

He was discharged from the army on 19 May 1919. He died six days later of stomach cancer.

CHARLES WILFRED ROE

Square 98
Post 120

PRIVATE

4TH BN, DEVONSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NO 81204

DATE OF DEATH: 7TH MARCH 1919

LOCATION: Square 98, Grave 144

Charles lived at 12 Meadow St, Coventry.

He does not have a medal index card so did not serve overseas.

He died in hospital in Hampshire on 7th March 1919.

HAROLD EUGENE ROLLASON

Square 35
Post 47

BOMBARDIER

1/1 WARWICK BATTERY, ROYAL HORSE ARTILLERY

SERVICE NO 277

DATE OF DEATH: 11TH APRIL 1917

LOCATION: Square 35, Grave 47

In 1911, Harold was living with his parents at 1 Grantham Street, Coventry and working as a tailor, presumably for his father who was a Master Tailor.

Harold arrived at Le Havre in France on 31st October 1914 with the 1/1 Warwick Battery.

They first saw action on 13th December near Billieux.

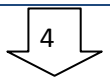
Over the next couple of years the battery saw action at Loos, Ypres and the Somme.

In April 1917, the battery was in action for 3 days at the beginning of the battle of Arras and it was then that Harold fell. Two complete detachments were killed on the first day alone, with another being lost the following day. In this action the battery lost more men than it had lost in the 26 months since it had arrived in France.

He is buried in Tilloy British Cemetery, near Arras.

MARK WELCH ROLLASON

Square 9
Post 17



PRIVATE

1ST BN, ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NO 11673

DATE OF DEATH: 23RD OCTOBER 1916

LOCATION: Square 9, Grave 18

Mark and his wife were from West Bromwich and before enlistment Mark worked for Daimler and lived at 14 Leicester Street.

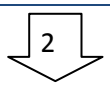
He did not arrive in France until after 1st January 1916.

On 15 December 1916 the Coventry Graphic published an appeal for information from Mark's wife as he had been reported wounded on October 23rd and was missing.

Sadly, on 17th August 1917 the Graphic reported that Mark was now assumed officially killed in action on that date. The war diary reports the battalion were on the Somme at the time; 150 other ranks were killed, wounded or missing that day. He was 40 years old. His name appears on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing. He left a widow and five children, at that time living at 25 Swan Street, Coventry.

E ROUND

Square 13
Post 22



PRIVATE

35TH BN, TRAINING RESERVE

SERVICE NUMBER: TR/8/17193

DATE OF DEATH: 11TH JUNE 1917

LOCATION: Square 13, Grave 28

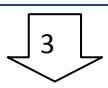
Listed as Herbert on Soldiers Died in the Great War but his name appears to be Hubert.

He and his family were from Dudley in the Black Country but in 1911 they were all living at 11 Coniston Road, Coventry.

He joined up as soon as he turned 18 because he was anxious to do his bit. He became ill whilst still in training. His funeral was attended by all his fellow employees from Coventry Brace Company.

WILLIAM JOHN SALMONS

Square 26
Post 34



SECOND LIEUTENANT

65 SQUADRON, ROYAL AIR FORCE

DATE OF DEATH: 22ND APRIL 1918

LOCATION: Square 26, Grave 153

In 1911 William was living with his mother and stepfather at 37 Lower Ford St, Coventry.

Before joining the Royal Flying Corps, William Salmons was in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. He arrived in France with them on 22nd March 1915. It is likely that he was therefore with either the 5th, 6th, 7th or 8th battalion.

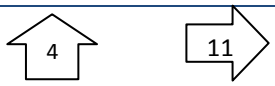
He was awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the field. This was in the London Gazette dated 11th November 1916 which meant it was most likely for some action on the Somme.

On 13th April 1918 he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Air Force and he died 10 days later when the plane he was training in crashed.

His medals and some personal belongings were discovered at Bablake School and reported in the Coventry Telegraph

GEORGE WILLIAM SATCHWELL

Square 210
Post 263



BOMBARDIER

B Battery, 330 BRIGADE, ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY

SERVICE NO 10919

DATE OF DEATH: 28TH OCTOBER 1918

LOCATION: Square 210, Grave 58

This headstone commemorates the children of George and Ann Satchwell: Edith and Frank who died in infancy as well as George William and Sidney Charles who were killed in action during the war.

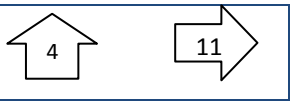
In 1911 the family were living at 51 Earl Street, Coventry.

George arrived in France on 7th July 1915. It is not clear which artillery brigade he was with on arrival. He was with 330 Brigade when he was killed but they did not arrive in France until 1917.

He was killed in action on 28th October 1918 along with 2 other men of his battery. They are all buried together in Pommereuil British Cemetery in France. His commanding officer wrote to his mother, "The battery was being shelled and his death was instantaneous."

SIDNEY CHARLES SATCHWELL

Square 210
Post 263



LANCE BOMBARDIER

264 BRIGADE, ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY

SERVICE NO 840770

DATE OF DEATH: 26TH NOVEMBER 1918

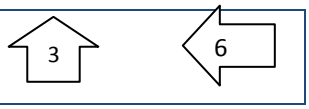
LOCATION: Square 210, Grave 58

Sidney arrived in a theatre of war sometime after 1st January 1916.

Less than a month after his brother George was killed in action, Sidney died. His medal card shows that he 'died' rather than was 'killed in action' so it seems possible that he died of illness. He was with 264 brigade when he died. Sidney is buried in Beirut War Cemetery.

WILLIAM CHARLES SATCHWELL

Square 183
Post 239



PRIVATE

7TH BN, ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NO 1473

DATE OF DEATH: 7TH JANUARY 1916

LOCATION: Square 183, Grave 20

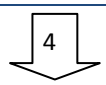
In 1911 William was living with his parents at 49 Mount Street, Coventry. His father Thomas was a watchmaker.

William was 18 years old when he died, his death was registered in Colchester.

He does not have a medal index card which indicates that he didn't serve overseas.

WILLIAM SHADBOLT

Square 182
Post 233



PRIVATE

4TH BN, GRENADIER GUARDS

SERVICE NO 19335

DATE OF DEATH: 30TH OCTOBER 1915

LOCATION: Square 182, Grave 45

William was born in Middlesex.

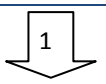
He was employed at a Motor Works in Coventry. He enlisted in the Grenadier Guards on 21st September 1914.

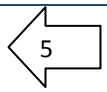
He arrived in France on 8th September 1915 and was wounded a fortnight later in the shoulder and leg in fighting around the Hohenzollern Redoubt.

His family were with him when he died in Northfield Military Hospital in Birmingham on 30th October 1915 from pneumonia and septic poisoning. He was buried with full military honours in London Road Cemetery. There were so many spectators their numbers had to be restricted in the cemetery.

ALFRED SHARMAN

Square 159
Post 213





PRIVATE

2/7TH BN, ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NO 20346

DATE OF DEATH: 26TH APRIL 1917

LOCATION: Square 159, Grave 194

Alfred was a photographer.

In 1911 Alfred was living at 24 Queen Street, Coventry with his parents and 6 siblings. His father, Frederick, was not working because of his health.

He enlisted on 11 December 1915.

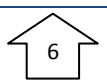
He arrived in Rouen in France on 11 October 1916 and was posted to the 2/7th Royal Warwickshire Regiment. This regiment was formed in Coventry.

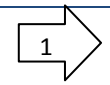
On 9th November 1916 he was admitted to 19 Casualty Clearing station with bronchitis. In December he was shipped back to the UK. The medical board on 18th December 1916 declared him no longer fit for service because he had contracted tuberculosis whilst on active service. He was admitted to Bramcote Sanatorium near Nuneaton on 23rd February 1917.

He died at home on 26th April 1917 and was buried in London Road Cemetery with full military honours. A firing party from Budbrooke barracks and buglers of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment sounded the Last Post.

AMOS SHENSTONE

Square 177
Post 229





PRIVATE

ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NO 18026

DATE OF DEATH: 10TH APRIL 1916

LOCATION: Square 177, Grave 106

Amos Shenstone was 59 when he died on 10th April 1916, much older than the average First World War casualty.

In 1911 Amos was widowed and living in a boarding house at 35 Much Park Street. He was working at the Royal Warwickshire Depot in Warwick. He does not

appear to have served overseas – too old perhaps. On his death registration his age is given as 49 so it seems he might have been a bit flexible with his age when he joined up.

JAMES WILLIAM SHEPPARD

Square 187
Post 257

PRIVATE

11TH BN, WORCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NO 17730

DATE OF DEATH: 2ND OCTOBER 1914

LOCATION: Square 187, Grave 68

James worked at the Whitworth works as an iron polisher and lived on Much Park Street with his wife Amy and 2 small children.

James must have joined up quite quickly but it looks like he died before he could get overseas to face the enemy. His death was registered in Bristol, the battalion was stationed at Codford St Mary about 40 miles away.

THOMAS SHORT

Square 191
Post 243

GUNNER

303 BDE ARTILLERY COLUMN, ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY

SERVICE NO 150273

DATE OF DEATH: 23RD DECEMBER 1917

LOCATION: Square 191, Grave 72

Thomas was 40 years old when he died. His death was registered in Bristol.

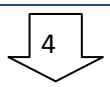
303 Brigade was part of 60th Div. The 303 moved across to France in June 1916 but did not take part in any major actions. On 1st November the division received orders to reorganise ready for a move to Salonika. Units left at Longpre by train between 14-25 November and, going

via Marseilles and Malta, assembled at Salonika on 25 December 1916 (Merry Christmas!). The Division then remained in Salonika and later moved to Egypt and Palestine.

The Coventry Roll of the Fallen states that Thomas was gassed. If this were the case this means that this is much more likely to have happened in the short period of time while the Division was in France which probably means he never made it to Salonika.

CECIL SIDWELL

Square 53
Post 53



LANCE CORPORAL

1/1 WARWICKSHIRE YEOMANRY

SERVICE NO 310549

DATE OF DEATH: 30TH JANUARY 1918

LOCATION: Square 53, Grave 97

Cecil was a clerk at Coventry Board of Guardians.

1/1 Warwickshire Yeomanry was made up of 4 Squadrons: A Squadron – Birmingham, B Squadron – Warwick, C Squadron – Coventry, D Squadron - Stratford-upon-Avon and was in the 1st South Midland Mounted Brigade.

12 September 1915 is the date that Cecil arrived in Egypt. The Warwickshire Yeomanry had been in Gallipoli for a month already. In early September severe sickness together with battle casualties resulted in a temporary reorganisation, merging with 1/1st Gloucestershire and 1/1st Worcestershire Yeomanry to form 1st South Midland Regiment, 1st Composite Mounted Brigade. They continued in trench warfare at Green Hill and Chocolate Hill sectors until evacuated to Mudros on 31 October 1915. In December they withdrew from Gallipoli and returned to Egypt.

On 4th August 1916 the Coventry Graphic printed pictures of Cecil and his three brothers who were also in the services. His brother Wilfred Henry died on 25 March 1917 and was buried in Etaples Military Cemetery in France.

Warwickshire Yeomanry was assigned to the Australian Mounted Division in February 1917, serving in Palestine as cavalry, and seeing action at the First and Second Battles of Gaza, the Charge at Huj as well as the Battle of Mughar Ridge and the Battle of Jerusalem

The Charge at Huj on 8 November 1917 was carried out by units of the 5th Mounted Brigade of which 1/1st Warwickshire Yeomanry was part, against a rearguard position of German, Austrian and Ottoman artillery and infantry armed with machine guns. The charge is claimed to be one of the last British cavalry charges and was immortalised in a watercolour painting by Lady Butler.

Advancing under cover of the terrain they got to within 300 yds of the position, drew their swords and charged. The Warwickshire Yeomanry squadron attacked the main force of Ottoman infantry, then turned and attacked the gun line. The regiment's other half squadron and the Worcestershire Yeomanry squadron attacked the guns from the front, while the remaining troops attacked an infantry position located at the rear behind the main force.

The German and Austrian artillerymen carried on firing until the horsemen were around 20 yds away then some took cover underneath their guns. Those that remained standing were mostly stabbed by the swords of the attacking British, while others running away from the guns escaped injury by lying on the ground.

All three charges were successful and the main force of infantry withdrew leaving the guns undefended apart from their crews. The yeomanry captured seventy prisoners, eleven artillery guns and four machine guns. British casualties amounted to twenty-six men dead, including three squadron commanding officers, and forty wounded, 100 horses were also killed in the charge.

John Wesley Edwards of the Worcester Yeomanry was killed in this charge.

Cecil died at sea on board Hospital Ship Kalyan on 30th January 1918 from sickness.

WILLIAM SIMMS

Square 198
Post 265

PRIVATE

9TH BN ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NO 2192

DATE OF DEATH: 23RD JUNE 1918

LOCATION: Square 198, Grave 61

William enlisted on 3rd September 1914. He was living at 157 Cambridge Street, Coventry with his wife and daughter.

He arrived in France on 4th May 1915. He joined 1st Bn Royal Warwickshire in the field. He wasn't there for long. On 24th May during an attack on Shelltrap Farm, he was shot in the right knee and left shoulder and was transferred back to England.

On 19th September he was posted to the 9th Battalion who were in Gallipoli. On 22nd April 1916 he was shot again, this time in the right arm during an attack on Sannaiyat. He was invalided to India on 14th May. He was treated in India and then sent to England on 28th August 1916.

He was discharged on 22 May 1918 as being no longer being physically fit, due to having been wounded. He died a month later.

WILLIAM SAMUEL SLATER

Square 55
Post 68

GUNNER

ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY

SERVICE NO 1164

DATE OF DEATH: 16TH APRIL 1919

LOCATION: Square 55, Grave 29

William lived at 24 Welford Place, Lockhurst Lane, Coventry.

He enlisted on 2nd September 1914. He was 16 years old, although he put that he was 19 on his enlistment papers.

He arrived in France on 12 July 1915 with C Battery, 78th Royal Field Artillery.

18th April 1916 he was held for a Field General Court Martial. The court martial took place on 27th April. He was sentenced to 6 months suspended but this was later remitted.

On 18th November 1916 at Grandcourt he was captured by the Germans and he became a prisoner of war and was held at several camps.

On his repatriation he was interviewed and this interview was transcribed:

Cambrai Nov 18th – Dec 16 1916

I stayed at Cambrai barracks about a fortnight. The barracks were very cold. I and the other men slept on mattresses, no blankets or other covering being supplied. The washing facilities were bad and the sanitary arrangements were not good.

After being at the barracks about a fortnight, I and the other men were taken by motor transport to the outskirts of Cambrai to an aeroplane shed and were employed in laying down brick pathways. There was no payment for the work. The discipline at the aeroplane shed was not very strict. I and the other men returned to the barracks at night, where the discipline was very severe. For the slightest thing men were punished. The punishment used to be to stand quite still out in a yard for an hour or two without moving. The men had not overcoats on and it was bitterly cold at the time.

The food consisted of the usual makeshift for coffee and bread. Mid-day, vegetable soup with pieces of swedes or turnips mixed up. Five o'clock, sometimes coffee and sometimes soup left over from dinner. There was a canteen, but nothing to buy except cigarettes. No food arrived from England at Cambrai.

As near as I can remember, I left Cambrai on the 16th December 1916, and I and a number of other men were sent to a working camp behind the lines at Roussoy.

Roussoy, 16th Dec to 30th Dec 1916

As far as I know, this camp was 14km from the front line. We could see the flashes of the guns in the sky and heard the bombardment quite plainly.

I and the other men were put into an old machine factory. There were tiers of beds but there were no mattresses, blankets or other covering provided. It was bitterly cold. The men on the lower tier slept on the stones without a bed.

I and the other men were employed in preparing the ground for laying railway sleepers. There was no payment for the work.

The food there was bad, worse than at Cambrai. It consisted of potato peelings and water. Barley water and swede water once a day only. One ration of bread.

A number of the men being ill, asked to see the doctor, and as a result they were punished. French civilians occasionally tendered men food and if the men took it they were punished. The punishment consisted of what is called 'still stand'.

The men who were reported sick were sometimes driven into a corner and lashed. I saw one man hit with a butt of a rifle because he was sick.

At this time most of the men (there were about 250) were covered with lice sores.

Up to this time we never had a change of clothes at all.

The men were also employed here in fetching water. Whilst we did this work we used to see French civilians, who used to give us food.

I think that I was about a fortnight at this place.

Vendhuile Dec 30th 1916 – Jan 28 1917

I was then sent to Vendhuile. The place was slightly nearer the front lines.

I and the other men were lodged in temporary buildings made of wood. There were mattresses at this place. There were no bedclothes and no blankets. It was bitterly cold.

The buildings had corrugated iron roofs, and the frost used to get through, and the men sleeping in the top tier of beds were covered with hoar frost in the morning.

This place was near a canal and I and the other men were employed in unloading barges. There was no payment for this work.

The food here was very bad, consisting of the same stuff as at the other camps .There was no canteen.

The men were punished for quite minor things, such as offering money to the French civilians for food. The punishment consisted of being tied to a pole of barbed wire for two or three hours at a time. The latrine at this place was a hole dug in the ground, and the smell from it was very bad.

At this time most of the men were suffering from dysentery. The men appealed to the doctor, but all he did was to knock the men off the bread, and the Germans gave us weak tea to drink instead of the bread.

At this camp about 18 Englishmen died from the result of dysentery or starvation.

At this camp we were employed in unloading granite blocks from barges, handing a block from man to man. Sometimes our hands got so cold we could not hold the granite blocks, and were obliged to hug them to us to keep them from falling to the ground. A number of the men dropped down from exhaustion and cold, and they would then be taken back to the camp and put on their beds. Beyond the doctor giving them some aspirin they received no other attention. We also repaired roads at this place.

At this time our underclothes being so full of vermin we had to throw them away, and we had to work in a tunic, trousers and shirt. We had no socks, but had rags wrapped round our feet and wooden clogs. The Germans had removed our boots.

I remained at this place until January 28th 1917. I was reported sick and from there I was removed to Cambrai Hospital.

Up to this time I had only been disinfected once.

It was snowing and very cold when I left the camp to go to Cambrai Hospital. I was put in an old cart with a handful of straw, but no covering. The journey in the cart to the railway station lasted about an hour and a half. There were six of us altogether. The name of the station was Epehy. From Epehy I went by train to Cambrai Hospital. The journey took from 7 in the morning to 6 o'clock at night. All the food we had was one day's bread ration.

Cambrai Hospital Jan 28th – Feb 6 1918

The hospital at Cambrai was a proper medical hospital. I was put into a dysentery ward.

No medicines were supplied . The orderlies were Russians who knew nothing. There was no medical treatment.

The beds were good. The food was good.

I have nothing to complain about this hospital.

There were English, Russians and French all treated about the same.

The doctor was all right. I do not know his name. I had no operation there.

I left Cambrai Hospital on the 6th February 1917 and was sent to Minden.

Minden Feb 8 – June 1st 1917

On arriving at Minden I was put into the Camp Hospital

From Minden I was sent to Cassel Camp

Cassel June 2 – October 26th 1917

From Cassel I was sent to Langensalza

Langensalza October 27th 1917 – April 23 1918

From Langensalza I was sent to Aachen

Aachen April 24th to May 1 1918

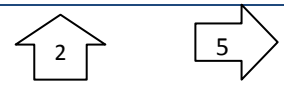
Opinion of Examiner – I consider this man intelligent and any statement he makes can be relied upon – Clitheroe Smith, Examiner.

Having read the interview it is perhaps no surprise that on his release he was discharged from the army as being no longer physically fit. The Medical board diagnosed him as having Valvular heart disease, a disorder of the heart in which the mitral valve does not close properly when the heart pumps out blood. This resulted in weakness and palpitations and the medical board confirmed that this was as a result of his time as a prisoner.

He died on 16th April 1919 of pneumonia.

AUBREY LAWRENCE SMITH

Square 84
Post 103



AIRCRAFTMAN 2ND CLASS

141 SQN, ROYAL AIR FORCE

SERVICE NO 263755

DATE OF DEATH: 30TH APRIL 1920

LOCATION: Square 84, Grave 73

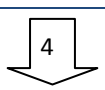
Aubrey was the son of George Smith who was a carpenter and undertaker. They lived at 50 Adelaide Street, Coventry.

His death was registered in Dublin. 141 Squadron was based at RAF Tallaght in Dublin in 1919. It was disbanded in February 1920

Coventry Roll of the Fallen states that he was killed whilst flying. He was 19 years old.

ERNEST FREDERICK SMITH

Square 227
Post 293



PRIVATE

6TH BN, NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NO 2549

DATE OF DEATH: 22ND OCTOBER 1915

LOCATION: Square 227, Grave 161

Ernest was a miner from Tamworth when he enlisted in the army on 1st September 1914 joining the 1/6th North Staffordshire Regiment, the Tamworth Territorials.

He arrived in France on 4th March 1915.

The action at Hohenzollern Redoubt in October 1915 was the battalion's first major action.

On the 13 October 1915 the fresh 46th (North Midland) Division (TF) launched a major assault which began with ineffective use of poison gas and minimal use of artillery which was met by intense machine-gun and rifle fire resulting in the loss of 80 officers and 3,583 men, mostly in the first 10 minutes

During the charge at Loos Ernest was badly hit in the chest. He died of these wounds nine days later at the West Riding Clearing Station, aged 29. A comrade, Pte Harold C Chandler, wrote to Mrs Smith from the Birmingham War Hospital, stating that he was by Ernest's side in the great charge on the German trenches.

Both were attached to a bombing party, and before going over the parapet they shook hands and agreed whoever pulled through would write home and give what info they could.

It would soften the blow to know that her husband met his death like a hero, knowing no fear, and doing his duty like the brave soldier he was.

He had only gone ten yards before receiving the wound that proved fatal.

After the action 1/6th North Staffs reported casualties : 17 officers, 298 other ranks. Of those 298, 87 were fatalities.

Ernest left a wife and one son. His widow ,Mary Ann married William Henry Farndon in the spring of 1917.

FREDERICK GEORGE SMITH

Square 141
Post 163

SECOND LIEUTENANT

ROYAL FLYING CORPS

DATE OF DEATH: 8TH FEBRUARY 1918

LOCATION: Square 141, Grave 173

Frederick was born on 15th November 1897, the only son of Henry Smith of Gloucester Street, Coventry.

He attended Rugby School between 1912 and 1913. After leaving the school he started working for BTH Coventry as an electrical engineer.

He joined up in July 1917. He was accidentally killed while flying at Basingstoke.

GEORGE WILLIAM SMITH

Square 183
Post 234

PRIVATE

5TH BN, ROYAL BERKSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NUMBER: 43093

DATE OF DEATH: 31ST OCTOBER 1918

LOCATION: Square 183, Grave 94

In 1911, George was living at 37 Drapers Fields, Coventry. His father worked at the Ordnance Works.

George joined up in April 1917. He was in the 5th Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment.

He was wounded on 15th October along with 7 other men from the battalion. At the time the battalion was in action in France throughout the autumn of 1918.

He is buried in Terlincthun British Cemetery on the outskirts of Boulogne.

It was primarily used for burials from the base hospitals in the area.

WILLIAM JOSEPH STANLEY

Square 126
Post 147

PRIVATE

DEVONSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NUMBER: 41541

DATE OF DEATH: 14TH OCTOBER 1917

LOCATION: Square 126, Grave 207

In 1911 William was living at 12 Godiva Street, Coventry and working as a car cleaner. His parents were Thomas and Maria Stanley and William had siblings: Polly, Nellie, Arthur and Doris.

He joined the Devonshire Regiment and was later transferred to the Labour Corps.

His death was registered in Amesbury, Wiltshire. Coventry Roll of the Fallen states that he died of pneumonia.

His brother Arthur joined the Grenadier Guards in September 1914. Later he was transferred to the Motor Transport of the Army Service Corps. He was punished a couple of times for driving excessively fast ie 8-9 mph.

JOHN STEVENS

Square 194
Post 246

PRIVATE

4TH BN, DEVONSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NUMBER: 205731

DATE OF DEATH: 17TH JUNE 1917

LOCATION: Square 194, Grave 146

John was 48 years old when he died. He had served 16 years in the army.

He was from Cirencester and enlisted in the Devonshire Regiment.

He does not appear to have served overseas.

At the time of his death he was working on Pearman's farm at Ryton on Dunsmore. During a thunderstorm he unfortunately chose to shelter under a large tree. His dead body was found under the tree by a woman cycling past. It was determined that he had been hit by lightening.

His grave was paid for by the Officer Commanding Royal Warwickshire Regiment Depot in Warwick.

LEONARD FRANK STRINGER

Square 211
Post 272

CORPORAL

10TH BN, WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NUMBER: 307496

DATE OF DEATH: 22ND MARCH 1918

LOCATION: Square 211, Grave 96

Leonard Stringer was a hairdresser, living at 59 Mayfield Road, Coventry.

He enlisted on 20 January 1916.

He departed for France on 19th November that year, arriving the following day. He joined the 10th Bn Royal Warwickshire Regiment.

On 3rd December 1916 he was posted to 2/8th Royal Warwickshire Regiment. That spring and summer he was in and out of hospital with fevers and stomach upsets. During this time he appears to have been posted at a Base Depot in France. On 8th September he was returned to the 10th Royal Warwickshires and joined them in the field. He was Company Barber.

In January 1918 he went back to the England for a brief period of leave.

Leonard went missing sometime between 21st and 26th March during the Spring Offensive.

In 1919, his paybook was discovered by the Germans and sent to the War Office and this was accepted as proof that he had been killed in action so he was presumed killed on or since 21st March 1918.

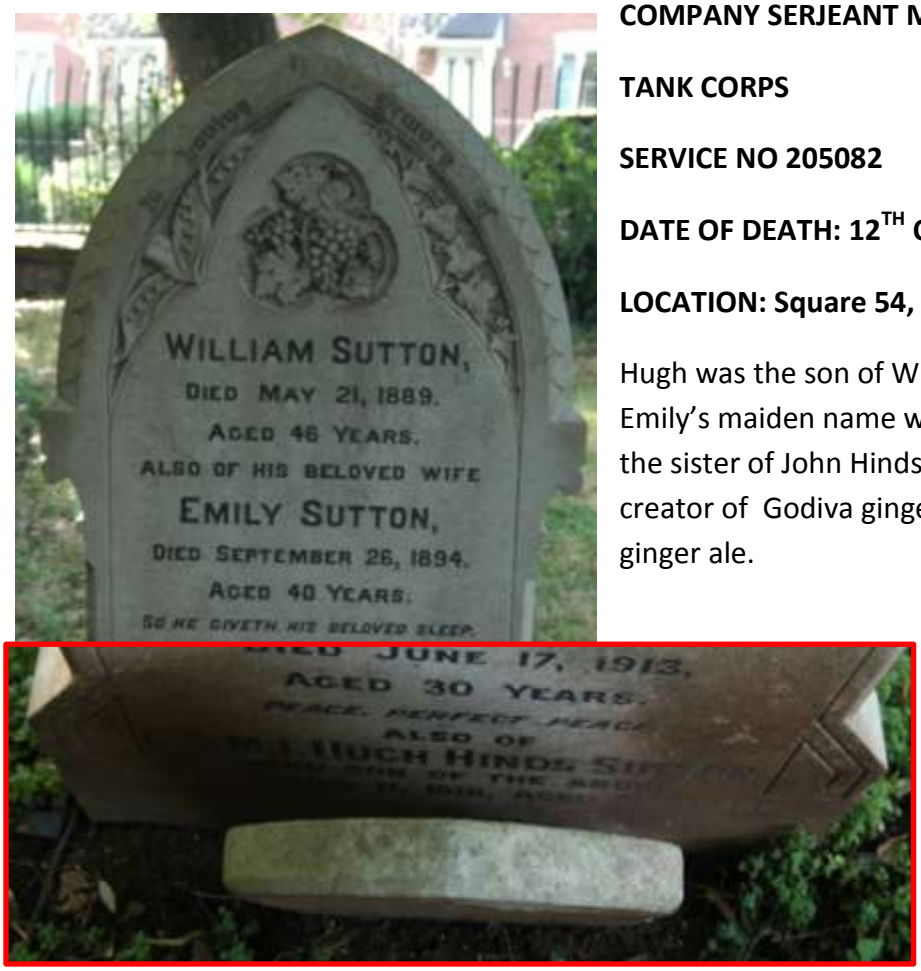
In 1924 the Officer in Charge of Infantry records, Warwick, wrote to Leonard's father to inform him that information obtained from German records showed that Leonard had in fact died as a prisoner of war on 27th March 1918.

Leonard is buried in Bancourt Cemetery, in France.

This headstone also memorialises Ernest Tansley, Leonard's brother in law.

HUGH HINDS SUTTON

Square 54
Post 68



COMPANY SERJEANT MAJOR

TANK CORPS

SERVICE NO 205082

DATE OF DEATH: 12TH OCTOBER 1918

LOCATION: Square 54, Grave 6

Hugh was the son of William and Emily Sutton. Emily's maiden name was Hinds and she was the sister of John Hinds, dentist, chemist and creator of Godiva ginger ale and Peeping Tom ginger ale.

Hugh was initially a gunner in the Mounted Machine Gun Corps of the Royal Field Artillery. He arrived in France with them on 9th March 1915. Later he became a Company Sergeant Major in the Tank Corps.

Hugh died in Dorset.

ERNEST TANSLEY

Square 211
Post 272

PRIVATE

21ST BN, MANCHESTER REGIMENT

SERVICE NUMBER: 49585

DATE OF DEATH: 24TH OCTOVER 1917

LOCATION: Square 211, Grave 96

Ernest was an assurance agent, living on Cambridge Street, with his wife Ellen and daughter Elsie according to the 1911 census.

Ernest was in 21st Bn, Manchester Regiment. This was one of the 7 'Pals' battalions from Manchester. On 24th October 1971 at Passchendale, 107 men of the 21st Manchesters were killed in action. Ernest is buried in Perth Cemetery just outside Ypres.

Ernest's wife Ellen died on 11th November 1918, the final day of the war that took her husband and brother, she was 36 years old.

WILFRED EDWARD TAYTON

Square 91
Post 106

SECOND LIEUTENANT

6TH BN, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE REGIMENT

DATE OF DEATH: 17TH NOVEMBER 1918

LOCATION: Square 91, Grave 64

Wilfred was a school teacher living at 21 Norfolk Street, Coventry in 1911.

In the summer of 1915 Wilfred married Mabel Foster in Nuneaton.

Initially he enlisted as a private into the 28th London Regiment also known at the Artists

Rifles.

He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant and assigned to the Northamptonshire Regiment from 26th April 1917.

On 10th August 1917 the 6th Northamptonshire Regiment was involved in an action to dislodge the Germans from high ground at Westhoek. The attacking troops were subject to intense shelling as they went over. The assault battalions were isolated from reinforcements and supplies by accurate German shelling and in the afternoon enemy counter-attacks recovered most of the British gains. Despite many British casualties this major assault accomplished merely the occupation of Westhoek and an advance of around 450 yards to the north and south of that village. Reports in national and international press reported a significant victory. 23 other men of the battalion were killed that day.

Wilfred was initially listed as missing and his widow was not sure of his actual death date when she registered for probate in October 1919. His name appears on the Menin Gate in Ypres.

Mabel did not remarry and died on 21st August 1942 in Attleborough, Nuneaton.

CHARLES JOHN TEALE

Square 37
Post 49

PRIVATE

ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS

SERVICE NO M/333404

DATE OF DEATH: 2ND JUNE 1919

LOCATION: Square 37, Grave 98

In 1911 Charles was living at 24 Newcombe Road, Earlsdon with his wife Edith and their daughter, Edith Marjorie. He was working as a chauffeur.

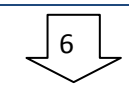
He joined the Army Service Corps as a driver.

Charles is memorialised on the Madras War Memorial but his grave is in Trimulgherry Cantonment Cemetery, India.

He was 40 years old when he died.

JAMES THOMAS THOMPSON

Square 37
Post 37



GUNNER

8TH BN, TANK CORPS

SERVICE NO 202006

DATE OF DEATH: 29TH SEPTEMBER 1918

LOCATION: Square 37, Grave 158

This headstone memorialises two brothers: James and William Thompson. In 1911 they were both living at 38 Sherbourne Street with their widowed father who was also called James.

James's name appears on the Vis En Artois memorial to the missing.

The *Tank Corps* was formed from the Heavy Branch Machine Gun Corps on 27 July 1917

and the Battalions adopted numbering rather than letter designations (although tank names followed the same lettering: for example, 7th Battalion tanks were all named with a letter G, like Grouse, Grumble, etc.) 8TH Bn was therefore originally designated as H Battalion. Each Tank Battalion had a complement of 32 officers and 374 men.

Coventry played an important part in the life of the First Tank Crews. The Coventry offices of the enthusiasts magazine "Motor Cycle" was listed as a recruiting office for the Motor Machine Gun Service; the Editor Geoffrey Smith using his paper to draw in young mechanics to serve with the MMGS. Men from the MMGS formed a major source of the First Tank Crews; many were enlisted, medically assessed and undertook trade tests in Coventry to see if they were competent.

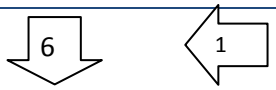
8th Battalion Tank Corps took part in the Battle of Amiens on August 8th, 1918

James was killed on 29th September 1918 at Bellicourt on the first day of the pivotal Battle of St Quentin Canal which involved British, Australian and American forces. Under the command of Australian general Sir John Monash, the assault achieved all its objectives, resulting in the first full breach of the Hindenburg Line, in the face of heavy German resistance. A James Cleaver served on the 8th Bn tank 'Henry VIII' and recorded in his diary:

> *"Started off at 5am after a good breakfast, this is rather a hot quarter. about 9am we had our officer gassed and then we had engine trouble and had to stop and he started shelling us, and he dropped one a bit close, I think that German must have been a decent sort as he gave me a nice little bit through my leg, then I made my way back to an American dressing station"*

WILLIAM GEORGE THOMPSON

Square 37
Post 37



PRIVATE

9TH BN, ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NO 16641

DATE OF DEATH: 25TH JANUARY 1917

LOCATION: Square 37, Grave 158

William was killed on 25th January on the Hai Salient, 200 km south east of Baghdad along with many other men of the 9th Battalion.

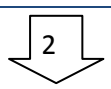
On that day: "At 0930 on the 25th January 1917 the British artillery opened a sudden intense bombardment against the enemy's second line defence, then shortened their range to hit

their front line after which the attacking battalions, the 9th Worcesters and 7th North Staffordshires, advanced. The enemy's front line was won but there was an awkward trench-junction which exposed the North Staffordshires to attack and this developed at about midday with Turkish bombers attacking assisted by a trench-howitzer whose fire was devastating so that that Battalion had to retire, carrying with them the left flank of "B" Company of the Worcesters. The Battalion Reserve of the Worcesters was ordered forward and this enabled the trench to be reoccupied but the 9th Royal Warwickshire had been ordered forward from Brigade reserve. They were gallantly led by their CO Lieutenant Colonel Edward Elers Delavel Henderson in person, who had been shot in the arm just before, jumping on to the parapet and shouting to his men to follow, advancing and cheering them on under most intense fire. He was shot down but rose and again led in the most gallant manner till the Warwickshire were within 100 yards of the Turks. The Battalion raced in with fixed bayonets, effectively pushing through the retiring troops and, followed immediately by them, regained the whole of the first objective re-establishing the position from end to end. Colonel Henderson was again twice wounded and as he lay out in the open Captain R E Phillips who had already shown great courage in the attack went out under very heavy fire and with the help of a comrade succeeded in bringing him back to die in the British trenches. At the trench junction the Warwickshire advance was stayed. Then for a while the Turkish counter attacks died down. The guns of both sides kept up an intense fire, and the losses of the Turks in the crowded salient must have been heavy. Once more the destructive trench howitzer came into action from the river bank and the Turkish bombers attacked the trench-junction from all sides. The 9th Warwickshire withstood the attack as bravely as the 7th North Staffordshire had done; but once more the combination of fire from all sides shattered the defence. Step by step the Royal Warwickshires were driven back and a similar attack near the river wore down the resistance of the 9th Worcestershire. At length about 1515 ammunition began to give out. The remnant of the Royal Warwickshire fell back from the left flank of the trench and retired across the open. As they retired the leaderless platoons of the 9th Worcestershire fell back in line with them until they reached the British front line and filed into and occupied the trench preparing this for defence. The artillery of both sides pounded the opposing trench lines savagely for another hour, then the firing died down and on the front west of the Hai the battle ceased. Darkness fell and fresh troops of the 14th Division took over the battered trenches. The 9th Warwickshire lost as well as Colonel Henderson 4 officers killed, 7 wounded (1 mortally) and of other ranks 52 were killed, 118 wounded and 11 missing." Colonel Henderson was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross.

William is buried in Amara War Cemetery in Iraq.

WALTER THORPE

Square 86
Post 106



PRIVATE

2ND BN, ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NO 5080

DATE OF DEATH: 20TH JUNE 1915

LOCATION: Square 86, Grave 18

In 1911 Walter was living at 40 Oxford Street, Coventry with his mother and stepfather, Samuel Bridges. He was working as an 'overlooker' in the cloth industry.

He married Alice Warden in the spring of 1915 shortly before leaving for France. He arrived on 4th May and joined the battalion in the field a week later along with 112 other soldiers.

Walter was wounded when he sat down to take a rest after filling sandbags, a shell came over and exploded wounding him badly. He died at a dressing station.

Walter is buried in Gorre British and Indian Cemetery in France. He was 22 years old. "Your great loss is our great loss too, for he was one of the best fellows in the section always cheerful and ready for anything."

AUSTIN TIMMINS

Square 59
Post 64

LANCE CORPORAL

778 MT COMPANY, ARMY SERVICE CORPS

SERVICE NO M2/202316

DATE OF DEATH: 16TH AUGUST 1919

LOCATION: Square 59, Grave 90

Austin Timmins worked for E Laxon & Co, Provision Merchants of Bishop Street, Coventry as a storekeeper before joining the Army Service Corps as a lorry driver on 27th November 1915.

He arrived in Salonika on 2 October 1916 with 778th Mechanical Transport Company.

Austin contracted malaria in 1918 and on 9th February 1919 he was invalided back to the UK.

Malaria was a major issue for the army. In an average British strength of 124,000, there were 162,512 admissions to hospital for malaria during the years 1916 to 1918, in contrast to 23,762 killed, wounded, prisoner, and missing in action. In the spring of 1918, about 25,000 British soldiers were sent home from Macedonia with chronic malaria, and, apart from these evacuees, over 2,000,000 man-days were lost to the British Army in this area in 1918 because of malaria.

HARRY TONKS

Square 219
Post 274

PRIVATE

1ST BN, WORCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NO 235288

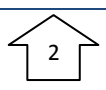
DATE OF DEATH: 24TH NOVEMBER 1917

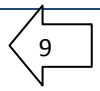
LOCATION: Square 219, Grave 134

Harry lived at 5 Waterloo Street, Coventry with his parents and brother, John William. Harry died of wounds on 24th November 1917 and is buried in Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery in Belgium. It is difficult to say when Harry received his fatal wounds, the battalion was active around Ypres throughout the Autumn of 1917.

ARTHUR TRICKETT

Square 55
Post 68





PRIVATE

14TH BN, ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NO 26204

DATE OF DEATH: 28TH AUGUST 1918

LOCATION: Square 55, Grave 28

Arthur Trickett was killed in action on 28th August 1918. He was initially missing but in October the Coventry Graphic reported that his parents had been informed that he was actually killed on that date.

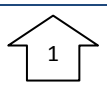
Arthur was in 14th Bn, Royal Warwickshire Regiment, one of the Birmingham Pals battalions.

5 men of 14th battalion were killed in action that day near Cambrai.

Arthur is buried in Mory Abbey Military Cemetery in France.

ROY CUMESTREE TROUT

Square 141
Post 163



LIEUTENANT

2ND AUSTRALIAN FLYING SQUADRON

DATE OF DEATH: 27TH JULY 1917

LOCATION: Square 141, Grave 174

Roy Cumestree Trout was an agricultural chemist from Brisbane. He passed his flying certificate in May 1916 at the Central Flying School, Laverton in Australia.

He enlisted on 8th August 1916. He left Australia on 25th October and arrived in Devonport on Christmas Day 1916.

He belonged to 69th Squadron based near Lincoln but was temporarily attached to the Aeroplane Acceptance Park at Coventry as a delivery pilot.

He was accidentally killed on 27 July 1917 while flying an RE8 near Coventry.

A court of enquiry was held at Coventry Aerodrome on 29th July. The court concluded that his death was caused due to his inexperience of RE8 and a possible failure of the elevator control.

A letter from the Brigadier General Commanding the Northern Training Brigade later refuted the idea that he was inexperienced with RE8s saying he had flown almost 2hrs in one before arriving at Coventry and had then successfully delivered an RE8 from Coventry to Lympne.

According to eyewitnesses on the day of the accident, Roy left Coventry on RE8 number A3772 at 10.20am with instructions to deliver it to Lympne. He was seen to make 2 strange banking manoeuvres before going into a spin then a nosedive and crashing behind White & Poppes factory (which was a munitions factory). Officers from the aerodrome sped around by car and arrived to find the plane in flames and firemen from the factory working to put out the flames. Faults were noted on the elevator control, as though it had snapped off when Roy pulled it to try to get out of the nosedive.

He was buried in London Road Cemetery at 2.30pm on 1st August with full military honours.

HARRY HASSALL UNDERWOOD

Square 89
Post 107

SAPPER

89TH FIELD COMPANY, ROYAL ENGINEER

SERVICE NO 49387

DATE OF DEATH: 26TH SEPTEMBER 1915

LOCATION: Square 89, Grave 8

In 1911 Harry Underwood was living at 100 Newcombe Road, Coventry with his mother and stepfather.

Before joining up Harry worked at Alfred Wells

Harry arrived in France on 23rd May 1915. He was killed in action four months later during the battle of Loos when the 89th Field Company were involved in the attack on Bellewaarde.

He was originally buried in the Menin Road North Cemetery but this cemetery was destroyed and so his name appears on the memorial in the Menin Road South Cemetery.

HENRY 'HARRY' WALKER

Square 188
Post 240

SAPPER

ROYAL ENGINEERS

SERVICE NO 236581

DATE OF DEATH: 9TH OCTOBER 1919

LOCATION: Square 188, Grave 48

Harry arrived in a theatre of war after 1st January 1916.

Harry served in several different regiments during the war: Devonshire Regiment, Berkshire Regiment, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry and finally the Royal Engineers.

Harry Walker was 34 years old when he died at Birmingham Special Military Surgical Hospital. At this time the hospital was specialising in orthopaedics.

ERNEST THOMAS WARD

Square 191
Post 243

PRIVATE

DURHAM LIGHT INFANTRY

SERVICE NO 23034

DATE OF DEATH: 22ND JANUARY 1919

LOCATION: Square 191, Grave 45

Ernest was a 22 year old mechanic when he enlisted into the 15th Bn Durham Light Infantry on September 1914. He was living on Sherbourne Street, Coventry.

He was ill with pneumonia before leaving for France, spending three weeks in hospital in Aylesbury in June 1915. He finally arrived in France on 11th September, just in time for the battle of Loos. The 15th Bn Durham Light Infantry was active on the Somme and at Passchendale. He was wounded in the hand on 2nd April 1917.

He left France on 6th March 1918 having been diagnosed once again with pneumonia. He died at Mill Dam VAD hospital in South Shields on 22nd January 1919.

ERNEST EDWARD WARING

Square 34
Post 47

PRIVATE

7TH BN, ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NO 1773

DATE OF DEATH: 14TH JULY 1916

LOCATION: Square 34, Grave 44

Ernest arrived in France on 22nd March 1915.

The Coventry Graphic of 7th May 1915 ran the following story about Ernest:

The Cigarette Box that saved Private Waring

From the front, Ernest had sent to 'The Coventry Graphic' a parcel containing a tobacco box, a German bullet and an exciting account of how the tobacco box saved him from being fatally wounded by the bullet. Private Waring said "I was struck by the bullet on the morning of April 16th and there is little doubt that the box of tobacco saved my life. It happened about 7.00am, we had some trouble with a German sniper ever since daylight, and a very good shot he was. He had hit the top of the sandbags about six times and each time he sent a shower of dirt right into our breakfast. Everyone of his shots hit about the same place. After a time he slackened a little, so I, being the duty sentry at the time, got the periscope to look over the parapet and see if I could locate his position.

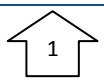
I could not see him, but he must have seen the top of the periscope, for just as I was going to get down to the bottom of the trench a shot came right through the parapet and struck me over the right breast. It hit a tobacco box I was carrying in my pocket, then struck downwards through my two shirts and just caught my ribs. I was bowled clean over. I thought at the time that the bullet had entered my body, as it could not be found. I had to wait all day and until dark before being able to go out and see the doctor; but when he had examined the wound he assured me it was only a scratch. I was able to walk back to our billets (a large barn) and next morning I found the bullet in my sock, where it had fallen during the night"

On 14th July 1916 the 7th Battalion was on the Somme at La Boisselle. The war diary reports that there were 150 casualties that day, mainly from machine gun fire, 68 of whom were killed.

Ernest's name appears on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing.

WILLIAM WATTS

Square 29
Post 30



PRIVATE

ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NO 17298

DATE OF DEATH: 26TH MARCH 1916

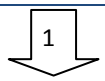
LOCATION: Square 29, Grave 12

Landlord of The Pheasant, 27 Well Street, Coventry, William enlisted into the 17th Bn Royal Warwickshire Regiment which supplied drafts to the 3 Birmingham Pals battalions: 14th, 15th and 16th Royal Warwickshire Regiments. He was assigned to the 15th Bn but did not make it overseas.

He had only been in camp for a day when he had to be sent to the guardroom because he was drunk, out of control and abusive. He attempted to cut his throat with a pen knife while in custody. He died shortly afterwards in hospital. The verdict of the coroner was that the cause of death was alcohol poisoning.

DANIEL WHITEHOUSE

Square 199
Post 265



PRIVATE

ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NO 9701

DATE OF DEATH: 31ST OCTOBER 1918

LOCATION: Square 199, Grave 195

In 1911, Daniel was living at 27 Stockton Road, Coventry with his parents and three brothers.

On 11th August 1916 the Coventry Graphic printed a photograph of Daniel and two of his brothers. Daniel is the one in the centre.

At the time of enlisting on 5th September 1914, Daniel was living at 47 Stoney Stanton Road Coventry.

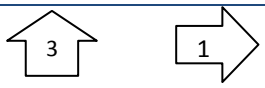
Daniel was initially posted into the 9th Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment and it was with them that he landed in Gallipoli in June 1915. He left here on 18th October 1915 with bronchitis and spent some time back in the UK. On 14th June 1916 he was sent to France with the 2nd Bn, Royal Warwickshire Regiment, arriving just in time for the start of the Somme. On 23rd July 1916 he was transferred to the 11th Battalion. He was with them until 13th December 1916 when he was shipped back to the UK having sustained a shrapnel wound in his back and thigh on 18th November 1916 at the Battle of Ancre.

He was transferred to the Labour Corps on 8th August 1917 and on 12th October he was found no longer physically fit to serve.

He died the following year on 31st October 1918.

CHARLES JAMES WILLDAY

Square 90
Post 111



2nd PRIVATE

RECRUITS DEPOT, ROYAL AIR FORCE

SERVICE NO 198630

DATE OF DEATH: 29TH JUNE 1918

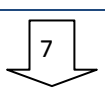
LOCATION: Square 90, Grave 168

Charles was born in 1891 in Coventry.

He did not serve overseas. He died in Blandford in Dorset.

WILLIAM WILSON

Square 207
Post 276



PRIVATE

3RD BN, CHESHIRE REGIMENT

SERVICE NO 12474

DATE OF DEATH: 28TH MAY 1915

LOCATION: Square 207, Grave 131

William was a 26 year old gas fitter when he enlisted into the Cheshire Regiment on 24 January 1915. He was also a member of the Fire Brigade

Only a few months later, still in training, he died at Sandiway Billet in Birkenhead of bronchitis and heart failure. Ironically he appears to have died suddenly following a fire drill. He left a wife called Rose and four children: Margaret, William, Henry and Horace.

ALFRED HARRY WOOLGAR

Square 184
Post 239

ABLE SEAMAN

HMS RATTLESNAKE, ROYAL NAVY

SERVICE NO J/5454

DATE OF DEATH: 5TH NOVEMBER 1918

LOCATION: Square 184, Grave 27

Alfred joined the Royal Navy on 29th August 1909 and was trained at HMS Ganges at Shotley.

His first ship was the armoured cruiser HMS Leviathan.

On the 1911 census Alfred was serving as a Boy 1st Class on HMS Achilles, an armoured cruiser. He was promoted to Ordinary Seaman on 27 November 1911 on this ship.

He achieved the rank of Able Seaman in March 1913.

When war broke out he was serving on board HMS Paragon which was serving with the Grand Fleet. After a period of training, he joined HMS Implacable on 11 October 1916 which was part of the 3rd Detached Squadron and was based at Salonika. He left this ship on 9 July 1917 to join HMS Rattlesnake, a beagle-class destroyer.

He died of flu in Plymouth Royal Naval Hospital.

CHARLES YATES

Square 191
Post 252

CORPORAL

HMS COVENTRY, ROYAL MARINE LIGHT INFANTRY

SERVICE NO CH/19287

DATE OF DEATH: 24TH JULY 1920

LOCATION: Square 191, Grave 187

Charles was born in 1896, the illegitimate son of Beatrice Yates. While the headstone says Charles Cleaver Yates he appears to have used Burdett as his middle name. Cleaver was the name of the man his mother married later.

Yates joined the Royal Marine Light Infantry on 13 October 1914 in Nottingham.

He was posted to the 8th Royal Marine Battalion on 2nd June 1920. The battalion sailed to Cork in HMS Valiant and Warspite before being taken by destroyer to protect coastguard and signal stations around the coast. Yates was posted to Ballyvaughn coastguard station. On 10 July Yates was shot in front of witnesses by Private Cecil George Redvers Helmore who then tried to shoot himself. Yates died 14 days later in Cork Military Hospital. Helmore was convicted of murder by a Field General Court Martial in February 1921. He was sentenced to be hung but this was commuted to life in prison and later reduced further to five years. Helmore died in Puckane, Nenagh, Ireland on 7th November 1974.