

# Fordham's Finest - Preserving the Memory

Written and researched by

Wendy Shepherd

A Fordham Local History Society

Community Project

to Commemorate the Centenary

of the

Great War



Supported by

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through the Heritage Lottery Fund



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and Fordham Local History Society  
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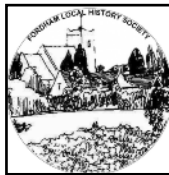
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This book is dedicated to the memory of the men from the parish of  
Fordham who died, and of those who returned  
in the service of their country in the Great War 1914 -1918.

Fred Arnold 1918  
Edgar Harvey Bailey 1917  
Arthur William Balls 1916  
Amos Arthur George Boutell 1917  
Frederick Cyril Broyd 1918  
Arthur Hepburn Bull 1915  
George Bunting 1917  
Percy William Cant 1917  
Robert Edward Cawdron 1918  
Alfred George Chinnery 1915  
Edward Henry Crisp 1916  
Stanley Davey 1916  
Charles Samuel Everitt 1918  
Reginald Clement Francis 1914  
Frederick Benjamin Francis 1918  
Charles William Horne 1916  
Albert Edward Kettle 1918  
Henry William Kettle 1917  
Walter Miller 1914  
Charles Wallace Partridge 1918  
Walter Perry 1918  
Hercules Charles Pettitt 1917  
Thomas Edward Potkin 1918  
Alfred Henry Pudney 1918  
Albert Rayner 1917  
John Thomas Rayner 1916  
Walter Edward Starling 1915  
Charles Sidney Taylor 1918  
Harry George Webber 1918

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## Acknowledgements

During the production of this book Fordham Local History Society has drawn on the assistance of many people and we would like to thank them for their help.

- Members of FLHS particularly Marlene Boyle, Paul Doughty, Jenny Kay, Wendy Shepherd and Jane Smith.
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- Local groups and Fordham Parish Council for their positive support to the project and for financial assistance.
- Nicky Gibbs who worked with Wendy Shepherd on the scheme of work for the school.
- The War Graves Photographic Project and Steve Rogers for allowing us to use their photographs in the publication.
- Soren Hawkes who after a chance meeting at a county history fayre at Detling Kent offered to produce some original artwork free of charge for our book and exhibition.
- The Heritage Lottery Fund whose grant allowed us to fulfil our community project

## Introduction

In 2014 The Heritage Lottery Fund set up a special grant programme called 'First World War: Then and Now' to mark the centenary of the Great War. This programme gave communities the chance to discover more about the war, to understand how it affected their community and to explore what it means to us today.

Fordham Local History Society (FLHS) a small group of enthusiasts founded in March 1997, meet once a month in Fordham Village Hall in Essex. They explore and experience local, national and international themes in order to learn about the history of the locality and how it has been shaped by people and events. In June 2015 FLHS was successful with their application to the Heritage Lottery for a grant from this special programme towards a community project which focused on the village war memorial.

Fordham's war memorial stands proud on the junction of Ponders Road, Church Road and Moat Road. Our memorial may not be as grand as the one in Colchester; but the sentiment is the same. The memorial records the names of 18 Fordham men from WW1 and 4 men from WW2 who died in these conflicts.

Research carried out by members of FLHS discovered that there were another 12 Fordham servicemen who had died in WW1 alongside the 18 men who were already recorded on the memorial; but these 12 men were not listed on the Fordham memorial. This became the fundamental aim of the project; to have the 12 missing names added to the memorial.

Our project called: 'Fordham's Finest – Preserving the Memory' had 5 objectives:

- To write a book about the village, to learn what it was like to live in Fordham 100 years ago exploring the geographical layout of the village using photographs and documents.
- To write a Scheme of Work for the local primary school to enable future pupils to understand the impact of WW1 on their small community.
- To organise an end of project exhibition sharing the research and findings of the project.
- To have 12 missing names added to the war memorial

- To hold a church service of dedication for the additional Fordham men who died in WW1 and who have now been recognised on our memorial.

If we have made omissions, please contact us and we will be able to amend online data and the online publication, but sadly not this publication. We have found that sometimes the information found in the records we have consulted differs from others e.g. dates of birth and death. So we have made our own judgement. We have left space on the memorial just in case more names need to be added in the future.



They came back to Fordham. Painting by Soren Hawkes

## Development of the Project

Our fundamental aim was to have the 12 missing names added to the war memorial. As we shared our project with the community, we were asked one particular question:- ‘why were the names never included in the first place?’

There are many possibilities. It is an emotive question and one that FLHS has thoroughly investigated. Throughout we have endeavoured to answer the question with sensitivity and respect, researching all the possible avenues to understand why the names were missed out; and this will be discussed later in the book.

FLHS worked closely with the community of Fordham to gather much of the information for the project. It enabled us to come together to preserve the memory of the people who died and those families who lived through the First World War.

Once the grant was received, FLHS set about advertising the project. Articles were published in the village parish magazine, county magazines and local newspapers in an effort to share the project within the village and wider community.

Project Leader Wendy Shepherd was the lead researcher with society members and the community of Fordham working together to gather all the content for the book.

We endeavoured to contact descendants through our publicity and have worked with the information, documentation and photographs given to us by families and from our own research.

The geographical structure of the chapter about the village will enable us to place our men and their families around the village at the time of WW1. Woven into the book is other information including chapters on occupations, the school, the headmaster, war memorials abroad, our prisoners of war, our sets of brothers, our Jutland serviceman, regimental information, those who went to war and returned and how the idea of our war memorial was formulated, designed and then built.

Towards the back of the book is the historical data about the men of Fordham Essex who lived here and died serving their country. In the future, others will be able to use our book as a starting point of research.

Another valuable aspect of our project was writing a Scheme of Work for All Saints Primary School in Fordham. Discussions with the head teacher and staff plus an assembly to Key Stage 2 children introduced our project to them.

Our scheme of work is divided into 5 units and supplies all the resources for staff to use as they wish in finding out about our village during the Great War.

There is also information and a chapter in the book about Ernest Somner who was the Head teacher at that time of the war; he was also a Conscientious Objector.

A later development to the project was the finding of the original clock that was part of the original clock tower memorial. The Parish Council decided that the clock should be reinstated and this was undertaken.

By adding the missing names of the 12 men at the time of publishing, we are upholding the original purpose that was intended by the Parish Committee of 1919 whose decision it was to erect the war memorial:-

*“These men fought bravely and died nobly in the cause of right against might to protect their country and our homes, and it is our duty to perpetuate the memory of such a sacrifice, by handing down their honoured names to future generations on a permanent memorial.”*

Wendy Shepherd

Project Leader

2017



*Fordham War Memorial c.1920. D. Beard FLHS*

## The Village

Etched in stone on the war memorial at the junction of Ponders Road, are the names of Fordham's war dead from two world wars. Over the last 100 years, many people have travelled by our war memorial and as time marches on, fewer people will know who these men really were. They are faceless names to many, but in this book we wish to keep their memory alive and tell you about them

In this chapter we step back in time to the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to focus on the Fordham servicemen of WW1 who fought and died to safeguard this country's freedom for future generations. As a small rural farming community, it is likely that most villagers would have known these men. They would have been their friends, their work colleagues, their neighbours and for many they were family.

We go back to a time when Fordham was a farming community, where the majority of workers were agricultural labourers, where the roads into Fordham were merely tracks for horse and cart, when some children had to walk a couple of miles to go to the village school and a time when childhood diseases such as mumps and measles were epidemic and killers.

In 'A History of the County of Essex, Vol 10 Lexden Hundred' there is a detailed description of the farming in our village and gives a real flavour of life in Fordham before the Great War.

*By 1891 Houd's Farm was un let, uncultivated and needed repairs. In 1901 Ram's Farm of over 50 acres was sold, together with four accommodation enclosures of arable and meadow containing about 10 acres.*

*After Joseph Green died in 1903 the 840 acre estate in Fordham and neighbouring parishes which had been built up by the Green family, tenants at Fordham Hall from before 1808 was broken up. It included Suttons and Lower Moat or Moss Farm of 194 acres of mixed pasture and arable, with pigs; Archendines and Kettles Farms of 197 acres still mainly arable, with cattle and chickens; and Fossetts of 68 acres mostly arable but with some pasture and pigs and chickens.*

*By 1905 the chief crops were wheat, oats, barley, beans, peas, potatoes, turnips, swedes, and mangolds (field beet for cattle, pig and other stock feed), but half of the parish was mown or grazed grass and clover and there were 105 horses, 163 cows, 305 sheep, and 438 pigs.*

*In 1913 Wash Farm of 80 acres of arable and 23 acres of pasture, with standings for 12 cows, which was part of an estate of 812 acres being broken up, was said to be well adapted for a dairy farm'. Parts of the 85 acre Little Porters, mostly arable, were bought separately in 1914.'*



*Fordham Hall 1910. A. Knights FLHS Archive*

FLHS has used a range of primary documents to locate our men. The 1891, 1901 and 1911 census documents, the 1915/1916 Occupier's List, the 1920 Electoral Roll. Using old photographs of Fordham we can take you around the village showing you where our men lived and worked.

Using the 1911 census we know that there were 626 people living in Fordham which at that time included the area we know as Fordham Heath. Living in Fordham were 322 males and 304 females and these were recorded living in 159 dwellings. There were 7 uninhabited dwellings and 13 other buildings. The 1911 census gives us an idea of the facilities available to families before the outbreak of war.

Of the 13 other buildings, there were 3 places of worship:- All Saints Church at the top of Mill Road and The Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion Chapel in Plummers Road. There was also a chapel on Halstead Road built in 1898, this was a chapel of ease to St. Michael's Copford for those unable to get to All Saints Church Fordham or Copford Church.



Children could be educated at the National School in Mill Road. The Countess of Huntingdon's School had been merged with the National School in 1874. There was also the school/chapel in Fordham Heath. A disused school is also recorded on the census at Weavers Green Fordham.

There was also the brewery building at Fordham Heath Brewery, a brick kiln building and a brick making shop recorded at Brook Farm where the Broyd family lived.

There were two carpenter's workshops, one next to Slate House and one on Plummers Green both run by members of the Beard family. There were two blacksmith workshops, one at the Shoulder of Mutton and one at the Three Horse Shoes Public House.

Recorded as inhabited dwellings were the 5 public houses: The Vulcan Inn occupied by Mr Bullock, The Star Inn, which later became the Cricketers occupied by Mr Firmin, The Half Moon Inn occupied by Mr Bunting, The Shoulder of Mutton occupied by Mr Kay and the Three Horse Shoes occupied by Mr Willsmore.



*The Vulcan Public House before 1927. D. Kettle FLHS Archive*

There had been another pub, The Potter's Art in Chappel Road run by William Broyd who was the uncle of Cecil Fred Broyd, one of our casualties.

The Potter's Art can be found on the 1881 and 1891 census and in Kelly's Directory 1874, 1878, 1886, 1890 under Samuel Broyd. Then 1894, 1898, 1899 under William Broyd.

William's daughter Jane Asenath Broyd married Frank W. Clampin the builder of the war memorial. [Ref.pubshistory.com/EssexPubs/Fordham/potters.shtml](http://Ref.pubshistory.com/EssexPubs/Fordham/potters.shtml)



*Shoulder of Mutton 1908. J.Gediking FLHS*



*Playle's Stores Ponders Road c 1910. M.Playle FLHS*

A bake house building was situated in Ponders Road next to the Stores which was a private dwelling and general shop run by Mr Playle who donated the land for the building of the war memorial.

Other notable buildings which were listed as dwellings were the post office and grocers run by Mr Martin between Moat Farm and Swiss Cottages. There was also the mansion house at Penlan Hall and other larger residences such as Moat Hall and Fordham Hall.

As expected in a rural community; there were farms, 23 of them including Brook Farm, Idols Farm, Ram's Farm, Great Porter's Farm, Heathfields Farm and Archendines. Initially recorded on the 1911 census, but then crossed through were buildings not used as dwellings:- 31 farm buildings, 18 stables, 6 outbuildings, 3 offices, 2 coach houses, 2 barns and 1 scullery.



*Ram's Farm 1922. B.A.Bonner FLHS Archive*

Between the years of the 1911 and 1914, the Post Office Directories show a few changes within the village. Here is the 1911 record.

<p><b>FORDHAM</b> (named from its ford at Ford Street, over the river Colne) is a parish on the high road from Colchester to Cambridge, 4 miles north from Mark's Tey station on the Great Eastern main line to Colchester and Ipswich, 3 east from Chappel Junction station on the Great Eastern and Colne Valley railways, 10 south-east from Hatstead and 6 north-west from Colchester, in the North Eastern division of the county, Lexden hundred, Lexden and Winstree union and petty sessional division, Colchester county court district and in the rural deanery of Deilham, archdeaconry of Colchester and diocese of St. Albans. The church of All Saints, an edifice of stone in the Later English style, consists of chancel and nave of four bays, aisles, south porch and an embattled western tower containing 2 bells: in the chancel is a piscina and a marble monument to John Pulley, capt. R.N. d. 1715: the east window is stained: the church was restored in 1861-62; the organ, provided in 1884, was replaced in 1893 by a larger instrument: there are 350 sittings. The registers date from the year 1561-2. The living is a rectory, net yearly value £438, with 33 acres of glebe and residence, in the alternate gift of Earl Cosper and the Rev. Thomas Major Dunn B.A. rector of Roan Lani-horne, Cornwall, and held since 1897 by the Rev.</p>	<p>Major William Meese Dunn M.A. of Oxford University. Here is a chapel of Lady Huntingdon's Conscience, built in 1790, with about 250 sittings, a residence for the minister, and a burial ground. There are two manors. George Frederick Beaumont esq. of Coggeshall, is lord of the manor of Much Fordham, and Lord Lucas and Dingwall, lord of the manor of Fordham Hall. The trustees of Mr. Joseph Green, William Gwynne-Evans, William Wear and Robert Neil esqrs. are the principal landowners. The soil is mixed and good; subsoil, clay and gravel. The area is 2,513 acres of land and 7 of water; rateable value, £2,585; the population in 1901 was 661.</p> <p>Post Office.—Charles Martin, sub-postmaster. Letters from Colchester, by foot post, arrive at 8 a.m. &amp; are dispatched at 6.40 p.m.; dispatched, sunday 10.15 a.m. The nearest money order &amp; telegraph office is at Aldham, 2½ miles distant</p> <p>Public Elementary School (mixed), built in 1849, for 132 children; average attendance, 98; Edwin J. C. Pitt, master</p> <p>Carrier to Colchester.—Mrs. Frederick Death, mon. wed. fri. &amp; sat</p>
<p><b>PRIVATE RESIDENTS.</b></p> <p>Coppen Joseph, Fordham Heath Dunn Rev. Major William Meese M.A. Rectory Green Charles, Sutton's Green Charles Alfred, Fordham hall Green Mrs. Thomas, Moat hall Haynes John William, Holmcroft Mann Rev. Andrew (Cong.), The Manse Potter Charles, The Haven Townsey Mrs. Shorthorns Werts Charles Clifford Werts Charles James, Fordham lodge</p> <p><b>COMMERCIAL.</b></p> <p>Addy Edwd., Shoulder of Mutton P.H. Beard Frederick, wheelwright</p>	<p>Beard Walter, carpenter Bull E. (Mrs.), rate collector &amp; insurance agent, Cobbes place Bullock Henry, beer retailer &amp; farmer Bunting Walk, beer ret. Fordham Eth Chambers Frank, farmer Clampin Frank William, builder Crawford John, farmer, Fordham pl Crawford Wm. Black, farmer, Houds Crisp Wm. farmer, Fordham Heath Firman John Thomas, beer retailer, Fordham Heath Francis Wm. farmer, Great Porter fm Green Charles Alfred, farmer &amp; landowner, Fordham hall Hopping George, farmer Lord Henry, farmer, Fordham Heath Martin Chas. shopkeeper &amp; post office</p> <p>Neil Robert, farmer &amp; landowner, Fletcher's farm Partridge Stanley, blacksmith Playle George, grocer Rackham Frederick G. farmer, Little Porters Smith Ernest Edgar, brewer, Fordham Heath Southenwood John, farmer, Ram's Towell George Harrison, farmer, Brook farm Wickens Ernest Albert, Three Horse-shoes P.H. Werts Charles James M.R.C.S. Eng., L.S.A. surgeon, &amp; medical officer &amp; public vaccinator, No. 9 district, Lexden &amp; Winstree union, Fordham lodge</p>

The carrier to Colchester Mrs Elizabeth Ellen Death remained the same. Mrs Death had taken over from her husband Frederick as carrier after he died in 1907.

Fordham had a post office, with Charles Martin as the sub postmaster in 1911. The builder of the war memorial, Frank William Clampin is recorded in both directories.

Father and son Charles Clifford Worts and Charles James Worts were medical practitioners living in Fordham, both were physicians and surgeons.

Charles James Worts was at Fordham Lodge recorded as surgeon, medical officer and public vaccinator in 1911. His father Charles Clifford, surgeon and physician of Penlan Hall is recorded in the 1914 Directory.

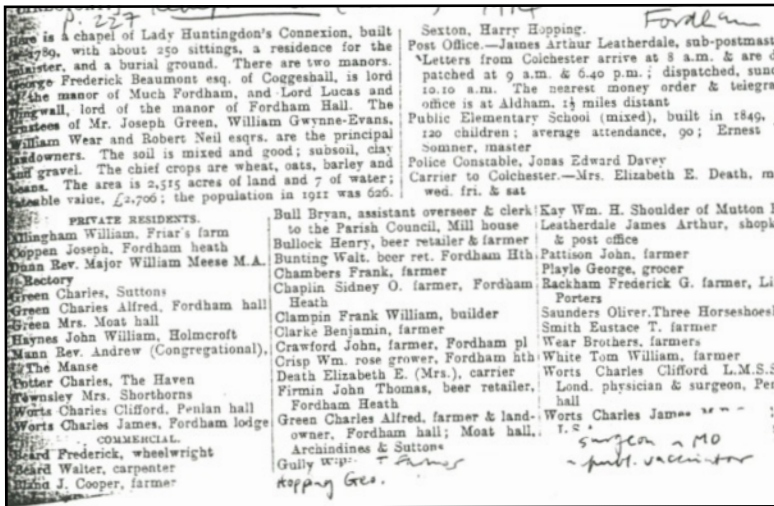


*Frederick Death Ford Street Aldham before 1907 FLHS*



*Penlan Hall c1920. L.Worts FLHS Archive*

## The 1914 Directory



In 1914 Ernest Somner was the head teacher of the school with an average attendance of 90. He replaced Edward Pitt, but Mr Somner would eventually leave the school due to his conscientious objection. (There is a chapter later in the book on Ernest Somner.)

In the 1914 Directory, the new police constable Edward Jonas Davey is recorded. He is the father of Stanley Davey, one of our men on the memorial.

Bryan Bull, father of Arthur Hepburn Bull another one of our casualties, is an assistant overseer and clerk to the parish council. Bryan Bull was also one of the enumerators for the 1911 census. The Bull family are linked to Fordham Mill and Three Horse Shoes.

Walter Bunting, uncle to George Bunting one of our servicemen, is recorded as the beer retailer at Fordham Heath ( Half Moon.)

In 1914 Fordham had its own gravedigger, Harry Hopping is recorded as the sexton.




*Fordham Mill c.1890. E.Baines FLHS Archive*



*Photo taken outside the Half Moon about 1912. Walter Bunting's name can be seen above*

George Playle is recorded as a local grocer. It was Mr Playle who donated the land on the corner of Ponders Road for the war memorial. He later became the sub postmaster in 1915, taking over from Mr Leatherdale. Here is his letter of appointment.



Colchester.  
5th January 1915.

Dear Sir,

I have pleasure in informing you that you have been appointed Sub-Postmaster of Fordham.

Mr Leatherdale gave 3 months notice on the 28th November but he may wish to be released before the expiration of the notice, and if so, presumably you would have no objection to take over the duties at any time.

The Letter Box will have to be removed, re-erected and the wall in which it is now inserted made good. Please say whether you could obtain a tender from a local tradesman to do the work.

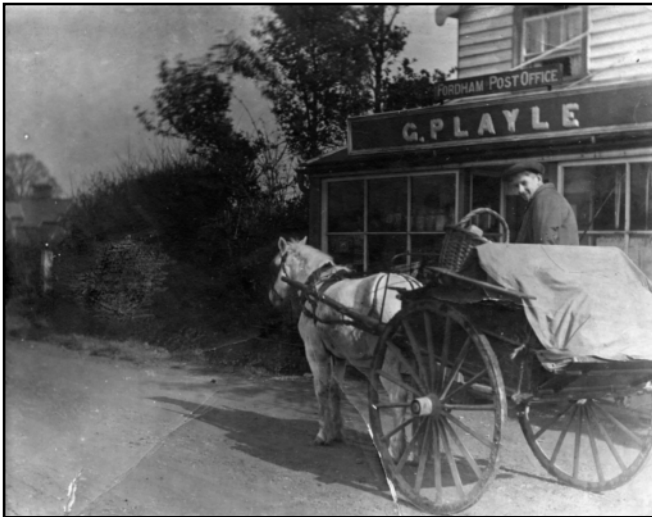
Yours faithfully,  
*J. Leatherdale*  
Postmaster.

Mr G. Playle.





*The stores on Ponders Road in 1903. M.Playle FLHS*



*The Stores and Post Office Ponders Road. C 1910. M.Playle FLHS Archive*

It will become clear that Fordham was a close knit community before the outbreak of war.

Many families of the men on the memorial can be found living next door to each other as shown on the census records. This is the 1901 census from The National Archives and shows some of our families who lived in Plummers Road. There are families here who lost sons and some families who had sons return safely from war like the Beard family, this must have been very difficult for families to deal with.

Administration County		The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the											Page 11-19	
Civil Parish		Ecclesiastical Parish		County Borough, Municipal Borough, or Urban District			Ward of Municipal Borough or Urban District		Rural District		Parliamentary Borough or Urban Sanitary District		Town or Village or Hamlet	
ROAD STREET OR NO. IN ROAD OR HOUSE	HOUSE	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	Age last birthday	PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION	Married, Widowed, or Single	Widowed Name	Widowed Name	Widowed Name	Widowed Name	Widowed Name	Widowed Name	Widowed Name	Widowed Name
65	Pondas Rd.	Johnathan Lewis	Head	47	Ordinary Tailor	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow
		Ellen	Wife	42										
		Alma	Daughter	5										
64	Pondas Rd.	James Edward	Head	28	Labourer	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow
		John Beard	Head	56	Labourer	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow
		Henry	Son	23	Labourer	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow
		Arthur	Son	16										
		John	Son	15										
70	Pondas Rd.	William Partridge	Head	62	Labourer	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow
		Edith	Wife	59										
		Robert	Son	7										
		Ernest	Son	5										
		Charles	Son	13	Labourer									
71	Post Office Rd.	Walter Roberts	Head	39	Labourer	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow
		James	Son	14										
		Alma	Daughter	12										
		Alma	Daughter	10										
72	Post Office Rd.	Walter Ford	Head	44	Labourer	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow
		George Bunting	Head	58	Labourer	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow	Widow
		Joseph	Son	11										
		George	Son	12										
		Emily	Daughter	8										
		Alfred	Son	9										
		Ernest	Son	6										
		Henry	Son	5										
73	Post Office Rd.	Walter Arnold	Head	75										
74	Post Office Rd.	Sarah Woodhead	Head	66										
				Total of Males and Females	178									

Many of our families in Fordham are connected through marriage like the Buntings and the Perry family. Caroline Perry nee Bunting, not only lost her son Walter, but also her nephew George Bunting.

Our Battle of Jutland survivor Horace Slyfield was the brother of Emma Slyfield, who was the mother of Charles Horne. ( See chapter on our Jutland survivor.)

The Broyds and Beards are connected and we have Partridge cousins marrying.

A photograph later in the book of the Half Moon quilts team, will demonstrate some of the close connections.

## Occupations

The men on our war memorial who lived in Fordham in 1911 came from families with a range of different occupations. This chapter gives an idea of the work done by people living in Fordham.

Many of the occupations are to be expected in this rural village such as agricultural labourer, horseman, shepherd, cowman and groom. There were 115 men listed working in farming. There were also hay and straw binders, hay cutters and a thatcher.

The number of agricultural labourers had dwindled to 78 having peaked in 1861 when there were 164 labourers. We know this from work in 2004 by FLHS member Paul Doughty who made a count of occupations covering the 1841 to 1901 census documents. The number of farmers had increased from 13 in 1901 to 15 in 1911.



*William Bird at Fordham Place c.1920. M.Rideout.FLHS Archive*

Members of the Balls, Pudney, Rayner, Starling, Taylor, Webber and Wright families were involved in working on the land.

There were 6 market gardeners which included 3 rose growers and 9 ordinary gardeners. Edward Crisp and his father were both rose growers. Amos Boutell, Alfred Chinnery and his father are recorded as gardeners. Edgar Harvey Bailey began as an agricultural labourer as his father was a farmer, but in 1911 Edgar is recorded as a gardener and groom.

George Bunting was a general labourer, he was one of 10 general labourers in Fordham.

When Walter Perry joined the army, he was a serving policeman with the Essex Constabulary. His father George Perry was a platelayer for the GER, the Great Eastern Railway. He was a railway employee who inspected and maintained the railway line.

It was a very dangerous job in those times for the track men. Men usually worked in a gang of perhaps 8 or so men looking after a certain length of line. There were 6 men from the village involved in railway work in 1911.



*Platelayers 1905. G. Mead. Lewes History Group*

There was a policeman living in Fordham in 1911, but this was not Stanley Davey's father. Stanley's father was a police constable in St. Osyth at that time before moving into Fordham as recorded in the 1914 White's Directory.

When Harry Beard returned from the war he carried on in his father's building business and worked as a carpenter with his brother Joseph. They made coffins at Penny Cottage in Plummers Road. (Ref. M. Boyle.) In 1911 Harry's father Walter is recorded as a builder and Joseph as a carpenter. There were quite a few Beards in Fordham. Fred Beard had a carpenter's workshop at Slate House; he is recorded as a wheelwright and carpenter.

Thomas Potkin was helping his father in the woodwork trade; his father was a wood dealer.



*Penny Cottage FLHS Archive*

The area around Fordham is known for brick making and there are 11 men involved in this industry. The Broyd, Kettle, Horne and the Beard families were involved in the brick making industry as brick makers, brick labourers and brick layers.



*Brick makers at Millbead Brickfield Great Wakering  
c1900. Permission Friends of Old Barling School*

The Arnold family were wheelwrights and coach builders. In 1911 Fred's father George Marshall Arnold and his two brothers Frank and Walter were all recorded as coach builders. It was a real family business as in 1901 Fred's older brother George was also a coach builder. There was another wheelwright in the village - Charles Partridge.

Some villages would have had a wheelwright. Many of them would have been wainwrights who made wheels, wagons, carts and ploughs. Some wheelwrights were also carpenters who might double as coffin makers, but Fordham had their own carpenters in the Beard family.



*Coach builders c 1900 C Andrews Llanelli Community Heritage*

The Arnold family lived in Colchester for 20 years but we can trace Fred Arnold's family in Fordham right back to the 1851 census. The 1881 census below from The National Archives shows us two families of Arnolds with occupation as wheelwright.

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Vicarage of the										Page 9
City or Township of	City or Municipal Ward of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Division of	Vicar or Vicarage or Range of	Urban Sanitary District of	Rural Sanitary District of	Administrative Parish or Hamlet of	[Page 9]		74
No. of Houses and No. of Names of Houses	SEVERAL or SINGLE	NAME and Number of each House	RELATION to Head of Family	AGE last Birthday	SEX	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WEEKS EMPLOYED	REMARKS	REMARKS	REMARKS
27	1	Thomas Arnold	Head	76	M	Wheelwright	52			
		John	Wife	68	F					
		William	Son	24	M					
		Robert	Son	2	M					
		George	Son	4	M					
		William	Son	4	M					
		Mary	Daughter	2	F					
		William	Son	1	M					
18	1	James Matthews	Head	62	M	Team Labourer				
		Elizabeth	Wife	66	F					
		William	Son	24	M					
24	1	Joseph Arnold	Head	70	M	Team Labourer				
		Mary	Wife	51	F					
		William	Son	22	M					
		Elizabeth	Daughter	13	F					
		John	Son	9	M					
		Agnes	Daughter	5	F					
52	1	Joseph Beak	Head	67	M	Landowner				
51	1	William Arnold	Head	63	M	Labourer				
		Emily Arnold	Wife	62	F					
		George Arnold	Son	24	M					
		George X Arnold	Son	11	M					
Total of Houses		Total of Males and Females		9		9				

In 1871 there were over 30,000 wheelwrights in England. By 1911 that figure had dropped to 23,000 due to the impact of motor vehicles. Fred's father is shown with his widowed mother Eliza Arnold living near the Chapel. *Ref. Tracing your Trade & Craftsman Ancestors .p.180*

Frederick and Reginald Francis and their father were all engaged as mail drivers prior to their arrival in Fordham.

Percy Cant who had lived in the village all his life is also recorded as a driver, his father was one of Fordham's farm labourers.

Thomas Nice, the father of one of our returners Harold Fenner Nice, was a carter. A carter was a carrier of goods by wagon and would typically have driven a light two wheeled carriage. The carriage of wood, coal and iron also created work for carters.



*Outside the bakers Ponders Road 1910. M.Playle. FLHS Archive*

In 1911 Arthur Hepburn Bull is recorded as an army student. This is no surprise as his father Bryan Bull was in the Army. Bryan Bull is recorded as an army pensioner and was also an overseer of the poor. In 1914 Bryan Bull is in the Special Reserves Royal Fusiliers.

The Bull family have had a long association with Fordham and lived at various addresses in the village. Bryan Bull's address in 1914 is Mill House Fordham. The Bull family have been millers, blacksmiths and publicans at the Three Horseshoes as recorded in Kelly's Directory in 1866.

In 1911 there were 3 blacksmiths and a farrier recorded in the village. In Fordham there has always been at least 2 blacksmiths since 1841, although there were 5 in 1851.

A smithy was a necessity in a village and would often have worked with the wheelwright. In a village where agriculture was the main occupation, the blacksmith would be needed to make and maintain iron tools. The Shoulder of Mutton and Three Horse Shoes both had blacksmith workshops attached to them.



*Ploughing c.1920. D. Kettle FLHS Archive*



*Three Horseshoes 1910 A. Church. FLHS Archive*



John Rayner's father, also called John is recorded as a shoemaker in 1881 and a boot maker in 1891. There was a shoe maker in most villages, but a boot maker would make boots for the military. John Rayner senior is recorded as a master boot maker, this meant he was skilled, had served an apprenticeship and was recognised by a Crafts Guild. Skilled tradesmen like John often had his own business. A shoemaker would often employ his wife or daughter to finish off the shoes. By the time the Rayner family are living in Fordham as recorded on the 1901 census, head of the house John Rayner had died. There is no shoemaker in Fordham recorded in 1911. *Ref. Tracing your Trade & Craftsman Ancestors. p129.*

In 1901, living with Hercules (Pettitt) Balls and his grandmother was a lodger called Thomas Osborne. His occupation is recorded as a Higgler poultry dealer. This was a travelling peddler. A lot of the Higgler's trade involved barter, rather than money changing hands and the name derives from the resultant haggling.

In 1911, most women in Fordham worked. Some worked from home, many were employed as domestic workers. Some mothers and sisters of our servicemen were in domestic service, some worked in the sewing industry from home. There were 11 domestics and 14 housemaids recorded and many of these were younger women.

Many of the older women worked from home sewing. There are 9 tailoresses recorded in the 1911 census and 6 sewing machinists. A tailoress made, altered and mended garments.

Amos Boutell's mother was a tailoress. Hercules Pettitt's mother and grandmother were both tailoresses. Arthur Balls' mother was also a tailoress and his grandmother a sewing machinist. There are 2 dressmakers recorded, one of these was Alfred Chinnery's sister. Sewing machines were in general use from the mid 1850's and revolutionised dressmaking and tailoring.

Walter Miller's mother was a trouser finisher. This meant that she sewed by hand and finished off garments a tailor had made. This would mean sewing on a waistband, lining and buttons of trousers, tacking up button holes and sewing on tabs. *Ref. Tracing your Trade & Craftsman Ancestors. p142*

There were 12 laundresses in Fordham and the mother of Charles Horne was one of them. Taking in washing combined quite well with family life, but it was hard work. Apart from washing and drying, a laundress might have to make repairs, patch clothes and sew buttons.

Sometimes the clothes would be soaked for hours to loosen stains. Then the clothes would be put in heated water which was a major task in itself, particularly if you had to collect the water from a well.

Handmade soap made from caustic soda and a fat such as lard or oil such as hemp oil was sometimes used. Then she would use a washboard and a dolly, then rinse and wring the clothes with a wooden or iron mangle. Clothes could be starched to help to prevent wrinkling and ease ironing. They were dried and ironed with flat irons heated on the range.

*Ref. [www.wasbergenes.wordpress.com](http://www.wasbergenes.wordpress.com)*

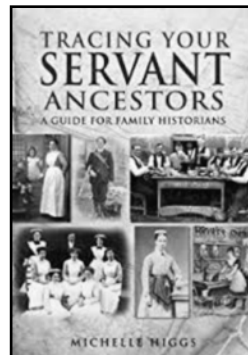
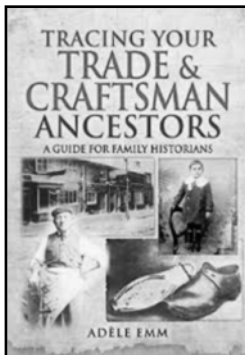


*Dolly, Tub, Mangle and Flat Iron*

One interesting occupation was that of Cecil Broyd's mother Emma; she was a straw plaiter. It was common to find the women sitting by their doors plaiting and children were even taught plaiting in schools. Straw plaiting was at one time a useful source of income for the rural poor of Essex. It was introduced into the county by George, the first Marquis of Buckingham at Gosfield, near Halstead as a way of relieving the plight of the villagers. The straw was used in the making of hats and bonnets.



FLHS recommends this series of books which we have referenced for this chapter. There are other books in this series which can be found at the end of the book in the bibliography.



A recent photograph acquisition from a descendant of a family who used to live in Swiss Cottage, also suggests that women from Fordham may have been involved as munitions workers.

We know that two of the daughters of our war memorial builder worked at the Woolwich Arsenal.



*WW1 Munitions workers Essex. J.Holman FLHS Archive*

Having contacted the Curator of Social History and Art at Chelmsford Museum, this information was given to us about war work in this area:-

‘During the war many factories, by necessity, had to turn their hands to war work, e.g. the Britannia works at Colchester. Paxmans of Colchester were heavily involved in war production which included submarine engines, guns and mines. I can’t imagine where a munitions factory would have been if there ever was one near Fordham. The only local industry I am aware of is small industrial units that were later built on the site of Wormingford WW2 dispersal sites. I can suggest that the munition workers may well have lived in Fordham, but then commuted into Colchester where they may have worked at the Britannia works or Paxmans. Essex was best known for its explosive industries (Kynoch, Waltham Abbey, Pitsea) with a huge factory at Silvertown but none likely to have been commutable from Fordham.’

The women in the photograph are wearing a triangular badge (below) which was the 'On War Service' badge. In May 1916, the War Office (Ministry of Munitions) issued a badge exclusively for women workers in recognition of the valuable contribution women were making to the war effort.



*The two women clearly wearing the 'On War Service' badge.  
J.Holman FLHS Archive*



The 'On war service' medal for men (above) was issued because those not in khaki were sometimes being accused of being 'shirkers and slackers' when in fact sometimes there were genuine reasons for not being in uniform.

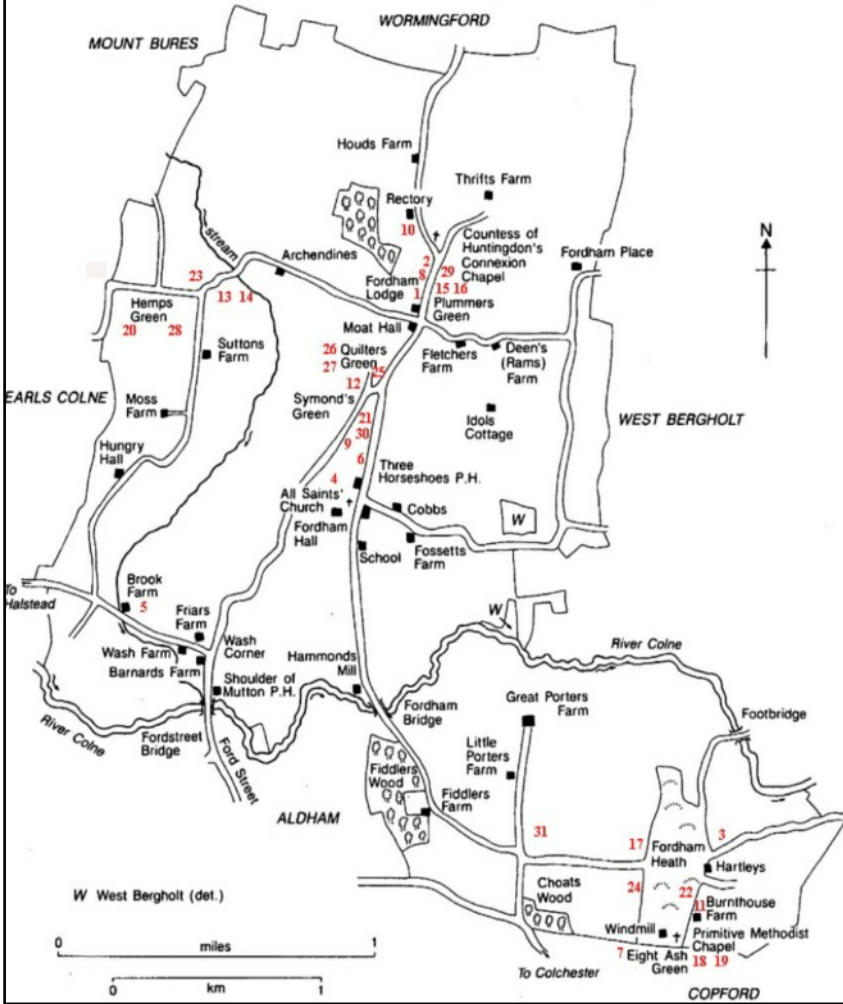
*(Ref.Ministry of Munitions records at the PRO, sub-file MUN5/64/322/125)*

## Where did our casualties live?

1. Fred Arnold	Main Road (Plummers Road)
2. Edgar Bailey	Plummers Road
3. Arthur Balls	Fordham Heath
4. Amos Boutell	Fordham
5. Cecil Broyd	Brook Farm
6. Arthur Bull	Church Road
7. George Bunting	Seven Star Green
8. Percy Cant	Plummers Road
9. Robert Cawdron	Ponders Road
10. Alfred Chinnery	Rectory Lodge
11. Edward Crisp	Heathfields
12. Stanley Davey	Ponders Road
13. Charles Everitt	Chappel Road
14. Henry Everitt	Chappel Road
15. Frederick Francis	Plummers Road
16. Reginald Francis DCM	Plummers Road
17. Charles Horne	Fordham Heath
18. Albert Kettle	Fordham Heath
19. Henry Kettle	Fordham Heath
20. Walter Miller	Hemps Green
21. Charles Partridge	Ponders Road
22. Walter Perry	Fordham Heath
23. Hercules Pettitt	Bridges Valley
24. Thomas Potkin	Fordham Heath
25. Alfred Pudney MM	Swiss Cottages Ponders Rd.
26. Albert Rayner	Weavers Green
27. John Rayner	Weavers Green
28. Walter Starling	Hemps Green
29. Charles Taylor	Plummers Road
30. Ernest Wright	Church Road
31. Harry Webber	Fordham Heath

# FORDHAM 1879

The red numbers mark where our servicemen lived as sourced from these records: 1891, 1901 and 1911 census and 1915/1916 Occupiers' List



Retrieved from British History online <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/esssex/vol10/pp205-210>

Using information from the census documents of 1891, 1901 and 1911 plus the 1914/1915 Occupier's List, we can locate our families residing at some time in Fordham prior to the outbreak of war.

Using an 1879 map of Fordham we can show where our families lived. It is a very basic map showing Fordham and the hamlets of Fordham Heath and Hemps Green.

Five of our families Arnold, Bailey, Cant, Francis and Taylor lived along Plummers Road with the Chinnery family living further towards Houds Farm at Rectory Lodge.

Fred Arnold and his family resided at Main Road in 1891. Looking at the 1891 census there was no road named Plummers Road. In this census Fred is next door to the Cants and Taylors.

The Cant and Taylor families continued to live in Plummers Road for many years.

This photograph from F. Waters FLHS Archive is Walter and Emily Taylor in front of their cottage Marks Gate in Plummers Road in 1930. They lived here with their 11 children including Charles one of our casualties and Julia who married one of our servicemen who returned safely.





The Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion Chapel on the bend of Plummers Road was a very important place, not only for the Taylors, but also to the Arnolds, Cants, Everitts, Partridges, Pudneys, Rayners and Wrights.

Many ancestors of these families are recorded in the chapel registers and some are buried in the old churchyard. For more information on the Chapel there are two books available online called 'A Big Round Hand' and 'A Barren Land' by Pat Lewis member and president of FLHS. The links can be found in the bibliography.



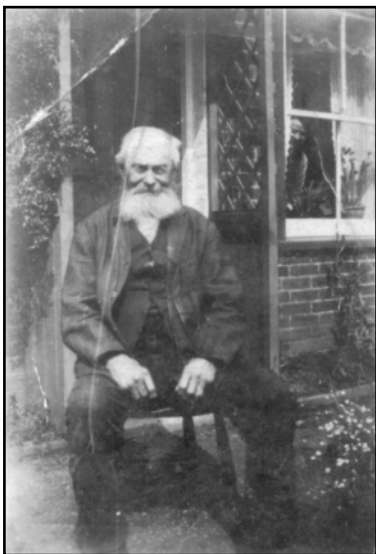
*The Chapel and School Plummers Road. FLHS Archive.*

Between Archendines and Hemps Green on Chappel Road, Charles Everitt and his family lived. His grandfather Jonathan Everitt lived at Fletchers Farm Fordham.

Hercules (Balls)Pettitt lived at Bridges Valley with his mother and grandmother.

The families of Walter Miller and Walter Starling lived at Hemps Green. But circumstances for the Starling family dramatically changed, as in 1911 Walter and his elderly parents were recorded on the census in Colchester Union Workhouse.

Travelling south away from Hemps Green and pass Suttons Farm and Moss Farm we meet up with the Halstead Road. Heading towards Wash Corner, we pass the home of Frederick Cyril Broyd who lived at Brook Farm near Brick Kilns. His family were in the brick making industry. His Uncle William Broyd also lived at Brook Farm, he was also a brick maker like Frederick's father.



*Frederick Broyd's Uncle, William Broyd 1920. (Brick maker and publican of The Potter's Art.) M.Playle. FLHS Archive*

Turning back North into Ponders Road, we can place 4 families - Charles Wallace Partridge, Robert Cawdron, Stanley Davey and Alfred Pudney.

The Partridge family are remembered in Fordham with a road named after eminent surgeon Alderman Partridge who was the great uncle of Charles Wallace Partridge.

Charles' father, the nephew of the surgeon was also called Alderman and the surgeon's brother Benjamin also had a son called Alderman, so a good example of how family research can be a little confusing.



*Charles' mother - Mrs Alderman Partridge at Barnaby's Ponders Road  
1920. H. Gooch. FLHS Archive*

On the POW records of Robert Cawdron, his address is given as Ponders Road when his wife is notified of her husband's death. We have no census or occupiers's information to confirm that, however on the 1920 Electoral Roll for Fordham, Robert's wife Harriet Cawdron is living at the School House Fordham.

Stanley Davey's father who became Fordham's policeman in 1914 is recorded as living near the Post Office in Ponders Road. On the 21 September 1914, the school log book records that Stanley's sisters Hilda and Gladys Davey have been readmitted to school as their father who is a policeman is away for several weeks on special duties in Harwich.

Alfred Pudney is recorded as living at Swiss Cottages in 1911 with his grandmother, widowed father and two single uncles. Swiss Cottages can be seen behind the war memorial on page 3.

Albert and John Rayner are recorded as living at Weavers Green in 1911 with their widowed mother Jessie, although they were at Hemps Green in 1901. Other villagers who are recorded as living in Weavers Green in 1911 can be found recorded under Quilters Green in earlier census documents.



*Ponders Road. 1930. M.Playle. FLHS Archive*



*Quilters Green.c. 1920. M.Boyle. FLHS Archive*

To confuse matters further, in the 1915/16 Occupiers Lists you will find Weavers Green, but no Quilters Green, however in the 1920 Electoral Roll for Fordham you will find Quilters Green; but no Weavers Green.

Leaving Weavers Green and heading south down the road we know as Church Road, we will find the families of Arthur Bull and Ernest Wright.

1911 census documents like the one below from The National Archives gives an insight into living accommodation and marital status of couples. The census records the length of time a couple have been married and how many children have been born to them, how many have died and those still living. The Wrights were a large family. Here we have 10 people living in a 4 roomed house, of which one room is the kitchen. Parents George and Sarah Wright with 8 children ages ranging from 2 to 22.

**CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.**

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The names should be written in full.

The contents of this Schedule shall be treated as confidential. Officers must be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, or in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND RESIDENCE	RELATIONSHIP TO HEAD OF FAMILY	AGE	SEX	PARTICULARS AS TO MARRIAGE	PROFESSION, OCCUPATION, TRADE, BUSINESS, & SERVICE	EDUCATION		REMARKS	SIGNATURE OF HEAD OF FAMILY
						RECEIVED INSTRUCTION	RECEIVED INSTRUCTION		
George Wright	Head	45	M	Married 25th Feb 77	Farm Labourer	None	None	Fordham Ex	George Wright Sarah Wright Ernest Wright Charles Wright Bertha Wright Beulah Wright Beal Wright
Sarah Wright	Wife	43	F	Married 25th Feb 77	None	None	None	Fordham Ex	
Ernest Wright	Son	22	M	Single	Farm Labourer	None	None	Fordham Ex	
Charles Wright	Son	19	M	Single	Farm Labourer	None	None	Fordham Ex	
Bertha Wright	Daughter	14	F	Single	None	None	None	Fordham Ex	
Beulah Wright	Son	7	M	Single	None	None	None	Fordham Ex	
Beal Wright	Son	6	M	Single	None	None	None	Fordham Ex	
Beal Wright	Son	2	M	Single	None	None	None	Fordham Ex	

FOR EACH HOUSEHOLD

FOR EACH HOUSEHOLD

FOR EACH HOUSEHOLD

FOR EACH HOUSEHOLD

On a different social scale, we find Arthur Bull and his family living in a 6 roomed house; there are only 5 of them. Much different circumstances for this family. Father Bryan Bull, ex Indian Army, parish councillor and overseer of the poor. His wife Cecilia was from Canterbury in Kent, and their 3 children are shown on the 1911 census all being born in India. The record of the children being born in India helped our research to locate the parent's marriage which also took place in India, which was a likely solution to our research when unable to locate a marriage in this country.



*All Saints Church c.1950. G. Jackson FLHS Archive*

All Saints Church in Church Road opposite Oak House has played an important part in the lives of many of our servicemen and their families. Many of our casualties were baptised here, many of the parents were married here and members of our families buried here.

Edgar Harvey Bailey is remembered on a family grave in the church yard. His wife, parents and son Oliver who was just 23 when he died in 1926 are all buried here.

For Amos Arthur George Boutell, we know he was registered as born in Fordham and he was baptised in All Saints Church like his eldest brother Frederick. Their mother and grandmother were also from Fordham. The baptism record states - abode Fordham, but there is no confirmation of an address, but there were Boutell cousins living at Choats End Fordham in 1911.

Some of our families also have strong links with the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion Chapel, these will be mentioned later in the book.



The Chapel by John Kay



*Top of Mill Road between 3 Horse Shoes and Oak House. M/Boyle. FLHS*

Travelling away from the Three Horse Shoes and Oak House on the roadway that leads down to Fordham Bridge, we pass by the school where many of our servicemen attended as children.

Before John and Albert Rayner came to live at Weaver's Green with their widowed mother and siblings, the family lived in Ford Street. The children came to Fordham School; a long walk. There are entries in the school log books about the Rayner children whose attendance at school was irregular.

It has to be considered that Jessie Rayner's husband had died in 1891 and by 1901 she had moved the whole family to Weaver's Green to where her brother Frank Osborne lived. An entry in the school log book states that on 15/12/1899 the 'parents' of the Rayner children were summoned to the magistrate for not sending the children to school.; a difficult situation for Jessie Rayner.

There is another sad entry which gives us an understanding of how dangerous childhood diseases could be in those days. On 14/3/1899 Ethel Rouse daughter of the head teacher died of mumps; she was 9 years old. The school had an epidemic and Dr Charles Worts closed the school.



*Old Mill and house c.1890. C. Stephenson. FLHS Archive*

Down Mill Road and passing the Mill, we will find the rest of our casualties living around Fordham Heath.

Walter Perry and George Bunting are related. Walter's mother was the sister of George Bunting's father. The Perrys and Buntings have close ties to the Half Moon Beer House and the Heath Beer House, later known as The Star which is now The Cricketers. This connection to the beer houses is through their grandfather another George Bunting and Walter Bunting their Uncle.

The Half Moon was on the corner of Spring Lane and Huxtables Lane Fordham Heath. It is a private residence now but you can still see the parqueting of a half moon on the gable end of the house. Our serviceman George Bunting is recorded at Seven Stars Green in 1901 and Halstead Road in 1911, his parents James and Maria Bunting were still residing in Halstead Road in 1920.

FLHS were very fortunate to make contact with Walter Perry's niece. She was able to share with us many of his letters Walter had written to his sisters Florence and Lily. His letters give an insight into his war. Walter served and died in East Africa. Many of his letters talk about the weather conditions, the heat, the tropical storms, the lack of water and the native people who lived and worked with him. But he gets regular correspondence from home and is kept up to date with what is happening to his family, and his friends at war.





*The Half Moon Beer House. FLHS. J.Perry*

In one letter dated the 12 November 1917 Walter has been told about the bombing raids on London and that Tiptree Heath was hit. He jokes with his sister after finding out that some of the girls working back home are earning more than a ‘Tommy,’ he writes:

*“I shall have to make sure that in the future my girl buys the chocolate and lemonade.”*

In a letter dated 24 October 1917 Walter mentions his brother Jack who is wounded in France (Jack survives.) He mentions a friend George Dyer from Lexden who has been killed in action, his friend ‘snob’ who is a prisoner of war in Germany. There is also an entry which would have affected the Horne family who lived close to the Perrys. Walter speaks of Florence Horne recently married in Copford Church to Lance Corporal Ernest Raven on 10<sup>th</sup> February 1917. One of our casualties Charles Horne was the brother of Florence, so Florence lost her brother and her husband.

Walter writes:-

*“You will be pleased to know at home that I am quite well, but I am very sorry to hear that Jack has been wounded. Let’s hope by this time he has recovered. You say only slightly, I am very pleased to hear that. I hope Ma is not worrying too much, although we know this is a very worrying time for most isn’t it, but lets hope this war will soon be over, and so take some of these worries and troubles from us. I am very sorry to hear George Dyer has been killed in action. His parents have my deepest sympathy. It was rather hard luck on Florence Horne losing her husband after such a short time of marriage. She couldn’t have been married more than a few months I suppose.”*

In a letter dated 4 March 1918, Walter comments on the food situation in Britain:-

*“It must be awful for the ladies having to queue this cold weather before they are able to obtain what they want, but it must be very disappointing after waiting for two hours and then find they have sold out. Let’s hope this war will soon be over so we can have some better regulations than those. You say the police are employed in the queues. It seems I am missing all the sport. I would make goo goo eyes at the ladies and so pinch their butter!”*

(Walter was a policeman before serving in the war.) This was Walter’s last letter; he died 3 months later from Blackwater Fever on 7<sup>th</sup> July 1918 in East Africa.



*The army chaplain conducting Walter’s burial service and Walter’s grave on the far left 1918. Permission from J. Perry FLHS.*

Walter also mentions Mrs Ruck-Keene losing another son in the letter dated 10<sup>th</sup> December 1917. Although not linked directly to Fordham, our community was close enough to Copford to know what was going on in the other parishes; Walter's letter is a good example of this. In fact there were two Mrs Ruck-Keenes who lost 3 sons between them in WW1.

George and Jessie Ruck-Keene lost their son Ernest Laurence on 24<sup>th</sup> December 1918. They are recorded at Lexden in 1911. Records suggest that Ernest Laurence Ruck-Keene took his own life, he drowned whilst awaiting passage home. He had been on a hospital ship and was recorded having been very ill with fever, he served on HMS Egmont.

George Ruck-Keene's brother Rev. Edmund Ralph Ruck-Keene was the vicar at Copford from 1893, his father Benjamin was vicar before him from 1878. It is the Reverend Edmund Ruck-Keene and his wife Emma who lost two sons.

Ralph Edgar Ruck-Keene was with the Welsh Fusiliers and he died 16<sup>th</sup> January 1916. The second son to whom our Walter Perry referred to in his letter was the Rev. Benjamin Corrie Ruck-Keene who was a royal army chaplain, he died 26 September 1917 at Passchendale Ypres.

On the 1920 Elector's List, Edmund and his wife Emma are still living at the Rectory in Copford along with their son Philip. This son had a lucky escape in WW1. He was on HMS Vanguard at Jutland in June 1916, but on the 9<sup>th</sup> July 1917 the Vanguard exploded at Scapa Flow. Shortly before midnight the Vanguard suffered a series of magazine explosions. She sank almost instantly, with the loss of 843 lives. A strange anomaly, there were 3 survivors initially, but one died later. Philip's name is not one of the surviving two names!

In WW2, three more Ruck-Keene brothers die. These are the sons of Admiral William George Ruck-Keene and his wife Violet. Edmund and George the fathers of the WW1 casualties are cousins to William, the Admiral.

If you research the Ruck-Keene family you will find they have a strong tradition in the church and military. You can find portraits of the Rev. Benjamin Ruck-Keene and his wife in the National Portrait Gallery.



*Rev. Benjamin Corrie Ruck-Keene.  
With permission Keble College Oxford*



This photograph from the FLHS Archive is the quitoes team from the Half Moon Beer House circa 1920. ‘Six degrees of separation’ is the idea that all living things are six or fewer steps away from each other.

This photograph alone is proof to that idea. These men were not only known to Walter Perry but to many of our other Fordham Heath residents. We can connect many by marriage, here are a few of the connections.

In the back row:

‘Groaner’ Nice, Arthur Cooper (brother- in-law to George Kettle), Fred Nice, Cliff Kerry, Harry Cranfield (father-in-law of Chummy Nice).

In the middle row:

Harry Hopping, George Perry (Walter’s father), Fred Hopping, Abram Balls ( whose fiancée went and lived with Walter Perry’s sister Lily, Abram was also cousin to two of our casualties Arthur Balls and Hercules (Balls) Pettitt, John Perry (Walter’s brother), Wesley Worth ( he married one of Horace Slyfield’s sisters).

In the front row:

Joe Gasson (his sister married Horace Slyfield), Arthur ‘Chummy’ Nice (married Harry Cranfield’s daughter), unknown, George Kettle (brother to Albert and Henry Kettle two of our casualties).

Arthur Balls and his family can be located next to the Half Moon Beer House. In the 1911 census Arthur is recorded with his grandmother living two cottages away from his widowed mother.



*View over Fordham Heath 2017. W. Shepherd*

Charles Horne, his parents and younger sister lived at Fordham Heath, no precise location. We also know that our Jutland participant Horace Slyfield and his family lived four cottages down, Horace's sister Emily Martha Slyfield is Charles' mother. On the 1920 Fordham Electoral roll, parents William and Emily Martha can be found at Fordham Heath and a George and James Horne recorded at Porters Lane. To confuse matters there is another William Horne and family recorded on the 1920 Electoral Roll for Copford at Nimrods.

Edward Crisp is recorded as living in Fordham Heath on the 1901 and 1911 census. A more precise address taken from the 1915/1916 Occupier's List is Heathfields Farm, where father William Crisp is recorded. The family are not on electoral roll for Fordham or Copford in 1920.

Thomas Potkin, his sister and parents are recorded as living at Fordham Heath in the 1901 and 1911 census, but no precise location. After the death of Thomas, his parents are recorded at Hole Farm Copford.

In the 1911 census, the address of the Kettle family is opposite the Post Office Eight Ash Green. John and Alice Kettle had 10 children, but by 1911 just 8 children continued to live with them in '4 large rooms.' Our two casualties Henry and Albert, 22 and 18 respectively were living there with their parents. Older brother George was still with the family at 31 years of age.



*All Saints Church Eight Ash Green 2017. W.Shepherd FLHS*

Along Halstead Road from where the Kettles lived was All Saints Church. This was a chapel of ease to St. Michael's in Copford. It was built from money bequested by Mrs E. M. Searles and dedicated to the vicar Benjamin Ruck-Keene, whom we mentioned earlier.

When boundaries of the ecclesiastical parish were altered in 1961, small portions of Copford and Stanway, and a detached part of West Bergholt being added to Fordham. Three small portions of Fordham were annexed to West Bergholt. All Saints' Church at Eight Ash Green, was transferred to Fordham as a district church in Fordham parish with a separate district church council.

*Retrieved from: [www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/esssex/vol10/pp215-217](http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/esssex/vol10/pp215-217)*

To finish our walk around Fordham and Fordham Heath showing where our families lived, we conclude with Harry George Webber and his family. In 1911 we find him living at Foxes Corner Copford, but a previous address for his family just before he was born was Porters Lane Cottages.



*Dedication stone All Saints Church Eight Ash Green 2017.  
W. Shepherd FLHS*



*Scenes of Fordham postcard dated 1920. M. Rideout. FLHS*

## The Head Teacher and Conscientious Objection by Jenny Kay

Head Teacher of Fordham C E School 1913 - 1916

Ernest William Somner took up his post at Fordham School on 5 August 1913. He was born in Walthamstow in 1890. His father, Octavious William then aged 29 was a schoolmaster, his mother Ellen was 30. They were both Anglicans and Ernest was baptised in 1895 when they moved to Kings Walden, Hitchin. He had an older sister Nellie, born 1887 who was also a teacher, a younger sister Elsie, born 1893 and a brother Bertram, born 1896.

Ernest trained to be a teacher at St John's Training College, Battersea where he gained a Board of Education Certificate with an advanced certificate in English Literature of the Royal Society of Arts and certificates in Model Drawing, Cottage and Allotment Gardening, Educational Psychology, Hygiene and Physical Training. His first appointment was from 1910 to 1912 at St Peter's Boy's School, Kingston upon Thames. In the 1911 census Ernest was recorded as a Master in Elementary School, boarding at 21 Chesham Road, Kingston.

His second appointment at the age of 23 was the position of Head Teacher at Fordham C E School. He followed Edwin Jacey Pitt who had a propensity for using the cane. Both head teachers were remembered by past pupils, Florence Pettican and Julia Waters. They were interviewed in 1999 at the age of 99 years old by Sylvia Gaspar, a school governor at the time. The following is a quote from the interview reported in the booklet '150 Years at Fordham All Saints, A Few Recollections'

*'Mr Pitt is remembered for having a withered arm but it did not stop him from using the cane for misbehaviour. The boys of course would try to outwit Mr Pitt and move their hand away at the last minute! Mr Somner, who was head teacher much later, was much nicer'.*

From his log book entries on the curriculum and the activities taking place in the school, Ernest appears to have worked diligently to further the children's education and experiences. The Diocesan inspector's reports were very good. Working conditions in the school simplified when dual desks were supplied in the main room. It was during his time that the first child from Fordham was entered in the scholarship exam and successfully gained a place at the Girls Secondary School in Colchester.

On a Saturday in January 1914 he organised a Christmas tea with games and Punch and Judy entertainment, collecting funds for this from Fordham residents. In September 1914 parents and friends were invited to visit the school to see children's exhibition of work prepared for the flower show





*All Saints School c1930. FLHS Archive*

which had been cancelled due to the war. The head commented that great interest was shown in the exhibition and the 'ordinary routine work of the school'.

In November 1914 a concert was held for Prince of Wales fund raising £7. 15.0. Blotters were made and sent to the Military Hospital in Colchester for the wounded.

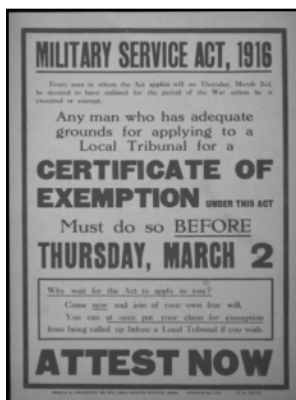
Until March 1916 enlisting in the army was voluntary. The Government resisted the pressure to bring in conscription. Before the war there was widespread opposition to compulsory military service in Britain but men were enlisting in large numbers. Even after war broke out in 1914 the cabinet dismissed Winston Churchill's proposal for compulsory military service. British strategy as the foreign secretary Sir Edward Grey argued was:- 'to pursue a European policy without keeping up a great army'.

Even in May 1915 the under Secretary of State for war declared that conscription was "foreign to the British Nation, to the British character and to the genius of our people." In June 1915 the National Registration Act which required everyone to register their employment details was seen as a step towards conscription.

By December 1915 the casualty figure of wounded, dead or missing was 528,227 and on March 16 1916 The Military Service Act required all men to register. The Act contained the conscience clause which enabled men to



conscientiously object to combatant service. The local tribunal would decide if the applicant could a) be exempted from no-combatant services only and would consequently would be required to join the Non- Combatant Corp serving the army or b) exempted on condition that they are engaged in work of National Importance. The results of the tribunals were generally reported in the local papers.



Ernest Somner applied for exemption on grounds of conscience and was initially directed to Non-combatant Service. He appealed. A report of this first hearing is so far missing. His appeal under the title 'Many Phases' was reported in the Chelmsford Chronicle 14 April 1916.

*Ernest Wm Somner elementary head teacher, Fordham appealed on the ground of conscience, and also, that he was doing national work, being teacher choirmaster, organist Sunday School teacher, and special constable. - Exempted from combatant service, but told that he would have to go on some national service.*

He did not have the support of the school managers as the following summary indicates. Quoting from 'A Brief History of the School' supplied of in 1992 by J I Bedford, Archivist, Essex Record Office and written up in 150 Years at All Saints Fordham:

*In March 1916 Mr Somner, a conscientious objector, appeared before the managers to ask for their support in his appeal for total exemption from conscription under the Military Service Act, which would enable him to continue his teaching career. (A tribunal had granted him the right to Non-Combatant service only.) The managers denied his request and when, a few months later, he was obliged to find work of national importance they*

refused to grant him the right to return to his post after the war, the majority being of the opinion that a 'conscientious objector is unfitted for the training of the young'.

The managers at the time possibly were Rev H Lilley, A.W. Barratt, William Crisp (whose son had joined up and died in November 1916), and Chas J. A. Potter.

The Fordham School log book in 1916 records:

*12 April - Head teacher attends tribunals and gets exemption from military service.*

*4 August - Mr Somner concludes his service at the school today to take up his service of work of national importance in accordance with his exemption certificate granted under the Military Service Order 1916...*

Ernest left the school in August 1916 and was replaced by Winifred Williams. Ernest's brother Bertram, who had worked as a secretary for the Christian organisation, the Fellowship of Reconciliation was also a conscientious objector on religious grounds. He was an absolutist, refusing Non-Combatant Service; he spent the war in prison and labour camps.

Ernest found work of National Importance through the Friends Ambulance Unit. This was set up by the Religious Society of Friends, the Foreign Service and the Home Service. As well as sending staff to hospitals in the England, the Home Service organised agricultural work for conscientious objectors who for financial or other reasons could not join the FAU. Ernest's FAU card gives Mill House, Fordham as his address. He was directed to agricultural work in Saffron Walden, Gillingham in Dorset, Jordans, a Quaker farm and finally Challacombe Farm in Devon before his release in 1919.

F. C. FRIENDS AMBULANCE UNIT ( 1914 - 1919 ) PERSONNEL CARDS SERIES A

Name: *SOMNER Ernest William* Married—Single:  Married

Address: *Mill House, Fordham, Gt. Lincoln.*

Normal Occupation: *Head Teacher, Fordham C.E. School*

Connection with Friends: *Y.M.C.*

Place of Birth—Name: *21 St. Lawrence (Potter)* Date of Birth: *23rd 1880*

Address: *Mill House, Fordham, Gt. Lincoln, Lincolnshire*

Date of joining F.A.U.: *8 Aug 1916* Ex. No.: *222* General Service: *Agts.*

Date	Name	PRESENT SERVICE				Exemption
		Unit	Post	Area	Notes	
<i>1916</i>	<i>H. Farm, Saffron Walden</i>					<i>222 222 Saffron Walden</i>
<i>1916</i>	<i>Home Service, Gillingham</i>					<i>222 222 Gillingham</i>
<i>1917</i>	<i>Jordans</i>					<i>222 222 Jordans</i>
<i>1917</i>	<i>Challacombe Farm</i>					<i>222 222 Challacombe Farm</i>
<i>1918</i>	<i>Devon</i>					<i>222 222 Devon</i>

Made at London, F.A.U. Date:

Retrieved from: <https://search.livesofthefirstworldwar.org/search/world-records/conscientious-objectors-register-1914-1918>

It seems likely that Ernest met his wife while living in Fordham. The marriage took place in Copford Church on 18 August 1921 between Ernest William Somner, Schoolteacher and Emily Barleyma spinster, both fathers were witnesses.

In 1911 Thomas Barleyman was the miller at Aldham. It seems likely that the family were still there in 1913 and Ernest met Emily at the time he was teaching in Fordham and living at Mill House.

From 1919 to 1921 Ernest was working in Lingfield, Surrey at The Colony. This was established in 1897 by a religious charity for teaching agricultural skills to men with learning and physical difficulties. In 1904 a school was opened. After WWI soldiers with epilepsy caused by brain injury were sent there for rehabilitation. A clue to his whereabouts after the war came from a letter to the editor discovered in the Surrey Mirror and Post 13 August 1920. He was writing about Ireland, calling for reconciliation, disarmament and the removal of all troops from there.

In 1921 on his marriage to Emily he took up a post at Stanthwaite Epileptic School in Cumberland. Research revealed that he was ordained in 1927 by the Bishop of Barrow, had posts of Curate to St Mary's Ulverston 1927 to 1929, Curate in charge of St Columba, Broughton Moor 1930 -1934 and Vicar of St Mary Magdalene Gilsland from 1934.

The Rev. E. W. Somner, curate in charge of St. Columba, Broughton Moor, has been appointed Vicar of Gilsland, in succession to the Rev. A. L. Webb, now Vicar of Flimby. Mr. Somner was ordained by the Bishop of Barrow in 1927, and was curate of St. Mary's, Ulverston, for two years, before going to Great Broughton.

In the 1939 Registration List Ernest was recorded at the Vicarage as Clerk in Holy Orders and his wife Emily as unpaid domestic duties. It is possible that the two names whose records are blacked out could be their children; a third name Alma Philipson changed to Dunn was 11 years old and at school.

His death on 5 May 1978 was recorded in Lancaster. The probate record in September gave his address as Maryland Home, Bottom Lane, Silverdale, and Carnforth. His estate was valued at £259.

## From the Fordham School Logbook

1914

April. Head teacher attends tribunals and gets exemption from military service.

Aug. 4. Mr Somner concludes his service at the school today to take up work of national importance in accordance with his exemption certificate granted on Conscientious Objections grounds under Military Service order.

Aug 31. Three children have gone away from the district during the holiday as fathers have been called to the Front.

Sept. 21. Two girls were re-admitted. Their father , policeman has been on special duties at Harwich because of the war.

Nov. 16. Charles Davey admitted. His mother is staying in the village while his father is serving at the front.

1915

April 19. 45 blotters made by bigger children have been sent to the Military Hospital in Colchester for use of the wounded soldiers. The blotters were made from cardboard boxes brought in by the children and from wallpaper pattern books given by a local builder.

June 3. Shortage of doctors means routine medical inspections cannot be carried out.

Oct. 20. War Loan Scheme explained to children. Only 5 children subsequently gave their name as prospective members.

1916

Feb. 12. Two War Savings Certificates purchased by Association in Connection with the school.

Sept. 10. Dorothy Olive admitted on account of London air raids.

Nov. 23. School closed to allow for preparation for Children's Patriotic Concert.

In the summer of 1918, the children were awarded two extra days summer holidays for "peace."

*Ref. 1914-1916 Fordham school log books. Essex Record Office*

# CHILDREN'S CONCERT

(Proceeds in aid of Prince of Wales National Relief Fund)

On THURSDAY and FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26th and 27th, 1914.

CHAIRMAN ON FRIDAY—W. CRISP, Esq.

CHAIRMAN ON THURSDAY—C. A. GREEN, Esq.

Doors open 6.30. Commence at 7.

## PROGRAMME.

### PART I.

1. STUMP SPEECH ... JACK PLAYLE, From "Teacher's Aid."
2. SONG ... "Old England's still the Same" ... FLORENCE FOX.
3. DIALOGUE ... "Mrs. Brown's Blunders" ... "Teacher's Aid," EMILY WILLSHER AND WIKKIE TAYLOR.
4. AUTION SONG "Oh, Won't You Dolly?" ... "Written by Clementine Ward, Schoolmaster, (Publishers), SIX GIRLS.
5. SONG ... "The Cat in the Chimney" ... "By Lough Kingmill, Publishers, Phillipa & Page, LILY SHORNE.
6. RECITATION ... "The Amateur Photographer" ... "Teacher's Aid," STANLEY STEADMAN & JOHN WINTER.
7. SONG ... "The Playground in the Sky" ... "By Edgar Bateman (Words), FRANCIS DAY & HENDERSON (Publishers), EMILY WILLSHER.
8. RECITATION ... "Which?" ... "Teacher's Aid," L. A. EVENING, V. LEATHERDALE, and EVENING, E. WRIGHT.
9. SKETCH ... "Mrs. Mulligan's Spring Cleaning" ... "Clementine Ward, Publishers, B. BRINKLEY, M. MULLIGAN, F. FOX, SALLY TOMLINSON, L. OSBORNE, Bertha, and W. G. ZEDDIE, E. WHITE, Sweeny ... E. BUGG.

### PART II.

10. SKETCH ... "Goody Trippit" ... "Published by 'Schoolmaster,' G. BRINDLE, Villagers, L. PATERSON.
11. THE CHILDREN'S SONG ... "Radysen Kithing (Woods), J. B. Miles (Music), J. Curwen (Publishers), THE CHILDREN.
12. DIALOGUE ... "Babies" ... "Published by 'Schoolmaster,' R. WINTER and J. BEARD.
13. TWO-PART SONG ... "Jenny Wren and Robin Redbreast" ... "By Amy Mills Robertson, J. Curwen, Publishers, THE CHILDREN.
14. ACTORS SONG ... "Precolly wase the Usion Jack" ... "By John N. Crowther, From 'Schoolmaster Publishing Company,' TWELVE BOYS.
15. DIALOGUE ... "Women's Rights and Men's Wrongs" ... "By L. Debenham, Mrs. Shubin ... E. WHITE, Mrs. Wren ... K. STEADMAN, Mary Ann ... E. SOUTHERNWOOD.
16. SONG ... "When Young comes the Spring" ... "By Mrs. M. J. ... E. SOUTHERNWOOD, ELSA and H. ...
17. SKETCH ... "The Jumble Sale" ... "From 'Schoolmaster' (Publishers), S. BOORMAN, W. TAYLOR, N. FOX, N. BRINKLEY, Six Writers—J. PLAYLE, E. BUGG, P. PLAYLE, S. STEADMAN, Six Readers—J. PLAYLE, E. BUGG, P. PLAYLE, S. STEADMAN, E. TAYLOR, L. TAYLOR, E. SOUTHERNWOOD.

### NATIONAL ANTHEM.

## The Aldham Scout Connection by Jane Smith

At the beginning of the 1900's there was a Scout Troop in Aldham which met in Ford Street under the leadership of Group Scout Master George Reginald Gifford. As well as Aldham boys joining the Troop there were several Fordham boys and in particular Frank and George Clampin who in 1911 were living at Stone Cottage, Fordham. Their father, Frank William Clampin, was a builder and it was he who built the Fordham War Memorial. Frank and George had three sisters, Harriet, Eva and Edith. Harriet and Edith both worked in the Woolwich Arsenal. George served in the 11<sup>th</sup> Hussars, C Squadron but according to his nephew, Derek Clampin, did not enter the war until it was nearing the end. George Clampin was born in 1899 and died on 25 March 1956.

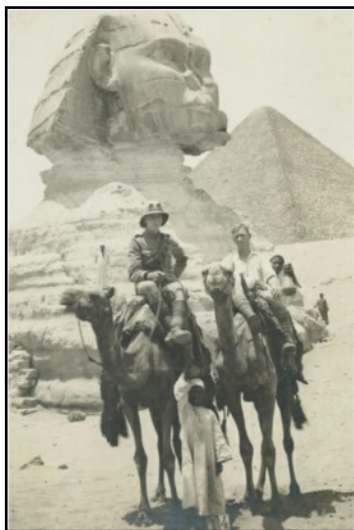
Frank Clampin Jnr. was enrolled as a Boy Scout on 13 January 1912 when he was 14 years old and became a 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Scout on 15 May 1912. It is likely the Scout House was a building opposite the Queens Head in Ford Street; it was a very dilapidated building which was completely restored by Frank Clampin and Sons in the early 1920's.



*Frank Clampin, son of war memorial builder.  
D. Clampin FLHS Archive*

### **Excerpts from the diary of Frank Clampin.**

Frank Junior was only 17 years and 2 months when he joined up with the 1/1<sup>st</sup> Essex Royal Horse Artillery on 4 September 1914, on what he calls was a “fatal” Friday. Whilst serving with the Essex Royal Horse Artillery, Frank Junior kept a diary and we have included some of the insights into his war.



*Frank Clampin in Egypt 1916. D. Clampin FLHS Archive*

Frank served as a Gunner in the Royal Horse Artillery serving in Egypt and Palestine alongside his friends Reginald Gifford and Frank Haynes who were both members of the Scout Troop. Frank was awarded both the Victory and British Medals.

For the first three months Frank remained in and around the Essex/Suffolk area learning as much as he could about the Horse Artillery but he eventually lost interest in this as he did not get the opportunity to learn as much as he would have liked to. He was successful in obtaining the post of Battery Postman in November of that year, a post which he held for 3 months.

He then worked as a Limber Gunman (a limber being a two wheeled cart for supporting an artillery piece), until June 1915, which involved keeping one gun and five shell wagons clean and by the end of this time he knew all there was to know about guns. On Field Days he had to parade with the Battery



which would entail either route marches or manoeuvres around the East Coast.

In June, Frank was offered a job as a servant to the Major of his unit spending time in Colchester, Yoxford and Kelsale Place, near Saxmundham. Eventually Frank was posted abroad and on 18 February 1916 he set sail from Devonport for Egypt aboard an old cattle boat known as “Manato.”

From Port Said he travelled by train to Kantara, on the west bank of the Suez Canal and it was here where several of his pals contracted a fever with many being sent to hospital but fortunately Frank escaped. They then trekked for three days over mostly desert to Romani where they built dry-outs in the sand hills for protection as they were being bombed on most days but it was on the morning of 4 August that the real bombardment started and lasted for most of the day and it was not until the evening that they were able to lay their comrades to rest.



*Frank Clampin Egypt. D. Clampin FLHS Archive*

Among Frank’s jobs at this time was ensuring that the men on the front line had food and drink, preparing the men’s meals and loading ammunition. After this battle Frank contracted dysentery and he was sent to a field hospital which was situated on a boat. After a long train journey he returned to Romani only to find that his Battery had moved on to El Raba.

Tents were not allowed here and “bivvies” were made out of straw matting and it was while Frank was stationed here that he had one of his narrowest escapes. The Turks liked to try and blow up the “bivvies” and a bomb dropped quite close to Frank’s “bivvy” and although uninjured, left him with shell shock for some considerable time.

The Battery stayed in Romani until January 1917 and during this time things were fairly quite patrolling the desert. Frank spent a few days prior to Christmas in Port Said staying at the Casino Hotel with the Major and Christmas was spent back in Romani.

The Battery then trekked for eight days across the desert arriving at El Arish on the Coast. Here it was much cooler with very little rain so good water was scarce to find. They had to dig down in the sand to find water in order to wash. From March onwards they moved on towards Deir-el-Belah and from 18 April, having moved up towards the firing line, the Battle of Gaza (Second) began and the Battery were being continuously moved from one position to another.



*Ottoman machine gun corps defending Tel esh Sheria, and the Gaza line in 1917 Retrieved from:en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second\_Battle\_of\_Gaza*

In June the Major had to go into hospital and Frank went with him back to Deir-el-Belah and then to Kantara which took him in excess of 15 hours on cattle trucks. Whilst Frank was on leave in Cairo, the Major returned to the line so on his return to Kantara, Frank found the Major had already left. It took Frank over 3 days to rejoin him and the Battery at Tel-El-Tara. Over the next few months Frank moved around from place to place with the Major experiencing leave in Alexandria and Port Said.

On returning with the Major from leave Frank and the Battery moved up and down the Gaza Line at times having to trek 15 miles from the beach where they were stationed for a rest to the Front Line to be ready for an attack in the morning. They eventually ended up at the Wadi Ghuzze, a dry river bed

and a very hot place both in terms of weather and shells; here they stayed for about a month. After this spell of intensive shelling Frank had a few days leave in Port Said before returning to the right flank towards the end of September. Whilst here the Battery was used more for reconnaissance to find out the lay of the land and it was here that they saw plenty of planes, especially the Taube which was the main machine used by the Turks.

In the middle of October the Major was promoted to Colonel and sent to command the 272 Brigade R.F.A. 54<sup>th</sup> Division and Frank went with him which was a very sad time as he left all of his pals behind and also it was the end of his Horse Artillery days. On the 27 October they found themselves very close to the Front Line and the bombardment of the big battle raged for 7 days and nights. Two nights before Gaza fell there was a horrific thunderstorm which resulted in them being washed out of their bivvies. Gaza fell just as their final attack was going to be launched on 7 November.

*(Reference – Extracts from Original Diaries of Gunner Frank Clampin, kindly loaned by his son, Derek. Unfortunately the diaries finish here and do not take us up to the conclusion of the War.)*

Frank Clampin was born in 1897 and died in 1960. He is buried in the Churchyard of St. Margaret and St. Catherine's, Aldham Essex.

### **The Aldham Scout Newsletters**

Also serving, but with the Edinburgh Battalion of the Royal Scots, was John Douglas Headly who was living in Aldham prior to the war. After he was discharged, John had the idea of making contact with members of the Scout Troop who were serving abroad, asking them for news with a view to producing a monthly newsletter. Here are some extracts from the newsletters.

Dear Scouts

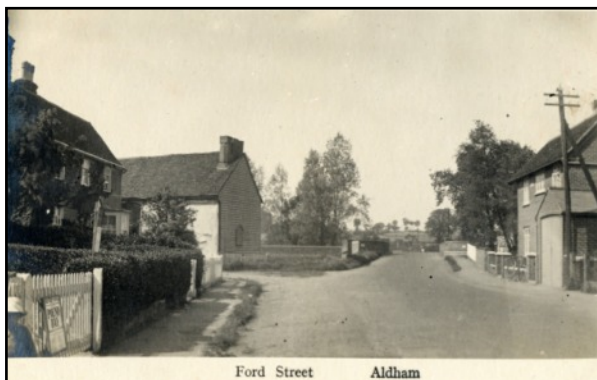
As I am now discharged from the Army, I am able to carry out a little scheme. All I require is a letter from all the scouts to reach me by the 24<sup>th</sup> of each month and I shall pick out the interesting news and arrange a similar letter to this one which I will post to you all on the 27<sup>th</sup> of each month. I hope this is perfectly clear and the affair will receive your support. The Egyptian party will of course be a little late for the first month.

30.11.18. Local news

The mill is now being pulled down and so far the roof and top floor are finished. According to the stone placed in the building it was built in 1875.

The river bank is rather broken near the old footbridge, consequently the water has been low all summer.

Mr Cant has sold his house and I purchased a huge quantity of oddments including a bagatelle for the Scout House.



*Ford Street Mission Room Aldham G. Jackson FLHS*

The famous three wheeler that took up most of the garage is now my property. At present it refuses to fire but I have great hopes of effecting an explosion even if from the tyres!

News from Lieut. R. Gifford. He has just recovered from jaundice which made him turn tallow and we hope by now he is back to his normal colour. During his journey to the hospital he had a most uncomfortable time including a shipwreck. The hospital was in the grounds of the Sultan's Palace.

News from Gunner F. Clampin to Lt. Gifford. Congratulations on reaching 6ft. Has been known to act as Officers Mess Cook, result not known, but officers believed to be still living.

News from Able Seaman T. Steadman. He has got over the various forms of seasickness, appétite is excellent. Getting older every day. Our thanks to him for the surrender of the German Navy.

News from Private H.J.Bailey. We hope Harry will soon recover from his wounds, which we understand were caused by machine gun bullets in the knee.

News from Private E.J. Pudney. After 2 years in France, he was invalided out with trench fever and spent some time in hospital. Before closing I cannot help referring to the Scouts we have lost.

Patrol Leader Arthur Steadman 25 Apr 1915,

Second Sidney Bailey 30 Oct 1914

Patrol Leader Fred Bailey.

31.12.18

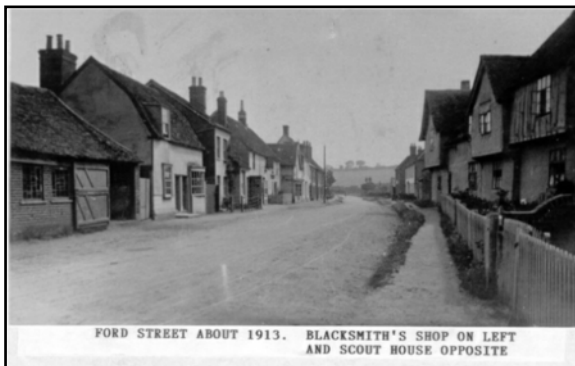
Local News. The Mill chimney is due to come down any day now, but the workmen have not got over Christmas.

Shorthorns is now empty and a sale was held there 14 days ago.

The tricar goes sometimes and has visited Fordham, Copford, Marks Tey and Eight Ash Green – scared horses everywhere. At times I hurriedly left the seat owing to the heat, steam and smoke, but so far the Fire Brigade has not been needed. It drinks petrol and takes ditches well!

News from L/C. G. Clampin. He was home at Christmas and goes back feeling happy. When he gets out we hope to see him as Troop Leader. Takes frequent visits to Colchester, but I have not seen the lady yet!

News from Private A. W. Pudney. Arrived home and has 2 months leave in which to get fat and get over the effects of bad feeding in Germany. Can sleep pretty well and is doing useful work for the scouts. Present during the first explosion of the tricar and has also been in Mr Menzies pond on the same!



*Ford Street postcard. G. Jackson FLHS Archive*

30.1.1919

Local News. Wonderful things have happened since the last letter. I have received plenty of letters and have also seen a good many of you personally.

You may be surprised to hear the dear old HQ will be pulled down in March. Expert advice told me it would cost hundreds to repair. I am attempting to buy an Army hut 100 ft. long. In the meantime I have hired a room at the Shoulder of Mutton which of course sounds terrible but it has a separate entrance and is quite apart from the business. The parents have been notified and no objection raised.

The mill chimney came down even before the steeplejack was prepared for the fall, consequently no one was present.

News from Lt. Gifford. Spent Christmas 7 miles from Cairo. At present teaching motor driving, agriculture and poultry keeping. Will be obliged if he can teach our fowls to lay eggs.



*Shoulder of Mutton c. 1930 G. Jackson FLHS Archive*

News from Gunner F. Clampin. Glad to hear you have collared two prizes at sports. Glad you have given up cooking for the sake of others. Remember a scout is useful and helps others. Your sketch is worthy of a Pathfinder's Badge, but should bear compass bearings.

6.3.1919

Local News. The Troop gets stronger than ever owing to the fact that George Clampin and Jim Bailey are once again in harness. Mrs Kay cannot let us have the room at the Shoulder of Mutton, so unless I can hurry and get the Army hut, we shall be up a gum tree, but still cheerful.

News from Lt. Gifford. He sent some interesting photos of trams buried in mud being the result of heavy rainfall which demolished a village, lovely place Egypt. There are rumours of his moustache growing more on one side than the other.

News from L.C. George Clampin. He is home and helping out again with the Scout Troop.

*(Reference – J Douglas Head's Aldham Scout Letters)*



*Aldham. M. Playle FLHS Archive*

## **Regiments**

The men on the war memorial served in 16 different regiments and we have Walter Starling who was our only Navy Rating. Eleven of our men were with the Essex Regiment. It was common for men to be transferred from one regiment to another. Regiments that had been hit hard with casualties would often have men transferred to them to build up numbers. On occasions when a soldier returned to duty after being wounded, he was put into another regiment. These changes can be found in service records; but many records did not survive after the depository was bombed in World War Two, so it is sometimes difficult to trace a soldier's army career.

Trying to track down where a soldier has fought can be confusing. A soldier belonged to a section and 4 sections made a company. 4 companies made a battalion. 2 battalions made a regiment. 4 battalions made a brigade and 3 brigades made a division and 4 divisions made a corps. These groups were commanded by a hierarchy of officers. The website The Long Long Trail is particularly useful in determining which division a soldier belonged to. The average soldier would know which company, battalion and division he belonged to.

### **On war memorial 1919**

A. W. Balls - 2<sup>nd</sup> Essex Regiment.

F. C. Broyd - 2<sup>nd</sup> Northamptonshire Regiment

A. H. Bull - Gunner, Royal Garrison Artillery

P. W. Cant - 4<sup>th</sup> Essex Regiment.

R. E. Cawdron - 17<sup>th</sup> Royal Fusiliers

E. H. Crisp - 7<sup>th</sup> Royal Fusiliers

S. Davey - 11<sup>th</sup> Essex Regiment

F. B. Francis - 12<sup>th</sup> Royal Scots

R. C. Francis - 2<sup>nd</sup> Suffolk Regiment

C. W. Horne - 11<sup>th</sup> Essex Regiment



C. W. Partridge - Royal Army Ordnance Corps

H. C. Pettitt - 9<sup>th</sup> Essex Regiment

T. E. Potkin - 9<sup>th</sup> Northumberland Fusiliers

A. H. Pudney - 2<sup>nd</sup> Bedfordshire Regiment

A. Rayner - 2<sup>nd</sup> Royal Fusiliers

J. T. Rayner – 2<sup>nd</sup> Essex Regiment

C. S. Taylor – 2<sup>nd</sup> Suffolk Regiment

E. J. Wright – 10<sup>th</sup> Essex Regiment

**Added to the War Memorial 2017**

F. Arnold - 1017<sup>th</sup> Mechanical Transport Co.

Royal Army Service Corps.

E. H. Bailey - Ammunition Col. Royal Field Artillery

A. A. G. Boutell - 1<sup>st</sup> Essex Regiment

G. Bunting - 24<sup>th</sup> Royal Fusiliers

A. G. Chinnery - 1<sup>st</sup> Hampshire Regiment

C. S. Everitt - 20<sup>th</sup> Middlesex Regiment

A. E. Kettle - 2<sup>nd</sup> Essex Regiment

H. W. Kettle - 2<sup>nd</sup> Essex Regiment

W. Miller - 2<sup>nd</sup> Essex Regiment

W. Perry - Corps of Military Police, foot branch

H. G. Webber - 1<sup>st</sup> Buffs East Kent Regiment

W. E. Starling Royal Navy - Boy 1st class HMS Prince Rupert



*Personal WW1 badge collection M. Hamilton-Macy*

## Brothers in Arms

We know of 4 pairs of brothers connected to Fordham who died, the Kettle brothers and Charles Everitt were added to the memorial in 2017.

Frederick Benjamin Francis born Bradfield died 1918

Reginald Clement Francis DCM born Bradfield died 1914

John Thomas Rayner born Aldham died 1916

Albert Rayner born Aldham died 1917

Albert Edward Kettle born Fordham died 1918

Henry William Kettle born Fordham died 1917

Charles Samuel Everitt born Fordham died 1918

William Henry Everitt born Mount Bures died 1917

In 2014 Anthony Seddon of the Telegraph reviewed a BBC documentary on the subject:-

‘It is every parent’s nightmare to lose a child. The utter horror of losing more than one child did occur in the First World War.’ He continues:-

‘Mr and Mrs Smith from County Durham lost five of their six sons in the trenches, two in 1916 - Robert 22 and George 26, two in 1917- John Stout 37 and Frederick 21 and finally Alfred age 30 in 1918. Their broken father himself died in 1918, leaving the mother to spend the rest of her life absorbing the loss alone. Following her sons’ deaths, Mrs Smith was known to say: “Don’t have boys, they just grow up to be canon-fodder.”

The series of tragedies prompted a local vicar’s wife to write to Queen Mary in 1918 asking for her to intervene and send Mrs Smith’s only surviving son Wilfred who was in his 20s, back home.

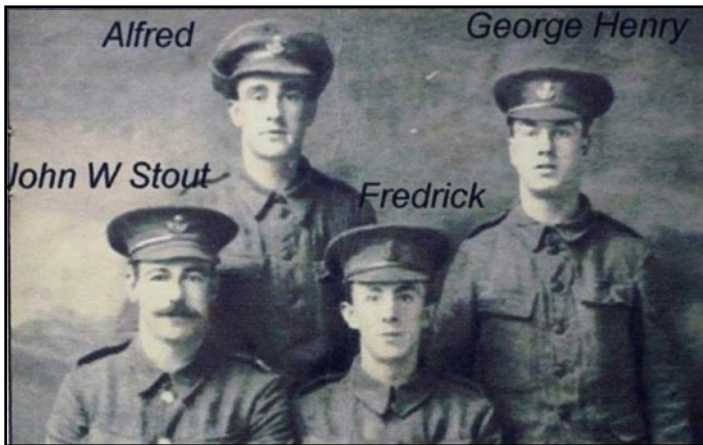
Buckingham Palace contacted the War Office, and Wilfred was spared serving on the front line. Wilfred went on to have five children and lived to the age of 72.

Amy Beechey from Lincoln was presented to the King and Queen in April 1918 after she had lost five of her eight sons in the war. When the Queen

thanked her for her sacrifice, she replied: “It was no sacrifice, Ma’am. I did not give them willingly.”

Annie Souls from Great Rissington also lost five of her six sons: Alfred (1918), Walter (1916), Albert (1916), Arthur (1918) and Frederick (1916). A local newspaper recorded that “Fred’s body was never found but his mother kept a candle burning in the window of the house in the hope that he would return.”

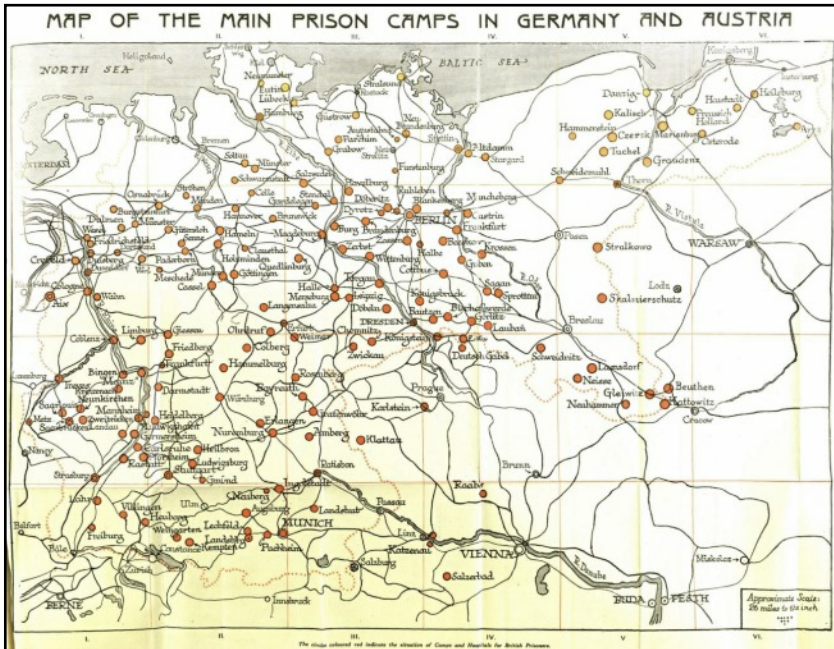
Retrieved from:[www.telegraph.co.uk/history/world-war-one/10652020/First-World-War-Losing-one-child-is-a-terrible-thing-so-just-imagine-losing-five.html](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/history/world-war-one/10652020/First-World-War-Losing-one-child-is-a-terrible-thing-so-just-imagine-losing-five.html)



*Four of the Smith brothers who died in WW1*

## Prisoners of War

At the outset of the Great War 1914-1918, the Germans had been confident of an early success and were actually shocked by the huge number of prisoners they had taken. They had made no plans for holding large numbers of captives and the majority of their POW camps were hastily built and were mainly inferior in every way. In the first six months of the war most men held captive in German camps had very little to occupy them. However, by the summer of 1915, working camps had been established and some men were sent to labour in mines, factories, forests and farms.



*Retrieved from [www.prisonersofwar1914-1918](http://www.prisonersofwar1914-1918)*

We have documented evidence that three of our men were prisoners of war:

Robert Edward Cawdron

Alfred George Chinnery

Frederick Benjamin Francis

**Robert Edward Cawdron** was born in Brighton and died October 1918. There is no record of a death certificate for Private Cawdron, but the CWGC notice reveals that Robert died from influenza. Robert is buried at Berlin South Western Cemetery.

On the daily casualty lists reported in newspapers, from His Majesty's Stationery Office, Private Cawdron was reported as missing in the January 13<sup>th</sup> 1917 issue. In a later newspaper dated 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1917 it states:-'Previously Reported Missing, now reported prisoner in German hands.' Private Cawdron was a prisoner for approximately 20 months.

CAWDRON, Pte. Robert Edward, 51067. 17th Bn. Royal Fusiliers. Died of influenza 28th Oct., 1918. Age 29. Son of James Cawdron; husband of Harriet Cawdron, of Fordham, Colchester. Native of Brighton. XVII. D. 6.

*CWGC announcement.*



*Berlin South Western Cemetery. TWGPP*

**Alfred George Chinnery** was born and baptised in Fordham but moved to Wiltshire before the outbreak of war; he joined the Hampshire Regiment.

In the Times on the 12<sup>th</sup> July 1915, it was reported that on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 1915 Private Chinnery was 'previously recorded as wounded, now missing.' There were also eight other soldiers from Alfred's Hampshire Regiment reported missing with him.

29 MAI 1915  
- 3 -

P.A. 2205  
K.

*Tiche  
3. Gumpert.*

Campbell	Tom. Gen.	13. Kanad. I. R. 6. K. Feld Lr. 6 3. A. K. Gestrickskerke, Rücken- schweif.
Chinery	Alfred Georges	37. Hampshire Regt. 6. K. Krgs. Lt. 127/II Iseghem. Sch. l. U. Arm. O. schkl., Gesicht.

*Prisoner of War Record retrieved from: [www.grandeguerre.icrc.org/](http://www.grandeguerre.icrc.org/)*

On the 5<sup>th</sup> October 1915 a report was received that Private Chinery previously reported missing was now reported as wounded and prisoner. Later that month on the 29<sup>th</sup> October 1915, Private Chinery is recorded: '*Previously Reported Prisoner, Now Reported Died of Wounds As Prisoner.*' The earliest POW report is dated 29<sup>th</sup> May 1915, therefore Alfred was a prisoner for approximately 5 months.

Private Chinery was a prisoner at Iseghem in Belgium and died in the Kriegslaz, a war hospital. He was buried in the Iseghem communal cemetery. But when Harlebeke New British Cemetery was made after the Armistice, graves were brought in from the surrounding battlefields of 1918 and in 1924-25, from Belgium and German cemeteries.

*HARLEBEKE N. B.*

CONCENTRATION OF GRAVES (Exhumation and Reburial).

**BURIAL RETURN.**

ALL GRAVES EXHUMED

1/15/20 S

19.11.15  
Name of Cemetery of Reburial HARLEBEKE NEW BRITISH CEMETERY N. B. No. 499

No.	Age	Grave	Was skeleton or other body found?	Was cause of death?	Regimental particulars	Name of Identification	Was grave actually buried?
11	C	17	Yes	Yes	1000 Pte. H.A. FURNESS 10/13th' Lt. 100th	Green & B. 100	Yes
12	C	18	-10-	142. ✓	2077 Pte. L. HADGIM 1/4th' Lt. 100th	149th' 100	No
13	C	1	-10-	180. ✓	2144 Pte. H. BARK 2/10th' Lt. 100th	14. 100	No
14	C	2	-10-	140. ✓	2020 Pte. A. G. CRIBBEN 1/10th' Lt. 100th	12. 100	No
15	C	3	-10-	214. ✓	10239 Lt. Col. J. G. HATHORN 2/9th' Lt. 100th	21. 100	No

**RETURNED**  
By Registration Officer  
(For Area Department)  
No. 1 Area 100th.

This form to be made out in duplicate, two copies being handed to the U. K. D. C. (I. C.) and the other retained by the Burial Officer.

*Reburial document retrieved from [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)*

**Frederick Benjamin Francis** was born in Bradfield Essex and his father is recorded on the Occupier's List of 1915/1916 living in Fordham. Private Francis was captured on the 26<sup>th</sup> April 1918 at Kemmel, he was 'unverwundet' - unwounded.

Although the CWGC and his death certificate state that Frederick died on the 20<sup>th</sup> October 1918, his POW death records that Frederick 'versterben' passed away/died on 20<sup>th</sup> August 1918. He was buried at Szczypiorno Prisoners of War Cemetery.

1 Fb. Nr.	2 a) Familienname b) Vorname (nur der Rufname) c) nur bei Russen Vorname des Vaters	3 Dienst- grad	4 a)   Truppen- b)   teil c) Komp.	5 a)   Gefangennahme (Ort und Tag) b)   c) vorhergehender Auf- enthaltsoort	6 a)   Geburtstag und -Ort b)   Adresse des nächsten c)   Verwandter
116	FRANCIS Frederick Benjamin. 353240	Pte	12th R. Scots B	Kemmel. 26.4.18 Unverwundet. Westfront.	Colchester 2.4.97. Colchester, Essex. Mrs. Francis, Rivers Hall Garden Cottage, Bexted, Colchester, Essex.

*Prisoner of War Records retrieved from: grandeguerrre.icrw.org/*

After the war the graves of Commonwealth servicemen who had died in Poland as prisoners of war, were gathered together in Poznan Cemetery which included the 29 known to have been buried at Szczypiorno which included Private Frederick Francis. Poznan was a typical German town in the German province of Posen. It had to be abandoned by Germany and was taken by the Polish. That is why Posen (Poznan) today is located in Poland.

<u>Francis, Fredrik,</u>	geb. 12. Royal Scots Regt. 13. Ep. geboren zu Colchester 2.4.1897 verstorben 20.8.18. infolge Währ, beerdigt auf dem Friedhof des Ergs. Gef. Lagers <u>Szeczyorno. Grab 603</u> 1897. 353240/1
--------------------------	--

*Prisoner of War Records retrieved from: grandeguerrre.icrw.org/*



In August 1914 the International Committee of the Red Cross established the International Prisoners of War Agency in Geneva. The objective was centralize information about prisoners of war so that loved ones could be kept informed. The Agency approached the warring parties and National Red Cross Societies to obtain information on the individual prisoners. It was a huge task during and after the war. Agency volunteers made index cards and lists of nearly two and a half million prisoners of war.

Every name was given an index card and classified with nationality, military or civilian status. States at war were expected to give lists of prisoners on a regular basis. Thousands of documents were received with lists of prisoners, capture dates, transfers from one centre to another and of deaths in captivity.

These index cards also contained the thousands of requests that they received from relatives enquiring about missing persons. At the beginning of the war the agency was receiving up to three thousand letters a day. But it did not take long for paid employees to be recruited to keep up with this enormous task.



*Photograph with permission from I.C.R.C.*

The Agency was organized into 14 national sections (Franco-Belgian, British, Italian, Greek, American, Brazilian, Portuguese, Serbian, Romanian, Russian, German, Bulgarian, Turkish and Austro-Hungarian) as the various countries entered the war. There were also two specialized sections for civilians and for health care.

This photograph shows the French section with over two and half million enquiry and index cards.



*Photograph with permission from I.C.R.C.*

National Red Cross societies continued to do their important work and continued to assist the medical services of the various armies and ran the relief operations for prisoners of war.

The ICRC continued to keep the Societies regularly informed about its own activities. Transporting parcels forwarded by the International Prisoners of War Agency to prisoners of war was another huge task. During the war, more than 1,800,000 parcels were delivered to prisoners of war through the Agency.

In 1917, the ICRC had already made a public appeal for as many prisoners as possible to be returned home, beginning with those who had endured the longest period of captivity. After the Armistice of November 1918, their work continued with two major humanitarian operations: repatriating prisoners of war and coming to the aid of the civilian populations of the defeated countries.

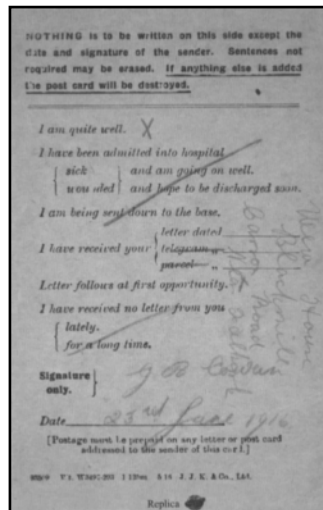
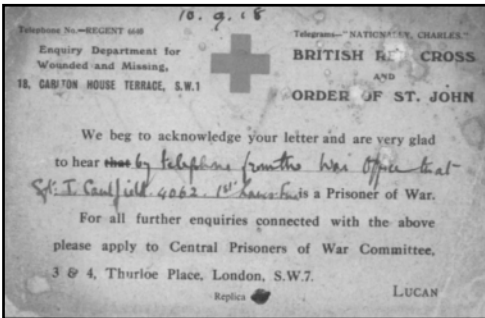
Sadly, our three prisoners of war died in captivity and never returned home.

For more information on the work of the International Committee of the Red Cross and International Prisoner of war Agency go to: [www.icrc.org](http://www.icrc.org)

Retrieved from: [www.icrc.org/en/document/international-committee-red-cross-first-world-war](http://www.icrc.org/en/document/international-committee-red-cross-first-world-war)



Photograph with permission from I.C.R.C.



Examples of British Red Cross postcards. Collection W. Shepherd

## The Silver War Badge

Earlier in the book we looked at badges which were worn by civilians to show that they were part of the war effort. The Silver War Badge was awarded to military personnel who had served at home or overseas and who had been honourably discharged under the King's Regulations.

It was also called the King's badge or wrongly called the Silver Wound badge. It was instituted in 1916 and most commonly awarded to those no longer physically fit for war service under King's Regulations 392(xvi.) It was awarded in retrospect to men discharged in 1914 or 1915 who met the criteria.

The circular badge has a pin with the legend "For King and Empire – Services Rendered" surrounding the King George V cipher. Most badges were accompanied by a King's Certificate, these were issued subject to separate regulations.

It was possible to be awarded a badge if the man had not served overseas and if his service record is now lost, (over 60% of WW1 records were destroyed in bombing in WW2,) this may be the only remaining evidence of service for such a soldier as the badge has the badge number imprinted on the reverse and this can be cross referenced with the service number on the Silver War Badge Roll record.

*Ref.<http://www.1914-1918.net/soldiers/snbrecords.html>*



## The War Memorial

In building Fordham's war memorial, our parish memorial committee of 1919 fulfilled the national expectation that a war memorial would recognise the contribution of the many who fought and died; we would remember them.

The government had encouraged local communities to form committees to raise funds for their own memorials. There was not a great deal of advice offered and few restrictions, but they did promote a desire for a religious image as part of a cathartic process.

The parish council sent out a letter to the village asking for subscriptions towards the building of a small clock tower as the memorial. George Playle gave a piece of ground at the junction of Church Road and Ponders Road as a site for the memorial.



*Swiss Cottage, village shop Ponders Road pre 1919. M.Boyle FLHS Archive*

## FORDHAM WAR MEMORIAL.

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At a Parish Meeting held in the School on Monday, January 20th, it was decided to erect a small Clock Tower as a memorial in honour of the sixteen Fordham soldiers who have made the great sacrifice on active service, in the European War 1914—1919.

These men fought bravely and died nobly in the cause of right against might to protect their country and our homes, and it is our duty to perpetuate the memory of such a sacrifice, by handing down their honoured names to future generations on a permanent memorial.

The Members of the Committee elected at the meeting to carry out this decision, have, after full consideration of various plans, made a selection of a Tower, 4 feet at the base and 10 feet high, to contain a clock with a dial 15 inches in diameter, and a space for inscribing the names of the fallen heroes.

The cost of this Tower will be about £100.

We feel sure that there will be a ready response to this appeal for subscriptions towards this amount.

Mr. Playle has kindly consented to give a piece of ground at the corner of Church Road and Ponder's Road, as a site for the Tower.

Many will feel it a privilege to subscribe as a thankoffering for the cessation of warfare, and the prospect of a just and lasting peace.

Signed on behalf of the Committee,

H. LILLEY, *Secretary.*

H. FORD, *Treasurer.*

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## FORDHAM WAR MEMORIAL.

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I will subscribe ..... pounds, ..... shillings,

..... pence to the Fordham War Memorial.

Signed .....

*Letter from Fordham Parish Council 1919. FLHS Archive*

## SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Rev. H. Lilley	...	...	0	Miss Emily Hopping	...	...	0
Mr. J. Paterson	...	...	0	Mr. Alfred Wright	...	...	0
Messrs. White Bros.	...	...	0	Mr. T. Southernwood	...	...	0
Mr. J. Hawes	...	...	0	Mr. Walter Pudney	...	...	0
Mr. Bryan Ball	...	...	0	Mrs. Rayner	...	...	0
Mr. G. Playle	...	...	0	Mr. H. Layner	...	...	0
Mr. R. Warren	...	...	0	Mrs. Whiting	...	...	0
Sir. W. Gwynne-Evans, Bart.	...	...	3	Mr. W. Perkins	...	...	0
Mr. F. W. Clamplin	...	...	2	Mrs. Lee	...	...	0
Dr. C. C. Wortis	...	...	2	Mr. and Miss Cant	...	...	0
Major Cadbury Brown	...	...	2	Mr. W. Bones	...	...	0
Mr. J. Crawford	...	...	2	Mr. G. Warren	...	...	0
Mr. and Mrs. Chatterton	...	...	1	Mrs. E. D. Hill	...	...	0
Mr. Lananey	...	...	1	Miss Pugh	...	...	0
Mr. and Mrs. J. Snow (the late)	...	...	1	Mrs. Gasson	...	...	0
Dr. C. J. Wortis	...	...	1	Mr. Cresswell	...	...	0
Mr. H. Hopping	...	...	1	Mrs. and Miss Huxtable	...	...	0
Mr. Brown	...	...	1	Mr. Nice	...	...	0
Mrs. Davy (Dovercourt)	...	...	1	Mrs. Ashton	...	...	0
Mrs. Cardron	...	...	1	Mr. and Mrs. Wilson (Pidler's Hall)	...	...	0
Mr. C. Beard and Mr. F. Broyd	...	...	15	Mr. Firmin	...	...	0
Mrs. and Mrs. E. Beard	...	...	15	Mrs. Cleary	...	...	0
Mr. and Mrs. John Broyd	...	...	12	Miss Carder	...	...	0
Mr. Chaplin (Fordham Heath)	...	...	10	Miss Carder	...	...	0
Mr. C. Morgan	...	...	10	Mrs. E. Bugg	...	...	0
Mr. Home	...	...	10	Mr. T. Osborn	...	...	0
Mr. C. W. Bugg	...	...	10	Mr. Wm. Woodward	...	...	0
Mr. and Mrs. Bullock	...	...	10	Mr. and Mrs. W. Sparks	...	...	0
Mr. G. Fox	...	...	10	Mr. and Mrs. Chapman	...	...	0
Mr. H. Harvey	...	...	10	Mr. H. Cresswell	...	...	0
Mr. Walter Beard (the late)	...	...	10	The Nurses (Penlan Hall)	...	...	0
Mr. D., Mrs. and Miss Southernwood	...	...	10	Miss Gracie Beard	...	...	0
Rev. B. Ford	...	...	10	Mr. Charlie Wright	...	...	0
Mr. A. J. Steward (the late)	...	...	10	Mr. G. Wright	...	...	0
Mr. and Mrs. Parr	...	...	10	Mrs. G. Wright	...	...	0
Mr. and Mrs. Crisp	...	...	10	Mr. H. Woodward	...	...	0
Mr. Chambers	...	...	10	Misses L. and N. Fox	...	...	0
Mr. Bonner	...	...	10	Mr. and Mrs. G. Cant	...	...	0
Mr. H. A. Partridge	...	...	10	Mr. and Mrs. G. Wright (Jun.)	...	...	0
Mr. and Mrs. P. Partridge	...	...	10	Miss Warren and Mr. Bridgewater	...	...	0
Mr. A. Chaplin	...	...	7	Mr. T. Williamson	...	...	0
Mr. and Mrs. Eley	...	...	6	Mrs. Poole	...	...	0
Mr., Mrs. and Miss Osborne	...	...	6	Mr. Parsons	...	...	0
Mr. Abram Chaplin	...	...	5	Mr. Dale	...	...	0
Miss Elsie Pettitt	...	...	5	Mrs. and Miss Smith	...	...	0
Mr. E. Hopping	...	...	5	Mrs. Keeble (Fordham Heath)	...	...	0
Mrs. Bower	...	...	5	Mrs. Chaplin (Porter's Lane)	...	...	0
Mr. H. Pudney	...	...	5	Mr. Worth	...	...	0
Mr. A. Pudney	...	...	5	Mrs. Bloom	...	...	0
Mr. and Mrs. Snow	...	...	5	Mr. and Mrs. G. Pudney	...	...	0
Mr. Walter Taylor	...	...	5	Mr. Gerald Pudney	...	...	0
Mr. Stanley Rayner	...	...	5	Mr. J. W. White	...	...	0
Mr. G. Loster	...	...	5	Mrs. Frank Bird	...	...	0
Mr. G. Hopping	...	...	5	Mrs. Pettitt	...	...	0
Mr. D. Taylor	...	...	5	Mr. Isaac Woodward	...	...	0
Mr. Wm. Bunton	...	...	5	Mr. F. Poole	...	...	0
Mrs. Death	...	...	5	Mr. W. Bugg	...	...	0
Mr. Wm. Beard	...	...	5	Miss L. Pudney	...	...	0
Miss E. Firmin	...	...	5	Mr. C. Sims	...	...	0
Mr. and Mrs. Carder	...	...	5	Miss Ebel Bird	...	...	0
Mr. Wingfield	...	...	5	Mr. W. Davey	...	...	0
Mrs. F. Morgan	...	...	5	Mr. F. Beard (Quiller's Green)	...	...	0
Mr. W. Nice (Sen.)	...	...	5	Mr. G. Wright	...	...	0
Mr. J. Keeble	...	...	5	Mrs. Alfred Wright	...	...	0
Mr. Williams	...	...	5	Mr. W. Woodward	...	...	0
Mr. and Mrs. E. Fox	...	...	4	Mr. P. Rayner	...	...	0
Mr. and Mrs. Rideout	...	...	4	Mr. W. Wickens	...	...	0
Mr. J. Sparks	...	...	4	Mrs. H. Bailey	...	...	0
Mr. Mott	...	...	4	Mr. T. Warren	...	...	0
Mr. and Mrs. W. Broyd	...	...	4	Mrs. Roberts	...	...	0
Mrs. Harris	...	...	4	Mr. Kay	...	...	0
Mr. A. Cole	...	...	3	Mr. Richards	...	...	0
Mr. and Mrs. Bird	...	...	3	Mr. C. Huxtable	...	...	0
Mr. G. Bunt	...	...	3	Mrs. Partridge (Colchester)	...	...	0
Mr. L. and Mrs. Salmon	...	...	3	Miss Ann Taylor	...	...	0
Mrs. Hills	...	...	3	Mr. C. Warren	...	...	0
Mr. W. Nice (Jun.)	...	...	3	Mrs. Everest	...	...	0
Mr. and Mrs. L. Smith	...	...	2	Harold Rayner	...	...	0
Mr. and Mrs. Sparks	...	...	2				
Mr. H. Blackwell	...	...	2				

£81 10 9

*Subscriptions from the village came to £81.10s.9d FLHS Archive*

The Ladies Committee of the Flower Show 1914 donated £12.1s.4d and there was a collection at the unveiling ceremony which added £3.19s.6d to the fund. After all the accounts were settled the balance of the fund was given to the Lord Roberts Memorial Workshops.

These workshops for disabled soldiers and sailors were expanded and named after Field Marshal Lord Roberts as a memorial to him following his death in 1914 whilst visiting troops in France.

In 1857 he had won the Victoria Cross and had long campaigned for more to be done for ex-servicemen, particularly those who had been disabled. These workshops produced a wide variety of goods including basket ware, toys, beds, bedding and all types of furniture. By 1920 there were eleven of these workshops.

FORDHAM.			Balance Sheet of Clock Tower War Memorial,		
UNVEILED OCTOBER 25th, 1919.					
RECEIPTS.			PAYMENTS.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Subscriptions as per list ...	81	10 9	Mr. F. W. Clampin, Erecting Monument ..	79	0 0
From Ladies' Committee of Flower Show, 1914 ...	12	1 4	Ditto Preparing Site and Extras ...	2	13 6
Collection at Unveiling Ceremony ...	3	19 6	Messrs. Wiles & Son, Printing Appeals for Subscriptions and Balance Sheet ...	2	8 0
			Mr. G. Chambers, a/c for Clock ...	13	0 0
			Balance, given to Lord Roberts Memorial Workshops ...		10 1
	£97	11 7		£97	11 7

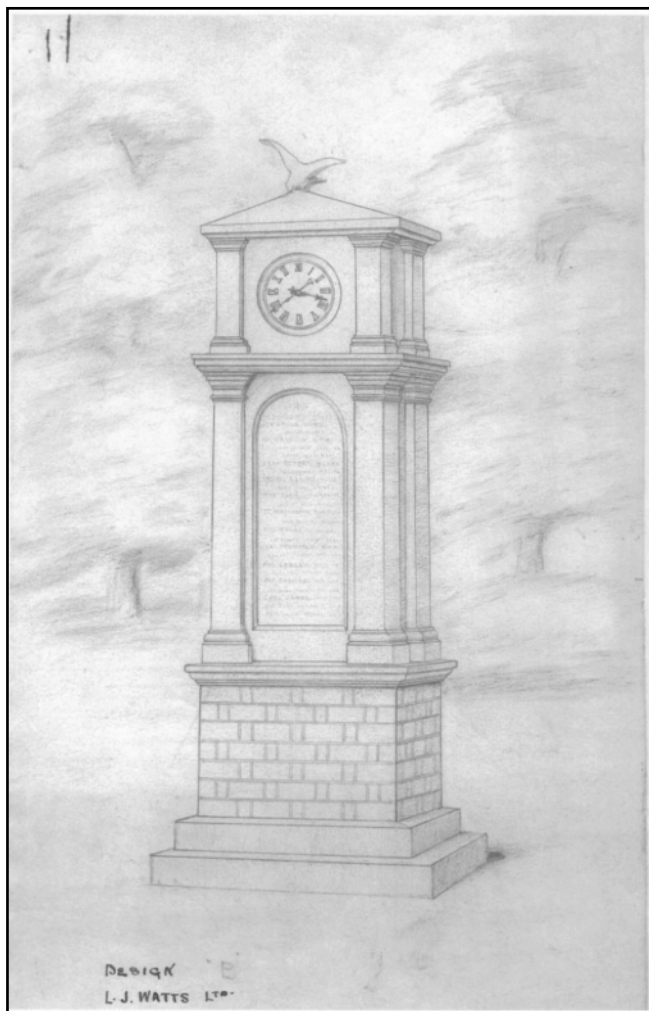
Audited January 29th, 1920.  
H. HARVEY.

*Clock Tower War Memorial Balance sheet 1919. FLHS Archive*



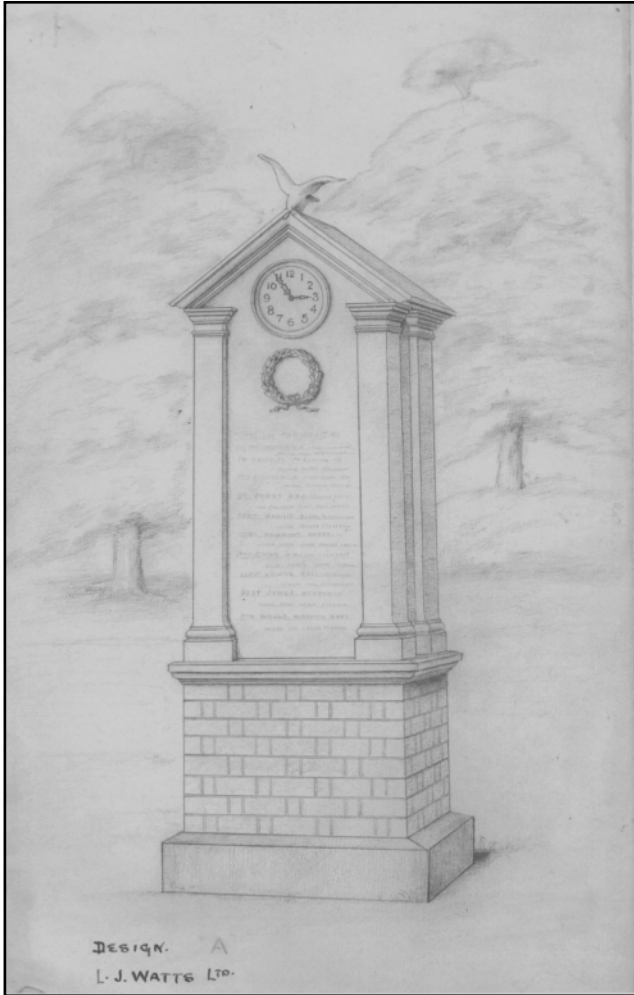
1919	
	Mar Memorial Forkham I . d
Aug 5	Taking down wall +
6	Digging foundations. +
7	Cement Concrete 3 ft deep
8	Scaffolding. Myself + man
	No of filling in papers 739
	sign Laying bricks Aug. 25 <sup>th</sup>
Aug. 25	— myself + man
26	— myself + 2 men
29	— myself + man
Sep 1	Ready for stone. with
24	Setting stone
25	Bricking up.
26	Myself 3 Men +
30	Fixing oak frame <sup>door</sup>
Oct 1	+ flag stone on top
2	for Clock Hole
3	Concrete top
	Rendered all down
	in Portland Cement
	+ sand.
4	Waiting for Clock.
	Myself + 2 men
	4 Clays.
Oct 11	Stonemason cutting
	for clock + fixing
	White lead + screws.
	Carpenter's time
	Myself + man
13	Taking down poles +
	Clearing away +
	repairing wall
17	Tared Copin on wall
	settled Nov 1st
	Cutting out Wall £1-5-0
	etc gift
	79 0 0
	79 0 0
	1 5 0

Frank Clampin's original 1919 accounts were loaned to us  
by his grandson Derek Clampin.



*Original 1919 designs given to FLHS by D. Clampin*

Two designs were put forward by L. J. Watts Limited who were the sculptors; we have the original sketches. They were founded 300 years ago in Colchester; they still exist today. L. J. Watts Ltd. were responsible for many of the memorials in Essex, in Colchester, Kelvedon and Coggeshall. This was the first design option.



*Original 1919 designs given to FLHS by D. Clampin*

This was the second design option. Our memorial was a combination of both designs. Frank W. Clampin began building the memorial on the 5<sup>th</sup> August 1919. The memorial was unveiled at a ceremony on 25<sup>th</sup> October 1919.



*War memorial in place post 1919. M.Boyle FLHS Archive*



*Clock Tower War Memorial c 1920. G. Jackson FLHS Archive*

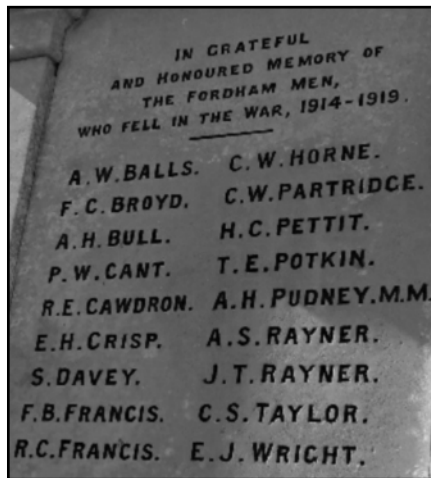
## Criteria

After the decision was made by the parish council to build a war memorial, the committee must have had a clear idea of who should be remembered on it. Members of FLHS went to the Essex Record Office to read the minutes of the parish council meetings that took place during war time; but these did not offer us any indication of the criteria.

The letter sent out to the village stated that it wanted to honour the 16 Fordham men. How do we define Fordham men? What was the criteria for inclusion? Birth place or residence? Birth place is easy to prove as we have copies of birth certificates and we can say that being born in Fordham was not the only criteria.

If residence at the time of enlistment was the criteria, that is a little harder to prove as 60% of WW1 service records were destroyed by bombing in WW2. But there are census, Occupier's lists and death records which might support residence at the outbreak of war being the criteria, but it appears that it was not.

So if we take a closer look at the men on the war memorial, a clearer picture may immerge. These are the men originally honoured on the war memorial and there are 18, not 16 as stated in the parish council letter to the village in 1919.



*Original 18 names on the memorial.  
W. Shepherd 2014*

Arthur William Balls born in Fordham, lived in Fordham all his life, parents and siblings born in Fordham. Ref: census 1891, 1901, 1911 and birth certificate.

Cecil Fred Broyd born Wakes Colne but recorded living in Fordham in 1911. Parents and siblings born and lived elsewhere. Ref. 1911 and birth certificate.

Arthur Bull born in India, living in Fordham 1911. The Bull family have a long association with Fordham, father and grandfather all born in Fordham having connections with the Mill and the Three Horseshoes. Ref. Kelly's Directories, 1871, 1881 and 1911 census.

Percy Cant born and baptised in Fordham, lived here all his life. Mother and siblings born and lived in the village. Ref. Census 1891,1901,1911 and birth certificate.

Robert Cawdron born in Brighton, resided in Fordham at time of enlistment, wife lived in Fordham, she was not born in Fordham. Ref. 1915/1916 Occupier's List and birth certificate.

Edward Crisp born in Halstead, lived in Fordham Heath with family in 1911. Ref. 1911 census and birth certificate.

Stanley Davey born in Chadwell St Mary. His father was a policeman in Chadwell St, Mary in 1901 and in St Osyth in 1911. Stanley's father is recorded as the village policeman in 1914. Ref. Kelly's Directory and birth certificate.

Frederick Benjamin Francis born Bradfield. His family were living in Fordham at time of his death. Ref. 1915/1916 Occupier's List and birth certificate.

Reginald Clement Francis, brother of Frederick born in Bradfield. The family were living in Fordham at time of his death. Ref. 1915/1916 Occupier's List and birth certificate.

Charles Sidney Horne born and lived in Fordham. Ref. 1901 and 1911 census and birth certificate.

Charles Wallace Partridge born and resided in Fordham all his life. Another family with a long association with Fordham. Ref. 1891,1901, 1911 census and birth certificate.

Hercules Pettitt (Balls) born and baptised in Fordham. Mother, grandmother and siblings all born and resided in Fordham. Ref. 1861, 1901, 1911 census. All Saints baptism records and birth certificate.

Thomas Potkin born in Copford, lived in Fordham in 1901. Ref 1901 census and birth certificate.

Alfred Pudney born West Ham, lived in Fordham in 1901, 1911. Parents and grandparents born in Fordham. Ref. 1901, 1911 census and birth certificate.

Albert and John Rayner born in Aldham, lived in Fordham 1901, 1911 mother born in Fordham. Ref. 1901, 1911 census and birth certificate.

Charles Sidney Taylor born in Fordham, lived in Fordham Heath 1911, 1901. Ref. 1911, 1901 census and birth certificate.

Ernest Wright born and baptised in Fordham and lived in the village all his life. Siblings and father also born in Fordham. Ref. 1891, 1901, 1911 census and All Saints Baptism Records.

The men on the war memorial show that residence was the likely criteria. Of these 18 men only 7 were born in Fordham, although Alfred Pudney and Arthur Bull's families have long associations with the village and would have probably been born in the village if the father's employment had not taken them away.

The men listed on the next page were not originally recorded on the war memorial. These are the names which surfaced when searches were done looking for WW1 casualties who came from Fordham Essex.



*War Memorial and village shop post 1919. FLHS Archive*

Fred Arnold born in Fordham and lived here in 1891 moved elsewhere. Ref. 1891 census and birth certificate.

Edgar Harvey Bailey born in Copford. Wife and children born in Fordham, lived in Fordham 1891 and 1901, married in Fordham, lived elsewhere 1911. Ref. Census, birth and marriage certificates.

Amos Boutell born and baptised in Fordham, later lived elsewhere. Baptism record states 'abode - Fordham.' Ref. Census, birth certificate and baptism records.

George Bunting born and baptised in Fordham, later lived elsewhere. Ref. Census, birth certificate and baptism records.

Alfred Chinnery born and baptised in Fordham as was his siblings, lived in Fordham in 1891, family moved to Hampshire 1901. Ref. Census, birth certificate and baptism records.

Charles Everitt born and lived in Fordham 1891, then lived elsewhere. Ref. Census and birth certificate.

William Everitt. His only connection is to his brother Charles. William neither born or resided in Fordham. Ref. Census and baptism record. William will not be included on the war memorial.

Albert Kettle born in Fordham and later resided in Eight Ash Green. Ref. Census and birth certificate.

Henry Kettle born in Fordham and later resided in Eight Ash Green. Ref. Census and birth certificate.

Walter Miller born and baptised with siblings in Fordham. Lived in Hemps Green Fordham 1911, 1901. Ref. Census, birth certificate and baptism record.

Walter Perry and siblings born and resided in Fordham 1901, parents married and buried in All Saints Church Fordham. Ref. Census, birth certificate and church records.

Walter Starling born and baptised in Fordham, lived in Fordham 1901. Lived at the Colchester Union workhouse 1911. Ref. Census, birth certificate and baptism record.

Harry Webber born in Fordham and lived in Fordham in 1891, 1901. Lived elsewhere in 1911. Eleven of the twelve Webber children born in Fordham and some also baptised here. Ref. Census, birth certificate and baptism records.



Of the twelve new names to be added to the memorial, eleven of them were born in Fordham, a higher number than those already on the memorial. Eight of these new men also lived in Fordham at some time.

So the question we ask is this: should these 12 men be on our war memorial? Do they uphold the criteria the parish council set out in the letter to the village in 1919 which wanted to honour and remember Fordham men?

Our parish council of 2015/16/17 have fully supported FLHS in this community project and we believe we have shown that these ‘missing’ men are Fordham men.

Like the 18 men already on the war memorial, these new men can all be linked to Fordham and that is the key. They were linked to Fordham at some time during their lives. They were either born in Fordham and lived here all their lives. They were born in Fordham, but then moved away or they were born elsewhere and came to live in Fordham.

The letter from the parish council stated:

*‘... it is our duty to perpetuate the memory of such a sacrifice,  
by handing down their honoured names to future generations...’*

How will we remember them, if their names are not added to the other Fordham men?

Walter Perry, remembered on the Essex Constabulary Memorial, will be added to the memorial in the village. His niece is overjoyed because the village that Walter and his family were so closely connected to, will now recognise his great sacrifice during the Great War.



*Fordham War Memorial B. Sheldrake 2016*

## The War Memorials Abroad

The Imperial War Graves Commission, constituted in 1917 designed and constructed military cemeteries and later monuments for those with no known graves; the missing casualties lost on the battlefields. The most famous of these are: Thiepval, Tyne Cot and The Menin Gate.



*Thiepval War Memorial to the Missing Authuille France. W. Shepherd 2016*



*Tyne Cot Zonnebeke Belgium. W. Shepherd 2016*



*The Menin Gate Ypres Belgium. W. Shepherd 2016*

Sir Fabian Ware (1869 - 1949) who founded the IWGC now the Commonwealth War Graves Commission was not a politician or a soldier. He volunteered to work in France with the Red Cross, as he was too old to serve as a soldier. His job was to take vehicles and volunteer drivers across to France and then bring back the injured to field hospitals.

Ware and his men began to collect information on where the dead were buried. The Red Cross had seen this as one of their responsibilities, as families would want to know where their loved ones had fallen in battle. Fabian Ware was concerned over the state of the graves and how this would distress families if they ever came to visit. In 1915 his unit was officially recognised and this became his life's work.

Fabian Ware was also responsible for suggesting that every serviceman be issued with a pair of metal identity tags. Previously cardboard tags had been used and this had made identification of the dead very difficult in the muddy battlefields. One tag was removed from the body and used to help identification, the other one left with the body.

Fabian Ware asked Sir Frederic Kenyon, Director of the British Museum to sum up his vision for the Commission cemeteries in February 1918 in a commissioned report after notable architects such as Sir Edwin Lutyens, Sir Herbert Baker and Sir Reginald Blomfield had been chosen to design and construct the cemeteries and memorials. He said:-

*'the general appearance of a British cemetery will be that of an enclosure with plots of grass or flowers (or both) separated by paths of varying size, and set with orderly rows of headstones, uniform in height and width. Shrubs and trees will be arranged in various places, sometimes as clumps at the junctions of ways, sometimes as avenues along the sides of the principal paths, sometimes around the borders of the cemetery. The graves will, wherever possible, face towards the east, and at the eastern end of the cemetery will be a great altar stone, raised upon broad steps, and bearing some brief and appropriate phrase or text. Either over the stone, or elsewhere in the cemetery, will be a small building, where visitors may gather for shelter or for worship, and where the register of the graves will be kept. And at some prominent spot will rise the Cross, as the symbol of the Christian faith and of the self-sacrifice of the men who now lie beneath its shadow.'*

If you visit any of the CWGC sites, you will see this vision in place in 23,000 locations in 154 countries ensuring that 1.7 million people who died in the two world wars will never be forgotten.

Each of the dead is commemorated by name on the headstone or memorial and these headstones and memorials are permanent and uniform. There is no distinction made on account of military or civil rank, race or creed.

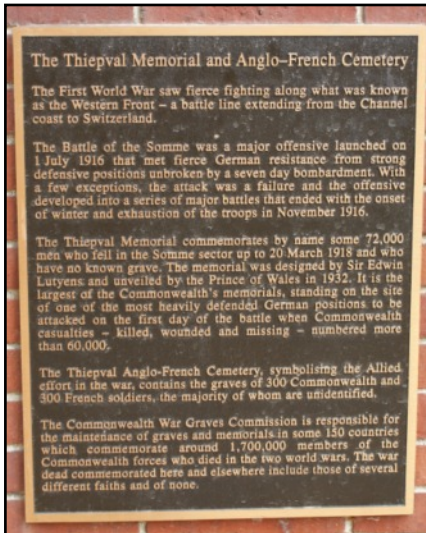
Fabian Ware said:

*"The point of view that seems to me to be often overlooked in this matter is that of the officers themselves, who in 99 cases out of 100 will tell you that if they are killed [they] would wish to be among their men".*



*Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery in Belgium just after the war.  
Postcard collection W. Shepherd*

Common features of the cemeteries are the stone walls that surround the cemetery and wrought-iron gates. At larger sites, there is often a shelter building where the cemetery register is stored behind a bronze door. There is information about conflicts fought in the area and a history of the cemetery.



In all but the smallest cemeteries, there is a register box containing an inventory of the burials and a plan of the plots and rows. No two cemeteries are the same, but they more or less conform to the same pattern.

It was decided that in any cemetery with over 40 graves, there would be a Cross of Sacrifice, designed by the architect Sir Reginald Blomfield to represent the faith of the majority. It is a simple cross embedded with a bronze sword and mounted on an octagonal base.

Larger cemeteries with over 1,000 burials have a Stone of Remembrance designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens to commemorate those of all faiths and none. The design of this structure was based on studies of the Parthenon and its shape purposefully chosen to steer clear of shapes associated with particular religions.

Rudyard Kipling, who had lost his own son in the war, was literary advisor, and advised on inscriptions. Written on the Stone of Remembrance are the words he chose from the Book of Ecclesiasticus:

THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE



*Cross of Sacrifice Thiepval*

*Photographs on pages 80, 8, 82. W. Shepherd 2016*

There is also a Kipling Special memorial which FLHS came across when researching Private Alfred Chinnery. This type of headstone is inscribed with this quotation from the Apocrypha (Ecclesiasticus 44, verse 13)

"THEIR GLORY SHALL NOT BE BLOTTED OUT"



As in the case of Private Chinnery and others these headstones commemorate casualties whose graves in a particular cemetery were destroyed or who were known to be buried in a particular cemetery but the exact whereabouts within the cemetery were not recorded.

Individual graves are marked by uniform headstones, differentiated only by their inscriptions, the national emblem or regimental badge, rank, name, unit, date of death and age of each casualty is inscribed above an appropriate religious symbol and a more personal dedication chosen by relatives.

Portland Stone and Hopton Wood limestone was chosen for the headstones; these had been recommended by the Geological Museum in London. Individually engraving the badges would be a monumental task, a skilled craftsman would have taken a week to do the work. This was overcome by a Lancashire firm who invented a pantograph which could trace the patterned emblems and names onto the stone.

Although Gertrude Jekyll was consulted about the horticultural aspects of the cemeteries, her plans and designs were not adopted, but her suggestion of planting a rose between headstones was embraced.

One cannot fail to be impressed by the work of the Imperial War Graves Commission in constructing these cemeteries and memorials, to bury and commemorate 1.1 million servicemen of the Empire. Rudyard Kipling described the work as: ‘the biggest single bit of work since the Pharoahs and they only worked in their country.’



Within the 154 countries, cemeteries and memorials were constructed close to where the servicemen fell in battle. Thiepval Memorial overlooks the Somme Battlefield and along the beach at Anzac Cove there are 21 cemeteries and 3 memorials. Many cemeteries were challenging, but problems were overcome. This is Pemba Cemetery Mozambique East Africa where one of our servicemen Lance Corporal Walter Perry is buried.



*Pemba Cemetery Mozambique. TWGPP.*





Another one of our servicemen Private Arthur Bull is buried in Pieta Military Cemetery Malta. Private Bull who was serving with the Royal Garrison Artillery became seriously ill with Endocarditis, a rare and potentially fatal infection of the heart from which he died in December 1915.

Hospitals and convalescent depots were established on the islands of Malta and Gozo dealing with over 135,000 sick and wounded, chiefly from the campaigns in Gallipoli and Salonika. Fewer hospital ships were sent to Malta from May 1917 because of increased submarine activity in the Mediterranean Sea.



On Malta the earth is very shallow, graves had to be cut into the underlying rock. There are joint and collective burials marked by a recumbent marker.

*Pieta Cemetery Malta. TWGPP*

In stark contrast to the fresh approach of the Imperial War Graves Commission, there are also German cemeteries in France and Flanders which lack the design and attention of Imperial War Graves.

Fricourt German Military cemetery in France is a prime example. This is where where Manfred von Richthoven was originally buried. The leading German air ace brought down 80 allied planes between 1916 and 1918, his brother had his body removed to Germany in 1925. Fricourt is now tended by the CWGC. Over 17,000 German servicemen are buried here, many in communal graves.



*Fricourt German Cemetery. W. Shepherd 2016*

The work of the CWGC never ends and even today, more names are being added to memorials and more bodies of servicemen are still being recovered. Hundreds of Australians were located and exhumed around Fromelles in France. They had been buried in a mass grave by the Germans following the disastrous Battle of Fromelles on 19 and 20 July 1916.

250 Australian and British soldiers are now buried in Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery which was the first new war cemetery to be built by the CWGC in fifty years; it was completed in 2010. The cemetery was officially dedicated on 19 July 2010. Families of some men identified by DNA attended the ceremony.

There are some very moving inscriptions on these gravestones chosen by the families.

‘He will not be forgotten by those who come after’

‘He died so young in a foreign land, we will remember him with pride’

‘Your sacrifice was not in vain, reunited with us at last’

‘Lost so far from home and found so close to our hearts’

‘A light was burning in the window for your return, but it was not to be.’



*Pheasant Wood Fromelles Cemetery W. Shepherd 2016*

A recommendation from the Project Leader would be to visit the Somme and the Battlefields in order to get a glimpse of these cemeteries and memorials. Looking at photographs, books and films fails to convey the immensity of loss of life during the Great War until you see these places for real.

*Ref: British and Commonwealth War Cemeteries Julie Summers published by Shire Library 2010*

*War Memorials in Britain Jim Corke, published by Shire Library 2005*

*Photographs by permission of Steve Rogers TWGPP and Wendy Shepherd*

## Next of Kin Memorial Plaque, Scroll and King's Message

The Next of Kin Memorial Plaque which became popularly known as the Death Plaque, Dead Man's Penny or Widow's Penny is a bronze plaque approximately 11 cms or 4½ inches diameter with the name of someone who died serving with the British and Empire forces in the First World War.

The purpose of the plaques and scrolls was twofold; to commemorate and acknowledge those that gave their lives, but also they were intended to give the close family a tangible memorial of their lost loved one.

A plaque was issued to the next of kin of the casualty along with the scroll. They were posted out separately and a 'King's message' was enclosed with both, containing a facsimile signature of the King. The name of the casualty was written in a frame. With Britannia surrounded by three lions showing the might of Great Britain with the German eagle being trodden underfoot. Dolphins symbolising Britain's sea power.

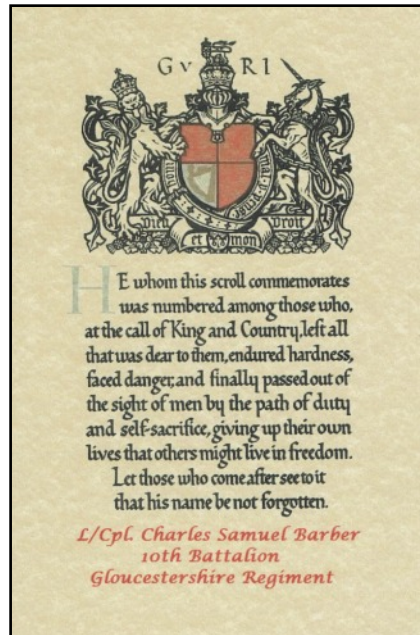
The words around the edge read 'He died for freedom and honour.' Six hundred were issued to commemorate women, the 'he' replaced by 'she.' If the first letter of 'He' was slightly narrower, this plaque was destined for the family of a naval casualty.

Those who did not serve overseas but who died in service through accident or illness who were not awarded service medals, received a Memorial Plaque. Even after the war, plaques were still being issued to those still in service but who died of natural causes or as a result of a war related injury. However, many plaques were not issued at this time as it was difficult to track down addresses of the next of kin as many had remarried or relocated, or if unmarried, elderly parents may have died.

The design of the plaque was the result of a competition. In 1917 a committee set up the competition for any British-born person to design a plaque to record the name of a fallen service man or woman from the British and Empire forces. There were more than 800 entries to the competition from within the United Kingdom, from countries in the British Empire and from the theatres of war. The winning design was by Mr Edward Carter Preston (1894-1965.) 1,355,000 plaques were issued, which used a total of 450 tonnes of bronze.

*Ref. [www.greatwar.co.uk/memorials/memorial-plaque](http://www.greatwar.co.uk/memorials/memorial-plaque).*

Unfortunately we have no death penny for any of our servicemen. But the Project Leader purchased one for her own collection. This death penny was issued to Lance Corporal Charles Samuel Barber of the 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion Gloucester Regiment.



*Personal Collection W. Shepherd*

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## Fred Arnold

Born: 22 April 1887 Fordham Essex.

Baptised: Not known

Parents: George Marshall Arnold born 1852 Fordham Essex and Henrietta Hughes formerly Wainwright born 1860 Colchester. Essex

Father's occupation: wheelwright, coach builder.

Spouse: Eliza Maud Pettitt born 1883 Colchester Essex. Father Lewis Pettitt

1911. Marriage solemnized at <u>The Parish Church</u> in the <u>Fresh</u>							
of <u>St Giles Colchester</u> in the County of <u>Essex</u>							
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.
1	<u>December 26<sup>th</sup> 1911</u>	<u>Fred Arnold</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>Bachelor</u>	<u>Coach Builder</u>	<u>79 Magdalen St</u>	<u>George Marshall Arnold</u>
		<u>Eliza Maud Pettitt</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>Spinster</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>26 Wincley R.</u>	<u>Lewis Pettitt</u>
Married in the <u>Fresh</u> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the <u>Episcopal Church</u> by <u>John B. Heath</u> or after Banns by me,							
This Marriage was solemnized between us:		<u>Fred Arnold</u>	in the Presence of us:		<u>Lewis Pettitt</u>	<u>John B. Heath</u>	
		<u>Eliza Maud Pettitt</u>			<u>Gertrude Pettitt</u>	<u>Maud</u>	

*F. Arnold marriage certificate. Reproduced by courtesy of Essex Record*

Marriage: 1911 St Giles Parish Church Colchester Essex.

Children: Not known.

Occupation before the war: Coach builder

Regiment: Army Service Corps, 1017<sup>th</sup> Mechanical Transport Company

Service number: M/347147



Died: 18 October 1918, Mesopotamia age 31. At the time of death, Fred was likely to be involved in the battles along the Tigris at Fatha. There was a serious outbreak of influenza at that time. Fred's death certificate confirms that he died of pneumonia. At the time of his death, the country is described as 'broken, arid and waterless' by Lieutenant General Sir W. R. Marshall head of expeditionary forces in Mesopotamia.

Cemetery: Basra. At the time of writing, headstones in Basra have been removed and kept safe by CWGC because of present conflict.



Basra Cemetery Information TWGPP

Census:

1911 with parents and brothers Frank born 1886, Walter born 1895 and Edward born 1897 living at 128 Magdalen Street Colchester.

1901 North Hill Colchester with parents and siblings George, Frank, Marshall, Emily, Walter, Edward and half brother Harry Hughes born 1882.

1891 with parents and siblings Ellen born 1880 and Harry( children from Eliza's previous marriage, Frank born 1885, Marshall born 1889 and Emily born 1891. Living at Main Road Fordham Essex

On war memorial: No. Remembered on Colchester War Memorial Essex.

Subscribers to war memorial: No

1915/1916 Fordham occupier's list: No Arnolds

1920 Fordham Electoral Roll: No Arnolds

Other information:

Fred Arnold played an important part of the Great War, in the mechanised section. His role was to supply and maintain the army on many fronts with supplies from Britain. Using horse and motor vehicles, railways and waterways, the Army Service Corps performed feats of logistics and were one of the great strengths of organisation which helped to win the war.



Mechanical Transport Companies were part of the Lines of Communication and did not come under orders of a Division, although some (unusually known as Divisional Supply Columns and Divisional Ammunition Parks) were in effect attached to a given Division and worked closely with it.

Brother Frank Arnold in was in the Royal Engineers Inland Waterways and Docks Transportation Branch. Service number 337156.

1848 Kelly's Directory Jessie, Henry and Thomas Arnold all wheelwrights in Fordham.

1795 Thomas Arnold born in Fordham wheelwright and blacksmith baptised Countess Chapel parents Henry & Mary Arnold.

## **Edgar Harvey Bailey**

Born: 7<sup>th</sup> April 1876 Copford Essex.

Baptised: 4<sup>th</sup> May 1876 St. Michael and All Angels, Copford Essex.

Parents: Joseph Bailey born 1834 Fordham Essex and Harriet Firmin born 1844 Copford Essex. Harriet was the aunt of Mary Ann Firmin who married Thomas Balls; Mary Ann and Thomas also lost a son Arthur William Balls.

Father's occupation: Farmer

Spouse: Eva Bunton born 1890 Fordham Essex. Father Samuel Bunton

Marriage: 1900 All Saints Parish Church Fordham Essex.

Children: Nellie born 1902 Fordham Essex, Oliver born 1903 Fordham Essex, Alfred Dick born 1907 West Bergholt. Children baptised in All Saints Church Fordham Essex.

Occupation before the war: Agricultural labourer

Regiment: Royal Horse Artillery and Royal Field Artillery, 47<sup>th</sup> Division  
Ammunition Col. Driver.

Service Number: 163562

Died: 13 August 1917 age 41

Cemetery: Locre Hospice Cemetery Belgium.

At the time of Edgar's death the RFA were heavily involved in action in the Battles of Messines, the Third Battles of Ypres and The Cambrai Operations  
The Royal Horse Artillery:- armed with light, mobile, horse-drawn guns that in theory provided firepower in support of the cavalry and in practice supplemented the Royal Field Artillery.

The Royal Field Artillery:- the most numerous arm of the artillery, the horse-drawn R F.A. was responsible for the medium calibre guns and howitzers deployed close to the front line and was reasonably mobile. The R.F.A. was organised into brigades.

Ref: [www.wartimememoriesproject.com/greatwar/allied/battalion](http://www.wartimememoriesproject.com/greatwar/allied/battalion)



Census:

1911 with wife Eva and children Nellie born 1902, Oliver born 1903 and Alfred born 1907. Living at The Heath West Bergholt Essex.

1901 with wife Eva. Living at Plummers Road Fordham Essex.

1891 with widowed mother Harriet and siblings Herbert born 1878, Henry born 1880, Frank born 1883 and Albert born 1886. Living at Main Road Fordham Essex.

1915/1916 occupier's list: Harriet Bailey Fossetts Road Fordham Essex, widowed mother.

1920 Fordham Electoral Roll: Harriet, Albert and Ernest Bailey Fossetts Road.

Other information:

Edgar's brother Ernest Edward Bailey had served in the army 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Essex Regiment enlisting in 1896 service number 5368.

Edgar is remembered on the Bailey family grave in All Saints Church Fordham Essex. His parents Joseph and Harriet, his son Oliver and his wife Eva are buried at All Saints Church.

Father Joseph died in 1889 plot A89.

Son Oliver died in 1926 plot B43.

Mother Harriet died in 1927 plot B52.

Edgar's wife Eva died in 1956 plot B43.

Brother Ernest died in 1970.

(Record states that Ernest was living 77 Hay Lane London N.W.9 but formerly of Ponders Cottages Fordham)



*E. H. Bailey. TWGPP*

## Arthur William Balls

Born: 24 February 1897 Fordham Essex.

Baptised: William Arthur Balls on the 25 April 1897, St Michael and all Angels Copford Essex.

Parents: Thomas Charles Balls born 1860 Fordham Essex and Mary Ann Firmin born 1862 Fordham Essex.

Father's occupation: Farm labourer

Spouse: Not married

Children: No children

Occupation before the war: Horse keeper on heath.

Regiment: Essex Regiment B company 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion.

Service number: 10449

Died: 23 October 1916 age 19 at The Battle of Le Transloy October 1916. In 1916 the 2nd Battalion Essex were in action during the Battles of the Somme. Ref: [www.wartimememoriesproject.com/greatwar/allied/regiment](http://www.wartimememoriesproject.com/greatwar/allied/regiment)

Cemetery: Beacon Cemetery, Saily Laurette France.

Census:

1911 Arthur Balls is living with grandmother Mary Ann Purkiss (formerly Firmin) and her husband John Purkiss at Fordham Heath Essex.



1901 Living with parents Thomas and Mary Balls and five sisters Laura born 1881, Mary born 1885, Kate born 1889, Alice born 1891 and Mabel born 1899 living at Fordham Heath.

On war memorial: Yes

Subscribers to war memorial: Mrs Balls donated 3 shillings, Miss E. Firmin 5 shillings, Mr Firmin 2/6 pence.

1915/1916 occupier's list: George Balls Idols Fordham Essex.

1920 Electoral Roll: Mary Ann Balls Fordham Heath, Abram James Balls Porters Lane.

Other information:

Arthur's maternal grandmother Mary Ann Purkiss was Mary Ann Firmin senior. She was the mother of Mary Ann Firmin who married Thomas Balls. Mrs Mary Ann Firmin married Mr Purkiss in 1880 after her husband Oliver Firmin died in 1879.

Arthur's father Thomas Balls died in 1903, Arthur is living with his grandmother in 1911.



*Ref. Photo by courtesy of Jennifer Perry. Her Uncle Walter Perry was also one of our casualties. Walter and Arthur Balls were friends and this card was in Walter's possessions.*



*A. W. B alls TWGPP*



*Beacon Cemetery, Sully Laurette France. TWGPP*



## **Amos Arthur George Boutell**

Born: 4 July 1878 Fordham Essex

Baptised: 15 September 1878 All Saints Church Fordham Essex.

Parents: George Boutell born 1851 West Bergholt Essex and Jane Pudney born 1863 West Bergholt Essex.

Father's occupation: Shepherd, cowman on farm

Spouse: Ethel Louisa Woods born 1886. Father William Woods

Marriage: 28 March 1912 Greenstead Parish Church Essex.

Children: Sydney born 1913 Stanway Essex. Harold born 1916 Stanway Essex

Occupation before the war: Gardener

Regiment: Essex Regiment 1st Battalion                      Service number : 34898

Died: 16 August 1917 age 39 France and Flanders

Cemetery: Poelcapelle British Cemetery Belgium.

Private Boutell's 1st Battalion were involved in the Battle of Langemarck 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> August, they were part of the 88<sup>th</sup> Brigade 29<sup>th</sup> Division. In 1917 they were in action in the The First, Second and Third Battle of the Scarpe during the Arras Offensive. The Battalion then moved to Flanders and fought in the The Battle of Langemarck, where Private Boutell died. The Battalion then moved on to The Battle of Broodseinde and The Battle of Poelcapelle before moving south for The Battle of Cambrai.

Census:

1911 with parents George and Jane Boutell, sisters Ada born 1886, Ida born 1891 and Alice born 1893. Living at 77 Harwich Road Colchester Essex.

1901 with parents George and Jane Boutell, siblings Frederick, Ada, Herbert, Ida and Alice. Living at Brewery Cottages, 3 Main Road West Bergholt Essex.

1891 with parents George and Jane Boutell, siblings Frederick born 1877, Edith born 1881, Frances born 1884, Herbert born 1882 and Ida living at Great Braxted, Maldon, Essex.

On war memorial: No

Subscribers to war memorial: No

1915/1916 occupier's list: No Boutells.

1920 Fordham Electoral Roll: No Boutells in Fordham.



*A. A. G. Boutell. TWGPP*

PART II. W.O.'s, N.C.O.'s, AND MEN (Contd.).

*Previously reported wounded, now reported  
KILLED (Contd.).*

DUKE OF CORNWALL'S LIGHT INFANTRY.—Ancott 2399  
J. W. (Atherstone); Dicks 28785 Cpl. H. (Yeovil).

HAMPSHIRE REGIMENT.—Kirby 25615 C. E. (Southampton).

*Previously reported wounded and missing, now reported  
KILLED.*

LOYAL NORTH LANCASHIRE REGIMENT.—Lister 29699 W.  
(Rotherham).

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE REGIMENT.—Saunders 43535 J. R.  
(Diss).

*Previously reported missing, now reported  
KILLED.*

ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGIMENT.—Buckley 1299 C.  
(Birmingham).

WEST YORKSHIRE REGIMENT.—Ward 267143 C. E. (Leeds).

DUKE OF CORNWALL'S LIGHT INFANTRY.—Roberts  
28926 N. (Camborne).

ESSEX REGIMENT.—Boutell 34898 A. A. G. (Stanway); Cotten  
21516 J. (Tidal Basin, E.); Mumford 40955 O. J. (Chingford, E.);  
Rue 2111 J. C. (Custom House, E.).

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE REGIMENT.—Stevens 15146 Sjt. J.  
(Northampton).

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT.

Army Form W. 3372

**GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM**

G.I.B.D.C.H.H. Central Sub-District, 20, G. District.

REPORT No. 337 SCHEDULE No. 553/d.

SOMEWHERE LAUREL.

PLACE OF BURIAL POULCAPPELLE BRITISH CEMETERY

Map Reference Sheet 20.V.20.5.7.7.

The following are buried here—

Regiment	No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Grave Located (Y. H. U. Z.)	Pos. Line and Cross
<b>FILE 41, BOX 7<sup>m</sup> (Continued.)</b>						
<b>REGIMENT</b>						
G.W. Coy.		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER	—	—	—	16
		—	—	—	—	17
Bombard L.I.		—	—	—	—	18
		—	—	—	—	19
P.O. Rifles.		—	—	—	—	20
<b>BOX 7<sup>m</sup></b>						
		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER	—	—	—	1
		—	—	—	—	2
		—	—	—	—	3
		—	—	—	—	4
		—	—	—	—	5
		—	—	—	—	6
R.D.F.	34608	BOUTELL	V. A. W. W.	17/12/1916	—	7
R.D.F.		UNKNOWN BRITISH SOLDIER	—	—	—	8
		—	—	—	—	9
		—	—	—	—	10
R.F.		—	—	—	—	11
P.O. Rifles		O'NEILL	H.	—	—	12

SLIPS CHECKED 10/11/17

*Documents with permission CWGC and  
National Archives*

## Frederick Cyril Broyd

Birth: 24<sup>th</sup> June 1897 Wakes Colne Essex

Baptism: Baptised Cecil Fred 12<sup>th</sup> September 1897 Wakes Colne Essex

Parents: John Broyd born 1851 Gestingthorpe Essex and Emma Chatters born 1853 Belchamp Walter Essex

Father's occupation: Brickmaker journeyman

Spouse: Not married

Children: No children

Occupation before the war: At school



Regiment: Northamptonshire Regiment 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Service number: 204982

Died: 24 April 1918 age 21 (Battle of Villers-Bretonneux, 24 – 25 April 1918)

Cemetery: Remembered at Pozieres Memorial Ovillers-la-Boisselle, France.  
Private Broyd has no known grave.

Census

1911 with parents John and Emma Broyd and brother Charles born 1882.  
Living at Brook Farm Fordham Essex

1901 with parents John and Emma Broyd, siblings Charles born 1882 and Bessie born 1893. Living at Oak Farm Wakes Colne Essex.

On war memorial: Yes

Subscribers to war memorial: Mr & Mrs W. Broyd 4 shillings, Mr & Mrs John Broyd 12 shillings. Mr C. Beard and Mr F. Broyd 15 shillings, Mr F. Beard 1 shilling, Mr Walter Beard (late) 10 shillings.

1915/1916 Occupiers list: John Broyd father Brook Hill Farm Fordham, William Broyd uncle, Brook Farm Fordham

1920 Electoral Roll :- William and Mary Ann Broyd Brook Farm. John, Emma and Charles Broyd Brick Kiln Cottages, Frank Broyd Wash Corner.

Other information:-

Family of brick makers

Cecil Fred was one of 13 children.

Cecil's Aunt, Edith Broyd married Charles Beard one of our servicemen who returned safely.



*Pozieres Memorial France. TWGPP*

Army Form W9000

Regiment **NORTHAMPTON REG'T**

To be filled in by  
Officer in Charge of  
Records

**STATEMENT of the Names and Addresses of the Members of the above-named Deceased Soldier in each of the degrees specified below that are now living.**

Note—Against these degrees of relationship in which there is no relative now living the word "none" is to be inserted. If the address are not listed, such correspondence and living may be ascertained by the agent.

Degree of relationship	NAME IN FULL of every relative now living in each degree required for law suit above	ADDRESS IN FULL of each surviving relative opposite to the name
Wife of the Soldier	Nil None	
Children of the Soldier and date of their births	Nil None	
Father of the Soldier	John Brogd	Post 24th Collogage England
Mother of the Soldier	Emma Brogd	Post 24th Collogage England
Brothers of the Soldier	Full blood	Willian Brogd 1870 Eose Durlwich
	Half blood	Charles Brogd 1870 Post 24th Collogage England
Sisters of the Soldier	Full blood	Joan Brogd 1870 Kingshorse, Northampton
	Half blood	Edna Brogd 1870 Kingshorse, Northampton
	Half blood	W.C. Brogd 1870 Middle Hill, Col. 1. to 8.

If any Relatives in the degrees above are now living the following particulars should be given—

Name of those now living	Address in full
Grandparents of the Soldier	Nil None
Nephews and Nieces of the Soldier	Post 24th Collogage England Sally Brogd 1870 1870 Kingshorse, Northampton
Uncles and Aunts by blood of the Soldier (and those and Aunts by marriage)	Nil None

**DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that the above is a true and correct statement of the relatives of the late Soldier now living in the degrees specified for

Relationship to the Soldier: *John Brogd*

Address in full: *Post 24th Collogage England*

I hereby certify that the above statement and Declaration made by *John Brogd* and signed by my presence is complete and sufficient for the best of each service and law suit.

Dated at *Northampton* this *16* day of *February* 1918

Signature: *John Brogd*

Qualification: *1st Lt. 2nd Northampton*

Address: *144 High Street, Northampton*

Private Brogd Service record with permission National Archives



Pozieres Memorial and Cemetery. TWGPP

## Arthur Hepburn Bull

Birth: 1896 in Allahabad India

Baptism: Most likely in India

Parents: Bryan Bull born 1868 Fordham Essex and Cecilia Hepburn born 1873 Canterbury Kent

Father's occupation: India Army Pensioner and overseer of the poor

Spouse: Not married.

Children: No children.

Occupation: Army student

Regiment: Royal Garrison Artillery

Service number: 54537

Died: Whilst serving in Malta Arthur became very ill and was admitted to Cottonera Military Hospital on the 2nd November 1915. He was suffering from Endocarditis (inflammation of the inner layer of the heart.) He passed away on the 15th December 1915 age 19.

Cemetery: Pieta Military Cemetery Malta

Census

1911 with parents Bryan and Cecilia Bull, sisters Jessie 1898 born in India and Janet 1902 born in India living at Church Road Fordham Essex.



Another son Bryan William was baptised at All Saints Church Fordham on November 9<sup>th</sup> 1911.

1901 As Arthur's sisters are born in India 1898 and 1902, it is likely Arthur and his family were in India at the time.

1891 Father recorded in Great Yarmouth as a Bombadier British Army.

1915/1916 Occupiers list: Bryan Bull father Mill House Fordham

1920 Electoral Roll Fordham: Bryan and Cecilia Bull parents Mill House.

On war memorial: Yes

Subscribers to war memorial: Mr Bryan Bull £5.00

Other information:

Arthur's unit The RGA manned the largest guns, especially those mounted in coastal and colonial forts.

Arthur's parents were married in Bombay India in 1894. Father Bryan Bull was in the army. Grandfather Arthur Bull of Fordham recorded as miller and agent for the Liverpool, London and Globe Insurance Company from 1886 to 1898 Kelly's Directory.

Great Grandfather Oliver Bull was the blacksmith, miller and ran the beer house The Three Horseshoes. He is recorded in the Post office Directories 1845 - 1878 and also recorded as assisting in apprehending a suspect in the Fordham double murder in 1875.

The Bull family have a long history with Fordham with connections with Mill House, The Three Horseshoes and as overseers to the poor and census enumerator.



Grandparents and Great Grandparents are buried in All Saints Church  
Fordham Essex.

Arthur Bull plot A64 master miller 1891 age 44

Eliza Bull plot A64 1911 age 65

Oliver Bull plot A63 1885 age 68

Susannah Bull plot A63 1893 age 74



*Pieta Military Cemetery. TWGPP*

## George Bunting

Birth: 10<sup>th</sup> January 1878 Fordham Essex ( recorded as Bunton)

Baptism: 17<sup>th</sup> February 1878 All Saints Fordham Essex

Parents: James Bunting born 1851 Fordham Heath Essex and Maria Elizabeth Laver born 1857 Marks Tey Essex

Father's occupation: Agricultural labourer

Spouse: Not married      Children: No children

Occupation before the war: labourer in a brick yard



Regiment: Royal Fusiliers 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion. Originally with The Duke of Edinburgh's Wiltshire Regiment.

Service number: G/51189

Died: 29<sup>th</sup> April 1917 aged 39 at The Battle of Arleux, 28 – 29 April 1917 which was a phase of the Battle of Arras 1917.

Cemetery: Remembered on the Arras Memorial, Private Bunting has no known grave.

Census 1911 with widowed mother Maria Bunting and siblings James born 1896 and Ivy Bertha born 1900. Living at Halstead Road Copford Essex.

1901 with parents James and Maria Bunting and siblings Harriet born 1887, Elizabeth born 1891, James born 1896 and Ivy born 1900. Living at Seven Star Green Copford, Essex.



1914 - 1918  
HERE ARE RECORDED  
THE NAMES OF  
35942 OFFICERS  
AND MEN OF  
THE FORCES OF  
THE BRITISH EMPIRE  
WHO FELL IN THE  
BATTLES OF ARRAS  
OR IN AIR OPERATIONS  
ABOVE THE  
WESTERN FRONT  
AND WHO HAVE  
NO KNOWN GRAVE

*Arras Memorial & Cemetery. TWGPP*

1891 with parents James and Maria Bunting and sisters Martha 1880, Catherine born 1882, Harriet born 1887 and Elizabeth born 1891. Living at Colne Road Copford, Essex.

On war memorial: No      Subscribed to the war memorial: Mr William Bunton 5 shillings

1915/1916 Occupiers list: Sarah Bunting Brick Street Fordham Heath wife of George's Uncle, William Bunting

Walter Bunting Half Moon Fordham, Beer House on the Heath George's Uncle..

1920 Electoral Roll Fordham. Walter and Arthur Bunting Half Moon Fordham Heath. William and Samuel Bunton Mill Road.

Other information: George's aunt Caroline Bunting married George Perry. They lost a son Walter Perry in WW1.

George's Uncle William Bunting also served.

The Bunting family have links with the Half Moon Public House in Fordham Heath. The pub is a private residence today adjacent to Fordham Heath, the half moon is visible on the gable end.

The pub was run by George's grandfather George Bunting as seen in the 1871 and 1881 census documents and then his son Walter Bunting carried on from 1886 to 1922 as recorded in Kelly's Directories.

The name Bunting is sometimes recorded as Bunton. Private George Bunting is recorded as Bunton on his birth certificate and baptism record, yet on all census and his siblings baptisms the name is Bunting. On his father's marriage certificate, James Bunting's father is recorded as George Bunton.

## Percy William Cant

Birth: 6 April 1890 Fordham Essex

Baptism: 11 May 1890 Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion Chapel  
Fordham Essex

Parents: George Henry Cant born 1858 West Bergholt Essex and Emily  
Emma Southernwood born 1858 Fordham Essex.

Father's occupation: Farm labourer

Mother's occupation: Laundress

Spouse: Not married

Children: No Children

Occupation before the war: Farm Labourer

Regiment: 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Essex Regiment

Service number: 20283



Died: 18 May 1917 age 26 at the Third Battle of Ypres or Passchendaele.  
There were further engagements in and around Monchy in May 1917 with 12  
others from the same battalion as Private Cant killed in action and 45  
wounded as a result of heavy enemy shelling on the town.

Cemetery: Orange Trench Cemetery Monchy Le Preux, Pas de Calais,  
France.

INDEX No. Fr. 311 CANT, Pte. Percy William, 202883, 4th Bn.  
ORANGE Essex Regt. Killed in action 18th May, 1917.  
TRENCH CEM. Age 26. Son of George Henry Cant, of 5, Western  
View Villas, Church Rd., Fordham, Colchester,  
Essex. D. 19.

## Census

1911. Living with widowed father George Henry and sister Mabel Minna born 1893 at Plummers Road Fordham Essex.

1901 with father widowed father George H. Cant, grandmother Harriet Southernwood 1817, siblings James E. Born 1886, Percy W. Born 1888 and Mabel M. Born 1893. Living at Plummers Road Fordham Essex.

1891 with parents George and Emily Cant, grandmother Harriet Southernwood 1817, siblings Henry born 1879, Frances born 1882, Albert born 1884, James born 1886 and Percy 1888. Living at Main Road Fordham Essex.

On war memorial: Yes. Subscribed to the war memorial: Mr & Mrs G. Cant 2 shillings

1915/1916 Occupiers list: N/A

1920 Electoral Roll Fordham: George Henry father, and George Ernest Cant brother Plummers Road.

## Other information:

Percy's two older brother Henry James Cant (see returners) and George Ernest Cant had also been soldiers. Henry had enlisted in 1897 in the Royal Artillery for a very short period before leaving, but originally attested to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Essex Regiment in 1894. Service numbers 4218 and 19031.

George Ernest Cant was with the Duke of Cambridge Regiment but declared unfit due to Bright's Disease, a chronic kidney disease. George married Rose Emily May Wright in 1910 and their children were baptised in the chapel like their father. Research has shown that it is possible that Rose Emily May Wright is Ernest James Wright' sister Emily. She is recorded as Emily in 1891, 1901, 1911 census and on the baptism on the following page. The 1939 register has her full name listed and date of birth. The Wrights and the Cants were members of the Chapel; so the connection is quite sound.

This is Percy's Baptism record from the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion Chapel in Fordham, photographed at the chapel by W. Shepherd.

Other families who feature in this register are also linked to this chapel. The Clampin children are nieces and nephews of our war memorial builder Frank Clampin. Another one of our casualties Ernest James Wright is also recorded on this page. They are both remembered on the plaque that was originally in the chapel ( see page 189.).

This list of Baptisms is very imperfect as I was not aware of the existence of a Register for several months after I came to Fordham, and several persons whose children I baptised took no notice of the service after it was performed & no particulars were given. Rev C. A. Geyford.

Emily Wright: April 27. 1890.  
 Taylor " " "

Percy W. Cant May 11. 1890

Margaret Geyford Aug 5. 1890. Aged 9 weeks

Margaret S. Jeffrey " " " 7 "

Eva S. Taylor

Walter M. Wright Jan 29. 1893.

Fabry J. Geyford Aug 5. 1894. Aged 5 weeks.

Albert J. Clampin

Maud J. " all Born 25.2.1858  
 baptised 17.5.1887

Alice A. " " 20.7.1889

Nellie " " 17.5.1892

Florence Everett Baptised April 19. 1890

Ernest James Wright " " "

Golden Oliver Southwood " " "

Eda Sarah Southwood " " "

*Percy Cant Baptism. Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion Chapel  
 W. Shepherd. 2015 FLHS Archive*



*Orange Trench Cemetery Monchy Le  
Preux, Pas de Calais, France. TWGPP*



*P. W. Cant. TWGPP*



## **Robert Edward Cawdron**

Birth: 10 December 1890 - 15 Baxter Street, Brighton, Sussex

Baptism: Not known

Parents: James Cawdron born 1853 Mile End Middlesex and Elizabeth Smith born 1853 Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk.

Father's occupation: Butler at a boarding house/house and business agent

Spouse: Harriet Woollands/Woollards married in 1914 in Suffolk.

Children: Margaret Lily Cawdron born 1914 Kings Norton, Warwickshire

Occupation before the war: Servant

Regiment: Royal Fusiliers 17<sup>th</sup> Battalion                      Service number: 51067

Died: 28 October 1918 age 29 from Influenza whilst a prisoner of war.

Cemetery: Berlin South Western, Brandenburg Germany. Prisoner of War

Census

1911 with father James Cawdron and stepmother Alice Cawdron, sister May born 1893 and half brothers Bertie born 1905, Cecil born 1906 and Sidney born 1907. Living at 17 Khartoum Road Ipswich Suffolk.

1901 with father James Cawdron and stepmother Alice Belcher with brother Frederick born 1887 and sisters Lillian born 1890 and May born 1893. Living at 209 Bamford Road Ipswich Suffolk.

1891 with parents James and Elizabeth Cawdron and siblings Henry born 1883, Andrew born 1885, Frederick born 1887 and Lillian born 1890. Living at Baxter Street, Brighton Sussex.

On war memorial: Yes      Subscribed to the war memorial: Mrs Cawdron  
£1.00

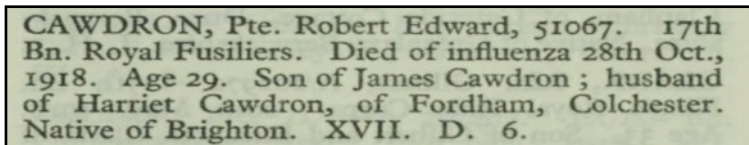
1915/1916 Occupiers list: N/A

1920 Electoral Roll: Harriet Cawdron wife Schoolhouse, Mill Road.

Other information:

Robert's Mother died in 1899 and his father remarried Alice Belcher in Colchester Essex in 1900.

Robert Cawdron was a prisoner of war, one POW record shows a date of 14 November 1916 Cambrai which is the date he was captured at the first Battle of Cambrai. In the 13th January 1917 edition of the Times, Private Cawdron is reported as missing. Other online documents record 22 Mar and 21 April 1917 when he was still imprisoned. Robert died 28 October 1918 from Influenza.



CAWDRON, Pte. Robert Edward, 51067. 17th Bn. Royal Fusiliers. Died of influenza 28th Oct., 1918. Age 29. Son of James Cawdron; husband of Harriet Cawdron, of Fordham, Colchester. Native of Brighton. XVII. D. 6.

*With permission CWGC*

Two of Robert's brothers were also in the army. Andrew Joseph was in the Army Service Corps and Frederick Charles was in the Labour Corps. Address for Frederick on his service record matches the address on Robert's POW record 65 Stanley Avenue Ipswich.

The link to Fordham is through Robert Cawdron's wife Harriet. Her address at the time of Robert's death is Ponders Road Fordham Essex.

This is recorded on The Imperial War Graves comprehensive report on the personal headstone sheet. She had requested this inscription on her husband's gravestone:

In loving memory of a good husband and father.  
Until the day breaks.



*R.E. Cawdron. TWGPP*

## Alfred George Chinnery

Birth: 5 December 1883 Fordham Essex

Baptism: 20 January 1884 All Saints Parish Church Fordham Essex

Parents: George Chinnery born 1848 Great Horkesley Essex and Elizabeth Shead born 1849 Bures Suffolk

Father's occupation: Groom and Gardener

Spouse: Not married      Children: No children

Occupation before the war: Domestic Gardener

Regiment: Hampshire 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion



Service number: 6906

Died: 12 May 1915 age 22. Alfred died of wounds and was a prisoner of war at Kriegslaz 127/11 Iseghem

Cemetery: Private Chinnery was originally buried in Iseghem Communal, but was later laid to rest at Harlebeke New British Cemetery. This cemetery was made after the Armistice when graves were brought in from the surrounding battlefields of 1918 and in 1924-25, from German cemeteries or plots in Belgium.

The letter overleaf is letter to the father of Private R. G. Rigney concerning his son's re-interment 13th October 1924, one presumes that the family of Alfred Chinnery would have received a similar letter:-

*Dear Sir,*

*With further reference to the report of burial of your son, the late No. 3872 Private R G Rigney, 48th Battalion I am now in receipt of advice that the late soldier's remains have been removed from the Isegheem Communal Cemetery and re-interred with every measure of care and reverence in the HARLEBEKE NEW BRITISH CEMETERY Plot 11 Row D Grave 7 situated about 2 3/4 miles North East of Courtrai, Belgium. This action was taken by direction of the Imperial War Graves Commission with a view to concentrating where possible the graves of our fallen soldiers from German cemeteries into permanently established military cemeteries, where direct supervision can be more readily be maintained and the control of the graves placed entirely in the hands of British personnel. It is the intention of the Commission to proceed with the erection of permanent headstones in the above named cemetery at an early date, and upon these will be engraved the full regimental description and date of death of the soldiers concerned, together with any verse or epitaph previously submitted in the form of a personal inscription. These additional details are furnished by direction, it being the policy of the Department to forward all information received in connection with the deaths of members of the Australian Imperial Force.*

*Yours faithfully, Captain, Officer Base Records*

Ref. Australian ANZACs from the National Archives of Australia



*Harlebeke New British Cemetery TWGPP*

## Census

1911 with parents George and Elizabeth Chinnery, sister Esther born 1883 and niece Eva born 1900. Living at 17 Sladesbrook, Bradford on Avon Wiltshire. Unable to locate Alfred in 1911.

1901 living with parents George and Elizabeth Chinnery, sister Esther born 1883 and brother Thomas born 1886 at Bradford Leigh, Rushey Lane, Bradford on Avon Wiltshire.

1891 with parents George and Elizabeth Chinnery, sisters Lizzie A. Born 1879 and Esther 1883, brother Thomas H. Born 1886 and cousin Rosa Everitt born 1888. Living at Rectory Lodge Main Road Fordham Essex.

On war memorial: No

Subscribed to war memorial: No

1915/1916 Occupiers list: No Chinnery family

1920 Electoral Roll Fordham: No Chinnery family

## Other information:

Alfred had three older brothers Ernest, Charles and Victor (who died in infancy,) Basil and another sister Ida. The family left Fordham after 1891 and moved to Wiltshire.

Alfred's brother Ernest who was born 1876 was in the army until the end of the war at the age of 40. He was an exemplary soldier and served in Hong Kong, India and 4 years in France with the expeditionary forces. Ernest was awarded the Good Conduct medal and the Belgian Croix de Guerre for long service.

## Edward Henry Crisp

Birth: 26 October 1883 Head Street Halstead Essex

Baptism: N/A

Parents: William Crisp born 1849 Halstead Essex and Emmeline Eliza Mayn born 1853 Kelvedon Essex

Father's occupation: Draper, poultry farmer, rose grower

Spouse: Not married Children: No children

Occupation before the war: Rose Grower



Regiment: Royal Fusiliers 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 63<sup>rd</sup> (Royal Naval) Division

Service number: 3632

Died: 13 November 1916 age 33 at the Battle of Ancre. (Battle of the Somme)

The Battle 13-18 November 1916, was now extended northwards across to the far side of the River Ancre. The British force attacked in fog and snow on 13 November from the very same front lines from which the attack had failed so badly on 1 July. Beaumont-Hamel was finally captured but Serre once again proved an objective too far. Considerable casualties were sustained before the battle was called off. Another 92 Royal Fusiliers also died on that day along with others in the 63<sup>rd</sup> Division; they too are buried with Private Crisp in Ancre Cemetery.



Ancre British Cemetery, Beaumont Hamel, Belgium TWGPP

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.										
<p>When writing on this Schedule please read the Instructions and the Notes on the reverse side of this paper, as well as the headings of the columns. The names should be written in full. The contents of this Schedule only be treated as confidential. Public men will be asked that an agreement is attached with regard to the inclusion of persons. The returns are not to be used for general or in connection with any other purpose than the purposes of the Statistical Tables.</p>										
NAME AND RESIDENCE	RELATIONSHIP TO HEAD OF FAMILY	AGE	SEX	MARRIAGE	PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION	EDUCATION	REMARKS	REMARKS	REMARKS	REMARKS
1. William Cook	Head	42	Male	Married	Fireman	None				
2. Elizabeth Cook	Wife	38	Female	Married	None	None				
3. Thomas Cook	Son	10	Male	Single	None	None				
4. Edward Cook	Son	7	Male	Single	None	None				
5. Mary Cook	Daughter	5	Female	Single	None	None				
6. John Cook	Son	3	Male	Single	None	None				
7. Anne Cook	Daughter	2	Female	Single	None	None				
8. William Cook	Son	1	Male	Single	None	None				
9. Elizabeth Cook	Daughter	1	Female	Single	None	None				
10. Thomas Cook	Son	1	Male	Single	None	None				
11. Mary Cook	Daughter	1	Female	Single	None	None				
12. John Cook	Son	1	Male	Single	None	None				
13. Elizabeth Cook	Daughter	1	Female	Single	None	None				
14. Thomas Cook	Son	1	Male	Single	None	None				
15. Mary Cook	Daughter	1	Female	Single	None	None				
16. John Cook	Son	1	Male	Single	None	None				
17. Elizabeth Cook	Daughter	1	Female	Single	None	None				
18. Thomas Cook	Son	1	Male	Single	None	None				
19. Mary Cook	Daughter	1	Female	Single	None	None				
20. John Cook	Son	1	Male	Single	None	None				
21. Elizabeth Cook	Daughter	1	Female	Single	None	None				
22. Thomas Cook	Son	1	Male	Single	None	None				
23. Mary Cook	Daughter	1	Female	Single	None	None				
24. John Cook	Son	1	Male	Single	None	None				
25. Elizabeth Cook	Daughter	1	Female	Single	None	None				
26. Thomas Cook	Son	1	Male	Single	None	None				
27. Mary Cook	Daughter	1	Female	Single	None	None				
28. John Cook	Son	1	Male	Single	None	None				
29. Elizabeth Cook	Daughter	1	Female	Single	None	None				
30. Thomas Cook	Son	1	Male	Single	None	None				

On the 2nd of May 1911, at 10 o'clock of the night of Friday 4th May 1911, in compliance with the Statute in that behalf made, I declare that the above is a true and correct copy of the original as the same was taken and returned to me, and that the same are a true and correct copy of the original as the same were taken and returned to me, and that the same are a true and correct copy of the original as the same were taken and returned to me.

Wm. Cook  
 1911



## Census

1911 Living with parents William and Emmeline Crisp and brother Charles William born 1885. Living at Heathfields Fordham Essex.

1901 Edward's parents living at 1 Colchester Road Halstead with Edward's grandfather Charles Crisp. Cannot locate Edward Henry Crisp, but a Harry Crisp born Halstead Essex age 17 is boarding in Billericay as a pupil fruit grower. This is possibly Edward Henry (Harry) considering the family occupation.

1891 with parents William and Emmeline Crisp and siblings Emmeline Sarah born 1884 and Charles William born 1885 at Balls Farm, Tidings Hill, Halstead Essex.

On war memorial: Yes

Subscribed to war memorial: Mr & Mrs Crisp 10 shillings

1915/1916 Occupiers list: William Crisp, father Heathfields Fordham Heath

1920 Electoral roll Fordham: No Crisp family

Other information:

White's Directory 1911 William Crisp Farmer

Kelly's Directory 1914 William Crisp Rose Grower

1938 Probate to Alfred Crisp - cousin

**CRISP** Edward Henry of Heathfields Fordham Heath **Essex** died 13 November 1916 in France Administration **London** 13 April to Arthur Stanley Monson bank manager and Alfred Crisp shopkeeper. Effects £125.

*With permission CWGC*

## Stanley Davey

Birth:-20 May 1897 address 27 Toronto Road Chadwell St. Mary Essex

Baptism: N/A

Parents: Edward Jonas Davey born 1869 Euston Suffolk and Elizabeth Maria Shave born 1873 Corringham Suffolk

Father's occupation: Police Constable

Spouse: Not married Children: No Children

Occupation before the war: At school



Regiment: Essex 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion

Service number: 40282

Died: 5 October 1916 aged 19 at the Battle of Le Transloy which took place between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 18th October 1916 (Battle of Somme)

A period of fighting in terrible weather in which the heavy, clinging, chalky Somme mud and the freezing, flooded battlefield became as formidable an enemy as the Germans. The British gradually pressed forward, still fighting against numerous counter-attacks, in an effort to have the front line on higher ground from which the offensive could be renewed in 1917.

Private Davey is buried alongside 22 other soldiers who died that day from the Essex Regiment 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion.

Cemetery: Bancour British Cemetery, Pas de Calais France

## Census

1911 with parents Edward Jonas and Elizabeth Maria Davey and sisters Hilda born 1906 and Gladys Mabel born 1908 at County Police House Colchester Road St. Oysth.

1901 with parents Edward J and Elizabeth M Davey at 61 Toronto Road Chadwell St Mary, Orsett, Essex.

1915/1916 Occupiers list: Jonas Edward Davey near Post Office Fordham father.

1920 Electoral Roll Fordham: William Charles and Sarah Ann Davey

On War Memorial: Yes

Subscribed to war memorial: Mrs Davey (Stanley's mother) of Dovercourt Harwich £1.00. Mr W. Davey 1 shilling

## Other information:

1914 Kelly's Directory - Jonas Edward Davey police constable in Fordham Essex

Mother's address at time of Stanley's death - 80 Manor Road, Dovercourt Essex.

1939 Register E. M. Davey and Edward Jonas Davey retired policeman living at 53 Oakland Road Harwich Essex

There was another Davey family living in Church Road Fordham at the time of WW1. William Charles Davey born in Bradwell and his wife Sarah Ann Warren of Fordham and their children Charles William, Ivy Elizabeth and Eliza Emily. William Davey was one of our servicemen who returned safely. He donated 1 shilling to the war memorial.



*S. Davey. TWGPP*

## Charles Samuel Everitt

Birth: 24 November 1890 Fordham Essex

Baptism: N/A

Parents: Joseph Alfred Bartholomew Everitt born 1865 Wakes Colne Essex  
and Annie Louisa Dowse born 1866 Bury St. Edmunds Suffolk

Father's occupation: Farm labourer

Spouse: Not married

Children: No children

Occupation before the war: Labourer



Regiment: Duke of Cambridge's Own - Middlesex 20<sup>th</sup> Battalion 40<sup>th</sup> Division

Service number: G/43059

Died: 23 April 1918 age 28, 4<sup>th</sup> Battle of Ypres 9-29 April. Battle of Lys.

Cemetery: Lille Southern Cemetery Nord Pas de Calais France

Census

1911 with parents Joseph and Annie Everitt and siblings Eva born 1896, William born 1898, Violet born 1901, Stanley born 1903, Leonard born 1905 and Percy born 1908. Living at Rose Green Chappel Essex.

1901 with parents Joseph and Annie Everitt and siblings Herbert born 1889, Eva born 1896, William born 1898 and Violet born 1901 living at Rose Green, Chappel, Essex.

1891 with parents Joseph A. and Annie L. Everitt and brother Herbert W. born 1891 living at Chappel Road Fordham Essex.

Originally on war memorial: No

Subscribers to war memorial: Mrs Everett - 6d

1915/1916 Occupier's List: Frederick Everitt Moss Farm Fordham, Jonathan Everitt grandfather    Fletchers Cottage Fordham

1920 Electoral Roll Fordham: Ellen Everitt at Fletcher's Lodge



*C. S. Everitt TWGPP*

Very few of the service records of our casualties have survived. About 60% were damaged or lost as a result of bombing in 1940 during WW2. About 2 million were saved, these are called the "Burnt Records." You will see these records blackened around the edges, hence the name. 'Burnt records.' Private Charles Everitt's records survived; his name is recorded as Chas Everitt.

Army Form B.2065.

**SHORT SERVICE.**  
(Three years with the Colours).  
**ATTESTATION OF**

No. 25736 Name Chas Everitt Corps Hussars

Questions to be put to the Recruit before enlistment.

1. What is your name? .....	1. <u>Chas Everitt</u>
2. In or near what Parish or Town were you born? .....	2. In the Parish of <u>St. Andrew</u> in or near the Town of <u>St. Andrew</u> in the County of <u>West</u>
3. Are you a British Subject? .....	3. <u>Yes</u>
4. What is your Age? .....	4. <u>23</u> Years .....
5. What is your Trade or Calling? .....	5. <u>Labourer</u>
6. Have you resided out of your Father's house for three years continuously in the same place or occupied a house or land of the yearly value of £10 for one year, and paid rates for the same, and, in other cases, if so, state where? .....	6. <u>No</u>

You are hereby warned that if after enlistment it is found that you have given a wilfully false answer to any of the following seven questions, you will be liable to a punishment of two years' imprisonment with hard labour.

7. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where? to whom? for what period? and, when did, or will, the period of your Apprenticeship expire? .....	7. <u>No</u>
8. Are you Married? .....	8. <u>No</u>
9. Have you ever been sentenced to imprisonment by the Civil Power? .....	9. <u>No</u>
10. Do you now belong to the Royal Navy, the Army, the Royal Marines, the Militia, the Special Reserve, the Territorial Force, the Army Reserve, the Militia Reserve, or any Naval Reserve Force? If so, to what unit and Corps? .....	10. <u>No</u>
11. Have you ever served in the Royal Navy, the Army, the Royal Marines, the Militia, the Special Reserve, the Territorial Force, the Imperial Yeomanry, the Volunteers, the Army Reserve, the Militia Reserve, or any Naval Reserve Force? If so, state which unit, and cause of discharge .....	11. <u>No</u>
12. Have you truly stated the whole, if any, of your previous Service? .....	12. <u>Yes</u>
13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for the Military or Naval Forces of the Crown? If so, on what grounds? .....	13. <u>No</u>
14. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? .....	14. <u>Yes</u>
15. Are you willing to be enlisted for General Service? .....	15. <u>Yes</u>
16. Did you receive a Notice, and do you understand its meaning, and who gave it to you? .....	16. <u>Yes</u> Name <u>Chas Everitt</u> Corps <u>Hussars</u>
17. Are you willing to serve upon the following conditions provided His Majesty should so long require your services: .....	17. <u>Yes</u>

For a term of three years, unless War lasts longer than three years, in which case you will be retained until the War is over. If engaged with Hospitals, despite of Bandages, Cloths, and so Clerks, etc., you may be retained after the termination of hostilities until your services can be spared, but such retention shall in no case exceed six months.

I, Chas Everitt do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements made.

Charles Everitt SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.  
J. P. Bennett Signature of Witness.

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.

I, Chas Everitt swear by Almighty God, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will, as in duty bound, honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, in Person, Crown, and dignity against all enemies; and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, and of the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE OR ATTESTING OFFICER.

The Recruit above named was questioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understood each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me at St. Andrew on this 7 day of March 1914.

J. P. Bennett Signature of the Justice. J. P. Bennett Signature of the Justice.

If any alteration is required on this page of the Attestation, a Justice of the Peace should be requested to make it and initial the alteration under Section 8 (6), Army Act.

The recruit should, if he require it, receive a copy of the Declaration on Army Form B.2065.

Service record with permission of National Archives.

## William Henry Everitt

Birth: 19 March 1898 Wakes Colne

Baptism: May 1898 All Saints Wakes Colne

Parents: Joseph Alfred Bartholomew Everitt born 1865 Wakes Colne Essex  
and Annie Louisa Dowse born 1866 Bury St. Edmunds Suffolk

Father's occupation: Farm labourer

Spouse: Not married

Children: No children

Occupation before the war: At school

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <u>Wakes Colne</u> in the County of <u>Essex</u> in the year One thousand eight hundred and <u>ninety eight</u>						
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name	Parent's Name		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
1898 January 30	George Walter Thomas	Ramos Walter & Clara	Taylor	great Yeldham	Sigalman	W. Barry L. Hartshorn
No. 821				Born December 22, 1897		
1898 February 6	Elsie	Ferguson & Emily Lydia	Sergeant	Wakes Colne	Shepherd	W. Barry L. Hartshorn
No. 822				Born February 3, 1898		
1898 March 6	Lebbie	Robert & Starna Anna	Brooks	Wakes Colne	Miller	W. Barry L. Hartshorn
No. 823				Born January 25, 1898		
1898 March 6	John Edward Harold	Henry James & Ada Harold	Smith	Wakes Colne	Madwith	W. Barry L. Hartshorn
No. 824				Born January 10, 1898		
1898 May 1st	William Henry	Joseph & Annie Louisa	Everitt	Wakes Colne (Wakes Colne) (Wakes Colne) (Wakes Colne)	Labance	S. Barton Kilner
No. 825				Born March 19, 1898		

*Baptism of William Henry Everitt. With permission from Essex Record Office*



Regiment: 1<sup>st</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Worcestershire. Regiment 48th (South Midland) Division.

Service number: 260154

Died: 4 November 1917 age 19

Private Everitt died of wounds and is buried at Mont Huon Cemetery Le Treport France. His division were involved in The Battle of Poelcapelle in October and it is possible Private Everitt was wounded here. During the First World War, Le Treport which is north east of Dieppe was an important hospital centre and by July 1916, the town contained three general hospitals (the 3<sup>rd</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian), No.3 Convalescent Depot and Lady Murray's B.R.C.S. Hospital. The 7<sup>th</sup> Canadian, 47<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> USA General Hospitals arrived later, but all of the hospitals had closed by March 1919. As the original military cemetery at Le Treport filled, it became necessary to use the new site at Mont Huon which now contains 2,128 Commonwealth burials of the First World War. Ref: CWCG.org

#### Census

1911 with parents Joseph and Annie Everitt and siblings Charles born 1891, Eva born 1896, Violet born 1901, Stanley born 1903, Leonard born 1905 and Percy born 1908 living at Rose Green Chappel Essex.

1901 with parents Joseph and Annie Everitt and siblings Herbert born 1889 Charles born 1891, Eva born 1896, Violet born 1901 living at Rose Green Chappel Essex.

1891 with parents Joseph A. and Annie L Everitt and brother Herbert W. born 1889 living at Chappel Road Fordham Essex.

Originally on war memorial: No

Subscribers to war memorial: Mrs Everett - 6d

1915/1916 Occupier's List: Frederick Everitt Moss Farm Fordham.  
Jonathan Everitt grandfather, Fletchers Cottage Fordham.

1920 Electoral Roll Fordham: Ellen Everitt at Fletcher's Lodge

Brothers Charles and William Everitt are both remembered on the Chappel and Wakes Colne war memorial. But as Charles was born in Fordham and the family lived in Fordham, it was decided to include just Charles on the war memorial as William was neither born or resident in Fordham.

Walter Miller one of our casualties is also on this memorial but he was born in Fordham and will be added to our memorial.

The wording on the Chappel memorial states that 'the memorial was erected in memory of those belonging to the parish.' The memorial is quite elusive and set back in an old overgrown cemetery up Swan Street. in Chappel.

Herbert William Everitt, the elder brother of Charles and William was also a soldier in the Grenadier Guards in the machine gun regiment, he died in 1958.



*The Worcestershire Regiment Cap Badge*



*The Wakes Colne and Chappel Memorial. W. Shepherd 2016*

## Frederick Benjamin Francis

Birth: 2 April 1897 Bradfield Essex

Baptism: 9 May 1897 St. Lawrence Church Bradfield Essex

Parents: Benjamin Francis born 1865  
Bressingham Norfolk and Mary Munden born  
1866 Kings Lynn Norfolk

Father's occupation: Groom and gardener

Spouse: Not married Children: No children

Occupation before the war: Assistant mail  
driver



Regiment: Royal Scots 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion

Service number: 353210

Died: 20 October 1918 age 21 Prisoner of war.

The 9<sup>th</sup> division which included the 12<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Scots were involved in the final advance in Flanders 28<sup>th</sup> Sept - 11 November 1918. Private Francis was possibly captured then.

Cemetery: Remembered on the Szcztpiorno P.O.W. Memorial Poland.

Census 1911 with parents Benjamin and Mary Francis and siblings Edith born 1889, Maud born 1894, Minnie born 1899 and Keith born 1906 living at Church Street Clare Suffolk

1901 with parents Benjamin and Mary S Francis and siblings Edith A. born 1889, Mabel born 1890 Reginald born 1892, Muriel M. born 1895 and Ellen M. born 1899 living at Shut Farm, Heath Tanzey Bradfield Essex

Originally on war memorial: Yes

Subscribers to war memorial: No


1915/1916 Occupier's List: Benjamin Francis Plummers Green Fordham, father

1920 Electoral Roll Fordham: No Francis family

Other information:

This is the death certificate off Frederick Francis which clearly states he died of disease whilst a Prisoner of War in Germany. He is remembered on the Szczypiorno Memorial in Poznan Cemetery Poland. There are some interesting grave registration documents regarding the final resting place of Private Frederick Francis.

SAW 040581

CERTIFIED COPY OF  ENTRY OF DEATH  
 Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages (Special Provisions) Act 1957

Application Number 341002611

Return of Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men of the Royal Scots.  
 Killed in Action or who have died whilst on Service Abroad in the War of 1914 to 1921.

Regt. or Army number	Rank	Name in Full (Surname First)	Age	Country of Birth	Date of Death	Place of Death	Cause of Death
353210	Pte. 9th Bn.	FRANCIS, Frederick Benjamin.	23.	England.	20.10.1918	Germany	Died of Disease. Prisoner of War.


An Entry relating to the death of Frederick Benjamin Francis.

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of the certified copy of an entry in a Service Departments Register.  
 Given at the General Register office, under the seal of the said Office, the 31st day of May 2016.

Section 3(2) of the above mentioned Act provides that "The enactments relating to the registration of births and deaths and marriages in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland which contain provisions authorising the admission in evidence of, and of extracts from, certified copies of registers and duplicate registers shall have effect as if the Service Departments Registers were certified copies or duplicate registers transmitted to the Registrar General in accordance with those enactments."

CAUTION: THERE ARE OFFENCES RELATING TO FALSIFYING OR ALTERING A CERTIFICATE AND USING OR POSSESSING A FALSE CERTIFICATE. © Crown Copyright

WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY



Private Francis is listed on this Grave Registration document alongside other prisoners of war from Szczypiorno headed 'Kipling Special Memorial.' It reads: 'To the memory of these 14/29 British soldiers who died as prisoners of war in 1918 and were buried at the time in Szczypiorno Cemetery; but whose graves are now lost.'

Army Form W3372

## GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.

Serial No. and 1. SECTION REPORT No. 1. SCHEDULE No. 15c.

PLACE OF BURIAL <sup>POSEN</sup> A OLD GARRISON CEMETERY - (BRITISH SECTION)  
 Commune: Poznan. (Post Military)  
 Province: Posen, Poland.

Land belongs to

The following are buried here:—

Regiment	No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Cross Erected or Dispatched	Map Reference
<u>SPECIAL KIPLING MEMORIAL.</u>						Cross No. 2.
<p>"To the memory of these 14/29 British soldiers who died as prisoners of war in 1918 and were buried at the time in SZCZYPIONO P.O.S. Cemetery but whose graves are now lost."</p> <p><del>"These graves shall not be plotted out."</del></p>						3/24589
8/Manchester.	✓ 45761	CHADWICK	Pte. I.	5.11.18.	K.M.No.	3 ✓
1/6 Yorks.	✓ 236194	SURHILL	Pte. J.	7.11.18.		4 ✓
15/R. Scots.	✓ 33210	FRANCIS	Pte. W.B.	20.8.18.		5 ✓
8/D.L.I.	✓ 91390	MUGGER	Pte. H.T.	25.8.18.		6 ✓
1/23 London.	✓ 101711	HARPER	L/Cpl. H.	23.5.18.		7 ✓
5/Worcesters.	✓ 41883	LOVERIDGE	Pte. H.	26.7.18.		8 ✓
6/Cameron Inf.	✓ 52096	McGOWAN	Pte. Jc	24.8.18.		9 ✓
7/D.L.I.	✓ 79005	RICHARDSON	Pte. J.	25.8.18.		10 ✓
5/London Regt.	✓ 495699	MURPHY	Pte. W.C.	30.8.18.		11 ✓
7/R.I.	✓ 88386	PHILLIPS	Spr. P.C.	10.8.18.		12 ✓
1/Yorks.	33991	MANHOOD	Pte. J.H.	7.9.18.		13 ✓
2/R. Innis Fus.	42610	McGONIGAL	Pte. J.	3.10.18.		14 ✓
12/R. Scots.	33843	PLACOCK	Pte. O.	24.8.18.		2 ✓
2/7 Lancs. Fus.	19391	WALTH.	Pte. H.	2.8.18.		15 ✓

Certified correct and complete.

Regimental Officer in charge  
 ... .. Poland.

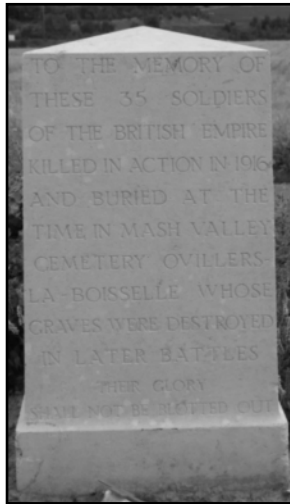
(8 & 15) W1163-P133 45,000 10/17 HWV(P722) Form W3372/1

*Barac made 26/11/2011/16*

Grave Registration report. Permission CWGC

Kipling Memorials are special memorial headstones that the Commission used to commemorate casualties who had graves in cemeteries that were later destroyed by battle or lost. They are called Kipling Memorials because they all carry an epitaph chosen by Rudyard Kipling from the Apocrypha Ecclesiasticus 44, verse 13 'Their Glory Shall Not Be Blotted Out.'  
Ref .[www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)

This is an example of a Special Kipling Memorial



*With permission TWGPP*

After the First World War, the graves of Commonwealth servicemen who had died in Poland as prisoners of war, were gathered together in Poznan Cemetery.

There are now 174 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in the cemetery which included the 29 known to have been buried at Szczypiorno Prisoners of War Cemetery which included Private Frederick Francis. Poznan was a typical German town in the German province of Posen. It had to be abandoned by Germany and was taken by the Polish. That is why Posen (Poznan) today is located in Poland.

A later document dated 1959 records the commission of a headstone for Frederick Francis with a single cross and an epitaph chosen by his parents: -  
“Thy will be done.”



*F. B. Francis. TWGPP*



*Poznan Garrison Cemetery. TWGPP*



## Reginald Clement Francis DCM

Birth: 25 February 1892 Bradfield, Manningtree Essex

Baptism: 8 May 1892 St. Lawrence Church Bradfield Essex

Parents: Benjamin Francis born 1865 Bressingham Norfolk and Mary Sarah Munden born 1866 Kings Lynn Norfolk

Father's occupation: Groom and gardener/mail driver

Spouse: Not married Children: No children

Occupation before the war: Mail driver GPO



Regiment: 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Suffolk Regiment

Service number: 7992

Died: 16 December 1914 aged 22

Cemetery: Private Francis has no known grave, he is remembered at Ypres on the Menin Gate Memorial

### Census

1911 with Sydney Arthur Griggs and Thomas Skinner mail workers at Ellis Street, Hadleigh Hamlet Colchester Essex.

1911 Parents Benjamin Francis 1865 and wife Mary 1866 were living at Church Street Clare Suffolk with children Edith born 1889, Maud born 1894, Frederick born 1897, Minnie born 1899 and Keith born 1906.

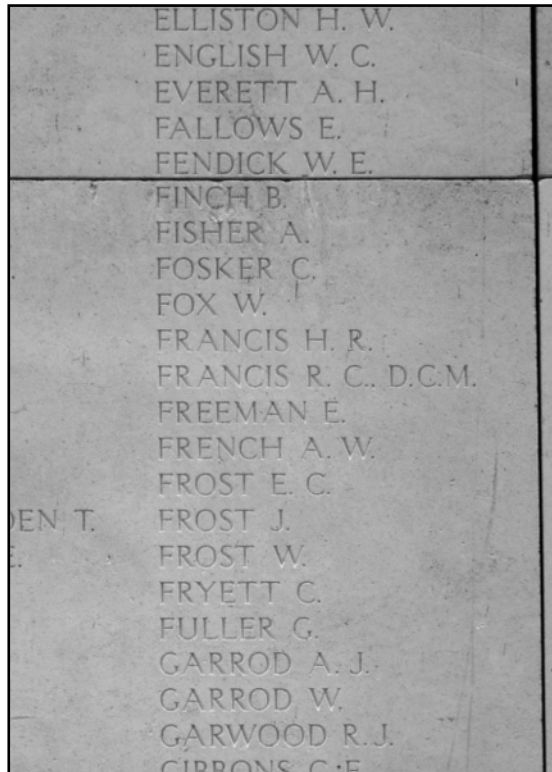
1901 with parents Benjamin and Mary Francis and siblings Edith A. born 1889, Mabel born 1890, Muriel M. born 1895, Frederick 1897 and Ellen M. Born 1899 living at Shut Farm, Heath Tanzey Lane, Bradfield Essex.

Originally on war memorial: Yes

Subscribers to war memorial: No

1915/1916 Occupier's List: Benjamin Francis father, living at Plummers Green Fordham Essex

1920 Electoral Roll Fordham. No Francis family



*R. C. Francis D.C. M. Remembered on the Menin Gate Ypres. TWGPP*

Other information:-

Private Reginald Clement Francis was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. The announcement of his award appeared in the London Gazette Supplement on 18<sup>th</sup> February 1915. The citation, which appeared in the 1st April 1915 edition reads:

Reginald Clement Francis - Special Reserve attached to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Suffolk Regiment. He was awarded the DCM for conspicuous gallantry on 15<sup>th</sup> December 1914 near Kemmel, in voluntarily taking a message over very dangerous ground. His destination was 150 yards in front and he was killed after covering 80yds of the distance. He was killed in action at Le Cateau on the 16<sup>th</sup> December 1914.



*Distinguished Conduct Medal*

## Charles William Horne

Birth: 22 August 1897 Fordham Essex

Baptism: N/A

Parents: William Horne born 1876 Copford Essex and Emily Martha Slyfield born 1876 Colchester Essex.

Father's occupation: Brick maker



Spouse: Not married

Children: No children

Occupation before the war: Stock boy on farm

Regiment: 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion Essex Regiment

Service number: 10448

Theatre of War: France and Flanders

Died: 25 September 1916 age 19 The Battle of Morval, 25 – 28 September 1916

Cemetery: Private Horne has no known grave, he is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial

Census

1911 with parents William Horne 1876, Emily Horne 1876 and brother Frederick 1906. Living at Fordham Heath Essex.

1901 with parents William and Emily M. Horne living at Fordham Heath Colchester Essex.

Originally on war memorial: Yes

Subscribers to war memorial: No

1915/1916 Occupier's List: William Horne father, Fordham Heath.

1920 Fordham Electoral Roll: William & Emily Martha Horne parents, George and James Horne Porters Lane Fordham Essex

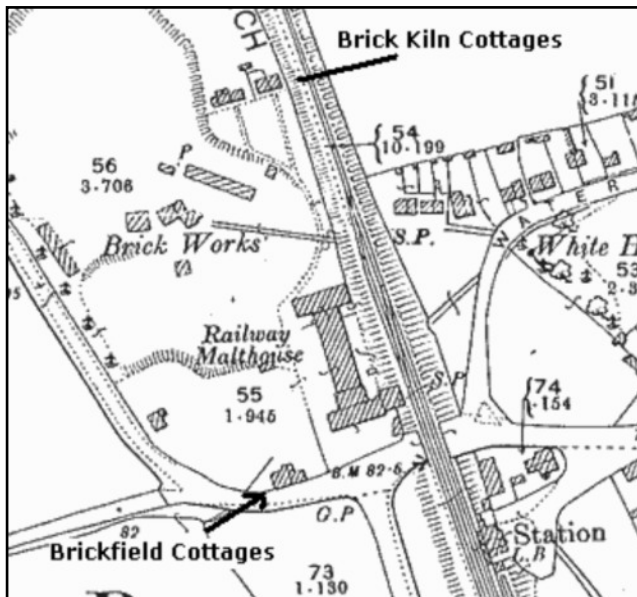
Other information:

William Horne, the father of Private Horne was a brick maker. In the Victorian County History of Essex, there is some information about local brickworks. It is possible that William, the father of Charles worked at these brickworks. There were also brickworks at Bures just five miles away from Fordham. A brick kiln is mentioned at Brook Farm where the Broyd family lived, they were also connected to the brick making industry.



*Brick makers at Millhead Brickfield Great Wakering c1900.  
Permission Friends of Old Barling School*

*Field names in 1837 indicate there were once kilns on the south-east border and at Barnards farm in the south-west, and that gravel was extracted south of Idles, and sand south of Fletchers. (fn. 82) In 1870 there was a brick kiln and beerhouse at Brook farm; the brickworks had closed by 1920.'*



*1904 map brickworks located in Bures Hamlet  
Retrieved from:<http://www.bures-online.co.uk/brickworks/brickworks>*

## Albert Edward Kettle

Birth: 12 February 1893 Fordham Essex

Baptism: Not found, but other siblings are baptised at St. Michaels and All Angels Copford Essex

Parents: John Kettle born 1858 Colchester Essex and Alice Nice born 1860 Copford Essex

Father's occupation: Brick labourer/foreman at brickyard

Spouse: Not married

Children: No children

Occupation before the war: Agricultural labourer

Regiment: 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Essex Regiment

Service number: 9980

Theatre of War: Western European Theatre

Died: 17 April 1918 died of wounds age 25. Albert's division the 4<sup>th</sup>, were involved in The Battle of Hazebrouk between the 12<sup>th</sup> and the 15<sup>th</sup> April, a phase of the Battle of Lys (7 to 29 April 1918). It is likely Private Kettle was wounded here and later died of his wounds. In 1918 the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion were in action on The Somme, then returned to Flanders fighting in the Defence of Hinges Ridge during The Battle of Hazebrouck and in The Battle of Bethune, The Advance in Flanders The Second Battles of Arras, the Battles of the Hindenburg Line and the Final Advance in Picardy. Battle of Flanders and Operation Georgette. The 4th Division was demobilised in Belgium in early 1919.

Ref. [www.longlongtrail.co.uk](http://www.longlongtrail.co.uk)

Cemetery: Gonnehem British Cemetery Pas de Calais France

Census

1911 Living with parents John and Alice, siblings George born 1880, Henry born 1889, Charles born 1896, Frederick born 1898, Edward born 1901 and Ellen born 1910. Living at Eight Ash Green Essex.

1901 Living with parents John and Alice, siblings George born 1880, John born 1881, Florence born 1885, Henry born 1889, Ellen born 1891, Charles born 1896, Frederick born 1898 and Daniel born 1901. Living at Eight Oak Green (Eight Ash Green.)

Originally on war memorial: No

Subscribers to war memorial: No

1915/1916 Occupier's List: N/A

1920 Fordham Electoral Roll: N/A



*A. E. Kettle TWGPP*



Other information:

The cemetery where Albert is buried was begun in the middle of April 1918, when the German front line came within 3.2 kilometres of the village. It was made by fighting units and by the burial officers of the XIII Corps and the 4th Division, and used until September 1918. After the Armistice graves were brought into Row H from the battlefields east of Gonnehem..

Ref. *www.CWGC.org*



*Gonnehem British Cemetery Pas de Calais France. TWGPP*

## Henry William Kettle

Birth: 15 February 1889 Fordham Essex

Baptism: 21 April 1889 St. Michael and All Angels Copford

Parents: John Kettle born 1858 Colchester Essex and Alice Nice born 1860 Copford Essex

Father's occupation: Brick labourer/foreman at brickyard

Spouse: Not married

Children: No children

Occupation before the war: Brick layer's labourer

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <u>Copford</u> in the County of <u>Essex</u> in the Year 18 <u>89</u>						
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parent's Names.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
18 Feb No. 617.	James Henry	James Henry	Foreman	Copford	Labourer	T. Hamer Curate
March No. 618.	Arthur Samuel	Alfred Emma	Hales	Copford	Labourer	T. Hamer Curate
March No. 619.	Kate Helen Brookley	Francis Elizabeth	Clarke	Copford	Labourer	T. Hamer Curate
April No. 620.	Maud Millicent	John Emily	King	Copford	Labourer	T. Hamer Curate
April No. 621.	Henry William	John Alice	Kettle	Fordham	Bricklayer & Labourer	T. Hamer Curate

*Baptism Henry William Kettle. With permission from the Essex Record Office*

Regiment: 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Essex Regiment

Service number: 18609

Died: 9 April 1917 age 29. Killed in Action. First Battle of the Scarpe

Cemetery: Fampoux British Cemetery France

Theatre of War: France and Flanders.

#### Census

1911 Living with parents John and Alice, siblings George born 1880, Henry born 1889, Albert born 1893, Charles born 1896, Frederick born 1898, Edward born 1901 and Ellen born 1910 at Eight Ash Green Essex.

1901 Living with parents John and Alice, siblings George born 1880, John born 1881, Florence born 1885, Henry born 1889, Ellen born 1891, Albert born 1893, Charles born 1896, Frederick born 1898 and Daniel born 1901. Living at Eight Oak Green Essex

Originally on war memorial: No

Subscribers to war memorial: No

1915/1916 Occupier's List: N/A

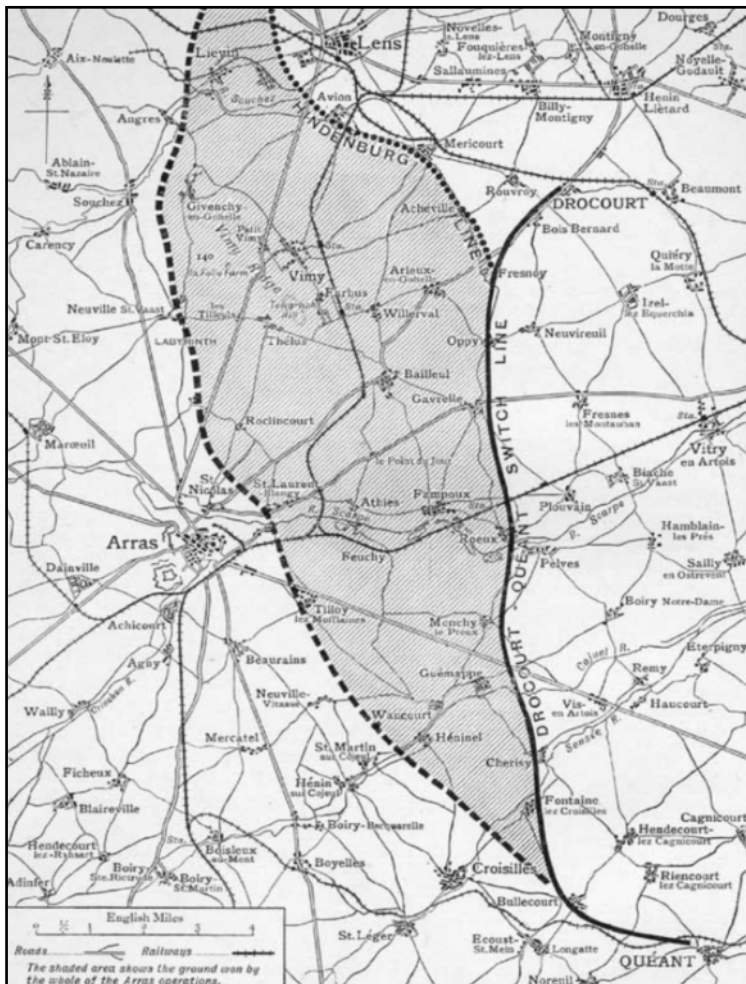
1920 Fordham Electoral Roll: N/A

#### Other information:

Fampoux, where Henry is buried was taken over by the 4th Division (passing through the 9th (Scottish) Division) on 9 April 1917. It remained close behind the Allied front line but part of it was lost on 25 March 1918 during the German advance.

Fampoux British Cemetery (once called Helena Trench Cemetery) was made by units of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 34<sup>th</sup> Divisions in April to June 1917 and used again by the Guards Division in 1918. *Ref. CWGC.*

The shaded area on the map shows the ground captured during the Arras offensive. Fampoux is east of Arras and is next to the River Scarpe. With Private Kettle's division taking part in the First Battle of the Scarpe, 9 – 14 April 1917; it is most likely it was here where Private Kettle was killed in action.



Ref: [www.longlongtrail.co.uk/battles](http://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/battles)

Henry and his brother Albert have links to the village of Fordham through baptism and residence. Both are remembered inside the church at St. Michael's and All Angels Copford Essex.



*St. Michael and All Angels Church Copford. W. Shepherd 2015*



## Walter Miller

Birth: 21 January 1895 Fordham Essex

Baptism: 2 June 1895 All Saints Church Fordham Essex.

Parents: Walter Miller born 1854 Copford Essex and Esther Hyam born 1860 Copford Essex

Father's occupation: Farm labourer

Mother's Occupation: Trouser Finisher

Spouse: Not married Children: No children

Occupation before the war: Farm Labourer

Regiment: Essex Regiment 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion

Service number: 10078

Theatre of War: Western European Theatre

Died: Private Miller died of wounds on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1914 age 19. Private Miller's division was involved in the Battle of Armentières between the 13<sup>th</sup> October and 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1914. It is likely he was wounded in this conflict.

Cemetery: Cite Bonjean Military Cemetery Armentieres France, on the Belgian frontier. Remembered at St. Barnabus Church Chappel Essex.



## Census

1911 living Hemps Green Fordham Essex with parents Walter and Esther Miller and siblings Herbert born 1893, Sonia born 1897 and William born 1901.

1901 Living at Hemps Green Fordham Essex with parents Walter and Esther and siblings Edith born 1887, Arthur born 1889, Selina born 1891, Herbert born 1894, Louie(Sonia) born and William born 1901.

1915/1916 Occupier's List: No Miller family

On war memorial: No

Subscribers to war memorial: No

## Other information:

Cite Bonjean Military Cemetery was begun in October 1914 and during the winter of 1914-15 used for civilian burials. The cemetery continued to be used by field ambulances and fighting units (including New Zealand Divisions and the Australian Corps) until April 1918. Plots were then used by the Germans.



*W. Miller. TWGPP*

Within the cemetery stands the New Zealand memorial, commemorating 47 men of the New Zealand Division who died in the neighbourhood of Armentieres and have no known grave.

This is one of seven memorials in France and Belgium to those New Zealand soldiers who died on the Western Front and whose graves are not known. The memorials are all in cemeteries chosen as appropriate to where the men died. Ref: [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)



*New Zealand Memorial Cite Bonjean Military Cemetery Armentieres France.  
TWGPP*



## Charles Wallace Partridge

Birth: 27 January 1888 Fordham Essex

Baptism: N/A Siblings baptised and buried at Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion Chapel in Fordham Essex.



*1907. G. Jackson FLHS Archive*

Parents: Alderman Partridge born 1839 Fordham Essex and Edith Partridge born 1843 Fordham Essex. (They were cousins)

Father's occupation: Farm labourer

Spouse: Sarah Letitia Braybrooke born 1889 Braintree. Marriage Chelmsford September 1912

Children: Edith born 1913 Lexden, Evelyn born 1915 Lexden and Charles W. Born 1917 Braintree Essex

Occupation before the war: Wheelwright

Regiment: Royal Army Ordnance Corps

Service number: 026300

Theatre of War: France

Died: 9 December 1918 age 30 from influenza



Cemetery: Les Baraques Military Cemetery Sangatte France

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.																																		
NAME AND RESIDENCE										RELATIONSHIP TO HEAD OF FAMILY					PARTICULARS AS TO MARITALS					PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION OF PERSONS aged 15 years and upwards					DATE PLACED IN every parish			NATURALITY of every Person		OCCUPATIONS				
of every Person, whether Member of Family, Visitor, Boarder, or Servant, who (1) passed the night of Sunday, April 1st, 1911, in this dwelling and was alive at midnight, or (2) arrived in this dwelling on the morning of Sunday, April 1st, and having been concerned elsewhere. No one else must be included. For order of naming, see Examples at back of Schedule.										Status, whether - "Single," "Married," "Widow," "Divorced," "Married again," or "Widow," separately for males and females aged 15 years and upwards.					Sex, for each Married Woman named in the Schedule, her maiden name.					The only thread from the public branch of the telephone system within the house.					(1) If born in the United Kingdom, state the name of the Parish, County, and Town or Village in which he or she was born.			(2) If born in any other part of the British Empire, state the name of the Dominion or Territory, and the name of the Parish or Town or Village in which he or she was born.		(3) If born in a Foreign Country, state the name of the Dominion, Territory, or Colony in which he or she was born.		State whether any person included in this Schedule was - (1) a Pauper; or (2) an Inmate of a Prison; or (3) a Soldier in the Army; or (4) a Soldier in the Royal Naval or Military Forces of the United Kingdom; or (5) a Soldier in the Indian Army; or (6) a Soldier in the Royal Air Force; or (7) a Soldier in the Royal Naval Air Force.		If any person included in this Schedule was a Pauper, state whether and in which parish, and the date when he or she became a pauper.
										Male Female					Wife, "Single," "Married," "Widow," "Divorced," "Married again," or "Widow," separately for males and females aged 15 years and upwards.					The only thread from the public branch of the telephone system within the house.					(1) If born in the United Kingdom, state the name of the Parish, County, and Town or Village in which he or she was born.			(2) If born in any other part of the British Empire, state the name of the Dominion or Territory, and the name of the Parish or Town or Village in which he or she was born.		(3) If born in a Foreign Country, state the name of the Dominion, Territory, or Colony in which he or she was born.		State whether any person included in this Schedule was - (1) a Pauper; or (2) an Inmate of a Prison; or (3) a Soldier in the Army; or (4) a Soldier in the Royal Naval or Military Forces of the United Kingdom; or (5) a Soldier in the Indian Army; or (6) a Soldier in the Royal Air Force; or (7) a Soldier in the Royal Naval Air Force.		If any person included in this Schedule was a Pauper, state whether and in which parish, and the date when he or she became a pauper.
										Male Female					Wife, "Single," "Married," "Widow," "Divorced," "Married again," or "Widow," separately for males and females aged 15 years and upwards.					The only thread from the public branch of the telephone system within the house.					(1) If born in the United Kingdom, state the name of the Parish, County, and Town or Village in which he or she was born.			(2) If born in any other part of the British Empire, state the name of the Dominion or Territory, and the name of the Parish or Town or Village in which he or she was born.		(3) If born in a Foreign Country, state the name of the Dominion, Territory, or Colony in which he or she was born.		State whether any person included in this Schedule was - (1) a Pauper; or (2) an Inmate of a Prison; or (3) a Soldier in the Army; or (4) a Soldier in the Royal Naval or Military Forces of the United Kingdom; or (5) a Soldier in the Indian Army; or (6) a Soldier in the Royal Air Force; or (7) a Soldier in the Royal Naval Air Force.		If any person included in this Schedule was a Pauper, state whether and in which parish, and the date when he or she became a pauper.
										Male Female					Wife, "Single," "Married," "Widow," "Divorced," "Married again," or "Widow," separately for males and females aged 15 years and upwards.					The only thread from the public branch of the telephone system within the house.					(1) If born in the United Kingdom, state the name of the Parish, County, and Town or Village in which he or she was born.			(2) If born in any other part of the British Empire, state the name of the Dominion or Territory, and the name of the Parish or Town or Village in which he or she was born.		(3) If born in a Foreign Country, state the name of the Dominion, Territory, or Colony in which he or she was born.		State whether any person included in this Schedule was - (1) a Pauper; or (2) an Inmate of a Prison; or (3) a Soldier in the Army; or (4) a Soldier in the Royal Naval or Military Forces of the United Kingdom; or (5) a Soldier in the Indian Army; or (6) a Soldier in the Royal Air Force; or (7) a Soldier in the Royal Naval Air Force.		If any person included in this Schedule was a Pauper, state whether and in which parish, and the date when he or she became a pauper.

(To be filled up by the Enumerator.)

Wrote before the Number of Rooms in this dwelling (Number of Buildings, or Cottages, or tenements, or houses, or flats, or tenements, or other structures, when there is more than one tenement, building, house, or other structure, within this house.)

No. of Rooms	No. of Buildings, or Cottages, or tenements, or houses, or flats, or tenements, or other structures, when there is more than one tenement, building, house, or other structure, within this house.
3	0

(To be filled up by the Head of Family or other person in possession, or in charge, of the dwelling.)

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: *Charles Pinders*  
Printed Name: *Charles Pinders, 100, Colchester Road, Colchester, Essex.*

*G. R. Jones*

1911 Census Living at Ponders Road. With permission National Archives

1901 with parents Alderman and Edith Partridge and siblings Herbert born 1877, Emily born 1884 and Percy born 1891. Living at Ponders Road Fordham.

1915/1916 Occupier's List: Jubal Partridge, uncle - Ponders Road Fordham  
Phillip Partridge cousin – Brook Hill Fordham

On war memorial:- Yes                      Subscribers to war memorial: Mr H. A. Partridge 10 shillings, Mr & Mrs P. Partridge 10 shillings

Post Office Directory 1845/1855/ 1859/1866/1870 James Partridge Grocer, 1845 Hannah Partridge Farmer

Kelly's Directory: 1917/1922/1929/1933/1934 Herbert Partridge Shopkeeper

1911 Stanley Partridge Blacksmith 1898 Christopher Partridge Coach builder, Wheelwright and Undertaker.

1886/1890/ 1898 Jubal Partridge Shoulder of Mutton Public House and blacksmith

1886/1890 William Partridge Shoemaker

#### Other information:

Eminent surgeon Alderman Partridge of Fordham and Colchester was the Great Uncle of Charles Wallace Partridge.

Charles Wallace Partridge was one of 17 children as recorded on the 1911 Census:- 17 children, 12 had died by 1911, 5 alive in 1911. Brother Percy Wallace Partridge emigrated to Topeka, Shawnee in Kansas November 1909. The Partridge and Arnold families are connected through marriage. Wife's address at time of Charles Wallace Partridge's death - Cardfield Cottages, Hatfield Peveral Essex.

Private Charles Wallace Partridge died on the 9<sup>th</sup> December 1918 after the Armistice. His death certificate records that he was another one of our casualties who died from influenza whilst on active service.



*C. W. Partridge. TWGPP.*

The influenza or flu pandemic of 1918 to 1919, the deadliest in modern history, infected an estimated 500 million people worldwide killing an estimated 20 million to 50 million victims far more than the deaths from combat casualties in World War One.

The Great War marked a turning point in travel. Prior to 1914, few people traversed long distances, limiting the spread of infectious diseases from one place to another, and country to country. But the war saw the mobilisation and movement of large numbers of troops and related personnel, both within and between continents.

Army recruits in World War One were brought together from a wide range of backgrounds to live in close proximity in army camps, barracks, troopships and trench dugouts.

Millions of non combatants were uprooted especially in Europe. People from places far apart became more directly connected and therefore more liable than ever before to be exposed to any new form of the flu.

The war was over, but Spanish Flu would kill millions more. On Armistice Day 1918 Britain was in the grip of Spanish Flu, which could kill its victims in less than a day. The huge crowds that attended the Armistice celebrations in Trafalgar Square in London and hundreds of communal spaces up and down the country intensified the chances of the disease spreading.

It is ironic that the death toll included those who had survived the war but had not lived long enough to develop the immunities acquired during previous flu epidemics by members of older generations.

The 15 - 40 year old age bracket were the most susceptible in 1918 to 1919. Embraces exchanged at the end of the war between two people who may not have seen each other for several years risked the immediate transfer of the disease.

Ref. [www.telegraph.co.uk/news/health/6542203/The-war-was-over-but-Spanish-Flu-would-kill-millions-more](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/health/6542203/The-war-was-over-but-Spanish-Flu-would-kill-millions-more)

Ref. [www.theconversation.com/world-war-ones-role-in-the-worst-ever-flu-pandemic](http://www.theconversation.com/world-war-ones-role-in-the-worst-ever-flu-pandemic)

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after April 28, 1877 and on or before February 16, 1897)			
SERIAL NUMBER U 2731	1. NAME (Print) Percy Wallace Partridge		ORDER NUMBER
2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) 1190 Jewell Topeka Shawnee Kans.			
(THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL)			
3. MAILING ADDRESS Same			
(Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same insert word same)			
4. TELEPHONE 6844	5. AGE IN YEARS <del>55</del> 51	6. PLACE OF BIRTH Essex Co	
DATE OF BIRTH May 27 1890		England -	
7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Mrs. Percy W. Partridge, 1190 Jewell.			
8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS Halcomb Mfg. Co.			
9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS Indianapolis Ind.			
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.			
D. S. S. Form 1 (Revised 4-1-42)	(over)	10-21620	Percy W. Partridge (Registrant's signature)

Percy Partridge WW1 Registration document. Permission of National Archives.

## Walter Perry

Birth: 29 August 1893 Fordham Essex

Baptism: Not found. Brother George William baptised 1889 at All Saints Church Fordham Essex

Parents: George Perry born 1866 Copford Essex and Caroline Bunting born 1869 Fordham Essex. Married in All Saints Church Fordham and buried in the churchyard.

Father's occupation: Plate Layer GER

Spouse: Not married

Children: No children



Occupation before the war: Civil Policeman with the Essex Constabulary

Regiment: Corps of Military Police

Service number: P/2888 Lance Corporal

Theatre of War: East Africa

Died: 9 July 1918 age 25 at Stationary Hospital, Port Amelia, Portuguese East Africa

Cemetery: Pemba Mozambique



Census 1911 with parents George Perry and Caroline Perry 1869, siblings George born 1889, John born 1892, Florence born 1896, Mary born 1898, Lillian born 1900, Maude born 1904, Ephraim born 1906 and Frederick born 1909. Living at Eight Ash Green, Copford Essex.

1901 with parents George and Caroline Perry, siblings George born 1889, Beatrice born 1890, John born 1892, Florence born 1896, Mary born 1898 and Lillian born 1900. Living at Fordham Heath Essex.

1915/1916 Occupier's List: N/A

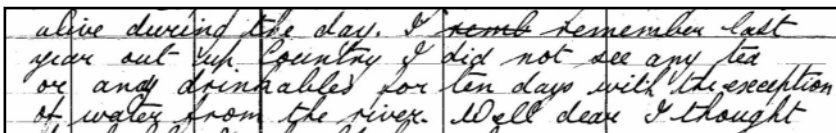
1920 Fordham Electoral Roll: N/A

On war memorial: No

Subscribers to war memorial: No

#### Other information:

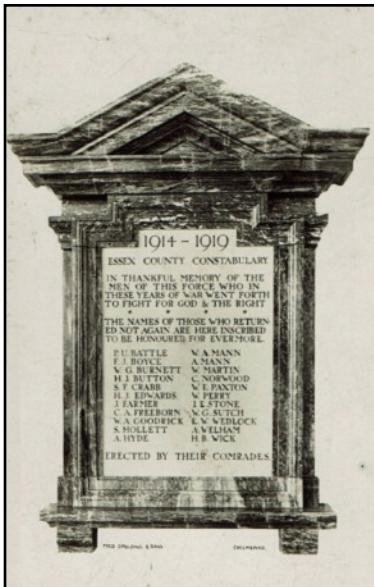
Walter Perry was one of 12 children. He had been a police constable in the Essex Constabulary. He corresponded frequently to his sisters back in England whilst he was posted in Africa with the Corps of Military police. Walter died from malaria and blackwater fever in the Stationary Hospital Port Amelia, Portuguese East Africa. Walter had written that he had drank no tea or drinkables in ten days except water from the river.



alive during the day. I rememb remember last  
year out- up. Country I did not see any tea  
or any drinkables for ten days with the exception  
of water from the river. Well dear I thought

In a letter in his army service record, it is requested that the Chief Constable of the police force in which Walter had served be informed of the great regret of his death and his valuable service.

Walter was not originally on the Fordham memorial, but remembered inside Copford Church and on the Essex Constabulary memorial in Chelmsford Essex.



*Documents and photographs from personal collection J. Perry FLHS Archive*





The photograph above was a Christmas card to Walter's parents. Walter is the young man on the right in the second row, much thinner compared to his photograph in uniform on the previous page.

A.		SEE NOTICE AT BACK.		POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.		No. of Telegram	
Prefix	Code	(Inland Telegrams.)		Words	Sent	For Postage Stamps.	
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.				*	At	To be affixed by the Sender.	
				Charge.	To	Any Stamp for which there is not room here should be affixed on the back of this form.	
				By	By	J. L. Hunt	
When a reply is to be printed, write the words "Reply Paid" in the space below. These words are not charged for.				Mr George Perry 8 Ash Green Copford Essex			
12 words, including the words in the address.				Request to inform you that a report received states:			
9 D.				No. 2/2888 Lieut W Perry Military Food Police			
Every additional word, 1 D.				died 9th July in east Africa.			
FROM				records Military Police.			
The Name and Address of the Sender, IF NOT TO BE TELEGRAPHED, must be written in the Space provided at the Back of the Form.							
<small>(This Paper Manufactured and Printed by MCGONIGDALE &amp; CO. Limited.) A. W. 1913A/13B 23,300,000. 1912/13. Feb. 2.</small>							

With permission National Archives

## Hercules Charles Pettitt

Birth: 7 April 1897 Fordham Essex registered as Harkles Charles Balls.

Baptism: 11 March 1900 at All Saints Church Fordham as Hercules Charles Balls.

Mother Emma Balls born 1872 Fordham Essex

Father's occupation: Not known

Spouse: N/A Children: N/A

Occupation before the war: Groom at a stud

Regiment: Essex Regiment 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion enlisted Colchester

Service number: 24198

Theatre of War: France and Flanders

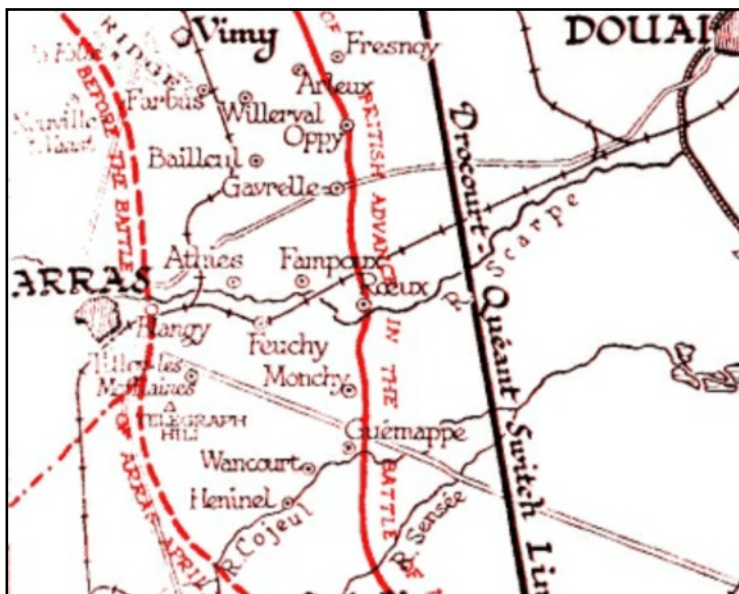
Died: 8 October 1917 age 20

At the time of his death, Private Pettitt's 12<sup>th</sup> division were involved in the Arras Offensive. There were 5 other soldiers from the same battalion killed that day; they are buried alongside each other. *Ref. CWGC*

Cemetery: Monchy British Cemetery, Monchy le Preux, Pas de Calais France



*C. Pettitt. TWGPP*



*The Arras Offensive 1917 Ref. [www.longlongtrail](http://www.longlongtrail.com)*

#### Census

1911 living with grandmother 'Mrs Pettitt' (this is Jane Pettitt widow), sister Elsie Balls born 1900 and lodger Thomas Osborne. Living at Bridges Valley Fordham Essex

1901 with widowed grandmother Jane Pettitt born 1844, mother Emma Balls born 1872, siblings Arthur born 1892 and Elsie Balls born 1900 and boarder Tom Osborne. Living at Bridges Valley Fordham.

On war memorial: Yes

Subscribers to war memorial: Miss Elsie Pettitt , sister 5 shillings and Mrs Pettitt grandmother 1 shilling.

1915/1916 Occupier's List: N/A

1920 Electoral Roll: Jane Pettitt Bridges Valley

Other information:

1845, 1848, 1855, 1859, 1866, 1878 Post Office Directory Zachariah Pettitt  
Farmer and landowner

1863 White's Directory Zachariah Pettitt farmer

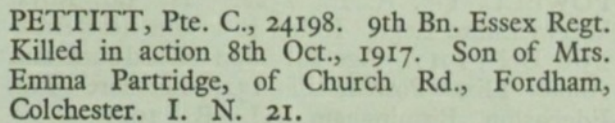
1845 Post Office Directory John Pettitt farmer.

White's Directory 1863 William Pettitt rat catcher

Kelly's Directory 1886, 1890, Frederick Hammant Pettitt farmer and land  
owner

Private Hercules Charles Pettitt was born to Emma Balls. His mother Emma  
Balls became a Pettitt after her mother Jane Balls married John Pettitt, for  
whom she had worked as a housekeeper. Baptism and census records  
confirm this.

Hercules and his siblings can be found living with their mother and  
grandmother in 1901, but in 1911 after his mother marries Phillip Partridge,  
Hercules and his sister Elsie are found living with grandmother Jane Pettitt.



PETTITT, Pte. C., 24198. 9th Bn. Essex Regt.  
Killed in action 8th Oct., 1917. Son of Mrs.  
Emma Partridge, of Church Rd., Fordham,  
Colchester. I. N. 21.

*With permission CWGC*

**CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.**

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The returns should be written in Ink.

The contents of this Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with respect to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, or in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND RESIDENCE	MARRIAGES IN THIS FAMILY	AGE AND SEX	PARTICULARS AS TO RESIDENCE	PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION OF PERSONS AGE 15 YEARS AND UPWARDS		EDUCATION OF EVERY PERSON	NATURALIZATION OF EVERY PERSON	DEFERMENTS OF EVERY PERSON
				Personal (Occupation)	Industry or Service with which related or connected			
Mr Pittitt Thomas Colburn Stevens Balls Blue Balls	None	29 60 14 11	Widow Single Widow Widow	Carolson Gingler Colburn School	None	None	None	None

(1) To fill up by the Enumerator

(2) To fill up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family in each house in occupation, or in charge of the dwelling

0

Signature: *Mr Pittitt*  
Printed Address: *Stevens Balls*



The 9th (Service) Battalion, Essex Regiment photograph courtesy  
The Essex Regiment Museum

## Thomas Edward Potkin

Birth: 21 June 1896 Copford Essex

Baptism: N/A

Parents: Thomas Potkin born 1854 Stanway Essex and Sarah Jane Elizabeth Green born 1857 Bermondsey London.

Father's occupation: General Dealer/wood dealer

Spouse: Not married

Children: No children

Occupation before the war: Helping father at woodworks

Regiment: 9<sup>th</sup> Northumberland Fusiliers 12<sup>th</sup> Division

Service number: 204600

Theatre of War: France and Flanders

Died 10 April 1918 age 22



After suffering heavy losses during the Battles of the Lys, the 12<sup>th</sup> Division was withdrawn from fighting and moved on 21 April to the area west of Poperinge. It is likely that during this conflict; Private Potkin died.

Cemetery: Private Potkin has no known grave, he is remembered on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium.

Census

1911 with parents Thomas Potkin and Sarah Jane Potkin and sister Sarah May Potkin born 1893 Copford. Living at Fordham Heath Essex.

1901 with parents Thomas Potkin and sister (Sarah) May born 1893. Living at Fordham Heath Essex.

On war memorial: Yes

Subscribers to war memorial: No

1915/1916 Occupier's List: N/A

1920 Fordham Electoral Roll: N/A. Thomas and Sarah Jane Potkin Hole Farm on Copford Electoral Roll



*Ploegsteert Memorial Belgium TWGPP*

INDEX No. M.R.32 POTKIN, Pte. Thomas Edward, 204600. 9th  
PLOEGSTEERT (Northumberland Hussars) Bn. Northumberland  
MEMORIAL Fusiliers. 10th April, 1918.  
PART SIX

*With permission CWGC*

## Alfred Henry Pudney M.M.

Birth: 12 November 1896 at 11 John Street West Ham Essex

Baptism: N/A

Parents: Alfred Pudney born 1857 Fordham Essex and Mary Ann Taylor born 1857 Fordham Essex

Father's occupation: Gas stoker, Labourer

Spouse: Not married Children: No children

Occupation before the war: scholar



Regiment: 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment. Formerly with 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Essex 23918

Service number: 40485

Theatre of War: France and Flanders

Died: 18 September 1918 age 21. Battle of Epehy, killed in action.

Cemetery: Ste. Emilie Valley Cemetery, Villers- Faucon, Somme France

### Census

1911 with widowed grandmother Mary Ann Pudney born 1834 Aldham, widowed father Alfred and uncles Walter Pudney born 1858 Fordham and Henry Pudney born 1869 Fordham. Living at Swiss Cottages Fordham Essex.

1901 with widowed grandmother Mary Ann Pudney, uncles Walter and Henry Pudney and cousin Edith Pudney born 1895 London Middlesex. Living near the post office Fordham Essex.



On war memorial: Yes.

Subscribers to war memorial: Mr H Pudney, Mr A Pudney 5 shillings each, Mr Walter Pudney 2/6, Miss Pudney 2/6, Mr & G Pudney 2/6 each, Mr Gerald Pudney 1/6, Miss L Pudney 1 shilling.

1915/1916 Occupier's List:

George Pudney cousin, Church Road Fordham.

Henry Albert Pudney uncle, near Post Office Fordham.

Sarah Pudney cousin, Porters Road Fordham.

1920 Fordham Electoral Roll:

Albert Pudney Church Road, Henry Albert Pudney, Alfred (senior) Pudney, Walter Pudney Swiss Cottage.

George, Martha, Clifford and Gerald Pudney Church Road, Sarah Pudney Porters Lane.



*Ste. Emilie Valley Cemetery, Villers- Faucon, Somme France. TWGPP*

Other information:

Private Alfred Pudney was awarded the Military Medal which was a Gallantry Award; a medal awarded for exceptional bravery. The Military Medal was the equivalent to the Military Cross (MC) which was awarded to commissioned officers. It was awarded to the Other Ranks (N. C. O.s and Men) and was first instituted in 25 March 1916 during The First World War to recognise bravery in battle.

On the reverse of the medal is inscribed "For Bravery in the Field."

Recipients of the medal are entitled to use the letters M. . after their name.

*Records*  
Awarded "The Military Medal" FRANCE

Surname PUDNEY  
Christian Name Alfred Henry  
Rank Pvt  
Corps 2nd Bn Beds Rgt  
Regimental Number 42485  
Date of Gazette \_\_\_\_\_  
Registered Paper 68/24/727 Schedule Number 206897

In order to avoid duplicate issues of Medals it is imperative that the cards be referred to before any names are gazetted.

68/Gen. No. 2730 (M. S. 3(D)) W3945/RP2686 20,000 8/18 (X655) W. & Co. • 8/12

*With permission National Archives*



## Albert Rayner

Birth: 29 July 1893 Aldham Essex

Baptism: Not known

Parents: Jessie Rayner mother born 1861 Fordham Essex

Father's occupation: N/A

Mother's occupation: Tailoress

Spouse: Not married    Children: No children

Occupation before the war: Farm labourer



Regiment: 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Royal Fusiliers

Service number: G/66132

Theatre of War: France and Flanders

Died: 9 October 1917 age 23 at the Battle of Poelcappelle. Brother John Rayner was killed in 1916.

Cemetery: No known grave, Private Rayner is remembered on Tyne Cot Memorial Belgium

Census: 1911 with widowed mother Jessie Rayner and brothers William born 1859, Bertie born 1887, John born 1892, Stanley born 1898 and sister Phoebe born 1889. Living at Weavers Green Fordham Essex.

1901 with widowed mother Jessie Rayner, and siblings half brother Frank Osborne born 1880, William born 1882, Bertie born 1887, Phoebe born 1889, Fanny born 1891, John Thomas born 1892 and Stanley born 1898. Living at Hemps Green Fordham Essex.

On war memorial: Yes. Subscribers to war memorial: Stanley Rayner 5 shillings, Mrs Rayner 2/6, Mr B Rayner 2/6, Mr P Rayner 1 shilling and H 1915/1916 Occupier's List: Jessie Rayner mother, Weavers Green Fordham

Post Office Directory: 1859 John Rayner boot and shoe maker

White's Directory: N/A

Kelly's Directory: 1866 John Rayner boot and shoe maker .Thomas Rayner shoemaker



*Tyne Cot Memorial Belgium. W. Shephard 2016*

Private Albert Rayner was with the 2nd Battalion Royal Fusiliers, 29th Division, 86th Brigade. This is a record of the Battle of Poelcapelle leading up the 9th October when Albert Rayner was killed:-

*The weather now appeared to have definitely broken. In the early days of October it had been intermittently rainy. On the 7th heavy rain again fell all day. These conditions interfered with the artillery preparations and though it was possible to crush two hostile attacks on the 7th, the perfection of counter-battery work, which was needed to cover a further advance, was impossible. The night of the 8th was almost as terrible as any experienced in the campaign. It was impenetrably black. The ground was deluged with rain, and a high wind drove the rain into the men's faces with the sting of whips. It was perilous to stray from the path, for the ground was now for the most part a trough of mud. Under such conditions it was not easy to assemble for the attack in the early hours of the 9th. But somehow the troops had become inured to such conditions, and the 2nd Battalion were in their places at zero. The attack was launched at 5.20 a.m. in conjunction with the French.*

Retrieved from <https://archive.org/stream/royalfusiliersin00onei/royalfusiliers>



*A. Rayner Tyne Cot Memorial Belgium. W. Shepherd 2016*

## John Thomas Rayner

Birth: 10 March 1892 Aldham Essex

Baptism: N/A

Parents: John Thomas Rayner born 1829 Fressingfield Suffolk and Jessie Osborne born 1861 Fordham Essex

Father's occupation: Master bootmaker      Mother's occupation: tailoress

Spouse: Not married      Children: No children

Occupation before the war: Labourer

Regiment: 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Essex Regiment      Service number: 24999

Theatre of War: France and Flanders

Died: 23 October 1916 age 24. Private Rayner died during an attack on Le Transloy Ridge in the later phases of the Somme offensive.

Cemetery: Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, Longueval France

Census

1911 with widowed mother Jessie Rayner and brothers William born 1859, Bertie born 1887, Albert born 1894, Stanley born 1898 and sister Phoebe born 1889. Living at Weavers Green Fordham Essex.

1901 Living with widowed mother Jessie Rayner, and siblings half brother Frank Osborne born 1880, William born 1882, Bertie born 1887, Phoebe born 1889, Fanny born 1891, Albert born 1894 and Stanley born 1898. Living at Hemps Green Fordham Essex.

On war memorial:Yes

Subscribers to war memorial: Stanley Rayner 5 shillings, Mrs Rayner 2/6, Mr B Rayner 2/6, Mr P Rayner 1 shilling and Harold Rayner 6d

1915/1916 Occupier's List: Jessie Rayner mother, Weavers Green Fordham.

Post Office Directory: 1859 John Rayner boot and shoe maker

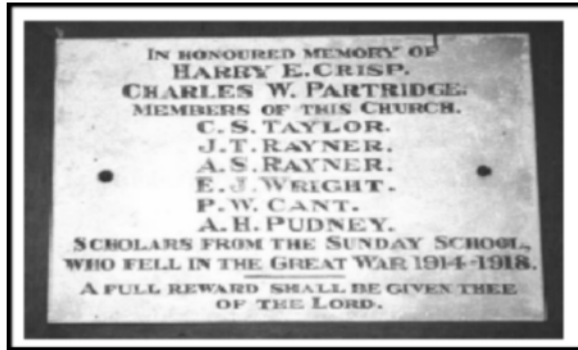
White's Directory: N/A

Kelly's Directory: 1866 John Rayner boot and shoe maker, Thomas Rayner shoemaker



*J. Rayner TWGPP*

John and his brother Albert were remembered on a memorial plaque which was in the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion Chapel in Fordham along with some of our other casualties Harry (Edward) Crisp, Charles Partridge, Charles Taylor, Ernest Wright, Percy Cant and Alfred Pudney M. M. The plaque is now at The Essex Regimental Museum Chelmsford. Essex.



*FLHS Archive*



*J. T. Rayner with permission from the Rayner Family. FLHS Archives.*



## Walter Edward Starling

Birth: 9 September 1899 Fordham Essex

Baptism: 11 July 1900 All Saints Church Fordham Essex

Parents: George Starling born 1832 Boxted Essex and Martha French born 1852 Mount Bures Essex

Father's occupation: Farm labourer

Spouse: Not married

Children: No children

Occupation before the war: Scholar

Regiment: Royal Navy HMS Prince Rupert and HMS Pembroke

Service number: J34735

Theatre of War: N/A

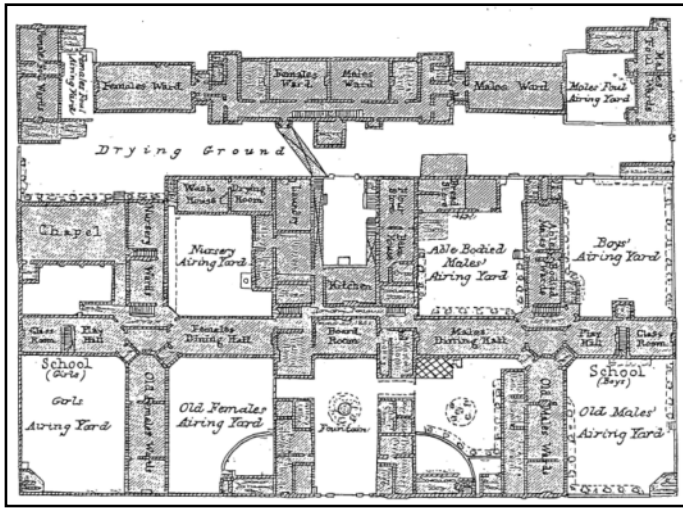
Died: 28 November 1915 from  
Appendicitis age 15

Cemetery: Malo Les Bains Communal  
Cemetery France



*W. E Starling TWGPP*

Census 1911 with father George Starling and mother Martha Starling. Living at Colchester Union Workhouse 14 Popes Lane Colchester Essex.



Ref: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/essex/vol9/pp279-284>

1901 with parents George and Martha Starling and siblings Fred 1890 and Edith 1893 living at Hemps Green Fordham Essex.

On war memorial: No

Subscribers to war memorial: No

1915/1916 Occupier's List: N/A

1920 Fordham Electoral Roll: N/A

Other information: Walter is our youngest casualty and died aged just 15 from appendicitis. He was also our only casualty who was in the navy. Walter was the youngest son from his father's second marriage to his mother Martha French.

Walter's father George Starling died in 1912 age 85. Walter joined the Navy in 1915. At the time of Walter's death, his mother age 64 was living at Parson's Heath, Harwich Road Colchester Essex.

NAME (Surname first)	Rank	Serial No. and Post Office	Branch of Service	Ship or Unit	Date and place of birth	Date of Death	Cause of Death	Name and Address of Country	Gravesite			Relative notified and their address	Remarks
									File	Row	Grave No.		
STARLING, Percy Victor,	Quartermaster	R.N.A./13560	R.N.A. Station.	R.H. N. Station.	9.12.04. Holy Trinity, Brierley Hill, Staffs.	6.11.20.	2.	Queenstown Cemetery, Co. Cork.	Sec'n C.	26	60	Friend, Miss Constance D. Skelding, 1 Berkeley Street, Liverpool.	
STARLING, Walter Edward,	Boy I	J.34735	R.N.	R.N.S. "Pembroke".	9.9.09. Fordingham, Hants.	20.11.15.	3.	Walsley-Deane, Commons Cemetery, Hants.	1	1	2A	Mother, 34 Parsons Heath, Berwick Rd, Salisbury.	

With permission National Archives

J 34735

Name in full: *Walter Edward Starling*

Date of Birth: *9 September 1897*

Place of Birth: *Fordingham, Hants*

Occupation: *Army T.I. Remount*

Date and Period of Engagements	Age	Height		Chest, In.	Hair	Eyes	Complexion	Wounds, Scars, or Marks
		Ft	in.					
<i>9 September 1914</i>	<i>17 years</i>	<i>5.8</i>	<i>4 11</i>		<i>brn</i>	<i>grey</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Scar left leg</i>

Ship, etc., served in.	List	No.	Rating	Period of Service		If Discharged whither and for what cause	Sub-ratings			Character & Ability		Remarks
				From	To		Rating	From	To	C.	Date	
<i>Imperieuse</i>	<i>15<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>8030</i>	<i>Boy II</i>	<i>10/10/15</i>								<i>Free 10/11/16</i>
<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>								<i>13.11.19. S. 26.531</i>
<i>Rembuck</i>	<i>15<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>8032</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>								
<i>Wingate</i>	<i>5<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>744</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>"</i>								
<i>Pombeck I</i>	<i>15<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>8026</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>13/10/15</i>	<i>25/10/15</i>	<i>DD</i>						<i>VB - Sat</i>

*N.P. 6299/15*  
*MR. 28 November 15*  
*in hospital at Pompey*  
*from Appendicitis*

With permission National Archives

## Charles Sydney Taylor

Birth: 23 October 1892 Fordham Essex

Baptism: 5 February 1893 All Saints Church Fordham Essex

Parents: Walter Taylor born 1854 Fordham Essex and Emily Bones born 1862 Wormingford Essex

Father's occupation: Farm labourer      Mother's occupation: Tailoress

Spouse: N/A

Children: N/A

Occupation before the war: Labourer on farm

Regiment: 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Suffolk Regiment 3<sup>rd</sup> Division

Service number: 40060

Theatre of War: France & Flanders

Died: 23 October 1918 age 26.

Private Taylor died during the Battle of Selle 17-25 Oct 1918. It was the Final Advance in Picardy until 11 November 1918. It was the hardest-fought of the final offensive actions. First, Third and Fourth Armies exploited their success in breaking the Hindenburg Line by pushing on across the Rivers Selle and Sambre, recapturing Valenciennes and finally in liberating Mons, where it had all begun for the British Expeditionary Force more than four years before.

Ref: [www.longlongtrail.co.uk](http://www.longlongtrail.co.uk)

Cemetery: Romeries Communal Cemetery France



## Census

1911 with parents Walter and Emily Taylor and siblings George born 1880, Joe born 1884, Arthur born 1895, Oliver born 1897, Julia born 1901 and Harry born 1906, all born in Fordham Essex. Living at Plummers Road Fordham Essex.

1901 with parents Walter and Emily Taylor and siblings George born 1880, Edward born 1882, Joseph born 1884, Frances born 1889, Maud born 1891, Arthur born 1895, Oliver born and Julia born 1901. Living at Plummers Road Fordham Essex.

On war memorial: Yes.

Subscribers to war memorial: Walter Taylor and Mr D Taylor 5 shillings each, Miss Anne Taylor 6 pence.

1915/1916 Occupier's List: Walter Taylor father, Plummers Road Fordham,

1920 Fordham Electoral Roll:

Georgina Taylor Plummers Road, David and Emily Taylor Quilters Green, Robert and Katherine Taylor Fordham Heath

Other information:

Charles was one of 11 children born to Walter and Emily Taylor. One brother Oliver died age 10 in 1895. Another son born in 1897 was named David Oliver.

Brother David Oliver Taylor was called up in August 1916 and joined the 17<sup>th</sup> London Regiment, service number 6661. Promoted a year later to lance corporal, corporal and then sergeant all within 2 months in 1917. David enlisted Camberwell London.

Brother Edward Walter Taylor was called up at the age 34 on 18 October 1916, he enlisted Warley with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Essex. He transferred to Middlesex and Agricultural Labour Corps, service number 179951.



*Romerics Communal Cemetery France TWGPP*



*C. S. Taylor. TWGPP*

## Harry George Webber

Birth: 7 March 1895 Fordham Essex

Baptism: siblings baptised at St. Michaels and all Angels Copford and at All Saints Church Fordham, but unable to locate Harry George Webber's baptism record.

Parents: Thomas Webber born 1861 Mount Bures Essex and Frances Waters born 1861 Mount Bures Essex

Father's occupation: Stockman on farm

Spouse: Not married

Children: No children

Occupation before the war: Agricultural Labourer

Regiment: 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Buffs (East Kent)

Service number: G/21207

Theatre of War: France and Flanders

Died: 8 October 1918 age 23 Battle of Cambrai

Cemetery: Private Webber has no known grave, he is remembered on the Vis-En-Artois Memorial Pas de Calais France

Census 1911 with parents Thomas and Frances Webber and siblings Stanley 1888, Kate 1890, Eli 1897, Grace 1899 and Allen 1905. Living at Foxes Corner Copford Essex.



1901 with parents Thomas and Francis Webber and siblings Frank 1884, Maurice 1886, Stanley 1888, Kate 1890, Myrtle 1892, Eli 1897 and Grace 1899. Living at Fordham Heath Essex.

On war memorial: No

Subscribers to war memorial: No

1915/1916 Occupier's List: Maurice Webber brother, Fordham Heath.

1920 Fordham Electoral Roll: Maurice Webber brother and May Webber Fordham Heath.

Other information: Frederick Eli and Maurice(Morris) both enlisted. Morris was discharged in 1916 due to medical grounds - epilepsy.



*Vis-En-Artois Memorial Pas de Calais France. TWGPP*



## Ernest James Wright

Birth: 19 June 1894 Fordham Essex

Baptism: 19 April 1896 Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion Chapel  
Fordham Essex

Parents: George Wright born Fordham Essex 1866 and Sarah Hammond  
born Wormingford 1868

Father's occupation: Farm labourer

Mother's occupation: Tailoress

Spouse: Not married

Children: No children

Occupation before the war: Farm Labourer

Regiment: 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion Essex Regiment

Service number: 16555

Theatre of War: France and Flanders



Death: 26 September 1918 age 22 Battle of Thiepval Ridge 26-30 September  
1916

Cemetery: Private Wright has no known grave, he is remembered on the  
Thiepval Memorial Ypres Belgium

Census 1911 with parents George and Sarah Wright and siblings George  
born 1899, Alfred born 1892, Agnes born 1897, Charles born 1900, Ethel

born 1904, Bertie born 1907 and Cecil born 1909. Living at Church Road Fordham.

1901 with parents George and Sarah Wright and siblings George born 1889, Emily born 1890, Alfred born 1892, Agnes born 1897 and Charles born 1900. Living at Post Office Road, Fordham Essex.

On war memorial: Yes                      Subscribers to war memorial: Alfred Wright (brother) donated 2/6d, Charlie Wright, Mr G. Wright, Mrs G. Wright (parents), Mr & Mrs G. Wright junior (brother and his wife), Mr G. Wright and Mrs Alfred Wright each donated 2 shillings each.

1915/1916 Occupier's List: Alfred Wright brother Church Road Fordham

Other information:

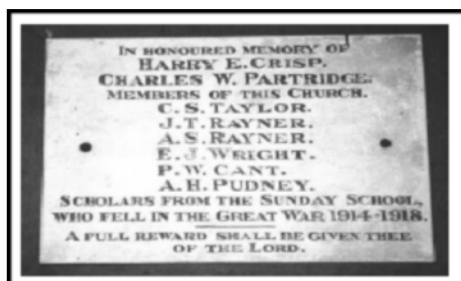
1866 Ford Street Alfred Wright sack maker

1868 Alfred Wright farmer

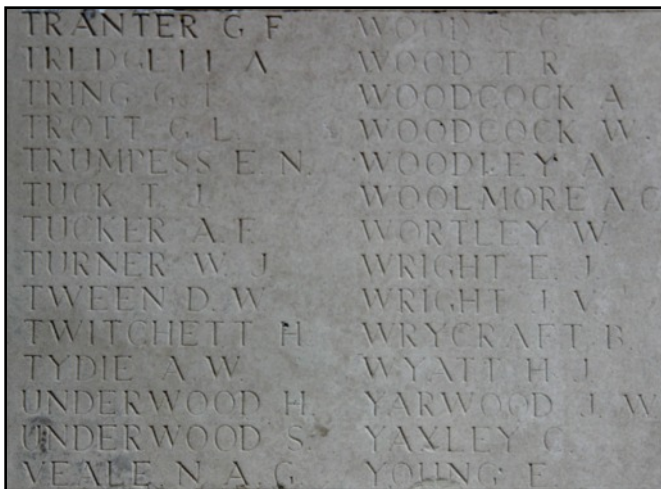
Kelly's Directory 1890 Alfred Wright, farmer Friars Farm

William Wright, Ernest's uncle served in the York and Lancaster Regiment 1899 to 1902 in South Africa, Relief of Ladysmith. In the Great War, William Wright was in the Agricultural Labour Corps 1917.

Private Ernest James Wright is also remembered on the memorial plaque at the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion Chapel where he was baptised and attended Sunday School.



*FLHS Archives*



*Thiepval Memorial France. W. Shepherd*

## Horace Egerton Slyfield and The Battle of Jutland 1917

We know of one serviceman who was involved in the naval Battle of Jutland in 1917. F.L.H.S. was contacted by a member of the Ganges Museum during the centenary commemorations of the Battle of Jutland. We were informed that Horace Egerton Ernest Slyfield who was from Fordham was a Jutland survivor.

Horace was born in Fordham Heath and baptised in All Saints Church on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 1887. His father George was from Surrey and his mother Georgina Francis was from Colchester. At the time of their marriage in 1863, Ernest's father was a sergeant in the 97<sup>th</sup> (Earl of Ulster's) Regiment of Foot.

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <i>Fordham</i> in the County of <i>Essex</i> in the Year <i>1887, 1888</i>						
When Baptised.	Child's Christian Name.	Parent's Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
<i>1887 May 1<sup>st</sup></i>	<i>Horace Egerton Ernest</i>	<i>George † Georgina</i>	<i>Slyfield</i>	<i>Fordham Heath</i>	<i>Labourer</i>	<i>T. L. Loughran Rector</i>

*Baptism Record retrieved from Essex County Record Office*

Horace was the youngest of ten children and his father's army life is mapped out looking at where his children were born Ipswich, Portsmouth, Dover, Dublin, Colchester and finally the last 4 children were born in Fordham. In the 1881 census George Slyfield is recorded as a Chelsea Pensioner having served nearly 30 years in the army.

The first date on Horace's service record is 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1903, he would have been 16. He trained on HMS Ganges and HMS Boscawen which were training ships and HMS Pembroke where sailors were based in Chatham. HMS Pembroke was the Naval Barracks at Chatham, Kent right next to the Chatham Dockyard (page 203).

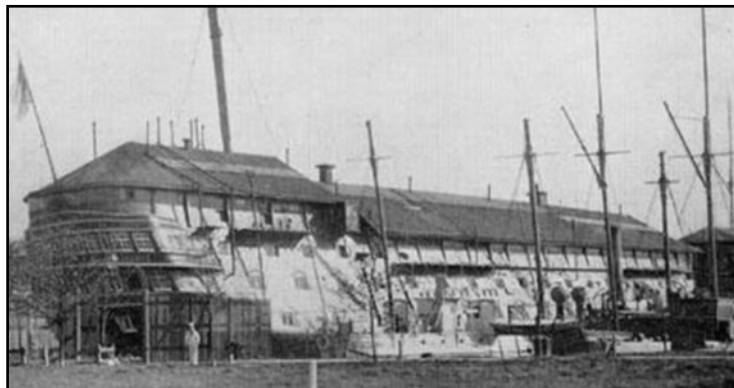
Thousands of naval ratings like Horace Slyfield would have passed through or served there over the years. Prior to 1903 accommodation had been in three hulks like the one below which was HMS Pembroke and that name was transferred to the new barracks.

227241		Chatham		227241						
Name in full <b>Horace Egerton Ernest Slyfield.</b>				Date of Birth <b>1<sup>st</sup> March 1887</b>						
No. 1. C. 279566 - 14-5				Place of Birth <b>Chester, Essex</b>						
				Occupation <b>Labourer</b>						
				W. S. Ganges (Jr.)						
Date and Period of C. S. Engagements.			Age.	Height. Ft. in.	Hair.	Eyes.	Complexion.	Wounds, Scars, Marks, etc.		
March 1905 - 1919			16 18	5-3 1/2 5-5 1/2	Brn. Hazel	Fair	Fair			
Ships, etc., served in.	List and No.	Rating.	Sub-ratings.			Badges.	Period of Service.		Character.	If Discharged, Whether, and for what Cause.
			Rating.	From	To		From	To		
Genes	15 <sup>th</sup> 7002	Boat.	CL	17.5.07	reg	13.2.08	25.7.09			
Provincer II	15 <sup>th</sup> 7004		Sh	09.09.09	reg	28.2.10	22.10.10			
	15 <sup>th</sup> 2057		S.G.	10.9.15	R. 15	2	31.1.16	13.12.07	OB	
Pembroke I	14 <sup>th</sup> 1043		Ord	6.1.16		3.	1.1.16	5.1.16	OB	
	5 <sup>th</sup> 173						26.4.16	10.11.07		
Pembroke I	15 <sup>th</sup> 2650						11.11.07	11.11.07		
Shearwater	5 <sup>th</sup> 60.		CB				14.12.07	1.1.16		
Pandora I	15 <sup>th</sup> 2570						1.1.16	7.1.16		
St George	15 <sup>th</sup> 2570						8.1.16	11.1.16		
St George	15 <sup>th</sup> 2570						15.1.16	15.1.16		
St George	15 <sup>th</sup> 2570						16.1.16	16.1.16		
Pembroke I	15 <sup>th</sup> 2570						17.1.16	17.1.16		
St George	15 <sup>th</sup> 2570						18.1.16	18.1.16		
Pembroke I	15 <sup>th</sup> 2570						19.1.16	19.1.16		
Royal Oak	5 <sup>th</sup> 111						20.1.16	20.1.16		
formed RTR on 12 April 1919 Ch B 17.19.6										
Cham for Condoct.										
Pembroke I RTR 11 <sup>th</sup> 215 PO 3400							8.1.21 to June 21. 1919 Sup. Disent.			
							TRACKED WAR GRATUITY BY No. 14			
Clothing and Bedding Gratities.						REMARKS.				
10 <sup>th</sup> 174. 10 <sup>th</sup> 174. 10 <sup>th</sup> 174. 10 <sup>th</sup> 174. 10 <sup>th</sup> 174.						10 <sup>th</sup> Grat for raising 1755 Ganges Aug 05 raised Professional Exam for P.O. 20.5.15 (17.11.15 Ledger) (2) Po. over 2yrs 19.18.19.19 Right £5.29. June 31				
						PAID WAR GRATUITY				

Horace Slyfield Naval Record with permission National Archive

Horace Slyfield began 12 years continuous service in 1905. Many training ships and shore based establishment were renamed, so some service records can be confusing.

It also looks as if Horace served on many ships; but this was not always the case. The lists of ships actually indicate the ships that carried his pay accounts. He was not necessarily actually present in all of them. Such regular moves are entirely commonplace in a normal career.



*HMS Pembroke. Gale & Polden Collection Medway Archives*

Horace trained through the ranks from Boy 1st class to Ordinary seaman, Able Seaman, Leading Seaman and then Petty Officer. His character, which would have been assessed annually and was always described as very good.

As a Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class, Horace Slyfield was serving on HMS Royal Oak (below) between 30 April 1916 and 11 April 1919. This ship was involved in the Battle of Jutland.



The Battle of Jutland began on the May 31<sup>st</sup> 1916. It involved some 250 ships and 100,000 men. This battle off Denmark's North Sea coast is considered the only major naval surface engagement of World War One. Jutland witnessed the British Navy losing over 6000 men and 14 ships. The Germans claimed that Jutland was a victory for them as they had sunk more ships than the British.



Admiral John Jellicoe's tactics were criticised by some, but Jellicoe claimed that the victory belonged to the British as his fleet was still a sea worthy entity whereas the German High Seas Fleet was never again in a position to put sea and challenge the British Navy. The German Navy lost 9 ships and 2,500 casualties. [www.history.com/topics/world-war-i/battle-of-jutland](http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-i/battle-of-jutland)

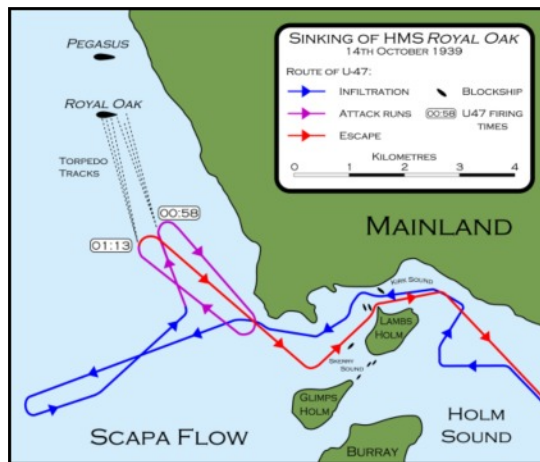
Petty Officer Slyfield was demobbed after Jutland but joined the Royal Fleet Auxillary in 1919. His last service date recorded was 21<sup>st</sup> June 1921. He went on to marry Mary Gasson in All Saints Church Fordham in 1920; he died on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1963 at Walnut Tree Hospital in Sudbury.

As for HMS Royal Oak, she was unscathed in the Battle of Jutland. As Captain Maclachlan reported in the Battle of Jutland Report Proceedings:-  
‘There were no mishaps with the exception of one misfire with a 15-in. gun, and this was immediately rectified.’

## The Fate of HMS Royal Oak

By 1939 HMS Royal Oak was not a modern fighting ship; but she was still a battleship representing the might of the Royal Navy even though she lacked speed.

In the summer of 1939 she was due to be sent to the Mediterranean, but because of the escalating situation in Europe, HMS Royal Oak was sent to Scapa Flow which was a naval base in the centre of the Orkneys. It was thought to be a safe haven which was protected by booms and obsolete ships which had been sunk to block German U boats.



*Ref: [www.donbolhway.com/scapaflow](http://www.donbolhway.com/scapaflow)*

Admiral Karl Dönitz, head of the Kriegsmarine's U-boats, had planned for an attack on Scapa Flow. Dönitz believed that a successful attack on Scapa Flow would be a huge psychological blow against the United Kingdom as it was a major base for the Royal Navy.

Just after 01.00 on October 14th, the 'Royal Oak' was hit by a torpedo fired from U-47. Many of the crew still slept. It was then hit by a further 3 torpedoes at 01.16 which caused huge damage causing the ship to list alarmingly and at 1.29 just 13 minutes later; the Royal Oak sank with frightening speed and a devastating loss of life.



Many men were trapped on board and could not be rescued. 834 men were killed out of a crew of 1219. Those who escaped the initial explosions and ensuing fires faced a swim through chilling waters thick with oil. Few survived the half-mile swim to shore.

Captain William Gordon Benn was one of the survivors and had taken command of the ship in July. The Royal Navy Board of Enquiry considered that "Captain W.G. Benn and his officers did all that was possible to save their ship. Captain Benn remained in the ship until the last possible moment, until in fact the ship left him, and his behaviour was in the best traditions of the service." *Ref: [www.scapaflownwrecks.com/wrecks/royal-oak](http://www.scapaflownwrecks.com/wrecks/royal-oak)*

**The British Casualties, 31st May to 1st June, 1916.**

SHIP.	KILLED.		WOUNDED.		PRISONERS OF WAR.		REMARKS.
	Officers.	Men.	Officers.	Men.	Officers.	Men.	
H.M.S. "ACASTA,"	1	5	...	1	...	...	
"ARBENT" (sunk),	4	74	1	1	...	...	
"BARHAM,"	4	22	1	36	...	...	
"BLACK PRINCE" (sunk),	37	820	...	...	...	...	Includes 5 civilians.
"BROKE,"	1	46	3	33	...	...	
"CALLIOPE,"	...	10	2	7	...	...	
"CASTOR,"	...	13	1	22	...	...	
"CHESTER,"	2	33	3	39	...	...	
"COLOSSUS,"	...	...	...	5	...	...	
"DEFENCE" (sunk),	34	849	...	...	...	...	Includes 4 civilians.
"DEFENDER,"	...	1	...	2	...	...	
"DUBLIN,"	1	2	...	24	...	...	
"FORTUNE" (sunk),	4	63	...	1	...	...	
"INDEFATIGABLE" (sunk),	37	960	...	...	...	2	Includes 5 civilians.
"INVINCIBLE" (sunk),	61	965	...	...	...	...	Includes 5 civilians.
"LION,"	6	93	...	43	...	...	Includes 2 civilians.
"MALAYA,"	2	61	...	33	...	...	Includes 4 civilians.
"MARLBOROUGH,"	...	2	...	...	...	...	
"MOORESON,"	...	...	...	1	...	...	
"NESSUS,"	2	5	...	7	...	...	
"NESTOR" (sunk),	2	5	...	5	74	...	
"NOMAD" (sunk),	1	7	...	...	4	68	
"ONSLAUGHT,"	3	2	...	2	...	...	
"ONBLOW,"	...	2	...	3	...	...	
"PETARD,"	2	7	1	5	...	...	
"PORPOISE,"	...	2	...	2	...	...	
"PRINCESS ROYAL,"	...	22	1	77	...	...	Includes 2 civilians.
"QUEEN MARY" (sunk),	37	1209	2	5	1	1	Includes 5 civilians.
"SHARK" (sunk),	7	79	...	2	...	...	
"SOUTHAMPTON,"	...	35	1	40	...	...	Includes 1 civilian.
"SPARROWHAWK" (sunk),	...	6	...	...	...	...	
"SPITFIRE,"	...	6	3	16	...	...	
"TIGER,"	2	22	...	37	...	...	
"TIPPERARY" (sunk),	11	174	...	2	...	8	
"TURBULENT" (sunk),	5	85	...	...	...	13	
"VALIANT,"	...	...	...	1	...	...	
"WARRIOR" (sunk),	1	70	2	25	...	...	Casualties sustained prior to the loss of the ship.
"WARSPITE,"	1	13	3	13	...	...	Includes 3 civilians.
<b>Totals,</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>5671</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>166</b>	

**Grand total, 363 Officers + 6322 Men = 6685.<sup>1</sup>**

Note.—The British casualties at Trafalgar, 21st October, 1805, totalled 1663 killed and wounded.

[www.history.com/topics/world-war-i/battle-of-jutland](http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-i/battle-of-jutland)

If you are interested in finding out more about Jutland use this website for an excellent source of information. <http://www.battle-of-jutland.com/>

## The Fordham Men who returned home

Using family research sites like Find my Past and Ancestry, FLHS was able to find lists of Fordham men who fought in WW1 and returned home to their families. It is important to remember that 60% of service records were destroyed by bombing raids in the Second World War and therefore the list we have here may be incomplete. New information continues to become available through other means of research and we can update our list on the FLHS website as information becomes available.

**Arthur Joseph Appleby** baptised 6 May 1894 All Saints Fordham. 1901 census Porters Lane Fordham. Regiment Royal Engineers, Railway Operating Division, service number 217785. Died 1978 Bury St. Edmunds.

**George Cowlin Appleby** born Fordham 24 August 1897. Baptised 19 November 1897 as Cowlin Charles Appleby at St. Michaels and All Angels Copford. 1901 census Porters Lane Fordham. Regiment 4<sup>th</sup> Essex, service number 203335. Discharged 9 March 1918 Phthisis (Tuberculosis.) Died 21 June 1918 Sudbury.

**Frank Arnold** born 1886 Wormingford. 1891 census Main Road (Plummers Road.) Regiment Royal Engineers Inland Waterways and Docks Transportation Branch, service number 337156. 1901 census 44 North Hill Colchester, 1911 census 128 Magdalen Street Colchester. Married Grace Stiggers 13 November 1915. Enlistment address 7 December 1915, 38 Barrack Street Colchester and later 13 Charles Street Colchester. Died 1965 (brother of Fred Arnold.)



**Ernest Edward Bailey** born Copford baptised 27 October 1878 St. Michaels and All Angels Copford. Regiment 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Essex Regiment enlisted 1896 service number 5368 (Edgar Harvey Bailey's brother.)

**Charles Beard** born 6 November 1876 Fordham. Baptised 4 February 1877 All Saints Fordham. Census 1891 Ponders Road. 1901 and 1911 Wash End Fordham. Regiment City of London Royal Fusiliers service number unknown. Awarded Army Pension in 1923 to support wife and 5 children. Wounded during active service gunshot wound to left arm, left thigh and chest which caused disablement (brother in law of Cecil Fredrick Broyd).



*Charles Beard. M.Playle FLHS Archive*

**Edward Beard** 1881 born Fordham ( all siblings baptised All Saints Fordham but unable to find Edward's baptism.) Census 1881,1891 Ponders Road. Regiment Grenadier Guards service number 8963. Exemplary soldier, discharged 1912. Joined Essex Regiment service number 32628. Brought to the attention of the Secretary of State for War. Valuable services rendered in connection with the war.

**Bryan Bull** born 1868 Fordham Essex baptised 9 May 1868 at Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion Chapel. Regiment Royal Fusiliers service number 1203. Discharged Acting St. Major October 1914. Census 1911 Church Road Fordham. ( father of Arthur Hepburn Bull)

**Harry Beard** born 14 December 1897 Fordham, baptised 20 February 1898 All Saints Fordham. Census 1901 Plummers Road, 1911 Plummers Green (Quilters Green) Regiment Royal Field Artillery service number unknown. Harry and his friend Sydney White signed up together. Sydney went into the Essex Regiment, Harry into the RFA. It is said that Harry lost all his horses in a bomb attack, but he was unhurt. Sydney and Harry both returned. After the war Harry and his brother carried on their father's carpentry business making coffins at Penny Cottage in Plummers Road. (Ref. M.Boyle. FLHS.) Harry married Lilian Evelyn White 10 July 1925 All Saints Church Fordham. Died 27<sup>th</sup> July 1970 buried at All Saints Fordham.



*Harry Beard. E. Baines FLHS Archive*

**Arthur Claude Bunton** born 24 December 1888 Fordham baptised 21 April 1889 All Saints Fordham. Census 1901 Fossett's Farm Fordham. Enlisted 1915 Sheffield. Regiment Training Reserve 85<sup>th</sup> Battalion service number TR/5/133458. Lance Corporal Machine Gun Corps service number 172911. Died Colchester 1973.



**George Ernest Cant** born 24 October 1887 Fordham baptised at the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion Chapel Fordham 15 January 1888. 1901 census Plummers Road, 1911 census Church Road Fordham. Married Rose Mary Emily Wright 29 October 1910. Regiment Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex) service number 37732. Discharged 16 September 1916 medically unfit Chronic Bright's Disease. Died 1967 Colchester. Interred at the Countess of Huntigdon's Connexion Chapel (Brother of Percy Cant.)

**Frank Clampin** born 1895 Fordham baptised 10 October 1895 All Saints Fordham. Census 1901 Near Shoulder of Mutton Fordham, 1911 Stone Cottage Fordham. Regiment Royal Field Artillery Gunner service number 622170. Frank's mother was Asenath Jane Broyd, cousin to Cecil Frederick Broyd. His father Frank W. Clampin built the war memorial builder.

**Arthur Abram Chaplin** born 1893 baptised 1 October 1893 All Saints Fordham. Married Edith Maud Smith 4 November 1916 Fordham. Census 1901 Chappel Road Fordham, 1911 Church End Fordham. Regiment Hertfordshire service number 271503. Discharged 5 May 1917 no longer physically fit, asthma. Service record states 'in his short service Arthur was sober, honest and respectable.' (brother of Percy Charles Chaplin.) Died 1959 Sudbury.



**Percy Charles Chaplin** baptised 7 June 1896 All Saints Fordham. Census 1901 Chappel Road Fordham, 1911 Church End Fordham. Regiment Royal Engineers, driver. Service number 163154. Served at Salonika. 163154. Served at Salonika. Discharged 26 July 1917 Malaria (brother of Arthur Abram Chaplin.)

**Ernest Chinnery** born 1875 Fordham baptised 20 June 1875 All Saints Fordham. Regiment Royal Artillery Service number 5722. Census 1881 near the Rectory Fordham. Married Mary Leonora Curtis 17 September 1901 Sandhurst. Children born in India, Ireland and Dover where father Ernest was posted. Described as 'exemplary character. A thoroughly sober, steady, honest, reliable and hardworking warrant officer.' Served in India and South Africa. Died 1929 Reading. (brother of Alfred George Chinnery)

**Ernest George Clarke** born 1894 Fordham. 1911 census working at Messrs Marshall And Snelgrove, 16 Marylebone Lane, 334 and 348 Oxford Street London. Married Eleanor Mary Kent 11 May 1918. Islington Regiment 9<sup>th</sup> London Rifles Service number 390133. Army Service Corps Service number 487207.

**William Charles Davey M.M.** born 1 July 1883 Bradwell baptised 9 March 1884. 1901 census Chappel Road Wakes Colne. 1911 census Church Road Twinstead Sudbury. Married Sarah Ann Warren 7 August 1917 Wakes Colne. Address 1914 Church Road Fordham. Son Charles admitted into school 16 November 1914 age 5 years 8 months. School Log entry 'Father at Front, staying with mother in village.' 1914 Regiment Essex service number 2713. Regiment 1<sup>st</sup> Hertfordshire/Bedfordshire 1917 service number 32279. Awarded the Military Medal. 1920 Church Road Fordham. Died 10 July 1969. Address 22 Porters Cottage Fordham. Buried at All Saints Church Fordham.



**Arthur (George) Everitt** born 1880 Fordham. Census 1911 living in Glamorgan Wales. Regiment Welsh Guards, service number 1552. Previously Essex Regiment 5125 (5351) for 8 years. Served in India, South Africa and France. Brother Frank also living in the same area, both worked as miners. Frank Everitt was also a soldier but did not serve in WW1. Frank and parents are found in census 1891 Moss's Farm; but cannot locate Arthur.

**Henry Wilfred Hopping** baptised 2 November 1895 All Saints Fordham. Census 1901 near Rectory End Plummers Road. 1911 Plummers Green. Regiment 1914 Essex 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion service number 2277. Regiment Hampshire 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion service number 56215. Regiment, 1919 Military Foot Police service number P16266.

Wilfred's parents Henry and Emma were 45 and 43 respectively when Henry (known as Wilfred) was born. They had married the year before, Henry was a widower and experienced some heartbreaking events very close together. He had previously been married to his cousin Emily Eliza Hopping daughter of Samuel Hopping. They did have a son George Joseph Samuel Hopping baptised in All Saints Church Fordham on 21 October 1888, a daughter Grace Maria born in Chelsea 1891, but both children did not survive infancy. George died in 1890 and Grace in 1892. Sadly their mother Emily Eliza Hopping died the following year in 1893, aged 39.



On the 1891 census, Henry and Emily Eliza Hopping are living at the Royal Military Asylum for Children of Soldiers of the Regular Army in Chelsea. Henry is recorded as a Colour Sergeant of a Company. Henry had been in the Royal Artillery enlisting in 1872. The Royal Military Asylum was founded in 1803, it aimed to educate the orphans of British servicemen killed in the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars (1793-1815). In 1892 it was renamed The Duke of York's Royal Military School and in 1909 it was relocated to Dover, where it continues to this day. When Wilfred's father was working at the school there were 546 scholars and 87 members of staff mainly from military backgrounds, plus their families.

*(Ref. [www.pdplondon.com/articles/the-royal-military-asylum](http://www.pdplondon.com/articles/the-royal-military-asylum))*

Wilfred's father Henry Hopping and his siblings are from the Harlow area and his mother from Islington. However, other Harlow Hoppings married into the Arnold family from Fordham and did live in Fordham. Wilfred's grandmother was Mary Ann Arnold born 13 November 1825 Fordham, she married Joseph Hopping. Her sister Maria Arnold born 22 November 1822 Fordham married Joseph's brother Samuel Hopping; it was Samuel who was the father of Henry Hopping's first wife. The Arnolds are well documented in the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion Chapel records online at Ancestry.co.uk and there are also London marriage records for the Hoppings and Arnolds online.

Henry Wilfred Hopping married Ellen Catherine Hume in 1920 Lexden. Henry died 17 October 1926 and is buried at All Saints Fordham with his daughter Queenie who had died the year before.



**Edgar Neep** born 1878 Fordham, baptised 7 May 1878 at All Saints Fordham. His address is given as the Shoulder of Mutton, father's occupation publican. The 1881 census has the family living in Aldham. Regiment 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Essex service number 202295, Essex 3<sup>rd</sup> /5<sup>th</sup> battalion service number 5046. Transferred to Cheshire Regiment 22 June 1918 service number 77851. Married Helen Castle Butler 26 February 1908. Died 28 August 1945.

**Leonard Neep** born 15 Mar 1880 Aldham Essex. Leonard was in the Royal Navy service number F31767. First Service Date 25 Jun 1917. First Ship Served On President II. Last Service Date 31 Mar 1918. Last Ship Served On Daedalus(Edgar's brother.)

**Walter William Nice** born 1894 Fordham. Unable to locate baptisms in Fordham or Copford. 1911 census Brick Street Fordham Heath, 1901 Fordham Heath. Regiments 2<sup>nd</sup> East Kent Buffs G.10477, 1<sup>st</sup> East Kent Buffs, 917 Labour Corps service number 383993, 926 Labour Corps, Royal Fusiliers City of London service number GS/110805. Married Gladys Maud Peaston 26 October 1914 All Saints Church Fordham. We know of William because his granddaughter contacted us. Walter William's Nice uncle 'Chummy' Arthur William Nice can be seen in the quoits photograph at the Half Moon Beer House.



**John/Jack Perry.** From Walter Perry's letter we know that he writes about Jack being wounded and how their mother must be worrying. We also know that Jack recovers. We have been unable to find any military documents for John Perry, Walter's brother. But we know he returned safely and can be seen on the Half Moon quoits photograph. John Perry was born in 1892 Fordham Heath.

**Thomas Mostyn Pettican** born 1900 West Bergholt. 1901 census Bures Road, 1911 census West Bergholt. Regiment Labour Corps 389<sup>th</sup> Home Service Company, enlisted 1917 service number 401925. In hospital for three weeks with influenza in November 1918. Married 25 December 1926 All Saints Fordham to Lily Osborne of Fordham. Died 1983, buried at All Saints Church 29 July 1983. Living at 3 Church Road Fordham.



**Clifford Pudney** born 1896 baptised 19 July 1896 All Saints Fordham. 1911 census Church Road Fordham, 1901 Post Office Road Fordham. Regiment in 1916 Essex 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion service number 4527. Regiment Cambridgeshire service number 1624. Regiment 29<sup>th</sup> Agricultural Labour Corps service number 441369 Discharged 31 March 1920 (cousin of Alfred Henry Pudney).



**Bertie Rayner** born 14 April 1886 Aldham. 1901 census Hemps Green Fordham. 1911 census Weavers Green Fordham. With the help of the Great War Forum, we were able to ascertain that Bertie was in the South Staffordshire Regiment and later transferred to the 1<sup>st</sup> Royal Warwickshire Regiment, service number 27605. Fortunately his service record is available and his address is confirmed as Quilters Green Fordham. On Private Rayner's record it states that 'he is suffering from rheumatism caused by standing in water on the Somme.' He was suffering from Trench Foot in January 1917 and was wounded in action in August 1918. Married Mary A. Fox 1923. Died 1973 buried 21 September 1973 age 87 All Saints Church Fordham, address 37 Ponders Road.(brother of John, Albert and Charles Rayner). Bertie's son still lives in the village and he shared with us another photograph of his grandson visiting the grave of John Rayner his gt. gt. Uncle. This will be on show at the exhibition.



*Royal Warwickshire cap badge.*

*Bertie Rayner with permission of Rayner Family FLHS Archives*



**Charles Stanley Rayner** born 1898 Fordham baptised All Saints Church 11 July 1900. In the 1901 census at Hemps Green Fordham. 1911 census Weavers Green Fordham. Died September 1973. (brother of John. Albert Rayner and Bertie Rayner.) Again with the help of the Great War Forum we were able to determine the roll that Charles played in the war. The uniform Charles is wearing is very dark and there was lots of speculation about this. FLHS has been told Charles is wearing the uniform of the Training Reserve. The button on the cap is the clue.

Taken from: "Formation of the Training Reserve" - Para 14 August 1916.  
"The W.O.s, N.C.O.s and men of the Training Reserve will be clothed as General Service Infantry. A large universal button on a disc of scarlet cloth will be worn as a cap badge, and shoulder titles consisting of the letters "T.R." will be supplied as soon as available.

We were fortunate to have photographs of three Rayner brothers in our Archives and we have used them with permission of the Rayner family.



*Button used as a cap badge  
for the Training Reserves*



*Charles Stanley Rayner FLHS Archives*

**Edgar William Rideout** born 21 April 1890 Fordham and baptised 15 June 1890 All Saints Fordham. 1901 census Newbridge Road West Bergholt. 1911 census King Cole Road Lexden. Joined Royal Navy 13 December 1915. Left 5 September 1916. Married Louie Cole 1922 Tendring Essex. Died 16 October 1962 West Bergholt.

**George Sadler** born 1868 baptised 1 May 1869 All Saints Fordham 1891 census Weavers Green Fordham. 1911 census Oxford. Married Emma Springett at St. Andrews Marks Tey 29 October 1904, she was baptised in Fordham 2 February 1868. Regiment Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry 1892 to 1910 service number 4196, discharged. Regiment attested in 1914 same regiment as before service number 30X/9901. Regiment Labour Corp 646<sup>th</sup> Agricultural Company service number 279997. George Sadler was 50 when he was serving in the Labour Corps.

**Alfred Lewis Southernwood** born 1892 baptised 29 January 1893 St. Andrews Wormingford. Brother of Bertie Southernwood. One of 10 children. 1901 census 4 Brewery Cottages Wormingford. 1911 census The Royal Artillery Barracks And The Cavalry Barracks, Butt Road, Colchester. Regiment Tank Corps service number 532260. Enlisted 12 February 1919. Married Nellie B. Radford. Died 1933 Wokingham Berkshire.



**Bertie Southernwood** born 30 January 1897 Fordham baptised 25 April 1897 St. Andrews Wormingford. 1901 census 4 Brewery Cottages Wormingford. 1911 census Brewery Cottage Wormingford. One of 10 children. Brother of Alfred Lewis Southernwood. Married May S. Raison 1921. Regiment Essex service number 14163. Gallipoli, invalided home. Labour Corps service number 494591. Died 1983 Kingston upon Thames Surrey.

**James William Southernwood** born 20 April 1898 Fordham. One of 11 children. 1901 census Chappel Road Fordham, 1911 census Idles Farm Fordham. Regiment Bedfordshire service number 45513. Wounded 5/9/1918. (Brother to Oliver Golden and George Edgar, cousin to the two Southernwood brothers above, cousin to Ernest James Wright one of our casualties.) James' mother Caroline Hammond, is the sister of Ernest Wright's mother Sarah Wright nee Hammond.

**Oliver Golden Southernwood** born 12 January 1896 Fordham baptised 19 April 1896 Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion Chapel. One of 11 children, brother to James William. 1901 census Chappel Road Fordham, 1911 census Idles Farm Fordham. Emigrated to Canada 3 October 1913 with brother George. Regiment Canadian Expeditionary Forces service number 26962. Married Doris Jepson. 1921 census living with his wife Doris and brother George in Estevan Saskatchewan. Died 2 February 1957 Saskatchewan Canada.

**George Edgar Southernwood** born 22 September 1893 Fordham. One of 11 children, brother to James William. 1901 census Chappel Road Fordham, 1911 census Idles Farm Fordham. Emigrated to Canada 3 October 1913 with brother Oliver. Regiment Canadian Expeditionary Force. 1921 census living with brother Oliver and his wife Doris in Estevan Saskatchewan. Died 13 June 1965 Estevan Saskatchewan.



**David Oliver Taylor** born 6 January 1897 baptised 19 August 1900 All Saints Fordham. One of 11 children (brother of Charles Taylor one of our casualties and Edward Walter Taylor.) 1901 census Plummers Road. 1911 census Plummers Green Fordham. Regiment London 3/17<sup>th</sup> service number 6661 and 7573489.

**Edward Walter Taylor** baptised 21 May 1882 All Saints Fordham. One of 11 children (brother of Charles Taylor one of our casualties and David Oliver Taylor.) 1901 census Plummers Road. 1911 census Plummers Green Fordham. Married Edith Anna Wisbey 12 August 1909 Wormingford. 1918 Regiment 29<sup>th</sup> Div. 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Essex service number 32122. In 1919 Labour Corps 648<sup>th</sup> Agricultural Corps service number 179951.

**Edgar Aquila Waters** born Copford 10 November 1884 baptised 25 October 1885 St. Michaels and All Angels Copford. Cousin to Ephraim Waters. 1901 census Hart Hill Stanway. 1911 census London Road Copford. Regiment Essex 11<sup>th</sup> Battalion service number 14224. Enlisted 28 September 1914 discharged 3 December 1914 Tubercular Testis. Married Rosina Bessie Woods St. Albrights Stanway 1 April 1907. Died 29 October 1958 Colchester.

**Ephraim Waters** born 16 June 1898 Copford baptised 16 April 1899 St. Michaels and All Angels Copford. Cousin to Edgar Aquila Waters. 1901 census and 1911 Seven Star Green Copford, 1915 living at 8 Ash Green

Copford. Regiment Bedfordshire service number 45499. Married Julia Taylor in 1925 (sister of Charles Sydney Taylor one of our casualties.) Living at 7 Ponders Cottages Fordham on the 1939 Register.



**Frederick Eli Webber** born 7 October 1896 Fordham Heath baptised 18 April 1897 St Michaels and All Angels Copford. 1901 census Fordham Heath. 1911 census Foxes Corner Copford. (Brother of Harry George Webber one of our casualties and Morris Alexander Webber.) Regiment Bedfordshire service number 11805. Died 1972 Weston Super Mare.

**Morris Alexander Webber** born Fordham baptised 4 April 1886 All Saints Fordham. 1901 census Fordham Heath. 1911 census 4 Nimrods Well Copford. Married France Letitia Mary Huxtable 19 September 1908 All Saints Church Fordham. (brother of Harry George Webber one of our casualties and Frederick Eli Webber). Regiment Essex 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion service number 28700. Died 2 May 1958. Address 2 Heath Cottage Fordham Heath. Buried in All Saints Churchyard.

**Sydney William White** born 20 March 1898 Middlesborough Yorkshire, father James born and baptised 1863 in Fordham, mother Mary Matilda Bugg born and baptised 1875 in Aldham. Parents married 12 September 1894 All Saints Fordham. 1901 census Ormsby Yorkshire, 1911 census near Suttons Farm Fordham. Enlisted 10 May 1916 address Penlan Lane Fordham. Regiment Essex service number 33816. Buried 4 September 1972 All Saints Church Fordham. Sydney was Harry Beard's best friend, they joined up together.

**William Wright** born 1878 Fordham, parents James and Susanna Wright (Pettican.) 1891 Census Quilters Green. Enlisted 27 July 1896 Regiment York and Lancaster service number 4710. Served in South Africa, Relief of Ladysmith, discharged. Married Florence Mary Bailey 7 September 1908 All Saints Fordham. Enlisted 10 September 1914 Regiment 684 Agricultural Labour Corps service number 438385 (Ernest Wright's uncle.)

*York and Lancaster Cap Badge*





*This WW1 Christmas Party 1917 photograph is from the FLHS archive, we do not know the location.*

## The Human Cost of World War One

The cost of human life in World War One was massive. These losses were a military and demographic catastrophe which had enormously important political, social, economic, and cultural consequences especially for the countries like Germany, Russia, France and Austria/Hungary who had lost the most. Germany alone had 2.7 million disabled, 533,000 war widows and 1,192,000 war orphans after the war.

65 million men fought in the war. At least 8.5 million died. 21 million seriously wounded. There were 6 million civilian deaths (not in the military forces). Many of the dead were never identified and thousands more just had disappeared; they were missing. Millions were disabled and disfigured, many suffered emotional scars which they carried with them for the rest of their lives. Entire towns and villages were wiped out. France had 300,000 houses destroyed, 8,000 square miles of farmland laid waste and 1,300,000 livestock lost. Economies of Europe were ruined.

For young women in the 1920s, for those who had hoped for marriage and family, wartime deaths meant a lifetime alone or they married much older men; as there were no young men available.

Fordham lost 30 men, but for our young women, they were able to marry men their own age, although there were a couple of exceptions. The average age of the men from Fordham who died was 25. Edgar Harvey Bailey was our oldest casualty being 41 and at 15, Walter Starling was our youngest. 5 women were made widows and 9 children were made fatherless.

### Years our casualties died

1914	1915	1916	1917	1918
2	3	6	6	13

### Ages of our casualties

Age	15	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	1	5	1	3	4	2	1	2
Age	26	28	29	30	31	33	39	41
	2	1	2	1	1	1	2	1

World War 1 was one of the bloodiest wars in all of human history. The number of WW1 casualties varies depending on the source you consult but the following statistics are generally regarded as an accurate representation of WW1 death and casualties.

Countries	Total Mobilized	Killed & Died	Wounded	Prisoners & Missing	Total Casualties	Casualties % of Mobilized
<b>Allied Powers</b>						
Russia	12,000,000	1,700,000	4,950,000	2,500,000	9,150,000	76.3
France	8,410,000	1,357,800	4,266,000	537,000	6,160,800	76.3
British Empire	8,904,467	908,371	2,090,212	191,652	3,190,235	35.8
Italy	5,615,000	650,000	947,000	600,000	2,197,000	39.1
United States	4,355,000	126,000	234,300	4,500	364,800	8.2
Japan	800,000	300	907	3	1,210	0.2
Romania	750,000	335,706	120,000	80,000	535,706	71.4
Serbia	707,343	45,000	133,148	152,958	331,106	46.8
Belgium	267,000	13,716	44,686	34,659	93,061	34.9
Greece	230,000	5,000	21,000	1,000	17,000	11.7
Portugal	100,000	7,222	13,751	12,318	33,291	33.3
Montenegro	50,000	3,000	10,000	7,000	20,000	40.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>42,188,810</b>	<b>5,152,115</b>	<b>12,831,004</b>	<b>4,121,090</b>	<b>22,104,209</b>	<b>52.3</b>
<b>Central Powers</b>						
Germany	11,000,000	1,773,700	4,216,058	1,152,800	7,142,558	64.9
Austria-Hungary	7,800,000	1,200,000	3,620,000	2,200,000	7,020,000	90.0
Turkey	2,850,000	325,000	400,000	250,000	975,000	34.2
Bulgaria	1,200,000	87,500	152,390	27,029	266,919	22.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,850,000</b>	<b>3,386,200</b>	<b>8,388,448</b>	<b>3,629,829</b>	<b>15,404,477</b>	<b>67.4</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>65,038,810</b>	<b>8,538,315</b>	<b>21,219,452</b>	<b>7,750,919</b>	<b>37,508,686</b>	<b>57.6</b>

*Source: M. White. Historical Atlas of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*





OH, FOR A GLIMPSE OF  
THE GRAVE WHERE YOU'RE LAID  
ONLY TO LAY A FLOWER  
AT YOUR HEAD. MOTHER

*Private Collection. W. Shepherd*

## The Scheme of Work

The Key Stage Two Scheme of Work for All Saints Primary School Fordham was one of the aims of the project fulfilled by FLHS. It was written by two former teachers Project Leader Wendy Shepherd and her teaching colleague Nicky Gibbs.

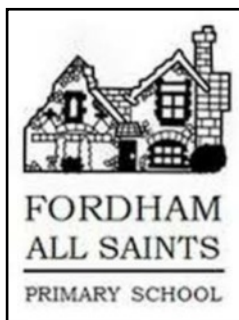
A very important part of the project was to ensure that all ages of the community to be involved and following an assembly in the school, the children were introduced to the WW1 project. Activities were discussed with members of staff from the school with the aim that some of the work be used in the exhibition.

The long term aim was to ensure that the school had a scheme of work which could be used for future generations to help the children understand how their village was affected by World War One and the importance of remembrance.

Using the latest curriculum for History, the scheme of work focused on Fordham and formulated 5 units of work including all the necessary resources to deliver each unit.

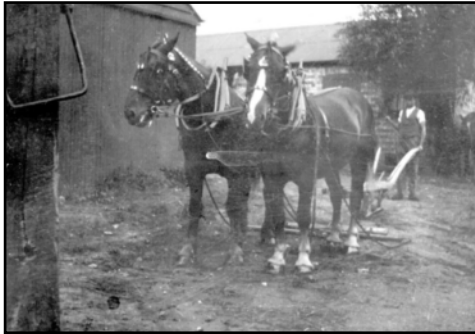
Within the scheme the children will:

- Learn about the concepts, continuity and change, cause and consequence, similarity and difference and use them to understand past events.
- Understand how evidence is used to find out about the past.
- Know that the past can be interpreted in different ways.
- Understand the connection between local and international history.
- Select and organise relevant historical information to create response.



Overview of the lessons:-

**Lesson 1.** Introduction to life in the village of Fordham 100 years ago using primary evidence such as photographs, birth certificates, census records and directories. The key question: **What was life in our village like in 1914?**



*Ready for ploughing c 1930 D. Kettle FLHS Archive*

**Lesson 2.** Recognise the changes that have taken place over the last 100 years by comparing photos of Fordham in 1914 and 2016.

The key question: **How has Fordham changed since 1914? What caused the changes?**



*FLHS Archive W. Shephard*

**Lesson 3.** Find out about the casualties of the war by looking at the names of those who died listed on the war memorial and using military records, census materials to find out more about them as individuals.

The key question: **Who from this village lost their lives in World War 1?**



*Fordham War Memorial. W. Shepherd 2015*

**Lesson 4.** Learn about the regiments they served in and how these men came to join the war effort. Investigate Conscientious Objection.

The key question: **Which regiment did the men join?**



**Lesson 5.** Focus on remembering and commemorating the loss through learning more about war memorials.

The key question: **How do we remember and commemorate the sacrifice of the men who fought and died in the war?**



*The Menin Gate W. Shepherd 2016*



*Embroidered silk greeting card. W. Shepherd*

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First World War Tanks - E. Bartholomew (Shire Library 1986 )

War Memorials in Britain - Jim Corke (Shire Album 2005)

Women in the First World War - Neil R Storey & Molly Housego (Shire Library 2010 )

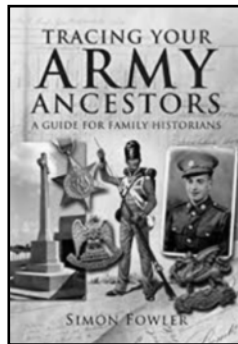
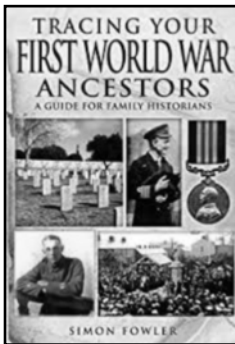
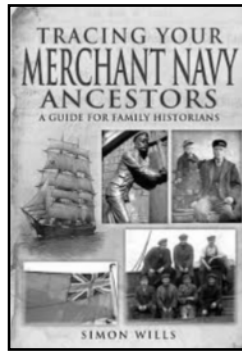
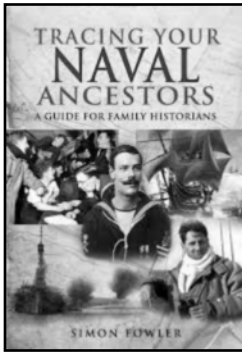
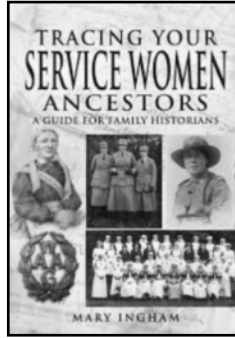
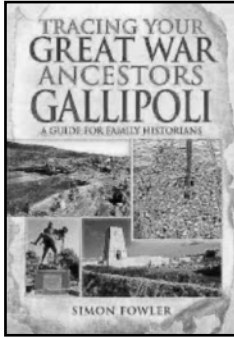
Slaughter on the Somme 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916 - Martin Mace & John Grehan (Pen & Sword)

The Somme: The Epic Battle in the Soldiers' Own Words and Photographs (Soldiers Words & Photographs ) - Richard Van Emden (Pen & Sword 2016)

Tracing your Trade & Craftsman Ancestors - Adele Ems (Pen & Sword 2015)

We Also Served: The Forgotten Women of the First World War - Vivien Newman (Pen & Sword 2014)

World War 1 Day by Day - Alex Hook (Grange books 2004)



*Useful research books published by Pen and Sword*

## Useful Internet Sites

Throughout this book FLHS has consulted many of these websites for our research purposes. We have found that sometimes the information differs slightly from one source to another. We have made our own judgements, so any mistakes are ours. If you require any information about Fordham and family history, please contact [www.fordhamhistorysociety.co.uk](http://www.fordhamhistorysociety.co.uk) and we will endeavour to help you.

### **Ancestry.co.uk**

More than 1.5 billion names in over 4,000 collections covering the United States, Canada and the UK. It includes UK census from 1841 to 1901, Index to Births, Marriages and Deaths for 1837-1983 and lots more. Subscription required. [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

### **British Red Cross**

War-time volunteers and personnel records. POW records. [www.redcross.org.uk](http://www.redcross.org.uk)

### **The Commonwealth War Graves Commission**

The C.W.G.C. ensures that the 1.7 million people who died in the two world wars will never be forgotten. The register is one of the largest of its kind in the world. It lists all the war dead under the Commission's care. These include the graves of more than 935,000 identified war dead and almost 212,000 unidentified individuals. The names of almost 760,000 people can be found on memorials to the missing. Also, they commemorate more than 67,000 Commonwealth civilians who died as a result of enemy action during the Second World War. Their names are listed on a roll of honour, housed near St George's Chapel in Westminster Abbey, London. [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)

### **Essex Record Office**

Discover your Essex ancestors or the history of your home, village or town. Baptisms, marriages, burial records. Subscription required. [www.seax.essexcc.gov.uk](http://www.seax.essexcc.gov.uk)

### **Essex Regiment & Essex Militia History**

Brigades & Division in WW1 for Essex Battalions, Casualty numbers during World War One, Essex Regiment Soldiers killed during WW1 who were Sons of Clergy, Kings Colour Honours - Battalions involved, Prisoners of War during World War One, Recruiting Offices in 1914. [www.essexregiment.co.uk](http://www.essexregiment.co.uk)



## **Family Researcher**

A useful dictionary of old occupations found in census documents can be found on this site. [www.familyresearcher.co.uk/glossary/Dictionary-of-Old-Occupations-Index](http://www.familyresearcher.co.uk/glossary/Dictionary-of-Old-Occupations-Index).

## **Family Search**

Website of the Mormon Church, this can be used to access their vast genealogical files including the IGI. [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

## **The Federation Family History Societies**

The F.F.H.S. Provides an alphabetical list of family history societies and is well worth a look. [www.ffhs.org.uk](http://www.ffhs.org.uk)

## **Find my past**

The St Catherine's Index includes all births, deaths and marriages since 1837 up to 2005 in England and Wales. Also available census and other information. Subscription. [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

## **FreeBMD**

Registration index of births, marriages and deaths. [www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk)

## **The FreeReg Project**

Like its sister site FreeBMD the FreeREG project website is a finding tool. This one is for trying to provide free access to all the church parish register records for baptism, marriage and burial from 1538 to 1837 in the UK. [www.freereg.org.uk](http://www.freereg.org.uk)

## **The Gazette Official public records**

WW1 Honours and Awards information. [www.thegazette.co.uk](http://www.thegazette.co.uk)

## **General Register Office**

Online purchase of certificates at £9.25 at time of publishing, if full GRO reference is quoted. [www.gro.gov.uk](http://www.gro.gov.uk)

## **The Gravestone Photographic Resource Project**

Started in 1998, it is an attempt to provide a much needed photographic on-line resource for family historians. [www.gravestonephotos.com](http://www.gravestonephotos.com)

## **The Great War 1914-1918**

A guide to WW1 Battlefields and the History of the First World War. [www.greatwar.co.uk](http://www.greatwar.co.uk)

## **JewishGen**

A free, easy-to-use genealogy website features thousands of databases, research tools, and other resources to help those with Jewish ancestry research and find family members. [www.jewishgen.org](http://www.jewishgen.org)

## **The Long long Trail**

The British Army in the Great War of 1914 - 1918. If you wish to trace servicemen, armies, battles and the battlefields, this is the website. A very informative website. [www.longlongtrail.co.uk](http://www.longlongtrail.co.uk)

## **The National Archives at Kew**

Public record office has a whole section devoted to family history with links and useful addresses. For births, marriages, deaths, adoptions and civil partnerships please go to the Directgov website. The National Archive has a host of information eg. census returns, wills, military records and other material. Well worth a visit, based at Kew. [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)

## **The National Archives of Ireland.**

Public record office. [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)

**The National Archives of Scotland.** Public record office. [www.nas.gov.uk](http://www.nas.gov.uk)

## **Photographs**

A very helpful websites for dating old photographs. Information about studios and photographers enabling you to pinpoint where and when they were taken. [www.cartesdevisite.co.uk](http://www.cartesdevisite.co.uk)

## **Prisoner of War**

Individual data on prisoners of war. Altogether, 5 million cards on prisoners and 500,000 pages of records associated with these cards will be available on this website. [www.grandeguerre.icrc.org/](http://www.grandeguerre.icrc.org/)

## **The Archives of the International Prisoners of War Agency 1914 -1919**

Information about prisoners of war, index cards, photo resources and lists of nearly two and a half million prisoners of war [www.avarchives.icrc.org/](http://www.avarchives.icrc.org/)

## **Scapa Flow Historic Wreck site**

A guide to the maritime archaeology and history of Scapa Flow. [www.scapaflowwrecks.com](http://www.scapaflowwrecks.com)

## **Royal Navy Ships and Crews**

Forum about naval ships and naval history. Crew lists, photos and history of ships and other naval topics. [www.worldnavalships.com](http://www.worldnavalships.com)

### **Scarlet Flinders - British Military Nurses.**

Ideal site for researching a nurse. This website gives information on all administrative and organisational aspects of the British military nursing services in France and Flanders during the Great War. It covers areas that have previously been passed over or ignored, such as pay, contracts, mobilisation and demobilisation, marriage, off-duty time, sickness, discipline and more - the basics of life for military nurses. [www.scarletfinders.co.uk](http://www.scarletfinders.co.uk).

### **Scotland's People**

This Scottish records site covers pre-registration parish records as well as the usual births, marriages and deaths. A charge applies. [www.scotlandspople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspople.gov.uk)

### **The War Graves Photographic Project.**

If you require a photograph of a serviceman's grave or memorial this site will produce a set of photos of the grave/memorial and the cemetery. At time of publishing the fee was £3.50 [www.twgpp.org](http://www.twgpp.org)

### **War Times Index**

A source of dispatches from wars Britons were involved in, containing information about British officers. [www.wartimesindex.co.uk](http://www.wartimesindex.co.uk)

### **A Big Round Hand by Pat Lewis**

Education in Fordham Essex. [www.millrind.co.uk/Big%20Round%20Hand.pdf](http://www.millrind.co.uk/Big%20Round%20Hand.pdf)

**A Barren Land by Pat Lewis.** History of Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion Chapel. [www.millrind.co.uk/TBLsingle%20sect.pdf](http://www.millrind.co.uk/TBLsingle%20sect.pdf)

## **Photographs**

The photographs and documents in this book have been used with permission from these sources:

Fordham Local History Society Archive

Personal Collections from village members and FLHS members.

Personal Collection from Wendy Shepherd

The War Graves Photographic Project

The International Committee of the Red Cross

The National Archives

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission

The Essex Record Office

The Essex Regimental Museum

Keble College Oxford

## **Art Work**

In August 2016, the project leader met Soren Hawkes at a military fair in Kent. Soren was very interested in the WW1 Project as he lives in Ypres and is an artist who captures life and death on the WW1 battlefields. Soren offered to produce some original art work for our book free of charge which FLHS gratefully acknowledges in this section.

For further information on Soren's work: - [www.passchendaeleprints.com](http://www.passchendaeleprints.com)