

# Capel St Mary suffers mounting losses as World War One's stalemate staggers to victory and the countdown to another war

## Capel Times

Issue Three – June 2018

Free to all residents, friends and supporters

## Great village achievement

### We will remember them

It was a great, but solemn, occasion and an achievement for the village.

It was the day when the young men of Capel St Mary who lost their lives in war were remembered on a stone War Memorial Monument.

It was the day which signalled that Capel had come together in just two years to ensure that those who lost their lives would have a lasting memorial. That they would be remembered by generations yet to come.

The village's first-ever Monument, erected in the centre of the village on Friday, 27 April 2018, is engraved with the names of the 35 who died in two world wars and since.

The Chairman of Capel War Memorial Fund, Group Captain Gary Bunkell, said that the next stage is the laying of a memorial garden around the Monument.

Until the Memorial's Dedication on 11 November, the Monument is wrapped and is enclosed by boards.

The boards have been beautifully painted by East Bergholt High School art students.



**Our wonderful village – Page 2**

**Monument is in wraps – Page 3**

**Meet monument masons – Page 19**

**Sad meeting with brother – Page 19**

### Army Chaplain Major Mandy Reynolds will Dedicate the Memorial in November



### My life as a British Army Chaplain by Major Mandy Page 20



# Our Wonderful Village

Very generous donors, supporters and friends have made it possible to create Capel's first-ever War Memorial Monument

## Great legacy for future generations

Group Captain Gary Bunkell CBE  
Chairman, Capel War Memorial Trust

As someone once said: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

While the War Memorial project doesn't claim to change the world, it will leave an exceptional legacy for future generations of villagers.

At the same time, it creates a fitting memorial to 35 men who gave their lives for others. Men who deserve to be admired and respected and above all who deserve to be remembered.

The project has been made possible by the efforts of local people who have done extraordinary things. They have answered the call in much the same way as the men the project seeks to honour.

Looking back over the last two years it is uplifting to reflect on just what has been achieved by individuals and community groups within the village:

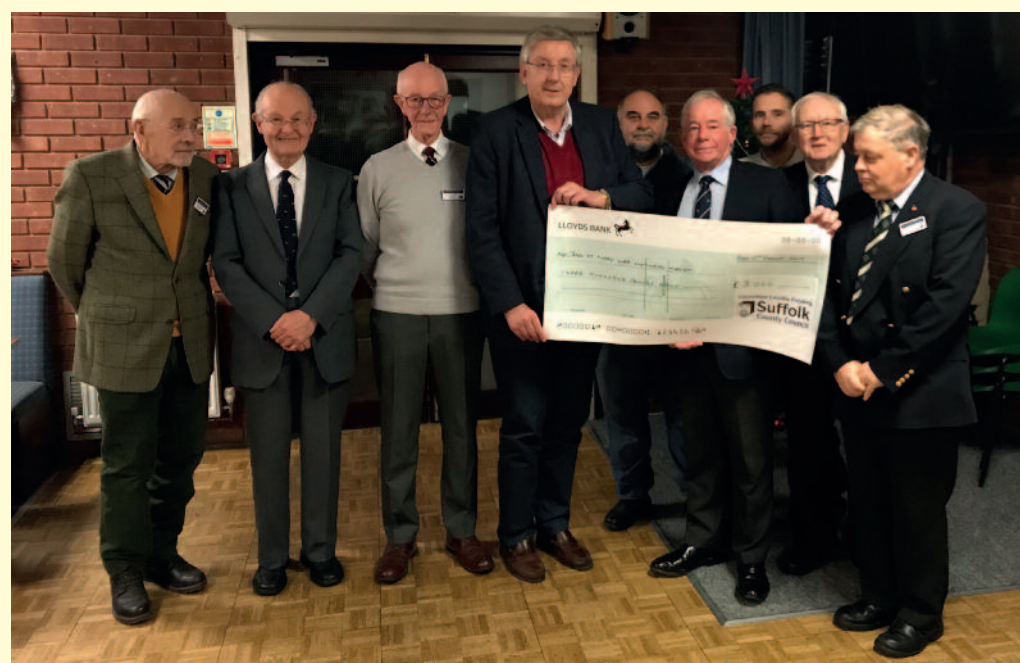
## Many projects

More than 300 people attended a garden party which included an exhibition of World War One events and their impact on the village.

More than 100 took part in a fund-raising quiz.

Ben's Remembrance Garden at Capel St Mary Primary School was renovated with help from local volunteers.

A memorial stone for Ben's Garden is being created by our stonemason and will be installed shortly.



**Suffolk County Councillor Gordon Jones, centre, presents a cheque for £3,000 from his community fund to Capel War Memorial Trust members, from the left, David Thompson, Chris Streatfield, Mike Woodward, Jim Sporle, Gary Bunkell, Jon Bunkell, John Sturgeon and Bill Dimond.**

**Orchard Players' stars Lauren Broom and James Finbow, back row, and Sophie Edwards, Lily Bobby, Maddy Mayo and Molly Griffin raised money for the Memorial at their pantomime.**

## Great help from 2018 generation

Pupils from the High School and the Primary School performed alongside others at a sell-out concert at St Mary's Church.

The memorial structure was installed on time and received excellent coverage in the local press.

The High School's art department students have designed and painted boarding that will protect the Monument until it is Dedicated in November.

The project has been featured on BBC Radio Suffolk.

Following briefings provided by our committee the local military community has pledged its support.

## Help needed in November

Thoughtful and committed citizens have shown just what can be achieved when they come together in a common cause.

Over the next few months we will be carrying out paving and landscaping in the run up to the Dedication service.

Planning for the service, which will include an exhibition, is underway. We expect to have more than 500 people in attendance.

We will be seeking volunteers to help on the day so please email me if you want to get involved in what is a once in a lifetime event.

(gary@capelmemorial.org.uk)

Finally, very many thanks to everyone who has played a part so far, without your help none of this would have been possible.

In November 2017, more than 200 primary school children, and many of their parents, took part in a Service of Remembrance at Capel St Mary Primary School.

More than 60 families in the village have become Friends of the Memorial and will be listed in the written history of the project. Four local businesses

have offered and already delivered their support to the building project.

More than 10 community groups within the village, and a further five in the surrounding area, have received presentations on the project.

All those community groups have made donations to support the various projects.

Volunteers held a garage sale in support of the project.

Using Heritage Lottery funding, East Bergholt High School has been supported to enrich its World War One curriculum studies, including supporting student visits to memorial sites in France and Belgium where they visited locations where some of our fallen are remembered.



# Outstanding! School reports, poems, art

A party of students from East Bergholt High School visited World War One battlefields, Memorials and cemeteries earlier this year. Other students engaged in creative writing about the war. Their reports, poems - and the painted panels around Capel's War Memorial Monument - are outstanding.



Ava Wilcock and Oliver Burch at a World War One Memorial

## Towering

By Oliver Burch

During the once-in-a-lifetime trip to visit the battlefields, as a group we saw many memorials, small and large with roadside cemeteries, to the largest Commonwealth cemetery in the world, Tyne Cot, with 11,695 burials.

As well as the cemeteries there, we went on to visit memorials like Thiepval.

Huge structures towered over us commemorating those who lost their lives in The Great War.

Also we visited the huge Canadian Vimy Ridge Memorial and the trenches there.

On the Sunday evening we went to the Menin Gate memorial; this is where they play the Last Post every night and then lay wreaths as a sign of respect.

That was an amazing place. The weather overall was quite bitter but it was a great heartwarming experience.

## Dear diary

By Nina Lones

Today was the worst day so far and it will never be erased from my mind, it was like a bloodbath out there.

We couldn't keep up with the casualties.

Dead people covered the ground like fallen leaves. This may be the last day...

## Trench Life

By Edward Dean

Startled, at the sound of gunfire, I awake and fumble, A squad of allies charge towards me, And to the ground I tumble. Rats and disease everywhere.

My gun in my hand, I scramble around, gathering my stuff, Seeing the enemy, there they stand.

Dave, like the brother I never had Dived on a grenade, Everyone's distraught and thankful that his life has been paid.

Many thanks to Dave, He didn't deserve what he got. Like many others he died a hero, Bill, Steve, Jack and Mike the lot.

Looking at the letters make me feel sad, Wishing I could see them once more, We're losing too bad, I'm sorry that wasn't right, I shouldn't have said it, But one thing I didn't tell you, The war; I loved hating it.

The losses you have to cope with, The action keeps you on your toes, The friends you miss and the family you want. But the best thing out there are the potatoes. Finally My time has come. I get shot in the back. The enemy is advancing, Hopefully the lads will give them a big 'WACK'.



The beautiful panels enclosing the War Memorial Monument until November were painted by East Bergholt High School students Thomas Butcher, Liam Warburton, Felix Mallet and Artemio Gamlin. The High School's Leader of Art, Mrs Susanna Spencer, supervised their work.

## Creative writing extracts

When I signed up I got told that this would be fun with my mates. Well, now all my friends are dead. They all got killed in our last trip over the top.  
*Holly Friston*

War changes you; war makes you do things you would never do and later regret. War kills you. War killed me. War kills a part of all of us.  
*Poppy Curtis*

"It will be okay" she says when papa tells us he's going to enrol. "It will be okay" she says when we have our last meal together.

"It will be okay" she says when they tuck me into bed for the last time. But two hands instead of four will never be the same again.  
*Alice Green*

The instruction is given. All together we climb over the top. My life flashes past my eyes. The picturesque image of amazing kids, wife and family. But I can't over think it. I run, I shoot, aim ready. Men dropping around me. One by one they go. Hoping it's not me next.  
*Sam Rahmanpour*

I catch the eye of one of my fellow soldiers and a sudden flash of memory floods into my brain. A vivid picture of my Mother, Father, little brother and I running around the green garden. Mother shouting whilst I pick my brother up and pretend to throw him to the ground. Oh how I miss home; the simple lives we all lived every single day. Little did we know the tragedy our boring routine would turn into.  
*Sophie Cook*

I sense the presence of a girl beside me. Becoming aware of the scissors in her pale hands, and my mind wanders elsewhere, not wanting to be conscious while the nurse cuts my bandages. I've seen too many grotesque things in the trenches to acknowledge the wounds on my own quivering body.  
*Millie-Rose Brookwell and Tamsyn Phillips*

We shall always remember and honour you. For it is because of you that we are who we are, And it is because tomorrow brings a new day And so when the sun shines in the morning. We shall remember you.  
*Ellie Knights*

## Wreaths for the lost and unnamed



By Ben Lawes

From Friday the 16th March to Monday the 19th March 2018 we took part in the History Battlefields of the First World War trip to CJT De Lork Kemmel, near Ypres in Belgium. On Saturday, we travelled to Vimy Ridge and the Somme area in France. We visited Delville Wood, Newfoundland Park and Thiepval where we experienced first hand the mass scale of how many lives were lost in the war. Rows and rows of gravestones, some unmarked, covered the whole area. In the evening we got to spend time relaxing with a game of bowling. Sunday was spent in Ypres, Passchendaele, Tyne Cot Cemetery, Sanctuary Wood and Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate. We experienced life in the trenches and the devastating bomb crater. In the evening we dressed in our school uniforms to look smart and attended the Last Post Ceremony. Men in uniform with their trumpets performed whilst we stood out of respect. Pairs of representatives from different schools and other groups then approached the Memorial to lay a wreath of poppies in remembrance of the people lost and unnamed in the war.

The Battlefields Trip was a thought provoking experience that really made us grateful to the people who lost their lives in order to keep us safe. The trip really helped us understand more about the First World War.

## Broken Promises

By Emily Blumsum

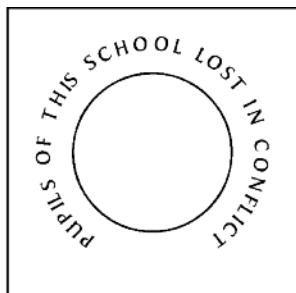
I look around, this is not what I was promised

There are corpses, strewn about like shells on a beach,

There are children, who lied to the authorities so they could win glory and honour.

There is no honour here, There is no glory.

Just broken promises, And empty dreams.



Frederick Ratford  
Kenneth Reynolds  
Ernest Richardson  
Frank Richardson  
Arthur Singleton  
Harold Steward  
Arthur Stiff

**Ben's Garden**  
1982 - 1992



*Make me a channel  
of your peace*

William Abbott  
Reginald Allen  
Harry Burch  
Harry Chiverton  
Walter Cole  
Frank Cook  
Edgar Fallows  
William Fallows

Charles Gough  
Frank Goddard  
Frederick Grimsey  
Arthur Peck  
William Pettingale  
Edgar Pittock  
Edgar W Pittock  
Frank Pittock

## Primary School's stone Acorn pillar to the 23 lost children

The refurbishment of Ben's Garden and the provision of the pillar has been financed by Capel St Mary War Memorial Trust.

The full cost of both was raised separately from money donated solely for building the War Memorial Monument in the centre of the village.

The mason's drawing above gives an expanded view of the four sides of the stone pillar to be erected in Ben's Garden at Capel St Mary Primary School.

The pillar is engraved with the names of the 23 former pupils of the school who died in World War One and World War Two. They are the school's lost children.

At the top of the pillar is a carved stone Acorn. Acorns are very special to the school and its pupils.

The pillar is an important and lasting memorial to the men who went to war and did not return to their homes.

It will for years to come help to create an awareness of the causes and sacrifices of the two world wars.

## World War One

### Songs, poems, letters from the Front Line and a singalong

A World War One Concert to raise money to build Capel St Mary's first-ever War Memorial Monument was a sell-out on Saturday, 14 April. An audience of 150 packed the venue, Capel's Parish Church, and added £1,285 to the War Memorial Fund.

The concert, led by professional sopranos Susanna and Anna-Marie Hyman and professional pianist and organist Stephen Smith, was a mixture of World War One songs and music, recitation of poems and readings of very moving letters from the Front Line.



Concert leaders Anna-Maria and Susanna Hyman

Letters from the Front Line were read by ex-Royal Marine Griff Johns in a World War One Army uniform, Group Captain Gary Bunkell, Mike Johansen, in World War One Army Medical Corps uniform, the Rev Roger Balkwill, from Shropshire, and Josephine Balkwill in a World War One Nurse's uniform.

Songs sung by Susanna and Anna-Maria Hyman were Oh! It's a Lovely War, Is my Team Ploughing, There's a Long, Long Trail, Sweet Chance that Led my Steps Abroad, When Soft Voices Die, Keep the Home Fires Burning, Good By-ee, Sister Susie and I Vow to Thee my Country.

There was a singalong finale with the songs It's a Long, Long Way to Tipperary, Pack up your Troubles and I do like to be Beside the Seaside. The concert ended with the singing of Land of Hope and Glory and the National Anthem to organ music.

Photographs by Lucy Taylor

## Uniform, period



# Concert hit £1,285 for our War Memorial



Front row from the left: Darrell Thompson (1940s' costume, Aldeburgh), Josephine Balkwill (World War One Nurse, Shropshire), Judith Sutcliffe (1940s' coat and hat), June Woodward (Land Girl, best costume prize), Sharon Pendorf, Penny Thompson (organiser, 1940s' evening dress), Hille Peartree (1940s' evening dress), Susanna and Anna-Maria Hyman, professional sopranos.

Back row from the left: David Thompson (ex-Army), Chris Streatfield (ex-Merchant Service), Mike Woodward, (ex-RAF, organiser, Home Guard uniform), The Rev Roger Balkwill (Shropshire), Mike Johansen (World War One Army Medical Corps uniform), Group Captain Gary Bunkell (Serving officer, RAF), Griff Johns (ex-Royal Marine, World War One Army uniform), Howard Watts (parachutist's jump suit, Aldeburgh), Stephen Smith (professional pianist and organist).



## Stardom from our schools

Performances by pupils of Capel St Mary Primary School and school students from East Bergholt High School were of star quality and won appreciative applause from the packed audience.

Pictured left to right above are Primary School pupils Gracie Harper, who recited *The Soldier* by Rupert Brooke and Max Mothersole, who recited *Flanders Field* by John McCrae, High School students Alice Green recited *The Falling Leaves* by Margaret Postgate-Cole and Edward Dean recited *Spring Offensive* by Wilfred Owen. Also from the High School, Sam Kilbourn played *And Now Let's Handel* on the piano and Holly Nixon played *Apres un Reve* on saxophone. They also won appreciative applause.



# dresses and a happy supportive audience



# More Capel men die in bitter winter

# 1917

## War on the Western Front

On the front line, early in 1917 the British prepare for a Spring offensive at Arras to keep German attention on the Somme.

Sir Douglas Haig instructs the 5th Army to make short advances in the Ancre Valley. From 11th January to 22nd February 1917 the Germans are forced back five miles on a four-mile front. By the 23rd, they have been forced back three more miles on a 15-mile front.

Capel's eighth casualty, Private Frederick Ratford, Essex Regiment, dies on 12 February. His story is on Page 9.

The second battle of Arras begins on 9 April with little success for a British push forward. Australians attack Noreuil. After initial success, a disaster. Canadians capture Vimy Ridge. A success.

The Germans withdraw to the Hindenburg Line defensive positions between February 23 and 5 April. The line was prepared over the 1916-1917 winter between Arras and Laffaux, near Soissons, on the Aisne River.

Capel's ninth casualty, Private Charles Gough, Suffolk Regiment, dies on 5 May. His story is on Page 9.

The second battle of the Aisne, between 16 April and 9 May, was a French disaster.

In the first battle in September 1914, General Robert Nivelle, French Commander in Chief, planned to take the East-West ridge of the Chemin Des Dames, a quarry area 68 miles North-East of Paris and then attack



**Winter 1916-1917 on the Western Front and in Germany is the coldest in living memory, a nightmare for the soldiers. Trenches have little cover, especially at night. Clothes and blankets freeze. Food and water is hard to consume. Soldiers suffer from trench foot and frostbite. German crops fail. There is very little to eat and for the civilians, 1917 is the Turnip Winter.**

North to capture Laon city. The British are to attack in the battle of Arras.

The ridge has been quarried and has tunnels and caves which cover the Germans from artillery. French infantry are cut down by massed German machine gun and artillery fire. The attack fails.

The defeat devastates the French Army and many divisions mutiny. General Nivelle is replaced as Commander in Chief by Phillip Petain.

Capel's 10th and 11th casualties, Privates William Pettingale and Edgar Pittock, Suffolk Regiment, die on 11 May. Their stories are on Pages 10 and 11.

Several battles are fought in the Arras campaign during April and May. They include Bullecourt, Scarpe. Capel's 12th casualty,

Lieutenant John Lott MC, Royal Engineers, dies on 21 May. His story is on Pages 10 and 11.

Capel's 13th casualty, Gunner Walter Cole, Royal Garrison Artillery, dies on 22 May. His story is on Pages 10 and 11.

In the second Battle of the Messines Ridge, the British blow 19 mines under German front lines causing total devastation.

Artillery and infantry advances recapture the ridge lost earlier.

Capel's 14th casualty, Private Frank Cook, Machine Gun Corps, dies on 14 June. His story is on Pages 10 and 11.

Capel's 15th casualty, Private Frank Goddard, Australian Imperial Forces, dies on 26 June. His story is on Page 10 and 11.

The third Battle of Ypres, also known as the Battle of Passchendaele, is fought in July for the control of ridges south and east of Ypres in Belgium. It rages from 31 July until 10 November. Unusually wet weather turns the battle into a slog in mud and with the onset of winter the campaign becomes difficult.

Added to this, the British and French have diverted troops to the Italian front following an Austro-German victory at the Battle of Caporetto, fought between 24 October and 19 November. This allows the German 4th Army to put up stiff resistance and avoid a general withdrawal. The campaign ends when the Canadians finally capture Passchendaele on the last ridge east of Ypres.

Capel's 16th casualty, Private Herbert Bullard, Essex

A terrible loss for Capel as 17 young men die in frost and endless fighting.

Regiment, dies on 1 July. His story is on Pages 10 and 11.

Capel's 17th casualty, Gunner Frank Richardson, Royal Field Artillery, dies on 18 August. His story is on Pages 10 and 11.

The largest tank battle so far in the war is at Cambrai between 20 November and 7 December. British and French artillery bombard German defences and the Royal Flying Corps attacks ground positions in a bid to capture Cambrai, an important supply point for the German Hindenburg Line. Tanks roll forward behind a creeping artillery barrage, infantry follows. The Royal Tank Corps 378 tanks make great gains on the first day. But they are unreliable and many break down.

The Germans launch their biggest counter attack since 1914, with rapid reinforcements in the defence of the Bourion Ridge. They hope that the offensive will win the war before the overwhelming mobilisation of the new allies, the Americans, is complete.

# Last German push - to total defeat

# 1918

On 24 March, the French Field Marshal is appointed supreme Allied Commander.

Germans launch a spring offensive with attacks along the Western Front bolstered by reinforcements from the East. They know that Allies have to be defeated before American troops and resources are fully deployed and the 50 Divisions from the East is an advantage.

Four offensives are launched codenamed Michael, Georgette, Gneisenau and Blucher-Yorck.

Michael is the main one designed to break through Allied lines and outflank the British holding the Front Line from the Somme River to the English Channel. The Germans believe that a British defeat will lead the French to seek an Armistice.

The other three offensives are designed to divert troops away from the main offensive on the Somme. The Allies are concentrating their main forces in essential areas, approaches to the Channel Ports and Amiens rail junction. They leave worthless ground devastated by years of war lightly defended.

Michael is launched from the Hindenburg Line on 21 March near Saint-Quentin, France. It is led by fast-moving storm troopers who make spectacular gains. But they are unable to carry enough food and ammunition to fight for long.

The German rear is unable to move supplies and reinforcements forward fast enough to maintain the advances. The offensive peters out at Villers Bretonneux just east of Amiens.

## End of the Western Front

**Germany comes close to victory in 1918 long after the belief in 1914 that the Allies would win by Christmas. In 1917, Russia collapses into revolution and withdraws from the war on the Eastern Front. Fifty German divisions move from the Eastern Front to reinforce their armies on the Western Front. The huge numbers of troops, weapons and equipment are a potential overwhelming advantage against the Allies. It nearly succeeds.**

# Victory at last

**Between 4 October and 11 November, German forces and their allies are in total disarray. On 21 October, Germany ceases unrestricted submarine warfare. On 30 October, German sailors mutiny in Kiel and Turkey requests an Armistice. On 3 November, Austro-Hungary concludes an Armistice with the Allies. On 7 November, Germany begins negotiations for an Armistice. On 9 November, German Kaiser Wilhelm abdicates and flees. On 11 November 1918, Germany signs the Armistice.**

On 9 April, the Battle of Lys is launched, part of the Georgette offensive. Portuguese forces are quickly overrun and part of the British line breaks.

The German breakthrough nearly succeeds with only 15 more miles to the Channel Ports. The failure is due to lack of logistics and German forces having exposed flanks.

The British Commander in Chief, Sir Douglas Haig, issues the order of the day.

*With our backs to the wall and believing in the justice of our cause each of us must fight to the end.*

At the same time, on 29 April, the German Commander, Ludendorff, calls a halt to the Georgette offensive.

The danger of a German breakthrough has passed. German forces in their push for victory suffer heavy casualties from which they cannot recover.

On 28 May in their first major action American troops are victorious at the Battle of Cantigny.

On 8 August Allied armies bolstered by fresh American troops counter attack in the Battle of Amiens, the opening phase of the 100-day offensive as it became known. Allied armoured divisions smash German defences.

On 26 September, the Meuse-Argon offensive is the start of the last French-American campaign of the war. On 4 October, Germany asks Allies for an Armistice. By mid-October the Allies have pushed the Germans back and have taken back almost all of the occupied parts of France and Belgium.

## Life and loss of Capel's men - Pages 9-11



# MUD - the enemy of the war horse

# 1917 - 1918



1917 was  
foul all year  
with a late  
Spring, no  
Summer  
and storms

The terrible conditions in which the war horse and their soldiers went to war are described in a graphic edited extract from *Wikipedia*,

“ A feature of the Ypres salient was mud. Apart from ridges, the battlefield was low-lying, Ypres was on the 20-metre contour, Gheluvelt Plateau at 55 to 60 metres.

Naturally swampy, farming in this area was possible only because of an extensive drainage system.

The drainage system was largely destroyed, although some parts had been restored by Land Drainage Companies brought from England.

On the whole, the area was considered by the British to be drier than Loos, Givenchy and Ploegsteert Wood farther south.

In 1917 there was foul weather, a very late Spring and not much Summer. There were thunderstorms in July and August. September was dry, October onwards was wet.

Mud was a defining feature of the battle for soldiers on both sides. It did a great deal to hamper operations.

General Haig was aware of the nature of the ground he was attacking and closely monitored weather conditions.

What Haig knew about the likely conditions is one of the battles' many controversies. ”

**Photographs and stories about your family's war experiences would make an archive for the young to study in the future.**

There are more family stories on Pages 19 and 20

Please send your stories to  
David Thompson, Tudor House,  
1a The Street, Capel IP9 2EB  
Telephone  
01473 314185

## My grandfather's war horse sinks deep into Flanders mud

Terry Bramer, of Capel St Mary, researched his grandfather's role in World War One and found him, second from the right, in the photograph above.

War horses and their soldiers had to battle against the mud as well as the Germans on the Western Front in the bitter winter of 1917.

The photograph above demonstrates more about the terrible conditions of trench warfare than any words, however many thousands of words. The photograph is of the utmost importance to me. My maternal grandfather, Frederick Robinson, a horse groom and driver during

the war, is the second man, the tallest man, from the right in the photograph.

My mother saw the photograph in a newspaper story about the war. She was certain from his facial features that the tallest man was her father. Through the newspaper, I contacted the Imperial War Museum, obtained a better copy of the photograph, enlarged and enhanced it.

My mother was even more certain that it was her father, who had survived the war. I can remember very clearly his height and rather gaunt face.

Before the war, my grandfather was a horse groom in service at Drayton Park, a stately home near Kettering, Northamptonshire. My grandmother was a laundry maid there at the same time. They married before the war.



# Capel's death toll keeps on mounting

# 1917 - 1918

## Comment



Painting by Yvonne Rogerson, a member of Capel's Art for Fun Club.

The following two pages tell the stories of the 15 men who died for King, country and their village in the fierce and bloody World War One battles of 1917 and 1918 and for those among them who died later of wounds or infections.

At the outbreak of war in 1914 Capel St Mary was an agricultural village with a population of around 500. The villagers would have known less about their wider world than we know today about our wider world. The deaths of so many of Capel's mainly young men was a tragedy which their families could not have foreseen.

The proportion of the village population killed was high, very high. Other men, whose names we do not at present know, came home with wounds or infections which needed hospital and other care. It is unthinkable that Capel could suffer a similar proportion of deaths and injuries today.

At 11am on 11 November this year Capel St Mary's first-ever War Memorial Monument, erected on the village green, will be Dedicated in memory of those who lost their lives in World War One, World War Two and since.

The Monument will be an ever-present reminder to future generations of all those who die in wars and the grief of those who mourn them.

Every year on Remembrance Sunday we recite words from Robert Laurence Binyon's moving poem:

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

Those words will be even more poignant this November.

**David Thompson,  
Editor**

## Frederick Ratford

Essex Regiment  
1897 - 1917

Frederick Charles Ratford enlisted in the Suffolk Regiment during 1915 becoming Private 23825. He was later transferred to the Essex Regiment as Private 6895 Ratford.

During a training route march he suffered a ruptured appendix, collapsed and was taken to Ripon Military Hospital, Yorkshire, for emergency surgery. Following the operation septicemia set in and he died on 12 February 1917. He was buried with Military Honours in Ripon Cemetery.

There is no record of service overseas, but if he did serve overseas Frederick would have been posthumously awarded the British War Medal 1914-1918 and the Victory Medal 1914 - 1919. His next of kin would have received The Memorial Plaque and Scroll.

Frederick is remembered with Honour in Ripon Cemetery and on the Brass Plaque in St Mary's Parish Church, Capel.

Frederick was born in the White House, Blacksmiths Hill (now Windmill Hill), Capel St Mary in 1897.

He was one of ten children of George Ratford and Eliza Ratford (nee Cole). The couple were married in the Samford Registration District in 1889. George, a blacksmith, was born in Capel in 1866 and died in 1948. He was buried in Capel.

Eliza was born in Capel in 1866, died in 1934 and was buried in Capel. Before marriage she was an agricultural labourer.

Frederick was a very good singer and sang solo for St Mary's Church Choir.

He and his siblings went to Capel School. On leaving school, Frederick was a waiter in the Great White Horse Hotel, Ipswich.

A family story is that they are related through Frederick's grandmother, Emma Sage, born in 1837, died in 1926, to Mr Sage, the man cutting reeds in John Constable's Haywain painting.

## Charles Gough

Suffolk Regiment  
1895 - 1917

Charles Henry Gough enlisted at Woodbridge in the Suffolk Yeomanry (the Duke of York's Own Loyal Suffolk Hussars), as Private 1807.

By 1916, the Suffolk Yeomanry were in Egypt as part of the 3rd Dismounted Brigade on Suez Canal defences. His unit became the 15th (Suffolk Yeomanry) battalion of the Suffolk Regiment after conversion from cavalry to infantry in January 1917.

Under orders of 74th (Yeomanry Division), the unit saw action in the Second Battle of Gaza between the 17 and 19 April 1917 and were in Palestine until April 1918. Charles died of wounds in Egypt on 15 May 1917.

He is remembered with Honour in Deir el Belah War Cemetery, Palestine, Memorial C52 and on the plaque in St Mary's Parish Church, Capel.

He was posthumously awarded the 14-18 British War Medal and the 1914-1919 Victory Medal. His next of kin would have received the Memorial Plaque and scroll.

Charles was born in Colchester in 1895 to John Gough, a serving soldier, and Elizabeth Gough (nee Gunn), a cook and domestic servant. The couple had married in 1891 in Colchester. They had four children, all born in Colchester.

In the 1901 census, Charles's father was the relieving officer and registrar of births, marriages and death, living at Bush Farm, London Road, Capel.

Charles attended Capel School. His father died in Woodbridge in 1907, at which time Charles was living with Ada Goddard, in The Street, Capel.

Ada's son, Frank, was also killed in the war. In the 1911 census, Charles's occupation was listed as kitchen boy. When Charles died his mother was back at Bush Farm, Capel.

## William Pettingale

Suffolk Regiment  
1890 - 1917

William Arthur Pettingale enlisted in the Suffolk Regiment at Ipswich in 1914. He was posted to the 2nd Battalion as Private 40722 Pettingale early in 1916 as a replacement following the battalion's heavy losses. In the Battle of Le-Cateau 750 men were killed, wounded, or missing from a strength of 1,000. The casualties included the commanding officer. The survivors were transferred to GHQ to regroup and reform.

In late 1915, the men became part of 3 Division where they stayed for the rest of the war. William was killed in action on 11 May 1917.

He is remembered with Honour at Feuchy Chapel British Cemetery at Wancourt, Pas De Calais, France and on the Brass Plaque in St Mary's Parish Church, Capel St Mary.

William was posthumously awarded the 1914-1918 British War Medal and the 1914-1919 Victory Medal.

His next of Kin would have received the Memorial Plaque and Scroll. William was born in Capel in 1890, one of 12 children all born in Capel to John Pettingale and Alice Helena Pettingale (nee Finch). The couple were married in St Mary's Church on 25 February 1876. After leaving school, William was a grocer's assistant in Bredfield, Suffolk.

His father, a farm worker and a road man, was born in Wenham Magna, now Great Wenham, in 1852. He died in 1938 in Deben. William's mother was born in Capel in 1857. She died in December. 1938 in Ipswich and was buried with John in St Mary's Churchyard on 29 December that year.

William's siblings were a baby who died; John Henry, 1876 - 1958; Edward William, 1878 - 1914; Frederick Ernest, 1880 - 1966; Charles Bernard, 1883 - 1962; Elizabeth Alice, 1886 - 1938; Florence, born 1889, Annie, born 1893; Daisy born 1895; Alfred Cecil, born 1898; Dorothy Grace, born 1901; William Arthur, 1890 - 1917.



# More Capel men die in the vast sea of mud v

# 1917 - 1918 -

## Edgar Pittock

Suffolk Regiment

**1884 - 1917**

Edgar Pittock enlisted in the Suffolk Regiment in July 1915 after an enthusiastic recruiting meeting in Capel St Mary. He was posted to 1st/4th Battalion and went to France on 18 January 1916. He was wounded in July.

After two months in hospital, he returned to the trenches where he contracted pleurisy and pneumonia. Edgar was sent to England and on 27 January 1917 tuberculosis set in. He died on 11 May at Ford Military Hospital, Devonport.

Edgar was given a full military funeral with a band. A gun carriage bore his body to Plymouth railway station. A train brought his body to Capel.

A procession to his grave in the old burial ground of St Mary's Church was attended by the 6th Cyclists Battalion firing party. Three volleys were fired and Last Post sounded. The school flag was flown at half-mast and pupils saluted the cortege.

Edgar is remembered on the brass plaque inside the church. His grave is in the North Ground.

He was posthumously awarded the British War Medal, 1914-1918, and the Victory Medal, 1914 - 1919. His next of kin would have received the Memorial Plaque and Scroll.

Edgar and his nine siblings were all born in Capel and all went to Capel School. After school, Edgar was a gardener and game keeper. He married Agness Miles in 1911 and they lived at an address in The Street.

Edgar parents were Joseph Haste Pittock and Harriet Pittock (nee Pinner). They married in St Mary's Church in 1864. Joseph was an agricultural labourer. He died in 1908. Harriet died in 1915.

## John Lott MC

Royal Engineers

**1875 - 1917**

John English Lott was one of the first to volunteer, joining the 4th Public Schools' Battalion, Royal Fusiliers City of London Regiment, on 11 November 1914 as a Private.

In France a year later, he was promoted to acting Corporal and later Second Lieutenant and posted to tunnelling and surveying duties.

Surveying in the Royal Engineers, John was fatally wounded on 7 May 1917 when he went under German heavy fire to aid wounded soldiers. He was hit in the head by shrapnel.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty John Lott was awarded the Military Cross. The ribbon of the MC was pinned on his chest a few hours before he died.

John was awarded the 1914-1915 Star, the 1914-1918 British War Medal and the 1914-1919 Victory Medal. He is remembered with Honour in La Chapelle British and Indian Cemetery, Peronne, France, Grave 1.B.5, on a stone memorial plaque over the entrance porch to St John's Church, Great Wenham and a brass plaque erected by brother officers inside the Church. His next of kin would have received the Memorial Plaque and Scroll.

John was born in Ashen House, Essex, in 1875, the eldest child of five of John Green Lott, born in Clacton in 1850, and Maria Ellen Lott (nee Gibbin), born in Ridgewell, Essex, in 1851. The children had a governess. John was later a boarder at Framlingham School. John's father died in East Bergholt in 1944. His mother died in 1939.

## Walter Cole

Royal Garrison Artillery

**1875 - 1917**

Walter Cole enlisted in Harwich, Essex, joining the 36 Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery, as a Gunner 132361.

He died of wounds at No 20 Casualty Clearing Station, France, on 28 May 1917. Walter was 21 years old.

Walter is remembered in Sunken Road Cemetery, Boisieux St Marc, Memorial I.D.9. His name is also on a plaque at St John's Church Great Wenham.

Walter was posthumously awarded the 1914-1918 British War Medal and the 1914-1919 Victory Medal.

His next of kin would have received the Memorial Plaque and Scroll.

Walter Cole was born circa 1896 near Bottle Bridge, Wenham Parva (now called Little Wenham), Suffolk.

He was one of nine children born to Walter Cole and Hanna Cole (nee Marjoram).

Walter's father, also Walter, was born in Raydon, Suffolk, on 28 June 1858. His wife, Hanna, was born circa 1857 in Dennington, Suffolk.

They married on 26 April 1880. At the time of Walter's death they were living at 11 Queens Road, Wenham Magna (now called Great Wenham).

Walter's siblings were, Agnes, born 1880; Frederick, 1882; Gertrude, 1884; Ellen and Sarah 1888; Albert, 1891; Ethel, 1892 and John, 1901.

After leaving Capel School and before the war, Walter was employed as a houseboy in domestic service.

## Frank Cook

Machine Gun Corps

**1875 - 1917**

Frank Cecil Cook enlisted at Bury St Edmunds, joining the Bedfordshire Regiment as Private 31278.

He transferred to the Machine Gun Corps as Private 66674 Cook of 76 Company.

He was killed in action on 14 June 1917 during the Battle of Arras and has no known grave.

Frank is remembered with Honour on Bay 10 of the Arras Memorial and on a brass plaque in St Mary Parish Church, Capel St Mary.

Frank was posthumously awarded the 1914-1918 British War Medal and the 1914-1919 Victory Medal.

His next of kin would have received the Memorial Plaque and Scroll.

Frank was born July 1884 in Capel St Mary, the son of William Cook and Elizabeth Jane Cook (nee Gibbs), who kept The White Horse Inn on the London Road.

His father was born circa 1839 in Bawdsey, Suffolk, and his mother was born circa 1848 in Orford, Suffolk.

They married in 1881. Frank was one five children all born in Capel.

One child died. The surviving siblings were Harry William, born circa 1883, Violet, born circa 1886, and James born circa 1888.

Frank and his siblings were educated in Capel School. On leaving school he assisted his widowed mother running The White Horse Inn.

Frank married Eva Martha Skitter in St Mary's Parish Church on 31 December 1913.

## Frank Goddard

Australian Imperial Force

**1884 - 1917**

Frank Goddard, born in London, educated at Capel School and emigrated to Australia in 1905, enlisted in the Australian Imperial Forces on 31 May 1916.

He embarked for Portsmouth on 30 September 1916 and arrived on 28 December 1916.

Frank got into trouble going absent enroute to Folkestone to visit his parents who then lived near St Mary's Church, Capel.

He arrived at Etaples, France on 29 March 1917 and was in the front line by 6 April 1917. Frank was posted killed in action on 26 June 1917 in the Battle for Messines Ridge, around Ypres. He has no known grave.

Frank is remembered on panel 7/17/23/25/27/29/31 of Ypres Menin Gate, Belgium, and on the Australian National War Memorial, Canberra.

He was posthumously awarded the 1914-1918 British War Medal and the 1914-1919 Victory Medal.

His next of kin would also have received the Memorial Plaque and Scroll.

Frank's father, John Goddard, was born in Wenham Magna (now called Great Wenham) around 1851 and worked in London for a time as a brewer's labourer. His mother, Ada, was born in Capel St Mary around 1853. She was a tailoress and it was said that her sister, Selina Ostinelli, was dress maker to Queen Victoria.

The family were back in Capel St Mary by 1891 living in Fuchsia Cottage (now demolished) opposite the Old Post Office in The Street. Frank was one of six children but only he survived infancy. Frank was a farm labourer.

## Herbert Bullard

Essex Regiment

**1883 - 1917**

Herbert Bullard enlisted as Private 269541 Bullard, 1st Battalion, the Hertfordshire Regiment, at Warley Essex, in 1914.

He was transferred to the 11th Battalion, Essex Regiment.

On 26 June 1917, Herbert was fatally wounded and died on 1 July 1917. His personal effects were sent to his widow, Mary Ann Bullard, of Capel St Mary.

Herbert is remembered with Honour at Noeux-les-Mines Communal Cemetery, Grave 11.D.5, Pas de Calais, France.

He was posthumously awarded the 1914-1918 British War Medal and the 1914-1919 Victory Medal. His next of kin would have received the Memorial Plaque and Scroll.

Herbert was born in 1883 in Bentley, Suffolk, one of three children of Alfred Bullard and Rachel Bullard (nee Steward), who were married in Ipswich in 1872. His siblings, were Stephen, born in 1874, a porter and shunter, and Lydia, born in 1876, about whom now nothing is known.

After leaving school, Herbert worked as a horseman on a farm. In 1908, he married Mary Ann Abillitt, who was born in Bramford in 1886.

Before marriage Mary Ann had been a general domestic servant. The couple had one son, Alfred Herbert Bullard, born in 1909 in Capel.

Herbert's father, Alfred, was born in 1845 in Wherstead, Suffolk. His mother, Rachel, was born in 1854 in Tattingstone, Suffolk.

By the time of the 1911 census, Alfred was a milkman on a farm and Rachel was a milk woman.

# At the going down of the sun and in



# with wounds and infections adding to the toll

# - 1919 - 1928

## Frank Richardson

Royal Field Artillery

**1892 - 1917**

Frank Oliver Richardson enlisted in the Royal Field Artillery in London, becoming Gunner 148269, possibly in 1916. He could have joined earlier but did not serve abroad until 1916.

His full service record was probably lost in air raids during World War Two.

Frank was killed in action on 17 August 1917, possibly during the third Battle of Ypres. His younger brother, Ernest, died in 1919 from broncho-pneumonia while on garrison duty.

Frank is remembered with Honour at Artillery Wood Cemetery, Boezhinge, Belgium, Grave Memorial 1.A.23. He is also remembered on Brass Plaque in St Mary's Parish Church, Capel St Mary.

Frank was posthumously awarded the British War Medal 1914-1918 and the Victory Medal 1914 - 1919. His next of kin would have received The Memorial Plaque and Scroll. Frank was born circa 1892 in Capel St Mary. His parents were Walter George Robert Richardson and Elizabeth Ann Richardson (nee Skeet). They married in the Samford Registration District in 1889 and had three children.

Walter, a farm worker, was born in Capel in 1869 and died in 1941. Elizabeth was born in Stratford St Mary, Essex, in 1869 and died in 1945.

On leaving school, Frank was a farm labourer.

## Ernest Rush

Suffolk Regiment

**1886 - 1918**

Ernest William Rush enlisted in the Suffolk Regiment in 1904. He rose through the ranks seeing early action in what the German Kaiser described as Britain's Contemptible Little Army. Ernest was promoted to Second Lieutenant on 1 April 1918 and was killed in action 27 days later.

He is remembered with Honour on the Rushmere War Memorial, Suffolk, and in Happy Valley British Cemetery, Fampou, France, Grave A.12.

Ernest was posthumously awarded the the 1914 Star, the British War Medal, 1914-1918 and the Victory Medal, 1914-1919. His next of kin, his wife, would have received the Memorial Plaque and Scroll.

Ernest was born 1886 in Rushmere, and was a farm stockman before joining the regular army.

He was the eldest of five children of William Thomas Rush, a farm labourer, born in Rushmere in Suffolk in 1859, and Caroline Rush (nee Skeet), born in Tattingstone, Suffolk, in 1857. They were married on 15 November 1884 at St Mary's Parish Church, Capel. Ernest's siblings, all born in Rushmere, were Maud, 1888; Ethel, 1890; Hiesel, 1891 and Joseph, 1902.

Ernest married Flossie Ellen King in Ipswich in 1913. Their family home was in The Street, Capel St Mary, near the Post Office. They had a son, Frank Louvain, who was baptised in St Mary's Church, on 29 October 1916.

Flossie married Herbert Walter Webb in 1923. She died in Ipswich in 1954.

## Arthur Peck

Lancashire Fusiliers

**1896 - 1918**

Arthur Peck enlisted at a date now lost in the Cambridgeshire Regiment at Bury St Edmunds, becoming Private 331073 Peck. He was later transferred, as happened very often due to high casualties, to the 1st Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers, becoming Fusilier 325045.

Peck is listed as a private, killed in action. His body was never recovered. His next of kin, his mother, lived at Chaplin's Farm, Capel St Mary.

Arthur is remembered with honour on Ploegsteert Memorial, Panel 4, and is also remembered on the Brass Plaque in St Mary's Church.

He was posthumously awarded the 1914-1918 British War Medal and the 1914-1919 Victory Medal. His mother would have received the Memorial Plaque and Scroll.

Arthur was born in Capel in 1896 to William James Peck and Mary Ann Peck (nee Mowles). His father was a farm worker, born in 1859 in Westhall, Suffolk.

His mother, born in Layham, Suffolk, in 1864, was a domestic servant before marriage. The couple married around 1888 in the Samford Registration District.

They had five children: Annie Maria, born in 1889, died in 1978; Thomas William, born in 1891, died in 1918; Rose, born in 1894, died in 1977; Arthur, born in 1896, died in 1918 and Beatrice, born in 1900, died in 1981.

The children would have attended Capel School. After leaving school, Arthur became a farm worker.

## Arthur Stiff

Essex Regiment

**1883 - 1918**

Arthur George Stiff enlisted in the Essex Regiment at Walthamstow, where he lived at 24 Albion Road, in 1915 as a Private.

He arrived in France on 17 November 1915 becoming a Lance Corporal, then acting Corporal, with the 11th Battalion. He was fatally wounded and died on 9 July 1918.

Arthur is remembered with Honour at Nine Elms British Cemetery, Belgium, Plot XI, F, 20.

He was posthumously awarded the 1914-1915 Star, the 1914-1918 British War Medal and the 1914-1919 Victory Medal. His next of kin would have received the Memorial Plaque and Scroll.

Arthur was born in 1883 in Capel St Mary, possibly in Days Road, the third of nine children of Harry and Alice Stiff (nee Pinner). His parents had married 1877 in the Samford Registration District, probably in Capel.

Arthur's siblings were Walter, born 1879; Agnes, 1881; George, 1885; Annie, 1889; William, 1893; Alice, 1895; Edward, 1897 and Harry, 1902.

Arthur's father, a farm worker, was born around 1852 in Raydon, Suffolk. He died in Hendon, Middlesex, in 1919. Arthur's mother was born in Capel, also around 1852, and died in Ipswich in 1907.

Arthur had left Capel and worked as a paver's labourer. He married Jane Agnes Gilson, a laundry ironer, in London in 1908. They had two children, Alice, born 1909 and William, born 1911.

Arthur's widow, Jane, was living with the two children at 6 Albion Road.

## Ernest Richardson

Royal Garrison Artillery

**1899 - 1919**

Ernest Walter Richardson enlisted on 7 November 1916 at Bury St Edmunds as a Private and was placed on reserve the next day. Following training, he was mobilized on 24 January 1918 and posted as Gunner 179410 Richardson, Royal Garrison Artillery.

He sailed for France on 30 January 1918 and joined 353rd Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery.

He survived action but on garrison duty following the war fell ill and was admitted to No 10 Casualty Clearing Station, France, on 22 February 1919.

Ernest died from broncho-pneumonia on 20 March 1919. He was 20. His elder brother, Frank, lost his life on 18 August 1917.

Ernest is remembered with Honour at Tourcoing (Pont-Neuville) Communal Cemetery, France, Grave Memorial M8 and on the Brass Plaque in St Mary's Parish Church, Capel.

Ernest was posthumously awarded the 1914-1918 British War Medal and the 1914-1919 Victory Medal. His next of kin would have received the Memorial Plaque and Scroll.

Ernest was born circa 1899 in Capel St Mary. His parents were Walter George Robert Richardson, a farm worker, and Elizabeth Ann Richardson (nee Skeet). The couple married in the Samford Registration District in 1889.

They had three children, all born in Capel and who went to Capel School. After leaving school, Ernest was a farm stockman.

## Francis Moncreiff

Royal Scots

**1883 - 1928**

Francis Beresford Moncreiff's service record has not survived but he most likely arrived in France with the Royal Scots (Lothian Regiment) 13th Battalion, part of Kitchener's New Army on 8 July 1915.

The Battalion fought in the Battle of Loos, 1915, the German gas attack at Hulluch in 1916, and the Battles of the Somme, including Poziers, Flers-Loulette, the capture of Martinpuich, Le Transloy and the attack on Butte de Warlencourt.

It is likely that Francis was wounded during the battle of Poziers between 23 July and 3 September 1916 as he was listed as a casualty on 23 July.

After initial treatment at a casualty clearing station, Francis was transferred to Britain. He never recovered from his wounds and died in Leeds aged 45.

He was laid to rest in All Saints Churchyard, Little Wenham.

Francis would have been entitled to the 1914-1915 Star, the 1914-1918 British War Medal, the 1914-1919 Victory Medal and the Silver War Badge for wounds. His next of kin would have been entitled to Memorial Plaque and Scroll.

Francis was the second son of the Hon. Francis Jeffrey Moncreiff and Mildred Moncreiff (nee FitzHerbert) who were married in Uttoxeter, Staffordshire in 1880.

Francis was educated at Fettes College, Edinburgh. He was a land agent, came to Suffolk and lived at Little Wenham Hall and Valley House, Raydon. He married Winifred Laxon, of Coventry, in 1911 at Stivichall, Warwickshire.

# the morning we will remember them



# USA is provoked into entering Europe's war

# The Americans 1917 - 1918

## UK arms for US

America mobilises immediately after declaring war on 6 April. In 1914, the United States Army number 98,000 with 27,000 in reserve. During the war, 4,000,000 personal are mobilised.

The first American troops to land in France in June are commanded by General Pershing.

The first American troops, from the 1st Division, enter trenches near Nancy, Lorraine, with British and French equipment and fire their first shells into German lines on 21 October 1917.

The first American troops to engage closely with the German Army are three American Engineer Regiments, the 11th, 12th and 14th, working on construction behind the British line at Cambrai.

On 30 November, they are rushed to the front in an emergency and become the first American soldiers to meet the enemy.

To gain experience, Americans move in small numbers to trenches under British and French command. They take part in the third Battle of Aisne between 27 May and 6 June in 1918. They also take part in the Battle of the Marne and Allied attacks at Le Hamel and the Canal du Nord.

After the workup phase in the field, the Americans have by the spring of 1918 four Divisions ready for action. General Pershing keeps the Americans under his command, not under Allied supreme command.



*Bayonet charge: African-American infantry in action*

## Step by step to the end of neutrality

**The United States is neutral for most of World War One with many people wanting to stay out of Europe's war. But it does supply the Allies with raw materials and money. American public opinion begins to change with reports of German atrocities in Belgium in 1914, the sinking of the liner Lusitania by a German submarine and unrestricted sinking of US merchant ships in 1917.**

**On 19 January 1917, Germany's Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Arthur Zimmermann, makes a secret telegram offer to Mexico. British intelligence intercept it, decode it and give it to the US. Germany's offer is to help Mexico to regain the American states of Texas, Arizona and New Mexico if the US joins the war against Germany. Mexico lost the states during the Mexican - American War of 1846 - 1848. That war followed the annexation of Texas by the United State in 1845. The offer is made public in America on 1 March.**

**On 2 April, President Woodrow Wilson asks Congress to approve a war to end all wars and to make democracy safe. The US declares war on 6 April.**

## From a handful army to four million

## First attack

The day after war is declared the US Navy sails to seize the German commerce raider, SMS Cormoran, interned by the Americans in Apra Harbour, Guam, since December 1914.

German sailors scuttle the ship rather than let it fall into enemy hands.

The ship, built by Germany for the Russian merchant fleet, was captured off Korea early in the war by the German Cruiser Emden and converted into a commerce raider.

The American 1st Division gains its first victory at the Battle of Cantigny on 28 May 1918.

The first major and sole American offensive is the successful attack at Saint-Mihiel during September 1918 with General Pershing in command of American Divisions plus 110,000 French troops.

The victory allows American troops to move in readiness for the Meuse-Argonne offensive, a major part of the final offensive of World War One. Troops along the entire Western Front engage the Germans from 26 September until the Armistice on 11 November, the day the guns fall silent for the first time in just over four years of fighting.

The Meuse-Argonne offensive is at the time the largest United States offensive in its history. It involves 1,200,000 soldiers.



# Russia, Balkans, Greece and Italy

# 1917 - 1918

## Russia is out of the war

The Russian revolution in February 1917 forces the Tsar to abdicate. The new Russian republic, along with Romania, continue to side with the Allies. The Tsar and his family are slaughtered on 16-17 July 1918.

A provisional Government is led first by Georgy Lvov and later by Alexander Kerensky, who oversees a failed July offensive against the Germans. That leads to the collapse of the Russian Army.

The offensive begins on 1 July 1917 and after initial successes the advance is halted when soldiers mutiny and refuse to fight. The Germans counter attack on 18 August and the Russian retreat 150 miles.

Popular demands for peace, especially within the army, means the offensive is the last Russia undertakes in the war.

In one last fight on 1 September Germans capture Riga when the Russians run away.

Russia withdraws from the war after the October revolution in 1917 and a bloody civil war between the Bolsheviks, who win, and the conservative White Guard.



Leon Trotsky

With the Bolsheviks in power, their leader Lenin, promises peace, bread and land to the people. On 26 October, Lenin calls on all belligerents to end the war. Germany and its allies agree to an Eastern Front Armistice.

Trotsky, Lenin's deputy, negotiates for a peace treaty with Germany and its allies at the Polish town of Brest-Litovsk. When Trotsky refuses to sign harsh terms, Germany resumes the war pushing farther into Russia in five days in February 1918 than in three years of the war.

On 3 March 1918, Trotsky signs away Finland, Poland, Baltic provinces, Ukraine and Transcaucasia, a third of Russia's agricultural land and three-quarters of its industry. War on the Eastern Front is over and 50 German divisions move to the Western Front.

## Bloody fighting In the Balkans

**Balkan fighting begins on 28 July 1914 with Austro-Hungary declaring war on Serbia, firing the first shots on 29 July and crossing the Drina river border between the two nations. The declaration of war follows the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife, Sophia, on 28 June 1914 by Gavrilo Princip. Princip, the man who triggers World War One, dies of tuberculosis in Terezin Prison on 28 April 1918. The Balkan campaign is between the Central Powers of Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire and the Allies of Italy, France, Greece, Romania, Russia, Montenegro, Serbia and the United Kingdom.**

### British barrage of 100,000 shells

The Battle of the Dorian in Macedonia begins on 22 April 1917 with a four-day British artillery barrage of 100,000 shells. It is an attempt to break Bulgarian defensive positions.

The Bulgarians open up with their artillery, positioned between Vardar and Dorian, and fire day and night on to the British positions. British infantry start their attack on the night of 24-25 April and after bloody fighting take the Bulgarian positions of Nerezov-Knyaz, Boris and Pazardzhik.

Bulgarians counter attack and repulse the British. In attack and counter attack in April and early May, the British are defeated and abandon further attacks. The British suffer heavy casualties: 12,000 killed, wounded or captured. The Bulgarian defenders bury 2,250 of the fallen.

A Spring offensive begins on Salonika front between 5 May and 15 May.

The Battle of the Crna Bend, a loop of the Crna river, is part of the offensive. It is designed to break a stalemate in the fight but despite the numerical and material advantage of the Allies, German and Bulgarian defensive positions hold until the end of the war.

The 1st Battle of Marasti is a joint offensive by Romanians and Russians in July and August 1917 to encircle and trap the German 9th army. It is a tactical success.

The Battle of Marasesti in August 1917 is the last major battle between Germany and Austro-Hungary against Romania which is supported by Russia.

Most of Romania has been occupied by the Central Powers throughout World War One. The victory at Marasesti keeps North-Eastern Romania free from occupation.

In the two-day Battle of the Skra, North Western Thessalonika, in May 1918, an overwhelming force of three Greek Divisions and one French Brigade capture the Skra French Brigade and overrun one Bulgarian Brigade.

The Vardar offensive in Macedonia in September 1918 is the last major offensive of the war in the Balkans and a victory for the Allies.

## Long hard struggle for final victory in Italy



Thirty-eight Italian divisions launch the 10th battle of the Isonzo River in May and June 1917 against 14 dug-in Austro-Hungarian divisions. The Italians are trying to break through to Trieste, seize Mount Skabrijel and open the way to the Vipava Valley. After heavy fighting, they advance close to Trieste but lose most gained land.

The Mount Ortigara battle in June 1917 opens with 300,000 Italians with 1,600 artillery pieces, attacking near the Austro-Hungarian front line. Austro-Hungarians have 100,000 men and 500 artillery pieces. The Italians are defeated with 23,000 dead or wounded against Austro-Hungarian 9,000 dead or wounded.

In the 11th battle of the Isonzo River, Italian armies cross the river and have some successes leaving the Austro-Hungarians worn out and unable to withstand another attack. The Italians are also worn out and cannot mount another attack. The result is an inconclusive bloodbath with 273,000 casualties.

At the battle of Caporetto in Slovenia between 24 October and 4 November Austro-Hungarian forces, German storm troopers and Alpine troops attack the Italian Second Army.

Gas is fired into Italian trenches. The Italians' gas masks protect them for only two hours and they flee. Six hundred men are killed. After further German attacks the Second Army collapses and is forced back into North-East Italy.

German supply lines are stretched and they cannot exploit their success. The Italian commander withdraws a further 10 miles to set up new defensive lines. He is replaced a few days later. German forces are finally halted by 23 December.

With Russia out of the war, large reinforcements of Austro-Hungarian and German troops from the Eastern Front go to Italian Fronts. The Italians are reinforced with British and French troops and aircraft.

In the second Battle of Piave River between 15 and 23 June 1918, Austro-Hungarians and Germans attack in mass formations. Italian artillery inflicts heavy casualties.

Moving south along the Adriatic coast Austro-Hungarians force a bridgehead over 20km miles wide and six km deep. Before being forced to retreat, an Italian artillery barrage destroys river crossings, trapping Austro-Hungarians who are then easy pickings.

An estimated 20,000 troops drown. The Austro-Hungarian Emperor orders a full retreat. By 23 June the Italians have regained all lost ground. The Italians finally break the Austro-Hungarian back with victory at the battle of Vittorio Veneto on 3 November 1918.



# War against the Ottoman Empire

# 1914-1918

## Gallipoli's beaches a slaughter house

First Lord of the Admiralty, Winston Churchill, devises a plan to kick Turkey and the Ottoman Empire out of the war with a joint British-French naval assault on the Dardanelles in March 1915. It is a disaster.

The assault force, 18 battleships, cruisers and destroyers, sails into the Dardanelles on 18 March and bombards shore batteries. Minesweepers manned by civilians retreat leaving minefields largely intact.

A French battleship and Britain's HMS Irresistible and HMS Inflexible hit mines and sink. HMS Ocean sent to the rescue is damaged by an explosion and sinks. Two French battleships sink. The assault is called off and plans are made for a land invasion of the Gallipoli Peninsula.

The land battle for the Gallipoli Peninsular begins on the 25 April with the landing of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps on what is called ANZAC Cove. Other regiments land on the beaches along Cape Helles. The Royal Dublin and Munster Fusiliers are in the thick of the fighting at Cape Helles.

The two regiments lose so many men they are amalgamated into the Dubsters. Only one officer and 11 men survive unscathed.

Royal Marines from Plymouth also land that day. Lancashire Fusiliers land with 27 officers and 1,002 other ranks. They win six Victoria Crosses before breakfast. Twenty-four hours later, only 16 officers and 300 men answer roll call.

The broken landscape of deep cliffs and rocky gullies prevents co-ordinated movement inland. The Army is trapped on the beaches.

On the Dardanelles Asian side, French colonial troops land at Kumkale as a diversion and then withdraw. Several attempts are made to break out from the beaches. At Sulva Bay on 6 to 8 May, 4 June and 6 August a breakout by the ANZACs and British to join up fails.

An attack at Scimitar Hill also fails due to determined Turkish troops.

The campaign is a war of attrition. The Turkish 57 Regiment runs out of ammunition and fights with only bayonets. Turkish Commander Kemel tells his men "I do not order you to fight, I order you to die." Every man of the 57 Regiment is killed or wounded.

The campaign is a complete disaster. The final withdrawal is on 9 January 1916. The Royal Marines from Plymouth, first ashore on 1 March, are the last to leave. British Empire casualties are 154,568 killed, dead of disease or evacuated sick. French casualties are 47,169 killed, dead of disease or evicted sick.

Turkish losses are around 250,000 men.

## Dardanelles

# DEFEAT

## Gallipoli

## Then victory across the Middle East

**War in the Middle East stretches from Libya and Egypt, through the Suez Canal, Palestine, what is now Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria and Iran, Russia, the Black Sea, South Caucasus, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Turkey.**

**There are naval actions in the Black Sea, Dardanelles, Eastern Mediterranean and the Red Sea.**

**Allied forces are British, Australian, New Zealand and Indian, Russian until the 1917 revolution, French and Italian and the Great Arab Revolt.**

**Enemy forces are Turkey and the vast Ottoman Empire, Germany, some Arabs and the Senussi religious sect fighting in Libya and Egypt.**

**The war lasts from 1 November 1914 and ends with the Armistice of Mudros on 30 October 1918.**

## British Indian Army Middle East Victory

The war in Mesopotamia, now largely Iraq, opens on 6 November 1914 when, after a Royal Navy bombardment, Royal Marines and British Indian Army troops seize the Ottoman port of Far on the Persian Gulf to protect British oil supplies.

The Ottomans never recover from the British victory which leads to a string of defeats in 1915.

The British attack Basra, a communication and industrial area, on 11 November, taking it 13 days later. The capture secures the Abadan oilfields and the Ottomans retreat to defensive positions at Qurna where the Tigris and Euphrates rivers meet.

An Ottoman attack fails to retake Basra between 12 and 14 April 1915. The British Indian Expeditionary Force captures Ottoman defences along the Tigris on 28 September. It leads to the capture of Kut the following day.

On 7 December, Ottoman forces surround Kut and cut off supplies. On 8 March, at Dujaila, a British attempt to relieve Kut fails and the British Indian Force surrenders on 29 April 1916.

Ottomans retain Kut until a British Indian Force retakes the town on 23 February 1917. The British take Baghdad between 8 and 11 March 1917. Ottomans try to link 10,000 troops north of Baghdad with 115,000 coming from Persia. These two forces attempt to regroup into one force.

The British Indian Force takes control of the Samarra railway and on 13 March begins moving 45,000 troops north. By 23 April, the Samarra railway is in its hands 81 miles north of Baghdad. The British Indian Force controls most of Mesopotamia.

The British take Ramadi, 62 miles west of Baghdad with its large supplies of ammunition and 3,500 prisoners. An Indian Division takes the town of Hit without a shot being fired. The Division, with trucks and armoured cars, encircles Khan al Baghdadi, blocks escape and takes prisoner the whole Ottoman force. Farther north, the Ottoman main supply base, along with several high-ranking German officers, is captured in the last action on the Euphrates front.

The last battle in Mesopotamia is at Sharqat between the 23 and 30 October 1918.

## Persian Front stalemate

The Persian Front opens in western Persia and Iranian Azerbaijan in December 1914. It is a war between the Ottomans and Russian and British Empire forces. The war is a series of attacks and counter-attacks. Several cities change hands and change back. It ends in stalemate at the signing of the Armistice of Mudros on 30th October 1918.

**Ottoman War**  
(Continued on Page 19)



# Battles to control oceans round the Globe

## Royal Navy's first loss

The first Royal Navy ship to be sunk is HMS Amphion, an active-class scout cruiser. On the first day of the war, as part of the Harwich force, she and her destroyers encounter and sink a German minelayer.

Nine days later, Amphion strikes a mine off the Thames estuary and sinks with the loss of 132 of its crew of 293. Germany sinks 22 fishing trawlers later in the month.

## Victory at Heligoland

The Battle of Heligoland, from 26 to 28 August 1914, is the first large naval clash of the war and victory for the Royal Navy.

Both sides are patrolling close to the German coast and Heligoland's fortress base. The British Commodore, Roger Keyes, devises a plan to take the fight to the enemy.

German cruisers escort destroyers into the North Sea at night looking for British ships and are escorted back by the cruisers in the early hours.

Keyes' plan is for his submarines to surface close to Heligoland as if in distress. A destroyer, HMS Fearless, appears to be going to their aid.

German ships are lured into the North Sea away from the protection of their fortress. The British spring the trap cutting off the Germans from the base.

The Royal Navy sinks three German light cruisers and one destroyer and damages three destroyers for damage to one British light cruiser and three destroyers.

The German Kaiser instructs his navy to remain in port for several months to avoid contact with the Royal Navy.

# The War at Sea 1914 - 1918



## Attacks on East Coast

Four months after the Battle of Heligoland a German cruiser squadron attacks the East Coast towns of Scarborough, Whitby and Hartlepool.

On the 24 January 1915, the cruiser battle of Dogger Bank is a British victory. Germans are out-gunned and run to port. British casualties are one battle cruiser, one destroyer out of action, 15 men killed and 32 wounded. German losses are one cruiser sunk, one heavily damaged, 954 men killed, 80 wounded and 189 taken prisoner.

On 24 April 1916 a German battle cruiser squadron plans to attack Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth to entice a small Royal Navy detachment out to sea to be picked off. The British did not take the bait.

## The Battle of Jutland

The only time the Royal Navy's Grand Fleet and the German High Sea Fleet meet is at the Battle of Jutland between 31 May and 1 June 1916.

The Grand Fleet Commander, Sir John Jellicoe, has 151 warships. The German fleet, commander Vice Admiral Scheer, has 99.

At the end of the battle, 14 British and 11 German combat ships are sunk. British casualties are 6,768 killed or wounded. German casualties are 3,058 killed or wounded.

Both sides claim victory. The Germans because British losses are higher. The British because the Germans return to port never to put to sea again.

## Submarine Warfare

To starve Germany into submission, Britain's Grand Fleet blockades its ports. To starve Britain, Germany uses unrestricted submarine warfare to sink merchant ships, principally in the Atlantic.

In 1914, Germany sinks 312,672 tons of ships then builds more U-boats and sinks many more ships.

On 7 May 1915, a U-boat sinks the liner Lusitania off the Irish coast. Of 1,962 passengers and crew 1,196 lose their lives. International opinion turns against Germany.

In March 1917, Britain introduces the convoy system protecting merchant ships with warships. During the war, 178 U-boats are sunk. Following the Armistice 179 U-boats are surrendered.

## Kitchener's tragic death

The British War Secretary Field Marshal Lord Kitchener of Khartoum, is the most senior military officer of any nation killed during the war.

He dies when the Royal Navy's HMS Hampshire explodes and sinks within minutes one mile off the Orkney coast on 5 June 1916. It is believed that the ship hit a German mine. At least 643 lives are lost.



The Field Marshal, an empire-builder whose recruitment poster is the war's most effective, is sailing in secret to Archangel, in Russia, to bolster the country's fading war effort against the Germans.

Lord Kitchener is a controversial figure. His death is at first seen as a national disaster. Later, there are conspiracy theories and even Government involvement. His body has never been found

## Hospital ship is sunk

Austro-Hungarian and German ships avoid the combined British, French, Italian and Japanese navies in the Mediterranean, relying on their U-boats and mines.

The hospital ship Britannic hits a mine and takes 50 minutes to sink off the Greek island of Kea on 21 November 1916. All but 30 of the 1,065 people on board are saved. Britannic is the largest ship to be lost in World War One.

**War at Sea continues**  
**Page 17**



# Fighting for total supremacy in the skies

## Flying machines swiftly become warplanes

World War One was the first major conflict with large-scale use of aircraft though observation balloons were being used even before the Battle of Waterloo in 1815.

Early in 1914 the British commander, Sir John French, writes of the admirable observation work of the Royal Flying Corps. "Their skill, energy and perseverance through all conditions have been beyond all praise. They have furnished me with the most complete and accurate information, which has been of incalculable value in the conduct of operations."

In September, October and November 1914, the Royal Naval Air Service raid German Airship sheds at Dusseldorf, Cologne and Friedrichshafen.

As the war goes on the role of aircraft rapidly changes. They become bombers and fighters. At first, bombs are dropped by hand over the side.

Air combat is at first rare. First, Allied and German observation aircrews wave and smile at each other. This does not last. Crews start to throw grenades and grappling hooks at each other. Then comes pistol and rifle fire and on 5 November 1914, French pilot Louis Quenault fits a machine gun and opens fire on a German aircraft. It is the birth of the fighter plane.

Early fighters are called Pushers because the engine and propeller are behind the crew. This allows machine guns to be mounted at the front to give a clear view of the target. Pushers are slow because the extra rigging and struts

# War in the Air

## 1914 - 1918



*Early fighter planes are called Pushers because the engine and propeller are behind the crew and gun*

Aircraft are in early stages of development in 1914 with average speeds of 70 - 80 mph and a maximum flying height of 7,000 feet. The Royal Flying Corps, formed in 1912, has two wings: Royal Flying Corps for the Army and Royal Naval Air Service for the Admiralty. In August 1914, the Royal Flying Corps has 147 officers, 1,097 other ranks and 179 aircraft. The Royal Naval Air Service has 93 aircraft. In April 1918, they become the Royal Air Force. By December 1914, Britain has 300 aircraft. Germany has 1,000 and 450 privately owned, France has 1,500 and 500 privately owned. In November 1918, the RAF has 22,647 warplanes with speeds up to 155 mph reaching 30,000 feet.

needed to support the tail causes drag.

Pushers are used well into 1917 although faster planes with synchronised gun mounts, engines and propellers placed at the front are in service. Early development to synchronise gun and propeller results in ricocheting bullets and disintegrating propellers with disastrous results.

There is air-to-air combat throughout the war on all fronts of the war. As aircraft improve their pilots become air aces, the term for any pilot who shoots down five or more enemy aircraft. It is first used by French newspapers to describe Adolphe Celestin Pegoud who downs seven German aircraft. He is killed on 31 August 1915.

Top ace is Germany's Baron Manfred von Richthofen, the Red Baron, with 80 victories. He is killed on 21 April 1918. Top Allied ace is Rene Paul Fonck, of France, with 75 confirmed, but 100 assumed, victories. He survives the war. Top British Empire ace is Canadian William Avery Bishop credited with 72 victories. He survives the war rising to Air Marshal.

Attacking aircraft from the ground using rifles and machine guns is not successful so ground-to-air artillery is being developed. The first successful downing is on the Balkan Front on 30 September 1915 by Serbian Army Private Radoje Ljutovac.

**Bomb Aiming  
Paul Bewsher's  
first-hand  
account.  
Page 17**

# War at Sea

Continued from Page 15

## Sunk - German dream of Far East empire

Step-by-step from 1914 Germany is deprived by the British, New Zealand, Australian and Japanese naval forces of its supply and radio stations and thus the ability to communicate and provide food, coal and oil to its naval and merchant ships in Africa, the Far East and Pacific.

This makes its operations in the Indian Ocean and Pacific difficult.

Nevertheless, the German cruiser, Emden, on a sole mission in the Indian Ocean, sinks or captures 30 Allied ships, bombards Madras, in India, and Penang, in Malaya, and destroys the radio relay station in the Cocos Islands.

When Admiral Von Spee hears that Tsing-tau, in China, is under attack he heads for Chile to secure provisions. In September and October 1914, he is joined by two cruisers.

He engages and defeats a British squadron commanded by Rear Admiral Sir Christopher Craddock.

The British lose two armoured cruisers and 1,570 men. German casualties are three wounded. The action costs the Germans half their ammunition with no prospect of resupply.

Attacking the Falkland Islands on 8 December, Admiral Spee's force is surprised and destroyed by a larger British naval task force. Just one German ship, Dresden, escapes. Dresden is scuttled after a short battle three months later.

Only the Emden is successful, sinking two Allied warships and 16 other vessels before being sunk by the Australian cruiser, Sydney, on 9 November 1914.

Germany's dream of a Far East empire sinks below the waves.

## Baltic becomes German Lake

The German navy, with modern warships, and the Russians, with an ageing fleet, are the combatants in the Baltic Sea. British submarines support the Russians who play a defensive role attacking merchant ships sailing from Sweden to Germany. Russian divers retrieve the secret naval code book from a scuttled German light cruiser and pass it to the Royal Navy. It contributes to British successes in the North Sea. In August 1915, the Germans finally succeed in capturing islands in the Gulf of Riga from where they damage Russian shipping. The Russian Revolution and the withdrawal from the war under the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk makes the Baltic Sea the German Lake.

## Cat-and-mouse in Black Sea

The first Black Sea action is the Ottoman navy bombarding Russian coastal towns. The Ottomans are strengthened by two new German battle cruisers which are more than a match for Russia's ageing ships in one-to-one battles. The Russians operate in force and with cat-and-mouse tactics. With help from two modern Dreadnoughts they outmanoeuvre the Ottomans.

## Fleeing German ship scuttled

At the outbreak of the war, the German light cruiser Königsberg is in the Indian Ocean. She attacks Zanzibar harbour, sinks HMS Pegasus and retreats to the Rufiji River delta. A British force traps her. Two shallow-draft monitor ships, the Mersey and the Severn, are sent from England and go up river on 11 July 1915 to destroy her. The Königsberg crew scuttled her.

## Research and words



## Griff Johns

All the research and writing of the history of World War One, and the stories of the brave young men of Capel St Mary who fought and died in it, in this and previous Issues of *Capel Times*, is by former Royal Marine Griff Johns.

Griff Johns will be writing again in Issue Four of *Capel Times*, to be published in October, which will tell the story of World War Two and of the Capel men who fought and died in that war.

Griff Johns is also writing a book about Capel and the two world wars. The book will be distributed free of charge throughout the village.

# War in the Air

Continued from Page 16



## First, we dropped bombs then we aimed them at the Germans below

By Bomb-aimer Paul Bewsher

Ahead lay the red glare of the blast furnaces of Hagendingen in Alsace-Lorraine.

I lifted up my seat to get into position and crawled to the little room behind. I stood on a floor of little strips of wood with walls and roof of tightly stretched canvas which clattered and flapped with the rush of wind from the propellers. Behind was the petrol tank under which hung the 12 bombs.

I lay on my chest and under the pilot's seat, and pushed aside a little wooden door away from a hole in the floor through which there was an updraft of wind.

Over this was placed the bomb sight with its sliding range bars painted with phosphorescent paint. On my right, fixed to the side of the machine, was a wooden handle that operated a metal drum from which ran a cluster of release wires to the bombs further back.

This handle was the bomb release lever: I could release one bomb or all at once.

Just in front of me was the pilot's thick flying boots on the rudder and occasionally I would pull one or the other to guide him. Once the targets were in my sights I would pull the lever and in a moment would be up beside the pilot shouting: "Bombs gone, let's get out of here."

When a German soldier raised his eyes to the sky and saw a British plane it was either going to bomb him or radio the guns so their shells crept closer. The soldier can become accustomed to shelling, he can judge where the shell is likely to fall and if not in a trench he could be out of the line of fire.

But under aerial bombing there is a sense of helplessness which can turn to terror. The bomb screams as it falls, it may land half a mile away or land on his head, there is nothing he can do about it.

The continual bombing of German positions made the soldiers' life full of alarm and unrest almost beyond endurance. The artillery directed by aircraft was no less feared. This would be true for the soldier of any nation who saw enemy aircraft over his position.



# Tragic failure of the war to end all wars

# The Aftermath

## 1919 - 1939

### Emperors OUT



Germany: Wilhelm II, abdicated 1918



Austro-Hungary: Charles I, deposed 1922



Russia: Nicholas II: abdicated 1917, killed 1918



Ottoman: Mehmed VI deposed 1922

### Street Riots

As the war ends, students in Vienna march through the streets shouting down with the Austro-Hungarian Hapsburg monarchy. Karl, the last emperor abdicates. Hungary declares independence from Austria. There is street fighting in Prague.

From the collapsed empire, four new independent nations emerge: Austria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia.

Yugoslavia is a confederation of South Slavic peoples: Serbs, Slovenes, Croats and Montenegrins.

The Russian emperor, Nicholas II, is forced to abdicate on 15 March 1917. Bolshevik troops shoot, bayonet and club him and his entire family to death on 16-17 July 1918. The story of the murder is on Page 13.

The German emperor, Wilhelm II, abdicates on 9 November 1918 and flees into exile in The Netherlands. Revolution sweeps the new German republic into 1919 with later unsuccessful socialist and communist uprisings.

The Versailles Treaty returns to Denmark, Lithuania, Poland and France areas which Germany has captured in earlier conflicts. Alsace-Lorraine goes back to France having been under German administration since the Franco-Prussian war of 1870-1871. Germany complains that the Allies are trying to introduce slavery.

While the map of Europe is redrawn Allied troops occupy the Rhineland. French troops open fire on rioters in the Ruhr. Unrest spreads provoked by communists and nationalists.

Everywhere in Britain and across Europe there are many thousands of men suffering from physical and mental wounds. They have little, if any, help.

The Land fit for Heroes, which Britain's fighting men were promised, does not materialise. There are calls for better houses, better food, strikes for better pay and working conditions.

### Where is the PEACE

The end of World War One didn't bring peace. It brings a world of violent and lasting change. It brings the end of monarchies, the collapse of empires and the creation of new states. It brings the countdown to World War Two.

The Armistice, on 11 November 1918, is the day the guns fall silent. The official end of the war comes with the signing of Versailles Peace Treaty by the warring nations.

The date is 28 June 1919 exactly five years to the day since Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne and his wife Sophie, are assassinated in Sarajevo. The assassination triggers the war.

A greater death toll than the war sweeps the world in the winter of 1918-1919: the pandemic Spanish Flu. One-in-five of the world's population is infected. The flu seems at first nothing more serious than a common cold but it kills millions. What is unusual is that those who die are mainly between 20 and 40. Flu usually kills the elderly and young children.

Capel's 21st casualty, Gunner Ernest Richardson, Royal Garrison Artillery, dies on 20 March, 1919. His story is on Pages 10 and 11.

### Versailles Treaty

The Versailles Treaty, the treaty which started the countdown to World War Two, makes Germany pay compensation of £10 billion, give up its submarine and surface fleets, disband its air force and limits its army to 100,000. Conscription was abolished.

Germany has to give to the Allies in good condition thousands of heavy

### Hitler's rise

guns, machine guns, trains, wagons and lorries.

The British Prime Minister, David Lloyd George, says that the treaty terms are so harsh that we would have to fight another war in 25 years at three times the cost. He is out by only five years.

In the 1920s, the German economy collapses. Adolf Hitler, spokesman for the National Socialist German Workers Party, the Nazis, campaigns against the Versailles Treaty, Jews and capitalists in German society. He demands an alliance with Communist Russia.

Hitler leads a push to seize power, is arrested and charged with high treason. He is jailed for five years, but is released after eight months. His book, Mein Kampf, written in prison attacks Jews and glorified war.

Capel's 22nd casualty, Lieutenant Francis Moncreife, Royal Scots, died on 18 December 1928. His story is on Pages 10 and 11.

Hitler becomes German Chancellor in 1933.

His speeches denounce what he calls the "criminals and cowards" who signed the Armistice and the Versailles Treaty.

Hitler vilifies Jews and extols the Aryan race. He sets Germany to work, builds up his military forces in defiance of the Versailles Treaty and starts to seize parts of Germany lost in 1919.

Britain and the Allies do nothing. In 1938, they sign the Munich treaty which allows Hitler to take over Czechoslovakia.

The British Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, declares that Munich marks peace in our time. He couldn't have been more wrong.

On 1 September 1939, Hitler invades Poland. Britain warns that unless he withdraws his troops by 11am on 3 September a state of war will exist between us. He doesn't.

The countdown is over. World War Two begins.

### Dictators IN



Germany: Hitler, suicide 1945



Italy: Mussolini, shot 1945



Russia: Stalin, died 1953



Spain: Franco, died 1975

## 20 years to World War Two



# Ottoman Empire War

Continued from Page 14

## The Great Arab revolt begins

The Great Arab revolt against the Ottoman Empire begins on 5 June 1916 with an attack on the Ottoman garrison at Medina. The attack was repulsed.

On 10 June, Hussein bin Ali, the Hashemite Arab leader, attacks the Ottoman garrison at Mecca. There is intense street fighting with the Hashemites joined by Egyptian artillery troops sent by the British.

Indiscriminate Ottoman shelling causes considerable damage. Hashemites portray the Ottomans as desecrators of the Holiest city in Islam. Hussein sends his son, Emir Abdullah, to the town of Ta'ir. It falls on 22 September.

An Arab army of 3,500, with Royal Navy fire support, attacks the port of Jidda on the Red Sea on 10 June. The garrison surrenders on 16 June.

By the end of September, Arab armies, with Royal Navy help, have taken five coastal towns and 6,000 prisoners. Seven hundred Iraqi Arab prisoners join the Great Arab Revolt.



Lawrence of Arabia

The Ottoman weakness is the length of the railway supply line through the Hejaz region of what is now Saudi Arabia. In October, the British in Egypt send a young officer, T.E. Lawrence, known later as Lawrence of Arabia, to work with the Hashemites.

He persuades the Arab northern army to use hit-and-run tactics when attacking the Hejaz railway. This pins down Ottoman forces and is the Arab Revolt's main war contribution.

By 1917, there are 20,000 Ottoman troops in the Hejaz region. Working closely with Emir Faisal, Lawrence joins Arab attacks. On 6 July 1917, he leads the capture of the Jordanian port of Aqaba.

## Ottomans seek an Armistice

The Sinai and Palestine Campaign begins on 22 January 1915 when the Ottomans, supported by Germans, attack the Sinai Peninsula and Suez Canal in the British Protectorate of Egypt. The attack is unsuccessful.

After battles in August and December 1916, a German-led Ottoman army is pushed out of the Peninsular by the ANZAC Mounted Division and the 52 Lowland Division.



Australian Light Horse

On 31 October 1917, after a period of stalemate, and late in the afternoon, the 4th Australian Light Horse makes the last-ever great cavalry charge. It leads to the capture of Beersheba. After more pursuit and several small skirmishes 50 miles of Ottoman territory is captured.

Following battles at Mughar Ridge between 10 and 14 November and the battle of Jerusalem between 17 November and 30 December more successes come in March and April 1918.

Infantry attacks at Tulkarm and Tarsor allow the Desert Mounted Corps to encircle the Ottomans fighting in the Judean Hills.

## Thousands of prisoners

The campaign goes on to destroy three Ottoman armies, capture thousands of prisoners and their equipment.

The Ottoman Empire sues for an Armistice and its signing at Mudros, on the Greek island of Lemnos, brings the Middle East War to an end on 30 October 1918. The war has lasted for three years, nine months and two days.



## THANKS FOR YOUR HERITAGE LOTTERY

By Group Captain Gary Bunkell, Chairman of Capel St Mary War Memorial Trust

This issue of Capel Times is the last of three made possible by the generosity of the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The Fund granted the Capel War Memorial Trust £10,000 for education purposes.

We have used the money to publish in this and the two earlier Issues of Capel Times the history of World War One, the stories of the young men who died in the conflict and how the loss affected the village and its people.

Money from Heritage Lottery has also been used to support the visits of East Bergholt High School students to World War One battlefields, Memorials and graves in France and Belgium, and other school projects.

The story of Capel in World War One and World War Two will be published in a book to be distributed free of charge to Capel people. It will also be available on line.

The Heritage Lottery Fund is responsible for distributing the heritage share of National Lottery funding. It supports a wide range of projects across the United Kingdom.

The Heritage Lottery Fund believes that understanding, valuing and sharing heritage brings people together, inspires pride in communities and boosts investment in local economies.

That is most certainly true in Capel.

The overall campaign to bring the terrible reality of war to young people was funded by Heritage Lottery.

The money to build the village's first-ever War Memorial Monument and memorial garden came from grants, donations and events. A stone monument in the Primary School to the pupils who lost their lives in the two wars is being paid for separately from money donated solely for the War Memorial.

And the village of Capel St Mary has come very close together.

In your Capel Times today there is a form for membership of the Friends of Capel St Mary War Memorial Trust. Joining will be of great help. If the form is missing, or more forms are needed for family or friends outside the village, they are available at Drayton Insurance Services, 27a The Street, Capel IP9 2EE



## Meet the Monument's masons

The War Memorial Monument is constructed of tough quartz and mica based igneous mid-grey Sadahalli granite from India. It has been created and installed by, from the left, stone masons Neil Luxton, Robert Hoskin and Ollie Read of Luxstone of Sudbury.



Step-by-step and the Monument goes up



## Meeting the brother who died

A poignant moment for Alfred Burch, known as Joe, pointing to his brother Harry's name engraved on the Monument. As a child, Joe remembers his mother sitting in Blue Gates Farm kitchen, crying over a letter telling of Harry's death, aged 24, in World War Two.



# My life as a British Army Chaplain by Rev'd Major Mandy

Born and bred in Leicester, I moved to Islington, London, on marriage to a Metropolitan Police Officer. After 3 years there, and the birth of our first son, Matthew, we moved to Wembley, in Middlesex, staying put for the next 23 years.

During this time, I became very involved with our local church, initially helping out with Sunday School, then becoming a Youth Leader, and eventually being encouraged to lead prayer and praise services in church on a Sunday.

Having explored my vocation and calling to the ministry, I then offered myself up for ordination to the priesthood, (*Vicar of Dibley definitely a role model here*) and having been accepted, trained for three years and ordained deacon in St Paul's Cathedral, and subsequently as priest the following year.

Following two years as a curate in the Parish Church of Wembley, where I found myself taking on the roles of Chaplain to the local Army and Air Cadets, and Wembley Police Station, and following attendance on a Chaplains' Course at the Armed Forces Chaplains' Centre at Amport House in Hampshire, I somehow found myself undergoing Basic Training at Sandhurst and Passing Off as Chaplain in the British Army posted to Germany.

For the next 10 years during my army service, I experienced postings in both Germany and the UK, and on training exercises in Poland, Bavaria and Canada, all of which was preparation for operational duty in Iraq.



Major Mandy on operational duty in Iraq

I have served with many branches of the Army, including Cavalry (Tank Regiments now), Infantry and Training Regiments and spending almost three years at the infamous Deepcut Barracks, in Surrey.

It was during this time serving at Deepcut and in the Garrison Church of St Barbara (Patron Saint of the Royal Engineers and Artillery) I began working with the Normandy Veterans' Association becoming their National Chaplain in 2014, a duty and privilege which I continue to enjoy still, especially as my father was a D-Day veteran, and went on to take part in the liberation of Belsen Concentration Camp.

I was also Chaplain for The Army Widows' Association for a number of years.

I am now a full-time Chaplain for the Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust, and enjoy meeting people from all walks of life, all cultures and backgrounds. I feel especially blessed and humbled to be involved with Palliative and End of Life care for our patients.

My sons, Matthew and James, together with their other halves, have given me the joy of eight grandchildren between them, ranging from 18 years of age to six.

## WAR MEMORIAL FUND

# Quiz Night

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUESTIONS Plus Raffle

## CAPEL VILLAGE HALL

Saturday, 23rd June 2018

Doors open at 19.00  
Quiz starts at 19.30

Team size maximum of six  
Entry including nibbles £5 a head

### How To Enter

Entry forms available from:  
Drayton Insurance Services, or Capel Library during opening hours.

Or call 01473 310580 or 07802 315597.

Closing date for entries  
16 June 2018.

Join in and make this the best-ever quiz night

Capel Times is published by Capel St Mary Memorial Trust, 16 Thorney Road, Capel St Mary, Ipswich IP9 2LQ

It is free to residents, supporters and friends

# My father at just 18 lost both legs, an eye and lived until 79

Capel St Mary's Churchwarden Trevor Peartree tells the story of his brave father

My father, Ernest William Peartree, was born in East Bergholt in December 1898 and after school worked for a farmer picking stones from fields so that they didn't damage the plough.

At 17, he and a friend answered Lord Kitchener's call to join the Army as it seemed an exciting proposition.

Ernie, as he was always known, enlisted in the Suffolk Regiment on 2 July 1916 and was transferred to the 2nd West Yorkshire Regiment. He was soon on his way to France.

In early 1917, aged just 18, Ernie was severely wounded in the leg and eye and lay untended in no-man's land for two days before being picked up by Germans.

He had both legs amputated, one through frostbite. He also lost his right eye. He had five operations in Germany and was treated well.

Ernie spent the rest of the war in a PoW camp at Altdam, in Poland, where he exchanged letters with his mother.

On repatriation, Ernie was treated at the Western General Hospital, in Manchester, and Queen Mary's Convalescence Auxiliary Hospital at Roehampton before coming home to East Bergholt. His mother took care of him.

He was given, first, a hand-propelled chair, later upgraded to petrol. He was fitted with artificial limbs. In 1950, he was issued with a Ford Anglia converted to hand controls.

Through his mother, Ernie met my mother, Chrissie, a district nurse. They married in 1933 at East Bergholt Church. Their first child was stillborn in 1936, my brother Norman was born in 1938. I was born in 1942.

Ernie purchased a piece of land in White Horse Road, opposite Orvis Lane and had a bungalow built where they lived. It was named Roisel after the place in France where he fell.

It was difficult even for able-bodied men to find work between the wars, so my mother took in nursing mothers for their confinements at the bungalow from the late 1940s.

My mother died, aged 60, from cancer in 1959. My father lived on with help until he died, aged 79, in St Mary's Hospital.



Ernie Peartree, 17, off to the Front Line.



Ernie Peartree, 18, lost legs and an eye.



Ernie Peartree, 20, bathchair bound.