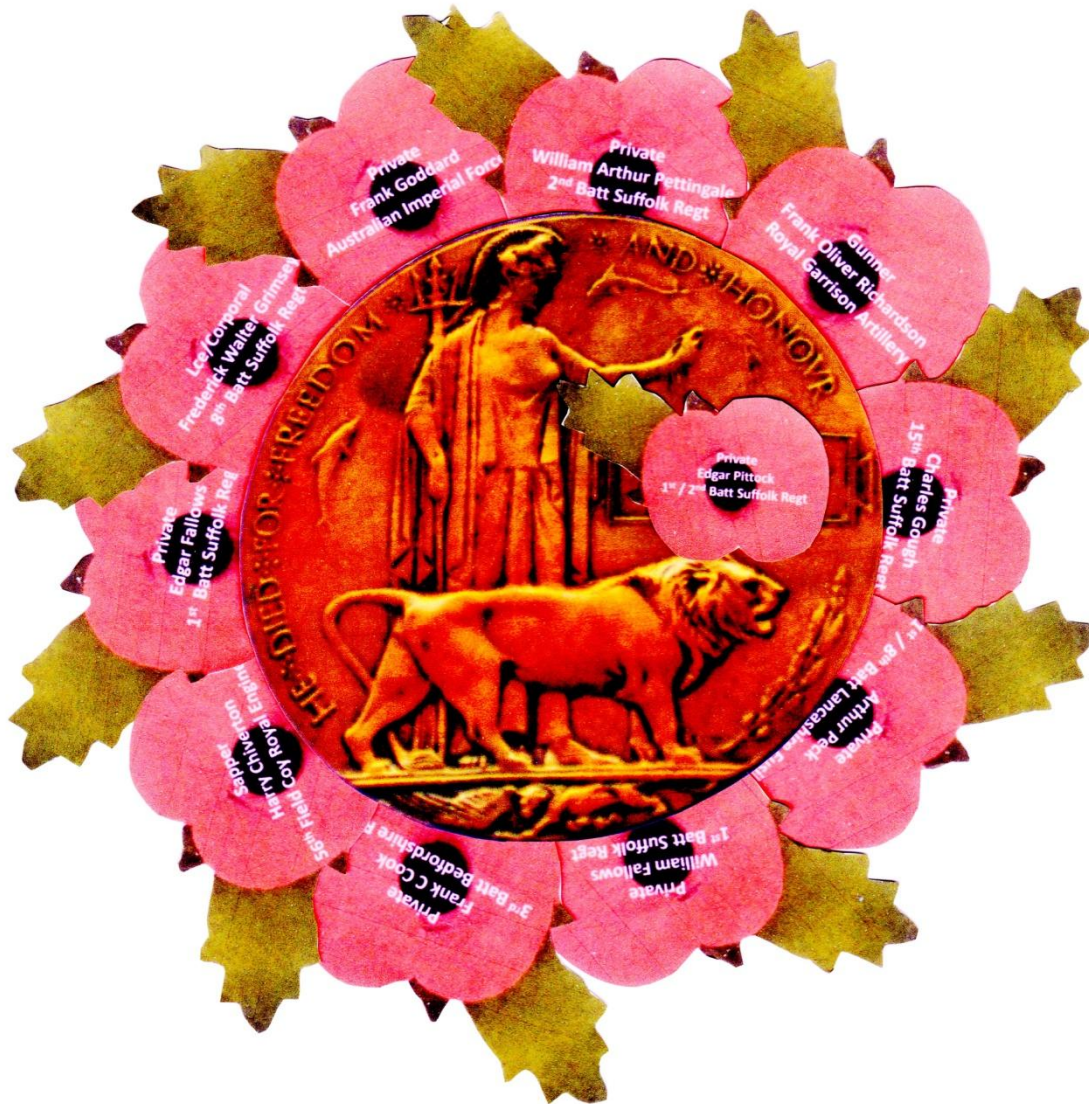


THE FALLEN
Of The Parish of Capel St Mary
SUFFOLK



Griffith R Johns

The Fallen, of the Parish of Capel St Mary, Suffolk

First Published 2019

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Foreword

It is a privilege to write a foreword to this book which Griffith R Johns has written after many hours of diligent work. It is perhaps not surprising that the qualities of commitment and perseverance that we have come to expect in a former Royal Marine have helped sustain him in his endeavours.

I commend this book to you as a tribute to the memory of the people of Capel St Mary who gave so much in the service of their country during two world wars. Not only those who took up arms to defend freedom but those who remained at home and whose contribution in other ways was so vital in securing victory.

It is being published to coincide with the completion of the Capel St Mary War Memorial and together I hope they will serve as a fitting testament to those who we seek to honour and remember with pride.

**Group Captain Gary Bunkell CBE
Chairman Capel St Mary War Memorial Trust.
April 2019**

This book is dedicated to all those who fell in the cause of freedom.

World War 1

1914 -1919

World War 2

1939 – 1945

Post 1945

CAPEL ST MARY WAR MEMORIAL
THE STORIES OF THE MEN BEHIND THE NAMES

Little has been known about the men whose names are inscribed on the brass plaque in St Mary's Church or those in the book below. This book is an effort to try and tell their story and those who had a connection with this parish and are now honoured on the memorial, in a sense bring these men back to life, these men had families and friends who would be known to those who lived after the conflicts. And still today there are those who live in the village who knew these men who went off to war, although some of them would have been young children at the time.

The information varies from man to man, for several reasons. For example over 70% of First World War military records were lost during the bombing raids of World War Two. and with the passage of time memories fade and those who were their parents and brothers and sisters have also passed away.

Their stories are told in the order in which they fell, the medals and awards they could have received and the places where they are remembered.

I must first say a big thank you to my long-suffering wife Susan for her patience and forbearance.

Over the many hours that it took to research and compile this book

Acknowledgements

As the author reasonable efforts have been made to obtain permission where necessary to reproduce material. So I must thank all those who have helped in making this book possible: the Suffolk Record Office Ipswich, Capel St Mary Parish Council for their permission to use extracts from The Book of Capel, Gwen Hall for her permission to use extracts from her father's book Fragments of Capel and the Members of The Capel St Mary War Memorial Trust for their encouragement, plus the various individuals who have advised and given their time to enable this book to be completed.

Any mistakes or omissions are mine.

I must make special mention of the many relatives of the fallen, too many to name individually here, who have provided valuable family background, and especially Gwen Hall for allowing me the use of her vast collection of local information and photographs. Carole Cowgill for the loan of her research, Joan Lilley for pointing me in the direction of local people who could help, and Coral Rudd for the named poppy artwork on the cover.

I must also thank Claudia Galluzzi of Osprey Publishing, Peter Doyle and Chris Foster for their kind permission to use the cap badge images from their books: British Army Cap Badges of the First and Second World Wars, first published by Osprey Publishing, part of Bloomsbury plc, and Jonathan Moffatt for his information on Bill Fraser and The Malay States Volunteers.

I must make a special mention of Mary Empson and her son David for their help in checking the stories of our fallen from World War One.

Griffith R Johns

A Full list of Acknowledgements is given at the back

To any person or organization that I have missed or not thanked I can only apologize

About the Author and this Book

Griffith R Johns was born and raised in Surrey. He served in the Royal Marines, before and after serving he worked in the Electrical Supply Industry, first in Croydon, Surrey with South Eastern Electricity and later for Eastern Electricity in Braintree Essex as an overhead electricity linesman. He held several positions within Eastern Electricity before he retired in 2001 as a Technical Standards Engineer based in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

He has written this book to honour those who had an association with the parish of Capel St Mary, who fell while in the service of their country and are now remembered on the War Memorial.

The book will contain the stories with photographs where possible of these men, photographs of and an outline history of the village they knew and some of the events that happened in the context of their stories, it will include where they are remembered abroad, the cemeteries where they are buried and the monuments to those who have no known grave and a brief history of the units in which they served.

This book is not a full history of the village as doing so would have increased its size. It is only intended to remember and honour those of this community who fell in conflict.

For further information about the village, two books have been written that tells its history, The Book of Capel by the Parish Council and Fragments of Capel by Mr Ben Wright.

Rupert Brooke

The Soldier

**If I should die, think only this of me,
That there's some corner of a foreign field;
That is forever England.
There shall be in that rich earth,
A richer dust concealed;
A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware;

Gave once her flowers to love, her ways to roam;
A body of England's breathing English air,
Washed by the rivers, blest by the suns of home;
And think, this heart, all evil shed away;
A pulse in the eternal mind no less;

Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given;
Her sight and sounds; dreams happy as her day;
And laughter learnt of friends, and gentleness;
In hearts at peace under an English heaven.**

THE EARLY YEARS AND WORLD WAR ONE

When the men who marched off to war in 1914 were born, Queen Victoria was still on the throne, and Britain ruled over the largest Empire the world had ever known on which the sun never set. Britain had the largest and most powerful navy in the world, and during this period, at the height of her imperial power, Britain could muster a regular army of 113 infantry regiments and 31 of cavalry, together with 11 specialist units like engineers and gunners that provided support.

In contrast to Queen Victoria's time, the army of today musters 18 infantry regiments, 14 cavalry regiments (with armoured vehicles, not horses, except for ceremonial occasions) and 18 specialists for support. It still has its gunners and engineers but now there are new specialists using modern technology like the Army Air Corps equipped with helicopters, and the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers that maintain the electrical and mechanical equipment. None of this had been invented when the First World War soldiers were young, or it was still in a very basic form compared with what we know today.

During their lifetime the men would have seen Queen Victoria celebrate her Diamond Jubilee in 1897 and many changes that we take for granted today; for instance, powered flight in 1903 that led to the formation of the Royal Air Force in 1918 making it the oldest in the world, and immediately after the First World War it was also the largest. The invention of the motor vehicle around 1885 led to the development of the tank, which was first used by the British during the Battle of the Somme in 1916, and further mechanization that we see in the Army of today.

In a league table, the Royal Navy of today would be at number five and the Royal Air Force of today would rank eleventh, based on the number of aircraft.

Capel St Mary, prior to the start of World War One in 1914 and for most of the twentieth century, was a quiet rural community of around 600 people. The village had not changed much over several centuries and contained most of the things needed for life. The children from Capel and the surrounding villages like Gt. and Lt. Wenham attended the local school; the present school is the third. The first opened in around 1830 and when it was struck by lightning in 1854, three boys were killed. It stood in the street opposite what is now Chapel Close. A full account of the tragedy can be found in the book *Fragments of Capel* by Ben Wright. The second was built with an attached school house for the master, about 150 yards further along the street. All that remains of the second is the school house which is now a private dwelling; the attached school classrooms were demolished in 1970. The first part of the present school was completed in 1960. Within the school grounds is a garden dedicated to Ben Alcock, a pupil who died while still at the school, and within this garden is a memorial to the former pupils who fell in the service of their country.

For most of its history the majority of working people in Capel were employed on the land working in many cases from sun up to sun down, planting and sowing crops or taking care of the livestock, that had been reared for milk, meat or wool, and the horses, that did the heavy work like pulling the ploughs and farm carts. The majority of farms were small, just a couple of hundred acres or so. The workers were housed in cottages owned by the farmer. The work was hard and revolved around the seasons of the year. Not all people from Capel worked on farms however as there were builders who employed carpenters and bricklayers. One builder's yard stood nearly opposite Link Road and for many years a railway signal box from Raydon was used as the works office. Others worked in service, usually the women who would help with the domestic chores. Although they mainly worked inside, their work was also hard with long hours. There were also skilled workers like blacksmiths who would make and repair the everyday items like the ploughshares and horseshoes that would be required within a rural farming community, plus wheelwrights and harness makers. One Blacksmith's shop stood in the region of the Paper shop opposite the current shops, another on the London Road Near the White Horse and a third in the region of the Whitehouse on Mill Hill, formerly known as Blacksmith's Hill. Also in the same area was one of the Wheelwrights, another stood on the left at the bottom of Cedars Lane and a third wheelwrights stood where Link Road and The Street meet. It was a common sight for the wooden wheels to be rolled along the street to the blacksmith's for the metal rim to be fitted. The metal ring would be heated to such a temperature that it expanded to fit over the wooden wheel. It was then dropped over and quickly cooled with water to pull the whole wheel tightly together and stop the wood burning. The harness maker's shop was opposite the White Horse Inn. There were village shops for general provisions and a baker's, shoe repairers and four public houses: the Tankard Inn and the White Horse Inn about 100 yards apart on the London Road, although the Tankard strictly speaking was in Bentley the King's Head in Pound Lane and the Plough Inn in Lower Street opposite St Mary's Church. The village before the turn of the last century also had a water mill and two windmills; the one up Cedars Lane was demolished before 1900, the second on Windmill Hill had gone by 1908. The water mill was still in use until after the War.

Along with St Mary's Church there was the Methodist and the Independent Chapel which had a very checkered history. At one time it was the barracks of the Salvation Army before being abandoned in 1910; it fell into disrepair after the War.

The new year of 1914 began well for Capel when a story was published concerning the wedding on the last day of 1913. It was between Miss Eva Skitter, daughter of the late Mr. T Skitter and Mrs. A Skitter, to Mr. Frank Cook, son of the late Mr. W Cook and Mrs. Cook of the White Horse Inn. The wedding party was conveyed in motor vehicles through the village to St Mary's Church; the street was decorated with flags and mottoes stretched across the road at various points. The service at the church was performed by the Rev. Cecil Johnson, with Mr. J.E. Green, the churchwarden, attending to seating. The bridesmaids were Miss E. Skitter and Miss Gladys Skitter while Mr. R. Hawkins from Birmingham acted as best man. The wedding breakfast was held at the White Horse Inn; the presents were very numerous and costly. The happy couple then left for their honeymoon in London and Brighton. Life in Capel continued as before. The employees of the Great Eastern Railway held their first dinner at the Tankard Inn where toasts were made to the King and to the Chairman and Directors of the railway and were responded to by Mr. C. King, the station master at Capel Station. As usual in April, parish teas were arranged by the Rector and Mrs. Johnson. They were held over the course of two days so that both parents could attend; the teas were followed by entertainment, the first item of which was a little play called *An Unexpected Entertainment* and this was followed by a two-handed sketch, *The Burglar*. Afterwards came the final item, a farce entitled *The Little Scamp*.

But throughout mainland Europe in 1914 unrest was growing, stoked by repeated wars between Balkan countries which were riven with jealousies that dated back centuries. In February the Liberal Prime Minister Asquith rejected imposing compulsory military service. By March the prospect of war loomed large and an arms race was threatening to run out of control. Russia was increasing its standing army from 460,000 to 1,700,000 men while the British army had 250,000 men, all volunteers.

During April while war threatened Europe, Britain was dealing with growing unrest caused by the suffragette movement which had begun early in the twentieth century demanding votes for women. They smashed windows, threw stones at the police and carried out both bomb and arson attacks. They must not be confused with the Suffragists, who used peaceful and democratic means with the same aim, to try and gain votes for women. Suffragettes were imprisoned and force-fed when they attempted hunger strikes. This force-feeding caused many to become ill so they were released only to be re-arrested once they had regained their strength. This became known as the Cat and Mouse Act. One suffragette, Emily Wilding Davison, locked herself in a broom cupboard in the Houses of Parliament on the night of the 1911 census so she could state that as her place of residence. She would later commit suicide by throwing herself under the King's horse during the 1913 Derby. Women over 30, provided they owned property, were eventually given the vote by the Representation of the People Act 1918. They gained equal rights with their male counterparts when the voting age was lowered to 21 in the Representation of the People (Equal Franchise) Act 1928.

May began with Russia increasing military spending by five per cent. In the Balkans, on the 12th May, Serbians were said to be committing atrocities against Albanian Muslims. In Albania rebels demanded that the country's King be replaced by a Muslim. For the first time since the fall of Napoleon, Europe stood on the brink of war although there had been small wars like the Franco-Germany war of 1870 – 71. Then on June 28th came the spark that set the world on fire: the assassination in Sarajevo of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and his wife, by Gavrilo Princip, a Bosnian Serb. A wave of revulsion swept across Europe. In London *The Times* said that the assassination shook the conscience of the world. *The Daily Chronicle* wrote of a clap of thunder over Europe. In Vienna the Austro-Hungarian Emperor, Franz Josef, broke down and cried: "No sorrow is spared me". The assassination accelerated the drumbeat on the march to war, and then on July 13th the latest war in Europe began when Bulgaria tore up the two-month old Treaty of London, turned on allies and marched against Serbia. In London, Chancellor of the Exchequer Lloyd George called the build-up of arms in western Europe organised insanity.

In Britain storm clouds were gathering on the home front over Ireland. There was a massive rally in Hyde Park protesting against the potential use of the army in Ulster. The Tory opposition leader, Andrew Bonar Law, warned of a drift to civil war in Ireland, unless the Government dropped its Parliamentary Bill for Irish Home Rule. The Ulster Volunteer Force of 100,000 men said it was prepared to fight against Home Rule.

In Germany Admiral Tirpitz admitted his navy was growing fast with 14 new major warships entering service. In Britain, First Lord of the Admiralty Winston Churchill set a bigger than expected budget for the Royal Navy. This was to put into service eight squadrons of ships in the time it took Germany to build five. In the Austro-Hungarian empire armaments were given budget priority. By the end of July ultimatums had been issued, reservists called up and armies mobilised. In

Berlin, Vienna, Paris, and St Petersburg war plans were put into action. Only London ignored the gathering storm. On July 23rd Austria delivered an ultimatum to Serbia demanding the virtual surrender of Serbia's national independence. On 25th July Germany said it would support whatever action Austria chose to take against Serbia which subsequently became known as the "blank cheque". Austria then ignored the conciliatory reply from Serbia and moved troops to the border, and on 28th July crossed over and attacked Serbia. The first shots of the First World War had been fired.

In the meantime, Germany had massed its troops on the Belgian border and on 25th July requested passage through neutral Belgium to attack France. The request was denied. On the same day, Sir Edward Grey, Britain's Foreign Secretary, tried to arrange a European Summit Conference where Britain would act as impartial mediator between Austria and Serbia.

At the same time France was trying to convert the Entente Cordiale signed on 8th April 1904 between the United Kingdom and France into a formal agreement to co-operate in the event of war. Asquith, "the wait and see" Prime Minister, hoped the war would simply go away; he also knew he could not carry the country to war unless Germany committed an act of outright aggression against neutral Belgium.

On the 3rd August Britain finally mobilized the Navy and Army. The following day Germany declared war on France and crossed the Belgian border by force. Britain invoked the fact that both Britain and Germany had guaranteed Belgium's neutrality which the German Kaiser dismissed as a scrap of paper. The British Government told Germany that unless they withdrew their troops from Belgium by 11pm on 4th August London time, a state of war would exist between them. Germany ignored the threat and no such withdrawal took place, and therefore Britain and Germany were at war.

During the course of the war things began to change, not just for the people of Capel St Mary and the surrounding area but for the country as a whole. Following the declaration of war on 4th August, men and boys, many of whom falsified their ages, joined the army and went off to fight for King and Empire. Embarkation began on 9th August and shortly afterwards, the British Expeditionary Force arrived in France. They were in action on the 23rd although the first British soldier, John Parr, had been killed on the 21st. He was a reconnaissance cyclist from the Middlesex Regiment who had been sent ahead, along with another cyclist, to gather information. They encountered German troops near Obourg just over the border in Belgium. Parr stayed to hold the enemy while his fellow cyclist reported back. It was shortly after this that telegrams began arriving telling families up and down the country that their loved ones were not coming home. The families in Capel were spared the receipt of their first telegram until 1915.

During the war, many events were arranged within Capel St Mary to raise funds for wounded soldiers, prisoners of war and many other patriotic funds like the French Red Cross, the Belgian Relief Fund and the Victoria League.

Note : The Victoria League had been formed in 1901 and was named after Queen Victoria who had died earlier that year. It came out of the words spoken by a Mrs. Mary Davis, who, whilst travelling through South Africa during the Boer War, said, "I am so weary of this war, why can't we have a society of friendship". A group of like-minded women met at No 10 Downing Street to form the non-political, independent organisation to promote a closer union between different parts of the British Empire, and to foster hospitality, understanding and good fellowship. During the Boer War it assisted with tending war graves. During World Wars 1 and 2, it organised beds and meals for servicemen on leave, and food parcels for the families of men serving away in the war.

Rector Reverend Johnson and Mrs. Johnson arranged parish teas in April 1915 on two evenings, as they had done the previous year. Around 60 sat down each evening to a substantial tea which was followed by entertainment provided by entirely local talent. In May the children of Capel and Wenham school were affiliated to the Empire League and on that day, the Union Jack was raised and saluted by the children; a simple explanation was given as to why it was raised and not the German Eagle.

Note : The Empire League had been formed in 1895 to secure permanent unity within the British Empire. It ceased to exist in 1955.

It was in May that the first telegrams arrived in Capel and were delivered to the following families: the Chiverton family received on May 2nd the news that their son, Harry, had died of wounds. This was followed on the 8th by the second telegram to be delivered in Capel. This time it was to the Fallows family telling them their son, Edgar, was missing, presumed killed in action. In September of that year, Mrs. Emma Deck received the news that her son had been killed in action. Then on the 3rd October a second telegram to the Fallows family told them that their second son, William, was now

also missing, presumed killed in action. The full stories of all the men who died in conflict appear later in the book. Later in the year, Harriet Pittock, mother of Edgar, one of our gallant soldiers, died and was buried on 16th November in St Mary's Churchyard. Her son Edgar died in 1917 and his grave is alongside his mother's in the churchyard.

On July 1st one of the most distressing occurrences not associated with the war was reported from Copdock. Mr. and Mrs. Betts of Brook Farm, Capel St Mary had started to drive to Ipswich, bringing with them their little son, a bright child of two years old. While passing through Copdock, the child was taken seriously ill, being apparently overcome by the intense heat. He was taken into a roadside cottage, and a cyclist fetched Dr Norman from Capel. The condition of the child was so serious that removal from the cottage was deemed inadvisable. Mother and child remained in the cottage, everything possible being done to promote recovery. Unfortunately, death occurred later in the day. He was a particularly bright boy and had greatly endeared himself to all the neighbours by his winsome ways. He was apparently perfectly well on starting out. He was buried in St Mary's Churchyard on July 4th 1915.

During 1915 there were several recruiting drives held on the Rectory Meadow. A Mr. F.L. Bland of Ipswich addressed the well-attended meeting held on 14th July, giving the history and the origins of the War and particularly emphasised the duty that lay upon every eligible man to enlist. By the end of one meeting, six stalwart young fellows signed the forms, in addition to the four who had signed earlier. This brought the total serving with the colours to twenty from Capel St Mary. 1915 saw the continuation of whist drives in aid of the Belgian Relief Fund which were held in the parish hall by kind permission of the Rector. Refreshments were given and all arrangements were carried out by Mr. and Mrs. Robinson of Vine Farm. On one occasion during the interval, an iced cake was raffled and the winner was Miss Green of Churchford Hall. Following what had become the custom, the winner put the cake up for sale. The buyer, Mr. Aldridge, then put it up for a second draw; the final winner was Miss Bottomley. The result was that £2:4s was added to the fund. By the evening's end, after expenses, over £7 was raised for the Belgians. Since the war started over £ 30:00 had been raised in Capel for patriotic funds.

Belgium Day, Friday 21st July, was enthusiastically observed in Capel and Wenham. Flags were flown and gaily decorated collectors made a house-to-house collection. School children with flags and banners marched in procession through the streets singing the Belgian National Anthem. £ 20:10s was collected.

In December the local paper in Ipswich ran the story of a typical example of the many village homes in Suffolk, saddened on account of the war. The example given was that of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Fallows of Capel St Mary, whose four sons had all joined the forces. Private Edgar Fallows first joined the Territorials some four years before and liking the life, he enlisted and joined the 2nd Battalion Suffolk Regiment. On hearing the 1st Battalion was detailed for service in Egypt, he obtained a transfer. The Battalion was in Khartoum when war broke out so they were brought back to England then sent to France where they took part in the early battles of 1915. Then in May he was posted as missing, and although enquiries had been made in every direction, no definite news was heard of him. Therefore, his parents did not know if he was a prisoner of war or dead. Private William Fallows enlisted in the 1st Battalion Suffolks in December 1914 and in due course joined his unit in France. On October 3rd 1915 the same fate befell him, nothing having been heard of him since that date. On hearing of the fate of their brothers, Edgar and William, the other two sons, Charles and George, at once enlisted in Kitchener's Army in C Coy The King's Royal Rifles. Having passed through training they were expecting the call to active service at any time soon. *Note* : George now civilian died from wounds received during a bombing raid in 1940, the third brother to fall due to enemy action.

This story highlights the tragedy of war and could have been written later about the Richardson family of Capel who also lost two sons, and again during the Second World War, about the Pittock or Fraser families who both lost two sons to war.

As the war progressed and more men were leaving their jobs to join the forces of the Crown, gaps began to appear in the workforce and eventually led to a shortage of manpower to manufacture the goods needed to sustain a country in time of war, or to produce the food to feed the population. This meant that as the war progressed, women were being urged to go into the factories and to work the land. In 1916 a meeting was arranged by Mrs. Jacob Reynolds for the women of the village and surrounding area, encouraging them to do their bit to work the land as their men went off to fight. The first local woman to receive the green and red armlet for two months' work of stone picking and weeding was Mrs. Mitchell of Gt. Wenham.

Owing to the demands of the war and the sacrifices made, the war that was going to be over by Christmas 1914 was still devouring men. The initial recruiting euphoria of joining up was drying up, and in January 1916, a bill was introduced in Parliament: The Military Service Act in which men between the ages of 18 to 41 were liable to be called up for military

service in the Army. It came into force in March. This act contained exemptions allowing for married men or men already in the Navy, or for men with conscientious reason to apply to be excused. One such objection was made by Mr. Joe Pickess who objected to military service on religious grounds. His full story is told in *Fragments of Capel* by Ben Wright. A second Act in May extended the liability to married men, and a third in 1918 extended the upper age limit to 51.

From April 24th to 29th in Ireland, the Easter Rising by Irish Nationals for an independent Ireland took place. They took over important buildings in Dublin including the Post Office which became their headquarters. They were led by Patrick Pearse, a school master. The rebels were outgunned and eventually surrendered. There were 485 people killed and 2600 wounded. The leaders were tried and 16 rebels were executed.

On the 5th of June 1916 a presentation of an oak and plated biscuit barrel was made to Mrs. Ransome, formerly Miss Marjorie Harbour, by the teachers and pupils of Capel and Wenham School. She had been at the school for three years and was leaving to take up another post. The presentation was to mark the esteem in which she was held and also to give their best wishes for her happiness on her recent marriage to Company Sergeant Major Ransome of the Royal West Kent Regiment. This had taken place in Ipswich on 13th December 1915. Mrs. Ransome then returned the thanks and said how sorry she was to be leaving and to breaking her connection to Capel.

Note: C.S.M. Ransome had joined as a boy soldier in 1897. He would have received the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal but was killed in July 1916. His widow, Marjorie, later received 12 shillings a week widow's pension and his 1914 Star, the War and Victory Medal, along with the Commemorative Plaque and Scroll.

During 1916 a further three more families in the locality received the telegram delivering the news their sons were not coming home: the Norris family in March, the Abbott family in July, and the Grimsey family in September.

Winter 1916-1917 was the coldest in living memory. For the soldiers in France and Flanders, the trenches did not provide much cover especially at night when clothes and blankets froze solid; food and water became almost impossible to consume. Although drainage had improved, soldiers still went down with trench foot and frostbite due to the extreme cold. In Germany, 1917 became known as the Turnip Winter because owing to the very wet autumn, the cereal and potato crops had been devastated, and the population was forced to survive on turnips.

Since the war began, women had been slowly taking the place of the men who had gone off to join the forces. Nurses were serving close to the front line and some had even been killed by shelling. They were also in the factories making the things required for a nation at war. Gatherings to encourage women to perform work on the land, similar to that organised by Mrs. Reynolds in Capel, took place in the country as a whole. Many farmers derided their efforts, so eventually the female workers' patience snapped and they put on demonstrations of all the major skills required in farming. These included showing their prowess in harnessing and driving horses and wagons, ploughing, muck spreading and potato planting. Recruiting began in earnest for the Women's Land Army in 1917. The fledgling Women's Institute, under the guidance of Lady Trudie Denman, was appointed to organize and oversee this new organization. By the War's end, there were thousands of women doing everything from milking to ploughing to thatching. From the local area, there were 27 women registered for farm work. The Land Army uniform was brown laced brogues, baggy brown corduroy breeches, knee length fawn socks, green aertex shirt, fawn long-sleeved V-neck sweater, and a brown felt pork pie hat. They were derisively nicknamed the "Lilac Bonnet Brigade". 1917 also saw the formation of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps for duties other than nursing, and the Women's Royal Naval Service. The Women's Royal Air Force followed in 1918.

18 children were killed on 13th June 1917 when their school in Poplar, London, was bombed. The schoolchildren from Capel and Wenham held a collection of eggs and cakes to be sent to Poplar Hospital for the surviving wounded children.

1917 would see the heaviest toll on the men who went to war and never saw their home or families again: Fred Ratford (12th Feb), Charles Gough (5th May), Bill Pettingale and Edgar Pittock (11th May), John Lott (21st May), Walter Cole (28th May), Frank Cook (14th June), Frank Goddard (23rd June), Herbert Bullard (1st July) and Frank Richardson (18th Aug).

With the collapse and the withdrawal of Russia from the war in 1917 following the Revolution, Germany moved their forces from the Eastern to the Western Front and began in 1918 a major offensive to try and win the war before the Americans could take to the field in any great numbers. They very nearly succeeded.

The Allied Armies stopped the offensive and started to roll back the German Army. The Americans now took to the field and eventually the Germans and their Allies asked for an Armistice. This was signed in the early hours of the 11th November 1918 and the guns fell silent at 11 o'clock. The fighting was over.

Meanwhile back in Capel, after repeated requests by Joe Pickess, in June 1918 permission was granted for repairs to be carried out on the independent Chapel. It reopened for worship in January 1921 after much work by him.

During 1918 the following families had received the news that their loved ones were not coming home: Peck and Rush in April, and Stiff during July. These three were the last to die before the Armistice but there were two more men who died because of the war; Ernest Richardson, the second member of the family to be lost, who died while on Garrison Duty in March 1919, and Francis Moncreiff who died in December 1928 from wounds suffered on the Somme in 1916.

In 1918 the Reverend Alfred Johnson, who was a very wealthy man, gave the East Window of the church to commemorate the peace after the war.

WW 1 Facts Relating to Gt. Britain and its Empire

The 1st British soldier to fall was Private John Henry Parr of the Middlesex Regiment on 21 August 1914.

The last British soldier to fall was Private George Edwin Ellison of the 5th Royal Irish Lancers on 11 November 1918. These two soldiers died four years apart but nearly at the same spot and both are buried in St Symphorien Military Cemetery, Mons, Belgium, only feet from each other.

The youngest British soldier to serve is recognized as Sydney Lewis, aged 12, of the East Surrey Regiment and later in the Machine Gun Corps. (He survived the war).

The youngest British soldier to fall was John Condon, aged 14, of the Royal Irish Regiment who fell on May 24th 1915. His Commonwealth War Grave headstone gives his age as 14.

The oldest British soldier to fall, at nearly 69 years old, was Lt Colonel Jasper Richardson, Royal Garrison Artillery who fell on 30th March 1918.

The total number of military personnel involved during WW1 for Gt. Britain and its Empire was as follows:

Approximately 9,000,000 personnel mobilized

908,000 killed

2,000,000 wounded

191,000 prisoners of war and missing.

The war lasted 1,566 days and cost 8,528,831 recorded lives lost and 28,938,073 recorded as injured or missing.

First World War Veterans when asked what it was like.

Said we were 80% Bored Stiff, 19% Frozen Stiff and 1% Scared Stiff

CAPEL St MARY
 ROLL OF HONOUR
 WORLD WAR ONE

1915

Harry Frank Chiverton	2 nd May R.E.
Edgar Fallows	8 th May Suf Regt
Richmond Frank Deck	8 th Sept Suf Regt
William Fallows	3 rd Oct Suf Regt

1916

George William Norris	5 th March Suf Regt
William Friend Abbott	20 th July Suf Regt
Frederick Walter Grimsey	28 th Sept Suf Regt

1917

Frederick Charles Ratford	12 th Feb Esx Regt
Charles Henry Gough	5 th May Suf Regt
William Arthur Pettingale	11 th May Suf Regt
Edgar Pittock	11 th May Suf Regt
John English Lott	21 st May R.E.
Walter Cole	28 th May R.G.A
Frank Cecil Cook	14 th June M.G.C
Frank Goddard	23 rd June A.I.F
Herbert Bullard	1 st July Esx Regt
Frank Oliver Richardson	18 th Aug R.F.A

1918

Arthur Peck	11 th April Lanc Fus
Earnest William Rush	28 th April Suf Regt
Arthur Stiff	9 th July Esx Regt

1919

Earnest Walter Richardson	20 th Mar R.G.A
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1928

Francis Beresford Moncreiff	18 th Dec R.Scots
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Laurence Binyon

Ode of Remembrance

**They went with songs to the battle
they were young, straight of limb
true of eye , steady and aglow**

**They were staunch to the end
against all odds uncouth
They fell with their faces to the foe**

**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**

SAPPER 23389 HARRY FRANK CHIVERTON

56 FIELD COMPANY ROYAL ENGINEERS

1894 – 1915



Harry Frank Chiverton was born July 1894 in Capel St Mary, Suffolk and was baptised as Henry Frank Chiverton in the Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Capel St Mary on September 9th 1894. He was one of nine children, but two died as infants. They were born to Thomas Luke Chiverton and Rhoda Carr Chiverton, née Richardson, of The Street, Capel St Mary. Thomas and Rhoda were married in Capel Parish Church on 6th February 1875. Their first surviving child, Anna, was born in 1881 and became a dressmaker; their second, John, and third, Jack, were both born in 1883, followed by Frederick in 1884, Charles in 1887, William in 1890, and Harry in 1894. His father, Thomas, was an agricultural labourer born circa 1851 in Capel St Mary, and died in 1902 aged 51, he was buried in Capel Parish Church on 19-11-1902 his mother was born Rhoda Carr Richardson circa 1850 also in Capel St Mary and was employed as a housekeeper, she died in 1924 aged 74 and was buried in Capel Church on 18-2-1924.

Harry along with his siblings was educated in Capel St Mary School, before joining the Army Harry worked as a carpenter.

He enlisted as Private 981 in the 6th Battalion Suffolk Regiment and later transferred to 56 Field Company the Royal Engineers, becoming Sapper 23389 Chiverton. He arrived in France on 22nd January 1915, he died of wounds received during the second battle of Ypres on 2nd May 1915 in Belgium. His elder brother, Sergeant Charles Chiverton of the Royal Garrison Artillery, had been awarded the Military Medal earlier that year.

Harry is remembered with Honour in Dickebusch New Military Cemetery and his Memorial is P1 D20.

His name is also on a brass plaque in Capel St Mary Church.

Harry was posthumously awarded:

1914-1915 Star

1914-1918 British War Medal

1914-1919 Victory Medal

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

PRIVATE 8666 EDGAR FALLOWS
1st BATTALION SUFFOLK REGIMENT

1891 – 1915



Edgar was born circa 1891 in Capel St Mary, Suffolk to Edgar Fallows and Emily Rachel Fallows née Pickess who married in St Mary's Church, Capel St Mary on the 24th February 1877.

Edgar's siblings were: Emily (1877-1961), Elizabeth (1878–1884), Annie (1880-1956), Charles (1881-1955), Walter (1883-1883), Agnes (1884-1970), Eliza and Edgar (possibly twins) who were born and died in 1886, George (1887-1940), Herbert (1889-1889), Walter (1890-1891), Elizabeth (1893-1893), Michael, born 1895, year of death unknown, and William (1896-1915).

Edgar's father Edgar was born in Little Wenham, Suffolk circa 1852 and died in 1934. He was buried in Capel Church on August 22nd 1934. He had been employed as a general labourer. Edgar's mother, Emily, was born circa 1855 in Capel St Mary and died in 1923.

Before joining the Army, Edgar was educated in the local Capel school and upon leaving, worked as a bricklayer's assistant.

Edgar joined the Territorials in 1911 and liking the life, enlisted in the 2nd Suffolk's. On hearing the 1st Suffolks were going to Egypt, he obtained a transfer and was in Egypt when war broke out. He went with his regiment to the front and took part in some of the early battles. On May 8th 1915 the 1st Suffolk's were part of the 84th Brigade in the 28th Division holding the front line trenches on the Frezenberg Ridge, during this battle including gas attacks, the 1st Suffolk's suffered heavy casualties, after the battle a newly commissioned young captain was posted to the first expecting to take command of a platoon, he was informed he would be in command of the Battalion and on arrival he was shocked to find only 2 officers, 1 NCO, and 27 men all that was left of the 1st Battalion. It was during this time that Edgar was posted missing, killed in action during the second battle of Ypres. He was 23 years old and was the first of two boys lost to the family.

His brother William was also posted missing, killed in action on October 3rd 1915.

Edgar has no known grave but is remembered on Panel 21 of Ypres Menin Gate.

His name is also on the plaque in St Mary's Church, Capel St Mary.

He was posthumously awarded:

1914-15 Star

1914-18 British War Medal

1914-19 Victory Medal

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

2nd Lt 2223 RICHMOND FRANK DECK

2nd BATTALION SUFFOLK REGIMENT

1886 – 1915



Richmond Frank Deck was born circa 1886 in Wenhaston, Suffolk. His father was John Castell Deck, a farmer born in Eye, Suffolk circa 1848, and died in the Blything Registration District of Suffolk in 1893. His mother was Emma Deck née Rush born in Ipswich circa 1853; she died in Leicester in 1940 aged 68. Richmond was one of eight children who were all born in Wenhaston, with the exception of John Sydney who was born in Ipswich. Richmond's siblings were: John Sydney born circa 1877, Henry born circa 1879, Catherine Mary born circa 1881, Earnest Frederick born circa 1883, Alfred born circa 1888, Arthur born circa 1890, and Christine born circa 1894.

Before the war Richmond was employed as an engineer's clerk. He enlisted in the 1st Battalion Cambridgeshire Regiment where he was promoted to the rank of Corporal, he went with them to France in February 1915, before transferring to the 2nd Battalion Suffolk Regiment. He was finally promoted to 2nd Lieutenant on 13th August 1915, during the night of 26th/27th of September a mine exploded under the 4th Middlesex immediately the mine went up Captain Wynn with a party of men endeavoured to seize the crater, in the course of the fighting 2nd Lieutenant Deck was mortally wounded taken to No 20 General Clearing Station, but could not be saved and died from his wounds, on 30th September 1915 during the Battle of Loos, the first major offensive by the British Army in support of the French in the 3rd Battle of Artois, which is notable for the first use by the British Army of poison gas. The offensive lasted from 25th September to 15th October 1915.

He is remembered in Perth Cemetery (China Wall) Belgium, Memorial 11.E.8.

His name is also on the plaque at St John's Church, Great Wenham.

Richmond was posthumously awarded:

1914 - 1915 Star

1914-1918 British War Medal

1914-1919 Victory Medal

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

PRIVATE 17173 WILLIAM FALLOWS

1st BATTALION SUFFOLK REGIMENT

1895 – 1915



William was born circa 1896 in Capel St Mary, Suffolk to Edgar Fallows and Emily Rachel Fallows née Pickess who married in St Mary's Church, Capel St Mary on the 24th Feb 1877.

William's siblings were: Emily (1877-1961), Elizabeth (1878-1884), Annie (1880-1956), Charles (1881-1955), Walter (1883-1883), Agnes (1884-1970), Eliza and Edgar (possibly twins) who were born and died in 1886, George (1887-1940), Herbert (1889-1889), Walter (1890-1891), Edgar (1891-1915), Elizabeth (1893-1893) and Michael, born 1895, year of death unknown.

William's father Edgar was born in Little Wenham, Suffolk circa 1852 and died in 1934. He was buried in Capel Church on August 22nd 1934. He had been employed as a general labourer. Edgar's mother, Emily, was born circa 1855 in Capel St Mary and died in 1923.

William was educated in Capel school and before joining the Army, he worked as a cowman.

William, like his brother, served in the 1st Battalion Suffolk Regiment who were involved in the early strenuous battles of the first World War. William arrived in France on 12th May 1915, 4 days after his brother Edgar was posted missing in killed in action. On October 3rd 1915 during the Battle of Loos he was also posted missing, killed in action, the second son of this family to fall in action following his brother Edgar who had fallen on May 8th 1915 in the second battle of Ypres.

William has no known grave but is remembered on Panel 37/38 Loos Memorial

His Name is also on the plaque in St Mary's Church, Capel St Mary.

He was posthumously awarded:

1914-15 Star

1914 -18 War Medal

1914-1919 Victory Medal

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

PRIVATE 8930 GEORGE WILLIAM NORRIS**SUFFOLK REGIMENT****1894 – 1916**

George was the youngest son of Robert Seaman Norris and Elizabeth Norris nee Smith, his father Robert born 1851 Hacheston Suffolk and died in the Samford registration district Suffolk 1940 he was a farm worker, his mother before marriage worked as a servant, she was born 1854 in Saxmundham Suffolk and died 1920 in Samford district. The couple had married 1878 in Parham. George was educated in Capel school along with his brother Frederick, they were two of the eight children born to Robert and Elizabeth, the children were Edward b1878 Arthur b1880 Florence b1882 Anna b1885 Albert b1887 Frederick b1891 George b1894 and one other not traced. Six of the children were born in Parham George being born in Marlesford.

George enlisted in the Suffolk Regiment in 1914 as Private 8930 Norris by early December he was in France, and would during 1915 have seen active service. The winter of 1915-16 was cold and wet, with trenches ankle deep in water without duck boards to walk on resulting in many casualties not from enemy action but, frost bite, pneumonia and trench foot, George became one of these men when on 5th March 1916 he succumbed to Bronchopneumonia.

George is remembered with honour on a plaque on St John's Church Gt. Wenham and at Wimereux Communal Cemetery Pas De Calais, France Grave 1. L. 28

George was posthumously awarded:

1914-1915 Star**1914-1918 British War Medal****1914-1919 Victory Medal**

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

PRIVATE 18342 WILLIAM FRIEND ABBOTT

2nd BATTALION SUFFOLK REGIMENT

1890 - 1916

William Friend Abbott was born January 1890 in a cottage on Coles Farm, Wenham Magna, now known as Great Wenham in Suffolk. His parents were Thomas and Ellen Abbott, née Friend. His father, Thomas, was born circa 1860 in Wenham Magna and was baptised on 4th November 1860 in All Saints Church, Wenham Parva, now Little Wenham. He died in 1948. William's mother was born Ellen Friend circa 1860 in Wenhamston, Suffolk. Before marriage she was employed as a general servant by Mr. Arthur E. Smith, a coach builder's manager in Halesworth, Suffolk. She died in 1944. Thomas and Ellen married in 1889 and had five children, but two died as infants. On the 1911 census, Thomas is aged 50 and employed as a horseman on a farm, and the surviving children are listed as William Friend Abbott aged 21, employed as a cowman on a farm; his younger brother, Frederick Harold Abbott aged 14, also employed as a cowman on a farm, and their younger sister Laura Ellen Abbott aged 12, still at school. All children were born Gt. Wenham. The family were living near Carriers in the same village.

Until he left to start work, William, together with his siblings, attended Capel St Mary School.

William enlisted in Ipswich and after his basic training, he was posted as Private 18342 Abbott to the Second Battalion, Suffolk Regiment. The 2nd Battalion in 1916 took part in the Actions of the Bluff and St. Eloi Craters, then moved to the Somme for the Battle of Albert and Bazentin, the 2nd Suffolk's took part in an early dawn attack on the village of Longueval. The official History of the Great War records that "*the leading companies pressed on with great resolution and were almost entirely lost.*" to capture Longueval the battle commenced on 14th July 1916. Two incidents stand out prominently in the attack on the 14th; one, the staggering intensity of the preliminary bombardment: the other, the advance of the cavalry, the moral effect of which was remarkable. On 20th July 1916 during the battle when the Germans counter attacked, forcing their way with great courage but with huge losses into Delville Wood. Amongst those posted missing killed in action on that day was William Abbott.

He has no known grave but is remembered with Honour on Pier & Face 1c & 2a of the Thiepval Memorial.

His name is also on a memorial plaque at St John's Church, Gt. Wenham

William was posthumously awarded:

1914-1918 British War Medal

1914 – 1919 Victory Medal

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

L/CPL 13007 FREDERICK WALTER GRIMSEY

8th BATTALION SUFFOLK REGIMENT

1894 – 1916

Frederick was born in 1894 in Capel St Mary, Suffolk, the son of Isaac Grimsey and Sarah Grimsey née Beer who lived at Watts Farm. His father was employed as a shepherd. Isaac was born at Hintlesham in 1851 and died in Capel St Mary and was buried in St Mary's Church on 22nd November 1934. Sarah was born in 1855, also in Hintlesham, and died in Capel St Mary where she was buried in St Mary's Church on 17th January 1934. They were married in 1877 in Hintlesham and they had four children: Tabitha (1878 - 1958), James John (1880 – 1964), and Ernest William (1882 – 1964). All three siblings were born in Hintlesham, and lastly Frederick who was baptized in St Mary's Church, Capel on 28th September 1895.

Frederick worked as a gardener before he enlisted into the Suffolk Regiment, he arrived in France on 4th October 1915 and served with the 8th Battalion Suffolk Regiment who were part of the 18th (Eastern) Division. In 1916 the 18th Division were led by the outstanding General Sir Ivor Maxse, they were superbly trained and frequently in the thick of battle. On the 26th September 1916 during the Battle of the Somme, they led the attack on the fortified village of Thiepval. Two days later they took part on the assault on the Schwaben Redoubt, during which Frederick lost his life. He has no known grave, as his body was never found.

Frederick is remembered with Honour:

On the Thiepval Memorial Pier and Face 1.C & 2.A.

He is also remembered on the plaque in St Mary's Church, Capel St Mary.

Frederick was posthumously awarded:

1914-1915 Star

1914-1918 British War Medal

1914-1919 Victory Medal

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

PRIVATE 6895 FREDERICK CHARLES RATFORD

2nd/6th BATTALION ESSEX REGIMENT

1897 – 1917



Frederick was born in the White House on Blacksmiths Hill (now Windmill Hill) Capel St Mary in 1897 he was one of ten children born to George Ratford and Eliza Ratford nee Cole. George and Eliza were married in the Samford registration district in 1889. George Ratford was a Blacksmith by trade, he was born in Capel St Mary in 1866 and died in 1948 he was buried in Capel St Mary on 15 April 1948. Eliza Cole was born in Capel St Mary 1866 and before marriage worked as agricultural labourer, she died in 1934 and was buried in Capel St Mary on 4 April 1934. Frederick's siblings were, Lillian Emma b1887 d1964, George James b1891 d unknown, Mary Dora b1893 d1980, Edith May b1895 d unknown, Frederick himself, b1897 d1917 Robert Stanley b1899 d1978, John b1900 d1984, Doris Ivy b1905 d1984, William Sage b1908 d2002, plus one other unknown (*suspect*) died as infant..

Frederick was a very good singer and sang solo for St Mary's Church choir like his brothers and sisters was educated in Capel school, upon leaving school he worked as a waiter in the Great White Horse Hotel, Tavern St. Ipswich. There is a story within the family that the family are related to Mr Sage the man cutting reeds in John Constable's painting the Haywain through Frederick's Grandmother, Emma Sage b1837 d1926

He enlisted sometime during 1915 becoming Private 23825 Ratford Suffolk Regiment, he was later transferred to the 2nd/6th Battalion Essex Regiment as Private 6895 Ratford. While training during a rout march he suffered a ruptured appendix, collapsed and was rushed to Ripon Military hospital for emergency surgery following the operation septicemia took hold and he died on 12th February 1917. He was buried with Military Honours in Ripon Cemetery. There is no record of service overseas, but if he did serve overseas he would have been entitled to medals shown below.

Frederick is remembered with Honour Ripon Cemetery Yorkshire.

And on the Brass Plaque in St Mary's Church Capel St Mary.

He may have been posthumously awarded:

The British War Medal 1914-1918

The Victory Medal 1914 – 1919

His Next of Kin would have received The Memorial Plaque and Scroll

PRIVATE 320159 CHARLES HENRY GOUGH

15th BATTALION SUFFOLK REGIMENT

1895 – 1917

Charles was born in Colchester, Essex around 1895 to John Shuter Gough and Eliza Gough née Gunn who were married in 1891 in Colchester. At the time John was serving in the Army and Eliza Gunn was employed as a cook/domestic. Charles was one of four children; his siblings, all born in Colchester, were: Catherine Nellie born 1893, Harold Percy born 1897 and Millicent May born 1899. According to the 1901 Census, Charles's father was the Relieving Officer and Registrar of Births, Marriages and Death, living at Bush Farm, London Road, Capel St Mary. He died in 1907 at Woodbridge in Suffolk. At this time Charles was attending Capel St Mary School. According to the 1911 Census Charles was living in The Street, Capel St Mary with Ada Goddard whose son Frank was also killed during World War One. Charles's occupation at that time is listed as a kitchen boy. By the time of Charles's death on the 5th May 1917, his mother was living back at Bush Farm, Capel St Mary.

Charles had enlisted at Woodbridge in the Suffolk Yeomanry (The Duke of York's own Loyal Suffolk Hussars) as Private 1807 Gough. The Battalion embarked at Liverpool without their horses, and sailed on the Olympic for Gallipoli on 25th September 1915, while on route through the Mediterranean they picked up 35 French sailors whose ship had been sunk earlier that day, they finally arrived at Walkers Pier on Gallipoli on 11th October. They spent their time in New Bedford Road Gully constructing dugouts under continuous sniping and shelling, they were finally pulled out of Gallipoli on 21st December, during their stay they had lost 11 officers and 282 other ranks. By 1916 the Suffolk Yeomanry were in Egypt as part of 3rd Dismounted Brigades on Suez Canal defences; Charles unit later became the 15th (Suffolk Yeomanry) Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment after conversion from cavalry to infantry in January 1917. They were placed under orders of 74th (Yeomanry Division). They saw action in the second Battle of Gaza between the 17th and 19th April 1917 and remained in action in Palestine until April 1918. Charles was admitted to 54th Casualty Clearing Station in Palestine where he died on 5th May 1917 of wounds.

He is remembered with Honour:

In Deir El Belah War Cemetery in The Gaza Strip Palestine Memorial.C.52

Charles is also remembered on the plaque in St Mary's Church, Capel St Mary.

Charles was posthumously awarded:

1914-1918 British War Medal

1914-1919 Victory Medal

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

PRIVATE 40722 WILLIAM ARTHUR PETTINGALE

2nd BATTALION SUFFOLK REGIMENT

1890 - 1917

William was born in Capel St Mary Suffolk in 1890 he was one of twelve children born to parents John Pettingale & Alice Helena Pettingale nee Finch they married in St Mary's Church 25 Feb 1876. His father John was born in Wenham Magna now called Great Wenham in 1852 he was a farm worker and then a roadman for the Local Council he died in 1938 in Deben, his mother was born in Capel St Mary in 1857 and died 1938 in Ipswich. John and Alice were buried together in St Mary's Church Capel St Mary on 29th December 1938. One of the twelve children died as an infant the remaining eleven children were, John Henry b1876 d1958, Edward William b1878 d1914, Frederick Ernest b1880 d1966, Charles Bernard b1883 d1962, Elizabeth Alice b1886 d1938, Florence J b1889, Annie M b1893, Daisy b1895, Alfred Cecil b1898, Dorothy Grace b1901, William Arthur b1890 d1917. All children were born in Capel St Mary and educated in the local school, by 1911 William was working as a Grocer's assistant in Bredfield Suffolk.

William had enlisted in the Suffolk Regiment at Ipswich becoming Private 3884 Pettingale later he was posted to 2nd Battalion Suffolk Regiment as Private 40722 Pettingale. The 2nd Battalion had arrived in France in the August of 1914 and following stiff resistance to overwhelming odds at the battle of Le-Cateau where they lost 750 men killed wounded or missing from 1,000 including their commanding officer they were transferred to GHQ troops to regroup and reform following various movements in late 1915 they became part of 3 Division where they stayed for the rest of the war. It would be early 1916 that William would have joined the 2nd Battalion as a replacement, he would not have been in France before 1916 as he did not qualify for the 1914-15 Star. William was killed in action on 11th May 1917, near the Munchy defences where his unit had been since May 4th and vacated on 14th.

William is remembered with Honour:

At Feuchy Chapel British Cemetery at Wancourt, Pas De Calais France.

And on the Brass Plaque in St Mary's Church, Capel St Mary Suffolk.

William was posthumously awarded:

1914-1918 British War Medal

1914-1919 Victory Medal

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

PRIVATE 201118 EDGAR PITTOCK

1st /4th BATTALION SUFFOLK REGIMENT

1884 – 1917

Edgar was the son of Joseph Haste Pittock and Harriet Pittock Nee Pinner and the husband of Agness Miles who he married in 1911 and lived in the street Capel St Mary Suffolk, Edgar was one of ten children all born in Capel St Mary.

His parents Joseph and Harriet were married in Capel Church in 1864, Joseph was employed as an agricultural labourer and died in 1908 Harriet died in 1915.

Edgar's siblings were Charlotte born 1866, George born 1867, Ada born 1869, Alice born 1872, William born 1873, Arthur born 1875, Deborah born 1877, Alfred born 1879, Matilda born 1882, and Edgar himself born 1884. They were all educated in Capel School. After leaving school Edgar started work as a gardener and went on to become a gamekeeper prior to joining the Army.

Edgar had enlisted in the Suffolk Regiment in July 1915 after a very enthusiastic recruiting meeting in the village, after basic training he was posted to 1st/4th Battalion of the Suffolk's and went to France with his Regiment on January 18th 1916, he was wounded by shrapnel in July and after 2 months in hospital in France he returned to the trenches where he contracted Pleurisy and Pneumonia and was brought back to England, on January 27th 1917 Tuberculosis set in and he died on May 11th at Ford Military Hospital Devonport.

As he had died in Ford Military Hospital Devonport from disease contracted on active service Edgar was given a full military funeral with honours and is buried in St Mary's Church Yard Capel St Mary Suffolk.. His body was carried from the Hospital on a gun carriage accompanied by a military band to Plymouth station and brought by train to Capel St Mary station a firing party of the 6th Cyclists Battalion attended the procession to the grave, where three volleys were fired and the Last Post sounded, at the school the flag was flown at half mast and the children stood outside at the salute as the cortege passed.

Edgar is remembered with honour on the brass plaque inside the church his grave is in the north west part of the old burial ground of St Mary's Church Capel St Mary

He was posthumously awarded:

The British War Medal 1914-1918

The Victory Medal 1914 – 1919

His Next of Kin would also have received The Memorial Plaque and Scroll

2nd Lt. PS/2926 JOHN ENGLISH LOTT M.C.

4th FIELD SURVEY COMPANY ROYAL ENGINEERS

1875 - 1917



John English Lott was born in Ashen House in Ashen village Essex in 1875, he was the eldest son of John Green Lott born Clacton Essex in 1850 and died in East Bergholt in 1944 he was a Farmer and Maria Ellen Lott nee Giblin born 1851 in Ridgewell Essex and died 1939, they were married in 1874 in Halstead Essex. John was one of five children three boys and two girls, he along with the other children were educated at home by a governess Miss Harris. His siblings were Charles Giblin Lott born 1877 Ashen, died 1979, Charlotte Maria Lott born 1879 Ashen died 1947, Harry Chickall Lott born 1883 died 1975, In 1888 John became a boarder at Framlingham College. After leaving college in 1892 John started work at a Bank, before leaving in 1897 to join the Order of St Paul.

John English Lott, at the outbreak of war was one of the first to volunteer and later joined the 4th Public Schools Battalion Royal Fusiliers City of London Regiment on 11th November 1914 as a Private, he landed in France with his unit on 14th November 1915 Regimental Number PS 2926 he was promoted to acting Corporal while serving with 21st Battalion, he was later posted to 176 Tunneling Company Royal Engineers, John Lott had various tunneling company Royal Engineer postings before going back to 26th Battalion Royal Fusiliers, before being posted back to the Corps of Royal Engineers where he served in various Survey Companies. It was while serving with the Royal Engineers, on 7th May 1917 that John Lott received his wounds from which he later died. Lt Lott was in a forward survey post or in the vicinity when he saw a party of soldiers hit by enemy fire he immediately went to their aid under continuous fire he dressed the wounds and started to bring in the wounded when a piece of shrapnel pieced his helmet and entered his brain, severely wounded he was carried back to safety and rushed to casualty clearing station 55 near the village of Peronne. On 13th May the War Office sent a telegram to his father, it read Regret to inform you that 55 C.C.S. reports 8th May 1917 2/Lt. J.E. Lott, 4th F.S. Coy. R.E. dangerously wounded 7th may gunshot wound head. Further news will be sent when received. Following an exchange of letters between the war office and his father, on 23rd May a tragic final telegram was received from the War Office, that read Deeply regret to inform you that 2 Lt. J.E. Lott, R.E. 4th F.S. Coy. Died of wounds, 21st May 1917. The Army Council express their sympathy. For his conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty Lt. Lott was awarded the Military Cross the 3rd highest gallantry award. The local chaplain pinned the ribbon of the award on his chest a few hours before he died. John qualified for the 1914-1915 Star as a private with the Royal Fusiliers. The 1914-1918 British War Medal and the 1914-1919 Victory Medal while serving with the Royal Engineers. At the time of John's death records state his parents were living at Place Farm Great Wenham.

Extract from the Memoires of Former Lt Colonel Harry Chickall Lott MC brother of John.

On May 16th I was summoned to Corps headquarters to see Major Rugg who had received a message for me from Major Arthur Atkins with the news that my brother had been dangerously wounded. I was driven to Peronne to see him in hospital where he was dying from a shell wound he had suffered on 7th May in the top of his head. He was only semi-conscious and I think too ill to realize that he had just been awarded the Military Cross. A General, seeing him in a very brave act had recommended him for an immediate award. The citation was "For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to

duty. A party went out to recover the body of a comrade and came under heavy fire, which wounded all men of the party. This officer went to their assistance, helped to dress their wounds and carried them to a place of safety. This was carried out under continuous shell fire.” The award was hurried through when HQ learned of his being seriously wounded in another incident.

At noon on Wednesday 23rd May I was informed of English’s death and was driven in Atkins car to the funeral in the Military cemetery at Peronne La Chapelette where he was buried with the MC ribbon pinned to his Breast.

His men erected a substantial wooden cross to mark his grave. He was 6ft 4 ½ inches tall if he had been 3 inches less he might have survived the war.

John is remembered with Honour :

In La Chapelette British and Indian Cemetery Peronne. Grave 1.B.5

And on the stone memorial plaque over the entrance porch to St John’s Church Great Wenham and a brass plaque erected by his brother officers inside.

John was posthumously awarded:

1914-1915 Star

1914-1918 British War Medal

1914-1919 Victory Medal

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

GUNNER 132361 WALTER COLE

36 SIEGE BATTERY ROYAL GARRISON ARTILLERY

1896 – 1917

Walter Cole was born 7th January 1896 near Bottle Bridge in Wenham Parva (Little Wenham), Suffolk. He was baptised on 7th June of that year in St John's Church Great Wenham. He was one of nine children born to Walter Cole and Hanna Cole, née Marjoram. His siblings were: Agnes Annie born 1880 died 1945 followed by Frederick 1882 - 1949, Gertrude Ellen 1884 - 1936, Ellen and Sarah 1888, Albert 1891, Ethel Ivy 1892 - 1981, Walter himself 1896 and John 1901 died as a teenager aged 16 in 1917.

Walter Cole senior was born in Raydon, Suffolk on 28 June 1858, his wife, Hanna Marjoram, 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 (Great Wenham), Suffolk.

As a child, Walter was educated at Capel St Mary School and after leaving, was employed as a house boy in domestic service before the outbreak of war.

He enlisted in Harwich as Gunner 297 in the Essex and Suffolk Royal Garrison Artillery Territorial's and joined the 36 Siege Battery Royal Garrison Artillery as Gunner 132361. He died of wounds at No 20 Casualty Clearing Station, Camiers France on 28 May 1917 at the age of 21.

He is remembered in Sunken Rd Cemetery Boisieux St Marc on Memorial I.D.9.

His name is also on a plaque at St John's Church Gt. Wenham.

Walter was posthumously awarded:

1914-1918 British War Medal

1914 – 1919 Victory Medal

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

PRIVATE 66674 FRANK CECIL COOK

76 COMPANY MACHINE GUN CORPS

1884 – 1917



Frank Cecil Cook was born circa July 1884 in Capel St Mary, Suffolk. He was the son of William Cook and Elizabeth Jane Cook, née Gibbs, who were landlords of The White Horse Inn on the London Road, Capel St Mary. His father, William, was born circa 1839 in Bawdsey, Suffolk, and his mother was born circa 1848 in Orford, Suffolk; they married in 1881. Frank was one of five children; one died as a child while his surviving siblings were: Harry William born circa 1883, Violet born circa 1886, and James born circa 1888. They were all born in Capel St Mary.

Frank, along with his siblings, was educated in Capel St Mary School, and upon leaving assisted his widowed mother in running The White Horse Inn. He married Eva Martha Skitter on December 31st 1913 in St Mary's Church, Capel St Mary.

He enlisted at Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk and joined the Bedfordshire Regiment as Private 31278 Cook later transferring to the Machine Gun Corps, and became Private 66674 Cook of 76 Company. Frank was killed in action on 14th June 1917 during the battle of Arras.

He has no known grave but is remembered with Honour on Bay 10 of the Arras Memorial.

His name is also on a brass plaque in Capel St Mary Church.

Frank was posthumously awarded:

1914-1918 British War Medal

1914-1919 Victory Medal

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

PRIVATE 2331 FRANK GODDARD

43rd BATTALION AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

1884–1917

Frank was born in Poplar, London around 1884 to John Goddard and Ada Goddard née Ostinelli. His father was born in Wenham Magna, Suffolk, now called Great Wenham, around 1851 and worked in London as a brewers' labourer. The family were back in Capel St Mary by 1891 where his mother, Ada, had been born around 1853, and where she worked as a tailoress. It was said that her sister, Selina Ostinelli, was dressmaker to Queen Victoria. Frank was educated in Capel school and was one of six children born to John and Ada. By 1911 only Frank was still alive. His known siblings were: Eva, born Capel St Mary circa 1875 who became a draper's apprentice in Ipswich, John, born circa 1880 also in Capel St Mary and died in London in 1881, and three others who died as infants. His mother, Ada, died in 1927. The family lived in Fuchsia Cottage (now demolished) opposite the old Post Office in The Street. After leaving school, Frank worked as a farm labourer.

Frank emigrated aboard the ship Orotava departing London on 10th March 1905 bound for Fremantle, Australia. Travel time in those days was around five to six weeks. Once in Australia he found work as a labourer before becoming a contractor in his own right, living and working in Gnowangerup in Western Australia. Frank enlisted in the Australian Imperial Forces on 31st May 1916 and became private 2331 Goddard of B213 11th training battalion. He was 5'7'' tall and weighed 126lbs, had blue eyes, brown hair and a fair complexion.

He embarked for Europe aboard the Star of India on October 30th 1916 and arrived in Portsmouth on December 28th 1916. He then marched with his comrades to Folkstone, absenting himself en route to visit his parents who lived near St Mary's Church, Capel St Mary, for which he got into trouble. He eventually arrived in Folkstone and sailed for France on March 28th 1917 arriving at Etaples, France the following day. He was on strength of the 43rd Battalion and in the front line by April 6th 1917. The 43rd Battalion was part of the 3rd Australian Division of the 2nd Anzac Corps that was holding part of the southern sector of the Ypres salient in Belgium. On 7th June the Division was ordered to take the Messines Ridge as part of a large allied offensive and with blowing of nineteen huge landmines and the use of tanks it was a great success. It was estimated that 10,000 Germans were killed by the mine explosions alone and over 7,000 prisoners were taken. Frank survived this battle but was posted killed action holding the new front-line trenches, shortly after on June 26th 1917.

Frank has no grave but is remembered on panel 7/17/23/25/27/29/31 of Menin Gate, Ypres, Belgium.

His name is on the Australian National War Memorial in Canberra.

Frank was posthumously awarded:

The 1914-1918 British War Medal

The 1914-1919 Victory Medal

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

PRIVATE 202811 HERBERT BULLARD

11th BATTALION ESSEX REGIMENT

1880 - 1917

Herbert was born in 1883 in Bentley, Suffolk, one of three children born to Alfred and Rachel Bullard, née Steward, who were married in Ipswich in 1872. His father, Alfred, was born in 1845 in Wherstead, Suffolk, and his mother, Rachel, was born 1854 in Tattingstone, Suffolk. According to the 1911 census, the father was employed as a milkman on a farm and the mother, as a milkwoman. Herbert's siblings were Stephen born 1874, Lydia born 1876, and Herbert himself born 1883, all born in Bentley, Suffolk. After leaving school, Herbert worked as a horseman on a farm, and his brother worked on the railway as a porter / shunter but there are no further details on his sister, Lydia. In 1908 Herbert married Mary Ann Ablitt who had been born 1886 in Bramford, Suffolk. Before marriage she had been a general domestic servant and they had one son, Alfred Herbert Bullard born 1909 in Capel St Mary, Suffolk.

Soon after war was declared, Herbert enlisted in the Hertfordshire Regiment at Warley, Essex with the rank of Private 269541 Bullard of 1st / 1st Battalion. Later he was transferred along with several of his comrades to 11th Battalion Essex Regiment, and given his new number 202811. On 26 June 1917 he was wounded and subsequently died from his wounds on 1st July 1917. His personal effects were sent to his widow Mary Ann Bullard of Capel St Mary, Suffolk.

Herbert is remembered with Honour at Noeux-les-Mines Communal Cemetery

Grave 11.D.5 Pas de Calais, France .

Herbert was posthumously awarded:

1914-1918 British War Medal

1914 – 1919 Victory Medal

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

GUNNER 148269 FRANK OLIVER RICHARDSON

“B” BATTERY 84th BRIGADE ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY

1892 – 1917

Frank was born circa 1892 in Capel St Mary Suffolk, his parents were Walter George Robert Richardson and Elizabeth Ann Richardson nee Skeet, they married in the Samford registration district in 1889, they had three children. The children were Florence Caroline b1890 who married James Skeet in 1913 and died 1941, Frank himself b1892 d1917 Belgium, Ernest Walter b1899 d1919 France, all three children were born in Capel St Mary Suffolk. Their father who was employed as a farm worker was born in 1869 in Capel St Mary and died 1941. Their mother was born 1869 in Stratford St Mary Essex and died in 1945. The children were educated in Capel School and upon leaving, Frank was a Farm Labourer Florence worked in London as a Domestic Servant and Ernest worked as a Stockman on a farm.

Frank enlisted in London in the Royal Field Artillery becoming Gunner 148269 Richardson possibly in 1916, he could have joined earlier and been based in England but as there is no issue of the 1914 or 1914-1915 Star he did not serve abroad until 1916. No service record exists as to when he actually joined most first world war records were lost in air raids during the second world war. Frank was killed in action on 17th August 1917 possibly during third battle of Ypres. His younger brother Ernest would later die while on garrison duty in 1919 from Bronco-pneumonia.

Frank is remembered with Honour at Artillery Wood Cemetery Boezhinge Belgium. Grave Memorial 1.A.23

He also remembered on Brass Plaque in St Mary's Church Capel St Mary.

Frank was posthumously awarded:

The British War Medal 1914-1918

The Victory Medal 1914 – 1919

His Next of Kin would also have received The Memorial Plaque and Scroll

PRIVATE 325045 ARTHUR PECK

1st BATTALION LANCASHIRE FUSILIERS

1896 – 1918

Arthur was born in Capel St Mary Suffolk in 1896 to William James Peck and Mary Ann Peck nee Mowles. His father William was a farm worker born 1859 in Westhall Suffolk and his mother before marriage was a domestic servant born in 1864 in Layham Suffolk, they married around 1888 in the Samford Registration District they had five children who were Annie Maria b1889 d1978, Thomas William b1891 d1918, Rose b1894 d1977, Arthur b1896 d1918 and Beatrice b1900 d1981, the children would have attended Capel school. When Arthur left school he followed his father and became a farm worker.

At some point during world war one Arthur enlisted in The Cambridgeshire Regiment at Bury St Edmunds, becoming Private 331073 Peck, later he was transferred as happened very often during the conflict due to high casualties to the 1st Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers becoming Private 325045 Peck, he is listed as killed in action as records are vague on this point, the date of his recorded death would fit that he died during the Battle of Estaires, the Lys Battle of Messines, his body was never recovered.

His mother is listed as next of kin living at Chaplin's Farm Capel St Mary Suffolk.

Arthur is remembered with honour on Ploegsteert Memorial Panel 4.

He also remembered on the Brass Plaque in St Mary's Church Capel St Mary Suffolk

Arthur was posthumously awarded:

1914-1918 British War Medal

1914-1919 Victory Medal

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

2nd Lt 6727 EARNEST WILLIAM RUSH
7th SERVICE BATTALION SUFFOLK REGIMENT
1886 – 1918



Ernest was born 1886 in Rushmere Suffolk the eldest of five children born to William Thomas Rush born 1859 in Rushmere & Caroline Rush nee Skeet born 1857 in Tattingstone they were married on 15th November 1884 at St Mary's Church Chapel St Mary Suffolk. Earnest's siblings were Maud b1888 Ethel b1890 Hiesel b1891 and Joseph b1902 all in Rushmere, their Father William was a Farm Labourer .

Ernest worked as a stockman on a farm until he joined the Army enlisting in the Suffolk Regiment in 1904, he is stationed at Barrosa Barracks Aldershot in 2nd Battalion on 1911 census, he later married Flossie Ellen King in Ipswich in 1913, the family home was in the Street Chapel St Mary near the Post Office, they had a son Frank E Louvain Rush who was baptized in St Mary's Church Chapel St Mary on 29th October 1916. After Ernest was Killed Flossie remarried Herbert Walter Webb in 1923 she died in Ipswich in 1954

Ernest crossed to France with his Battalion on 15th August 1914, and saw action in the early days of the war as one of what the Kaiser described as Britain's contemptible little Army, Ernest rose through the ranks until finally being promoted to 2nd Lieutenant on 1st April 1918 and posted to 7th Battalion who were in the thick of the fighting at Arras, they were involved in the capture of Feuchy Chapel Redoubt, Ernest after 14 years service was killed in action on 28 April 1918 during the Battle of Arleux he was one of eight officers from the 7th Battalion killed during this battle.

Ernest is remembered with Honour

At Happy Valley British Cemetery Fampoux France Grave A.12

And on the Rushmere War Memorial Suffolk,

Ernest was posthumously awarded:

The 1914 Star

The British War Medal 1914-1918

The Victory Medal 1914 – 1919

His Next of Kin would also have received The Memorial Plaque and Scroll

L/CPL 17630 ARTHUR GEORGE STIFF

11th BATTALION ESSEX REGIMENT

1883 – 1918

Arthur was born in Capel St Mary on 17th February 1883 possibly in Days Road where the family are shown living on the 1891 census the third child of nine born to Harry Stiff and Alice Stiff nee Pinner. Harry and Alice had married 1877 in the Samford registration district probably in St Mary's Chapel. His father Harry was born around 1852 in Raydon Suffolk and employed as a farm worker, he died in Hendon Middlesex in 1919, Arthur's mother Alice was born around the same time in Capel St Mary and died in 1907 in Ipswich. The children of the family were Walter b1879 Agnes b1881 Arthur b1883 d1918 George b1885 Annie b1889 Harry b1902 William b1893 d1981 Alice b1895 Edward b1897.

Arthur left home to make his own way in the world and in 1908 he marries Jane Agnes Gilson b.1886 Shoreditch and lives in London, by 1911 he is employed as pavers labourer in flooring and has 2 children Alice b1909 and William b1911. His wife Jane works as an ironer in a laundry.

Arthur enlisted probably in early 1915 at Walthamstow and became a Private in the Essex Regiment, he arrived in France on 17th November 1915 his home address was 24 Albion Road Walthamstow, Essex, He became a Lance Corporal acting as full Corporal serving with the 11th battalion when he was wounded in action and died of his wounds on 9th July 1918. Arthur is recorded as the son of Harry and Alice Stiff of Capel St Mary Suffolk. His widow was by now living at 6 Albion Road Walthamstow, with their 2 children and were the beneficiaries of his war gratuity and monies Due.

Arthur is remembered with Honour:

at Nine Elms British Cemetery Belgium Plot XI, F, 20

Arthur was posthumously awarded:

1914-1915 Star

1914-1918 British War Medal

1914-1919 Victory Medal

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

GUNNER 179410 ERNEST WALTER RICHARDSON

353rd SIEGE BATTERY ROYAL GARRISON ARTILLERY

1899 – 1919

Ernest was born circa 1899 in Capel St Mary Suffolk, his parents were Walter George Robert Richardson and Elizabeth Ann Richardson nee Skeet, they married in the Samford registration district in 1889, they had three children. The siblings were Florence Caroline b1890 d1941 married James Skeet 1913, Frank Oliver b1892 d1917 Belgium, Ernest Walter b1899 d1919 France, all three children were born in Capel St Mary Suffolk. Their father who was employed as a farm worker was born in 1869 in Capel St Mary and died 1941. Their mother was born 1869 in Stratford St Mary Essex and died in 1945. The children were educated in Capel School and upon leaving, Frank was a Farm Labourer Florence worked in London as a Domestic Servant and Ernest worked as a Stockman on a farm.

Ernest enlisted on 7th November 1916 at Bury St Edmunds as a private and on the 8th was placed on reserve. Following training he was mobilized on 24th January 1918 and posted as Gunner 179410 Richardson Royal Garrison Artillery, he sailed for France on 30th January 1918 and joined 353rd Siege Battery Royal Garrison Artillery and took part in later actions of the war which he survived but while on Garrison Duty following the war, he fell ill and was admitted to No 10 Casualty Clearing Station France on 22nd February 1919 and died from Bronco- pneumonia on 20th March 1919 he was 20 years old. His elder brother Frank had lost his life earlier in the war on 18th August 1917

Ernest is remembered with Honour at Tourcoing (Pont-Neuville)Communal Cemetery France Grave Memorial M8.

He also remembered on Brass Plaque in St Mary's Church Capel St Mary.

Ernest was posthumously awarded:

The British War Medal 1914-1918

The Victory Medal 1914 – 1919

His Next of Kin would also have received The Memorial Plaque and Scroll

2nd Lt. FRANCIS BERESFORD MONCREIFF

11th (SERVICE) BATTALLION ROYAL SCOTS

1883 – 1928

Francis was the second son from the second marriage of the Hon. Francis Jeffrey Moncreiff to Mildred Moncreiff née Fitzherbert who were married in 1880 in Uttoxeter, Staffordshire. The Hon. Francis Jeffrey Moncreiff was born in 1849 in Edinburgh and died there in 1900. He worked as an accountant. Mildred Fitzherbert was born in 1852 in Worksop, Nottinghamshire and died in 1943 in Edinburgh. Francis was one of four children from this marriage: Richard (b1882), his elder brother, and his two younger brothers, Adrian (b1885) and Norman (b1886), all born in Edinburgh. Norman was killed in 1916 in Rouen, France while serving as a Major with the Canadian Mounted Rifles. Francis had been educated at Fettes College, Edinburgh. He later worked as a land agent and found his way to Suffolk where he lived at Little Wenham Hall and The Valley House, Raydon. Francis had married Winifred Laxon in 1911 at Stivichall, Warwickshire. Winifred was born in Coventry in 1883 and died in Raydon in 1977. There is no record of any children.

No service record survives but Francis arrived in France, most likely with the Royal Scots (Lothian Regiment) 13th Battalion, part of Kitchener's New Army, on 8th July 1915, where they were involved in the Battle of Loos in the same year. In the spring of 1916 the Royal Scots were involved in the German gas attack at Hulluch and later the Battles of the Somme, including Poziers, Flers-Courcelette, the capture of Martinpuich, Le Transloy and the attack on Butte de Warlencourt, Mametz Wood, High Wood and Longueval, during the second phase of the Somme offensive with high casualty rates men were transferred from other battalions to bring depleted Battalions back up to strength. It seems likely that Francis was wounded during this second phase of the Somme battle fought between 14th July and 15th September 1916. He was listed as a casualty of 23rd July 1916 on the Military Casualty list of 1st August 1916, and after initial treatment at a casualty clearing station, he was transferred back to Britain. It appears he never recovered from his wounds and eventually died in Leeds Military Hospital aged 45. His body was brought back to Little Wenham as his wife resided in Little Wenham Hall, after the service at All Saints Church Little Wenham Francis was laid to rest in All Saints Churchyard.

Francis is remembered with Honour:

All Saints Churchyard Little Wenham Suffolk.

Capel St Mary War Memorial Suffolk

Francis would have been entitled to:

1914-1915 Star

1914-1918 British War Medal

1914-1919 Victory Medal

The Silver War Badge (for wounds received)

His next of kin would also have been entitled to the Memorial Plaque and Scroll.

THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

During 1916 the Reverend David Railton who was a chaplain serving at the front, during a quiet period while resting in a garden in Armentieres he noticed a rough wooden cross marking the grave of a fallen soldier with the words “An Unknown British Soldier”.

In 1920 the Reverend Railton suggested that Britain should honour its unknown war dead officially.

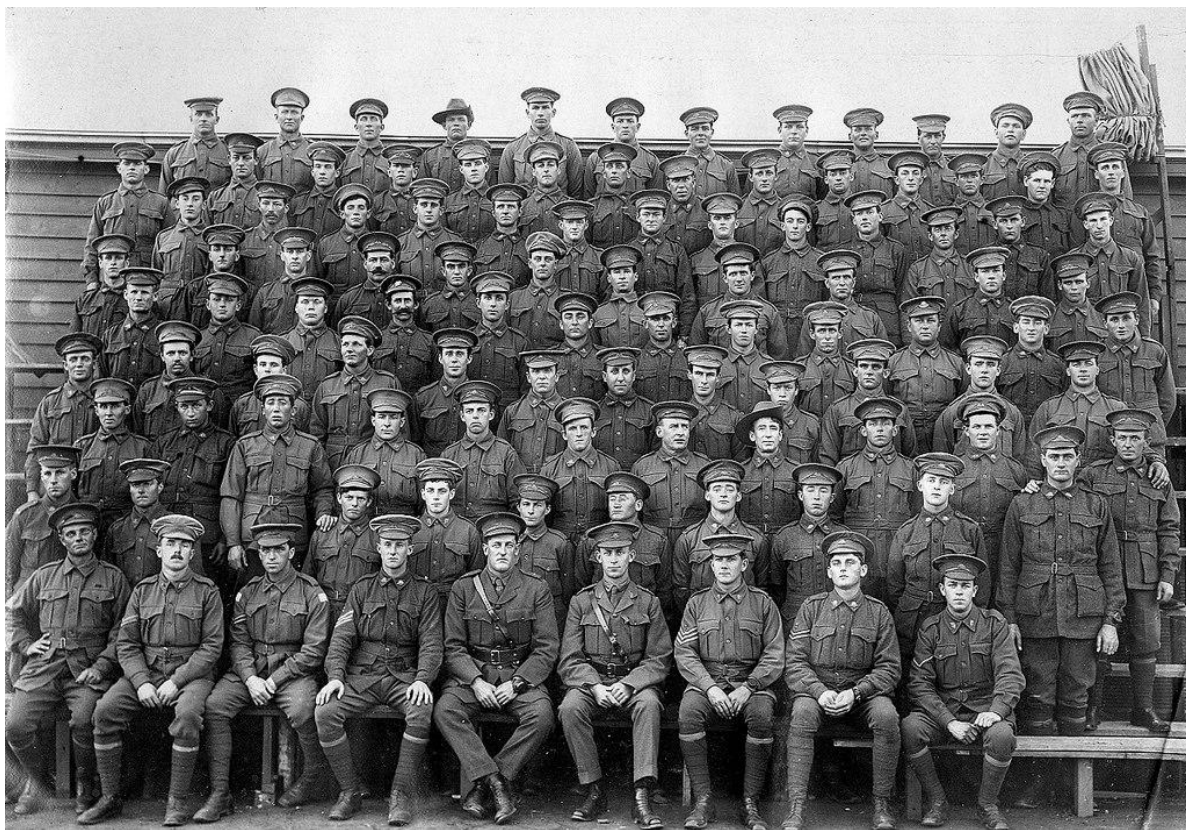
Following this suggestion four unknown soldiers bodies were exhumed from the four main battle areas of the Western Front, the Aisne, the Somme, Arras and Ypres, each one was draped in the Union Flag, and brought to the chapel at St Pol. Brigadier General L. J. Wyatt, who was the commander of British troops in France and Flanders, entered and placed his hand on one of the coffins, this chosen unknown soldier was placed in a coffin of English Oak from Hampton Court, then transported to Dover on the Destroyer HMS Verdun.

On the morning of 11th November 1920 the Unknown Soldier was transported through the streets of London on a Gun Carriage in a procession to the Cenotaph where King George V placed a wreath on the coffin. At 11.00 am the nation observed the Two Minute Silence after which the coffin was taken to Westminster Abbey and buried.

The grave contains soil from France and the grave is covered by a slab of Black Belgium Marble inscribed with these words from Chronicles 2 24 16.

They buried him among the Kings because he had done good, toward God and toward his house.





PART OF 43rd BATTALION AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

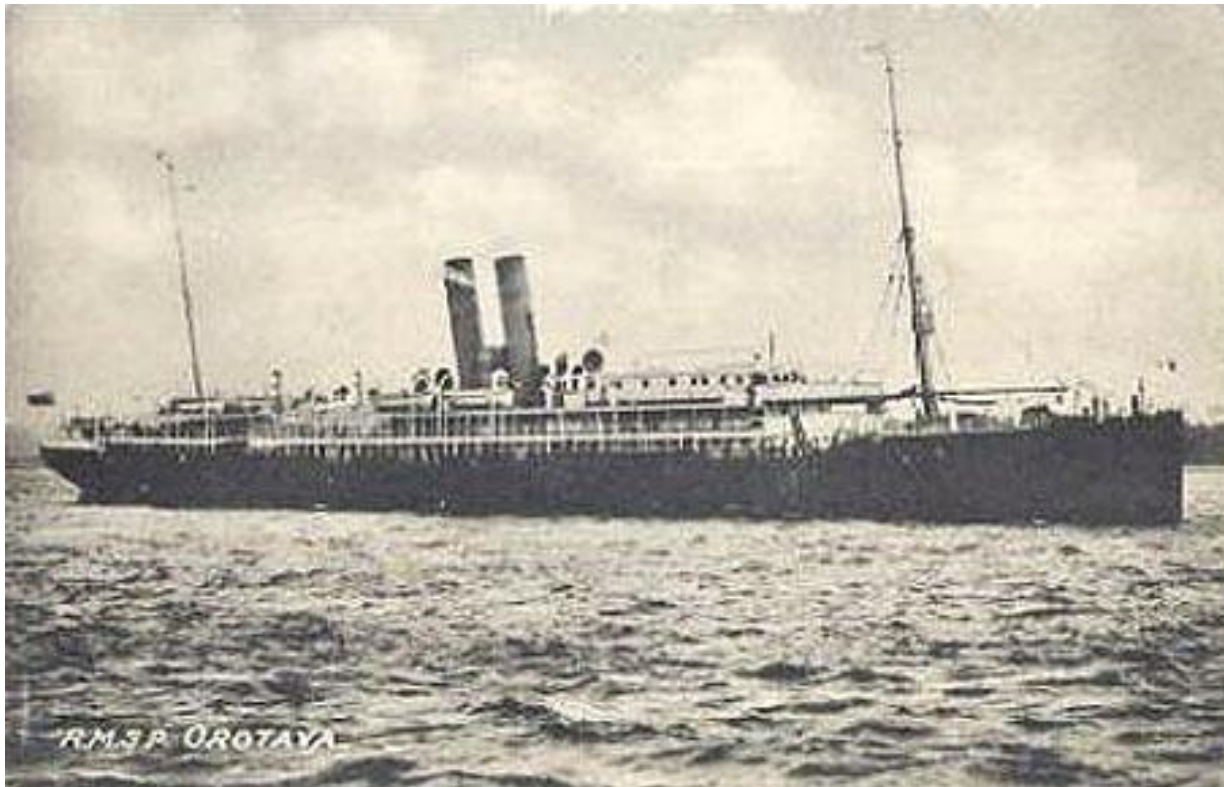
PRIVATE GODDARD SERVED IN THIS BATTALION

6TH SUFFOLK CYCLISTS REGIMENT

WHO PROVIDED THE GUARD OF HONOUR FOR EDGAR PITTOCK'S

BURIAL IN ST MARY'S CHUCHYARD





FRANK GODDARD EMIGRATES TO AUSTRALIA ABOARD

THE R.M.S.P. OROTAVA ON 10th MARCH 1905

HE EMBARKED ON THE STAR OF INDIA AT FREEMANTLE AUSTRALIA

WITH THE 43rd BATTALION AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES

SAILING ON 30th OCTOBER 1916

ARRIVED PORTSMOUTH 28th DECEMBER 1916





7th SERVICE BATTALION SUFFOLK REGIMENT AT ARRAS
FIELD DRESSING STATION SOMME BATTLEFIELD



PICTURES OF THE VILLAGE THEY KNEW



VINE FARM

THE WHITE HORSE INN LONDON ROAD





THE TANKARD INN LONDON ROAD

THE PLOUGH INN THE STREET





THE KINGS HEAD POUND LANE
POUND LANE JUNCTION THE STREET



Phyllis May Finch & John Ratford mentioned in the John Green story



Photograph taken in 1900 of the boys who attended Capel St Mary's School. Sadly it is not possible to identify any boy by name. But it is possible than some of these boys will have their story told in this book



Fallows Family Charles Bottom left George Top left killed Blitz WW2 Edgar Top right William Bottom right see story page 5

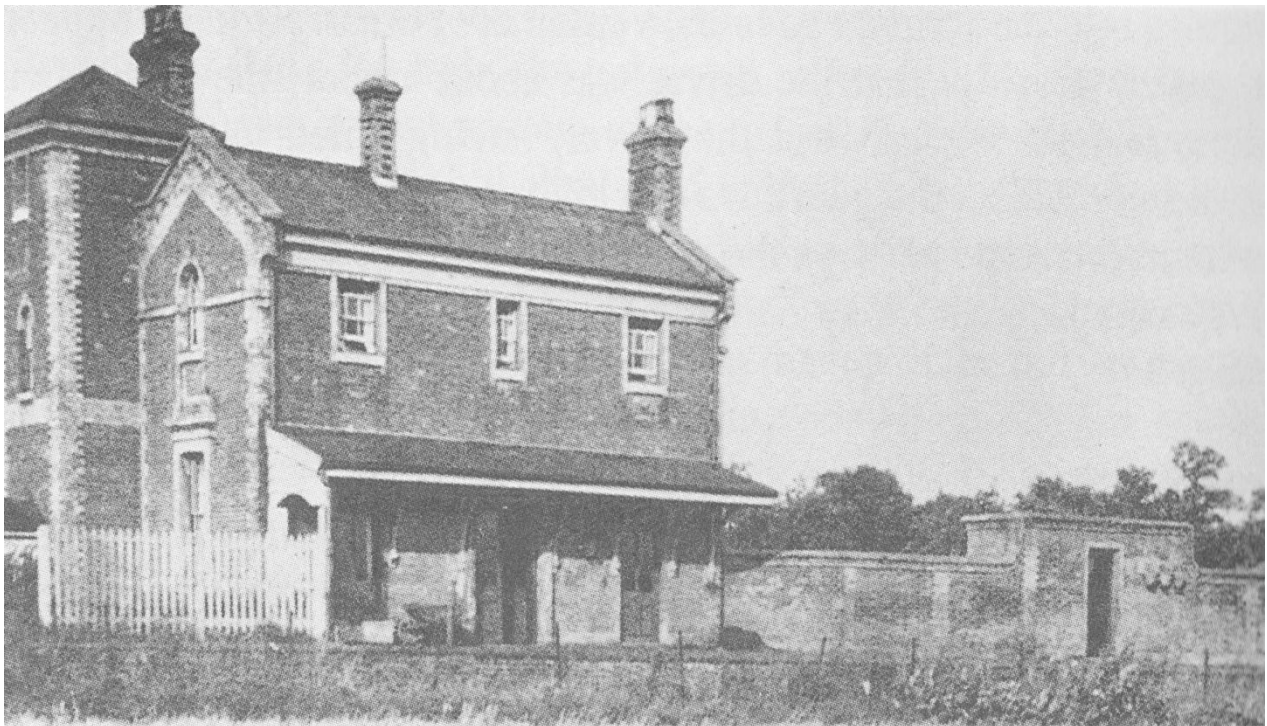


Edgar and William Fallows

Both Edgar and William were killed in action in 1915 within 153 days of each other



CAPEL ST MARY'S CHURCH AND STATION





THE STREET AND THE OLD RECTORY (AISTHORP)





FUCHSIA COTTAGE

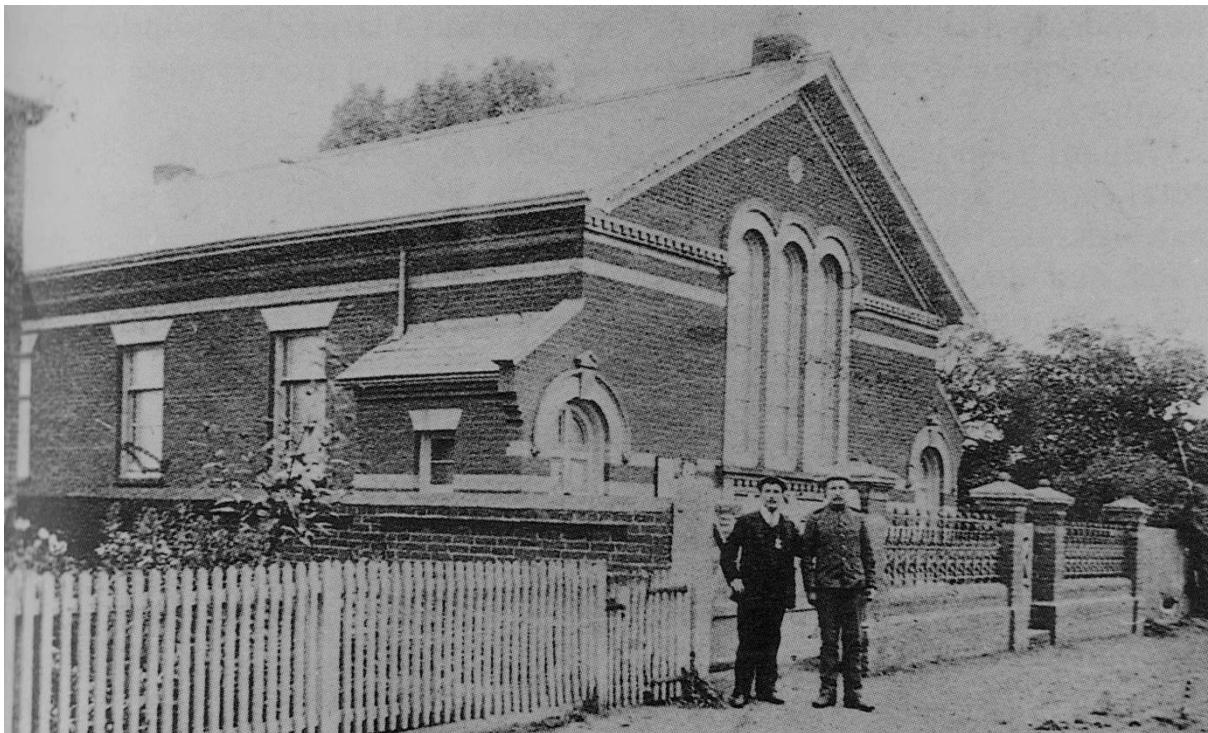
AND IVYDEAN IT STOOD WHERE THE CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA IS BY SHOPS





London Road Cottages, c. 1900–1905. The police station (no. 9) is on the right.

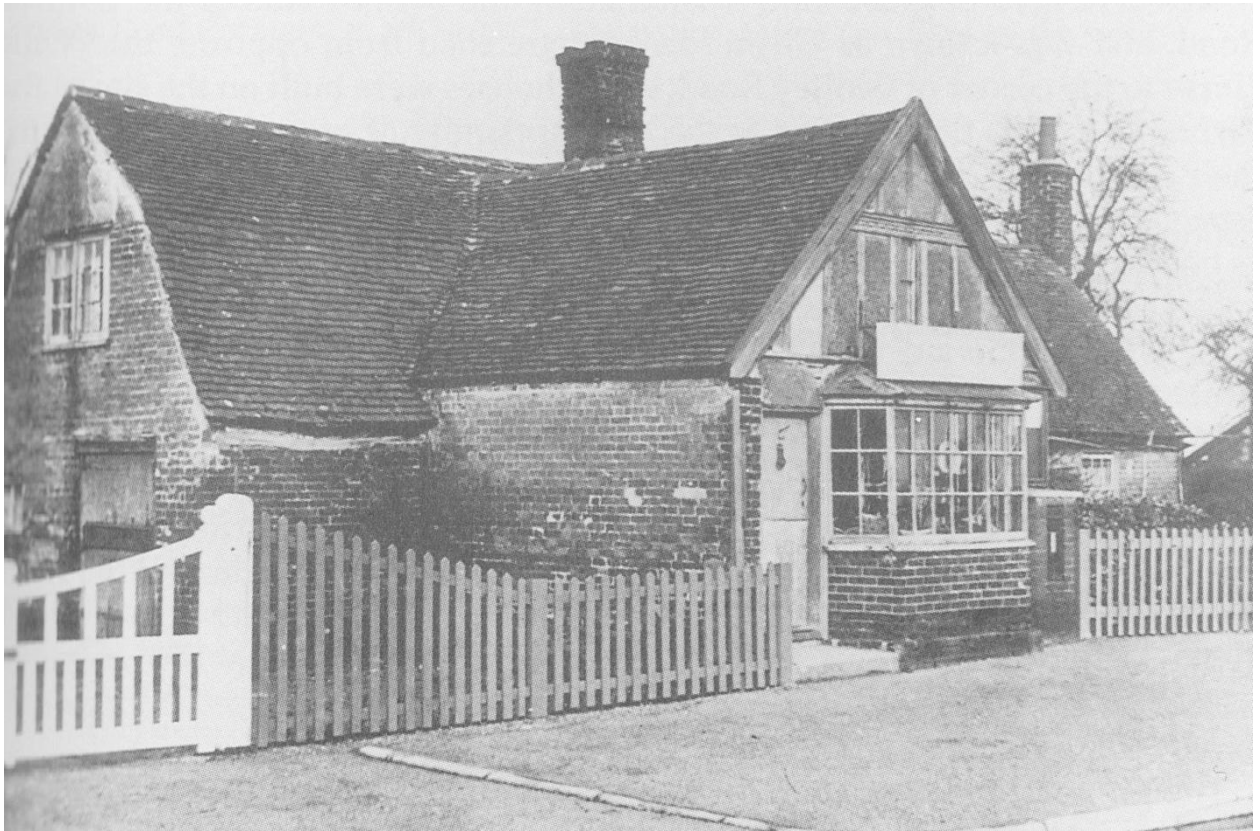
LONDON ROAD AND METHODIST CHURCH



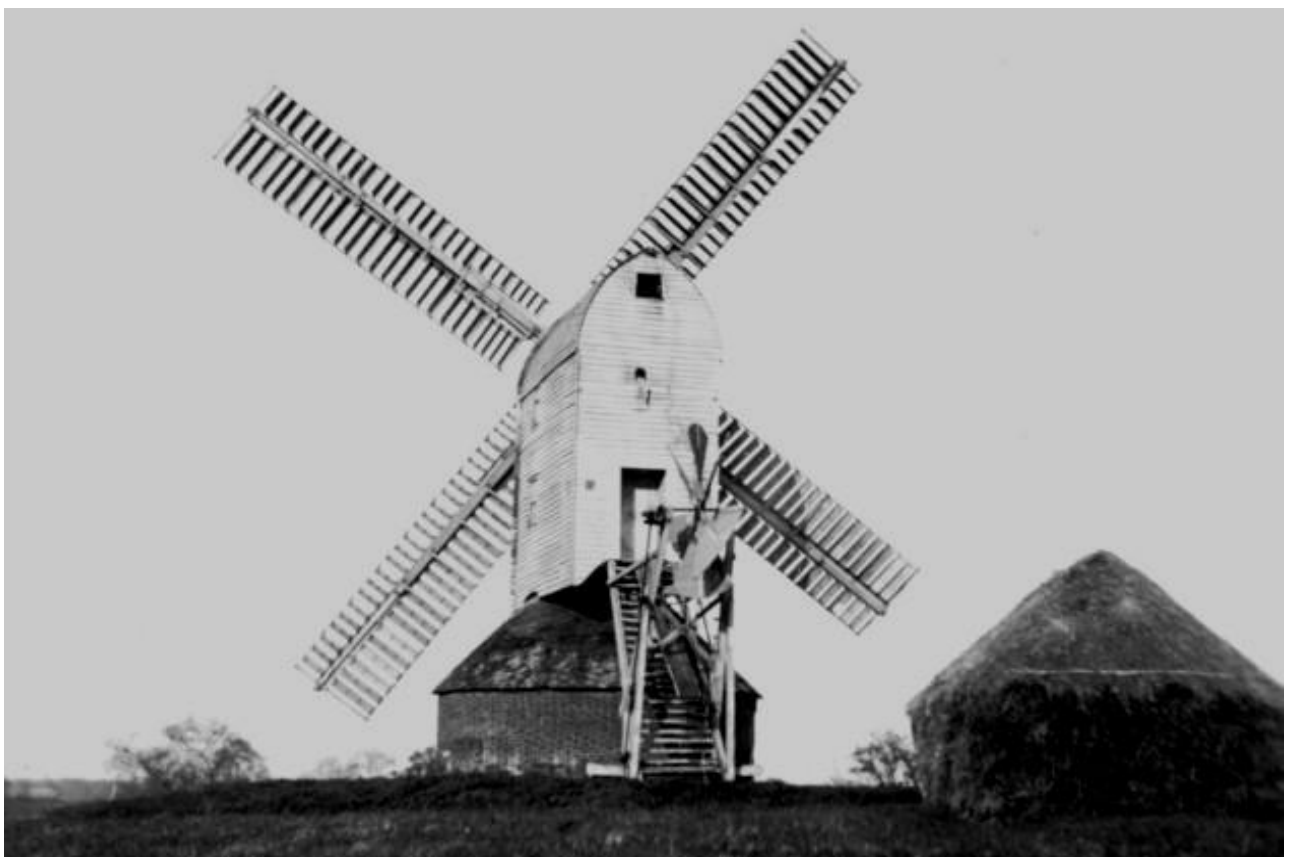


MILL LANE AND THE OLD STREET





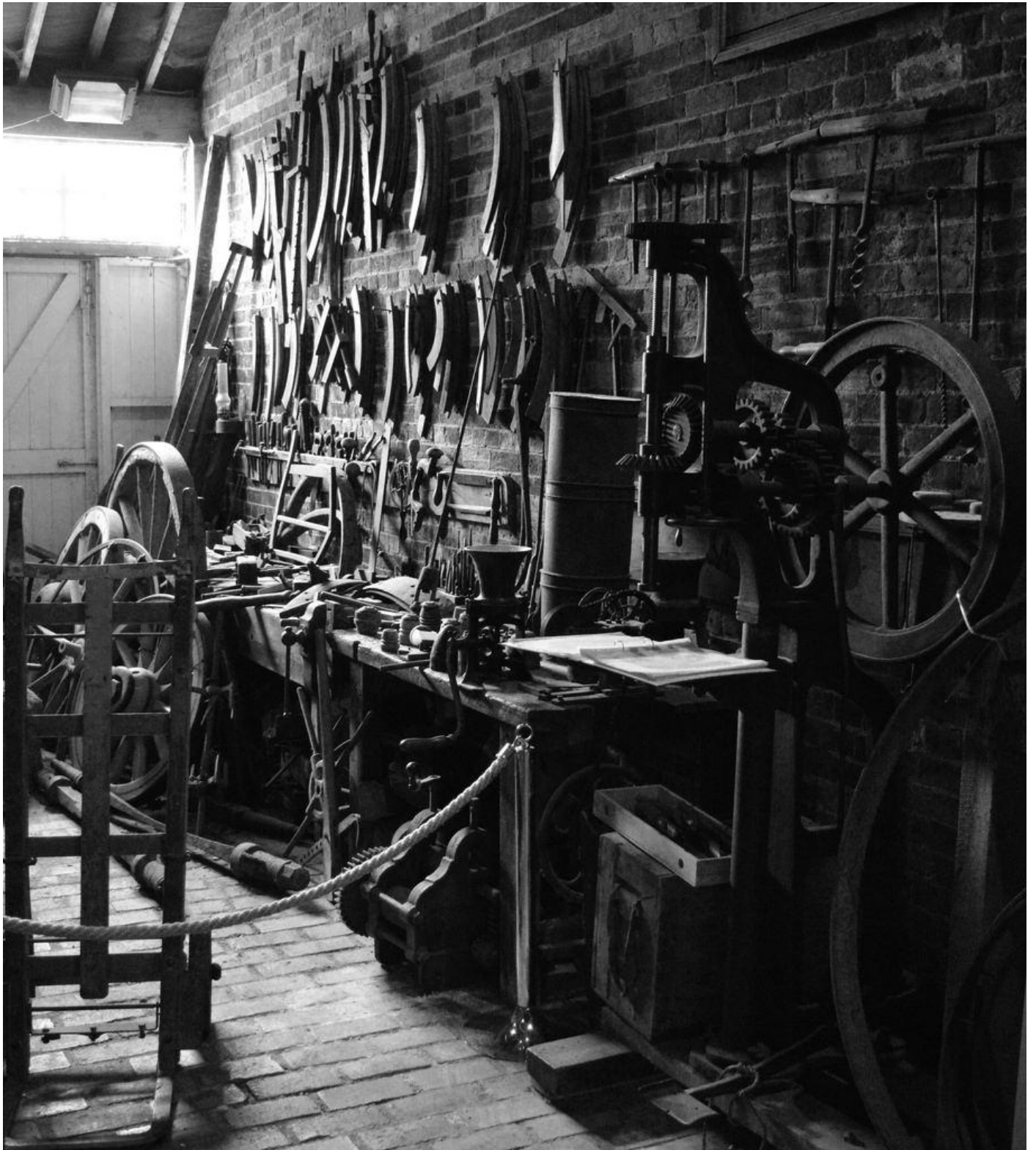
TOM SKITTERS SADDLER'S SHOP AND THE WINDMILL





**THE OLD POST OFFICE WAS IN THE STREET IN THE AREA OF THE WAR MEMORIAL
INSIDE THE INDEPENDENT CHAPEL 1927 NOW A PRIVATE HOUSE**





INSIDE A TYPICAL WHEELWRIGHT'S SHOP



George Ratford with his sons John, Stanley and Bill.

THE RATFORD BLACKSMITH FAMILY AND THE OLD RECTORY



THE INTER WAR YEARS AND WORLD WAR TWO

After the war, Capel and the country struggled to build the peace. Some women over 30 had the vote but others who had worked in the factories and in the services were told go back to their homes and let the men returning from war have their jobs back. This did not go down well as the women said that they had earned the right to continue, but the bosses looked for excuses to relieve them of their place in the workforce. With the troops' victorious return, many women found themselves surplus to requirements. The 1919 Restoration of Pre-war Practices Act, forced women to leave their wartime roles as the men came home, and the factories switched back to their peacetime roles. However, for some educated middle class women, doors that had previously been closed to them were now opened. These opportunities were the result of The Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act 1919 which made it illegal to exclude women from jobs because of their gender. The other important piece of legislation was the 1918 Representation of the People's Act which gave women a voice in British government for the first time. Despite their invaluable wartime contribution, most women were expected to return to business as usual at home, or if single and unemployed, they were pressured into becoming domestic servants all over again.

The women who joined the forces did not fare much better than their civilian counterparts. The Navy, Army and Airforce had enlisted women during the war to carry out the backroom jobs like clerks, which would release the men to take the place of those lost in the front line. However, once the war ended, they were all disbanded, not immediately but just afterwards. The Wrens were disbanded in 1919, the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, later Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps, in 1921, and the Women's Royal Air Force in 1920. The Women's Land Army was disbanded in 1919 but all would be resurrected during World War Two.

The men who returned to Capel and the surrounding area and who, before the war, had worked on the land or in the factories that supplied the major farm implements, found the average farm profits by the end of 1918 were higher than before the Great War. They thought that now there was peace their standard of living would improve from what they knew before, but there was to be a reckoning. Costs rose faster than prices and there was a shortage of skilled workers owing to the requirements of the war. Many manufacturers like Ransomes, Sims and Jefferies of Ipswich had switched, during the war years, to the production of munitions and moved away from the manufacture of farm machinery. By 1922 prices were falling for the sale of the farmers' produce. The Agricultural Act of 1920 that was supposed to provide stability for both farmers and workers had proved to be unviable and was repealed in 1921. The repeal of this Act allowed the farmers to cut the wages of their workers as it was the largest cost borne by them. This reduction in the farm workers' wages meant more hardship for them and their families. By 1925 the government with the aid of subsidies was pushing for farmers to increase their production of sugar beet. With this push in mind, they built a sugar beet factory at Sproughton and by 1934/35, East Anglia was producing 62% of the national output of sugar beet. The Wall Street crash of 1929 and the subsequent worldwide depression during the thirties had an effect on farmers, their workers and farm suppliers. The wages in 1937 of farm labourers was 33 shillings and 7 ½ pence per week compared with that of a builder's labourer of 53 shillings and 3 pence. The financial state during the inter war years of many farmers made investing in farm machinery an economic impossibility. Much was sold and bought by richer men, while other items were sold off piecemeal. The small farm became a memory of the past.

In 1918 pupils of the Capel and Wenham school won scholarships: George Pittock to Ipswich Municipal Secondary Boys' School, and Nellie Dora Taylor, Wilfred George Taylor and Ivy Riches to Stowmarket Secondary School.

A school outfitter in Ipswich ran an advert in the local press:

Schools Commencing – Smiths Suit all of Ipswich supply: School bags 11 ½ d. to 3s 6d. - Music Cases 8 ¾ d. to 7s 6d. each. - Nut Cowhide Music Bags 7s 6d. - Hair Brushes 2s 4 ½ d. – Combs 5 ½ d. - Clothes Brushes 10 ½ d to 4s 6d. each. - School Trunks 17s 6p to £2 2s. each. - Play Boxes 12s 6d to 25s each. - Nail Scissors 10 ½ d to 3s 6d each. - Pocket knives 10 ½ d to 5s 6d each. - Table knives 3s 6d each. - Electro- plated forks and spoons 3s 6d each and Pencil Boxes 4 ¾ d or 6 ½ d to 2s 6d each.

On 21st January 1919 the Irish War of Independence began between Irish Republicans and Britain. The war eventually ended on 11th July 1921. Following the war an Anglo-Irish Treaty was signed between Irish Republicans and the British government giving dominion status to Ireland similar to that of Canada and others within the Commonwealth. However, it was still part of the British Empire, except for the six counties of the North which remained a part of Britain.

This treaty was not acceptable to some Republicans and led to a civil war which was fought between those who supported the treaty, i.e. the Nationalists, and those who did not, i.e. the Republicans. It began on 28th June 1922 and ended with victory for the Nationalists on 24th May 1923.

Following what became known as the Great War, at the Capel Parish Council meeting in April 1919 thoughts turned to the peace and the type of War Memorial that should be set up. It was decided by a large majority to donate money to the East Suffolk Memorial Scheme for an enlargement of the East Suffolk Hospital to care for wounded soldiers. The following month a whist drive was held in aid of the Capel St Mary War Memorial Fund and a plaque was erected at the hospital to commemorate the enlargement of the hospital, but no record of the amounts raised can be found.

A large number of allied troops were made to take up garrison duty to maintain order on the continent of Europe. If things after the war were not bad enough, during the winter of 1918 -1919, the Spanish flu pandemic swept the globe, infecting one fifth of the world's population. At first it seemed nothing worse than a common cold but it killed more people than the war. This flu was unusual in that it killed those aged between 20 and 40 whereas normally flu kills the old and very young.

On 16th June 1919 all the available servicemen in Capel St Mary were entertained by the local farmers. A marquee was erected in the grounds of the Tankard Inn. They were treated by their hosts to an old English meal of hot roast beef and plum pudding. There were toasts to the King and the Fallen; all stood in silence. The Fallen having been duly honoured, Mr. Jabez Green spoke of what was owed to the forces. Ex-sergeant Chiverton M.M. replied mentioning the few air raids that frightened some people at home, but which were only a slight taste of what the men in the trenches experienced every night for months. Following the toasts, the speeches and the meal, entertainment was laid on. Messrs T. Mullins and J. Connell came from Ipswich and their songs were much appreciated. Mr. F. Alexander presided at the piano. There were also songs by Messrs G. Reynolds, J. Riches, Bob Bray, C. Goodchild and W. Rout. Smokes and liquid refreshments were supplied and a very convivial evening was spent.

The Tankard Inn, which stood in the area where the underpass and the Turkish restaurant are now, was pulled down in 1928. Of the other three pubs that the men would have known, the King's Head closed as a public house in 1969 and was converted into a private residence, although if you look closely, you can still see where the pub sign used to hang; the Plough was demolished in 1970 and although a new Plough was built on the site, it closed in the early 1990s. Business premises now occupy the site. The White Horse Inn is the only surviving public house that the men who left the village to go to war would have known.

On June 28th 1919, exactly five years to the day that Arch-Duke Ferdinand was assassinated, the Treaty of Versailles was signed. World War One was now officially at an end. The treaty demanded from Germany a compensation bill of £10 billion, plus the loss of its naval submarine and surface fleets, the disbanding of its Air Force, and its Army to number no more than 100,000; conscription was also to be abolished. On top of these restrictions, Germany had to hand over in good condition thousands of heavy guns and machine guns, plus trains including wagons and lorries. Germany protested saying the Allies were trying to introduce slavery.

David Lloyd George, the Prime Minister, asked if this was the start of the countdown to World War Two, as the terms laid on Germany were so harsh that another war would have to be fought in 25 years' time. He was only five years out.

In July, National Peace Day was celebrated in Capel St Mary combined with Little Wenham. There were ploughing matches in four classes with forty-five entrants held in the morning in a field loaned by Mr. Jabez Green. In the afternoon on the Rectory meadow, there were sports which included races for men, women, and children as well as side shows and a tug of war competition. During the afternoon events, the Airship NS7 sailed over and signalled a greeting with flags. After tea, the Rev. Johnson gave a stirring address on the happy occasion and sympathetically mentioned those who had lost their lives in the war.

In 1919, there were also reports of a fatal motor cycle accident at what was at the time a dangerous right-angled bend on the London Road near Bush Farm, Capel St Mary, adding to the long list of accidents on that particular bend. At the time a casual observer would question why that corner should be the scene of many accidents. The road was wide with a straight approach to the corner bordered by a grass strip; no doubt this engendered a feeling of over-confidence on the part of drivers who then found themselves going too fast to negotiate the bend safely.

On July 14th, an 8-cylinder Cadillac, belonging to the Information Bureau of the American Navy, was travelling from Pulham to London carrying the news that the R34 Airship had safely landed on her return from America. It was also carrying press reports and a letter to the King. As it arrived at the bend at Bush Farm at around 10.45 a.m. it collided with a horse and trap going in the opposite direction. It belonged to a Captain Halford of East Bergholt, and was being driven by Charles Lily with Miss R. Wenham as a passenger. The car driver turned sharp left to avoid the horse and trap, but the back part of the car caught the horse. The support of the hood entered the horse's throat and killed it instantly. The car then crashed into the hedge at the gateway to the farm, carrying away the stout oak gatepost. The occupants of the trap escaped with a few bruises and shock, but those in the car were not so lucky. A special representative of the international news service, Mr. W. E. Mallabar, was thrown from the car, was knocked out and received concussion. He was still unconscious when he arrived at the hospital; U.S.N. Air Mechanic W.B. Day sustained an injury to his right hand and knee, and a cut artery in the right arm; Lieutenant Robertson of the Air Ministry had a few bruises on his face, while Lieutenant Commander De Witt Ramsey, U.S. Navy, escaped unharmed. P.C. Eade of Capel St Mary and Dr Wood of East Bergholt who was visiting a patient in Capel were soon on the scene where they gave first aid until the ambulance arrived to take the injured to hospital. Mr. Mallabar was detained while Mechanic Day, having had his wounds attended to, was discharged.

In December 1919 the Capel St Mary Football Club was entertained to tea and a musical evening at the Parish Hall by Mrs. Johnson; a very enjoyable evening was spent. Mr. Frank Packard gave a demonstration of the correct game of football, songs were sung by Miss Johnson, Mr. Semer and the Rev. Johnson, and toasts were drunk to the hostess, patrons of the Club and Mr. Jessup, the President of the Club.

In February 1921 a concert was held in the Parish Hall to revive the Conservative and Unionist Association under the new title of Constitutional and Unionist Association of Capel St. Mary and Wenham. Mr. Jacob Reynolds took the chair. Local talent, combined with a conjuror, a comedian and a lady artist from Ipswich, produced a varied programme which was heartily enjoyed. Mr. Sawyer of Ipswich gave a graphic account of the working of the Socialists in England, from his own experiences as a sailor in the Navy and as a working man; he also highlighted the logical end to which that policy had led in Russia. Mr. B. B. Taylor pointed out that the one way to defeat the Socialists was to work for the Constitutional Party and not to allow them to achieve their ends simply by the apathy of the voters. He appealed to all to join the Capel and Wenham Association formed for that purpose.

In a report dated 1926 a new Magistrate for Suffolk was sworn in, Major Granville Cholmondeley Feilden D.S.O. of Aisthorpe, Capel St Mary. He had formerly been a magistrate for the County of Middlesex.

On 30th November 1928 many ex-servicemen of Capel St Mary and Wenham Parva (Little Wenham) met in the Parish Hall to discuss the formation of an association that would foster the friendships and comradeship that they had had in the war. The first order of business was to elect a chairman. Captain E. L. Hughes OBE was duly elected with 51 members present.

Entries in the Minute Book of the General and first meeting of the Capel and Wenham's Ex-servicemen's Association record that they agreed on a committee, and to pay a subscription of one shilling per month, half of which was to be contributed to the Benevolent Fund. One week later the first committee meeting was held in the Plough Inn to formulate rules and adopt a future policy. The following year there were 42 members out of a possible 60 ex-servicemen and efforts were made to recruit the remainder. At the second AGM a Church Parade was suggested for Armistice Day. It would leave the School House and march to the Church. Donations for hardship of mainly £1 or £2 were recorded. A highlight of the previous year was said to have been the summer outing to Clacton.

In 1932 a branch of The British Legion was formed within the Association, and it was decided to alternate the Church Parade held on Armistice Day between Bentley, as many members lived there, and Capel. This arrangement continued for many years. Discussions took place regarding the purchase of a British Legion Standard. The ladies' committee raised the funds for its purchase, and on the 23rd July 1933, the adoption and dedication of the new Standard took place following a parade of eleven branches from the White Horse, through the village to the Rectory Meadow. The dedication service was carried out here by the Venerable Archdeacon of Ipswich, Eric Rede Buckley. Twenty-five members attended the Festival of Remembrance at the Albert Hall in 1933. On November 29th 1934, the branch obtained a place in the Guard of Honour at the wedding held in Westminster Abbey of His Royal Highness Prince George, the Duke of Kent, to Her Royal Highness Princess Marina of Greece and Denmark.

1933 saw Adolf Hitler become leader of Germany. He immediately started to change German society by decree. Laws were introduced banning opposition parties and establishing the persecution of the Jewish population. He condemned those who had signed the treaty of Versailles and began to take back areas that had been ceded under the terms of the treaty. Once he had absolute power, he began to rebuild the German armed forces in violation of the terms agreed at Versailles. The British Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, tried to appease Hitler but to no avail, and in 1938 Chamberlain declared “peace in our time”. The Second World War was to break out in 1939.

During the 1930s many changes took place within the village. The Water Mill closed and the buildings were converted into private dwellings and stand opposite the Mushroom Farm on Mill Hill. With the advent of mechanization, the wheelwrights’ craft slipped into history. Both of them had closed by the start of World War Two. The blacksmiths carried on into the 1950s, but they too are also now part of Capel’s history; John Ratford was the last. Other skilled workers like the saddler and harness makers also closed; one shop was on the London Road junction with The Street. Tom Skitter was the last one to close his shop and he then became the licensee of the White Horse Inn. In the late 1930s the war clouds drew closer. Hitler continued to bully his neighbours. On 12th March 1938 he marched into Austria and declared the Anschluss, the unification of Germany with the Austrian Republic, to form a greater Germany. The unification had been tried after the First World War following the breakup of the Austro-Hungarian Empire but had been banned under various treaties like Versailles in 1919.

By 1939 war now seemed unavoidable. The British government introduced on 27th April The Military Training Act which became law on 26th May 1939. This meant that all men aged 20 and 21 would be called up for six months full-time military training, then placed on reserve. This Act was superseded by The National Service (Armed Forces) Act on 3rd September 1939, the day war was declared. This enforced full conscription of all men between the ages of 18 and 41 resident in the United Kingdom. This Act allowed, as in the First World War, for people to object to being conscripted on the grounds of conscience. It continued after the war in a modified form with the National Service Act 1948, and ended in 1960.

After a period of appeasement with Germany, which had not stopped them taking over Austria and other former German territories like the Sudetenland (areas of the former Czechoslovakia), Germany would eventually strike the match that set the world on fire. They started World War Two by invading Poland on September 1st 1939. This was a step too far, and on September 3rd the British Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, came on the radio and announced that the British Ambassador in Berlin had handed the German government a note saying that unless it gave an undertaking to withdraw its troops from Poland by 11:00 that day, a state of war would exist between them. He went on to say, “I have to tell you now that no such undertaking has been received and Britain is now at war with Germany”.

In 1914 Britain went to war against Germany to fight for Belgium, but now in 1939, Britain went to war for the second time against Germany, this time to fight for Poland.

The evacuation of civilians was designed to protect people, especially children, from the risks of air raids on major cities. Operation Pied Piper began on September 1st 1939 and would eventually relocate some 3.5 million people. Capel was considered a safe zone, and within a week a group of Dr Barnardo’s children arrived from the East end of London. The Girl Guides and the Women’s Voluntary Service allocated them homes. A large party went into the old rectory (Aisthorpe) as it was now empty, and a smaller group went to the Manor House. This influx of children caused problems at the school but Mrs. Grayson, who was the headmistress at the time, solved the problem with the help of two lady teachers. After the school’s morning assembly, a group of 30 children were marched along the road to the church hall in Days Road where they would spend the rest of the day; another group was marched to the Methodist Chapel.

Within a few months Capel and the rest of the East coast area became a danger zone so the evacuee children were moved to a safer area. The Capel children, unless sent away by their parents, stayed in the village. When the air raid warning sounded, the children were taken out of school into a field to shelter under the hedge. There they would chant their tables and sing the alphabet backwards and forwards. On wet days they would sit under their desks which was to protect them from falling masonry. Throughout the war the girls made socks and mittens for servicemen. They adopted a ship and each child would write a note and send it with their finished article. The boys would spend time in the school garden. The resulting produce would be bagged and sold, with the money raised being used in one of the many schemes to help the war effort.

Notices were displayed all over the village to dig for victory. People’s flower beds and lawns disappeared so they could produce food. Many iron railings and metal gates were taken away, including those in the churchyard, to make munitions.

The British Expeditionary Force was formed on 2nd September 1939 under the Command of Field Marshal the 6th Viscount Gort VC. Following the declaration of war on September 3rd, the BEF crossed to France the following day. They assembled along the Belgian-French border and started digging field defences along the border until 9th May 1940.

We now had men and women from the village being called up or enlisting or trying to re-enlist all over again. The war that was fought to end all wars had ended less than a quarter of a century before.

Also in 1939 the National Registration Act was given royal assent on 5th September which meant that everyone would be required to be registered. It began operating on National Registration Day September 29th. Prior to this day, a total of 65,000 enumerators across the country had delivered the forms to every household. Householders were required to fill in the following details: Name, Sex, Age, Occupation, Profession, Trade or Employment, Address, Marital Status, Membership of Naval, Military, or Air Force Reserves or Auxiliary Forces, Civil Defence Services or Reserves. On the following Sunday and Monday, the enumerators visited each and every household again to check the forms and issue the completed Identity Card to every member of the household be they man, woman or child. The I.D. card was required to be carried at all times and each person was obliged to produce their card on demand or at a police station within 48 hours. P.C. Shaw was the wartime village constable from 1939 to 1945.

With the fear of poison gas being used by Germany, as had happened in the First World War, every man, woman and child, including babies, was issued with a gas mask. It was usually carried in a cardboard box with a tape over the shoulder. Lessons were learnt from World War One where food and everyday items became scarce because of the sinking of merchant ships. Rationing had to be introduced, first on a voluntary basis in February 1917, then gradually on a compulsory basis from December 1917 through to February 1918. This time the government was prepared for the German attacks on merchant ships by surface raiders like the Graf Spee, and also submarines. The government issued ration books, first for petrol at the outbreak of war in 1939, followed quickly by the first foodstuffs in January 1940. By the end of the war and just after, these books contained coupons for most things from clothing to food. These coupons were to be removed by the shopkeepers as and when the purchases were made. War rationing would end in 1954 with meat being the last item to be de-rationed.

The people and the government were unhappy with Chamberlain's leadership and on 9th May 1940 he resigned, and the following day Churchill became the wartime Prime Minister of a Coalition government. Churchill, on coming to power, made his famous speech to the House of Commons on 13th May, containing these words:

"I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat".

Meanwhile the BEF who had been sent to France in 1939 waited in what became known as the phony war until the Battle of France began on the 10th May 1940. The BEF constituted 10% of the Allied forces on the Western Front. The battle was a disaster; the German forces made rapid advances after the capitulation of the Belgian Army on 28th May, forcing the Allies back to Dunkirk, where a mass evacuation (Operation Dynamo) began. It managed to bring back some 338,226 British, French and Belgian troops but all heavy equipment, like tanks and trucks, was lost. The evacuation lasted from 26th May until 4th June 1940. Following the evacuation, Churchill again made a rousing speech to the House of Commons, which included the words:

"We shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender."

The BEF losses, in terms of men, were 11,014 killed, 14,074 wounded and 41,338 either captured or missing. During this same period the 51st Highland Division was fighting alongside the French and were cut off. A second BEF tried but failed to link up, and a second evacuation took place from Le Havre between the 10th and 13th June. Others escaped through various Atlantic and Mediterranean ports. It was during this period, from the start of the Battle of France on 9th May to the final evacuation on the 13th June, that Capel lost its first casualties of World War Two: Frank Pittock fell on 27th May and Arthur Singleton, on 10th June.

With the Battle of France being lost and the fear of invasion, the British government decided to form a home defence force known as the Local Defence Volunteers (LDV). It would be open to those too young or too old to join the regular forces of the crown and those between the ages of 17 and 65 in reserved occupations. They were first issued with an armband with the letters LDV and gathered whatever weapons they could muster from pitchforks to old blunderbusses and shotguns. They were keen but in reality would have stood no chance against the German war machine. Upon Churchill's suggestion,

they were renamed the Home Guard on 22nd July 1940. Men from Capel made up local auxiliary units that were part of 202 Battalion "Britain's underground Army". The Wenham unit had a dugout at Jermyns Farm and the Capel unit had a dugout in Bentley woods. There was a third dugout that contained their explosives and ammunition. These hidden dugouts were connected by field telephones. The dugout that hid the explosives and ammunition was blown up after the war as the explosives were deemed too dangerous to move. Each man had his own weapon and ammunition. Some of these men tell their own story in *The Book of Capel*. These units would test out the security of various sites around the locality, for example RAF Martlesham Heath, first used by the Royal Flying Corps in 1917, and Raydon Airfield, built in 1942 and operational from 1943.

During 1941 life in Capel carried on much as before. Church services were still held and ARP patrols took place to make sure that blackout regulations were being followed. The Home Guard now had proper weapons and uniforms instead of LDV armbands, pitchforks and shotguns. They drilled and practised with their weapons on the Aisthorpe meadow. After a day's work the men would come home, put on their uniform and do a shift, either dusk to midnight or midnight to dawn guarding pre-arranged checkpoints and looking out for parachutists or any other suspicious activity. At Easter it was reported that a stirrup pump had been placed in the Church Porch along with other fire-fighting appliances, and a lorry had been equipped as a fire engine and based in Pages Yard on the London Road, opposite White Horse Road of today. It was late in 1941, on December 10th, that the sad news arrived of the sinking of HMS *Prince of Wales* and HMS *Repulse* by the Japanese off Malaya, with the loss of some 840 men killed, 327 on the *Prince of Wales* and 513 on *Repulse*.

The railway branch line running from Bentley to Hadleigh had been used solely for freight since the passenger service had been withdrawn in 1932. It saw an increase in activity for the war effort in 1939 with produce like flour, sugar beet and timber, plus other commodities, being transported. Then in 1942, with the building of Raydon airfield, the passenger service came back to life carrying service personnel. The first to arrive were the men of the 833rd and the 862nd Aviation Engineer Battalions to build the airfield. There was also a big increase in the materials required for its construction as a standard bomber airfield although it was only used for fighter aircraft. The first fighter wing to occupy the airfield was the US 357 Fighter Group; its operational fighter squadrons were 362nd, 363rd and 364th who had moved from Casper Wyoming in November 1943. Two other fighter groups, the 122nd and 353rd, would operate from Raydon on a rotational basis. The most famous pilot of 363rd fighter squadron during World War Two was Charles (Chuck) Yeager, who was the first pilot credited with breaking the sound barrier on 14 October 1947. As the trains carrying the Americans passed through Capel to Raydon Holt Station, children lined the route to collect sweets or coins thrown to them by the American personnel. During this period the Americans became a regular sight around Capel and the surrounding villages. Children would be entertained by the American servicemen on the base at Christmas, and many adults were employed by them in various jobs. At the height of its wartime activity, there were over 2,800 personnel billeted in camps named Dodge City and Youngstown. After the war they became homes for local people at a cost of £1 per week. There was water and drainage but no electricity, with one toilet shared between six huts.

Other activities within Capel during 1942 revolved around the Civil Defence preparations like fire drills and air raid precautions, plus further Home Guard training. On the other side of the world Singapore fell to the Japanese on February 15th 1942. Among those taken prisoner were many men from the Suffolk Regiment including Harry Burch from Bluegates Cottages, off the Old London Road. Another seven men would become prisoners of war during the conflict: Victor Baker, Albert Hood, Michael Melhuish, Harry Miller, Percy Norton, Ernest Potter and Vernon Skitter. Three more men from Capel would fall in 1942; Bill Fraser was killed on January 12th while serving with the Federation of Malay States in Malaya; his brother, Raymond, fell on 16th September fighting in Madagascar while serving with the Queen's Royal West Kent Regiment attached to the King's African Rifles, and Frank Green, Merchant Navy, died when the S.S. *Goolistan* was torpedoed by a German U-Boat on 23rd November in the Arctic Ocean. There were no survivors. The war in general had not gone well for Britain until the second battle of El Alamein in October 1942 when General Montgomery defeated Rommel's Afrika Korps. Later, on 10th November Churchill would say:

"Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning".

Later of El Alamein he would say: "Before Alamein we never had a victory. After Alamein we never had a defeat".

Easter Sunday 1943 was dedicated as Civil Defence Sunday and was marked by a special morning service attended by a large gathering of the various Civil Defence Services. These were made up of Air Raid Precautions, Auxiliary Fire Service, Fire Watchers, Rescue Teams, First Aid Parties and Stretcher Bearers. During the course of the war some 1.9 million people served in Civil Defence across the country and 2,400 lost their lives. Sunday May 16th was Youth Sunday with a parade of the youth organisations and the Home Guard through the village, followed by a demonstration by the Home

Guard on the school meadow. In North Africa Britain and its Allies were pushing the Germans and Italians out of Africa. The desert campaign ended on 13th May 1943. During this campaign Capel would lose Lt Colonel Barclay of the Black Watch who died on 25th May from wounds received in the battle of Tunisia. Also during 1943, Harold Steward RAF VR was reported missing on 18th May in the North Sea off the coast of Holland. Harry Burch, captured in Singapore in February 1942, would die on the Burma railway on 12th September 1943.

In January 1944, there was a cloudy, mild and generally dry start to the New Year. In February up to eight inches of snow fell in the Peak District, and in May violent thunderstorms in North Yorkshire caused flash floods leading to buildings collapsing and three deaths.

On the 19th March a badly damaged B17 Flying Fortress Bomber named Missy Irish of the 100th Bomb Group, operating from Thorpe Abbots Airfield, Norfolk, flew low over Capel and made an emergency landing at Raydon Airfield. It was limping home with a weakened structure after taking a direct hit from a German 88mm anti aircraft shell which blew a large hole in the radio compartment. The radio operator was blown out of the aircraft, which was later salvaged and put back into service.

This was the year that would see large prisoner of war camps erected across Britain following the success of the D Day landings on 6th June 1944. Prior to that the bulk of the prisoners would be sent to America and Canada. Capel would see German and Italian prisoners of war from the local camps working the fields and in the latter stages of the war, they would become a common sight in Capel and the surrounding villages. Some of the more kindly prisoners made small wooden toys for the children. One such gift, from an Italian prisoner, was small wooden boat, given to a Capel child of six years old. On its first outing it collapsed so she took it back to the prisoner and he fitted a metal keel. That boat, now seaworthy, is still in her possession and much treasured by its owner.

Following the Allies' successful D Day landings on June 6th, the Germans launched their vengeance weapon, the V1 or doodlebug, as it became known, on the south of England. At their height they were launching 100 a day. One came down in a field in Capel just off the Bentley Road, causing no damage except for a large crater. In total they fired 9,521 on the south of England and the allied forces as they moved to liberate France and the rest of Europe. The last launch of the V1 was on 29th March 1945. In September 1944 the Germans had started launching the V2, the world's first long range missile. Over 3,000 were launched, the last also on March 29th 1945. It landed on a block of flats in Valance Road, London killing 134 people. It was during the breakout from the landing beaches that Capel lost Phillip Pells of the Royal Tank Regiment on 18th July, and Reginald Allen of the Hampshire Regiment on 11th August. These were the 9th and 10th casualties of World War Two.

On January 3rd 1945, Capel witnessed a fatal air crash when Captain James Poindexter of 352 fighter squadron, flying a P51 Mustang out of Raydon Airfield, tried to make an emergency landing in a field owned by Mr Frank Packard of Boynton Hall. On hitting the ground, the plane burst into flames and James Poindexter was killed.

In the early morning of 25th February 1945, many men from their base in Bungay witnessed what they thought must result in a terrible accident as the B24 Miss Liberty took off for its 35th and final operational mission. One engine started to emit white smoke. The pre-flight check had been routine and clear. At 07:45hrs. while at 6,000 feet and climbing to altitude, the waist gunner S/Sgt Fred P. Wood reported that the number three engine had begun to emit white smoke. By this time, flames were coming out and licking the waist window.

The official report of the pilot, 1st Lt. Adam R. Kubinciak, states: "I observed the smoke about the same time that T/Sgt Hershkowitz and S/Sgt Woods sounded off on the intercom. I immediately told the crew to fasten chutes and stand by. I moved the mixture control on number three engine to idle cut off, and had Lt McManners, the co-pilot, turn off the switches on that engine and feather the propeller. Then I slipped the a/c to the left which did not help decrease the flames whatsoever. At 4,500 ft I told the crew to abandon ship. At 4,000 ft I looked back to see if all on the flight deck had bailed out and observed Lt McManners hung up on the lower bomb in the right bomb bay. With that, I immediately left my post to free him. I managed to kick him loose at which time the plane peeled to the right and dived down. I was pinned to the cat-walk by centrifugal force but managed to roll to the left and the slipstream caught my head and shoulders and carried me free of the aircraft".

The aircraft crashed in flames onto two houses in Capel St Mary. Luckily one of the gunners had had time to pull the pins from the bomb load, and the only injury was to the owner of one of the houses who suffered a broken leg when the aircraft crashed onto his home. The crew all exited the aircraft safely, and were picked up at various locations around the district.

The crew were: 1st Lt Adam R Kubinciak, pilot; 2nd Lt George B McManners, co-pilot; 1st Lt Robert C Cowan, bombardier; S/Sgt Thomas W Dobbs, nose gunner; T/Sgt Joseph B Roberts, engineer; T Sgt Gerson Hershkowitz, radio operator; S/Sgt Fred P Wood, tail gunner; S/Sgt Hubert D Holloway, ball turret, and Sgt Franklin M Hack, waist gunner.

Foot note: The crash site was Castle Acres and St Luke's they stood at the junction of The Street and Thorney Road. (The site is now occupied by two bungalows: Nos. 12 and 14 The Street). The only injury was to Mr Riches. In *The Book of Capel* and the book, *Fragments of Capel*, they report that Mr. Riches sustained a broken arm in the crash, not a broken leg as stated in the official report. Following the crash, the other occupants in the surrounding area were evacuated until the bombs had been removed; pieces of the plane have been discovered in recent times in the gardens.

The war was now moving in the Allies' favour. After the early setbacks, Germany was now struggling to turn the tide of the inevitable defeat. After the first landings in Italy in July 1943, the Allies had forced the Italians to surrender in September 1943, but the German forces continued to fight till April 1945. Although Rome had been liberated by the end of June 1944, the Allies continued to move up through Italy meeting strong German resistance till the end of the campaign. The Russians were pushing the Germans back after their victory at Stalingrad in 1943. Following the D Day landings on 6th June 1944, the Germans were pushed back to their own borders. On 4th May 1945, Field Marshal Montgomery would eventually take the unconditional surrender on Luneburg Heath of all German forces in the Netherlands, North West Germany, including all islands in Denmark, and all naval ships in those areas. On 7th May General Jodl, representing the German High Command, signed the unconditional surrender of both the East and West forces. This would take effect on May 8th. The European conflict of the Second World War was at an end. Before the war's end, Kenneth Reynolds passed away on 3rd May 1945, at home in Capel, from an illness contracted while in the Middle East. He had been mentioned in dispatches twice and is buried in St Mary's churchyard, Capel. The final casualty of the conflict was Edgar Pittock who died on 10th August 1946 and is buried in All Saints churchyard, Lt. Wenham.

Following the surrender of Germany but before the surrender of Japan, the general election, held in July 1945, swept Churchill's Coalition government from office, and put in power the Labour government of Clement Attlee, with a 145 majority. Almost immediately things began to change; the schoolchildren of Capel, like everywhere else in the country, who were looking forward to leaving school at the age of 14, found that under Labour, they now could not leave until the age of 15.

Japan finally surrendered in September aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay, but only after two atomic bombs had been dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August. Then the servicemen and women of Capel started to come home, and the village tried to settle down once more to being a quiet, peaceful community of just under 200 houses. At its peak, the number of Capel residents serving in His Majesty's forces full time totalled 51 men and 16 women.

In 1946 at a parish meeting, called on 17th April to discuss peace celebrations for 8th June, only two members of the public were present. It was therefore proposed by Lt Commander Harris, and seconded by the Rev. Robertson that in view of the lack of enthusiasm, the parish council take no further action in the matter of organising celebrations for Victory Day.

The new Labour government continued to make changes, first to the major industries by adopting a nationalisation programme. The first to come under government control was the Bank of England in 1946, followed by coal in 1947, railways, road haulage and electricity in 1948, and then steel in 1949.

In 1947 the government gave independence to India, and split Muslim communities into East and West Pakistan by introducing the Indian Independence Act. In 1948 it granted Burma independence, and the National Health Service came into being.

Meanwhile in Capel the residents arranged a fête for peace celebrations on a meadow belonging to Aisthorpe; the children were collected by horse and wagons. With the usual stalls and games, a good time was had by one and all, with a pause for reflection on those who had been lost during the conflict. In June 1950 North Korea backed by China and Russia invaded South Korea by crossing the 38th parallel, the border between the two countries. The fighting would continue until the Armistice was signed on 27th July 1953. It was during this conflict that the final casualty from Capel would fall; Lt. Peter Harris of the Fleet Air Arm was lost during workup on 27th September 1950. He is, for the present, the last man on the War Memorial.

On the 27th March 1953 Mrs. Harris of Pound Cottage gave an illuminated book in memory of her son, Peter. It contains the names of those lost in World War Two and was dedicated by Rev. Beasley of HMS Ganges and placed on a bracket beneath the brass plaque, showing the names of those from the village lost in World War One, in St. Mary's Church.

CAPEL ST MARY	
ROLL OF HONOUR	
WORLD WAR TWO	
1940	
Frank Leonard Pittock	27th May R.E.
Arthur Singleton	10th June R.A.
1942	
Eustace David William Fraser	12 Jan Fed Malay States
Raymond Kenneth Joseph Fraser	16th Sept RWKent
Frank Green	23rd Nov M.N.
1943	
Jabez Harold Steward	18th May RAF VR
Walter Patrick Barclay	22nd May Blk Watch
Harry Walter Burch	12th Sept Suf Regt
1944	
Phillip Russell Pells	18th July RTR
Reginald Harrold Allen	11th Aug Hamp Regt
1945	
Kenneth Tripp Reynolds	3rd May R.Sigs
1946	
Edgar Walter Haste Pittock	10th Aug. REME

CAPEL ST MARY	
ROLE OF HONOUR	
KOREA	
1950	
Peter Edward Mead Harris	27th Sep R.N. F.A.A.

SAPPER 1986393 FRANK LEONARD PITTOCK

5 FIELD COMPANY ROYAL ENGINEERS

1911 - 1940



Frank was born in Capel St Mary, one of eleven children of Alfred Pittock and Blanche Pittock née Cutts. The children were: George Arthur (1905 – 1984), Edgar Walter Haste (1906 – 1946), Albert Nelson Bennett (1908 – 1961), Sylvia Blanche (1910 – 1973), Frank Leonard (1911 – 1940), Edith Lillian (1913 – 1989), Arthur Alfred (1915 – 1979), Winifred Kate (1917 – 1986), Joseph Edward (1919 – 2007), William Ronald (1921 - ?), John Frederick (1926 – 1955). All the children were educated in Capel St Mary School.

Their father, Alfred, had been born in Capel St Mary in 1880 and was employed as a platelayer on the railway and was living in the Railway Crossing Gate House, Little Wenham. He married Blanche Cutts in Grimsby, Lincolnshire in 1904. Alfred died in 1934 at Little Wenham. Blanche was born in 1882 in Grimsby and died in 10 New Council Houses, Capel St Mary on 9th May 1950.

Frank married Winifred Wood Brown in 1938 in Lewisham, Kent. At the time of his death they were living in East Dulwich, London. Following his death Winifred went on to marry Harry Heath in 1945. Winifred's occupation was an assistant nurse.

Frank was serving with the Royal Engineers as part of the British Expeditionary Force who were forced back to Dunkirk by the German Blitzkrieg when he was killed on 27th May 1940. It was the first day of Operation Dynamo when the British, along with French and Belgium troops, were evacuated from the beaches. The operation lasted from 27th May to 4th June 1940. From this came the legend of the Little Ships who rescued 338,226 men from the beaches around Dunkirk. Frank's unit would have been employed blowing bridges, blocking roadways, and preparing defences to delay the advance of the German War Machine.

Frank is remembered with Honour in Beuvry Communal Cemetery France Grave G8 and in the Book of Remembrance in St Mary's Church, Capel St Mary, Suffolk.

Frank was entitled to receive:

The 1939 – 1945 Star

1939 – 1945 War Medal.

GUNNER 1427537 ARTHUR SINGLETON

4th BATTERY 2nd ANTI-AIRCRAFT REGIMENT ROYAL ARTILLERY

1913 – 1940



Arthur was born in Bristol in 1913 to David Singleton and Maud Mary Cook . David was a Engineers Grinder and Maud was a General Domestic Servant. For a time, they lived with the Cook Family on the London Road, Capel St Mary. Arthur's mother, Maud was born around 1884 in Capel St Mary Suffolk

Arthur was educated in Capel School while living on the London Road. He married Amy G Ward in Stoke Newington in the early part of 1940. Amy was born in Wickham Market, Suffolk in 1907 and lived with her father, Josiah, a widower, in Wickham Market. On the 1939 Register he is listed as a retired bricklayer; Amy is listed as an unpaid domestic servant. The Singletons lived for a time not far from the Methodist Church in The Street, Capel St Mary. Following Arthur's death, the family moved back to Wickham Market.

Arthur was serving with the 4th Battalion 2nd Anti-Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery, possibly as part of the ring defences around the BEF evacuation from the beaches of Dunkirk during Operation Dynamo that took place between 26th May and 4th June 1940. Following the evacuation, a second BEF was formed to try and link up with those cut off by the German advances. It failed, and the second evacuation took place from Le Havre between the 10th and 13th June. It was during this time that Arthur was killed in action on 10th June 1940.

Arthur is remembered with Honour:

In the Calais Canadian War Cemetery, Leubringen, France, and is buried in grave 7 g 2.

Arthur is also Commemorated on the Wickham Market War Memorial.

Arthur would have been entitled to:

1939 – 1945 Star

1939 – 1945 War Medal.

SERGEANT 13009 EUSTACE DAVID WILLIAM FRASER
2nd SELENGOR BATTALION
FEDERATION of MALAY STATES VOLUNTEER FORCE
1912 – 1942



Eustace (known as Bill) was born on 3rd December 1912 in Richmond, Surrey to Cecil Eustace William Fraser M.A. and Nora Cecily Fraser née Mustard who were married in September 1911 in Kensington, London. He was one of three boys; his siblings were his twin brother, Douglas Cecil Andrew, and their younger brother, Raymond Kenneth Joseph, born in March 1920 in Bromley, Kent. Their father, Cecil, was born on 12th August 1876 in Clapham, London and worked as a solicitor's articled clerk in the early 20th century before eventually becoming a solicitor. He served in the Royal Field Artillery Territorials throughout World War One and rose to the rank of Major. He died on 12th November 1947 in Ipswich. Their mother, Nora, was born in Hingham Norfolk on 31st March 1891; she was a rector's daughter and died in Folkestone, Kent in March 1976. During World War Two the family lived in Nursery House, Capel St Mary, next to the Garden Centre before moving to Uplands Fruit Farm opposite Bentley Church.

Bill had been employed in insurance until 1937 when he went over to Malaya to work as assistant planter for Jalan Acob and Newbury Estates in Kapar Selangor, Malaya. His brother, Douglas, also went to Malaya as a planter, working on the assistant estates staff to Socfin Co Ltd Kuala Lumpur at Sungei Ular Estate in Kedah Malaya. Both Bill and Douglas joined the Federation of Malay State Volunteer Force, Bill with the Selangor Battalion and Douglas with the Kedah Battalion attached to the Malay Volunteer Air Force.

Bill was shot by accident while resisting the Japanese invasion and died on 10th January 1942. He was originally buried on the beach and later reburied in Cheras Road Civil Cemetery, Kuala Lumpur. He was the first of two brothers to die; his younger brother, Raymond, was killed in September 1942. His twin, Douglas, survived the War and married Dorothy Joyce Carter née Grenier on 14th July 1946 in St Andrews Church, Kuala Lumpur. She was the widow of Captain Carter who was killed in 1942 in Singapore. Douglas died in Pwllheli, Wales on 22nd April 1976 and his wife died on 9th January 1995 leaving an estate of £616,453.

Bill is remembered with Honour: In the Cheras Road Civil Cemetery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia Grave 6.

He is also remembered on Bentley War Memorial, on a plaque in Bentley Parish Church. He is also Remembered in the World War Two Book of Remembrance in Capel St Mary Parish Church and on the Roll of Honour at Charterhouse School, Surrey.

Bill would have been entitled to:

1939 – 1945 Star

Pacific Star

Defence Medal

1939 – 1945 War Medal.

LIEUTENANT 75565 RAYMOND KENNETH JOSEPH FRASER

QUEENS ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT

ATTACHED KINGS AFRICAN RIFLES

1920 – 1942



Raymond was born in March 1920 in Bromley, Kent to Cecil Eustace William Fraser M.A. and Nora Cecily Fraser née Mustard who were married in September 1911 in Kensington, London. He was the youngest of three boys; his siblings were his twin brothers Douglas Cecil Andrew and Eustace (known as Bill) David William who were born on 3rd December 1912 in Richmond, Surrey. Their father Cecil was born on 12th August 1876 in Clapham, London. He worked as a solicitor's articulated clerk in the early 20th century and eventually became a solicitor. He had served in the Royal Field Artillery Territorials throughout World War One and rose to the rank of Major. Cecil died on 12th November 1947 in Ipswich. Their mother, Nora, was born in Hingham, Norfolk on 31st March 1891. She was a rector's daughter and died in Folkestone, Kent on 23rd March 1976. During World War Two the family lived in Nursery House, Capel St Mary next to the Garden Centre, before moving to Uplands Fruit Farm opposite Bentley Church. All three boys were educated at Charterhouse School and served during World War Two. While serving with the Federation of Malay States, Bill was killed fighting the Japanese. Douglas also served with the Malay states but survived the war. (See Bill's story for more information).

Raymond was serving as a Lieutenant with the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment attached to the 1 / 1st Battalion King's African Rifles who were engaged in the fighting to take control of Madagascar from the Vichy French. The operation was a success but Raymond was killed in action on 16th September 1942. The battle for Madagascar was a two-stage campaign to seize the island. The first objective was to seize the ports in the north and to deny them to the Japanese. Stage one began on 5th May 1942 and the second stage began on 10th September. Both stages were a success. It was the first combined campaign of WW2 involving sea, land and air forces.

Raymond is remembered with Honour:

In the Diego Suarez War Cemetery, Madagascar Grave 2.B.5.

He is also remembered on Bentley War Memorial, and on a plaque in Bentley Parish Church.

Raymond is also Remembered in the World War Two Book of Remembrance in Capel St Mary Parish Church and on the Roll of Honour at Charterhouse School, Surrey.

Raymond would have been entitled to:

1939 – 1945 Star

1939 – 1945 War Medal.

ABLE SEAMAN FRANK GREEN

MERCHANT NAVY

1911 – 1942



Frank was one of six children born to George and Daisy Green née Quinton on 11th June 1911 in Harwich, Essex. His father, George, was born on 13th January 1885 in Finchingfield, Essex but the date and place of his death are unknown. His mother, Daisy, was born on 13th December 1885 in Ipswich and died on 13th May 1919 in Harwich. Frank's parents were married in October 1906 and set up home in Harwich. Frank's siblings were George (b1906), Daisy (b1908), Alfred John (b1910), Arthur Richard (b1912), and Caroline, who was born on 10th March 1918 and only lived for two days. All the children were born in Harwich. George was a cook in the Royal Navy. He joined on 15th February 1904 at HMS Ganges service No 362284 and was discharged from HMS Pembroke Royal Naval Barracks, Chatham on 5th September 1912. Before enlisting he had been employed as a milkman. During World War One he was called back to the colours on 3rd January 1917 while working as an office cleaner, and he started training as Private 96284 Royal Army Medical Corps. Once trained he was posted to Egypt and he was finally discharged in Blackpool on 31st March 1920.

Before World War Two Frank was in the Royal Navy Reserve No AX18035 but during World War Two, he served in the Merchant Navy as Able Seaman Green. It was while serving on the S.S. Goolistan, as part of the Arctic convoys to Archangel, Russia, that he lost his life in some of the worst conditions of freezing cold and stormy mountainous seas. On the return voyage from Archangel to Loch Ewe, carrying timber and cellulose as part of convoy QP-15, the ship was lost with all hands. The convoy had set out from Archangel on 17th November 1942, a gale sprang up on the 20th and grew so great that the convoy was scattered. The merchant ships were now on their own in dangerous waters. On the 23rd, Hans Benker, commanding U-625, attacked and sank the Goolistan between Bear Island and Spitsbergen, north of Norway. The S.S. Goolistan's cargo had caught fire so the ship was abandoned and the crew took to open boats before she sank. There was nothing heard from those men again. Among the crew were some very young men; ten were aged nineteen or younger and one was only fifteen years old. The U-625 was later attacked and sank in 1944.

When home on leave, Frank used to stay with his brother, Alfred, who had married Phyllis May Finch who was born in Capel St Mary in 1910. They lived at 7 London Road, Capel St Mary. Alfred died in a farming accident on August 9th 1943 when he was run down by a horse spooked by a gunshot, and was buried in grave 156 Lower Graveyard, St Mary's Church, Capel St Mary. Following Alfred's death, Phyllis went on to marry John Ratford, younger brother of Frederick Charles Ratford who had died in World War One.

Frank is Remembered with Honour:

On the Tower Hill Merchant Navy Memorial, London Panel 53.

He is also commemorated on his brother's gravestone in St Mary's Church, Capel St Mary, Suffolk.

Frank would have been entitled to:

1939-1945 Star

Atlantic Star

Arctic Star

1939-1945 War Medal.

SERGEANT 1291128 JABEZ HAROLD STEWARD

415 R.C.A.F SQUADRON, R.A.F. VOLUNTEER RESERVE

1923 - 1943



Jabez (known as Harold) was born on June 12th 1923 in The Barracks (now The Driftway), Capel St Mary. He was one of five children born to Jabez Steward and Maud Violet Steward née Allison who were married in March 1923. His siblings were: Peter Charles born on 14th March 1925, Pamela Violet, born in 1927, Lilly Maria, born on 16th April 1930, and Dorothy Mary, born on 20th June 1934, all at No 4 Council Houses, Blacksmiths Hill (now Windmill Hill), Capel St Mary. Their father, Jabez senior, was born on 28th October 1899 in Tattingstone; he was a farm worker employed on his father's farm at Bentley, and their mother, Maud, was a cook born on 15th July 1902 in Ipswich. Jabez died in 1969 and was buried in St Mary's Churchyard, Capel St Mary on 24th April 1969. Maud passed away in Ipswich in 1994 and is also buried in St Mary's Churchyard. The children all attended Capel School and when war was declared, Jabez junior, who was serving an apprenticeship as a carpenter, joined the R.A.F. Volunteer Reserve. After training as a wireless operator / air gunner, he was posted to Royal Canadian Air Force Squadron 415 of Coastal Command based at RAF Station Thorney Island, flying Handley Page Hampden Torpedo-Bombers, Jabez was one of two wireless/air gunners on board, the other being Flight Sergeant Ian Murray Sykes of the Royal New Zealand Air Force from Taranaki, New Zealand. The pilot was Flying Officer Keith Cameron Wathen, Royal Australian Air force, from Victoria, Australia; the navigator was Flying Officer John Maxwell Crawford, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. On the night of 17th May 1943, they took off to carry out a shipping strike off the Dutch Coast. They arrived just after midnight local time. After that nothing is known as they did not return. On 22nd July 1943 the body of the pilot, Flying Officer Wathen, was recovered and is buried in Kiel War Cemetery Germany. The other 3 members of his crew have no known grave but are remembered on the RAF Memorial, Runnymede in Surrey.

During the war his mother worked as a cook at the American Air base in Raydon. His sister, Pamela, also worked there as a cook assistant and married an American Serviceman; she returned to America with him where she died in 2010 aged 83. His brother, Peter, was part of 202, a secret unit that would have been Britain's resistance had Germany invaded. He went on to join the Royal Marine Commandos attached to General Eisenhower's Headquarters. He went to Normandy with the advance party on D17 for SHAEF (Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force). In civilian life Peter was a lorry driver and served on Capel Parish Council for 9 years. He died in 2008 aged 83. Jabez's sister, Lilly, worked in service and died in 2018 aged 87. His sister, Dorothy, known as Mary, was still at school during the war and later worked as a shop assistant and village post lady.

Jabez is remembered with Honour:

On the RAF Memorial Runnymede Surrey

Jabez is also Remembered in the World War Two Book of Remembrance in Capel St Mary Church.

Jabez would have been entitled to receive:

1939 – 1945 Star

Atlantic Star

1939 – 1945 War Medal.

Lt COLONEL 183 WALTER PATRICK BARCLAY
6th BATTALION BLACK WATCH ROYAL HIGHLAND REGIMENT

1899 – 1943



Walter was born on 22nd August 1899 in Sumatra, then part of the Dutch East Indies, now Indonesia. He was one of five children born to Theodore Charles Barclay and Elizabeth Mary Barclay née Fraser who were married on 3rd December 1891. His father was born on 19th July 1860 in Napier City, New Zealand. He worked as a tobacco planter and died on 16th November 1899 in Singapore. His mother was born on 21st October 1868 near Inverness, Scotland and died on 16th October 1948 in London.

Walter's siblings were Aileen born 1896 who died as a baby aged 4 months, Doris (1897 – 1986), Yvonne (1892 – 1984) and Iseult (1895 – 1978).

Walter Patrick Barclay married Daphne Dorothy Crisp Binny on 8th June 1937 in Westminster, London. They had two children: a son, Peter Charles Barclay, born on 26th February 1938 who is the Chief of Clan Barclay. He was educated at Eton and has a coat of arms matriculated at the Lyons Court in 1971. Their daughter, Penelope Jean Barclay, was born in Rome on 23rd August 1937 but there are no further details. Daphne was born in Farnham, Surrey on 14th August 1913 to Lt Colonel Alan James Murray Binny, who was born on 9th November 1878 in London and who died on 20th June 1966 in Cologne, Germany, and to Dorothy Crisp, born on 19th July 1881 in Camberwell, Surrey. She died on 31st August 1963 in Ipswich, Suffolk. Lt Colonel Binny had served with the 1st Lancers Indian Army. They were married on 16th August 1910 in Guildford, Surrey. Lt Colonel Binny was made a Freeman of the City of London on 15th February 1910. At the time of his death Lt Colonel Barclay and Daphne's family home was Little Wenham Grange, Little Wenham, Suffolk.

Walter had joined the Army on 21st August 1918 as Second Lieutenant Barclay of the Royal Highland Regiment. A career soldier, he was promoted to Lieutenant on 21st February 1920 and by 1922 he was attached to the British Upper Silesian Force. In January 1928 he qualified as an interpreter 1st Class in Italian, French and German. He was promoted to Captain in 1937 and was assistant Military Attaché in Rome. He was also at one time on the General Staff as assistant Military Attaché in Budapest and was promoted to Lt Colonel in July 1941. Lt Colonel Barclay was commanding 6th Battalion Black Watch in the battle of Tunisia when he died on 22nd May 1943 from wounds received on 13th April 1943 and was buried at sea.

Walter is remembered with Honour: On the El Bab Memorial Tunisia, Face 23

He is also in the World War Two Book of Remembrance, in St Mary's Church, Capel St Mary, Suffolk.

Walter would have been entitled to:

1939 – 1945 Star

Africa Star

1939 – 1945 War Medal.

PRIVATE 6013679 HARRY WALTER BURCH

4th BATTALION SUFFOLK REGIMENT

1919 – 1943



Harry was born on 15th February 1919, one of eight children all born in Hartismere District, Suffolk. His parents were James (known as John) Frederick Burch b1895 in Bosmere, Suffolk, and d1955 in Capel St Mary, Suffolk, and Olive Annie Jubilee Burch née Riches b1897 in Rickingham, Suffolk, and d1984 in Ipswich. They married in Hartismere in 1918. John worked as a horseman on various farms around Suffolk. Among Harry's siblings were: Doris Ethel b3 July 1920 and d1977 in Ipswich; Ivy K, (1921-1942); Grace Ellen E, b1923, married Arthur Edward Catherine in 1945 in Wandsworth, London. They had two children: Grace d1989 and Arthur d2006 both in Chesterfield; John R, b1927 d1929 in Hartismere; Albert T, b1929 married Mollie Kathleen Tatum in 1951 in Samford District, Suffolk. They had three children: Alfred John b1932 married Sylvia Chittock in 1950 in Samford District. They had three children including Dennis William b1935 married Stella M Game in 1963; they had one child, Dennis d2005 in Brentwood, Essex. At the start of World War Two the family were living at 1 Bluegate Cottages, Bluegate Lane, off Old London Road.

Before Harry enlisted in the Suffolk Regiment, he was employed as a farm labourer. After enlistment and training, Harry was posted to the 4th Battalion and sent to Singapore. At the surrender of Singapore, the Japanese took around 100,000 prisoners, a mixture of British, Australian and Indian troops which included Harry's Battalion and the remainder of the 5th Battalion of around 650 men, plus some local civilians. Most including Harry would die working on the Siam-Burma Railway.

Harry died on 12th September 1943 in Tambaya Prison Camp, Burma.

He is remembered with Honour:

In Thanbyuzayat War Cemetery Grave B1. M12,

He is also remembered in the World War Two Book of Remembrance in St Mary's Church, Capel St Mary, Suffolk.

Harry would have been entitled to:

1939-1945 Star

Burma Star

1939-1945 War Medal.

2ND LIEUTENANT 308253 PHILLIP RUSSELL PELLs

3rd BATTALION ROYAL TANK REGIMENT

1924 -1944



Phillip was born in 1924 in Ipswich, Suffolk to Arthur George Pells and Florence Pells née Martin who were married on 22nd August 1909 in East Dereham, Norfolk. His father, Arthur, was a brewer's manager, born on 17th January 1887 at Eaton, Norfolk; he died on 16th March 1962 in Felixstowe. His mother, Florence, born in 1888 in Guist, Norfolk, worked as a domestic servant; she died in Ipswich, Suffolk on 3rd January 1930. Phillip was educated at Ipswich School and is remembered on their School Chapel Memorial. At the time of his death, the family were living in Hill House, Capel St Mary.

Phillip was serving with the 3rd Battalion Royal Tank Regiment as part of the Royal Armoured Corps. They landed in Normandy on D-Day plus 5 and were engaged in heavy fighting, battling through the bocage of high hedges and banks. In the following days they prepared for Operation Epsom, the first attempt to break the German stronghold at Caen between 26th and 30th June 1944. It failed but did force the Germans to commit their reserves; Caen was eventually taken in July.

The 3rd Royal Tank Regiment were next engaged in Operation Goodwood, the allied attempt to break out from Caen. It began on 18th July with the advance by 3 Armoured Divisions with approximately 1,000 tanks and 2 Infantry Divisions with approximately 40,000 men and would last for 3 days. Despite initial success in clearing German forces, Operation Goodwood finally ground to a halt with high casualties, having lost 314 tanks and with casualties of 3474 men. Phillip had been killed in action on the first day of Operation Goodwood, at the age of 19.

Phillip is remembered with Honour:

On the Bayeux Memorial, France Panel 8 Column 2

He is on the Ipswich War Memorial Panel 8.

He is also in the St Mary's World War Two Church Book of Remembrance, Capel St Mary, Suffolk.

Phillip would have been entitled to receive :

The 1939 – 1945 Star

The France and Germany Star

The 1939 – 1945 War Medal.

PRIVATE 5827645 REGINALD HAROLD ALLEN

1st BATTALION HAMPSHIRE REGIMENT

1919 – 1944

Reginald was one of two boys born in Gt. Wenham, Suffolk in the early part of 1919 to William Archibald Allen and Florence Allen née Couzens. His brother was William Archibald Allen Jnr, born Gt. Wenham 1917. Their father William was born in Gt. Wenham in 1885 and died in 1975; their mother, Florence, was born in East Bergholt in 1890 and died in 1973. They had married in the Samford Registration District in 1914. His father, William, was a farm worker and by 1939 was employed as a tractor driver, as was his brother William Jnr. Their mother, Florence, had been employed before marriage as a servant at the Station Hotel, Manningtree. Reginald had, like his brother, attended Capel St Mary School. Upon leaving he became a farm worker. In 1939 the family were living in Ivy Cottage near the Church in Gt. Wenham.

Reginald served with the 1st Battalion of the Hampshire Regiment who were in the first wave to land on Gold Beach at 07:15hrs on D-Day. During the landings of June 6th 1944, Gold was the central beach of five. The Hampshires were part of 231 Brigade. By nightfall they had captured their objectives and secured Arromanches which would be the main supply base for the Allied landings with the building of the temporary Mulberry A and B Harbours. These would remain operational until proper port facilities were captured, like Cherbourg which was captured on 29th June 1944. Although Mulberry B remained in use for a further 5 months. Reginald was killed in action on 11th August 1944 during operation Totalise that had began on 8th August 1944 to capture the crucial town of Falaise and join up with the American Army. This would encircle the German 7th Army and allow the Allies to break out into the open French countryside.

Reginald is remembered with Honour:

In St Charles de Percy War Cemetery, France in grave V11.E4.

He is also remembered on a plaque in St John's Church, Gt. Wenham.

The 1st Battalion Hampshire Regiment was stationed in India at the outbreak of World War Two and was quickly transferred on 11th December 1939 to Egypt where they took part in the first British offensives in the Western Desert. By June 1940 it was looking after large numbers of Italian prisoners. By 1941 they had been transferred to Malta and remained there throughout the siege. In July 1943 they took part in the assault on Sicily and in September they landed near Pizzo. Later in the month they were back in Sicily waiting to be transferred back to England where they started training for D-Day where they landed on day one and remained in Europe until V.E. day

Depending on when Reginald enlisted and when he was posted to the 1st Battalion Hampshire Regiment, he may have been entitled to the following:

Africa Star

Italy Star

France and Germany Star

1939 – 1945 War Medal.

SERGEANT 2323481 KENNETH TRIPP REYNOLDS

ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS

1915 – 1945



Kenneth was born on 3rd December 1915 in Bentley, Suffolk. His father was William Gladstone Reynolds born in 1886 in Bentley, who was employed as a farm bailiff. He married Gertrude Alice Tripp on 16th October 1909 and died on 14th November 1932 in Capel St Mary, Suffolk. He was buried in St Mary's Church, Capel on 19th November 1932. His wife, Gertrude, was born on 24th April 1886 in Ipswich, Suffolk and died in 1968 in Capel St Mary; she was buried on 21st August 1968 in St Mary's Church, Capel St Mary. Kenneth was educated in Capel St Mary Primary School and Felixstowe Secondary School where he gained his School Certificate in six subjects. (This was the forerunner of the GCE O Level Certificate). After leaving school on 22nd December 1932, Kenneth was employed as a farm worker. He had three siblings. Raymond William Reynolds was born on 11th April 1910 and married Margery Edith Coppen on 18th February 1939 in St Mary's Church, Capel. They had three children: Michael Raymond Reynolds, Bernard Phillip Reynolds and Gillian Margery Alice Reynolds. The second sibling was Percy George Reynolds who was born on 28th January 1912 and never married, and the third was Rosemary Gertrude Reynolds who was born in 1924 and married Herbert Clarke on 11th October 1947 in St Mary's Church, Capel; they had one child, Margaret Rosemary Clarke. Kenneth joined the Army some time in 1933 and served in the Royal Corps of Signals and was sent to Egypt at the outbreak of the Italian-Abyssinian War. He was then drafted to Palestine at the time of the Arab-Jewish riots. At the outbreak of World War Two, he was back in Egypt and served through the Libyan Campaigns where he was twice mentioned in dispatches (see below). He returned to England after 8 ½ years' service abroad where his experiences had undermined his health. He was sent to Black Notley Military Hospital in Essex. In March 1944 he was sent home to The Elms, Capel St Mary, but never regained his health and after much suffering, passed away on 3rd May 1945, and was buried in St Mary's Churchyard, Capel St Mary on 7th May 1945.

Mentioned in dispatches: 1st April 1941 as Lance Sergeant Reynolds. London Gazette 35120/Supplement 1872.

8th July 1941 as Acting Sergeant Reynolds London Gazette 35209/Supplement 3886.

A mention in dispatches is the lowest form of recognition for an act of gallantry or outstanding service and is recognised by the wearing of a bronze oak leaf worn on the ribbon of the 1939 – 1945 War Medal.

Kenneth is remembered with Honour:

In the World War Two Book of Remembrance in St Mary's Church, Capel St Mary.

Kenneth was awarded: General Service Medal with Palestine Clasp

1939 - 1945 Star

Africa Star

Defence Medal

1939 – 1945 War Medal.

CRAFTSMAN 11404368 EDGAR WALTER HASTE PITTOCK

ROYAL ELECTRICAL & MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

1906 - 1946



Edgar was born in Capel St Mary, one of eleven children of Alfred Pittock and Blanche Pittock née Cutts. The children were: George Arthur (1905 – 1984), Edgar Walter Haste (1906 – 1946), Albert Nelson Bennett (1908 – 1961), Sylvia Blanche (1910 – 1973), Frank Leonard (1911 – 1940), Edith Lillian (1913 – 1989), Arthur Alfred (1915 – 1979), Winifred Kate (1917 – 1986), Joseph Edward (1919 – 2007), William Ronald (1921 - ?), John Frederick (1926 – 1955). All the children were educated in Capel St Mary School.

Their father, Alfred, had been born in Capel St Mary in 1880 and was employed as a platelayer on the railway and was living in the Railway Crossing Gate House, Little Wenham. He married Blanche Cutts in Grimsby, Lincolnshire in 1904. Alfred died in 1934 at Little Wenham. Blanche was born in 1882 in Grimsby and died in 10 New Council Houses, Capel St Mary on 9th May 1950.

It seems possible that at his age Edgar was in the forces from the start of the war but in a different Regiment. The REME were not formed until 1942. He may have been present at the Dunkirk operation and survived, owing to the issue of the 1939 – 1945 Star and then again took part in, or just after, the D-Day landings, owing to the issue of the France and Germany Star.

Edgar was found drowned in the moat at Little Wenham Hall on 13th August 1946; he had last been seen alive on 9th August 1946.

Edgar is remembered with Honour:

In the Church Ground, All Saints Church, Little Wenham

He is also remembered in the World War Two Book of Remembrance in St Mary's Church, Capel St Mary.

Edgar had received:

The 1939 – 1945 Star

France and Germany Star

1939 – 1945 War Medal.

LIEUTENANT PETER EDWARD MEAD HARRIS

ROYAL NAVY

1925 – 1950



Peter Edward Mead Harris was born in South Court nursing home Broadstairs Kent on 3 Oct 1925 he was the son of Robert and Bessie Harris nee Halfnight, who were married 18th January 1917 in Thanet Kent he had a younger brother William who was born c1930 in the Samford District.

His father Robert Edward Meade Harris was born 12 Dec 1886 in Bury St Edmunds Suffolk, he joined the Royal Navy at seventeen on 15th September 1903 as a Midshipman promoted to Sub Lieutenant in 1906 and finally to Lt Commander in July 1917 He Served on Capel St Mary Parish Council for several years before his death at the age of 60 in Pound Cottage Capel St Mary on 29 March 1947. His mother Bessie was born on 25th July 1895 in Sunderland, between 1905 and 1911 she lived in Montreal Canada and died 7 May 1979 Ipswich

Father & Mother are both buried in St Mary's Church Capel St Mary

Peter Served in the Royal Navy during World War 2, he had enlisted in 1944 and saw action in the Pacific and Burma theatres of war as a pilot, He was serving on HMS Glory when he died in flying accident in the Mediterranean Sea 27 Sep. 1950 flying a Sea Fury of 804 Naval Air Squadron during the ships work up following the outbreak of the Korean War on June 25th 1950 the ship was eventually Deployed to Korea April 1951.

H.M.S. Glory was launched 1943 the ship saw active service in WW2 and Korea and took the surrender of Lt. Gen. Imarura Commander of the Army of Japan at Rabaul in Papua New Guinea on 6th September 1945.

Peter has no Known grave but the sea but is remembered with Honour in the Remembrance Book St Mary's Church , Capel St Mary.

For his war service Peter had been awarded:

1939 - 1945 Star

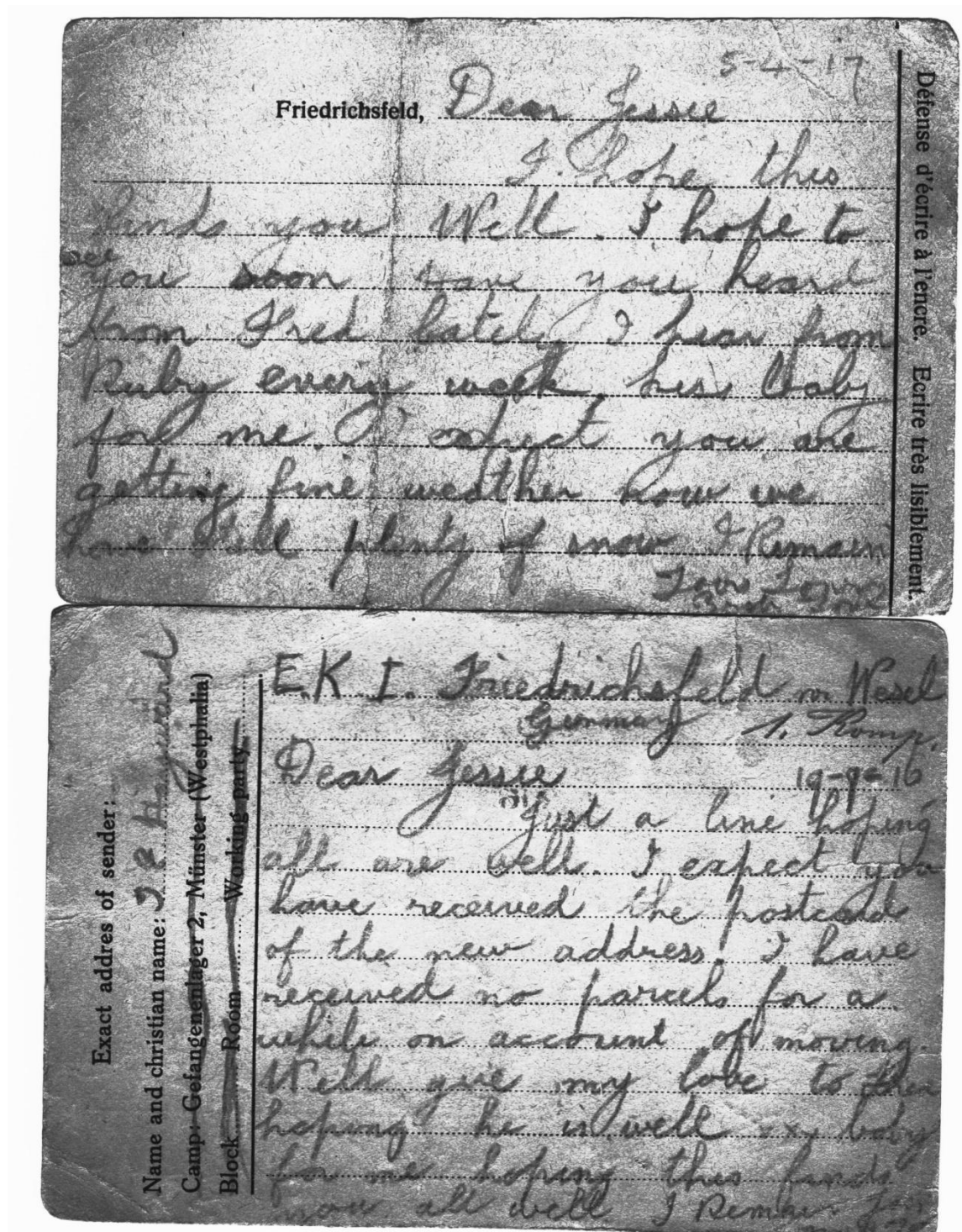
Burma Star with Pacific Bar

Defence Medal

1939 - 1945 War Medal

PRISONERS OF WAR

During the course of World War One there were some 185,000 British prisoners of war captured by Germany most survived and were repatriated, former Parish Councillor Chris Streatfield has cards sent by his great uncle to his grandmother Jessie Streatfield from his prison camp these are reproduced below.

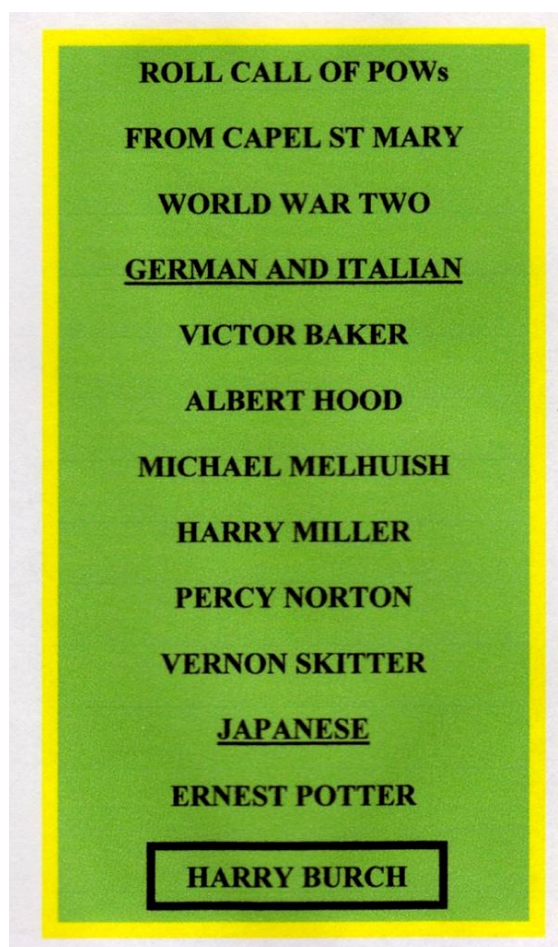


The top card dated 5-4-17 reads: Dear Jessie, I hope this finds you well, I hope to see you soon. Have you heard from Fred lately, I hear from Ruby every week. Kiss baby for me, I expect you are getting fine weather now, we have had plenty of snow I remain yours. (Then unreadable)

Lower card dated 19-9-16 reads: Dear Jessie Just a line hoping all are well. I expect you have received the postcard of the new address. I have received no parcels for a while on account of moving, well give my love to Fred, hoping he is well xx baby for me hoping this finds you all well I remain yours (then unreadable)

The Ottoman Empire captured about 16,500 and of those approximately 6000 died from harsh conditions, a hot sun a lack of care and if you could not work you would not be fed for example.

During the course of world war two, some 170,000 British military personnel were taken prisoner by the German and Italian forces and around 60,000 by the Japanese most survived being prisoners of the Germans and Italians but of those captured by the Japanese 1 in 3 died from starvation, work, punishment or diseases like beriberi, malaria, dysentery, and typhoid. Exact numbers of those who survived or died cannot be proved as the Japanese destroyed most of the records before they surrendered.



Not all men wished to tell the stories of what happened to them but I am grateful to Ian Anderson of London Road Capel St Mary for allowing his father's story to be told of being a prisoner of the Germans although he never lived in Capel, his and the online story of Alistair Urquart a prisoner of the Japanese, give an insight to how prisoners of war were treated. Both stories tell of the privations that they and so many others went through during their captivity, it must never be forgotten that they suffered and so did their families more so the families of Japanese POWs as they did not know if their loved ones were alive or dead.

PRIVATE 5776459 ROBERT JOHN ANDERSON
7TH BATTALION ROYAL NORFOLK REGIMENT

1919 – 1992



Robert (known as Jack) was born on 8th February 1919 he was one of three children born to Robert Anderson and Mary Victoria Anderson nee Borwell who were married in 1908 in Stoke Newington, his siblings were Mary Elizabeth born 16th February 1918 and Thomas Ramsey (known as Peter) born 15th November 1920, all children born in Sleaford Lincolnshire Both Jack and his father were seedsmen, both parents are buried in Sleaford.

Jack enlisted on 16th November 1939 at Norwich joining the Royal Norfolk Regiment, after training in March 1940 he was posted along with 30 other men to join B Company the 7th Battalion part of the 51st Highland Division in the front line at Halstroff, 10 miles in front of the Maginot line. As the German war machine advanced they were pushed back fighting a series of defensive actions until finely they were at the coastal of St Valery-en-Caux, they were told to hold on at all costs, their position was hopeless and as they waited for rescue by the Royal Navy, the weather deteriorated, they were low on ammunition and no heavy weaponry their Commander Major General Fortune was forced to surrender on 12th June 1940.

After a long march to the Rhine, they were then taken by barges to Germany, then by cattle trucks to Poland where over time he was imprisoned in several POW camps, he was set to work in coal mines on railway work and bomb clearance, while on railway work he would be pushing spoil trucks and tipping them to form new embankments. On one occasion he remembers going past a steaming snow covered pile and only later realised they were bodies, he believed they were the bodies of Jews from Auschwitz, which was not far from his POW camp. While on bomb clearance work at Regensburg they were machine gunned by P47 Thunderbolt everyone scattered including the guards, he found himself with one other prisoner alone, they jumped over a wall to hide and found sugar beet which they could eat. Unfortunately they were found by SS troops and were about to be shot when their Wehrmacht guards turned up and they were marched off to safety.

The prisoners built their own radio that they hid in their Red Cross Parcels as Jack knew how to make a cat's whisker radio from his youth so they knew all about the progress of the war and on dark nights they would sneak out to the Russian compound next door with pages of news from the BBC. The Russian troops were treated very badly by their guards. Jack with others had to unload the trucks of the Russian prisoners 60 to each cattle truck by the time they reached them most were dead, they had to drag out their bodies load them on carts and dump them in a big pit, it was then discovered that most had died of typhus, they refused to do it any more even under the threat of being shot, the Russians that were still alive were then forced to carry out the task, one of them spoke English a pilot pretending to be an infantry man if the Germans knew he would have been shot where he stood.

Jack was liberated on 15th May 1945 and flown back in a Lancaster bomber to Wing in Buckinghamshire, he phoned his girlfriend later his wife the first time they had heard each others voice since 1940. Sleaford planned a big celebration for his return, but Jack did not like a fuss, so left the train early and walked home. He could not sleep for several months in a bed but slept on a mat on the floor. Later in life he suffered from white finger caused by the cold polish winters.

Jack died in Truro Hospital Cornwall on 25th June 1992

He was awarded :

1939 – 1945 Star

1939 – 1945 War Medal

French Somme Medal 1916 - 1940

2ND BATTALION GORDON HIGHLANDERS

1919 – 2016



Alistair was born on 8th September 1919 in Aberdeen Scotland and became a well known business man. At the outbreak of WW2 he was called up after 3 weeks and joined the Gordon Highlanders after training he was posted to Singapore to strengthen the garrison, He was to become a prisoner of the Japanese for three and a half years. In Alistair's words Singapore was a Lethargic backwater and not the fortress they made it out to be, a sleepy place where they dawdled through everything with no sense of urgency. The battle of Singapore was from 8th February 1942 and ended when Lt General Percival Surrendered on 15 February 1942 to Japanese General Yamishita who would later be executed in 1946 for atrocities (war crimes) committed by troops under his command.

Once in Singapore Alistair was based at Fort Canning, after the surrender brutality started nearly straight away when the Japanese massacred 300 people at the Alexandra Hospital, Doctors, Nurses, even patients on the operating tables were bayoneted to death. The troops were marched to Changi prison camp, the guards deliberately took them past decaying bodies and severed heads mounted on poles, at Changi they were mainly left alone but with poor rations and a lack of medical care men began dying, Alistair survived there for three months before being 1 of the 600 men sent to Thailand to work on the Burma Railway. At Changi we had barracks, on the railway we had to build our own. Our officers were nothing 2 of the worst guards were Lt. Kishio who we called Dr Death and Seiichi Okadal a Korean we called the Mad Mongrel, we were made to watch as Dr Death beheaded one of us, he had me tortured (*Torture could range from being beaten with bamboo canes, slivers of bamboo pushed under fingernails or put in the black hole and left in the hot sun without food or water or tied over sharpened bamboo so it grew through you body so you died an agonising death, Alistair does not describe his torture, But was put in the black hole*) Lt. Kishio would stand on the cliffs above those working and throw rocks down he didn't care who he hit or if they died both he and Okadal were executed in 1946 for war crimes. Our rations were half a cup of boiled rice and 1 cup of water each day, I survived on that for three and a half years, can you imagine working in the hot tropical sun with picks and shovels on those rations, very soon we all suffered from a host of diseases malaria, dysentery, beriberi men were dying all around us. Later I was taken out of that hell hole to another I was one of many put on a hell ship the Kachidoki Maru for transport to Japan to work their Factories docks and mines, the ship was sunk by an American submarine I survived by some miracle when I popped out of the cargo hatch and found myself swimming in the oil covered sea, both navies were looking for survivors but I was unlucky I was picked up by the Japanese and finished my journey to Japan. Towards the end of my ordeal I saw a plane then there was an almighty bang and a wind knocked me off my feet I was at Omuta the mining camps a few miles from Nagasaki the bang was the atomic bomb .

Rumours went round the camp, for months we had sensed the allies were winning we all wondered what would happen to us, we figured they would massacre us, when prisoners came back from the factories telling us the manager had made a big speech, later the camp commander came and told us the war was over then the Americans arrived my ordeal was over.

When asked how he survived Alistair said I learned early on to have the tenacity and mental attitude to do whatever I do, to do my best, I thought back to my boy scout training and knew when shipwrecked not to drink the water get as much oil off do not fall asleep and keep my thought positive. Alistair died peacefully in his Dundee care home on 7th October 2016

He was awarded:

1939 – 1945 Star,

Pacific Star

1939 – 1945 War Medal.

John McCrae

In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw summer glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from falling hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.



HMS GLORY AND THE SS GOOLISTAN





HANDLEY PAGE HAMPDEN BOMBER

RAF THORNEY ISLAND HAMPSHIRE FROM WHICH THEY OPERATED





UNIFORMS OF WORLD WAR ONE TOP AND WORLD WAR TWO BELOW

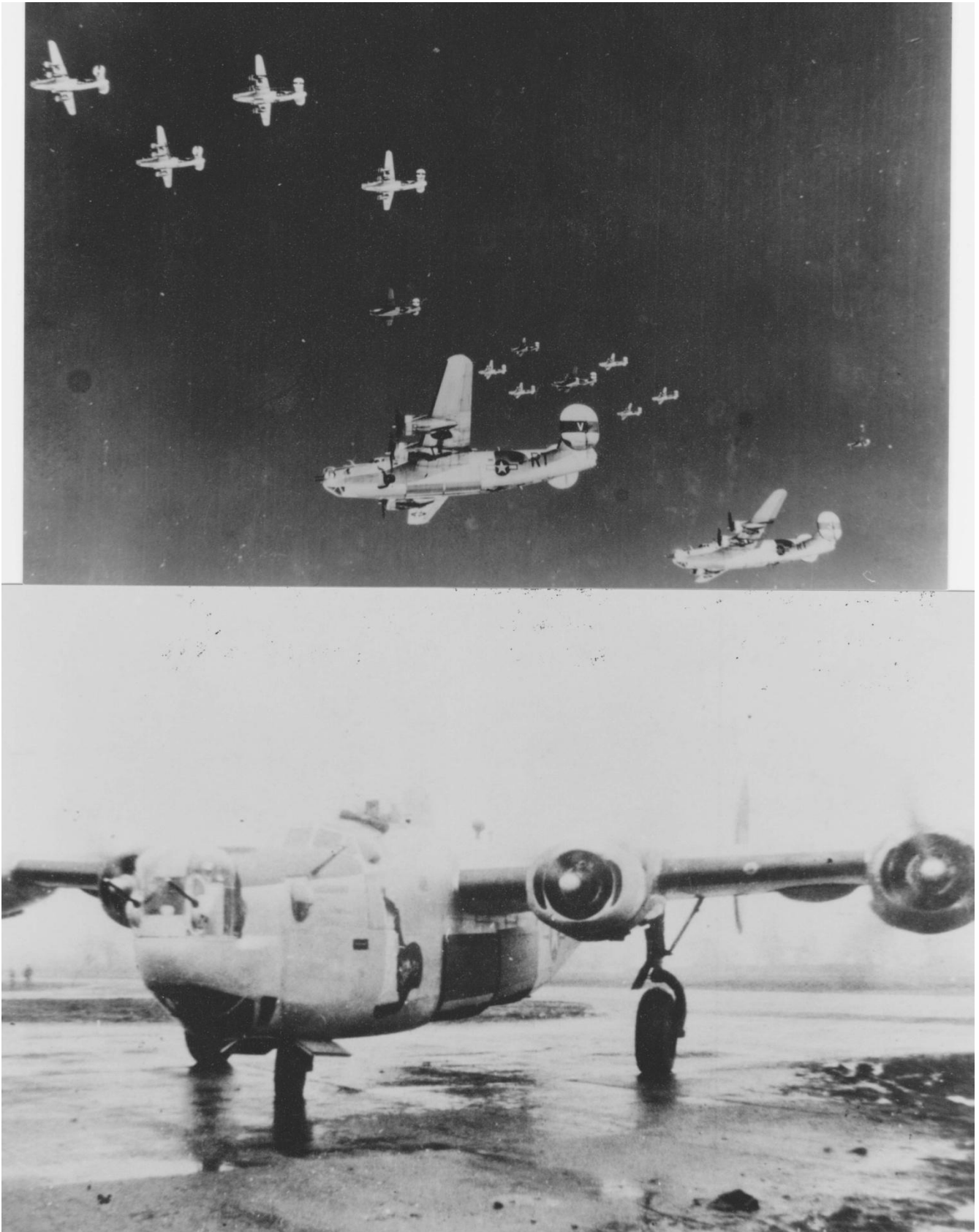




B 24 CRASH CASTLE ACRES THORNEY ROAD THE STREET JUNCTION 25th FEBRUARY 1945

P51 OUT OF RAYDON CRASH PILOT JAMES POINDEXTER KILLED 3rd JANUARY 1945





MISS LIBERTY LIBERATOR B 24 THAT CRASHED 25th FEBRUARY 1945 IN CAPEL

PILOT ADAM KUBINCIK MAIN PLANE IN FORMATION



CAPTAIN POINDEXTER KILLED CAPEL 3rd JANUARY 1945

TOY BOAT MADE BY ITALIAN PRISONER OF WAR





REST ROOM RAYDON AIRFIELD AND TYPICAL NISSEN HUT LIVING QUARTERS



A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ROYAL NAVY



Prior to the official formation of the Royal Navy in 1660, there had been naval forces for over a thousand years. It was a very loose arrangement where ships were brought together as the King's ships during times of conflict, then dispersed when hostilities ceased. In 1660 on the restoration of King Charles II the Royal Naval Force of England was established as a permanent body to protect the country's interests. Then in 1707 it became the Royal Navy of Great Britain when England's Royal Navy merged with the Royal Scots Navy, although they had worked together from the time of the Union of the Crowns in 1603.

During the following years, through the many struggles with France and Holland, the Royal Navy grew in size and strength until it became the largest and most powerful naval force in the world, and was only overtaken by the United States Navy following World War Two. During its period of dominance, the Royal Navy was at the forefront of naval development, changing from sail power to steam power, from cannons to shell-firing guns, and from wooden hulls to iron clad battleships.

At the start of World War One the Grand Fleet alone, based at Scapa Flow in the Orkney Islands, had some 160 ships of which 40 were dreadnoughts, battleships, or battle cruisers, the large capital ships of their day. The Royal Navy as a whole had at its disposal 18 dreadnoughts, with 6 under construction, 29 battleships, 195 cruisers of various classes, 200 destroyers and various smaller vessels. The manpower numbers for the Royal Navy, including reserves, had risen by 1918 to 261,269 all ranks. The Women's Royal Naval Service rose in number from 0 to 4,821 and the Royal Naval Air Service rose from 727 to 55,066. During World War One a Royal Naval Division was formed from Royal Navy and Royal Marine reservists and volunteers not required for sea service, and fought as soldiers. They fought at Antwerp in 1914, at Gallipoli in 1915 and following heavy losses, were transferred to the Army and fought on the Western Front for the remainder of the war as the 63rd Royal Naval Division.

In World War Two it was still the largest navy in the world with a total of 332 warships made up of 15 battleships with 7 aircraft carriers, 66 cruisers, 184 destroyers, 45 patrol vessels and 60 submarines, with a manpower of 800,000 all ranks and 73,000 Wrens

By contrast the Royal Navy today is much smaller. The latest numbers released in August 2018, for the total number of ships it has commissioned, is 74 of which 20 are major surface combat ships comprising 1 aircraft carrier, 13 frigates and 6 missile destroyers, in addition to 10 submarines of various types; the remainder are various types of smaller craft like patrol boats.

The Royal Navy has its own infantry in the form of Marines, later called the Royal Marines when they were granted the Royal title in 1802. Their origins can be traced back to 1664 and they have fought in nearly every campaign since that time. Today they are a force of 8,290 including reserves that carry out the expeditionary and amphibious warfare role. During World War Two, four Special Service (Commando) Brigades were formed. These elite fighting units were meant to carry the fight to the enemy and they had Royal Marines in each of them. After 1946 when Army Commandos were disbanded, the Royal Marines continued in the Commando role.

The Royal Navy also has its own air wing, the Fleet Air Arm, with a chequered history. First formed in 1912 as a branch of the Royal Flying Corps, in 1914 it came under Admiralty control as the Royal Naval Air Service. In 1918 it rejoined the Royal Flying Corps to form the Royal Air Force. In 1924 the Fleet Air Arm branch of the Royal Air Force was formed and existed until 1939 when it came back under Admiralty control where it still is today.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE BRITISH ARMY



From medieval times English and Scottish armies were formed of volunteers, raised by monarchs and feudal leaders. Though compelled to serve at times of emergency, gathered in local militias or trained bands, they were individual in spirit and appearance. This individuality was swept away with Oliver Cromwell's New Model Army of 1645, this marked the beginning of the modern regular army. Though it was formally disbanded upon the restoration of King Charles II many of the Regiments of the New Model Army were taken into the King's service. The British Army proper came into being after the union of the English and Scottish Parliaments in 1707. At this time all units of the Army were known by their Colonel's name following the custom established during the Civil War period, this system had its drawbacks and led to confusion where two or more separate regiments were governed by Colonels of the same name, also if the Colonel changed to one with a different name the regiment also had to change its name.

This chaotic situation was partly resolved by Royal Warrant in 1694 when numbering of regiments was formalised then in 1743 it was ordered that the number should be displayed upon their regimental colour and the display of the Colonels crests or insignia was expressly forbidden, but it was only the Royal Warrant of 1751 numbers officially superseded Colonels' names as titles. In 1782 certain infantry regiments were given territorial or county subtitles eg the 12th Regiment of Foot became 12th East Suffolk Regiment of Foot. Then in 1881 what became known as the Cardwell Childers reforms took place, at this time the British infantry consisted of 109 separate regiments of foot numbered consecutively from 1 to 109 some as already mentioned had territorial or county subtitles, this was a sweeping change where pairs of infantry regiments were linked to form single two battalion regiments, the numerical titles were abolished and the familiar county designations came into being, the idea was one battalion would serve overseas in the outposts of empire, the other would serve in the United Kingdom training and enlisting new recruits plus homeland security duties, many of these once familiar titles are now lost again. The regiments of foot numbered 1 to 25 were not paired but 26 to 109 were, the cavalry did not suffer the same fate until 1922. The next major change came in 1908 with the birth of the Territorial Force where each infantry regiment gained a third special reserve battalion, since that time there have been many amalgamations, reductions and reforms that have continued into the 21st century.

As a result of these changes new titles have come into being like the Royal Anglian Regiment which has through the many amalgamations down through the years become the father of the county regiments in this area if you are looking for your old regiment or your fathers or grand-fathers local county regiment then the Royal Anglian Regiment is the home of the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, Rutland and Suffolk, these are its recruiting counties. Another new regiment is the Princess of Wales Regiment that through amalgamations is the home of Surrey, Kent, Middlesex, Sussex and Hampshire to name a few, the battle honours and traditions of the old units are preserved within the new Regimental Titles, some regiments like the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) and The York and Lancaster Regiments when offered in the Defence reductions of 1968 the option of amalgamation with another regiment or disbandment they chose the latter, however they both still maintain a small Regimental Headquarters and their titles and battle honours are still therefore published on the Army list

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE



The first manned free flight is recognised to have taken place on 21st November 1783 in France when the Montgolfier brothers hot air balloon was flown by Pilatre de Rozier and an Army Officer Marquis d'Arlander, although a tethered flight had taken place by Etienne Montgolfier on 15th October 1783. Manned flight potential was noted by the military and balloons were used during the Napoleonic wars to see over the horizon and gather information. The British began to experiment in 1878 with the establishment of the balloon section of the Royal Engineers at the Royal Arsenal Woolwich, in 1880 military balloon training and demonstrations took place at Aldershot in Hampshire. In 1882 it moved again to the School of Military Engineering in Chatham Kent now called the School of Ballooning later it moved again to Aldershot and was renamed in 1897 as the Balloon Factory where in 1899 it built balloons for the Boer War in South Africa and in 1902 began to experiment with Airships, then during the years 1904 – 1906 it moved once more to Farnborough Common. It was then decided that a new arm of the military was needed and the Royal Flying Corps was formed in 1912.

This new Corps was divided into two wings Military wing Royal Flying Corps for the Army and Naval wing The Royal Naval Air Service for the Admiralty. This arrangement allowed the two wings to operate independently but caused delays in the demands for equipment and aircraft. Aircraft were still in their early stages of development by the outbreak of war in 1914, as the first powered flight had been made only eleven years before in 1903 in the United States, the average speed at this time was between 70 -80 miles per hour and the maximum height attainable only 7,000 feet. Germany developed and used Zeppelin Air Ships for reconnaissance over the North Sea and the Baltic and strategic bombing raids over Britain and on the Eastern Front as they could fly at greater heights and out of range of ground fire and planes.

At the outbreak of World War One in August 1914 the military wing of the Royal Flying Corps comprised 147 officers 1097 other ranks and had 179 aircraft being used for everything from training through to military operations, for active service they had 1 balloon squadron and 4 aircraft squadrons. The strength of the Navy wing The Royal Naval Air Service was 93 aircraft, six airships and 2 balloons with 727 personnel under Admiralty control and was fully integrated into the Royal Navy on 1st August 1915 this arrangement continued until 1st April 1918 when both the Royal Flying Corps and Royal Naval Air Service were brought back together to form the Royal Air Force. By the end of World War One the RAF numbered 300,000 personnel including the women's section and 22,000 aircraft, during World War Two it had grown 1,079,835 personnel and had 9,200 aircraft.

In 1924 the Fleet Air Arm was reformed as a branch of the Royal Air Force it existed as an integral part of the Royal Air Force until 1939 when it went back to the control of the Admiralty and became part of the Royal Navy where it still is today.

The current strength of the Royal Air Force including reservists is 36,400 personnel and 832 aircraft

The Royal Air Force also has its own infantry to protect its airfields and provide Joint Terminal attack Support to the Army and Royal Marines it also provides a Special Forces Support Group. The Royal Air Force Regiment was formed in 1942 and has 2490 personnel including reservists .

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE MERCHANT NAVY



The Merchant Navy has played an important role in British history. It can officially be traced back to the seventeenth century when an attempt was made to register all seafarers as a source of labour for the Royal Navy. With the growth of the Empire, the merchant fleets also grew, either to trade across the world or to carry troops to where they would be needed to protect the outposts of the Empire. These stretched through the Middle East, down through Africa and across to India and China. The Empire was the largest the world had ever seen and was the one on which the sun never set.

In wartime, Britain depended on civilian cargo ships to import food and raw materials, as well as to transport our troops overseas and keep them supplied. Britain's merchant fleets grew to be the biggest in the world in both world wars. The seamen to man these fleets came from all over the Empire, from Africa, India, Hong Kong and many other parts of the world. Women also served at sea in the merchant fleets. By 1939 a third of the world's merchant ships were British and were manned by some 200,000 sailors.

During both world wars Germany operated a policy of unrestricted submarine warfare, sinking merchant ships on sight. By the end of World War One over 3,000 merchant and fishing vessels had been sunk, totalling 7,759,090 tons, with the loss of nearly 15,000 lives. This campaign nearly brought Britain to its knees in 1917; new strategies saved us but it was a very close thing. During World War Two 4,700 allied vessels were sunk, totalling 14,750,000 tons of which 11,750,000 came from the United Kingdom, and 29,000 lives were lost.

The title of Merchant Navy was bestowed upon the merchant fleets of Great Britain by King George V following their heroic efforts during the First World War. Other nations have since adopted the title.

In 1928 the King granted the title of Master of the Merchant and Fishing Fleets to the Prince of Wales who retained the title when he became King Edward VIII in 1936. Upon his abdication later that same year, the title passed to his brother when he became King George VI. The title is currently held by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Members of the Merchant Navy have been awarded many medals for gallantry, including the Victoria Cross, George Cross, George Medal, Distinguished Service Order and the Distinguished Service Cross.

In honour of the many sacrifices made, Merchant Navy Day became officially recognised as 3rd September in the year 2000.

CORPS OF ROYAL ENGINEERS



The Corps can trace its origins to the early days of the Ordnance Office (later Board) in the 16th century, when military engineers were employed by the king for duty in the royal arsenals and fortifications, and for the maintenance of warlike stores. When engineer tradesmen and specialists were required for a campaign, they were pressed into service and then disbanded on the ending of hostilities.

In 1716 a permanent officer corps of engineers was established by the Board of Ordnance, with the title Corps of Engineers, the royal prefix being granted in 1787.

A separate Corps of Royal Military Artificers was formed in 1787, consisting of non-commissioned ranks, with officers attached from other corps. In 1813 the title was changed to Royal Sappers and Miners which is the origin of their nickname the Sappers, by which the Royal Engineers are known today.

With the abolition of the Board of Ordnance in 1855 the two corps came under the War Office. Finally, the anomaly of maintaining one engineer corps of officers and another of soldiers was rectified in 1856 when the Corps of Royal Sappers and Miners was absorbed into the Corps of Royal Engineers.

Both the Royal Air Force and the Royal Corps of Signals had their origins in the Royal Engineers. From 1862 until the formation of the Royal Flying Corps in 1912, military aviation had been the responsibility of the Royal Engineers, and all army signaling was handled by the Royal Engineers until 1920 when it was realized that there was a need for a specialist branch of signalers which led to the forming of the Royal Corps of Signals.

The Royal Engineers are still responsible for all major military constructions like bridges and defensive systems today.

ROYAL REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY



Before 1716 there was no permanent body of artillery within the Army. Guns would be needed only for campaigns. A train of artillery would be authorised by Royal Warrant for a particular conflict, and would then be disbanded at the end of those hostilities. This arrangement led to confusion and delay when guns were required at short notice. Matters were brought to a head when the Jacobites rebelled in 1715. The authorising and organising of the train of artillery took too long, and the uprising was over before the guns could take to the field.

It was therefore decided that a permanent force of Artillery should be raised on a permanent regimental basis, and by Royal Warrant of George I dated 26th May 1716, two companies of Field Artillery were formed at Woolwich. This was the true beginning of the current regiment, although it did not have regimental strength until 1722 when they were grouped with other independent trains of artillery at Gibraltar and Minorca to form a regiment with the title Royal Regiment of Artillery.

During the 18th century this Regiment was greatly expanded and in February 1793 two troops (later batteries) of Royal Horse Artillery were raised to provide fire support to the Cavalry. There would also be garrison batteries, and by the middle of the 19th century, they could deploy 29 batteries of horse artillery, 73 field batteries and 88 garrison batteries.

Until 1855 the Royal Regiment of Artillery and the Corps of Royal Engineers were under the control of the Board of Ordnance, not the Army or War Office. In May 1855 the Board was abolished and along with the cavalry and infantry, they came under the Commander in Chief at the War Office.

In 1899 this regiment was reorganised by Royal Warrant into two branches with the Horse and Field in one, and the Garrison Artillery in the other. The latter was responsible for coastal defence batteries, heavy and siege batteries and mountain batteries. This arrangement lasted until 1924 when the titles of Royal Field and Royal Garrison were abolished. However, the Royal Horse Artillery retained its title and had a separate badge, but remains part of the Royal Regiment of Artillery.

The Royal Regiment of Artillery does not carry colours with battle honours on them as its guns are its colours. It would be impractical to do so as they have taken part in every campaign fought by the British Army. Their motto *Ubique* meaning everywhere was authorised in 1833; their second motto *Quo Fas et Gloria Ducunt* translates as *Whither Right and Glory Lead*.

When on parade with their guns, the Royal Horse Artillery take the right of the line and march at the head of all other Regiments including the Household Cavalry, a privilege that was granted by Queen Victoria in 1869

THE ROYAL SCOTS

(The Royal Regiment) (1st)



The Royal Scots trace their origins to mercenary Scottish troops serving Continental monarchs during the Thirty Years War, and earlier. In 1633 King Charles I of England warranted Colonel Sir John Hepburn to raise a Scottish Regiment for French service; this was later augmented by those Scots who had earlier been serving under Gustavus Adolphus and Louis XIII. This Regiment was brought into British service in 1661, after the Restoration of King Charles II, but did not finally return to England until 1678, when it was commanded by the 1st Earl of Dumbarton.

In 1633 they were raised as Le Regiment d'Hebron (Hepburn) and with the change of colonel in 1637, they became Le Regiment de Douglas. The title changed upon their return to England in 1678 when they became the Earl of Dumbarton's Regiment (1st Foot); then in 1684 they were renamed as The Royal Regiment of Foot. Over the years their title was changed again several times until in 1920 they became The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment).

With their unbroken record of service from 1633, the Royal Scots were indisputably the oldest Regiment in the British Army and known by other Regiments as Pontius Pilate's Bodyguard.

The Royal Scots existed as an independent Regiment until 2006 when it was amalgamated with the King's Own Scottish Borderers to form the Royal Scots Borderers which in turn amalgamated with the Royal Highland Fusiliers (Princess Margaret's Own Glasgow and Ayrshire Regiment), The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment), The Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Camerons) and The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders to form the Royal Regiment of Scotland.

SUFFOLK REGIMENT

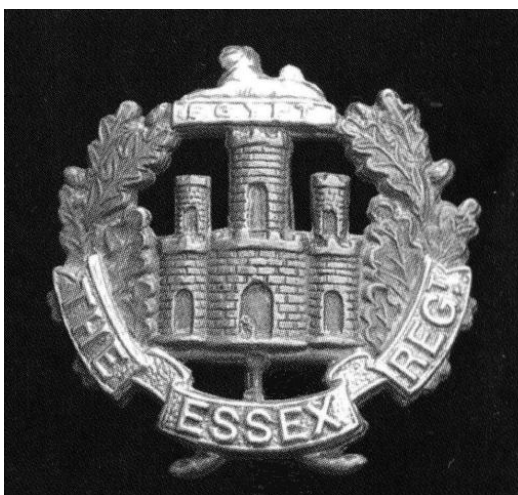


The Suffolk Regiment can trace their origins to 1660 when they were first raised as a Company of Foot to Garrison Windsor Castle by Henry Howard 7th Duke of Norfolk. In 1685 they were augmented as a Regiment and became The Duke of Norfolk's Regiment. All regiments at this time were named after their Colonel and this led to confusion when two or more regiments took to the field commanded by Colonels with the same name. A Royal Warrant of 1751 directed that numbers and not the Colonels name would be used based on the date of raising and this gave the regiments seniority in the line, and the Duke of Norfolk's Regiment became the 12th Regiment of foot. A royal Warrant in 1782 gave certain infantry regiments territorial or county subtitles and the 12th Regiment of Foot became the 12th East Suffolk Regiment of Foot

In 1881, following the Cardwell reforms of the Army structure where at this time there were 109 separate regiments of foot, those numbered 1 to 25 remained with their separate identity, numbers 26 to 109 were paired to become 2 battalion regiments, with this change the 12th East Suffolk Regiment became The Suffolk Regiment, the next title change took place in 1959 with their amalgamation with the Royal Norfolk Regiment to form the 1st East Anglian Regiment (Royal Norfolk and Suffolk) in 1964 the title changed again and they became part of The Royal Anglian Regiment. This new Regiment is one of the largest amalgamated Regiments of the British Army formed by amalgamating 1st East Anglian Regiment with 2nd East Anglian Regiment (Duchess of Gloucester's Own Royal Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire) and the 3rd East Anglian Regiment (The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment and the Essex Regiment) these Regiments themselves were the results of previous amalgamations of the following, 9th 10th 12th 16th 17th 44th 48th 56th and 58th Regiments of Foot. The Suffolk Regiment badge has the Castle & Key and Motto from the arms of Gibraltar for their part in siege of 1779 -83. The Suffolk's are proud that they were one of the infantry regiments that defeated the French Cavalry at the battle of Minden in 1759, during World War One they put 22 Battalions in the field.

During World War Two the regiment was at Dunkirk in 1940 and took part in the D Day landing in 1944, the 4th and 5th Battalions were in Singapore when it fell and became prisoners of the Japanese and worked on the Burma Railway, Post war they were one of the most successful regiments during the Malaya emergency of the 1950's

THE ESSEX REGIMENT



The Essex Regiment can trace its origins back to 1741 when they were raised by Colonel James Long as Colonel Long's Regiment of Foot and ranked as the 55th Regiment of Foot. The title changed with each new colonel's name until they were subsequently renumbered in 1748 as the 44th Regiment of Foot and the colonels' names disappeared. In 1782 they became the 44th East Essex Regiment of Foot. Then in 1881 came the Cardwell reforms when the 44th East Essex Regiment of Foot was amalgamated with the 56th West Essex Regiment of Foot who were originally raised in 1755 as the 58th Regiment of Foot and renumbered the 56th Regiment of Foot in 1757. In 1782 they became the 56th West Essex Regiment of Foot. The nickname of the 44th was the Little Fighting Fours and the 56th were the Pompadours on account of their uniform facings.

The 56th were one of five infantry regiments forming the garrison of Gibraltar during the siege of 1779-1783. Their services were commemorated on the Essex Regiment Badge which shows the castle and key of Gibraltar, along with the wreath of oak leaves (traditionally associated with Charles II's escape by hiding in the "Royal Oak") and the sphinx from the Egyptian campaign against the French in 1801.

The Regiment's motto was *Montis Insignia Calpe* (from the coat of arms of Gibraltar).

The 56th Regiment of Foot were the only regiment in the British Army to bear the battle honour Moro, gained in the West Indies in 1762.

During the First World War the Essex Regiment fielded 31 battalions.

In June 1958 the Essex Regiment were again amalgamated, this time with the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiments to become the 3rd East Anglian Regiment (16th / 44th Foot)

They are now part of the Royal Anglian Regiment formed on 1st September 1964 with the amalgamation of the 1st East Anglian Regiment (Royal Norfolk and Suffolk) with the 2nd East Anglian Regiment (Duchess of Gloucester's Own Royal Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire), the 3rd East Anglian Regiment (16th / 44th Foot) and the Royal Leicestershire Regiment (17th).

The predecessors of these regiments now lost to history are the following numbered Regiments of Foot:

9th, 10th, 12th, 16th, 17th, 44th, 48th, 56th, & 58th.

THE ROYAL HAMPSHIRE REGIMENT



The Royal Hampshire Regiment can trace its origins back to 1702 with the formation of Colonel Meredith's Regiment of Foot. In 1751 they were numbered along with other regiments of foot and became the 37th Regiment of Foot. In 1782 their title changed to the 37th North Hampshire Regiment of Foot, and in 1881 they were amalgamated with the 67th South Hampshire Regiment of Foot to form the Hampshire Regiment. The Royal prefix was granted in 1946.

The 37th were one of the Glorious Six infantry Regiments that defeated the French cavalry at the Battle of Minden in 1759.

The 67th South Hampshire Regiment was formed in 1758 as the 67th Regiment of Foot and in 1782 they became the 67th South Hampshire Regiment of Foot. In 1881 they were amalgamated with the 37th North Hampshire Regiment to form the Hampshire Regiment.

The Royal Tiger inscribed India carried on the Hampshire's Regimental Colour was granted to the 67th Regiment of Foot for their service in the India campaigns of 1805-1826.

In the defence reductions of 1969 The Royal Hampshire Regiment was scheduled for amalgamation with The Gloucestershire Regiment to form the Royal Regiment of Gloucestershire and Hampshire. However, by voluntarily reducing to one company (The Minden Company) the Hampshires preserved their separate identity, and later regained battalion strength.

After 111 years of service as the Hampshire or Royal Hampshire Regiment, they were amalgamated on 9th September 1992 with the Queen's Regiment to form the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE



The Australian Imperial Force was the main expeditionary force of the Australian Army during World War One. It was formed on 15th August 1914 following Britain's declaration of war on Germany. Its initial strength was one Infantry Division and one Light Horse Brigade. The first engagements along with the New Zealand Army were against the Turkish Army at Gallipoli between April and December 1915. This combined unit, known later as the ANZACs was subsequently reinforced with a second Infantry Division and three Light Horse Brigades.

After evacuation from Gallipoli to Egypt, it was expanded again to five Infantry Divisions who were committed to fighting in France and Belgium. There were two mounted divisions raised to remain in the Middle East and continue the fight against the Turks in Sinai and Palestine.

By the war's end the AIF had gained a reputation as being a well-trained and highly effective military force, and played a significant role in the final allied victory. However, this reputation came at a very high cost as its casualty rate was among the highest of any of the nations that fought in World War One.

The Australian Imperial Force also had its own Australian Flying Corps that would evolve after the war into the Royal Australian Air Force.

The remainder of the AIF was disbanded between 1919 and 1921, the Australians being known colloquially as the Diggers, and the New Zealanders, as the Kiwis. They became central to their national legend of the ANZACs (Australian New Zealand Army Corps).

At its height the AIF had 331,781 men, 63 of whom won the Victoria Cross. They sustained 210,000 casualties of whom 61,519 were killed or died of wounds, and another 4,000 became prisoners of war. This was a casualty rate of over 64%.

The AIF officially ceased to exist on 1st April 1921, and by 1st July 1921 all military hospitals had passed into civilian hands.



At the outbreak of the First World War in August 1914 the tactical use of machine guns was not appreciated by the British Military. Consequently, the Army went to war with its infantry battalions and cavalry regiments having a machine gun section of only two machine guns each. This was added to by the forming of the Motor Machine Gun Service under the Royal Artillery, made up of motor cycle mounted machine gun batteries, and a machine gun school being opened in France.

A year of warfare on the Western Front proved that to be fully effective, machine guns must be used in larger units crewed by specially trained men and in October 1915 the Machine gun Corps was authorized with 3 Sections 1 each for Infantry, Cavalry, and Motorized units and in early 1916 a 4th heavy section was added. A depot and training centre was established at Belton Park in Grantham, Lincolnshire and a base depot at Camiers in France.

The Infantry Branch was the biggest being formed from the Regimental Battalion's machine gun sections transferring to the Machine Gun Corps and grouped into Brigade Machine gun Companies with new companies being raised in Grantham. In 1917 a fourth company was added to each division and in February and March of 1918 saw the four companies of each division form battalions.

The Cavalry have Squadrons not battalions and therefore their Branch consisted of Brigade Machine Gun Squadrons.

The Motorized Branch after absorbing the Motor Machine Gun Service from the Royal Artillery, formed several types of unit, comprising Motor Cycle Batteries, Light Armoured Motor Batteries and Light car Patrols as well as Motor Cycles, they used Rolls Royce and Model T Cars.

The Heavy Section formed in March 1916 became the Heavy Branch in November 1916. Men of this branch crewed the first tanks in action at Flers, during the battle of the Somme in September 1916.

In July 1917 the Heavy branch separated from the Machine Gun Corps and became The Tank Corps.

During its short history the Machine Gun Corps gained an enviable record as a front line fighting force, seeing action in all the main theatres of war. At the end of hostilities they were again reorganized into a smaller form, but continued to see active service in the post war campaigns of Russia, India, and Afghanistan until being disbanded in 1922.

In its short life from 1915 to 1922 some 170,500 officers and men served in its ranks with 62,049 becoming casualties including 12,498 being killed.

The Machine Gun Corps were Nick-named the Suicide Club

Their Church is St Wulfram's Church Grantham Lincolnshire

Their Memorial is at Hyde Park Corner London

For their actions in the face of the enemy the following members of The Machine Gun Corps:

Have been awarded The Victoria Cross

Lance Corporal Harold Samford Mugford

Monchy-Le-Preux France 11-4-1917

Lieutenant John Reginald Noble Graham

Istabulat Mesopotamia (now Iraq) 22-4-1917

Lieutenant Allan Ebenezer Kea

St Quentin France 21-3-1918

Private Herbert George Columbine

Hervilly Wood France 22-3-1918

Acting Lance Corporal Arthur Henry Cross

Ervillers France 25-3-1918

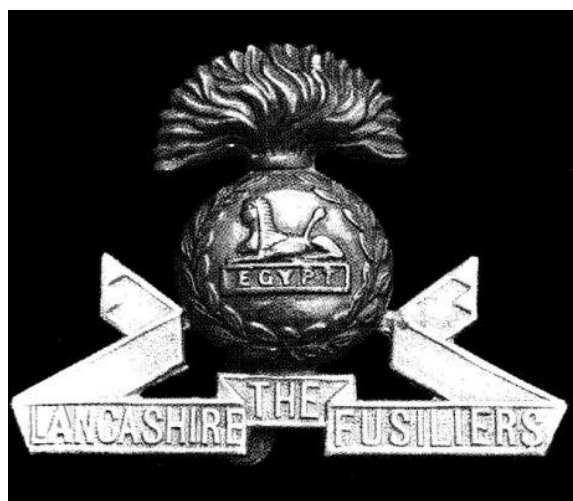
Temporary 2nd Lieutenant William Allison White

Gouzeaucourt France 18-9-1918

Lieutenant David Stuart McGregor

Hoozemolen Belgium 22-10-1918

THE LANCASHIRE FUSILERS (20TH)



The Lancashire Fusiliers' origins are traced to independent companies of foot, raised at Exeter by Colonel Sir Robert Peyton in November 1688, for service with the newly landed Prince William of Orange's force. Peyton's command was augmented as a regiment and taken into the English Establishment in February 1689.

In 1751 they were renamed the 20th Regiment of Foot and in 1782 they became the 20th East Devonshire Regiment of Foot. In 1881 they became The Lancashire Fusiliers and in 1968 they were amalgamated with The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, The Royal Warwickshire Fusiliers and The Royal Fusiliers to form The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

The 20th Regiment of Foot were one of the six British infantry regiments who defeated the French cavalry at Minden in 1759, and thereafter donned their Minden Roses on every anniversary of the battle; the tradition still carries on in the present Regiment.

In 1820-1821 the Regiment provided the guard for the captive Napoleon Bonaparte on the Island of St. Helena, and on the Emperor's death, men from the Regiment carried his coffin to the grave.

During the course of the First World War the Lancashire Fusiliers put 30 battalions in the field.

In Gallipoli (1915) the 1st Battalion won Six Victoria Crosses before breakfast at what became known as the Lancashire Landings.

Fusilier Regiments wear in their beret, along with the badge, a hackle of different colours; The Lancashire Fusiliers' hackle was primrose in colour and The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers to this day wear a red and white hackle with the red uppermost.

THE BLACK WATCH
(ROYAL HIGHLAND REGIMENT)
(42nd and 73rd)



The Black Watch, originating from independent companies of loyal highlanders, was raised in 1725 to police or watch over the doubtful highland clans; it is the senior Highland regiment. The sombre Black Watch tartan was adopted by the Regiment soon after its formation from the independent companies, and being the first authorised military tartan, was known as Government Tartan. The title of the Regiment is derived from the Gaelic, *Am Freiceadan Dubh* (The Black Watch), applied to the original Regiment by the clansmen to distinguish it from the English Redcoats or *Saighdearan Dearg*.

Following an Army order of 1822, The Black Watch have the unique distinction of wearing a red hackle in their bonnets, and no badge.

The 42nd can trace its origins to the formation in 1739 of the Earl of Crawford's Regiment of Foot (also known as the Highland Regiment). It was raised near Aberfeldy, Perthshire, of Loyal Highlanders, and command was given to Colonel John Lindsey, Earl of Crawford; it ranked as 43rd of Foot, renumbered 42nd in 1749. The title changed with the colonel's name until 1751 when colonels' names were dropped, and they became simply the 42nd Regiment of Foot. In 1758 they became the 42nd (The Royal Highland) Regiment of Foot, then in 1861, the 42nd Royal Highland Regiment of Foot (The Black Watch). Under the Cardwell Childers reforms of 1881, they were amalgamated with the 73rd (Perthshire) Regiment of Foot to form The Black Watch (Royal Highlanders). In 1936 the title changed to The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment).

The 73rd were originally raised in 1779 as the 2nd Battalion of the 42nd but became a separate regiment in 1786 with the title 73rd (Highland) Regiment of Foot, the colonel being Major General Sir George Osborn. Then in 1881 they were amalgamated as above.

In 2006 The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment), was amalgamated with the Royal Scots Borderers, The Royal Highland Fusiliers (Princess Margaret's Own Glasgow and Ayrshire Regiment), the Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Camerons), the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders to form the Royal Regiment of Scotland.

FEDERATION OF MALAY STATES VOLUNTEERS



As was the case with other British colonies, there were people in Malaya who realised they should be partially responsible for their own defence. This led to the first volunteer force of Malaya, the Singapore Rifle Corps, being raised in 1854 at the time of the Crimean War. In 1888 the Singapore Volunteer Artillery Corps was formed. These volunteers continued to serve the crown in Malaya and the Straits Settlements in times of national crisis. The Boer War 1899-1902 further stimulated the volunteer movement with the formation of the Malay States Volunteer Rifles.

The outbreak of World War One in August 1914 led to an immediate and rapid increase in the enrolment of volunteers who in 1915 took part in the suppression of the Sepoy Mutiny in Singapore.

As war clouds gathered in Europe during the 1930's, many men from all walks of life and nationalities joined the volunteer forces. They came from all ranks of the Malay Government, from the mines and plantations, from the business community, the medical profession and the church.

The men remained in their civilian occupations and received military training at night and at weekends. They were organised along the lines of the British Territorial Army, with the officers holding a Governor's Commission instead of a King's Commission.

The units were based upon the administrative states of Malaya in which the men worked. The Federated States of Malaya were ruled by sultans, not governors, but were answerable to Britain. These states were Perak, Selangor, Negri Sembilan and Pahang.

As well as these infantry units, there were also signals, light artillery, motor transport and field ambulance units.

The Federated States had a total of 5,200 men.

THE QUEEN'S OWN ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT

(50TH & 97TH)



The Queen's Royal West Kent Regiment can trace its origins back to the formation of the 52nd of Foot raised in January 1756. They were renumbered the 50th in December of that year with Colonel James Abercromby commanding.

Over the next few years, the title changed several times until in 1855 they became the 50th (Queen's Own) Regiment. Following the Cardwell reforms of 1881, they were amalgamated with the 97th (Earl of Ulster's) Regiment of Foot to form The Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) and became the 1st and 2nd Battalions respectively of the new regiment.

The nicknames for this regiment were either The Dirty Half-Hundred or the Blind Half-Hundred.

The 97th (Earl of Ulster's) Regiment of Foot was raised in March 1824. The Earl of Ulster was the Irish title of the Duke of Cambridge. The Regiment's title remained unchanged until their amalgamation in 1881.

Their nickname was the Celestials owing to their unique sky-blue facings.

In the Defence review of 1966, this Regiment was amalgamated with The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, The Queen's Own Buffs (The Royal Kent Regiment), The Royal Sussex Regiment and The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own). These four regiments were themselves the result of several amalgamations over the years to form the Queen's Regiment.

The Queen's Regiment was England's Senior Infantry Regiment of the Line. With changes and amalgamations, the senior infantry regiment of the British Army is The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

In September 1992 The Queen's Regiment was amalgamated with The Royal Hampshire Regiment to form the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshires).

This new regiment is now England's Senior Infantry Regiment of the Line.

ROYAL TANK REGIMENT



This Regiment has no history before World War One

Tanks were first used in combat on the Somme in 1916 by the Heavy Section later the Heavy Branch of the Machine Gun Corps on the Western Front. The tank idea came from Winston Churchill to break through the barb wire entanglements he called them land ships, the first development was from water tanks and hence the name Tank and it stuck. The men inside had to hark back to the middle ages and where chainmail as protection from flying metal splinters that broke off when bullets struck the outsides.

From these early beginnings on 28th July 1917 The Tank Corps was formed from the Heavy Branch of The Machine Gun Corps, in 1923 they became The Royal Tank Corps and in 1939 they became The Royal Tank Regiment on being deployed with the newly formed Royal Armoured Corps of Mechanised Cavalry.

The first great tank attack in history was mounted by the Tank Corps on 20th November 1917 when 378 massed tanks smashed through the Hindenburg Line at Cambrai contributing largely to the initial success of that offensive.

Cambrai day is still celebrated annually by the Regiment.

The Regimental colours of brown red and green originated with the makeshift flag flown by Major General Elles on his command tank at Cambrai. It's said that he had the flag made up from the only coloured silk he could find in a local draper's shop, and were held to exemplify the early struggles of the Tank Corps: Through mud, through blood to the green fields beyond.

CORPS OF ROYAL ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS



This Corps is relatively new in terms of Army units, having been formed only in 1942. Prior to World War Two, units were normally capable of dealing with the repair and maintenance of their own weapons, equipment and vehicles, aided when necessary by specialists from technical corps such as the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, the Royal Corps of Signals and the Royal Army Service Corps.

With the advent of mechanisation and the vast diversity of new weapons and equipment, the tasks of prompt recovery, repair and maintenance in the field posed problems beyond the skills of non-technical unit personnel. It became clear that a new specialist corps was needed to perform these tasks.

Army Order 70 of May 1942 directed the formation of this new regiment, the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers of the British Army. The majority of personnel were transferred from the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, the Royal Engineers, and the Royal Army Service Corps.

Wartime duties included the provision of Light Aid Detachments to front line units, and the operating of field and base workshops. In 1949 their designation was altered to its present form, Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

As its title implies, the Corps is responsible for the extra unit capacity inspection, modification, repair and recovery of all the highly complex armament and equipment of the modern Army, ranging from fighting vehicles to electronic and optical instruments plus medical and dental equipment.

It also advises on design and user parameters of projected new equipment, and provides general technical advice to all levels of command.

ROYAL CORPS OF SIGNALS



First formed as the Corps of Signals in June 1920 from the Royal Engineers Signal Service, it was granted its title Royal in August 1920.

The early history of army signalling and communications was largely the responsibility of the Royal Engineers. The electric telegraph was first used by the Army during the Crimean War, and in 1870, a Telegraph Troop Royal Engineers was set up.

After the invention of the telephone by Alexandra Graham Bell in 1876, Royal Engineers Officers devised their own version, which was extensively used in the Afghan War of 1879-1880.

From 1908 all army communications were co-ordinated and under the control of the Royal Engineers Signal Service that had been raised that year.

During the Great War this branch served in every theatre of conflict, and employed every means of communication, from despatch riders, carrier pigeons and dogs, to the recently invented wireless.

By 1920 it was realised that signals had become too specialised to remain the responsibility of the Royal Engineers with all the multitude of other duties they had to perform. That realisation led to the separate Royal Corps of Signals being established.

They continue to use all the latest technology, as it is invented, including the latest satellite communication with mobile phones.

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE SQUADRON 415



The squadron was established on 2 August 1941 as a torpedo-bomber squadron operating under Royal Air Force command, first out of Thorney Island, Hampshire, with a mixture of Beauforts, Blenheims and Hampdens over the next two years. The squadron carried out anti-submarine patrols from February 1942, and shipping strikes from May, initially with bombs but later with torpedoes.

In September 1943 the squadron converted to the Leigh Light Wellington and the Albacore which operated in tandem; the Wellington would locate German E-boats and the Albacore would attack them. Over the next year they sank a number of E-boats, enemy merchant ships and some larger warships.

In July 1944 the squadron converted to the Halifax and joined No6 (RCAF) of Bomber Command and took part in the strategic bombing offensive until the end of the war.

During the war the squadron had operated either complete or as detachments from bases situated in Cornwall, Devon, Hampshire, Kent, Norfolk, Lincolnshire, North Yorkshire and Scotland.

The Squadron was disbanded in May 1945.

415 Squadron was re-established on 5 June 2015. Their mission was to contribute to force development and optimisation of (RCAF) long-range patrol command.

HAMPDEN BOMBER





The S.S. Goolistan was a steam merchant ship completed in 1929. A vessel of some 5,851 tons with a speed of 10 knots, she was built by Short Brothers of Pallion, Sunderland and was powered by engines built by Dickinson, John and Sons of Sunderland. The ship had a complement of 52 and was owned by Common Brothers Ltd of Newcastle upon Tyne, her home port.

The ship had been on Convoy QP-15 that had left the port of Archangel, Russia on 17 November 1942, when a storm scattered the convoy on its return journey to Loch Ewe, Scotland. This was the main staging post for the Russian convoys to Murmansk and Archangel. 481 Merchant ships and 100 Royal Navy ships sailed in these convoys to supply Russia during World War Two.

S.S. Goolistan found herself on her own when at 00:56 hrs she was attacked between Bear Island and Spitsbergen, north of Norway, by U625, a German submarine under the command of Hans Benker. The ship was struck by 2 torpedoes and caught fire forcing the crew into open boats in the bitter cold of the Arctic Circle. The submarine surfaced and questioned the crew as to the whereabouts of the captain, Master William Thomson. The crew stated he was still on board and at 01:45 the ship sank; the crew was never found.

The submarine U625 was sunk later in the war.

In the mouth of Loch Ewe stands a monument to all the brave seamen who left on these dangerous convoys and lost their lives, never to return.

Where S.S. Goolistan sank



HMS GLORY



The Aircraft Carrier HMS Glory was the tenth ship of the Royal Navy to bear that name she was a Colossus Class Light Aircraft Carrier launched in 1943, she carried a total of 48 aircraft from two squadrons, 837 Naval Air Squadron flying Barracuda Aircraft and 1831 Naval Air Squadron flying Corsair Aircraft.

She was commissioned into service in April 1945 and joined the British Pacific Fleet 11th Aircraft Carrier Squadron, HMS Glory was chosen to accept the surrender of the Japanese forces in New Britain on 6th September 1945. Following World War Two HMS Glory was decommissioned and then re-commissioned for service at the outbreak of the Korean War in 1950, where she carried out three tours of duty equipped with Sea Furies from 804 Naval Air Squadron.

The ten ships of the Royal Navy to bear the name HMS Glory were:

44 Gun Ship of the Line 1747	32 Gun 5 th Rate Ship of the Line 1763
An 8 Gun Lugger 1781	98 Gun Ship of the Line 1788
32 Gun Ship of the Line 1795	36 Gun 5 th Rate Ship of the Line 1806
38 Gun 5 th Rate Ship of the Line 1814	Battleship in 1899
Cruiser in 1918	Aircraft Carrier in 1943



WOMEN AT WAR

WOMENS ROYAL NAVAL SERVICE (WRENS)



The Women's Royal Naval Service was formed in 1917 during World War One, their role was to release men for the Fleet, it included them becoming cooks, clerks, wireless telegraphists, radar plotters, weapons analysts, range assessors, electricians and air mechanics. Wrens wore the same rank insignia as their male counterparts but in Blue not Gold and the officer markings had a diamond on top of the officer rings not a circle. The ratings designation was prefixed with Wren Cook or Leading Wren Cook and so on.

The first Wren killed on active service was Josephine Carr from Cork who was killed when her ship the RMS LEINSTER was torpedoed on 10th October 1918.

By the end of World War One they had recruited 5,500 until they were disbanded in 1919, of those some 2,000 Wrens who had been serving with the Royal Naval Air Service were rebadged as WAAFs and transferred to the Royal Air Force when the Royal Naval Air Service merged with the Royal Flying Corps on 1st April 1918 to form the Royal Air Force.

The Wrens were re-raised in 1939 at the outbreak of World War Two and remained an active unit in their own right until fully integrated within the Royal Navy in 1993. When the Wrens were re-raised in 1939 its allowable duties had expanded to include the flying of Transport Planes.

At its height in 1944 it had 75,000 service women and of those 100 were killed while on duty

WOMEN IN THE ARMY



For generations women served with the army in the field but always on a domestic or sutler basis.

The first officially recognized unit for women was the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry formed 1909 initially as a corps of horse women who would ride into action; succouring the wounded and carrying them back for further treatment. When war broke out in 1914 it was decided that the intended activity of the FANY would not be practicable and their personnel during the course of World War One were used in hospitals and as ambulance drivers, we must also remember that women from the Red Cross and VAD and other organizations also provided nursing services to Military Hospitals and Aid Posts during the course of the war. The corps continued to exist between the wars until in 1933 when its title was changed to the Women's Transport Service (FANY). In 1939 the personnel were inducted into the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS)

In early 1917 the War Office raised the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps for duties other than nursing and in May 1918 Queen Mary became Colonel in Chief, the title became Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps. With peace came the dissolution of the corps in September 1921 and women in their roll were not required again until 1938 when the Auxiliary Territorial Service was formed, after World War Two the ATS were put on a firmer footing and reborn on 1st February 1949 as The Women's Royal Army Corps, which has since become fully integrated into the modern army.

The Women's Army Auxiliary Corps at its height during World War One had over 57,000 personnel, they first went to the battlefields on the 31st March 1917 with Helen Gwynne – Vaughan as the senior officer overseas who went on to become the Head of the Women's Royal Air Force.

In 1918 women medical personnel were sent to the front where in May 1918 Dr Phoebe Chapple would win the Military Medal for her actions during an air raid on the WAAC shelter trench outside Abbeville, although they were not on combat duties they were on the front line so had to endure shelling and aerial attack in April 1918 nine were killed at Etaples Army Camp. British newspapers said it was another example of a German atrocity. Helen Gwynne – Vaughan pointed out that as they were there in France as replacements for soldiers, the enemy was quit entitled to try and kill them.

WOMENS ROYAL AIR FORCE



The Women's Royal Air Force was raised as the women's branch on the formation of the Royal Air Force on 1st April 1918. It existed in two incarnations, first from 1918 until 1920, then during World War Two there was the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) it was established in 1939 and absorbed the 48 RAF companies of the ATS that had been established in 1938 at its height it had 180,000 personnel. The Women's Royal Air Force second incarnation was formed in 1949 from what remained of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force following de-mobilisation after World War Two. It became fully integrated within the Royal Air Force in 1994.

The women's branch of the Royal Air Force in its first incarnation was to provide mechanics to release men to the front, but it soon expanded into other areas such as drivers. It was not long before it put out recruiting posters for experienced motor cyclists and other skills.

Its strength in its first incarnation was around 15,500 although figures are unreliable. This number was made up from those women transferred from the Royal Naval Air Service and those from the Royal Flying Corps plus around 5,000 recruits of its own.

The last surviving veteran worldwide from World War One was Florence Green who was born in London on 19th February 1901 and joined the Women's Royal Air Force in September 1918. She died in North Lynn, Norfolk on 4th February 2012.

During World War Two the WAAF's performed a variety of tasks from operating Barrage Balloons to Radar from Catering to Parachute Packing, Air Force nursing was provided by Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service, the female Medical and Dental Officers held Commissioned Royal Air Force Ranks.

Women Police Volunteers (WPV)

In 1914 the Headmistresses' Association suggested the formation of a female police force to control the behaviour of young women. As a result, over 2,000 Women's Patrols were formed and every night would tour public parks and visit cinemas in an attempt to prevent acts of immorality.

Margaret Damer Dawson, Secretary of the International Congress of Animal Protection Societies, was another who was concerned about the behaviour of young women. With the support of Sir Edward Henry, the Chief Commissioner of Police, she formed the Women Police Volunteers (WPV) with Nina Boyle. The government had always opposed the idea of policewomen but with the outbreak of the First World War and large numbers of policemen joining the British Army, it was considered a good idea to have women volunteers to help run the service. Another reason that Dawson's proposal was accepted was that her members were willing to work without pay.

In 1915 Margaret Damer Dawson became Commandant and Mary Allen became Sub-Commandant. Allen, a member of the Women Political and Social Union who had been imprisoned three times during the campaign for the vote. She later remarked in her book, *The Pioneer Policewoman*, that: "A sense of humour had kept me from any bitterness. I was quite as enthusiastically ready to work with and for the police as I had been prepared, if necessary, to enter into combat with them."

In 1915 Dawson renamed her organisation, the Women's Police Service (WPS). At first the organization concentrated its work in the London area. Wearing a dark-blue uniform, the WPS were assigned responsibilities such as looking after the welfare of refugees.

Grantham in Lincolnshire became the first provincial town to form a branch of the Women's Police Service. Impressed by the achievements of the WPS in Grantham, two of the women were made full members of the police force. In a meeting held in November, 1915, the Bishop of Grantham praised the work of the WPS and called for a national Women's Police Force.

In 1916 the Admiralty recruited a member of the WPS as an undercover worker in an attempt to expose spying and drug taking at the Scapa Flow Naval Base. The Ministry of Munitions also used the WPS to search women workers at its factories. At Gretna, near Carlisle, over 9,000 women were employed to produce munitions and 150 members of the WPS had the responsibility of searching them when they entered and left the factory.



Mary Allen is second from the right.
Margaret Damer Dawson is in the centre.



When war broke out in 1914 there was a mass exodus of men to the front line, they left from towns and villages right across the isles of Britain. The nation had never been self-sufficient in food production. As the war progressed and the U-Boat menace increased we as a nation almost starved.

Owing to the needs of war there was also a manpower shortage and to make matters worse horses were in short supply due to them being commandeered by the Army, another problem the harvest of 1917 had failed which left the country with only 3 weeks reserve supply of food, this situation was exacerbated further with most of France's food supply areas now under German Control. Elsewhere Russia was experiencing famine and unrest and was sliding towards revolution.

At the eleventh hour, the Government's Food Production Department set up the Women's Land Army hoping to avoid a catastrophe, Lady Trudie Denman of the fledgling Women's institute was appointed to organise this new organisation and by the war's end there were thousands of Land Girls setting to work, milking, ploughing, herding and thatching. This situation may have been avoided earlier in the war if it had not been for the traditional male prejudice from the nations farmers, in 1915 the Board of Trade tried to persuade farmers to employ female labour or the Lilac Bonnet Brigade as they were derisively called, the prevailing attitude was that women could not do the milking, make butter, tend the poultry, and even lend a hand with the haymaking. But to plough a field in winter the very idea raised plenty of guffaws from British Farmers.

As the Farmers derision worsened the female workers patience snapped made worse when a member of the Launceston Board of Trade declared publicly that women could not do certain forms of work. Women's Anger was roused and eight women performed a public demonstration of all the major skills required of farming, later 43 women competitors demonstrated their skills in harnessing and driving horses and wagons, ploughing, muck spreading and potato planting. The rest as they say is history, recruiting began for the W.L.A. in 1917.

They were raised again in 1939 to avert a similar crisis and when they were finally stood down in 1950 this time the National Farmers Union protested against it being disbanded an amazing turnaround.

At its height in World War Two it had more than 100,000 Land Girls, the life was hard and physically demanding, it was a far cry from the glamorous image of the recruiting posters.

The Women's Timber Corps was part of the Women's Land Army created to replace the men who had left the forestry to enlist in the armed forces; they were generally called Lumber Jill's. Their role was to supply the timber required for rebuilding, pit props for mines and all the other uses that timber would be required for.

The work was hard and physically demanding just like the girls who worked the land, they also were required to work with horses that were required to move the heavy loads of timber from felling to saw mill.

The Women's Land Army uniform was usually brown laced brogues, baggy brown corduroy breeches and knee length fawn socks, they also wore green aertex shirt, fawn long sleeved v neck sweater and brown felt pork pie hat. For every day work they wore brown dungarees, (a white overall indicated a dairy worker) matching jacket and wellies, if attending a formal function they were required to wear a tie.

Munitionettes

In the early stages of the First World War the British munitions industry had great difficulty producing the weapons and ammunition needed by the armed forces. In 1915 the government passed the Munitions of War Act that gave it the power to take direct control of the industry. David Lloyd George, Minister of Munitions, announced that normal trade union activities in this industry was now forbidden. Lloyd George was also given power to force the industry to accept unskilled workers. Many of the workers that Lloyd George directed to the munitions industry were women.

Whereas in 1914 there were 212,000 women working in the munitions industry, by the end of the war it had increased to 950,000. Christopher Addison, who succeeded David Lloyd George as Minister of Munitions, estimated in June, 1917, that about 80 per cent of all weapons and shells were being produced by women. These women workers became known as Munitionettes.

The work was extremely dangerous and in one explosion in an East London factory, 12 women were killed. Other accidents at munition factories resulted in over 200 deaths during the First World War. Others suffered health problems such as TNT poisoning because of the dangerous chemicals the women were using.

The trade union leader, Mary Macarthur, led the campaign to protect the women forced to work in the munitions industry. She pointed out that women in the industry received on average less than half of what the men were paid. After much discussion it was agreed to increase women's wage-rates in the munitions industry. However, by 1918, whereas the average male wage in the munitions industry was £4 6s. 6d. for women it was only £2 2s. 4d.

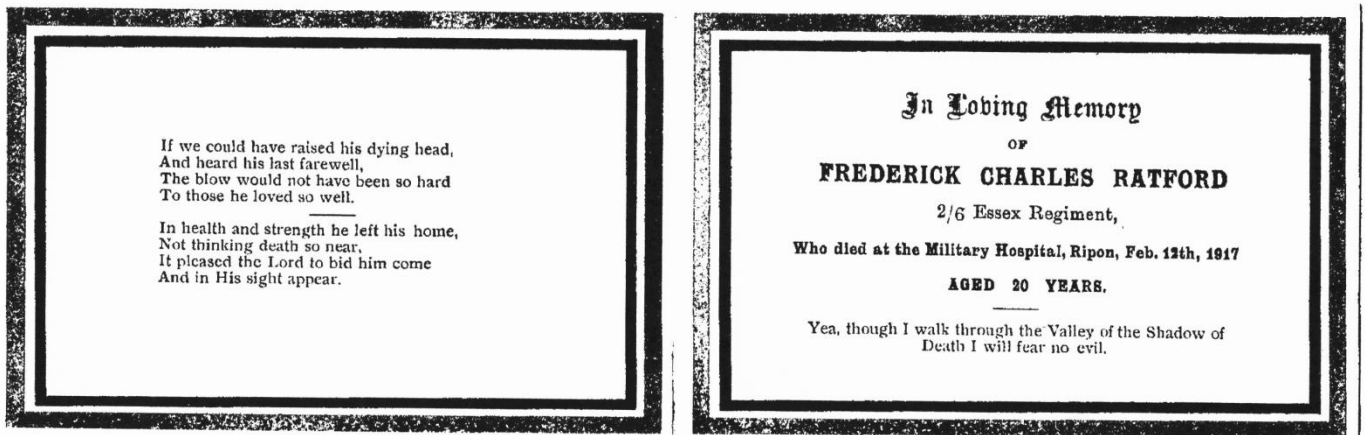


Edward Skinner, *For King and Country* (1916)

Why Wear a Poppy

By Olive Coombes

Please wear a poppy the lady said; and held one forth, but I shook my head.
Then I stopped and watched, as she offered them there, her face was old and lined with care.
But beneath the scars the years had made, there remained a smile that refused to fade.
A boy came whistling down the street, bouncing along on carefree feet.
His smile was full of joy and fun, "Lady" he said "may I have one?"
When she pinned it on, he turned to say "why do we where a poppy today?"
The Lady smiled in her wistful way, and answered, this is Remembrance Day.
And the poppy there is a symbol for, the gallant men, who died in war,
And because they did you and I are free.
That's why we wear a poppy you see."
I had a boy about your size, with golden hair and big blue eyes.
He loved to play and jump and shout, free as a bird he would race about.
As the years went by, he learned and grew, and became a man as you will too.
He was fine and strong, with a boyish smile, but he seemed to be with us such a little while.
When war broke out he went away, I still remember his face that day.
When he smiled at me, and said goodbye, "I'll be back soon mum, so please don't cry."
But the war went on, and he had to stay, and all I could do was wait and pray.
His letters told of the awful fight, I still see it in my dreams at night.
With the tanks and guns and cruel barbed wire, the mines and the bullets, the bombs and the fire.
Till at last the war was won, so that's why we where a poppy son.
The small boy turned as if to go, then said "thanks lady I'm glad to know that sure did sound an awful fight.
But your son did, he come back alright?"
A tear rolled down the faded cheek, she shook her head but did not speak.
I slink away feeling sick with shame, and if you had been me you would have done the same.
For our thanks in giving is often delayed, though our freedom was bought and thousands paid.
So when you see a poppy worn, try to think of the burden borne, by those who gave their very all.
When asked to respond to their countries call, that we at home in peace might live.
So where a poppy remember and give.



**MEMORIAL CARD PLAQUE AND CERTIFICATE
FOR PRIVATE FREDERICK CHARLES RATFORD
ESSEX REGIMENT**





HE whom this scroll commemorates was numbered among those who, at the call of King and Country, left all that was dear to them, endured hardness, faced danger, and finally passed out of the sight of men by the path of duty and self-sacrifice, giving up their own lives that others might live in freedom. Let those who come after see to it that his name be not forgotten.

Private Frederick Charles Ratford

Essex Regiment

WORLD WAR TWO COMMEMORATION SCROLL



This scroll commemorates

Sgt Jabez Harold Steward
Royal Air Force

held in honour as one who
served King and Country in
the world war of 1939-1945
and gave his life to save
mankind from tyranny. May
his sacrifice help to bring
the peace and freedom for
which he died.



STANDARD MEDALS ISSUED FOR SERVICE DURING WORLD WAR ONE

1914 Star
issued to all service
personnel who
served in an active
war zone between
August 5th and
November 22nd
1914 but did not come
under fire

1914 Star with Bar
issued to all service
personnel who
served in an active
war zone between
August 5th and
November 22nd
1914 who came
under enemy fire

1914-1915 Star
issued to all
Service personnel
who served in an
active war zone
between August 5th
1914 and
December 31st
1915 but not to
those who had
already qualified
for the 1914 Star,
Africa GSM or
Sudan 1910 Medal

1914-1918
War Medal
issued to British &
Imperial forces
who served in
active theatre of
war for a
minimum 28 days
or on deployment
overseas i.e. India

1914-1919
Victory Medal
issued to all who
received 1914 or
1914-15 Star and
to most who
were awarded
the War Medal
Women qualified
for this and the
War Medal and
Star for service in
nursing homes
and other
Auxiliary forces



Decorations
The
Military Cross
The
Military Medal
Those shown
are for our
Present
Monarch



Established in 1920
The territorial force
medal was awarded
to members of the
territorial force and
territorial nursing
service who served
overseas during
world war one and
had volunteered to
do so before 30th
September 1914

The Mercantile
Marine Medal
awarded by the
Board of Trade to
the members of
the Merchant
Navy for one or
more voyages
through a danger
of war zone
during World War
One

All Medals
that carry the
Monarch's
Head or
insignia bear
those of the
ruling
monarch
when issued

Military Cross
Instituted 1914
for gallantry to
Warrant and
Junior officers of
the army it is the
3rd highest
decoration for
gallantry.
Now issued to all
ranks and
branches

Military Medal
Instituted 1916
the medal is
considered to be
the other ranks
equivalent to the
military cross. It is
not issued today
as the Military
Cross is now
issued to all ranks

STANDARD MEDALS ISSUED FOR SERVICE DURING WORLD WAR TWO			
	1939-45 Star 1	Pacific Star 5	
	Battle of Britain Bar Bomber Command Bar	Burma Bar	
	Atlantic Star 2	Burma Star 6	
	Air Crew Europe Bar France & Germany Bar	Pacific Bar	
	Air Crew Europe Star 3	Italy Star 7	
	France & Germany Bar Atlantic Bar	NO BAR	
	Africa Star 4	France Germany Star 8	
	8 th Army Bar 1 st Army Bar North Africa 1942-43 Bar	Atlantic Bar	
	Defence Medal 9	War Medal 1939-45 10	
	Arctic Star		

Various criteria was used by each of the armed forces to qualify for an award. But service personnel, Police, Fire, Ambulance, Civil Defence and Auxiliary personnel including the Home Guard would be entitled to the **Defence Medal** and **War Medal 1939-45**. Merchant seamen and fishermen also qualified for these and the stars. **The Arctic Star** was not instituted until 2013 but after much pressure the ministry of defence agreed to recognise the bravery of those serving in the arctic campaign during WW2 along **with the bar for Bomber Command** to recognise their sacrifice. Where a Medal has a bar issued only one bar may be worn even if more than one has been earned, when a bar is issued it is to recognise the other star.(example Burma Star won Pacific Bar issued to recognise you had qualified for Pacific Star).The maximum number of stars allowed to be issued to one person is five. Where a person is mentioned in despatches a bronze oak leaf would be sown on the ribbon of War Medal, a civilian who received the King's Commendation a spray of silver laurel leaves would be sown on the Defence Medal

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION

During World War One, in January and May of 1916, the Government introduced the Military Service Act. This act introduced compulsory military service, known as conscription, first for single men, then for all men aged between 18 and 40. The act contained a clause allowing for men to object to military service. Local tribunals were set up where the men could appeal for their exemption. Among the grounds for exemption were: hardship, illness, education and the essential nature of their work, and on the grounds of Conscientious Objection. By the end of the war, some 20,000 men had used the clause to object to their military service. A similar Act was introduced in 1939 for the duration of World War Two it was extended in 1948 and lasted until 1960.

Conscientious objectors were men who, mainly for religious reasons, refused to bear arms or work in munitions factories. They would very often be sent away from the places they knew and were made to work on the land. The two men from Capel during the two world wars did exactly that.

Some objectors did serve in the front line, but worked as stretcher bearers for a particular regiment or unit, or as general labourers behind the lines serving in the Non Combatant Corps. They were willing to wear the King's uniform while not bearing arms. The brass cap badge was a simple N.C.C. At the time of World War One many of these men had received white feathers given by people who saw them as cowards. This was not true as the following illustration of the medals awarded to a very brave man, who was a Conscientious Objector shows.

William Harold Coltman VC, DCM & Bar, MM & Bar

Victoria Cross

Distinguished Conduct Medal & Bar

Military Medal & Bar

Mentioned in Dispatches

French Croix de Guerre

1914-1915 Star

1914-1918 War Medal

1914-1919 Victory Medal

1939-1945 Defence Medal

1937 Coronation Medal

1953 Coronation Medal

Special Constabulary Long Service Medal

L/CPL 241028 WILLIAM HAROLD COLTMAN
NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE (PRINCE OF WALES) REGIMENT
CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR WORLD WAR ONE

1891 – 1974



William was born in Rangemore, Staffordshire in 1891. After school he worked as a farm servant. He volunteered for Army Service in January 1915 but requested to serve as a non-combatant stretcher-bearer. He was convinced that helping his wounded colleagues was the greater matter of conscience rather than taking the life of his fellow man. This decision actually placed him in greater danger than that faced by his comrades. He was slightly built and only 5feet 4inches tall.

He would enter no-man's-land alone to retrieve his wounded comrades and carry them back to safety, on his back, without the means to defend himself. His courage and his unwillingness to give up until all the wounded had been rescued, began to be recognised, and by the end of 1916, he had been mentioned in dispatches and been awarded the Croix de Guerre by the French.

In February 1917 he was awarded the Military Medal (M.M.) the 3rd highest gallantry award, for rescuing a wounded officer from no-man's-land. In June 1917 he was awarded a bar to his M.M. for his conduct behind the front line when he removed stocks of hand grenades from a store that had been set alight by mortar fire, as well as for rescuing men trapped in a collapsed tunnel.

In July 1917 he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (D.C.M.) the 2nd highest gallantry award, for his actions over a period of several days. He saved many lives at great personal risk to himself by evacuating wounded from the front line under shell fire, and worked throughout the night under shell and machine gun fire. In late September 1918 he was awarded a bar to his D.C.M. for his conduct when he treated and rescued many wounded men under heavy shell fire. He continued to work throughout the following day without rest or sleep; he was indifferent to shell and machine gun fire and refused to stop until he was positive that his sector was clear of wounded.

A week later, on 3rd and 4th of October 1918, during the operations at Mannequin Hill, north-east of Sequehart in France, he was awarded the Victoria Cross, the highest award for gallantry, for most conspicuous bravery, initiative and devotion to duty. On hearing that some wounded had been left behind during a retirement, on his own initiative, he went forward alone in the face of intense fire, found the wounded, dressed them, and on three separate occasions carried his comrades on his back to safety thus saving their lives. He then tended the wounded unceasingly for forty-eight hours.

On his demobilization he quietly took a job with the Burton on Trent Parks department as a groundskeeper where he stayed until retirement in 1963. He never sought adulation for his courage; after receiving his Victoria Cross from the King, he went straight home to avoid a civic reception in his honour. William died in 1974 aged 82.

CAPEL ST MARY CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS

JOSEPH PICKESS

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR WORLD WAR ONE

1877 – 1964



Joseph Pickess was born in Capel in 1877, one of 14 children born to Samuel Pickess and Harriett Pickess née Beaston. Joseph's father, who worked as an agricultural labourer, was born in Bentley in 1836 and died in 1918 in Capel. His mother, Harriett, was born in Capel in 1839 and died in Capel in 1902. They were married in Capel in 1859.

Joseph's siblings were: Elizabeth [born and died 1861], Sarah [born and died 1863], Emma [born 1864], Mary [1865–1927], Alice [born 1868], William [1868-1958], Emily [born 1870], John [born 1870], Kate [born 1871], Samuel [born 1873], Harriett [born 1875], Walter [1877-1951] and Bertie [1882-1974].

Joe, as he was known, attended Capel School where he was a quick learner, and after several years the master told him he could not teach him anything more so Joe left at the age of 10. He had several jobs during his early working life; he was a shepherd for a time and a jobbing gardener. Later he taught himself to mend boots, shoes and clocks and worked for himself. Joe was a very religious man and taught himself Latin and spent many hours in and around the local churches. He wanted to see the Independent Chapel in the Street, which was dilapidated and had fallen into disuse, repaired and reopened. Joe to this end worked tirelessly, and it reopened as a place of worship in 1921. He became its secretary and caretaker until the time of his death in 1964. When World War One came, he was a conscientious objector on religious principles. He refused a non-combatant job making munitions, saying it was as bad as fighting. He was eventually sent to work the land in Berkshire, the only time he left this part of Suffolk. Joe is buried in Little Wenham Church where he spent many happy days of his life.

HENRY STAMMERS
CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR WORLD WAR TWO
1907 -1997



Henry was born 1907 in Clopton, Suffolk, one of ten children born to William Louis Stammers and Lucy Stammers née Branton. His father, William, was born in 1867 in Alpheton, Suffolk. He worked his way up and by the time Henry was born, he was a farm bailiff. He got married in Plomesgate, Suffolk to Lucy Branton in 1895 and died in Ipswich, Suffolk in 1944. Henry's mother, Lucy, was born 1872 in Brandeston, Suffolk and died in Ipswich in 1948. Before she married, she was a servant in Monewden, Suffolk to George Smyth, a farmer.

Henry's nine siblings were: Mirriam [born 1896], Ernest Lewis [born 1898], William John [born 1901], Bessie [born 1903], Florence [born 1905], Cyril George [born 1910], Jane [born 1914], Doris [born 1916] and Stanley [born 1920].

Henry's first job in 1923 was with the Ipswich Co-op at Bentley, and he came to Capel St Mary in 1938 and married Ada Cook from East Bergholt. The war came in 1939 and as Henry was a Methodist and had been all his life, he became a conscientious objector as he disagreed with all wars. Henry was sent to work the land at Amor Hall, Washbrook. He stayed there throughout the war and continued to work on the farm until it was sold in 1952. He then worked on a farm at Raydon for 2 years. After the farm work he got a job with Ransomes Sims and Jefferies in Ipswich until he retired. When he first came to Capel, he rented a cottage from Mr Jessupp and after several moves within Capel, he finally lived in a bungalow opposite the Methodist Church which was very convenient for the shops and village hall. Henry's sister, Doris, was for many years the church organist. For several years, before the doctors' surgery opened in the village, (the doctor used to visit once a week from East Bergholt), Henry would collect and deliver the prescriptions around the village. On Sundays he was one of the Sunday school teachers and as a Methodist he enjoyed this time very much. Henry died in 1997.

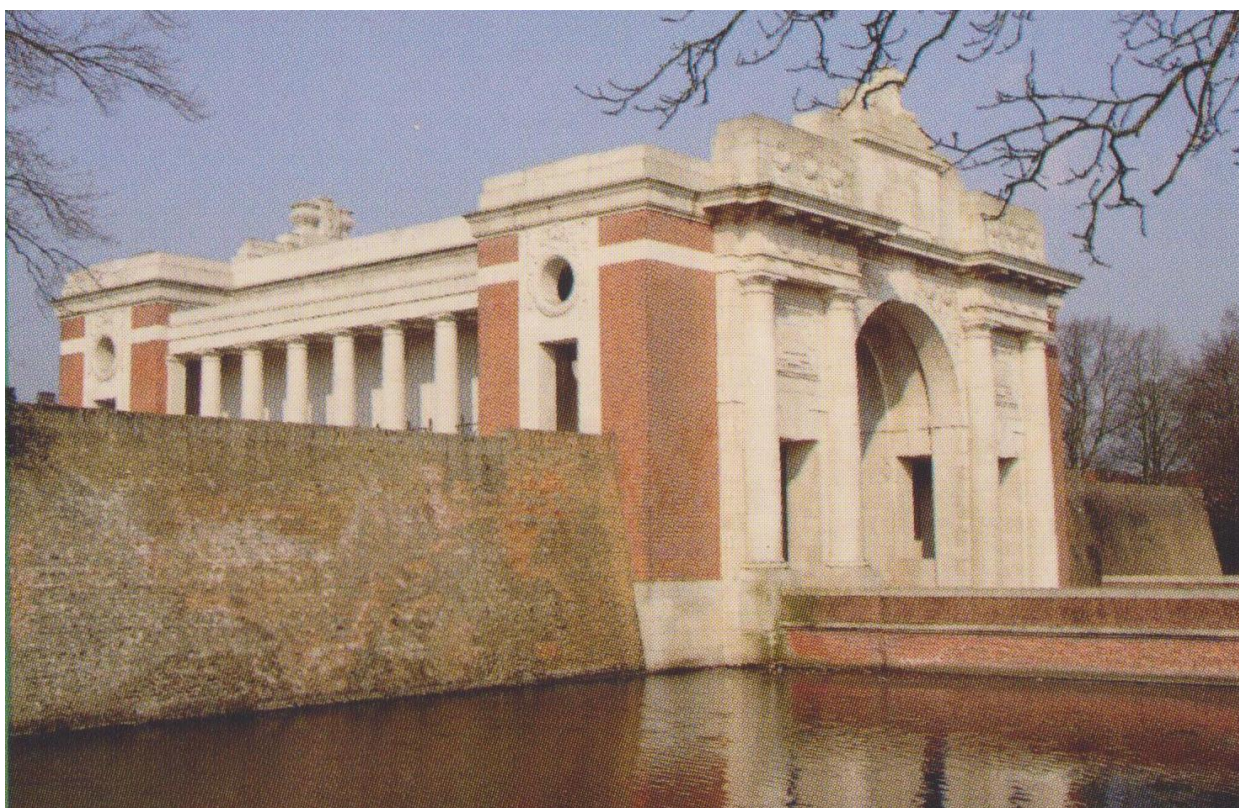
THE CEMETERIES OF THE FALLEN AND THE MEMORIALS TO THE MISSING

Dickebusch New Military Cemetery Belgium

Dickebusch New Military Cemetery contains 624 World War One burials including 8 unidentified, the extension contains a further 547 including 5 unidentified. (Harry Chiverton lies here) The cemetery is situated in the village of Dickebusch located on the Kerkstraat a small street turning left of the Dikkebusseweg the N375 at 200 meters just beyond the village church lies the cemetery.

The Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial Belgium

The Menin Gate Memorial bears the names of 54,607 men who lost their lives on the Ypres Salient and have no known grave, (Edgar Fallows and Frank Goddard are remembered here) The Memorial is situated at the Eastern Side of the town of Ypres (Leper) on the road leading out of the town towards Menin



Perth Cemetery (China Wall) Belgium

Perth Cemetery (China Wall) contains 1,424 burials (Richmond Deck lies here) the cemetery is situated 3 kms East of Leper Town in Belgium on the Maaldestedestraat road, leading from Meenseweg (N8) connecting Leper to Menin.

All Saints Church Little Wenham England

The Church contains the graves of two of our fallen Edgar Walter Pittock and Francis Moncreiff and is situated about 1 mile from the Queen's Head Public House, from the A12 between Colchester and Ipswich turn into Capel St Mary pass through the main street past St Mary's Church on the right, follow the road on through Capel St Mary to Little Wenham and turn right just before the Queen's Head on the right. follow the track for 1 mile the Church will be in front of you.

Deir El Belah War Cemetery Palestine/Israel

Deir El Belah cemetery contains 732 burials including 11 unidentified (Charles Gough Lies here) The cemetery is situated 16 Kilometres from the Egyptian Border and 20 South of Gaza in the Gaza strip main road No4 entrance is down a sandy track look for a sign over the main road.

Loos Memorial France

Loos Memorial forms the back and the sides of Dud Corner Cemetery and bears the names of 20,599 Officers and men who have no known grave.(William Fallows is remembered here) The memorial is situated 1 km west of the village of Loos-en-Gohelle to the North East of the D943 main road between Lens & Bethune



Sunken Road Cemetery Boisleux St Marc France

Sunken Road cemetery Pas De Calais contains 420 burials (Walter Cole lies here) The cemetery lies 8 Kilometres South of Arras down a 1 Kilometre track on the West side of the road between Boisleux St Marc and Boisleux-Au-Mont (D42E)

La Chapelette British and Indian Cemetery Peronne France

The La Chapelette cemetery contains 577 burials (John Lott M.C. lies here) the town of Peronne is about 20 Kilometres East of Amiens the cemetery is a little South of Peronne on the East side of the road from Peronne to Roye.

St Mary's Church Capel St Mary England

The Church contains the graves of two of our fallen Edgar Pittock and Kenneth Reynolds, and the book of remembrance to Lt Harris. From the A12 between Colchester and Ipswich turn into Capel St Mary, the church is situated about 1 mile from the White Horse Public House pass through the main street St Mary's Church is on the right, near the far end of the village.

The Thiepval Memorial France

The Thiepval Memorial bears the names of 72,194 Officers and Men of the British and South African forces who died during the Somme battles between July and November 1916 and have no known grave. (William Abbott and Fred Grimsey are remembered here) The Memorial is on D73 next to the Village of Thiepval off the main Bapaume to Albert Road the D929



Ripon Cemetery Yorkshire England

Ripon Cemetery contains 188 Commonwealth War Graves (Fred Ratford Lies here) The cemetery is situated in Kirkby Road Rippon, Harrogate North Yorkshire

Feuchy Chapel British Cemetery Wancourt France

Feuchy Chapel British Cemetery contains 1103 burials (William Pettingale lies here) Wancourt is a village in the Pas De Calais it lies in the valley of the Cojeul River about 2 kilometres South of the main road from Arras to Cambrai the cemetery is on the South side of the road

Wimereux Communal Cemetery Pas De Calais France

Wimereux Communal Cemetery contains 3,036 burials (George Norris lies here) Wimereux is a small town situated about 5 kilometres North of Boulogne, from Boulogne town centre take the A16 to Calais exit Junction 33 follow D242 into Wimereux take third exit from first roundabout continue for about 200 yards turn left into 1 way road cemetery lies at the end of this road. The Commonwealth War Graves are at the rear of the communal cemetery.

Bayeux Memorial France

The Bayeux Memorial bears the names of 1798 men who have no known grave, (Phillip Pells is remembered here) the town of Bayeux in Normandy lies 30 kilometres North West of Caen, the Bayeux Memorial is situated in the South-western outskirts of the town on the By-pass D5 named Boulevard Fabian Ware.



Calais Canadian War Cemetery Leubringhen France

Calais Canadian War Cemetery Leubringhen contains 729 burials (Arthur Singleton lies here) Leubringhen is a village half way between Calais and Boulogne, the cemetery is on the East side of the Calais to Boulogne Road the A16 14 kilometres from Calais.

Beuvry Communal Cemetery Pas De Calais France

Beuvry Communal Cemetery Pas De Calais France contains 103 burials (Frank Pittock lies here) the cemetery is in the town of Beuvry in the Pas De Calais about 3 kilometres East of Bethune and is situated 200 metres North of the Church on the Rue Edouard Vallant. The war graves are opposite the entrance.

Artillery Wood Cemetery West-Vlaanderen Belgium

Artillery Wood Cemetery contains 1307 burials (Frank Richardson lies here) it is located near the village Boezinge located North of the town of Leper on the N369 road in the direction of Diksmuid the cemetery is located in the Poezelstraat East of the village from the station turn left along Diksmuidseweg take second turning right into Brugstraat go to the end of Brugstraat over bridge and straight on along Molenstraat, Poezelstraat is second turning on right after bridge cemetery is on right hand side about 200 metres from junction with Molenstraat

Arras Memorial France

The Arras Memorial bears the names of 34,759 men who have no known grave (Frank Cook is remembered here) The Arras Memorial in the Pas de Calais it is situated in the Boulevard du General de Gaulle in the Western part of Arras about 2 Kilometres due west of the railway station.



Tourcoing Pont-Neuville Communal Cemetery France

Tourcoing is a town in the Lille District the cemetery contains 182 burials (Ernest Richardson lies here) and is situated in the village of Neuville which lies between Halluin and Tourcoing on the D291 the cemetery is 200 metres from the church

Diego Suhrez War Cemetery Madagascar

The Cemetery contains 315 burials (Raymond Fraser lies here) and is close to the town of Antsiranana on the Western shore of Diego Suarez Bay on the North East coast of Madagascar the cemetery lies about 50 metres back from the Oranjia Road 3 Kilometres South East of the town.

Cheras Road Civil Cemetery Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

The cemetery contains 784 burials (Bill Fraser lies here) and is situated South of Kuala Lumpur on the left hand side of the main Cheras Highway about 4 miles South of Kuala Lumpur

Medjez- El-Bab-Memorial Tunisia

Medjez El- Bab-Memorial bears the names of 1954 men who have no known grave (Walter Barclay is Remembered here)
The Memorial is situated inside Medjez-El-Bab War cemetery 60 kilometres West of Tunis and 5 kilometres West of Med-El- Bab on the road to Le Kef.



Tower Hill Memorial London England

Tower Hill Memorial bears the names of 36,079 men who have no Known Grave (Frank Green is remembered here) The memorial is dedicated to the Merchant Navy and is situated in Trinity Square Gardens Tower Hill London Opposite the Tower of London.



Ploegsteert Memorial Belgium

Ploegsteert Memorial bears the names of 11,350 men who have no known grave (Arthur Peck is remembered here) The Memorial is situated within the Berks Cemetery extension 12.5 Kilometres South of Leper town centre on the N365 from Leper to Mesen (Messines)



Happy Valley British Cemetery FamPoux Pas De Calais France

Happy Valley cemetery FamPoux contains 76 burials (Ernest Rush lies here) FamPoux is a village 7 kilometres East of Arras on the D33 the cemetery is 5 kilometres South of the village down a 2 kilometre track on the road to Monchy-Le-Preux

Thanbyuzayat War Cemetery Myanmar(Burma)

Thanbyuzayat cemetery contains 3,770 burials (Harry Burch lies here) The village is 65 kilometres South of the Port of Moulmein the cemetery lies at the foot of the hills which separate the Union of Myanmar from Thailand

St Charles De Percy War Cemetery France

St Charles De Percy Cemetery contains 809 burials (Reginald Allen lies here) St Charles De Percy is a village 44 kilometres South West of Caen take the N175 South Westwards from Villers Bocage after 5 kilometres take left hand fork the D571 towards Vire after 15 kilometres go through the Hamlet of La Ferroniere turn left onto D56 and right again after a few hundred metres the cemetery is on the left hand side

Air Force Memorial Runnymede England

Runnymede Memorial bears the names of 20,456 airmen (Jabez Sterward is remembered here) the memorial is situated on Coopers Hill Lane Englefield Green Near Egham Surrey



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All the following individuals have contributed in some way to the production of this book be it large or small, they are also hereby given acknowledgement, for the loan of personnel photographs family stories and research.

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John Norman, Closure of Sproughton Sugar Beet Factory, Evening Star Ipswich 26th February 2016 Section News (Dissertation: chapter 3 page 20) **Once again please accept my apologies for anybody who I have failed to acknowledge or mention.**

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To the men whom this book commemorates

*They are numbered among those
who at the call of their King and Country
left all that was dear to them
endured hardness and faced dangers
and finally passed out of the sight of men
by the path of duty and self-sacrifice
giving up their own lives
that others might live in freedom.
Let those who come after see to it
That their names be not forgotten.*

*Capel St Mary
Will Remember You*

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