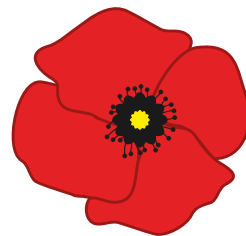


A CENTURY OF REMEMBRANCE

**An illustrated study
of the men whose names
appear on the
St.Dennis War Memorial**



**By
Tim Trevenna**

February 2023

Contents

Preface	3
War Memorial Illustration	4
Alphaeus Allen.....	5
Arthur James Allen	8
John Allen	10
William Charles Barrett	12
Charles Glyn Beadle	14
John Bennetts.....	16
Garnet George Bennetto.....	18
Arthur James Brenton	21
John Bullock	23
Edmund John Carpenter	25
Percy Common	27
Stanley Coon	29
Thomas Charles Bunt Dingley	32
Almond Tom Giles	34
Ernest Treleaven Grigg.....	36
Ernest Grigg.....	38
Stanley Grigg	40
William Michael Ham	43
Albert William Harris.....	45
John Henry Hawke	47
James Henry Hill.....	49
Edwin Arnold Hore	51
Brydges Charles Kent	53
Felix Henry Kent	56
Albert John Key	58
Edwin John Liddicoat.....	60
James Henry Liddicoat	62
Albert John Liddicoat	65
James Martyn.....	68
Thomas Henry Mennear	70
Edwin George Osborne	72
Charles Rabey.....	75
William John Richards	78
Daniel Richards.....	80

Richard John Rundle.....	82
Frederick Charles Runnalls	84
Sydney James Stephens	88
Richard Solomon	91
Thomas Solomon.....	94
Edgar Smith	97
Christopher Hedley Stoneman.....	100
Frank Taylor.....	102
John Henry Truscott	105
Charles Trethewey	107
Carus Clifton Trebell.....	109
Frederick Newton Watters.....	111
Richard Stanley Williams.....	113
Arthur William Yelland	115
Arthur Ralph Goldsmith	117
WW2 Introduction	119
Launcelot Arthur	120
Lawrence Hugh Goudge	123
Maurice Gilbert Grigg.....	125
Frederick Desmond Hawke	127
Edwin George Hick	129
James Aubrey Valentine Morgan	132
Frederick Bryant Odgers	135
Henry John Reynolds.....	137
Walter John Robins	139
Joseph Rowse	141
Stuart Trethewey	143
Hedley George Watters.....	145
Sources Used While Compiling This Book.....	148
Publisher's Note	149

Preface

2023 marks 100 years since the WW1 plaque was unveiled on the front of the newly built St. Dennis War Memorial Institute. It seemed to me that it would be an ideal time to update a book that I had written some years ago about the men whose names appear on the memorial. The book 'Who Cares' was written after a question was asked about the names on the memorial at a meeting of the St. Denys and District Old Cornwall Society. It was written without the help of a computer but with help from many people and put on the St. Dennis village website.

Once on the website, people came forward to add and, in some cases, correct what had been written. With the help of a computer, it was possible to find out much more about the men. Over the years I have visited many of the cemeteries and memorials in France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Turkey, and the U.K. With the photographs taken and added, the updated book is a far more comprehensive work than the original. This would not have been possible without the skills of Trevor Rabey in enhancing and presenting the photographs. It could also not have been completed without the help and encouragement of my wife, Val, or all those who have given information and photographs to help the project. As with the first book, it has not been possible to uncover equal amounts of information about each of the men involved and therefore the text on everyone does vary.

It is important that we do not look at the men on our memorial as just statistics, but it is interesting to look at where and how they lost their lives.

There are 49 names on the First World War plaque, and we now know more information about them:

- ❖ Eight of the men were teenagers, 27 were in their twenties, 11 in their thirties, 2 were in their forties and 1 in his fifties.
- ❖ Forty-one men were soldiers of the British Army, 4 Royal Navy, 2 Canadian Army, 1 U.S Army and 1 R.A.F.
- ❖ Thirty-three men were killed in action, 14 died because of sickness (3 while prisoners of war) and 2 were accidental.
- ❖ Thirty-four men were lost in France and Flanders, 2 in India, 3 in Mesopotamia (now Iraq) 2 in waters near Turkey, 1 in Aden (now Yemen) and 7 in, or in the waters near, the U.K.

Also, it would be wrong just to look at the men on the memorial as the only tragedy of war, as the tragedy extended far wider than those who lost their lives. Each man had a family – mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, wives and children. Eighteen wives had lost their husbands and 36 children had lost their fathers.

Another aspect was the loss to the community with many of the men being connected to the local church and other organisations within their local area.

THIS BUILDING
WAS ERECTED IN MEMORY OF
THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES
IN THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918
AND AS A THANKSGIVING FOR
THOSE WHO RETURNED.

A. ALLEN	A. J. KEY
A. J. ALLEN	E. J. LIDDICOAT
J. ALLEN	J. H. LIDDICOAT
W. C. BARRETT	A. J. LIDDICOAT
G. BEADLE	J. MARTYN
J. BENNETTS	T. H. MENNEAR
G. BENNETTO	E. G. OSBORNE
F. BRENTON	C. RABEY
J. BULLOCK	W. J. RICHARDS
J. CARPENTER	D. RICHARDS
P. COMMON	R. J. RUNDLE
S. COON	F. C. RUNNALS
T. DINGLE	S. STEPHENS
A. T. GILES	R. SOLOMON
E. T. GRIGG	T. SOLOMON
E. GRIGG	E. SMITH
S. GRIGG	C. H. STONEMAN
W. M. HAM	F. TAYLOR
A. W. HARRIS	J. H. TRUSCOTT
J. HAWKE	C. TRETHEWEY
J. HILL	C. TREMBEL
A. HORE	F. N. WATTERS
B. C. KENT	R. S. WILLIAMS
F. H. KENT	A. W. YELLAND
A. R. GOLDSMITH	

ALSO TO THE MEMORY OF THOSE
WHO FELL IN THE 1939-1945 WAR

L. ARTHUR	F. B. ODGERS
L. H. GOUDGE	H. J. REYNOLDS
M. G. GRIGG	E. ROBINS
F. D. HAWKE	J. ROWSE
E. G. HICK	S. TRETHEWEY
J. A. MORGAN	H. WATTERS

St.Dennis War Memorial

St.Dennis War Memorial Illustration Copyright © Trevor Rabey 2014

1914-1918

Alphaeus Allen

Alphaeus Allen was born on 11 October 1887, the son of John Allen and Theresa nee Drew. He attended Whitemoor school and entered the China Clay industry upon leaving.

He married Jane nee Hore at St. Austell in July 1907 and they had four children: Alphaeus born 21 January 1908, Mary (October 1910), Cooper Greystone (31 January 1912) and Ethne Elma (28 June 1917).

He entered the Royal Navy training base *Vivid II* on 1 December 1916. On 26 July 1917 Alphaeus was serving on *H.M.S. Ariadne* as she was engaged in mine laying off Beachy Head. *Ariadne* was torpedoed and sunk by a German U Boat. As she sank there was an explosion on board killing 38 of her crew and wounding 12. Alphaeus survived, as the following extract from the *Cornish Guardian*, 10 August 1917 shows (Under Whitemoor News):

'Stokers Alphaeus Allen and William Hawke are at present home on leave. They are two of the survivors of the ill-fated Ariadne.'

At this time the family home was No.2 Rock View, Whitemoor.

Alphaeus returned to duty on 28 August 1917 when he joined *H.M.S. Collingwood*, a Dreadnought battleship of the St.Vincent Class.

In May 1918 he was taken ill and transferred to the hospital ship *H.M.H.S. Agadir*.

Stoker 1st Class Alphaeus Allen died on 26 May 1918 having contracted cerebro-spinal meningitis while on active service.

He was given a full military funeral, complete with band, and buried on Orkney on 27 May 1918, where his grave is still cared for by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

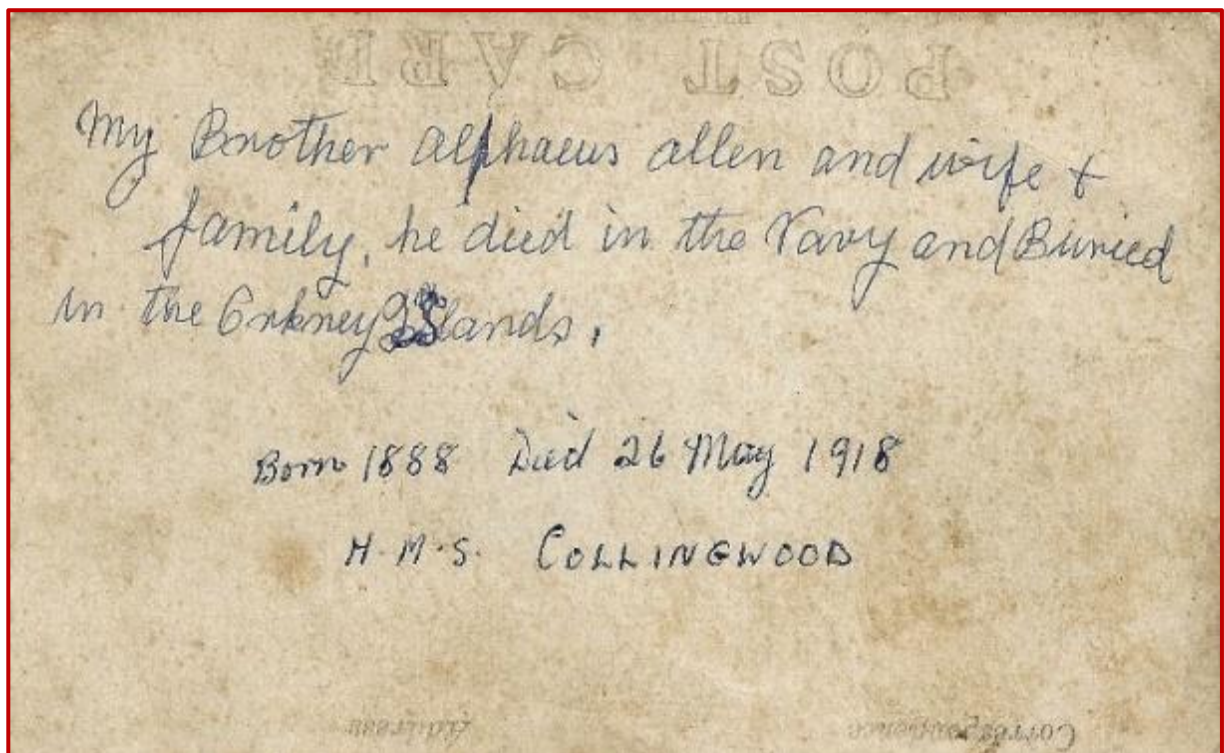


Alphaeus Allen

Photograph Courtesy of Kathryn Truscott



Alphaeus Allen and family
 Photograph Courtesy of Kathryn Truscott



Courtesy of Kathryn Truscott



Lyness Naval Cemetery, Hoy, Orkney
 Photograph by Tim Trevenna



Lyness Naval Cemetery, Hoy, Orkney
 Photograph by Tim Trevenna

1914-1918 Arthur James Allen

Arthur James Allen was born in St.Dennis in 1890, the son of Ann Allen. The 1891 census shows him living with his mother, grandparents William Spargo Allen and Mary Ann, and their other eight children.

The passenger list of the *Majestic*, of the White Star line, shows him described as a miner as he travelled from Southampton to New York to begin a new life in the U.S.A., in August 1912.

Although his original intention may have been to go mining in Michigan, by 1917 he was working in Cleveland, Ohio.

His draft card shows he was living at 10913 Cedar Drive on 5 June 1917. He had brown hair and grey eyes, he was single and worked as a machinist.

The American Army's big breakthrough to end the war began on 26 September 1918. Their part was to drive into the Argonne, north of Verdun, a tangled wilderness of forest and streams. This was the largest battle in United States military history.

It was here that Corporal Arthur James (Dixie) Allen lost his life on 4 October 1918. Ironically this was the date that the Germans first suggested an Armistice, but war is full of ironies.

He was buried near where he fell, but in 1922 was removed to Cornwall and reinterred in the St. Denys churchyard. He was buried there on 15 February 1922 with full military honours.

Arthur's mother had married an Andrew Bunt in 1899 and it would have been her request to have her son repatriated to his birth village in Cornwall. It does appear that he is the only American soldier brought back to Cornwall in this way.

The War Graves of the British Empire (Cornwall 1-181) (*The register of the names of those who fell in the Great War and are buried in the Cemeteries and Churchyards in the Administrative County of Cornwall which was compiled and published by order of the Imperial War Graves Commission, London, 1930, shows that out of a total of 725 graves that are found in 181 cemeteries and churchyards, only the one at St Denys churchyard is that of an American soldier.*)



Arthur James Allen's grave at St.Denys Parish Church
Photograph by Tim Trevenna

1914-1918

John Allen

John Allen was born at Cleers, between Whitemoor and Roche, on 15 June 1898. He was the youngest of the seven children of William and Elizabeth Allen.

The 1911 census shows him, as one would expect, living at home with his father, a china stone labourer, mother, brothers Leonard and Medlin and sisters Meta and Minnie. His brother Samuel had died in 1893 and one assumes his brother William had left home.

An army record mentions the Bedford and Royal Warwickshire Regiments, but his record was signed 12 September 1916 and approved with a D.C.L.I. stamp on 17 February 1917. At some time he transferred to the Labour Corps. (service no. 552006).

He died at his home in Cleers on 21 March 1919 aged 20.

Buried at Nanpean Cemetery on the 25 March 1919 his headstone reads:

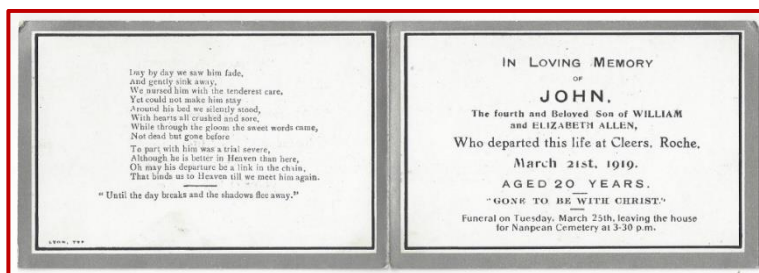
In loving memory of John, fourth son of William and Elizabeth Besse Allen, died at Cleers March 21, 1919 aged 20 years. 'Until the day breaks and the shadows flee away.'

His grave is recorded in *The War Graves of the British Empire (Cemeteries and Churchyards in the County of Cornwall)* also *Commonwealth War Graves Commission Archives*.

Unfortunately, although he still has family in the parish, no photograph of John has been found.



Courtesy of Tim Trevenna



Courtesy of Tim Trevenna



John Allen's Grave at Nanpean Cemetery
Photograph by Tim Trevenna

1914-1918 William Charles Barrett

William was baptised in Whitemoor Bible Christian Chapel on 7 June 1898. He was the son of William John and Hannah. Hannah died in 1902 and William remarried a Millicent Grace in 1911, her husband, Charles Beadle, having died in 1899.

We know a lot about William Charles from reports in the *Cornish Guardian*. He was a member of the United Methodist Church and choir, the Independent Order of Rachabites, and the Workers' Union. In addition to this, he was a Sunday school teacher and registrar in connection with the Band of Hope. He was employed by the Great Beam China Clay Company and according to reports he was: '*held in high esteem by all for his honourable and genial disposition.*'

In November 1916 he joined the 1st Battalion Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry. Following basic training, Private Barrett served in Belgium and Italy before arriving in France during April 1918. On 7 April he found himself at Frevent, from where he moved to Mondicourt and then to Thiennes, arriving there on 11 April. The following day, at midday, the First Battalion left their camp and entered the front line. They were about to experience a German offensive which would later be known as the Battle of Hazebrouck.

At 10:00am on the morning of the thirteenth the enemy attacked and during the attack Private William Charles Barrett was killed, having been hit by a machine gun bullet. He was twenty years old.

The *Cornish Guardian* reported how his parents had received letters from his chum Eli Trevenna and the Chaplain of the Brigade.

He is remembered on the Ploegsteert Memorial to the missing in Belgium and on the grave of his stepbrother, Glyn Beadle, at Nanpean Cemetery in the parish of St. Stephen in Brannel.



Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium
 Photograph by Tim Trevenna

Charles Glyn Beadle

Charles Glyn Beadle was baptised on 27 October 1898 at St.Denys church. His parents were Charles Beadle and Millicent Grace nee Richards. They lived at Hendra, St.Dennis and Charles was a labourer. After Charles' death in 1899, Millicent married William J. Barrett in 1911. This made Charles Glyn a stepbrother to W. C. Barrett, the previous name on our memorial.

Unfortunately, no photo has been found of Charles Glyn but from pension ledger records we do have a description. He was 5 feet 6 inches tall, weighed 158 pounds, with grey eyes, brown hair and a tattoo on his left forearm.

Charles Glyn Beadle did not die on a foreign battlefield but his death was no less tragic. He was Private 242124 with the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) before being discharged as a result of trench fever and tuberculosis (contracted while serving in France).

He died at his home in Whitemoor on 30 August 1918, aged 20 years.

The following appeared in the *Cornish Guardian* 27 September 1918:

*'Readily he answered his country's call,
And did his duty out in France.
Though he did not like some in battle fall,
He caught the trench fever which gave him a chance.
To return to Leicester in hospital for a while,
From there to a sanatorium in Devon.
He died at his house as sweet as a child,
And we know he has gone to heaven.
We miss him sadly but we know,
He's gone to a place where there is no pain.
And now it's out of duty everyone,
To meet the dear loved again.'*

His funeral took place at Whitemoor United Methodist Church on 4 September 1918 and was followed by internment at Nanpean Cemetery.

Glyn Beadle's death is not recorded in the work *'Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1918'* nor is his grave recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. I assume from this that his death was some time after his discharge from the Army.



Charles Glyn Beadle's grave at Nanpean Cemetery
Photograph by Trevor Rabey

1914-1918 John Bennetts

John Bennetts was born at Treleigh, St.Ervan in 1889, having been baptised on 1 September that year. A son to Henry and Elizabeth nee Hawke, he was recorded as a farm labourer, living with his parents and siblings in the 1911 census.

Enlisting in the army at Woolwich, it would appear that John served in both the Royal Garrison Artillery and the Lancashire Fusiliers, before becoming Private J. Bennetts of the Border Regiment, Service Number 33532.

Records show that Private J. Bennetts was recorded missing on 10 July 1917 and his body was never recovered. His name is on the British Memorial to the Missing at Nieuwpoort on the Belgian coast.

The British Memorial to the missing at Nieuwpoort records the names of 566 officers and men who died in the operations at Antwerp in 1914 and later actions on the Belgian coast, particularly those in 1917.

Why is this John Bennetts on our memorial in addition to the memorial at St.Ervan? The only link I can make is an entry in the *Cornish Guardian* of 12 July 1918 that mentions an Edith Hoisworthy, fiancée of John Bennetts, living at Gothers, St.Dennis. It is possible that John was working in the area before being called up.



Nieuwpoort Memorial, Belgium
Photograph by Tim Trevenna



Nieuport Memorial, Belgium
Photograph by Tim Trevenna

Garnet George Bennetto

Garnet George Bennetto was born on 1 September, 1883, the son of John Henry and Selina nee Richards. However, it was not until 18 September 1889 that he was baptised along with his sister and brothers.

He married Agnes Ann Liddicoat on the 7 October, 1905 and they had four sons: William John, Arthur George, Fred and Charles.

On the 1911 census he is shown as a labourer, but in the summer of 1916 he joined the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, Service Number 28406. After two months' training Garnet found himself in France.

At some time he transferred to the 15th Battalion of the Hampshire Regiment, Service Number 27226. Lance Corporal Garnet George Bennetto died on 18th June 1917. If we are to believe the letter sent to his widow Agnes, she was assured that his death was instantaneous, having been killed by a shell exploding. This is very much in line with most letters to next of kin sent during this war. However, this is not the only letter that was sent. A letter sent, not directly to the family, from a Cpl. E. E. Bolton describes how he, and a chum, carried Garnet Bennetto 2 miles to the rear of the firing line, where he died of his wounds, having failed to regain consciousness. Unfortunately, Cpl. Bolton lost his own life on 13 August 1917.

It would appear that Garnet lost his life during the battle of Messines, a forerunner to the 3rd battle of Ypres.

He is remembered on the Menin Gate Memorial, one of the 54,460 names on the memorial of forces of the British Commonwealth and Empire who fell on The Salient and have no known grave. His widow later married a Mr. Smith.

Cornish Guardian 6th July 1917:

'St Dennis

KILLED IN FRANCE

Mrs Bennetto, St Dennis, has received tidings that her husband Pte Garnet Bennetto Hampshire Regt. has been killed in France. Pte. Bennetto first joined the DCLI and afterwards became attached to the above Regiment. He had been with the colours 11 months.

He was the eldest son of Mr John Bennetto, Nanpean, and was 34 years of age. He leaves a widow and three sons aged eight, nine and eleven respectively for whom sincere sympathy is felt. Pte. Bennetto was well known throughout the locality and held in general respect.

Mrs Bennetto has received the following letter:-

'I regret to inform you that your husband (Pte. Garnet Bennetto, Hampshire Regt.) was killed by a shell on the morning of the 19th instant, his death was instantaneous. As his officer and on behalf of his comrades, with whom he was very popular, I wish to extend my deepest sympathy to you in your bereavement. F A Grant.'



Garnet George Bennetto

Photograph courtesy of Bennetto Family



Menin Gate, Ypres, Belgium

Photograph by Tim Trevenna



Menin Gate, Ypres, Belgium

Photograph by Tim Trevenna

June 28th 17

Dear Sir

I now sit down to write to you though I know nothing whatever about Cornwall or Mr. Bennetto but as I am Stretcher Bearer in the 12th B. Surrey Regiment and I found Mr. Bennetto badly wounded and me and my chum dressed his wounds and put him on a stretcher and carried him 2 miles to the rear of the firing line and he died of wounds but he was unconscious so he could not tell us anything nor ask us to write to some one who knew him so in his haversack we found his name and address a letter which you wrote referring to his 10 years reference. I felt it my duty to write to some one who knew him and as I could not find his home address I am writing to you & will you be so kind to either send this letter or drop a line to his people to his wife if he is married as I could not find out much about him as he was not in Surrey as you know he is in the Hampshire but he died a true British and here he had done his bit & we all hope he is gone to rest in that happy peaceful land where there is no war I can sympathise with his people or his wife & family if he has any as I am a young married man & volunteered to go & do my bit for my King & country & for the people at home. Near old England 2 months after war broke out & I was wounded on the Somme last year & I have been across the water this makes my third voyage & I hope please God I shall be spared to come home quite safe to be with my wife & sonny when the war is all over which I think will be quite soon now I must close from 5/57 Lane. Btl. 16th Platoon D. Coy. 12th B. Surrey Regt. As a stretcher bearer I myself can say for a fact that Mr. Bennetto had a respectful funeral & a cross to his grave & was buried peacefully to rest & remain same. Btl. 16th Platoon D. Coy. 12th B. Surrey Regt. Yours Truly

Copy of original letter from stretcher bearer

Wesleyan Methodist Church.

REV. B. DOBSON, C.F.

26 June 1917

Dear Mr. Bennetto

I regret to inform you of the sad news that awaits you concerning your husband Mr. G. Bennetto of the 15 Hampshire who was attached to the R.E.'s. But I know for the sake of his memory you will try to bear it. Your husband was working in the trenches of on the early morning of Friday the 22nd inst when he was caught by enemy fire and killed in action.

May I express my deepest sympathy with you. I do trust you will have grace to endure in your grief. I would remind you that your husband has gone to receive the reward of the faithful. He has laid down his life for others and no sacrifice is lost. Our Saviour has our loved ones in His keeping and hereafter we shall meet. May you realise that His presence is ever with you.

Yours Very Sincerely B. Dobson C.F. and Associate

Condolence letter from Wesleyan Church

Arthur James Brenton

It is my belief that the F. Brenton whose name appears on the First World War plaque at St.Dennis is the same man as the A. J. Brenton whose name appears on the memorial at Enniscaven.

Arthur James Brenton was the son of Thomas James (Tom) and Augusta Elizabeth nee Rapson of Enniscaven. Why he was recorded as F. Brenton at St.Dennis is a mystery. However, as there are a number of mistakes on the memorial at St.Dennis and, as I have found none on the memorial at Enniscaven, I prefer to believe the latter.

Arthur James Brenton was born in about 1899 and lived at Enniscaven.

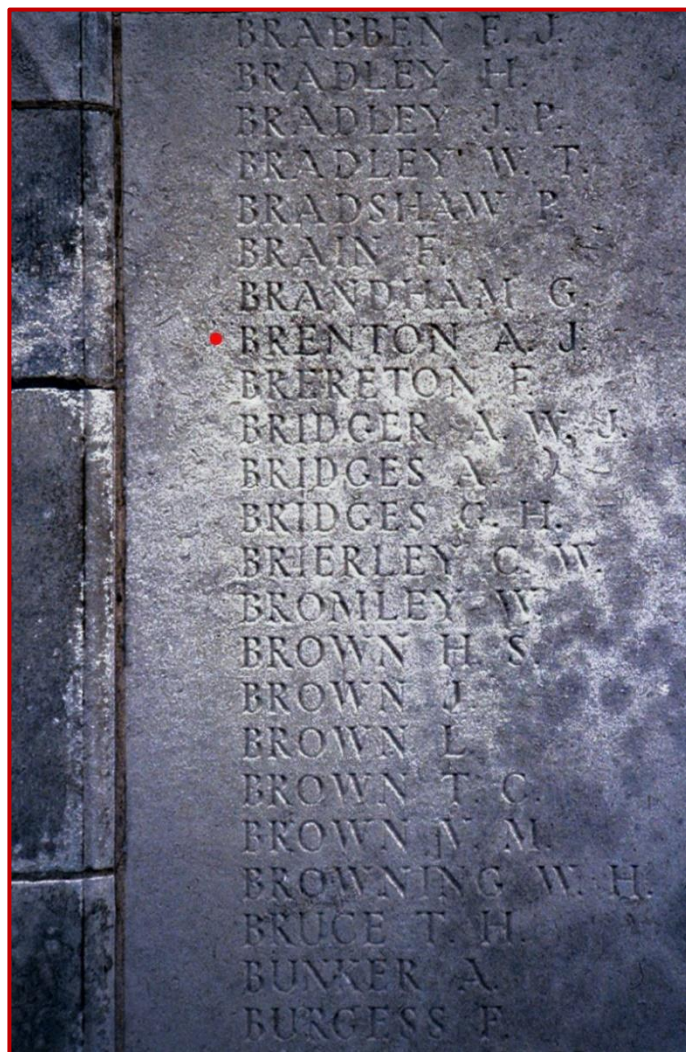
We know he enlisted with the Duke of Cornwall's Light infantry (Service Number 202777) but, like many others, was later transferred. His new regiment was the 10th Battalion of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment (Service Number 35483)

Details of his death are somewhat confusing as official records show he was killed in action on 10 April 1918. This is when his Battalion was involved at the start of the Battle of Lys, sometimes known as the 4th Battle of Ypres.

This version was later contradicted by a memorium placed in the *Cornish Guardian* on 20 June 1919.

'In ever loving memory of our dear brother, Private Arthur James Brenton, Enniscaven, who was taken prisoner 19th April 1918 and died 10th June 1918 aged 19.' Placed by his loving sisters and brother, Mary, Ethel and Will.

The true facts are lost but we do know he is remembered on the Tyne Cott Memorial at Passchendaele, Belgium.



Tyne Cott Memorial, Belgium
 Photograph by Tim Trevenna



Enniscaven War Memorial
 Photograph by Trevor Rabey

1914-1918 **John Bullock**

John Bullock was born in 1891, the son of Tom Bullock and Julia nee Kent.

From the time of his birth, John lived with his mother Julia and grandparents Benjamin and Grace Kent.

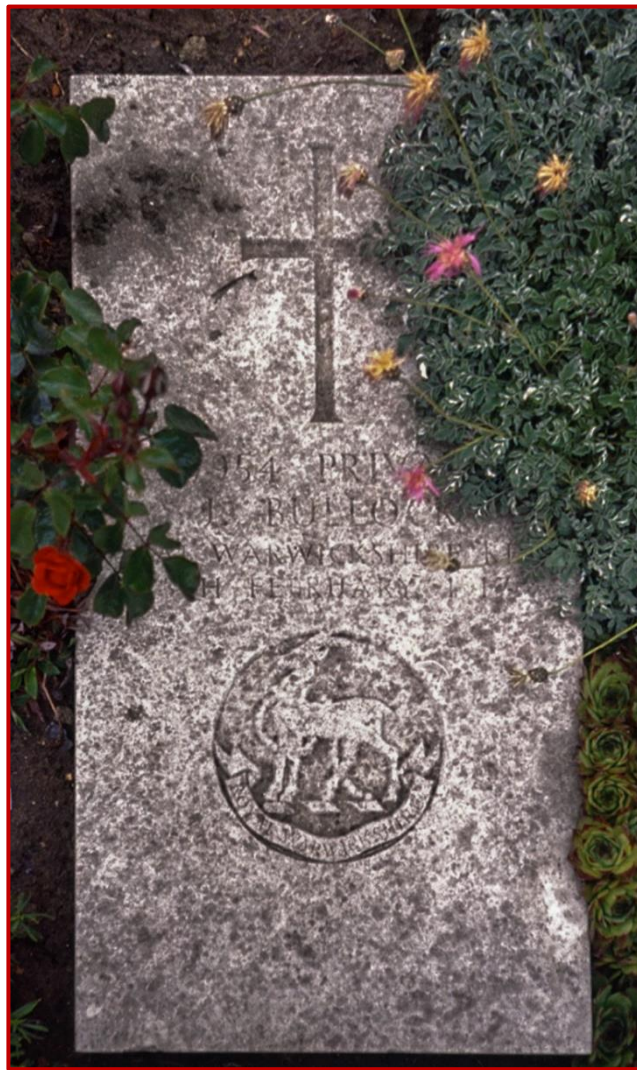
It would appear, that he enlisted in the Army on 24 May 1916. What happened after is explained below.

An article in the *Cornish Guardian* on 9th March 1917:

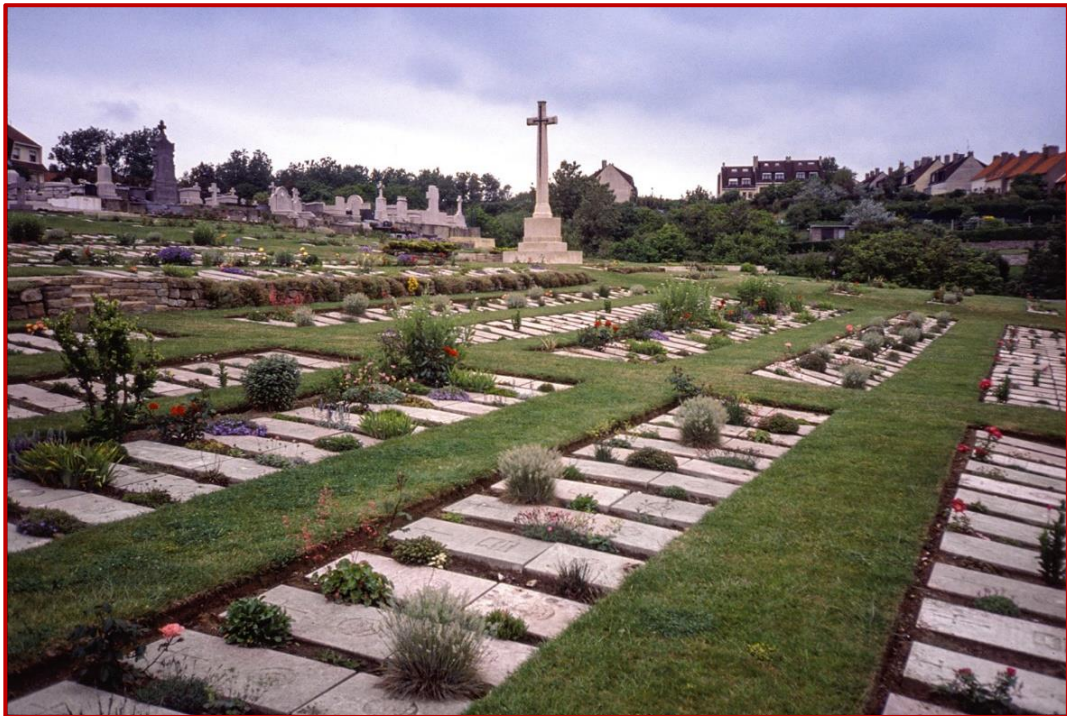
'St.Dennis and district heard with sincere regret of the death of Private John Bullock who succumbed a few days ago at Wimereux Hospital in France to pulmonary tuberculosis. He joined the colours on the 24th May last year and was attached to the Royal Warwickshire Regiment and had been in France for four months. The deceased who was in his 26th year, was the only son of Mrs. Julia Bullock of Carne, St.Dennis for whom sincere sympathy is felt. The deceased's death is deplored by a large circle of friends and acquaintances by whom he was most esteemed. He was a grandson of the late Benjamin Kent.'

He died on 25 February 1917 and was serving with the First Battalion of the Warwickshire Regiment, Service Number 27954.

He is buried in the Wimereux Communal Cemetery, France.



John Bullock's Grave at Wimereux, France
Photograph by Tim Trevenna



Wimereux, France
Photograph by Tim Trevenna

1914-1918 Edmund John Carpenter

Edmund John Carpenter was born at St.Germans in 1862 and baptised at Hessenford on 5 October the same year. His parents were John Carpenter and Amelia Ann nee Bray.

He married Louie Maude Chapman, from Roche, in 1897 and they had two children. Reginald Henry was born in 1906 and his brother Charles Gordon 1909.

1911 sees the family living at Newlyn East and Edmund John working as a waggoner.

He enlisted in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry (Service Number 18224) at St.Austell while living in St.Dennis. We do not know the reason why he was living in St.Dennis at this time and one can only assume that, like many, he had moved to the area for the opportunity of work.

There is some ambiguity as to whether he was in the 1st or 2nd Battalion, as different records show conflicting results. However whichever battalion, it was of no consequence as both battalions were fighting in the trenches in the same area at the time of his death. The second battle of Ypres finished on 25 May 1915 which foiled the Germans' intention of breaking through to Ypres and on to the channel ports. Despite ferocious attacks, including the use of gas which had been contrary to the Hague conventions, the enemy had failed and were forced to dig in. Bitter trench warfare followed during which Private Edmund John Carpenter was killed in action on 14 July 1915.

He is buried in the 1st D.C.L.I. Cemetery, The Bluff, Zillebeke, Belgium.



1st. D.C.L.I. Cemetery, The Bluff, Zillebeke, Belgium
Photograph by Tim Trevenna



Edmund John Carpenter's Grave
1st. D.C.L.I. Cemetery, The Bluff, Zillebeke, Belgium
Photograph by Tim Trevenna

1914-1918

Percy Common

Percy Common was baptised at St.Dennis Bible Christian chapel on 15 July 1895, the son of Joseph and Salome Common. As a 15-year-old, he is recorded as living at Trelavour with his Mum, Dad, and sisters, Hazel and Florrie. His occupation is Clay Labourer.

St.Dennis may have been criticised as a village for its slow recruitment figures during the early part of the First World War. However, there were individuals in the village that were keen to join the colours and Percy Common was one of them.

Percy joined the 1st/4th Battalion of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry (Service Number 2288) on 5 September 1914 and proceeded to Salisbury for training. The 1st/4th set sail for India on 9 October 1914, from Southampton, aboard the 'Assaye'. The Battalion embarked 800 men. The voyage passed without incident and the Battalion landed on 10 November at Bombay, then onward to Lucknow.

Having completed 'Kitchener's Test', a severe test of endurance, further training continued throughout 1915. During the first week of January 1916, the 1st/4th received orders to prepare for early departure overseas. On the 18th they entrained at Bareilly under orders for Aden. Arriving at Bombay on the 22nd, the Battalion embarked on the 'Elephanta' and put to sea the next morning. The 1st/4th landed in Aden on the 28th with a force of 650. Described as 'this outlandish place' Aden had the reputation of being the worst military station to which a battalion could be sent.

Percy Common died on 1 August 1916 as a result of dysentery. He was 21 years old.

Although Percy Common is recorded in all records without a 's' on the end of his surname, this was not the case with his family, as the following article from the *Cornish Guardian* shows.

Cornish Guardian 3 August 1917.

In Memoria

'In loving memory of Percy Commons dearly beloved son of Joseph and Salome Commons of St. Dennis. Also loving brother of Florrie and Hazel.'

Private Percy Common is buried in Grave Number 52, Row E of the Maala cemetery in Aden, now known as Yemen.



The Maala Cemetery, Aden (Yemen)
Photograph purchased from copyright holder



Percy Common's grave, The Maala Cemetery, Aden (Yemen)
Photograph purchased from copyright holder

1914-1918 Stanley Coon

Stanley Coon was baptised at St.Denys Church on 20 October 1892. He was the son of Thomas Coon and Emily Wesley nee Harris.

Stanley married Elizabeth Kendall in 1912 and they had two children, Stanley Archibald Pressall in 1913 and Emily Elizabeth Pearl in 1915.

Stanley Coon's name appears not only on the First World War plaque of St.Dennis War Memorial Institute but also the War Memorials at Treviscoe, Nanpean, and St.Stephen in Brannel.

The *Cornish Guardian* 28 December 1917 reports:

'Private Stanley Coon, husband of Mrs Coon, Trethosa Downs, was killed in action on 26th of November whilst serving with the Coldstream Guards. The deceased was 25 years old.'

Official records show Private Stanley Coon, Service Number 19244, of the second Battalion Coldstream Guards, was killed in action on 28 November 1917 and is remembered on the Cambrai Memorial to the missing in France.

The date of death, whether it was the 26th as the family believed, or the 28th as the records show, is immaterial as either date indicates that he died during the battle of Cambrai.

The British surprise attack started on 20 November using more than 350 tanks (some sources record as many as 476), eight divisions of infantry and five cavalry divisions. The initial attack was successful and with the tanks taking much of the credit, the Hindenburg line was breached with a relatively small number of casualties. Unfortunately, Private Stanley Coon had become one of those casualties.



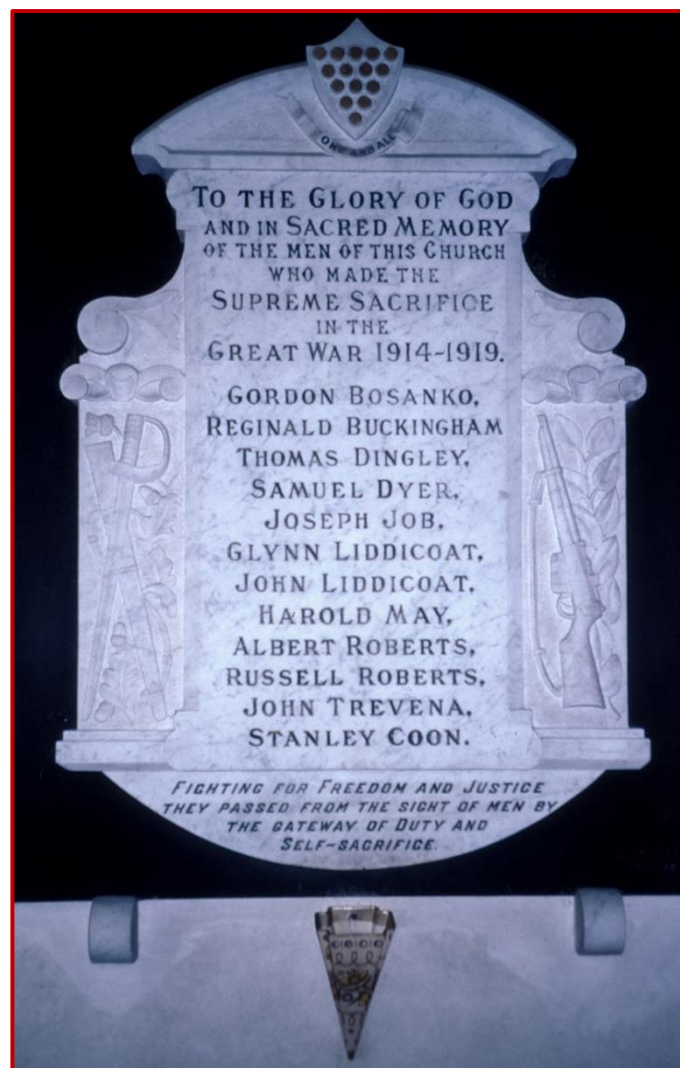
The Cambrai War Memorial, Louverval, France
Photograph by Tim Trevenna

BEERLE W. J. BENFORD A. A. BENNE BERRY J. BISHOP F. W. BLY G. BONIFACE R. A. G. BOWER H. BOWERS J. T. BRIGDEN J. G. BRIGGS G. R. BROMAGE W. BROOKBANKS J. BROOKS J. BROWN G. BROWN W. G. BUCKHAM F. BUCKMAN S. BUSH P. E. BUTLER F. BUTLER F. E. BUTT A. CAPEL A. CARELESS F. CARLTON G. A. CHANT J. R. CHAPMAN W. A. CLARK P. CLARK R. CLARK W.	HUNT W. C. HURST R. G. HYPSON W. A. T. LIEUTENANT COLTMAN R. L. SAMUELSON G. B. F., M. C. SECOND LIEUT. HARTLEY C. F. SERJEANT CHILCOTT E. C. DUTTON A., D. C. M. EELES A. MUSSON J. F., M. M. LCE SERJEANT RUSHTON J. LCE CORPORAL BAILEY E. BALCOMBE J. H. CROMPTON P. E. CRUMP F. DICKENSON L. DIMENT T. L. GOULD J. GRANGE G. W.	POWELL J. PRESCOTT P. PRESTIDGE J. A. LCE CORPORAL HARRIS H. C. L. HITCHEN T. LYTHGOE H. L. PICKIN T. RUSHTON G. RUTHERFORD J. G. SAINSBURY R. SHADWICK G. SHIPLEY J. TAVENER P. A. VARLEY H. WILLMOTT J. T. WOODS J. R. PRIVATE BARKER J. J. BARNES G. BARNES R. W. BASKERVILLE J. F. BERRY S. BLACKBURN T. BLOOR W. BRACEWELL R. A. BRADBURY W. S. BRADLEY E.	WRIGHT G. A. YAPP J. YOUNG A. G. PRIVATE BRAITHWAITE E. BRIERLEY A. BRINDLEY E. BROWN F. W. BROWN J. BROWN J. H. BROWNE A. T. S. BUTCHER H. C. BUTCHER P. H. BUTLER C. E. BUTLER H. W. CARD C. CHAPPELL E. CHISWELL S. CLASPER J. COOK J. R. B. COON S. COSSONS H. S. DALE J. DANIELS F. N. DAY D. DOUGLAS D. EVERSFIELD A. C. FARLEY A. FENWICK W.	LCE CORPORAL CAMPBELL N. DAWSON T. H. DEEFEW P. W. FORREST A. SALMOND A. SIMPSON D. TROTTER A. A. PRIVATE ASHWORTH J. BALLARD H. BATCHELOR T. CAMPBELL A. DAVIS J. B. DONACHUE J. FAULDER B. S. GALLAGHER F. IRISH LIEUTENANT CARY-ELWES W. G. DURANT N. H. C. F. SYNCE A. F. SECOND LIEUT. CAREY T. A. DAME J. W. M. SERJEANT HAWE M.
---	--	--	---	--

The Cambrai War Memorial, Louverval, France
Photograph by Tim Trevenna



Nanpean Cemetery War Memorial, Cornwall
 Photograph by Trevor Rabey



Treviscoe Chapel War Memorial, Cornwall
Photograph by Tim Trevenna

Thomas Charles Bunt Dingley

Thomas Charles Bunt Dingley was born in Morecambe, Lancashire, a son to John Edwin Dingley and Mary Elizabeth nee Bawden, on 13 December 1894. John and Mary had been married in Liskeard in 1879, so there were Cornish connections.

The 1901 census shows Mary at Cardinham without her husband, living with her daughter and two sons. The 1911 census shows that Mary had married John Westlake 5 years previously and Thomas, aged 18, still living with her. Later that year on 30 August, Thomas John Bunt Dingley sailed on the '*Olympia*' to New York.

In 1915 he joined the 37th Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force to go and fight in France. His attestation on 6 May 1915 shows he was 5 foot ten, had blue eyes and was of fair complexion. Next of kin was Mrs. M. E. Westlake, Great Treviscoe, St.Austell.

On 17 July 1915 he joined the 15th Battalion as Private Number 47844. The 15th Battalion (48th Highlanders of Canada) was one of 260 Battalions of Canadian infantry that fought in France.

After arriving in France it would appear that Thomas went through rapid promotion within the ranks: Acting Lance Corporal 3 June 1916, Corporal 31 August 1916, Lance Sergeant 26 September 1916.

Thomas was wounded on 9 October 1916 and returned to England on 14 October for treatment to a gunshot wound behind the left knee.

He is recorded as reporting for duty again as Acting Sergeant on 29 September 1917 and at some time between then and 2 October 1918 was promoted to full sergeant. It was on the 2nd, while leading an attack on the enemy, that Thomas was hit in the chest and evacuated from the front line. He died at a field hospital four days after. The following record is self-explanatory.

'47844 Sergeant Dingley (MM) Thomas Charles B.

While in command of a platoon during an attack on the Drocourt-Queant Line, he was wounded by enemy fire. After being immediately attended to, he was evacuated to No. 42 casualty clearing station where he succumbed to his wounds four days later.'

He is buried in the Aubigny Communal Cemetery, France.

1. NO.	2. RANK OR RATING	3. SURNAME	4. CHRISTIAN NAMES
47844	Sergeant	DINGLEY, (M.M.)	Thomas Charles B.
5. UNIT OR SHIP	6. DATE OF CASUALTY	7. H.Q. FILE NO.	8. RELIGION
15th Battalion	6-9-18	649-D-16010	Church of England
9. CIRCUMSTANCES OF CASUALTY		10. NAME, RELATIONSHIP AND ADDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN	
<p>"Died of Wounds"</p> <p>While in command of a Platoon during an attack on the Drocourt-Queant Line, he was wounded by enemy fire. After being immediately attended to, he was evacuated to No.42 Casualty Clearing Station where he succumbed to his wounds four days later.</p>			



Thomas Charles Bunt Dingley's grave
The Aubigny Communal Cemetery, France
Photographer unknown

1914-1918

Almond Tom Giles

More is known about Almond Tom Giles than any of the names which appear on the St.Dennis War Memorial plaque (World War 1). *The Cornish Guardian* dated 29 October 1915 reports:

'St.Dennis

The most sincere sympathy is expressed with Mr and Mrs Tom Giles (and other members of the family) of Trerice, St.Dennis, in the loss of their eldest son Tom aged about 19 who was drowned in Truro River last Monday. The deceased joined the 5th Battalion of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry in December last and had been stationed at Falmouth. The sad news cast a deep gloom throughout the locality as the deceased was well known and much esteemed.'

Later in the same paper a full report of the inquest is found which was held in Truro by Mr. E. Carlyon, Coroner. It appears from this report that Private Giles was one of eleven soldiers sent to Truro where they were to be engaged in laying a gas main to the workhouse which was to be used as a naval hospital.

The inquest heard testimony from officers, fellow soldiers, family and friends, saying that he was a life-long abstainer, and an extremely nice, clean fellow.

There was no suspicion of anything to lead him to take his life. So why did he fall in the river on that fateful Sunday night? It seems that it was no more sinister than a tragic accident. He was seen in Boscawen Street at 9.30pm on the Sunday heading back to his billet at St.Austell Street. Evidence was heard that the spot from where he fell, a slip off New Bridge Street, was a very dangerous place. One of the witnesses, a Mr. Peters, said he had saved the lives of four children at the spot indicated and pulled out one dead child.

The inquest jury returned a verdict to the effect that "the deceased died from a fracture of the base of the skull, probably caused by falling over the quay into the river".

Private Thomas Giles was buried at St.Denys Churchyard. The bearers were the deceased's own comrades from the 1st/5th Battalion D.C.L.I. and were dressed in khaki uniform.

What a blow for Tom and Selina of Little Trerice. They must have been relieved when their son was classified unfit to serve in France but proud to know he was still serving his country despite having a weak heart. Then to lose him in such tragic circumstances must have been devastating.

His grave is recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The entry in their register reads:

Giles. Pte. Almond Tom, 2269 1st/5th Battalion. Duke of Cornwall's Light Inf. Drowned 25th Oct. 1915. Age 19. Son of Tom and Selina Giles, of Little Trerice, St.Dennis. Enlisted 1914. In north-west corner. (The War Graves of the British Empire (Cornwall 1-181)).



Almond Tom Giles Grave, St.Denys Parish Church
Photograph by Trevor Rabey

Ernest Treleaven Grigg

Ernest was one of twins born to Henry Richard Grigg and Mary (nee Brenton) in October 1890. He was baptised at his parents' house along with his twin, Richard Edgar, on the 15 December 1891.

Prior to enlisting, census records inform us that Ernest worked as a Quarryman.

The Cornish Guardian of 31 August 1917 reports:

'Whitemoor

Killed at the Front

'The sad intelligence was received on Tuesday of last week that Private Ernest Treleaven Grigg of the Cornish Pioneer Battalion had been killed whilst in action on the Western Front. This news cast a great gloom over the village as the deceased soldier, a young man of 26 years, was of a very quiet nature and held in high esteem by all. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his widowed mother and other relatives in this sad bereavement.'

The platoon sergeant writes to Mrs. Grigg as follows:

'Dear Madam,

It is with heartfelt sympathy I write now these few words to inform you of your son's death. He was out in the working party when he met his death by shellfire. He did not suffer anything as it was instantaneous. I, being his platoon sergeant, always found him willing to do his duty and he was well liked by his platoon. We did all up to the last. He is buried in a British cemetery behind our lines. All the platoon send their deepest sympathy in your sad bereavement.

F. Cross'

Private Ernest Treleaven Grigg (Service Number 27539) 10th Battalion D.C.L.I. was killed on 16 August 1917 and is buried at Ramscappelle Military Cemetery, St. Georges, Belgium. He is also remembered on his parents' grave at St. Denys Churchyard.

His twin did not fight in the war but died in 1918 and is buried in Butte, Montana, U.S.A.



Ramscappelle Road Military Cemetery
Nieuwpoort, Belgium
Photograph by Tim Trevenna



Ramscappelle Road Military Cemetery
Nieuwpoort, Belgium
Photograph by Tim Trevenna



Ernest Treleaven Grigg's Parents Grave
St. Denys Parish Church
Photograph by Trevor Rabey

1914-1918

Ernest Grigg

Ernest Grigg was born in 1868 and baptised on 23 February 1887, the sixth son and tenth child of Joseph Grigg and Ann nee Bray. On 10 March 1889 he married Edith Bullock at St. Denys Church. They had no children.

In the 1911 census he is recorded as being a stone quarry labourer.

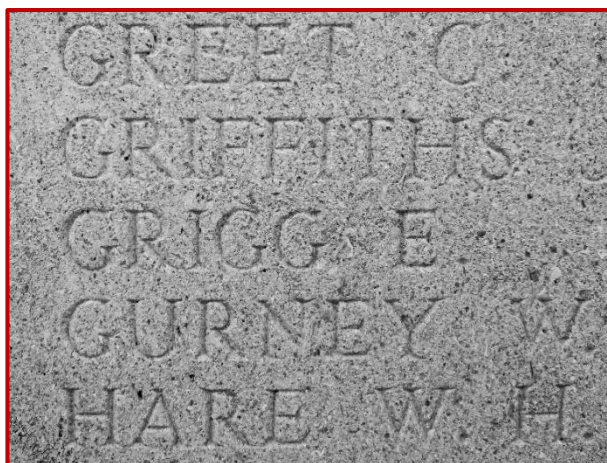
His main hobbies were playing his cornet in St. Dennis Prize Brass Band and cultivating flowers. I think he must have been friends with his neighbour Brydges Kent, as in 1915 they both went to London to enlist in the Royal Army Service Corps. He became Private Ernest Grigg SS/13921 18th Labour Company.

After a few weeks he was boarding the *Royal Edward*, a former passenger liner converted into a troop ship, en route to Gallipoli.

On 13 August 1915 the *Royal Edward*, with a crew of 220 commanded by Cdr. P. M. Wotton R.N.R., was 6 miles west of Kandeliusa Island in the Aegean Sea. She was carrying 1,366 troops at the time. Although Cdr. Wotton was no doubt aware of submarine activity in the area, he would not have known that Lt. von Heimburg of the submarine U14 had spotted his ship. The torpedo that was consequently fired, without warning, hit the liner full on the stern and she sank in less than six minutes.

Although a number of ships went to her assistance, fewer than 500 men were picked up. Cdr. Wotton went down with his ship as did Ernest Grigg.

He is remembered on the Helles Memorial to the missing in Turkey. The memorial is the main Commonwealth battle memorial for the whole Gallipoli campaign, which also commemorates the 20,956 Commonwealth servicemen with no known grave who died in the campaign in 1915 - 1916.



The Helles War Memorial, Sedd el Bahr, Turkey
Photograph by Tim Trevenna



The Helles War Memorial, Sedd el Bahr, Turkey
 Photograph Courtesy of The Commonwealth War Graves Commission



The Helles War Memorial, Sedd el Bahr, Turkey
 Photograph Courtesy of The Commonwealth War Graves Commission

1914-1918

Stanley Grigg

Stanley Grigg was baptised on 21 June 1887, the son of Albert Grigg and Augusta Truscott nee Key. He was the second of four sons born to the couple and he also had two sisters.

Stanley married Clara Solomon in 1915 and they had two sons, Richard A. S. born 1916 and William James born 1918.

Records show he enlisted at Bodmin (presumably in the D.C.L.I.) but later became Private 5325 Royal Warwickshire Regiment. At the time of his death, he was Private 25137 East Surrey Regiment 8th Battalion.

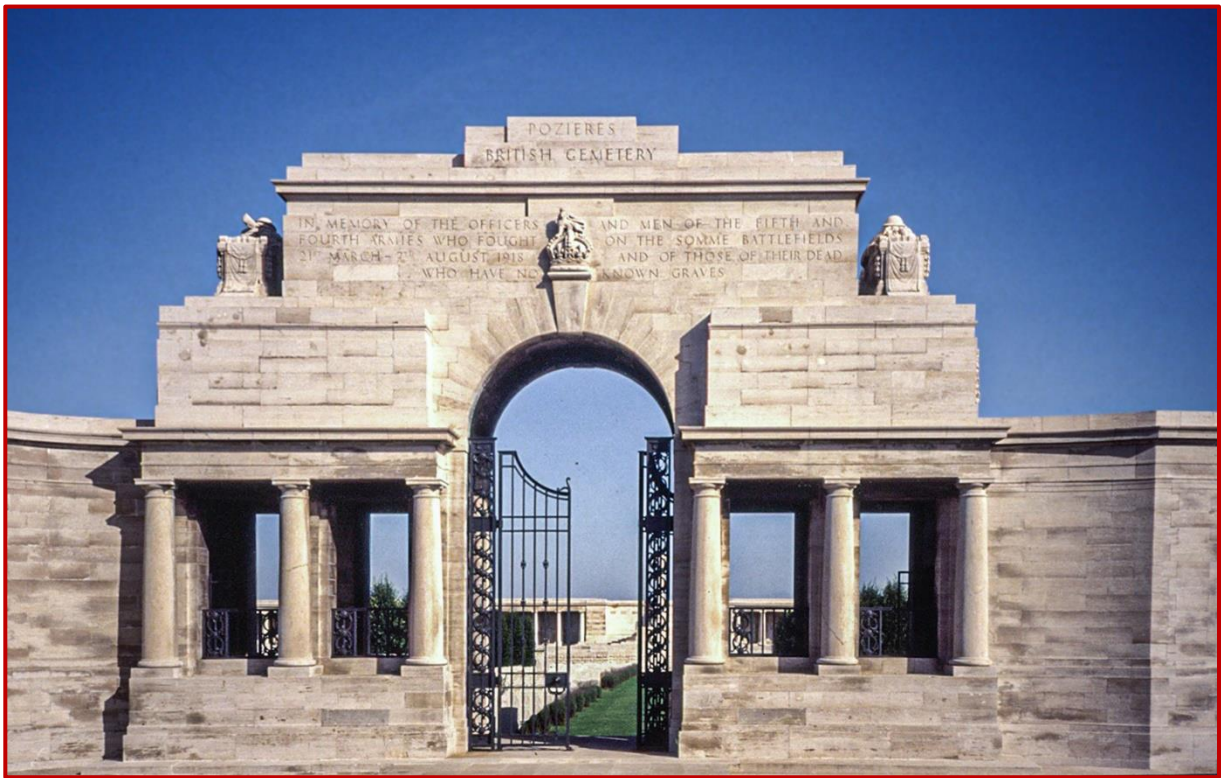
The following report appeared in the *Cornish Guardian* on 17 May 1918:

'Mrs Clara Grigg, Hendra Lane, has had official news that her husband Private Stanley Grigg is missing. He was in France with the East Surrey Regiment and has two other brothers with the colours in France.'

The official report of the death of Stanley Grigg gives the date of death as 23 March 1918. This ties in with the German offensives, which broke the Western Front, that started on 21 March 1918. By 24 March the Germans had broken through and advanced 14 miles, capturing the whole of the British defended zone on either side of the Somme. This was to be the Germans' greatest gain of territory since 1914, better even than the British had done at Cambrai with massed tanks. Before them the whole of the British 5th Army was in full retreat. The 3rd Army to its North was also being drawn into the rout. The British suffered terribly heavy losses, and Stanley Grigg was one of them.

Stanley is remembered on the Pozieres Memorial to the Missing, one of 14,644 men who have no known grave, along with three others from St.Dennis.

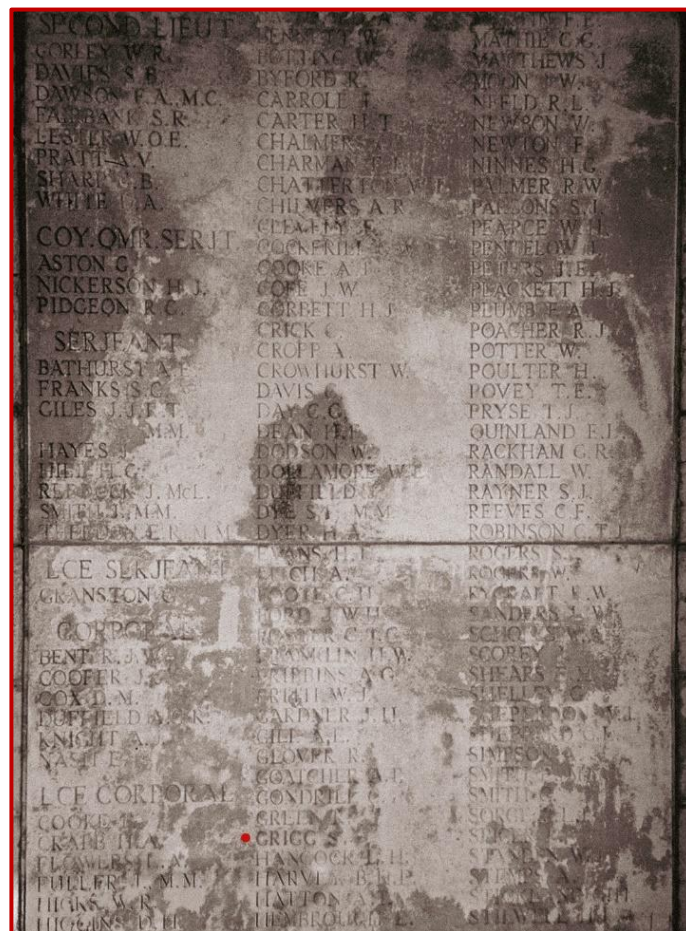
He is also remembered on his wife's grave at St.Dennis cemetery.



The Pozieres War memorial, The Somme, France
Photograph by Tim Trevenna



The Pozieres War memorial, The Somme, France
Photograph by Tim Trevenna



The Pozieres War memorial, The Somme, France
 Photograph by Tim Trevenna



Stanley Grigg's wife's grave, St.Dennis Cemetery
 Photograph by Tim Trevenna

William Michael Ham

William Michael Ham was born on 16 January 1896 and baptised on 16 April the same year at St.Dennis. He was the second born son of William Michael Ham and Sarah nee Bilkey. With six daughters and three sons it must have been a busy household that his father left in 1907 when he went to South Africa. Records show he died there in 1923.

As for Michael, he decided to try his luck as a miner in America and travelled from Southampton to New York aboard the *Oceanic*, arriving on 17 July 1913. His occupation was recorded as a quarryman. He joined many other Cornishmen in Butte, Montana and was living there and working as a miner in 1917 when he crossed the border into Canada to join the Canadian Expeditionary Force. His attestation was signed on 1 November 1917 and states he was C. of E., five feet five and a quarter inch tall, with next of kin being William Michael Ham, father, South Raffertine South Africa. His Reg. No. was 2355561.

The Cornish Guardian dated 26 September 1919 reports:

'Ham

In ever loving memory of my dear son William Michael Ham who was killed in action while fighting in France, 27th September 1918 aged 22 years. Ever remembered by his loving mother, brother and sisters.'

CIRCUMSTANCES OF CASUALTY CANADA WAR GRAVES REGISTERS reported:

'Killed in Action

During an attack on Raillencourt, he was instantly killed by machine gun fire when attempting to recover a Lewis gun.'

The official records show that he died on 29 September 1918. This would match official records of the battle of Canal du Nord when on that day there were over 2,000 Canadian Corps. casualties.

Private William Michael Ham is buried in Anneux British Cemetery, France.



Anneux British Cemetery, France
Photograph by Tim Trevenna



William Michael Ham's grave, Anneux British Cemetery, France
Photograph by Tim Trevenna

Albert William Harris

Albert may not have been born in St.Dennis but was resident in the village at the time of the 1911 census as shown below:

1911 CENSUS

Albert Edward	43	Head	
Alice M Stephens	24	Wife	
Albert W	17		Trammer, born Falmouth
Edith L	16		
Arthur J	1 year		
Leonard Rex	9 months		

The family were living at Carne, Castle View, St.Dennis at that time.

Records show that Albert Edward married Alice Maud Stephens in the October quarter of 1907.

Albert William's service date was recorded as 5 September 1914.

In 1915 he married Millicent Annie Lea in London.

Albert William Harris was unique in the fact that he was the only airman on our WW1 Memorial. The Royal Air Force had only been formed in 1918 by an amalgamation of the British air units. Prior to April 1918 the 'air force' had been divided into fighters and sea planes of the Royal Naval Air Service and fighters, bombers and reconnaissance aircraft of the Royal Flying Corps.

Ldg. A/C Harris 403690, served with the 'X' Engine Repair Depot of the Royal Air Force and died on 23 March 1919.

Having visited his grave in June 1993 and read the register, I now know that he died from pneumonia. He is buried in Brookwood Military Cemetery in Surrey.



Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey
Photograph by Tim Trevenna



Albert William Harris's grave
Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey
Photograph by Tim Trevenna

John Henry Hawke

John Henry Hawke was born in 1892, a second son to Charles Hawke and Susan nee Yelland. Both the 1901 and 1911 census records show the family living at Gilly Farm, Whitemoor. The 1911 census shows him working as a Clay Labourer.

Anyone who has heard of the First World War will also have heard of the Battle of the Somme. The Anglo-French assault began on 1 July 1916, when between daybreak and midday there were 60000 casualties. A second major offensive began on 14 July. From the time of the second offensive throughout July and August, attrition fighting took place in Delville Wood.

The following is an extract taken from Edward Wyrall's The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry 1914-1919.

'Only a fortnight before, 'Devils Wood' had been thick with trees, the ground below covered with undergrowth; it was about 160 acres in extent. But by the morning of the 27th the trees were torn and blasted, only stumps remaining, barbed wire and hastily-dug trenches were on all sides, but even these as the great shells fell upon them were blown to still further confusion as crater lapped crater - the miserable occupants sheltering as best as best as they might from the fury of the guns.' It was in surroundings such as these that Private John Henry Hawke, 21641, 10th Battalion D.C.L.I. lost his life on 30 July 1916.'

Cornish Guardian 11th August 1916

Whitemoor

'On Thursday morning Mr. and Mrs. C. Hawke of Gilly Farm were informed that their son John Henry Hawke had been killed in France. He belonged to the Cornish Pioneer Battalion and joined the same in the early stages of the war. Much sympathy is felt for the parents in this sad bereavement.'

John Henry Hawke is buried in the Dive Copse British Cemetery, France.



The Dive Copse British Cemetery, France
Photograph by Tim Trevenna



The Dive Copse British Cemetery, France
Photograph by Tim Trevenna

1914-1918 **James Henry Hill**

Gunner James Henry Hill, 185521, served with the 152nd Siege Battalion of the Royal Garrison Artillery.

Jim, as he was known to his parents, brothers, sisters and friends, was not born in St.Dennis but at St.Ervan in 1888. Baptised at Rumford Chapel on 8 April 1888 he was the first-born son of Thomas Hill and Annie nee Parsons. They later had another three sons and two daughters.

James Henry married Ellen Jane Osborne at St.Columb and had two children, Eddie and Phyllis. As with many of the names on our memorial, I am once again indebted to the *Cornish Guardian* for the following information:

Cornish Guardian 9th November 1917

'St.Dennis and district heard with regret on Monday last of the death of Gunner James Henry Hill of the R.G.A., the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs Thomas Hill of Trelavour Prazey, St.Dennis. The deceased went to France eight weeks ago and was instantly killed at Ypres, whilst at lunch, by a shell.

Gunner Hill was born in St.Ervan 22 years ago and has three brothers who are in the Army. He leaves a widow and two children, a boy and a girl, who reside at Lighthouse Villa, Stenalees, and for whom the deepest sympathy is felt. Also for the parents, sisters and brothers. The deceased was well known and held in high esteem; not only by his comrades but by a wide circle of friends and acquaintances.'

From Memoria placed in the same newspaper during the years that followed, it appeared that his brothers were Bert, Ed and Tom and sisters Beat and Gwen.

Records show that his widow remarried in 1925, to a Harry Cowling, and had two sons, John in 1926 and Harry born in 1927. In addition to this there was a stepson Aubrey who had been born in 1917.

Gunner James Henry Hill was killed on 30 October 1917 and is buried in Artillery Wood Cemetery, Boesinghe, Belgium.



Artillery Wood Cemetery, Boesinghe, Belgium
Photograph by Tim Trevenna



Artillery Wood Cemetery, Boesinghe, Belgium
Photograph by Tim Trevenna

1914-1918

Edwin Arnold Hore

Edwin Arnold Hore was born in the Parish of Roche in 1895, the youngest child of Thomas Hore and Ann Stephens.

It would appear from the census record of 1901 that Edwin Arnold, now 6 years old, was living at Belowda with his father, Thomas, who was now a widower.

By the time of the 1911 census the family had moved to Enniscaven and his father had remarried a Mary Ann Trebell nee Harris. Mary Ann's husband, John Trebell, had died in 1905. Edwin Arnold, now 16 years old, was described as a China Clay Miner.

Cornish Guardian 18 May 1917:

'Nanpean Soldier Killed

News has been received of the death in action of Private Arnold Edwin Hore, who was one of the first to volunteer for the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry when war broke out. He was a clay worker with the West of England Co. and was the youngest son of Mr. Thomas Hore of Enniscaven, St. Dennis. Private Hore was wounded in September last year and came home. On his recovery he returned and went to France just before Christmas. He was killed in action on April the 29th as a result of the concussion caused by a bursting shell. He was only 22 and was highly respected by those who knew him. At Nanpean Methodist Church his untimely end was referred to and an expression of sympathy extended to his relatives.'

The part played by the Pioneers (10th Battalion) of the D.C.L.I. during the battle of Arleux is well documented by Wyrall in two parts of his book as follows:

'To the Pioneers fell none of the glories of frontline fighting, but no attacking troops were ever served more faithfully than were the infantry of the 2nd Division by the 10th Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry'.

'On the 29th the Pioneers were again employed in carrying and continued working far into the night. One officer wounded, 6 other ranks killed and sixteen wounded were the casualties suffered by the Pioneers.'

Private Hore, 21633, 10th Battalion D.C.L.I. was one of those casualties. Enniscaven, St. Dennis, Nanpean and Cornwall had lost a fine young man.

Private Hore is buried in the Bailleul Road East Cemetery, St. Laurent-Blangy, France.



The Bailleul Road East Cemetery, St.Laurent-Blangy, France
Photograph by Tim Trevenna



The Bailleul Road East Cemetery, St.Laurent-Blangy, France
Photograph by Tim Trevenna

Brydges Charles Kent

Brydges Charles Kent was baptised on 3 December 1868 in the chapel at Burgois, St. Issey, in the St. Ervan Bible Christian Circuit. His parents are recorded as John, a labourer, and Elizabeth (nee Harris). John and Elizabeth were married on 29 November 1866. The name Brydges was apparently taken from Edward Brydges Willyams, one of two East Cornwall members of parliament in 1868.

Brydges Charles married Ada Mary Burley at St. Dennis church on 25 April 1896 and over the following years they had five children.

Why a 47-year-old man, with five children, would go to war is a mystery. However, on 6 July 1915 he enlisted in the army. Events then moved very quickly, as on 28 July 1915 he embarked the *Royal Edward* as Private SS/13908 of the 10th Coy. Army Service Corps. The *Royal Edward*, a former passenger ship, was carrying 1366 troops and had a crew of 220 when she left Avonmouth en route to Gallipoli.

On 13 August 1915 the *Royal Edward* was hit by a torpedo fired by U14 and sank within 6 minutes. Although Cdr. P.M. Wotton, R.N.R., Master of the *Royal Edward* was no doubt aware of the possibility of submarine activity in the area he would not have known that one had spotted his ship. It was incredible that the U14 which was only 92 feet long with a surface displacement of 125 tons and an armament of only two 17-inch torpedo tubes, a single machine gun and a crew of fourteen could inflict such a heavy loss on the *Royal Edward*, a ship of 11,117 tons and 523 feet long.

Although the hospital ship *Soudan*, two French destroyers and some trawlers went to her assistance, they picked up fewer than 500 men. Wotton went down with his vessel as did Brydges Charles Kent.

On the 10 September 1915 the *Cornish Guardian* carried the following report:

'There has been received at St. Dennis, from the Admiralty, news that Mr. Brydges Kent is missing from the Royal Edward. It is feared that he has drowned. He was a native of St. Dennis, 47 years of age and leaves a widow and five children. Deceased left his home to go as an ammunition worker.'

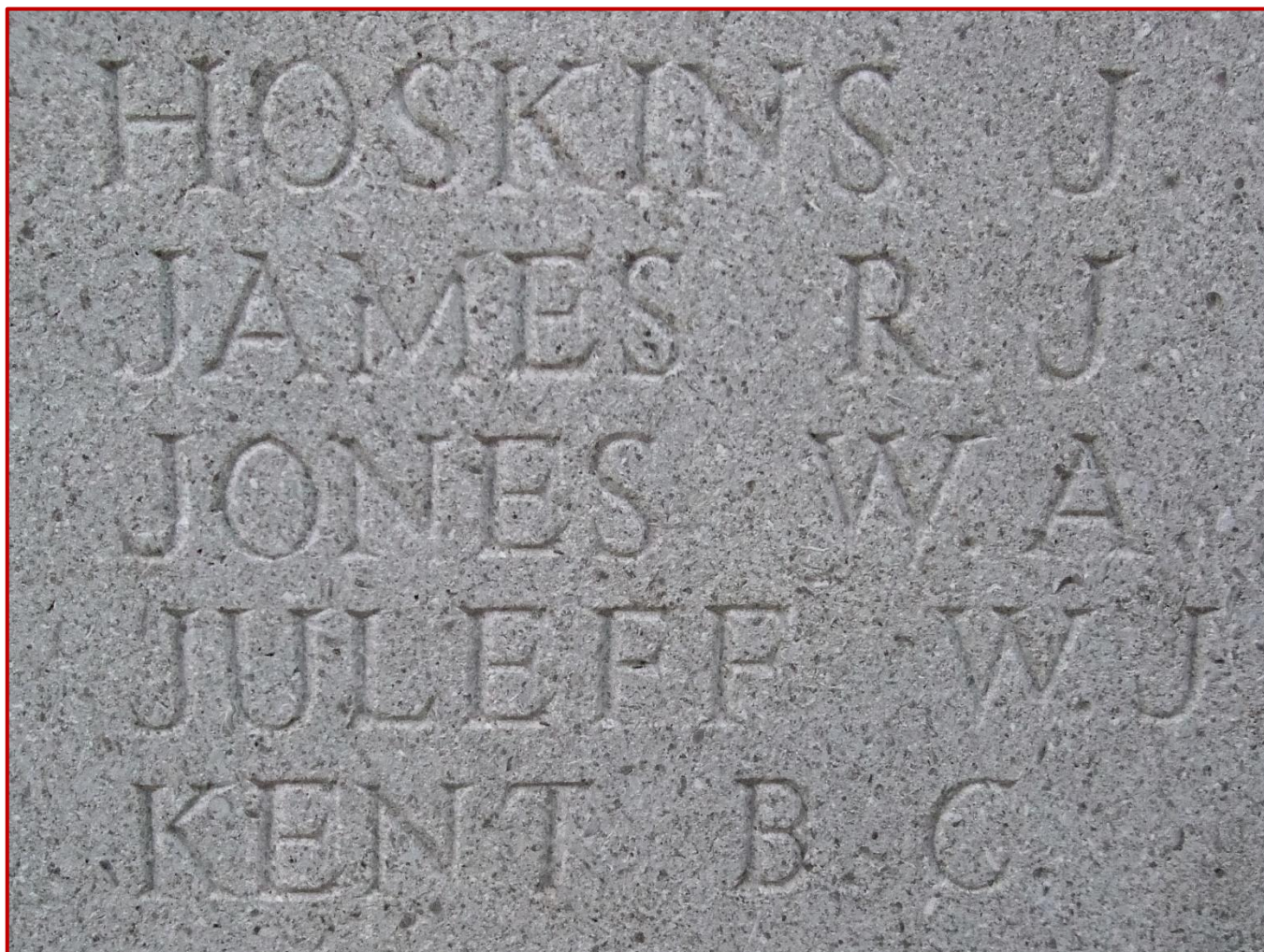
He is remembered on the Helles Memorial Gallipoli. The Helles Memorial is a Commonwealth War Graves Commission war memorial near Sedd el Bahr in Turkey, on a headland at the tip of the Gallipoli peninsula overlooking the Dardanelles. It includes an obelisk which is over 30 metres high. The memorial commemorates 20956 Commonwealth servicemen who have no known grave and died in the Gallipoli Campaign from 1915-1916.



Brydges Charles Kent
Photograph courtesy of Ron Kent



The Helles War Memorial, Sedd el Bahr Turkey
Photograph Courtesy of The Commonwealth War Graves Commission



The Helles War Memorial, Sedd el Bahr Turkey
Photograph by Tim Trevenna

1914-1918

Felix Henry Kent

Felix Henry was the second of three sons born to Brydges Charles Kent and Ada Mary nee Burley. He was baptised on 6 August 1899 in St.Dennis.

Felix Henry died as a result of a swimming accident on 23 October 1920.

Why then should his name appear on the WW1 memorial plaque of St.Dennis War Memorial Institute? Well, he had joined the Army on 6 July 1917 and had fought in France before being sent to Mesopotamia. Who knows what his thoughts may have been while passing through the same waters where his father had lost his life 5 years before?

Having served with the 7th Battalion Somerset Light Infantry, he was a seasoned soldier looking forward to the day when he would be given his orders to return home to Cornwall. He was twenty-one years old.

He may not have been killed in action and the War was officially over. However, he was a serving soldier who had joined during the War where he had served in Europe and the Middle East. Reason enough for the people of St.Dennis to put him on their War Memorial and who would disagree?

Private Felix Henry Kent, Service No. 5429661, of the 2nd Battalion D.C.L.I. is buried at the Basra War Cemetery. Basra is a town, in Iraq, on the west bank of the Shatt-al-Arab, 90 kilometres from its mouth with the Persian Gulf. The cemetery is about 8 kilometres north-west of Basra. Unfortunately, due to the situation in Iraq at this time the cemetery is surrounded with 1.5km of security fencing, until a time when the Commonwealth War Graves Commission can safely work there again.

His name is however commemorated on his mother's grave at St.Dennis cemetery.



Felix Henry Kent
 Photograph courtesy of Ron Kent



Felix Henry Kent's Mother's Grave, St.Dennis Cemetery
 Photograph by Trevor Rabey

1914-1918

Albert John Key

Albert John Key was born on 25 April 1887, the son of William Varcoe Key and Celia nee Brokenshire. He was baptised in St.Dennis on 20 October 1887. In 1917 he married Beatrice nee Trebilcock and a son, William Edwin Key was born in 1916.

Records show Albert John was five foot three inches tall, with brown hair and green eyes and worked as a Clay Labourer, living at Glyn Villas, St.Dennis. He joined the Royal Navy on 1 December 1916 and commenced training on *H.M.S. Vivid II*. When his training was complete, he joined *H.M.S. Ariadne* as Stoker 2nd Class service No. K/38342.

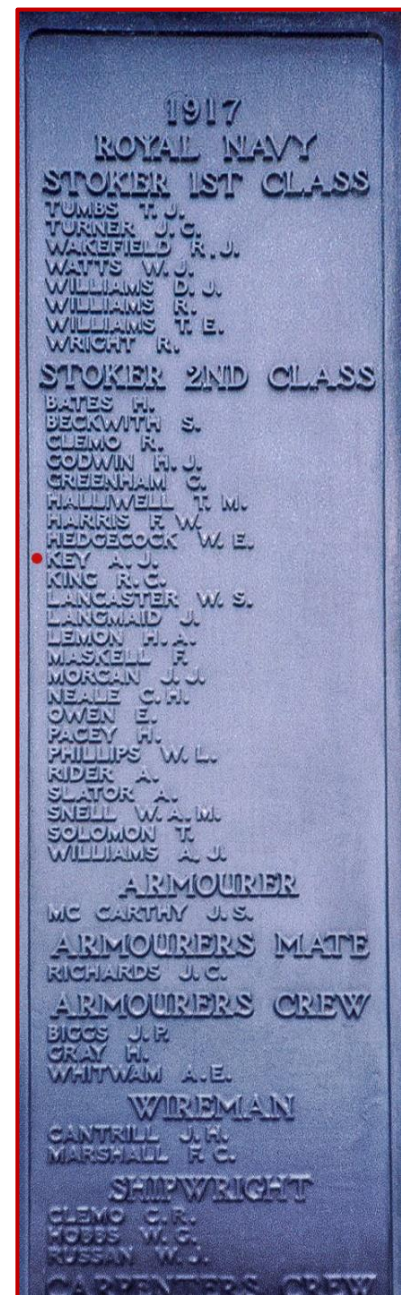
H.M.S. Ariadne was a cruiser of the Diadem class. Old and 'past her best' before war had started, she was employed as a mine layer off Beachy Head. With a top speed of between 18-19 knots and a complement of 677 she was an easy target for the submarine that sunk her on that day.

The following report appeared in the *Cornish Guardian* 3rd August 1917:

'A Local Sailor's Death

It is with sincere regret that we record the tragic death of Stoker Albert John Key R.N. The extremely sad tidings came to hand on Monday morning last and caused profound sorrow throughout the locality. Stoker Key was on board H.M.S. Ariadne. The Admiralty in their communication to Mrs. Beatrice Key, the wife, says the ship was struck on July 26th. It is believed that Stoker Key was on board. As it does not appear that he is on the list of survivors and in the circumstances, it is feared, that in the absence of any evidence to the contrary, he must be regarded as having lost his life. Stoker Key was 30 years of age and only recently been home on leave. He possessed a most amiable and cheerful disposition which secured him a host of friends and acquaintances. The deceased leaves a widow and a little son for whom the most sincere sympathy is felt as well as for Celia Key the deceased's mother and other relatives. Stoker Key was a native of St.Dennis and a worshiper at the parish church. He was the grandson of the late Mr. James Key of Domellick Manor, St.Dennis. The King and Queen have sent their sympathy to the widow.'

Albert John Key is remembered on the Royal Naval Memorial to the Missing at Plymouth.



The Royal Naval Memorial to the Missing at Plymouth
Photograph by Tim Trevenna

1914-1918

Edwin John Liddicoat

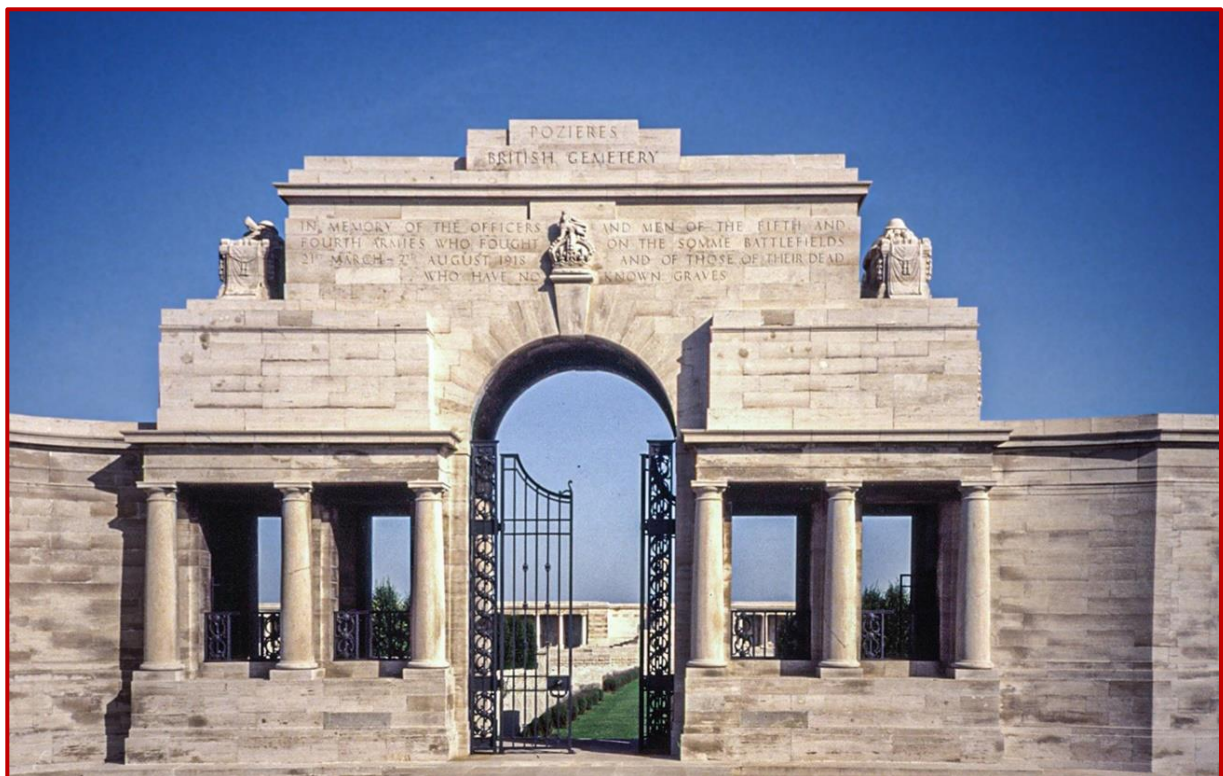
Edwin John was sixth of the thirteen children of Silas Liddicoat and Maria nee Truscott. Born in St.Dennis in 1898, his father was a china clay labourer.

His siblings are named as Eliza Edna, James Henry, Evelyn Jane, Hilda May, Mary Jane, Silas Redvers, Albert Edward, Gwendoline Pearl, Caroline Rose, Clarence Ronald, Amanda Laura and Kathleen.

Private Edwin John Liddicoat, 29047, Prince Albert's Somerset Light Infantry, formerly 2603 Dorsetshire Yeomanry, was killed in action on 22 March 1918. He died seven months before his brother James Henry, whose name follows his on the war memorial.

Edwin John is remembered on the Pozieres Memorial, France (one of four St.Dennis men that are named on this memorial). It would seem that he died during the great German offensives that began on the Western Front the previous day.

He is one of the 14,690 men named on the memorial that have no known grave. In addition to the plaque on the St.Dennis Memorial Institute he is remembered on the Enniscaven memorial and also the memorials at Nanpean and St.Stephen.



The Pozieres War memorial, The Somme, France
Photograph by Tim Trevenna



The Pozieres War memorial, The Somme, France
 Photograph by Tim Trevenna



Enniscaven War Memorial
 Photograph by Trevor Rabey

James Henry Liddicoat

James Henry Liddicoat was the older brother of Edwin John, the previous name on our memorial. Born in 1890 and baptised on 23 April 1891, he was the eldest son of Silas and Maria Liddicoat of Enniscaven, in the parish of St.Dennis.

James Henry, or Mac as he liked to be called, was married to Nellie nee Crews in 1912 and they had two children. Ronald Henry was born 1912 and George was born in 1913.

My first information on 'Mac' came from his son Ronald who it was my privilege to meet not long before he died. Originally Private No. 26781 in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, he later became Private No. 37466, in the 1st Battalion Suffolk Regiment.

He was killed in action on 1 October 1918 during the advance in Picardy. Although he has no known grave he is remembered on the Vis-en-Artois memorial in France. The memorial records the names of 9903 officers and men who fell in the 1918 advance.

The following was placed in the *Cornish Guardian* 25 October 1918:

'Liddicoat

In loving memory of darling husband Private J. H. Liddicoat who was killed in action in France October 1st 1918. Sadly missed by wife Nelly and the boys Ronald and Georgie, Goverseth, Foxhole.'

Also in the *Cornish Guardian* 3 October 1919:

'Liddicoat

'In loving memory of Private J. H. Liddicoat (Mac) who was killed in France October 1st 1918. Sadly missed by his father and mother, brothers and sisters, Enniscaven, St.Dennis.'

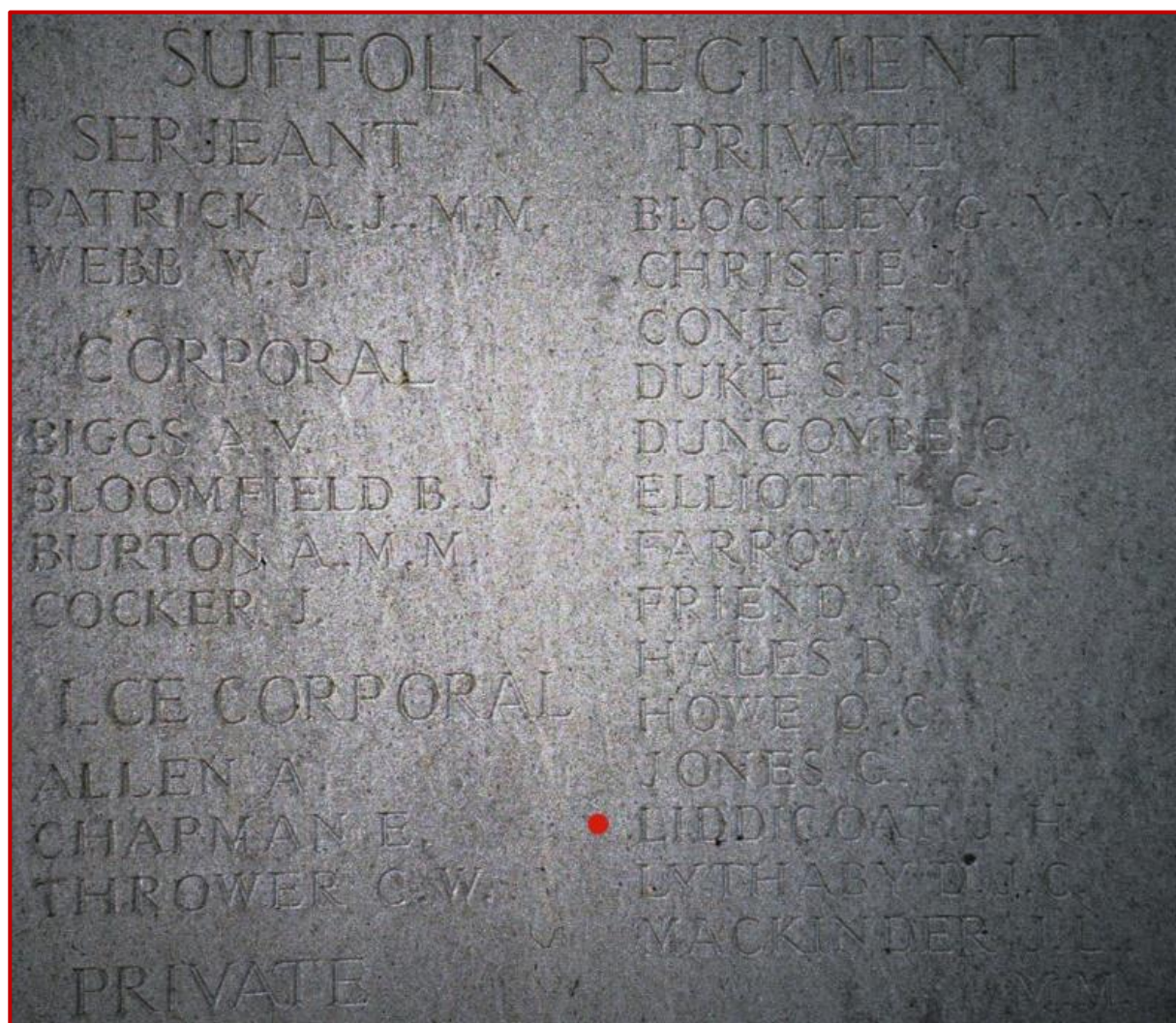
In addition to the Vis-en-Artois memorial his name also appears on memorials at Enniscaven, Nanpean and St.Stephen.



Vis-en-Artois Memorial, France
Photograph by Tim Trevenna



Vis-en-Artois Memorial, France
Photograph by Tim Trevenna



Vis-en-Artois Memorial, France
Photograph by Tim Trevenna

1914-1918

Albert John Liddicoat

The third Liddicoat on our memorial at St.Dennis, also Enniscaven, is that of Albert John. Although not a sibling of the other two Liddicoats on the memorial it would appear he was a first cousin. He was born in 1892 and baptised in 1893 at his parents' house, his parents being John and Hannah Mary Liddicoat, nee Best. We know from the 1911 census he, like his father, was a clay labourer.

In August 1917 Albert John married Ellen nee Bryant.

Private Albert John Liddicoat 118299 Machine Gun Corps, formerly 2234 Somerset Yeomanry, was killed in action on 16 April 1918.

The following appeared in the *Cornish Guardian* 28th June 1918:

'St.Dennis

Mr. and Mrs. John Liddicoat have been officially informed that their only son Private Albert John Liddicoat aged 25 of the Machine Gun Corps. in France, has been killed in action. Sincere sympathy is felt for them and also for the widow. Private Liddicoat married Miss Ellen Bryant of Hayle last August.'

Cornish Guardian 25 April 1919 under Memoriam:

'In memory of my darling brother, Private A. J. Liddicoat who was killed in France April 16th, 1918. He gave his life, he gave his all. For Loved ones left at home. From his loving sister, Beatrice Hanna.'

Private Albert John Liddicoat, 49th Battalion Machine Gun Corps is buried at La Clytte Military Cemetery, Reninghelst, Belgium.



Albert John Liddicoat
Photographer unknown



La Clytte Military Cemetery, Reninghelst, Belgium
Photograph by Tim Trevena



La Clytte Military Cemetery, Reninghelst, Belgium
 Photograph by Tim Trevenna



La Clytte Military Cemetery, Reninghelst, Belgium
 Photograph by Tim Trevenna

1914-1918

James Martyn

James Martyn (Jim) was born at Bluebarrow near Whitemoor in the parish of St.Stephen in Brannel in 1894. He was baptised on 28 November 1901, the son of John A. Martyn and Edith nee Miners.

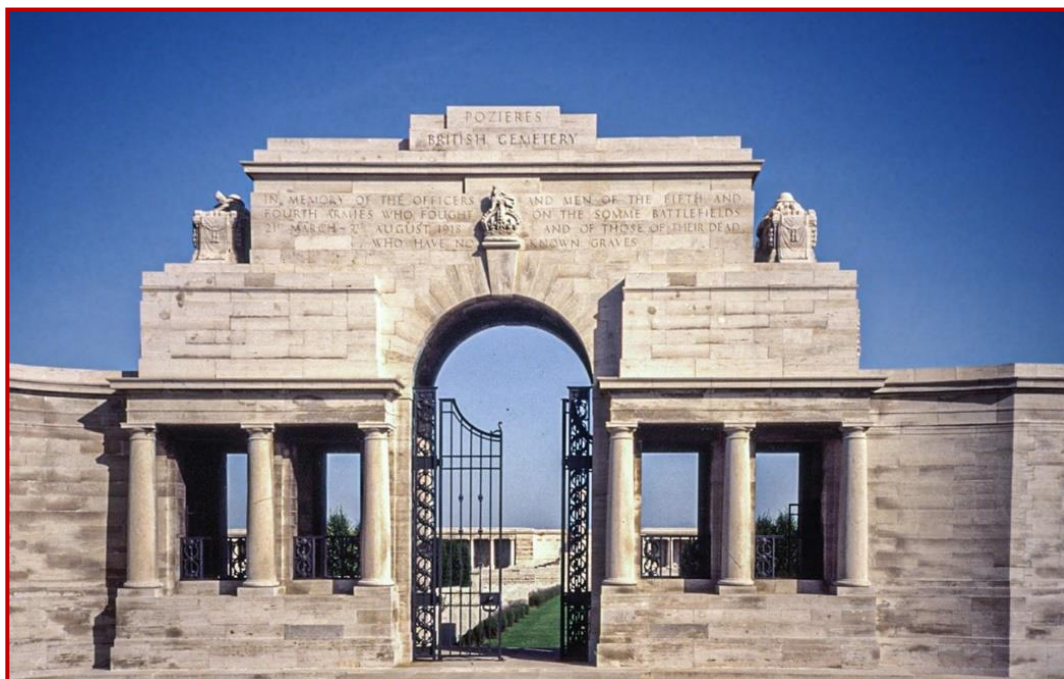
The 1911 census shows him living at St.Lawrence, Trelavour Downs, St.Dennis. He worked as a clay labourer as did his father and brother, Fred. Brother Fred died on 8 April 1911, in an accident, while working for H.D. Pochin at Gothers clay quarry.

Records show that Jim had enlisted at St.Austell and at the time of his death was Private 25578 of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, more commonly known as the Oxon Bucks. However, there is a record that he previously served as Private 29273 with the Worcester Regiment.

Private James Martyn was killed in action on 21 March 1918 and is one of four men on our memorial at St.Dennis who show on the Pozieres Memorial in France. Four men, all from the same village, died in the same area in France fighting for four different regiments.

The Pozieres Memorial to the missing records the names of 14,690 men of the 5th Army who died in the battles of the Somme up to 5 April 1918 and all other casualties up to 7 August who have no known grave.

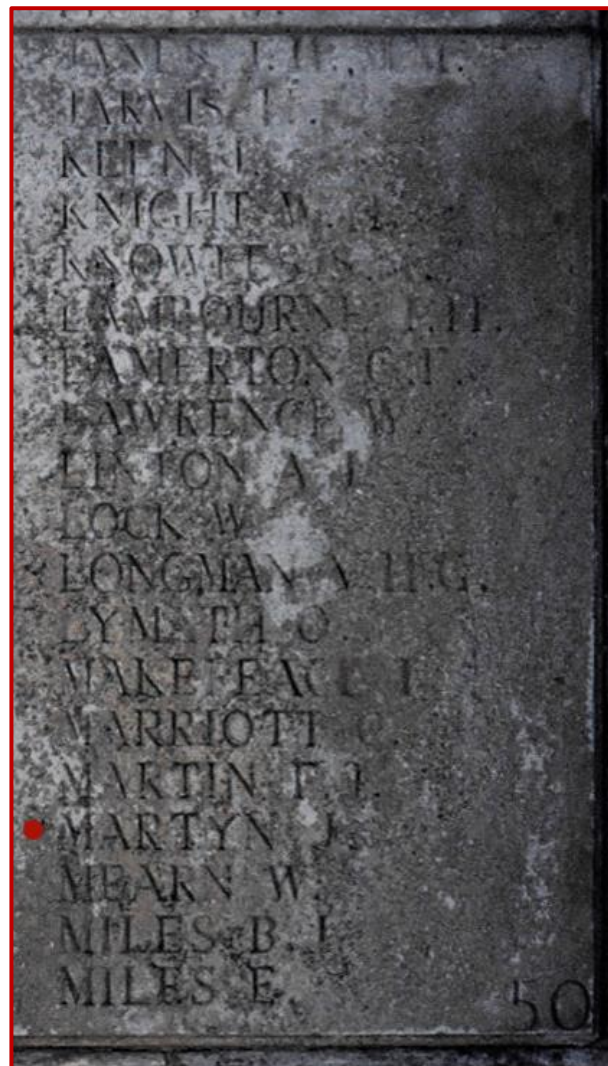
Twenty-first of March was the date for the start of the great German offensive on the Western Front when they drove fourteen miles behind Allied lines. This was the same day that Jim Martyn was killed in action.



The Pozieres War Memorial, The Somme, France
Photograph by Tim Trevenna



The Pozieres War Memorial, The Somme, France
 Photograph by Tim Trevenna



The Pozieres War Memorial, The Somme, France
 Photograph by Tim Trevenna

Thomas Henry Mennear

Thomas Henry Mennear was born 18 February 1879. He was the fifth child, and second son, of the ten children born to William Henry and Elizabeth Jane nee Trethewey.

In 1897 he married Lily Augusta Grigg at St.Dennis and over a period of 18 years five children were born.

The events of 23 April 1917 relating to the 1st Battalion of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry are described in detail in Wyrall's book on the regiment.

The second battle of the Scarpe 1917, with subsidiary attack on La Coulotte 23-24 April, was a part of the battle of Arras. We have no record of Thomas Henry Mennear's part in that battle, but we do know that at some time he was taken prisoner.

The roll of honour for the D.C.L.I. and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission both agree that he died on 29 April 1917. If this is true, he did not remain a prisoner for long.

It was not until 22 June 1918 that the *Cornish Guardian* reports:

'We regret to state that Thomas Henry Mennear, D.C.L.I. is reported missing.'

And not until 11 January 1919 did the *Cornish Guardian* report:

'We regret to record the death of Private Thomas Henry Mennear, D.C.L. .I. He has been officially reported missing since the 23rd April last and now Mrs. Lily Mennear, the widow, has received a communication from the War Office stating that Private Mennear died whilst a prisoner in enemy hands. The deceased was 39 years of age. He was much esteemed by a very large circle of friends. He is the second son of Mr William Mennear, ex-chairman of St. Dennis Parish Council. For the widow, 5 children, father and mother and other members of the family sincere sorrow is felt. The deceased, for the greater part of his life, was an employee of Bloomdale China Clay and Stone Co.'

Private Thomas Henry Mennear, 29172, 1st Battalion D.C.L.I., is buried in the Sucrierie Cemetery, Ablain- St.Nazaire, France.



Sucrerie Cemetery, Ablain - St.Nazaire, France
 Photograph by Tim Trevenna



Sucrerie Cemetery, Ablain - St.Nazaire, France
 Photograph by Tim Trevenna

Edwin George Osborne

Edwin George Osborne was baptised on 1 June 1885, a son to Richard Osborne and Elizabeth nee Bray. In 1906 he married Ada Louisa Allen. The 1911 census shows the family living at Gothers in the parish of St.Dennis with two children.

Edwin George, a clay labourer, enlisted in the 7th Battalion Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry at St. Austell.

Private Edwin George Osborne, 21656, next came to notice in the *Cornish Guardian* 22 June 1917. A brief note showed that '*Private E.G. Osborne of the D.C.L.I., who was wounded in France, is now at a Manchester hospital and is progressing favourably.*'

He was mentioned again in the same newspaper on 3 August 1917 when they reported '*Private E.G. Osborne is home at Gothers, St.Dennis on furlough*'

Then on 27 May 1918 the *Cornish Guardian* reported:

'Mrs.Osborne, Gothers, St.Dennis has received news that her husband Private Edwin George Osborne, of the D.C.L.I. is missing. He was in France and had been in the Army 3 years.'

A headstone to Private Osborne can be found at Fouquescourt British Cemetery in France but a memorial stone in front of the headstone explains that Private Osborne is elsewhere. The memorial stone reads:

'To the memory of these five soldiers of the British Empire who fell in 1917 and 1918 and were buried in Assevillers Military Cemetery, Fonchette Churchyard and Chaulnes German Cemetery but whose graves are now lost. Their glory shall not be blotted out.'

Where he died is not known but his headstone recorded his death as 17 May 1918. He was 33 years of age.



Fouquescourt British Cemetery, France
Photograph by Tim Trevenna



Fouquescourt British Cemetery, France
Photograph by Tim Trevenna



The headstone of Edwin George Osborne
Fouquescourt British Cemetery, France
Photograph by Tim Trevenna

1914-1918

Charles Rabey

Charles Rabey was born at St.Ervan in 1891, the fourth son of Francis Rabey and Mary Jane nee Andrew.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission record that Private Charles Rabey, 38821, was 26 years old when killed in action on 10 October 1917 (although some family records show a different date). He had previously served as Private 272549 with the Royal Army Service Corps.

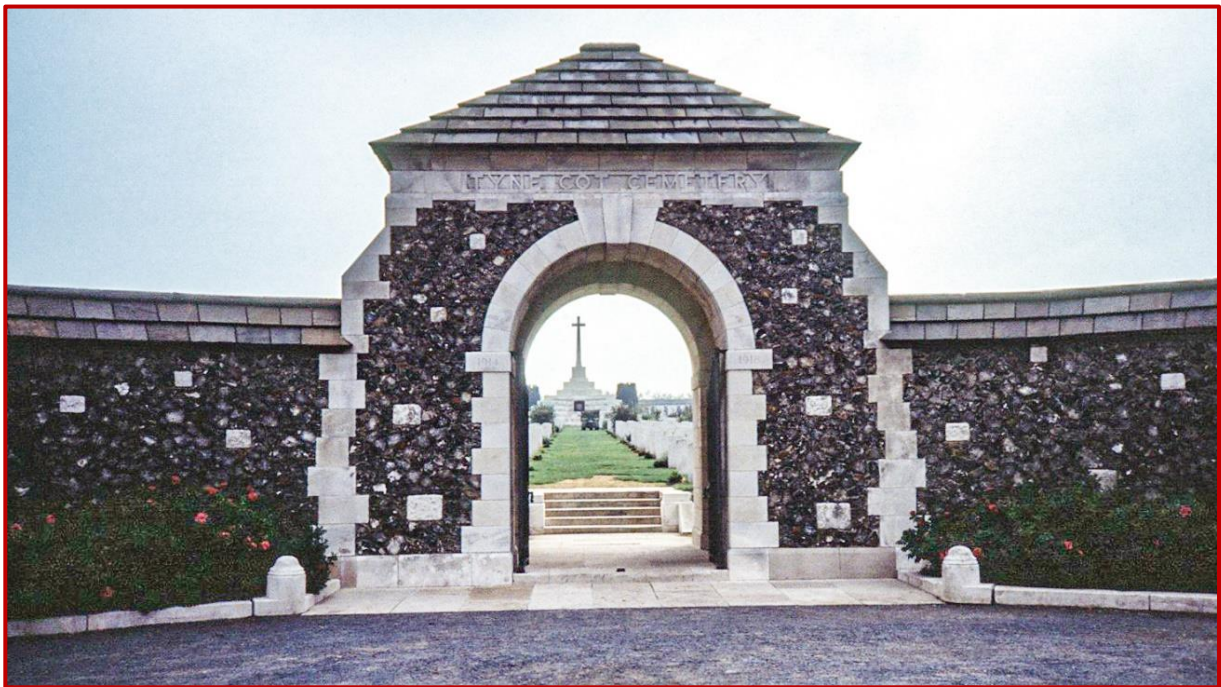
Charles died during the third battle of Ypres, also known as Passchendaele. This was a battle where the British had to overcome not only the German forces but also the appalling weather. The summer of 1917 had been one of the wettest on record. Day after day of continual rain, combined with heavy shelling, had turned the ground into a quagmire. The battle began on 31 July 1917 and continued until November of the same year. When the rain and the shelling stopped and the battle was over, the British had advanced 5 miles at a cost of 240,000 casualties. One of the bloodiest battles in history was over.

It would seem clear that Charles had moved to St.Dennis prior to enlistment, as in the 1911 census he was a boarder with the Osborne family at Gothers. At the time of his death his mother was living at Church Hill, St.Dennis and his father had died in 1915.

Private Charles Rabey has no known grave and is remembered on the Tyne Cot Memorial to the missing.

The Tyne Cot Memorial records the names of the 34,888 men who were lost between 16 August 1917 and the end of the war. Below the memorial are the graves of 11,500 men brought from surrounding battlefields. Many of the men listed on the panels of the memorial will be among them. Six recipients of the Victoria Cross are either buried or listed on the memorial at this cemetery.

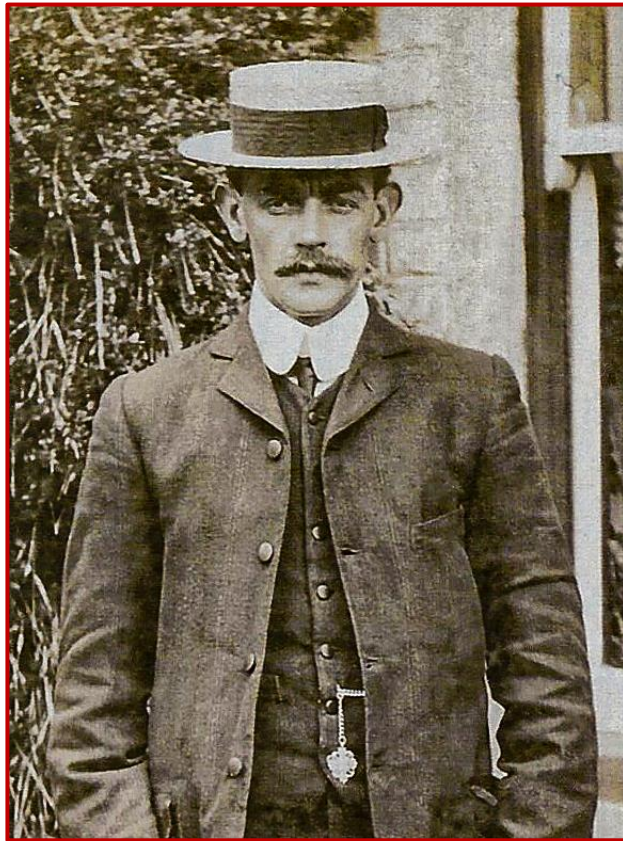
Charles is also remembered on his parents' grave at St.Issey.



Tyne Cot Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery
 Zonnebeke, Belgium
 Photograph by Tim Trevenna



Tyne Cot Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery
 Zonnebeke, Belgium
 Photograph by Tim Trevenna



Charles Rabey
Photograph courtesy of Trevor Rabey



St.Issey Free Church Cemetery
Photograph by Trevor Rabey

1914-1918

William John Richards

William John Richards was born in Melbourne, Australia, the eldest son and one of the eight children born to John and Emily Richards nee Goudge.

John, Emily and two children had travelled to New South Wales aboard 'Aberdeen' in 1884. The 1901 census sees the family back in this country, living at Whitemoor in the parish of St. Stephen in Brannel. John was a brick maker.

William John, a clay labourer, married Edith Louisa Hawkey in 1909 and they lived at 5 North Terrace, Whitemoor. He enlisted in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry in October 1916 aged 32 years and after a short period of training, found himself fighting in France.

I am once again grateful to the *Cornish Guardian* for the following report that appeared in the newspaper on 31 August 1917:

'Whitemoor

We deeply regret to announce the sad news, received at Whitemoor on Saturday morning last, that Private William John Richards of the Machine Gun Company had been killed in France by shellfire. The deceased soldier aged 32 years was of a very cheerful and obliging nature and highly respected by all who knew him. Prior to his enlistment he was closely connected with the United Methodist Church.

For many years he had been a teacher at the Sunday School and also a member of the Chapel choir. His loss is all the more deeply felt as he had only been in France about 5 weeks. He leaves a widow and one little son about 5 years of age. Every sympathy will be felt for the bereaved family'

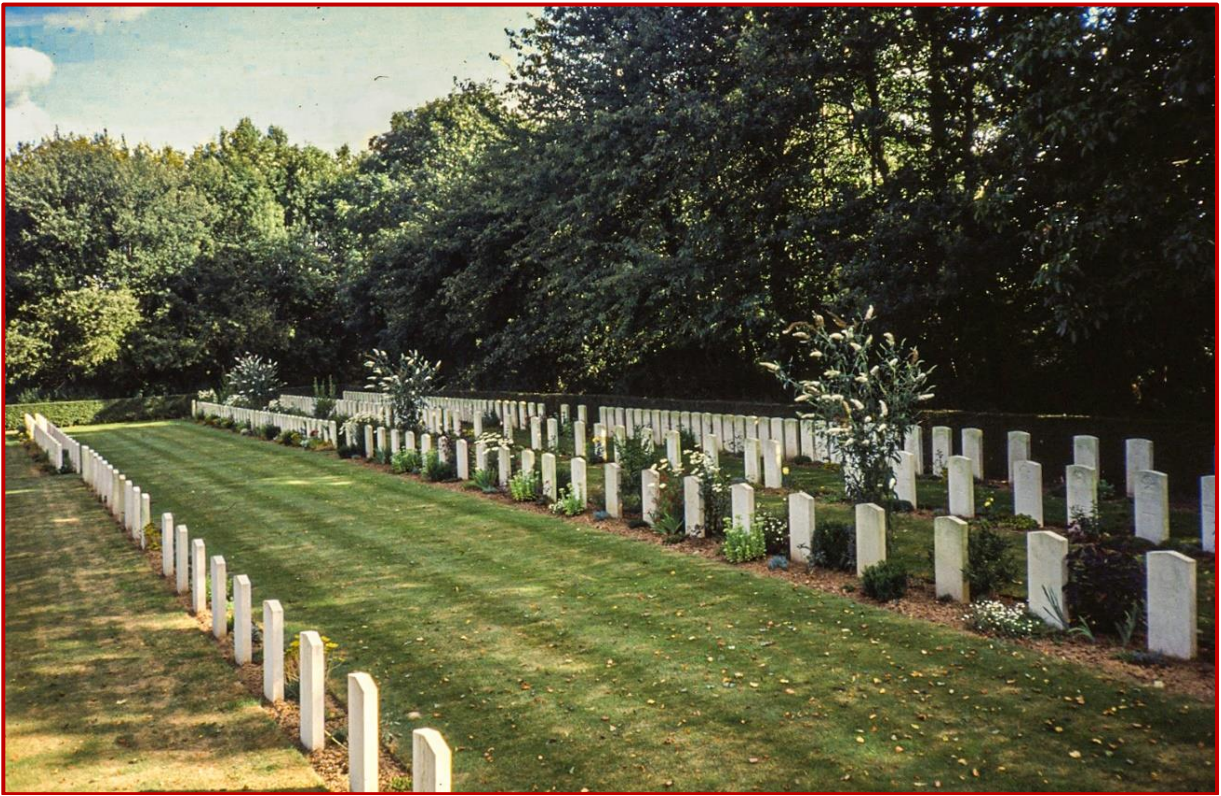
The section officer in writing to Mrs. Richards, says:

'Dear Madam

You will have heard of this from the company commander, of the very sad news of the death of your son, on the 18th instant at 8.50 p.m.; and I as his section commander now write to convey to you my deepest sympathy with you in your bereavement. It is a terrible blow and I feel but poor consolation at such a time to reflect that he has given his life for his country and in defence of all our dear folk at home. His death was practically instantaneous as a small piece of shell penetrated his heart. He had medical attention within one minute but the doctor found that life to be extinct. Your son was a very willing worker and we all feel his loss keenly. A.C. Denny Lieutenant'.

Within 10 months William John had gone from a clay labourer to Private 34011 of the D.C.L.I. to Private 82145 Machine Gun Corps/Tank Corps to killed in action.

He is buried in the Villers- Faucon Communal Cemetery in France.



Villers-Faucon Communal Cemetery, France
 Photograph by Tim Trevenna



William John Richards' grave
 Villers-Faucon Communal Cemetery, France
 Photograph by Tim Trevenna

1914-1918

Daniel Richards

Daniel Richards was born on 7 October 1882 and baptised 4 February 1883. He was the third son of Daniel Richards and Emma nee Key. At this time, the family were living at Littlejohns in the parish of St. Stephen in Brannel.

The 1901 census shows Daniel still living with his parents and his occupation as clay labourer. It also shows that his mother was born in the parish of St. Dennis.

In 1910 Daniel married Alma Elizabeth nee Truscott. In the 1911 census the couple were living at Cocksbarrow, Carthew.

We do not have a date, but we know that Daniel enlisted in St. Austell and became Private Daniel Richards, Service No. 202093 of the 2nd/4th Battalion Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records Private Daniel Richards' death as 26 April 1917 and that he is buried in Ranikhet New Cemetery, India. This is confirmed by the inscription on his parents' grave at Nanpean which reads:

'In loving memory of Emma, beloved wife of Daniel Richards, who died at Currian Road, Nanpean, 15 November 1928 aged 78 years. At rest. Also of Daniel, her beloved husband who died 7 January 1934 aged 80 years.

*God saw his footsteps falter.
The hill grew hard to climb.
So he closed his weary eyelids.
And whispered, 'Peace be thine'.*

And Daniel, their son, who died in Ramket, India 26 April 1917 aged 34 years. At Rest.'



Daniel Richards parents' grave
 Nanpean Cemetery
 Photograph by Trevor Rabey

Richard John Rundle

Richard John Rundle was born 24 November 1891 at Rostowrack Downs, a son to Fred Rundle and Elizabeth Woolcock nee Wellington. He was baptised at St.Dennis on 5 July 1895.

The 1911 census shows he was living with the family and a china clay labourer, the same as his father Fred.

Richard did not wait for conscription but volunteered to join the Royal Navy as an ordinary seaman and commenced training at *H.M.S. Vivid* in Devonport. *Vivid* was the name of the first Royal Navy Barracks at Devonport. Before *Vivid*, sailors were trained on the hulks of old ships at various locations around the coast. The base's name derived from the commander-in-chief's yacht *H.M.S. Vivid*.

There were around 3000 men in training at any one time, so it was perhaps not surprising that illnesses and diseases that were prevalent during that period were brought into and contracted in the barracks. There were sick quarters at the barracks with room for forty patients that had been established in 1902 but it was to the Royal Naval Hospital at Stonehouse, Plymouth where the more serious cases were taken.

Ordinary Seaman Richard John Rundle Service Number J/47146 died at the Royal Naval Hospital, Plymouth on 17 May 1916.

He is buried in the churchyard of St.Denys Church, where the verse on his headstone reads:

'Oh for the touch of a vanished hand, and the sound of a voice that is still.'

It is worth mentioning here that Richard's sister Catherine Pearl, later known as 'Katy' Cocks wrote many letters for confirmation that his grave was a Commonwealth War grave and should be maintained as such.



St.Denys Parish Church Cemetery
Photograph by Tim Trevenna

1914-1918 Frederick Charles Runnalls

Spelt in different ways in various reports I am confident that Runnalls is the correct spelling of the surname. He was born at Trekenning Mill, St.Columb, a second son to Charles Runnalls and Arminell Frances nee Carter, and baptised on 18 September 1896 at St.Columb.

The 1911 census shows the family had settled in Enniscaven in the parish of St.Dennis, Charles was a china clay labourer.

Having enlisted with his brother George (Harold George), he became Private Frederick Charles, Service Number 24050 of the 10th Battalion of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry. The *Cornish Guardian* of 18 August 1916 enters into great detail about his demise:

'Private F Runnalls Killed at the Front.'

General sympathy is strikingly manifest in the district towards Mr. and Mrs. Charles Runnalls of Enniscaven in the death of their son Frederick Charles who lost his life in France while serving King and Country. Only last month he attained his majority. In the summer of 1915 he joined the 10th Battalion of the D.C.L.I. Pioneers and was some time in Fort Romley Plymouth and recently went to France.'

'As a mark of sincere respect and sorrow to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Runnalls and family. Enniscaven United Methodist Church Sunday School passed a vote of sympathy last Sunday morning with them in the death of their son, Private Frederick Charles Runnalls, who was killed at the front and whose death we report elsewhere. At Enniscaven United Methodist Church last Sunday evening the organist, Mr Silas Liddicoat, touchingly rendered the 'Dead March in Soul' and 'O rest in the Lord,' in memory of Private Fred Runnalls and out of respect for the dead soldier's parents, family and relatives who are so much esteemed by all.'

A letter from 2nd Lt. Ewart Vine, B Company, 10th Battalion D.C.L.I. reads:

'As your dear sons Fred's platoon officer, it is my sad lot to inform you of his death in action on the night of Friday, 4th August. We were digging a trench in front of our own line when he was shot in the head by a machine gun bullet from one of the enemy's machine guns and was instantly killed. I was beside him when it happened. He was working with his brother George at the time. Fred was a good fellow, popular with all his comrades and highly respected by my fellow officers of B Company and myself.

We all miss him so much, but you can console yourselves with the fact that he gave his life fighting for the great cause of right against might. Please accept my heartfelt sympathy but meanwhile keep a stout heart for it is trials like these that make us cling more to those left to us. Before joining the Colours, Private Runnalls was an employee of H. & D. Pochin at their clay works.'

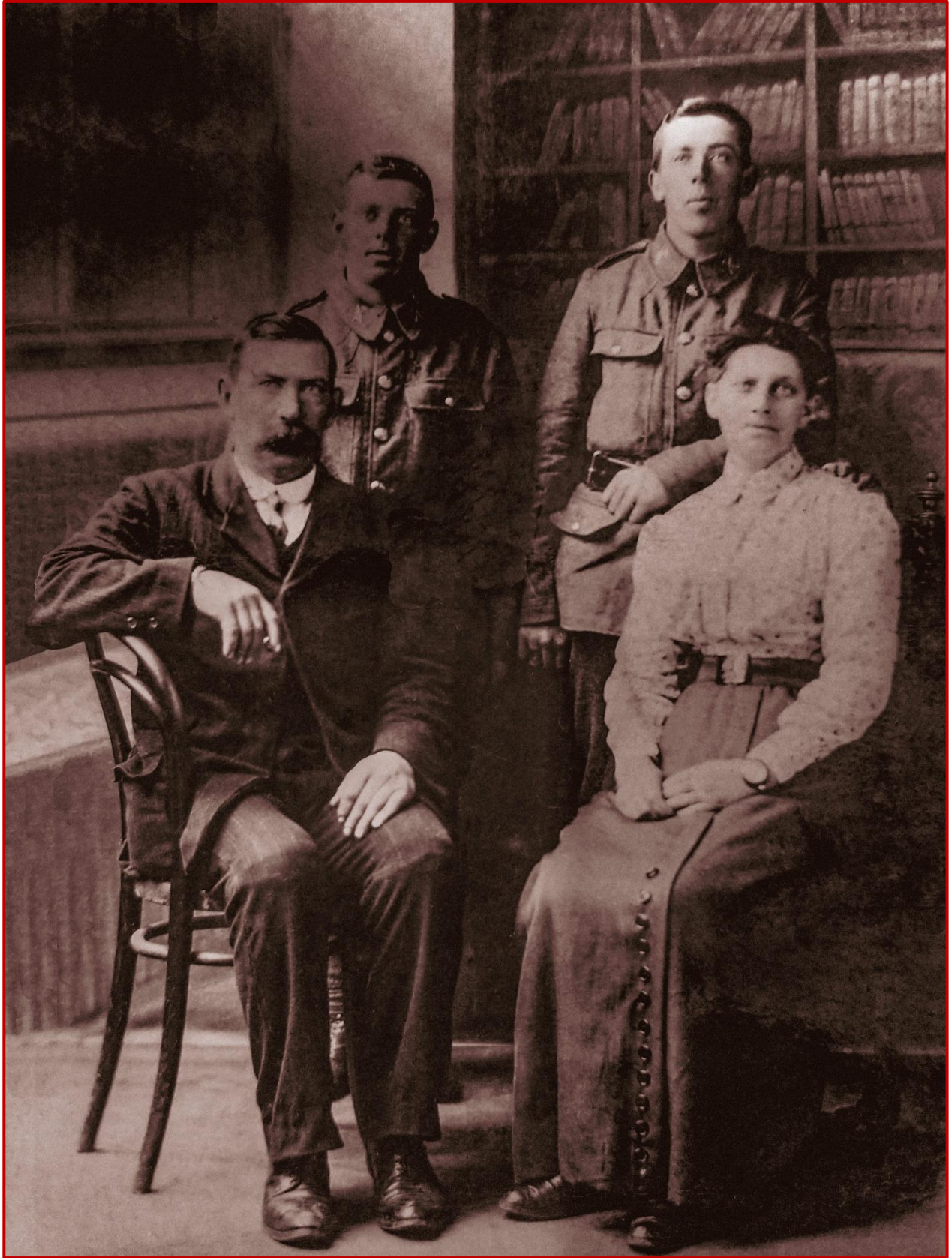
Private Runnalls is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial, in France, a memorial that records the names of 73,000 of the forces of the British Commonwealth and Empire who fell in battle in the neighbourhood and have no known grave.



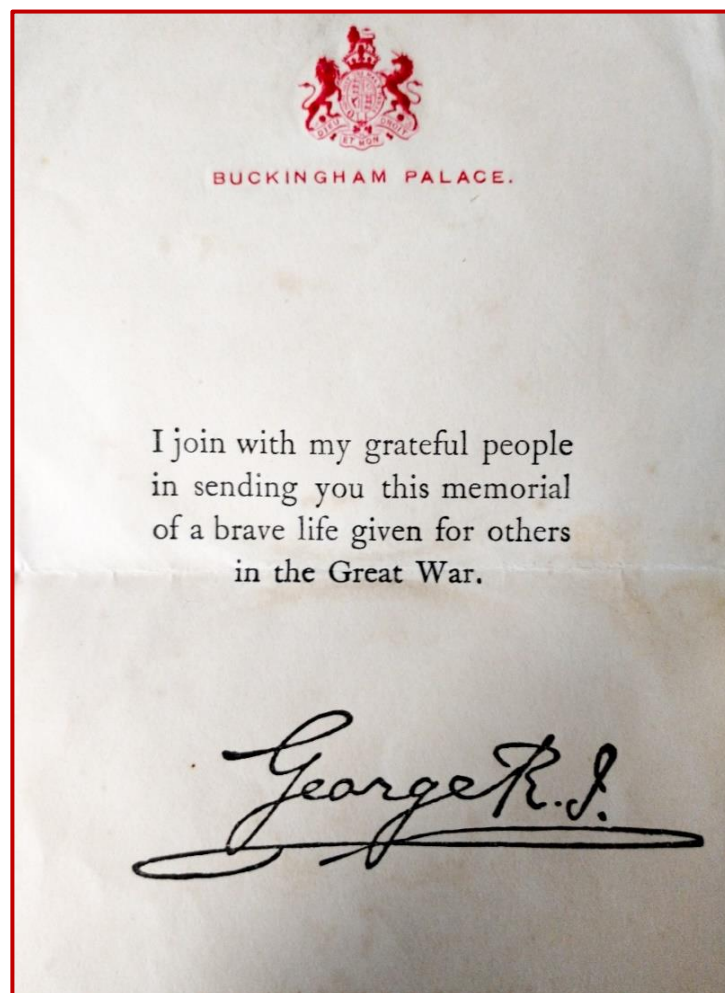
Thiepval Memorial, France
 Photograph by Tim Trevenna

JOHNS S. J.	REED E.	WARREN H. W.
JOLLY W.	REES W.	WARREN J. D.
JONES D. V.	RESCORLA R. C.	WATERS J. H.
JONES E.	REVELL J.	WATKINS J.
JULIAN E. H.	RICHARDS S. H.	17832
KAIN A.	ROBINSON W. E.	WATKINS J.
KEARNEY G. R.	RODHOUSE F.	19743
KELEHER A.	ROE H.	WATLING S.
KELLY M.	ROGERS H.	WATTS J.
KEMP C.	ROLPH W.	WELCH J.
KEMP J. H.	ROWETT F. H.	WELLS F. J.
KEOGH J.	RUMBLE A.	WESTAWAY W.
KIMBERLIN W.	RUNNALLS F. C.	WESTON T. H.
KINSMAN H.	RUSSELL J. W.	WHEELER B. R.
KNIGHT C. E.	SAGE F.	WHITE C.
KNIGHT T.	SALLOWAY G. W.	WHITE R.
KNIGHT W. G.	SANDERCOCK S.	WHITEHEAD A. W.
LACEY E.	SANDERS A.	WILD A. T.
LAKIN H.	SANDERS H.	WILF J. P.
LAMBERT C. E.	SANDERSON E.	WILLIAMS A.

Thiepval Memorial, France
 Photograph by Tim Trevenna



Frederick Charles Runnalls
Back row on the right
Photograph courtesy of Alan Martin



Letter from King George V
Image courtesy of Alan Martin



Frederick Charles Runnalls' War Medal
Photograph courtesy of Alan Martin

Sydney James Stephens

Sydney James Stephens was baptised at St.Dennis on 25 April 1889, the second son of Thomas Vaniah Stephens and Eva nee Mitchell. The 1911 census shows him living at Trelavour, St.Dennis and employed as a quarry man. His father and older brother are both employed as engine drivers at a china stone quarry.

Private Sydney James Stephens Service Number 26328, 7th Battalion Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry was killed in action during the battle of Langmarck on 16 August 1917. This battle was part of the third battle of Ypres, perhaps more commonly known as Passchendaele. During the battle, between 31 July and 10 November 1917, our troops won five miles of ground at a cost of 240,000 British casualties.

A full account of the 7th Battalion's part in the battle can be found between pages 266 and 268 of Wyrall's book '*The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry 1914 – 1919*'.

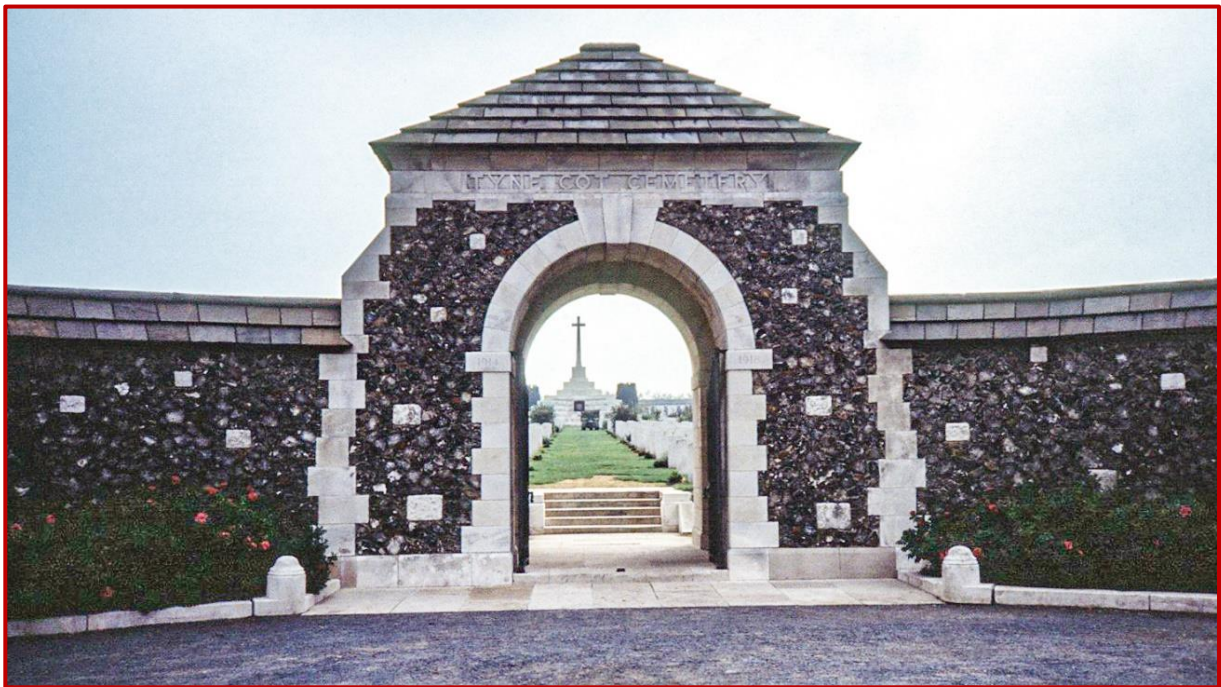
Cornish Guardian 14 September 1917:

'Died at the Front

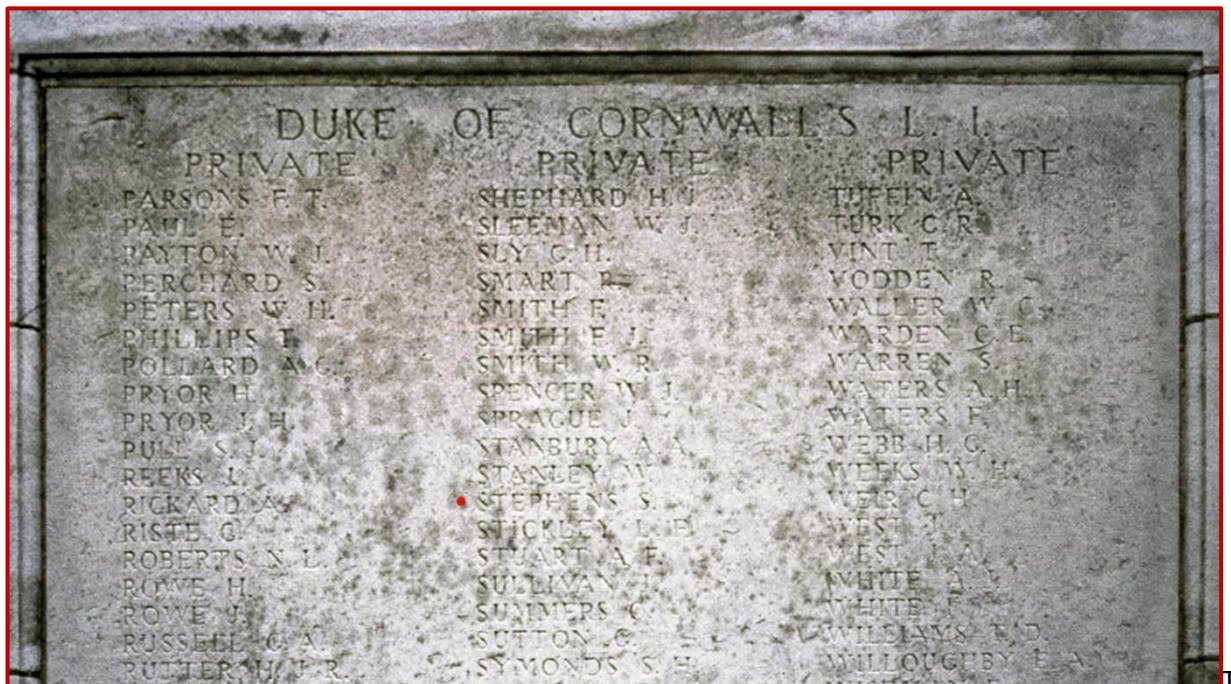
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Veniah Stephens of Trelavour Square, St.Dennis, have received the sad news of the death of their son, Private Sydney James Stephens who was killed in action in France where he has been for eleven months. He was 28 years of age and was well known in the locality and greatly beloved by all classes. From early in life the deceased had been identified with Carne Hill Chapel Methodist Sunday School and in the Independent Order of Rechabites. With the grief-stricken parents and other members of the family the sincere sorrow is felt.'

Private Sydney James Stephens, 26328, of the 7th Battalion of Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry is remembered on the Tyne Cot Memorial Passchendaele, Belgium.

The Tyne Cot Memorial records the names of some 34,000 of the forces of the British Commonwealth and Empire who fell in the Salient from 16 August 1917 to the end of the War and have no known grave.



Tyne Cot Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery
Zonnebeke, Belgium
Photograph by Tim Trevenna



Tyne Cot Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery
Zonnebeke, Belgium
Photograph by Tim Trevenna



Sydney James Stephens parents' grave
St.Dennis Cemetery
Photograph by Trevor Rabey

1914-1918

Richard Solomon

Richard Solomon was born in 1885 at St.Columb Minor. He was the third son of Richard Cundy Solomon and Ann Maria nee Richards.

The 1891 census shows the family living at Quintrell Downs. The 1901 census shows Richard working as a farm labourer at Ruthvoes Farm. By the time of the 1911 census, his mum, dad and younger siblings were living in St.Dennis. Richard had left Cornwall en route to New York on 18 September 1909 aboard the *St.Louis*. His intention was to travel to Calumet, Minnesota. The record states he was 5ft 4 inches tall, with black hair and brown eyes, listed as a labourer and had 10\$ in his possession. His last permanent address before returning home was Colbalt, Ontario, Canada.

Once again, I am indebted to the *Cornish Guardian* 29 June 1917 reports:

'Sincere sympathy is felt for Mr. & Mrs. R. C. Solomon of Trerice in the very severe trial which has fallen on them in the death of their son Private Richard Solomon, who so nobly fell in fighting for his King and country. Private Solomon first joined the Royal Field Artillery but at the time of his death was with the Somerset Light Infantry in France. He was 21 years of age, the third son of his parents. He was a fine horseman. Prior to going to the colours, the deceased spent 5 years in the United States. He was held in high esteem by all classes.'*

Lieut. C. Rewing, in a letter, says:

'It is with deepest regret that I write to inform you of the death of your son Private R. Solomon. He was shot by a sniper and died instantly. We lose in him a gallant and deeply respected comrade, a hard and willing worker and a man of proud courage. He was always willing to volunteer for difficult and dangerous work. Only the night previous he accompanied me on a patrol when I was struck by his coolness and fearlessness. His reputation in A Company was that if anything needed doing Solomon could and would do it. The whole Company and myself express their deepest sympathy.'

**Cornish Guardian* 6 July 1917:

'Private R Solomon whose death we reported last week was 31 years of age not 21 as stated.'

Private Richard Solomon, 26184, of the Somerset Light Infantry, (formerly 141751 Royal Field Artillery) was killed in action on 7 June 1917 and is buried at Lannicourt Cemetery France. He is also remembered on his parents' grave at St.Dennis Cemetery.



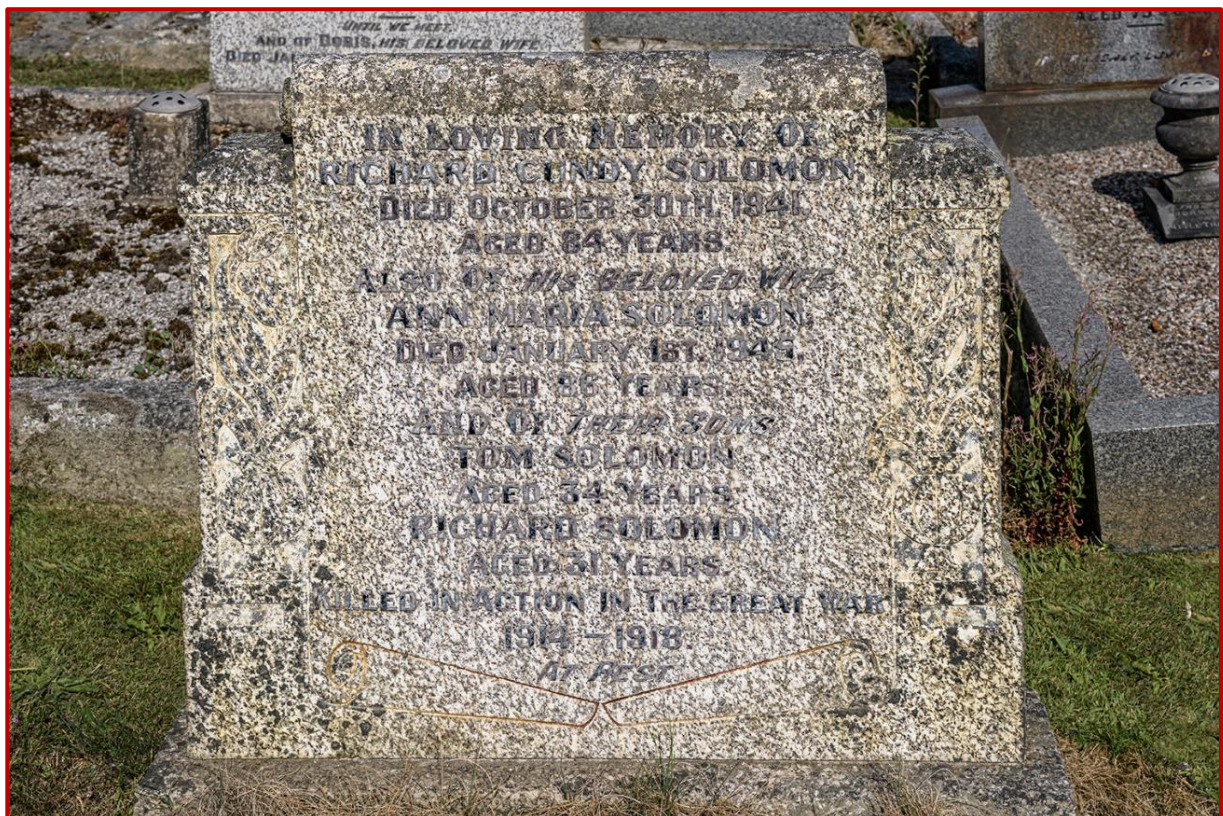
Lannicourt Cemetery, France
Photograph by Tim Trevenna



Lannicourt Cemetery, France
Photograph by Tim Trevenna



Richard Solomon's grave
Lannicourt Cemetery, France
Photograph by Tim Trevenna



Richard Solomon's parents' grave
St.Dennis Cemetery
Photograph by Trevor Rabey

1914-1918

Thomas Solomon

Thomas Solomon was the second son of Richard Cundy Solomon and Ann Maria nee Richards, born at St.Columb Minor on 5 November 1883. He was an older brother of the Richard shown on the previous page.

In 1909 he left Cornwall for the U.S.A. disembarking from the S.S. *Oceanic*, three months before his brother Richard made the same journey. We have a description of him at the Detroit Border Crossing in 1912. He was 5 foot 6 and a half inches tall, fair complexion, with brown hair, blue eyes and a scar on his forehead. At this time, in 1912, he and Richard were travelling together.

Tom joined the Navy in preference to the Army, but the result was to be the same. *Cornish Guardian* 25 January 1918 reports:

'We sincerely regret to record the death of another son, this makes the second son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Solomon, Trerice Farm St.Dennis. Stoker Tom Solomon aged 33 lost his life with the sinking of one of His Majesty's ships of war. He was their second son, the other being killed in action last June. The bereaved parents received the news from the Admiralty and for them much sympathy is felt.'

Once again there are discrepancies between the newspaper report and the memorial register which records Stoker 2nd class Thomas Solomon killed by a mine explosion while serving on board *H.M.S. Tornado* on 23 December 1917. He was 34 years of age.

Stoker 2nd class Thomas Solomon K/36960 is remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial for those who have no other grave than the sea.

He and his brother are also remembered on their parents' grave at St.Dennis cemetery.

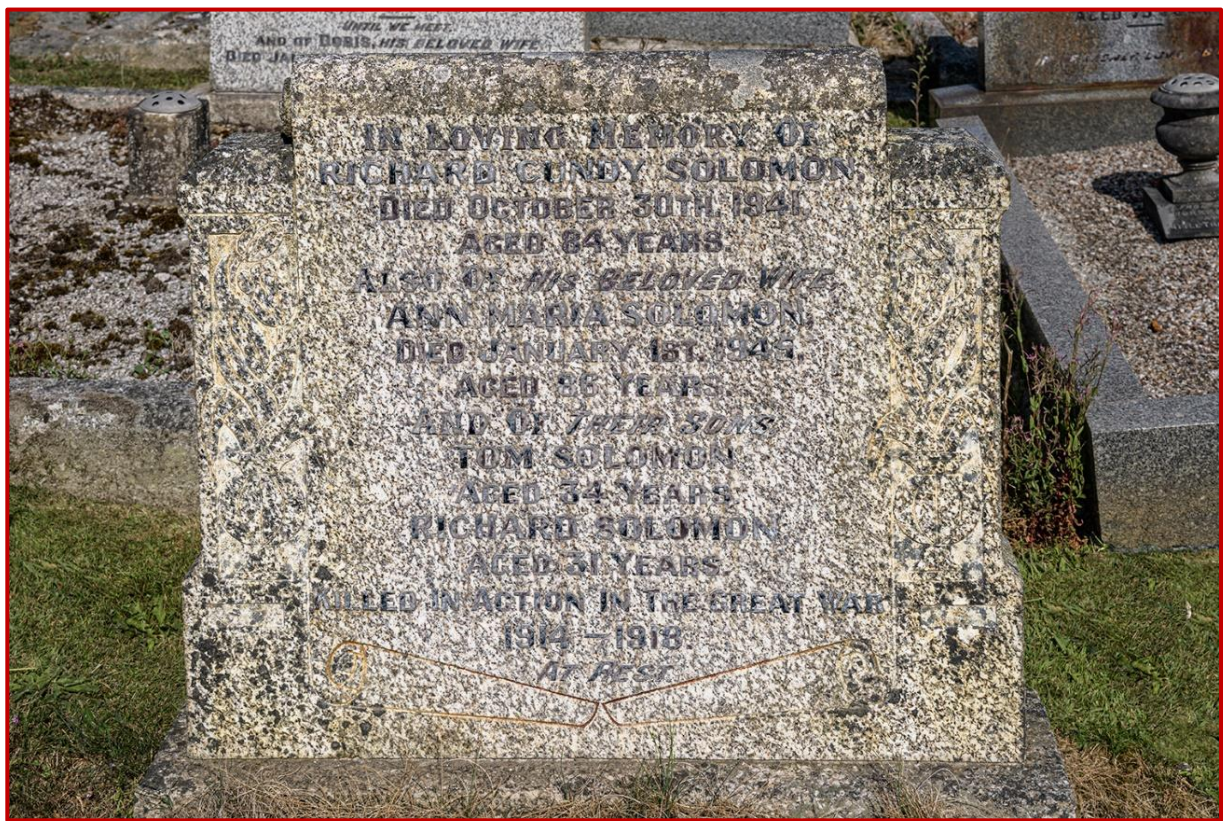
For a period of time, both Thomas and Richard's names were covered up on the St.Dennis memorial at the request of their father. He was angered by dances that were being held in the War Memorial Institute. This, in his opinion, was not an appropriate use for such a building. Fortunately, the names have now been revealed for all to see which is only right to remember these brave men.



The Royal Naval Memorial to the Missing at Plymouth
Photograph by Tim Trevenna



The Royal Naval Memorial to the Missing at Plymouth
Photograph by Tim Trevenna



Thomas Solomon's parents' grave
St.Dennis Cemetery
Photograph by Trevor Rabey

1914-1918

Edgar Smith

I am unable to find a record of Edgar Smith's birth, but we can learn a lot from the census records. The 1901 census shows the family living at St.Kew Churchtown and is recorded as follows:

Charles J	37	Permanent Clay-auger	Born Bridgwater
Janie B	37		
Marshall	11	Born Wadebridge	
Frederick	9	"	
Stanley	6	"	
Edgar	6	"	

The 1911 census shows Edgar and Stanley still living with their parents at Trenquite, St.Kew. Their father Charles was now a platelayer on the railway, Stanley a gardener domestic and Edgar a farm labourer.

As far as his military history goes, we know that he enlisted in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry at Bodmin and became Private Smith, service number 2634, 4th Battalion D.C.L.I. Records show that he was then a clay labour.

From the dates that we have we can assume that, like others on our memorial, he arrived in India on 10 November 1914. He would have been one of those in the four companies, under the command of Major Hood, that went to Lucknow. It is believed that Private Edgar Smith died at Lucknow.

The *Cornish Guardian* 1 January 1915 reports:

'St.Kew

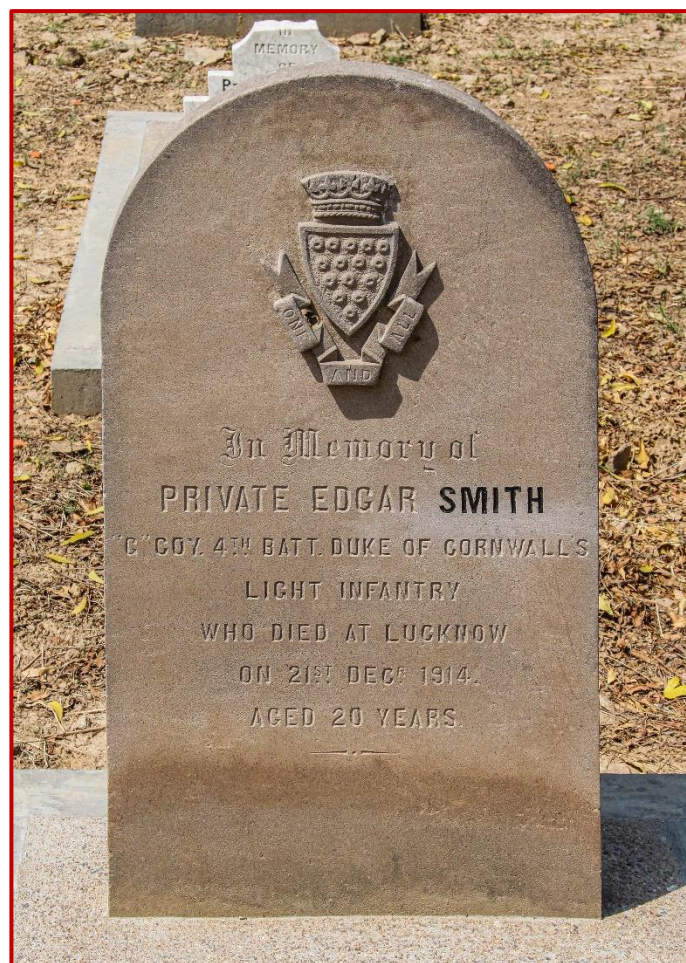
Sad Death of Mr. Edgar Smith

'Christmas day brought tragic news to Mr. and Mrs. C Smith of Trenquite, to whom the whole parish and neighbourhood extend their deepest sympathy, of the death of Edgar their son who recently joined the territorials and proceeded to India. The sad news was conveyed to them by the Admiralty with the King and Queen's sympathy signed by Lord Kitchener. The death followed a fever. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have three other sons who are serving their Country – Marshall, Fred and Stanley, the latter being a twin brother to Edgar.'

Private Edgar Smith is buried at Lucknow and is remembered on memorials at St.Kew, Wadebridge (Town Hall), and Madras memorial in addition to the St.Dennis memorial.



Lucknow Cantonment Cemetery, India
Photograph purchased from copyright holder



Edgar Smith's grave
Lucknow Cantonment Cemetery, India
Photograph purchased from copyright holder



Edgar Smith
Photograph courtesy of Ian Smith

Christopher Hedley Stoneman

Christopher Hedley Stoneman was born in 1897, the last of thirteen children born to John Stoneman and Elizabeth nee Payne.

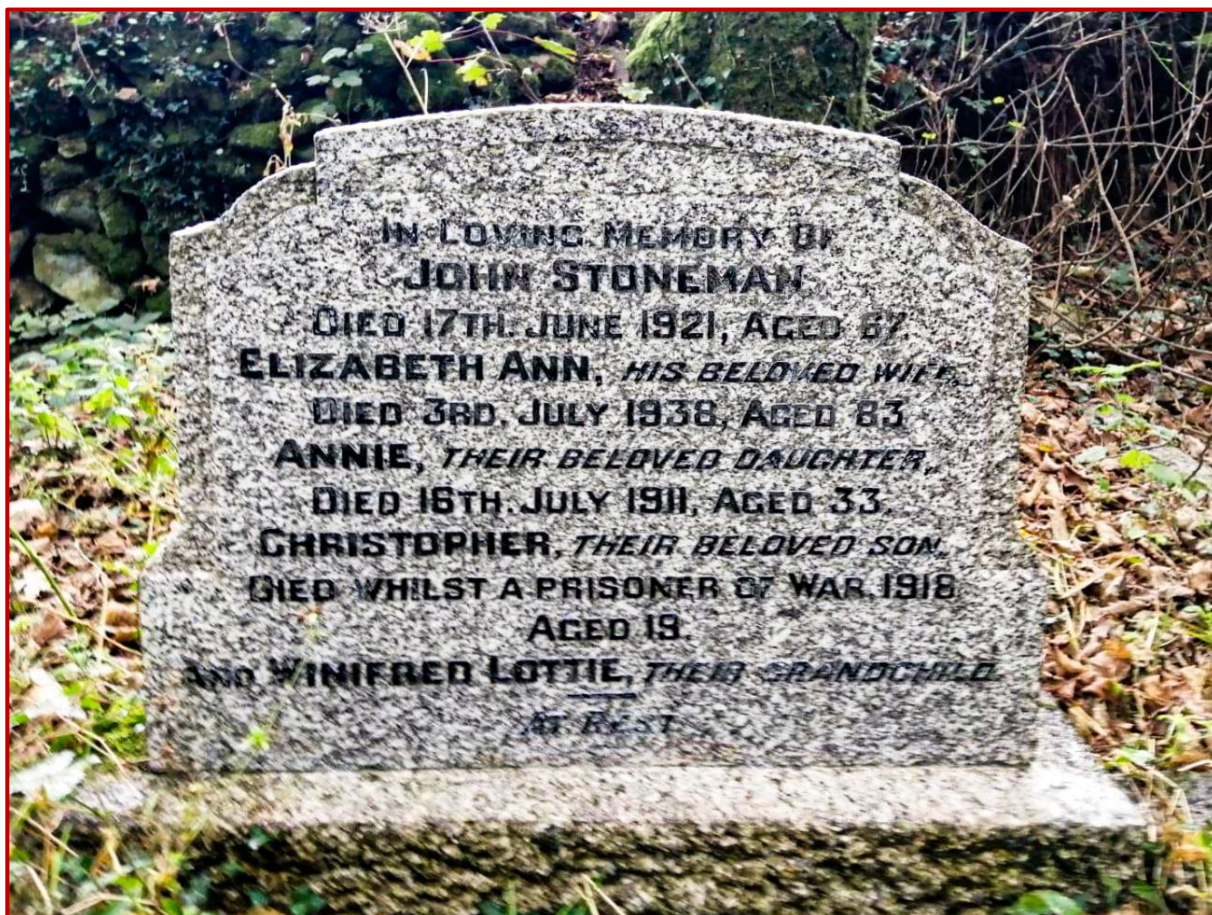
Having joined the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry on 2 September 1914, he joined others on our memorial that travelled to India in October of the same year. He had joined the newly formed 2nd/4th Battalion to become Private Stoneman, Service Number 200348. It is ironic to think that the 2nd/4th Battalion remained in India throughout the war, but Private Stoneman was one of a small draft who were sent to Mesopotamia in July 1915 to reinforce the 2nd Norfolk Battalion.

The following article appeared in the *Cornish Guardian* 25 August 1916:

'St.Dennis

The numerous friends of Mr. and Mrs. Stoneman, Prazey, much regret to know of the news relating to their younger son, Private Christopher Stoneman. The parents, a short time ago, were officially informed that their son was a 'presumed prisoner' of war, but later received an intimation, also official, that he is now a 'reported' prisoner of war in Mesopotamia. Private Stoneman joined the 4th Battalion of the D.C.L.I. on the 2nd September 1914 but afterwards became attached to the 2nd Norfolk Regiment. He has also been to Bombay and also up the (word obscured) and Mr. and Mrs. Stoneman have no (word obscured) or any tidings from their son since last November. They have two other sons with the colours, Lot and Edwin.'

Private Christopher, 2003348 of the 2nd/4th Battalion D.C.L.I. died on 22 September 1916 while a prisoner of war in Mesopotamia (now Iraq). He is buried in the Baghdad (North Gate) war cemetery. He is also remembered on his parents' grave (John and Elizabeth Ann) in the churchyard of St.Denys Church, where his age is stated as 19 years.



Christopher Hedley Stoneman's parents' grave, St.Dennis Cemetery
Photograph by John Stoneman and courtesy of Ann Philp

1914-1918

Frank Taylor

Frank Taylor was born at Mount Charles in 1884, to Joseph Taylor and Emma nee Trethewey.

The 1891 census shows him living at Roche, with seven siblings, mother, and father who was a postman.

The 1901 census shows him still living with the family at Roche and working as an auxiliary postman.

In 1910 Frank married Olive Craddock and the 1911 census shows them living at Whitepit, St.Dennis. At this time Frank was working as a clay miner.

Two children were born, Alfred Arthur Garfield in 1913, and Donald Preston in 1914.

When he joined the Army is unclear, but the following appeared in the *Cornish Guardian* 25 May 1917:

'St.Dennis

Mrs Taylor of Fore Street, St.Dennis has received news from the War Office that her husband Private F. Taylor of the Royal Engineers is among the missing.'

This report is incorrect. Private Frank Taylor, born St.Austell, Cornwall, enlisted St.Austell, Cornwall, was a Private, Service Number 36803 serving with the 1st Battalion of the Devonshire Regiment. He is recorded as being killed in action 23 April 1917.

Private Frank Taylor is recorded on the memorial to the missing at Arras in France.



Frank Taylor
Photograph from "Lives of the First World War"
Photographer unknown



Arras Memorial - Faubourg-d'Amiens Cemetery, France
Photograph by Tim Trevenna



Arras Memorial - Faubourg-d'Amiens Cemetery, France
Photograph by Tim Trevenna

John Henry Truscott

Thanks to the computer, access to census records and ancestry sites, we now know about John Henry's life before he joined the Army. He was born at Trelavour Downs, St.Dennis on 8 April 1898, to John Henry Truscott and Elizabeth Jane nee Richards. John Henry senior died in 1900 leaving his wife with three young children under 5 years. It is therefore not surprising that in 1903 she married Frederick Grigg of Hendra Lane, St.Dennis.

In 1911 John Henry was 13 years old, still at school and living with his family in Hendra Lane, St.Dennis.

At some time in the following six years, he joined the Army and became Gunner Truscott, 195798, with 'C' Battery of the 276th (Howitzer) Brigade of the Royal Horse Artillery.

He was killed in action on 18 November 1917, aged 19 and buried at Roisel Communal extension. France. Roisel is a small manufacturing town in the department of the Somme, 7 miles east of Peronne. It was occupied by British troops in April 1917 and evacuated after a strong defence of the 66th East Lancashire Division in the evening of 22 March. It was retaken in the following September.

The Communal Cemetery extension, where Gunner Truscott is buried, was begun by German troops who buried their dead immediately to the north of the Communal Cemetery. It now contains the graves of 721 soldiers and airmen of the United Kingdom, 106 soldiers from Australia, 29 from South Africa and 6 from Canada and about 500 German soldiers. The unnamed graves of the British soldiers' number 120.



Roisel Communal Cemetery Extension, France
Photograph by Tim Trevenna



Roisel Communal Cemetery Extension, France
Photograph by Tim Trevenna



John Henry Truscott's grave
Roisel Communal Cemetery Extension, France
Photograph by Tim Trevenna

Charles Trethewey

Charles was born at St.Dennis on 29 July 1894, the son of Richard Meagor Trethewey and Eva nee Varcoe.

Census returns of 1901 and 1911 both record Charles as 'Charley'. In 1911 he was living with his parents at Trelavour, Fore Street, St.Dennis and his occupation is recorded as china clay worker.

Charles or Charley enlisted in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry at Bodmin on 3 October 1916 and became Private Trethewey, Service Number 34049. This was not his final regiment as he became a member of the 16th Battalion of the Machine Gun Corps, prior to joining the British Expeditionary Force in France on 26 May 1917.

Records show he was taken prisoner on 21 March 1918 near Ronssoy in France and remained a prisoner until his death, from pneumonia. in the German Fortress Hospital, St.Clemens, Metz, 8 September 1918. The following extracts from the *Cornish Guardian* tell the story.

10 May 1918 reports:

'Definite tidings have come to hand relative to the whereabouts of Private Charles Trethewey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Trethewey of Fore Street, St.Dennis, who was said to be missing. The parents have now had an official intimation that he is a prisoner of war in Germany and is not wounded. Whilst on the 6th instant the parents received a card in the handwriting of their son to the same effect, from Germany. He was attached to the Machine Gun Corps.'

28 June 1918 reports:

'Private Charles Trethewey, who is a prisoner of war in Germany, writes to his parents Mr. and Mrs. Richard Trethewey saying he is alright and goes to see the pictures, works from 6am to 6pm and is paid every night. He wrote a fairly long letter.'

1 November 1918:

'The most sincere sympathy is expressed for Mr. and Mrs. Richard Trethewey, Fore Street, St.Dennis, and other members of the family, in the loss of their youngest son Private Charles Trethewey, M.G.C. at the age of 24. They received the official intimation a few days ago that he had died in hospital on the 9th September last from pneumonia whilst a prisoner of war in Germany and was interred in the military cemetery at Metz. Private Trethewey, who had been in the Army two years, who was well known here and respected by a large circle of friends, was made a prisoner of war in March last and first wrote to his parents a cheerful letter in May saying he was alright and well. But he eventually fell ill and succumbed as stated.'

He is buried in Chambieres French National (mixed) Cemetery, Metz, France.

His name on the headstone was originally spelt TRETHEWAY until I pointed out to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission that this was incorrect. They were quick to acknowledge their mistake and alter the headstone to read TRETHEWEY.



Charles Trethewey's grave
Photograph courtesy of
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission

1914-1918

Carus Clifton Trebell

Carus Clifton Trebell was born at Chapel, St.Columb Minor in 1889, a son to John Trebell and Mary Jane nee Harris. It is difficult to write this memorial without copying from Dick Cole's book 'Trusting Fully Trusting' which has a well researched and detailed account of Carus Clifton Trebell.

The 1901 census shows the family living at Trugo, St.Columb Major but his father died in 1905 and by 1911 Carus is living as a boarder with the Gummow family at Kestle Mill in the parish of St.Newlyn East. He is working as a farm labourer. In that same year, 1911, his mother was living at Enniscaven in the parish of St.Dennis, having married Thomas Henry Hore. At the time of his enlistment Carus was also living in Enniscaven.

Carus enlisted in the 1st/6th Battalion Devonshire Regiment and went to India like others on our memorial. From India the Battalion were sent to Mesopotamia. They arrived in Basra on 6 January 1916.

Private Carus Clifton Trebell, Service Number 4239 1st/6th Battalion, the Devonshire Regiment, died on 9 July 1918 aged 24.

He is buried in the Amara War Cemetery in Iraq and is remembered on the memorial at Enniscaven as well as the memorial plaque on the Memorial institute.

The picture is of Amara War Cemetery. The cemetery was destroyed during the Iraq war and will be rebuilt by the Commission once the current climate of political instability improves.



Amara War Cemetery, Iraq
Photographer unknown



Enniscaven War Memorial
Photograph by Trevor Rabey

Frederick Newton Watters

Frederick Newton Watters was born at St. Stephen in Brannel in 1883, the first child of Arthur Watters and Maria nee Bray.

The 1901 census sees the family living at Hendra Lane, St. Dennis and Fred employed as a blacksmith. In 1904 he married Alice Martyn nee Mennear.

The 1911 census shows Fred, now working as a China Stone Quarryman, still living in St. Dennis with his wife and two daughters.

We know he joined the 12th Battalion, the Rifle Brigade and became Private Frederick Newton Watters, S/24118, at Woolwich in Kent but do not know when. So, for the rest of our information, we need to again look at reports in the local newspaper.

Cornish Guardian:

10 May 1918

'Mrs Alice Watters of Fore Street, St. Dennis has been officially informed that her husband Private Fred Watters, Battalion of the Rifle Brigade, is missing. He is 36 years of age.'

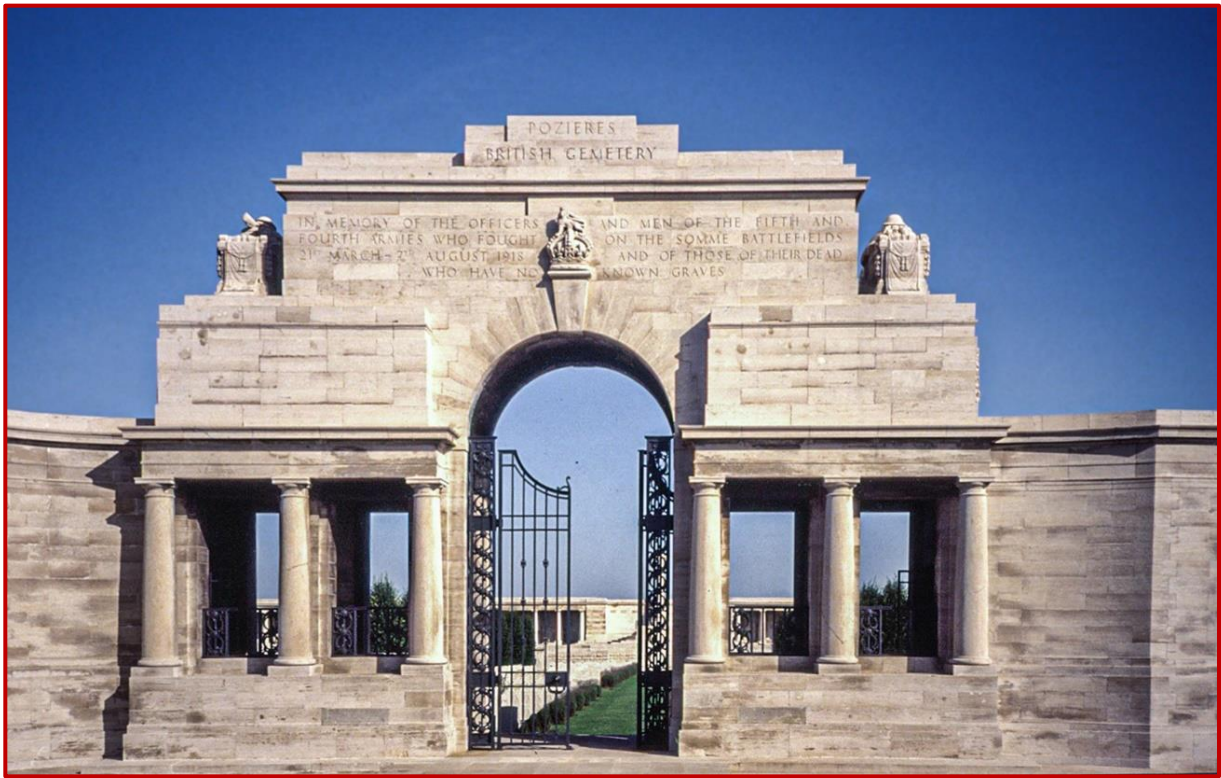
23 May 1918

'St. Dennis

'Sincere sympathy is felt for Mrs. Alice Watters in the sad news she has had from the military authorities that her husband, Private Frederick Newton Watters, 12th Rifle Brigade, who was in France and has been reported missing since 31st March 1918, is now presumed dead. Mrs Watters has five children.'

It would be difficult to speculate on how Fred lost his life without information on what the 12th Battalion were doing on that day. No major battle is recorded in *The Times Diary and Index of the War*. However, March 1918 was during the period when the German offensives broke the Western Front.

He is recorded on the Pozieres Memorial to the Missing.



The Pozieres War memorial, The Somme, France
Photograph by Tim Trevenna



The Pozieres War memorial, The Somme, France
Photograph by Tim Trevenna

Richard Stanley Williams

Richard Stanley Williams was baptised 4 April 1900, the fourth son born to John Edgar Williams and Edith Mary nee Hancock.

The 1911 shows him living with his parents and brothers, Frederick John, William Joseph, and George Edgar at St.Dennis Downs.

Although we do not know the date, we do know he enlisted in St.Austell and became Private 31281 with the 8th Battalion Prince Albert's Somerset Light Infantry.

Unfortunately, little is known about the battle in which Richard Stanley Williams received the wounds that eventually killed him at only 19 years of age. The following appeared in the *Cornish Guardian* 17 October 1919.

*'In Memorium
Williams*

'In loving memory of Stanley, the youngest and dearly beloved son of Mr. J and Mrs. M Williams, Whitemoor, who died of wounds at Rouen Hospital in France on 13th October, 1918.

*Away from home and those he loved
Our darling son and brother went
A call to duty to obey
In a foreign land not far away
Another call to him did come
A call from God to heaven above
Those he loved so far away
To them he sent his best of love.
Sadly missed by all'*

Official records show he died on the 14th and not the 13th as in the newspaper.

Private Richard Stanley is buried in St.Sever Cemetery extension, Rouen, France.



St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen France
 Photograph by Tim Trevenna



The grave of Richard Stanley Williams
 St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen France
 Photograph by Tim Trevenna

1914-1918 **Arthur William Yelland**

Arthur William Yelland was born in St.Dennis in 1898, a second son to Hart Yelland and Mary Olive nee Devonshire. The 1911 census shows the family living at Hendra Lane, St.Dennis, his father a carpenter and older brother an assistant butcher. Arthur William is shown as still at school.

An attestation showing Arthur Yelland becoming Private Arthur William Yelland, 242267, in the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, 7th Battalion, was signed by him in February 1917. This attestation was stamped by the D.C.L.I. with whom, one assumes, Arthur carried out his basic training.

War is full of tragedy with men being killed and families losing loved ones. Some families suffered the anguish of knowing their menfolk were prisoners of war and others the waiting agony of knowing their loved ones had been reported missing.

WW1 prisoners of war is a very difficult subject to research and probably the least researched part of the war. At the end of the war, we have a record that 185,329 British soldiers had been taken prisoners of war. There does not appear to be any record of how many of these men came home at the end of the war.

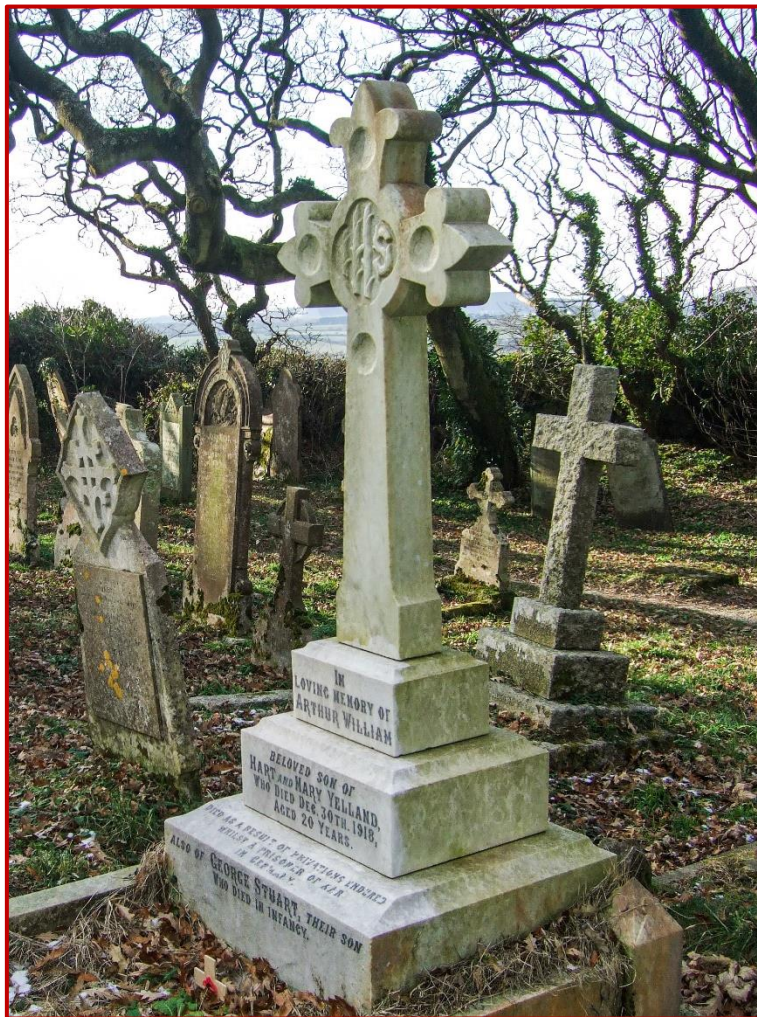
Arthur Yelland came home from the war and returned to his home at Trerice View, St.Dennis, in December 1918, having been liberated from a prisoner of war camp in Germany. To say he had not been treated well would be an understatement. He was in a very poor physical condition having suffered badly at the hands of his captors.

He died, officially of pleurisy, at his home on 30 December 1918. He was 20 years old.

His funeral was held at Providence United Methodist Church where Arthur had been a member of the Church, Sunday School, and choir. The Rev. F. Trezise officiated and Arthur William Yelland was laid to rest in the churchyard of St.Denys Church on 4 January 1919.



Arthur William Yelland
Photograph courtesy of "Liz's Family Tree"



Arthur William Yelland's grave
St.Denys Church Cemetery
Photograph by Tim Trevenna



Arthur William Yelland's grave
St.Denys Church Cemetery
Photograph by Tim Trevenna

1914-1918 **Arthur Ralph Goldsmith**

Arthur Ralph Goldsmith was born 1890 in Canterbury, Kent, the fifth son of John Alfred Goldsmith and Alice Mary nee Walker. We do not know when he moved to St.Dennis. We do know that he followed his eldest brother, Jesse John, into the Army and in 1939 Jesse John was living in Robartes Road, St.Dennis.

Army life suited Arthur Ralph and by 1916 he was Lance Sergeant L/15034 with the 4th Battalion Middlesex Regiment.

On 1 July 1916, following a seven-day bombardment during which 200,000 shells a day were fired into German lines, one of the bloodiest battles of all time began. This was the battle of the Somme.

The morning of 1 July 1916 dawned bright and sunny. The bombardment stopped at 07.30 and, along an eighteen-mile front line, 120,000 soldiers each carrying sixty pounds of ammunition and kit climbed out of their trenches and marched towards the German lines.

The rest as they say is history. The only conflict is in the exact numbers. Some say the Allies suffered 30,000 casualties in the first hour and 60,000 before midday. All references seem to agree that at least 60,000 had been hit on 1 July and 20,000 had been killed. Arthur Ralph Goldsmith was one of them.

He is buried in the Gordon Dump Cemetery at Ovillers-La-Boisselle. This cemetery, named after a supply officer, was used for three months during the first battle of the Somme and again after the armistice for re-burials from the battlefields. It contains the graves of 1,682 British, 2 Canadian, 91 Australian and 1 Indian soldier.

Lance Sergeant Goldsmith was one of the 95 men, mainly Australian, who were buried during the first phase before the cemetery closed the first time in 1916.

The Goldsmith family were to suffer more loss in October 1918, when his brother Frederick William was also killed in action.



Gordon Dump Cemetery at Ovillers-La-Boisselle, France
Photograph by Tim Trevenna



Arthur Ralph Goldsmith's grave
Gordon Dump Cemetery at Ovillers-La-Boisselle, France
Photograph by Tim Trevenna

WW2 Introduction



St.Dennis War Memorial
Photograph by Trevor Rabey

Although not as many lives were lost as in World War 1, the individual stories are no less tragic.

Military losses were as follows:

Airman - 1
Merchant Seamen - 2
Soldiers - 3
Royal Navy Sailors - 6

Seven wives were left without husbands and 21 children lost a father.

I am aware that WW2 was a more recent history and there may be those who could add to or correct the information I have compiled. If this is the case, please make contact with me so that the full story can be told.

1939-1945 Launcelot Arthur

Launcelot Arthur was born on 5 April 1900. Baptised on 14 May 1900, he was the eldest son of Marshel Arthur M.M. and Catherine Arthur, nee Bray, of Foxhole. Launcelot married Ethel, nee Hicks, of St.Dennis in April 1918 and they had four children together. He was my grandfather.

He first joined the Navy on 21 May 1918 and after training at *HMS Vivid I*, at Devonport, he moved to *HMS Vivid II* on 25 March 1919. *Vivid II* was the Stokers' and Engine Room Artificers' School in Devonport. Training at Devonport also included visits to *HMS Apollo*, *Cornwall* and *Impregnable*, all training ships at Devonport. His first, and only, posting was to *HMS Warspite*, one of five Queen Elizabeth class battleships.

When the second world war broke out, despite being over 39 years old, and being in the Royal Naval Reserve, it was his duty to return to Devonport. His first posting was to *HMS Venetia*. During 1940, while on the Dover patrol, the *Venetia* was called to Boulogne to evacuate a British Army unit. The ship came under fire from the land and suffered severe damage. The crew suffered 26 casualties. *Venetia* was repaired and returned to sea again only to be caught by a vibration mine near Gravesend in the Thames estuary. The destroyer was blown in two and sunk. Launcelot Arthur was in the water for an hour and twenty minutes before being picked up. His next ship, *HMS Hecla*, while en route to South Africa, was also mined. Despite a huge hole in her side and with over a hundred of her crew killed or injured, *Hecla* made it to Simonstown where she was repaired.

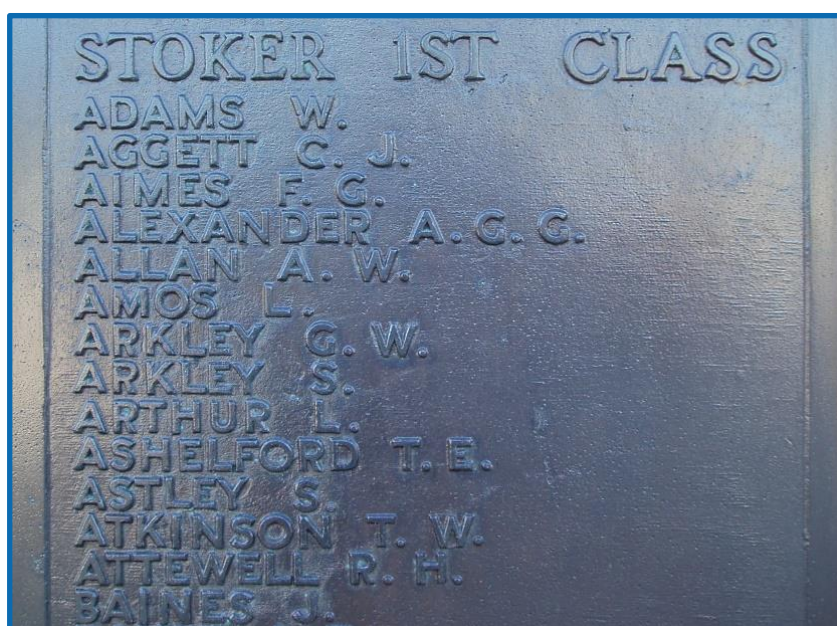
Having survived the sinking of *HMS Venetia* and the mining of *HMS Hecla* it seemed that luck was on his side, but on 12 November 1942 his luck ran out.

Launcelot Arthur D/SS 125256 stoker first class was on board *HMS Hecla* which was en passage from Freetown to Gibraltar. *Hecla*, a destroyer depot ship, was in company with three destroyers, *HMS Vindictive*, *HMS Venomous* and *HMS Marne*. At 23.16 hours on 11 November 1942 when in a position 15.42 north 9.55 west, *Hecla* was struck by two torpedoes on the starboard side abreast the boiler rooms. During the following two hours three more torpedoes hit *Hecla*, and *Marne* was also hit. At 01.16 hours *Hecla* was seen to keel over onto her beam end and sink stern first in approximately 2000 fathoms. Five hundred and fifty-nine men from *Hecla's* complement of eight hundred and ten were rescued that night. Launcelot Arthur was one of the eighty stokers from the *Hecla*, reported missing.

He is remembered in St.Stephen in Brannel Church and on the Plymouth Royal Naval Memorial of those who fell in the 1939-45 war and have no other grave than the sea.



Launcelot Arthur
 Photographer unknown
 From the Tim Trevenna collection



The Royal Naval Memorial to the Missing at Plymouth
 Photograph by Tim Trevenna



St.Stephen in Brannel Church Memorial Window
 Photograph by Trevor Rabey



St.Stephen in Brannel Church Memorial Plaque
 Photograph by Trevor Rabey

Lawrence Hugh Goudge

Lawrence Hugh Goudge was born on 19 February 1923. He was the third son born to William Martyn Goudge and Annie nee Hawkey who he had married in 1902.

Records show that Annie and Lawrence Hugh travelled to Australia and back in 1926. The reason for this visit is unclear but it must have been an arduous voyage for Annie to take, travelling third class with a 3-year-old son.

Lawrence Hugh Goudge was living at Hendra Downs St.Dennis with his mother, his father having died in 1936, when he joined the Royal Navy to become Able Seaman Goudge D/JX363065.

He was serving on board the destroyer *HMS Eclipse* when, on 24 October 1943, she was sunk by a mine. *HMS Eclipse* was a destroyer with a displacement of 1,375 tons. She was completed on 29 November 1934 and carried a complement of 145.

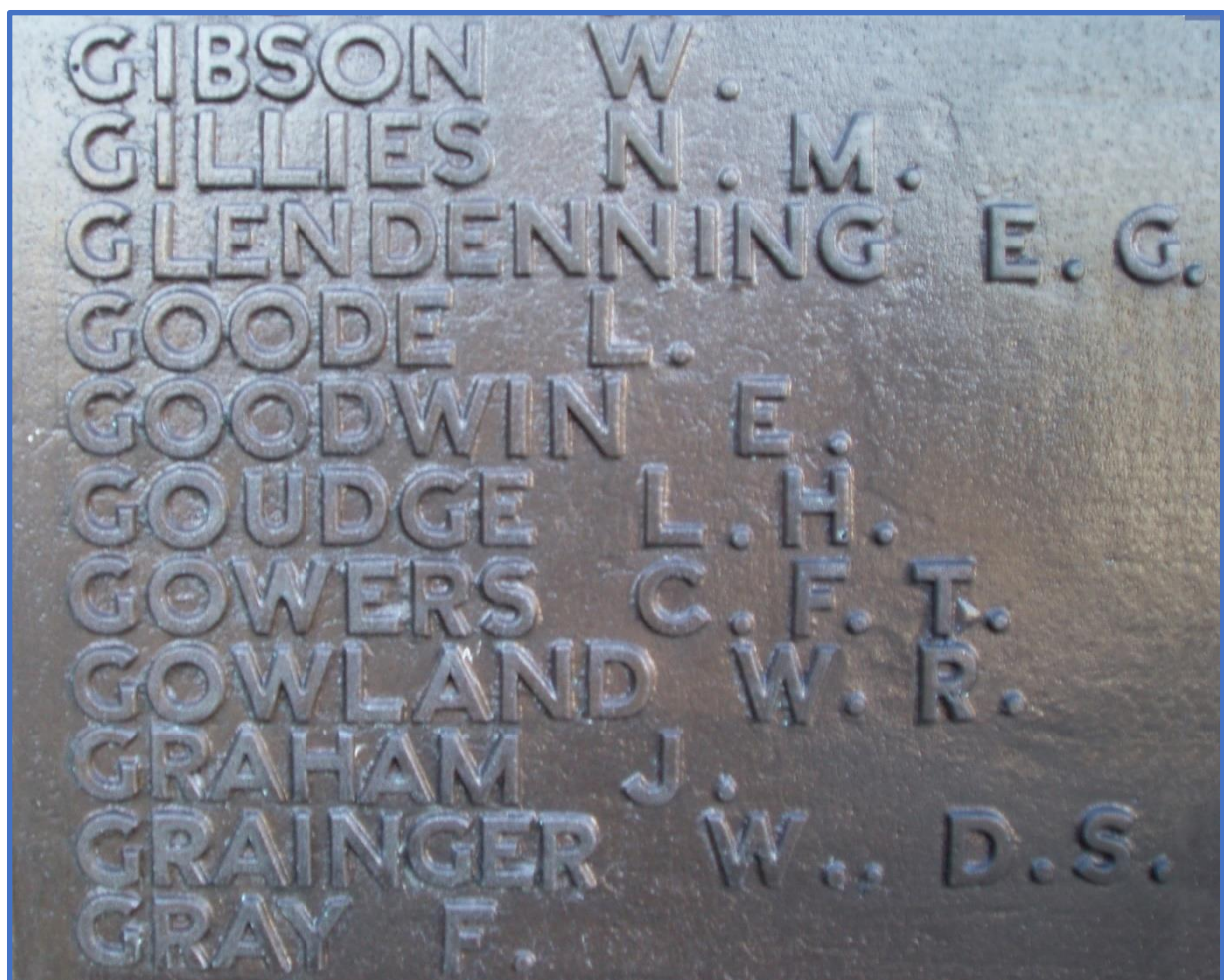
It would seem that *Eclipse*, under the command of E. Mack DSO, DSC, was transporting 200 troops to Leros when she was sunk east of the Kalimnos, Dodecanese (37.1N 27.11E). One hundred and forty of the troops were lost along with 5 officers and one hundred and fourteen ratings from the ship. Commander Mack was among the survivors. Able seaman Goudge was among the missing. He was twenty years of age.

He is remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial to those who fell in the 1939-1945 War and have no other grave than the sea.

The news must have come as a dreadful shock to Mrs. Annie Goudge, who had lost her two other sons earlier the same year. In fact, all three sons died within 4 months.



The Royal Naval Memorial to the Missing at Plymouth
 Photograph by Tim Trevenna



The Royal Naval Memorial to the Missing at Plymouth
 Photograph by Tim Trevenna

Maurice Gilbert Grigg

Maurice Gilbert Grigg was born in 1920, the son of John Colman Grigg and Alice Maud nee Gill. The family were from Enniscaven, in the parish of St.Dennis.

Little is known about his early life other than he was one of a large family and that his father worked as a china clay labourer.

At the time of his death, he was Private Maurice Gilbert Grigg, 5628990, serving with the 11th Battalion of the Devonshire Regiment. He died at a military hospital at Tidworth. Tidworth military hospital was built in 1907 and had between 200 to 300 beds. It was built conveniently located by the Army training grounds of Salisbury Plains in southeast Wiltshire.

For further information I am indebted to the *Cornish Guardian* of 26 August 1943:

'When the news that the parents of Private Maurice Gilbert Grigg aged 23 years had been called to his bedside as a result of an accident was heard there were many expressions of sympathy, which became general later when it was learned that he had succumbed to his injuries.

The large attendance at his funeral and the large number of beautiful floral tributes sent, testified to the esteem in which the deceased was held. Before his enlistment, three years ago, he was a member of Enniscaven Band and assistant secretary of the Enniscaven garden show and band fete. A service in Enniscaven Methodist Church was conducted by the Rev. A. Olds who also officiated at the cemetery.' (St.Dennis)

The obituary goes on to list all those who attended the funeral and explains how the cortege was met at the cemetery by members of the deceased's platoon from the Devonshire Regiment.

It would seem from the list that almost everyone from the Enniscaven and Gothers area either attended the funeral or sent a floral tribute.

The principal mourners were his parents John Colman Grigg and Alice Maud Grigg, and also his siblings Mr. Leslie Grigg, Mrs. M. Bullen, Mrs. G. Allen, Mrs. D. Walker, Mrs. H. Carne and Miss E. Grigg.

As previously mentioned, he is buried in St.Dennis Cemetery.



Maurice Gilbert Grigg's Grave, St.Dennis Cemetery
Photograph by Trevor Rabey

Frederick Desmond Hawke

Frederick Desmond Hawke was born in 1920, the second son and fourth child of Frederick George Hawke and Lucy nee Allen.

He joined the Royal Navy and became Leading Writer Hawke D/MX63500. I do not know his early naval life but do know he was serving on board *HMS Prince of Wales* on 10 December 1941 when she was sunk by Japanese torpedo aircraft.

The story of the Royal Naval battleship *HMS Prince of Wales* is well documented, being the subject of many books. The *Prince of Wales* was laid down on New Year's Day 1937 by Cammell Lairds at their Birkenhead shipyard. The hull took just over two years to build. She was launched on 4 May 1939 by the Princess Royal in front of a crowd of 50,000. She was commissioned on Sunday, 19 January 1941 and carried 110 officers and 1,502 men. The crew had been provided by Devonport Manning Department.

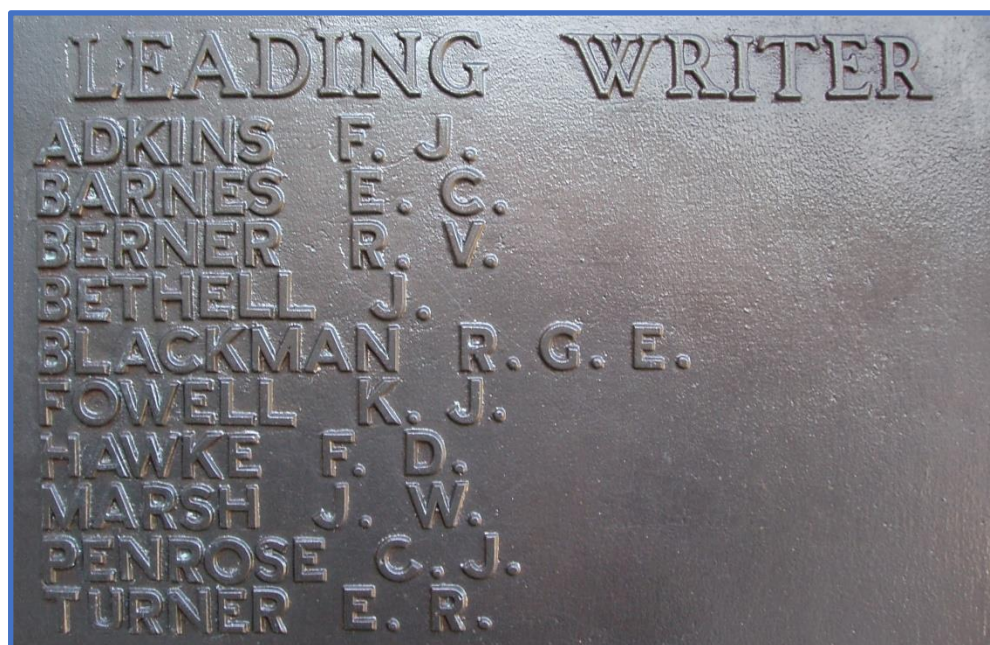
On 10 December 1941 *HMS Prince of Wales* was travelling with another dreadnought battleship *HMS Repulse* east of Malaya when, at noon, they were attacked by 60 bombers and 27 torpedo- carrying aircraft of the Japanese Naval Air Force. Both ships were sunk. A total of 762 men were lost – amongst them 20 officers and 307 ratings from *HMS Prince of Wales*.

The following report appeared in the *Cornish Guardian* on Christmas Day 1941 under the Whitemoor section:

'Quite a gloom was cast over the village when news came to hand that a local lad, writer Desmond Hawke, was reported as presumed as missing from HMS Prince of Wales. Desmond was a fine type of young man, and much sympathy has been expressed to the parents Mr. and Mrs. F.G. Hawke.'

Frederick Desmond Hawke is remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial to those who fell in the 1939-1945 War and have no other grave than the sea.

There is also a small memorial to the Hawke family at Whitemoor playing field.



The Royal Naval Memorial to the Missing at Plymouth
 Photograph by Tim Trevenna



The Hawke Family Memorial
 Whitemoor Playing Field
 Photograph by Tim Trevenna

Edwin George Hick

Edwin George Hick was born on 28 June 1925 to William Edwin and Margaret Jane Hick at Enniscaven in the parish of St.Dennis. His brother Arthur told me that Edwin George had volunteered to join the Royal Air Force with all the youthful enthusiasm that is shown by teenagers. Apparently, he had been working on an airfield prior to joining up where he had developed an interest in aircraft and flying. Having completed his training, he became an air gunner 1852888 Sgt.Hick R.A.F.

The aircraft he was flying in on that fateful night was a Handley Page Halifax V11 bomber of 102 (Ceylon) Sqn. Serial number PP179. The other crew were as follows:

D247 F/Lt. Jeff, R.D.
139821 F/Sgt. Sutherland, K. J.
1671441 F/S. Birkett, W. N.
1852991 Sgt. Grimshaw
1898571 Sgt. Emerson
156603 F/S Fraser

The aircraft took off from R.A.F. Pocklington, one of 324 aircraft, on a night raid to bomb Witten. There was 31% moon and the raid was considered to be a success. 1081 tons of bombs were dropped, destroying 62% of the built-up area, according to British post war survey. The Ruhrstahl steelworks and the Manneshann tube factory were severely damaged. Only 8 aircraft were lost, unfortunately PP179 was one of them.

Sgt.Hick along with the rest of the crew were killed. He was a 19-year-old, killed on his nineteenth mission, on the nineteenth of March 1945.

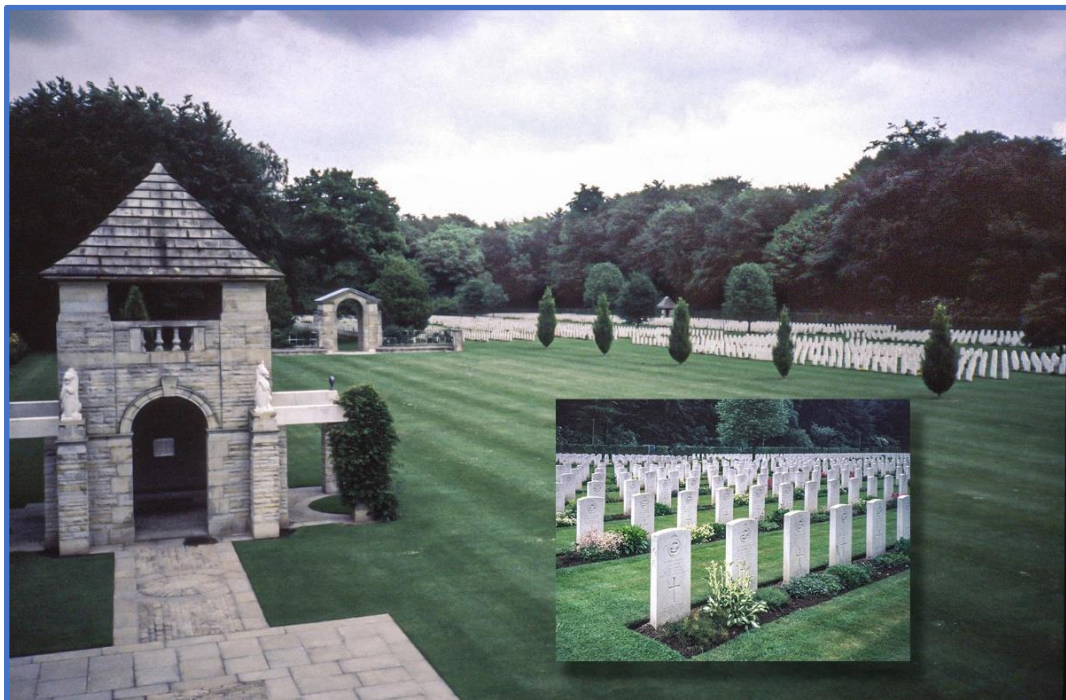
His age on his headstone is incorrect but it is hoped that the Commonwealth War Graves Commission will correct this at a future date. He is buried, as are the rest of the crew, in Reichswald Forest War Cemetery near Kleve in Germany. They were buried on 22 March 1945.

Edwin George Hick is also remembered on the memorial plaque at St.Dennis War Memorial Institute and the war memorial at Enniscaven.

E.G.Hick was for many years displayed on the plaque at St.Dennis as G.Hicks. Thanks to the perseverance of his nephew this has been rectified.



Edwin George Hick
 Photograph courtesy of Wilf Hick



Reichswald Cemetery, Germany
 Photograph by Tim Trevenna



Edwin George Hick's Grave
Reichswald Cemetery, Germany
Photograph by Tim Trevenna

James Aubrey Valentine Morgan

J.A.V. Morgan was not a Cornishman, but a Geordie born in Newcastle on 14 February 1913, a son to James and Isabella Morgan. His first employment, at the age of fourteen, was that of a coal miner. We do not know the year that Jim, as he liked to be known, moved to Cornwall, but records show that his mother and father also moved to the china clay area.

Jim married Rose May nee Hick in 1938 and at the time of his marriage he was working as a china clay kiln man. The 1939 register shows them living at 8 Retew, and the same register shows his parents living at 2 Retew with his dad described as a clay worker.

Jim was a valued employee at the clay dry where he worked but the needs of the time found him working as a sailor on board a Cornish boat *SS Treworlas*.

The *Treworlas* was owned and operated by the Hain Shipping Company of St Ives. She had been launched at South Shields in 1922 by J. Redhead and Sons Ltd. Described as a steam merchant ship, she was 4,692 tons, 400.4 x 53.1 x 26.3, and travelled at 11 knots powered by her 457 nhp triple expansion engines.

On 28 December 1942 *SS Treworlas* while on a voyage from Massowh to Baltimore, with 3000 tons of manganese ore, she was spotted by the German submarine *U 124*.

The *SS Treworlas* was torpedoed and sunk 50 miles east of Port of Spain, Trinidad, in a position 15.52 north, 60.45 west. Captain Stanbury, 33 of the crew and 5 gunners were lost. Nine survivors made it to rafts. Jim was not one of them. Seven crew members and two gunners were later picked up by *USS PC-609* and landed at Trinidad on 1 January 1943.

The official record of Jim Morgan's loss is kept at Trinity House beside the Tower Hill Merchant Navy Memorial, where his name can be seen.

The Register records, Volume 2:

'Morgan, Sailor James Aubrey Valentine Merchant Navy SS Treworlas (St. Ives) 28.12.1942. Age 29. Son of James and Isabella Jordan Morgan, husband of Rose M Morgan of St.Dennis, St.Austell Cornwall.'



James Aubrey Valentine Morgan
Photograph courtesy of Rose Craddock



Tower Hill Merchant Navy Memorial, London
Photograph by Tim Trevenna



Tower Hill Merchant Navy Memorial, London
 Photograph by Tim Trevenna



Tower Hill Merchant Navy Memorial, London
 Photograph by Tim Trevenna

The words on the above memorial

1939 - 1945
 THE TWENTY FOUR THOUSAND OF THE MERCHANT NAVY AND FISHING FLEETS
 WHOSE NAMES ARE HONoured ON THE WALLS OF THIS GARDEN
 GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR THEIR COUNTRY
 AND HAVE NO GRAVE BUT THE SEA

1939-1945 Frederick Bryant Odgers

Frederick Bryant Odgers was born at Trelyon, St. Stephen on 26 April 1907 and baptised on 4 July. His parents were Frederick Odgers, a quarryman, and Annie, nee Truscott.

In 1932 Frederick Bryant married Dorothy A. nee Rundle. They had two sons, Leslie born in 1933 and Stanley born in 1936.

Frederick became AB Frederick Bryant Odgers D/JX 227925 and was serving on *HMS Princess Beatrix* when taken ill. *HMS Princess Beatrix* was a commando troop ship that had been built as a passenger liner in the Netherlands in 1939 and named *MS Princess Beatrix*, after Princess Beatrix of the Netherlands. After fleeing to Britain following the German invasion of 1940, she was requisitioned by the British Ministry of War and renamed *HMS Princess Beatrix*.

At some stage after being taken ill Frederick was transferred to a hospital ship, *HM Oxfordshire*, at Freetown Sierra Leone. Despite, no doubt, receiving the best of care, Frederick died from intestinal obstruction and general peritonitis.

He is buried in the King Tom Cemetery in Freetown Sierra Leone.

His death was recorded in the *Cornish Guardian* 23 October 1941 under 'Deaths on Active Service':

'Odgers. In October 1941, Able Seaman Frederick Bryant, aged 34, beloved husband of Dorothy Odgers St.Dennis, and daddy of Leslie and Stanley.'

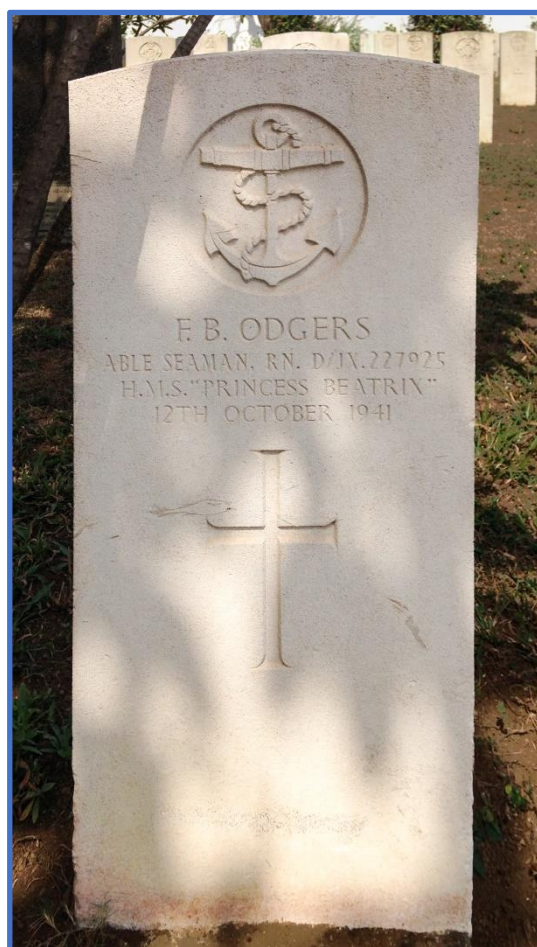
Further confirmation appears in the *Cornish Guardian* 8 October 1942 carried the following under the heading 'In Memoriam':

'On Active Service

'Odgers. In loving memory of Bryant Odgers AB beloved husband of Dorothy and dear daddy of Les and Stan who died at sea, 12th October 1941.'



King Tom Cemetery, Freetown, Sierra Leone
Photograph by Lynn Waters



Frederick Bryant Odgers' Grave
Photograph by Lynn Waters

Henry John Reynolds

Henry John Reynolds was born in Egloshayle, near Wadebridge, Cornwall, on 4 August 1902. He was the eighth child born to Henry Reynolds and Emma Warren Rooks.

In 1925 he married Olive Beryl Angilley and they had two children, Barbara Violet born in 1925 and Doris Beryl born in 1928.

It would appear that he enlisted in the Royal Navy on 1 June 1921 for a period of 5-7 years. The record shows that he was 5ft 7in tall, with dark brown hair, blue eyes and had a scar on the left side of his chin.

He trained at Devonport and eventually left the Navy but remained on the Reserve list.

In 1939, as he was a Royal Naval Reservist, he was recalled to the Navy. After spending time training at Devonport and Liverpool he joined the crew of *HMS Audacity*, on 20 June 1941. *HMS Audacity* was an auxiliary aircraft carrier with a very limited number of aircraft. She had started life as a German passenger ship *MV Hanover*. Captured by the British she was converted to be Britain's first Auxiliary Escort Carrier.

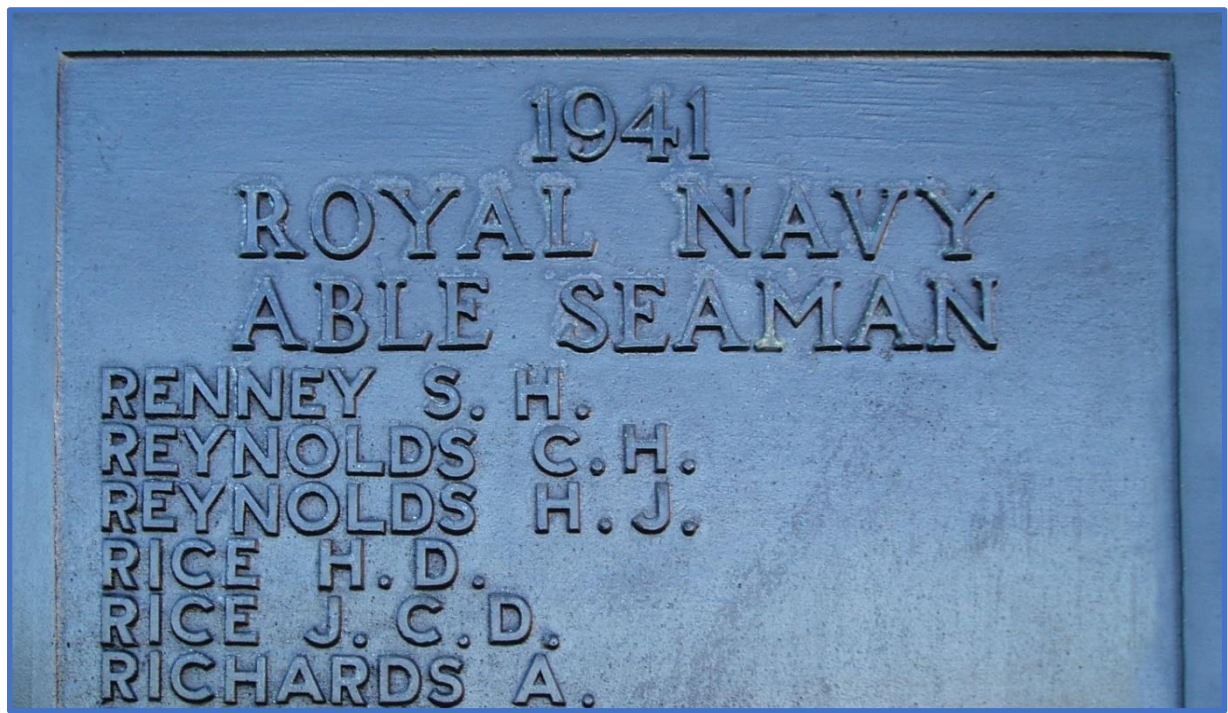
On 21 December 1941, while escorting convoy *HG 76*, she was sunk by a torpedo from a German submarine *U741*. She sank 500 miles west of Finisterre (44 north 20 west). 73 men died. Although 225 survivors were rescued by *HM ships Convolvulus, Marigold and Pentstemon*, Henry John Reynolds was not one of them.

The following appeared in the *Cornish Guardian* on 8 January 1942:

'St.Dennis

The news of the sinking of the sinking of HMS Audacity announced in the 6.00 p.m. news on Saturday was received with mixed feelings in the village as it was known by many friends that Able Seaman H. J. Reynolds of Carne Hill was a member of the crew. When it was stated that next of kin of casualties had been informed, hopes began to rise when it was found that no intimation had been received; but these were dashed on Saturday morning when the message arrived the notice that he was posted as amongst the missing. Much sympathy was expressed with his wife and children, as Able Seaman Reynolds was of a pleasant disposition. He was on the reserve and was called early in the war and had seen duty in various spheres. During the Great Blitz he was stationed in Plymouth and was on duty there. Before re-joining the Navy, he was caretaker of Carne Hill Methodist Church, secretary of the Young Peoples Guild and C. R. of the 'Peace and Charity Tent' I.O. Rachabites, he was also a member of the St.Dennis Hospital Committee. He was employed at the Slip China Stone Quarries'.

Able Seaman Reynolds D/SS10595 is remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial of those who fell in the 1939-45 War and have no other grave than the sea.



The Royal Naval Memorial to the Missing at Plymouth
Photograph by Tim Trevenna

1939-1945 Walter John Robins

Why Walter John Robins is recorded on our memorial as E. Robins is a mystery. He was the older brother of Edward so possibly that was the reason for the mistake.

Walter John was born on 6 February 1916, the son of George and Bessie nee Dower. His brother Edward was born on 28 February 1917 and died October 1993, so is not the Robins recorded on our memorial.

Walter John married Ethne Elma nee Allen in 1935 and they had two children.

It is interesting to note that Ethne Elma was the youngest daughter of Alphaeus Allen whose name appears on our WW1 plaque. (She remarried in 1943 to a David Rolfe and had two further children.)

I am not aware of his record of training, but Walter John became stoker first class D/KX102545 on *HMS Dorsetshire*.

HMS Dorsetshire was a county class heavy cruiser of the same type as *Devonshire*, *Sussex* and *Norfolk*, completed on 30 September 1930. At 9,975 tons she carried a complement of over 800. *HMS Dorsetshire* is remembered, by many, as the warship responsible for firing the final torpedo that sent *Bismarck* to the bottom on 27 May 1941.

In March 1942 *Dorsetshire* was transferred to the Eastern fleet to support British forces in the recently opened Pacific theatre of war. *Dorsetshire*, under the command of Captain A.W.S. Agar VC, DSO, and sister ship *Cornwall* were south of Ceylon when they were attacked by aircraft from the Japanese fast carrier task force, the *Kido Butai*.

On 5 April 1942 at a position of 01.54 north 77.45 east, dive bombers attacked from the Japanese carriers *Akagi*, *Soryu* and *Hiryu*. Both the *Dorsetshire* and *Cornwall* were sunk. One thousand, one hundred and twenty-two men were rescued over the following thirty hours, but Walter John Robins was not one of them, he was one of the two hundred and thirty-four lost from the *Dorsetshire*. A further one hundred and ninety were lost from the *Cornwall*. At the time of his death the family of Walter John Robins were living at No.5 Robartes Road, St.Dennis.

Walter John Robins is remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial to those who fell in the 1939-1945 War and have no other graves than the sea.



The Royal Naval Memorial to the Missing at Plymouth
Photograph by Tim Trevenna

1939-1945

Joseph Rowse

Joseph Rowse was born on 23 April 1903, the sixth child and fifth son of the nine children of John and Elizabeth Ann nee Geach.

In 1929 Joseph married Inez E. Watters and they had four children. Joseph was, as his father, a china clay worker.

Joseph became Private 13097393 Pioneer Corps. As we have seen in other places not all servicemen were killed in action, and this was the case with Joseph Rowse.

He died on 4 August 1941, aged 38 years, having entered a military hospital for what was meant to be a minor operation.

It is obvious from the entries under the *In Memorium* of the *Cornish Guardian*, 6 August 1942, that he was a well-liked family man who was very much missed.

'Rowse

In treasured memory of my dear husband Joseph and dear daddy of Betty, Barry, Cressy and Daphne, who died 4th August 1941'.

'Rowse, Joseph

In loving memory of my devoted son who died suddenly at a military hospital 4th August 1941. Always remembered. Mother, brother Fred and sister Phillippa, 7 Bridge Road, St.Austell'.

'Rowse

In loving memory of Joe who died at a military hospital 4th August 1941, sister Beat, Tom and Monty'.

'Rowse Joseph

4th August 1941 at a military hospital, dearly beloved brother of Flo, Thomas, nephews Kenneth, Tony, Alfred, niece Betty,' never forgotten.' 3 Council Houses, Trewoon, St.Austell'.

Private Joseph Rowse is buried in the cemetery at St.Dennis.



Joseph Rowse
Photograph courtesy of Joseph's daughter
Daphne Pearce



Joseph Rowse's grave, St.Dennis Cemetery
Photograph by Tim Trevenna

1939-1945

Stuart Trethewey

Stuart Trethewey was born in 1914, the son of John Trethewey and Ida Maud nee Odgers who had married the same year.

Stuart became a merchant sailor long before the Second World War broke out. He was a bachelor and had travelled the world in the merchant navy. The merchant navy to Stuart was not only a job but a means of transport which enabled him to see the world. He had worked on the *Queen Mary* as a kitchen porter and had many other jobs while working at sea. He travelled extensively throughout America and had visited many other countries.

I was told by someone who knew him that he harboured no fears of the sea or that of being on a sinking ship. It was his life, and he loved the ocean and the life it gave him.

Unfortunately, although Stuart was on board his ship when he lost his life it was not the end he might have imagined.

His ship, '*Ocean Vista*', was strafed by enemy aircraft while in port at Bejaia, Algeria unloading a cargo.

The following report appeared in the *Cornish Guardian* on 3 December 1942 under the heading '*Deaths on Active Service*':

'Trethewey 21st November

Stuart killed in action by enemy action while serving in the merchant navy, dearly beloved son of Ida Jennings, St.Dennis, aged 28:

'A bitter blow

Always so cheerful, loving and kind

A beautiful memory left behind.'

Stuart is buried in La Reunion War Cemetery, Algeria.



La Reunion War Cemetery, Algeria
 Photograph purchased from copyright holder



Stuart Trethewey's Grave
 La Reunion War Cemetery, Algeria
 Photograph purchased from copyright holder

Hedley George Watters

Hedley George Watters is the only soldier on our WW2 memorial plaque at St.Dennis who was killed in action.

Hedley George was born on 14 August 1906, a son to Hedley Watters and Gertrude nee Common. Hedley was a blacksmith. Hedley George spent his childhood living with his family at Trelavour Downs, St.Dennis.

During the April quarter of 1929 Hedley George married Malinda nee Bilkey Barrett. The 1939 register shows Hedley George and Melinda living at Penrose Moor, St.Dennis with five children.

I do not know the date but at some stage Hedley George joined the army and became Private H. G. Watters 5444721 of the 91 Company Pioneer Corps. I understand from one of his sons that he may have been attached to the airborne troops that were fighting in that area of Holland at that time.

His death was reported in the *Cornish Guardian* on 25 January 1945 under the section 'Deaths on Active Service':

'Watters

Reported missing presumed killed 6th January 1945. Private H.G. Watters Pioneer Corps, beloved husband of Malinda of Lower Penrose, Goss Moor, St.Dennis the eldest son of Mrs. G. M Watters of Mena St.Dennis. 'One of the best, a hard and bitter blow.'

The following year on 10 January, two items were entered in the *Cornish Guardian* under the heading 'In Memoriam on Active Service':

'Watters

In treasured memory of my devoted son, Private Hedley George who was killed on active service 6th January 1945 in Western Europe. Lovingly remembered by his brothers and sisters.

*A loving son true and kind
Nowhere on earth his equal we find
A loving so, a heart of gold
One of the best this World could hold.'*

'Watters

In loving memory of my darling brother Private Hedley George who lost his life in Western Europe on 6th January 1945, from his loving sister Inez and children.

*A loving brother only lent
One of the best God ever sent
A cheerful smile, a happy face
A broken link we can never replace.'*

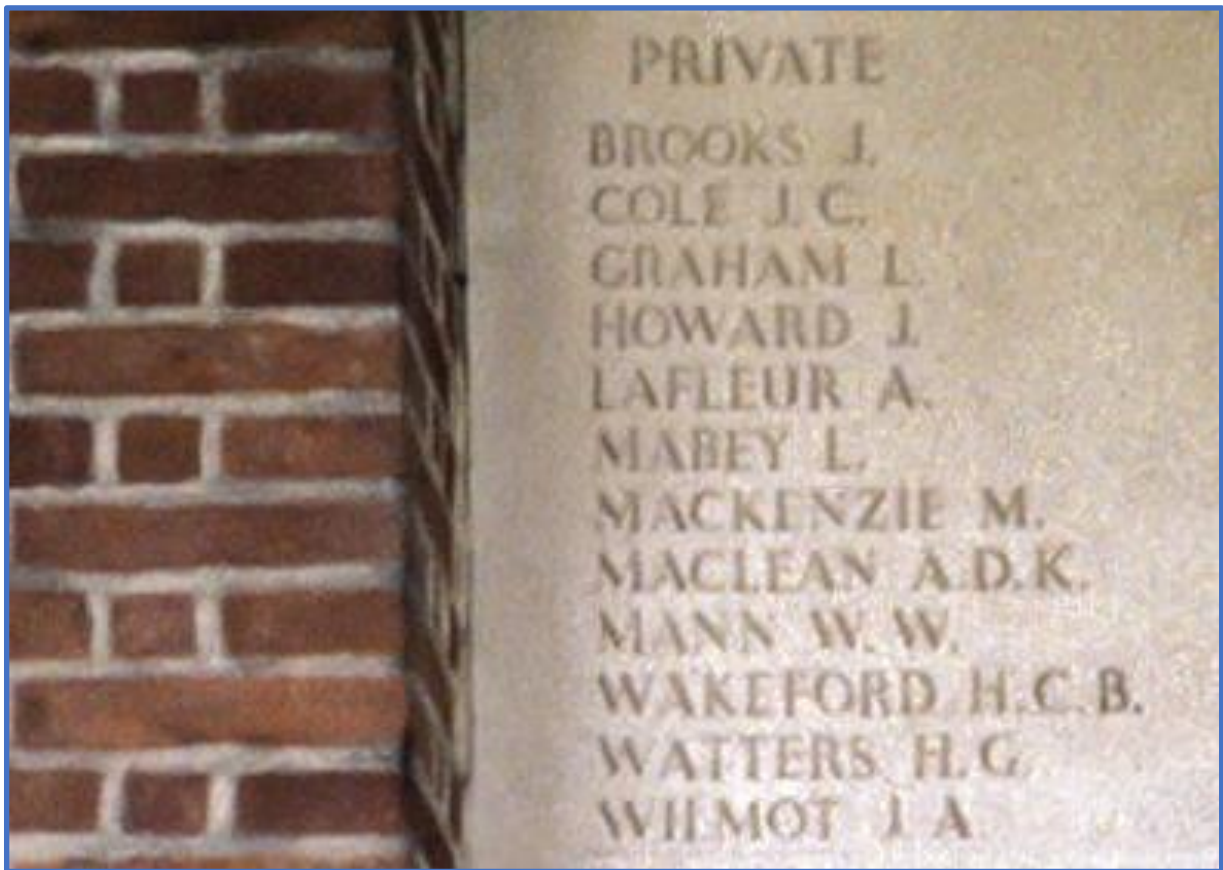
Private Hedley George Watters is remembered on the Groesbeek Memorial to the missing, Holland.



Hedley George Watters
Photographs courtesy of May Jewels



The Groesbeek Memorial to the missing, Holland
Photograph by Tim Trevenna



The Groesbeek Memorial to the missing, Holland
Photograph by Tim Trevenna



The Groesbeek Memorial to the missing, Holland
Photograph by Tim Trevenna

Sources Used While Compiling This Book

Cornish Guardians 1914-1922; 1939-1946.
The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry 1914-1919 by Everard Wyrall.
Janes Fighting Ships of World War One.
Janes Fighting Ships of World War Two.
World War 1 by Susanne Everett.
Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919, parts 1 - 80.
Dictionary of Disasters at Sea during the Age of Steam 1824-1962 by Charles Hocking F.L.A.
British Vessels Lost at Sea 1914-1918 - H.M.S.O.
British Merchant Ships - H. Tennent.
Before Endeavours Fade by Rose E. B. Coombs M.B.E.
Battle of the Somme by Christopher Martin.
The Times Diary and Index of the War 1914-1918 published by J. B. Hayward & Son.
Great Battles of World War I by Anthony Livesey.
History of the Royal Regiment of Artillery Western Front 1914-18 by General Sir Martin Farndale, K.C.B.
Michelin Maps 51, 52 and 53
Hain of St. Ives by K. J. O'Donoghue and H. S. Appleyard.
Warship Losses of World War 2 by David Brown.
British Vessels Lost at Sea 1939-45 - H.M.S.O.
The History of H.M.S. Drake published by the Wardroom Mess, H.M.S. Drake in December 1973.
The Ship with Five Names.
World War Two by Charles Messenger.
The Loneliness of the Long Distance Swimmer by H. H. McWilliams.
H.M.S. Venomous by John Coleman.

Publisher's Note

A tremendous amount of research, travelling and work has gone into the production of this document by Tim and at the time of publication all information contained within it is, as far as can be established, accurate. If anyone has further verified information regarding any of the names mentioned in this document, please feel free to contact Tim using the following email address.

timtrevenna37@outlook.com

A CENTURY OF REMEMBRANCE

**An illustrated study
of the men whose names
appear on the
St.Dennis War Memorial**



**By
Tim Trevenna**

February 2023

**Book design, graphics and layout by Studio9KC
www.studio9kc.co.uk**