

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
G. HICKS	S. TRETHEWEY
J. A. MORGAN	H. WATTERS

WHO CARES ?

A study
of the men
whose names
appear on the
St.Dennis War Memorial

By
Tim Trevenna

2014 Revision

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PREFACE

2010 Update

I would like to thank those who have organised the St.Dennis org.co.uk website for giving me the opportunity to add my book 'Who Cares?' to their site.

Before the book was completed I began visiting the graves and memorials to the missing of those who were lost and appear on our own memorial in St Dennis. This is a practice that was continued after the completion of the book. These pilgrimages have taken me on journeys throughout the UK, Germany, Holland, Belgium, and France, and more recently to Turkey.

Although photographs were taken on all of the trips, there are far too many to consider putting them on this website. However if there are relatives who would like photographs, or more information, they are welcome to make contact. Also, any local organisations or groups who would like an illustrated talk on the pilgrimages can contact tim.trevenna@btinternet.com.

As was stated in the original book, the searches were made possible by the work of those working for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Names were sent to the C.W.G.C. and following a search of their records a list of possible candidates would be returned.

Since the introduction of computers and computerised records this process is easier and much speedier. The CWGC now have an excellent website of their own which is free for all to use. www.cwgc.org .

I have always considered myself fortunate that it has not been necessary for me to fight for my country and grateful for those who made the ultimate sacrifice. During the years that have passed since the original question was asked no one has repeated it but many have agreed with the answer.

'WHO CARES?'

We do.

**They were men from St Dennis
and**

'Their name liveth forevermore'

Tim Trevenna

2011 Update

The Year started well with a letter from Mrs Helen Baker (nee Richards), a relative of the Liddicoats that appear on our memorial. For a while it appeared a photograph of Albert Liddicoat had been discovered but after further enquiries it proved not to be the case. The soldier in the photo was a Lewis Richards, whose name is on the Nanpean and St Stephen in Brannel Memorials. Although we did not get a photo of Albert it is good to know that relatives of the Liddicoats that appear on the memorial are interested in their history.

The second enquiry of the year came from a Mr William Garland. He is compiling a book, similar to 'Who Cares', for the names that are on the St Kew memorial.

Apparently Edgar Smith's name also appears on the St Kew Memorial and Mr Garland was trying to obtain a photograph of him for his own publication. We are both indebted to Mrs Shirley Smith and son Ian for providing a photo of Edgar. As a footnote I noticed the death plaque for Edgar, and the letter from the King that accompanied it, have changed hands on EBay.

For my next contact I was delighted to receive an email from Kathryn Atkin who lost a grandfather on the Royal Edward. Kathryn gave me a link to a website that has a lot of information on the Royal Edward, which I have shown below.

<http://freepages.history.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~helstonhistory/richardhenrypolglasepage.htm>

Kathryn had also worked out the inaccuracies in the address and Christian name for Brydges Kent and informed CWGC of the mistakes in their records.

One additional piece of information gained was that the medals for both Brydges Kent and his son Felix were sold at Christies in 1992.

In August this year I passed through the same strait of water where the Royal Edward sank, on a cruise ship going to Istanbul. Unfortunately we passed the Helles Memorial during the hours of darkness, so I was unable to take any photographs.

I have received a number of emails from James Lynch who is a great great grandson of Garnet Bennetto. James has been kind enough to send me copies of letters that were sent home when Garnet died and the letters contradict the 'Guardian' report that reported his death as 'instantaneous'. In checking the report I also realised a misprint of my own as the officer who wrote the letter was called Grant and not Graunt as I had recorded. I am indebted to James for his information and also a photo of Garnet.

I am pleased to report that I have received confirmation from CWGC that the inscription on the grave of Charles Trethewey now reads C TRETHEWEY and not C TRETHEWAY, as it had done previously when I visited the grave at Metz. They sent a photograph of the headstone to prove the work has been completed. I am, as always, in awe of the CWGC for the work they do and their attention to detail.

That completes this update but can I conclude by asking anyone who may have additional information, photographs or comments to make contact with me at tim.trevenna@btinternet.com

Tim Trevenna, November 2011

2014 Update

As we commemorate the centenary since the start of the 'First World War' it may be a good time to update my project 'Who Cares?'

Since my last update, as has been the case in other years, correspondence has continued to arrive commenting on, or requesting information about the men who are mentioned in the book.

The most interesting, from my point of view, was an email from a Tony Lake of St Austell, the contents of which, with his permission, I reprint below.

Dear Mr Trevenna

A couple of years ago I bought a copy of "We will remember them?" by George Miller and noticed in his introduction that he paid tribute to you. Since then I was keen to get hold a copy of your book and by chance yesterday I found it online (I had googled "Pozieres & DCLI"). I congratulate you on it.

I'm a local who has lived and worked in St Austell for the last 30 or so years and has an interest in local history. Recently, I've been carrying out a basic research into local War memorials, within a radius of St Austell.

As you make clear it's a far from exact science! I would really like to know the criteria various communities used to decide on who to include (and maybe who not to include). As I investigated the "Clay district" so many were duplicated and I think that you explain the reasons well.

One name I came across which might interest you: THOMAS DINGLEY who is remembered at Treviscoe Methodist Church War memorial. On page 21 you suggest that T. Dingle at St Dennis is the same man as T. Dingley at Treviscoe. I intend to agree with you.

You then guess that the Thomas Dingle concerned was the DCLI man killed on 28/3/1915. Maybe you are correct, but I suggest this one:

Sergeant DINGLEY, T C B, Canadian Infantry, died 06/09/1918. The telling piece of information being: "son of Mrs. M. E. Westlake (formerly Dingley), of Treviscoe, St. Stephen, Grampound Rd., Cornwall, England, and the late J. E. Dingley."

The real curious coincidence is the Westlake connection. Your research uncovered that Mrs Dingley was a Mr Westlake's housekeeper whilst the CWGC record I've uncovered suggests Mrs Dingley later married a Mr Westlake.

I thought that you might be interested. I hope so. Please don't think I'm being critical because that is far from my intention.

On another note, how did you access the local newspapers? It's something I would like to do.

Yours sincerely

Tony Lake

Having read Tony's letter I am only too pleased to accept my mistake and agree with him that Sergeant Dingley is the man who should be remembered on our memorial.

The other good news from this year has been a change of name on the Second World War plaque of our memorial at St Dennis. As I mentioned in the book, **G HICKS** on the memorial should have read **E G HICK** as it does on the memorial at Enniscaven. Thanks to the perseverance of Wilfred Hick this situation has been rectified and the inscription on our memorial now reads **E G HICK**.

It is good to think that even though many years have passed we do take an interest in the names on our memorials. Who cares? We do!

My thanks go also to Trevor Rabey for the work that he does on the village website. As you will have seen from Tony Lake's letter, although the original book has long been out of print, the website is a source of interest and information for many.

Tim Trevenna 2014

This work is dedicated to Mrs. Flo. Truscott of Tregullys, St. Dennis

Grateful thanks are expressed to the following:-

Mr. Leslie Ball and colleagues at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The Cornish Guardian.

Major White at the D.C.L.I. Museum.

Brigadier Timbers - The Royal Artillery Historical Trust.

Cornwall Records Office.

Cornwall Library Service.

St Austell Library.

Plymouth Library Local Studies and Naval Section.

Redruth Local Studies Library.

The Imperial War Museum.

The Guards Museum, London.

Trevor Rabey for the cover illustration of the memorial plaques.

My brother Paul for being a travelling companion and navigator.

My mother Yvonne who continually pestered the local inhabitants for information.

Uncle Reg for his mass of information on L. Arthur and the sinking of H.M.S. Hecla.

The people too numerous to list who have given me their time, information and encouragement to enable me to produce this book.

And last, but not least, my wife Val without whose skills the book would never have been finished.

WHO CARES ?

During a discussion, at a meeting of the St. Denys and District Old Cornwall Society into what is and what is not worth recording, Mrs. Flo Truscott asked: "What about the names on the War Memorial - do we know details of the men whose names appear on our War Memorial?"

I should explain that the memorial at St. Dennis is in the form of two plaques on the front of the War Memorial Institute which has now become the Working Men's Social Club.

Reactions to the question were many and diverse, "Well, the names are there for anyone to read" was one; "Someone must know, probably the British Legion" was another. The one which, although said without thought, moved me the most was "Who cares?"

This statement seemed very provocative to me. Immediately I thought "I care!" and I think it is a good question. Who were these men? Forty-nine names on the First World War plaque and twelve on the Second World War plaque. Where did they die? How did they die? Why did they die?

I decided I would look into the matter and the results of those investigations are recorded in this book. It will soon become apparent to the reader that the extracts from the *Cornish Guardian* have been invaluable to me in locating details during my search. Also, it is difficult to imagine how this work would have been possible without the help of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission who have located the final resting place of nearly all the men involved.

I wish to make it absolutely clear that no part of this book is original and my part in its production has only been in the collating of information and editing the information to form this book. I have tried to give due credit to all who have contributed information and specific references where possible. If I have omitted any information or recorded any wrongly, I apologise and accept full responsibility for all errors and omissions.

So what about the names? I have listed the names in the same order and with the same spellings as they appear on their respective plaques on the St. Dennis War Memorial Institute. This order is neither alphabetical nor chronological. There are names that have been mis-spelt and others that have the wrong initials but this is explained in the text written about those individuals concerned.

Some of the men also appear on the War Memorial at Enniscaven, a village in the parish of St. Dennis. Some men can also be found on the War Memorials at Treviscoe and Nanpean, villages in the parish of St. Stephen in Brannel where those names can also be read.

It has not been possible to uncover equal amounts of information about each of the men involved and therefore the length of text written on each individual does inevitably vary. Therefore the length of text on each individual should not be taken as a reflection as to how brave a man was or how well-known or liked he was in the community.

The pleasure in researching this work has been in meeting and speaking to so many people who, if not all remembered the war, could still remember stories of those days.

Many relatives still have the memorial plaques which were presented to the next of kin or nearest relative of every man or woman who gave their life during the Great War of 1914-1918. I have been privileged to see several plaques during my chats with the relatives of the men on our memorial. What does not appear to have survived, probably due to being made of paper and not metal, is the letter and scroll which accompanied the memorial plaque. The letter from Buckingham Palace that was sent to each recipient was as follows:

"I join my grateful people in sending you this memorial of a brave life given for others in the Great War."

GEORGE VI

A scroll was also sent bearing the following words:

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

It has also been a privilege, during the research of this book, to visit many of the cemeteries and memorials which mark the final resting place of the men on our memorial at St. Dennis. To see these sights, which are so beautifully kept, cannot avoid stirring one's emotions and, in visiting the memorials and cemeteries of Flanders, I have experienced many of the emotions that are recorded in the comments sections of their visitors' books - pride, gratitude, sorrow, anger, tranquility - but never hatred. Our soldiers lie in many cemeteries alongside soldiers from Germany who were doing their bit for their country the same as our own.

Therefore, I have been able to show in many cases who a name was, where he died and how he died but the answer to the question, "Why did he die?" I will leave to you.

In two World Wars 1,750,000 people from the Commonwealth (mostly young people) lost their lives. There are 500,000 gravestones in France alone and 1,000 cemeteries in the Flanders region.

Who cares? I do.

Why do I care? "Because no man is an island. Any man's death diminishes me because I am involved in mankind."
JOHN DONNE

A. ALLEN

The name which heads the First World War plaque on the front of the St Dennis War Memorial Institute is that of A. Allen.

A. Allen refers to Stoker Alpheus Allen, a Whitemoor man who, in more peaceful times, lived with his wife and family at 2 Rock View, Whitemoor.

I have not been able to trace his full naval history but it is clear that he survived the sinking of H.M.S. Ariadne on 26th July 1917 as the following note from the *Cornish Guardian* shows:

***Cornish Guardian*, 10th August 1917 (under the Whitemoor News)**

"Stokers Alpheus Allen and William Hawke are at present home on leave. They are two of the survivors of the ill-fated HMS Ariadne." (1)

However, his good fortune ran out on 26th May 1918 when, while serving on H.M.S. Collingwood (2), he died of cerebrospinal meningitis at the age of 30 years. He left a widow, Jane, and four children - Alpheus, Mary, Cooper and baby Elma.

He was buried on Orkney where his grave is still cared for by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. His grave is Number 16, Section F, in Lyness Naval Cemetery, Walls & Flotta, Orkney (3),

NOTES

- (1) Details of H.M.S. Ariadne can be found under the name A. J. Key.
- (2) *Janes Fighting Ships of World War 1*.
H.M.S. Collingwood was a dreadnought battleship of the St Vincent Class. She was laid down at Devonport in February 1908 and completed in January 1910. She underwent a large refit in 1912-1913 and survived the war with many Cornishmen serving on her. With a full load she weighed about 22,900 tons and carried a complement of between 813 and 823 men. Top speed was reported to be 22 knots.
- (3) *Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register (Scot 900)*.

A.J. ALLEN

Corporal Arthur James (Dixie) Allen was killed in action while fighting with the American Infantry on 4th October 1918. It was ironic that this was the day on which the Germans first suggested an Armistice, but war is full of ironies.

The American Army's part in the 'big breakthrough' to end the war began on 26th September 1918. Their part was to be a drive into the Argonne, north of Verdun, a tangled wilderness of forest and streams.

It was there that Dixie lost his life one month short of his twenty-ninth birthday. He was buried near where he fell but this was not to be his final resting place. In 1922 he was removed to Cornwall and re-interred at St Dennis in the churchyard of St Denys church with full military honours. His headstone still stands in the churchyard stating that he was buried there on 15th February 1922.

Why he should have been brought back to Cornwall remains a mystery. We know that Dixie originated from St Dennis. However, he does appear to be the only American soldier brought back to Cornwall in this way (1). Does this mean that he was the only American soldier of Cornish descent to be killed in France? I would think not, but at the time of writing can offer no acceptable explanation.

NOTE

(1) *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 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.

J. ALLEN

The only information known about John Allen is that which is written on his headstone at Nanpean Cemetery and that which appears in the register of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

The headstone reads:

In loving memory of John, fourth son of William and Elizabeth Besse Allen died at Cleers March 21st, 1919 aged 20 years.

"Until the day breaks and shadows flee away".

Allen, Pte. J., 552006, Labour Corps, 21st March 1919, K 321.(1).

NOTE

- (1) *The War Graves of the British Empire.*
(Cemeteries and Churchyards in the County of Cornwall)

W. C. BARRETT

A great deal is known about William Charles Barrett. He was a Whitemoor man who took a very active part in village life before joining the Army. He was a member of the United Methodist Church and Choir, a member of the Independent Order of Rechabites and also 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 West of England and Great Beam China Clay Company and, according to reports, was: - "held in high esteem by all for his honourable and genial disposition" (1).

In November 1916 he joined the First 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 the seventh of the month he found himself at Frevent from where he moved to Mondicourt and then to Thiennes, arriving there on 11th 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 become known as the Battle of Hazebrouck.

At 10.00 am on the morning of the thirteenth the enemy attacked and during that 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 from the Chaplain of the Brigade (2).

He is remembered on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium (3) and also on the grave of his step-brother, Glyn Beadle, at Nanpean Cemetery.

NOTES

- (1) *Cornish Guardian* (Whitemoor News) 10th May 1918.
- (2) *Cornish Guardian* (Whitemoor News) 17th May 1918.
- (3) *The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register (MR 32) panel 6.*

G. BEADLE

Charles Glyn Beadle did not die on a foreign battlefield but his death was no less tragic. He was a private in the Royal West Kents and died as a result of trench fever and tuberculosis contracted while serving in France.

Glyn Beadle was a Whitemoor man and a step-brother to W. C. Barrett whose story appears on the previous page. He died on 30th August 1918, at home in Whitemoor, aged 20 years.

The following appeared in the *Cornish Guardian* 27th 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 duty everyone,
To meet the dear loved again."

His funeral took place at Whitemoor United Methodist Church on 4th 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.

J. BENNETTS

Private John Bennetts, 33532, 11th Battalion, Border Regiment, was reported missing on 10th July 1917 aged 27 years. He was the eldest son of H. and E. Bennetts of Treleigh, St. Ervan. He is remembered on Nieuwpoort Memorial to the Missing, Belgium (1).

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

All the above is accurate but how do I know that this John Bennetts is the J. Bennetts on the memorial at St. Dennis? The truth is I do not, but there is an entry in the *Cornish Guardian* 12th July 1918 which mentions that the John Bennetts above had a fiancé at Gothers called Edith Hoisworthy.

Without this entry it would be difficult to tie any J. Bennetts to St. Dennis. It is my belief that John Bennetts was probably living in St. Dennis at the time he joined the Army, possibly drawn to the area because of the work available in the clay works at this time.

NOTE

(1) *Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register (MR 31).*

G. BENNETTO

Garnet Bennetto joined the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry during the summer of 1916 and with two months basic training completed found himself in France.

At some time during the following months he was transferred to the Hampshire Regiment. This was the regiment he was serving with at the time of his death.

He died on 19th June 1917, killed by a shell exploding. F. A. Graunt, his officer in charge, in writing to Mrs. Bennetto, assured her his death was instantaneous. This and the officer's deepest sympathy could have meant little to his widow who was left with three sons aged eight, nine and eleven years.

Lance Corporal Garnet Bennetto was the eldest son of John and Selina Bennetto of Nanpean and was 34 years of age. (1)

He is remembered on that famous memorial to the missing at Ypres in Belgium - the Menin Gate (2). He is one of the 54,360 names recorded of the forces of the British Commonwealth and Empire who fell in the Salient mostly from October 1914 to the night of the 15th-16th August 1917, when the battle of Langemarck began, and have no known grave.

His widow later remarried a Mr. Smith.

Bennetto, Garnet, born St. Dennis, Cornwall, enlisted St. Austell, Cornwall. (St. Dennis Cornwall) 27226 L/Cpl. Killed in Action, France and Flanders 18.6.1917. Formerly 28406 D.C.L.I. (3).

NOTES

- (1) *Cornish Guardian* 6th July 1917.
- (2) *The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register* (MR29, panel 35).
- (3) *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919 Part No. 41 Hampshire Regiment.*

F. 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 can be seen on the War Memorial at Enniscaven. Arthur James Brenton was the son of Thomas (Tom) and Augusta Brenton of Enniscaven. Why he was recorded as F. Brenton at St. Dennis is a mystery. However, it is not the only mistake on the memorial at St. Dennis and as I have found none on the memorial at *Enniscaven* I prefer to believe the latter.

Private Arthur James Brenton first enlisted with the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry (Service Number 202777) but like many others was later transferred. His new home was with the 10th Battalion of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment (Service Number 35483) (1).

Details of his death are somewhat confusing as two sets of records show he was killed in action on 10th April 1918 aged 19 years (1) (2).

This version was later contradicted by a memorium placed in the *Cornish Guardian* 20th June 1919 (In Memorium).

Brenton

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

Which is the true story? I do not know. What we do know is that his name is recorded on the Tyne Cot Memorial at Passchendaele (3).

NOTES

- (1) *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919 Part No. 11. The Royal Warwickshire Regiment.*
- (2) *The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register.*
- (3) Tyne Cot Memorial, Passchendaele, Belgium, Panels 23 to 28, 116 (MR30).

J. BULLOCK

Details of Private John Bullock are straightforward. The Cornish Guardian 9th March 1917 reported:

The Death of Private John Bullock

"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 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 25th February 1917 and was serving with the First Battalion of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, Service Number 27954 (1).

He is buried in Wimereux Communal Cemetery, France, Plot 2, Row E, Grave 5 (2).

NOTES

- (1) *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919, Part No. 11. The Royal Warwickshire Regiment.*
- (2) *Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register (FR 64).*

J. CARPENTER

Edmund John Carpenter was born at St. Germans, Cornwall and enlisted in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry at St. Austell while living at St. Dennis (1).

Unfortunately, we do not know his age or his reasons for living in St. Dennis at this time. There is even some uncertainty as to which Battalion of the Cornwall's he belonged. He is clearly listed under the 2nd Battalion in the roll of honour.

Carpenter, Edmund John, Pte., k. in a. 14.7.15 (2).

However the Commonwealth War Graves Commission record him as being in the 1st Battalion.

Whichever battalion it was is not really of consequence as both battalions were in the same area fighting in trenches at the time of his death. The battle of Ypres 1915 had officially ended on 25th May when the Germans' intention of breaking through to Ypres and on to the channel ports had been foiled. Despite ferocious attacks including the treacherous 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 Carpenter, 18224, 1st or 2nd Battalion D.C.L.I. was killed in action on 14th July 1915.

He is buried in the 1st D.C.L.I. Cemetery, The Bluff, Zillebeke, Belgium, Row C, Grave 17 (3).

NOTES

- (1) *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919, Part No. 37. The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.*
- (2) *The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry 1914-1919* by Everard Wyrall.
- (3) *The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register.*

P. COMMON

St. Dennis may have been criticised as a village for its 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, who was the only son of Joseph and Salome Common, joined the colours on 5th September 1914. He joined the 1st/4th Battalion of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry which was the Territorial Battalion.

He first went to Salisbury for training, after which he went to Lucknow and Bareilly in India.

In January of 1916 he arrived in Aden. In August of the same year he died of dysentery aged 21 years (1).

Private Percy Common is buried in Grave number 52, Row E of the Maala cemetery in Aiden, now known as Yemen (2).

He is also remembered on the headstone of his parents' grave at St. Denys Churchyard and on the Roll of Honour of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.

Cornish Guardian 3rd August 1917

In Memorium

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

NOTES

(1) *Cornish Guardian* 11th August 1916.

(2) *The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register (Asia 60)*.

S . COON

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. It would seem that prior to joining the Coldstream Guards, Stanley Coon was living at Trethosa in the parish of St Stephen in Brannel.

The Cornish Guardian 28th December 1917 reports:

St Stephens

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

(This report was accompanied by a picture)

Despite this report, I have no doubt that Stanley was a St Dennis man before he married and went to live at Trethosa.

Private Stanley Coon, 19244, of the 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards, was killed in action on 28th November 1917 (1) and is remembered on the Cambrai Memorial to the missing in France (2).

The date of death, whether it was the 26th or 28th November is immaterial as either date indicates that he died during the Battle of Cambrai.

The British surprise attack had started on 20th November using more than 350 tanks (some record as many as 476), eight divisions of infantry and five cavalry divisions - 25,000 horsemen. The initial attack was very successful and with the tanks taking much of the credit, the Hindenburg line was breached with little loss of life. Unfortunately private Stanley Coon had become one of those casualties.

NOTES

- (1) This date, which is taken from source as note (2) is different to that given to me by Stanley Coon's daughter and that which is found in the newspaper report.
- (2) *The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register (MR 17) panel 2*. The Cambrai Memorial commemorates the names of 7,040 men who went missing and are believed to have died during the Battle of Cambrai.

T. DINGLE

There is a T. Dingle on the First World War plaque of St. Dennis War Memorial Institute and a Dingley T. on the First World War plaque at Treviscoe Methodist Church. As Treviscoe is in St. Stephen in Brannel Parish, one would expect to find T. Dingley duplicated on the memorial there, as are the rest, but this is not the case. They have no Dingley T. or T. Dingle. One is therefore tempted to think that the T. Dingle at St. Dennis and the Dingley T. at Treviscoe are the same man.

No one at St. Dennis can remember a family called Dingle or Dingley with respect to the First World War, although the Roll of Honour from the now converted Providence United Methodist Church, St. Dennis does show a Dingle, Thomas as amongst those fallen.

Enquiries at Treviscoe have revealed that a Mrs. Dingley came from the Truro area as a housekeeper for a Jack Westlake. This lady had two sons, one of whom was lost during the fighting of the First World War, called Thomas. Mr. Jack Westlake's grandson has confirmed that his grandmother died early in life and his grandfather did have a housekeeper. Unfortunately, he could not confirm the name Dingley but does have a vague recollection of the name being mentioned when he was a small boy.

It is thanks to Mr. Tony Lake of St. Austell that I can now confirm the following details. Sergeant Thomas Charles Bunt Dingley M.M., Canadian Infantry 15th Battalion, Service No. 47844, died on the 6th September 1918 aged 25, son of Mrs. M. E. Westlake (formerly Dingley) of Treviscoe and the late D. E. Dingley. He is buried in the Aubigley Communal Cemetery Extension 1V.A.45 France (1)

NOTE

- (1) *The Commonwealth War Graves Commission.*

A. T. 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* 29th 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 9.30p.m. 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 (1).

NOTE

(1) *The War Graves of the British Empire (Cornwall 1-181).*

E. T. GRIGG

In tracing the details as to what happened to Ernest Treleaven Grigg I am once again indebted to the local newspaper.

Cornish Guardian 31st 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 lines 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 16th August 1917 and is buried at Ramscappelle Road Military Cemetery, St. Georges, Belgium. Plot 2, Row B, Grave 6 (1). He was the son of Henry and Mary Grigg of Whitemoor, St. Austell, Cornwall and is also remembered on their headstone in the churchyard at St. Denys Church.

NOTE

(1) *Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register (B 173).*

E. GRIGG

Ernest Grigg was a native of St. Dennis. He was a married man who had no children. His main hobbies were playing his cornet in St. Dennis Prize Brass Band and cultivating flowers. You may not consider this to be the ideal background for a soldier, but he obviously thought it necessary to go and 'do his bit for King and Country'.

Despite being 49 years of age, he joined the Royal Army Service Corps. After a few short weeks he was boarding the Royal Edward, a former passenger liner converted into a troop ship, en route to foreign lands.

On 13th 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 the possibility of submarine activity in the area, he would not have known that Lt. von Heimbürg of the submarine U 15 (1) had spotted his ship. The torpedo that was consequently fired, without warning, hit the liner full on the stern and she sank with a very heavy loss of life.

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

He is remembered on the Helles Memorial at Gallipoli (2).

NOTES

- (1) From *Dictionary of Disasters at Sea During the Age of Steam 1824-1962* by Charles Hocking F.L.A. This must be incorrect as *Janes Fighting Ships of World War 1* shows the U 15 as having been rammed by the light cruiser Birmingham and lost on 9th August 1914. British Merchant Ships by Tenant shows the Royal Edward sunk by torpedo from the UB 14.
- (2) *The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register (MR 4), panels 233, 236 and 331.*

S. GRIGG

Private Stanley Grigg was killed in action, in France, while fighting with the 8th Battalion Regiment of East Surrey. The following report appeared in the *Cornish Guardian* on 17th 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, Privates J. K. and A. N. Grigg."

The official report of the death of Stanley Grigg (1) gives the date of death as 23rd March 1918. This ties in with the German offensives, which broke the Western Front, that started on 21st March 1918. By 24th March the Germans had won 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 Fifth Army was in full retreat, the Third Army to its north was also being drawn into the rout. The British suffered terribly heavy losses, Stanley Grigg was one of them.

He is remembered on the Pozieres Memorial, France (2) along with three others from St. Dennis.

NOTES

- (1) *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919, Part 36, East Surrey Regiment, 8th Battalion.* Grigg Stanley, enlisted Bodmin, Cornwall, (St. Dennis, Cornwall) 25137, Private, killed in action, France and Flanders, 23.3.18, formerly 5325 Royal Warwickshire Regiment.
- (2) *The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register (MR 27), Panels 44 and 45.*

The Pozieres Memorial commemorates the names of 14,644 men who fell in that area and have no known grave.

W. M. HAM

William Michael Ham served as a Private with the 47th Battalion Western Ontario Regiment (1).

I could find no record at the time of his loss in the local newspaper, which is perhaps not surprising as he was serving with the Canadian Army. However, there was a reference to his loss in the *Cornish Guardian* dated 26th September 1919 under the section In Memorium.

"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."

He was the son of Sarah Jane Ham of St. Dennis.

Despite their early success in breaking the Hindenburg Line during the battle of Cambrai the previous year, the Allies' attack was inconclusive. So from 26th August 1918 to 12th October 1918 a series of battles took place which were to be known as the battles of the Hindenburg Line.

On 27th September at 5.20a.m. the 4th, 6th, 17th and Canadian Corps were to attack in the direction of Cambrai on a front of about thirteen miles from Gouzeaucourt to the neighbourhood of Sauchy-lestree. It was during this attack that Private William Michael Ham lost his life. Although there is some doubt as to if he died on the 27th or 29th September as the report from the newspaper shown above shows his death on 27th September, but the Commonwealth War Graves Commission record it as 29th September.

He is buried in Anneux British Cemetery, Plot 3, Row F, Grave 1 (1).

NOTE

(1) *The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register (FR 256).*

A.W. HARRIS

It is not really hard to understand why Albert William Harris was so difficult for me to trace. On the slender information I had received about him, I had been looking for a soldier killed in France some time between 1914 and 1918 . With the help of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission I have discovered he was an airman who is buried in England, having died in 1919.

Ldg. A/C Harris 403690, served with 'X' Engine Repair Depot of the Royal Air Force and died on 23rd 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 Plot 12, Row C, Grave 6 of Brookwood Military Cemetery in Surrey (1).

Albert William Harris was the son of Albert Edward Harris of Cornwall and husband of Millicent Harris of London. He was 25 years old at the time of his death.

He is the only airman on the First World War plaque of St. Dennis War Memorial Institute. The Royal Air Force had only been formed the year before his death by an amalgamation of the British air units. Prior to April 1918 the 'air force' had been divided into the fighters and sea-planes of the Royal Naval Air Service and the fighters, bombers and reconnaissance aircraft of the Royal Flying Corps. The man responsible for the amalgamation and its first commander was General Sir Hugh Trenchard, later to be known as the 'father of the Royal Air Force'.

NOTE

(1) *The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register (Surrey 1).*

J. HAWKE

Anyone who has heard of the First World War will have also heard of the Battle of the Somme . The Anglo-French assault began on 1st July 1916, when between daybreak and midday there were 60,000 casualties.

A second major offensive began on 14th July. From the time of the second offensive, throughout July and August attrition fighting took place in Delville Wood.

"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 they might from the fury of the guns." (1).

It was in surroundings such as these that Private John Henry Hawke, 21641, 10th Battalion D.C.L.I., lost his life on 30th July 1916.

Cornish Guardian 11th August 1916

Whitemoor

"On Thursday morning Mr. and Mrs. C. Hawke of Gilley 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."

Private John Henry Hawke is buried in Grave 45, Row C, Plot 2, of the Dive Copse British Cemetery, France (2).

NOTES

(1) *The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry 1914-1919* by Everard Wyrall. Page 164.

(2) *The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register (F 141)*.

J. HILL

Gunner James Henry Hill 185521 served with the 152nd Siege Battery of the Royal Garrison Artillery (1).

Jim, as he was known to his parents, brothers, sisters and friends, was not born in St. Dennis but as the following extract from a newspaper shows, was well thought of in the village.

Cornish Guardian 9th November 1917 reports:

"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, 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 at 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 memoriums placed in the same paper during the years that followed, it appeared that his brothers were Bert, Ed and Tom and sisters Beat and Gwen. His son was named Eddy and daughter Phyllis.

Gunner James Henry Hill was killed on 30th October 1917 and is buried in Grave 12, Row F, Plot 1 at Artillery Wood Cemetery, Boesinghe, Belgium (2).

NOTES

- (1) *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919, Parts 2 and 3*, Royal Horse and Royal Field Artillery, Regulars and Territorial Force (including Honourable Artillery Company Batteries), Royal Garrison Artillery.
- (2) *The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register (B 106)*.

A. HORE

Private Arnold Edwin Hore was one of the first names on our memorial to give me problems in locating any background information. I knew he was an Enniscaven man as his name was on the memorial there but it was not until I realised he was also on the Nanpean, and therefore the St. Stephen war memorial that I started to widen my search in the newspapers. The result is the following:

Cornish Guardian 18th 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 the 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 (1). "To the Pioneers fell none of the glories of front line 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, six other ranks killed and sixteen wounded were the casualties suffered by the Pioneers."

Private Arnold Edwin 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.

He is buried in Grave 16, Row G, Plot 1, of the Bailleul Road East Cemetery, St. Laurent-Blangy, France (2).

NOTES

- (1) *The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry 1914-1919 by Everard Wyrall. Pages 257 and 258.*
- (2) *The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register (F 644).*

B. C. KENT

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

Local Losses on the Royal Edward

"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 is 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."

There would appear to be a slight inaccuracy in the report as the official record in *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919* shows "Kent Brydges Charles, born St. Issey_Cornwall, enlisted London, living at St. Dennis. Service number SS/13908, Private, died at sea, 13.8.15."

I am indebted to Mr. Kent's grandson for the original information on the loss of the Royal Edward and the information on his grandfather and uncle Felix.

Brydges Kent had apparently joined the army on 6th July 1915.

I feel Brydges Kent and Ernest Grigg were probably good friends. They were almost the same age, came from the same village, joined the same regiment at the same time and were lost on the same ship.

Details of the loss of the Royal Edward are shown under the name E. Grigg.

Brydges Kent is remembered on the Helles Memorial Gallipoli (1).

Unfortunately, tragedy was to strike the family yet again as in 1920 Brydges's son Felix was drowned in a swimming accident while serving in Mesopotamia (see next page F. H. Kent).

NOTE

(1) *The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register (MR 4).*

F. H. KENT

Felix Henry Kent, the son of Bridges Charles and Ada Mary Kent, died as the result of a swimming accident on 23rd October 1920.

Why then should his name be on the First World War memorial plaque of St. Dennis War Memorial Institute?

Well, he had joined the Army on 6th July 1917 and had fought in France before being sent to Mesopotamia. Who knows what his thoughts might have been being sent to that part of the World - the same country his father was travelling to when his ship was torpedoed and he was lost at sea. 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 of age.

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?

He is buried at the Baara War Cemetery, Iraq, Plot 4, Row Q, Grave 7 (1).

NOTE

(1) *The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register (IR 6).*

A. J. KEY

I am indebted to Mrs. Anne Key, daughter-in-law of the subject Albert Key for much of the following information.

Albert John Key was the son of William and Celia Key, husband of Beatrice Key and father of William Edwin Key of Glyn Villas, St. Dennis. He was a Stoker 2nd Class, Service number K38342 in the Royal Navy and was serving on H.M.S. Ariadne (1) when she was sunk by a submarine off Beachy Head on 26th July 1917.

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 that 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 had only recently been home on leave (2). 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 worshipper at the parish church. He was a grandson of the late Mr. James Key of Domellick Manor, St. Dennis. The King and Queen have sent their sympathy to the widow."

He is remembered on the Royal Navy Memorial to the Missing at Plymouth (3).

NOTES

- (1) *Janes Fighting Ships of World War 1* H.M.S. Ariadne was a cruiser of the Diadem class. She was laid down at Clydebank in October 1896 and completed in the year 1900. All this class were old and past their best by the time War broke out and coal consumption was heavy. Her best speed at this time would have been 18-19 knots. Her displacement was 11,000 tons and she carried a complement of 677. At the time of her loss she was engaged as a minelayer.
- (2) Report in *Cornish Guardian* 22nd June 1917 shows A. J. Key as one who had been on leave.
- (3) *The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register*.

E. J. LIDDICOAT

Edwin John Liddicoat, as the two Liddicoat's who follow, all appear on the War Memorial at Enniscaven as well as the First World War plaque on the War Memorial Institute at St. Dennis.

Private Edwin John Liddicoat, 29047, Prince Albert's Somerset Light Infantry, formerly 2603 Dorsetshire Yeomanry, was killed in action on 22nd March, 1918 (1).

From the date of his death and the fact that he is remembered on the Pozieres Memorial, France (1), it would seem that he died during the great German offensives that began on the Western Front the previous day. Edwin John was a brother to James Henry whose details appear on the following page. It is not known what relationship, if any, existed between these brothers and Albert John Liddicoat who completes the trio of Liddicoats found on the Enniscaven and St. Dennis memorials.

Another puzzle is why they are placed in the order in which they appear on the St. Dennis Memorial. It is neither alphabetical nor chronological according to dates of death. Perhaps we shall never know the reason why.

NOTES

- (1) *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919, Part No. 18.*
- (2) *The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register (MR 27) Panels 25 and 26.*

J. H. LIDDICOAT

My first information on James Henry Liddicoat came from his son Ronald who it was my privilege to meet not long before he died. James Henry was a Private, No. 37466, in the 1st Battalion (1) Suffolk Regiment, having transferred from being a Private, No. 26781, in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry some time before he was killed in action on 1st October 1918 (1). James Henry is remembered on Vis-en-Artois memorial to the missing (2) which records the names of 9903 officers and men who fell in the 1918 advance in Picardy. 'Mac' as he liked to be called was one of these men.

In addition to James Henry's name appearing on the memorials at St. Dennis and Enniscaven, it is also on Nanpean and therefore the St. Stephen memorial also.

The following was placed in the *Cornish Guardian* 25th 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 boys Ronald and Georgie, Goverseth, Foxhole."

Also, the *Cornish Guardian* 3rd 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."

NOTES

- (1) *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919, Part 17.*
- (2) *Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register* states 2nd Battalion Register (MR 16), Panel 4.

A. J. LIDDICOAT

Albert John Liddicoat, the third Liddicoat of Enniscaven, was a Private in the Machine Gun Corps. Private Liddicoat, 118299, formerly 2234 Somerset Yeomanry, was killed in action on 16th April 1918 (1).

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 25th April 1919 under Memorium:

"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 (Inf) is buried at La Clytte Military Cemetery, Reninghelst, Belgium, Plot 5, Row D, Grave 24 (2).

NOTES

- (1) *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919, Part No. 5.*
- (2) *Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register (B 21).*

J. MARTYN

James Martyn (Jim) lived, according to the official record in *"Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919"*, Part No. 47, at Trelavour Downs, Devon. This is obviously incorrect as I have spoken to people who remember his family living on Trelavour Downs, St. Dennis. Also, I know of no Trelavour Downs in Devon.

However, the official record does show James Martyn, born St. Stephen, Brannel, Cornwall, enlisted St. Austell, Cornwall (Trelavour Downs, Devon), Private 25578, killed in action, France and Flanders on 21st March 1918, formerly 29273 with the Worcester Regiment. Private James Martyn is one of four men on our St. Dennis Memorial who also show on the Pozieres Memorial, France (1).

Four men, all from the same village, died in the same area in France fighting for four different regiments. Jim Martyn was with the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, more commonly known as the Oxon Bucks.

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 5th April 1918 and all other casualties up to 7th August who have no known grave.

The 21st March was the date for the start of the great German offensive on the Western Front when they drove fourteen miles behind the Allied lines. This was the same day as Jim Martyn was killed in action.

NOTE

(1) *Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register (MR 27) Panels 50 and 51.*

T. H. MENNEAR

The events of 23rd 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 (1).

The second battle of the Scarpe 1917, with subsidiary attack on La Coulotte 23rd-24th April, was a part of the battle of Arras. We have no record of Thomas Henry Mennear's part in the 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 29th April 1917. If this is true, he did not remain a prisoner very long.

Cornish Guardian 22nd June 1918 reports:

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

Cornish Guardian 11th January 1919 reports:

"We regret to record the death of Private Thomas Henry Mennear, D.C.L.I. He has been officially reported missing since 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 Grave 10, Row A, Plot 2, of the Sucrerie Cemetery, Ablain-St. Nazaire, France (2).

NOTES

- (1) *The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry 1914-1919 by Everard Wyrall.*
- (2) *The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register (FR 547).*

E. G. OSBORNE

Private Edwin George Osborne, 21656, of the 7th Battalion Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry first came to notice in the *Cornish Guardian* 22nd 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 paper on 3rd August 1917 when they reported "Private E. G. Osborne is home at Gothers, St. Dennis on furlough". Then on 27th May 1918 the *Cornish Guardian* reported:

"Mrs. Edith 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 (1) 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 Assewillers Military Cemetery, Fonchette Churchyard and Chaulnes German Cemetery but whose graves are now lost. Their glory shall not be blotted out."

Where and how he died is not clear but his headstone records his death as 17th May 1918.

Private Osborne is recorded on the D.C.L.I. roll of honour. Although his age has not been recorded on any of the information I have read, his grandson has told me he believes he was 33 years old at the time of his death.

NOTE

(1) *The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register* (FR 692).

C. RABEY

Private Charles Rabey, 38821, was killed in action while fighting with the 2nd/7th Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers. He had formerly served as Private 272549 with the Royal Army Service Corps. According to "*Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914 -1919*" part 25, he was "born at St. Ewan, Cornwall". There is no such place in Cornwall and I can only imagine that this is a misprint for St. Ervan.

Charlie was the son of Mrs. Mary Jane Rabey and was 26 years of age when he was killed on 10th October 1917, during the third battle of Ypres, known also 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 31st July 1917 and continued until November of the same year. When the rain and 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.

Charles Rabey's name appears on the role of honour at Carne Hill Methodist Church but for some reason I am unable to explain, they do not record him amongst those of the fallen. Private Charles Rabey has no known grave and is remembered on the Tyne Cot Memorial to the Missing (1)

The Tyne Cot Memorial to the missing records the names of 34,888 who were lost between 16th August 1917 and the end of the War. Below the memorial are the graves of 11,500 men brought here from the surrounding battlefields. Many of the missing 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.

NOTE

- (1) *The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register* (MR 30) Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium, Panels 54/60.

W. J. RICHARDS

I am once again grateful to the *Cornish Guardian* for the following report that appeared in the newspaper on 31st 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 8.50p.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 1 minute but the doctor found life to be extinct. Your son was a very willing worker and we all feel his loss keenly.

A. C. Denny, Lieutenant"

The following entry is taken from *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*, Part No. 75, The Machine Gun Corps/Tank Corps.

"Richards, William John, enlisted St. Austell, Cornwall, Service Number 82145, Private, Killed in action, France and Flanders 18.8.17. Formerly 34011 D.C.L.I."

Private William James Richards (son of John and Emily Richards of Whitemoor and husband of Edith Louisa Richards) is buried at the Villers-Faucon Communal Cemetery in France, Row E, Grave 72 (1).

NOTE

(1) *The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register* (FR 363).

D. RICHARDS

There are records at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission of twenty men called D. Richards who died during the First World War. I know this because, in frustration at not being able to find any information whatsoever about this man, I asked the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to initiate a full search on all those with the name D. Richards on their records. From these twenty names, fifteen could be eliminated as their address or that of their next of kin had no ties with Cornwall at all. The majority, as one can imagine, originated from Wales.

From the five remaining names, a Private Richards, Daniel, 202093 of the 2nd/4th Battalion Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, who was born in St. Stephens, an adjoining parish, was obviously a possibility. Unfortunately, a search of the Cornish Guardian failed to produce any further information on the gentleman concerned.

We do know that Private Daniel Richards died on 26th April 1917 and is remembered on Face 16 of the Madras Memorial in India (1). What I am unable to prove is that the D. Richards on the memorial at St. Dennis is the same man.

No doubt, within a very short time of printing this book more information will come to light but at the time of writing I must admit defeat (2).

NOTE

- (1) *The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register* (MR 66).
- (2) 2010 Update – I am still looking for information on this man.

R. J. RUNDLE

Richard John Rundle was the son of Fred and Elizabeth Woolcock of the Carne, St. Dennis. He was born at Restowrack Downs, St. Dennis. He did not wait for conscription but volunteered to join the Royal Navy and as an ordinary seaman commenced training at H.M.S. Vivid (1) 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 3,000 men in training at Vivid at any one time, so it was perhaps not surprising that the 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 were taken.

Richard John Rundle died at the Royal Naval Hospital, Plymouth on 17th May 1916 aged 22 years. He was buried in the churchyard of St. Denys Church (2) where the verse on his headstone reads:

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

NOTES

- (1) Vivid's name was changed from 1st January 1934 and became H.M.S. Drake.
- (2) *The War Graves of British Empire Register for Cemeteries and Churchyards in the County of Cornwall.*

F. C. RUNNALS

The entries in the *Cornish Guardian* 18th August 1916 give a very full account of how Frederick Charles lost his life.

Private F. Runnals Killed at the Front

"General sympathy is strikingly manifest in the district towards Mr. and Mrs. Charles Runnals 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 D.C.L.I. Pioneers and was some time in Fort Romley near Plymouth and recently went to France."

A letter from 2nd Lt. Ewart G. Vine, B Company, 10th Battalion Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.

In a letter to Mr. and Mrs. *Runnalls* (2) he says:

"As your dear son 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 with a 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 brother 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 Messrs. H. & D. Pochin Bros. at their clay works."

Private Runnalls is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial in France, Pier 3, Face B (1). The Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France records the names of some 73,000 of the forces of the British Commonwealth and Empire who fell in the battle in the neighbourhood and have no known grave.

NOTES

- (1) *Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register* (MR 21).
- (2) You will see that the surname has been spelt two ways. I have left the newspaper reports as they have been spelt and it appears as Runnals on the St. Dennis Memorial. It is spelt Runnalls on the Enniscaven Memorial.

S. STEPHENS

Sydney Stephens was killed in action on 16th August during the battle of Langemarck, which was part of the third battle of Ypres (perhaps more commonly known as Passchendaele). During this battle, between 31st July and 10th 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 14th 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 had been 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 Methodist Sunday School and in the Independent Order of Rachabites. With the grief-stricken parents and other members of the family the most 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, Panels 80 to 82 (1). 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 16th August 1917 to the end of the War and have no known grave.

NOTE

(1) *Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register* (MR 30).

R. SOLOMON

Richard Solomon was the first of two brothers to be killed, details of his brother appear on the following page. For a period of time both names on our memorial were covered at the request of their father, also called Richard. He was angered by dances 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.

Cornish Guardian 29th 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 he was with the Somerset Light Infantry in France. He was 21 years of age (1), the third son of his parents. He was a fine horseman. Prior to going to join the Colours, the deceased spent five years in the United States. He was held in the highest 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 wanted doing Solomon could and would do it. The whole Company and myself express their deepest sympathy."

Private Richard Solomon, 26184, of the 7th Battalion Somerset Light Infantry, (formerly 141751 Royal Field Artillery) was killed on 7th June 1917 and is buried in Grave 7, Row A, Plot 1 of Lagnicourt Hedge Cemetery, France (2).

NOTES

- (1) *Cornish Guardian* 6th July 1917. Private R. Solomon whose death we reported last week was 31 years of age and not 21 as stated.
- (2) *Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register* (FR 435).

T. SOLOMON

Tom Solomon, the brother of Richard Solomon shown on the previous page, joined the Navy in preference to the Army but the result was the same.

Cornish Guardian 25th January 1918 reports:

"We sincerely regret to record the death of another son, this makes the second of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Solomon, Trerice Farm, St. Dennis. Stoker Tom Solomon aged 33 lost his life through 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 minor discrepancies between the newspaper report and the memorial register. The following information is recorded there:

Stoker 2nd class Thomas Solomon killed by a mine explosion while serving on board H.M.S. Tornado on the 23rd of December 1917. He was 34 years of age (1).

H.M.S. Tornado was at the same time an up to date destroyer of 1091 tons commissioned in that same year, 1917 She was capable of 36 knots and carried a complement of 82 men. She was sunk along with her sister ship H.M.S. Torrent on the night of 22nd December by submarine attack (2).

NOTES

- (1) *The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register* (MR 2), Plymouth Naval Memorial.
- (2) *Janes Fighting Ships of World I* and *Dictionary of Disasters at Sea during the Age of Steam 1824 - 1962* by Charles Hocking F.L.A.

E. SMITH

At the time of writing, Edgar Smith still has relatives living in St. Dennis. However, the following article which appeared in the *Cornish Guardian* 1st January 1915 would seem to indicate that his family originated from the St. Kew area. It reports:

St. Kew

Sad Death of Mr. Edgar Smith

"Christmas Day brought tragic news to Mr. and Mrs. C. Smith of Trequite, to whom the whole parish and neighbourhood extend their deepest and most sincere 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 sons who are serving their Country - Marshall, Fred and Stanley, the latter being a twin brother to Edgar."

Private Smith had arrived in India on 10th November at Bombay, as one of the 800 strong battalion. They entrained at once for Bareilly arriving on 13th November. Battalion headquarters and four companies proceeded to Bareilly Cantonments while Major Hood (second in command) took four companies to Lucknow where they remained until the first week in January when the detachment rejoined the battalion (1).

It is believed that Private Edgar Smith died at Lucknow.

Private Edgar Smith, 2634, of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry died on 21st December 1914 and is remembered on Face 16 of the Madras Memorial, India (2).

NOTES

- (1) *The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry 1914-1919* by Everard Wyrall.
- (2) *The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register* (MR 66).

C. H. STONEMAN

Christopher Hedley Stoneman is recorded on the D.C.L.I. roll of honour and also by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as having died while serving with the 2nd/4th Battalion D.C.L.I.

I find this rather odd as he died in Mesopotamia and the 2nd/4th Battalion who were formed in September 1914 went to India in October of the same year, "were kept in India throughout the whole course of the War." (1) Wyrall also has it that, "In April (1915) also one officer (Lieut. F. R. Ellis) and thirty-five other ranks were selected from the 1st/4th Cornwall's to reinforce the 2nd Dorsets in Mesopotamia." "In July 1915 a second draft from the Battalion, under Lieut. Gilchrist, proceeded to Mesopotamia and were attached to the 2nd Norfolks."

The article shown below, which appeared in the *Cornish Guardian* 25th August 1916, supports my belief that Private Stoneman was one of those in the second draft.

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 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."

Whatever battalion, it seems that Private Christopher Stoneman, 200348, officially of the 2nd/4th Battalion, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry died on 22nd September 1916 while a prisoner of war in Mesopotamia (now Iraq). He is buried in Grave 34, Row T, Plot 21, of the Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery, Iraq (2).

He is also remembered on the headstone of his parents' grave, John and Elizabeth Ann, in the churchyard of St. Denys Church, where his age is stated as 19 years.

NOTES

- (1) *The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry 1914-1919* by Everard Wyrall.
- (2) *The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register* (Iraq 8).

F. TAYLOR

I found an entry in the *Cornish Guardian* 25th May 1917 reporting:

"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."

I thought this must be the one I am looking for; but life is never that simple. No F. Taylor appeared as having died in "*Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914 - 1919*" that matched my F. Taylor in the Royal Engineers.

So what are the possibilities?

- 1 The F. Taylor at Fore Street was later found safe and well and was not the F. Taylor on our War Memorial.
- 2 The F. Taylor at Fore Street was not in the Royal Engineers.
- 3 *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919* omitted to record F. Taylor, Royal Engineers, as having died.

or some other combination of circumstances.

There is a Frank Taylor, born St. Austell, Cornwall, enlisted St. Austell, Cornwall, Private 36803 of the Devonshire Regiment who was killed in action on 23rd April 1917 (1).

This Frank Taylor served with the 1st Battalion of the Devonshire Regiment and is remembered on the Arras Memorial to the missing in France (2).

This Frank Taylor's date of death would also tie in with the letter received by Mrs. Taylor at Fore Street, and having found no other contradictory information, I believe this must be the man whose name appears on our memorial at St. Dennis.

NOTES

- (1) *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914 - 1919*, Part 16 (The Devonshire Regiment).
- (2) *The Commonwealth War Graves Register* (MR 20) Bay 4.

J. H. TRUSCOTT

John Henry Truscott served with the Royal Field Artillery as Gunner 195798. Apart from these facts we know little about Mr. Truscott. No information is known about his next of kin or his life before joining the Army.

Gunner Truscott was with 'C' Battery of the 276th (Howitzer) Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery and was killed in action on 18th November 1917 (1). He was 19 years of age.

He is buried at Roisel Communal Cemetery extension, France, Plot 3, Row C, Grave 19 (2).

Roisel is a small manufacturing town in a 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 22nd March 1918. It was re-taken 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.

NOTES

(1) *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919.*

(2) *The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register (FR 528).*

C. TRETHEWEY

I am indebted to the following reports from our local weekly paper that plot the last few months of the life of Charles Trethewey.

Cornish Guardian 10th 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 first 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."

Cornish Guardian 28th 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 6.00a.m. to 6.00p.m. and is paid every night. He wrote a fairly long letter."

Cornish Guardian 1st November 1918 reports:

"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 of September last from pneumonia whilst a prisoner of war in Germany and was interred in the military cemetery at Metz. Private Trethewey, who has been in the Army two years, who was well known here and well 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."

Private Charles Trethewey, 82710, of the 16th Battalion of the Machine Gun Corps (Inf) is buried in Grave 371 of Chambieres French National (mixed) Cemetery, Metz, France (1).

NOTE

(1) *The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register* (FR 1667).

C. TREMBEL

Little is known about this man and as if to prove a point, although there are four records of his death, the St. Dennis memorial, the Enniscaven memorial, *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*, and the *Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register*, his name is spelt in three different ways.

The *Enniscaven* memorial and the *Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register* agree the surname is Trebell and not Trembell or Trebill as in other records. I also agree, as the niece of Carus Clifton Trebell was kind enough to show me the commemorative medal that was given to her family. She could not tell me any history of the man but mentioned that she also held the commemorative medal of Arnold Hore (Arnold Hore being another name on our memorial whose medal I was pleased to view). (See under A. Hore)

It took the *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* to make the connection where the next of kin of C. C. Trebell is recorded as the son of the late John Trebell and of *Annie* Hore (formerly Trebell of St. Dennis, Cornwall).

Private Carus Clifton Trebell, 4239, of the 1st/6th Battalion, the Devonshire Regiment, was born at St. Enoder. He died in Mesopotamia on 9th July 1916 (1) aged 24 years. How he died remains a mystery but he died in the service of his Country and is buried in the Amara War Cemetery, Iraq, Plot 9, Row H, Grave 14 (2).

NOTES

- (1) *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*, Part No. 16, the Devonshire Regiment.
- (2) *The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register* (Iraq 5).

F. N. WATTERS

Two small reports in the *Cornish Guardian* tell the story of the loss of Private Frederick Newton Watters, S/24118, 12th Battalion, the Rifle Brigade.

10th May 1918

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

23rd 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 Rifle Brigade was doing on that particular day. No major battle is recorded in the *Times Diary and Index of 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 on the Somme (1).

NOTE

(1) *The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register* (MR 27), Panel 81/84.

R. S. WILLIAMS

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

In Memorium

Williams

"In loving memory of Stanley, the youngest and dearly beloved son of J. and 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."

We do know that Richard Stanley served as Private 31281 with the 8th Battalion Prince Albert's Somerset Light Infantry. Both "*Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919*" and the *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* record his death as 14th October 1919 and not 13th October as in the newspaper report. He is buried in St. Sever Cemetery extension at Rouen in France, Block 5, Plot 2, Row X, Grave 9 (1).

NOTE

(1) *Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register* (FR 146).

A. W. YELLAND

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.

Arthur Yelland came home from the War but neither he nor his family were to escape the tragedy of war.

Private Arthur William Yelland, 242267 of the 7th Battalion of the Royal West Kent Regiment was the son of Hart and Mary Yelland. He 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 well treated would be an understatement. He was in a poor physical condition having suffered badly at the hands of his capturers.

He died of sickness contracted while a prisoner of war, at his home on 30th December 1918. He was 20 years of age. 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 Private Arthur Yelland was laid to rest in the churchyard of St. Denys Church on 4th January 1919.

His grave is recorded in the *Cornwall Register of War Graves of the British Empire* and an account of his funeral can be seen in the *Cornish Guardian*, 10th January 1919.

A. R. GOLDSMITH

Arthur Ralph Goldsmith was not a Cornishman but a man of Kent. He was born at Tunbridge, Kent. His one ambition in life had been to follow his brother into the Army and be a good soldier.

I think you will agree he succeeded for, despite his brother's efforts to stop him joining, he became Lance Sergeant L/15034 with the 4th Battalion Middlesex Regiment. He is the highest ranking soldier on the First World War plaque of St. Dennis War Memorial Institute.

On 1st 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 1st July 1916 dawned bright and sunny. The bombardment stopped at 0730 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 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 1st July and 20,000 had been killed.

Lance Sergeant Goldsmith was one of those killed. He is buried in the Gordon Dump Cemetery at Ovillers-La-Boisselle, Plot 4, Row N, Grave 8 (1).

This cemetery which was 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 Canadians, 91 Australians 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 September 1916.

NOTE

(1) *The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register (FR 267).*

Also To The Memory Of Those Who Fell In
The 1939 – 1945 War



L. ARTHUR

I find it difficult to write the section on Launcelot Arthur whose name heads the Second World War plaque on St. Dennis War Memorial Institute. He was my grandfather and although his son, Reginald James Arthur D.F.M., has been kind enough to supply me with an enormous amount of information, I feel it would be wrong in the context of this book to write the story of Launcelot Arthur. However, I hope at some time in the future to publish a book on the story of his life.

Launcelot Arthur was the eldest son of Marshal Arthur M.M., and Katherine Arthur (nee Bray) of Foxhole, and husband of Ethel Arthur (nee Hicks) of St. Dennis. He had served during the First World War on the dreadnought battleship H.M.S. Warspite and was still on the reserve list when war broke out again in 1939. Despite having four children and being 40 years of age, it was his duty to return to the navy at the outbreak of war.

During 1940 while on the Dover patrol, he went into Boulogne harbour to take off a service unit, and all the superstructure of the destroyer Venetia was blown away by direct gunfire. The crew suffered twenty-six casualties. The Venetia returned to Devonport, 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, H.M.S. 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 H.M.S. Venetia and the mining of H.M.S. 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 H.M.S. Hecla which was en passage from Freetown to Gibraltar. Hecla, a destroyer depot ship, was in company with three destroyers H.M.S. Vindictive, H.M.S. Venomous and H.M.S. Marne. At 2316 hours on 11th November 1942 when in a position 35.42 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 0116 hours Hecla was seen to keel over onto her beam ends and sink stern first in approximately 2,000 fathoms. Five hundred and fifty-nine men from Hecla's complement of eight hundred and ten were rescued that night. Launcelot Arthur first class was one of eighty stokers from Hecla reported missing.

He is remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial of those who fell in the 1939-45 War (Panel 69, Column 3) and have no other grave than the sea.

He was forty-two years of age.

L. H. GOUDGE

Lawrence Hugh Goudge, the son of William and Annie Goudge of Hendra Downs, St. Dennis, joined the Royal Navy to become Able Seaman Goudge D/JX363065.

He was serving on the destroyer H.M.S. Eclipse when, on 24th October 1943, she was sunk by a mine. It would seem that Eclipse, under the command of E. Mack D.S.O., D.S.C., was transporting 200 troops to Leros when she was sunk east of Kalimnos, Dodecanese (37.1N 27.11E). One hundred and forty of the troops were lost along with five officers and one hundred and fourteen ratings from the ship. Commander Mack was among the survivors; Able Seaman Goudge was among those missing. He was 20 years of age.

He is remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial (panel 79 column 1) to those who fell in the 1939-1945 war and have no other grave than the sea.

H.M.S. Eclipse was a destroyer with a displacement of 1,375 tons. She was completed on 29th November 1934 and carried a complement of 145.

M. G. GRIGG

The obituary of Private Maurice Gilbert Grigg, 5628990, 11th Battalion, the Devonshire Regiment, is recorded in the *Cornish Guardian* of 26th 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 on Saturday afternoon 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 internment in 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. A burial with full military honours followed with the last post played by two buglers from the 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.

Maurice Gilbert Grigg was the son of John Colman Grigg and Alice Maud Grigg and the brother of Mr. Leslie Grigg, Mrs. M. Bullen, Mrs. G. Allen, Mrs. D. Walker, Mrs. H. Carne and Miss E. Grigg.

He is buried in Section E on the unconsecrated side of St. Dennis Cemetery, Row 14, Grave 5.

F. D. HAWKE

Frederick Desmond Hawke was the son of Lucy Hawke of Whitemoor. He joined the Royal Navy to become Leading writer Hawke D/MX63500 and was serving on board H.M.S. Prince of Wales on 10th December 1941 when she was sunk by Japanese torpedo aircraft.

The story of the Royal Navy battleship H.M.S. 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 4th May 1939 by the Princess Royal in front of a crowd of 50,000. She was commissioned on Sunday, 19th January 1941 and carried 110 officers and 1,502 men. The crew had been provided by Devonport Manning Depot (1).

On 10th December 1941 H.M.S. Prince of Wales was travelling with another dreadnought battleship H.M.S. 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 H.M.S. 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 missing from H.M.S. Prince of Wales. Desmond was a fine type of young man and much sympathy has been expressed to the parents Mr. & 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 (Panel 55, column 1).

NOTE

(1) *Janes Fighting Ships of World War II.*

G. HICKS

The inscription should read E. G. Hick as indeed it does on the memorial in his own village of Enniscaven.

Edwin George Hick was an Enniscaven boy and still has a brother and other family living in the village. He is the only airman on the Second World War plaque of St.Dennis War Memorial Institute and an airman in the true sense of the word serving as an air gunner in 102 Squadron of the Royal Air Force.

Sergeant Hick 1852888 was the son of William Edwin and Margaret Hick and had joined the Royal Air Force with all the youthful enthusiasm that is shown by teenagers. He had been working on an airfield prior to joining up where he had developed an interest in aircraft and flying. His service history is not known to me but I understand from his brother that he was on his nineteenth bombing mission over Germany when he lost his life.

Sergeant Hick died on 19th March, 1945 when the bomber in which he was flying crashed near Kleve in Germany, near the border with Holland. He is buried in Plot 3, Row A, Grave 1 of the Reichswald Forest War Cemetery (1) where a list of the other members of the bomber crew appears:

D247 F/O Jeff, R. D.

139821 F/S Sutherland, K .J.

1671441 F/S Birker, M. N.

1852991 Sgt. Grimsoell

1898571 Sgt. Emerson

1852888 Sgt. Hick

156603 F/S Fraser

Gefallen: 19.3.45 Beerdigt 22.3.45

He was nineteen years old at the time of his death.

NOTE

(1) *The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register.*

J. A. MORGAN

James Aubrey Valentine Morgan was not a Cornishman but a Geordie. Newcastle had been his birthplace and it was there that he started work at the age of fourteen as a coal miner. When his family moved to Cornwall Jim moved with them and eventually married a Cornish girl, Rose May nee Hick.

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

The Treworlas operated by the Hain Steamship Company of St. Ives, was launched by J. Redhead and Sons Limited, South Shields in 1922. 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 (1).

On 28th December 1942 while on a voyage from Massowah to Baltimore with 3,000 tons of manganese ore she was spotted by the German submarine U 124.

The S.S. Treworlas was torpedoed and sunk 50 miles east of Port of Spain, Trinidad, in a position 10.52 north, 60.45 west. Captain Stanbury, 33 of the crew and five gunners were lost. Nine survivors were later picked up off rafts (2).

The official record of Jim Morgan's loss is kept in 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 S.S. Treworlas (St. Ives) 28.12.42. Age 29. Son of James and Isabella Jordan Morgan, husband of Rose M. Morgan of St. Dennis, St. Austell, Cornwall. Panel 111."

NOTES

- (1) *Dictionary of Disasters at Sea During the Age of Steam 1824-1962* by Charles Hocking FLA.
- (2) *Hain of St. Ives* by K. J. O'Donoghue and H. S. Appleyard.

F. B. ODGERS

As we have seen from the First World War section, not all of the men on our memorial died in battle. However, it was no less tragic when a wife lost her husband, or son his father, through natural causes.

I have been unable to find out anything about the ship Princess Beatrix other than that she was not a Royal Naval vessel. Why then should a naval rating be on board a merchant navy ship? Apparently this was not unusual as many merchant ships were commandeered for naval use and it was common for naval personnel to serve on merchant ships as gunners.

Bryant Odgers was such a man. He was serving as Able Seaman D/JX227925 aboard Princess Beatrix when he died through natural causes. His death was recorded in the *Cornish Guardian* 23rd October 1941 under 'Deaths on Active Service':

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

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

"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, abroad, 12th October 1941."

The *Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register* shows he is buried in Plot 3, Row A, Grave 2 in the Freetown (King Tom) cemetery in Sierre Leone.

H. J. REYNOLDS

Henry John Reynolds (Harr) became Able Seaman Reynolds D/SS10595 again at the outbreak of the Second World War. He was on the reserve list and along with Launcelot Arthur and Fred Goudge, travelled from St. Dennis to Devonport to restart life in the Royal Navy. He was the son of Henry and Emma Reynolds and the husband of Olive Burrell Reynolds.

It is not clear when, but at some time after re-joining, he found himself on H.M.S. Audacity (ex Hanover), which had been completed as an aircraft carrier in September 1939. This was the vessel he was serving on when on 21st December 1941 she was sunk by a torpedo from the German submarine U 741. H.M.S. Audacity was sunk 500 miles west of Finistère (44 north 20 west) while escorting convoy HG76.

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

St Dennis

"The news of the sinking of H.M.S. Audacity announced in the 6.00p.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 that he was posted as among the missing. Much sympathy has been expressed with the 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."

He is remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial of those who fell in the 1939-45 War and have no grave other than the sea, panel 48, column 2.

Henry John Reynolds was thirty-nine years of age when he died.

E. ROBINS

Why Walter John Robins is recorded on the St. Dennis Memorial plaque as E. Robins is a mystery. However, we do know he was the husband of Elma Robins and the father of Audrey who lived at 5 Robartes Road, St. Dennis (1).

Walter John Robins D/KX102545 stoker first class was lost on 5th April 1942 while serving on H.M.S. Dorsetshire (2).

R.N. Cruiser H.M.S. Dorsetshire with her sister cruiser H.M.S. Cornwall, were attacked and sunk by Japanese dive bombers from the carriers Akagi, Soryu, and Hiryu in the Indian Ocean.

Dorsetshire, captained by Captain A. W. S. Agar V.C., D.S.O., and Cornwall had left Columbo the previous day and were south of Ceylon 01.54 north 77.45 east when the bombers attacked. One hundred and ninety men were lost from the Cornwall, two hundred and thirty-four from the Dorsetshire. One thousand, one hundred and twenty-two survivors were rescued 30 hours after the sinkings. An unfortunate end to Dorsetshire, the warship responsible for firing the final torpedo which sent Bismarck to the bottom on 27th May 1941 and a sad end to so many of her crew.

Walter John Robins stoker first class is remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial to those who fell in the 1939-1945 War and have no other graves than the sea. (Panel 70, column 2). He was twenty-six years of age when he died.

NOTES

- (1) *The Cornish Guardian* 7th May 1942 (under Deaths on Active Service).
- (2) *Jane's Fighting Ships of World War II* shows that Dorsetshire was a county class cruiser of the same type as Devonshire, Sussex and Norfolk. At 9,975 tons, officially called a heavy cruiser, she was completed on 30th September 1930. She carried a complement of over 800.

J. ROWSE

Joseph Rowse was Private 13097393 Rowse of the Pioneer Corps. He died on 4th August 1941 aged 38 years at a military hospital during a minor operation. It is quite obvious from the entries under the In Memorium of the *Cornish Guardian*, 6th 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.

Joseph Rowse was the son of John and Elizabeth Rowse and husband of Inez Echla Rowse of St. Dennis. He is buried in Section E on the unconsecrated side of St. Dennis cemetery (Plot 14, Grave 10).

S. TRETHEWEY

Stuart Trethewey was 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 and had travelled extensively throughout America. I am told by someone who knew him that he harboured no fears of the sea or being on a sinking ship. It was his life and he loved the ocean and the way of life. Unfortunately, although Stuart was on board his ship when he was killed, it was not the end he might have imagined. His ship the Ocean Vista was strafed by an enemy aircraft while at port loading or unloading whichever it might have been.

Stuart Trethewey is buried in the La Reunion War Cemetery, Bejaia, Algeria, Plot 3, Row B, Grave 6 (1).

The following report appeared in the *Cornish Guardian* on 3rd 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."

NOTE

(1) *The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Register.*

H. WATTERS

Private Hedley George Watters 5444721 of the 91 Company Pioneer Corps was the only soldier on the Second World War plaque of St. Dennis War Memorial Institute to be killed in action.

I understand from his family he was attached to the airborne troops and was lost somewhere in Holland on 6th January 1945. He was 37 years of age.

His death was reported in the *Cornish Guardian* 25th 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 and eldest son of Mrs. G. M. Watters of Mena, St. Dennis. 'One of the best, a hard and bitter blow.'"

The following year on 10th January, two items were entered in the *Cornish Guardian* under the heading 'In Memorium 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 is equal we find
A loving son, 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 (MR 12).

Sources used while compiling this book

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

Laurence Binyon