



## [Ammendments to the original volume](#)

### **Herbert Thomas Broderick (1893-1917) – Lieutenant London Regiment**

Buried in Jerusalem War Cemetery, Israel; inscription grave 30,686, square 120 (George Ven Bellamy died 1 May 1910, age 69).

This memorial, described as lost, has been located – note corrected grave/square number.



## Peter Dalziel Brown (1887-1915) – Private Cameron Highlanders

Buried in Le Grand Hasard Military Cemetery, Morbecque, France; inscription grave 30,766, square 81, (Peter Brown died 29 December 1903, age 53).

This memorial, described as lost, has been located.



## William Nesbeth Leach (1891-1918) – Lance-Corporal London Regiment

Buried Unicorn Cemetery, Vendhuile, France; inscription grave 28,166, square 95, (Henry Leach died 3 July 1925, age 68).

This memorial, described as lost, has been located (all photos courtesy of the family).



William Leach



It is now known that William's brothers Albert Carrington (left) and George Cecil (right) also served. Albert served in the Royal Fusiliers (Private 38983) and Labour Corps (Private 178694). George served with the Army Service Corps - Motor Transport (Private 228266).



As did brother Frank (1896-1961):



History within the family holds that Frank served with the "London mortars" and was the "last man alive in his unit on two occasions", later suffering "survivor's syndrome".

**Alfred Sydney Alexander Godrich (1893-1918) – Corporal Australian Infantry**

Buried in Heath Cemetery Harbonnières, France; inscription grave 26,199, square 32, (Frederick William Bernard Godrich died 13 June 1918).

This memorial, described as lost, has been located.



## Additions to original volume

These additions arose during research for the volume of Second World War burials, cremations and commemorations, and, hence were largely men who served and survived.

### **Thomas Richard Aplin (1892-1945) – Stoker Royal Navy**

WW2 Civilian War Dead; grave 39,826, square 66 (self). Memorial exists.

Thomas Aplin (a motor driver) was born on 14 February 1892 at 66 Park Place, Clapham, the son of George Henry Aplin (1857-1909, a plumber and decorator) and his wife Eliza (b.1856, formerly Kidd). He was the husband of Florence Rose Aplin (1892-1975, formerly Wastell) who lived at 19 Shakespeare Road, Herne Hill.



(Authors' photo)

A van salesman when he enlisted in the Navy on 13 March 1916, from Chatham he went to Wallington, the auxiliary patrol base at Grimsby, but later served as Stoker I (K31629) on HMS *Shannon*, an armoured cruiser. He died at 112 Trafalgar Avenue, Southwark, on 14 February 1945 in a V2 rocket strike.

## Stephen Bacon (1897-1940) – Gunner Royal Garrison Artillery

WW2 Civilian War Dead; common grave 22,686, square 12.

Stephen Bacon was born in Rowsley, Derbyshire on 8 July 1897, the son of William Bacon (b.c.1864, a foreman platelayer) and his wife Sarah (b.c.1862, formerly Birds). He was married to Ivy Gertrude Bacon (1899-1979, formerly Fiddler) and the couple lived at 139 Tivoli Road, West Norwood. According to the marriage register (1919), he served as Gunner in the Royal Garrison Artillery. A medal card for him cannot be traced and it is possible he did not serve overseas. A bricklayer who was serving as an ARP warden, Stephen Bacon died in the bombing at the Rose and Crown pub, 1 Crown Lane, close to his home, on 18 October 1940.

## Richard Albert Banbury (1890-1940)

WW2 Civilian War Dead; grave 35,839, square 104 (Edith Banbury, buried 30 December 1921). Memorial exists.



Dr Richard Banbury, the son of Richard Banbury (1860-1950, a chemist and druggist) and his wife Charlotte Jane, was born on 1 June 1890 in Walworth and qualified as a member of the Royal Society of Chemistry and of the Royal College of Physicians of London. He was a member of the University of London Officers Training Corps.

Working at St Thomas's Hospital, he served in France from 19 September 1916 with the Royal Army Medical Corps with the rank of Captain. He returned to the UK in August 1917 and there is indication that he was awarded a pension, but for what is not known.

The husband of Sybil Harriet Banbury (formerly Hull), Dr Banbury and his daughter Mary died as a result of a bomb near their home, 181 Grove Lane, Camberwell, on 18 September 1940.

(Authors' photo)



### **Philip Joseph Barker (c.1885-1941) – Able Seaman Royal Navy**

Buried grave 39,450, square 70. Memorial lost.

Philip Barker was born on 7 February 1885 in West Norwood, the son of Henry J Barker (b.c. 1860, a general dealer) and his wife Minnie (b.c. 1864).

He worked as a shopkeeper/upholsterer and house furnisher, but the monumental inscription states that he was also a 'bandmaster'. He served during the war as Able Bodied Seaman (PZ/1541) from 17 September 1917 at HMS *Victory VI*, or, as it was known 'HMS *Crystal Palace*', the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve training establishment. His character and ability were described as 'very good'. He died on 6 October 1941 at the Cottage Hospital, Upper Norwood, when his address was 3 Gipsy Hill.

### **Stuart Nevison Beattie (1889-1921) – Major Army Service Corps**

Buried grave 21,252, square 80, (John Nevison Beattie died 31 March 1919, age 65). Memorial lost.

Born in 1889 at 91 North Street, Clapham, Stuart Beattie was the son of John Nevison Beattie (c.1855-1919, a draper), and his wife Caroline (b.c.1856, formerly Towner). Attending Dulwich College he served in College Cadet Corps as a Private, leaving in 1905. On attesting in 1914 he worked as a motor engineer (driver), when he lived at Glencaple, Beaumont Road, Wimbledon Park. He had served as a Second-Lieutenant in the 3rd Battalion London Regiment from 1911 but had resigned after a year or two due to 'lack of time'.

He enlisted on 10 August 1914 in the Army Service Corps as Private (MS/1667), attached first to 7th Ammunition Park and went to the Western Front on 5 October 1914. He was serving with Motor Transport by which time he had been commissioned in the ASC on 25 August. He finished the war as a Captain, to be made acting Major on 27 February 1919. He served with 15th Motor Transport Bus Company, being Mentioned in Despatches twice.

Never married, he died 12 January 1921 age 32, at St Katherine's, Hook Heath, Woking, his home being 'Lyndhurst', 11 Morland Road, East Croydon.

### **Albert Edmund Bostwick (1894-1916) – Private Royal Fusiliers**

Buried Dive Copse British Cemetery, Sailly-Le-Sec, France; inscription grave 38,646, square 74, (Rebecca Bostwick died 26 January 1936). Memorial lost.

Albert Bostwick was born in 1894 in Walworth, the son of Frederick Alfred Bostwick (b.c.1867, a warehouseman for a mantle maker) and his wife Rebecca (b.c. 1867, formerly Soden) of 60 Paulet Road, Camberwell.

He served as Private (SP/2134) in the 24th (2nd Sportsmans) Battalion, Royal Fusiliers, and went to the Western Front 15 November 1915. He died of wounds 26 July 1916. The previous day the unit had relieved the 8th Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment in trenches at Bernafay Wood on the Somme, and had been shelled on the way up suffering two dead and seven wounded. They were subject to heavy shelling during the night and the following day there were 'several casualties', one of these being Albert Bostock.

- **Albert Edmund and Ernest Frank Bostwick were brothers, who died 58 days apart. Their elder brother Frederick Alfred Bostwick served as Private (M2/074091) in the Army Service Corps as a lorry and ambulance driver on the Western Front and survived the war.**

### **Ernest Frank Bostwick (1896-1916) – Private London Regiment**

Buried Barlin Communal Cemetery Extension, France; inscription grave 38,646, square 74, (Rebecca Bostwick died 26 January 1936). Memorial lost.

Ernest Bostwick was born on 5 May 1896 in Lambeth, the son of Frederick Alfred and Rebecca Bostwick of 60 Paulet Road, Camberwell.

He served as Rifleman (3386) 21st Battalion, London Regiment (First Surrey Rifles). He enlisted on 12 April 1915 and went to the Western Front 10 October 1915. He died of a gunshot wound to the chest and abdomen 28 May 1916, his wounds sustained five days earlier.

At 20.25 on the 23rd the battalion attacked positions taken by the enemy on 21 May in the Berthonville sector just south of Souchez (near Vimy Ridge). Their line had been heavily shelled prior to the assault, but they re-took the old British front line and held it for 1.5 hours before being forced to retire having suffered about 187 casualties.

## Percival Harold Boys (1881-1956) – Aircraftman Royal Air Force

Buried grave 36,230, square 20. Memorial exists.



Percival Harold Boys was born in 1881 at 84 Lower Marsh, Lambeth, the son of William Henry Boys (a fine art dealer) and his wife Clara.

An engineer, he served in the RAF (5077) from 12 December 1916.

He was married to Gladys Boys (1883-1940, formerly Warr, and his second wife, being a widower, Gladys also being a widow). She died at 24 Selborne Avenue, Footscray, on 29 November 1940, the only fatality of a bomb.

(Author's photo)

## Herbert Clarence (Overend) Moir Bussy (1881-1958) – Second-Lieutenant Royal Army Service Corps

Cremated, ashes scattered over grave 33,829, square 93 (Elizabeth Emily Beale Bussy, died May 1941, age 56). Memorial exists.



Herbert Clarence Moir Bussy, originally a clerk who had attended a private boarding school, worked an advertising manager for the *News of the World*. He was married to Elizabeth Emily Beale Bussy (1885-1941).

He was born in Brixton on 14 December 1881, the son of Frederick Moir Bussy (b.c.1858, an author and newspaper journalist) and his wife Mary Jane Ring Bussy (b.c. 1859). He married Elizabeth Emily Beale in 1912.

He had served from 1903-1910 in the Middlesex Yeomanry (Corporal 1542, resigning on 'business grounds'), but in the Great War served as Second-Lieutenant in the Army Service Corps. He was deemed as having enlisted as a Private on 24 June 1916 (called up for service in January 1918), and was commissioned on 27 April 1918 from

ASC Cadet School at Aldershot (his military character described as 'very good') when he was Driver in 572 Company ASC. He went to the Western Front on 17 May 1918, attached to 58th Divisional Train, and 56th Division Motor Transport.

He died on 24 July 1958, his address being 11a Westway, Raynes Park.

## Charles Oscar John Cocking (1889-1917) – Second-Lieutenant South Lancashire Regiment

Buried Pont-Du-Hem Military Cemetery, La Gorgue, France. Inscription grave 35,727, square 104 (Walter John Cocking died 4 June 1921). Memorial lost.

Charles Cocking was born on 22 September 1889 at 45 Romola Road, Herne Hill. He was the son of Walter John Cocking (b.c.1847, a lead and glass merchant) and his wife Constance Henrietta (b.c.1857, formerly Catmur), of 70 Lanercost Road, Tulse Hill. Unmarried, educated at the City of London School he worked as an electrical engineer with Johnson & Phillips, moving in 1911 to British Insulated & Heldby Cables in Prescott, in the 'Contract and EF Department'.

He served first as Private (1399) in the 2nd County of London Yeomanry (from 1910), the unit posted to Egypt in September 1914. On 14 August 1915 they transferred to Gallipoli as infantry, returning to Egypt that December, where he was discharged to a commission, described as 'an excellent character, being honest, sober and trustworthy'. He had suffered from the endemic Gallipoli sickness, diarrhoea, and had been hospitalised in the Greek Hospital, Alexandria, from 16 September to 26 October. Returning to the UK on 26 November, he was subsequently commissioned Second-Lieutenant in the 2/5th Battalion South Lancashire Regiment.

He died of wounds on 11 April 1917 as a prisoner of war. He had been engaged on an unsuccessful raid on the 10th which the enemy appeared to be expecting – three other ranks were also missing and 7 wounded. He was originally buried at Beaucamps but in 1923 was exhumed and reburied at Pont-Du-Hem.

### **William George Cole (1889-1918) – Private London Regiment**

Buried Sailly-Saillisel British Cemetery, France. Inscription grave 36,324 square 49, (James Winch Cole died 17 December 1925). Memorial lost.

William Cole was born in 1889 at 85 Thomas Street, Walworth, the son of James Winch Cole (b.c.1849, a packing case maker) and his wife Sarah (b.c.1856). He worked as a packing case maker, presumably with his father, and was the husband of Mary Irene Cole (b. 1883) of 36 Osborne Terrace Clapham (later 1, Winerton Road, Sydenham), with whom he had two children.

He served as Private (354842) 7th Battalion London Regiment. The inscription states 'killed in action Sept 1918', but the CWGC states that he died on 29 August 1918 (whilst Graves Registration and Pension records give the 28th). It is likely that the 28th is correct as on the 27th and 28th the unit was part of the last stages of the Battle of Albert – the push across the old Somme battlefield and beyond at the start of the victorious Hundred Days campaign. It was relieved on the 29th. The unit war diary records 13 officer and 280 casualties in the other ranks 25-29 August.

### **Arthur Horsman Coles (1856-1931) – Lieutenant-Colonel Northumberland Fusiliers**

Buried grave 18,290, square 18. (Timothy Horsman Coles, died 6 December 1890). Memorial exists.

Arthur Coles CMG, DSO was born on 7 September 1856 in Streatham. He was the eldest son of Timothy Horsman Coles (1816-1890, an East India merchant) and his wife Amelia (b.c.1822, formerly Bailey).

Educated at Winchester, he was commissioned in The Buffs in 1876. He served with the Nile Expedition, 1881-85, and in the Sudan, 1887-89, being present at the actions of Sarras, 1887 and of Toski, 1889 (being awarded the Distinguished Service Order for his participation in the latter). He commanded the Expeditionary Force, Uganda in 1893, and became Lieutenant-Colonel in the Warwickshire Regiment in 1900, and a Brevet Colonel in 1904. He commanded

troops in the Uganda Protectorate; was created a CMG in 1904, and retired with the rank of Colonel 25 September 1907.

During the Great War he commanded the 1/5th Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers from 25 November 1914 to 26 July 1915, taking them to the Western Front in April 1915, but was replaced (likely on age and fitness grounds) and sent to command 37th Base Depot.

He died on 29 March 1931, when he lived at 18 Walpole Street, Chelsea. He remained single.

- **Arthur Horsman Coles and Geoffrey Horsman Coles were brothers.**

### **Geoffrey Horsman Coles (1871-1916) – Private Royal Fusiliers**

Buried Browns Road Military Cemetery, Festubert, France. Inscription grave 18,290, square 18. (Timothy Horsman Coles, died 6 December 1890). Commemorated in St Buryan Parish Church, Penwith, Cornwall. Memorial exists.



Geoffrey Horsman Coles was born on 13 March 1871 in Ore, Sussex, the youngest son of Timothy Horsman Coles and his wife Amelia. Educated at Winchester, where he played both cricket and fives, he studied engineering at Manchester, working subsequently at University College, London, but began work for Great Western Railway at Swindon in 1892, (occupation which he gave up in 1895). In 1911 was described as of 'private means'. He was a British sport shooter who competed at the 1908 Summer Olympics winning a bronze medal in the team pistol event, coming 11th in the individual pistol event.

He was killed by an exploding rifle grenade at Festubert on 27 Jan 1916 while serving as a Private (2749) in 'B' Company' 24th Battalion (2nd Sportsman's) Royal Fusiliers. Fired by the enemy at around 17.00 into the left front line, three soldiers were killed and two wounded. He had only gone overseas on 15 November 1915. His grave in France bears the motto 'When he was proved he was found faithful'. The brass plaque in St Buryan Church, Penwith, Cornwall, describes him as of 'Little Swingate, Sennen'.



### **Reuben Kemp Collett (1895-1915) – Private London Regiment**

Commemorated on the screen wall at Hampstead Cemetery, inscription grave 35,309, square 70 (Reuben Collett died 15 November 1919). Memorial lost.

Reuben Collett was born at 21 Grove Lane, Camberwell on 10 August 1895, the fourth son of Reuben Collett (b.c.1850, a newsagent) of 114 Loughborough Park, Brixton and his wife Anna Eliza (b.c.1858, formerly Higgins). They lived at 25 Ferndale Road, Herne Hill, after the war. He was educated at Bellenden Road High School in Camberwell and was a clerk for a tea merchant before he volunteered in September 1914. He trained at Burgess Hill and served with the Expeditionary Force in France from 18 March 1915 as Rifleman (2806) 6th Battalion London Regiment. He was seriously wounded in action at the Battle of Loos on 25 September 1915. He died in New End Hospital in Hampstead on 14 November, following which he was buried at the Hampstead Cemetery.

6th London went forward on the morning of the 25th at 05.50 following the (first British) release of gas, attacking on the extreme right of the British line to the east of Loos and abutting the Double Crassier, and despite the fact that British artillery support was heavy 'the German machine guns were in operation up to the last'. By 07.30 their objectives had been reached. The unit had, however, lost seven officers and 274 other ranks killed, wounded or missing.

- **Reuben Kemp and Sydney John Collett were brothers.**

### **Sydney John Collett (1891-1918) – Private Lancashire Fusiliers**

Commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial, France. Inscription grave 35,309, square 70 (Reuben Collett died 15 November 1919). Memorial lost.

Sydney John Collett was born in Camberwell in 1891 but later lived at Badsey near Evesham. He was the third son of Reuben and Anna Eliza Collett, and worked (in 1911) as a butcher. He initially enlisted as Private (2308) in the Lancashire Hussars Yeomanry but transferred as Private (42629) to the 1/6th and then 1/8th Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers. He died on 7 April 1918.

This was the period of the first of the German Spring offensives that had begun on 21 March. On the 6th the enemy brought down a three-hour barrage and attacked at 09.00. The battalion was driven back through the village of Bucquoy but the remnants, some 80 men, counterattacked with the 1/5th Battalion at 16.30 and re-established a line. The battalion CO had been killed, and eight more officers were casualties, with 202 in the other ranks. The unit was relieved the following day and hence it is likely that Sydney Collett's death occurred on the 6th.



## Sydney Robert Cross (1884-1944) – Aircraftman Royal Navy & Royal Air Force

Buried grave 26,793, square 95, (Eleanor Alice Cross, died 10 March 1896 aged 5). Memorial exists.



Sydney (sometimes spelled with an i) Cross was born in Stratford, London, on 2 October 1884, the son of William Edward Cross (1862-1940, a cartage contractor) and Alice Cross (1862-1940, formerly Sullivan), who lived in Worthing in 1939. He was married to Amy Florence Cross (1894-1944, formerly Budd).

He served as Aircraftman First Class in the Royal Navy from 10 April 1917, spending most of his time at the Royal Naval Air Service Barlow airfield near Selby, North Yorkshire. He was transferred to the RAF on its formation at the end of March 1918.

He died of illness on 30 September 1944, having re-enlisted as a Captain in the Royal Marines.

## Louis Henry Dawson (1880-1940) – Lieutenant-Colonel Middlesex Regiment

Commemorated on the CWGC Screen Wall; cremated.

Louis Henry Dawson was born in 1880 in Camberwell. He was the son of James Dawson (1829-1912, a printer & stationer) and his wife Hannah (1844-1918, formerly Branch). Originally a journalist, he was commissioned in the 13th Battalion Middlesex Regiment on 26 November 1914, promoted Captain on 1 April 1915, and Major on 1 March 1916. He took over command on 1 May 1917, when Lt-Col John Greene was invalided, and served until 25 July 1917, when he himself was invalided. He went on to serve as a Major with one of the regiment's Regular battalions. He relinquished his commission on 20 October, but when he was admitted as a Mason to the Britannic Lodge in May 1920 gave his profession as "none" (and his address as Upper Norwood).

He was commissioned once more on 14 March 1942 as Lieutenant (99692) in the 7th (Home Defence) Battalion of the King's Royal Rifle Corps. He died on 15 July 1940 'very suddenly',

clearly of illness, at the Military Hospital, Gravesend, his home address then 'Ingleside', Pelham Road, Gravesend. He was cremated on 22 July and his ashes removed.

### **Henry William Duck (1881-1944)**

WW2 Civilian War Dead. Cremated.

Henry Duck was born in Bermondsey on 20 March 1881, the son of Albert George Duck (1837-1902, a gas fitter and plumber) and his wife Ann (b.1842, formerly Mason). He was the husband of Kate Duck (1884-1944, formerly Robinson), and worked as an advertising manager. They were married in 1914 and lived at 108 Burbage Road, Herne Hill. He enlisted on 9 August 1916 in the Royal Navy, serving on *HMS Powerful*, an old protected cruiser which was a training ship, serving as a Ship's Steward Assistant, and subsequently at *HMS Vivid III*, the accounting section at Devonport. He clearly did not see action.

He died at home with his wife on 22 June 1944 as the result of a V1 flying bomb strike.

### **William Henry Fido (1885-1936) – Sergeant Army Service Corps**

Buried grave 38,674, square 116 (self). Memorial lost.

William Fido was born on 18 April 1885 on Bridge Road in Southwark, the son of William Fido (b.c.1850, a carman) and his wife Minnie Grace Maria (b.c.1855, formerly Shaw). He worked, like his father, as a carman in an iron works in 1911, and was the husband of Kate Fido (1912-1998, formerly Soutter).

He enlisted on 27 March 1915 in the Remounts Section of the Army Service Corps, when he lived at 62 Red Cross Street, Borough. He described himself as a horse keeper. He served for four years and 81 days, and was demobilized with malaria, having gone overseas with the 42nd Remount Squadron on 14 April 1915 to Salonika (malaria being endemic there), reaching the rank of acting Sergeant (R4/066590). He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. His claim for a pension was (undoubtedly unfairly) rejected. He died on 11 March 1936.

His son, William Fido, died of wounds in Italy serving as Driver (2153856) with the 8th Field Squadron, Royal Engineers, on 30 October 1943.

### **Albert Davis-French (1885-1950) – Gunner Royal Garrison Artillery**

Buried grave 40,070, square 77 (Albert Davis-French buried 9 January 1950). Memorial unknown.

Albert Davis-French was born in 1885, the son of William Davis (a clerk). He was married to Elsie Gladys Mary Davis-French (1884-1955, formerly Matthews), and worked as a boiler coverer. The hyphenated name may have been a late adoption.

He served as Gunner (51535) in 90 Heavy Battery Royal Garrison Artillery. He went to Egypt on 21 April 1915, thence serving on Gallipoli with VIII Corps Artillery, and following a return to Egypt went to the Western Front in April 1916, serving with a range of Heavy Artillery

Groups before being transferred to Italy in November 1917, where he remained. He died in January 1950.

His son Albert John Davis-French served as a Warrant Officer in the Royal Artillery, dying of illness in 1947 and a CWGC memorial stands on the site of the family grave.

### **Robert Alfred Grimwood (1894-1941) Lance Bombardier Royal Field Artillery**

WW2 Civilian War Dead. Common grave 22,299, square 44.

Robert Grimwood was born on 11 March 1894 in Norwood, the son of Robert Grimwood (b. 1870, a manservant turned postman) and his wife Edith Amelia Annie (1868-1950, formerly Blackmore). He worked as a grocer. He was married to Esther Grimwood (b.c.1899, formerly Taylor). The couple later lived at 170 Old Kent Road, and died there on 10 May 1941 as the result of an enemy bomb.

Robert Grimwood served as Gunner (L22859) in the Royal Field Artillery, joining up on 22 April 1915 when he lived at 37 Chapel Road, West Norwood. He was attached to 167 and 282 Brigades RFA. He went to the Western Front on 11 December 1915, being attached to 47 Howitzer Battery, 2nd Division, but was wounded by shrapnel in the side/back on 3 October 1916. He was treated at University College Hospital (four days) and subsequently the Princess Christian Convalescent Home, Bisleigh (35 days). He returned to service on 28 April 1917, first at 33rd Divisional School, then II Corps Signal School, with a period with 33rd Divisional Ammunition Column. He had obtained a qualification as 2nd Class Assistant Instructor's Certificate of Signalling. He was unlucky enough to be wounded in action again on 9 June 1918.

## Walter James Handy (1889-1940) Lance-Sergeant Somerset Light Infantry

WW2 Civilian War Dead. Buried grave 38,622, square 94 (Walter George Handy, died 14 December 1935). Memorial exists.



(Authors' photo)

He was injured by an enemy bomb at Milkwood Road, Herne Hill, (family accounts suggest whilst fire watching) on 17 October 1940, and taken to King's College Hospital. He died there later the same day, and was buried on 23 October in his father's grave.

Walter Handy was born on 25 June 1889 at 10 Palmer Street, Weston-super-Mare, the son of Walter George Handy (1860-1935, a printer) and his wife Elizabeth Ann (1863-1948, formerly James). Never married, Walter lived at 78 Poplar Walk, Herne Hill, and worked as the manager of a wholesale carpet warehouse.

He served as Lance-Sergeant (17120) in the 6th Battalion Somerset Light Infantry. He went to the Western front on 14 July 1916 where he was awarded the Military Medal. He was also awarded a Silver War Badge and pension, but for what injury is unknown.



(Photo permission Robert Griffiths)

## **Leslie Goldston Hills (1893-1941) Lance-Sergeant Somerset Light Infantry**

Commemorated on the CWGC Screen Wall; cremated; ashes scattered over grave 32,988, square unknown. Family memorial existed but possibly lost.

Leslie Hills was born on 4 March 1893 in Streatham, the son of Richard Hills (1863-1908, a Bank of England clerk) and his wife Anna Martha (1861-1939, formerly Goldston). In 1911 he was an electrical engineer's clerk (with Gilbert Rowe of Westminster) but by 1939 he was an examiner and instructor to the Pelman Institute, a self-improvement organization. At the time of the Great War he lived at 33 Mitcham Lane, Streatham.

Having served initially in the London Regiment (and been awarded the Military Medal) as Corporal (650087) in the 21st Battalion on the Western Front from 15 March 1915 to 19 December 1915, he was commissioned in the Royal Fusiliers (1st Battalion). He later transferred to the RAF where he finally served with 7 Squadron as a Lieutenant, Observation Officer.

After the war he joined the Auxiliary Division of the Royal Irish Constabulary (resigning on compassionate grounds in December 1921). He served once more in WWII as Lieutenant (120409) in the East Surrey Regiment and died on 11 February 1941 at Snodland, Kent, almost certainly of illness.

## **Frank Cecil Jinks (1890-1940) – Lieutenant Machine Gun Corps**

Commemorated on the CWGC Screen Wall; cremated.

Frank Jinks was born on 23 June 1890 in Northampton, the son of Alfred Jinks (1860-1918, an accountant) and his wife Ada Eliza (1865-1954, formerly Leek). He married Dorothy Edyth Stocken in 1917 and, educated at Northampton County School, Northampton Technical School, worked as an electrical engineer in a power station, having served his apprenticeship at the Northampton Electric Light & Power Company.

He attested first, before the war, as a Gunner with the Royal Field Artillery with the Warwickshire Howitzer Battery, transferred to 5 Battery, 4th South Midland Brigade RFA. Commissioned on 24 January 1915, he served as a Lieutenant in the 97th Machine Gun Corps. He was awarded the Croix de Guerre.

He was badly wounded by a shell on 2 July 1916. He lost his right eye, his left arm suffered a compound fracture and his hand was shattered, as was his left thigh, his left ankle. The back of his neck also suffered shrapnel wounds. He underwent multiple operations, mainly at the No. 1 Red Cross Hospital at Le Touquet. Writing in December 1916 he stated. 'I am blind in right eye, left eye is very weak. I suffer from nerves, headaches and insomnia. My arm is of no use to me at all, the nerves going to fingers being severed and all the joint being stiff'. He was undergoing massage and 'Swedish exercises' at Northampton. He subsequently went on a War Office course at Sheffield University, and subsequently worked first with salvage (Caxton House) and then with the Ministry of Labour.

He had retired in 1939, living at 15 Park Road, Beckenham. He served again as Lieutenant (141018) in the Royal Engineers, Bomb Disposal (having offered his services to the Royal Army

Ordnance Corps in June 1939 and been rejected). He died on duty on 3 October 1940 at 34 Hazeldene Road, Welling, when a bomb exploded. He was cremated on 9 October, his wife removing his ashes.

### **Henry Edward Limb (1879-1956) – Sergeant Royal Fusiliers**

Cremated, ashes scattered over flower beds in the cemetery.

Henry Limb was born in 1879 at 65 South Island Place, Clapham Road, Kennington, the son of William Frederick (b.c.1842, a decorator and paperhanger) and Elizabeth Ann Limb (b.c.1844, formerly Gearin). He was married to Mildred Limb (b.c.1882, formerly Garwood).

A pre-war Regular soldier, joining up on 14 September 1897, he was serving with the 3rd Battalion Royal Fusiliers, stationed in Mauritius in 1911, and rose to the rank of Acting Sergeant (L/5785). His time on the Western Front (with the 22nd Battalion Royal Fusiliers) was brief, from 12 November 1916 to 27 January 1917. He was awarded a Silver War Badge and a pension, being discharged on 22 May 1917, the result of sickness. In 1939 he was working as a caretaker.



He died on 5 October 1956, his address being 3 Astley House, Benton Lane, West Norwood.

### **John Henry Webb Manning (1892-1934) – Rifleman London Regiment**

Buried grave 38,335, square 102. Memorial lost.

John Manning was born in 1892 in Paulerspury, Northamptonshire, the son of John Webb Manning (b.c.1856, a farmer) and his wife Penelope Elizabeth (b.c.1863, formerly Ridge). He worked as an engineer and was married to Grace Ellen Tricker Manning (1893-1975, formerly Brown).

He served as Rifleman (2970 & 470714) in the 12th Battalion London Regiment, enlisting on 9 September 1914, when he lived at 293 Croxted Road, Dulwich. He was discharged on 4 January 1916, diagnosed with 'debility' following a gunshot wound to the thigh, being awarded a pension. He had gone to the Western Front on 15 April 1915 and was wounded on 8 May, returning to the UK on 13 May. He died on 30 March 1934.

### **Alfred Ernest Martin (1876-1943) Private Hussars**

WW2 Civilian War Dead. Cremated, ashes scattered on flower beds in the cemetery,

Alfred Martin was the husband of Emily Martin (b.1876, formerly Rowley) of 90 Waddington Way, Beulah Hill, Norwood. He was born on 1 December 1876 in Aylesford, Kent, the son of George William Martin (b.c.1829, a farm bailiff) and his wife Jane (b.c.1832, formerly Costin). In 1939 he worked as a telephone operator, although on marriage he had been a tram motorman for the London County Council. He had previously had been a Regular soldier (Private 3730, 4th and 13th Hussars, re-engaging in 1911). He served in South Africa during the Second Boer War 1899-1902.

He was recalled from the Reserve into the 3rd Hussars on 5 August 1914, and went to France on 9 September until 26 May 1915, having been wounded on 20 May during the Second Battle of Ypres, a bullet wound in the shoulder. Treated in the Southern General Hospital, Birmingham, he remained in the UK until 5 December 1916, when he was posted to the 2/4th Battalion Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry (as acting lance-Corporal), returning to the 4th Hussars. He was taken prisoner of war on 23 March 1918 (reported wounded and missing), this on the third day of the first German Spring offensive, when his unit were retreating and fighting dismounted, the war diary noting 'dismounted party having hard fighting near Jussy and Mennesis'. He was repatriated on 29 December and discharged invalided.

He was killed at home on 3 March 1943 by an enemy bomb.

### **John Ferguson Menzies (1896-1940) – Captain Sherwood Foresters**

Buried in grave 39,329, square 98. Memorial exists.



John Menzies was born on 29 December 1896 in Stapenhill, Derbyshire. He was the son of William John Menzies (1856-1907, an engineer managing a grain drying works) and his wife Mary Henrietta (1866-1955, formerly Ferguson). He was educated at Denstone College, Uttoxeter, Staffordshire.

He was commissioned in the 3rd Battalion Sherwood Foresters on 15 August 1914, went to the Western Front in May 1915, and, transferred to the 1st Battalion, was promoted Captain on 11 October 1916. In April 1916 he is listed as being a Lewis Gun Officer. Menzies was posted missing during the battle of the Aisne (April/May 1918) an episode of the German Spring offensives and was held as a prisoner-of-war until the end of hostilities. He was awarded the Military Cross.

He was commissioned Captain (93082) in the Royal Artillery once more during the Second World War. He died in Westminster 19 August 1940, his address given as 54 Regent Street, most likely a result of illness. He was buried on 24 August.

### **Frederick William Messent (1882-1935) – Aircraftman Royal Navy and RAF**

Cremated.

Frederick William Messent was born on 7 November 1882 in Brixton, and worked as a master tailor. He was married to Alice O'Connor Messent (1883-1940, formerly O'Connor). He served from 17 December 1917 in the Royal Navy at Rockhampton, Tregantle, Perham Down and Codfrord, (all Royal Naval Air Service airfields) as Aircraftman 2nd Class (F43904), before he was transferred to the RAF in April 1918.

He was cremated at West Norwood on 9 January 1935.

### **John Wilby Muskett (1886-1944) – Gunner Royal Garrison Artillery**

WW2 Civilian War Dead. Buried grave 39,771, square 66. Memorial unknown.

John Muskett was born on 1 November 1886 in Bradfield, Suffolk. He was the son of William Muskett (b.1849, a bandmaster) and his wife Anne (b.1857, formerly Wilby), the family moving to Plaistow after his father's death where he worked as a bookbinder. He married Clara Ryan (b.1895) in 1934 and they lived at 34 York Hill, West Norwood, John working as a sub-postmaster, being retired by September 1939.

During the Great War he served as Gunner (71202) in the Royal Garrison Artillery, Base Details (indicating that he was working behind the front lines). He was injured at home on 27 July 1944 by a V1 flying bomb, and was taken to King's College Hospital where he died on 8 August.



## Francis Richard Nice (1883-1960) – Leading Aircraftman RAF

Buried grave 38,795, square 80/81, (Maria Louisa Nice buried November 1936). Memorial exists.



Francis Nice was born in Bermondsey on 29 August 1883, the son of Henry Edward Nice (a cheesemonger) and his wife Emma (formerly Winter). His father died when he was five, and his working life began as a commercial clerk, an occupation he was still engaged in when he married Maria Louisa Young in 1905, but by 1911 he was the Superintendent of West Norwood Cemetery, living at the cemetery lodge. He was still resident there in 1939 with his sons Richard Albert (a monumental letter engraver and undertaker's assistant) and Francis Arnold Winter (a funeral director for Royal Arsenal Co-Operative Society, and who would die as an RAF Sergeant in an aircraft collision off Flamborough Head on 28 August 1942). Dealing with death ran in the family.

He served first at HMS *President V*, a shore base from 2 March 1917, and then at HMS *Daedalus* (Lee-on-Solent) one of the primary shore airfields of Fleet Air Arm, and a Naval Seaplane Training School. Transferred there on 1 December 1917, and then into the

RAF, he reached the rank of Leading Aircraftman (22617), clearly in a ground technical capacity.

He died on 14 November 1960 at 376 Norwood Road, nearly opposite the cemetery gates, and was buried four days later in the cemetery he had spent his working life tending.

### **John George Henry Obee (1873-1933) – Corporal Army Service Corps & Labour Corps**

Buried common grave 7,920, square 17.

John George Henry Obee (1873-1933, a builder's foreman and later house painter/plaster) was born in Norwood, the son of George Obee (b.c.1846, a plasterer) and his wife Mary (b.c.1847). He was married to Annie Elizabeth Obee (1875-1928, formerly Hunt). (He would later marry Annie Murray after the death of his first wife in 1928).

When he enlisted on 10 May 1915 he described himself as a builder's foreman, and lived at 165 Rommany Road, West Norwood. He first served as Private (SS10672) in the Army Service Corps, transferred to the Labour Corps on 1 August 1917, later as Corporal (307370). He had gone to the Western Front on 29 May 1915 in 'Labour Company No. 7, Section C, Gang No. 2'. On 2 March 1917 he committed the crime of 'being in a café during prohibited hours' (sentence being 7 days confined to camp). He later served in 429 and 100 Labour Companies, the latter part of the Chinese Labour Corps. He was demobilised on 20 July 1919.

He was buried on 6 July 1933.

### **Charles John Parsons (1894-1978) – Aircraftman Royal Navy & RAF**

Buried grave 41,300, square 41. Memorial lost.

Charles John Parsons was born on 10 August 1894 in Herne Hill, the son of John Parsons (1865-1944, a gas and hot water fitter) and his wife Annie Margaret (1872-1960, formerly Church). He worked as a solicitor's clerk and was married to Annie (Nancy) Maud Parsons (1894-1960, formerly Marten).

He served as Aircraftman 2 then 1 from 27 June 1917 and was transferred to the RAF in April 1918 as Aircraftman 1 (230351). He died in 1978.

## Charles Venton Pearce (1891-1940) – Marine Royal Marines

Buried grave 39,311, square 46. CWGC memorial exists, family memorial smashed.



Charles Pearce was born on 17 November 1891, likely in Birkbeck Place, West Dulwich. He was the son of Charles Ernest Pearce (b.1868, a postman) and his wife Jane (b.1869, formerly Venton), and was married to Ada Jane Pearce (1890-1969, formerly Gardner) later of Clapham (although previously the couple had lived at 37 Rommany Road, West Norwood).

Charles Pearce had entered the Marines (CG/16771) in August 1910, at which point he was employed as a telegraph messenger. During the Great War he served from October 1916 onwards on HMS *Cyclops*, a depot ship, which served with the Grand Fleet throughout the war.

Finishing his second term of engagement in 1931, his character described as 'very good', he evidently re-enlisted and was based at the training establishment HMS *Ganges*,

otherwise known as the Shotley Training Establishment, near Ipswich. He was 'accidentally killed' on Shotley Street, Shotley, on 1 June 1940.

## Alfred George Perkins (1896-1940) – Lance-Corporal London Regiment

WW2 Civilian War Dead. Buried common grave 21,947, square 44.

Alfred Perkins was born on 20 May 1896, the son of Robert John Perkins (a meat market porter) and his wife Amy Louisa (formerly Pottley) of 12 Sancroft Street, Kennington Cross. In 1911 he had been working as an errand boy for a printer.

He attested in Lambeth on 7 July 1915 and served as Rifleman (4014) in the 11th Battalion London Regiment, and later as Lance-Corporal (471344) in the 12th Battalion London Regiment (The Rangers). He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for his actions on 1 July 1916 in his unit's attack on Gommecourt on the first day of the Battle of the Somme. His citation reads, 'For conspicuous gallantry in action. He stood alone on the enemy's parapet and threw bombs into their trenches, when the remainder of his company was held up by uncut wire.' D company was indeed held up by wire and within 10 minutes nearly all were wounded. Major Lewis Farewell Jones led a party of eight survivors through a 20 yard gap in the wire but all except Perkins were wounded. He "got into the German trench where he was seized by two Germans but managed to beat them off by striking them in the face with a bomb he was holding in his hand. He then got back on to the German parapet and was seen by other men of the Company standing there throwing bombs into the German trench. Afterwards a party of three NCOs and nine men (including Rifleman Perkins) returned to our first line where they remained until about 9.30 pm". Five officers and some 200 men remained from the 800 or so who went into action.

Alfred Perkins reported sick on 26 April 1918 at 12th Casualty Clearing Station with "coarse tremors". The enemy had heavily shelled the battalion's trenches at Cachy that day and he reported he had been 'blown up with 3 other men in a dug-out ... the others being killed'. Dug free, he was unconscious until his arrival at the CCS the following day. He was discharged from the Army on the 22 March 1919 suffering from neurasthenia, described as 50% disabled on a pension of 13/9d a week. He had been admitted to the 4th Northern General Hospital at Lincoln on 18 May 1918 and subsequently treated at the Abram Peel War Hospital, Bradford, a 437 bed war neurasthenia shell-shock hospital. He returned home to Vauxhall Street, Kennington, and later in 1919 married Marie Lilian Monnery and had three children.

At the outbreak of the Second World War the family was living at 145 Tivoli Road. Alfred was killed in the bombing of the nearby Rose and Crown pub, 1 Crown Lane, evidently his "local" 350 metres away, on 18 October 1940. This air-raid claimed 21 civilian lives.

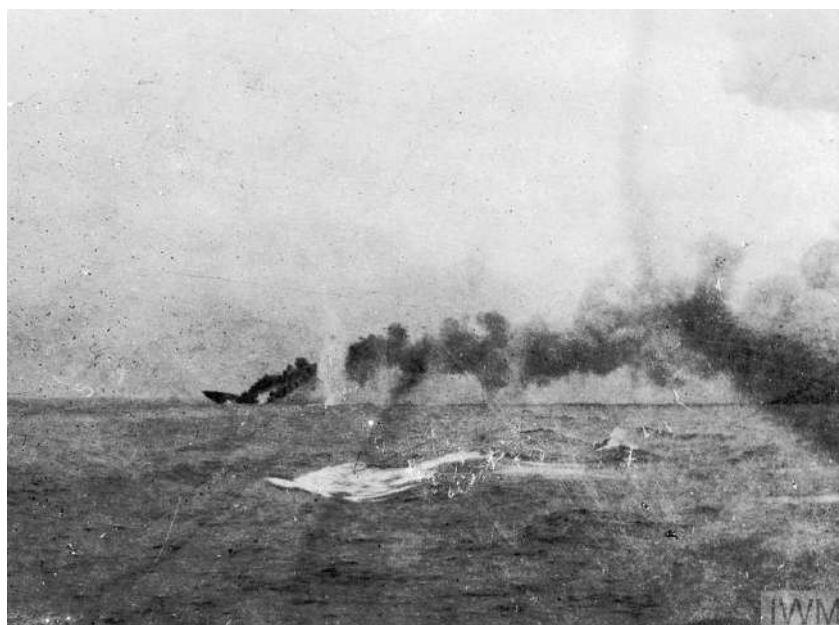
- **Alfred George and Albert Arthur Perkins were brothers, Albert dying on his brother Alfred's 20th birthday.**

## Albert Arthur Perkins (1891-1918) – Able Bodied Seaman Royal Navy

Lost at sea, commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial.

(NB: not known to be commemorated at West Norwood but included here for the sake of interest).

Albert Perkins was born on 20 June 1893. He joined the Navy on 15 August 1909 as Boy Second Class, and by 1912 was an Able Bodied Seaman. Prior to the war he had served on the armoured cruiser HMS *Leviathan*, the battleship HMS *Hibernia*, and the armoured cruiser HMS *Devonshire*. He was on-shore at the start of the war until 24 July 1915 when he was posted to the battlecruiser HMS *Indefatigable*.



HMS *Indefatigable* sinking just prior to the final explosion (Imperial War Museum Q 64302).

On 31 May 1916 *Indefatigable* was part of the 2nd Battlecruiser Squadron in Admiral Beatty's Battlecruiser Fleet. They set out from the Firth of Forth ahead of the Grand Fleet to intercept

the German Navy encountering Admiral Hipper's battlecruisers at 15.30 at the start of what would become known as the Battle of Jutland. Running parallel to the enemy as they turned south, *Indefatigable* was the last ship in the line, and it engaged the German battlecruiser *Von der Tann*. The enemy fire (opening at 15.49) was accurate, the British fire falling beyond the German ships. At around 16:00, *Indefatigable* was hit around the rear turret by shells from *Von der Tann*. The German ship fired 52 shells at her in all. She fell out of formation to starboard and started sinking towards the stern and listing to port. A further salvo likely caused explosions in the forward magazines at 16:03 – smoke and flames erupted from the forward part of the ship and large pieces were thrown 200 feet into the air. Blown in half, she sank, only three of her crew of 1,019 surviving, many killed by the supersonic shockwave that followed the explosion of the rear magazine.

### **Albert Geoffrey Phillips (1890-1966) – Private London Regiment and Royal Irish Fusiliers**

Buried grave 34,970, square 87. Memorial unknown.

Albert Phillips was born c. 1890, the son of Henry Phillips (a builder). He worked as a school teacher, living at 69 Shakespeare Road, Herne Hill in 1920, when he married Dorothy Theresa Hillebrand (1892-1944), another teacher, killed by a V1 flying bomb in 1944 at 325 Norbury Crescent.

He served as Private (5503) in the 1/24th Battalion London Regiment, having enlisted on 12 January 1916. In April 1916 he suffered tonsillitis/pharyngitis, followed by influenza in February 1917 and was admitted to the War Hospital, Thorpe, Norwich. He was transferred to the Reserve (attending Signal School, Dunstable), then returned to the Western Front on 30 March 1918, transferring as Private (45744 & 22427) to the 9th Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers on 2 April. He suffered a gunshot wound to the back some 10 days later and was hospitalised in France. He then wounded once more, gunshot wounds to his legs, on 1 July 1918, this described as "severe". He had burns and blisters to his thighs, hands and face. This was followed by scarlet fever, and he returned home to the Military Hospital, York.

He was buried on 3 June 1966.

### **Frederick Thomas Robinson (1875-1936) Private Army Service Corps**

Buried grave 37,891, square 80 (Kathleen Robinson, buried 5 November 1931). Memorial unknown.

Frederick Robinson was born c.1875 in Bradford, Yorkshire, and may well have been orphaned before age five. He moved to Cricklewood and worked as a warehouseman. He was married to Kathleen Robinson (1887-1931, formerly Birrell). He enlisted on 15 June 1916, when he lived at 2 Oxgate Cottage, Lower Oxted Lane, Cricklewood (but at the end of the war his address was 3 Longmead Road, West Norwood), serving as Private T/4110796 In Royal Army Service Corps Motor Transport, firstly with 316 Company, with whom he landed in France on 28 June 1915. He was medically classified as B1 due to his age. In February 1918 he committed the crime of smoking in the workshop and was confined to barracks for seven days. He volunteered to remain in France until August 1919, serving with 4 Auxiliary Petrol Company.

He was buried on 15 February 1936.

### **Ernest Thomas Rolls (1887-1941) Royal Navy**

WW2 Civilian War Dead. Buried grave 35,694, square 85 (William Rolls, died 4 March 1936). Memorial exists.



Ernest Rolls was born on 9 August 1887 in Newington. He was the son of William Rolls (1846-1936, a professor of music) and his wife Emily Frances (1861-1945, formerly Brown). Unemployed in September 1939, he lived at 50 Wansey Street, Walworth, where he died during an air raid on 8 March 1941.

He enlisted on 2 January 1915 in the Royal Navy but was invalided on 18 February.

His brother Albert Leonard Rolls, who died in 1918 serving with the Australian Infantry, is commemorated on the family grave, and features in our companion volume, *Norwood and the Great War*.

## William Harold Stuart-Clark (1892-1944) – Lieutenant Commander Royal Naval Reserve

Buried in grave 24,989, square 99 (William Henry Clark died 25 December 1903, age 69). Memorial exists.



William Stuart-Clark was born on 9 February 1892 in Streatham, the son of Frederick Stuart-Clark (1860-1933, a solicitor) and Emma Flower Stuart-Clark (1860-1928, formerly Goode). He was married to Anna Helen Stuart-Clark (1894-1980, formerly Sparks) of 'Sunray', Merdon Avenue, Chandler's Ford, Hampshire. (Their marriage cannot be traced and may have occurred overseas).

He entered the Royal Navy as a Midshipman in October 1912, becoming a Lieutenant in April 1916, and retired at his own request in April 1923, being removed from the retired list ten years later. He served initially on HMS *Revenge* (a pre-dreadnought battleship used as a training school) and HMS *Roxburgh*, an armoured cruiser. Trained in signalling, at the outbreak of war he was stationed on *Brittania*, a cable ship, at St Helena as Third Officer. This ship was owned by the Eastern Telegraph Company and was being used for cable repairs on the Eastern network. He returned to the UK in January 1917 but left again that April on cable ship *Amber*, serving until that November.

Returning to the Royal Navy he underwent a period of training and then served on the battlecruiser HMS *Inflexible* until early 1919 when he returned to the cable ships *Recorder* and *Magnet* (as Second Officer), then *Patrol*, *Recorder* and *Magnet* (as Chief Officer), and lastly *Magnet* and *Patrol* (as Second Officer). At the end of 1922 he was invalided home from Singapore, although he returned there on retirement. (On a later journey there in 1930 he was described as 'Master Mariner. Secretary Singapore Cricket Club'). He was mobilised as a retired Lieutenant Commander on 28 August 1939, and made Staff Officer (Intelligence) on 1 January 1940. He died at Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood, on 21 February 1944, of cancer.



## Albert Ernest Tadman (1887-1953) – Private Rifle Brigade & Driver Royal Field Artillery

Buried grave 40,719, square 124. Memorial exists.



Albert Ernest Tadman was born on 29 June 1887 in Lambeth, the son of John Robert Tadman (1849-1893, a painter). He was married to Patience Rosina Amelia Tadman (1886-1962, formerly Eller). He worked as a labourer.

He volunteered on 12 September 1914 as Private (S4104) in the 9th Battalion Rifle Brigade when he lived at 245 Rommany Road,

West Norwood. He was discharged medically unfit on 14 December (having been deemed fit on enlistment) with a stiff foot. He re-enlisted, however, on 15 May 1915, Driver (94406) in the Royal Field Artillery (537 Howitzer Battery, 332 Brigade). He went to the Western Front on 13 March 1917. He forfeited two days pay in January 1918 overstaying leave. He was transferred to 147 Army Brigade RFA on 14 January 1918.

He died on 29 December 1953.

## George Hugh Tollit (1873-1951) – Captain Durham Light Infantry

Buried grave 37,970 square 91 (Lily Tollitt buried 21 March 1932). Memorial exists.

George Tollit was born c.1873 in Harrogate, Yorkshire (where his parents married) but was baptised in Oxford, the son of George and Emily Stanning Tollit (b.c.1850, formerly Shutt).

He had previously served with the 4th Royal Irish Dragoon Guards, and had been stationed in India. He may have remained there and only returned to the UK in 1911 when he worked as a clerk for the Coxtan Publishing Company. He was married to Lily Tollit.

He served in the Great War as Honorary Lieutenant and Quartermaster in the 11th Battalion Durham Light Infantry. He suffered illness in 1917 - myalgia/rheumatism (this described as 'long-standing' and it was noted that he had 17 years of Indian Service during which he had contracted malaria), which caused him to recuperate in the UK from 7 January, rejoining his unit on 3 June. He was Mentioned in Dispatches. In 1919 he commanded 229, 299 & 279 Prisoner of War Companies.

He died on 25 February 1951.



### **Frank Wilkins (1895-1915) – Corporal Highland Light Infantry**

Buried Lillers Communal Cemetery. Inscription grave 33,908, square 106 (Elizabeth Collins died 29 Jan 1915). Memorial lost.

Frank Wilkins was born in 1895 in Sutton at Hone, Kent, the son of Charles England Wilkins (b.c. 1862, a life assurance clerk) and his wife Helena Jane (b.c.1863, formerly Collins) of 'Arley', Merstham, Surrey.

He went to the Western Front on 24 August 1915, and served as Corporal (22204) in the 2nd Battalion Highland Light Infantry and, according to the family memorial, 'died of wounds 9 Oct 1915'. The regimental medal roll states, however, 'attached 9th Entrenching Battalion'. On 9 October 2nd Highland Light Infantry were out of the front line, training. On 2 and 3 October they had been in the front line in Gun Trench, Hulluch, and had suffered 91 casualties. Official records throw up further confusions – the CWGC records state that two men of this name from 2nd HLI died that day, Private (1020) being commemorated on the Loos Memorial. Only this Frank Wilkins is listed on the Soldier Died in the Great War database, born in Swanley in 1895. This individual does not have a medal card, but Frank Wilkins (22204) does. He, too was born in Swanley, as the 1911 census shows.

### **Francis George Wood (1883-1940) – Rifleman King's Royal Rifle Corps & Lance Corporal Military Foot Police.**

WW2 Civilian War Dead. Buried common grave 21,934, square 44.

Francis Wood was born on 20 January 1883 in Bermondsey, the son of Edward Wood (1843-1912, a packing case maker) and his wife Ellen Maria (b.c.1848, formerly Hallett). He later worked as a newsagent, and was the husband of Florence Marian Wood (1877-1946, formerly Ward) of 76 Herne Hill Road. At the time he enlisted on 11 December 1915 he lived at 14 Dunstons Road, East Dulwich, and worked as a lamp attendant/gas rate collector.

He served as Rifleman (R/35733) in the 1st and 5th Battalions King's Royal Rifle Corps and went to the Western Front on 4 March 1917, but was transferred as Lance Corporal (P/16458) to the Military Foot Police at Aldershot in October 1918. Had been gassed ("pois 'B' shell") on 22 June 1918, but was also described as having 'defective vision'.

He died at his home on 26 September 1940 as a result of enemy bombing.