



East Barnet 1914 - 1918

The stories of the fifty five
villagers who gave their lives



Suggested Donation: £2.50

FOREWORD

The commemoration of the centenary of the outbreak of the Great War has caused a huge amount of interest. Hundreds of books have been published, many good television programmes made and there has been much debate as to its causes and its results. But above all we are remembering the countless individual lives of those who died or were wounded.

Above all I remember my Irish grandfather John Scott McCloughlin. He served throughout the war in Flanders, at the Somme and again in Flanders. He was severely wounded but lived until his 80s. He was a quiet, dignified old gentleman when I knew him as a child. What memories he must have had but he doesn't seem to have shared them. After the war ended he married Alice Elliott, my lovely grandmother. Alice's three brothers were killed during the war, the eldest amongst the first casualties in August 1914. What sad memories my jolly grandmother kept to herself.

Most families have similar stories. Each life was unique and this booklet reminds us of that. For the last 11 years I have heard the names from the Great War recorded on the war memorial in East Barnet read aloud in the Church service on Remembrance Sunday and I have wondered who they all were. Now thanks to Gemma Hawkins and others we can know something about almost all of them.

They died not just in France or Belgium but in Gaza or at sea off Egypt. So many of them lived in small cottages in East Barnet with large families but some were 'gentry' and one was a butler. Two had emigrated to the dominions but returned to Europe to die. Sometimes there is a record of their modest possessions returned to their families. Some have known graves beautifully maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission but some have no known grave and are listed on the Menin Gate or at Thiépval or Tyne Cot.

We can visualise them as we walk around East Barnet – their cottages or the businesses where they worked. They were real people not just black and white posed photographs.

This excellent booklet will be part of our remembering, our making them real again in our minds and imaginations. They will no longer just be a list of names.

We will remember them.

Colin Smith

Minister, Brookside Methodist Church

INTRODUCTION

“WHERE have all the soldiers gone, long time passing... where have all the soldiers gone, long time ago...?” The plaintive folk song asks the question, but provides only part of the answer: “Gone to the graveyards, every one...”

However, in the case of the Great War it could mention that many of the soldier and sailor boys have not gone to graves, having been blown to pieces in the trenches, drowned in a wilderness of mud or lost at sea. So although the fields of Flanders, the Somme and countless other battle scenes, as well as the channel shores are dotted with war cemeteries, many of those who lost their lives simply had their name, rank and number carved into the walls of memorials.

Such is the case of some of the 55 East Barnet villagers who ‘joined up’ a century ago and left their homes in response to Kitchener’s call, never to return. Others, of course, do lie in cemeteries which are lovingly tended by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission — corners of foreign fields which are forever England, as war poet Rupert Brooke put it. They can be visited at any time and it is not very difficult to trace a particular man’s grave as each cemetery (except some of the smaller ones) has a register, kept in an unlocked metal safe beside its gate. The gravestones themselves stand gleaming white in gun barrel straight ranks, just as their occupants did when on parade. Each bears the man’s identity, except where it is unknown, when the inscription reads simply ‘a soldier of the Great War known unto God.’

Here in East Barnet the names of our honoured war dead are on the memorial outside Brookside Methodist Church and on a brass plaque in St Mary’s Parish Church at the top of Church Hill Road. The plaque can be viewed on Saturday lunchtimes, when the church is open to visitors, and on Sundays before or after services. In our list, some men are simply not traceable as many records were destroyed in the Second World War, while other families provided only meagre details for the official records.

After the war, a wooden memorial was placed in the centre of the village. It stood on a small green triangle of land, once the site of the village pump. It was replaced in 1920 by a cross on a shaft of Cornish grey granite.

Mike Pearce

Editor of the Church Hill Herald

Anderson, A

Alfred Anderson was born in Ware, Hertfordshire in 1897. He was the youngest son of James and Alice Anderson, who by 1911 had moved the family to East Barnet. Here, they lived and worked in the bakery at 1 Jubilee Terrace (which is still a bakery to this day). Alfred had 7 siblings: Florence, James, Jessie, Lily, Katie, Frederick and Hilda.

Alfred fought in 2/14th (County of London) Battalion (London Scottish), London Regiment which was formed in September 1914.

He died on 14th October 1918, the first day of the Battle of Courtrai. Alfred is buried at Derry House Cemetery No. 2 in Belgium.



The Andersons' bakery can be seen here on the far left

Anderson, F

Frederick Anderson was Alfred's brother, born a year earlier in 1896. By the age of fourteen he had finished school and become a round boy in the family bakery business.

He fought with Alfred in the same battalion after enlisting in Watford in April 1916. Frederick was killed in action in France on 28th March 1918.

His memorial is at Orchard Dump Cemetery, Arleux-en-Gohelle.

Ardley, C H

Charles Harrington Ardley was born on 25th March 1884 in Kensington to William, a provision dealer, and his wife Emily. Charles and his siblings spent their childhood in the city, living on Earls Court Road.

Charles became a Stockbroker's Clerk by the age of seventeen and continued living with his parents throughout his twenties until he married on 9th July 1914; weeks before war broke out. Together, Charles and his wife Winifred moved to "Athlone" on Alverstone Avenue, East Barnet.

Charles became Lance Sergeant in the 5th (City of London) Battalion, London Regiment, (London Rifle Brigade). He died on 9th June 1918, at a Military Hospital in York.

As Charles worked at the London Stock Exchange, he is commemorated on the memorial there. He is buried alongside his wife at Hendon Cemetery, where his inscription reads: "With all honour before God and men, Charles Harrington Ardley Sergeant L.R.B. who died of wounds received in the defence of Arras giving his life in the service of his country and his soul to God."

Ashpole, J

John Ashpole was born in 1896 in Barnet. He lived at 6 & 7 Church Hill Cottages with his parents and four younger siblings. His father worked as Labour Master for a time, at the Church Farm Industrial School.

John trained to become a gardener before joining the 9th Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment; a reserve battalion which remained in England. Sadly, John contracted meningitis while in training and died on 17th February 1916, with his mother Annie by his side. He is buried at Colchester Cemetery.

Berry, GEG

George Edward Gerald Berry was born in Mile End, London, but spent much of his childhood in Wales. In 1891, the family lived in Merthyr Tydfil, and in 1901 in Glyntaff, outside Caerphilly.

In 1911, George resided at Stanhope Lines Military Barracks, Aldershot. Here his rank was Driver and he was assigned to caring for the horses. By this time, George's family had moved to 10 East Barnet Terrace. George Sr became a shopkeeper, and is listed in Kelly's Directory of Hertfordshire, 1914.

George became Sergeant in the 40th Divisional Signals Company, Royal Engineers. He died on 29th October 1918, just four days before demobilisation began, and is buried at Herinnes Communal Cemetery.

Brice, A

Arthur Brice was born in 1882, the second of five sons to William and Elizabeth Brice who lived at 5 Wootton's Cottages, East Barnet Road.

On 4th November 1911, Arthur married Florence Edith Metcalf Joynson at St Mary of Bethany, Leeds. His profession is listed as a porter.

Arthur served in the 37th (Howitzer) Battery, Royal Field Artillery. His medal index card shows that he received a clasp for his 1914 Star Medal. This clasp was issued to men who not only served in France and Flanders in 1914, but who were under fire between 5th August and 22nd November of that year.

Arthur died on 2nd May 1918 and is buried at Couin New British Cemetery.

Bunyan, J G

Records for a J G Bunyan could not be found, but the following information was retrieved, so it is possible that the initial 'G' was a typographical error.

Joseph Thomas Bunyan was born on 16th November 1898 at Jackson's Cottage, Cat Hill. He lived with his mother, Agnes, and grandfather, Thomas.

Joseph enlisted at Watford and joined the 7th Battalion, Norfolk Regiment. He died of wounds on 6th September 1918 and is buried at Dernancourt Communal Cemetery.

Cannon, J F

John Frederick Cannon was born in Essex in 1890. He became a carpenter like his father, Henry, and the family moved to 68 Jackson Road. In 1914 at the age of 24, he joined the 97th Field Company, Royal Engineers.

John proceeded to France during the first week of September. His Company was in action at the Battles of the Somme and later during the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line, the Arras offensive and Passchendaele.

Sapper Cannon died of gunshot wounds on 18th June 1917 and is buried at Grevillers British Cemetery. Among his effects returned to his father were eight letters, three photographs, a wristwatch and a crucifix.

Carter, A F

Albert Frank Carter was born in Barnet in 1895. He lived at 2 Grantham Terrace, East Barnet Road in 1901 with his parents and sister Jennie. Later that year, Albert's father Frank sadly died at the age of 29.

By age sixteen, Albert had found work as a 'printer's boy' while his mother Martha was a dressmaker. In 1911 they lived in one room at 21 Middle Road.

Albert trained at Hertford Barracks and became Lance Sergeant in 1st Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment. His battalion arrived in France in August 1914. Forming part of 5th Division, it was engaged in many battles in France and Flanders.

Albert died on 3rd September 1916 at the Battle of Guillemont, where the 1st was involved in the capture of Falfemont Farm. His memorial is at La Neuville British Cemetery.

Childs, W

Whitney Childs was born in Barnet in 1886, the son of James and Catherine who lived at 3 Littlegrove Cottages. He married Alice Pitts at St Mary's on 7th August 1911 and became a Butler at Littlegrove. Together he and Alice had a son, Leslie Whitney, on 12th December 1914.

Whitney served firstly in 4th Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment and then in the 108th Company, Machine Gun Corps. He died on 17th May 1917 and is buried at Dranoutre Military Cemetery, south of Ypres.

Whitney's brother George and his wife Beatrice had a son, Jack Whitney, in 1910. Jack served with the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve during World War II. He died on 18th November 1943.

Christopher, L de L

Leonard de Lona Christopher was born on 21st October 1883 in Iver Heath, Buckinghamshire, to a military family. His father was born in India and was a Major-General in the Indian Army.

Leonard was educated at Wellington College and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. He then spent just over a year in the North Staffordshire Regiment, before joining 40th Pathans in 1905.

At St Mary's East Barnet on 4th June 1913, Leonard married Edith Marian Bulman of Trevor Hall. By the age of 22, Leonard was Lieutenant in the 40th Pathans and he continued to serve with them as his regiment was posted to Flanders.

Leonard was killed in the Second Battle of Ypres on 26th April 1915 and was buried in a farm three quarters of a mile north of the village of St Jean. In de Ruvigny's Roll of Honour, a fellow officer wrote that Leonard was 'dearly loved in the regiment and died a very gallant death at the head of his men.' His colonel wrote that as "Chris" died, he said the word "Mehr bani." Translated from Hindi, this is taken to mean "everything is okay by the grace of God."



Leonard de Lona Christopher

Clarke, R G

Robert George Clarke was born in Barnet in 1889 to George, a carpenter, and his wife Emma. In 1901, the family lived at 1 Stockdale Cottages, Cat Hill. Robert had seven siblings: Florence, Ethel, William, Daisy, Dorothy, Louisa and Baden. Robert later moved away to Hampshire where he worked as a bricklayer's labourer. He married Evelyn Mary Smith in 1911.

Robert joined 13th Battalion, The Rifle Brigade, (Prince Consort's Own) at Winchester in September 1914. On 10th July 1916, the 13th was subject to a four-hour bombardment in the trenches, and later suffered heavy machine gun fire. The attack cost the battalion 20 officers and 380 other ranks; which sadly included Rifleman Clarke. He is remembered at the Thiepval Memorial.

Clarke, W E

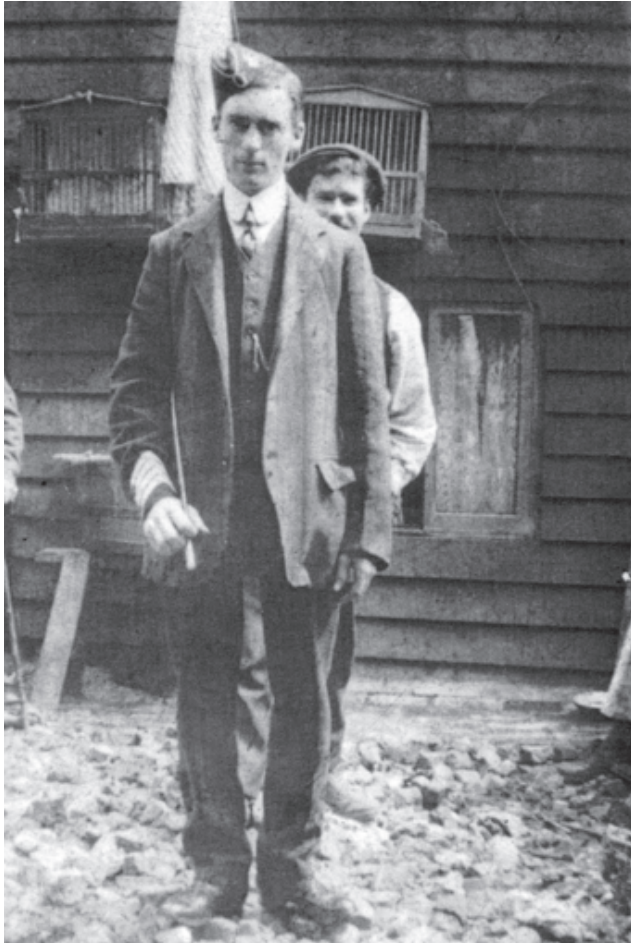
William Ewart Clarke was born in 1891 in Barnet. He married Clara Lamb at St Barnabas, Finchley, on 24th May 1915 and worked as a gardener.

Like his brother Robert (see above), William became a Rifleman. He fought in 3rd Battalion, Rifle Brigade (Prince Consort's Own). A medical form in William's records alluded to a possible heart condition: "He can only be described as a weakling who is never at all likely to become a fit soldier." In spite of this diagnosis, William landed at Le Havre on 3rd April 1917. He was killed in action on 21st June, shortly after the battle of Messines Ridge.

William's memorial is at Menin Gate, Ypres.



Jackson Road, (above) was home to many of the men.



Brothers Robert (left) and William Clarke (right)

Cox, F

Frederick Ernest Cox was born in Tottenham in 1871, son of William and Sarah.

He married Harriet Holliday at St Mark's Church, Bow, on 22nd February 1903. Frederick and Harriet had five children: Frederick, Lilian, Henry, Alice and Ernest. They came to live at 23 Middle Road.

Frederick served in the Indian Campaigns between 1889-1897 and with the 16th (Queen's) Lancers in the Boer War. He received the Queen's South Africa Medal and clasps for Belfast, Cape Colony and Orange Free State.

In the Great War, Frederick was in the Royal Engineers with the 277th Railway Company, which was in action in France from March 1916.

Frederick was killed at Passchendaele and is commemorated at Canada Farm War Memorial, north of Ypres.



Frederick and his family in 1916, while he was home on leave.

Cox, L

Leslie Cox was born in 1898, the youngest son of Charles and Elizabeth Cox. Charles was a newsagent and tobacconist, while Elizabeth was a dressmaker.

In 1911 the family lived at 25 Fergusson Road (now Welbeck Road). Leslie was aged 12 and attended school.

Leslie joined 1st Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment). This battalion fought in many of the major battles on the Western Front throughout the war, and helped to strengthen the Italian resistance in late 1917. In April 1918, they returned to France. Leslie was killed in action on 13th April at the Battle of Hazebrouck. He is commemorated at the Ploegsteert Memorial in Belgium.

Cox, N

Norman Frederick Cox was born in 1893, the elder brother of Leslie (above). He married Elizabeth Mabel Parrott at St Mary's on 8th August 1915.

Norman became Sergeant in the 4th Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment. The 4th was the "Special Reserve" battalion of the regiment but was mobilised in July 1916.

Norman died on 29th April 1917, the second day of the Battle of Arleux. He is commemorated on the Arras Memorial.

Cullington, P W

Percy William Cullington was born in 1896 in Edmonton, the eldest of five children. His parents were William and Ada. In 1911 he was employed as a Photographer and lived with his family at 29 Jackson Road in East Barnet.

Percy became Rifleman in 21st Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps, which landed in France on 4th May 1916. He died just four months later on 15th September 1916, the day of the Battle of Flers. Percy is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial.

Dale, B

Benjamin Dale was born in Barnet in around 1881. His parents were George and Rebecca and he had five younger siblings: Harriet, Edward, Charles, Maude and Florence (Florrie).

In 1901, at the age of 19, he lived at 37 Jackson Road and worked as a railway labourer.

Benjamin served in the 2nd Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment.

He died on 12th October 1916 at the Battle of Le Transloy and is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial.

Day, C W

Charles William Day was born in Barnet in 1898, the only child of Charlie and Maria; who were originally from Yorkshire. Charlie was the Head Teacher of the Boys' School in Cockfosters and the family lived in the schoolhouse there. Charles' mother Maria was also a teacher at the school. At age 13 on the 1911 census, Charles lived on Carter Lane in the City of London. He was a pupil at the school for Choristers of St Paul's Cathedral.

Three years later, Charles joined the 1/19th Battalion, London Regiment Machine Gun Section.

At the start of the Battle of Loos on 25th September 1915, the 1/19th Battalion suffered the heaviest casualties within 47th Division (14 officers and 372 other ranks). Charles was among the six thousand British men killed on that day. He was seventeen years old. Among his effects were "a crucifix, 3 devotional books and a mouth organ (broken)."

Private Day is commemorated on the Loos Memorial.

Dollin, R

Raymond Dollin was born in 1893 to Frederick and Rachel Dollin of Littlegrove Cottages (neighbours of Whitney Childs, mentioned above). He had four siblings: Percival, Gerald, Elsie and Winifred. Raymond became a gardener and at age 19 worked at Wales Manor, near Worksop in Nottinghamshire.

Raymond joined the 12th Battalion, Northumberland Fusiliers; which was formed in September 1914. Training took place around Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire and the battalion proceeded to France at the beginning of September 1915. Raymond was killed just a few weeks later on 25th September - the first day of the Battle of Loos.

Raymond's name is on the Loos Memorial.

Eales, W J

William James Eales was born in Barnet in 1897. He lived at Fergusson Road with his parents George and Sarah and four younger siblings.

William joined 7th Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment).

Corporal Eales died of wounds on 11th August 1918, the last day of the Battle of Amiens. He is buried at Pernois British Cemetery, Halloy-Les-Pernois.

Elliott, T

Tom Elliott was born on 14th September 1897 in West Derby, Lancashire to Mary Elliott and her husband John, an insurance agent. Tragically, Tom lost both his parents very young. John passed away when Tom was only eight weeks old. Mary remarried the next year but died in 1902.

Tom came to live in East Barnet when Annie Carter, a tobacconist and confectioner of East Barnet Road, adopted him.

Tom joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve and became a Signalman aboard HMS Sarnia. The ship was torpedoed off Alexandria and sank on 12th September 1918. Tom's body could not be recovered for burial but he is commemorated at Chatham Naval Memorial in Kent.

Emery, G B

George Bernard Emery was born in Barnet in 1880. He lived in Brookhill Road with his parents and three siblings. He became a cart driver like his father and married in 1905. George and his wife Agnes had two daughters, Margaret and Gladys, and lived at 4 Sellwood Cottages on Church Hill Road.

George fought in 6th Battalion, The Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), which landed at Boulogne in 1915. He was killed on 19th January 1917 and is buried at Faubourg D'Amiens Cemetery, Arras.

Freeman, C

Charles William Freeman was born in Barnet in 1894.

By 1911, Charles had joined 4th Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment, and lived at the barracks in Hertford. He later transferred to 8th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment and began serving in France on 28th July 1915.

Charles died on 20th July 1917 and is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial.

Frost, A E

Albert Edward Frost, and his twin sister Katherine, were born on 20th July 1886 in Tottenham. The family lived in Sussex for a time until they moved to East Barnet and on the 1901 census they resided at 66 Jackson Road. Then aged 14, Albert was a market gardener, while Katherine worked as a dressmaker.

In 1908, Albert travelled alone from Liverpool to Quebec, Canada on the "Virginian" Passenger ship. The 1911 Canadian Census shows he lodged with the Pye family in Manitoba and had become a Canadian citizen.

Records show that in 1914, at age 29, he joined the 1st Canadian Mounted Rifles (Saskatchewan Regiment). On 1st September 1915, Albert was considered fit to serve in the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force. His enlistment record described him as 5'9" tall, with blue eyes and light brown hair.

The Canadian War Graves Register reported that “Whilst in the front line trenches, in the vicinity of Mouquet Farm, near Courcelette, on the morning of September 15th 1916, he was killed by shell fire.”

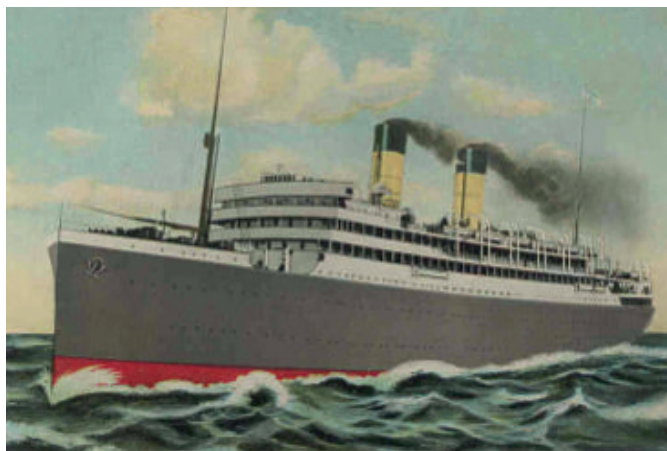
Albert is commemorated at the Vimy Memorial.

Griffiths, J

John Daniel Griffiths was born in St Pancras in 1873. His father Charles worked as a stonemason. The Griffiths family was quite large - John had seven siblings: Charles, Emily, Alice, Jane, Ada, Florence and Edith.

In 1891 at age 17 John still lived with his parents and worked as a Blacksmith's Hammerman. Three years later he married Julia Hannah Cox in Islington. John became a Blacksmith's Striker and he and Julia had 10 children together; though sadly, two died in infancy. In 1911 they lived at 22a Fergusson Road with their children: Julia, John, William, Laura, Daisy, Gladys, Stanley and Irene.

John served in the 18th Labour Company, Royal Army Service Corps. He died at sea on 13th August 1915 when his troopship, Royal Edward, was sunk by a German torpedo. John is commemorated at Helles Memorial.



RMS Royal Edward

Hardwidge, F

Frederick Hardwidge was born in 1899 in Barnet. He lived at 4 Victoria Avenue with his parents and siblings.

Frederick enlisted in the 7th Reserve Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, in 1915. He arrived in Boulogne in April 1917 from Folkestone, and transferred to 13th battalion on 12th May. Frederick was killed less than a month later on 7th June 1917.

Frederick is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial. His mother, Jane, received his war medals in 1921.

Hardwidge, J

J Hardwidge of 1/5th Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment, died on 13th Dec 1918. It was reported in the battalion's war diary that he was found drowned in the Suez Canal. Although Hardwidge is a fairly uncommon name, there were in fact two Joseph Hardwidges born in East Barnet within a year of each other, making it difficult to provide information on Joseph's earlier life.

Joseph is commemorated at the Kantara Memorial, north-east of Cairo.

Hardwidge, T

Thomas Edward Hardwidge was born around 1856 in Clerkenwell, London. He joined the Royal Navy at the age of 15. In 1871, he was ranked "Boy 2nd Class" aboard HMS Ganges. By 1881, he was an Able Seaman aboard HMS Duncan, which was stationed at Sheerness. Thomas was discharged from the Navy in 1895 and then worked as a carman and scaffolder.

Thomas married Jane and they had twelve children (including Frederick, above). In 1911 the family lived at 19 Middle Road.

Thomas joined up in November 1915 and served in the Army Service Corps with the Base Horse Transport Depot. Whilst serving in Egypt, Thomas was reported missing, and was found drowned a few days later on 27th March 1917. He is buried at Alexandria (Hadra) War Memorial Cemetery.

Harrington, A E

Alfred Ernest Harrington was the son of Arthur, a coachman from Yorkshire. He was born in the Regent's Park area in 1889.

Alfred married Frances Rosina Honey in 1910 and had a daughter, Margaret, in 1911. The family lived on Long Lane in Finchley, but later moved to 5 Middle Road in East Barnet. They had 3 more children: Thomas, John and Alfred.

Alfred served in the 1st Cavalry Division, Army Service Corps. He died on 21st October 2014 and is buried at Bailleul Communal Cemetery.

Alfred's birth was registered in the last three months of 1914, so it seems likely that, sadly, Alfred Sr would never have met his youngest son.

Hawkins, J

Joseph Hawkins was born in 1882 and grew up in Hadley with his parents and six siblings.

He married Beatrice Ellen Pratchett on Christmas Day 1904 and they went on to have 6 children of their own: Annie, Frances, Vera, Horace, Gwendolen and Melinda. The family lived at 31a Fergusson Road.

Joseph was called up in 1917 and served firstly in the Surrey Regiment. He headed from Folkestone to France in June that year and later transferred to 6th Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment). Joseph was wounded in December 1917 and came home to receive treatment. He spent 90 days in the Duchess of Connaught Canadian Red Cross Hospital for an accidental bayonet wound to his left hand. He returned to service and his battalion was involved with many major battles throughout 1918. Joseph was killed on 28th August 1918 and is commemorated at the Vis-En-Artois Memorial.

Herbert, A C

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists an A C Herbert, who served in the 9th Battalion, Essex Regiment. He died on 9th December 1917 and is buried at St. Souplet British Cemetery.

An Alfred Charles Herbert was found living with his wife and children in Winchmore Hill in 1911. However, it has not been possible at this time to determine any further concrete evidence about this man which would link him to East Barnet.

Hodgson, J F

John Francis Hodgson was the son of Joshua and Isabella Hodgson. He was born in Bradford in 1886, but by 1891, the family had moved to Stoke Newington.

John and his younger brother Herbert grew up in East London and by the age of fifteen, John had finished school and started a career as a bank clerk. By 1911 he owned his own home in Leyton and was even able to afford a servant.

He became a Signaller with HQ Company, 26th Battalion (Bankers), Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).

The record of John's death during the Great War shows that he was resident in East Barnet, but there are no further details. John died on 10th October 1916 during the Battle of the Transloy Ridges, and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial.



**Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial
Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium**

The Menin Gate Memorial bears the names of more than 54,000 officers and men whose graves are not known. It was unveiled on 24 July 1927.

Hufford, W H

William Herbert Hufford was born in Barnet in 1894. He was one of seven children born to George and Emily. His siblings were Frederick, George, Leonard, Sidney, Alice and Kate. The family lived at 18 Jackson Road.

William joined 4th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment in September 1910 and in 1911 resided at Albuhera Barracks, Aldershot along with his brother, Leonard.

William's records show that during service he suffered frostbite in both feet, a contusion to his back and a hearing impairment. He was reported missing and was regarded as having died on or since 28th April 1917 at the Battle of Arleux. He is commemorated on the Arras Memorial.

Leonard Hufford survived the war, married in 1921 and lived into his eighties.

Kirkland, R

Richard Kirkland was born in Hackney in 1891. His parents, William and Harriet, came from County Donegal and married in London in 1889. Richard had an older sister, Florence, and was followed by William, Elsie, Annie and Lillian. In 1911, Richard lived with his family at 1 Middle Road and worked as a gardener.

Richard enlisted at Hornsey and joined 22nd Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment). He died on 17th February 1917 during the Actions of Miraumont and is commemorated at the Thiepval Memorial.

Kirkland, W

William Andrew Kirkland was born in Barnet in 1893, brother of Richard, mentioned above.

William was in the 2nd Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment. Lance Corporal Kirkland was killed in action on 12th October 1916. He is commemorated at Bienvillers Military Cemetery.



**Thiepval Memorial
Somme, France**

Its panels contain 72,195 names and it is dedicated to the missing of the Somme.



**Tyne Cot Memorial
Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium**

Its panels contain 34,948 names and the memorial is one of four dedicated to the missing in Belgian Flanders.

Lambert, H F

Hugh Francis Lambert was born in Lancashire on 19th July 1887, the son of Mathew and Clara. By 1891, the family had moved to London. On 13th September that year, Hugh was baptised at St Mary's, Acton, with his four siblings: Clara, Horace, Frederick and Herbert.

Hugh married Florence Cox in East Barnet on 24th December 1911 and they had three children: Florence, Hugh and Frances Verdun. Frances was born on 12th August 1916, in the middle of the Battle of Verdun, being fought by the French army.

In December 1915, while living at 10 East Barnet Terrace with his family, Hugh joined 1st Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). He was posted to France in October 1916.

On 25th April 1918, Hugh suffered mustard gas poisoning and sadly died two days later.

In September, Hugh's belongings were sent back home to Florence. These included postcards, letters, a writing pad and photos. Florence and the children were awarded a weekly pension of 29 shillings and 7 pence.

Hugh is buried at Boulogne Eastern Cemetery.

Langdale, G H

George Henry Langdale was born in Barnet in 1889. He lived at 5 Church Hill Cottages with his parents, Thomas and Mary Ann. He had six siblings, Florence, Arthur, Freddie, Margaret (Maggie), Bertie and Violet. Later the family moved to 27a Fergusson Road and George worked as a market gardener. He married Winifred Garman in 1912 and they had a son, George, later that year.

George served in 3rd Battalion, Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment). He died on 30th September 1915 during the Battle of Loos, and is commemorated on the Loos Memorial.

Lauterbach, A P

Augustus Paul Lauterbach was born in St Pancras in 1897. He was named after his paternal grandfather who came from Germany to live in London.

Augustus' parents were Paul and Sarah, and he had six younger siblings: Cissie, Maud, Flossie, Herbert, Edwin and Kitty. In 1911 the family lived on East End Road, Finchley, but later moved to 63 Jackson Road in East Barnet.

Augustus served in the Hertfordshire Regiment, later joining 8th Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment. He died on 31st July 1917, when the battalion was involved in an attack on Rifle Farm, during the Battle of Pilckem Ridge. 7 officers and 170 other ranks were lost that day.

In 1940, during the Second World War, Augustus' brothers both changed their names by deed poll, presumably wishing to dissociate themselves with Germany. The brothers placed announcements in the London Gazette to declare that they renounced and abandoned the Lauterbach name. They took their wives' maiden names as their own and became Edwin Radlett and Herbert Gilbert respectively.

Law, C

Charles Henry Albert Law was born in 1886 in Hoxton, London.

He joined the Middlesex Regiment in 1911, while working as a Painter.

Charles married Nellie Potten in Devon, on 10th July 1912. They had two children, Ethel and Charles, before they moved to East Barnet. Charles was promoted to Sergeant in October 1914 and served with "B" Company, 4th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment.

At 7pm on 19th July 1915, a mine was detonated under a German trench position at Hooge, near Ypres. The crater created by the explosion was taken by men from the 4th Middlesex. It's possible that Charles was injured in this action, as he died of wounds on 20th July 1915.

Nellie was awarded a weekly pension of 1/6 for herself and two children.

Charles is buried at Brandhoek Military Cemetery.

Lawrence, W

Walter Lawrence was born in Hatfield in 1881. He married Mabel Gudgeon in 1903 and they had four children: Walter, Kate, George and Connie. In 1911 they lived at 24c Fergusson Road.

Walter served in the 26th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment). The 26th was part of 41st Division from November 1915 until the end of the war. In 1917, the 41st engaged in the Battle of the Menin Road, which took place between 20th-25th September.

Walter died of wounds on 21st September 1917. He is buried at Bailleul Communal Cemetery.

Matthews, A E

Albert Edward Matthews was born in 1899 in London. He lived with his parents, William and Kate, in Islington during his early years. By 1911, the family had moved to 53 Jackson Road, and Albert worked as a newsboy.

Albert enlisted for twelve years' army service as a boy soldier, aged 14 years, 18 days. He was described as "honest, sober, clean, industrious, intelligent." He sang in the choir of St James, New Barnet and was described as having a strong alto voice. In fact, his enlistment record states his occupation as 'musician'.

Albert was posted to France on 25th June 1917, with 5th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment. He later transferred to 1st Battalion of the same regiment.

Private Matthews died on 26th September 1917, and is commemorated at the Tyne Cot Memorial.



The centre of the village as pictured on a 1914 postcard



Canon Overton unveiling the War Memorial in 1920



The Memorial on its original site...



...and pictured after the Second World War in its present location.

Miles, F

Frederick William Miles was born in Buntingford, Hertfordshire in around 1893. He was the son of John and Annie, and had four brothers: David, Albert, Donald and Charles. John was a road labourer who worked for the District Council.

Upon joining the Territorial Force, Frederick lived at Colman's Cottage, 1 Cat Hill.

Frederick fought with the 262nd Brigade, Royal Field Artillery. He was ranked Driver and served at home until 1917, when he was posted to Salonika and then Egypt. On 20th October 1918, Frederick became seriously ill with malaria. Sadly, he succumbed to the illness six days later.

Frederick is commemorated at Alexandria (Hadra) War Memorial Cemetery.

Munns, R H

Robert Henry Munns was the eldest of seven children born to Alfred and Ellen Munns. In the 1891 Census, the family lived in Hertford but later moved to Cat Hill.

Robert enlisted into the 76th Battery, Royal Field Artillery and in 1908, at age 20, resided at Ewshott Barracks in Hampshire. He was posted to India on 29th November 1911.

Robert died on 19th August 1916 in Turkey and is buried at Baghdad North Gate Cemetery.

Munns, S G

Samuel George Munns (brother of Robert) was born in Hatfield in 1896. He joined the 7th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment in February 1915, but later transferred to the 1st Battalion, King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment). The 1st was engaged in heavy action in France in 1917. The First Battle of Passchendaele was fought on 12th October. On this day, Private Munns was reported missing and assumed to have been killed in action.

Samuel is commemorated at Cement House Cemetery, Belgium.

Parsons, C

Cecil Parsons was born in Bedford in 1892. He was one of seven sons born to Arthur and Mary. Cecil continued living in Bedford and in 1911, he worked as a Baker's Assistant.

Cecil came to live in Barnet, and married Ethel Parrin in the summer of 1914. Their daughter, Daisy, was born the following year.

Cecil enlisted at Mill Hill. He became Lance Corporal in 2nd Battalion, Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment). He died on 1st July 1916 and is commemorated at the Thiepval Memorial.

Relf, W E

Walter Edward Relf was born on 7th January 1885 in Hornsey.

In 1908 he married Florence Georgiana Clarke at St Mary's. They had two daughters - Florence in 1909 and Ethel in 1913. The family lived at 2 Stockdale Cottages, Cat Hill.

Walter enlisted in the Army Service Corps at Mill Hill in 1915. His employer at the time gave him a reference and described him as "honest, sober and industrious." Walter was promoted to Sergeant in January 1918.

Tragically, Walter lost both his legs in combat and died at a Casualty Clearing Station in France on 16th April 1918. He is buried at Haringhe (Bandaghem) Military Cemetery.



Sergeant W.E. Relf

East Barnet in 1914

East Barnet was a fast-growing suburb in the early 1900s. Between 1911 and 1914, the population of the village more than doubled from 3,133 to 8,763.

According to Kelly's Directory of Hertfordshire (1914), there were many local businesses already within the parish. At 1 Jubilee Terrace, the bakery was established and remains to this day. There were also two butchers, two dairymen and at least four grocers nearby. Other amenities included a laundry, stationery shop, dental surgeon, tobacconist, chemist, hair dresser and one or two fried fish dealers!

Ricks, FS (Mills)

Francis Sidney Ricks was born in Barnet in 1896. His parents were Francis and Hannah, and he had six brothers and sisters.

Francis and his siblings' births were all registered with the surname 'Ricks'. However, on the 1901 and 1911 Census returns, while living at Ivy Cottage, Church Hill Road, the entire family are listed as 'Mills'. The reason for this is so far unknown.

Francis served with 6th Battalion, Essex Regiment. He was killed in action on 26th March 1917, at the First Battle of Gaza, Palestine.

Francis is commemorated at the Jerusalem Memorial, Israel.

Thompson, H E

Harold Elton Thompson was born and baptised in East Barnet in 1894, one of eight children born to Thomas William and Ellen.

Harold enlisted at Hornsey on 27th February 1915. Firstly, he joined 3/7th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment. He transferred to 1st Battalion, King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment) in 1917. Harold was reported 'wounded and missing, assumed dead' on 12th October 1917, at the Battle of Passchendaele. He is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial.

One of Harold's brothers, Frank, had a son in 1920. He was also named Harold Elton and he lived into his seventies.

Vernon, W H

William Hamo Vernon was born on 16th July 1895 and his family moved to East Barnet from Birkenhead in the early 1900s. William's father was a flour miller, and oversaw the building of Millennium Mills at Royal Victoria Dock. The business was very successful, and William and his siblings grew up with a full household of servants.

William served in the 4th Battalion of the London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers).

The battle of the ridges at Le Transloy, north-eastern France, occurred between 1st – 18th October, 1916. On 7th October, William was named the lieutenant in charge of D Company, whose mission was to help advance the line by “mopping up” enemy snipers in German gun pits up ahead. Due to bad atmospheric conditions, aerial photography had been almost impossible, leaving commanders with doubt over the location of the trenches. Zero hour was fixed at 1:45pm and at that time the barrage dropped. Two minutes later, the men advanced. Despite the barrage, the gun pits that lay ahead were found to still be manned and devastatingly effective. The battalion history chillingly records that “under their withering fire D company simply melted out of existence.”

Lieutenant W H Vernon is listed as one of the casualties of the day, aged just 21. He is commemorated at the Thiepval Memorial.

Watkins, H E

Herbert Ernest Watkins born 1st November 1875 in Islington and baptised at St Botolph without Bishopsgate. His father, Thomas, was a railway coach builder.

In 1901, Herbert worked as a warehouseman and lived with his parents and two younger siblings at 3 Brook Cottages, East Barnet Road.

Herbert's military record still exists and is extensive. At the time of enlistment on 30th January 1915, his profession was draper, and he lived on Scott Street, Newcastle, New South Wales. Herbert became part of 54th Battalion, Australian Infantry. His unit embarked from Sydney on HMAT A8 Argyllshire on 10th April 1915. The battalion served in Gallipoli, and then went on to Alexandria. Here, Herbert was promoted to Lance Corporal on 23rd January 1916.

In March, he was made Corporal and moved on to France, disembarking at Marseilles on 29th June.

Herbert was reported missing and a Court of Enquiry, held in the field, 4 August, declared him 'Killed in Action, 19/20 July 1916'.

A fellow soldier, Private A.J. Cousins, of C Company, made a statement on 5th March 1917: 'I saw him killed instantly and died at the same time as A.I. Higgins 4176 going over the top. He was in my section and was in Gallipoli.'

Herbert's memorial is at Ration Farm Military Cemetery.

Wise, N

Nelson Charles Wise was born in Oxfordshire in 1891. He was one of nine children born to Jacob and Christiana. By 1901 the family had moved to 20 Jackson Road, East Barnet, where Jacob worked as a Farrier and Blacksmith.

In June 1915, then aged 23 and a Butcher; Nelson enlisted and joined the 3rd Battalion, Essex Regiment. He later transferred to the Royal Field Artillery and was ranked Driver.

Nelson served in France from September 1915 until June 1917, when he was sent home. He was described as being physically unfit for war service and discharged on 2nd August 1918. Although Nelson's service records exist, they are greatly damaged - there is a note that his discharge was due to an accident but the page has disintegrated thereafter.

Nelson received the Silver War Badge for being honourably discharged. This was a lapel badge, intended to be worn in civilian clothing.

Nelson died in Barnet in June 1922, at the age of just 30.

There were 2 other notable local men who fought in the Great War, who received Victoria Crosses for their acts of bravery.



“On 27 September 1918 at the Battle of Canal du Nord, near Graincourt, France, Captain Frisby was in command of a company detailed to capture a canal crossing, but when the canal was reached, the leading platoon came under annihilating fire from a strong enemy post under the bridge on the far side of the canal. Captain Frisby with a lance-corporal (Thomas Norman Jackson) and two others, climbed down into the canal under intense fire and succeeded in capturing the post with two machine-guns and 12 men. Then having consolidated his objective he gave timely support to a company which had lost all its officers and sergeants, organising the defences and beating off a heavy counter-attack.”

Cyril Hubert Frisby VC

b. 17th September 1885, New Barnet.

d. 10th September 1961, Guildford
1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards.

“On three consecutive days, the 27 to 29 March 1916, during the heavy fighting at St. Eloi, Belgium, he went to-and fro continuously between the original trenches and the captured enemy trenches, attending to and rescuing wounded men. The first day, from an area swept by machine-gun fire, he rescued 10 severely wounded men.

Although his battalion was relieved on the second day, he returned and rescued 12 more of the wounded. Taking charge of a group of volunteers, on the third day, he again returned to the trenches in order to rescue the remaining wounded. This excellent work was done voluntarily and was far outside the sphere of his normal duties.”



Captain The Rev. Edward Noel Mellish MC VC

b. 24th December 1880, Barnet

d. 8th July 1962, Somerset
Chaplain, Army Chaplains Dept

Omitted from this booklet are the names of P Boyce, H Lambert and W Rogers.

Unfortunately, at the time of going to print, no information could be found for these men. We hope one day to be able to discover who they were, too.



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

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