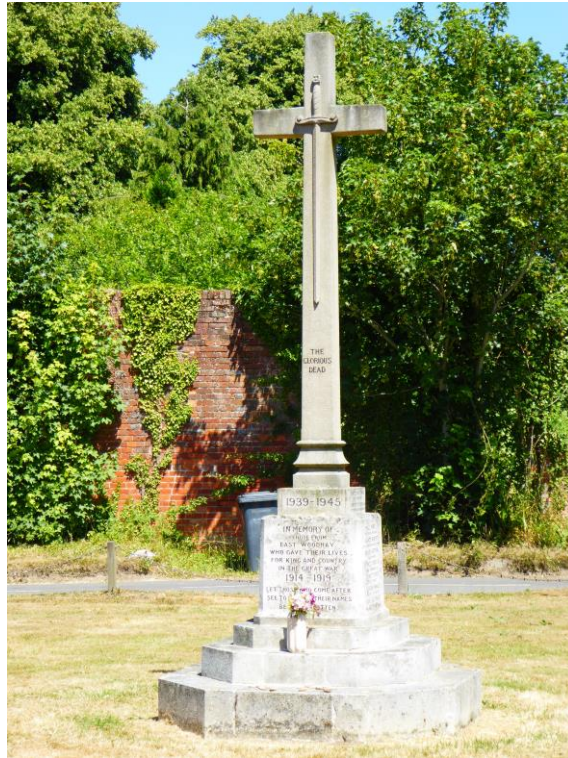


St. Martin's Church, East Woodhay

'THEIR NAMES LIVETH FOR EVERMORE'



'WE WILL REMEMBER THEM'

Introduction

As part of the centenary commemoration of World War One, the East Woodhay Local History Society researched the names on the War Memorials in East Woodhay and Woolton Hill. There is a sister book to this one in St Thomas' Church, Woolton Hill.

Local historian, Graham Heald, who researched the military side of their lives and where they were buried or commemorated, began the research in 2014.

Members of EWLHS then researched their home lives and connection to the parish. This resulted in exhibitions being mounted to inform the present inhabitants in 2014 and 2018.

We have now also started researching the names from World War Two and they are also included here.

It was then decided to produce these files so visitors and, possibly, family history researchers could share in our findings.

We are very grateful to several local families who helped provide information about their ancestors. Should anyone have further information or queries then please contact the secretary, Christine Dalton on 07880 628 114 or at chrisse.dalton@yahoo.co.uk

Sources:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) website.

Family History websites, such as Ancestry and Find My Past.

Graham Heald: "That Their Names Be Not Forgotten: The Great War in East Woodhay and Woolton Hill." (2014)

EWLHS: "A History of the Parish of East Woodhay" (2000)

WORLD WAR ONE:

BY THEIR SACRIFICE, WE LIVE.

PERCY BALL.	ARTHUR FORSTER.
ROBERT BANCE.	PHYLLIS GUILLEMARD.
ARTHUR BEAVER.	HENRY JACOBS.
DOUGLAS BENNETT.	JOSEPH KRAMPÉ.
PERCY BENNETT.	ERNEST LANSLEY.
RONALD CARDEN.	ERNEST RICHARDSON.
ARCHIBALD COKE.	WILLIAM SANDBACH.
JOHN COX.	ALBERT TILLING.
SIDNEY CULLIMORE.	THOMAS TILLING.
FREDERICK CUMMINS.	HAROLD TOMPKINS.
CHARLES DAVIS.	CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS.
FREDERICK FORSTER.	VICTOR WINSTONE.

"GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS THAT A
MAN LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS." ST JOHN XXIII

PERCY PHILIP BALL

**Private 4670, 1st Bn., London Regiment
(Royal Fusiliers)**

**Died Monday 02 October 1916, aged 26.
Commemorated at Thiepval Memorial, Somme,
France.**

Location: Pier and face 9D and 16B.

**Son of Nelly Piper (formerly Ball) of Laurel Cottage,
Ball Hill, Woolton Hill, Newbury, Berkshire.**

Percy was born in 1892 and grew up in Clerkenwell in London where his parents had married in 1890.

His father, Henry Philip Ball, came from Swaffham Prior in Cambridgeshire and his mother, Nelly Fisher, came from West Woodhay. Henry died and Nelly returned home

In 1908 she married Charles Piper who was 27 years older than her and a gardener. In 1911 the family, but not **Percy**, lived at Laurel Cottage, Ball Hill. It is not known where **Percy** was in 1911 but he may have already enlisted.

Percy had two brothers, Frank and Ernest Ball, plus two stepsiblings, Ethel and Leonard.

In the majority of BMD and Census records the family name is Balls. It only appears as Ball in **Percy's** military records.

Percy was killed whilst constructing trenches near Lesboeufs, following the battle of Morval.

ROBERT ARMAN BANCE
Second Lieutenant, 5th Bn., Royal Berkshire
Regiment
Died Wednesday 09 August 1916,
aged 24.
Buried at Bapaume Post Military Cemetery, Somme,
France.
Location 1.D.17

Robert Arman Bance was born in 1892. He was the younger son of Edward Arman Bance, from Kintbury, and his wife Helen Annie Jordin, from Highley, Shropshire.

The family, which also included an older son, Edward Harold, and five daughters, Eleanor Annie, Edith Rosa, Margaret Louisa, Eunice Nellie, and Dorothy, lived in Ball Hill, where Edward senior was a master builder.

From 1904-08 **Robert (Bob)** was a pupil at Newbury Grammar School, where he was an active member of the debating society and a participant in a wide range of sports. He also showed considerable acting ability, having been noted for his "excellent" performance in the French comedy Placide and as a memorable Portia in The Merchant of Venice and in 1908 he won the senior prize for recitation.

The 1911 Census shows **Bob** still living at the family home and, like his brother, working as an assistant to his father.

In September 1914, following the outbreak of war, he enlisted in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, with the rank of able seaman, and served in the first Gallipoli landing.

Succumbing to dysentery, however, he was returned home and subsequently joined the Royal Berkshire Regiment, with the rank of second lieutenant. With the 5th Battalion he was engaged in battle when, on 9 August 1916, between Thiepval and Pozieres, he was killed by German artillery fire.

In a letter dated 26th May 1915 he had written:

"My dear Father,

I wanted to just drop you a line for yourself, now I have the chance, as possibly it may be the last for some time to come. Firstly Dad, I want to thank you very much indeed for all your great kindness you have always shown to me, and if by any unlucky chance I don't get back, I want you to know I am very grateful. I have made a short will and as of course everything I have has come from you, it is only right that I should return it, but if you have no special use for the insurance and that lying to my credit in the bank, I'd like you to see that the girls get some of it, as perhaps a little might come in useful to Doll and Eunie for instance. Of course Dad I am looking to come back myself and I think I shall too, but you will understand this is only in case the worst should happen."

ARTHUR JOHN BEAVER

**Private 242592, 2nd Bn., Hampshire
Regiment**

**Died Monday 03 December 1917, aged 20
Commemorated at Cambrai Mamorial, Louveral,
Nord, France.**

Location: Panel 7.

**Son of Arthur A. and Francis E. Beaver of Heath End,
East Woodhay, Newbury, Berkshire.**

Arthur John was born in Thatcham, Berkshire in 1897. He was the elder son of Arthur Adam Beaver, from Great Marlow in Buckinghamshire, and Frances Emma Green, from King's Cross, London.

By the age of 16, father, Arthur Adam, was a blacksmith and living in Overton Road, Kingsclere. An article in the *Reading Chronicle*, dated Saturday 14 July 1894, records that, in a competition held by the Newbury farriery school at the Pelican Livery Stables, Arthur Beaver of Thatcham won a prize of 2 guineas in the under-21 class for making one fore- and one hind-shoe suitable for a harness horse. Nevertheless, work, it seems, was not so easy to come by and an advertisement in the *Reading Mercury*, dated 22 June 1895, finds Arthur Adam looking for work:

SHOEING—General Smiths. —WANTED, by respectable young Man, can take second fire. Has taken first prize County Council competition. Total abstainer. —Apply, Arthur Beaver, Gas Works, Kingsclere, Hants.

The following year Arthur Adam Beaver married Frances and his quest for work continued, taking him to Thatcham, where **Arthur John** was born, then to Yattendon, where Muriel Frances Hannah was born in 1899, and on to 6 Craven Terrace, Newbury, by 1901.

In 1903 the children acquired a further sibling, Cecil, born in Newbury, and by the time of the following census the family had moved to Heath End, where Arthur Adam was working as a "hot and cold water engineer". A trade in which **Arthur John**, now aged 14, was receiving instruction. He is described as "a hot and cold water fitter" in the 1911 census.

This marks the beginning of the East Woodhay plumbing and heating business which continues to this day and which **Arthur John** would no doubt have taken over from his father but for his untimely death at the age of 20.

Pte Beaver was serving with the 2nd Bn., Hampshire Regiment, part of the 88th Infantry Brigade, when it came under intense artillery fire at Cambrai. Although reported missing at the time, his death on Monday 3rd December 1917 was not confirmed until June the following year.

PERCY SEYMOUR BENNETT

**Corporal 355124, 9th Bn., Hampshire
Regiment**

**Died Saturday 09 November 1918, aged
24.**

Buried at Kranji War Cemetery, Singapore.

Location 37.E.16

**Son of George and Emily Bennett of Fullers Lane,
Woolton Hill, Newbury, Berkshire. Born at East
Woodhay, Hampshire.**

**Inscription: *Be not afraid for the Lord thy God is with
thee.*"**

DOUGLAS WILLIAM BENNETT MM

**Corporal 19112, 3rd Bn., Grenadier Guards
Died on Tuesday 19 November 1918, aged
22.**

**Buried in East Woodhay (St Martin) Churchyard,
Hampshire, UK.**

**Son of George and Emily Bennett of Summerfield
Cottages, Hatt Common, Newbury.**

Inscription: *'Jesus saith sleep on now & take thy rest.'*"

Percy was born in 1895 and was the son of George Bennett, from East Woodhay, and Emily Seymour, from Welford, Berkshire. His father was a general and garden labourer. The family lived in North End before moving to Fullers Lane, Woolton Hill.

In the 1911 Census **Percy** is described as a garden labourer, aged 16.

He was one of six brothers who all served during the war with four surviving. There was also one sister.

He died of pneumonia in Singapore on the way to Vladivostok to fight against the Bolsheviks in the Russian Civil War. His brother, **Douglas** (below), was to die ten days later.

Douglas was born in 1897.

In the 1911 Census **Douglas**, aged 14, has no occupation mentioned.

Douglas died of influenza whilst being treated for wounds in hospital in Leeds. He was brought home to be buried in St Martin's Churchyard.

RONALD JAMES WALTER CARDEN
Lieutenant Colonel, 17th Lancers (Duke of
Cambridge's Own), attd. 16th Royal Welch
Fusiliers

Died Monday 10 July 1916, aged 40.
Buried at Carnoy Military Cemetery, Somme, France.
Location: S22.

Son of the late Lt. Col. Sir F.W.Carden, 2nd. Bart, & Lady
Carden of Stargroves, East Woodhay, Newbury,
Berkshire.

Mentioned in despatches.
Inscription: "Till he come."

Ronald was born in London on 3rd April 1876, the second child and younger son of Lieut. Col. Sir Frederick Walter Carden, Bart and Lady Rowena Laura Copland, both from London.

Ronald's grandfather, Sir Robert Carden, had been Lord Mayor of London in 1857 and 1858, and was MP for Barnstaple from 1880-85. His father, a professional soldier, was a JP and was appointed High Sheriff of Hampshire in 1891. He had died in 1909, aged 76.

Like his older brother, Frederick Henry Walter Carden, **Ronald** attended Marlborough College from September 1889 to August 1893. Although he didn't shine academically, he was sporty and played in the Littlefield house hockey and first eleven cricket teams.

In 1894 he entered the Royal Military College at Sandhurst, where he won a riding prize. In 1896 he joined the 17th Lancers, serving in South Africa throughout the Boer Wars. He was awarded the Queen's Medal with four clasps and the King's Medal with two clasps.

In 1897 he was a Lieutenant in the 2nd. Lancers and lead a troop of cavalry in Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee escort.

In 1902 he was promoted Captain and in 1907 he achieved the rank of Major. In inter-regimental polo tournaments in 1903 and 1904, and subsequently, while serving in India, he distinguished himself as an able horseman. Douglas Haig, his commanding officer, played alongside him in the Lancers' polo team.

Following the outbreak of war in 1914, he was sent to France as second in command of his regiment. Later he was given command of the 16th Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers (when he could have had a desk job), with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, and was twice mentioned in despatches. On July 10th 1916, during the battle of the Somme, he was killed in action while leading his battalion in the assault on Mametz Woods. He had been wounded in the knee but continued to advance a few yards before being fatally wounded in the stomach.

He never married and left his estate of over £80,000 to his bother.

ARCHIBALD COKE
Private 12341, 2nd/4th Bn., Hampshire
Regiment
Died Saturday 20 July 1918, aged 38.
Buried at Marfaux British Cemetery, Marne, France.
Location: III.D.7

Archibald was born in 1880 in Scotland. He was the son of Robert & Janet Coke. In 1881 he was living with his parents & four siblings in The Ploughman's Cottage, Crawford, Lanarkshire.

As a single man he moved around the country in his job as gardener. In 1901 he was living in the gardeners' bothy at Saltoun House in East Lothian that was famed for its formal gardens and ten years later he can be found in the gardeners' bothy of Roby Hall at Maidencombe in South Devon.

We don't know what brought **Archibald** to East Woodhay between 1911 and his enlistment in the Hampshire Regiment in 1915 but it would seem likely that he worked in the gardens of one of the local big houses, such as Stargroves.

There is a record of a marriage in Newbury in 1912 between an Archibald Coke & Amy E. Parfitt. No information has been found regarding Amy and it is not confirmed that it is our **Archibald**.

He was killed during the 2nd Battle of the Marne.

JOHN COX

**Private PO/2231(S), 1st R.M. Bn. R.N.
Division, Royal Marine Light Infantry
Died Thursday 16 May 1918, aged 32.
Buried in East Woodhay (St Martin) Churchyard,
Hampshire, UK.**

**Son of Mrs Maria Canning; husband of Flora Louise
Canning, of 6, Wellington Cottages, Ball Hill, East
Woodhay.**

**Inscription: “For he that hath suffered in the flesh hath
ceased from sin.” Peter 4.1 verse.**

John was born in 1886 but his family life is difficult to follow and no birth record has been found.

In 1891, aged 4, he was living in his Grandfather's home (Thomas Cox) in Ball Hill along with his mother, Maria Cox, but there is no mention of a father. His Uncle, James Cox, is also with them plus two other children, Thomas and Sarah Cox, probably **John's** siblings.

In 1901 **John**, aged 14, was an agricultural labourer and was living with his Uncle, James Cox, in Ball Hill near Victoria Villas. His mother, Maria, is now married to Charles Canning. His brother, Thomas, is also living in the home plus another child, Frederick Canning.

The 1911 census described **John** as a general labourer, living next door to Mr Burton, a blacksmith in Ball Hill. He is still with Uncle James; mother Maria and her husband, Charles Canning, as well as Frederick Canning.

In the CWGC records, there is a mention of a wife, Flora Louise Canning but no record of a marriage has been found nor can she be found in census records. In the Royal Navy & Royal Marines' records, she is recorded as living at Heath End, East Woodhay.

SIDNEY FRANK CULLIMORE
Serjeant 201163, 2nd/4th Bn., Royal
Berkshire Regiment
Died Saturday 02 November 1918, aged
29.

Buried at Cross Roads Cemetery, Fontaine-au-Bois,
Nord, France.

Location: III.D.2

Sidney was born 1889 in Woodlands St Mary, Newbury, Berkshire. His parents were Charles Cullimore, from Peasmore, Berks. and Caroline Wakefield, from Stanmore, Berks. His father was a shepherd in 1901 in East Garston and a roadman, aged 51 in 1911 in the same place.

In 1911 **Sidney** was still living at home, aged 21, and working as a horseman on a farm. When he enlisted into the Royal Berkshire Regiment in Reading, he was living in Aldworth.

Sidney doesn't have direct links to the parish but members of his family do which is why he appears on our war memorials.

There is a record of a **Sidney F. Cullimore** marrying Louisa Mary Sanders in Newbury in the fourth quarter of 1918. She was born in Copthorne, Hants but was living with her parents in the Gardener's Cottage of Shaw House in Newbury in 1911.

If this is our **Sidney** then he must have been home on leave and then returned to his unit in France. They must have thought that with the end of the war approaching that he would likely be all right. Sadly that wasn't to be, as he died nine days before the Armistice. Louisa never remarried and lived most of her life in Shaw until her death in 1973 in the Southampton area.

Sidney's oldest brother, Charles, and family were living in Rectory Cottage, East Woodhay in 1911 with another

brother, Ernest, boarding with them. There is a photograph in the book "The History of the Parish of East Woodhay" (page 42) that shows Charles Cullimore, a rickmaker & thatcher, with the dairyman from Malverleys in the 1930s.

Yet another brother, Walter, was boarding in 1911 at Church Farm Cottages, East Woodhay. Most of the family worked with horses.

Sidney appears to have been one of the last of his battalion to die in the war since they were out of the line from late October 1918. They were sent to support the Gloucestershire Regiment on the south bank of the River Rhonelle for a few hours on the 1 and 2 November when he was killed.

FREDERICK CUMMINS

**Private 3571, 2nd/4th Bn., Royal Berkshire
Regiment**

**Died Saturday 23 July 1916, aged 26
Commemorated at the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais,
France.**

Location: Panel 93-95.

**Son of Mrs Emma Cummins of 2, Heath End, East
Woodhay, Newbury, Berks.**

Frederick was born in 1890 in East Woodhay and left school at the same time as **Joseph Krampe** (see later entry).

The surname was also spelt Comyns in some of the Census records.

Frederick's father James was an agricultural labourer who came from Faccombe to East Woodhay where he married a local girl, Emma Piper in 1871.

In 1881 the family were living in Heath End and had 5 children.

In 1891 they had moved to Victoria Villas Gore End. **Frederick** was the youngest of nine children.

In 1901 the family were at Chalk Pit Cottages. A tenth child had been born but the older children had started to move away.

In 1911, Emma Cummins was widowed and only **Frederick** was living at home at Berries, North End. He was working as a Farm Labourer. The census form was completed and signed by Gertrude Bance.

Emma died in 1931, aged 77. She was buried with her husband in St. Martin's Churchyard and the inscription reads:

'In Loving Memory of James Cummins who died November 16th 1901 aged 62. Also of Emma Cummins wife of the above died March 20th 1931 aged 77. On that happy Easter morning father sister child and mother meet once more.'

Frederick was killed at the battle of Laventie. However there is some confusion as his Battalion had been withdrawn from the line on 20 July and the regimental history records no action on the day he died.

CHARLES DAVIS

**Private 5334, 2nd/4th Bn., Royal Berkshire
Regiment**

Died Wednesday 19 July 1916, aged 30.

**Buried at Laventie Military Cemetery, La Gorgue,
Nord, France.**

Location: III.C.12

**Son of C.E.Davis of East End, East Woodhay, Newbury,
Berkshire.**

Inscription: *"Sleep on dear one and take thy rest."*

Charles was born in 1886 in Stockcross, Berkshire. He was the son of Charles E. Davis, from nearby Nalderhill, and Ann (surname unknown) from Hamstead Marshall. They had nine children.

In 1891 the family were living at Holt Pound, Kintbury and his father was a general labourer.

By 1911 they were at Hamstead Marshall where **Charles** was working as a farm labourer but his father is not recorded as being with them. At the time he was away working on a nearby farm and living on his own.

At some point after 1911, the family had moved to East End, East Woodhay.

His mother, Ann, died, aged 57, the year after him in 1917.

Charles was killed during the battle of Laventie – 4 days before **Frederick Cummins**.

ARTHUR PAUL FORSTER

**Major, 47th Bn., Machine Gun Corps
Died Wednesday 25 September 1918,
aged 37.**

**Buried at Lapugnoy Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais,
France.**

Location: X.D.16

Son of Paul F. Forster of Malverleys, Hampshire.

FREDERICK ALBERT FORSTER

**Captain, 4th Bn., Royal Fusiliers
Died Sunday 23 August 1914, aged 34.**

**Buried at St. Symphorien Military Cemetery, Hainaut,
Belgium.**

Location: V.B.4

**Son of the late Paul Forster of Malverleys, East
Woodhay, Hampshire.**

In the census of 1881 Paul Forster, a barrister from Islington; his wife Annie Mary Lindsey, from Leamington Priors, Warks. and their son John Lindsey Forster then aged four, are recorded at Down House, Andover.

On census day 1891, the whole family – mother, father, their four sons and three daughters – together with seven servants, were all in residence at Malverleys, East End, East Woodhay.

They apparently also owned or rented a house in Cromwell Place, Kensington, for this is where Annie, Paul, and four of their children are found in the census of 1901. Of their four sons, only one was to die of natural causes. The eldest of the four brothers was John. On graduating from Sandhurst he joined the King's Royal Rifles in 1897 and was

killed in action near Ladysmith on 30 October 1899.

The second son, **Frederick Albert Forster** was born on 14 February 1880. He attended Eton College from 1893 to 1898, and then went on to Trinity College, Cambridge, receiving a war commission into the Royal Fusiliers in 1900.

Two years later he was seconded to the Northern Nigeria Mounted Infantry and saw active service in South Africa, for which he was awarded a medal.

From 1910-1913 he served as Adjutant of the 1st Battalion of his regiment. Subsequently he was appointed Adjutant of the officer training corps of the Universities of Manchester, Sheffield, and Leeds, but at the onset of war he rejoined the Royal Fusiliers.

As Captain in the 4th battalion he soon found himself in France, defending a bridge in Mons against a heavy German onslaught on 23 August 1914, during which he was wounded and died. He was buried at what is now St Symphorien Military Cemetery. Official confirmation of his death, however, was not received until March the following year.

The career of his younger brother, **Arthur Paul Forster**, born in 1881, followed a different trajectory. He too was a student at Eton, from 1894 to 1899. From there he went to Trinity College, Oxford, and, on graduating with a bachelor's degree, he went into the brewing industry.

It has not been possible to ascertain exactly when he joined his eldest brother's regiment, the King's Royal Rifles, though it was probably soon after the declaration of war. He served as temporary Captain and acting Major in the Machine Gun Corps. He was injured during fighting near Bethune and died on 24 September 1918, at the age of 37. His grave is in Lapugnoy Military Cemetery.

Herbert Acheson Forster, the youngest of the brothers, was born in 1885. Unlike his siblings, he served in the Royal Navy, as Commander of HMS Southampton. He survived the war and continued in the Navy, attaining the rank of Rear Admiral in 1937. He appears to have been the only one of the Forster boys to have married and had children.

A brass memorial plaque can be found on the North wall of this church.

PHYLLIS GUILLEMARD

Nurse, Voluntary Aid Detachment

Died 28 November 1916, aged 25.

**Buried at East Woodhay (St. Martin) Churchyard,
Hampshire, UK.**

**Daughter of the late Walter Guillemard of Malverleys,
East Woodhay.**

Phyllis was born in Harrow, Middlesex in 1891 and educated at St Leonard's School, St Andrews, Fife. She was the second of the three daughters of Walter George Guillemard and his wife Agnes Olive (née Cotton), who was born in Cork, Ireland.

Walter, a descendant of Huguenot immigrants, taught Classics and Modern Languages at Harrow School. Following his retirement in 1908, the family spent two years travelling in Europe before taking up residence in Mayfair and subsequently at Malverleys, East End, which Walter had purchased by 1914, following an inheritance.

In May 1915 **Phyllis** and her older sister, Ruth Antoinette, enrolled with the V.A.D. (Voluntary Aid Detachment) at Reading War Hospital (a former workhouse, which became known as Battle Hospital). They served together on the hospital ship Aquitania at Mudros in the Aegean, both returning to England on the hospital ship Britannic. They were then posted to Queen Mary's War Hospital in Whalley, Lancashire.

Phyllis contracted influenza and then developed pneumonia, from which she died on 28 November 1916, aged 25. A memorial service was held at the hospital, followed by a funeral service at St Martin's. She is buried there, next to her father, who had died suddenly at Malverleys, six months earlier.

Her name is inscribed in the large memorial window at the east end of St Martin's church.

After her sister's death, Ruth continued as a V.A.D. until 1919. In 1920 she married Lt Col Hugh Rose of Kilravock, C.M.G., 24th Baron, serving with the Black Watch, who died in 1946. Their only son, Hugh, also served in the Black Watch during World War Two and was killed in 1942 at El Alamein. Ruth died in 1966, aged 77.

The youngest sister, Eleanor, married Duncan Davidson in 1919. He served in the Cameron Highlanders. One of their sons, Duncan, served in the same regiment and was killed in Burma during World War Two. Eleanor died in 1985, aged 91.

A photo of Phyllis exists at the Imperial War Museum, in the online archive. In about 1920, requests were made to families to collect Portraits Of Women's Work alongside another collection about Nurses that had died during the war. There is also a letter from Phyllis' mother, Agnes. The photo and transcription of the letter are reproduced overleaf.



Written from Malverleys c1920:

"Dear Madam,
Is this what you want? If not please return it and I will get the
photographs unmounted.
I am very pleased to send my dear daughter's photograph.
You can see what a fine girl she was.
Yours faithfully,
A. O. Guillemard
I send two pence halfpenny stamps in case you want to
return the photograph."

It was custom when stained glass memorials were made at this time that a figure would bear a likeness of the person being remembered. If you look at the far right panel of the Guillemard memorial behind the altar, you will see St Michael. The face is definitely female and is a likeness of Phyllis.



HENRY FRANK JACOBS

Private G/1866, 1st Bn., The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment

Died Saturday 13 April 1918, aged 26.

Commemorated at Plogsteert Memorial, Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium.

Panel 1 & 2.

Son of Emma R. Jacobs of The Plough, North End, Newbury, Berkshire & the late Henry Jacobs.

Henry was born in 1892 in Hook, Surrey where his father, also Henry (born in East Woodhay), was a beer retailer in the 1891 Census. Ten years earlier he had been in service as a footman in London. His mother was Emma Salisbury from Ross, Herefordshire.

In 1901 the family were running a pub in Crondall, Hampshire. They were still there in 1911 and it was called The Cricketers. **Henry**, aged 19, was a house painter.

Henry's grandfather, John Jacobs, was an agricultural labourer of Heath Road East Woodhay in 1861, 1871 and 1881, but the licensee of the Plough Inn in North End in 1891, 1901 and 1911.

It is likely that the family moved to East End to help John run the pub sometime after 1911.

Henry served with the Royal West Surrey Regiment and was killed in the Battle of Lys. His grandfather, John, died of a heart attack three days later on April 16th 1918.

Henry's father died in 1922 before the CWGC records were completed.

JOSEPH KRAMPE

**Private 412251, 21st Bn., Canadian Infantry
(Eastern Ontario Regiment)**

Died Friday 20 July 1917, aged 28.

**Buried at Bully-Grenay Communal Cemetery, British
Extension, Pas de Calais, France.**

Location: III.C.14

**Son of E.S.Krampe of East Woodhay, Newbury,
Berkshire.**

Wilhelm Joseph Krampe was born in 1889, the third child of Ernst Solomon Krampe, from Zachiplitz, Freiburg, Germany and Hannah Breeze, from Toxteth, Liverpool.

It is not exactly known when Ernst came to England but he married Hannah in 1880 in Toxteth. He is recorded as a Butler from East End, East Woodhay on the marriage certificate. He was working for the Forster family at Malverleys.

In the 1881 Census Ernst was on duty at Malverleys, East End, East Woodhay. Hannah was living in the village on her own. She is described as 'Butler's wife – domestic'.

In the 1891 Census they are still in East End and living as a family near The Sun Inn with four children. Ernst is still Butler and described as a 'Naturalized British Subject'.

In the 1901 Census Ernst is working at the London home of the Forsters but the rest of his family are at home in East End.

Ernst, Hannah and a son are living in East End in 1911 but described as no occupation so he may have retired.

Although Ernst had been naturalized, he did receive official papers confirming his status from the Home Office in 1912.

Ernst died in June 1917, aged 67, and a month before his son.

Joseph Krampe embarked on the Hesperian from Liverpool in January 1910 to emigrate to St John's Newfoundland, Canada. He died on the 20th July 1917 fighting with the Canadian infantry on the Western Front.

ERNEST J. LANSLEY
Private 3329, 1st/4th Bn., Hampshire
Regiment
Died 25 June 1916, aged 21.
Commemorated at the Basra Memorial, Iraq.
Panel 21 & 63.
Died while a P.O.W. & is buried in Mosul.

Ernest was a member of a large and well known local family and, unusually for a young man from an 'ordinary' family, he has his own memorial stone on the North wall of this church - a tribute from his brothers and sisters.

In October 1915 the Newbury Weekly News reported that Mr and Mrs John Lansley of Bakers Buildings, East Woodhay were the proud parents of four serving soldiers.

Ernest John, aged 20, was a signaller who had joined up in October 1914 and had initially been sent to India. His parents are quoted as saying that he was enjoying it and that his, 'letters home each week prove very interesting, describing the glorious countryside and warm weather.'

Frederick, aged 36, had been sent to Malta.

Henry Charles, aged 29, formerly chauffeur to Lady Carden, joined up in February 1915 and found himself driving lorries in East Africa later in the war.

Arthur, aged 23, also joined the Army Service Corps as a driver.

The Hampshire Regiment did not stay in India and the theatre of war in which **Ernest** died was known as the Mesopotamian Campaign. After 147 days besieged in the town of Kut in Iraq, the Hampshires were forced to surrender and embarked on a forced march during which many died.

Ernest survived 300 miles of this march but succumbed to dysentery in Mosul on 25th June 1915. His parents heard no news of him for five months. Then in June they heard that he was a Prisoner of War but did not hear of his death until just before Christmas. **Ernest** died far from home in the most horrible circumstances; such a contrast to the excitement of his earlier letters home from India.

Ernest's brother, H. C. Lansley, known as Charlie, returned to East Woodhay in 1919 and resumed his role as chauffeur at Stargroves. He lived in the last of Stargroves Cottages in East End until his death in the 1970s. A well loved local character, Charlie was interviewed by children at St Martin's School in 1961 about his early life and that of his family. He is also featured in the 'History of the Parish of East Woodhay'.

Ernest and Charlie's father, John, came from Tangley and by 1881 he had married a local girl, Mary Allen, and was living with four young children in East End. The Lansleys had twelve children altogether, of whom eight had survived in 1911.

John Lansley was a gardener at Woolton House, Malverleys and, for 45 years, at Stargroves. Charlie remembered that his father supplemented his income of 12s per week by working as a member of a gang of mowers, cutting the hay with scythes for 6d an hour before his day's work.

The family were at East End, then Woolton Hill, then Bakers Buildings. When Charlie left school he became a telegraph boy at Woolton Hill P.O. and the other brothers did a variety of jobs such as agricultural labourer, gardener, groom, bricklayer's assistant, footman, general servant and housemaid.

The family were well known and well respected churchgoers. John was chief organ blower at St Martin's and Charles joined the choir at 8 years old and sang in the choir for 73 years.

ERNEST WILLIAM RICHARDSON
Private 10134, 2nd Bn., Royal Berkshire
Regiment

Died Thursday 16 August 1917, aged 25.
Commemorated at Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke,
West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.
Location: Panel 105-106 & 162.

Ernest was born in 1892, the son of John Albert Richardson, from Ashmansworth, and Ellen Stratford, from Highclere.

John Albert was an agricultural labourer in 1891 and lived at Porters Cottage. In 1901 the family were living in Hollington at the Yews and John was a carter on the farm. The family was still in Hollington in 1911 with John being described as a horseman and **Ernest** was a garden labourer.

He was killed at the 3rd Battle of Ypres and is commemorated on both of our war memorials (the other being at St Thomas' in Woolton Hill). This may indicate that his parents lived in one part of the village and he in another.

WILLIAM SANDBACH

Major, 6th Bn., King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment)

Died Tuesday 10 August 1915, aged 50.

Buried at 7th Field Ambulance Cemetery, Turkey.

Location: II.D.3

Son of the Rev. Gilbert Sandbach & Margaret, his wife; husband of Helen Margaret Douglas (formerly Sandbach) of Hazelby, Newbury.

Inscription: "*Glory, honour, immortality until the day break and the shadows flee away*".

William Sandbach was born on 24 October, 1865 in Upper Sapey, in Hertfordshire. He was the fourth son of the Rev. Gilbert Sandbach of Woodlands, Aighburth, Liverpool and Rector of St Michael's, Upper Sapey, in Herefordshire. His mother was Margaret Maxwell also from Liverpool.

William was educated at Eton College (1879-83), and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. From there, on 7 February 1885, he joined the Royal Fusiliers as Second Lieutenant, transferring to the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment in 1885. He was posted to India, Malta, and Gibraltar, before going on to South Africa, where he served throughout the Second Boer War (1899- 1902). He saw action at several critical events in the conflict, including the relief of Ladysmith, before being badly wounded at Spion Kop. He was subsequently awarded the Queen's Medal with four clasps and the King's Medal with two clasps, and retired from service on 15 July 1903.

In 1907 he bought the Hazelby estate in East Woodhay, which had been put up for sale following the death of Lady Louisa Howard, and in the same year, at Edinburgh's St Mary's Cathedral, he married Helen Margaret Dundas, the eldest daughter of Canon Robert James Dundas, who for 33 years had been rector of Albury, near Guildford. The

marriage produced three children, including **Peter** who was killed in N.Africa 26 years later (see WW2 section).

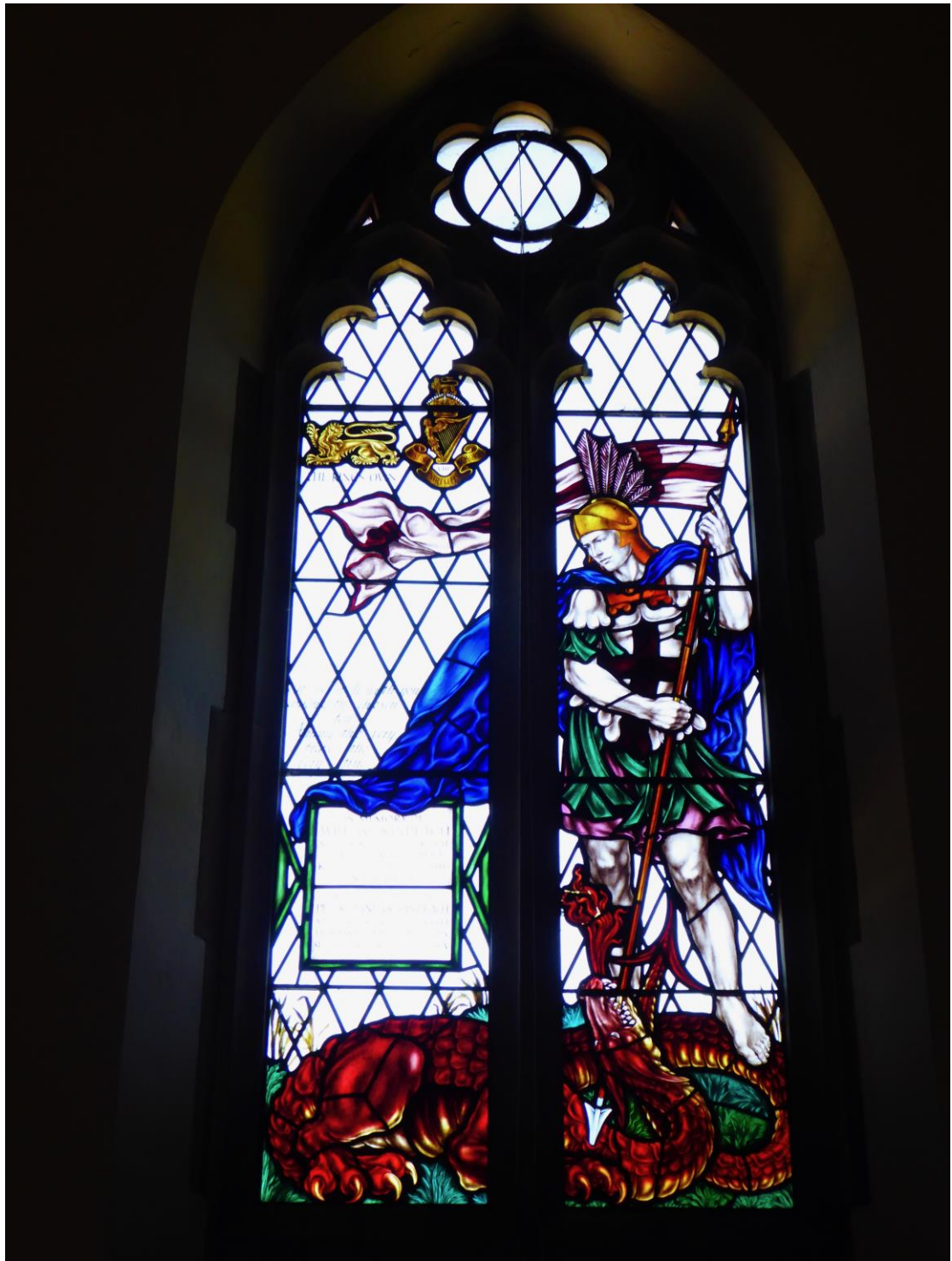
On the outbreak of war in 1914, **William** immediately joined the 6th (service) Battalion of his regiment and was made Captain reserve of officers on 13 September 1914. He was promoted to Major on 24 October 1914 and in the following year, on 9 August 1915, he was killed in action during the attack on Suvla Bay, in the Gallipoli peninsula.

The adjutant, Captain Birley, wrote to his widow:

"I want to tell you what a noble death your gallant husband died. He was the first one of all to give us warning of the Turks' attack about 4.45 last Monday morning. Quite early on in the engagement he got a terrible wound in the mouth, and I saw him in the firing line trying to give his men instructions as though nothing had happened. I begged him to go back to the Regimental Aid Post, to have his wound properly dressed, but he wouldn't leave his men. The next I saw of him was taking ammunition boxes across the open to be refilled, and he was finally killed whilst rallying his men back into the trenches. He was shot through the heart, and must have died instantaneously ... I should like to tell you that I am mourning the loss of a splendid comrade and brave brother-officer, and that the Battalion in general, and his own company in particular, was simply devoted to him."

His widow remained at Hazelby House, and in the summer of 1917 she married Captain Cosmo A.O. Douglas, at Reigate, Surrey, giving birth to another daughter, Elizabeth, in 1919.

There is a memorial window for the **Sandbachs** on the North wall of this church.



ALBERT EDWARD TILLING

**Private 13177, 4th Bn., Coldstream Guards
Died Sunday 03 September 1916, aged 34.**

**Buried at Corbie Communal Cemetery Extension,
Somme, France.**

Location: Plot 2, Row B, Grave 34.

**Son of Thomas & Martha Tilling of East Woodhay,
Hampshire.**

Inscription: “Loved, Remembered, Mourned, Mother.”

WILLIAM THOMAS TILLING

**Serjeant M2/105998, “T” Siege Park,
Mechanical Transport, XIX Corps, Army
Service Corps, attd. Heavy Artillery
Died Saturday 09 November 1918, aged
28.**

**Buried at Longuenesse (St Omer) Souvenir Cemetery,
Pas de Calais, France.**

Location: V.E.49

Albert was born in 1882 and his brother, **William**, in 1890. The brothers' parents were Thomas Mark Tilling and Martha Ann Arnold. Thomas came from East Woodhay and Martha came from Hamstead Marshall. They were married in 1871.

Thomas was a Rakemaker as was his brother, Job. They had seven children and in 1881 they lived at Hollies Cottage, East Woodhay. The family's whereabouts are unknown in 1891 apart from brother Samuel. He is a Footman in Kensington – the London home of merchant, James Henderson.

In 1901, mother Martha is living at Victoria Villa, Gore End. Thomas had died on June 29th 1895 aged 49, leaving £62 16s 0d. Martha's brother-in-law, Job, is also living at Victoria Villas, Ball Hill with his wife, Annie, and is a Carpenter.

In 1911, Martha had moved to Wellington Cottages, East Woodhay. **Albert** is a Butler in Chelsea, London to a Miss Jean Stewart and her brother.

Further paternal ancestors were Grandfather Thomas Tilling – Master Rakemaker from East Woodhay and wife, Ann Maria, from Shefford. In 1861 they were living with their 2 sons, Thomas & Job, in Hatt Common. Thomas was a groom and had not yet become a rakemaker. In the 'History of the Parish of East Woodhay', the last rakemaker was Jack Tilling. He worked from sheds at Gore End – adjacent to a house called Yewtree. He worked up until the late 1930's and made all types of rakes and besom brooms. He would certainly be related to **Albert, William** and their family, if not a direct descendent.

Albert served with the 4th Battalion Coldstream Guards. It is thought he was attached to a Tunnelling Company as his division was in reserve at the time of his death from wounds and gas.

William Thomas died at a dressing station of pneumonia just two days before the Armistice and buried at a cemetery in St Omar, France – 50 miles north of his brother.

Another East Woodhay man, **Frank Lainsbury** (St Thomas' memorial), is buried nearby.

Another brother, John Walter, served with the 9th Cyclist Battalion, Hampshire regiment. He was born in 1876 and survived the war. He lived in Gore End and was a rakemaker – the main family business.

HAROLD NEWHAM TOMPKINS
Private 3642, 31st Bn., Australian Infantry,
Australian Imperial Force
Died 26 September 1917, aged 26
Commemorated at Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial,
Ieper, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.
Panel 7-17-23-25-27-29-31.
Son of Rev Chilton Tompkins, East Woodhay,
Hampshire.
Also remembered on Australian War Memorial,
Canberra, Australia. Panel 119.

Harold, born in 1891 in Leckhamstead, Bucks., was the only son of Rev. H C Tompkins and Lilian Ethel Newham. They moved to East Woodhay when his father became Rector of this church.

Lilian was from Winslow, Bucks., and had three children. Her life was very tragic as, in 1911, she was a patient in a private hospital in Margate, Kent and recorded as "Lunatic". She died in London, aged 58, in 1925.

Harold was away at boarding school in Folkestone in 1901 and then went to the Royal Naval Colleges at Osborne and Dartmouth. He enrolled in the Royal Navy aged 13 and passed out as a Midshipman in 1908. Almost immediately he had trouble with an injury to his elbow that did not heal and he was finally discharged in March 1910 after over a year of operations and convalescence.

In 1911, aged 19, he has clearly changed career and was an assistant farmer on his relatives' farm. He then left for Melbourne, Australia in March 1912 travelling 3rd class with his occupation recorded as farmer.

Harold's detailed Australian Service Record survives. It shows him as enlisting in February 1916 at Toowoomba, Queensland

with his occupation now recorded as a photographer. On joining his Unit, he became a Signaller.

He returned to England and then went to France in January 1917. He returned again to marry Eileen Oughterson, from Cork, Ireland, on May 2nd 1917. His father conducted the service but it was a quiet wedding because the bride's family were in mourning due to her father's death six months earlier. The bride wore a grey costume and a black hat and was given away by her uncle. Tragically, Eileen was to be a widow within six months.

Harold was based at Perham Downs camp (near Tidworth) at the time of his wedding and he did go AWOL overnight on June 6th 1917. He received 7 days Field Punishment (heavy labouring duties etc) plus forfeiture of pay for 13 days. His service record also shows that he suffered various health problems with his feet and scabies – typical of many of the troops due to the conditions.

Harold had returned to France, after the punishment, on 20th June 1917 and was killed in the advance on Polygon Wood.

The local paper wrote in October 1917 that the "Rector loses his only son". They also said that there was much sympathy for the rector and his family.

Harold left his wife £202.10s in his will. She was living in Chorley Wood, Herts. In the 1939 Census, Eileen is living with her sister in Lymington, Hampshire. She didn't remarry and died in 1961, aged 76.

CHRISTOPHER MANNERS WILLIAMS

**Captain, H.Q., 66th Bde., Royal Garrison
Artillery**

Died Sunday 24 March 1918, aged 31

**Buried at Chauny Communal Cemetery, British
Extension, Aisne, France.**

Location: 3.K.II

**Son of R.M.H. Williams & Amy Williams, of Northenby,
East Woodhay, Newbury, Berkshire.**

Inscription: "R.I.P. Psalm XV."

Christopher was born on 2 August 1886 in Chertsey, Surrey, the only child of Robert Manners Howard Williams and Amy Orde-Powlett.

Robert was born in Bangor, Carmarthenshire, and at the time of the 1881 Census was single and living in London, where he worked as a clerk at the Ecclesiastical Commission Office. He married Amy, daughter of the Hon Amias Charles Orde-Powlett of Thorney Hall, Leyburn, Yorkshire, in 1885, and the 1891 Census records **Christopher** with his parents at Northenby, North End, then a sizeable estate and the home of his grandparents John and Phoebe Williams. They then inherited the estate.

Christopher was a pupil at Aysgarth School in Yorkshire before going on to Winchester College in September 1899. Though not particularly academically gifted, he was evidently a talented gymnast, winning the college's gold medal three years running; he also played fives, rowed in his house four, and played cricket for his house eleven.

On leaving Winchester in July 1904, he went to the Central Technical College in London to study engineering, and in 1908, while employed at Handysides in Derby, he became an associate of the Institute of Civil Engineers.

He joined the Officer Training Corps of the Royal Garrison Artillery in 1916, and in October that year, went to France as Adjutant in the 66th Brigade. He was appointed Captain in August 1917. His father had died in 1916.

On 24 March 1918 he was killed in action at Guivry, hit by a fragment of shell whilst directing the retreat of his unit from advancing German forces. His body was recovered after the war and buried in the communal cemetery at Chauny. The probate record indicates that his widowed mother was the beneficiary of his Will, he presumably never having married. However, his mother only survived him by six months as she died in September 1918.

VICTOR NORMAN WINSTONE
Private 4020660, 21st Bn., Canadian Infantry
(Eastern Ontario Regiment)
Died Wednesday 28 August, 1918, aged
25.

**Buried at Vis-en-Artois British Cemetery, Haucourt,
Pas de Calais, France.**

Location: II.A.2

Son of George & Alice Susan Winstone.

Victor was born in East Woodhay on November 1st 1893, the third of four boys. Their parents were George Winstone, from Aldermaston, and Alice Susan Brown, from East Woodhay.

His father worked as a gardener but died in 1899 aged 37 and, on the 1901 census, **Victor's** widowed mother is a laundress working at home with boys aged 11, 10, 7 and 4. They had moved from Bakers Buildings to East End. Alice then died in 1902 aged 42.

The oldest brother, Ernest, left Woolton Hill School in June 1901 'to go to work'. He was working as a gardener in 1911 and living at the Sun Inn in East End with the publican James Bartlett.

Albert and **Victor** were taken into the care of Barnardo's despite an attempt by the Kingsclere Poor Law Union and local ladies like Mrs Williams, Foster and Quinn to place them with foster families. The youngest boy, Harry, went to live with an aunt and uncle in Ludgershall.

Barnardo's emigrated about 30,000 children to Canada between 1882 and 1939. The Barnardo's boys would go into the Barnardo's receiving home in Toronto and be boarded out onto farms from there.

Victor left Liverpool for Quebec on the SS Dominion on the 23rd September 1903 aged 9 and Albert emigrated to

Canada in 1904 aged 14. Both boys were in Barnardo's homes until their emigration to Canada.

By 1918, when he enlisted in the Canadian army, **Victor** was an electrician, living in Peterborough, Ontario. Albert, by now a carpenter and machinist in Toronto, also enlisted but survived. The four brothers managed to keep in touch.

On his enlistment papers, **Victor** gave Albert as his next of kin and Albert gave Ernest's name back in East Woodhay at the Sun Inn.

On 6th July 1918, while **Victor** was on leave from the Canadian infantry, he was Best Man at his brother Ernest's wedding. This was just six weeks before he died during the final German offensive of the war near Haucourt. Ernest remained in East Woodhay and Woolton Hill and named his son Victor. Harry settled in Ludgershall, where he married and had 3 sons and 2 daughters and lived there until his death in 1972. At the end of the war Albert was sent to Siberia to fight in the Russian Civil War but returned safely to Canada.

When the memorial committee met to decide whose names should be on the East Woodhay war memorial, it was agreed that Victor's name should be included:

*'It was also decided that **Winstone's** name, though joining a Canadian Regiment, should be added to the list of the Glorious Dead in deference to his brother's wishes and in consideration of the fact that his family lived for many years in the neighbourhood and were educated in it.'*

WORLD WAR TWO:



DAVID EDWARD HEWITT

**Lieutenant, 186652, Royal Artillery attd.
1 H.A.A. Regt., Royal Indian Artillery.**

Died Friday 05 March 1943, aged

Commemorated at Singapore Memorial.

Location: Column 3.

PETER NORMAN HEWITT

**Pilot Officer, 101025, R.A.F. Volunteer
Reserve, 601 Squadron.**

Died Sunday 19 October 1941, aged 19.

Buried at Golders Green Crematorium, Middlesex.

Location: Panel 2.

**Son of Flying Officer Edward Norman Hewitt and
Cecilia Ruth Hewitt.**

Family background:

Their father, Edward Norman, was born in, Pendleton, Manchester in 1894 & died in Bournemouth in 1972. He was the son of another Edward, who was an Architect Surveyor in Manchester, and his wife, Fanny. Both were born in Manchester.

Mother, Cecilia Ruth, was born in Woolwich in 1892 & died in Apsley Guise, Beds. In 1974.

Her father, Tom Percy Woodhouse, served in the Punjab and rose to rank of Major General. The two siblings were born in India but it looks as if the family had returned to the Woolwich Barracks area when Cecilia was born. However Cecilia and her future husband, Edward Hewitt, must have returned to India as **David & Peter** were born there.

We had no link initially between the Hewitts & the parish but there was a breakthrough on Ancestry when a niece of the brothers was contacted. Her mother, Mary (who sadly passed away in November 2018, aged 89), came to East Woodhay in 1940 with her mother & her two brothers.

They first stayed at Knight's Close with Major Hamilton. He was a retired Army vet & the families had known each other when in India. Mary recalls he had a lovely horse. His wife was Peter's godmother.

The Hewitt family then moved across the road stayed with Mr and Mrs Burton at Hillcrest, Ball Hill.

The brothers were in the Home Guard & worked for a local farm whilst they were waiting to be called up. The family attended church regularly.

Their sister, Mary, was only 13 at the time & missed her brothers every day of her life.

David was born on 8 February 1921 in Lahore, Bengal, India.

In the 1939 Register, he was a student living at Mount Royal Hotel, Bournemouth.

According to a January 1946 newspaper announcement by his parents, he was serving with the 1st Indian A.A., Royal Artillery. In 1942 he was recorded as being imprisoned in Malaya by the Japanese. He was officially recorded as 'missing at sea', aged 22. It is alleged that he had left New Britain and was on Japanese transport in March 1943. The parents were living in Farnborough, Hants at this time.

On 24 June 1946 they posted another announcement to say that he was now presumed to have died near the Solomon Islands as a P.O.W.

in Japanese hands. The parents also remembered their other son, **Peter**, as it would have been his birthday.

Find my Past has a record of his death on 5 March 1943 in the Far East.



According to the UK Army Roll of Honour 1939-1945, **David** was serving in the Malaya theatre of war. The Find a Grave site records his death as 5 March 1943 and he is recorded on the Singapore memorial, Kranji, N.W. Singapore. It also states that he was born in India but living in Hampshire when he enlisted.

Further information from the Hewitt family:

We have quite a bit more about David, which we only found out 4 years ago (2014). Mum (David and Peter's sister) and her mother knew he had been captured by the Japanese at the fall of Singapore (Red Cross had also told them of Peter's death) and was in Kranji as a POW from Feb '42. They spent the rest of the war believing he would come home. When the war finished they were finally told that he had died when his Japanese POW transport was torpedoed by the Americans. In reality it has now come to light that the Japanese took 600 prisoners from Kranji and shipped them first to Papua New Guinea and then the surviving 517 travelled onto Balalae island in the Solomon Islands (arriving Nov'42) where they were forced to build an airstrip. Some prisoners died in American air raids but when the war was lost the Japanese executed the remaining 300 or so. After the war in '46, the Australians knew about the graves and exhumed the bodies and reburied them in Papua New Guinea. None of the bodies were ever identified and we have no idea where David actually lies. We visited the National Arboretum in Burton on Trent and David is also commemorated in their Far East section.

Seeing the recreated conditions that the prisoners endured was pretty distressing for my Mum but she wanted to go. The Balalae island period of history has been glossed over.

Peter was born on 24 June 1922 in Karachi, Bombay, India. Again, according to family announcements, he served with 601 Squadron and made his last flight on 19 October 1941, aged 19.

That squadron was known as the "Millionaires' Squadron" as it had a lot of men from wealthy backgrounds. Information from his sister said that when he died, his squadron were based at Duxford and had just changed from Spitfires to Aircobras.

His death was registered in the Bedford district, ref. 3b 646. On the Find a Grave site it states that he is recorded on Panel 2 of the war memorial at Golders Green Cemetery, Barnet, London.



Whilst In the Home Guard in Ball Hill there was a German plane that crashed in Fullers Lane. Their sister remembered "*David and Peter had gone to the crash site as part of the Home Guard. The next morning her mother, along with everyone else, went to see the plane. While there she saw a worried looking RAF officer. She asked him what the problem was and he said they were missing the Dynamo from the plane. When they returned to their digs there was a strange petrol smell in the house. They found Peter in his room with the dynamo in pieces as he'd dismantled it. She doesn't remember what*

happened to it after that. Peter was 18 and had just left school. Apparently he was keen on finding out how things worked!"

JAMES HOLMES

**Private, 14396259, 2/6th Queen's Royal
Regiment (West Surrey).**

Died Friday 25 February 1944, aged 28.

Buried at Beach Head War Cemetery, Anzio, Italy.

Location: V.G.12.

**Son of John and Lucy Mabel Holmes, of Newbury,
Berkshire.**

**Inscription: "He was so joyously happy that he made
others happy too. Loved by all."**

James was born on 07 Jan 1916 in East Woodhay. He was the son of John Holmes and Lucy Mabel Holmes (nee Hearne).

Father, John, was a Rural Postman in the 1911 Census and living in North End. Lucy came from Woolhampton and they had 3 other children recorded in that census plus a 5 month old niece. **James** had 7 siblings in all.

The Holmes family is a long established family in the parish as there are census records going back to the 1850s. It is thought that they ran a Post Office at some point – probably in North End.

In the 1939 Register, **James** is a Butcher's assistant & single. He is living at 4 Pollard Cottages, Ball Hill with his father, John, who is still a Postman and his mother, Lucy, who is a Housewife. **James'** brothers also live there - John junior is a General Heavy Worker and Albert is also a Butcher's assistant.

James worked as a Butcher's assistant for Mr Frederick W. Leach. In the 1939 Register, Mr Leach was living with his family at Colthrop Farm just

outside Newbury. The 1911 Census shows him as a Butcher/Shopkeeper at Devon House, 143, Bartholomew St., Newbury. He came from Devon hence the name given to the premises & the family presumably lived over the shop. It is not known if he had the shop in 1939. Mr. Leach died in 1949.

James was 28 when he died in 1944 & is buried at the Beach Head War Cemetery at Anzio

Sadly, his father died in 1945 and a brother had died in Newbury in 1939.

Another researcher has put the following newspaper cutting on-line – presumably from the Newbury Weekly News.



The sad news has been received from the War Office by Mr. and Mrs. J. Holmes, of 4, Pollard Cottages, Ball Hill, Woolton Hill, that their son, Pte. James Holmes, has been killed in action in the Central Mediterranean theatre of war in February. Before joining the Army he was with Mr. Leach, of Newbury, for 12 years. He was aged 28.

WILFRED ROLLIE KINGHAM

**Private, 5350875, 10th Bn Royal Berkshire
Regiment.**

Died Tuesday 08 February 1944, aged 20.

Commemorated at Cassino Memorial, Italy.

Location: Panel 9.

Son of Sarah Kingham, of East Woodhay, Hampshire.

Wilfred was born in East Woodhay on 13 June 1924 & his mother's maiden name was Pocock. **Wilfred** worked in the furniture repair department of Camp Hopson's, in Newbury, as an upholsterer and he cycled to work each day.

Sarah Pocock, from Bothampstead, Hamstead Norrys, Berks, had married Augustus Kingham, from Speenhamland, in Newbury in 1902.

In the 1911 census, Sarah is widowed and living in East End. She is a laundress with 3 children: Gussie, Gladys & Charlie. Augustus Kingham died in 1909 in London (though a resident of East Woodhay) & was buried at Speenhamland. Augustus had also served in the same regiment that **Wilfred** enlisted. It appears, therefore, that **Wilfred** had a different father as he was born after Augustus' death.

There is a Kingham's Cottage in East End near Stargroves that was owned by his Grandmother. Augustus is said to have worked for Stargroves estate.

In the 1939 Register, **Wilfred** is recorded as being born on 13 June 1924. He is single & an Upholsterer. He is living in East End with his mother and other members of his family. Sarah is the School Caretaker.

Wilfred died during the night of 8th – 9th February 1944 at Monte Cassino, Italy. He is recorded on Panel 9 of the Cassino Memorial.

The war diary of the 10th Bn Royal Berkshire Regiment records the difficult conditions under which the attacking British infantry laboured:

"It took a laden man four and a half hours to climb to the Battalion area. All water, ammunition and rations had to be carried by hand, as the route was impassable to mules."



RALPH MORGAN

**Petty Officer Airman, FAA/FX. 82142, Fleet
Air Arm, H.M.S. Fencer, Royal Navy.**

Died Thursday 07 October 1943, aged 22.

**Commemorated at Lee-on-Solent Memorial,
Hampshire.**

Location: Bay 4, Panel 3.

The only information we had to start with was on the memorial in St Martin's Church that said **Ralph** was in the Fleet Air Arm. The above details are the only ones that fit with that piece of information from CWGC records.

Further research discovered a Mrs Ruth Morgan living in East End in the 1937 Kelly's Directory who was the District Nurse.

A record was then discovered in the UK Army & Navy Birth, Marriage & Death. This stated that **Ralph** was born in Bedwellty, Monmouthshire on 2 November 1921.

Yet more digging revealed that his mother's maiden name was Evans. A Ruth Evans married James F. Morgan in Bedwellty in 1920 – the year before **Ralph's** birth, which seems to confirm his parents.

The 1939 Register shows Ruth Morgan (b 12 November 1891) as a Military Families Nurse for SSAFA and husband, James Francis Morgan (b 30 May 1889), as an Orderly in the GA Office with both being at Whittington Barracks, Lichfield.

Ruth Morgan died in 1976, aged 84 and she had been living at 1, Heathlands, Penwood.

Father James appears to be born as an American British Subject according to the 1901 Census & living in Bedwellty with his parents (with

the same birth) & siblings. A death of a James Francis Morgan is recorded in 1965 in the Alton area.

The 1891 census shows his ancestors as also being American British subjects.

HMS Fencer was part of a convoy that went out to the Azores in October-November 1943 to take part in Operation Alacrity. The aircraft provided anti-submarine cover. The convoy arrived in the Azores on October 8 – the day after **Ralph** was killed.



PETER DUNDAS SANDBACH

**Major, 38531, 8th King's Royal Hussars,
Royal Armoured Corps.**

**Died Tuesday 09 December 1941, aged
34.**

Commemorated at Alamein Memorial, Egypt.

Location: Column 17.

**Son of Major William Sandbach, and of Helen
Sandbach, of Newbury, Berkshire.**

Peter was born on 17 October 1907 at Osney Lodge, South Godstone, Surrey. In the same year his father bought the Hazelby estate in East Woodhay.

In the 1911 census the family were living at Hazelby House. There was another brother, Ralph, and 8 servants.

His father, **Captain William Sandbach**, was killed in 1915 at Gallipoli – (see World War One section).

His mother, Helen Margaret Sandbach later remarried Cosmo Douglas. In the 1939 Register Helen is down as widowed & managing her own farm at Hazelby, East Woodhay. Her daughter, Margaret, is living with her by private means & she is single. There are also 4 servants.

He is mentioned as being in the 12th Royal Lancers in 1927.

There is a record of **Peter** being listed on a ship's passenger list in 1931 bound for Port Said, Egypt. He was serving in the Light XII Lancers.

However his name is crossed out so he may not have actually travelled.

He was promoted to the rank of Major in early 1941. He was killed at the Battle of Sidi Rezegh, which was part of Operation Crusader that ultimately lead to the relief of Tobruk.. He is recorded on Column 17 of the Alamein Memorial. Some records still record him as Captain.

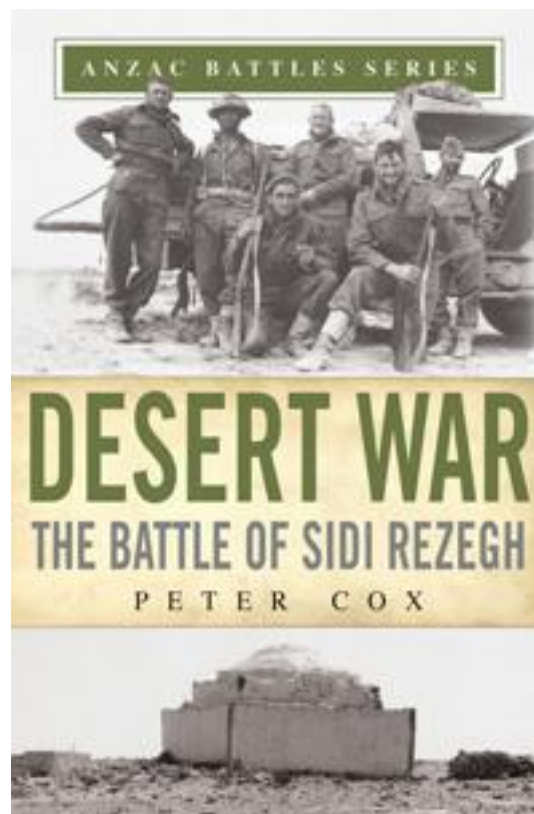
There are three family announcements in newspapers:

The first, dated 19.1.1942, lists him as missing with his mother asking for any information. She is living at The Old Cottage, North End.

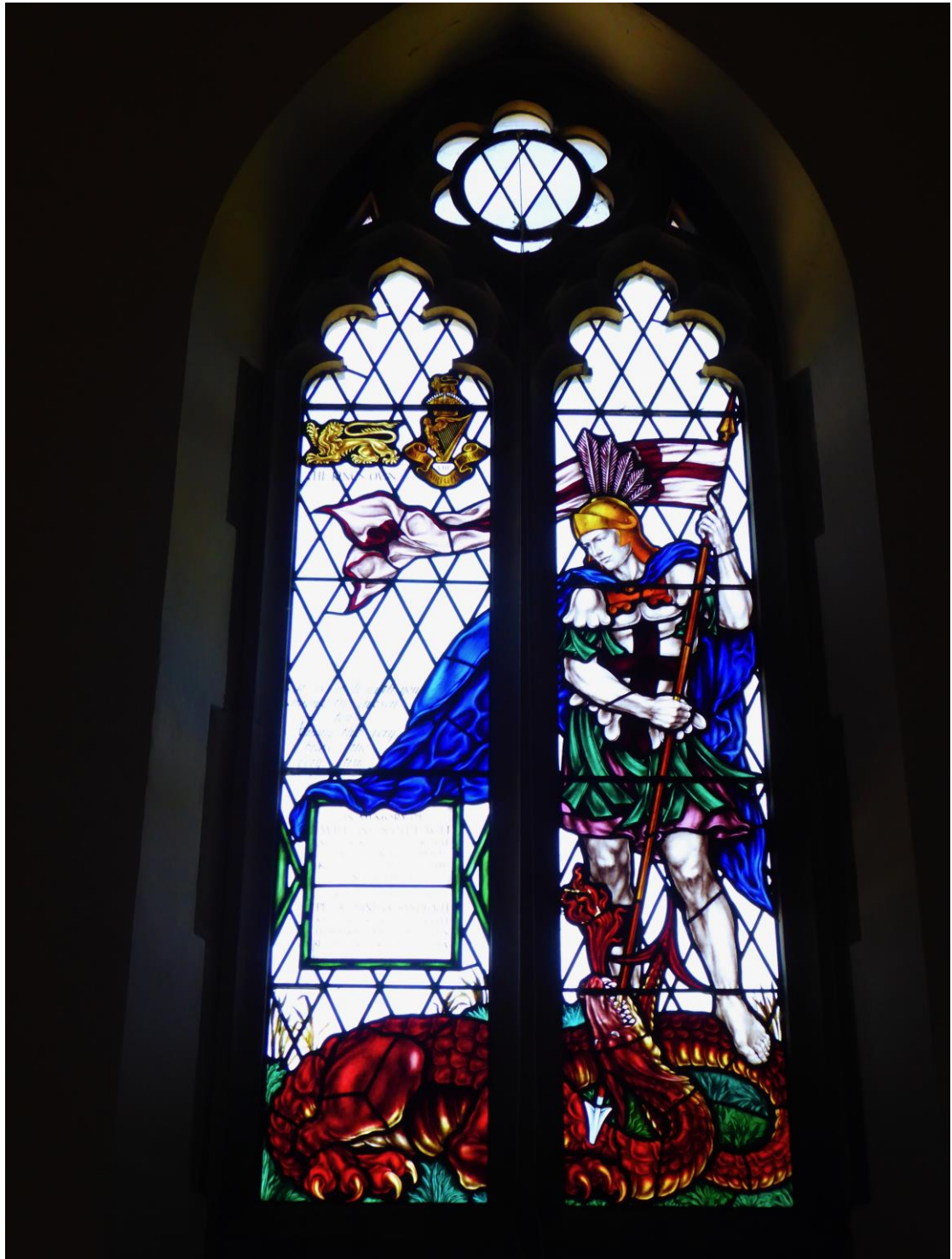
The next, 5.2.1942, says that he died of wounds & a memorial service "will be held in the Parish Church of East Woodhay, Newbury on Sunday Feb. 8 at 3.30".

The third, 2.12.1942 is in memory of his death a year earlier.

His probate record states that he left £33,011 9s 5d to his mother who was the executor.



There is a memorial to both Sandbachs on the North wall of this church. It was the custom when making these stained glass memorials that the figure is a likeness of the person being remembered. In this case it is likely to be **Peter**.



About the memorial book in St Martin's Church (of which this is a digital copy)

The memorial books – one for St Thomas' and one for St Martin's – are the culmination of research into the parish's war dead from 2 world wars. It is hoped that these books will bring these names to life for both the local community & to visitors to our parish churches.

It started with the Parish History book published in 2000 & the research done by Graham Heald. The Local History Research Group then expanded this prior to the start of the WW1 centenary commemorations.

After our first exhibition in 2014, we added new information that came to light & we also researched the WW2 names that were on show today for the first time.

We are very grateful to several local families for their help with the research & special mention should be made of Maureen Smith's contribution.

I must also mention Priscilla Mary Marchant. She was the sister of David & Peter Hewitt who lived in the village for a short time before enlisting in the 1940s. She lost them when she was only 13 & missed them every day of her life. She was delighted to hear of our research & that they were still remembered. The family generously gave us photos & anecdotes about their life here. Sadly, Mary passed away just over a week ago. I think it would be appropriate to remember her as well during this weekend. She represents all those families who lived with their losses so stoically over many years.

November 2018