

CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY HISTORY

THESE WERE OUR SONS

REMEMBRANCE COMMUNITY RENEWAL

574 NAMES ARE ON THE STOCKWELL MEMORIAL
They include underage boys, family men, jack-the-lads, fraudsters, printers, prison officers, bank clerks, railwaymen. They were conscripts and volunteers, Christian and Jew, old and young. This new edition of *These Were Our Sons*, issued to mark the 101st anniversary of the building of the Memorial, tells their stories.

‘The shock of reading of the sheer numbers lost in our own neighbourhood, and the youth of so many of the fallen, makes me look at our war memorial with renewed humility and gratitude’

JOANNA LUMLEY, *Stockwell resident*

ISBN 978-1-9196232-8-3



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Cover image
Illustrated London News,
20 January 1917

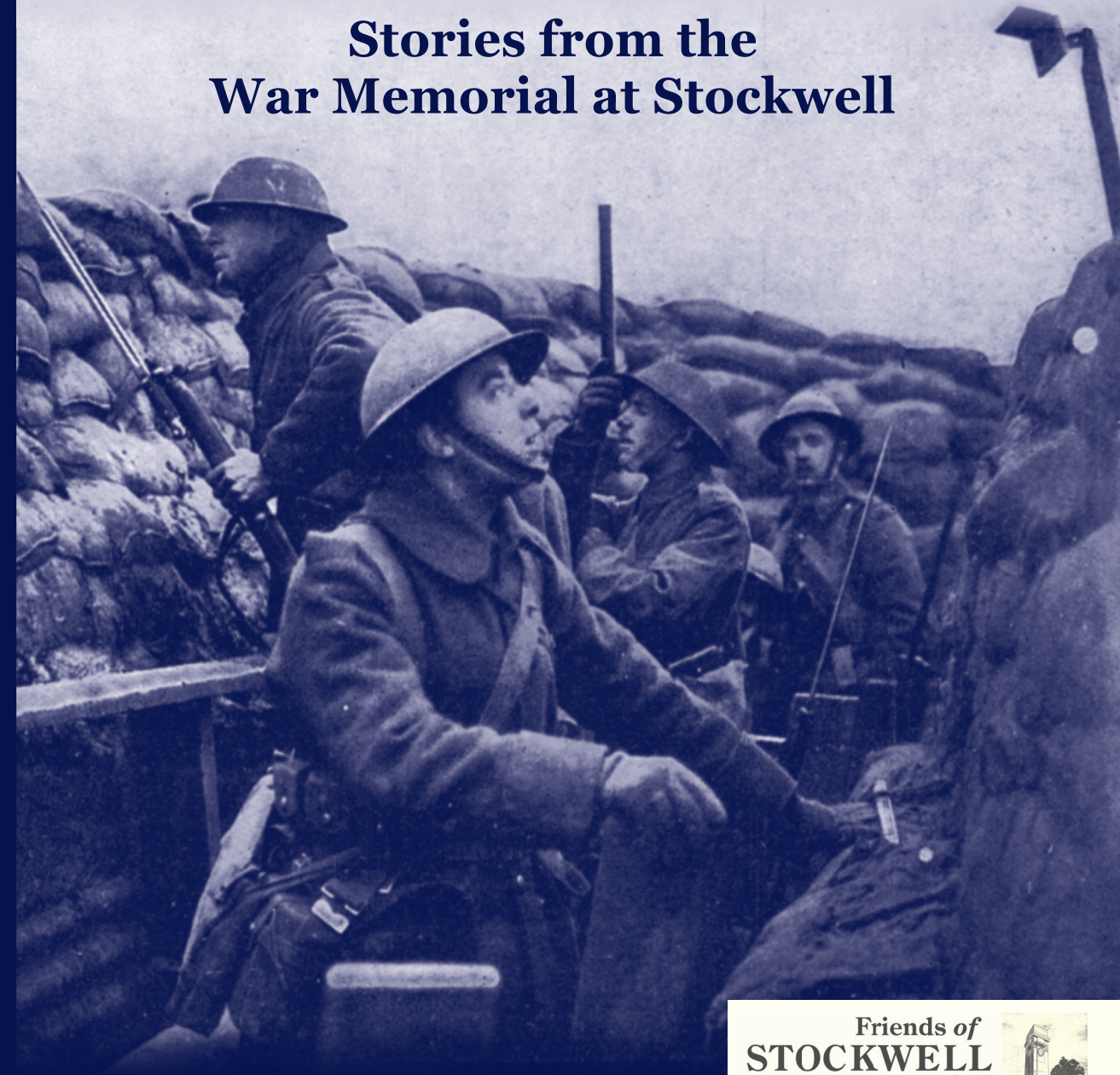


THESE WERE OUR SONS STOCKWELL WAR MEMORIAL

CARET PRESS

THESE WERE OUR SONS

Stories from the War Memorial at Stockwell



Friends of
STOCKWELL
War Memorial
& Gardens



**THESE WERE
OUR SONS**

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OUR SONS**
*Stories from
Stockwell War Memorial*

Friends of
STOCKWELL
War Memorial
& Gardens



Published in 2023 by Caret Press in association with
Friends of Stockwell War Memorial & Gardens

First published in 2010 by Elefant Books

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Print book ISBN 978-1-9196232-8-3
Ebook ISBN 978-1-9196232-7-6

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*These were our sons who died for our lands
In glory will they sleep and endless sanctity
Their name liveth evermore*

INSCRIPTION ON THE MEMORIAL

This book is dedicated to the families of
the men named on Stockwell War Memorial
and to all who ensure that names of the
dead are not forgotten

THESE WERE OUR SONS

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**FRIENDS OF STOCKWELL
WAR MEMORIAL & GARDENS**

The Friends of Stockwell War Memorial & Gardens is an unincorporated organisation. The purpose of the organisation is to protect the Stockwell War Memorial and Gardens at Memorial Gardens, London SW9, to campaign for its proper maintenance and to promote awareness in the community of its significance.

We welcome new members.
Please email
info@stockwellwarmemorial.org

Friends of
**STOCKWELL
War Memorial
& Gardens**



INTRODUCTION

STOCKWELL WAR MEMORIAL, whose centenary year was 2022, was the product of a remarkable community effort to commemorate the lives and deaths of local men who died in the First World War. The Friends of Stockwell Memorial & Gardens chose to mark it with a week-long exhibition at St Michael's Church in the centre of Stockwell. Through this event new connections were forged and new identifications made since the first edition of *These Were Our Sons* was published in 2010. The biographies of over 70 men have been added to the listings, the prime contributor being local historian Chris Burge. Others were sent to us by the families and other local historians and interested people.

Quite apart from our contributors, we are forever in the debt of several key people. This edition of *These Were Our Sons*, our website stockwellwarmemorial.org, the recent exhibition and indeed the establishment of the Friends of Stockwell War Memorial & Gardens would not exist without the help and encouragement of the families of the men on the Memorial. Committee members Sheila Dartnell and Christine Armstrong, both of whom claim relatives on the panels have been central to this.

The Friends aim to be as accurate as possible and to credit appropriately everyone who has been involved. Where we have made omissions or errors, please let us know. We will correct our files and ongoing editions of this book.

NAOMI CLIFFORD, *Friends of Stockwell War Memorial & Gardens*,
March 2023

THE WAR MEMORIAL *at* STOCKWELL

We hope this fresh look at Stockwell War Memorial on its 100th anniversary will prompt thoughts of its meaning and significance, not only as a place to remember those lost in war but also as somewhere to contemplate the possibility of hope and renewal under any circumstance

THE WAR DEAD

Almost a million men lost their lives in the service of the British Empire during the First World War. Most died abroad, their bodies buried near the battlefields where they fell.



BEHIND THE LINES A carpenter makes wooden crosses behind the front line. Army chaplains were tasked with ensuring that graves were properly marked.

NO RESTING PLACE

Few people could afford to travel to visit the grave of their loved one. In many cases, there was no grave to visit. The bodies of half a million men were never found.



CORNER OF A FOREIGN FIELD

A temporary cross marks the grave of gunner Joseph Edward Hobbs, who lived at 62 Hargwyne Street and died aged 20 in 1917 in Salonika, Greece. Hobbs is named on the Stockwell memorial.

MAN ON A MISSION In 1914, horrified by the haphazard treatment of the war dead, Fabian Ware, a volunteer ambulance commander, began to record the identity and location of each grave, which led to the establishment of the Graves Registration Commission and in 1917 the Imperial (now Commonwealth) War Graves Commission.



When the widows and mothers of our dead go out to France to visit the graves, they will expect to find that equal honour has been paid to all who have made the same sacrifice

Memorandum of The Trades Union Congress
Parliamentary Committee
W. Burdett-Coutts, 'War Graves' report, 1920



ROW ON ROW Euston Road Cemetery at Colincamps in the Somme, France. The restrained designs of the graveyards were intended to express pride and gratitude with simplicity.

THE BEREAVED

The Stockwell community was without a permanent symbolic focus for grief because most of the bodies of loved ones lay hundreds of miles away.

It is estimated that there are over 100,000 war memorials in the UK, most of them relating to the First World War. There has never been, before or since, such a drive to create memorials to a conflict and those who died fighting it.

The fighting ended on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918. In London, after joyous, wild and drunken celebrations, the mood darkened. Stockwell, along with the rest of the country, had undergone immense suffering – uncertainty, fear, deprivation and hunger – and the loss of hundreds of local men. Life had been irrevocably altered.



PERMANENT MEMORIAL Nearly two weeks before the ceasefire of 11 November 1918, local businessman J. A. Wheeler wrote to the *South London Press* to publicise the project to build a memorial.
SOUTH LONDON PRESS, 29 OCTOBER 1918



SPONTANEOUS REMEMBRANCE Wooden shrines listing the names of local men were often placed outside churches. This example (now lost) was at St Mark's Church, Kennington Oval, and was erected in 1916. There were similar temporary memorials at St Anne's in South Lambeth Road and St Michael's, Stockwell. SOUTH LONDON PRESS, 6 FEBRUARY 1917

I remember going to see the masses of people gathering in the Strand. People dancing and cheering and drinking. I had to walk home as there were no buses. At home my mother was crying because Chris had been killed and would not be returning.

ETHEL DARTNELL
Sister of Lance-Corporal Christopher Dartnell, named on the Stockwell memorial, remembering emotions on Armistice Day, 11 November 1918

THE DESIGN

In 1919 the Memorial Committee invited proposals for the design of the clock tower, with the final choice to be made by the Royal Academy War Memorials Committee.

The architect Frank Twydale Dear (1882–1965) grew up at 210 Lambeth Road. At the time of the 1911 census he was working as a draughtsman at HM Office of Works. He designed only one other war memorial, at Golders Green, and later became chief architect for United Dairies.

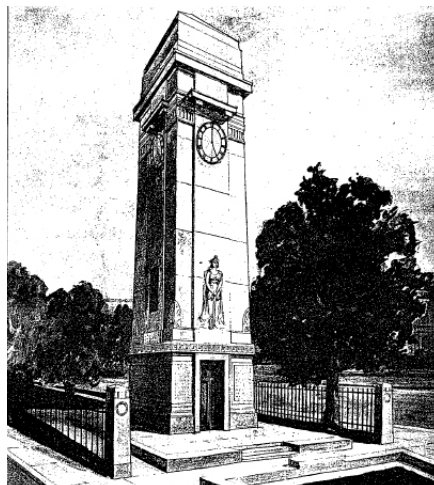
Fund raising The War Memorial Committee initially estimated £2,000 (£100,000 today) was needed to complete the project. However, after the war, as Europe set about repairing damaged infrastructure, the price of building materials rocketed.

A tower of excellent proportion and refined detail, depending for its effect on good massing and simple lines.

The Royal Academy Committee's verdict on Dear's design, 1920



THE CENOTAPH The Stockwell clock tower echoes design features of the Cenotaph in Whitehall. Edwin Lutyens' Cenotaph was unveiled on 11 November 1920 and replaced a similar wooden structure.



THE WINNER By March 1920 eighty designs had been submitted, forty of them from qualified architects. The Royal Academy Committee decided that Frank Dear's classic design for a 45ft (13.5m) Portland stone tower best satisfied the brief for a simple monument that would complement its surroundings.

THE BUILDER, 26 MARCH 1920

STOCKWELL WAR MEMORIAL.
Princess Beatrice Opens Bazaar in Aid of the Erection Fund.

As part of the efforts to raise funds for the Stockwell War Memorial, a bazaar and sale was held in Clapham Public Hall High-st., Clapham, on Wednesday afternoon. The memorial is to be placed at the junction of Clapham-rd. and South Lambeth-rd., and a design has been approved.

The bazaar was opened by Princess Beatrice (attended by Capt. McIntosh), who was received by Alderman George Brittain (Mayor of Lambeth). Also present were the Marchioness Townshend, Miss Minnie Cochrane (from Scotland), Mrs. G. Brittain, Mr. H. G. Purchase, M.P. (Kennington), Mrs. Purchase, and the following members of the War Memorial Committee—Mrs. Charles Ashton, Mrs. A. Ashton, Messrs. Wyndham, K. Stanley, Leonard Charles, Samuel Bowler, Nuttall and Councillor May Morgan. Princess Beatrice was presented with a bouquet of flowers by little Miss Priscilla Young.

Opening the bazaar, the Princess wished success to the Fund.

Mr. Purchase, proposing a vote of thanks to the Princess and to Marchioness Townshend, said that the visit of the Princess was the first paid by Royalty to the borough for 17 years.

The Mayor seconded the vote of thanks, which was acknowledged.

Stalls were under the direction of the following—Mr. and the Misses Bowler, Mrs. Rice, Mrs. Buckingham, Mrs. Bryman, Mrs. Harrison, Mr. James Rowland, Mrs. A. Ashton, Miss Janet Hunter, the Misses Wright, Mr. Harry Bryman, Miss Marie Lloyd, Mrs. M. A. Stanley, Mrs. Chas. Ashton, Mrs. S. H. Stanley, Mrs. Edwards. An enjoyable entertainment was carried through by a number of artists.



ROYAL TREATMENT Princess Beatrice (1857–1944), the youngest child of Queen Victoria, aided fund-raising efforts by opening a bazaar held in Clapham.

SOUTH LONDON PRESS, 30 APRIL 1920

THE BUILDER

The clock tower was built by stonemason John Frederick Patrick, who lived only a few streets away from the Memorial.

Family business

John Frederick Patrick (1869–1943), the son of a Battersea stonemason, lived at 41 Dalyell Road in Stockwell, and had a stonemasonry yard in Gaskell Street, off Union Road. When war was declared in 1914 orders dried up so, with a large family to support, Patrick took a job making shell casings. He returned to building as soon as business improved. One of his first jobs was to build the Stockwell tower.

My father used to go to the yard and set out the stonework for the masons to work ready for the next day and, with a mate, he fixed every stone in the memorial.

When they were preparing the footings they came down on the concrete around the South London tube. In those days the trains used to come up from underground to an open space on the other side of Clapham Road.

The brickwork on the inside, backing up the stonework, is superb. It was carried out by an elderly retired bricklayer as a memorial to his sons who were killed in the war.

CHARLES PATRICK Son of John Patrick, 1994



ROLL CALL John Patrick with his wife Ellen Peacock and nine of their eleven children. Charles (white collar) attended Stockwell Road School and remembered the headteacher reading out the names of former students killed in the war. Ellen's brother Ted was killed in action, aged 18.

THE MEMORIAL

As the unveiling date neared, a cash crisis became apparent. The total cost was more than twice the initial estimate and there were not enough funds for the four-faced clock.

The sculptor Chelsea-based sculptor and war veteran Benjamin Clemens (1875–1957) created the figure of Remembrance, or the goddess Minerva, carrying a laurel wreath with a broken sword of war at her feet. Beneath her are the words: 'To the Stockwell Men who Served in the Great War 1914-1919.' The stone carving was executed by Greenwich-born Frederick Francis. Clemens's work can be found on several First World War memorials, including at Cheadle Hulme in Cheshire, and Harrow, north London.

The names Families and friends submitted names to the committee. The men had to have lived within half a mile of the Memorial site.

Time memorial Dr Frederick Foord Caiger, Superintendent of South Western Hospital in Landor Road, stepped in to donate the clock as a tribute to his only child, 19-year-old Frederick, a medical student.

A DOCTOR'S GIFT TO STOCKWELL.

War Memorial Clock Presented by Father of a Fallen Hero.

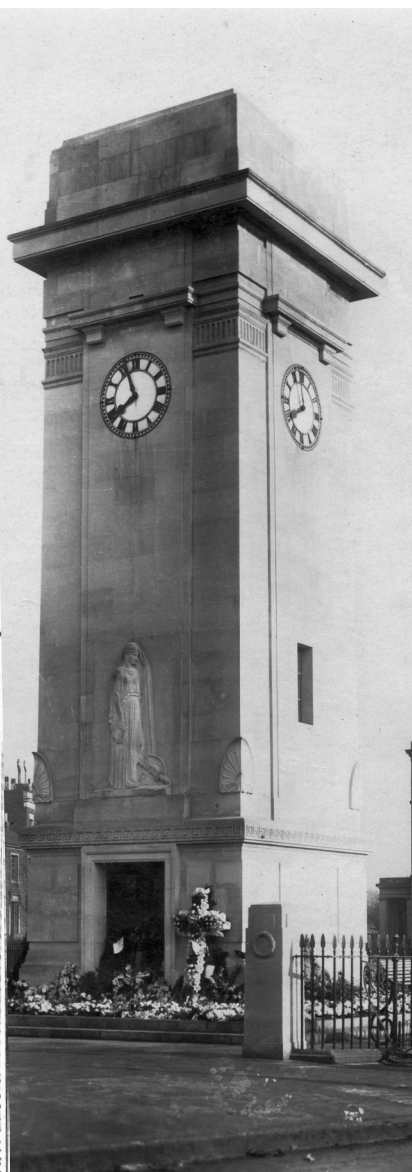
TRIBUTE TO A NATIVE.

The clock, which the Stockwell War Memorial Committee needed to place in the tower or memorial, and which was referred to in the "South London Press" last week, has been presented by Dr. F. Foord Caiger, of the South Western Hospital, Stockwell, as a tribute to the memory of his only son, who fell in the battle of the Somme at the age of 19. The committee are most grateful to Dr. Caiger for his prompt and generous response and feel that his gift is worth infinitely more from the motives inspiring it.

Dr. Foord Caiger's letter, addressed to Mr. S. Bowler, hon. secretary of the Memorial Committee, was as follows:—

There need be no anxiety about the clock. I will be responsible for it, and, indeed, shall be very pleased to give it as a tribute to the memory of my only son, who fell in the battle of the Somme at the early age of 19. When a war memorial was first mooted I intended offering to provide the clock, but on hearing that someone else had already done so, said nothing about it. The idea of placing a clock at the "Swan" corner appealed to me very strongly, (as not only likely to prove a convenience to those living in the vicinity and to the many passer-by at a spot which has become a busy traffic centre, but) a clock struck me as such a "live" and appropriate tribute to one who was born and always lived in Stockwell, and who entertained a warm affection for his home.

The committee is now desirous of proceeding at once with the work of inscribing the roll of honour in order to be ready for the unveiling ceremony, two months hence, and hope someone will offer to defray the cost. Mr. Samuel Bowler, the hon. secretary, of 222, Clapham-rd., will answer inquiries regarding the styles and cost of naming now being considered, which vary between £80 and £200.



SOUTH LONDON PRESS, 22 FEBRUARY 1922

THE UNVEILING

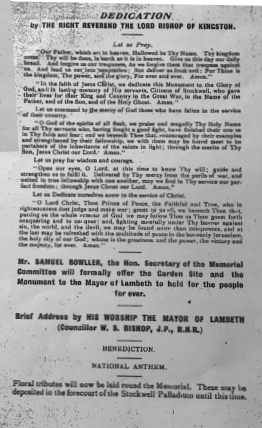
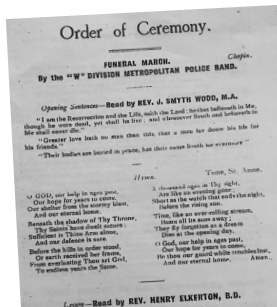
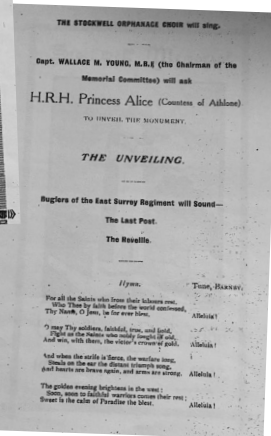
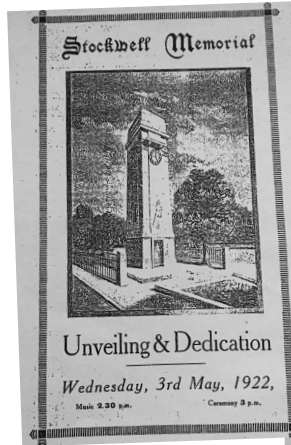
Wednesday 3 May 1922 in Stockwell was a day of grief and solemn drama. Almost four years after a memorial was first proposed, the building was about to be formally dedicated.

An emotional service

While dignitaries and prominent local figures prepared themselves in the Palladium Cinema opposite the Memorial, musicians took their places in front of Stockwell Terrace. At 2.30pm the police band began to play, after which the choir of Spurgeon's Stockwell Orphanage sang. A hush fell over the crowd, broken only by the occasional clanking of a passing tram. The ceremony began at 3pm, when the crowd sang the hymn O God Our Help in Ages Past, a lesson from the Bible was read and the Orphanage choir sang once more. After the unveiling, buglers of the East Surrey Regiment sounded the Last Post and the Reveille, the crowd sang the hymn For All the Saints, and the Bishop of Kingston formally dedicated the building.

Among the onlookers were many ex-Service men and women and a large number of women in mourning, carrying wreaths or little bunches of flowers to place at the foot of the memorial in honour of their fallen.

SOUTH LONDON PRESS, 5 MAY 1922



ORDER OF SERVICE
The service started with Chopin's Funeral March, played by a police band.



A DAY TO REMEMBER *The Brixton Free Press* reported that, 'The weather was not quite so propitious as could have been desired, but happily during the actual ceremonial, rain, which fell in heavy showers before and after, held up, and the brief but impressive ceremony passed off without a hitch of any kind'.

Anticipation Hours before the unveiling was due to begin, people began to gather in the Stockwell Triangle for the service of dedication, filling pavements and front gardens and watching from the windows of surrounding houses. After the ceremony, the clock was started. At this point the downpour that had threatened all afternoon dispersed the crowd, who drifted away or deposited their floral tributes, and the dignitaries left to take tea at the York Restaurant in the Palladium Cinema.



THE MOMENT At 3.25pm, after the service, Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, released the flags and declared: 'To the glorious and lasting memory of the men of Stockwell, who laid down their lives for King and Country.' Captain Wallace M. Young, chairman of the Memorial Committee, stood to the right; John Patrick, the builder in charge of construction, was in the crowd to the left, hat in hand.

REMEMBRANCE

Awareness of the significance of the Memorial has grown in recent years, boosted by the centenary of the First World War, the renovation works on the building and an understanding that the site provides a focus for remembrance and reflection of all kinds.

Variety of styles

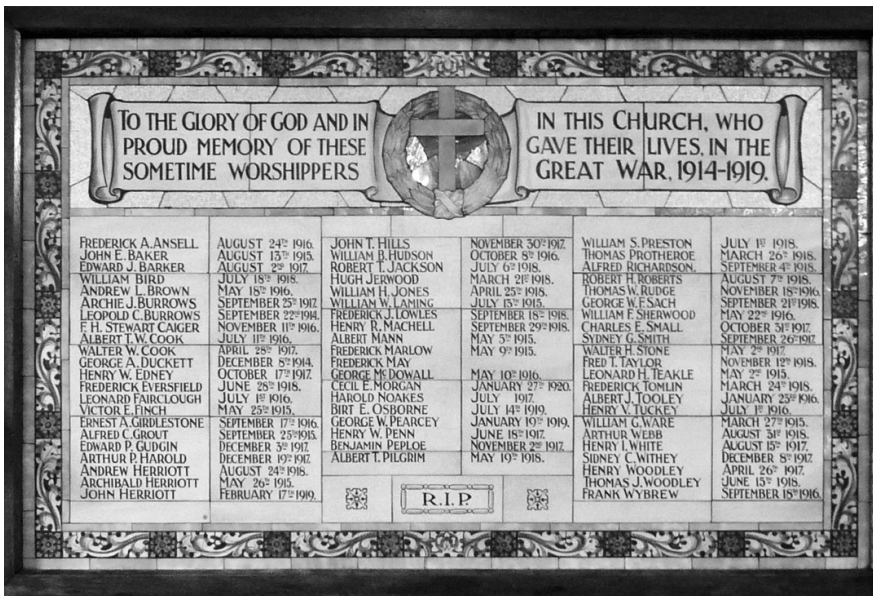
The expression of grief, sorrow and relief after the First World War in the form of memorials can be seen as a major public art project of huge diversity.



Lambeth Old Town Hall

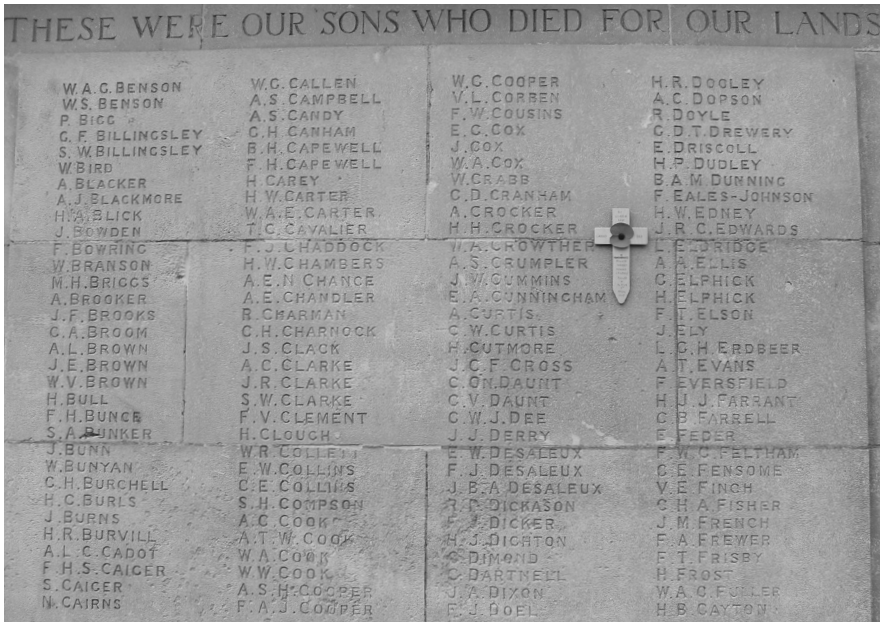


Clapham Manor School



St Andrew's Church, Landor Road

THE WAR MEMORIAL AT STOCKWELL



PERSONAL FEELINGS People have different ways to remember their dead, including leaving an object at a significant site.



WE WILL REMEMBER THEM Stockwell Memorial is the designated Lambeth Remembrance site, attended every Remembrance Day by the Mayor. A short service takes place in which prayers are said, the Last Post and Reveille are sounded and wreaths laid.



VISITING The Memorial continues to be of particular importance to relatives. Here on a visit to the Memorial in the 1980s, David Coleman, great-grandson of Charles Frederick Parker, points to his name.

*They shall have stars at elbow and foot;
Though they go mad they shall be sane,
Though they sink through the sea
they shall rise again;
Though lovers be lost love shall not;
And death shall have no dominion*

from Dylan Thomas (1914–1953)
'And death shall have no dominion' 1933

COMMUNITY

In 1942, twenty years after the unveiling of the War Memorial, a new structure appeared next to it – the rotunda, an entrance to a deep-level bomb shelter designed to accommodate up to 8,000 people.

Tunnel vision The shelter, one of five following the route of the Northern Line, was constructed as two parallel tunnels 16ft (4.8m) wide and split horizontally into upper and lower levels. A plan to join the tunnels after the Second World War to create a high-speed train line was abandoned as too expensive.



HOME FROM HOME The shelters were fitted out with bunks, toilets, air purifiers, recreation rooms, canteens and washing facilities.



TAKING COVER With the arrival of V1 and V2 guided rockets in summer 1944, the deep-level shelters were opened to admit civilians, shown here queuing at Stockwell. A second entrance to the shelter is in Studley Road.

New beginnings The mural includes a depiction of the *Empire Windrush*, the ship which in 1948 brought returning service personnel and civilians from the Caribbean to Britain. Some of the passengers settled in Stockwell and Brixton.

Courage of her convictions The mural commemorates the life of Violette Szabo (1921–1945), who lived at 8 Burnley Road in Stockwell and was awarded the George Cross for bravery in the Second World War. A plaque to Szabo was unveiled by actress Virginia McKenna, who played her in the film *Carve Her Name With Pride*. There are also portraits of famous people with Stockwell links, including actor Roger Moore (1927–2017), who grew up in the area, and artist Vincent Van Gogh (1853–1890), who lodged for six months in Hackford Road.



WAR PAINT The rotunda was first decorated in 1999 by artists Brian Barnes (1944–2021), left, and Myra Harris, who based the themes on suggestions from students at Stockwell Park School (now Platanos College).



VIOLETTE SZABO The Second World War heroine, a member of SOE, was captured by the Gestapo and murdered in Ravensbrück Concentration Camp.

RENEWAL

The Memorial was Grade II listed in 1991. This century has seen major changes to the site: the addition of the Bronze Woman statue, the refurbishment of the clock tower and the reconfiguration (once again) of traffic flow around the monument.



BRONZE WOMAN The statue, created by Ian Walters and finished by Aleix Barbat, is inspired by a poem by Cécile Nobrega, who lived in Lambeth. The 10ft (3m) high sculpture of an Afro-Caribbean woman holding aloft a child was unveiled in 2008 for the 200th anniversary of the end of the transatlantic slave trade, and celebrates the contribution of the Afro-Caribbean community to London.



THE PAST IS THE FUTURE The murals on the Rotunda were refreshed by volunteers in 2013, after which the Lambeth Mayor, the late Mark Bennett, dedicated a plaque.



*Find me a place
In the sun
In the sea
On a rock
Near an Isle In the Caribee;
There I will set her,
Honoured,
Free*

*from Cecile Nobrega (1919–2013)
'Bronze Woman' 1968*

THE WAR MEMORIAL AT STOCKWELL



NOT FORGOTTEN

The Memorial lists the men in alphabetical order and gives only initials and surname. A few names were added at a later, unknown, date. It is not a complete list as some bereaved families did not put names forward. The addresses we have given are the 'last known' of the men or their families, taken from records

HENRY EUSTACE ADAMS



Henry Eustace Adams, born in Southwark in 1878, was the youngest son of Robert Adams and Ann (née Lee), who were married at St Martin in the Fields Church in Trafalgar Square in 1863. At the time of Henry's birth his father Robert was established as a successful mechanical engineer. By the time of the 1891 census Robert was widowed and living at 162 Brixton Road, with his children Sidney James, 21; Emily Martha, 17; Fanny, 14; Henry Eustace, 12; and Annie, 10. The family employed a live-in domestic servant. The house, named Victor Lodge, which is still standing, is a double-fronted Grade II-listed villa dating from around 1823 with, at that time, 13 rooms, a basement, attic and coach house. At the age of 50, Robert Adams was married for a second time, to Louisa Mary Pearce, who was ten years younger.

Henry attended West Cliff School, Ramsgate and later City of London School, and matriculated at the University of London in 1900. After qualifying as an architect in 1904, he joined his father's engineering business and went on to become a partner in his father's 30-year-old business in Emerald Street, near Holborn, along with his older brother Sidney. When Henry's 70-year-old father completed the 1911 census the household consisted of himself, his wife Louisa, and his children, now all in their thirties, and Annie Dickenson, a domestic servant.

On the outbreak of war Henry felt compelled to volunteer. On 9 September 1914, after failing to get into the Royal Engineers, he had gone to 32 St Paul's Churchyard, where he joined the Rifle Brigade. He was recorded as 35 years old, 5ft 9½in in height and weighing almost 10½st with a 36in chest. His hair and eyes were brown and he had a fresh complexion and no distinguishing marks other than two moles on his back.

Henry's father died on 11 September

1914, aged 74. With Henry in the Army, Sidney was left to run the family business.

Henry was first posted to the 11th battalion of the Rifle Brigade and on 7 October 1914 to the 13th battalion. By November the 13th moved to the High Wycombe area in Buckinghamshire and in April 1915 to Andover in Hampshire. Henry finally went to France on 29 July. The part he played in the war and his own fate is described in detail in an entry in *De Ruwigny's Roll of Honour*, based on information probably provided by Sidney.

Henry served with the Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders from 29 July, 1915. He took part in operations along the British front from Armentières to Albert and was selected for special duties with the Royal Engineers in the winter of 1915–16, and was attached to the 147th Army Troop Company, when he was entrusted with the survey of important works connected with the 7th Corps line, which included those in front of the villages of Souastre and St Armand, and prepared the plans which were submitted to Headquarters, and for these services he was highly commended.

He took part in the Battle of the Somme, and died at No. 14 Stationary Hospital, Wimereux, on 25 October 1916 from complications arising from exposure in the field, after being wounded in action between Contalmaison and Pozières on 10 July. A comrade wrote: 'We had been carrying bombs, etc., up to the front line, a small party of about eight, and we succeeded in getting through a terrible barrage to our destination safely. We were told to take shelter in the front line for a time. It was then he [Adams] got hit by a piece of shrapnel. As things did not get better, we were told to make our way back, and, of course, take Mr. Adams with us; but he absolutely refused to let us do so, saying he did not want to jeopardize [sic] our young lives in attempting to save his. We were all so sorry to leave him, for he was highly respected by us all, and he was always looked upon as our adviser owing to his superior knowledge on almost everything possible to think of.'

Henry left a will in favour of Sidney and probate was granted on 23 October 1917,

amounting to £3171 12s 6d. At the end of the war Sidney had preferred to deal with the Army's officialdom via his family solicitor. In 1920, there was confusion over a communication printed with the words 'army service effects', containing the sum of £9. This was a war gratuity payment and not the personal effects that Sidney longed to have, as his solicitor pointed out: 'Our client is very anxious to have his brother's effects, and we would be obliged if you will have a special enquiry made about them...' There is no record that any of Henry's personal belongings were ever returned.

Mr S.J. Adams was listed among those who made an additional subscription to the Stockwell Memorial fund when it was officially unveiled in 1922, as reported in *The Brixton Free Press* on 5 May 1922. In 1927, aged 57, Sidney married Dorothy Winifred Passmore. The couple, along with Sidney's sister Emily, lived at 162 Brixton Road until 1937 when Sidney died at the age of 67. CHRIS BURGE *H.E. ADAMS. Rifleman, Rifle Brigade, 13th Bn. Service No. S/2950. Died on 25 October 1916, aged 38. Remembered at Wimereux Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France, at St Mark's Church, Kennington Oval, and on the war shrine at St Michael's Church, Stockwell Park Road*

WALTER ALEXANDER

Walter Alexander was born on 5 December 1888 in Camberwell in southeast London. In the 1891 census he is recorded as one of four siblings living at Faraday Street, Walworth: Maud, aged eight; Phoebe, three; Walter, two; and James, five months. His parents William and Ellen were 63 and 52 respectively. Although it was not unknown for women to have children late in life, especially if they had had many births, there is a question mark over the accuracy of the children's recorded ages and their true relationship with the parents.

The family home was a three-storey property housing two other families, totalling 16 people, close to the Michael Faraday Board School, St Stephen's

Church, the Newington Workhouse and the mineral water works in nearby Albany Street. This may have been Walter's father William's employer as he was working as a 'traveller in mineral waters'. Walter's infant brother James died in 1892 and William died in 1898. The family group is not found in the 1901 census.

On 31 January 1907 Walter, previously a grocer's assistant, joined the Royal Navy as a stoker, signing for 12 years' service. He was described as 5ft 3in tall, with light brown hair, blue eyes and a fresh complexion. Advancement was slow, possibly because Walter found himself in the cells more than once and in 1912 was given 30 days' detention for insubordination. A more serious incident occurred on 5 August 1914, the day Britain declared war. Walter was accused of inciting insubordination and attempting to strike. The nature of his grievance was not recorded. He was threatened with 90 days' imprisonment and dismissal from the service, an order that was cancelled three months later. After this date, Walter's conduct was good to very good and he served on HMS *Virago* in the China seas until July 1915 when he was shore-based for a few months.

Walter was a witness at the wedding of his sister Maud to George Thomas Dalton in Tooting on 17 October 1915. The couple lived for a short time in Leigh-on-Sea, Essex before George Dalton volunteered under Lord Derby's Group Scheme (see *Appendix*) on 1 December 1915, and joined the Army. George was called up on 1 June 1916 and Maud moved to 244 South Lambeth Road, Stockwell.

The battle of Jutland took place on 1 June 1916 when Walter Alexander was on board the destroyer HMS *Menace*, part of the Twelfth Destroyer Flotilla which screened the Grand Fleet in the battle. Walter was transferred to another destroyer, HMS *Prince*, in October 1916.

In 1917, Walter was given leave to marry Beatrice Alice Selina Dalton, a younger sister of his brother-in-law George. The wedding took place on 3 June at St Andrew's, Landor Road, Stockwell, and was witnessed by Walter's mother

Ellen and Beatrice's father. The couple's address was recorded as 40 Sidney Street, Stockwell. Walter returned to HMS *Prince* but his service extended beyond the war's end when he served from April 1919 on the armed minesweeper HMS *Fandango*. Walter was killed on 3 July 1919 when his ship struck an enemy mine and was wrecked during operations in the Dvina River in north Russia.

On 3 September 1919 Walter's widow Beatrice gave birth to Winifred Elizabeth Alexander, who was baptised on 28 September. Walter was recorded as 'killed in action' in the Parish register. In 1920 Beatrice was married for a second time, to Edmund Arthur Hartshorn. She died in 1987 in Devon, aged 92. Walter's married daughter Winifred passed way in London in 2002, aged 83. CHRIS BURGE
W. ALEXANDER. Royal Navy, Stoker 1st Class, HMS 'Fandango'. Service no. 311118. Died on 3 July 1919, aged 28. Remembered at Chatham Naval Memorial, Kent

FREDERICK JOHN ALLEN



In October 1910 Stockwell bank clerk Frederick John Allen joined the London County & Westminster Bank at its Victoria Street branch and was working there when he enlisted in the Army. After his death, the staff magazine published a short obituary. Allen was 'educated at the Westminster City School, and received his earliest military training in their cadet corps. He joined the Artists [Rifles] and was a first rate shot, being in the eight that won the Daily Telegraph Cup for 'H' Company, and later in the sixteen which ran second in the Inter-Battalion Cup. He was the first volunteer to mount guard at the outer gate of the Tower of London. After receiving his commission in the 9th Devons he became Signalling Officer and was selected for a special job by the Brigadier.'

Frederick Allen was born in Brixton, the only child of Frederick Herbert Allen,

an assistant elementary schoolmaster for London County Council, and his wife Alice Minta Varney Allen. The 1911 census shows the family living in six rooms at 47 Mayflower Road, Stockwell (they were there in 1901 too). Allen was then 17.

F.J. ALLEN. Second Lieutenant, Devonshire Regiment, 'C' Coy, 9th Bn. Killed in action on 27 September 1915, aged 22. Remembered at Lapugnoy Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France and at St John's Church, Clapham Road, Clapham

GEORGE HARRY ALLEN



The 1911 census shows that 12-year-old George Harry Allen (on the left with his mother, as a small boy) lived at 18 Riverhall Street, South Lambeth, where his family occupied two rooms. His father, also

called George Henry Allen, a 37-year-old engineer originally from Marchington, Staffordshire, worked 'in cold stores'. His mother Marceline, 35, was from Kirtling, Cambridgeshire. George Henry was the eldest of five sons. Riverhall Street, now disappeared, was adjacent to Wandsworth Road and ran parallel with Thorncroft Street.

G.H. ALLEN. Private, Middlesex Regiment, 2nd Bn. Killed in action on 25 March 1918, aged 20. Remembered at Pozières Memorial, Somme, France

PETER D. ANDERSON

Peter Anderson was born in Glasgow. The 1911 census shows his family lived at 2 Crimsworth Road, off Wandsworth Road. His father, Berwickshire-born Thomas Anderson, 50, was a motor car engineer. His mother, Christina Anderson, 39, was from Ross-shire, Scotland.

P.D. ANDERSON. Private, 9th (Queen's Royal) Lancers. Service no. L/7853. Died on 13 February 1919, aged 28. Remembered at Lambeth Cemetery, Blackshaw Road, Tooting, southwest London

CLAUDE CECIL ANDREWS

Tentative identification

On the night of the 1911 census Cecil Andrews, 17, a clerk for a builder's merchant, and his sister, Maud Price, a 23-year-old widow working as a schoolkeeper, along with her two-year-old son George Price, were visiting their parents at 30 Haselrigge Road, Clapham. Charles Thomas Andrews, a 63-year-old schoolkeeper from Shaftesbury, Dorset, and his wife Emma Andrews, 59, from Rendlesham, Suffolk lived there in six rooms with another daughter. The couple had 13 children.

C.C. ANDREWS. Private, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment), 7th Bn. Service no. G/11433. Killed in action 21 October 1917, aged about 23. Remembered at Tyne Cot Memorial, Heuveland, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium and at St John's Church, Clapham Road, Clapham

JAMES ALBERT ANDREWS

James Albert Andrews came from a railway family. In 1911 he was 19 and working as a porter for the London & South Western Railway. He lived in four rooms at 60 Wilcox Road, South Lambeth with his parents, James Andrews, 48, born in Chelsfield, Kent and working as a foreman porter at London & South West Railway, and Rose Rebecca Andrews, 44, born at Walton-on-Thames, and three siblings, including a brother, Frederick William, 17, a messenger for L&SWR.

James was baptised at St Paul's, Clapham on 10 February 1892, when his parents lived at 162 Stewarts Road, off Wandsworth Road.

J.A. ANDREWS. Private, 1st (Royal) Dragoons. Service no. 6703; formerly, 2nd Dragoons (Scots Greys). Killed in action on 12 November 1914, aged 22. Remembered at Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

FREDERICK ALFRED ANSELL

Frederick Alfred Ansell appears on the 1911 census as a 19-year-old apprentice compositor (typesetter) living with his

family at 39 Wellington Road, Stockwell. His father, Frederick William Ansell, 51, also a compositor, was born in Westminster, as was his mother, Clara (née Morris), 48.

On 26 February 1916 he married Florence Edith Shettle at St Andrew's, Landor Road. They gave their address as 39 Cottage Grove, Stockwell.

F.A. ANSELL. Rifleman, Rifle Brigade (The Prince Consort's Own), 1st Bn. Service no. S/16820. Killed in action on 21 August 1916, aged 24. Remembered at Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium and at St Andrew's Church, Landor Road, Stockwell

A. ASHBY

Not identified

ROBERT ATKINS

Printer Robert Atkins lived with his wife Emily Louisa (née Umpelby) and two sons Robert Thomas and Thomas John (born 1913 and 1915) at 14 Horace Road, Stockwell. Now disappeared, Horace Road, also sometimes called Horace Street, was adjacent to Wilcox Road.

In December 1915 Atkins joined the Reserve at Lambeth, and in June the following year he was mobilised. He was described as 5ft 8¼in tall, 41in around the chest and weighing 10st.

Atkins' Army service file records one misdemeanour: in November 1916 he was absent without leave from Tattoo for 23 hours, for which he forfeited three days' pay. By the time he died, on 16 September 1917 of gunshot wounds to the neck, legs and left arm at the 2nd Australian Casualty station, he had served one year and 280 days. In January 1918 his widow Emily received his effects: two playing cards, a pipe, a knife, a cigarette box, a pair of scissors, two Rifle Brigade numerals. In May 1919, aged 29, she married 30-year-old Henry Edward Powell.

R. ATKINS. Rifleman, Rifle Brigade, 8th Bn., Service no. S/23067. Died of wounds on 16 September 1917, aged 30. Remembered at Trois Arbres Cemetery, Steenwerck, Nord, France

WILLIAM GEORGE AVENILL

William Avenill's Service record brings to mind a fit, well-made man. Thirty-seven when he attested on 27 May 1916, he stood 5ft 8¾in tall, with a 40in chest. His tattoos were noted: an eagle on his left forearm and a tea rose on his right.

In civilian life, Avenill was a head porter at Cadogan Court Gardens, Sloane Square. The records state that he left behind a wife, Edith Elizabeth Avenill (née Robinson), formerly of 141 Sidney Street, King's Road, Chelsea. Edith, 30 when she married Avenill in 1912 at St Anne's Church, South Lambeth Road, was a manageress (the Parish records give no other detail). Avenill was then living at 52 St Agnes Place, Kennington. Just a year previously, as shown on the 1911 census, Lambeth-born Avenill was unemployed and living at 53 Hartington Road, South Lambeth with his parents Henry, 65, a street sweeper born in Lambeth, and Jane Charlotte, 58, from Islington, and sister Annie, 40, a laundry hand.

Avenill had served 12 years to 1908 with the Royal Marine Artillery, so he must have known the score when it came to the military. Despite this and while still in England, he transgressed several times. An unknown crime noted on 17 January 1917 led to a forfeit of pay, and his absence for over a week in February was punished with seven days in detention and 10 days' loss of pay.

In the same month, he lost a further 10 days' pay and was given five days' detention. We do not know what caused Avenill to be so erratic but perhaps there is a clue in his Service records: the name of his next of kin, his wife, has been scored through and replaced with that of his mother.

On 2 May Avenill was transferred to the Wessex Heavy Battery. His record shows that he was 'dangerously wounded' on 5 June and he died the following day at the 10th Ambulance station. He was 40. Following standard procedure, the Army set about contacting his widow. A note in the record says: 'From Police. 11/6/17 No trace of Mrs. Edith Avenill.'

There follows another note: 'Miss V. Broughton, 3-0 Block, Sutton Buildings, Chelsea SW states she was living with Private Avenill since Oct 1916 and that he was married and wife died on 5 Dec. She was supported by him and was known as Mrs. Avenill. Asks for his case to be enquired into.' The records show that Edith died in October 1916.

There are two women in the 1911 census who could be V. Broughton, the most likely being Violet Broughton, a 20-year-old servant from Plumstead who was then working and living at an old people's home at 34 Nottingham Place, Marylebone in central London. Unfortunately, Avenill's file does not include the outcome of the Army's enquiry.

Avenill's mother, by now widowed and living at 57 Thorne Road, South Lambeth, received her son's effects: letters, photos, card, disc, pipe, pouch, whistle and, pertinently enough, a marriage certificate. In 1921 she was sent William's war medals and carefully wrote on the receipt she sent back to the War Office: 'War medals with very grateful thanks.'

W.G. AVENILL. Gunner, Royal Garrison Artillery, 1/1st (Wessex) Heavy Bty. Service no. 87965. Died of wounds on 6 June 1917, aged 40. Remembered at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Poperinge, Belgium

FREDERICK AVIS

Frederick Avis, a 19-year-old single man working for a brewery, joined up on 8 September 1914, barely a month after war was declared. Initially he joined the Wiltshire Regiment but he was transferred to the Royal Welsh Fusiliers in May 1916. He rose from Private to unpaid Lance Corporal to paid Corporal. Avis's only transgression was a failure to comply with an order in November 1915, for which he forfeited four days' pay.

Avis stood 5ft 4½in tall, weighed less than 8½st, and had a 38in chest. He had brown hair and blue eyes. On enlistment he was described as fit, but after three years of gruelling combat he was returned to England and spent at least 60 days in hospital. In September 1917 he was

receiving treatment for kidney stones and muscular rheumatism at the Birmingham War Hospital. He spent 38 days there, and a further 22 days in the Convalescent Hospital at Plymouth. And then, on 31 March 1918, he returned to the front.

He died at the Somme in June, after serving three years and 275 days. His widowed mother, Ada, received his effects: letters, photos, a wallet, two religious books and a watch and watchstrap. *F. AVIS. Corporal, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, 4th Bn. Service no. 46278; formerly Wiltshire Regiment. Died on 9 June 1918, aged 22. Remembered at Franvillers Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France*

WILLIAM GEORGE BACON

William George Bacon was born in Stockwell and lived in Stockwell. He enlisted in Battersea.

In 1911 Bacon was a tobacconist living with his brother and his wife at 86 St John's Hill, Clapham Junction. He married Alice Rachel Potts and left a daughter Vera Alice. *W.G. BACON. Private, South Staffordshire Regiment, 2/6th Bn. Service no. 242252. Died on 21 March 1918, aged 33. Remembered at Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France*

LESLIE FRANK BAILEY



The *Bayano* was a merchant ship commissioned by the Admiralty in December 1914 as an Armed Merchant Cruiser. On 11 March 1915 the ship was on her way to Liverpool from Clyde to refuel. She sank in under three minutes after she was torpedoed by a German U-boat (*U-27*) off Carswell Point, Stranraer. Most of the men were asleep below. Four officers and 22 men were saved, but 14 officers and 181 men were lost, including Leslie Frank Bailey.

In 1911 Lambeth-born Bailey, a 15-year-old schoolboy, lived in five rooms at 363

Coldharbour Lane, Brixton with his mother, Maria Bailey, 59, from Croydon, and a sister. He was one of five children. *L.F. BAILEY. Midshipman, Royal Naval Reserve, HMS 'Bayano'. Previously served on HT 'Huanchaco', on which he continued to serve when it was taken over as an Admiralty Transport in the first months of the war. Died on 11 March 1915, aged 19. Remembered at Portsmouth Naval Memorial, Hampshire and at Putney Vale Cemetery, southwest London*

ARTHUR EDWARD BALL

In 1911 Arthur Edward Ball, then 17, was working as a compositor's (typesetter's) apprentice. He lived at 58 Tasman Road, Stockwell with his father, Charles Ball, 47, a stonemason born in Isleworth, Middlesex and his father's second wife, Sarah, 42, from Chelmsworth, Suffolk, and three other family members.

Ball was baptised at St John the Divine, Vassall Road on 12 December 1894. *A.E. BALL. Serjeant, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, 1st Bn. Service no. 10231. Killed in action on 23 July 1916, aged 23. Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France*

JOHN or JACK BARBER

Seventeen-year-old Barber was described in the 1911 census by his father, a 52-year-old butcher also called John Barber, as 'at home in business.' This opaque description was also applied to his sisters Jessie, 20, and Ethel, 19. The family lived at 92 Landor Road, Stockwell. Barber's mother, Lydia, 46, was from Dymchurch in Kent.

J. BARBER. Driver, Royal Engineers, 47th Signal Coy. Service no. 551983. Killed in action on 24 March 1918, aged 24. Remembered at Beaulencourt British Cemetery, Ligny-Thillois, Pas de Calais, France

FRANK BARLOW

On 17 February 1917 Frank Barlow fell down a precipice, fracturing his skull. He

was buried initially about 10 yards from the road at Katerini, near Thessaloniki, Greece. His body was moved at a later date. According to a witness at the Council of Enquiry in the Field, hastily convened by Lieutenant Colonel R.J.L. Ogilby on the day Barlow died, he died instantaneously. The handwritten notes from the inquest survive in his Service file.

The platoon had been told to make their way down a sharp slope east of their camp and up a hill on the other side. 'I came to the edge of a cliff with a drop of about 90 feet to a stream below,' related R.C. Hone, who gave evidence. 'I told the men to get round [down] the best way they could.' They split into two groups and when Hone got to the stream at the bottom he tried to cross it, but fell in and lost his stick. 'I called to the others to catch the stick as it went by,' he continued. Then he noticed the body of Private Barlow. 'The last time I saw Pte. Barlow was about a quarter of the way down... when I noticed he was carrying a signalling flag,' he said.

Serjeant Souter 'saw something in the water, which I first thought was an animal. On looking down I found it was a London Scottish man.' They hauled the body out. No one had seen him fall.

'Pte. Barlow was in front of me,' said another witness, Private Keech, describing the descent down the slope. 'I had to drop out for a few minutes and did not see him any more. I had noticed that he was using his signalling flag as a walking stick.' Barlow's body was examined by Captain J.D. Stubbs of the Royal Army Medical Corps and he was pronounced dead.

The conclusion was clear: 'The court, having considered the evidence [is of the] opinion that the death of 6507 [Private] Frank Barlow was caused by an accident in performance of his duties and that no blame can be attached to any person concerned.'

We do not know whether Barlow's family saw the witness statements or received any further explanation of their son's death. Three months after the event, his effects were sent to his mother. On 23 May 1917 she completed the paperwork sent to her but added a sad note: 'I have

not received my son's pay book or will. I have had a copy of the latter sent from the War Office, but I should like his own handwriting.'

Barlow had served in France for two months before he was sent to Greece in November 1916. He had enlisted in the London Scottish on 24 January 1916 at Buckingham Gate, London, where he was noted as having good physical development. He was 5ft 8in tall, with a chest measurement of 39in.

The papers do not include details of Barlow's civilian occupation, but the 1911 census shows that he was then a 14-year-old part-time school student and office boy living with his family at 20 St Stephen's Terrace, South Lambeth, where they occupied five rooms. His father Moses Barlow, originally from Reading, Berkshire, was 52, and worked as a mechanical engineer in boiler making. His mother, Frances, 43, was born in Chelsea. There was a brother, George, who also served in the Army.

F. BARLOW. Private, London Regiment, 2/14th Bn. (London Scottish). Service no. 6507. Died in an accident on 17 February 1917, aged 21. Remembered at Salonika (Lembet Road) Military Cemetery, Greece

HERBERT ROBERT ALBERT BARNES

There is some confusion over Barnes's name. Mike Barnes searched for this casualty, his first cousin twice removed, after his father showed him a letter written by his aunt Violet in 1996 in which she mentioned two brothers, one of whom, named only as 'Bob,' died in the war of stomach wounds. Mike eventually identified Bob as Herbert Robert Albert Barnes of the 24th Battalion, London Regiment. On the Stockwell Memorial, however, he is listed under the name A. H. Barnes.

Barnes enlisted at Kennington, probably soon after his 18th birthday. The 1911 census shows that, then aged 14, Barnes was living at 31 Cobbett Street, South Lambeth with his father, Thomas George Barnes, 46, a cellarman from

Reading, Berkshire, mother Annie, 48, from Belfast, and an elder brother. There were two other children living elsewhere. A.H. BARNES. Private, London Regiment, 2/24th Bn. (The Queen's). Service no. 721131. Died of stomach wounds on 18 September 1918, aged 20. Remembered at Epéhy Wood Farm Cemetery, Epéhy, Somme, France

THEODORE GRACE BARNES

Theodore Barnes, a merchant sailor, died in a wartime maritime crime that shocked the world. On 31 July 1917 he was on board the *Belgian Prince*, a cargo ship built in 1901, when it was torpedoed by a German submarine. Among the three survivors was Chief Engineer Thomas Bowman, who told an Admiralty enquiry: 'About 7.50pm on July 31, I was on the after deck of the ship off watch. I was taking a stroll and having a smoke. Suddenly I heard a shout, "Here's a torpedo coming," and I looked and saw the wake of what I took to be a torpedo coming towards the ship on the port side. I shouted a warning, but had hardly got the words out of my mouth when the torpedo struck us.'

The ship began to take on water. Bowman, along with many other crew, clambered into a lifeboat. The Germans, under the command of Wilhelm Werner, ordered the lifeboats over, and took Captain Harry Hassan below deck, never to be seen again. The rest of the crew were told to stand on the deck of the submarine and to remove their lifebelts and overcoats. The Germans kicked most of the lifebelts into the sea and destroyed the lifeboats with axes.

'The small boat was left intact, and five German sailors got into her and went towards the ship. When they reached the *Belgian Prince*, they signaled with a flash lamp to the submarine,' said Bowman.

'The submarine moved ahead about two and a half miles, then stopped, and after a moment or two I heard a rushing sound, like water rushing into the sinking tanks of the submarine, and I shouted "Look out — she is sinking!"'

The submarine descended into the

Atlantic, dragging the *Belgian Prince's* crew into the sea. A few of the men, including Bowman, had managed to keep their lifejackets from the Germans. He tried to jump into the sea but was carried down with the submarine.

'When I came to the surface I could only see about a dozen of the crew left, including one boy who was shouting for help. I swam towards him. He had a lifebelt on, but was about paralysed, and I held him up during the night. He became unconscious, and eventually died while I was holding him up.

'When day broke I saw the *Belgian Prince* still afloat. I began to swim towards her, and when I had gone a short distance I saw her blow up.' Bowman managed to stay afloat long enough to be saved by a British patrol boat. Able seaman George Silessi and an American, Willie Snell, the ship's 2nd cook, also survived. They were cared for in Londonderry by maritime charity the British and Foreign Sailors' Society.

After the war, the Allies demanded Werner's extradition as a war criminal. He was also accused of murdering the crew of the SS *Torrington* in similar circumstances. Werner fled to Brazil under a false name, returning to Germany in 1924. Proceedings against him were dropped two years later, enabling him to climb the ranks of the Nazi party where at one point he belonged to Heinrich Himmler's personal staff. He died in May 1945, having never faced justice for his crimes. An Admiralty enquiry concluded: 'It was a cold-blooded murder equalling, if not transcending, the worst crimes that our enemies have committed against humanity.'

Barnes's father, Ernest Henry, was a compositor (typesetter) from Guernsey in the Channel Islands; his mother, Alice, 46, was from Camberwell. The family lived in three rooms at 44 Kay Road, Stockwell. There were four other children.

WITH THANKS TO THE MARITIME EXECUTIVE

WEBSITE FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS

T.G. BARNES. Apprentice, Mercantile Marine, SS *'Belgian Prince'* (Newcastle). Died in an atrocity on 31 July 1917, aged 17. Remembered at Tower Hill Memorial, east London

JAMES FOSTER BARNESLEY

Brother of William Charles Barnesley

In civilian life James Foster Barnesley, one of seven children, was a tailor's packer born in St Pancras, north London. On the 1911 census he was listed, aged 21, as living with his parents and siblings in five rooms at 10 Henry Street, Vauxhall. His father, William Barnesley, 49, was a cloth shrinker from Marylebone. His mother, Elizabeth, 49, was born in Soho.

In October 1915, aged 26, James Barnesley, married Susannah Maria Hurst, 28, at St Mark's Church, Kennington. He gave his address as 47 Meadow Road.

J.F. BARNESLEY. Private, Essex Regiment, 2nd Bn., Service no. 34448. Killed in action on 1 May 1917, aged 27. Remembered at Feuchy British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

WILLIAM CHARLES BARNESLEY

Brother of James Foster Barnesley

In 1911 William Barnesley lived in one room at 11 Glyn Street, Vauxhall (now mostly disappeared, the vestige of the street is adjacent to the Royal Vauxhall Tavern). Then aged 26, he was married to Emma, 24. They had three children aged five and under. Two other families, of five and three, lived in a further six rooms, as well as a single man in another room.

W.C. BARNESLEY. Driver, Royal Field Artillery, 'B' Bty., 103rd Bde. Service no. 55016. Killed in action on 22 June 1917, aged about 32. Remembered at Woods Cemetery, Ypres, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

F. G. BARRETT

Not identified

HARVEY CHARLES BARTEL

The 1911 census shows Harvey Charles Bartel as a 24-year-old clerk from Battersea, living in four rooms at 28 Rita Road, South Lambeth, with his father, Charles Joseph Bartel, 57, a carman from Poplar, east London, and mother,

Elizabeth Eleanor Bartel, 50, from Faversham, Kent. Harvey was the eldest of three sons.

H.C. BARTEL. Private, London Regiment, 1/13th Bn. (Kensington). Service no. 493554. Died on 23 October 1918, aged 32. Remembered at Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

GEORGE CECIL BARTER

When George Cecil Barter died at Ypres in 1918 his widow Mary was left to care for five young children. It was too much for her. 'You will notice that my son G.W.B. Barter is not at present living with me as his uncle has undertaken him for me,' she wrote to the notoriously strict Army Pension Board in April 1918 from her home at 27 Tunstall Road, Brixton. She was obliged to keep the Pension Board informed of her circumstances because her payments would be affected.

Mary's hands were full coping on her own with four younger children aged from five years to 10 months, she said. Soon afterwards she moved back to her parents' home at 4 Wyvil Road, South Lambeth. Sadly, her burden was reduced a few months later. Ernest, her youngest, died of convulsions and bronchopneumonia. Mary carefully submitted his death certificate to the authorities — copies are in her husband's Service file.

In civilian life, George Barter was a hotel porter. Before they started their family, the couple lived at 39 Coppermill Row in Walthamstow, east London. Barter was originally from Swindon, Wiltshire, while Mary was a Lambeth girl. They married at St Anne's Church, South Lambeth Road on 4 December 1910.

Barter, 5ft 8in with a 43in chest, according to the Army records, was 36 when he was joined on 19 November 1916. He was in England until June 1917, when he was sent to France.

G.C. BARTER. Bombardier, Royal Garrison Artillery, 359th Siege Bty. Service no. 130528. Awarded the Military Medal. Killed in action on 3 April 1918, aged 38. Remembered at Voormezele Enclosures No. 1 and No. 2, Ypres, Belgium

WILLIAM FRANKLIN BARTLETT



In 1911 William Franklin Bartlett was a Sergeant in the Bedfordshire Regiment at Stanhope Lines, Aldershot, Hampshire. His birthplace is listed as Kennington. He was 32. The 1891 census

tells us that William F. Bartlett's father, also called William, was a wood carver from Cowley, Middlesex.

W.F. BARTLETT. Regimental Serjeant Major, Bedfordshire Regiment, 1st Bn. Service no. 5710. Killed in action on 25 September 1916, aged about 37. Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

FREDERICK CHARLES BASS

Brother of Percy Bass

Frederick Charles Bass was born in Clapham, south London, on 8 November 1884, the son of William T. Bass, a railway signalman, and Rose Bass (née Harvey), who had married at St John's Church, Clapham North in 1879. Frederick was baptised at St Andrew's Church, Landor Road, Stockwell on 3 December 1893 along with his younger sister Emily.

The 1901 census lists William as a 45-year-old widower, along with his three children: Frederick, a 16-year-old railway porter; Emily, 14, and Percy Thomas, 10, at 58 Wellington Road, Stockwell.

Frederick attested on 18 April 1915 at Lambeth, and gave his occupation as waiter. He was 29 years and 6 months old, stood 5ft 2½in tall, with a chest measurement of 38in. He weighed 8st 10lb, and his physical development was judged good. He gave his address as 6 Nursery Road, Brixton.

He was first posted on 28 April 1915 and served at home, attached to the 6th Battalion; he was sent to France on 11 October that year, and recorded as killed in action on 22 November that year.

In January 1916 Frederick's effects, which included two cigarette cases, a

tobacco pouch, pipe and fountain pen, two notebooks and his identity disc, were returned to his father. The Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects shows that a war gratuity of £3 was awarded to Frederick's father on 13 September 1919.

F.C. BASS. Rifleman, King's Royal Rifle Corps, 7th Bn. Service no. R/11906.

Killed in action on 22 November 1915, aged 30. Remembered at La Brique Military Cemetery No. 2, Ypres, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

PERCY T. BASS

Brother of Frederick Charles Bass

Twenty-two-year-old Percy Thomas Bass stood 5ft 3in tall. He weighed not much more than 8st and had dark brown hair, brown eyes and a fresh complexion. In civilian life Bass was a waiter, but he was keen to leave this behind, volunteering for the King's Royal Rifles at Cockspur Street, Westminster on 10 September 1914, only five weeks after war broke out.

On 21 February 1915, while still in England, Bass was docked two days' pay for not turning up for Reveille. He was sent to France in July 1915 and was hospitalised in France for a day in December 1915. He was killed in action on 20 March 1916. Bass's commanding officer listed the effects to be returned to his widowed father, William T. Bass, a retired signalman of 6 Nursery Road, Brixton: a packet of letters, postcards and photos, a diary, tobacco pouch, scissors, pipe and lighter and a badge. Percy's brother Frederick also served in the King's Royal Rifle Corps and died in November 1915 aged 30. Another brother, Ernest Edward Bass, a porter, survived the war.

P.T. BASS. Rifleman, King's Royal Rifle Corps, 10th Bn. Service no. R/4191.

Killed in action on 20 March 1916, aged about 25. Remembered at Essex Farm Cemetery, Belgium

ARTHUR WILLIAM BATHO

The 1911 census shows a 15-year-old Arthur William Batho working as a messenger for the General Post Office. He

lived at 411 Wandsworth Road with his widowed father, Henry Thomas Batho, a 50-year-old railway porter from Otley, Suffolk, and four siblings.

Batho died on 25 April 1916 during the bombardment of Lowestoft by the German High Seas Fleet. The *Conquest* lost 25 men, with 13 wounded.

A. W. BATHO. Officer's Steward 3rd Class, Royal Navy, HMS 'Conquest'. Service no. L/6439. Died on 25 April 1916, aged 19. Remembered at Chatham Naval Memorial, Kent

ERNEST JAMES. BATTERBURY

Ernest James Batterbury, aged 18 in 1911, was a hosier's assistant, born in Lambeth. He lived at Buckstone Cottages, Oval Place, with his mother, Sarah Alice, 47, who was born in the City, and father, Henry Hooper Batterbury, 47, a theatre attendant originally from Windsor, Berkshire, five siblings and a boarder.

E. J. BATTERBURY. Lance Corporal, Rifle Brigade, 7th Bn. Service no. S/7006. Killed in action on 18 August 1916, aged 23. Remembered at Thistle Dump Cemetery, High Wood, Longueval, Somme, France

W. BEACHAM

Not identified

JOHN EDWARD BEAN

The 1911 census return completed by 43-year-old 'Edward John Bean', a dustman born in Brixton living in three rooms at 5 Carfax Square (now replaced by social housing), Clapham with his wife Ada, their son Edward, four, and Ada's three children from a previous marriage. Edward and widow Ada Gilbert (née Purkiss) had married five years previously at St Paul's, Clapham. In January 1906 Edward, then working as a coachman, and Ada had their son Edward baptised at Holy Trinity, Clapham, along with two of Ada's children from her marriage to George Gilbert. They lived at 2 St Alphonsus Road, Clapham. Edward attested in Camberwell, southeast London in 1914 or

1915. The Army records consistently show him as John Edward.

J. E. BEAN. Corporal, Royal Field Artillery, 'C' Bty. 49th Bde. Service no. 50155. Died of wounds on 22 August 1916, aged about 44. Remembered at Heilly Station Cemetery, Méricourt-l'Abbé, Somme, France

WILLIAM ELIAS BENEY

William Elias Beney, the son of William Beney, a coal porter living in 1911 at 1 Belinda Road, Loughborough Junction near Brixton, enlisted in Lambeth, in 1914 or 1915. His mother Mary Ann (née Nichols) died a year after his birth in 1892. William (snr) remarried and had seven further children. William (jnr) is not found on the 1911 census.

The Service Medal and Award Roll states that William Elias Beney's death was accepted on 11 November 1917, suggesting that he was one of the Missing. He left a widow, Mahala (née Williams), and a son, Frederick, born in 1914.
W. E. BENEY. Private, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry), 36th Coy. Service no. 20342; formerly Middlesex Regiment. Died on 30 November 1917, aged 25. Remembered at Cambrai Memorial, Loweral, Nord, France

WILLIAM ALBERT GEORGE BENSON

William Albert George Benson, who appears in the 1911 census as an 11-year-old, lived with his family in five rooms at 4 Tandridge Place, Stockwell. His father, William Albert Benson, 36, originally from Bermondsey, east London, was a carman transporting grain and manure. His mother, Rose Louisa, 38, was from Sydenham, southeast London. Benson had four siblings.

W. A. G. BENSON. Private, London Regiment, 'A' Coy., 20th Bn. (Blackheath and Woolwich). Service no. 634829. Killed in action on 1 September 1918, aged about 19. Remembered at Sailly-Saillisel British Cemetery, Somme, France and at St Michael's Church, Stockwell

WILLIAM SPENCER BENSON

The 1911 census shows William Spencer Benson as a 14-year-old paper boy. Born in Brixton, he was the eldest of five children of William Spencer Benson, 43, a general labourer, and Jessie Elizabeth, 35. The family lived at 62 Ingleton Street, off Brixton Road, and the household included an uncle and a boarder, both working as labourers.

W.S. SPENCER. Private, Royal Army Medical Corps, 17th Field Ambulance. Service no. 35733. Died of wounds on 23 April 1917, aged 20. Enlisted in Holborn. Remembered at Béthune Town Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

PERCY BIGG

Percy Bigg died after HMS *Formidable* was torpedoed at night by a German submarine (U-24) and sank off Portland Bill. Out of a total of 782 on board, 547 crew (35 officers and 512 men) were killed, including the Captain, A.N. Loxley, who remained on the bridge overseeing the evacuation, and his dog Bruce, whose body washed ashore and was buried in a marked grave in Abbotsbury Gardens in Dorset. The *Formidable* was the third British battleship to be sunk in the war, and the second to be sunk by enemy action.

In 1911 Percy Bigg was living at 4 Victoria Place, Priory Grove, South Lambeth where his family occupied six rooms. His father, Alfred, 44, born in Hertfordshire, was a carman for a laundry. His mother, Ellen, 44, was from Fontmell Magna, Dorset. The couple had six other children.

P. BIGG. Private, Royal Marine Light Infantry, HMS 'Formidable'. Service no. CH/17624. Died on 1 January 1915, aged 19. Remembered at Chatham Naval Memorial, Kent

GEORGE FREDERICK BILLINGSLEY

Brother of Sydney Walter Billingsley and stepson of Harry Frank Handel
George Frederick Billingsley was born on 23 June 1894 at 6 Robert Street, near Regent's Park in north London and

baptised on 10 July 1894 at Holy Trinity, Gray's Inn Road. In 1911 George, a publisher's office boy, was living with his mother, stepfather, sister Winifred Kate, nine, brother Sydney, 13, and baby half-brother Robert at 2 Arlington Mansions, Morat Street, Stockwell. George and Sydney were among six full siblings and, when the family was complete in 1915, three half-siblings.

G.F. BILLINGSLEY. Private, Yorkshire Regiment, 2nd Bn. Service no. 10356. Killed in action on 29 September 1918, aged 24. Remembered at Sucrerie Cemetery, Epinoy, Pas de Calais, France and at St Michael's Church, Stockwell

SYDNEY WALTER BILLINGSLEY

Brother of George Frederick Billingsley and stepson of Harry Frank Handel

Electrical engineer's assistant Sydney Billingsley, 5ft 2in tall, 8st and with a chest measurement of 37in, enlisted at Camberwell on 28 May 1915. He claimed to be 19 but he was at least a year younger. His war lasted one year and 107 days.

In 1911, Billingsley was living at 2 Arlington Mansions, Morat Street, Stockwell with his stepfather, Kennington-born Army pensioner Harry Handel, 29, who was working as a cook, and his mother, Ada Harriett Handel (née Mew), 42, from Banstead, Surrey. Ada and Harry had an 11-month son, Robert, a stepbrother. The Billingsleys' father, Alfred, was listed in the 1901 census as a printer's machine minder, born in Islington, north London. He died in 1903.

During his Army service, Sydney Billingsley was hospitalised at least four times, each time with 'pyrescia' (fever). He was disciplined more than 10 times, his crimes including 'breaking out of camp' (twice); having dirty equipment; hesitating to obey an order; and being late for parade.

S.W. BILLINGSLEY. Rifleman, London Regiment, 1/21st Bn. (First Surrey Rifles). Service no. 4001. Killed in action on 12 September 1916, aged 18. Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France and at St Michael's Church, Stockwell

WILLIAM BIRD

In 1911 William Bird was 15 and working as an errand boy. He lived with his family in six rooms at 21 Irving Grove, off Stockwell Road, where the family had been since at least 1901. Bird's father, also called William, was 40 and worked as a butcher's carman. His mother, Mary Ann, 40, was born in Pimlico. They had nine children.

W. BIRD. Able Seaman, Royal Navy, HMS 'Princess Royal'. Service no. J/24752.

Died on 18 July 1918, aged about 22.

Remembered at Lambeth Cemetery, Screen Wall, Blackshaw Road, Tooting, southwest London and at St Andrew's Church, Landor Road, Stockwell

ARTHUR EDWARD BLACKER

In 1911, before he married, biscuit factory worker Arthur Edward Blacker lived with his family in three rooms at 7 Lithgow Street, Battersea. His father, also called Arthur, 49, worked as a general builder's labourer and was born in Wandsworth, as was his mother Ellen (Nellie), 46.

Arthur Blacker married Charlotte (last name unknown) of 50 Shillington Street. *A.E. BLACKER. Rifleman, Royal Irish Rifles. Service no. 44089. Died of wounds on 25 June 1918, aged 28. Remembered at Wandsworth Cemetery, Magdalen Road, Earlsfield, southwest London*

ALBERT JOHN BLACKMORE

Albert John Blackmore was born in 1895 and baptised at St Stephen's, South Lambeth, on 24 July 1895. At that time his parents, Walter and Fanny Blackmore, both from Devon, were living at 1 Keiler Cottages, a four-room property, one of a row of three dwellings at the end of Meadow Row on the corner with Dorset Road. Walter Blackmore worked as a slater. Walter and Fanny had married in 1878 at St Barnabas, South Lambeth.

Albert was the seventh of Walter and Fanny's children; a son, Frederick, had died at the age of three two years before Albert was born. By the time of the 1901 census, after the birth of his sister Freda

May earlier that year, Albert was one of seven siblings. The family were still at Keiler Cottages and remained there a decade later when Albert's father completed the 1911 census return. He listed the members of the household: Walter, 53; Fanny, 53; Walter, 24; Albert, 15, Freda, 10, and a baby visitor, William Dixon, two.

Albert's father was now in a less physically demanding job, working as a printer's timekeeper. Albert's older brother Walter worked as a 'litho pressman [—] printer' and young Albert worked as a 'lift attendant [—] mansion'. Albert's father wrote their address as '1 Keillers Cott Dorset Road Clapham'.

Albert moved to other work, but by 1913 he had decided to join the Army. It was still a time when the public had a low opinion of the private soldier — the Army was for the desperate or adventurous. But Albert had set his sights on joining the elite Household Cavalry, the 1st Life Guards. He was expected to provide adequate references and had no difficulty in doing so.

Charlotte White, a 69-year-old widow of 47 Dorset Road, was happy to oblige, writing on 23 June 1913: 'Mrs White is very pleased to be able to speak very highly of Albert Blackmore, his parents having been her tenants before he was born, so that she has known him all his life, and he is a very respectable and steady young man.'

On the same day, C. Dicketts, the foreman of Crown Works on South Lambeth Road (this company was involved in aircraft manufacture during the war), wrote: 'I have much pleasure in certifying to the character borne by Albert Blackmore... He is thoroughly steady & sober young man & I can well recommend him for H.M. Service.'

The Vicar of St Stephen's described Albert as 'a young man of good character' who was 'honest, truthful and sober'.

The Army may have had difficulty in finding quality recruits in 1913, but Albert Blackmore was just the type of person they wanted. His medical was dated 23 June 1913, his attestation papers were stamped 24th and his enlistment was approved on

25th. Albert, then 19, who was working as a sawyer's labourer, was a little over 5ft 11in tall, weighed 11st and had a 38in chest with a 3in expansion. He had a fresh complexion, blue eyes and brown hair. His distinguishing marks were a small tattoo of a girl's head on the back of his right wrist and a mole on his back. A note of recommendation stated Albert was a 'very nice stamp of fellow. Intelligent, sound physically and a good shape'. So, Albert's Army career as 2966 Trooper Blackmore of the 1st Life Guards had begun.

The Life Guards were stationed at barracks in Hyde Park, but Army life wasn't confined to royal guard and ceremonial duties. They were trained to fight both as mounted and unmounted troops, with the then customary emphasis on musketry which included the so-called 'mad minute' — accurately firing 15 rounds using three clips of five rounds in 60 seconds. Albert learnt a hard lesson when he was struck in the face by a rearing horse at the Hyde Park Barracks riding school in January 1914. A burst lip that needed stitches landed him in the sick bay for a few days.

At the outbreak of war, one squadron was sent to France immediately. Some scenes at the Knightsbridge Barracks were photographed by Mrs Albert Broom (Christina Livingston), the self-proclaimed 'Official Photographer to the Guards' (the images can be viewed on the Imperial War Museum website).

The main body of the 1st Life Guards crossed directly to Belgium, landing at Zeebrugge on 8 October 1914 as noted in the official war diary (Albert's entries in the medal roll give 6 October as his disembarkation date, possibly confusing this with the date of embarkation). They had moved to Ypres by 14 October but soon found their traditional role of mobile reconnaissance was severely limited as trench warfare began to dominate. They were forced to fight dismounted as part of the forces holding a line on the Zandvoorde ridge southeast of Ypres in hastily dug and rudimentary trenches. The keeper of the war diary noted that between 24 and 25 October 1914:

'Zandvoorde — Remained in trenches

for 48 hours. Trenches heavily shelled all day. Both nights heavy firing opened about 9pm but no actual attack was made. Firing lasted about ½ an hour, and the same was repeated about 2am. Reports and casualty lists attached.'

At 6am on 30 October 1914 the war diary records:

'Zandvoorde — Heavy bombardment of position opened. At 7.30am position was attacked by large force of infantry. This attack proved successful owing to greatly superior numbers. Regiment retired in good order about 10.00am except "C" Squadron on left flank, from which only about ten men got back. Remainder of Squadron missing. Also one machine gun put out of action.'

It is thought the order to withdraw had not reached all men, and that those isolated groups kept fighting until the last man. Trooper 2966, Albert John Blackmore was posted missing on the 30 October, a fact not noted in his record until 6 November.

Albert's family were left with the hope that he was alive and had been taken prisoner, and his name appeared on the British Red Cross & Order Of St John Enquiry Lists of Wounded & Missing on both the 18 May and 26 June 1915.

A further nine months passed before the War Office wrote on 4 March to inform the Officer Commanding the 1st Life Guards that the Army Council had decided that for official purposes Blackmore was 'to be regarded to have died on, or since, the 30th October 1914, requesting that the next of kin be notified accordingly.'

The date of that notification is not known, but it seems to have triggered a final attempt by Albert's family to locate him, as reflected in the record cards held in the ICRC archive with dates in 1916. Albert's family were left to come to terms with the loss of a son and brother.

Sadly, Albert's father did not live to see the official unveiling of the Stockwell Memorial on 3 May 1922 as he passed away early in 1921, aged 64. It was Albert's mother Fanny and his younger sister Freda who were still at 1 Keilers Cottages.

On 4 May 1924, a group of British and

Belgian soldiers, veterans, relatives and dignitaries gathered at Zandvoorde to witness the unveiling of a memorial to the 'Royal Household Cavalry'. A speech was given by Field Marshal Douglas Haig, the senior officer of the British Army, among others. This monument is a roll of honour of the 1st and 2nd Life Guards and Royal Horse Guard who died in 1914, many of them on the 30 October 1914. Albert's name appears here as it also does in the book of remembrance dedicated to the 1st Life Guards which is held at Holy Trinity Church, Windsor.

Albert's mother Fanny was still living at Keilers Cottages when she passed away in 1930, aged 73.

CHRIS BURGE

A.J. BLACKMORE. Trooper, 1st Life Guards. Service no. 2966. Killed in action on 30 October 1914, aged 18. Remembered at Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium and in a book of remembrance at Holy Trinity Church, Windsor

HERBERT ALFRED BLICK

In 1911 Herbert Alfred Blick, 31, a ladies and gents tailor born in Stockwell, lived in six rooms at 202 Clapham Road, with his wife, Emily Elizabeth (née Cook), also 31 and born in Clapham, and eight-month old son, John Herbert Blick.

John Herbert died in March 1917, six months before his father.

H.A. BLICK. Private, London Regiment, 2/4th Bn. (Royal Fusiliers). Service no. 295157. Formerly City Imperial Volunteers (South African Campaign). Died on 21 September 1917, aged 37. Remembered at Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

JOHN BOWDEN

In 1911 John Bowden, then 12, lived with his widowed mother, Harriet Mary (née Thornburgh), 38, a laundress, and two sisters in four rooms at 2 Ely Place, off Dorset Road.

J. BOWDEN. Private, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry), 157th Coy. Service no. 118026. Killed in action on 5 March 1918, aged 19. Remembered at Cairo War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt

FRANK BOWRING



The National Roll of the Great War states that Frank Bowring joined up in 1916 and was sent overseas in that year. He was 'engaged on important duties at the 6th Stationary Hospital'. He contracted an illness in Antwerp in October 1919 and died there. The 1911 census shows that Bowring, born in Battersea, was the eldest of three children of Henry John Bowring, 49, a goods porter from Dorchester, Dorset, and Ellen Maria, 47, from Kent. They lived at 41 Priory Grove, South Lambeth. In 1911 Bowring was 15 and working as an apprentice engineer.

F. BOWRING. Private, Royal Army Medical Corps, 6th Stationary Hospital (Antwerp). Service no. 115005. Died of pneumonia on 26 October 1919, aged 24. Remembered at Schoonselhof Cemetery, Antwerp, Belgium

WALTER BRANSON

Walter Branson was 5ft 6in tall, weighed 9st 9lb, measured 37½in around the chest with a fair complexion, blue eyes and light brown hair. He joined the East Surrey Regiment. After 180 days' service he was discharged 'having made a mis-statement as to age'. He was 17 but had claimed to be 19. Despite his youth, he managed to impress his officers, who judged him to have a good military character. Some time after he turned 18, Branson re-enlisted, this time in the London Regiment.

In civilian life Branson was a van guard, and before that an errand boy. In 1911 he lived with his family in four rooms at 71 Dorset Road. His father, John Branson, 51, was a baker from Clapham; his stepmother Emily, 40, was born in Lambeth.

W. BRANSON. Private, London Regiment, 1st Bn. (Royal Fusiliers). Service no. 204513; posted to 1/2nd Bn. Killed in action on 27 August 1918, aged 19. Remembered at Summit Trench Cemetery, Croisilles, Pas de Calais, France

MARK HARRY BRIGGS

Mark Harry Briggs was born in Lambeth on 14 May 1898 and was baptised at All Saints, Devonshire Road, South Lambeth on 12 June. He was named after his father, and his parents Mark Harry and Elizabeth Jane were living in three rooms at 5 Madrid Place, off Dorset Road, which was still the family home in 1911. Six of Elizabeth's eight children had survived infancy. In his 1911 census return, Mark's father listed his son, then aged 12, above all his sisters. They were: Elizabeth Jane, 17; Esther Amy, 11; Phyllis Winifred, six; Florence Gertrude, five; and Ruby Ellen, just eight months old. Mark's father was working as a house painter and his sister Elizabeth as a domestic servant. The final addition to the family was Ernest John Briggs, born in 1912.

Mark was 16 at the outbreak of war and therefore underage when he volunteered at St John's Hill, Clapham Junction on 18 April 1915, the administrative base of the 23rd London Regiment. He claimed to be over 19 and at 5ft 6in in height passed the medical with ease. He was posted to the 2/23rd London Regiment as 3556, Pte. Briggs. His parents informed the authorities of his true age and prevented him from going overseas until he was 19. Mark spent time in the 108th Provisional Battalion before being sent to France on 29 September 1916.

In the summer of 1917 he was hospitalised in France with pleurisy, suffered an arm wound in November 1917 and was unfit for duty for a month. He was granted home leave in January 1918. In March and April 1918 the 1/23rd London Regiment were on the old Somme battlefield near Aveluy Wood, north of Albert. They were in the path of the enemy's spring offensive and suffered hundreds of casualties at the end of March and particularly on 5 April 1918.

In early May 1918 Mark's parents received notice that he had been reported missing and his name subsequently appeared in British Red Cross & Order of St John Enquiry List of missing or wounded on 2 August and 20 November 1918. When

the military authorities presumed Mark's death had occurred on, or since, 5 April 1918, the Briggs family were left to come to terms with their loss.

It was Mark's father who completed Army Form W5080 naming himself before his wife and children in order of precedence of the relatives of a deceased soldier. It was witnessed and countersigned at St Anne's, South Lambeth, on 27 October 1919. The family's address was now 2 Madrid Place. In another blow to the family, Mark's father died late in 1921, aged 48. Elizabeth only received her son's medals after providing evidence of her husband's death.

Elizabeth remained at 2 Madrid Place into the 1930s before moving to Tooting. She passed away in 1946, aged 71.

CHRIS BURGE

M.H. BRIGGS. Private, London Regiment, 'A' Coy. 23rd Bn. Service no. 701038. Died on 5 April 1918, aged 19. Remembered at Martinsart British Cemetery, Somme, France

ARTHUR BROOKER

In 1911 Arthur Brooker lived at 36 Rutland Street, South Lambeth with his widowed mother, Annie, 53, from Wroughton, Wiltshire. She had 10 children, seven of them living at home. The family occupied five rooms.

A. BROOKER. Private, Devonshire Regiment, 2nd Bn. Service no. 30907. Died of wounds on 24 April 1918, aged about 18. Remembered at St Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, Seine-Maritime, France

G. F. BROOKS

Not identified

GEORGE AUGUSTUS BROOM

George Augustus Broom, born in Lambeth in January 1895, to Frederick and Lucy Ann Broom. He was baptised at St Anne's, South Lambeth on 31 May at which time his parents gave their address as 15 Bonnington Square, Kennington. In 1911 George lived with his parents, four of his

eight siblings and a boarder in six rooms at 105 Old South Lambeth Road. He was engaged in motor work. His father was a coke porter at the gasworks.

G.A. BROOM. Corporal, Royal Field Artillery, 'D' Bty. 63rd Bde. Service no. 95439. Killed in action on 30 November 1917, aged 22. Remembered at Cambrai Memorial, Louveral, Nord, France

ARTHUR LEONARD BROWN

Arthur Leonard Brown, born in Stepney, east London, was the son of Tom and Mary Brown. His widow, Edith Maude May (née Howe) lived at Ellerslie Road, Clapham.

In the 1911 he is listed as living with Edith, then 24, in two rooms at 45 Elmsleigh Road, East Hill, Wandsworth. Arthur worked in a butcher's shop.

A.L. BROWN. Rifleman, Rifle Brigade, 8th Bn. Service no. S/26223. Died on 10 April 1917, aged 40. Remembered at Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

JOHN EDWARD BROWN

John Edward Brown was born in Peckham in 1893, one of five children and the only son of Mark Edward and Alice (née Spash), who were married in 1891 at St Agnes, Southwark. The family later moved to Lambeth. In the 1911 census, John was living with his mother and three of his younger sisters. Then 18, John worked as a warehouseman for a dealer in glass and china. Five people shared four rooms at 68c Hackford Road. The family had moved to 20 Nealdon Street by 1914.

John volunteered on 25 May 1915, enlisting in London. Just three sheets of his original Service papers have survived; they describe him as a labourer who was 5ft 6in tall and weighed nearly 9st. John's vision without glasses was only good enough for a 'non shooting unit'. He found himself posted to one of the Middlesex Regiment's three pioneer battalions. By July 1915, the 18th Middlesex had moved to the Clipstone Camp near Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, home to thousands of soldiers in training. The final months before departing for France were spent on

Salisbury Plain. Private Brown landed at Le Havre on 15 November 1915.

By June 1916, John's battalion had suffered fewer than 20 casualties. In the third week of the month they were working on the construction of dug-outs and shelters, with one company 'mining under no-mans lands'. On the 21st at 2am the enemy blew several large mines destroying part of the front line where 'C' and 'D' companies were working. Total casualties were: seven killed (including John), one officer and 20 men wounded and one missing.

John's parents remained at 26 Hargywe Street until at least 1930.

*CHRIS BURGE
J.E. BROWN. Private, Middlesex Regiment, 18th Bn. Service no. PW/2950. Died 22 June 1916, aged 23. Remembered at Gorre British and Indian Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France*

WILLIAM VALENTINE BROWN

William Valentine Brown was baptised on 25 January 1874 at St George the Martyr, Battersea, the third child of carman Frederick Charles Brown and Isabella Sarah Elizabeth (née Jackson), who lived at 9 Conroy Street.

In the 1891 census the family of seven lived at 36 Radnor Terrace, off South Lambeth Road. Frederick Brown was working as a carman and William was a 17-year-old groom.

William married Annie Chinnery on 14 January 1894 at St Andrew's, Landor Road. The couple gave 5 Southesk Street (now disappeared, between Lingham Street and Stockwell Road) as their address.

W.V. BROWN. Lance Corporal, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment), 'B' Coy. 11th Bn. Service no. G/10746. Killed in action on 15 November 1916, aged 39. Remembered at Dickebusch New Military Cemetery, Ypres, Belgium

HENRY BULL

Tentative identification

Henry Bull was the son of Frederick and Isabell Bull of 3 Tregothnan Road,

Clapham; he was born in St Pancras, central London.

H. BULL. Private, Labour Corps, 179th Coy. Service no. 393397. Died on 14 July 1918, aged 33. Remembered at Lapugnoy Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

FREDERICK HARRY BUNCE

Frederick Harry Bunce was the son of John and Rosa Bunce, of 7 Victoria Place, Priory Grove, South Lambeth.

F.H. BUNCE. Private, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, 'B' Coy. Service no. 19571. Died on the 20 October 1916, aged 20. Remembered on the Lambeth Cemetery, Screen Wall, Blackshaw Road, Tooting, southwest London

SYDNEY ALFRED BUNKER

In 1911 Sidney Bunker, one of three sons living at home with their widowed father, worked in the printing industry as a press boy. Henry Bunker, 51, from Shepherds Bush, west London cured ox tongues for a living. The family lived at 4 Richmond Street (this street, now gone, was adjacent to Walnut Tree Walk) in Kennington.

S.A. BUNKER. Private, Middlesex Regiment, 11th Bn. Service no. G/8995. Killed in action on 18 October 1915, aged about 21. Remembered at Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

JOHN BUNN

In 1911 John Bunn's widowed mother, Jane Harriett Bunn, 62, was living in four rooms at 35 Meadow Road, South Lambeth with two single daughters. She had six children.

J. BUNN. Rifleman, King's Royal Rifle Corps, 'C' Coy. 10th Bn. Service no. R/32876.; formerly TR/13/29465, T.R. Battalion. Died of wounds on 10 August 1917, aged 30. Remembered at New Irish Farm Cemetery, Ypres, Belgium

WILLIAM BUNYAN

In 1911 William Bunyan, then 27, was working as a miller's labourer and living

with his widowed grandmother and sister Florence in four rooms at 12 Russell Street, Hertford. Mary Bunyan, 73, was born in Wadesmill, Hertfordshire; Florence and William were born in Bengoe. Some time after 1911, William Bunyan married Ellen Eliza (last name unknown), who after his death lived at 8 Andalus Road, Stockwell.

William Bunyan first joined the York and Lancasters in 1904, when he was about 23. He gave his occupation as 'groom'. He stood 5ft 4¼in tall, weighed 8½st, and measured 38in around the chest. The regiment noted his progress after six months' Army service and a 'gymnastic course'. He had grown one-tenth of an inch, gained three pounds and increased his chest measurement by an inch. Generally, he was judged to be of good character and during this period of service gained a good conduct badge. At the time of his death, he had served in the Army for over 10 years.

W. BUNYAN. Serjeant, York and Lancaster Regiment, 2nd Bn. Service no. 7848. Killed in action on 20 July 1915, aged 34. Remembered at New Irish Farm Cemetery, Ypres, Belgium

GEORGE HENRY BURCHELL

George Henry Burchell was born in Bath, Somerset, in 1895, the third child of Alfred Hopkins, born in Westminster, London and Ada Margaret (née Smith), from Kildare, Ireland. His parents had married in Lambeth in 1890. Alfred Hopkins was a musician, a talent he had displayed as a boy when living with his mother and sister in a shared household that was home to a piano teacher, a double bass player and a dealer of musical instruments.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Burchell family were living in Lambeth at 7 Walcot Square, Kennington, when George's father was described as a 'musician double player'. They shared their home with a Belgian-born violinist Hubert Celas [possibly Celis]. Six-year-old George, now one of four siblings, was at the time of the census in St Thomas's Hospital with an unknown complaint.

When George's father completed his

1911 census return, the Burchell household consisted of Alfred, 40; Ada, 38; Marjorie, 17; George, 15; Mabel, 14; and Alfred, three. George's father still worked as a musician. His mother worked as a dressmaker, as did Mabel. Marjorie worked as a dressmaker. George was an errand boy for a printer. George's sister Doris was in Salisbury, helping to look after her elderly uncle. The Burchell family lived in four rooms at 26 Carroun Road, South Lambeth, a property which also housed a young mother and child in two other rooms.

At the outbreak of war it was clear that George was the only one that might be directly involved in the conflict. He was in no hurry to volunteer, and it seems only when conscription was imminent did he decide to volunteer in December 1915 under Lord Derby's Group Scheme (see *Appendix*).

George and family were living in Larkhall Lane when he travelled the relatively short distance down the Wandsworth Road and Lavender Hill to Battersea Town Hall (now Battersea Arts Centre), intending to join the the 10th Queens, the battalion being raised in Battersea. Recruitment had started several months earlier but made slow progress, having to compete with the local Territorial Force unit, the 23rd London Regiment, based at St John's Hill, Clapham, and with neighbouring Wandsworth who were raising their own battalion. The Battersea Battalion was still not fully formed in October. December 1915 was a last chance to fill places before the Battalion was due to mobilise and move to Aldershot at the beginning of 1916. According to newspaper reports, the band played and crowd assembled along the Wandsworth Road cheered as the men marched to Waterloo Station at 10.30am on Thursday 6 January 1916. The 10th Queens remained at Aldershot for five months and were sent to France in May, landing at Le Havre on 6 May 1916.

By 1 June 1916, the 10th Queens were manning trenches in the Ypres salient, initially near Ploegsteert, when they sustained their first casualties. In the following weeks and months there was a steady toll of men killed or wounded whenever the battalion were in trenches. A

company-strength raid on enemy trenches which took place on 27 July 1916 was a costly operation that resulted in a list of casualties among officers and men that spread across two pages of the battalion's official war diary.

At the end of August the battalion moved to the Somme and took part on the assault on Flers on 15 September 1916. This proved to be the mostly costly action to date; the list of killed, wounded or missing for the three days of 15, 16 and 17 September 1916 covered four pages of closely-typed double columns. The battalion was out of the line in October, returning to trench-holding in the Messine sector in November and December.

George was lucky to have come through unscathed, but it was sickness that laid him low in early January 1917 when he was in hospital with influenza. By this time, he had been appointed Lance Serjeant. The battalion remained in the same area and in February prepared for a large-scale raid on enemy positions at the Hollandscheschuur salient proposed for 24 February 1917. The entire battalion, with the assistance of a small group of Royal Engineers sappers and tunnellers, executed the raid as planned: taking prisoners, destroying dugouts, bunkers, machine-gun positions and a mine shaft.

Two officers were killed and two were wounded. Casualties among other ranks were 26 killed, 91 wounded and 11 missing. G/9967, George Henry Burchell was one of the missing. A German *totenlist* (list of the dead) document dated 23 May 1917 held in the ICRC archive shows George was one of five men of the Royal West Surrey who were '*gefallen am 24.2.17 bei Wytschaete, und beerdigt*' (fallen on 24.2.17 near Wytschaete, and buried). In two other documents this date is given as 5 March 1917 and the description as '*tot aufgefunden am 5.3.17 nordlich Wytschaete*' (found dead on 5.3.17, north of Wytschaete).

This later date has been recorded as the date George was killed in action, but it seems probable he died during, or soon after, the battalion raid on 24 February 1917.

The war was not done with the Burchell family. George's musician father Alfred was called up on 13 August 1918 at the age of 47 and was posted to the Royal Garrison Artillery with service number 212089. Alfred Burchell had served in the Royal Artillery as a young man between 1889 and 1891 and had bought his discharge on the payment of £18.

George's parents lived at 154 Larkhall Lane into the 1930s, before moving to Barrow-Upon-Soar, Leicestershire by 1939, where Alfred Hopkins Burchell died in 1942, aged 72. George's mother passed away in 1953, aged 81.

CHRIS BURGE

G.H. BURCHELL. Lance Sergeant, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment), 10th Bn. Died on 5 March 1917, aged 21. Remembered at Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium and on the war memorial inside St Anne's Church, South Lambeth Road

HARRY GEORGE BURLS

The National Roll of the Great War has an entry for Harry George Burls, who lived at 25 Moat Place: 'Volunteering in April 1915, he was sent to the Western Front in the same year. He took part in many important engagements, including those on the Somme, and was wounded. He also served in the Retreat and Advance of 1918, and was killed in action at Cambrai in October of that year.'

There is also an entry for Harry's brothers Walter Alfred (born 1897) of 25 Moat Place and Frederick Arthur Burls of 1 Combermere Road, a few streets away. Both these men survived the war (the latter being invalided out of the Army).

The 1911 census shows that Harry George Burls, 18, a labourer, lived with his widowed mother and siblings in five rooms at 25 Moat Place. Elizabeth Burls (née Doe), 45, was a housekeeper, born in Finchingfield, Essex. She had eight children.

H.G. BURLS. Gunner, Royal Field Artillery, 'B' Bty., 211th Bde. Service no. 15147. Died of wounds on 25 October 1918, aged 25. Remembered at Romeries Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France

JOHN HENRY BURN

John Henry Burn was born in 1890 and baptised on 15 January at St Mary the Less, Lambeth, the first child of Henry Thompson Burn and Elizabeth (née Castle) who had married on 11 May 1886 at St Paul, Walworth. By 1901 there were five children and the family lived at 39 Neptune Street (renamed Seaham Street in 1912) along with two other families, a total of 16 people.

In the 1911 census, John, then 21, is shown living in three rooms at 35 Dashwood Road with his parents and six younger siblings. John's father Henry worked as a bill poster, while John worked as a cellarman. By then Elizabeth had given birth to 13 children, seven surviving.

Dashwood Road, sandwiched between the Longhedge and Nine Elms locomotive works in an area criss-crossed by the lines of competing railway companies, was an area of social deprivation.

John's service number is within the range of men who joined the RAMC early in 1912, when initial training took place at Aldershot in Hampshire. To the Army he was 6003 Burns.

John was sent to France on 20 August 1914, one of four men attached to the Regimental Medical Officer's team for the 5th Divisional Ammunition Column. At some later date he was transferred to the Division's 15th Field Ambulance, a mobile medical unit with orderlies, bearers, horse and motor transport. It had been a long war and on 14 April 1918 the 15th FA moved near Boesehem. Five days later, a party of 20 men was sent to assist the 13th FA, based at Thiennes, who were hurriedly moving their advanced dressing station to the safety of a cellar, after their farmhouse location was shelled. The keeper of the 15th FA war diary noted on 20 April: '1 man Cpl. Burns killed by shell at Croix Morraise'.

John's parents wanted to ensure that the inscription on their son's headstone at Tannay British Cemetery was correct. It seems possible the evidence they provided to those dealing with the Stockwell War Memorial led to his name being spelt as he

was known to the Army. Henry Thompson and Elizabeth Burn were living at 55 Gaskell Street by 1918, remaining there for several years after the war. CHRIS BURGE *J. BURNS. Corporal, Royal Army Medical Corps, 15th Field Ambulance Service no. 6003. Died on 20 April 1918, aged 28. Remembered at Tannay British Cemetery, Thiennes, France*

HARRY ROBERT BURVILL

Harry Burvill was a 22-year-old storekeeper, living at 15 Hubert Grove, Stockwell. He attested on 27 March 1915 in London (the record does not tell us where). His physical development was judged to be 'V. good' — he was 5ft 9½in tall, with a 41in chest.

Burvill joined at Woldingham, Surrey and was posted on 30 March 1915, and again on 18 January 1916. He was admitted to the Countess of Lytton Hospital in London some time after that. His illness or condition is not recorded. On 1 February he was sent to Summerdown Convalescent Hospital, Eastbourne, which had opened in 1915 and cared for up to 3,500 recovering servicemen. (The use of massage in recovery was pioneered at Summerdown by the women of the Almeric Paget Military Massage Corps.)

Three weeks later, Burvill was granted leave until 3 March, when he was declared fit. Burvill was killed in action in France on 2 September 1916. He had served one year and 160 days.

Harry Burvill is on the 1911 census as a 19-year-old wharf scaleman living with his parents and brother at 35 Walpole Road, Deptford. His father, also called Harry, 67, was a butcher's scaleman, born at Ramsgate, Kent; his mother, Eliza, 68, was born in Walworth, southeast London. Harry's brother Charlie, 17, was a draper's assistant. Both boys were born in Kilburn, north London.

H.R. BURVILL. Private, Middlesex Regiment, 16th Bn. Service no. PS/1794; also Manchester Regiment, attached 22nd Bn. Killed in action on 2 September 1916, aged 24. Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

AUGUSTE CADOT

On 11 December 1915 Auguste Cadot, 34 and living at 17 Tregothnan Road, Stockwell, enlisted at Clapham. The Approving Officer noted that he was just over 5ft 6in tall and his chest measured 41½in.

Auguste's service records show that he agreed to allot six shillings of his Army pay to his wife Marion whom he had married at St Stephen's Church, South Lambeth in 1912. Their son Dennis Auguste Cadot was born in 1915.

Auguste was one of three children of Laure Erzberger, a Frenchwoman married to Charles Erzberger, a 47-year-old German banker's clerk (Cadot's father had previously died). In 1901 the Erzberger family lived at 63 Gleneldon Road in Streatham. Both Auguste, 20, and his 27-year-old brother Henry were manufacturer's clerks. The household included their 15-year-old sister, Florence, and a domestic servant. Ten years later, in 1911, Auguste was living alone in one room at 261 Clapham Road.

In his 1911 census return Auguste took the opportunity to describe himself as a 'cashier, book-keeper, patentee and manufacturer', but by the time he enlisted in the Royal Garrison Artillery in December 1915, he was merely an accountant and book-keeper.

He served in a Siege Battery of the Royal Garrison Artillery. The records show that he was a signalman; he passed (1st class) in telephony; his military character was 'good' and he served in both France and Italy. However, Auguste was hospitalised several times and sent home on leave; he was discharged on 12 February 1919 after a 16-week stay in hospital, having served three years and 64 days. His health was ruined. 'No longer physically fit for war service' was stamped on his Service record.

Cadot's name is not included in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission records, nor is he listed in *Soldiers Died in the Great War*.

A.L.C. CADOT. Gunner, Royal Garrison Artillery. Service no. 127954. Died of illness on 25 January 1920, aged 39

FREDERICK HOWARD STEWART CAIGER



Frederick Howard Stewart Caiger was born on 23 September 1896, the only child of Dr. Frederick Foord Caiger and his wife, Madeline Orr Caiger. The family lived on the premises of South Western Hospital (more recently Lambeth Hospital) on Landor Road, where Dr Caiger served as Superintendent for nearly 40 years. Caiger was educated at Winchester, where he was in the Officer Training Corps. On 1 October 1915 he went up to Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, and resided there for one term. He was Gazetted in December 1915. On 23 April 1916 he embarked for France on 23 April. He was attached to the 36th Battery.

Caiger was admitted to the 87th Field Ambulance with a hydrocele (fluid in the scrotum) and later to the General Hospital when he was suffering from scabies, a highly contagious skin disease transmitted by the mange mite. He was discharged on 24 June and posted in September to the 92nd Battery. On 11 November Caiger was killed near Flers by a high explosive shell and buried at McCormick's Post. In 1920 his body was moved to Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, Longueval.

In 1922 Dr Foord Caiger donated the four-faced clock on the Stockwell Memorial in memory of his son. 'The idea of placing a clock [...] struck me as such a "live" and appropriate tribute to one who was born and always lived in Stockwell, and who entertained a warm affection for his home,' he wrote to Samuel Bowler, secretary of the Memorial Committee.

F.H.S. CAIGER. Second Lieutenant, Royal Field Artillery, 92nd Bty. 17th Bde. Killed in action on 11 November 1916, aged 19. Remembered at Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, Longueval, Somme, France, at St Andrew's Church, Landor Road, Stockwell and in the University of London Officers Training Corps, Roll of War Service 1914-1919

SIDNEY CAIGER

General labourer Sidney Caiger enlisted at Battersea on 20 March 1915. He was 21. Details of his war service are scant. He gave 1 Bolney Street, Stockwell as his address. He stood 5ft 5½in, and his chest measurement was 38in. He weighed just over 8½ stone. There were several scars across his back.

Sidney Caiger was posted on 23 March 1915 and was listed as missing on 8 July 1916. On 15 September he was registered as killed in action. His war had lasted one year and 104 days.

In 1911 Caiger lived with his parents, stonemason Emery Edmund Caiger, 61, from Westminster, and Alice Caiger, 59, from Godalming, Surrey in two rooms at 48 St Mark's Road, Kennington (this street ran between Camberwell New Road and Hillingdon Street). There were seven other siblings, all of whom lived elsewhere. *S. CAIGER. Private, Middlesex Regiment, 16th Bn. Service no. PS1743. Killed in action on 1 July 1916, aged about 23. Remembered at Thiépval Memorial, Somme, France*

NORMAN CAIRNS

Butcher Norman Cairns's Service history is brief. He joined on 25 April 1916. He stood 5ft 10in tall with a 42in chest. He was posted overseas on Christmas Day; on 14 April 1917 he was hospitalised with a gunshot wound to the shoulder; on 25 April he was invalided back to England; some time after that (the record is too damaged to read) he returned to the field; and on 26 June he was killed.

Cairns married Florence Penton on Boxing Day 1914 at the Wesleyan Chapel on Clapham Road. In his Service declaration Norman claimed he had no siblings. However, the 1901 census shows that he had both a brother and a sister and the 1911 census shows that Norman's mother Mary had eight children, six of whom were surviving. In 1901 Norman was seven and living at 34 Thorparch Road, near Wandsworth Road. His father, John D. Cairns, 54, was an engine fitter born in Newcastle. His mother, Mary, 51,

was born in Stratford, Essex. Norman's brother Frank J. Cairns, 18, was a grocer's assistant born in Fulham; his sister, Florence (later Blebta), 31, was born in India. Her two children, Franz Blebta, 7, born in Clapham and Wenzl Blebta, 5, born in South Lambeth, lived with her.

In December 1917 the Officer in Charge of Records sent Norman's effects to his widow Florence at 38 Bromfelde Road, Clapham: a coin, an identity disc, a pocket book, a religious book, a penknife and a cigarette holder and case.

N. CAIRNS. Gunner, Royal Garrison Artillery, 279th Siege Bty. Service no. 76551. Killed in action on 26 June 1917, aged 22. Remembered at Vlamertinghe New Military Cemetery, Ypres, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

WILLIAM GEORGE CALLEN

The 1911 census return for William George Callen shows that, aged 15, he lived in four rooms at 100 Dorset Road with his father, railway porter William Henry Callen, 45, from Eastleigh, Hampshire, and mother, Ada Elizabeth, 47, from Woolwich, and two siblings.

W.G. CALLEN. Rifleman, King's Royal Rifle Corps. Service no. 12089. Died on 29 August 1920, aged 24. Remembered at Lambeth Cemetery, Blackshaw Road, Tooting, southwest London

ARCHIBALD SAMUEL CAMPBELL

Less than a month after war was declared, 19-year-old jeweller's assistant Archibald Samuel Campbell took himself to the recruiting office at Battersea. He was assigned to the Wiltshire Regiment and given a number, 13710, and measured him up: 5ft 2in, under 8st, with a 34in chest. He had a sallow (yellowish) complexion, blue eyes and light brown hair. His overall physical development was judged to be 'Good'.

Only 41 days later, however, he was discharged under Para 392 (ii) King's Regulations as 'not being likely to become an efficient soldier.' Reasons for discharge under this regulation were not

recorded in the Service file, so we do not know why he was rejected.

Campbell must have re-enlisted or been called up later. This time he joined the Queen's Regiment and survived to 26 April 1918, when he was killed in action and buried in the war cemetery in Jerusalem.

The 1911 census shows that Archibald Campbell, then 15, was a schoolboy living with his parents and younger brother at 193 Wandsworth Road where the family occupied two rooms. His father, Thomas S. Campbell, 48, originally from Chelsea, was a messenger for the Admiralty; his mother, Humilia, 37, was from Lichfield, Staffordshire. Archibald was born in Langton Herring, Dorset.

A.S. CAMPBELL. Private, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment), 2/4th Bn. Service no. 203096; formerly Royal Army Service Corps. Killed in action on 26 April 1918, aged about 23. Remembered at Jerusalem War Cemetery, Israel

ARTHUR SIDNEY CANDY

In 1911 Arthur Sidney Candy, 16, was apprenticed as a compositor (typesetter). He lived with his father, William Robert Candy, 67, an out-of-work plasterer from Southampton, and mother, Amelia Sophia, 59, from Lambeth, at 17 Trevelyan Road, Tooting, where they occupied four rooms. Arthur had five siblings, with two living at home.

A.S. CANDY. Private, Rifleman, King's Royal Rifle Corps, 7th Bn. Service no. A/201081. Died of wounds on 22 October 1917, aged 23. Remembered at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

GEORGE HERBERT CANHAM

George Herbert Canham, of 35 Mordaunt Street, Stockwell, enlisted at 58 Buckingham Gate, London on 1 March 1915. He was 20 years old, stood 5ft 9in tall and had a 40in chest. His physical development was judged to be 'Good'. Canham's Service file does not include much more than the basic details of his movements. He was in England from

the day of his enlistment to 21 April 1916, when he embarked for Rouen. He was deployed in the field from 4 May and survived there until 10 September, when he was killed in action at the Battle of the Somme. Two brothers, William James Canham and Arthur Kitchener Canham, survived the war.

In 1911, the Canham family inhabited five rooms at 4 Tivoli Road, West Norwood. George Herbert, then 16, was a shop porter. There were four siblings. Their father, William, 41, was a brewer's drayman from Wenhaston, Suffolk; their mother, Clara Amy, 43, was from Farnborough, Kent.

G.H. CANHAM. Rifleman, London Regiment, 'D' Coy., 1/16th Bn. (Queen's Westminster Rifles). Service no. 3861. Killed in action on 10 September 1916, aged 21. Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

BRIAN HARVEY CAPEWELL

Brother of Frederick Harold Capewell

Brian Harvey Capewell was the son of Brian Charles and Lily Rosina Capewell, of 35 Union Road, Clapham. He died while serving on the HMS *Vala*, a Q boat sailing from Milford Haven. The entire crew was lost. Q boats were decoy ships, heavily armed merchant ships with concealed weaponry.

B.H. CAPEWELL. Ship's Steward Assistant, Royal Navy, HMS 'Vala'. Service no. M/15985. Died on 21 August 1917, aged 23. Remembered at Plymouth Naval Memorial, Devon and at West Norwood Cemetery and Crematorium, southeast London

FREDERICK HAROLD CAPEWELL

Brother of Brian Harvey Capewell

The Capewell family have provided this information:

'The family originated from Fradswell, near Stone in Staffordshire and their grandfather Brian Capewell came down to London and worked in a variety of jobs including as a muffin man.

'Fred was due to take over his father's

business and his father never got over death of his sons. The Capewell sisters did well — one read geography at university, quite something for a working-class girl of that time, and went on to become a headteacher in Palmer's Green. The boys became bank managers or civil servants.'

F.H. CAPEWELL. Private, Royal Fusiliers, 17th Bn. Service no. G/75140.

Died on 1 April 1918, aged 18. Remembered at West Norwood Cemetery Screen Wall, southeast London

HERBERT CAREY

Herbert Carey was born on 27 November 1883 in Holloway, north London, the third of Thomas George and Mary Carey's five known children. Herbert was still living in Islington when he joined the Navy on his birthday in 1901. His occupation was recorded as 'engine cleaner' and Herbert was described as 5ft 11in tall, with brown hair, blue eyes and a fresh complexion. His advancement in the Navy was slow and Herbert was not rated as AB seaman until 1903. He served on several ships, HMS *Pembroke* being the last before he was placed on fleet reserve and left the service on 6 April 1908.

On 2 May 1909 Herbert Carey married Susan Ethel Parnell at St Barnabas, South Lambeth. He gave his address as 43 Lansdowne Gardens and described himself as a labourer. Susan Ethel was from Bristol but had lived in Lambeth for at least a decade before they married.

In the 1911 census, Herbert and Ethel were living in just two rooms at 46 Priory Road off the Wandsworth Road. Herbert worked as a printers' warehouseman. Their daughter Irene Maud Carey was born at home on 12 May 1912.

As a naval reservist, Herbert Carey was called up at the outbreak of war, serving on the old cruiser HMS *Sutlej* from 2 August 1914 until he became part of a draft of 88 men that joined the crew of the HMS *India* on 8 April 1915. The total crew numbered 32 officers and 270 men. The *India* was an Armed Merchant Cruiser, an ex-passenger ship, part of the 10th Cruiser Squadron Northern Patrol safeguarding

shipping between Britain and Norway.

Official reports stated: 'While on duty intercepting and inspecting neutral shipping, HMS *India* was torpedoed by German submarine U22 near Helligvaer, Norway, on August 8, 1915. The ship broke in two and sank quickly.' Some 160 men were lost, and those washed ashore were buried at Narvik Old Cemetery.

After the war, Susan Ethel lived at 290 South Lambeth Road with her brother Frederick and his wife until just before she died in 1938, aged 53. Her daughter Irene died aged 80 in 1992.

CHRIS BURGE

H. CAREY. Able Seaman

(RFR/CH/B/5028), HMS 'India'.

Service No. 212125. Died 8 August 1915, aged 31. Remembered at Narvik Old Cemetery, Norway

HENRY W. CARTER

Henry W. Carter was the son of Henry William Carter. His widow, Grace Elizabeth Carter, lived at 25 Aldebert Terrace, Stockwell.

H. W. CARTER. Fitter, Royal Field

Artillery, 'C' Bty. 93rd Bde. Service no.

L/6227. Killed in action on 24 November 1917, aged 33. Remembered at Ruyaulcourt Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

WILLIAM ARCHIBALD EDWARD CARTER

William Archibald Edward Carter was the son of Archibald and Florence Louisa Carter of 113 South Lambeth Road. He died when his ship, HMS *Queen Mary*, was sunk by the SMS *Seydlitz* at the Battle of Jutland. Of the 1,266 crew on board, only 21 survived. *Harold Clough* also died on the *Queen Mary*.

W.A.E. CARTER. Ordinary Signalman,

Royal Navy, HMS 'Queen Mary'. Service

no. J/25992. Killed in action on 31 May 1916, aged 18. Remembered at Portsmouth Naval Memorial

THOMAS C. CAVALIER

Thomas Cavalier was the son of Mrs. E. Cavalier of 14 Irving Grove, Stockwell.

He was killed on HMS *Louvain* after it was attacked by a U-boat in the eastern Mediterranean. The *Louvain* may have been in use as a leave ship when she was torpedoed. Of the 151 men on board, only 10 survived.

T. C. CAVALIER. Able Seaman,

Mercantile Marine Reserve, RFA 'Reliance'

(O/P). Service no. 468539. Killed in action

on 20 January 1918, aged 27. Remembered at Plymouth Naval Memorial

FREDERICK JOSEPH CHADDOCK



Frederick Joseph Chaddock was born in late 1880 in Lambeth, the fourth child and third son of stonemason Augustus Chaddock and Caroline Ellen Chaddock. The family lived at 12 Esher

Street (now Aveline Street) in Kennington, an area defined in 1899 by Charles Booth as 'fairly comfortable: good ordinary earnings' and populated by 'labourers, cabmen, mechanics, police'. By the time Frederick started attending Vauxhall Street School in 1885, the family had moved to 47 Bonnington Square, also in Vauxhall. By 1891, when Frederick was 10, the Chaddocks had moved a few doors down, to No. 14. There were now seven children in the family (eight eventually).

In 1901, Frederick was lodging at Rowton House, a working men's hostel at Bondway, Vauxhall accommodating 470 men in 'cubicles', while his parents, four siblings including a married sister, her husband and their two young children, along with three people from another household, lived at 10 St Stephens Terrace, South Lambeth. Frederick was listed as having no occupation. It is possible that he was between jobs, unwell or the Chaddock household was too full.

Rowton House was the first of a new type of accommodation created by politician and philanthropist Montague William Lowry Corry (Lord Rowton), formerly a private secretary to Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli. Rowton

was previously involved in setting up the Guinness Trust, which provided low-cost housing for respectable working people in London and Dublin. There is a Guinness Trust estate on Kennington Park Road.

Frederick entered the Lambeth Infirmary on 26 September 1903 and left nearly five weeks later. The reason for his stay is unknown, and he was discharged at his own request into the care of his father. At an unknown date Frederick enlisted in the 1st Dragoon Guards.

He was later transferred to the 2nd Battalion of the Gloucester Regiment. In 1911, he held the rank of private and was stationed at Verdala Barracks in Malta. At some point before 1911, his parents separated, with Augustus, by then retired, lodging at 28 Tradescant Road and Caroline living with two daughters a short walk away at 39 Guildford Road.

Frederick served from the beginning of the war, arriving in France in December 1914. In early 1918 he married Florence Victoria Ding. He was killed in action in the final push against the Germans near Busigny (southeast of Cambrai) less than two weeks before the Armistice. Florence later married Frederick's older brother Percy, and had two children.

INFORMATION FROM CHADDOCK'S FAMILY
F.J. CHADDOCK. Corporal, Gloucestershire Regiment, 1st Bn. Service no. 9238. Died on 31 October 1918, aged about 33. Remembered at Busigny Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France

WILLIAM HENRY CHAMBERS

Tentative identification

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records include a William Henry Chambers who was the son of Alfred and Eliza Chambers of 21 Binfield Road, Stockwell. If this is the right man, the engraver made an error and transposed his initials.

H.W. CHAMBERS. Serjeant, Dorsetshire Regiment, 2nd Bn. Service no. 7216. Died of wounds on 26 December 1915, aged 34. Remembered at Kut War Cemetery, Iraq

ARTHUR ERNEST NEWTON CHANCE

Arthur Ernest Newton Chance, one of four children of journalist Henry Chance and Margaret Anne Chance, joined the Navy on 10 August 1911, aged nearly 20. He was previously an insurance clerk. Chance was commissioned as a Temporary Sub-Lieutenant in November 1915 and joined the British Expeditionary Force in July the following year. He died at the Somme on 13 November 1916.

Chance's military record lists the vessels he served on before the war and after it started, and describes him as 5ft 5¼in, with red hair, blue eyes and a fair complexion. It also gives an outline of his court martial.

On 13 September 1916 he was tried for '1. uttering a forged document (i.e. forged cheque for £3/10/-) on or about 15 July 1916; 2. for ditto on or about 21 July 1916; 3. for behaving in a scandalous manner unbecoming the character of an officer and a gentleman in giving a cheque signed by him in a fictitious name having no account in that name.'

Found guilty on all three charges, Chance was sentenced to be cashiered and imprisoned 'without hard labour' for six months. The record does not divulge where these events took place or how Chance ended up at the Somme.

The 1911 census shows the Chance family living in seven rooms at 24 Winslade Road, Brixton. The household included Chance's sister, Margaret Layder, 28, and her daughter, Margery Florence Layder, six. Arthur's brother, Harry William Chance, 25, was a 'black and white artist' (he produced monochrome illustrations, probably for magazines or newspapers).

A.E.N. CHANCE. Sub-Lieutenant, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, Howe Bn., R.N. Div. Killed in action on 13 November 1916, aged 24. Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

ALBERT EDWARD CHANDLER

In 1911 Albert Edward Chandler was a 13-year-old schoolboy. He lived in two

rooms at 3 Oval Place, off Dorset Road, with his father, James Walter Chandler, 41, a timber carman from Clapham, mother, Ada Emily Chandler, 39, from Stepney, east London, and an elder sister. *A.E. CHANDLER. Private, London Regiment, 1st Bn. (Royal Fusiliers). Service no. 3527. Killed in action on 1 July 1916, aged 19. Remembered at Hubuterne Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France and at St Mark's Church, Kennington, south London*

RICHARD CHARMAN

In 1911 Richard (or Dick) Charman's family lived in four rooms at 13 Ingleborough Street, off Brixton Road. His father, Henry Charman, 56, a general labourer, was born in Lambeth; his mother, Mary, 54, was born in Clapham. They had 12 children.

On 25 August 1916, *The South London Press* reported Charman's death:

'He was one of six brothers serving with the colours, all descendants of a fighting race. In a letter to his mother, his company officer says: "Your son died nobly, doing his duty and as his section commander I can testify to the fine young soldier whom we mourn. He was, for his age, quite exceptional in his work, and beyond praise in the fearless way in which he carried out his dangerous and arduous duties. In him we have lost one who is irreplaceable and who, by his cheerfulness and courage, endeared himself to us all."

R. CHARMAN. Driver, Royal Field Artillery, 'B' Battery, 156th Brigade. Service no. L/21002. Died of wounds on 23 July 1916, aged 17. Remembered at Heilly Station Cemetery, Mericourt-L'Abbé, Somme, France and at St Michael's Church, Stockwell Park Road, Stockwell

CHARLES HENRY CHARNOCK

The 1911 census shows Charles Henry Charnock, 14, living with nine members of his family, including his grandmother, Mary Ann Varns, 63, in four rooms at 15 Madrid Place, South Lambeth. His parents, Frederick Thomas Charnock, 41, a bricklayer, and Kate Charnock, 36, were

both from Southwark. They had seven children.

WITH THANKS TO HELEN CARN
C.H. CHARNOCK. Gunner, Royal Field Artillery, 120th Bty., 27th Bde. Service no. 195781. Killed in action on 14 October 1917, aged about 20. Remembered at La Clytte Military Cemetery, near Ypres, Belgium

JAMES STEPHEN CLACK

James Stephen Clack stood 5ft 7³/₄in tall and weighed 11¹/₂st, with a 40¹/₂in chest. The statistics bring to mind a strong, well-made man. The Approving Officer judged Clack's physical development very good. His sallow (yellowish) complexion, grey eyes and brown hair, and the ganglion on his left wrist were recorded.

Clack was among the first to volunteer, presenting himself on 8 August 1914, a mere four days after war was declared. A lorry driver in civilian life (and before that a motor engineer), he was recruited to the Army Service Corps as a Driver. The Army must have been delighted to have such a keen, healthy candidate.

After only 58 days, the war was over for Clack. He was admitted to the 16th Field Ambulance on 28 September 1914 and by 2 October he had died of appendicitis and peritonitis.

His widow Annie, living at 10a Lingham Street with their two-year-old daughter Mary Lucy, was sent her husband's effects, along with a handwritten note: 'Herewith 70 centimes (French) cash, the property of the late Private James Stephen Clack...' Later she was awarded a pension of 15 shillings a week for herself and her child.

J.S. CLACK. Private, Army Service Corps, 1st Div. Supply Col. Service no. MS/775. Died of appendicitis and peritonitis on 2 October 1914, aged 29. Remembered at La Ferté-Sous-Jouarre Memorial, Seine-et-Marne, France

ALFRED CHARLES CLARKE

In 1911 Albert Charles Clarke, 15 and working as a grocer's assistant, lived at 18 Wilkinson Street, Stockwell, where his family shared eight rooms. His father, William Clarke, 52, a plaster model maker

at a terracotta works, was born in Burbage, Leicestershire. His mother, Eliza Clarke, 50, was from Whitwick, Leicestershire. They had nine children.

A.S. CLARKE. Rifleman, London Regiment, 2/11th Bn. (Finsbury Rifles). Service no. 453028. Died on 6 November 1917, aged 22. Remembered at Tyne Cot Memorial, Heuvelland, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

JOSEPH ROBERT CLARKE

In 1911 16-year-old Alfred Robert Clarke lived with his widowed mother, a military tailoress, older brother George Henry, a printer's assistant, and schoolgirl sister Amelia Charlotte at 20 Beech Street, Dorset Road, Stockwell.

J.R. CLARKE. Private, Royal Fusiliers, 11th Bn. Service no. 15257. Died on 1 November 1918, aged 22. Remembered at Tourgeville Military Cemetery, Calvados, France

STANLEY WILLIAM CLARKE

Stanley William Clarke was born on 7 April 1899 and baptised on 24 October 1900 at Forest Gate, St James, Essex. Stanley was the third of the five known children of Thomas and Elizabeth Mary Clarke. He was about five when the family settled in Lambeth.

In the 1911 census, Stanley, his four siblings and their parents lived in four rooms at 27 Angell Road, Brixton. Stanley's father was a foreman motor fitter and his older brother Sydney was working as an office boy.

With the introduction of conscription in 1916, Stanley's parents knew that, if the war continued, all but the youngest of their four sons might have to fight. What happened to his older brothers Sydney and Harold is not known, but Stanley, who was just 15 in 1914, was conscripted in 1917. He became eligible for overseas service at the age of 19 and was sent to France on 3 April 1918 as a private 654707 Clarke of 21st Battalion, London Regiment. He was transferred and renumbered as private 279057 Clarke

four days later, on his 19th birthday.

Stanley reached the support line on the 13 April, part of a 70-man draft, in cold and wet weather. After moving to the front line, their position was attacked on 24 April. Fierce fighting led to over 200 casualties in a 48-hour period. The battalion was relieved and in the first two weeks of May they played a football match and were entertained by concert parties.

They returned to a forward position on 22 May, in fine weather. The situation remained quiet until sporadic shelling three days later caused 10 casualties, of whom Stanley was one. He passed down the evacuation chain to reach the 4th Casualty Clearing Station at Pernois, but succumbed to his wounds on 31 May 1918.

The Clarke family were living at 40 Tasmin Road when they received news of Stanley's death. Herbert's father Thomas died in 1930, aged 60. His mother Elizabeth, who continued to live in Tasman Road with her youngest daughter Ivy until at least 1939, died in 1956, aged 87.

CHRIS BURGE

S.W. CLARKE. Private, London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers), 3rd Bn. Service no. 279057. Died 31 May 1918, aged 19. Remembered at Pernois British Cemetery, Halloy-Les-Pernois, France

FREDERICK VICTOR CLEMENT

In 1911 Frederick Victor Clement, a 14-year-old schoolboy, his widowed mother Harriett (née Carrod), 58, a charwoman (cleaner) from Clapham, and brother Walter George Clement, 36, a blind chair caner, boarded with the Faux family at 60 Burgoyne Road, Stockwell.

Frederick was baptised on 15 September 1897 at St Andrew's, Landor Road. His father, Walter George Clement, was a coach painter, and the family lived at 90 Dalvell Road.

Frederick died at No.22 Casualty Clearing Station.

F.V. CLEMENT. Private, London Regiment, 1/24th Bn. (The Queen's), Service no. 3538. Died on 11 June 1916, aged 19. Remembered at Bruay Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais, France

HAROLD CLOUGH

In 1911, Harold Clough, who was born in Burley, Yorkshire, was working as a printer's engineer and boarding in Holborn, central London. Two years later he married Martha (née Squires) who later gave her address as 50 Kay Road, Stockwell.

Harold's son Robert Alfred Clough, who was born in 1914, died in 1941 in Letchworth, Hertfordshire when Vauxhall Motor Works was hit by an enemy bomb.

William Archibald Edward Carter also died on the *Queen Mary*.

H. CLOUGH. Engine Room Artificer 4th Class, Royal Navy, HMS 'Queen Mary'. Service no. M/13358. Died on 31 May 1916, aged 35. Remembered at Chatham Naval Memorial, Kent

WILLIAM REUBEN COLLETT

William Reuben Collett's entry in *The National Roll of the Great War* states that he joined up in June 1916 and after training was sent to the front. He fought at St Eloi and the Somme, and died at the Battle of Arras.

In 1911 Collett, who was born in Battersea, lived with his parents Reuben John Collett and Helen Eliza Collett in four rooms at 75 Tasman Road, Stockwell. Reuben, 44, was a compositor (typesetter) from Lambeth; Helen, 44, was from Battersea. William had two brothers.

W.R. COLLETT. Rifleman, Rifle Brigade, 1st Bn. Service no. S/20722. Killed in action on 18 May 1917, aged 19. Remembered at Brown's Copse Cemetery, Roeux, Pas de Calais, France

CHARLES EDWARD COLLINS

Charles Edward Collins was the son of Walter and Eliza Collins; his widow, Lucy Rebecca Collins, lived at 126 Dorset Road, Stockwell.

C.E. COLLINS. Private, Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), 9th Bn. Service no. 37844; formerly Army Pay Corps. Died on 28 April 1918, aged 29. Remembered at Grand-Seraucourt British Cemetery, Aisne, France

EDWIN WILLIAM COLLINS



Edwin Collins, a railway porter, joined up on 5 September 1914 aged about 22. He stood 5ft 11in tall, and measured 39in around the chest. His physical development was judged to be 'Good'.

Collins survived almost to the end of the war but on 1 August 1918 was admitted to 2nd Canadian General Hospital in Boulogne suffering from multiple bomb blast injuries, including a fractured skull. His condition was described as 'dangerous' and he died the following day.

Collins's effects were sent to his father, a retired policeman also called Edwin, and included a pouch, purse, ring, testament, two leather cases, coins, photos, letters, religious books, four cards and an identity disc. Edwin was the only boy of six children.

Edwin William Collins was 19 in 1911, working as a railway porter, and living with his father, stepmother and sister in six rooms at 18 Elwell Road, Clapham (now disappeared). Edwin Collins, 61, was a retired policeman working as a 'check-taker' at a theatre. He was born in Brenchley, Kent. His wife, Louisa, 53, was from Old Southgate, north London. Edwin and his sister Frances Maud Collins, 24, a restaurant waitress was born in Clapham.

E.W. COLLINS. Private, London Regiment, 1/24th Bn. (The Queen's), Service no. 479594; then Labour Corps. Died of wounds on 2 August 1918, aged 26. Remembered at Terlincthun British Cemetery, Wimille, Pas de Calais, France

STANLEY HENRY COMPSON

Brixton-born Stanley Henry Compson enlisted on 20 May 1915 at Maidstone, Kent, about five miles from his home in Hunton. Four years previously, as shown on the 1911 census, he was working as an errand boy for a grocer and living with his widowed grandmother, 60-year-old Jane Compson, and other family members at

240 South Lambeth Road. His father, Joseph Compson, was a 37-year-old stockbroker's clerk.

Compson's service record shows that he was 5ft 7in tall, with a 37in chest. His physical development was deemed good. He was posted twice, first on 6 December 1916 and again on the 26th. His death was assumed on 23 March 1918.

S.H. COMPSON. Private, The Queen's Royal West Kent Regiment, 10th Bn. Service no. G/19059. Awarded the Military Medal. Killed in action on 23 March 1918, aged about 21. Remembered at Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France, and at St Mark's Church, Kennington, south London

AUGUSTUS CHARLES COOK

In 1911 Augustus Charles Cook, then 34, lived with his wife, Mary Ann, 29, and their five children in four rooms at 11 Devonshire Square, Bromley. He was born in Clapham and his father, Matthew John Cook, is found on the 1911 census there. Cook enlisted in Bromley.

A.C. COOK. Private, The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, 2nd Bn. Service no. G/1381. Died on 10 July 1917, aged 41. Remembered at Basra War Cemetery, Iraq

ALBERT TOM WILLIAM COOK

Cook volunteered in 1914 and was drafted to the front the following year. He fought at Ypres and was severely wounded at the Battle of the Somme. He was invalided home to hospital and soon afterwards died of his injuries.

A.T.W. COOK. Rifleman, Rifle Brigade, 1st Bn. Service no. Z/447. Died of wounds on 11 July 1916. Remembered at Lambeth Cemetery, Screen Wall, Blackshaw Road, Tooting, southwest London

WILLIAM ARTHUR COOK

William Arthur Cook, born on 24 January 1897 at 99 Dalyell Road, Stockwell, was the second of five children of John Cook, a postman, and Rhoda Maud Babbage. In the 1911 census the family is shown living at 2 Southesk Street (now

disappeared, between Lingham Street and Stockwell Road).

W.A. COOK. Rifleman, London Regiment, 1/9th Bn. (Queen Victoria's Rifles). Died on 22 September 1916, aged 19. Remembered at Etaples Military Cemetery, France

WALTER WILLIAM COOK

In 1911, 10 people shared the four rooms of the Cook household at 3 Priory Buildings on Southville, off Wandsworth Road. Walter William Cook, 15, who worked in a box factory, lived with his brother Edward Cook, 42, Edward's wife Alice, 39, and their six children, as well as his widowed father, Edwin Cook, 67, a retired greengrocer.

W.W. COOK. Private, Middlesex Regiment, 4th Bn. Service no. G/43050. Killed in action on 28 April 1917, aged 22. Remembered at Arras Memorial, France and at St Andrew's Church, Landor Road, Stockwell

A. S. H. COOPER

Not identified

FRANK ARTHUR JOHN COOPER

Frank Cooper enlisted in London and lived in Clapham.

F.A.J. COOPER. Lance Serjeant, London Regiment, 2/14th Bn. (London Scottish). Service no. 511407. Killed in action on 7 November 1917, aged 28. Remembered at Jerusalem Memorial, Israel and at West Norwood Screen Wall, southwest London

W. C. COOPER

Not identified

VICTOR LESLIE CORBEN

In July 1918 Victor Leslie Corben, a Second Lieutenant attached to the Rifle Brigade, was on leave in London when he started to suffer headaches and fever. He was admitted to the 3rd London General Hospital (now known as the Royal Victoria Patriotic Building) on Trinity

Road, opposite Wandsworth Prison. Appendicitis was diagnosed and on 7 and on 13 July he underwent an operation by an Army surgeon. On 21 July he had further surgery but died at 10.40am the next day. Corben's effects, a suitcase and a small parcel of personal property, were sent to his father, Fred Corben, a stone merchant of Hillside, 51 Union Road, Clapham. Buried at Lambeth Cemetery with full military honours, Corben was also remembered at a service at the United Methodist Church in Fentiman Road, Oval, where he had been a worshipper.

'The loss of the boy is indeed a severe blow to us,' Fred wrote in August to Major Bright of the Rifle Brigade at Colchester, thanking him for his sympathy and for the settlement of Victor's accounts.

However, when Fred applied to the Army for funds to cover his son's funeral expenses, he was turned down. Your son died in England, of an illness not related to his service, the authorities said. Fred was outraged, barely concealing his anger in a note written on 10 December 1918. For him, the appendicitis was clearly connected with the wounds Victor had sustained the previous year, and also with a bout of trench fever.

'I was never consulted in reference to the operations which were performed on him at the hospital,' he complained. '[Yet] as soon as he had passed away in his country's service I was called upon to pay for the coffin in which he was to be buried. [...] This seems to me a gross injustice.' The Army was intransigent: 'No grant for Army funds is admissible,' it stated.

Victor Corben was born in Clapham on 23 February 1895, and after boarding at Cranleigh School, Surrey, worked at the London and Southwestern Bank. His Service file records him as 5ft 10in tall and just over 10st.

The 1911 census shows the Corben family living in 10 rooms at 51 Union Road. Fred, then 49, was born in Lambeth; his wife, Esther Margaret, 48, was from Chelsea. Their daughter Florence, 25, was 'assisting in the business', as was Leslie's brother Frank H. Corben, 20. Domestic servant Mary Bower, 26, from Langton

Matravers in Dorset, had been with the family for at least 10 years (she appears on both the 1901 and the 1911 censuses).

Corben joined the East Surrey Regiment on 20 January 1916, was wounded in Flanders in May 1917 and later suffered from trench fever. However, he recovered well and was made musketry officer to a battalion in the Rifle Brigade. According to a report in *The South London Press*, he volunteered to return to active service but was refused on medical grounds.

V.L. CORBEN. Second Lieutenant, Royal Fusiliers; also Rifle Brigade, attached 52nd Bn. Died of complications arising from appendicitis on 22 July 1918, aged 23. Remembered at Lambeth Cemetery, Blackshaw Road, Tooting, southwest London

FREDERICK WILLIAM COUSINS

Frederick William Cousins was born in 1896, one of six known children of William Cousins, described as a general dealer in the 1911 census, and Emily A. Cousins. In 1911 the family lived in five rooms at 82 Dorset Road, Stockwell.

F.W. COUSINS. Gunner, Royal Field Artillery, 'L' Bty. 112th Bde. Service no. L/13154. Died of wounds on 1 September 1917, aged 19. Remembered at The Huts Cemetery, Ypres, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

EDWARD GEORGE COX

Edward George Cox was born on 10 May 1896 and baptised at Holy Trinity (demolished in 1953), Vauxhall Bridge Road in Pimlico (on the north side of the Thames), on 7 June 1896 when his parents Edward Charles and Harriet Cox were living nearby at 32 Ponsonby Terrace. Edward's father worked as a moulder in a brass foundry. Four years later, when Edward's sister Mabel Johanna was born, the family lived at 30 Garden Street (now disappeared, Garden Street was parallel to the west side of Vauxhall Bridge Road). At the time of the 1901 census, the Cox family lived in two rooms at 54 Romney Buildings (now called Stubbs House) in

Erasmus Street (behind the Tate Britain).

At the age of five, in 1902, Edward attended the newly-opened Millbank School, across the street from Romney Buildings. The school, and Edward's early home, were part of the Millbank Estate, an ambitious housing scheme built between 1897 and 1902 by London County Council. Two years later, when their third child, Ivy Georgina, was born, the Cox family had moved again, to 11 Hunter Buildings on the recently built London County Council Borough Road Estate.

By 1911, Edward and family were living in more suburban surroundings at 5 Hill Street, Peckham, near the corner with Bird in Bush Road and close to the Surrey Canal. The Cox household then consisted of Edward Charles, 40, and Harriett, 44; Edward George, 14; Mabel Johanna, 10; and Ivy Georgina, seven. In 16 years of marriage, Edward's mother had borne four children, of whom three had survived. Edward had followed his father and now worked in a brass foundry. The Cox family lived in four rooms, a fifth being occupied by Dora Saunders, a 74-year-old widow in a receipt of her old-age pension.

Edward George Cox was already a member of the part-time Territorial Force at the outbreak of war. His original service number, 1349, corresponds to those joining the London Irish Rifles towards the end of 1913, qualifying him as a recipient of the Territorial Force War Medal. The medal roll of the 18th (County of London) Battalion (London Irish Rifles) was annotated with the dates and theatres in which Edward George Cox served, and this corresponds with soldiers in the 2nd Battalion who served in France, Salonika, Egypt and Palestine.

Captain Ernest May wrote the story of the 2/18th London Regiment (2nd Battalion), *London Irish Rifles During the Great War*, a work started in 1926 but not completed and published until 1972. It explains how the battalion was disbanded in Palestine around June and July 1918 and the men drafted to other battalions in their Brigade. But the medal roll entry for Edward George Cox shows him leaving the theatre months earlier, on

6 March. Although wounding or sickness are possible explanations, there are no surviving records to say why or when Edward George Cox returned to the UK. The Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects merely records that he 'died in hospital' on 18 February 1919. His death was registered in the district of Weymouth and he was buried on 25 February 1919 at West Norwood Cemetery.

The Cox family were living at 48 Stockwell Park Crescent when Edward's father passed away in 1934, aged 64. Edward's mother Harriett moved to Sutton to live with her married daughter Ivy. Harriett Cox died in Sutton in 1942, aged 75.

CHRIS BURGE

E.G. COX. Rifleman, London Regiment (London Irish Rifles), 'B' Coy. Service no. 590198; formerly 1349. Died on 18 February 1919, aged 22. Remembered at West Norwood Cemetery and Crematorium, southeast London

J. COX

Not identified

WILLIAM ANTHONY COX

William Anthony Cox was born in Castlebar, County Mayo, Ireland in 1895, the first child of James and Alice Cox. William's father was a serving soldier and all four of their children were born in Ireland. In 1901 the family were living in married quarters at the Shorncliffe Army Camp in Kent.

In the 1911 census, James and Alice lived with their three surviving children, William, Elena and Jim in Ramsgate on the coast. William was working as gardener; his father, an Army Pensioner, was a valet attendant. It is not known when the family came to the Stockwell area, but James Cox appeared on the electoral roll in 1915, living at 15 Portland Place South.

William Cox's service number indicates he volunteered in either late April or early May 1915. Ready or not, he was posted to the 1st Middlesex in France on 29 September, just five days after the 1st Middlesex had suffered terrible losses at

the Battle of Loos. Several quiet months followed and the early part of 1916 was mostly spent in the Cuiinchy sector.

William Cox's transfer to the 12th Middlesex by September 1916 suggests he may have been wounded at some stage and did not return to his original battalion. The 12th Middlesex were among the forces that attacked Thiepval on 26 September, advancing uphill under a creeping barrage with the support of a single tank, first used by the British Army in battle 11 days earlier. The majority of the 138 men killed that day are remembered on the Thiepval Memorial.

William Anthony Cox was initially posted missing, leaving his family in an emotional limbo, and eventually his death was presumed to have occurred on 26 September 1916.

James and Alice Cox remained at 15 Portland Place South until at least 1927.

CHRIS BURGE

W.A. COX. Private, Middlesex Regiment, 12th Bn. Service no. L/15560. Died on 26 September 1916, aged about 21. Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

WILLIAM EDWARD CRABB

William Edward Crabb died on 23 May 1917 in the 15th Stationary Hospital at Morogoro, Tanzania. He had cerebral malaria 'caused by field operations'. Crabb's file offers no details on this, other than to note that he was dangerously ill when admitted and subsequently died.

Malaria is transmitted by infected mosquitos and its presence in sub-Saharan Africa was endemic. Only some cases develop into cerebral malaria, an acute disease of the brain that is accompanied by high fever and whitening of the retina. The mortality rate is currently between 25 and 50 per cent, and was probably greater in 1917.

Crabb left a widow, Alice Beatrice (née Stout), and four children, the youngest born in 1915. He was an engineer's fitter in civilian life, born in Southampton. He stood 5ft 2in tall, with a 38in chest, and weighed under 8½st.

In 1911, then aged 32, he and Alice, 24,

lived at 44 Union Grove, Clapham, where the family had three rooms, along with their two children, Alice Marie, two, and Elsie Amelia, one.

W.E. CRABB. Private, Army Service

Corps, 618th M.T. Coy. Service no.

M2/150639. Died of cerebral malaria on

23 May 1917, aged 39. Remembered at

Morogoro Cemetery, Tanzania

GEORGE DAVID CRANHAM

George David Cranham's widow, Ellen Kate Trumper (she remarried after his death), lived at 6 Horace Street (near Wilcox Road), South Lambeth.

G.D. CRANHAM. Private, Duke of

Cornwall's Light Infantry, 7th Bn. Service

no. 11179. Killed in action on 17 August 1917,

aged 24. Remembered at Sanctuary Wood

Cemetery, Ypres, Belgium

ABRAHAM CROCKER

In 1911 Abraham Crocker, from Crewkerne, Somerset, was employed as a carman for a building contractor. He lived at 2 Layham Cottages (near Bolney Street), Stockwell with his brother John, 45, a labourer at a brewery, and his sister-in-law Annie, 46, also born in Crewkerne, and their three children. The family lived in four rooms.

A. CROCKER. Private, London Regiment,

1/20th Bn. (Blackheath and Woolwich),

Service no. 5308. Killed in action on 1

October 1916, aged about 33. Remembered

at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

HERBERT HOWARD CROCKER



In 1911 Herbert

Howard Crocker, then

23, was working as

a dairy manager and

living in four rooms at

2 Myrtle Cottages, Park

Road in Hillingdon,

west London. He and

his wife, Edith Maud,

21, had been married for a year and had

a one-month-old baby, Evelyn Elsie.

Herbert was from Paddington, west

London and Edith was from Halesworth,

Suffolk. Herbert's parents, Horace Howard and Clara Sophia Crocker, were living at 8 Moat Place, Stockwell where Horace was a dairy manager and Clara was 'assisting in the business.' Their remaining four children lived with them. After the war, Herbert's widow Edith lived at 13 Tregothnan Road, Stockwell.

H.H. CROCKER. Private, London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers), 1st Bn.; formerly 2nd London Regiment. Service no. 203662. Killed in action on 7 April 1917, aged 29. Remembered at Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

JAMES CHARLES FREDERICK CROSS

James Charles Frederick Cross, a warehouseman, joined up in St Paul's Churchyard, London on 14 September 1914, just over a month after war was declared. He died barely six weeks before hostilities ceased.

Cross's badly damaged Service records document his many movements and transfers. He was first assigned to the Army Service Corps, landing in France on 25 March 1915, and was wounded in action two months later; in June 1916 he was given 10 days' detention for neglecting to comply with an order; he joined the King's Royal Rifle Corps at Etaples on 22 June; and he was transferred to the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) later that same month. He was wounded again in September and classed 'P.B.' (that is, assigned to Permanent Base at Etaples, which was a welcome relief to most soldiers and almost as good as being sent home to 'Blighty'). On the 16 October he came down with 'ear disease'. Cross was killed in action on 29 September 1918.

In 1911, James Cross lived at 22 Larkhall Lane, Clapham. The family occupied three rooms. James's father, Charles Cross, 67, was a milkman from Devon; his mother, Georgina Cross, 47, was from Oxfordshire. They had two children. Beatrice Emily Cross, 36, a child of Charles's first marriage, was a boot saleswoman. James Charles Frederick Cross was a warehouseman. On Army Form W5080,

on which the next of kin listed the dead soldier's relatives, Georgina signed her name with a mark.

J.F.C. CROSS. Private, Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment), 13th Bn.; formerly King's Royal Rifle Corps. Service no. 27166. Killed in action on 29 September 1918, aged 26. Remembered at Vieille-Chapelle New Military Cemetery, Lacouture, Pas de Calais, France

WILLIAM ALFRED CROWTHER

At Scapa Flow in the Orkney Islands, off the northeast coast of Scotland, just before midnight on 9 July 1917, the *Vanguard* suddenly exploded, taking over 800 of her crew down with her.

There were only two survivors. A definitive cause was never found but the most likely scenario was that a fire smouldered undetected, long enough for nearby cordite to overheat. Able Seaman *Charles William Tidnam*, who is also remembered on the Stockwell Memorial, was also among the dead.

In 1911 William Alfred Crowther, then working as an errand boy, lived at 48 Cottage Grove, Stockwell, with his parents, George Crowther, 39, a coal porter, and his mother, Elizabeth Crowther, 38, and four siblings, where they occupied four rooms. *W.A. CROWTHER. Stoker 1st Class, Royal Navy, HMS Vanguard. Service no. K/27519. Killed in action on 9 July 1917, aged 19. Remembered at Chatham Naval Memorial, Kent*

ARTHUR STEPHEN CRUMPLER

Crumpler was one of 15 men who died when the *Cornwallis* was torpedoed by the German U-boat (*U-32*) off Malta. He had previously survived the sinking of the *Cressy*, which went down in the North Sea in less than 30 minutes on 22 September 1914 after an attack by the U-boat *U-9*.

In civilian life, Crumpler was a plumber's mate working in the building trade. One of five children, he was born in Charminster, Dorset. In 1911 he lived with his family in five rooms at 41 Dorset Road, Stockwell. Crumpler's widowed mother, Mary Ann,

53, was a newsagent and tobacconist, from Martinstown, Dorset.

A.S. CRUMPLER. *Leading Stoker, Royal Navy, HMS 'Cornwallis'. Service no. SS/112057. Died on 9 January 1917, aged 22. Remembered at Chatham Naval Memorial, Kent*

JAMES WILLIAM CUMMINS

In 1911 Lambeth-born James William Cummins, then 26, was married and living with his family in two rooms at 191 South Lambeth Road. He was a foreman in a coffee husking mill. His wife, Edith Charlotte (née Stevens), 25, was born in Battersea. They had a four-month-old son, Leslie. Three further children were born between 1912 and 1916.

J.W. CUMMINS. *Corporal, London Regiment, 22nd Bn. (The Queen's). Service no. 2033. Died on 20 May 1916, aged 31. Remembered at Bruay Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais, France*

EDWARD ARTHUR CUNNINGHAM

Edward Arthur Cunningham was born in Stockwell in 1895, the only child of Arthur and Fanny. He was baptised in Kent, his mother's place of birth, on 20 October 1895 with the given names Arthur Edward Reuben. In 1901, the family lived at 8 Burgoyne Road, Stockwell, along with eight members of the Higgs family.

In the 1911 census, the Cunninghams were still with his parents at Burgoyne Road, where they occupied three rooms. Edward was a law stationer's apprentice and his father Arthur worked as a weighbridge clerk for Lambeth Borough Council.

In early 1915 Edward, then aged 20, went to the drill hall at 57a Farringdon Road, Clerkenwell to volunteer for the City of London Rifles (CLR), referred to as the 'printers' battalion' because many of its members were recruited from Eyre & Spottiswoode's printing works. The battalion was already in France but was recruiting for the 3rd line reserves. Edward was with a draft of men sent to France on 28 October, a month after the

CLR had suffered terrible casualties at the Battle of Loos. Periods of line-holding were interspersed with rest and training. On 30 April the following year a mine exploded under their position near Vimy Ridge causing over 80 casualties. In July 1916 they moved south to begin training for the ongoing Somme offensive. On 15 September, 47th Division attacked High Wood to cover the left flank of the tank-led attack of the adjacent divisions at Flers. The 1/6th pressed on, but 'whole waves of men were mown down in line' by machine-gun fire. Edward was killed in action on that day.

Edward's parents moved to Dulwich after the war. Arthur died in about 1937, aged 67. Fanny died in 1942, aged 69.

CHRIS BURGE

E.A. CUNNINGHAM. *Rifleman, London Regiment (City of London Rifles), 1st/6th Bn. Service no. 3362. Died 15 September 1916, aged about 21. Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France*

ALBERT CURTIS

Albert Curtis died on 30 August 1915, was buried at Wandsworth Cemetery and is remembered on a memorial plaque there. He left a widow, Florence Maud Curtis (née Skinner), living at Paradise Road, Stockwell and five young children.

Albert married Florence in 1906, and worked as an upholsterer and maker of portmanteaux (suitcases and travelling bags). The 1911 census records Albert, then 32, and Florence, 22, who had been married for five years, living with their two young children in one room in Speke Road (this street has now gone but once ran parallel with Grant Road), Clapham Junction.

Albert's medal card shows that he served in France from 26 April 1915. He died in the Royal Victoria Hospital, Southampton on 30 August 1915, three weeks after Florence gave birth to their fifth child. There is a family story that a sack of flour fell on him from a crane and his death certificate appears to back this up — it gives fracture of the spine among the causes of death. Florence remained in

Paradise Road, remarried and had three further sons who all served in the Second World War.

A. CURTIS. Private, Army Service Corps, Service no. SS/8149. Died on 30 August 1915, aged 35. Remembered at Wandsworth Cemetery, Magdalen Road, Earlsfield, southwest London

CHARLES WILLIAM CURTIS

In 1911 Charles William Curtis, a blacksmith's striker, lived with his family at 37 Union Street, Clapham, where nine people shared four rooms. His father, Charles Henry Curtis, 48, was a laundry carman married to Harriet Emily (née Yates), 44, an ironer. Curtis had six siblings. In 1912 Charles William Curtis married Mary Ann Whiting.

C.W. CURTIS. Lance Serjeant, Worcestershire Regiment, D' Coy. 3rd Bn. Service no. 8672. Killed in action on 12 April 1918, aged 34. Remembered at Ploegsteert Memorial, Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium

HARRY or HENRY CUTMORE

Harry Cutmore was a house decorator. In 1911, aged 31, he was working in the family's decorating business and living with his parents, William Cutmore, 60, and Annie Cutmore, 61, both from Lambeth, and three siblings in a nine-roomed house at 13 St Martin's Road, Stockwell.

Harry Cutmore's brother James also died during the war and is listed on the wooden war shrine in the chapel at St Michael's Church, Stockwell but not on Stockwell War Memorial. There are many possible reasons why names were not put forward to the Memorial Committee for inclusion, among them the feeling that to be listed once was 'enough', anger with the authorities and subsequent reluctance to engage with them, and simply not hearing about the Memorial project.

H. CUTMORE. Lance Corporal, London Regiment, 24th Bn. (The Queen's). Service no. 720754. Died on 2 January 1917, aged 36. Remembered at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Poperinge, Belgium

CHRISTOPHER DARTNELL



Christopher Dartnell enlisted at Camberwell shortly after the start of the war. He was part of what was known as 'Kitchener's Army' formed from volunteers in 1914 and 1915.

According to the war diary of the 6th Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry his battalion was at Ypres supporting the 10th Battalion of the Durham Light Infantry, who were in the front-line trenches. They were quartered in dugouts and shelters behind the front line, in the ironically named Sanctuary Wood.

During the night of 15 October 1917 the Germans bombarded the area with high explosives and gas shells, continuing the next day from nine in the morning until dusk. Seven men were wounded and four were killed, one of whom was Christopher Dartnell. The headstones of the three other NCOs who were killed lie next to his at Hooze Crater Cemetery.

Dartnell had 11 siblings. Shortly before she died in 1980, the youngest, Ethel Florence, who was born in 1903, wrote this reminiscence:

'My brothers Roger, Jim and Fred were called up and transported to France and India. My father was called to repair the hospital ships and was often in France for a month at a time. His trade was plumbing. It was frightening when the Zeppelins came over [London] and dropped bombs and you wondered if you might be killed when they came your way. We very often stayed and sheltered in the Underground where the trains were stationary until the All Clear was sounded.

'Next to be called up was my brother Chris, when he was 18. He hated war and violence and often wished he was not in the Army. When he had leave from France he never wanted to go back and the last break he had from the trenches he didn't go back until after another day had passed. That was in May 1917. We then had a telegram to say he was killed in action in October — he was just 21. We all were very shocked because

of this and the news that my brother Bill had been wounded in German East Africa and was on his way home having been shot in his right hand and had lost a thumb and was also wounded in the right hip. So he was out of soldiering for good. He became a Commissionaire for a firm in the City of London.

'My last brother, Reg, was called up when he was 18, in January 1918 and sent to France for the big push in May 1918. We had a couple of cards from him the first few weeks and then no more news until August when we heard that he was a prisoner of war. Thank goodness they all arrived home except Chris, safe and well after the war ended in November 1918.

'Then Armistice was declared in November 1918 and we were told to go home [from work] at lunchtime. I remember going to see the masses of people gathering in the Strand, London and felt lost in the crowd. People dancing and cheering and drinking. I had to walk home as there were no buses running. When I reached my house my mother was crying because her son Chris had been killed and would not be returning and my other brother Reg was a prisoner of war and we were still waiting to hear if he was alive.' WITH THANKS TO THE DARTNELL FAMILY
C. DARTNELL. Lance Corporal, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, 6th Bn. Service no. 19561. Killed in action on 16 October 1917, aged 20. Remembered at Hooge Crater Cemetery, Ypres, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

CONRAD O'NEILL DAUNT



Brother of Giles Vellacott Daunt
Conrad O'Neill Daunt, born in 1891, and his brother Giles, born in 1895, were two of five children of Irish physician and surgeon Francis Eldon Horsford Daunt and Annie Elizabeth Daunt (née Vellacott) of 176 Clapham Road. Both boys were educated at City of London School. Conrad returned to England from

Canada to fight in the war and initially served as a Private with the Second Canadian contingent. He was offered a commission with the South Lancashires, and served with them through 1917. In 1918 he was transferred to the Royal Air Force (established in April) and promoted to Lieutenant.

In 1911 the Daunts lived at 118 Newington Causeway, Borough, but at this time Conrad, then aged 20, was working as a 'farm pupil' at the house of his uncle, Walter John Vellacott, at Tunnel House, West Thurrock, Essex. There was a visitor on the night of the census: Moss T. Reick, 44, an evangelist from Berlin.

C. O'N. DAUNT. Lieutenant, Royal Air Force, South Lancashire Regiment, 8th Bn. Died on 29 September 1918, aged 27. Remembered at Bronfay Farm Military Cemetery, Bray-sur-Somme, France

GILES VELLACOTT DAUNT



Brother of Conrad O'Neill Daunt

On 20 August 1914 Giles Vellacott Daunt, aged 18 and working as a clerk, joined the Royal Fusiliers as a Signaller. He was almost immediately offered a commission in the South Lancashires (with whom his brother Conrad also served). Quite apart from his middle-class background — he was a son of the physician and surgeon Francis Eldon Horsford Daunt — he looked the part. Six feet tall, over 11st and with a 41in chest, blue eyes and fair hair.

In February 1916 Daunt embarked on the HMS *Ionic*, headed for Port Said, Egypt and then Basra, Iraq. He was reported missing in action on 9 April 1916. His death was later confirmed. A memorandum of 6 August states that his body was buried at Sanniyat.

G.V. DAUNT. Second Lieutenant, South Lancashire Regiment, 10th Bn., attached 6th Bn. Killed in action in Mesopotamia on 9 April 1916, aged 19. Remembered at Basra Cemetery, Iraq

GEOFFREY WILLIAM JOHN DEE

Geoffrey Dee was born on 26 November 1896 in Woolwich, southeast London, the first child of John Edwin and Emma Churchill (née Loftin) Dee, who had married earlier in the year. He was baptised Geoffrey William John on 10 September 1897 at St Bride's, Fleet Street on the same day as three of Emma's younger siblings. At this time the Dees lived at 120 Ivydale Road, Nunhead, southeast London and John Edwin worked as a licensed victualler (publican). Geoffrey's younger brother Philip was born on 15 September 1898 and baptised Philip Walter Loftin Dee on 30 October 1898 at St Martin's, Dorking, in Surrey, during the period his father was running the Red Lion Hotel there.

Geoffrey's father died in 1899, and the following year his mother, then living in the Walworth Road near Elephant and Castle, married George Edward Holton at St Bride's. Holton, a police constable, was based at the nearby Bridewell Place Station. At the time of the 1901 census George, Emma, Geoffrey and Philip were living at 6 Clock Passage (also known as Clock Place), off Hampton Road and close to Newington Butts, a densely populated area in the parish of St Mary Newington, Southwark. The property was home to three families totalling 11 people.

George and Emma's first child, Dorothy Ellen, was born on 19 June 1901 and baptised at St Mary Newington on 25 August. Ten years later, Geoffrey and his family were living in Stockwell, at 13 Portland Place North, near Clapham Road. Geoffrey's stepfather had risen to the rank of sergeant in the City of London Police. He listed his children in age order on the census form: Geoffrey Dee Holton, 14; Philip Dee Holton, 12; Dorothy Holton, nine; Stanley Holton, seven; Kathleen Holton, five; John Holton, two. Emma's younger brother Walter Robinson Loftin, a 34-year-old stereotyper from Kent, boarded with the family. A total of nine people occupied the property's seven rooms.

In May 1911 life changed abruptly for the Holton family when Emma died. Forty-year-old George Holton was married for

a second time on 3 December 1912, to 23-year-old Constance Muriel Chapman at St Stephen's Church, South Lambeth. By 1915, there would be three further additions to the Holton family.

Geoffrey Dee was working as a stereotyper at Spottiswoode & Co., Shoe Lane, in the City when war was declared. In the initial rush to volunteer, many employees of the print firm joined the City of London Rifles at their Farringdon Road drill hall, but Geoffrey Dee made a different choice. On 6 August 1914 he went to the drill hall at New Street (now Braganza Street), Kennington, determined to join the 24th County of London Battalion (The Queen's).

He added a year to his age, claiming to be 18 and 11 months. At 5ft 9in in height with a 33in chest, no questions were asked and he was passed fit. Within days, Private 1894 Dee was in the St Albans area with the 24th Londons. The battalion was sent to France early in 1915, landing at Le Havre on 16 March, the beginning of Geoffrey Dee's three years on the Western Front. He was wounded in the right leg around 15 June 1915 and treated at 4th Stationary Hospital at St Omer.

Geoffrey was an infantry observer and survived all of the 24th London's actions until he was seriously wounded on 16 July 1918, again in the right leg. He was evacuated to the UK where he underwent an above-knee amputation. After the operation, a medical board at the military hospital Denmark Hill judged his general health as 'Good'. When Geoffrey completed a statement of his own case, he said that he had been treated at Weir Hospital in Grove Road, Balham, which housed a section of Third London (TF) General Hospital.

A final review was made at Charterhouse Military Hospital, Charterhouse Square, London, a specialist hospital for limbless men, on 8 March 1919. Geoffrey Dee was discharged six days later and awarded a pension of £2 7s 6d for 13 weeks and then 16s 6d for life. It was noted that his figure (frame) on discharge was 'slight' and he faced 'uncertain' prospects of employment. Geoffrey's address throughout this period was the Holton family home, which was

then at 262 Clapham Road. Geoffrey died in Torquay, Devon, in 1920 of an infection in his right leg. He is not listed in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission database. The military authorities may not have regarded him as a war casualty, but the Stockwell War Memorial Committee thought otherwise, and his story serves as a reminder of the wider remit adopted by the committee.

Geoffrey's younger brother Philip, also an electrotyper, was conscripted into the Army after 1916 and served in the Royal Fusiliers. He returned to Lambeth and in August 1924 sailed for Brisbane, Australia, seeking a new life. He died in 1991. George Edward Holton, Geoffrey and Philip's stepfather, was living in Streatham Vale when he passed away in 1930. CHRIS BURGE *G.W.J. DEE. Private, London Regiment, 24th Bn. (The Queen's). Service no. 1894, Territorial Force renumbered 720356. Died after discharge of an infection on 15 February 1920, aged 23*

JOHN JAMES DERRY

John James Derry was the son of Lionel and Sarah Derry. His widow remarried, becoming Mrs M.L. Eaton. She lived at 5 Irving Grove, Stockwell.

J.J. DERRY. Private, Essex Regiment, 2nd Bn. Service no. 41051. Killed in action on 9 April 1917, aged 26. Remembered at Fampoux British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

ERNEST WILLIAM DESALEUX

Brother of Frederick John Desaleux and Jules Benjamin Alfred Desaleux

Ernest William Desaleux was born in Lambeth in 1894 and enlisted at Battersea. In the 1911 census he is listed as a 17-year-old warehouseman. He and his brothers were among the 12 children of Jules, a warehouseman for a mantle (gown) and costume-maker, and Edith Desaleux.

E.W. DESALEUX. Rifleman, Rifle Brigade, 1st Bn. Service no. S/14522. Killed in action on 15 April 1917, aged 23. Remembered at Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

FREDERICK JOHN DESALEUX

Brother of Ernest William Desaleux and Jules Benjamin Alfred Desaleux

Frederick John Desaleux was born in 1896 in Lambeth. The 1911 census shows him as a 14-year-old warehouseman, living with his family at 20 Fountain Street in Stockwell.

F.J. DESALEUX. Rifleman, London Regiment, 21st Bn. (First Surrey Rifles). Service no. 653511. Killed in action on 25 February 1917, aged about 20. Remembered at Railway Dugouts Burial Ground, near Ypres, Belgium

JULES BENJAMIN ALFRED DESALEUX

Brother of Ernest William Desaleux and Frederick John Desaleux

Shorncliffe Barracks, on the Kent coast close to Folkstone and Dover, was subject to airborne attacks by German bombers. The most devastating came on 25 May 1917 when two bombs fell on the huts occupied by 18 soldiers, of whom 16 were Canadian. Jules Desaleux was killed, along with 70 other military and civilian casualties.

Jules, a map publishing assistant, had emigrated with his wife Alice Eleanor (née Martin) to Canada and lived at 253 Park View Street, St James, Winnipeg. He attested on 8 January 1917, stating that he had previously served in the Territorials with the Royal West Surreys. He was described as brown-eyed with dark brown hair and a fair complexion, and 5ft 9in tall with a 38in chest.

In 1911 the Desaleux family lived at 20 Fountain Street, off Wandsworth Road, Stockwell. Jules Desaleux, Jules Benjamin Alfred's father, 45, was a warehouseman who was born in London's West End. His wife Edith (née Barton) was from Dover, Kent. They had 12 children.

On the night of the 1911 census Jules and Alice and their six-month-old son Alfred Hugh were listed as visiting Henry James Kemp and his wife Alice and their five children at 8 Pownall Terrace, Kennington Road. (Pownall Terrace, now gone, was one of the many residences of Charlie

Chaplin, who lived for a time at no. 3.)

Benjamin and Maire Desaleux, a journeyman lampmaker and a corset-maker, grandparents of the brothers, had emigrated to London from France some time before 1861 and became British subjects. A fourth brother, Albert, survived the war. WITH THANKS TO DANIEL DESALEUX *J.B.A. DESALEUX. Gunner, Canadian Field Artillery, 76th Bty. Reserve Bde. Service no. 1250216. Killed in action on 25 May 1917, aged 29. Remembered at Shorncliffe Military Cemetery, Kent*

REGINALD PERCY DICKASON

Reginald Percy Dickason, an only child, was educated at King's College School and Pitman's Metropolitan School. Pitman's, the world's first school of business education (it opened in 1870), had a branch at 65 Brixton Hill and regularly advertised in *The South London Press*. It offered training in office routine, accounting and law, and shorthand and typing. Dickason may have been aiming to become a court reporter.

Dickason transferred out of the 3/25th London Cyclists, which he joined as a Private on 1 April 1915, to the Inns of Court Officer Training Corps at Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire. This corps was originally part of the London Territorial Force and consisted mainly of men connected with the law courts.

On 4 August 1916 Dickason was accepted for admission to No. 8 Officer Cadet Battalion at Lichfield, Staffordshire and a little over three months later he left for France, serving with the Middlesex Regiment. He survived for just under four months, dying near Cléry-sur-Somme on 14 February 1917. In July 1920 the Army wrote to his father, Harold Burfield Dickason, to tell him that his son's body had been moved to the cemetery at Péronne and assuring him that the removal was done 'carefully and reverently'.

Dickason's service record gives his vital statistics: 5ft 8in tall, just over 10½st and 42½in around the chest.

The 1911 census shows Dickason's family living at 155 Clapham Road (the

building has been replaced by a job centre). Reginald's father, then 36, was an orchestral musician from Highgate, north London. Reginald's mother, Esther, 35, was from Lambeth. The household included a great-aunt, a boarder, a live-in servant and an uncle, Percy Dickason, who was an elephant hunter.

On 17 November 1918, 22 years after Reginald's birth, Harold and Esther, now in their early forties, had another baby, Lloyd Aubrey Dickason. Lloyd's daughter, Jane Skellam, writes: 'My grandfather [by then widowed, Esther having died in 1933] had to go through the same anxiety when World War Two started and Lloyd was called up. Luckily, he survived.'

R.P. DICKASON. Second Lieutenant, Middlesex Regiment, 6th Bn., attached 1st Bn. Killed in action on 14 February 1917, aged 20. Remembered at Péronne Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France

FREDERICK JOHN DICKER

Frederick John Dicker joined the Army in April 1917 and, after training, was drafted overseas in July. During his brief service on the Western Front he was engaged in heavy fighting at Ypres, where he was killed in action.

The 1911 census shows that Frederick John Dicker, 31, lived in four rooms at 8 Beech Street, Dorset Road with his wife, Susan, 30. He was born in South Lambeth and was working as a general labourer. Susan was from Battersea. They had previously had one child, who had died.

F.J. DICKER. Private, London Regiment, 1/4th Bn. (Royal Fusiliers). Service no. 295165. Killed in action 19 August 1917, aged about 37. Remembered at Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

HENRY or HARRY JAMES DIGHTON

In 1911 Henry Dighton was 15 and working as a grocer's assistant. He lived with his family in four rooms at 35 Crimsworth Road, off Wandsworth Road. His father, James Dighton, 46, who was born in Pimlico, was a caterer's porter. His

mother, Clara (née Baxter), 47, was born in Paddington. Dighton had five siblings. *H.J. DIGHTON. Private, Lincolnshire Regiment, 2/5th Bn. Service no. 8159. Died of wounds on 29 April 1918, aged about 22. Remembered at Arneke British Cemetery, Nord, France*

GEORGE DIMOND

On 27 April 1914, a few months before the war started, George Dimond, 18, a sawyer's assistant, joined the Army. He lived for only 194 days after that, dying of wounds to the legs on 9 November at Poperinge in Belgium. Dimond was blue-eyed with dark brown hair, stood 5ft 7½in tall and weighed 8¼st, with a 35½in chest.

In 1911 his mother Clara, then 50, was listed as a boarder at 104 Hartington Road, South Lambeth. She worked as a charwoman (cleaner) and described herself as 'married but separated'. Dimond's father, Charles, 49, was boarding at 27 Dawlish Street (near Wilcox Road). Between them they had five daughters and George.

G. DIMOND. Private, The Queen's Own Royal West Surrey Regiment, 2nd Bn. Service no. L/6478. Died of wounds on 9 November 1914, aged 18. Remembered at Poperinghe Old Military Cemetery, Belgium

JAMES ALBERT DIXON

James Albert Dixon, born in Glasgow, Scotland, was the son of Johnson Dixon and James (later Browell) of 69 Stewart Road, Battersea. His widow, Isobel Constance Dixon, lived at 17 Camellia Street, South Lambeth.

J.A. DIXON. Private, East Surrey Regiment, 7th Bn. Service no. 9159. Died on 13 August 1916, aged 27. Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

FREDERICK JOHN DOEL

In 1911 Frederick John Doel, the eldest of three sons of Frederick, a packer, and Ada Jane (née Scrine), a washer and ironer, lived with his family in three rooms at 29

Fountain Street, off Wandsworth Road. Another family of 10 lived in three rooms at the same address.

F.J. DOEL. Private, East Surrey Regiment, 8th Bn. Service no. 31188. Killed in action on 3 May 1917, aged about 20. Remembered at Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France and at Waterloo Station War Memorial, London SE1

HENRY RICHARD DOOLEY

Henry Richard Dooley, a plumber's mate, joined the Army at Clapham Junction on 25 May 1915. The Army described him as 20 years old, 6ft and a ½in tall, and 11½st with a 38½in chest. His physical development was judged to be 'Good'.

On 26 October, he was shipped to France. On the 5 February 1916 he reported sick with pyrexia (fever) and lumbago (lower back pain). His medical history shows that just two days later he was complaining of an ailment 'NYD' (not yet diagnosed), and on 24 February he had myalgia (muscle pain), after which he rejoined his unit on 15 April. By 25 June he was accused of using 'improper language to an NCO'.

On 2 August Dooley was again in trouble, this time more seriously. He was tried by a Field General Court Martial on two counts: using insubordinate language to his superior officer and disobeying an order given by his superior officer. He was found guilty and sentenced to a year's hard labour, almost immediately commuted to three months. The Army, after all, needed all available men at the front. On 16 September he was missing, 'death being presumed'. He had served a total of one year and 115 days.

The 1911 census shows that Henry Dooley was one of two children of Richard Dooley, 64, a pensioner from Ireland, and Mary Dooley, 57, a charwoman (cleaner) also from Ireland. The family lived in three rooms at 153 Larkhall Lane, Stockwell.

H.R. DOOLEY. Private, London Regiment, 1/23rd Bn. Service no. 701393. Killed in action on 16 September 1916, aged 22. Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

ALFRED COLIN DOPSON

Alfred Colin Dopson, aged 15 on the 1911 census, lived with his family at 33 Ely Place, Stockwell. He and his brother Edward, 16, were apprentices in the printing trade. Their father, George Dopson, 47, was a railway porter from Newbury, Berkshire, and their mother, Elizabeth Dopson, 46, was from Shipnal, Shropshire. There were three other children.

A.C. DOPSON. Rifleman, Rifle Brigade, 10th Bn. Service no. P/200377. Killed in action on 23 September 1917, aged about 20. Remembered at Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

ROBERT DOYLE

In 1911 Robert Doyle's family lived at 105 Hartington Road, Stockwell. His parents, Lawrence Doyle, 38, a house painter and builder from Pimlico, and Deborah Doyle, 39, born in Lambeth, had five children.

Robert's Service records are extremely fragmentary. They show that he signed up on 13 August 1914. He had a chest measurement of 33½in and his physical development was judged to be 'Fair'. Doyle embarked for France on 26 March 1915, was in the field from 6 November, was attached to 179th tunnelling company in April 1916, and was disciplined for refusing to obey an order.

The 179th Tunnelling Company was responsible for digging a mine that was detonated on 1 July, the first day of the Somme Offensive, which lasted until November. It formed what is now known as the Lochnagar Crater.

His effects and medals were sent to his mother at 17 Ely Place, Dorset Road.

R. DOYLE. Private, Lincolnshire Regiment, 2nd Bn. Service no. 8024. Killed in action on 23 October 1916, aged 21. Remembered at Bancourt British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

GEORGE DANIEL TALBOT DREWERY

George Daniel Talbot Drewery, the son of George Talbot and Louisa Emma Drewery,

of 25 Lansdowne Road, died on board the *Partridge*, which was sunk in the North Sea by four German destroyers, with the loss of 74 men. She had been escorting a convoy.

The 1911 census records George Drewery, then a 15-year-old office boy, living with his aunt and uncle, Mary Ann Elizabeth and Robert White, both 53, and their family at 62 Landor Road, Stockwell. *G.D.T. DREWERY. Officer's Steward 2nd Class, Royal Navy, HMS 'Partridge'. Service no. L/5032. Killed in action on 12 December 1917, aged 21. Remembered at Portsmouth Naval Memorial*

EDWARD DRISCOLL

In 1911 Edward Driscoll, 18, was working as an acetylene driller and living with his family in four rooms at 26 Madrid Place, South Lambeth (now disappeared, this road was off Caroun Road and is now the site of South Lambeth Estate). His father, Michael Driscoll, 56, a road sweeper for the borough council, was originally from the City of London; his mother, Ellen, 55, was also born in the City. The couple had three other children.

E. DRISCOLL. Gunner, Royal Field Artillery, 12th Bty. 35th Bde. Service no. 216940. Killed in action on 21 October 1917, aged 24. Remembered at The Huts Cemetery, Ypres, Belgium

HAROLD PUTNAM DUDLEY



Harold Putnam Dudley was a commercial clerk. In 1911, aged 24 and an only child, he was living at 298 South Lambeth Road with his parents, James Robert Dudley, 53, also a commercial clerk,

and Charlotte Emily née Putnam, 50, plus three boarders.

H.P. DUDLEY. Rifleman, London Regiment, 'C' Coy., 1/5th Bn. (London Rifle Brigade). Service no. 2460. Killed in action on 1 July 1916, aged 29. Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

BERNARD ALLEN MILLER DUNNING

Devon-born Bernard Allen Miller Dunning of 56 Edithna Street, Stockwell, joined the Army on 5 December 1914. In civilian life he was a tram conductor for London County Council. He was 5ft 7in tall with a 37in chest and his physical development was assessed as 'fair'.

Dunning served in France between 12 February and 7 November 1916, but was admitted to hospital in England suffering from haemorrhoids. Later he was deployed in the Middle East, where he was admitted to hospital, again with haemorrhoids. Dunning survived military action, but on 10 November, the day before the Armistice, he was admitted to the 31st British Stationary Hospital; by 24 November he was described as dangerously ill with dysentery. He died on 6 December, leaving a widow, Rosina Harriet, and a 12-year-old son, Herbert William.

B.A.M. DUNNING. Driver, Royal Engineers, Army Signal Company. Service no. 558257. Died of illness on 6 December 1918, aged 39. Remembered at Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery, Iraq

FREDERICK EALES-JOHNSON



Frederick Eales-Johnson was the son of Frederick Eales-Johnson, who worked as a printer's platen machine minder, and Mary (née Marshall), of 37 Portland Place North, near Clapham Road. This street, now gone, has been replaced by the Mursell Estate, although a few houses remain, renamed Portland Grove. Eales-Johnson, who was born in Lambeth in 1894, was a student and junior clerk in a pencil factory.

F. EALES-JOHNSON. Gunner, Royal Field Artillery, 'A' Bty. 235th Bde. Service no. 950162. Died on 17 June 1917, aged 22. Remembered at Reninghelst New Military Cemetery, Poperinge, Belgium

HENRY or HARRY WILFRED EDNEY

In 1911 Henry Wilfred Edney was working as a messenger and living with his widowed mother, Elizabeth Edney, 47, four siblings and a boarder at 50 Stockwell Green, where the family occupied seven rooms.

H. EDNEY. Lance Corporal, London Regiment, 5th Bn. (London Rifle Brigade); formerly 12th London Regiment. Service no. 315081. Died on 17 October 1917, aged 21. Remembered at Longuenesse (St Omer) Souvenir Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France and at St Andrew's Church, Landor Road, Stockwell

JOHN REGINALD CHARLES EDWARDS

The 1911 census shows 15-year-old John Reginald Charles Edwards working as a 'page boy in private houses' and living with his family in four rooms at 37a Crimsworth Road, South Lambeth. His father, John Edwards, 48, was from Kington Magna, Dorset and was employed as a coke porter at the gasworks. His mother, Louisa Edwards, 43, was from Dorchester in Dorset. The couple had seven children.

J.R.C. EDWARDS. Lance Corporal, London Regiment, 1/23rd Bn. Service no. 701405. Killed in action on 7 June 1917, aged 21. Remembered at Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

LEONARD ELDRIDGE

In 1911, Leonard Eldridge worked as a messenger for the General Post Office. He lived with his parents and five of his eight siblings at 14 Aldebert Terrace, South Lambeth where the family occupied five rooms. Leonard's father Harry Eldridge, 51, was a carman, transporting milk for a dairy. He was originally from New Cross, southeast London. His mother, Martha Eldridge, 50, was from Norfolk.

L. ELDRIDGE. Rifleman, London Regiment, 1/5th Bn. (London Rifle Brigade). Service no. 304022. Killed in action on 9 October 1916, aged about 19. Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

A. A. ELLIS

A. A. Ellis was the son of John and Emily Ellis of Clapham. His widow, Annie May Ellis, lived at 25 Haines Street, Battersea. His first and middle names are not recorded in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission database.

A.A. ELLIS. Driver, Royal Field Artillery, 'C' Bty. 76th Bde. Service no. 201091. Died on 27 July 1917, aged 22. Remembered at Mendinghem Military Cemetery, Poperinge, Belgium

CECIL HERBERT ELPHICK

Not identified

HENRY JAMES ELPHICK

Not identified

FREDERICK THOMAS ELSON

In 1911 railway clerk Frederick Thomas Elson, 25, who was born in Leyton, Essex, was living with his widowed mother, Louisa Elson, 56, and five siblings at 74 Victoria Avenue, Plashet Lane, East Ham in east London, where the family had six rooms. On 21 November 1915 Frederick married Laurel James at St Michael's Church, Stockwell. Laurel lived at 5 Grove Road, Stockwell.

F.T. ELSON. Lance Corporal, Royal Fusiliers, 4th Bn; formerly 3/1st County of London Yeomanry. Service no. 62188. Died of wounds on 11 May 1917, aged 32. Remembered at Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France and at St Michael's Church, Stockwell Park Road, Stockwell

JEFFREY ELY

Jeffrey Ely was born in Lambeth and baptised at All Saints Church. In 1911, aged 19, he lived with his parents and siblings at 95 Paradise Road, Stockwell, where the family had four rooms. His parents, Charles Ely, 47, a sewer flusher from Horseheath, Cambridgeshire, and Alice Ely, 50, born in Lambeth, had eight other children. On 22 December 1912

Jeffrey Ely, then working as a baker, married Rose Leeves at St Anne's Church, South Lambeth Road.

J. ELY. Private, The Queen's Own Royal West Surrey Regiment, 2nd Bn. Service no. C/276. Killed in action on 25 September 1915, aged about 25. Remembered at Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

LEONARD GEORGE HENRY ERDBEER

In 1911 Leonard George Henry Erdbeer, 13 and still at school, lived at 9 Stockwell Grove with his father, Henry Erdbeer, 43, a tinsmith born in Poplar, east London; his mother, Ellen Elizabeth Page, 34, born in Brighton; his maternal grandfather, Charles Morris, 72, a retired tram conductor from Guestling, Sussex; and two younger siblings. The family occupied six rooms. Erdbeer means strawberry in German.

L.G.H. ERDBEER. Private, Grenadier Guards, 4th Bn. Service no. 30085. Killed in action on 13 April 1918, aged 21. Remembered at Merville Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France

ALFRED THOMAS EVANS

Alfred Thomas Evans was born in 1898 and baptised at St Paul's Church, Clapham on 1 May. He was the youngest of William Charles and Mary Evans' four sons. The family lived in six rooms above their grocery shop at 270 Wandsworth Road. The shop was between New Road and Howard Street, with a butcher and baker to either side. The Bell public house was two doors away and is still standing.

In the 1911 census, Alfred, then 13, lived with this parents and older brothers William Charles, Bertram Horace and Henry Edgar. His father, a tea dealer and grocer, ran the family business with the assistance of his son William. Bertram worked as an engineer, and Henry was a leather worker.

October 1911 brought sadness for the family when Bertram, the second son, died at the age of 21. He was buried at Norwood Cemetery. Happier times followed when

Alfred's older brother William married Ada Florence Hall at St Philips, Balham, on 23 March 1913. Their first child was born in January 1914.

William seems to have made a last-minute decision to attest on 9 December 1915, under Lord Derby's scheme (see *Appendix*), two days before its closure. William was not called up until the beginning of 1917.

Alfred was conscripted in mid-1916, enlisting in London. His first destination was Salonika. After travelling by ship across the Mediterranean he landed on 30 March 1917. His battalion moved to Egypt on 12 June, landing at Alexandria, and entrained for Ismalia where they settled in at Moscar Camp the following day.

The comforts of the camp were described by one soldier: 'Moscar, itself, was a permanent camp of tents with ample accommodation for everyone and water to be had by merely turning on a tap. Melons and fruit in abundance and in great variety and ideal swimming in Lake Timsah only a short distance away...' What followed was the Battle of Sheria in November and the assault to capture Jerusalem in December.

News reached the Evans family that Alfred's older brother William had been wounded in the head; he was invalided to England on 16 December 1917. A week later, at Christmas time, William and Mary received the news that on Christmas Eve Alfred had been killed in action near Jerusalem.

Alfred's brothers William and Henry continued to run the family business in the Wandsworth Road for many years after the war. His father died in 1931, aged 67, Henry in 1940, aged 47, and William in 1963, aged 75.

CHRIS BURGE

A.T. EVANS. Rifleman, London Regiment (London Irish Rifles), 2nd/18th Bn. Service no. 593075. Died 23 December 1917, aged 19. Remembered at Jerusalem War Cemetery, Israel

FREDERICK EVERSFIELD

In 1911 Frederick Eversfield, a 16-year-old stores porter, lived at 6 Emily Mansions, Landor Road, Stockwell with his family:

his parents Harry Eversfield, 46, a stonemason born in Wrotham, Kent, and Mary Eversfield, 45, from Dover, plus two sisters. After the war, his widow, Kathleen Christina Eversfield, lived at 19 St James Road, Carshalton, Surrey.

F. EVERSFIELD. Able Seaman, Royal Navy, HM S/M D6. Service no. J/12826. Died on June 1918, aged 24. Remembered at Chatham Naval Memorial, Kent and at St Andrew's Church, Landor Road, Stockwell

HENRY JOSEPH JOHN FARRANT

Tentative identification

Henry Joseph John Farrant was born in Stoke Newington, north London, and lived in Tottenham, where he attested in November 1917. After his training he was drafted to France, where he took part in the Second Battle of the Somme. On 28 August 1918 Farrant was killed in action at Albert. A connection between Henry Joseph John Farrant and the Stockwell area is yet to become apparent, which means that although there is only one H.J.J. Farrant in the military records, this identification remains tentative.

In 1911 Henry J.J. Farrant, one of two children, was 11 and living with his family at 51 Abbotsford Avenue, South Tottenham, where the household occupied eight rooms. His father, Henry John Farrant, 54, a former ironmonger now working as a 'commission agent,' was born in Limehouse, east London. His mother, Alice Jane Farrant, 52, was born in Kingsland, Hackney, east London. H.J.J. FARRANT. Private, London Regiment, 3rd Bn. (Royal Fusiliers). Service no. 254446. Killed in action on 28 August 1918, aged 18. Remembered at Bronfay Farm Military Cemetery, Bray-sur-Somme, Somme, France

CHARLES BERNARD FARRELL

Warrington-born Charles Bernard Farrell was a serving soldier when war broke out. He was mobilised and embarked for France in November 1914.

He fought in the first and second Battles

of Ypres but broke his thigh in a fall from his horse and was invalided back to England after complications arose. He died at Edmonton Hospital, north London, on 15 April 1916.

The 1911 census shows the Farrell family living at 66 Dalyell Road, Brixton. Charles's father, Michael Farrell, 56, was a former Army musician now living on his pension, born in St Mary's, Cork, Ireland. His mother Elizabeth, 54, an attendant in an art gallery, was born in Jersey, Channel Islands. They had seven children.

C.B. FARRELL. Colour Serjeant, South Lancashire Regiment, 2nd Bn. Service no. 8272. Died after a fall from his horse on 15 April 1916, aged 26. Remembered at Streatham Park Cemetery, Rowan Road, Streatham Vale, southwest London

EMANUEL FEDER



Emanuel (Manny) Feder was born in about 1889 in Lityn, a Jewish stetl, at that time in the Russian Empire, and now in Vinnytsia Oblast province in central Ukraine. Manny was the son of Wolf, a clothes dealer, and Dina Feder, naturalised British subjects. Manny and his younger brother David worked in the family business.

In 1912 Hettie Bicknell gave birth to Manny's daughter Gladis Hettie, followed in 1913 by Deborah Frances. Hettie and Manny married in 1914 in Islington. The electoral roll records Hettie Feder as living at 15 Lorn Road until about 1936.

Manny's brother David served as a driver in the Royal Field Artillery and survived the war. In 1919 he gave his address as 117 Lambeth Walk.

E. FEDER. Private, London Regiment, 7th Bn. (City of London); also London Regiment, posted to 1/19th Bn. Service no. 354910. Killed in action on 1 September 1918, aged about 28. Remembered at Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Pas de Calais, France and at St Michael's Church, Stockwell Park Road, Stockwell

WILLIAM GEORGE FREDERICK FELTHAM

In 1911 'Frederick William George' Feltham, aged 20, lived with his parents, Alfred James Feltham, 47, a railway guard, and Ann, 46, and his sisters Florence Mary, 18, a cashier, and Cecilia Anne, 16, a blouse maker, in four rooms at 13 Cavendish Grove, off Wandsworth Road. He married Agnes Mary Tidman in 1916. Agnes married Reginald Claud Morison in 1919, who served in the East Yorkshire Regiment before and during the First World War.

W.G.F. FELTHAM. Private, Lancashire Fusiliers, 18th Bn.; formerly Royal Engineers, 3197. Service no. 32204. Killed in action on 23 October 1917, aged 25. Remembered at Tyne Cot Memorial, Heuvelland, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

GEORGE EDWARD FENSOME

George Edward Fensome was baptised at Emmanuel, Camberwell, Southwark, on 13 September 1894, when his parents, Mark Henry, a labourer from Harpenden, Hertfordshire, and Caroline Maria (née Burden), from Lambeth, were living at 99 Hackford Road, Stockwell.

In 1911 George, then aged 16, was working as a ticket collector for the City & South London Railway and living with his family at 38 Osborne Terrace, Clapham Road (this street was later merged with Richmond Terrace to become Richborne Terrace). The family occupied three rooms. George's father was a sewer flusher for the borough council. The couple had three children.

G.E. FENSOME. Gunner, Royal Field Artillery. Service no. 955621. Died on 15 March 1919, aged about 24. Remembered at Lambeth Cemetery, Blackshaw Road, Tooting, southwest London

VICTOR EDWIN FINCH

In 1911 Victor Edwin Finch, 17, was working as a telegraph messenger for the General Post Office and living with his family in two rooms at 11 Stockwell

Green. His father, Frederick James Finch, 46, was a brewer's drayman from Surrey. His stepmother, Elizabeth, 45, was from Headley, Surrey. Finch had four half-siblings.

V.E. FINCH. Rifleman, London Regiment, 1/8th Bn. (Post Office Rifles). Service no. 2829. Killed in action on 25 May 1915, aged about 21. Remembered at Le Touret Memorial, France and at St Andrew's Church, Landor Road, Stockwell

G.H.A. FISHER

Tentative identification

The National Roll of the Great War includes the following entry: 'He volunteered in August, 1914, and the following year saw service on the Western Front, where he took part in many engagements, and was wounded in the fighting at Ypres. During 1916 he was again in action, and was seriously wounded at Mailly-Mailly in July, as a result of which he was discharged on account of wounds, in April 1918.' It gives his home address as 102 Burns Road, Harlesden in north London. The 1911 census lists a 'George Fisher', a 22-year-old clerk who was born in Lambeth living at 72 Great Portland Street, with his parents William, 54, a builder, and Emily, 49, two siblings and a domestic servant.

G.H.A. Fisher, Rifleman, Rifle Brigade, 5th Bn. (Prince Consort's Own). Service no. 5492. Discharged at Winchester on 25 April 1918, date of death unknown

JOHN MORGAN FRENCH



John Morgan French, born in 1891 in Lambeth, was the son of John W. French, of 282 South Lambeth Road. He enlisted in Cardiff.

In 1901 the French family lived at 59 Mawbey Street, South Lambeth. John W. French, 41, was a railway brakesman born in Little Baddow, Essex. Sarah French, 41, was born in Glamorganshire, Wales.

John and his siblings were all born in Lambeth. Lawrence Swan, a 25-year-old steam engine maker from Burntisland, Fifeshire, Scotland, and William Freeborn, 21, a railway porter from Turweston, Northamptonshire boarded with the family. In the 1911 census John Morgan French is recorded as living in the family home in Lambeth and working as a typographical compositor. At some point, he moved to Cardiff and took a compositing job with *The Western Mail* newspaper.

French joined the 1st/5th Glamorgan Brigade of the Royal Garrison Artillery. He died of wounds at Richmond Military Hospital in Surrey on 31 August 1913 and was buried in Richmond Cemetery. His brother Frederick, a corporal, served, with the Royal Engineers and survived the war. *J.M. FRENCH. Gunner, Royal Garrison Artillery, 1/5th Glamorgan Bde. Service no. 668. Died of wounds on 31 August 1916, aged 25. Remembered at Richmond Cemetery, Grove Road, Richmond, Surrey and on the Western Mail Roll of Honour (stored at the National Museum of Wales)*

FREDERICK AMOS FREWER

In 1911 Frederick Amos Frewer, 17, an apprentice letterpress machine minder, lived at 40 Chantrey Road, Brixton where his family had six rooms. His father, James Frewer, 49, was also in the book production trade (he was a vellum binder); both he and his wife, Elizabeth, 44, were from Marylebone, central London. Frederick had a younger sister.

F.A. FREWER. Gunner, Royal Field Artillery, 'A' Bty. 290th Bde. Service no. 926373. Killed in action on 30 October 1918, aged 25. Remembered at Tournai Communal Cemetery Allied Extension, Hainaut, Belgium

FRANK THOMAS FRISBY

Frank Thomas Frisby was born on 4 April 1881, the first child of John Hulbert and Mary Ann Frisby. He was baptised a few weeks later at St James's, Piccadilly. The family moved to Stockwell around the

time of Frank's third birthday and now included two more children, Louisa Jane and Arthur Hulbert.

Frank married Ellen Susannah Reed at St Michael's Church, Stockwell on Christmas Eve 1900. On the marriage certificate Frank described himself as a 'cellar man' and the couple gave their address as 55 Russell Street.

At the time of the 1911 census, Frank and Ellen were living in five rooms at 52 Union Road, Clapham. They had no children. Frank was now a fishmonger and employed at least one person. Widower Harry Morgan boarded with them, giving his occupation as 'fish fryer'.

Frank and Ellen's comfortable life was to be shattered by the war. Like anyone trying to run a business, the introduction of conscription early in 1916 made labour even harder to find and dwindling fish supplies led to a doubling of prices.

Conscription was soon extended to married men and Frank's turn came in the summer of 1916. He was sent to France towards the end of 1916. He had been on the Western Front for close to a year when his battalion took part in the opening of the First Battle of Passchendaele on 12 October 1917. Frank was killed in action on that day.

In due course, Ellen received a War Gratuity and widow's pension. Her husband's medals followed in 1920. With no known grave, Frank was one of the thousands of names added to the Tyne Cot Memorial, unveiled in 1927.

Frank's brother, Arthur Hulbert Frisby, married with four children, had volunteered in 1915 and served in the Royal Engineers throughout the War, returning safely to his family in May 1919.

In common with other families, Frank's name was added to the headstone marking the grave of his parents at Lambeth Cemetery, Blackshaw Road, Tooting. The simple inscription reads: 'Also FRANK THOMAS FRISBY (son) Killed in action (Belgium) 12th October, 1917. Aged 36 years.'

It was probably Ellen who arranged for Frank's name to appear on the Stockwell Memorial. She lived at 52 Union Road

into the 1930s, moving to Tooting not long before she died in 1944. CHRIS BURGE

F.H. FRISBY. Private, Grenadier Guards, 1st Bn. Service no. 26192. Died on 12 October 1917, aged 36. Remembered at Tyne Cot Memorial, Heuveland, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

HENRY or HARRY FROST

Henry Frost was born at the end of 1886 in Lambeth, the second youngest of eight known children of Thomas and Letitia Frost (née Knight). Letitia died in 1897 and by 1901 the family home had broken up. Henry (Harry), then 14, lived with his older brother Joseph's family in Stockwell and worked as a 'carman'.

The idea of six months initial training, followed by annual camp with bounty, was attractive enough for Henry to join the newly-formed Special Reserve of the East Surrey Regiment on 16 January 1908. He was described as being 5ft 2in tall, weighing just over 8st, with brown eyes and dark brown hair. Part way through his training, Henry decided his future lay in the Army and on 25 April he transferred to a regular battalion of the East Surreys. After two years in Britain, his battalion was posted overseas. Henry did not return to England until late 1914, after the outbreak of the war.

Following a short period of acclimatisation and refit, the 2/East Surreys arrived in France on 19 January 1915. Henry Frost suffered a bad case of frostbite to both feet due to the squalid conditions in front line trenches. He was invalided back to England on 17 February and returned to duty on 8 April. He was posted to the 3/East Surreys at Dover to regain fitness before returning to France on 14 December 1915, in time for another winter. He did not rejoin his old battalion but was posted to the 7/East Surreys, part of Kitchener's New Armies.

In March 1916, Henry Frost's battalion manned trenches opposite the infamous Hohenzollern Redoubt, which had been the scene of bitter fighting in 1915. Between 7 and 18 March, the 7/East Surreys were subjected to intense enemy shelling,

suffering 34 killed, 22 missing and 243 wounded. Another 39 were hospitalised with shell-shock. Henry Frost was likely to have been wounded around this time and evacuated to one of the hospitals at Calais before succumbing to his wounds on 24 March.

At some stage, Henry nominated as next of kin his brothers Joseph, living at 11 Moat Place, Stockwell, and George, who lived in Norwood. It was Joseph who received Henry's medals in 1920. In the absence of a sole legatee, the war gratuity was paid in equal shares to his siblings.

CHRIS BURGE

H. FROST. Private, East Surrey Regiment, 7th Bn. Service no. 2/9508. Died 24 March 1916, aged 29. Remembered at Calais Southern Cemetery, France

WILLIAM ALBERT GEORGE FULLER

William Albert George Fuller was born in Lambeth in 1893, the eldest of five children of Albert Arthur Fuller, a machinist from Battersea, and Rose Maud (née Everett), from Stockwell.

In the 1911 census the family of seven lived in two rooms at 1 Saunders Place in Saunders Street, which ran between Fitzalan Street and Lollard Street in Kennington. William, aged 17, worked as a labourer.

William attested at Kingston Upon Thames in 1914. He and his wife Annie Harris had two children before marrying in Hampstead on 12 November 1915.

W.A.G. FULLER. Private, 17th Lancers (Duke of Cambridge's Own). Service no. L/4110. Died in hospital on 24 March 1917, aged 23. Remembered at Mazargues War Cemetery, Marseilles, Bouches-du-Rhone, France

GEORGE FREDERICK GELEIT

George Frederick Geleit was born in Bermondsey on 2 September 1883, the son of George Rudolf Geleit, a tailor, and Annie Geleit. In 1901 he was working as a farrier's blacksmith and living in Kibworth Street, South Lambeth. The 1911 census records him as 27 and married to Clara, 25,

from Walworth. They had two children: George, two, and Clara, one, both born in Brixton. The family lived in two rooms at 87 Hackford Road, Stockwell. George described himself as a 'housekeeper'. George's grandfather, August Geleit, a tailor, emigrated to London from Germany some time before 1871. Geleit means escort or convoy in German.

G.F. GELEIT. Rifleman, Rifle Brigade, 13th Bn. Service no. B/20079. Killed in action on 29 May 1917, aged about 33. Remembered at Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France and at St Michael's Church, Stockwell Park Road, Stockwell

ARTHUR HENRY GEORGE

In 1911, then aged 17, Arthur Henry George was working as a messenger in a newspaper office. He lived with his parents and brother at 11 Riverhall Street (now disappeared), off Wandsworth Road. John Daniel George, 57, was an unemployed general labourer, born in Middlesex; Elizabeth George, 57, was from Billericay, Essex. The couple had five children. Arthur enlisted at Tufton Street, London SW1.

A.H. GEORGE. Private, London Regiment, 1/2nd Bn. (Royal Fusiliers). Service no. 230638. Killed in action on 1 July 1916, aged 23. Remembered at Gommecourt British Cemetery No. 2, Hebuterne, Pas de Calais, France

BENJAMIN JAMES GEORGE

The file for Benjamin James George notes his status as 'Missing' on 1 July 1916. His status changed to 'Killed in action' two weeks later. However, he was actually a prisoner of war in Germany, captured on 1 July, and he was suffering from gunshot wounds to the left side of the chest and from pneumonia. He died in the hospital of a German prisoner of war camp at Minden, a city west of Hanover and over 375 miles from the front.

A document passed to the War Office through the Red Cross gave the date and time of George's death (15 July 1916 at 12.30am) and stated that he was visited

by a clergyman and buried in the French Cemetery at Minderheide. In 1923, 55 bodies from this cemetery were moved to Hamburg when it was decided that the graves of Commonwealth servicemen who had died in Germany should be relocated to four permanent cemeteries. After his death, George's effects were sent to his family: a French dictionary, a torch, a holdall, a notebook and a steel mirror.

George's Service record shows that in October 1915 he was hospitalised for over three weeks with impetigo on the chin. This highly contagious skin disease was common in soldiers, although rarely reported in the field, as soldiers would wait until it became badly infected before seeking help, perhaps to boost their chances of some 'Blighty leave'. An article in the *British Medical Journal* of 2 February 1918 claimed that of 1,800 military patients in one of the London General Hospitals over 1,400 had impetigo.

The file on George includes these details: he was 5ft 6in, with a 37in chest; he weighed just over 9½st; there were small moles on the left side of his neck; he had fair hair; he gave his address as 46 Hemberton Street, Stockwell and his occupation as salesman (the 1911 census describes him as a bookshop assistant); he was born in Thornton Heath.

The 1911 census shows Benjamin James George, then 21, living with three brothers and sisters at 71 Stanley Street (now Stanley Grove), off Queenstown Road, Battersea. His father, David Gingell George, was a police sergeant. He and his wife Emily lived in Southwick, Sussex.

B.J. GEORGE. Private, Middlesex Regiment, 16th Bn. Service no. PS/2124. Died of wounds as a prisoner of war on 15 July 1916, aged 25. Remembered at Hamburg Cemetery, Germany

FREDERICK CHARLES GEORGE

Frederick Charles George, born in South Lambeth, enlisted in Wandsworth in 1917 and in March of that year was sent overseas. He died near Hill 60, a battle site about three miles southeast of Ypres. The hill acquired its name from its height:

60 metres above sea level. Because its slight incline provided a valuable vantage point, it was some of the most fought-over territory of the war. The Battle of Messines, which started in June 1917, took place there.

The 1911 census shows Frederick Charles, 13, living with his family at 27a Goldsbrough Road, Wandsworth. His father, William, 41, was a railway porter from Hampshire; his mother, Sarah, 39, was from Battersea. The household included an elder sister and an uncle.

F.C. GEORGE. Rifleman, Rifle Brigade, 3rd Bn. Service no. S/31588. Died on 31 July 1917, aged 19. Remembered at Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

FRANK WILLIAM GIBBINS



In 1911 Frank Gibbins, a 21-year-old railway guard, was living at 161 Hartington Road, South Lambeth with his parents William Gibbins, 57, also a guard for London & South Western Railway, born in Sussex, and Charlotte (née Dance), 47, also born in Sussex, and three siblings.

Frank, the second of five children, was born on 23 April 1889 and baptised at Christ Church, Clapham on 28 November. The family then lived at 83 Clifton Street.

F.W. GIBBINS. Rifleman, Rifle Brigade, 7th Bn. Service no. S/32220. Died on 21 March 1918, aged 28. Remembered at Pozières Memorial, Somme, France

JAMES WILLIAM GILBERT

In 1911 James William Gilbert, then aged 12, lived at 74 Thorparch Road, South Lambeth with his father William, 52, a railway guard originally from Frampton, Dorset and mother, Annie, 48, born in London. They had six children.

J.W. GILBERT. Stoker 2nd Class, Royal Navy, HMS 'Cornwall'. Service no. K/42535. Died on 10 January 1918, age 19. Remembered at Plymouth Naval Memorial

WILLIAM HENRY MURRAY GILES

William Henry Murray Giles was born in Lambeth on 28 January 1885, the son of Walter George Giles, a carman from Godalming, Surrey, and Lillian Jane (née Ford) from Lambeth. The family lived in Waterloo.

In 1908 William married Florence Winifred Bartlett at St John the Evangelist, Waterloo. A son, Henry, was born in 1910 and a daughter, Mabel, in 1911. By 1911 the family were living in two rooms at 26 Burgoyne Road, Stockwell. He enlisted in London. William worked as a carman for Lambeth Borough Council.

W.H.M. GILES. Private, Royal Fusiliers, 2nd Bn. Service no. G/4952.

Died on 9 May 1915, aged 30.

Remembered at Helles Memorial, Turkey

FREDERICK FRANK GILLARD

In 1911 Frederick Frank Gillard, 12, lived in five rooms at 48 Akerman Road, near Myatts Fields, with his parents Frederick Gillard, 41, a lithographic printer, and Harriet Eliza (née Roberts), 34, both from Blackfriars, three sisters and a boarder. Another family of four lived in three rooms at the same address.

F. GILLARD, died on 24 August 1918, aged 20. Second Lieutenant, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, 9th Bn.

Remembered Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

ERNEST ARTHUR GIRDLESTONE

In 1911 Ernest Arthur Girdlestone, 30, was working as a painter's labourer and living with his brother, Percy James Girdlestone, 28, a widowed upholsterer, and Percy's son, William Girdlestone, six, in Birmingham. All were born in Brixton. Girdlestone enlisted in Lambeth.

E. GIRDLESTONE. Private, Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, 6th Bn. Service no.

16374. Killed in action on 17 September 1916, aged 38. Remembered at London

Cemetery and Extension, Longueval, Somme, France and at St Andrew's Church, Landor Road, Stockwell

GEORGE HARRY GLOVER

At 6ft 2in, George Harry Glover was one of the tallest men listed on the Memorial. He was reasonably well built, too – 10st, with a 38in chest. Hazel eyes, brown hair and a fresh complexion complete a picture of an attractive, fit and healthy young man. He enlisted, aged 20, on 4 September 1914, a mere month after war was declared.

In civilian life Glover was a furniture salesman and he had spent two and a half years in the National Naval Cadets (Wandsworth Battalion), leaving the service in 1910.

Glover was on the home front until 17 February 1915 when he joined the British Expeditionary Force. He sustained a gunshot wound to the shoulder on 15 March and was transferred to a hospital in Boulogne where, a week later, he was deemed to be 'improving', but he died on 31 March. His war service lasted only 210 days. Glover's effects, sent to his parents, included two leather purses, a keyring and five keys, a chain, a broken watch key, a combination lock, a cigarette case with seven cigarettes, the St John's Gospel, letters, postcards and photos.

Two weeks after he had died, Glover's mother, Mary Jane, wrote to the Officer in Charge at the Record Office in Preston from her home at 19 Hargwyne Street, Stockwell:

'Sir, I beg to ask if you can give me any information as to the whereabouts of Private G. H. Glover, No. 11773, A Company, 2nd Batt. Border Regt, with the Expeditionary Force...'

She wrote again a week later, having since heard of his death: 'I beg most respectfully to ask as I am his mother would you kindly say when I can have any further news regarding his death.' The Army directed her to write to the Officer in Charge at the hospital where her son died. His replies, if any, are not in the file.

G.H. GLOVER. Private, Border Regiment, 2nd Bn. Service no. 11773. Died of wounds on 31 March 1915, aged 20. Remembered at Wimereux Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

JESSE WILLIAM GOFF



Jesse William Goff is consistently mis-named P.W. (Percy William) Goff, in his Army records, on his medals cards, in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission database, on the Thiepval Memorial, and on the Stockwell Memorial. Why this should be is still a mystery to his family. They have his medals and plaque, which give his Army number, so there is no question that this is the correct man.

Two letters Jesse wrote to his maternal Aunt 'Op' (Annie Margaret Carroll), who lived in Weald Village, Middlesex, provide a vivid portrait of the hard work required of soldiers at the front and point up their dry good humour. In the first, dated 28 May 1916, Jesse mentions the fact that Op's husband Jim may be called up. By January 1916 conscription was in place. Initially it applied to unmarried men between 18 and 41 or widowers without children, but from 25 May 1916 married men were included.

'...Well I am out here again & very near where I was before. In fact we pass some of our old billets daily. It is rather warmer than before in more ways than one. Nevertheless by dint of hard work & fresh air we manage to keep ourselves alive & fit. Mind you it's not all cakes & ale but our various little "grouses" would fill a book. We go out & work every day with picks & shovels just like navvies (the only difference is that the latter get about three times the pay).

'Sometimes we get a little shelling or "strafing", sometimes not, usually the former but we have managed without any casualties so far. Our week usually consists of seven days (working) & after a lengthy discussion today we have come to the conclusion that the man who could put forward an invention that would get another 24 hrs out of a week, would make his fortune. I have heard from Ma about Uncle Jim & the "garrison duty abroad"

business. Really I should not think that he would be called up at all. I'm sure I don't know how our "boss" [possibly a reference to Jesse's mother Grace] will get on if the age limit extends much more... Let's hope it will be all over soon.'

The second letter was written on 23 June, a week before Jesse was killed, along with nearly 20,000 others, on the first day of the Battle of the Somme:

'Thanks very much for your letter and parcel. Many of us enjoyed the contents. As a matter of fact it arrived at a most opportune moment — we were in the trenches. That is the reason I was unable to write there and then, but I hope you received the official p.c. [postcard]. We had a rather rough time up there but are now resting... Really there is next door to no news. One cannot say everything & — well all that remains is I am quite well and the weather has not been at all good. We see rather more life & more grub now since we have left the "navvies". I don't think anyone was very sorry to leave. By the way I'm afraid I'm putting the cart before the horse. I don't think I told you that we moved and are now with our regiment. Now I'm afraid that is all.'

In the 1901 census Jesse is listed, aged three, at the family home of his paternal uncle Robert Erwin Goff in Chichester. In 1911 the Goff family lived at 63 Chelsham Road, Clapham, where they had nine rooms. Jesse William Goff, a 13-year-old only child and pupil at the City of London school, lived with his father, William Percy, 43, a Prudential assurance agent from Poole, Dorset, and mother, Grace Mary (née Williams), 38, an assistant mistress at a London County Council school, and Frank Cutter, a boarder who worked as a compositor for the *Morning Post* newspaper.

Jesse's father William died in 1942, aged 73; his mother Grace died in Cheam, Surrey in 1956 at the age of 83.

WITH THANKS TO RON AND SUE FALDER
P.W. GOFF. Rifleman, London Regiment, 1/5th Bn. (London Rifle Brigade). Service no. 300319. Killed in action on 1 July 1916, aged 19. Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

ALFRED LAURENCE GOODING

Alfred Laurence Gooding was born in Lambeth and enlisted in Battersea. His name is included in *Ireland's Memorial Records 1914–1918*.

A.L. GOODING. Rifleman, Royal Irish Rifles. Service no. 42122; formerly King's Royal Rifle Corps. Killed in action on 7 June 1917. Remembered at Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Ypres, Belgium

WALTER JOSEPH GOODING

Probate records show that Walter Joseph Gooding lived at 2 Aldebert Terrace, South Lambeth. His beneficiary was his brother, Harry Thomas Gooding, a draughtsman, of 'Clevedon', Papworth Everard, Cambridgeshire.

W.J. GOODING. Private, Welsh Regiment, 19th (Pioneer) Bn. Service no. 31983. Killed in action on 25 February 1917, aged 19. Remembered at Bard Cottage Cemetery, Ypres, Belgium

JOHN ALBERT GRAINGER

Brother of Robert Grainger

Robert Grainger, a carter born in Cork, Ireland, and Amelia Sarah's (née Lea) first child Robert Albert Grainger, was born on 17 March 1886 and baptised four days later at St Andrew's, Lambeth, when the family address was recorded as 17 Windmill Street and Robert (snr) worked as a carman (carter). Robert and Amelia had married on 31 May 1885 at St Mary's, Lambeth.

In 1891, Amelia gave birth to John Albert, her fourth child. He was baptised in Kennington on 25 January. The Grainger family now lived at 83 Thomas Street (now Warham Street) near Kennington Oval. They later moved to 16 Surrey Lodge, a complex of social housing on Kennington Road.

By the time of the 1901 census, there had been two more additions to the family and the Graingers had moved to 14 Mitre Street, North Lambeth, close to Waterloo Station. John's father was recorded as a cartage foreman and his older brothers

Robert (jnr) and Frederick worked as errand boys or porters. When the social researcher Charles Booth visited the area in 1899 he described Mitre Street as having 'a few fairly comfortable remaining but the majority [were] poor to very poor'.

The Grainger family soon moved to Weston Street, close to London Bridge Station, and by 1907 were living in the Hayles Buildings, St George's Road.

In the 1911 census, they had returned to Kennington and were living at 236 Hillingdon Street. John's father Robert described his occupation as a 'cartage manager for the railway'. All six of the surviving children (Amelia had given birth to 11 in total), lived in the family home: Robert (jnr), 25, a cellarman; Frederick, 24, a porter; Amelia, 21, a tobacco worker; John, 20, a porter; Alfred, 20, and Benjamin, 15, both Post Office telegraph messengers. They shared five rooms and another family of three shared another room at the same address.

After the outbreak of war, John's parents moved to Morat Street and then to Camellia Street, near Nine Elms. John and Robert were living at 16 Bramfield Road, half a mile from the Clapham Junction railway complex where the brothers worked as 'goods porters'.

On 12 December 1915, Robert attested under the Derby Scheme (*see Appendix*), and was not called up until 1 March the following year. Six weeks later John, then aged 25, was conscripted. After reporting locally, he was directed to Kingston where he joined the Royal West Surrey Regiment. His details were recorded in the pages of the Surrey Recruitment Registers: he was 5ft 11in, 10¼st, with a chest size of 37in. He was assigned to the 12th Battalion.

Little is known of John's military service after this, other than at some stage he was posted to the 6th Battalion Royal West Surrey Regiment as private G/14181, J. Grainger. The 6 RWS were involved the Arras offensive in April and May 1917 on its southern extreme, near St Leger. After a period of rest, on 1 July they returned to the front line trenches southeast of Arras. Their part of the trench was attacked and shelled on the 11th and

12th. Casualties reported were: '4 OR [other ranks] killed and 3 wounded'.

At the end of the war, John's parents should have received his medals and war gratuity, but there is no entry for John Grainger in the Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects. Some time after his parents moved to the suburb of Norwood, Amelia applied for her son's medals, which were finally issued on 17 February 1930. The Arras Memorial was not unveiled until 31 July 1932.

CHRIS BURGE

J.A. GRAINGER. Private, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment), 6th Bn. Service no. G/14181. Died on 12 July 1917, aged 26. Remembered at Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

ROBERT GRAINGER

Brother of John Albert Grainger

School records show Robert Grainger, who was born in 1886, and his next youngest brother Frederick attending Walnut Tree School in Kennington in 1893.

In 19 March 1907, aged just over 21, Robert Grainger walked the short distance from his home in the Hayles Buildings on St George's Road, across the busy Elephant and Castle junction, to the Army recruiting office at 38 New Kent Road. Within a week he was posted to the depot of the Lincolnshire Regiment. He was discharged medically unfit after 163 days.

At the outbreak of war, Robert and his younger brother John were living near Clapham Junction railway complex and working as porters. In December 1915, Robert attested in the final days of Lord Derby's Group Scheme (*see Appendix*). Robert's medical, which took place at Wandsworth Town Hall on 12 December 1915, recorded him as 29 years and 9 months, 5ft 9in tall, 10st, with a 37in chest and physically strong, with bad teeth.

He was issued with a grey armband with a red crown, and had his National Registration card stamped, 'ATTESTED 12 DEC 1915'. His call-up date followed Lord Derby's group schedule and Robert reported to the Wimbledon recruitment centre on 1 March 1916. He was now private 3806 of the 3/5th Battalion, East

Surrey Regiment. There was no immediate expectation that this Territorial Force unit would serve overseas. It moved to Cambridge on 1 January 1916, then Crowborough and was in Tonbridge by October 1916.

A year after Robert was first in uniform, on 27 December 1916, he married Beatrice Harriet Salmon at St Jude's, Southwark. The couple gave their address as 63 Hayles Street, which was Beatrice's home. Robert had first met Beatrice when they were both living in the Hayles Building some nine years before, when she was 16.

Robert was a trained signaller and was sent to France on 29 March 1917 (he was renumbered 201552). He had been in the Arras sector when he was posted from the 7th East Surrey to the no. 1 company of the 1st Bn East Surrey. On 10 June 1917, they were northeast of Arras.

June ended with a quiet five days in trenches opposite the shattered Fresnoy Wood. Specific mention was made of good communications between HQ and front companies by use of Fullerphones (portable telegraph signalling devices), buzzer, pigeon and lamp. Early in July, orders were received that a 'two company' strength raid was to be made on enemy trenches at Fresnoy. Preparations and training followed after nos. 1 and 4 company had been chosen for the task. Bad weather delayed the raid from the 15th to 4am on the 18th. The raid casualties were two officers wounded, other ranks four killed, 20 wounded and 14 missing. The missing were not thought to have survived.

On 18 July 1917, six days after her brother-in-law John was killed, Beatrice was informed that her husband Robert was missing. She was left waiting for further news, her hopes fading as the months passed until finally he was officially presumed to have died on or since 18 July 1917.

German records show that Robert did die on that day. His identity disc, which was retrieved when his body was buried and passed to British authorities, was the only possession of Robert's to be returned to Beatrice. The archives show

two contradictory dates this occurred: July 1918 and November 1920. On both occasions Beatrice apparently acknowledged receipt and gave her address as 52 Hayles Buildings, St Georges Road SE 11.

On 9 October 1919, in order to receive her husband's Plaque and Roll, Beatrice took her completed Army Form W5080, in which she gave the details all living relatives of the deceased soldier to St Jude's Vicarage in Southwark to be witnessed and countersigned. Apart from herself, she listed Robert's parents and his four remaining siblings who all lived at various addresses in Stockwell.

Beatrice Harriet Grainger did not remarry and remained in Southwark for many years. She died in 1971, aged 80.

CHRIS BURGE

R. GRAINGER. Private, East Surrey Regiment, 1st Bn. Service no. 201552. Died on 18 July 1917, aged 31. Remembered at Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

HORACE GRANGER

Horace Granger was born in South Lambeth and enlisted at St John's Hill, Clapham Junction. The 1901 census shows him as one of six children of John Granger a bricklayer from Broadhembury, Devon, and Ann Granger (née Goldsmith), from Tunbridge Wells, Kent. In 1911 census he was 23 working as a carpenter, living in six rooms at 20 Rutland Street, South Lambeth with his parents and 34-year-old sister Elsie in six rooms at 20 Rutland Street, South Lambeth.

H. GRANGER. Private, London Regiment, 2/22nd Bn. (The Queen's); formerly 23rd London Regiment. Service no. 684457.

Died on 10 October 1918, aged 30. Remembered at Kantara War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt

FREDERICK JAMES GRANT or FREDERICK VINCENT GRANT

Frederick James Grant was born on 26 March 1893, the first son of Frederick James and Eliza Rose Grant. He was baptised at St Barnabas, Guildford Road,

South Lambeth on 16 January 1896, when the family was living at 18 Thorne Street.

By 1901, Frederick was one of six children and the family now lived at 12 Vauxhall Walk, a densely populated area running along the Albert Embankment with its gasworks, distillery and crossed by railway lines. Frederick's father made his living as a railway carter.

By the time of the 1911 census, the Grant family appear to have fallen on hard times. Both Frederick and his father were unemployed. Eliza Rose continued to find work as a charwoman and also managed to raise seven children (three others had died). The family of nine occupied four rooms at 51 Conroy Street. The address no longer exist but it was close to Fountain Street, off the Wandsworth Road, and around half a mile from the future site of the Stockwell War memorial.

Frederick's circumstances seem to have driven him into the Army, as he enlisted in 1912, joining the Royal Fusiliers. When and how this service ended is not known, but he had sufficient reason not to disclose his real name when he joined the Army for a second time in late 1916 or early 1917, enlisting at Camberwell using the alias of Frederick Vincent.

Late in 1917, Frederick was one of around 2,200 troops who boarded HMT *Aragon* at Marseilles, bound for Egypt. Reaching Malta on 23 December, a few days were spent celebrating Christmas. Disaster struck on 30 December about 10 miles outside Alexandria port when the *Aragon* was hit by enemy torpedoes. The vessel sank in 20 minutes with the loss of 610 men, including Frederick.

It is the Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects that reveals Frederick James Grant also served as Frederick Vincent Grant. The £3 war gratuity paid to his father at the end of 1919 indicates he had served for no more than 12 months at the time of his death.

CHRIS BURGE

F.J. GRANT, serving as Frederick Vincent Grant. Rifleman, London Regiment (First Surrey Rifles), 2nd/21st Bn. Service no. 654451. Died in the sinking of the HMT 'Aragon' on 30 December 1917, aged 24. Remembered at Chatby Memorial, Egypt

PHILIP THOMAS WILSON GRANT



In 1911 the Grant family lived in 10 rooms at 52 Stockwell Park Road. Philip Thomas Wilson Grant attended St Olave's Grammar School in Queen Elizabeth Street, Southwark between May 1908 and December 1912 (the school has since moved). Grant's 41-year-old father, also called Philip Grant, was a butcher originally from Withington, Lancashire; his mother, Isabel, 35, was from Irvinestown, County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland. There was a younger sister, a boarder, and a live-in servant.

Grant was initially an Acting Corporal in the Royal Field Artillery, and was transferred to the Wiltshire Regiment.

P. T. W. GRANT. Second Lieutenant, Wiltshire Regiment, 8th Bn., attached 5th Bn.; previously Royal Field Artillery, Service no. 1424. Killed in action on 15 October 1915, aged 18. Remembered at Green Hill Cemetery, Turkey

FREDERICK WALTER GRAY

Frederick Walter Gray was born in Lambeth and enlisted in Clapham. His widow, Alice Gertrude Gray, lived at 43 Marylebone High Street, London.

The 1911 census lists a Frederick Walter Grey as a 25-year-old commercial traveller in the book trade, staying at 63 Union Terrace, York.

F. W. GRAY. Private, Essex Regiment, 2nd Bn. Service no. 35426. Died on 12 April 1917, aged 34. Remembered at Athies Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais, France

THOMAS WILLIAM GRAY

Thomas William Gray was born in 1892 in Plumstead, southeast London, the second child of Walter and Helen Elizabeth Gray. As a child, Thomas lived in Hare Street, within sight of the Thames. It was a short walk downhill to the Woolwich ferry, with

the vast complex of the Victoria and Albert Docks across the river. The area was home to the Woolwich Arsenal and a Royal Engineers barracks but still had the open space of Woolwich Common and Shooter's Hill on its southern boundary.

By the time of the 1911 census, the family was living in four rooms at 16 Thorne Road, a house they shared with two other families, in South Lambeth. Walter and Helen were now in their fifties. Six of their eight children had survived into adulthood, but it was just Thomas, then 18, and his sister Annie, 17, who lived with their parents. The family included an elderly widowed aunt. Walter worked for a biscuit manufacture as a commercial clerk, Thomas was a clerk for a tourist agent and Anne was a costumier's dressmaker.

Thomas was one of the thousands who volunteered in the first week of August 1914. He went to the drill hall in Braganza Street (previously New Street), Kennington, where the 24th (County of London) Battalion (The Queen's) was based. As part of the Territorial Force, the battalion was mobilised on 5 August, but were under-strength and needed to large numbers of new volunteers from Lambeth and beyond.

Thomas was on the move in mid-August when The Queen's marched to a camp in the St Albans-Hatfield area. Training continued through the autumn and winter until the battalion left for France, disembarking at Le Havre on 16 March. Thomas had already been promoted to Lance Corporal. Between March 28 and April 18 the battalion was mostly employed to dig trenches at Lapugnoy, near Bethune in northern France. A hot march on 19 April took them into the front line trenches at Richebourg Saint-Vaast. Sporadic shelling wounded one man on 20 April, killed another and wounded a further two the next day. It was noted that '1 NCO was wounded from A company' on 22 April. Thomas Gray's war had been brutally short.

The wedding of Thomas' sister Annie Alice May on 22 December 1917 to Robert Bessant, a former neighbour, must have brought some comfort to the family.

Bessant had volunteered for The Queen's in September 1914 but was discharged unfit in April 1916, never having served in France.

At the end of the war Thomas's parents received a small pension. The Register of Soldiers' Effects shows that the war gratuity was split between his father and May Elizabeth Martin, a dressmaker from Southwark, who may have been Thomas's fiancée. Members of the Gray family remained at the Thorne Road address until at least 1932.

CHRIS BURGE

T. W. GRAY. Lance Corporal, London Regiment, 1st/24th Bn. Service no.

1909. Died 22 April 1915, aged about 23.

Remembered at Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

EDWIN JOHN BURLINGTON GREEN

Edwin John Burlington Green was born in the summer of 1883, the fifth child of Edward, a slater, and Eleanor Green, when the family was living in Camberwell. By 1901 Edwin was one of eight siblings. The family was then living at 104 Lyndhurst Grove, Camberwell.

By the time of the 1911 census, along with siblings Ada, Trevor and Clarence, Edwin was living with his parents. He worked as a carman, Trevor a shorthand typist and Clarence a clerk. The six adults occupied nine rooms at 49 Lyndhurst Grove. Edwin married Harriet Jane Porter in 1913 and their first child, Edwin Frederick Burlington Green, was born later that year.

In May 1915 Edwin followed his brother Trevor's example and joined the Army, volunteering at 105 Holland Road (now Minet Road), the HQ of the 6th London Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery, Territorial Force (the batteries of this brigade were later redesignated as the 236th Brigade, RFA). So began a long and intensive training period for Gunner, 2632, E.J.B. Green. Harriet, pregnant when Edwin signed up, gave birth to their second child, Arthur Percy Burlington Green, on 6 July that year.

Edwin's departure to France was delayed until 1916, possibly 13 June 1916

if the records of another Gunner, Henry Eugene Saunders of Stockwell, are a guide. Harriet was now expecting her third child, and Alice Eleanor Burlington Green was born on 3 August. In that month, Edwin's battery joined the Somme offensive — the news must have filled Harriet with dread.

Edwin saw action in mid-August and again in September and had returned to action at the beginning of October 1916 on the Somme, a time referred to as the Battle of Transloy Ridge. It was here that he was killed. Very unusually for an 'other ranks' soldier, his death was recorded in the brigade's war diary: 'C/236 Btty were shelled in their new position... and had to evacuate it. Gnr Green E.J.B. was killed and one wounded...'

Harriet suffered further heartache when her baby Alice died in October 1918, close to the anniversary of Edwin's death. Harriet remained in Lambeth for many years, dying in 1972, aged 87.

CHRIS BURGE

E. J. B. GREEN. Gunner, Royal Field Artillery, 236th Bgde. Service no. 2637.

Died 6 October 1916, aged 32.

Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, France

G. C. GRIFFITHS

Not identified

SIDNEY WALLACE GRIFFITHS

Sidney Wallace Griffiths was born in Lambeth in about 1899, the third of six children. He was baptised at St Barnabas, South Lambeth.

In 1911 he lived at 8 Aldebert Terrace with his father William Griffiths, 53, a blacksmith working for the railway, originally from Morriston, Glamorganshire, and mother Caroline, 46, from Oldswinford, Worcestershire, five siblings and a boarder, Sidney Arthur Hill, a theatrical actor. The family had four rooms. Another family of four and two ladies also lived in the house.

S. W. GRIFFITHS. Private, The Buffs

(East Kent Regiment), 6th Bn. Service

no. 25351. Killed in action on 2 July 1918,

aged 19. Remembered at Bouzincourt Ridge Cemetery, Albert, France

ALFRED GROUT

In 1911 Alfred GROUT lived in three rooms at 7 Irving Grove, Stockwell, with his parents George, a carman, and Charlotte, five siblings and a boarder. He worked as a gardener's apprentice.

A. GROUT. Private, Royal Berkshire Regiment, 8th Bn. Service no. 13775.

Killed in action on 25 September 1915, aged 20. Remembered at Dud Corner Cemetery, Loos, France and at St Andrew's Church, Landor Road, Stockwell

ALFRED BERNARD GUDE

Alfred Bernard Gude, an only child, was born in Clapham and enlisted in Kennington on 17 August 1895. Aged four he was enrolled at Larkhall Lane School, when his family lived at 17 Union Street. In 1911 the Gude family lived at 26 Willington Road, Stockwell, where they occupied four rooms. Gude was a messenger lad for the London & South Western Railway. His father, Thomas George Gude, 39, born in Battersea, was an engine driver for the same company. His mother, Alice Milly (née Warren), 47, was born in Clapham.

A.B. GUDE. Private, London Regiment, 24th Bn. (The Queen's). Service no. 1556.

Died of wounds on 16 June 1915, in Stockwell, aged about 19. Remembered at Wandsworth (Streatham) Cemetery, Garratt Lane, Tooting, southwest London and at Waterloo Station War Memorial, London SE1

CHARLES PHILIP GUY

Charles Philip Guy was born in Gloucester and lived in Clapham. In 1909, when he was working as a 'milk carrier', he married Margaret Hannah Henderson at Wealdstone, Harrow. At the time of the 1911 census he was an insurance agent. After the war, Margaret lived at 30 Portland Place South, near Clapham Road. *C.P. GUY. Private, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment), 1st Bn. Service no. 7658. Died of wounds on 26 November 1914, aged 31. Remembered at Zantvoorde British Cemetery, near Ypres, Belgium*

CHARLES WILLIAM HALL

In 1911 Charles William Hall, then 18, lived with his widowed mother, Mary Chamberlain Hall, 59, at 13 Priory Road, South Lambeth, where they occupied three rooms. Mary was from Chatteris, Cambridgeshire. Charles, an only child, was born in Lambeth. He worked as a clerk for a bottled beer merchant. The 1901 census shows that his father, William Charles Hall, from Hampshire, had worked as a railway goods yard hand and that Charles had a half-sister, Jane Lasham, a sculptor's assistant.

C.W. HALL. Private, Royal Sussex Regiment, 11th Bn; also Machine Gun Corps, attached 39th. Service no. G/10772.

Killed in action on 14 April 1918, aged about 25. Remembered at St Venant-Robescq Road British Cemetery, Robecque, Pas de Calais, France

WILLIAM ARTHUR HALL

On 12 February 1896, William Arthur Hall was baptised at St Peter's, Vauxhall. He was one of nine surviving children of Henry Charles Hall, a Lambeth-born plumber, and Priscilla Amelia (née Margery), from Pimlico on the north side of the Thames. The family lived at 84 Crimsworth Road. In the 1911 census William is recorded as a 15-year-old office boy living with his family at 19 Cavendish Grove (now disappeared, this street ran between Hartington Road and Wandsworth Road), where they occupied six rooms.

W.A. HALL. Rifleman, London Regiment, 1/5th Bn. (London Rifle Brigade). Service no. 302230. Killed in action on 9 October 1916, aged 21. Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

HARRY FRANK HANDEL

Stepfather of George Frederick Billingsley and Sydney Walter Billingsley

Harry Frank Handel died at his home at 2 Arlington Mansions, 18a Morat Street, Stockwell on 9 March 1915 from pneumonia, disease of the heart valves and

heart failure. *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914–1919* states that he was born in Kennington and enlisted in Holborn.

The 1911 census shows that Handel, then 29, had been married to Ada Harriet Billingsley, 42, for a year. He was then an Army pensioner, having previously served in the Boer War, and was now working as a cook. The family lived in three rooms at 101 Cornwallis Road, Upper Holloway, north London. Harry and Ada had a son, Robert Harry, 11 months (they went on to have a daughter, Ida Helen, in 1915).

The household included Harry's stepsons Sydney and George Billingsley, and a stepdaughter, Winifred Kate Billingsley, nine. Harry was the son of Harry Robert Handel, a pipe importer born in Lambeth.

H.F. HANDEL. Gunner, Royal Field Artillery, 20th Reserve Bty. Service no. 16005. Died of illness on 9 March 1915, aged 34. Remembered at Lambeth Cemetery, Blackshaw Road, Tooting, southwest London and at St Michael's Church, Stockwell Park Road, Stockwell

GEORGE HANSFORD

In 1911 George Hansford, 22, was a bell wireman, living at 6 Stamford Buildings, near Meadow Place, South Lambeth with his widowed father Henry McFarlane Hansford, 51, a brass finisher born in Westminster, and four of his eight surviving siblings. The family occupied three rooms. His mother Rosina (née Strange) died in 1906.

G. HANSFORD. Rifleman, London Regiment, 12th Bn. (The Rangers). Service no. 2917. Died of wounds on 28 April 1915 at No. 6 General Hospital, Seine-Maritime, aged 25. Remembered at St Sever Cemetery, Rouen, Seine-Maritime, France

WILLIAM JOSEPH HARMAN

In 1913 William Joseph Harman, who was born in Pimlico in 1881 and married Lilian Maud Cant, born in Walworth in 1884. Their child William Ernest Harman was born on 16 September 1914 and baptised at St Philip's, Battersea on 26 January 1916.

At this time, Lilian gave their address as 47 Cottage Grove in Clapham North.

Records suggest that Harman served with the King's Royal Rifle Corps before the war and was discharged as medically unfit in 1913. He was discharged again on 8 March 1917 and died nine months later.

Harman's widow Lilian died in 1960; his son William in 2004.

W.J. HARMAN. Lance Corporal, King's Royal Rifle Corps, 7th Bn. Service no. R/7894; previously 7472. Died after discharge on 5 December 1917, aged about 36. Remembered on the screen wall at Wandsworth (Streatham) Cemetery, Garratt Lane, Tooting, southwest London

ARTHUR PEARCE HAROLD

In 1911 Arthur Pearce Harold worked as a newspaper clerk. He lived in three rooms at 13 Prideaux Road, Stockwell with his parents, Edward Charles Harold, 64, a chemist's assistant from Tunbridge Wells, Kent, and Elizabeth Ann Harold, 62, a music teacher from Maidstone, and a sister, Margaret, a post office clerk. He was born in Reading, Berkshire.

A.P. HAROLD. Private, Norfolk Regiment, 12th Bn. (Norfolk Yeomanry). Service no. 320761. Killed in action on 9 December 1917, aged about 34. Remembered at Jerusalem War Cemetery, Israel and at St Andrew's Church, Landor Road, Stockwell

CHARLES MORLEY HARRADINE

In 1911 Charles Harradine was 11 and living with his father, Sidney Harradine, 36, an undertaker's coachman originally from Hensworth, Hertfordshire, mother Mary Harradine, 46, from Tottenham, and a younger sister at 12 Gaskell Street, off Larkhall Rise, Clapham, where they had four rooms. He was born in Edmonton, north London.

C.M. HARRADINE. Rifleman, King's Royal Rifle Corps, 12th Bn. Service no. 47322. Died of wounds on 19 July 1918, aged about 19. Remembered at Ligby-St Flochel British Cemetery, Averdoint, Pas de Calais, France

ALFRED JAMES HARRIS

In 1911 Alfred James Harris was a 12-year-old schoolboy living with his parents and five of his seven siblings at 14 Larkhall Lane, Stockwell, where they occupied seven rooms. His father Frederick James Harris, 51, a brewery stoker and Eliza Mary Harris, 56, did not give birthplaces on the census return. Alfred enlisted in Camberwell.

A.J. HARRIS. Private, Royal Sussex Regiment, 2nd Bn. Service no. G/18601.

Killed in action on 17 October 1918, aged 19. Remembered at Vadencourt British Cemetery, Maiseemy, Aisne, France

FREDERICK CHARLES HART

In 1911 Frederick Joseph Hart was working as a gas fitter and living at 10 Cobbett Street, off Dorset Road, South Lambeth with his father, Joseph Hart, a widowed house painter, his three surviving full siblings (of eight), George, 21, a gas fitter, William and Albert, 20 and 15, shop assistants, and Grace, 18, a book folder, and a stepsister Mary Ann Mills, 25, another book folder. Frederick's mother Emily Ellis died in 1910.

On 17 January 1914 Frederick married Nellie Louisa Merrall, a waitress, born in Lambeth in 1892 at St Stephen's, South Lambeth. They both gave addresses in Dorset Road, Frederick no. 136 and Nellie no. 114. Frederick and Nellie's daughter Doris Frances Ida Hart was born in Clapham on 27 June 1914.

In 1921 Nellie married Thomas Frank Longhurst. She died in Winchester, Hampshire in 1971 and her daughter Doris in 2004 in the same city.

WITH THANKS TO NIGEL HORDER

F.C. HART. Corporal, London Regiment, 1/23rd Bn. Service no. 54. Killed in action on 26 May 1915, aged 31. Remembered at Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

ERNEST FOWLER HASKELL

Ernest Fowler Haskell was born in 1887 in Lambeth. The 1901 census shows him as a four-year-old living his parents Thomas

Haskell, a joiner, and Matilda Haskell, both born in Lambeth, and nine siblings at 12 Gladstone Street, Kennington. Ten years later, the census records him as a window cleaner boarding at 30 Brighton Terrace, Brixton, with the family of John Wheeler.

Ernest enlisted in Lambeth. The Register of Soldiers' Effects states that his death was presumed on 21 March 1918.

He married Pauline Warren in 1911 in Lambeth. Their twins Violet Maud and Pauline May were born 1915.

E.F. HASKELL. Private, Lincolnshire Regiment, 2/5th Bn. Service no. 242087, aged 31. Killed in action on 21 March 1918. Remembered at Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

GEORGE JOHN HATCH



George John Hatch was a Royal Flying Corps pilot who was shot down on an aerial reconnaissance mission over Arras, France by German war ace Lieutenant Wilhelm Frankl. George's death,

and that of his observer, Corporal Ernest Langridge, was part of the 'Bloody April 1917' offensive along a 100-mile stretch of northern France. By the end of April, the British had lost 250 aircraft, and some 400 aircrew had become casualties.

George was born in Brixton in 1896; by 1911, his family moved to Stockwell. He attended City of London School, where he was a cadet in the Officers Training Corps. On 1 October 1914, George enlisted in the 17th (County of London) Battalion of the London Regiment (Poplar and Stepney Rifles), and was quickly promoted to Second Lieutenant. He was wounded in July 1915 at the Battle of Loos (Belgium).

Hatch volunteered to join the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) in October 1916, and completed his pilot training in November. On 6 December 1916, he was promoted to Lieutenant and assigned to the 8th Squadron, headquartered in Bellevue, France. The Squadron specialised in the

Corps Reconnaissance role, carrying out contact patrols and artillery spotting in close cooperation with the Army. It flew in support of the Battle of the Somme in the summer of 1916 and the Battle of Arras in April to May 1917.

Hatch and Langridge were flying over the German lines near Arras in their Royal Aircraft Factory BE2e biplane (Serial no. A2879) on the morning of 6 April 1917. The BE2 was originally designed without any provision for armament. While some crews flew entirely unarmed, or perhaps carried service revolvers or automatic pistols, others armed themselves with hand-wielded rifles. This weaponry was of questionable effectiveness. It was necessary for the observer to be located over the centre of gravity, in front of the pilot. In this awkward position, his view was poor, and the degree to which he could handle a camera (or, later, a gun) was hampered by the struts and wires supporting the centre section of the top wing. In practice, the pilot of a BE2 almost always operated the camera, and the observer, when he was armed at all, had a poor field of fire to the rear, having, at best, to shoot over his pilot's head.

Lt Wilhelm Frankl, commander of Jasta 4 ('Hunting Squadron'), had already shot down three British aircraft with his Albatros fighter plane during the early morning hours. At 9.30am Frankl was airborne again, this time to intercept a reconnaissance plane from 8 Sqn RFC. After a chase lasting 25 minutes the British aircraft fell to the ground northeast of Boiry. The crew — Hatch and Landridge — did not survive. It was the fourth victory scored that day by Lt Frankl.

Frankl, the son of a Jewish merchant, was one of Germany's most honoured Aces, with 20 confirmed kills. In 1916, he became the first and sole German pilot of Jewish descent to be awarded the Pour le Mérite. He was himself shot down and killed two days after he brought down Hatch and Langridge, on Easter Sunday 1917, and buried with due military honors at the Berlin-Charlottenburg cemetery. In the 1930s, after the Nazi party gained power, because of his Jewish identity,

Frankl's name disappeared from the official lists of medal holders. It was 40 years before, in 1973, Frankl was restored to the pantheon of German fighter aces.

Hatch and Landridge were buried at the Cabaret Rouge British Cemetery, which lies just south of the town of Souchez, 11.4km north of the center of Arras.

ROBERT STOKES

George John Hatch appears on the 1911 census as a 14-year-old schoolboy living with his family at 9 St John's Road (now St John's Crescent), Brixton, where they had 11 rooms. George's father, John Cosens Hatch, 48, originally from Stonehouse, Devon, was the manager of a vinegar brewery. His wife Maria Hatch, 49, was from Southwark. They had four children, Florence, 25, Hilda, 23, William, 19, a bank clerk, and George.

G.J. HATCH. Lieutenant, Royal Flying Corps and London Regiment, 17th Bn. (Poplar and Stepney). Shot down and killed on 6 April 1917, aged 20. Remembered at Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery, Souchez, Pas de Calais, France

FREDERICK CHARLES HAYDEN

Frederick Charles Hayden, a 35-year-old married travelling salesman living at 2 Stanley Villas, Studley Road, Stockwell, attested on 8 December 1915 and joined the Army Reserve. He was mobilised on 28 August 1916 and posted to France the next day, leaving behind his wife, Emily, 41, and their daughter Ethel, nine. It is unclear from the records whether 14 days' leave, granted on 31 July 1918, enabled him to return to London to see his family or were spent near the front.

In any case, he died (either in action or of wounds — the records are contradictory) shortly afterwards, on 22 August. Few details of his military life are available, but the medical examination on mobilisation records him as 5ft 5in tall, with a 36½in chest. He had both upper and lower dentures. His effects consisted only of two military discs.

The 1911 census shows 29-year-old Frederick, who was born in Thaxted, Essex, working as a warehouseman and

living with Emily and Ethel, his in-laws and a boarder at 2 Stanley Villas.
F.C. HAYDEN. Private, London Regiment, 24th Bn. (The Queen's). Service no. 724529. Died on 22 August 1918, aged 36. Remembered at Bray Vale British Cemetery, Bray-sur-Somme, France

HENRY GEORGE HAYES

Henry George Hayes was a brass finisher's apprentice. In 1911 he lived in three rooms at 27 Wilkie Buildings, Westminster with his parents and four siblings. His father, Charles Edward, 42, born in Westminster, was a cutter in the cap trade. His mother, Florence Eleanor, 39, was from Hackney.
H.G. HAYES. Private, Durham Light Infantry, 10th Bn.; formerly 14284, Dragoon Guards. Service no. 3/26023. Killed in action on 23 September 1915, aged 21. Remembered at Poperinghe New Military Cemetery, Belgium

ROBERT CHARLES HAYES

The 1911 census shows Robert Charles Hayes, then aged 18, working as a clerk in a type foundry. He lived with his parents and younger brother in three rooms at 33 Hargwyne Street, Stockwell. His 41-year-old father, also called Robert Charles, a timekeeper for the London County Council sewerage department, was from Portsmouth, Hampshire. His mother, Emily Kate, 39, was from Wandsworth.
R.C. HAYES. Lance Corporal, Middlesex Regiment, 20th Bn. Service no. G/14909. Killed in action on 30 July 1916, aged 24. Remembered at Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

WILLIAM ALFRED HAYNES

William Alfred Haynes was born in Lambeth in 1891, the fourth child of Henry Haynes and Sarah Alice (née Honey), who had married in Lambeth in 1883. Their first-born child, Henry Thomas Haynes, was baptised at St Barnabas on 26 October 1884. William's sister Alice Eliza was born in 1886 and his brother George Walter

in 1889. William was born shortly after the 1891 census when his family were living in three rooms at 17 Luscombe Street, Lambeth and William's father worked as goods porter for the London & Southwestern Railway.

William's mother Sarah Alice died in 1893 and in 1896 William's father Henry married Ellen Burnett, a widow with five children. Their 1901 census entry shows the family of ten of step-siblings living with parents Henry and Ellen at 42 Goldsborough Road, Lambeth in just three rooms of the subdivided property, which also housed five people living in the four rooms of no. 42A. Their home was adjacent to the Nine Elms railway complex, convenient for Henry, who was still employed in the goods yards. At the age of 16, William's brother Henry was already an apprentice engineer working for the L&SWR.

William's sister Alice Eliza married William Barry Allpress on 6 May 1907 at St John's, Clapham Rise when the couple gave their address as 3 St Johns Terrace. William's father Henry was a witness to the marriage.

Later that year, on 13 August, William's 17-year-old brother George Walter joined the Royal Marines, enlisting in London. George had been working as a grocer's assistant and gave his next of kin as his father Henry at 3 St Johns Terrace, Gaskell Street, Clapham. At the time of the 1911 census, William's brother George was counted as among the RMLI contingent on board the armoured cruiser HMS *Achilles*, at Spithead, Portsmouth.

By the time of the 1911 census, William's sister Alice was living with her father at 69 Priory Grove, Stockwell, together with her husband William Barry Allpress and their two infant children, Alice Mary, three, and Jessie Florence, two. William's father had been widowed for a second time, and at the age of 59 was still working as a railway porter for the L&SWR. Alice's husband was a railway fireman, also employed by the L&SWR. The Haynes family lived in four of the property's seven rooms which housed the family of railway clerk John Guppy in the

three other rooms. William and his brother Henry were not in Lambeth in 1911. They were both living and working in Eastleigh, Hampshire, boarding at the home of Albert and Elizabeth Geary at 157 High Street. Both were employed as boilermakers at the nearby Campbell Road locomotive works of the L&SWR. Eastleigh had been developed in the previous decade after the L&SWR decided in around 1902 to move their locomotive works from Nine Elms to a site close to what was originally called Bishopstoke Junction. The carriage and wagon works had been in operation there since 1890 before the part-opening of the locomotive works in 1909. Many of the streets and homes in Eastleigh were built to accommodate the influx of workers. By 1911, it was a thriving community with a wide range of retail shops, stores, a variety theatre (a picture palace was opened in 1912) and with extensive sports facilities built by the L&SWR for the use of its workers and the townspeople of Eastleigh.

At the outbreak of the war many railwaymen did not feel compelled to volunteer, as their work was considered vital to the war effort. When the Military Service Act introduced conscription in 1916, a wide range of railway jobs were scheduled as reserved occupations. Yet railwaymen did still volunteer, including a large number who had worked for the L&SWR at Eastleigh. It is not known when Henry and William returned to Lambeth.

William's brother Henry Thomas Haynes volunteered in March 1915, joining the Navy for the duration of the war. His engineering experience was put to use as an Engine Room Artificer. Henry was married on 23 October that year at St Barnabas Church to Gertrude Florence Miles, when Henry was a 'Chief P.O on Ortava', an armed merchant cruiser. The couple gave their address as 69 Priory Grove. The marriage was witnessed by Gertrude's brother and sister. William's father Henry had not lived to see his son married; he died in 1913, aged 61.

There are no surviving Service papers for William Alfred Haynes and the date of his enlistment in the Army can only be estimated. The evidence is contradictory.

His entries in the Medal Roll of the Bedfordshire Regiment show him first in France on 30 July 1915, implying an enlistment date earlier in 1915, or in 1914. But he is recorded as being in the 6th battalion, with no indication of a transfer to the 4th battalion. This is contradicted by his entry in the Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, *Soldiers Died in the Great War* and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission archives. Accepting that William Alfred Haynes served in the 4th Bedford, then his war gratuity equates to enlistment around October 1915. It seems likely that William Alfred Haynes was called up no later than early 1916 and, as *Soldiers Died* indicates, he enlisted in Lambeth, where he was living at the time.

William's battalion was originally the 'Extra Reserve' of the Bedfordshire Regiment and was sent to France in the summer of 1916, landing at Le Havre on 25 July 1916, where they came under orders of the 190th Brigade in 63rd (Royal Naval) Division. The 4th Bedford were on the Somme late in 1916 when the weather and ground conditions had already deteriorated. An advance on 13 November 1916 near the north bank of the Ancre resulted in the death of nine officers and the wounding of four others. Casualties in the ranks were: 48 killed, nine died of wounds, 108 wounded and 16 missing. William's battalion remained in this sector during the winter and into 1917. In April and May the battalion was involved in operations at Arras where casualties were relatively light. A surviving ledger page of admissions and discharges at the 149 R.N. Field Ambulance shows Pte. 12374, Haynes W., 4 Bedfords, was admitted on 26 July 1917 with trench fever and discharged on 6 August. It states he had been in the service three years and in the field one year and six months, figures that do not tally with other records.

In early October the battalion was on the France–Belgium border 12 miles west of Ypres, training for a Pill Box attack. On the evening of 29 October they had taken up position about 1¼ miles southeast of Poelcappelle for a dawn attack. The battalion war diary of 30 October speaks

for itself: 'Batt. attacked at 5.50am. 7th R.F. on left, Artist Rifles on right. Canadian corps on Right of Artists. Canadian attack was successful, but our attack was held up by very heavy and boggy ground surrounding the paddebeek and a total advance of 150–200 yards only was made. casualties — officers killed, capt l.c.t. gate, wnd lt. a.e. tee — wounded — capt. j. scott, lt. c.h. wareing, lt. kvr. gold, wnd lt. s.a. glossop, 2nd lt. c. cornet, 2nd lt. iver, 2nd lt. randall, o.r. killed 52, wounded 150, missing 23'

The war diary for the 190th Brigade same date reads: 'Brigade attacked at 5.50am, the position about the Paddybeck to the West of Westroosebeke — The going was very bad, men were up to their knees in mud in many cases — The enemy barrage came down right on our troops before they could move and casualties were extremely heavy, even the men who were not caught in the barrage were sniped whilst sticking in the mud. Very little progress was made — The Brigade on our left made less progress still. Canadians who were on our right made slightly more but their casualties were so heavy they had to be reinforced with companies from our reserve or they could not have held on...'

William Alfred Haynes was killed in action on this day, and with no known grave he is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial to the missing, unveiled by Sir Gilbert Dyett on 20 June 1927.

At the end of the war, the balance of William's pay was divided in equal shares between his three siblings. Like his brother George, who was in the Marines, William named his married sister Alice Eliza Allpress as his next of kin, and it was Alice who received William's £8 10s war gratuity at the end of 1919.

Alice lived at 69 Priory Grove through the Second World War and after, and was 93 when she died in 1980. William's brother Henry worked as a locomotive boilermaker until after the first war. He passed away in 1950, aged 66. William's brother George died in Lambeth in 1979, aged 89.

CHRIS BURGE

The Allpress family's experiences on the Home Front while living at 69 Priory

Grove during the Second World War were the subject of *A Family in Wartime*, an exhibition at the Imperial War Museum in 2012.

W.A. HAYNES. *Lance Corporal, Bedfordshire Regiment, 4th Bn. Service no. 12374. Killed in action on 30 October 1917, aged 26. Remembered at Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium*

HERBERT THOMAS HEAD

Herbert Thomas Head was born in 1879 to William, a hackney carriage driver, and Sarah. He was baptised Herbert Thomas William Head, at St Stephen's, Villa Street, Walworth Common, Southwark, on 21 August 1879.

On 7 October 1897, at the age of 19, Herbert joined the 3rd Dragoon Guards. He was described as 5ft 6in tall, nearly 8¼st with a fresh complexion, grey eyes and dark brown hair. He served in the South African War before being discharged on 1 September 1902 as medically unfit. After returning to 'civvie street', Herbert found work as a coachman and on 30 July 1905 at St Jude's in Brixton married widow Caroline Applegate (née Pettit), who was originally from Norfolk. The couple lived at 269 Shakespeare Road, opposite the extensive Herne Hill railway sidings.

Herbert and Caroline's first child William Herbert George was born on 24 April 1906 and baptised at St Jude's on 17 June. Herbert was now described as a carman and the couple had moved close to 69 Saltoun Road, a turning off Atlantic Road in the centre of Brixton.

The 1911 census shows that Herbert, Caroline and William had moved to the ground floor of 91 Hargywnne Street, Stockwell, where they rented three unfurnished rooms from Sarah Neighbour, a widowed domestic cook, who lived at the same address. Herbert was now earning a living as an 'acetylene generator'.

At the outbreak of war, 37-year-old Herbert left the family home to volunteer, enlisting in Lambeth on 31 August 1914. Three days later he was in Canterbury, as a private in the 3rd Reserve Cavalry.

Outwardly his physical appearance was little changed but he was no longer fit and was discharged on 6 June 1915. The Dragoon records show that by October 1916 he was issued with a silver war badge.

Herbert and Caroline's second child, Lilian Winifred Head, was born on 16 September 1916 and baptised on 1 November at St Andrew's, Landor Road. The family were still living at Hargywnne Street. Herbert's health deteriorated and he died on Boxing Day 1916, leaving his widow and children with no means of support.

At the end of the war Caroline received a £3 war gratuity, but the war pension ledgers imply that Herbert's married sister Elsie May Gazzard had become the guardian of William and Lilian. Caroline married Walter Hill in 1921 and they lived in Santley Street in Clapham until 1925.

Caroline died in Wandsworth in 1964, aged 87. William was living in Cato Road, Clapham when he passed away on 6 September 1979, aged 73. CHRIS BURGE *H.T. HEAD. Private, 3rd Reserve Cavalry Regiment. Service no. 7211. Died of illness, after discharge, on 26 December 1916, aged 37*

RICHARD CHARLES HEATH

On 8 July 1914 Richard Charles Heath, a licensed victualler, married Mary Elsie Redshaw at All Saints, Stoke Newington in north London. Their daughter Elsie Maud was born in March the following year.

Heath was born in Farnborough, Hampshire on 16 March 1892. He moved to London and is listed in the 1911 census as a barman at The Albion, 2-3 New Bridge Street in the City of London. and lived in Stockwell. He enlisted in Camberwell.

At the time of his death his family lived at 76 Studley Road, Stockwell. Mary died in 1985, and Elsie in 2004, both in Penzance, Cornwall.

R.C. HEATH. Private, Hertfordshire Regiment, 1/1st Bn.; formerly South Staffordshire Regiment. Service no. 42295. Killed in action on 4 November 1918, aged 26. Remembered at Ghissignies British Cemetery, Nord, France

W. A. HENDERSON

Not identified

ANDREW HERRIOTT

Brother of Archibald Herriott and John Herriott

In 1911 the Herriott family, three of whose sons are on the Stockwell Memorial, lived at 27 Gateley Road, Brixton, where they occupied seven rooms. John Herriott, 51, was an electrical engineer from Berwick-upon-Tweed, Scotland and his wife, Mary (née Cavaye), 51, was from Edinburgh. They had eight children, of whom six lived at home, including Archibald, 18, an electrician; John, 16, a bookseller's assistant; and Andrew, 14, a schoolboy.

John and Mary Herriott later moved to 50 Milton Road, Herne Hill.

A. HERRIOTT. Lance Corporal, London Regiment, 12th Bn. (The Rangers). Service no. 470471. Killed in action on 24 August 1918, aged 21. Remembered at Bray Hill British Cemetery, Bray-sur-Somme, France and at St Andrew's Church, Landor Road, Stockwell

ARCHIBALD HERRIOTT

Brother of Andrew Herriott and John Herriott

Bookseller's assistant Archibald Herriott was born in Ponders End, Enfield, north London on 10 August 1894 and baptised three weeks later at nearby St Matthew's church. The parish register records his parents John, an engineer, and Mary, living at Moss Villa, Fairfield Road, Edmonton. *The London County Council Record of War Service* states that Archibald Herriott, who had worked for the tramways, was in France for two months before he was killed at Festubert along with two other men in the 24th Battalion who also worked for the council.

A. HERRIOTT. Private, London Regiment, 1/24th Bn. (The Queen's). Service no. 2816. Killed in action 26 May 1915, aged 22. Remembered at Le Touret, Pas de Calais, France and at St Andrew's Church, Landor Road, Stockwell

JOHN HERRIOTT

Brother of Andrew Herriott and Archibald Herriott

John Herriott attested at Holland Road (now Minet Road) on 18 February 1909, giving his address as 27 Gateley Road, Brixton, his occupation as electrician and his age as 17 and four months. He was 5ft 6in with a 36in chest and was judged to have 'good' vision and physical development. He left the Army after exactly four years.

John Herriott was awarded the Military Cross for 'conspicuous gallantry and good work'. The citation reads as follows:

'During a counter-attack on September 29th, 1918, near Menin, the infantry with whom he was co-operating withdrew to a line 400 yards behind him. He covered their withdrawal; then, seeing that he could inflict casualties from where he was, he decided to remain in position. For two hours he was well in front of the infantry and engaged the enemy on two sides. From his position, to which he brought a second gun for the purpose, he was able to cover the infantry advance when the situation was restored.'

J. HERRIOTT. Lieutenant, Machine Gun Corps, 41st Coy; formerly London Field Artillery, 6th London Brigade, Service no. 453. Died on 17 February 1919, aged 26. Awarded the Military Cross. Remembered at Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

DAVID JAMES THOMAS HIBBERT

The 1911 census shows David James Thomas Hibbert, then 16 and the eldest of three sons, working as an errand boy and living with his parents and siblings in two rooms at 126 Dorset Road, South Lambeth. His father, David Charles James Hibbert, 45, was a gas fitter, born in Walworth. His mother, Susannah Maria, 41, was born in Southwark. Hibbert enlisted in Hounslow, west London.

D.J.T. HIBBERT. Lance Corporal, Royal Welsh Fusiliers, 1st Bn. Service no. 57427. Killed in action on 3 May 1918, aged 24. Remembered at Giavera Memorial, near Montebelluna, Italy

WILLIAM HENRY HIGGINS

William Henry Higgins was the son of Henry and Florence Higgins of 40 Jeffreys Road, Clapham. He lived in Clapham and enlisted in Fulham.

W.H. HIGGINS. Private, London Regiment, 1/25th Bn. (Cyclists). Service no. 741277. Died on 26 October 1918, aged 22. Remembered at Kirkee 1914-1918 Memorial, near Poona, India

CHARLES RICHARD GEORGE HILL

Charles Richard George Hill was a typesetter, born in Camberwell. His wife, Ethel May Hill, 34, was from Brentford, Middlesex. In 1911 the couple lived in five rooms at 17 Clitheroe Road, Stockwell. They had no children. Charles enlisted in Camberwell.

C.R.G. HILL. Private, London Regiment, 1/13th Bn. (Kensington); also Machine Gun Corps, att'd. 56th Coy. Service no. 495791. Died of wounds on 20 March 1918, aged 37. Remembered at Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

HAROLD JOSEPH HILL



In the mid-1990s, while rummaging in the bargain box of an Oxfam shop, Peter Munt-Davies found a copy of *The British Army from Within* by E. Charles Vivian, published in around 1914. He bought it for the inscription alone — inside the front cover was written 'H.H.'. Below that, in a different hand, was 'Harry got his wishes. Harry got one stripe. He got to fire the machine-guns'. Below that, in the same hand, was 'Harry got his name on the memorial in Stockwell'.

Peter felt compelled to find out more. At that time, the vast resources of the internet were not available, so he visited the Stockwell Memorial and made a list of all the names matching the initials H.H. Then he spent a day in the reading room of the Imperial War Museum not far away

in North Lambeth, and after a few hours found his man and solved the riddle.

'He had one stripe so was a Lance Corporal,' says Peter. 'He fired a machine-gun so he had to be in the MGC — the Machine Gun Corps. His name was Harry. Lance Corporal Harold Joseph Hill, born 17 May 1896, died of wounds on 17 May 1917. He is buried in Mont Huon Military Cemetery in Le Tréport, France. I found a reference giving the name of the base hospital where he died from gangrene, near Le Tréport, and learnt that his mother was present at his death. When I was in Normandy I went to pay my respects. The site was easy to find. The hospital had been built of wood and canvas. At the end of the war they took it down and all they left behind were the graves. When I visited, the cemetery was in a thousand-acre cabbage field miles from anywhere.

'The book had been smoke damaged and then water damaged, so I suspect it had been in a house fire. Harry Hill lived in 32 Herbert Road, Stockwell, which I think was hit by bombs during the Blitz so maybe that was the cause.' Herbert Road, now gone, ran almost parallel with Sidney Road, between Stockwell Road and Aytoun Road.

Harry's service records tell us more about Harry the person. He worked for the Admiralty as a clerk. On 13 November 1915, the day he volunteered at Tufton Street, Westminster, J.S. Barnes, Head of War Registry, wrote a note, which is preserved in the archives: 'Mr. H. J. Hill has received permission to leave the Admiralty in order to enlist in the army.' Later, on 9 December 1915, the Admiralty made a request which sets out all the possibilities for their former clerk: '43809 H. J. Hill. Please notify Admiralty in event of this man's discharge, death etc, or of his being granted a commission or being reported missing or a prisoner of war.'

This duly happened, with a note coming back to the Admiralty on 6 June 1917 informing them that Hill had died of wounds on 17 May 1917.

Harry Hill, 5ft 5in tall and weighing 8½st with a chest measurement of 35in, was wounded in action on 6 May and

admitted to hospital the following day with gunshot wounds to the abdomen, forearm and back. He died 10 days later.

In 1911 he was living with his parents and sister at 153 Trentham Street, Southfields, southwest London where they occupied five rooms. His father, Joseph Snare Hill, 57, was an ornamental plasterer from Westminster, and his mother, Emma Elizabeth Hill, 55, was from Hanwell, Middlesex. Harry had a sister, Henrietta Emma Hill, 18, a compiling clerk, and three half-siblings.

WITH THANKS TO

PETER MUNT-DAVIS AND PETER BRASIER

H.J. HILL. Lance Corporal, Machine Gun Corps, 53rd Coy. Service no. 43809. Died from gangrene on 17 May 1917, aged 21. Remembered at Mont Huon Military Cemetery, Le Tréport, France

W. J. HILL

Not identified

CHARLES F. P. HILLIER

Tentative identification

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission database lists a Charles Hillier, whose parents lived at 9 Hemans Street, off Wandsworth Road. However, this man was christened Charles *James John* in Cork, Ireland, the son of Daniel Hillier, a coal porter from Stratfield Saye, Berkshire, and Ellen (née Pierce) from Cork.

The CWGC database also states that Hillier served in the Boer War. On 24 October 1900 Charles Hillier, a private with the South West Borderers, was admitted, for unknown reasons, to Brookwood Asylum in Surrey.

C.F.P. HILLIER. Private, Royal Fusiliers, 4th Bn. Service no. L/7574. Killed in action on 27 October 1914, aged 35. Remembered at Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

ALBERT EDWARD HILLS

Albert Edward Hills was born in 1896, then the youngest of the six children of parents Eugene Frederick (aka Thomas)

and Sarah Hills. Albert was baptised as an infant on 20 May 1896 at St Stephen's Church, South Lambeth. The family were then living in Beech Street (now gone, this street was off the south side of Dorset Road and was an area of social deprivation). Albert's sister Ethel, born around 1899, was the final addition to the family.

The 1911 census finds Albert living with his father, sisters Alice and Ethel, and older brother James. His father worked as a slater, James as a bricklayer's labourer and Albert was 14-year-old office boy. The five adults occupied five rooms at 7 Beech Street.

Whether Albert was conscripted in 1916 or volunteered at the end of 1915 is not known. In any case, he appears to have initially enlisted at Westminster, London, joining the 2nd Battalion, County of London Yeomanry as Private 2829, Hills. This was a training unit sending drafts of men to the front at regular intervals. The medal roll entry for Albert shows he was in France by 10 January 1917 and posted to the 9/Royal Fusiliers on 6 February as private 62590, Hills. It was Albert's fate to be thrown into the cauldron of the Arras offensive in April and May 1917.

On 3 May 1917, Albert, wounded in the right knee by a grenade, was taken prisoner near Monchy. He was moved from Limberg to Hameln POW camp but developed tetanus and died in the camp hospital on 15 June. He was originally buried in the camp cemetery.

Albert's father and sister Alice continued to live in Beech Street into the 1920s, and later at Alverstone House, Lambeth. Albert's father Eugene died in 1941, aged 82.

CHRIS BURGE

A.E. HILLS. Private, Royal Fusiliers, 9th Bn. Service no. 62590. Died of wounds as a prisoner of war on 15 June 1917, aged about 21. Remembered at Niederzwehren Cemetery, Kassel, Germany

JOHN THOMAS HILLS

John Thomas Hills was a dustman, originally from Chelsfield, Kent. In 1911, aged 31, he lived with his wife Emma Harriet (née Payne), who was from

Crockenhill, Kent, in three rooms at 31 Hargwyne Street, Stockwell. They had one child, Dorothy Margaret, aged six.

Hills joined up in 1916, and later that year embarked for France. While on the Western Front he fought in the Battle of the Somme and in an engagement at St Eloi. He died in fighting at Arras in November 1917.

J.T. HILLS. Rifleman, London Regiment, 1/17th Bn. (Poplar and Stepney). Service no. 74105. Died of wounds on 30 November 1917, aged 38. Remembered at Orival Wood Cemetery, Flesquières, France and at St Andrew's Church, Landor Road, Stockwell

ALBERT CHARLES HILLYER

Albert Charles Hillyer was born in Norbiton, Surrey, in 1886, the second child of William and Georgina Hillyer. By the time of the 1891 census, Albert was one of four children living with their parents in Cambridge Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey. Albert's father worked as a fishmonger. The family was dogged by ill-fortune: the death of Albert's younger sister Clara in 1892 at the age of four was followed by the death of both of Albert's parents, his mother in 1898, aged 41, and his father in the winter of 1900, aged 45.

In the 1901 census, Albert's older brother Bertie, aged 20, was working as a baker's assistant, boarding with the family of baker George Gobbett at 142 Elm Road, Kingston upon Thames. Albert's younger sister Edith, aged 11, was at the Sea View Convalescent Home, East Tilbury, Orsett, Essex. Albert, now 15, was living with his uncle's family at 85 Elm Road, Kingston and was working as a van guard.

The 1911 census returns show brother Bertie was married with a child and living in Hammersmith, west London where he worked as a 'cake baker'. It was also the home of Albert's sister Edith, who worked as a domestic servant. Albert, now 25, was living with other relatives at 7 Berresford Road New Malden, about a mile and a half from the centre of Kingston. Albert worked as a 'draper's porter'.

Albert was married two years later, on 19 April 1913, at St Andrew's, Stockwell

to Christina Squirrell who was 30. The marriage was witnessed by Albert's brother Bertie and Christina's brother William. Albert's occupation was recorded as 'packer' and the couple gave 3 Moat Place as their address. Their married life began in one of Stockwell poorest streets.

Their daughter Ivy Christine Hillyer was born on 23 January 1915 and baptised at St Andrew's on 1 April 1915, close to Albert and Christina's second wedding anniversary. Albert was working as a 'cellarman' and the couple were now living at 45 Pulross Road, Stockwell. An address at the western end of the road, one of a terrace of four houses set apart at the cul-de-sac, bounded by the railway on one side and on the other by the rear of what was the South Western Fever Hospital (later Lambeth Hospital). Christina's mother and brother William were living nearby in Dalvell Road. Sadly, baby Ivy, Albert and Christina's only child, died shortly after her baptism.

Albert's brother-in-law William Squirrell had married in February 1915 and was working as a 'carman' when he volunteered under Lord Derby's Group Scheme (see *Appendix*) on 12 December 1915. William Squirell was not called up until a year later, on 23 December 1916. Albert may have volunteered around the same time as his brother-in-law, or was conscripted in 1916. His Service papers have not survived but he originally joined the 1st London Regiment with the service number 8506, which is in the range of those called up in October 1916. For example, private 8505, Henry Charles Kirk, enlisted in the 1st London on 4 October 1916. A large group of men who joined and trained with 1st London Regiment, and other battalions of the London Regiment, were sent to France in January 1917, only to find themselves transferred to the 15th Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles, while still at one of the Infantry Bases in France.

Albert Hillyer was renumbered 15/44401. This battalion was originally formed from Belfast Volunteers in August and September 1914, many of whom had been members of the Ulster Volunteer Force at a time of tension over the issue of

Home Rule. By 1917, their ranks had been diluted with various drafts, not least due to their losses on the Somme in July 1916. The battalion's official war diary notes on 7 February that 'two drafts arrived 59 & 139 O.R.' and on the 24 February 1917 that 'Draft 17 O.R arrived'.

In March the 15th RIR were either in trenches in the Messines sector or in billets near Kemmel and were often shelled. In April they were between Bailleul and Kemmel with three companies involved in railway works and the fourth with Royal Engineers tunnellers before moving to Hazebrouck for training in the second half of the month.

They remained at Hazebrouck throughout May preparing for the British assault on the Messines–Wyttschaete Ridge planned for 7 June 1917. At zero hour 3.10am, 19 mines were exploded, which devastated the enemy positions and the 15th RIR, along with other troops, advanced behind a creeping barrage. At this early hour there was still the difficulty of moving over ground pockmarked with shell holes and the enormous craters left by the mine explosion. The 15th RIR advanced at 4.50am achieving all their objectives within a few hours sustaining what was considered to be light casualties — '12 O.Rs killed, 5 officers, 86 O.Rs wounded'.

The third battle of Ypres opened on 31 July 1917 when the start of three weeks of heavy rain turned the battlefield into a morass. Albert's battalion moved from Watou to Ypres on 2 August to relieve three battalions of the 55th Division holding the 'Black Line' advanced position, when it was 'Pouring rain & ground 18in deep in mud'. The enemy guns were active and on 6 August 1917 the war diary notes — 'In BLUE LINE. Heavy casualties in "B" Coy. Capt. R. I. Robson M.C. killed. Two coys move into our old front line. Enemy quieter. Dry & misty'. The battalion was relieved the following day and went back to Vlamertinghe.

Albert Hillyer was killed in action on 6 August and was one of five men from the 15th Royal Irish Rifles who died that day and were all buried at Wieltje Farm

Cemetery soon after. It is known that the two Company Quartermaster Serjeants, Robert Ernest Toye and George Frank Newel, were both killed by the same shell burst when bringing up rations on the night of the 6 August. Whether Albert was killed in the same or a separate incident is unknown.

By the end of the war, Alfred's widow Christina was awarded the standard widow's pension and received Alfred's £3 war gratuity a year after the Armistice, in November 1919. She was then living with her elderly mother Sarah at 102 Hargwyne Street, off Landor Road.

After her mother died in 1921, aged 79, Christina was married again in 1925, to William Tyrrell, and was still at 102 Hargwyne Street in 1939. She was 78 when she passed away in Lambeth in 1959.

CHRIS BURGE

A.C. HILLYER. Rifleman, Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Bn.; formerly London Regiment. Service no. 44401. Killed in action on 6 August 1917, aged about 30. Remembered at Wieltje Farm Cemetery, near Ypres, Belgium

FREDERICK HILTON

Brother of William George Hilton

William George and Frederick Hilton were sons of William Wallace Cooper Hilton, a railway porter originally from Worcester, and Sarah Annie Hilton (née Coleborn), born in Lambeth.

In 1901 the family lived at 70 Harleyford Road, Kennington Oval, and included a daughter, Annie, born in 1891; a brother, Richard, arrived in 1903.

By the time of the 1911 census Frederick, a 14-year-old schoolboy, was living in two rooms at 136 Stewart Road, off Wandsworth Road, with his parents and Richard. Two other families of eight and seven lived in three rooms and two rooms respectively; Sarah later moved to 1 Trigon Road, Oval.

F. HILTON. Rifleman, Rifle Brigade, 1st Bn. Service no. 5723. Died on 10 September 1918, aged 21. Remembered at Abbeville Communal Cemetery Extension, France

WILLIAM GEORGE HILTON

Brother of Frederick Hilton

William George Hilton was born in Kennington in 1894.

W.G. HILTON. Private, East Surrey Regiment, 7th Bn. Service no. 688. Died of wounds on 5 October 1915, aged 21. Remembered at Chocques Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

ALFRED HINE

Brother of William Frederick Hine

Alfred Hine, born in Bethnal Green, east London in 1895, was one of six children of licensed victuallers (publicans) Thomas George and Frances Hine, of 24 Union Street, Clapham.

In 1901 the Hines lived in Wilcox Road, South Lambeth and Thomas was listed as a 'beer retailer'.

By 1911 Thomas and Frances had moved to the Ingleby Arms at 36 Grove Road, Upper Holloway, north London, where the family of seven Florence, 21; Thomas, 19; William Frederick, 17 Alfred, 15; Ellen, 13 — occupied nine rooms. The eldest daughter, Elizabeth, was married and lived elsewhere.

A. HINE. Driver, Royal Field Artillery, 'A' Bty., 28th Bde. Service no. 925397. Died of wounds on 7 September 1917, aged 22. Remembered at Nunhead (All Saints) Cemetery, Linden Grove, southeast London

WILLIAM FREDERICK HINE

Brother of Alfred Hine

William Frederick Hine, born in Bethnal Green, east London, was baptised on 23 June 1895 at Holy Trinity, Haverstock Hill in northwest London.

It has not been possible to ascertain which service he joined or when or how he died. Records show that a man named William Hine died in Fulham, west London in 1920, aged approximately 25, but we cannot confirm if this is a correct identification.

W.F. HINE. Details unknown

ERNEST AUSTIN HOARE



At the time he signed up on 7 August 1915, Ernest Austin Hoare declared that he was 20 years old, born in Sidcup, Kent and living with his family at 12 Lansdowne Road, Stockwell. He described

himself as a chemist. He appears to have lied about his age as records show that he was born in the latter half of 1897 and was therefore only 18. The Service record shows that Hoare was just over 6ft tall, with a 39½in chest. He weighed 9¾st.

Hoare attended St Olave's School (then located near London Bridge) between 1909 and 1912. After six months at the Albany Engineering Works, he became assistant to Dr Fyleman, an analytical chemist, of Victoria Street. In September 1913 he decided to take his studies further and joined The Borough Polytechnic Institute. When war broke out, Dr Fyleman became works chemist at Osram's lamp factory in Wembley, north London and Hoare went with him. In July 1915 he was granted a scholarship at the Imperial College of Science and, after gaining a promise that his place would be held over for him on his return, he joined the Royal Engineers.

The Service history file for Ernest Hoare includes an interesting document outlining the Army's appeal for chemists to join the RE: Men between 19 and 45 with training in chemistry were especially sought. The physical standards for height and chest measurement could be ignored if candidates were otherwise fit, and spectacles were permitted. Successful candidates would be immediately promoted to Corporal. Pay would be 2 shillings and sixpence a week. Those interested were instructed to go to the recruiting office in Great Scotland Yard, in Westminster.

On 16 August Hoare embarked for France with the British Expeditionary Force. On 21 December, after taking part in two major gas attacks in September and October, he was killed at Chambrin when

he was hit by a trench mortar. The next day he was buried by his colleagues 800 yards from the front line.

In 1911 Ernest Hoare's family lived at 228 South Lambeth Road. His father, John Hoare, 45, a police constable from Chatham, Kent, and mother, Martha, 45, from Troston, Norfolk, had five other children. The Hoares later moved to 12 Lansdowne Road, Stockwell.

E.A. HOARE. Corporal, Royal Engineers, 186th Special Coy. Service no. 106556.

Killed in action on 21 December 1915, aged 18. Remembered at Cambrin Churchyard Extension, Pas de Calais, France and on a commemorative 'war crucifix', now lost, outside St Anne's Church, South Lambeth Road, Vauxhall

JOSEPH EDWARD HOBBS

In 1911 Joseph Edward Hobbs, listed in the census as Edward Hobbs, was 13 and still at school. He lived with his father, also called Joseph Edward Hobbs, 39, a fitter's mate for an electrical light company, mother Edith, 35, and two brothers in three rooms at 62 Hargwyne Street, Stockwell.

J.E. HOBBS. Gunner, Royal Field Artillery, Reinf. Base Depot. Service no.

970079. Died on 19 September 1917, aged 20. Remembered at Salonika (Lembet Road) Military Cemetery, Greece

BERTIE C. HOFT

In 1911 Bertie C. Hoft was a 13-year-old schoolboy and part-time newsboy; his brother Hermann L. Hoft, who also fought in the war and survived, was a van guard in a mineral water factory. They were sons of German-born Hermann Hoft, 47, a syrup maker for a mineral water factory (there were several in Vauxhall), and his wife Christiana, 48, who was born in London. The family lived at 27 Brooklands Road, Stockwell. There were four other children.

B.C. HOFT. Private, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 10th Bn.

Service no. 10050. Died of wounds on 7 May 1916, aged about 19. Remembered at Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France

ALFRED EDWARD HOGG



The 1911 census return for Alfred Edward Hogg's family home does not include him. His father Edward Hogg, 55, a mercantile clerk born in Bermondsey, east London, and his wife Jessie Mary, 48, born in Blackfriars, lived with their eight other children in 10 rooms at 56 Sidney Road, Stockwell.

It is possible that in 1911 Alfred Hogg was working as a footman for Lord Edmund Talbot, MP, at his home at 1 Buckingham Palace Gardens, London, where the family of four employed nine servants to maintain their 20-roomed house; there is an Alfred Edward Hogg, aged 22 and born in Southwark, on the census return for that address.

A.E. HOGG. Private, Seaforth Highlanders, 1st Bn. Service no. S/12345. Killed in action on 5 November 1917, aged 29. Remembered at Basra Memorial, Iraq

ALFRED HAROLD HOLMAN

Brother of John Orlando Holman

In 1911 Alfred Harold Holman, an 18-year-old warehouse porter, and his brother John Orlando Holman, 15, a junior clerk, lived in four rooms at 45 Riverhall Street (this street was parallel with Camellia Street), South Lambeth with their stepfather, Stephen McQuillin, and mother Sarah Jane McQuillin, both 49, and three of their five brothers. Sarah Jane, from Yeovil, Somerset, was working as a domestic servant. Stephen was a fitter's labourer, born in Walworth.

Alfred Holman enlisted in Chelsea.

Sarah Jane and Stephen McQuillin later moved to 4B Jeffreys Road, off Clapham Road, where they lived until at least 1929. Sarah Jane died in 1934.

A.H. HOLMAN. Gunner, Royal Field Artillery, 182nd Bde. Service no. 34678. Died of wounds on 11 May 1916, aged about 23. Remembered at Dud Corner Cemetery, Loos, France.

JOHN ORLANDO HOLMAN

Brother of Alfred Harold Holman

On 28 June 1895, 'Orlando John' Holman was baptised at All Saints church, Devonshire Road, South Lambeth alongside his sister Violet Lucy. They were then living at 10 Thorne Road, South Lambeth, and their father, John Thomas Holman, gave his occupation as a porter for the London & South Western Railway. John Thomas died in 1901. His widow later married Stephen McQuillin.

J.O. HOLMAN. Rifleman, King's Royal Rifle Corps, 17th Bn. Service no. R/35467. Killed in action on 3 June 1917, aged about 21. Remembered at Vlamertinghe Military Cemetery, Ypres, Belgium

ARTHUR ERNEST HOMEWOOD



In 1911 Arthur Ernest Homewood, 13, who was at school and worked part-time as a grocer's errand boy, lived with his two brothers and widowed mother at 18 Radnor Terrace (near

Wilcox Road), South Lambeth, where the family occupied four rooms. Eliza Ann Homewood, 53, born in Bermondsey, earned her living as a charwoman (cleaner) in private houses.

A.E. HOMEWOOD. Private, Northamptonshire Regiment, 'B' Coy, 6th Bn. Service no. 59585. Killed in action on 4 November 1918, aged 20. Remembered at Preux-au-Bois Communal Cemetery, Nord, France

JOSEPH FREDERICK HONER

Joseph Frederick Honer was born in 1898, the son of Percy Honer, a postman, and Edith Mary Honer, of 22 Thorne Road, South Lambeth. He was baptised at St Barnabas, South Lambeth on 17 February 1898.

By the time of the 1911 census, Joseph's father had died and the family — Edith, 33, Joseph Frederick, 13, and Dorothy

Alice, six — were living with Edith's father Frederick Willicombe and two aunts at 11 Lansdowne Gardens, South Lambeth. Joseph was at school and also working part-time as an errand boy for an oilman. *J.F. HONER. Rifleman, London Regiment, 12th Bn. (The Rangers). Service no. 471573. Killed in action on 1 July 1916, aged about 18. Remembered at Gommecourt British Cemetery No. 2, Hebuterne, Pas de Calais, France*

FREDERICK WILLIAM HOPKINS

Frederick William Hopkins was born in Lambeth, lived in Walworth, and enlisted in Kensington. He was born between April and June 1882 in Lambeth, the son of William and Mary Ann Hopkins (née Rayner). The family was living at 4 China Walk in North Lambeth and William worked as a wine cellarman. They had three daughters: Mabel, Alice and Florence. William died in 1888.

On the 1891 census, Mary Hopkins is shown as a widow, working as a charwoman (cleaner) and living with her son Frederick and three daughters at 15 Union Street in North Lambeth.

In the last quarter of 1901, when he was 20, Frederick married Nellie Eliza L. Walker, the daughter of William and Louisa Walker (née Dixon) who had married at St Philip's, Lambeth. Their first child, Dorothy Amelia, was born on 2 November that year. When Dorothy was baptised at St Mary's the Less, Princes Road, Lambeth on 19 February the following year, the family was living at 63 Fitzalan Street in Kennington and Frederick was working as a plumber. Another child, Frederick William, was born in 1904 and a second daughter, Nellie Ethel, in 1908. All three Hopkins children were born in Lambeth.

On the 1911 census the family was living at 31 Upper Kennington Lane. Frederick was now 29 and working as a plumber-journeyman in the building trade. Nellie was 28, Dorothy nine, Frederick seven and Nellie two.

Frederick's Army records do not appear to have survived for either the Shropshire

Light Infantry or the Welsh Regiment. The 2nd Battalion Welsh regiment was a regular battalion, and it is possible that Frederick was in one of the territorial battalions of the 2nd.

As he was ineligible for either a 1914 or 1915 star medal, the assumption is that Frederick entered a theatre of war in 1916. In September 1918, the 2nd Welsh were part of the 1st Division who fought in the Battle of Epehy during what was later known as the Advance to Victory. By 19 September the Division had been unable to capture either the fortified village of Fresnoy le Petit or the mass of trenches known as the Quadrilateral, and the Corps Commander decided to bombard these two strong positions before renewing the attack on 24 September. It is possible that it was during this fighting that Frederick was wounded. He may have been taken to one of the casualty clearing stations near Brie and subsequently died of his wounds. He was buried in Brie Cemetery.

His widow, Nellie E. Hopkins, died in Lambeth during the winter of 1967. She was 85.

MARIETTA CRICHTON STUART F.W. HOPKINS. Private, Welsh Regiment, 2nd Bn; formerly 31166, the King's Own Shropshire Light Infantry. Service no. 55321. Died of wounds on 22 September 1918, aged about 36. Remembered at Brie Cemetery, Somme, France and on a wooden memorial plaque at Westminster Abbey, London, where he worked as a plumber

WILLIAM THOMAS HORNSBY

Hornsby was born in Clapham on 19 February 1894, the son of John Hornsby, a painter and decorator, and Lydia. In 1911 he was living at 19 Clarence Street, South Lambeth with his parents, three siblings and two boarders, and working as a dining car attendant for the London & South West Railway. He enlisted in Paddington, west London.

W.T. HORNSBY. Corporal, London Regiment, 2/1st Bn. (Royal Fusiliers). Service no. 202656. Died on 16 June 1917, aged 23. Remembered at Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

G. C. HORSLEY

Not identified

SAMUEL CHARLES HOWDEN

Samuel Charles Howden, the eldest of four children, was born in 1899 and baptised at St John the Evangelist, Walworth Road. In 1911, 12-year-old Samuel lived at 155 Pullens Buildings, Amelia Street, Walworth, southeast London with his 36-year-old father, also called Samuel Charles Howden and originally from Hackney, a motor cab driver, and his mother, Emily (née Hughes), 32, from Walworth, and his three siblings.

S.C. HOWDEN. Private, Royal Sussex Regiment, 7th Bn. Service no. G/23011. Died on 5 April 1918, aged 19. Remembered at Bouzincourt Ridge Cemetery, Albert, Somme, France

WILLIAM BERKS HUDSON

William Berks Hudson was baptised at All Saints, Clapham Park on 16 April 1893. His father John Robert Hudson gave his occupation as draper and his address as Cornwall Road, Tulse Hill. In 1911 ledger clerk William Berks Hudson, 22, lived with his now-widowed mother and his aunt in two rooms at 24 Chantrey Road, Brixton. A family of four had a further four rooms in the house and another of three had two rooms. Matilda Hudson (née Berks), 50, and her unmarried sister, Elizabeth Anne Berks, 47, from Newcastle, Staffordshire, both worked as draper's assistants. William was an only child.

W.B. HUDSON. Rifleman, London Regiment, 'A' Coy. 6th Bn. (City of London Rifles). Service no. 4015. Killed in action on 8 October 1916, aged 27. Remembered at Warlencourt British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

HENRY EDWARD HUMPHREYS

Henry (Harry) Edward Humphreys was born in Lambeth on 8 February 1890 and baptised at Emmanuel Church (now gone), in Distin Street, off Lollard Street,

Vauxhall. In 1911 he lived with his parents, William Edward Humphreys, a general labourer, and Emma Elizabeth Searles, and five siblings at 12 Horace Street, near Wilcox Road lived in South Lambeth. He worked as a bricklayer's labourer, and enlisted in Camberwell.

H.E. HUMPHREYS. Private, London Regiment, 1/5th Bn. (London Rifle Brigade). Service no. 315288. Killed in action on 9 July 1918. Remembered at Dainville British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

WILLIAM EDWARD HUMPHREYS

De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour states that William Edward Humphreys was born in Lambeth, the son of William Humphreys, and that he served in the Expeditionary Force. We have been unable to find further details.

W.E. HUMPHREYS. Private, Middlesex Regiment, 1st Bn. Service no. 10514. Killed in action on 21 October 1914. Remembered at Le Trou Aid Post Cemetery, Fleurbaix, Pas de Calais, France

HENRY CHARLES HUNT

Lift porter Henry Charles Hunt, aged 20 in 1911, was the eldest child of Henry Hunt, 42, a painter's labourer, and Matilda Hunt, 40. The couple had seven children. The family shared four rooms at 148 Wandsworth Road with a boarder.

In 1915 Henry married Elizabeth Caroline Beacham at All Saints, Devonshire Road, South Lambeth. Their daughter Elizabeth Matilda was born the following year. Henry enlisted in Kingston upon Thames. Elizabeth's address was later 122 Bennerley Road, Battersea. She died in 1974.

H.C. HUNT. Lance Corporal, Middlesex Regiment, 11th Bn. Service no. G/50055. Died on 9 April 1917, aged 25. Remembered at Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

HARRY HUNTER

Civil Service clerk Harry Hunter, aged 22 in 1911, was one of five children

of Robert Hunter, 54, a Lambeth-born organ builder, and Ann Mercy Hunter, from Stockwell. The family lived in nine rooms at 87 Clapham High Street. Robert's sister, Ann Esther Hunter, 56, lived with the family. There was a live-in domestic servant.

H. HUNTER. Second Lieutenant, Royal Flying Corps. Died of wounds on 5 November 1917, aged 30. Remembered at Wimereux Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

FRANK MORLEY HUNTLEY

In 1911 Kennington-born bookseller Frank Morley Huntley, then aged 32, lived with his wife, Fanny Beatrice Huntley, and their four children, who were aged between 10 months and eight years, and a boarder, at 10 St Stephen's Terrace, South Lambeth. Huntley enlisted in Camberwell.

F.M. HUNTLEY. Rifleman, London Regiment, 1/9th Bn. (Queen Victoria's Rifles). Service no. 393151. Killed in action on 3 May 1917, aged 39. Remembered at Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

HARRY GEORGE WALTER HURT

The 1911 census shows Harry George Walter Hurt, 18, a clerk, living at 22 Langley Lane, Kennington. His father, Frederick G. Hurt, 58, was a whitesmith (he worked with 'white' or light-coloured metals such as tin and pewter) from St Pancras, north London. His mother, Martha, 56, was from Poplar, east London. Their six children lived with him, including a widowed daughter and her two children. Harry Hurt enlisted in Westminster.

H.G.W. HURT. Private, Bedfordshire Regiment, 7th Bn. Service no. 15120. Died on 25 October 1916, aged 24. Remembered at Thiépval Memorial, Somme, France

JOSEPH WELLMAN HUSSEY

Joseph Wellman Hussey, born in Thorncombe, Dorset, had previously served in the Boer War. In 1911, he was living alone in one room at 78 Wilcox Road, South Lambeth and working as a

railway porter for the London & South Western Railway. In 1912, aged 34, he married 22-year-old Elsie Ann Cameron, who was living at 88 Wilcox Road. Hussey enlisted in Sevenoaks, Kent.

J.W. HUSSEY. Serjeant, 9th (Queen's Royal) Lancers, 'B' Sqdn. Service no. 4288. Winner of the Cross of St George (Russian). Died on 24 May 1915, aged about 37. Remembered at Hop Store Cemetery, near Ypres, Belgium

ALBERT YOUNG HUTCHINSON

In 1911 Albert Young Hutchinson, who was born in Haggerston, east London in 1875, was living in one room at 24 Tasman Road, Stockwell. He was 36, single, and working as a goods receiving clerk. The Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects states that he enlisted on 28 August 1914 and died at Zillebeke.

Albert's father John W. Hutchinson was a cabinet maker born in Surrey; his mother Mary Ann (née Young), who died in January 1911, was from Pentonville, north London. Albert had twelve siblings. *A.Y. HUTCHINSON. Private, 11th (Prince Albert's Own) Hussars. Service no. 16206. Killed in action on 24 October 1914, aged 39. Remembered at Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium*

JAMES GEORGE HUTCHISON

James George Hutchison was born in Lambeth in 1898, the second child of Peter James Hutchison and Elizabeth (née White). In the 1901 census the family were living at 12 Hartington Road, an address shared with another family of six, and James's father was working as a gas fitter's labourer. By the time of the 1911 census, James had six siblings. On the census return James's father listed his children by age: Annie, 14; James, 12; Elizabeth, 10; Arthur, six; Walter, three; and Winniefred (sic) three. The family lived in four rooms at 45 South Lambeth Road, which was also home to a family of six. James's father worked for a 'railway company's gas department', most likely the London & South Western Railway.

Their home was opposite St Annes's Church, near Vauxhall Park.

James was an impetuous youth who joined the Army on 8 September 1914 in the first rush of volunteers, with or without the knowledge of his parents. He volunteered at Marylebone claiming to be 19. At 5ft 7in and weighing 10st 5lb with a 37in chest he was not obviously underage and was passed medically fit. James was posted to the 8th Royal West Kent at Maidstone four days later. The West Kents moved to Shoreham and then to billets in Worthing in December 1914, returning to Shoreham in April 1915 and then on to Blackdown in July 1915.

Only burnt fragments of James Hutchison Service papers have survived, but from pieces of correspondence dated after 30 August 1915, when James sailed to France, it is clear that his mother had written to the military authorities to tell them that her son was underage. They replied that James must be 'held to serve'. In September 1915, the 8th RWK were present at the Battle of Loos, where they lost 550 men and all but one of their officers. James was lucky to survive.

The battalion was rebuilt and by early 1916 was in the Ypres sector before moving south in the spring, and by summer of 1916 was on the Somme. In August 1916, the 8 RWK were holding trenches near Trones Wood on the front line near Guillemont. The keeper of the battalion's war diary provided few details of the events and only gave a summary of casualties of six officers and 145 other ranks during their front-line tour. The battalion moved out of the front line on 17 August, often a time when troop movements were shelled. James Hutchison lost his life on that day.

It was James's father Peter who completed Army Form W5080 listing the relatives of a deceased soldier in order to obtain his son's plaque, roll and medals. On 14 July 1919 when Peter took the form to be witnessed and countersigned at St Anne's Vicarage, the entire family were living at 7 Radnor Terrace, off South Lambeth Road. It is doubtful if James's father ever saw his son's name on the Stockwell War Memorial as he died

early in 1922, aged 53. James's mother Elizabeth passed away in 1939, aged 71.

A Cenotaph at Maidstone, Kent, dedicated to members of the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, was unveiled in 1921. It was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens following his design for the Cenotaph on Whitehall in London, at two-thirds scale.

CHRIS BURGE

J.G. HUTCHISON. Private, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), 8th Bn. Service no. G/2539. Died on 17 August 1916 aged 18. Remembered at Thiépval Memorial, Somme, France

JOHN SIMPSON HYMES

In 1911 John Simpson Hymes, a 29-year-old sales manager, lived at 16 Westgate Road, Dartford. He was born in Liverpool. His wife, Ruby Clara Hymes, 24, was born in Lambeth, and their son, John Edward Hymes, 10 months, in Clapham; two further children followed. The couple married at St Mark's, Kennington in 1908. Ruby married James F. Moore in 1919.

J.S. HYMES. Rifleman, London Regiment, 1/9th Bn. (Queen Victoria's Rifles). Service no. 394311. Died of wounds on 29 May 1917. Remembered at Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

ARTHUR EDWARD INGRAM

The National Roll of the Great War gives the following entry for Arthur Edward Ingram:

'He volunteered and proceeded to France at the outbreak of war, and fought in the Retreat of Mons, and at the Battles of Le Cateau, the Aisne and the Marne. He gave his life for the freedom of England on November 7th, 1914, in the first Battle of Ypres, and was entitled to the Mons Star and the General Service and Victory Medals.' His address was given as 56 Dalyell Road, Landor Road, SW9.

Arthur Edward was born in 1887 in Lambeth, the middle child of Arthur Ingram, a carman who worked for Clapham & Battersea Borough Council, and Emma. There were two other children. In 1911 Arthur's parents and their oldest

son William lived at 30 Pensbury Street, off Wandsworth Road, along with a lodger. We have not yet located Arthur Edward on the census for that year.

A.E. INGRAM. Private, Worcestershire Regiment, 3rd Bn. Service no. 8804. Killed in action on 7 November 1914, aged about 26. Remembered at Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

ARTHUR IRELAND

Arthur Ireland was born in Peckham and lived in Brixton. He enlisted in Wandsworth. His name is included in *Ireland's Memorial Records 1914–1918*.

A. IRELAND. Rifleman, Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Bn.; formerly London Regiment. Service no. 45196. Killed in action on 22 November 1917. Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France and at St Michael's Church, Stockwell Park Road, Stockwell

EDWARD THOMAS HENRY JACKSON

Tentative identification

Edward Thomas Henry Jackson was the son of Edward and Annie Jackson, of 35 Chertsey Street, Church Lane, Tooting, and husband of Emily Jackson, of 37 Romney Buildings, Millbank, Westminster. He was born in County Mayo, Ireland. A specific connection to Stockwell is yet to become apparent.

E.T.H. JACKSON. Rifleman, Rifle Brigade, 9th Bn. Service no. S/26110. Killed in action on 3 May 1917, aged 34. Remembered at Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

WILLIAM HENRY JACKSON

William Henry Jackson was born in Paddington and lived in Hounslow. His widow, Ethel May Jackson, lived at 3 Seneca Road, Clapham.

W.H. JACKSON. Private, Middlesex Regiment, 'D' Coy., 4th Bn. Service no. 9011. Killed in action on 15 October 1914, aged 28. Remembered at Vieille-Chapelle New Military Cemetery, Lacouture, France

SAMUEL JAMES

When Samuel James joined the Army he gave his father, also called Samuel, as his next of kin. However, the Army form was amended. The elder Samuel was deleted and 'Miss D.A. James — sister' added. Samuel's 65-year-old father, a bricklayer, had died of a cerebral haemorrhage on 19 October 1918, weeks after his son perished in the war.

Aged 18, James, who described himself as a decorator's assistant, had signed up at Lambeth on 6 January 1917 and joined the Training Reserve of the Royal Sussex Regiment, transferring to the regular battalion, and then joining the East Kents.

Standing 5ft 4in tall and weighing 7½st, with a 37in chest, Samuel James's physical development was judged to be only 'fair'. There is one recorded misdemeanour on his record: he was slack while on sentry duty at Colchester on 22 October 1917, for which he was confined to barracks for three days.

James went missing at the front on 30 June 1918. Later, it turned out that he had sustained a gunshot wound to his chest, been taken prisoner and died on 10 August 1918 in a German field hospital at Péronne.

In 1911, James, the middle of three children, lived at 37 Burgoyne Road, Stockwell with his parents and sister. His father, Samuel James, 56, was a bricklayer, originally from Ludchurch, Pembroke. His mother, Catherine James, 35, was from Lambeth.

S. JAMES. Private, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), 7th Bn. Service no. 14197. Died of wounds as a prisoner of war on 10 August 1918, aged about 19. Remembered at Tincoart New British Cemetery, Somme, France

EDWARD JOHN JARVIS

Edward John Jarvis was born in Clapham and enlisted at Camberwell.

E.J. JARVIS. Gunner, Royal Field Artillery, 46th Bty. Service no. L/43916. Killed in action on 19 July 1916. Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

JOHN HENRY CHARLES JEFFERIES

John Henry Charles Jefferies was born on 7 October 1895 and baptised at Christ Church, Clapham on 5 November the same year. He attended Larkhall Lane School, where he was known as Charles, from 5 September 1898.

In 1911, then aged 15, and the third of eight children of William Jefferies, a hammerman (beater) for a motor company, born in Swindon, Wiltshire, and Jane (née Bailey), born in Bristol, lived with his family in four rooms at 68 Clifton Street (now Courland Street), off Wandsworth Road. Charles worked as a van guard on the railway.

J.H.C. JEFFERIES. Lance Corporal, Royal Fusiliers, 2nd Bn.; formerly Hussars. Service no. L/16723. Killed in action on 28 February 1917, aged 21. Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

ARTHUR ALEXANDER JEFFERY

The 1911 census shows that Arthur Alexander Jeffery, was boarding at 88 Portland Place North, South Lambeth, the home of the Dunnett family, with his brother Albert V. Jeffery. Arthur, 22, was a commercial clerk; Albert, 23, a dairy utensil maker.

Arthur was born on 28 October 1888, the son of Thomas Henry Jeffery, a civil servant, and Catherine Elizabeth. He was baptised at St Barnabas, South Lambeth on 7 April 1889. In 1915 he married Dorothy Dunnett, with whose family he had lodged. He enlisted in St Paul's churchyard. After the war, his widow married David Blacklock, and moved to Toronto, Canada.

A.A. JEFFERY. Private, East Surrey Regiment, 8th Bn. Service no. 4802. Killed in action on 1 July 1916, aged about 27. Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

EDGAR JOHN JEFFERY

Edgar John Jeffery was born on 20 January 1883, the last of the eight known children of John Isaac and Elizabeth

Jeffery. He was baptised at Saint Anne's, Westminster, on 22 March 1885. His early life was spent in the district of Westminster, but by the time of the 1901 census the Jeffery family were no longer together and Edgar's whereabouts are unknown. His father was living in Little Goodge Street, Tottenham Court, with his sister Florence.

Edgar married Margaret Elizabeth Bush on 3 April 1904 at All Saints, St Pancras. Edgar was working as a printer and the couple gave 90 Huntley Street in Bloomsbury, in central London, as their address. Edgar's father had died the previous year and the marriage was witnessed by members of the Bush family. The couple's first child, Edgar Ernest, was born on 28 August 1904 and baptised at All Saints on 25 September.

In the 1911 census Edgar and Margaret were living at 9 Lancing Street, an area of social deprivation near Euston Square, Somers Town, with their children: Edgar, six, and Emily, four. Edgar erroneously included on the return the names of two children who had died within a month of their birth. Edgar was working as a 'printer stone grinder' and the family had just two rooms in a property which also housed a family of five in four rooms, and a family of three in three rooms. Margaret was expecting another child, and their daughter Ellen Dorothy was born at home on 24 June 1911.

By 1915, Edgar John Jeffery was on the electoral roll in Lambeth at 9 Alfred Court, Bolney Street in Stockwell. There had been another addition to the family: James Edward was born 17 December 1915 and baptised on 5 January 1916 at St Stephen's, South Lambeth. At that time Edgar was serving in the Army.

There are no surviving records to say exactly when and how Edgar Jeffery joined up. We know only that he enlisted in London, possibly as early as 1914. Nor are there records to detail how he came to serve in the 1st/4th Somerset Light Infantry.

The battalion had sailed for India on 9 October 1914, arriving at Bombay a month later. They moved to Madras as part of the

Southern Brigade of the 9th Secunderabad Division. In 1916 the 1st/4th SLI were sent from India to what was then called Mesopotamia (encompassing present-day Iraq, Kuwait, parts of Iran, Syria and Turkey), landing at Basra on 23 February 1916 as part of the 37th Indian Brigade, 3rd Indian Division. The 1st/4th SLI were part of the second unsuccessful attempt to break the siege at Kut in March 1916. In May 1916 they transferred to 41st Indian Brigade, involved with operations on the Euphrates.

They were transferred again in March 1918, becoming part of the 56th Indian Brigade, when they were in Baghdad. From April to September they formed part of the garrison at Nedjif. The war ended for the 1st/4th SLI with the conclusion of the Armistice of Mudros, on 30 October 1918. Private 242020 Edgar John Jeffery had fallen ill and died six days later, on 5 November 1918.

By the end of 1919 Edgar's widow Margaret had married Benjamin Sharp and when the Stockwell War Memorial was unveiled in 1922 was living with her children at 28 Cobbett Street, off Dorset Road, Stockwell. This remained her home until she moved to Nealdon Street, off Landor Road, where both her married daughters lived, in 1939. Margaret Elizabeth Sharp passed away in Lambeth in 1966, aged 79.

CHRIS BURGE

E.J. JEFFERY. Private, Somerset Light Infantry, 1/4th Bn. Service no. 242020. Died 5 November 1918, aged 35. Remembered at Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery, Iraq

FREDERICK WILLIAM JEFFERY

Frederick William Jeffery, born on 16 June 1898 and baptised at St Stephen's, South Lambeth on 24 July that year, was the son of James Edward, a porter born in Charleton, Devon, and Annie Jeffery (née Wakeham) born in Kingsbridge, Devon.

In 1911 Frederick was living with his father, then a park keeper for London County Council, mother, three of his five siblings and a lodger in four rooms at 21 Baker Street, off Brixton Road (Baker

Street was renamed Blackwell Street and has since been redeveloped to build the Holland Town Estate).

F.W. JEFFERY. Private, London Regiment, 2/24th Bn. (The Queen's). Service no. 720315. Killed in action on 21 December 1917, aged 19. Remembered at Jerusalem War Cemetery, Israel

LEONARD WILLIAM JENN

Leonard William Jenn stated in his will that his effects — identity disc, letters, photos, pocket book, cigarette case, lighter — should go to his widowed mother, Annie, who at the time of the 1911 census was living at 7 Delverton Road, Newington, near Elephant and Castle. Her husband Henry Jenn had been a wholesale fruit salesman from Islington, north London. They had two sons.

Before the war, Jenn was a waiter at the Bonnington Hotel, Southampton Row (his occupation in 1911 was junior clerk for an iron barge builder). He stood 5ft 4½in tall but he was stocky, his chest measuring 40in. On 9 August 1916 at the Battle of Morlancourt, Jenn received a gunshot wound to the abdomen. The orderlies at No. 43 Casualty Clearing Station could not save him. He had served 244 days.

L.W. JENN. Private, London Regiment, 14th Bn. (London Scottish). Service no. 7270. Died of gunshot wounds to the abdomen on 9 August 1916, aged 19. Remembered at Warlincourt Halte British Cemetery, Saulty, France

STEPHEN E. JETTEN

In 1911 Stephen Jetten, 22, was a Private with 3rd Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers, at Vacoas, Mauritius. His widowed mother, Mary, from Wych, Hampshire, lived with two other sons (she had eight children) at 78 Paradise Road, Stockwell. Stephen's father, Charles, had been a railway porter originally from Isington, Hampshire.

S.E. JETTEN. Serjeant, Royal Fusiliers, 4th Bn. Service no. L/13259. Died on 31 August 1918, aged 28. Remembered at H.A.C. Cemetery, Ecoust-St Mien, Pas de Calais, France

ERNEST JONES

Ernest Jones was born in London in about 1899, the second child of Thomas and Mary Teresa Jones. In the 1911 census all four of the Jones family's children were of school age: Teresa, 13; Ernest, 11; Frank, nine; and Lyli (sic), seven. Ernest's father worked as a hairdresser and the family home was at 46 Dawlish Street (between Wyvil Road and Wilcox Road) in Stockwell, where they had five rooms; a widowed nurse lived in one other room. After Ernest's father died, his mother married Benjamin Charles Reilly (or O'Reilly).

Ernest was conscripted around October 1916 and joined the Royal Fusiliers as private GS/67542 Jones. *Soldiers Died in the Great War* records his place of enlistment as Lambeth and serving first with the Royal Army Service Corps as T/4/220193, meaning that he was in horse transport. There are no other documents available to verify this. His medal roll entry shows he was one of a large group of men posted to the 2nd/2nd London Regiment, which may have happened before or after his entering France. His service in the London Regiment started on 30 July 1917. The battalion had suffered over 400 casualties in mid-June when attacking a section of the Hindenburg Line and was then moved north to Ypres in July 1917. The keeper of the battalion's war diary noted between 6 and 13 August 1917 a draft of 453 other ranks, bringing the total strength up to 30 officers and 749 other ranks.

The third battle of Ypres had opened on 31 July 1917 and was fought in terrible conditions of rain and mud. The 2nd/2nd London Regiment did not play a major part in the battle until September and October. An advance on 26 October 1917 turned into a bitter fight as the day progressed. The total number of killed, wounded and missing among officers and men was 397 in a single day. Ernest Jones was reported missing, but was subsequently presumed to have died on, or since, 26 October 1917.

On 23 December 1918, Ernest's mother was awarded a weekly pension of

six shillings. She lived at Dawlish Street until 1929.

CHRIS BURGE

E. JONES. Private, Royal Fusiliers, posted to 2nd/2nd Bn. London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers). Service no. 67542. Died on 26 October 1917, aged about 18. Remembered at Poelcapelle British Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen Belgium and on the war memorial inside St Anne's Church, South Lambeth Road

HENRY JONES

Henry Jones was born in 1894 or 1895 in Lambeth, the first child of Henry Edwin and Elizabeth (née Lee) Jones. By 1901 Henry was one of three siblings and the Jones family lived in the parish of St Peter, Vauxhall at 12 Spring Gardens, a property housing two families totalling 12 people. Henry's father worked as a 'pottery labourer' (Doulton & Co. Limited was located in nearby Lambeth High Street).

The 1911 census return shows the family lived at 7 Simpson Street, Wilcox Road, in South Lambeth. Henry's parents, now both in their forties, had been married for 17 years and had five children (a sixth died in infancy). Henry (snr) set out the children's details in age order: Henry, 16; Elizabeth, 13; Helen, 11; Walter, eight; and William, three. He now worked as a general labourer and young Henry as a kitchen porter. The Jones family of seven lived in four rooms, while another room was occupied by two unrelated people.

Henry Jones volunteered in May 1915 and entered France on 6 October that year as private 18600 of the 9th Bn. Devonshire Regiment. The 9th Devons had suffered terrible losses on 25 September 1915 at the Battle of Loos; a total of 15 officers and 461 men were either killed, wounded or missing. A draft of some 300 men and NCOs reached the battalion by 9 October 1915 and were then out of the front line in the Cambrin area. There were periods of trench duty in Givency and at Festubert before the battalion moved to the Somme in December 1915. January to February 1916 was a period of reorganisation, re-equipping, training and mining fatigues. More trench duty followed in March and

April at Fricourt and Mametz. May 1916 was a month of further intense training and in June the 9th Devons returned to the front line at Mametz.

Detailed orders had already been received that the battalion was to take a principal part in the anticipated attack on enemy positions on 1 July 1916, which came to be known as the Battle of the Somme. The attack was a disaster, not least for the 9th Devonshires, which lost 463 men (dead and wounded), out of the 775 in action. Henry Jones was just one of many Londoners serving in the battalion who died. The names of some 40 casualties appear on the Thiepval Memorial, but a greater number were buried together at what is now the Devonshire Cemetery in Mametz.

Members of the Jones family remained at Simpson Street, South Lambeth, until at least 1929, when the street was scheduled to be demolished. CHRIS BURGE *H. JONES. Private, Devonshire Regiment, 9th Bn. Service no. 18600. Died on 1 July 1916, aged 21 or 22. Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France and on the war memorial inside St Anne's Church, South Lambeth Road*

ROLAND GROVE JONES

Brother of Thomas Penry Jones

Ronald Grove Jones was born in Carmarthenshire, Wales in 1890, the fifth child of John and Sarah Jones. He was baptised on 27 May 1890 at Llanfihangel Aberbythych in Carmarthenshire when his father was the station master at Golden Grove Station on the Llanelly Railway.

In the 1891 census John and Sarah Jones were living at 3 Towy View Terrace, Priory Street, Carmarthen, with their five children: Arthur, nine; Laura, six; Gertrude, three; Thomas, two; and Ronald, one. By 1901, the family had come to London and were living at 40 North Street, Clapham, where John Jones worked as a self-employed dairyman. There had been three additions to the family: Muriel, born in Shropshire in 1893; Ivy Doris, born in Notting Hill, west London in 1897; and Gladys, born in

Camberwell, southeast London in 1899.

Ronald was working for his father as a milkman when he joined the newly-formed Special Reserve of the Middlesex Regiment on 28 March 1908. Reservists enlisted for a six-year term of service, and were given an initial six months of basic training before reverting to annual training of three to four weeks. At the end of basic training Ronald decided to join the Army full-time and on 12 October 1908 transferred to the Leicestershire Regiment. His declared age was 18 years and 6 months, he was 5ft 5in tall and weighed 8st 2lb with a 35in chest. He had a fair complexion, brown eyes and light brown hair. There was a small scar on his right cheek and tattoos on both forearms, including one of the Wild West entertainer Buffalo Bill, who had toured Britain between 1902 and 1904.

Ronald's life in the Leicestershire Regiment, nicknamed the Tigers, began at the Shorncliffe camp in Kent, and later Aldershot, Hampshire. After two years' service in Britain, Ronald was transferred from the 1st to the 2nd Battalion, which moved to India in December 1910. It was around this time that Ronald's family moved to 109 Larkhall Lane, Clapham. His father ran his dairy business with the help of Roland's mother and his brother Thomas and sister Muriel.

Ronald's battalion was at Ranikhet in the state of Uttarakhand in northern India when it was mobilised at the outbreak of war. They sailed from Karachi on 16 September, destined for Marseilles in France, and after a 22-day voyage via the Suez Canal, arrived there on 12 October 1914, exactly six years after Roland had first joined the Tigers. The 2nd Leicesters were part of 20th (Garhwal) Infantry Brigade, 7th (Meerut) Division of the Indian Army.

Periods of trench duty followed in the front line north of the La Bassée Canal where sniping and shelling resulted in a steady toll of casualties. They remained in this sector and were present at the action at Neuve Chapelle between 10 and 13 March 1915. 15 May 1915 was the first day of the offensive at Festubert when the 2nd

Leicesters made a night attack, having to bridge a stream enlarged by shell craters and over ground blocked by the remains of shattered trees. They failed to reach the enemy line and withdrew to their starting point, having lost many officers and men.

In the period 9 to 16 May 1915 the 2nd Leicesters' approximate casualty figures were five officers killed and four wounded; among other ranks 22 were killed, 192 wounded and 52 missing. Roland Grove Jones was among the missing. Many months passed before he was officially regarded as having died on or since 15 May 1915.

At the end of the war, in order to receive his son's medals, plaque and scroll, Roland's father completed Army Form W5080 listing the relatives of a deceased soldier. On 24 April 1919 he took the form to St Paul's, Clapham to have it witnessed and countersigned. The names of his six daughters were crowded together at the bottom of the form, while the name of his sole remaining son was alone at the top of the page. The family still lived at Larkhall Lane but two of Roland's married sisters were living elsewhere, Laura Maggie Arthur in Littlehampton and Gertrude Mary Leeland in Brecon with her sister Ivy.

CHRIS BURGE

R. G. JONES. Private, Leicestershire Regiment, 2nd Bn. Service no. 8524. Died on 15 May 1915, aged 25. Remembered at Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

RICHARD WILLIAM JONES

Richard William Rees Jones was born in Clapham in 1891, the second child of Richard Alfred Rees Jones and Selina Jones. Richard's father was born in Vauxhall and his mother, Selina Whitehorn, was born in Clapham. They married on Christmas Eve 1888 at All Saints (since demolished), Devonshire Road, South Lambeth, when they gave their address as 48 Priory Grove, which was Richard Alfred's family home.

Richard was baptised at All Saints on 12 July 1891 at which time the family lived at 11 Kepler Road, Clapham, and Richard's father worked as a self-employed house

painter and decorator. At the time of the 1891 census a few months earlier, they had been living at 130 Larkhall Lane and in 1893, when Richard's younger brother Stanley was baptised, were at 5 Union Street, Stockwell.

By 1901, Richard was the second oldest of four siblings and the Jones family were living in four rooms at 2 Kellino Street, just off Tooting High Street. The family were still in Tooting a decade later, but had moved to 1 Aldis Street. When Richard's father completed his 1911 census return, the household consisted of himself, aged 50, and Selina, 44; Stanley, 17; Winifred, 11; Beatrice, eight; Violet, five; and visitor Dorothy Silburn, seven. They rented five rooms in a three-storey property that also housed a couple and their two young children in two other rooms. In 22 years of marriage, one of Richard and Selina Jones' seven children had died in infancy. Richard's father still worked as a house decorator and his younger brother Stanley worked as a paperhanger. Richard's older brother Alfred was living in Wimbledon. Richard was not in Tooting in 1911 as he was serving with the Army.

Richard William Jones joined the East Surrey Regiment at their Kingston Depot on 31 December 1908 declaring himself to be 18 years and 6 months and that his trade was 'painter'. He was 5ft 7½in tall, weighed 8st 11lb with a 32in chest, hazel eyes, brown hair and a fresh complexion. He was posted to the 1st Battalion at Plymouth by 9 January 1908 and was there for 18 months and then at Kinsale in County Cork, Ireland for two years, then at Dublin. In May 1914 he was preparing to leave the Army and be transferred to the Reserve with his consent. Private 9769 R W Jones was now taller, heavier and bigger all round. He had achieved a 2nd Class Certificate of Education, had a single good conduct badge and was a 1st class shot. He was described as hard-working, willing, intelligent and absolutely sober, a good painter, decorator and signwriter.

Thoughts of returning to civilian life ended with the outbreak of war. There was no recorded break in his service before Richard was sent to France with

the 1st East Surrey, sailing from Dublin's Alexandra Basin on the SS *Botanist* at 6.30pm on 13 August 1914. They landed at Le Havre at midday on 15 August 1914 and reached the Mons Conde Canal by the 22nd where they deployed either side of the canal near Hautrage, about eight miles to the west of Mons. The following day, the situation rapidly deteriorated when they came under attack and, in the confusion of contradictory orders, elements of the battalion withdrew under heavy fire and river crossings were blown. The battalion withdrew as far as Bois de Boussu by 24 August 1914, having lost five officers and 134 other ranks, killed, wounded or missing. Private 9769 R W Jones was among the missing.

Enquiries made via the International Red Cross for 'soldat 9796 Blessé 24-28/8 et disparu' [soldier 9796 wounded 24-28 August and missing]. The reply address was 'M.R. Jones, 81 Dorset Road, Clapham Road, South Lambeth, London'. In a communication dated 15 January 1915 the Jones family were given the impression that Richard was a prisoner of war, but this proved to be false as the man concerned was *Robert Jones* of the 1st East Surrey. It was not until July that Richard was officially accepted to have died at Mons.

In order to receive his son's medal, plaque and scroll, Richard's father completed Army Form W5080 listing the relatives of a deceased soldier, and had it witnessed and countersigned at All Saints on 26 May 1919. He declared that he and his wife and all his surviving children lived at 48 Priory Grove, bar Richard's older brother Alfred, who lived in Wimbledon. The Jones family were still at Priory Grove until at least 1929.

CHRIS BURGE

R.W. JONES. Private, East Surrey Regiment, 1st Bn. Service no. 9769. Died on 23 August 1914, aged 24. Remembered at Hautrage Military Cemetery, Hainaut, Belgium

THOMAS PENRY JONES

Brother of Ronald Grove Jones

Thomas Penry Jones was born in

Carmarthenshire, Wales in 1889, the fourth child of John and Sarah Jones, and baptised on 3 February 1889 at Llanfihangel Aberbythych in Carmarthenshire. Thomas's younger brother Roland Grove Jones, who had joined the Army in 1908, was in France from October 1914 and was posted missing 15 May 1915. By the time Thomas attested, on 27 January 1916, the hope that Roland had been taken prisoner had all but faded. Thomas attested at Wandsworth under Lord Derby's Scheme (*see Appendix*), giving his address as 109 Larkhall Lane, Clapham, and describing his occupation as dairy foreman. He was just over 26 years old. At a medical in Battersea on 9 August 1916 he was measured at 5ft 3in tall with a 36in chest and a weight of 8st 3lb.

Thomas was not called up until 16 November 1916, reporting at Kingston, Surrey, and joined the 3rd reserve of the East Surrey Regiment at Dover four days later. Thomas was transferred to the 245 Machine Gun Company on 30 January 1917 and sent to France on 17 July that year.

Within three months he was sent to a different theatre of war, sailing from Marseilles on 14 October destined for the Persian Gulf, finally disembarking at Basra on 9 November to join the 272 MGC as a driver. He was based at the Magil Camp close to the bank of the Shatt Al-Arab waterway outside Basra.

At around 10pm on the 4 December Thomas Jones was found in a pool of blood and barely alive on the floor of No. 3 washroom. A razor was later found on the floor nearby. He was moved to the camp Hospital Tent, where he died. Foul play was suspected, but search parties involving the Arab police found nothing suspicious. An enquiry was convened within 24 hours and took evidence from several witnesses including Medical Officers. No one could be certain that the razor had belonged to Thomas and a search of his kit found no letters. However, the enquiry came to the conclusion that Thomas Penry Jones had taken his own life.

After the end of the war Roland's father completed Army Form W5080 listing the

relatives of a deceased soldier, in order to receive his medals, plaque and scroll. On 19 May 1919, as he had for his son Ronald Grove Jones a month previously, he took the form to St Paul's, Clapham to be witnessed and countersigned. CHRIS BURGE *T.P. JONES. Driver, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry), 272nd Coy. Service no. 83826. Died, possibly by suicide, on 4 December 1917, aged 22. Remembered at Basra War Cemetery, Iraq*

WILLIAM HENRY JONES

William Henry Jones was the son of Harry Jones; his widow, Ellen Millicent Jones, lived at 2 Garden Row, off Stockwell Road. *W.H. JONES. Petty Officer, Royal Navy, HMTB 90. Service no. 229583. Died on 25 April 1918, aged 29. Remembered at Portsmouth Naval Memorial and at St Andrew's Church, Landor Road, Stockwell*

ALBERT EDWARD JORDAN

Brother of Frank Andrew Jordan and John Jordan

In 1911 Albert Edward Jordan, 17, a carman, and his brother Frank Andrew Jordan, 19, a Private in the 6th Rifle Brigade (Army Reserves), lived in three rooms at 4 Nealdon Street, Stockwell with their widowed mother, Mary, 49, and four of their eight siblings.

A.E. JORDAN. Private, Grenadier Guards, 2nd Bn. Service no. 17330. Killed in action on 19 October 1915, aged 21. Remembered at Vermelles British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

FRANK ANDREW JORDAN

Brother of Albert Edward Jordan and John Jordan

Frank Andrew Jordan was born on 10 December 1891 and baptised at St Andrew's Church, Landor Road, Stockwell a month later.

Frank joined the Rifle Brigade Special Reserve on 1 April 1909 in London, describing himself as a costermonger and giving his age as 17 years and three months. He provided details of his service

on the Royal Navy training ship *Exmouth* and his discharge from the West Yorkshire Regiment Special Reserve for having given a 'misstatement as to age'. He passed as 'fit'. He was measured as 5ft 4¹/₂in, with a chest circumference of 34in. He weighed 8st. He had brown eyes and dark brown hair. His records show that at Eastbourne on 12 July 1911 he was punished with three days' confinement in camp for being unshaven on parade. His medical file notes that at Woolwich in August 1909 and again three months later he was found to have a hydrocele on his testes.

On 6 June 1914 he signed up for a further four years. Frank's Service records state that he was in the London Hospital in Whitechapel between 14 February and 12 March 1915 with shrapnel wounds to the head. He must have been sent back to the front as on 25 September 1915 he was reported missing in action and on the same day noted as killed. He had sustained a gunshot wound to the head.

On Form W5080, which families submitted in order to receive posthumous medals, Frank's mother Mary Ann Jordan described her relationship to 'the Soldier' as mother and added in brackets '(lost three sons)'.

F.A. JORDAN. Rifleman, Rifle Brigade, 2nd Bn. Service no. 6/9524. Killed in action on 25 September 1915, aged 23. Remembered at Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium

JOHN or JACK JORDAN

Brother of Albert Edward Jordan and Frank Andrew Jordan

John (aka Jack) Jordan was born in Hammersmith in 1883, the fifth child of George Thomas and Mary Ann Jordan. John's father was a self-employed jeweller. In the 1891 census the Jordan family were living in two rooms at 4 Broomgrove Road, off Stockwell Road, an area described as 'very poor' in social surveyor Charles Booth's 1890s map of London.

The family's fortunes had not improved in the following decade with the birth of a further six children. When John's youngest sibling Violet was baptised

in April 1900 at St John the Divine, Kennington, the family were living at 7 Thompsons Avenue, in one of the poorest parts of Camberwell in southeast London. John's father George, aged 42, died later in the same year, leaving Mary Ann to support seven young children with the help of her four children of working age. In the 1901 census, the Jordan family were still living at 7 Thompsons Avenue; Mary was working as a collar ironer and the family of 12 lived in three rooms in a property which housed two other families in four other rooms, making a total of 23 people at the address. The family's situation deteriorated to the point that some of Mary's youngest children were briefly taken into care and John's younger brother Frank, aged 11, was sent to the Training Ship HMS *Exmouth* where he stayed for three years.

By the time of the 1911 census, the Jordan family were living in three rooms at 4 Nealdon Street, Stockwell, a property which also housed a greengrocer's family of seven in five other rooms. When Mary, now aged 49, completed the census return her household consisted of Alfred, 26, a self-employed fishmonger; Frank, 19, who was in 'Army Reserves (Private 6th Rifle Bde)'; Albert, 17, a carman; Letty, 13; and Violet, 11. Albert was a carman for the LPD company.

Jack was over 4,000 miles away in India. He had joined the regular Army around 1907, serving as Private L/12725 of the Royal Fusiliers whose 2nd battalion had been posted to India in 1908 and was based at Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh. In the 1911 census, Jack was counted as present in the Hugh Rose barracks at Jabalpur. Jack's battalion did not return to England until December 1914. By March the following year orders were received to move to an eastern destination as the battalion was to be part of the ill-fated Gallipoli Campaign.

The 2nd Bn. Royal Fusiliers were the first to land on beach 'X' on 25 April 1915. Unlike at other beaches, they faced little opposition until they had scrambled up the cliffs and moved inland. For several days there was no respite in the fighting.

The battalion had started with 26 officers and 948 other ranks but by 30 April 1915 were reduced to 12 officers and 481 other ranks. Jack Jordan was killed in action on the day he landed on Gallipoli. He is listed in the records of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as 'Jordon'.

1915 was a bleak year for the Jordan family. John's younger brother Frank was killed in action on 25 September 1915 in Belgium and his brother Albert was killed in action in France on 19 October 1915.

By the end of the war, Mary Jordan had returned to the familiar surroundings of Broomgrove Road and lived with Alfred, Letty and Violet at no. 19, which remained their home into the 1930s. CHRIS BURGE
J. JORDAN. Private, Royal Fusiliers, 2nd Bn. Service no. L/12725. Died on 25 April 1915, aged 31. Remembered at Helles Memorial, Turkey

FREDERICK ERNEST JOSLIN



In 1911 Frederick Joslin, a 16-year-old shop assistant, was living with his family in four rooms at 51 Stockwell Green. His father, Albert Joslin, aged 43 and from Rotherhithe, southeast

London, was a general labourer in a granary. His mother, Agnes Joslin (née Sqirkell), 43, was from Needham, Suffolk. There were five children. Frederick's two brothers, Albert, 20, a carter, and George, 18, a shop assistant, served in the war and survived.

WITH THANKS TO PETER JOSLIN
F. JOSLIN. Gunner, Royal Field Artillery, 'A' Bty. 38th Bde. Service no. L/30147. Killed in action on 11 May 1918, aged 24. Remembered at Cinq Rues British Cemetery, Hazebrouck, Nord, France

FRANCIS JOHN KELLOW

Francis John Kellow volunteered in November 1915 and was posted to France in January 1918. He fought in the second Battle of the Somme, the Aisne and the Marne, and at the fourth

Battle of Ypres, where he died.

In 1911, 14-year-old Francis was living in a three-roomed flat over the family shop at 12 Lingham Street, Stockwell. His father, John George, 43, was a shoemaker from Torquay, Devon; his mother, Emily Kellow, 42, was from Brixton. There were two siblings.

F.J. KELLOW. Private, The King's (Liverpool Regiment), 1/6th Bn.; formerly London Rifle Brigade. Service no. 381862. Died of wounds on 8 September 1918, aged 22. Remembered at Pernes British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

JOHN STRACHAN KELLY

John Strachan Kelly was born in Aberdeen in about 1886. His family moved to London and at age 25, in 1911, he was living with his parents and siblings at 13 Dunbar Road, Forest Gate, east London (they later moved to 6 Benedict Road, Brixton). Kelly's father, Timothy Kelly, 50, was a customs and excise officer, originally from County Roscommon, Ireland. His mother, Agnes Kelly, 49, was from Aberdeen, Scotland. There were six siblings, five of them living at home. At the time of joining up John Kelly worked for the Board of Trade Seamen's Registry as an assistant clerk.

J.S. KELLY. Private, Surrey Yeomanry (Queen Mary's Regiment), 'A' Sqdn. Service no. 45038. Killed in action on 22 October 1917, aged 31. Remembered at Struma Military Cemetery, Greece

HUGH JOHN KEMP

Brother of Sydney Frank Kemp

Hugh John Kemp joined the 3rd London Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery (Territorial Army) on 16 February 1909. He gave his age as 17 years and two months and stated that he was a clerk at A. Stedall (the nature of the business is unknown). He was 5ft 5½in tall and his chest measured 36in. Kemp's physical development was deemed 'good' (the officer who completed the form had started to write 'poor' but struck it out).

On 10 February 1911 Kemp left the

Territorial Army to enlist in the regular Army. He joined the Lancers of the Line. By now he had grown to just over 5ft 6¾in and his chest measured 39in. At the time of the 1911 census he is found with his regiment in the barracks at Woolwich Common, southeast London.

Meanwhile, in the family home at 40 Lansdowne Gardens, Stockwell, his parents, Frank J. Kemp, 55, a hop factor's clerk, and his wife Ellen Kemp, 52, lived with nine of their 11 children (including their eldest, *Sydney Frank Kemp*), a niece and a nephew.

H.J. KEMP. Lance Corporal, 16th (The Queen's) Lancers, 'C' Sqdn. Service no. L/3287. Died of wounds on 22 October 1914, aged 22. Remembered at St André Communal Cemetery, Nord, France

SYDNEY FRANK KEMP

Brother of Hugh John Kemp

Sydney Frank Kemp's Service record shows that he had served in the 7th Hussars of the Line and had been discharged in 1905, having finished his term. At the time he re-enlisted on 26 August 1914, he was working as a prison warden.

Given Kemp's military and service background, it is somewhat surprising to see a long list of transgressions on Kemp's conduct sheet. His crimes were all committed while he was serving in the ranks of the 11th Hussars, that is before he was granted a commission, and included absence from Reveille, absence from billet, drunkenness, leaving the ranks without permission, neglecting to obey an order and making improper remarks to a warrant officer and to a commanding officer.

In April 1917, Kemp joined the 3rd Reserve Cavalry Regiment, went on to the Officer Cadet Battalion at Berkhamsted in June, and ended up in the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Perhaps Kemp found the confidence and motivation he needed. He was certainly appreciated by his regiment after he died. He and his fellow officers were described by Major G. K. Rose in *The Story of the 2/4th Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire*

Light Infantry (1920) as ‘an infusion of new blood and vigour’.

Sydney Kemp, 5ft 6in tall and weighing 8st, blue-eyed and fair-haired, married Eva Wisdom at St Barnabas Church, South Lambeth on 3 February 1916. He was the eldest of 11 children, including *Hugh John Kemp*, of Frank John and Ellen Kemp of 40 Lansdowne Gardens, Stockwell.

S.F. KEMP. Second Lieutenant, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, Bucks Bn.; previously 11th Hussars of the Line. Killed in action on 16 April 1918, aged 34. Awarded the Military Cross. Remembered at St Venant-Robecq Road Cemetery, Robecq, Pas de Calais, France

VERNER KEMP-GILES

Tentative identification

A Verner C. Kemp of 6 Hilda Road, Brixton, renting from Eli Giles, was registered to vote in 1911. We have found no further corroborative evidence for this identification, other than a listing on the war memorial inside St Michael’s Church, which gives Verner as the first name.

V. KEMP-GILES. Remembered at St Michael’s Church, Stockwell Park Road, Stockwell

R. W. KENNEDY

Not identified

ALFRED HENRY KENT

Alfred Henry Kent was born on 31 December 1882 and baptised at St Peter’s Church, Vauxhall, on 17 January 1883. He was the eighth child of John Charles Kent, a coal dealer from Lambeth, and Martha Kent, from Buckinghamshire.

John Charles Kent died in July 1888 when the family home was at 46 Glasshouse Street, Vauxhall. The family subsequently broke up and while Alfred’s older siblings found work or were given a home by relatives, five-year-old Alfred was taken into care, and in the 1891 census is shown as ‘inmate’ of North Surrey District Schools at Anerley. Alfred’s mother

married George Charles Fearncombe in 1893 when still living in Vauxhall.

Around the same time, Alfred was sent to the Training Ship *Warspite*, anchored in the Thames off Woolwich with the expectation he would later join the Navy as a boy sailor before signing for adult service at the age of 18.

When Alfred signed for 12 years’ service on 30 December 1900, he was 5ft 4in tall, with fair hair, blue eyes and a fresh complexion. His distinguishing marks were the obligatory tattoos on both arms. By 1904, he had advanced to able seaman and served on the newly-built cruiser HMS *Antrim* from July to December 1905. When he left the Navy on 20 June 1906 he was placed on Royal Fleet Reserve.

After finding work as a postal porter, Alfred was married on 13 November 1907 at St Mary the Less, Lambeth to local girl Alice Haines. The ceremony was witnessed by Alice’s father Edmund and Alfred’s sister Ada. The couple gave 5 Vauxhall Street as their address. Their first child Alice Amelia was baptised on 5 April 1908 at St Mary the Less (demolished in the 1960s) in Black Prince Road, Kennington, by which time Alfred and Alice had moved to 66 Upper Kennington Lane.

When their second child Alfred William was baptised at the same church on 5 September 1909, the family address had changed to 15 Bradford Road, Camberwell, southeast London. In the 1911 census, Alfred and Alice, together with their two young children and Alice’s widowed father, were living in four rooms at 232 Sumner Road, close to the commercial centre of Peckham High Street and the retail shops and centres of entertainment along Rye Lane.

Alfred was re-enrolled in the Fleet Reserve in 1911, committing to serve until 30 December 1917. The outbreak of war changed everything and Alfred had been mobilised and was on board the armoured cruiser HMS *Aboukir* by 2 August 1914. On the morning of 22 September, *Aboukir* and her sister ships *Cressy* and *Hogue* were on patrol in the North Sea when all three were struck by torpedoes from a single enemy submarine, the SM *U-9*,

an event that shocked the Navy and the nation. The combined casualties from all three ships was 837 men rescued, and 62 officers and 1,397 ratings lost. Of these, the *Aboukir* lost 527 men.

Alice Kent was living at 55 Tradescant Road, South Lambeth at the time of Alfred's death and later moved to 19 Turner Buildings on Millbank on the north bank of the Thames. As far as we can tell, she did not remarry and passed away in Epsom in 1960, aged 74. Alfred's son Alfred William Kent served in the Merchant Navy during the 1939–45 conflict and died in Stepney, east London, in 1972, aged 62.

CHRIS BURGE

A.F. KENT. Able Seaman, Royal Navy, HMS 'Aboukir'. Service no. 203801 (RFR/CH/B/3666). Died on 22 September 1914, aged 31. Remembered at Chatham Naval Memorial, Kent. A report in 'The South London Press' (5 January 1916) states that Kent's name appeared on a commemorative 'war crucifix', now lost, outside St Anne's Church, South Lambeth Road

WILLIAM KEYS

In 1911 William Keys, born in County Westmeath, Ireland, was 29 and working as an assistant schoolmaster at a London County Council school. He lived with his parents and siblings at 5 Grantham Road, Stockwell, where the family occupied seven rooms. His father, also called William Keys, 59, originally from County Antrim, Northern Ireland was a miller at a grain-drying works. His mother, Agnes, 55, was from County Down. They had eight children.

W. KEYS. Lance Serjeant, Seaforth Highlanders, 4th Bn. Service no. 2009. Killed in action on 9 May 1915, aged 34. Remembered at Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

WILLIAM G. KIGHTLY

In 1911 William G. Kightly, 26, was living with his wife, Florence May, 23, and 10-month-old daughter, Lilly Annie, at 2 Clyston Street, off Wandsworth Road,

where they had one room. He gave his occupation as bottle washer.

W.G. KIGHTLY. Private 2nd Class, Royal Air Force, 2nd Aircraft Depot. Service no. 127770. Died on 11 December 1918, aged about 34. Remembered at Terlincthun British Cemetery, Wimille, France

FRANK RADCLIFFE KING

In 1911 Frank Radcliffe King, 25, was working as a clerk with the Law Union and Rock Insurance Company. He lived with his parents and three of his four siblings at 57 Aytoun Road, Stockwell, where the family occupied eight rooms. His father, George Edward King, 57, originally from Gorleston, Suffolk, was a headteacher for London County Council (he later became a Justice of the Peace, Alderman and Guardian of the Borough of Lambeth, and in 1928 Mayor of Lambeth). His mother, Julia Constance King, 54, was from Islington, north London.

On 6 October *The South London Press* quoted from a letter from Colonel Lambert to his Frank's father:

'I regret to say your son was killed two days ago fighting gallantly. We had taken a position held by the Germans, and he and the bombers guarded our right flank and did great execution. He will be a great loss to the regiment, as he was so keen, and a most promising officer, but he died a soldier's death. The regiment fought splendidly, and though we had heavy casualties — four other officers in the battalion being killed — we caused great losses to the Germans. My sincere sympathy in your bereavement.'

Frank had been made Bombing Officer of his battalion, but did not want his family to know, as this would have worried them. In 1917 *The South London Press* reported the death of King's mother from pneumonia and 'shock resulting from the death in action of her dearly-loved younger son'. On the day King was killed, his elder brother, Ernest, was severely wounded.

F.R. KING. Second Lieutenant, The King's (Liverpool Regiment), 'D' Coy., 14th Bn. Killed in action on 14 September 1916, aged 30. Remembered at Doiran Memorial, Greece

JOHN FREDERICK KING

John Frederick King, a carman, joined the Army twice. First he volunteered for the Army Service Corps (Horse Transport) on 5 January 1915. His medical description paints a picture of someone short and stocky: 5ft 2¼in tall with a 40in chest. He had a mole on the back of his neck and scars on the left side of his back and left leg. At the top of his form was a signed a note: 'I am willing to allot from date of enlistment 6d. [sixpence] per day of my pay to support my wife and family'.

He had left behind Jenny (née Hawkins), whom he married at St Stephen's, South Lambeth in 1905, Frederick Ernest, nine, and Agnes Louise, eight. In 1911, the family lived at 11 Beech Street, off Dorset Road.

This period of service lasted a mere three days. On 7 January he was discharged as 'not likely to become an efficient soldier'. As the war progressed, however, this opinion may have been revised or King may have been subject to the compulsory draft. Whatever happened, he later joined the London Regiment and died near Aisne in March 1918.

J.F. KING. Private, London Regiment, 2nd Bn. (Royal Fusiliers). Service no. 231178. Died on 21 March 1918, aged 39. Remembered at Chauny Communal Cemetery British Extension, Aisne, France

WILLIAM GEORGE KING

William George King volunteered in January 1915, and shortly afterwards was posted to France. He worked on the ambulance trains, and was killed in January 1917 when he was run over by one. Ambulance trains were used to transport wounded soldiers to the French coast so that they could return to England, normally through Dover, for treatment and recuperation.

In 1911 King, 33, who was born in Chelsea, west London, lived in three rooms at 23 Wilcox Road, South Lambeth. He was a house painter. He and his wife, Margaret Annie (née Baker), 28, had a one-year-old daughter, Edith Mabel.

They shared their home with a boarder. Margaret remarried in 1919.

W.G. KING. Private, Royal Army Medical Corps, 30th Amb. Train. Service no. 51125. Died in an accident on 10 January 1917, aged about 40. Remembered at St Pierre Cemetery, Amiens, Somme, France

HENRY THOMAS LACKEY

Henry Thomas Lackey enlisted at Lambeth in September 1916 and was sent to the front in the following year. He fought at the Battles of the Somme and Ypres, and died after being severely wounded at the Menin Road.

Henry was born in Walworth, southeast London in April 1882, the son of Thomas, a shoemaker, and Elizabeth. He was baptised at St John the Evangelist Walworth, the following month. By the time of the 1901 census, aged 18, he was working as a cashier's clerk and living at 28 Industry Terrace, off Canterbury Road, Brixton with his widowed mother Elizabeth, a cleaner. In 1911 Lackey married Hannah Sarah Lucas. A son, Henry Joseph, was born in 1912, followed by William Thomas in 1913, Joseph Thomas in 1914 and Cyril George in 1916. During this period Lackey was working as a carman.

At the time of Lackey's death, the family lived at 6 Mary's Cottages, Eastcote Street, Stockwell. Hannah remarried in 1919.

H.T. LACKEY. Private, Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment), 10th Bn. Service no. 235398. Died of wounds on 21 September 1917. Remembered at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

HENRY WILLIAM LAIDLER

In 1911 Henry William Laidler, then 31 and working as a plumber, lived in three rooms at 42a Lingham Street, Stockwell. His wife Emily worked as a cigarette box maker, and they had a three-year-old daughter, Lilian.

H.W. LAIDLER. Sapper, Royal Engineers, Gen. Base Depot. Service no. 188508. Died on 25 July 1918, aged 38.

Remembered at Basra War Cemetery, Iraq

WILLIAM ALFRED LAMERTON

William Alfred Lamerton, a bricklayer, attested at Lambeth Town Hall on 10 December 1915, just before the national compulsory call-up came into force. Despite being a healthy-sounding 5ft 8¼in tall with a 40in chest and weighing 10st, his physical development was judged to be only 'Fair'. Lamerton was assigned to the Army Reserve and mobilised in December 1916. He joined the 48th Divisional Signal Company on 6 May 1917 and was killed in action in Italy in July 1918, leaving his wife Louisa to care alone for Doris, their young daughter.

In March 1920, Louisa filed her Army Form W5080, in which relatives listed the next of kin of the late soldier. She almost described herself as 'wife' but scrubbed that out and wrote 'widow' instead. She lived at 6 Emily Mansions, Landor Road, Stockwell.

William was born on 15 July 1883 in Camberwell, southeast London, the son of James E. Lamerton, a bricklayer, and Emily Ann (née Brown). He married Louisa Banfield in 1909.

W.A. LAMERTON. Sapper, Royal Engineers, 48th Divisional Signal Coy. Service no. 217128. Killed in action on 2 July 1918, aged 35. Remembered at Magnaboschi British Cemetery, Italy

HENRY LANGFORD

Henry Langford was born in 1879 in the village of Midgham, Berkshire, the second child of Jemima Hannah Hunt and master brewer Alfred Langford, who had married four years earlier. Henry's sister Emma was born in 1877. Alfred died in the winter of 1881 and Jemima married Charles Goodman the following year.

By 1891, Emma was 14 and in service, while schoolboy Henry was living with his parents and stepsiblings in Three Chimneys Lane, Thatcham, Berkshire. By the time of the 1902 census, aged 22, he was a serving soldier.

Henry had joined the 3rd Battalion of the Royal Berkshire Regiment Militia on 3 December 1895, aged 17, when he was

described as 5ft 2in tall, 7½st, with a fresh complexion, blue eyes and fair hair. He served in the militia until 3 February 1897, transferring to a regular battalion of the Royal Berkshire Regiment. He served in both Boer Wars and Egypt for two years and was decorated before extending his home service from 1905 to 1909.

Shortly after leaving the Army, Henry moved to London. In 1910, he married Louisa Elizabeth Eyles in Lambeth. In the 1911 census, they were living in two rooms at 83 Jeffreys Road, off Clapham Road. Louisa was expecting their first child and Henry worked as a cook. The property was shared by two other families, with 11 other people occupying the eight remaining rooms. Phyllis Louisa Langford was born on 3 November 1911.

Henry Langford appears to have been conscripted late in 1917 or early 1918. Records show that he enlisted in Battersea but not how he came to be in the 11th Sussex. The battalion he joined had returned from France to England in June 1918 after suffering heavy losses during the enemy's spring offensive.

After many compulsory transfers to the battalion, the 11th Sussex departed from Leith, sailing to north Russia on 19 September to support the White Russian forces against the Bolshevik Red Army in the Russian Civil War. We can speculate that Henry may have experienced the novelty of skiing lessons during the winter months, before the weather permitted the battalion to move to Murmansk in March 1919. On 8 May it was reported that '36921 L. Cpl H. Langford had died from burns at Murmansk'. No details of his accidental death were given. Henry was buried in the English sector of the Russian cemetery at Murmansk on 10 May 1919.

Henry's widow Louisa started a new life when she married William Henry Hunt on Christmas Day 1920 at St Jude's, Kensal Green in north London. William was Henry's second cousin, and the marriage was witnessed by Henry's sister Emma Hider.

Tragedy struck in the 1940 Blitz when a high explosive bomb dropped near Louisa and William's home in Marmion Road,

Battersea. Louisa died in Bolingbroke Hospital on 12 September 1940. Henry's daughter Phyllis Turner passed away in Wandsworth in 1985, aged 73. CHRIS BURGE *H. LANGFORD. Private, Royal Sussex Regiment, 11th Bn. Service no. 36921. Died on 8 May 1919, aged about 39. Remembered at Murmansk New British Cemetery, Russia*

JAMES LARCOMBE

James Larcombe, a 19-year-old typesetter from Stockwell, one of five children of Robert Larcombe, a tram conductor from Crewkerne, Somerset, joined up on 3 August 1915 at Battersea. He stood 5ft 3½in tall and weighed 8st; his chest measured 38½in and he wore glasses. There was just one conduct issue in his file. In March 1916 he was punished with three days' confinement to barracks for hesitating to obey an order. Larcombe's Army career ended at the Battle of the Somme, where he was missing in action and then declared dead.

On 2 November 1916, his mother Louisa, clinging to hope, wrote to the Rifles Record Office from her home in Hubert Grove, Stockwell: '...my son, Private J. Larcombe... was missing after being in action on 15th Sept. last, there has also being [sic] one of his letters returned marked on the outside wounded on the 21st/9/16 and present location uncertain. Dear Sir, as I am very anxious to know what has become of him, I should be most gratefully obliged if you could [make a] few inquiries about him off some of the lads that was with him on that date or any other possible way and kindly oblige.'

There is no record in the file of the Army's reply.

J. LARCOMBE. Rifleman, King's Royal Rifle Corps, 7th Bn. Service no. R/14879. Killed in action on 15 September 1916, aged 20. Remembered at Thiépval Memorial, Somme, France

GEORGE CHARLES LASHAM

George Charles Lasham was baptised at St John's, Clapham on 26 June 1892,

when his parents lived at 19 Courland Grove. In 1911, now a postman and aged 22, Lasham, lived at 137 Hartington Road, South Lambeth, where his family occupied six rooms. His father, John Lasham, 51, was an engineer's pattern maker, born in Lambeth. His mother, Eliza Lasham, 47, was from Lathbury, Buckinghamshire. Lasham had seven siblings.

On 11 January 1916 Lasham married Louisa Alice Garvey at St Barnabas, South Lambeth. She later gave her address as 7 Elwell Road, Clapham.

G.C. LASHAM. Gunner, Royal Garrison Artillery, 9th Siege Bty. Service no. 7912. Killed in action on 26 August 1916, aged 28. Remembered at Péronne Road Cemetery, Maricourt, France

ALBERT JOHN LASKEY

In 1911 Albert John David Laskey, 17, was employed as an errand boy. He later became a greengrocer's assistant, working for the Lackey family business at 6 Industry Terrace, Brixton. However, according to Thomas Lackey, who provided a testimonial to the Army on Laskey's good conduct, he had to let Laskey go as business was slack. Laskey joined the East Surrey Regiment as a Private on 3 August 1913 at Kingston upon Thames, Surrey.

Previously, Laskey lived with his family in four rooms at 33 Edithna Street, Stockwell. His father, William David Laskey, 46, originally from Hempnall, Norfolk, was a night porter in a block of flats. His stepmother, Sarah Jane Eliza Laskey, 38, was from Islington, north London. There were three half-siblings and two boarders.

The physical description of Laskey brings to mind a solid, well-built man. He was 5ft 6½in tall, 10st, with a 36in chest. He had a fresh complexion, with brown eyes and brown hair, a scar inside his right knee and a mole to the right of his abdomen.

There was only one misdemeanour on Laskey's conduct sheet: at Kingston upon Thames he was absent for three hours on 18 June 1915, for which he was

punished with five days' confinement to barracks and the loss of five days' pay. Nevertheless, in July he was promoted to Lance Corporal.

Laskey went missing on 1 July 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme. His family then had an agonising wait to discover what had happened to him. On 19 September his wife, Florence Lily (née Roberts), wrote from her home at 55 Victor Road, Teddington: 'I am asking if you [have heard] anything more of my husband... He was reported missing on July 1st.' His stepmother wrote too. 'Will you please let me know if you have any definite news of my son,' she pleaded on 26 March 1917.

A.J. LASKEY. Lance Corporal, Border Regiment, 1st Bn. Service no. 22997; formerly East Surrey Regiment. Killed in action on 1 July 1916, aged about 22. Remembered at Thiépval Memorial, Somme, France

ALFRED ROBERT LAWRENCE

Alfred Robert Lawrence, was the son of Alfred Robert Lawrence, a hawker born in Lambeth, and Rosina Mary (née Dunkley) from Middlesex. Aged 15 in 1891, Alfred was working as an assistant to his father, who was now an ironmonger. The family lived in York Road, Battersea. In 1903, when he married Lambeth-born Martha Allen, he was a carman. The 1911 census lists him as a carman at a cement works. The couple had three daughters: Martha, Mary and Emily, and lived at 4 Pownall Terrace, Kennington Road.

A.R. LAWRENCE. Private, London Regiment, 1st Bn. (Royal Fusiliers). Service no. 205241, attached 1/4th Bn. Killed in action on 28 March 1918, aged 42. Remembered at Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

ROBERT WERE LEACH

In 1911 Robert Were Leach, 19 and working as a clerk with the South West Gas Company, lived at 37 Landor Road, Stockwell, where his family occupied four rooms. His father, George Were Leach, 42,

was a railway inspector, born in Uffcombe, Devon. His mother, Julia Mary Leach, 43, was from Yeldham, Essex. Robert had two younger brothers. He enlisted in St Paul's Churchyard.

R.W. LEACH. Corporal, Wiltshire Regiment, 1st Bn. Service no. 11233. Died of wounds on 16 October 1916, aged 25. Remembered at Contay British Cemetery, Contay, Somme, France

JOHN LEE

John Lee, a chimney sweep aged 40, enlisted at Lambeth on 19 April 1915. He left behind his wife Edith (née Milne), to whom he allotted a portion of his pay, and four children aged between seven and one. Another child was born in 1916. Lee gave his address as 94 Lingham Street, Stockwell.

At 5ft 7½in tall and 11st with a 43in chest, Lee was better built than many recruits and his physical development was judged to be 'good'. He was killed in action at the Somme, having served one year and 168 days. The Army sent on his effects: letters, a purse and some photos.

J. LEE. Private, Middlesex Regiment, 19th Bn. Service no. PW/1826. Killed in action on 3 October 1916, aged about 41. Remembered at Thiépval Memorial, Somme, France

GEORGE LEVER

In 1911 George Lever, whose father was also called George Lever, was 14 and at school. He lived with his family at 70 Hubert Grove, Stockwell, where they occupied five rooms. George (snr), 56, was a carpenter, originally from Lovant, near Salisbury, Wiltshire. His wife Annie, 52, was from Clapham. They had six children.

G. LEVER. Private, The Queen's Own Royal West Surrey Regiment, 11th Bn. Service no. G/11157. Died on 17 September 1916, aged 19. Remembered at Thiépval Memorial, Somme, France

A. LEVY

Not identified

S. LEVY

Not identified

HENRY WALTER LIPPOLD

In 1911 Henry Walter Lippold lived at 28 Grantham Road, Stockwell with his widowed mother, Rosalie Henrietta Lippold (née Uffman), 75, who was born in the Strand, London, and two sisters. The family occupied seven rooms. Henry was a clerk for a stationer. His father, watchmaker Conrad Lippold, was a naturalised British subject from Hanover, Germany.

Lippold enlisted in 1914 at Westminster. His widow, Elizabeth, whom he had married some time after 1911, lived at 107 Nutfield Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey. *H. W. LIPPOLD. Rifleman, London Regiment, 'D' Coy., 2/16th Bn. (Queen's Westminster Rifles). Service no. 550848. Killed in action on 28 September 1918, aged 42. Remembered at Tyne Cot Memorial, Heuveland, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium*

CECIL LISSENDEN

In 1911 Cecil Byron Walter Cooper Lissenden, aged 12, lived at 34 Stockwell Park Road, an eight-roomed house, with his father, Cecil Cooper Lissenden, a 44-year-old London-born singing teacher, and his grandparents.

C. LISSENDEN. Lance Corporal, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry), 200th Coy. Service no. 156714; formerly Royal West Surrey Regiment. Killed in action on 7 October 1918, aged 20. Remembered at Laventie Military Cemetery, La Gorgue, Nord, France and at St Michael's Church, Stockwell Park Road, Stockwell

CLAUDE PERCY LLOYD

Claude Percy Lloyd was baptised at St Stephen's, South Lambeth on 8 April 1896, when his family was living at 99 Tradescant Road, South Lambeth. His Irish father, Arthur Wellesley Lloyd, was a schoolmaster. In 1911 aged 17, Claude was working as a printer's reader and living

with his widowed mother, dressmaker Annie Elizabeth (née Dixon), 44, born in Westminster, and an elder brother in two rooms at 29 Tradescant Road.

C. P. LLOYD. Private, Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, 'A' Coy. 10th Bn. Service no. 240489. Killed in action on 20 November 1917, aged 24. Remembered at Fifteen Ravine British Cemetery, Villers-Plouich, Nord, France

THOMAS LOADER

Thomas Loader, who was born in Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, where he enlisted, and lived in Clapham, died at Gallipoli. *T. LOADER. Serjeant, Welsh Regiment, 8th Bn. Service no. 2749. Killed in action on 8 August 1915. Remembered at Helles Memorial, Turkey*

WILLIAM G. LOVETT

William Lovett's mother, Sophia Lovett, lived at 136 Larkhall Lane, Stockwell. *W. LOVETT. Private, London Regiment, 1/23rd Bn. Service no. 1719. Killed in action on 27 October 1915, aged 20. Remembered at Loos Memorial, France*

FREDERICK JAMES LOWLES

Frederick James Lowles enlisted in August 1917 at Camberwell, and embarked for France the following year. He was wounded at Arras and at Villers Bretonneux. He later rejoined his unit, and was severely wounded at Péronne. He died in hospital from his injuries.

In 1911 Frederick James Lowles, then aged 11, lived in three rooms at 4 Edithna Street, Stockwell. His father George William Lowles, 46, was a paper-hanger, born in Tower Hill, east London. His mother, Elizabeth, 44, was born in Lambeth. Frederick had three siblings. *F. J. LOWLES. Private, Northamptonshire Regiment, 6th Bn. Service no. 49765. Died of wounds on 18 September 1918, aged 19. Remembered at Doingt Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France and at St Andrew's Church, Landor Road, Stockwell*

JOHN GEORGE LOWTHER

John George Lowther was born in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and enlisted at Lambeth. His widow, Cecilia, lived at Speenham Road, Brixton.

J.G. LOWTHER. Serjeant, The Queen's Own Royal West Surrey Regiment, 11th Bn. Service no. G/10804. Killed in action on 7 June 1917, aged 30. Remembered at Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

HYMAN LUBEL



Hyman Lubel's greatnephew Jon Friend writes: 'Hyman was born in Mile End in the east end of London in about 1887, the eldest of five children who were orphaned in about 1906. He took over responsibility of bringing up his younger siblings in very tough times. He was very sporty and active in the Brady Club of Whitechapel.' In 1915 Hyman was living at 5 Fremont Street in Hackney and the following year he married Rebecca (Beck) Kutchinsky in Whitechapel, east London in 1916.

'Just before the Great War Hyman moved to south London and began a small printing company. He was called up and lost his life towards the end of the war. My own grandfather served in the Suffolk Regiment and survived the war, after which he took over the business. I understand he never got over the death of his older brother and died in 1946.'

A fragment of a letter from Hyman Lubel to his sister Yetta is in the possession of his descendants. On 29 January 1918, he wrote:

'Thank you very much for your letter dated 21st. & received this evening, which was the more welcome in that it was unexpected. As you say, one was long due from you.

'I notice you say you have to be satisfied with the little that Beck [his wife] reads to you now & then from my letters. You should not mind this for really it is most

difficult to manufacture news where the life lead is most monotonous in its [illegible] particularly when applied to the exciting escapes & glories of war, but is true all the same. As a matter of fact it is very seldom that I write anything in the way of news to Beck. I never write her of what does go on up the line, conditions, privations etc etc, neither do I ever let her know [illegible] from my letter — that shells, wounds & such like are the usual accompaniment to breakfast, dinner & tea. It wouldn't do. She couldn't stand it. No man out here writes his wife of these things. Their burden, especially now, is quite heavy enough without adding to the [existing?] torture. I did once write her — a nasty strafe I was in for a whole day on the 30th Dec, but only because I was able to follow on with some assurances that it would not occur in the future as I was being attached to the [illegible] & would hear & see shells no more. To you & John I can say rather more than this. You can stand it better. The new job is far better than being with the [illegible] — it is true but I am right in the thick of it just the same. When I get back from the line I am however assured of a comfortable night's rest and have various conveniences altogether denied to the infantryman staying in the line, that is all. I am still with shellfire. Seeing that I haven't written you for so long you will certainly expect some special news for yourself. I will give some little idea of two days' programme, yesterday's and today's. In no case is there the slightest exaggeration. It is merely a part of what many go thro' daily "up the line" on the Western Front.

'28/1/18 I start out on my round early this morning. Carrying a basket packed with many tins of cigarettes, tinned foods, chocolate sweets etc etc. Slung over my shoulder I carry a large bag containing 150 packets of biscuits. The whole makes a fairly heavy load to take up to the "line", some 5 to 8 kilometres distant. With box respirator (protection against gas attack) at the "alert" position & steel helmet on, I am ready for anything. I have gone 1 to 11/2 kilometres when I reach a valley named X which runs either side of the

road. I don't like this spot for there are several batteries of artillery all along the valley & batteries always draw shellfire. Sooner or later they are located by aircraft & strafed unmercifully. Just nearby is an RAMC Aid Post and a wounded man is being carried to it when "whee-ew," "whee-ew-zlimp" out from nowhere & suddenly one of Fritz's big "black ones" comes crashing down & bursts about 12 yards from the stretcher-bearing party, and about 40 yards from where I am. Everybody (—labor party is just passing by) instinctively ducks for when an 8 inch shell drops, shrapnel & earth are flying all over the place. Luckily nobody is hurt — which is really wonderful — though bits of earth & tiny bits of shrapnel hit your helmet. But where one shell drops, more usually follow so we all make for cover, the protection of the slopes banking the valley being about the best. The second shell follows quickly enough but like me drops into the valley but, fortunately, not on the same spot. Fritz is undoubtedly searching for the guns & once this happens he may continue for 2 hours, or just send two or three shells over. Well, he sent many, some dangerously near & the earth is really flying all about the place. What with slipping & stumbling & falling with my load & ducking [?] I felt pretty relieved to reach an artillery sap about 100 yards away, where I could consider myself fairly safe. The sap was crowded when I reached it so I left my goods at the entrance & got in. Well we daren't move out for quite two hours, for the shells were plonking all round us. My companion (he sells newspapers) took refuge in a dugout used as a cookhouse. A lump of shrapnel burst through our roof & knocked a camp kettle clean off the fire. Luckily no one hurt but everyone shifts out pretty quickly.

'Fritz is bombing overhead so I had better put the light out & go to bed & continue this tomorrow.

'To continue: When things appear to have quieted down I cleared out, proceeded on my round, sold out & got back. Shells were whistling overhead now & then as usual for the rest of the journey tis true, but this is nothing & I only had

to duck twice till I got back. Well, all the boys felt quite sure I had been hit & were on the point of enquiring of the Aid Post if I had been brought in. Well, we will call that day finished.

'29/1/18 Started out as usual & carried on. Nothing particular — just one or two odd shells — till I was on my way back. I was particularly anxious to avoid the road in that part of the valley already mentioned as they were heavily shelling the batteries on the left, so I made a wide detour to the right. This took me well away for when I made for the road again I found I had to go about 3000 yards across country to get to it. Well, Jerry (Fritz) started to shell the ground in front of me, about 200 yards [away]. I waited a minute to see exactly what he meant to do. He ranged from straight in front to about 300 yards half eight for about 5 minutes, so I decided to move forwards but somewhat to the left, though it meant going farther out of my way. As I shifted so Jerry shifted, so I decided after a slight wait to go to the right again. Jerry did the same & then started quite a barrage all along my front, left & right. I dropped to the ground & waited for about a quarter of an hour, till he had calmed down somewhat & then decided that the best thing was to go straight forward. He was then sending them over at about one a minute and as a big shell always gave timely warning by its peculiar whistle I ducked when necessary & went on again. When I got to the ground about where he had been shelling I saw it was a ridge at the back of which was a valley where we had evidently had a battery of guns previously for gunpits & dugouts ran all along. Just as I dropped over the ridge & down the slope Jerry started again & in earnest this time. They came thick & fast all around. I was hunched up at the bottom of the bank wondering when mine was coming for one had pitched just 10 yards in front. Well I had the wind up badly; to describe it is quite impossible. To get to the opposite bank up the slope & over the ridge looked a matter of about 60 yards. To move about was risky, but to stay where I was seemed worse so I decided to make a dash for it.

Well I went for it, hell for leather. I found I had to go much further to get over the ridge into the next fall in the ground but managed it safely & sank down to regain my breath, for the spurt had taken all the wind out of me. I still carried my basket & bay. But Jerry was only mocking at & playing with me & seemed to be doing so for he had driven me on to a battery again, possibly the same battery that had shifted from the dip I had just left. Well I made haste to get out of this. Batteries, battery positions & shells are getting on my nerves now & when to cap it all Jerry lifted his range & started [to] shell this battery I felt like going to pieces altogether. I felt madly inclined to run wild. Luckily I didn't but instead of stopping to duck, or commencing to run I decided to walk straight for the road, quickly making up my mind that if I was to be hit, I would be, if not I would walk safely out of range. As I walked I could hear the screaming of the shells & the shock of the explosion, but daren't turn round although they seemed to be coming straight at me. Jerry followed me no further however than the battery and when I had gone about 400 to 500 yards & was within 20 yards of the road I turned round. Yes the shells were still dropping round the battery, tearing up great holes in the ground with every crash & sending up lumps of earth into the air. I felt much better now & stopped to sell my last tin of cigarettes to an artillery cook. As I was speaking to him a piece of shrapnel came with a thud on the ground between us, bounced against the cookhouse door post & fell to the ground. It was Jerry's reminder to me that a piece like that (even a jagged piece of metal about...'

Unfortunately, the rest of the letter has been lost.

Hyman Lubel was the eldest child of Russian-born Lazarus Lubel, a tailor, and Esther. In 1901 the family, then consisting of his parents and four of their sons, lived at 60 Vallance Road, Mile End, east London. There were also two daughters, Dora and Yetta, the recipient of Hyman's letter. Hyman was a member of the Brady Boys Club football team. In 1911 he lived at 170 Clapham Road, Stockwell.

In 1921 Hyman's widow Rebecca married master tailor Israel Ragol-Levy. She died in 19149, aged 60, in Ramsgate, Kent.

H. LUBEL. Private, Prince of Wales's (North Staffordshire Regiment), 8th Bn.; formerly Royal Army Ordnance Corps. Service no. 50395. Killed in action on 30 May 1918, aged about 24. Remembered at Soissons Memorial, Aisne, France and listed in the 'British Jewry Book of Honour 1914-1918'

ARTHUR GEORGE LUCKHURST

Arthur George Luckhurst lived in Clapham and enlisted at Kingston upon Thames. His mother lived at 31 Union Street, Clapham.

A.G. LUCKHURST. Private, The Queen's Own Royal West Surrey Regiment, 6th Bn. Service no. 70071. Killed in action on 23 August 1918, aged 19. Remembered at Méaulte Military Cemetery, Somme, France

CHARLES EDMUND LUFF

Charles Edmund Luff was born in the West End of London, enlisted at Edward Street, Paddington, west London and lived in Stockwell. He was baptised on 31 March 1889 at St Paul's, Brixton, the son of Charles and Winifred Luff of 163 Upper Kennington Lane.

C.E. LUFF. Corporal, London Regiment, 1/3rd Bn. (Royal Fusiliers). Service no. 1130. Killed in action on 10 March 1915. Remembered at Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

OSMOND JOHN G. MACKENZIE



Brother of Roderick Emile Leadbetter Mackenzie

An obituary in an unattributed article titled 'A Loss to the Library Dept.' reads: 'Rifleman Osmond Mackenzie, who was in the Library Department, joined the London Regiment a few months

before the war began. He immediately volunteered for the service in the fighting field, but was not sent to France until Christmas, 1916. Almost at once he was attached to the Lewis gun detachment of his corps, and had the usual rough and tumble. On one occasion, according to a comrade, Mackenzie fought his gun alone for some time, all the other lads having been killed or wounded. His officer writes to his parents:

“Your son was in charge of the machine-gun. He was seen by his comrades to be wounded, but I regret that nothing further has been heard of him. May I add that your son was the most capable gunner, and I feel his loss keenly.” Nothing further is known of his fate except the official “Killed in action.” Three brothers of Mackenzie have had experience of the war — two of them maimed.’ Note: We have been unable to find the location of the library where Osmond worked.

The 1911 census shows Osmond and Roderick Mackenzie, aged 13 and 12, living with their parents and nine siblings in five rooms at 10 Atherfold Road, Stockwell, which was also home to another family of four. Their father, James Leadbetter Mackenzie, originally from Edinburgh, was a journalist. Their mother, Kate Hilda Emita Churnside Mackenzie (née Grant), was from Inverness.

O.J.G. MACKENZIE. Rifleman, London Regiment, 1/6th Bn. (City of London Rifles). Service no. 1662. Killed in action on 15 September 1916, aged 19. Remembered at Thiépval Memorial, Somme, France

RODERICK EMILE LEADBETTER MACKENZIE

Brother of Osmond John G. Mackenzie
Roderick Emile Leadbetter Mackenzie was born in Wimbledon, southwest London in 1898. His name is included in *Ireland's Memorial Records 1914–1918*.

R.E.L. MACKENZIE. Rifleman, Royal Irish Rifles, 14th Bn.; formerly King's Royal Rifle Corps. Service no. 14/42565. Killed in action on 2 September 1917, aged 19. Remembered at Hermies British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

JOSEPH TEMPLE MANDALE

In 1911, Joseph Temple Mandale, aged 30 and born in Brixton, was living at 61 Bessborough Place, Pimlico. He worked in the wine trade, was married to Gertrude Eleanor Carter, 20, from Westminster, and had a son so new he had not yet been named (he was Charles Edward Mandale). There were two further children of the marriage. Joseph was born in Herne Hill, south London, on 17 March 1881, one of three children of Joseph Mandale, a Fulham solicitor, and Marie Mandale (née Temple), a dressmaker. He was baptised at St Matthew, Brixton on 13 April 1881 when the family was living at 11 Dulwich Road. He enlisted at Camberwell.

J. MANDALE. Lance Corporal, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), 8th Bn. Service no. 1728. Died of wounds on 20 November 1915, aged about 34. Remembered at Douai Communal Cemetery, Nord, France and on a 'war crucifix', now lost, outside St Anne's Church, South Lambeth Road, Vauxhall

ARTHUR STANLEY MANNING

Arthur Stanley Manning was a career soldier. He enlisted in the Royal Horse and Royal Field Artillery at 88 New Kent Road on 9 December 1909, having worked previously as a printer's engineer. Manning was then 19, 5ft 7½in tall, 9¾st with a chest measurement of 36in, blue eyes and brown hair.

Manning's work as a battery wheeler was solid. At the time he renewed his commitment to the Army on 11 December 1914, he had gained two good conduct badges and his military character was described as 'very good'. He was killed in action on 25 December 1915 at Kut-al-Amarah in the Persian Gulf, having served a total of six years and 15 days. His sister, May Adelaide Parsons, who lived at 9 Meadow Road, South Lambeth received a letter from the Records office at Dover enclosing a communication from the Viceroy of India. Unfortunately, this letter is not included in Manning's service file. On 1 March 1916 the War Office requested a copy of Manning's Record of Service 'showing the

Indian period' and later Lieutenant E.F. Durand, on behalf of the adjutant General of India, sent May a letter of condolence.

Manning was one of at least six children of James L.B. Manning, a machine operator born in Holborn, central London, and Mary Manning, born in Lambeth. A.S. MANNING. *Wheeler, Royal Horse Artillery and Royal Field Artillery. Service no. 60740. Killed in action on 23 December 1915, aged about 25. Remembered at Kut War Cemetery, north of Baghdad, Iraq*

ALBERT MARJERAM

In 1911 Albert Marjeram, then 15, worked as a van guard for the London & South Western Railway. He lived with his parents and two of his seven siblings in three rooms at 2 Kibworth Street, Dorset Road, off Clapham Road. His father, William Marjeram, 55, was a night watchman born in Lambeth. His mother, Ruth Marjeram, 54, was from Manchester.

WITH THANKS TO ANDY MCLVENNA

A. MARJERAM. *Private, London Regiment, 2/2nd Bn. (Royal Fusiliers). Service no. 232420. Killed in action on 20 December 1917, aged 21. Remembered at Tyne Cot Memorial, Heuveland, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium*

CHARLES THOMAS MARKHAM



Charles Thomas Markham was born on 12 July 1894 and baptised at Christ Church, Clapham, on 30 August 1894. He was the fifth child of William and Mary Ann (née Shelton). By the time of the 1901 census there had been another addition to the family and Charles was one of six children living with their parents in four rooms at 11 Broomgrove Road, Stockwell. The property also housed another family of six in three other rooms. Charles' father, William Markham, worked as a carpenter and joiner.

Two more children were born in the following years, Sidney in 1904 and

Stanley in 1907. When Charles' father completed the 1911 census return, the Markham household consisted of William, 46; Mary Ann, 45; Charles, 16, Jessie, 12, Sidney, seven; and Stanley, four. Charles (jnr) worked as a grocer's shop assistant. The family of six now lived in three rooms at 75 Ellerslie Road, Clapham. Another family of six lived in three other rooms at the same address.

Charles Markham was of military age when war was declared but was not caught up in the patriotic fervour of the early volunteers. The date at which Charles Markham joined the Army can only be estimated as his Service papers have not survived. The level of his war gratuity equates to an enlistment around February 1916. Charles joined a Territorial Force unit, but the expected original four-digit Service number is absent from the medal rolls; only a six-digit Service number, 232431, is recorded, giving the appearance that his service started in 1917. The surviving papers of other men with Service numbers close to 232431, but with known previous four-digit numbers, show individuals first volunteering under Lord Derby's Scheme (see *Appendix*) late in 1915, being called up early in 1916, joining the 3rd reserve battalion of the 2nd London Regiment and remaining in the UK until sent to France on 22 January 1917, posted to the 2nd battalion of the 2nd London Regiment, part of the 173rd Brigade.

The medal roll records that Charles Markham was part of a draft entering France on 17 April 1917, joining the 2/2nd London Regiment when it was in the Bullecourt area south of Arras. The 2/2nd London took part in actions to take a section of the Hindenburg Line at Bullecourt in May and June 1917. The casualties noted on the 17 June 1917 were 17 officers and 392 other ranks. By the end of August they were in the Ypres Salient, taking part in the offensive in September and again on 26 October when the 2/2nd London partly led an attack to neutralise enemy strong-points. In atrocious conditions, there was limited success at the cost of nearly 400 casualties, the bulk of whom were either wounded or posted

missing. The battalion remained in the Salient through the winter.

In the spring of 1918, the battalion was based south of the old Somme battlefield near the River Oise, thinly stretched over a front of more than two miles. The southern extreme of the enemy's spring offensive of 21 March 1918 fell on the front held by the 173rd Brigade. By mid-morning 'A' company were still holding out at Travecy, the rest of the battalion had been reduced to one officer and about 40 men. Company 'A' were cut-off at Travecy and surrendered at 1am on 23 March. By 26 March, what was left of the battalion were six miles southwest of Chauny and continued to withdraw, having no further contact with the enemy until mid-April. According to the Brigade war diary, casualties were estimated to be 21 officers and 617 other ranks.

There are no records to say how and when Charles Thomas Markham found himself detached from his battalion and it is only his Commonwealth War Graves Commission entry that makes reference to him being attached to 7th Bn. Royal Fusiliers. This battalion were further north when attacked on 21 March 1917 and in the following days were forced to withdraw as far as the Aveluy Wood by 26 March. On 5/6 April, the 7th Bn. Royal Fusiliers were attacked by a strong enemy force and a fierce fight took place at Aveluy Wood. Charles Thomas Markham was posted missing on 6 April 1918.

His name first appeared on the British Red Cross & Order of St John Enquiry List of wounded and missing on 2 August, when he was listed as 232431 Markham of the 2/2 London regiment. The Markham family had also contacted the International Red Cross in an attempt to locate him, hoping he was a prisoner of war. By this time, the Markham family were living at 75 Paradise Road, Stockwell and they had sought the help of a nearby acquaintance, solicitor's clerk John Bernard, who lived at 57 Larkhall Lane, to assist with the paperwork. But no trace of Charles was found.

When the Armistice came, the Markham family made a final effort to locate their son

and Charles' details appeared in the British Red Cross & Order of St John Enquiry List for a second time, on 20 November 1918. But Charles was not among the prisoners returning after the war and they were left to come to terms with the fact that he had died on, or since, 6 April 1918, and that they would only have a vague idea where and how he was lost on the battlefield. They had every reason to remember their son on the Stockwell War Memorial.

With no known grave, the name MARKHAM C.T. was added to one of the panels of the Pozières Memorial to the missing, unveiled by Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien on 4 August 1930.

Charles' parents were still living at 75 Paradise Road in the 1930s. William passed away in 1932, aged 67, and Mary Ann Elizabeth in 1944, aged 75. CHRIS BURGE C.T. MARKHAM. *Private, London Regiment, 2nd Bn. (Royal Fusiliers); also Royal Fusiliers, attached 7th Bn. Service no. 232431. Killed in action on 6 April 1918, aged about 23. Remembered at Pozières Memorial, Somme, France*

FREDERICK MARLOW

Before Frederick Marlow enlisted in the Army, he was an abstractor in the Board of Trade's Labour Department. The date of his appointment was 29 May 1912 and his salary was £45 per annum.

Frederick Marlow's brother George, a clerk at the Admiralty, also served in the Army (London Regiment, 15th Battalion). He was discharged in late September 1918 as no longer physically fit for war service after suffering a gunshot wound to the wrist.

Frederick was baptised at St Andrew's, Landor Road on 24 June 1894. In 1911 the Marlow family lived at 15 Stansfield Road, Stockwell, where they occupied six rooms. John Marlow, 53, a joiner from Twickenham, Surrey and Catherine Marlow, 51, from Gypsy Hill, southeast London, had five children. Frederick, 16, was listed as a 'boy clerk'.

F. MARLOW. *Private, London Regiment, 1/13th Bn. (Kensington). Service no. 2999. Killed in action on 9 May 1915, aged about 20. Remembered at Ploegsteert Memorial,*

Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium, on the war memorial plaque unveiled at 1 Victoria Street, London SW1 on 11 November 2002 (it replaced the Board of Trade Roll of Honour which has been missing for many years), on the Memorial to the Staff of the Ministry of Labour, hanging in Caxton House, Tothill Street, London SW1, and at St Andrew's Church, Landor Road, Stockwell

FREDERICK ALBERT MARSH

Frederick Albert Marsh was baptised on 26 February 1899 at St Mary Magdalene, Bermondsey, east London, where his parents, Frederick Edwin Marsh, a railway goods shunter, and Frances Ellen Banks, had married just over a year earlier. By the time of the 1901 census, Frederick's younger sister Ellen Frances was five months old and the family of four had moved to 8 Gaskell Street, off Union Road, Stockwell. Engine driver William Meads' family of eight lived at the same address.

The 1911 census shows Frederick and Ellen Marsh had three children: Frederick Albert, 12, Ellen Francis, 10 and John Edwin, six. The family lived in five rooms at 37 Priory Grove. A family of four occupied two other rooms in the same house. Frederick's father described himself as a railway servant. He had been employed by the London & South Western Railway since 1888, working as a shunter at Nine Elms. He was promoted yard foreman by 1907 and by 1912 his weekly wages were 38 shillings. During the war, the railways would be vital to the war effort and employees of the L&SWR were issued with a special war service badge.

If Frederick and Ellen thought their 16-year-old son Frederick was too young to fight in this war, they were mistaken. With or without their consent, in the first week of June 1915, he volunteered at 9 Tufton Street, the administrative headquarters of the 2nd London Regiment. New recruits joined the 4th/2nd Battalion, the training reserve. Frederick was now private 4616 Marsh.

Some underage recruits were weeded out before transfer to the 1st/2nd, or

reported underage on landing in France, but Frederick seems to have remained in the Regiment, in England, until November 1916, when he was part of a large transfer of men to the 12th Irish Rifles and was renumbered rifleman 43355 Marsh.

A draft of around a hundred men sailed from Southampton to Le Havre on 11 November 1916, joining the 12th Royal Irish Rifles at the front near Messines two weeks later.

After months of trench-holding, Frederick was with the 12th Royal Irish Rifles during the attack at Messines in early June and at Ypres in July and August, when heavy rain and constant shelling turned the battlefield into a hideous morass. On 15 August the battalion was readying for a 4.45am zero-hour attack the following day. Frederick was killed when their position was shelled.

Frederick's parents were still at 37 Priory Grove when his father died in 1934. His mother passed away in 1949, aged 77.

CHRIS BURGE

F.A. MARSH. Rifleman, Royal Irish Rifles, 12 Bn. Service no. 43355; previously 4616. Died on 15 August 1917, aged 18. Remembered at Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

RICHARD JAMES MARSHALL

Richard James Marshall was a commercial coachman. The 1911 census shows him, aged 39, living with his wife, Waterloo-born Charlotte Jane, also 39, at 6 Eastcote Street, Stockwell, where they had four rooms. They had two children. Marshall enlisted at Camberwell.

R.J. MARSHALL. Serjeant, Royal Field Artillery, 'B' Bty. 186th Bde. Service no. L/40226. Killed in action on 24 March 1918, aged 45. Remembered at Pozières Memorial, Somme, France and at St Michael's Church, Stockwell Park Road, Stockwell

FRANK CLIFFORD JOHN MASON

On 12 July 1915 Frank Clifford John Mason, an only child living with his mother and stepfather, lied about his age in order

to enlist. He was born in September 1899 and was two or three months shy of his 16th birthday. He claimed to be a 19-year-old clerk, and this was accepted. A little over a year later he was dead.

Frank's father, also named Frank Mason, was described in the 1901 census as a 'manager specialist', aged 58 and born in Pimlico. The 1891 census lists him as a 'chef and manager' and shows that he had a previous family. He had been married to Esther, at 54 seven years older than himself, and there was a grandson, one-year-old Thomas F.M. Tickling, so the couple must have had a daughter. They lived at 22 Stansfield Road, Stockwell.

Some time after 1891, Frank senior became a widower; in 1899 he married again. His bride, Maud Mary from Ipswich, was almost half his age. Soon there was a child, the Frank listed on the Memorial. But Frank (snr) died in 1904, leaving Maud a widow and Frank (jnr) without a father. Less than two years later, in 1906, Maud herself married for the second time, this time to a man closer to her own age. Arthur Petherick, shown as 31 on the 1911 census, was a railway clerk born in Dorking, Surrey in 1880. The family — Maud, Arthur and Frank — now lived at 22 St Michael's Road, Stockwell, along with three boarders.

The examining officer described Mason as 'slight'; he stood 5ft 4½in tall with a 34½in chest. Unsurprisingly, given his age, he was emotionally immature. While training at Northampton in March 1916, he was in trouble for insubordination and for making improper remarks to an NCO, for which he was punished with 14 days' detention.

The war was soon over for Mason. He was posted to France on 21 April 1916 and just over four months later, on 24 August, killed in action, having served a total of one year and 44 days. He had not yet reached his 17th birthday. On 28 August 1918, Frank's effects — photos, identity disc, diary and postcards — were forwarded to his mother and stepfather. The Army asked for acknowledgement of receipt, but Mrs. Petherick's reply questioned the whereabouts of her son's

other possessions. 'I wish to point out,' she wrote, 'that seeing these other items were recoverable from my son's body, there were other things such as watch, cigarette cases, fountain pen etc. which should have come to hand.'

Maud herself did not live long after this. The records show that she died in March 1919 in Epsom, Surrey and by March the following year Arthur Petherick, Frank's stepfather, was answering the War Pensions Board's queries. He stated that his stepson had no other relatives.

F.C.J. MASON. Private, Middlesex Regiment, 17th Bn. Service no. PS/2538. Killed in action on 24 August 1916, aged 16. Remembered at Euston Road Cemetery, Colincamps, Somme, France and at St Michael's Church, Stockwell Park Road, Stockwell

HERBERT WILLIAM MAY

Herbert William May first joined the London Regiment in April 1915 when he was about 16. He enlisted at St John's Hill, Wandsworth and was accepted into the 23rd Battalion of the London Regiment (Territorial Force). May was 5ft 7in tall, just over 9st and 35½in around the chest. His physical development was judged to be 'good'. He stated that he was 19. This was a lie and on Christmas Day 1915, having served nearly seven months, he was discharged 'having made a mis-statement as to age'. Later he joined the Machine Gun Corps and died of wounds at Etaples.

The 1911 census shows May, then 12, living in a three-roomed apartment at 51 Riverhall Street (now gone, this street ran parallel with Camellia Street), South Lambeth. His parents, Walter Charles May, 40, a general labourer, and Mary Ann May, 45, were both from Box, Wiltshire. Herbert had two siblings. The family later moved to 76A Thorparch Road, on the other side of Wandsworth Road.

H.W. MAY. Private, Machine Gun Corps, 2nd Bn.; formerly London Regiment. Service no. 129402. Died of wounds on 22 October 1918, aged 19. Remembered at Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

WILLIAM MAY

Tentative identification

No corroborative evidence has come to light other than a listing on the war memorial inside St Michael's Church.

W. MAY. Remembered at St Michael's Church, Stockwell Park Road, Stockwell

DOUGLAS B. MAYBANK

Douglas B. Maybank was mobilised at the outbreak of war, and was almost immediately drafted to France. He took part in the Retreat from Mons, the Battles of the Marne, the Aisne, Ypres and the Somme. He died on the Cambrai front in the Advance of 1918.

In 1911 Maybank, aged 23, was working, like his father, as a grainer and marbler (he painted wood grain effect and stained paper to look like marble), living at 22 Aytoun Road, Stockwell. The household included his father William Maybank, 50, originally from Epsom, Surrey, mother Harriett Maybank, 48, from Ellingham, Norfolk, four siblings and two other relatives. In 1912 he married Florence Alice Clark at St Andrew's Church, Landor Road. After he died, she gave her address as 29 Tasman Road, Stockwell.

D.B. MAYBANK. Serjeant, King's Royal Rifle Corps, 20th Bn. Service no. R/24284. Killed in action on 29 June 1918, aged 30. Remembered at Sandpits British Cemetery, Fouquereuil, Pas de Calais, France

GEORGE HENRY MAYES

George Henry Mayes died of a shrapnel wound to his right side in 2nd (R.N.) Field Ambulance. He left a widow, Elizabeth M. Mayes, of 10 Stafford Road, Brixton.

G.H. MAYES. Private, Royal Marines, RM Div. Train, RN Div. Service no. Deal/1834 (S). Died of shrapnel wounds on 12 June 1915, aged 35. Remembered at Lancashire Landing Cemetery, Turkey

DANIEL McCONLOUGH

Daniel McConlough was born in Liverpool on 30 March 1878 and baptised on

6 April 1878, the seventh child of Daniel and Catherine (née Kelly) McConlough. Daniel's parents were born in Ireland around 1841 and were part of the migration to Liverpool in the years of the Irish Potato Famine and after. After escaping deprivation in Ireland many emigrants found themselves concentrated in areas close to Liverpool's docks, living in overcrowded and insanitary conditions.

In 1891, at the age of 13, Daniel was one of nine siblings living with their parents at 35 McKee Street, a 'two up, two down' property without a bathroom off the Scotland Road, with Victoria Square to its rear. It was a short street with only a few habitable houses. Daniel's father worked as a dock labourer. Scotland Road, known locally as Scottie Road, was associated with a large number of Irish Catholic residents, whose MP was the Irish Nationalist, T.P. O'Connor.

Daniel joined the Army on 6 April 1897, attesting in Liverpool exactly 19 years after his baptism. It was a time when the general public's ambivalent view of the private soldier was summed up by Rudyard Kipling's 1890 poem Tommy ('For it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' "Chuck him out, the brute!" / But it's "Saviour of 'is country" when the guns begin to shoot'); for many it was viewed as a choice between the Army or the workhouse.

Daniel could, with some pride, say he had joined the best, as he had been accepted as a recruit to the Grenadier Guards based in London. He described himself as a porter and was then a little over 5ft 8in tall, weighed just under 9½st and had a 34in chest. Daniel had a fresh complexion, blue eyes and dark brown hair. His distinguishing features were birthmarks on his left hand, the back of his head and the corner of his left eye.

Daniel was based in Gibraltar between September 1897 and July 1898, when the 1st Grenadier Guards moved to Egypt and became involved in the Anglo-Egyptian Nile Expedition for 81 days between July and October 1898 and were present at the Battle of Omdurman. This was followed by a little over three years home service

before they were sent to South Africa in April 1902, when the Second Boer War was close to a negotiated end. It was a time when patriotic songs about 'Tommy Atkins' were popular again. A peace treaty was signed on 31 May 1902, and the Grenadier Guards had returned to Britain by 22 July. On his return, Daniel was placed on Army Reserve 'B' and left the Army.

Daniel was married on 3 March 1903, at Christ Church in Kensington, Liverpool to Eliza Moffatt, who was living in nearby Penton Street. Daniel was living in Espin Street, a stone's throw from the Goodison Park grounds of Everton football club, and working as a conductor on Liverpool City's trams. Daniel and Eliza had two children, born almost exactly two years apart, Christopher Marcus on 18 November 1904 and Daniel on 20 November 1906.

Eliza's health was failing and in 1909 she was admitted to the recently-built West Derby Union Infirmary on Mill Road, which was under half a mile across from the family home at 47 Goldsmith Street. As noted in the Infirmary Register, Daniel was then working as an assistant postman. Eliza was recorded as admitted on 1 March, suffering from 'Pulmonary Phthisis', a form of tuberculosis commonly known as consumption. She died on 13 March 1909 and was laid to rest five days later at West Derby Cemetery, Liverpool. She was just 27 years old.

Shortly after Eliza's death, Daniel extended his period in the Army Reserve for another four years, re-engaging on 24 March and starting from 6 April. Men on section 'D' reserve were paid three shillings and sixpence a week. Two years later in the 1911 census, Daniel was recorded as working in Warrington as a postman and boarding in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Holt at 2 St Austins Lane, along with Irish-born policeman Lawrence Wyse. Both men were then 33 years old. Daniel's sons were living with relatives at 16 Bourne Street, off the West Derby Road.

Daniel fell on hard times and in September 1913 was briefly admitted to the Liverpool workhouse with his two sons, his address at the time being

47 Canterbury Street, off the Islington Road. He was in the workhouse again from 30 June to 6 July 1914, when he was living at 34 St Anne Street. His nearest relative was his younger married sister Catherine at 45 Juvenal Buildings.

When war was declared in August 1914, Daniel did not hesitate to volunteer and returned to the Army, leaving the problems of his civilian life behind. His sons were again cared for by relatives. Daniel's Service papers have not survived but other records and his original four-digit service number of 1771 in the 8th Bn. King's Liverpool show he volunteered at the beginning of the war. Recruitment was strong in Liverpool with the 'Liverpool Pals' initially sought at the King's Regiment Liverpool HQ in St Anne Street from 28 August 1914; thousands of men would enlist at Liverpool's St George's Hall. Daniel chose instead to join the so-called 'Irish' battalion of the King's Regiment Liverpool, the 1st/8th, whose HQ was at 75 Shaw Street.

Once mobilised, the battalion was sent to Canterbury in Kent. It was here that Daniel met widow Beatrice Alice Dorothy Hawkins, who had two young children from her marriage to Edward Hawkins. Beatrice was no stranger to the military as before the war she had helped her husband run the Officers' Wellington Club in Station Road, Reading. Daniel married Beatrice in Canterbury shortly before sailing from Folkstone to Boulogne on 3 May 1915.

An attack on enemy positions near Givenchy on 15 June 1915 was the battalion's first action and cost them a total of 232 casualties. Later in September 1915, news reached Daniel that his eight-year-old son Daniel had died and had been buried on 21 September 1915 in Newham, east London. His death was registered in West Ham where Daniel's sister Rose McConlough was living with her married sister Mary. It seems that only Daniel's son Christopher had stayed with his stepmother Beatrice.

From August 1915 to January 1916, 1/8th King's Liverpool held trenches at either Aveluy or Authuille, between Albert

and Thiepval, which was then a quiet sector. On night of 17/18th April 1916, a successful raid on enemy trenches at Wailly was carried out by a small group, the only casualty being 2nd Lieutenant E.F. Baxter, who was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross. In late July 1916 the battalion was sent to the Somme where they occupied positions near Guillemont. On 8 August 1916 they were ordered to attack at Guillemont alongside the 1/4th Loyal North Lancashires. Part of the battalion became isolated. Surrounded on three sides, they suffered heavy casualties with many taken prisoner; 508 men were reported missing. Corporal Daniel McConlough is one of ten men on the Thiepval Memorial whose date of death is given as 7 August 1916. This was when the battalion took up positions at 11.30pm for the following morning's attack. There is no reference to these specific casualties in the official war diary, nor in the summary of operations.

At the end of the war the balance of Daniel's account and his £9 10s war gratuity was paid to his widow Dorothy. In the Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects, acting corporal Daniel McConlough was recorded as 'death presumed on or since 7/8.8.1916'. Dorothy was awarded a pension for herself, her own two children Dorothy and Lester Edward Hawkins, and Daniel's son, Christopher Marcus McConlough.

The appearance of the name 'D. MCCONLOUGH' on the Stockwell War Memorial seems to be an anomaly. There is no evidence he was ever in the area, and it is pure chance that both his widow Beatrice Alice Dorothy McConlough and son Christopher Marcus McConlough were in Stockwell at the time when the memorial came into being.

Beatrice appeared on the 1920 and 1923 Lambeth Electoral Rolls at 93 Old South Lambeth Road, and together with Christopher McConlough in the 1921 census at the same address. They were living above what was then an off-licence on the corner of Dorset Road. By 1924, Beatrice had moved to Finchley, north London. She passed away in 1945, aged

67. Christopher was a patient at Banstead Hospital in Surrey in later life, where he died in 1942, aged 37. CHRIS BURGE

D. McCONLOUGH. Corporal, The King's (Liverpool Regiment). Service no. 305225. Died on 7 August 1916, aged 38. Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

GEORGE ROBERT McDOWALL



George Robert McDowall was born on 21 November 1872, the son of Andrew McDowall, a labourer, and Emma Elizabeth Emblin. Aged 27, he married Emma Cecil Giffin, 21, at

St Andrew's Church, Stockwell. He was a serving Serjeant with the 2nd Dragoons. In 1911 Emma was living at 33 Nealdon Street, Stockwell with her three children while George was serving with the Army.

Trevor Moore writes: 'G.R. McDowall was my great-grandfather on my mother's side. The story of his death and the effects on his young family is tragic, yet I'm sure not uncommon to his generation.'

'GRM was killed on the front at Grenay, a mining village close to Lens. He left a wife, Emma, and five children: Flora, Robert, Dora, George Leslie (my grandfather) and Roy. Very soon after GRM's death, Emma also died at the very young age of 37, leaving the children orphans. My grandfather and his younger brother were sent to a local orphanage as a result.'

G.R. McDOWALL. Serjeant, Royal Engineers, 69th Field Coy. Service no. 59064. Killed by sniper fire on 10 May 1916, aged 43. Remembered at Bully-Grenay Communal Cemetery, British Extension, Pas de Calais, France and at St Andrew's Church, Landor Road, Stockwell

JAMES WILLIAM McEVOY

James William McEvoy's parents, James and Elizabeth McEvoy, lived at 35 Sutherland Street, Pimlico. They are

shown on the 1901 census at 38 Lansdowne Road, South Lambeth with James, then a four-year-old, and six boarders.

McEvoy was born in 1896 in Lambeth. *J.W. McEVOY. Gunner, Royal Field Artillery, 378th Bty. 169th Bde. Service no. 93025. Died of wounds on 28 April 1918, aged 21. Remembered at Mont Huon Military Cemetery, Le Tréport, France*

CLAUDE JAMES EDWIN MEACOCK

Claude James Edwin Meacock was born on 2 April 189, the son of James, a clerk, and Mary Ann (née Bashford), who lived at 94 Huberts Grove, Clapham. Claude was baptised at St Andrews, Landor Road, Stockwell, on 1 May.

In 1904, aged six, was admitted to Springfield School (formerly Fountain Street School). In 1911 Claude lived at 11A Goldsborough Road, near Wandsworth Road, with his parents and five siblings. James Meacock, 39, was now a chageman of cleaners for the London & South Western Railway, born in Bayswater, west London. Mary Ann was from Croydon. *C.J.E. MEACOCK. Corporal, London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers), 1st Bn. Service no. 200253. Killed in action on 26 August 1918, aged about 20. Remembered at Summit Trench Cemetery, Croisilles, Pas de Calais, France*

HARRY GEORGE MEAD

In 1919, when the Pension Board assessed Harry George Mead, they found him 100 per cent disabled. His symptoms included shortness of breath, expectoration (spitting up sputum), anaemia and haemoptysis (coughing up blood). His general condition was poor.

Mead had contracted pulmonary tuberculosis, and this was attributed to his war service. He had been posted for duty in July 1916 and had served two years and 217 days in France.

It was clear that Mead, a printer before the war, would be unable to return to work. The Pensions Board awarded him 27s 6d a week for six months, and £2 for 64 weeks thereafter, with 10 shillings for

his wife, Ada. There was a note in the file to investigate the status of their adopted son, Robert, then aged 12.

H.G. MEAD. Private, Royal Fusiliers, 37th Bn.; transferred to Labour Corps. Service no. 37888. Died of pulmonary tuberculosis on 4 November 1920, aged about 42. Remembered at Lambeth Cemetery, Screen Wall, Blackshaw Road, Tooting, southwest London

WILLIAM SAMUEL MEECH

William Samuel Meech was born in Lewisham, southeast London. He volunteered in May 1915 and was killed in action at the Battle of Loos. He lived at 17 Pulross Road, Stockwell.

W.S. MEECH. Private, Black Watch (Royal Highlanders), 9th Bn. Service no. S/8961. Killed in action on 6 February 1916. Remembered at Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

THOMAS JOSEPH MEREDITH

In 1911, 15-year-old Thomas Meredith, an apprentice bookbinder born in Lambeth, lived with his parents and six siblings at 21 Neptune Street, Stockwell (now disappeared, this street was near Wilcox Road). The family occupied four rooms. Thomas's Lambeth-born father, also called Thomas, was 37, worked as a printer's labourer. His mother, Annie, 35, was born in Westminster. Thomas and Annie later gave their address as 40 Wilcox Road, South Lambeth.

T.J. MEREDITH. Gunner, Royal Field Artillery, 'B' Bty. 99th Bde. Service no. 69867. Died on 9 September 1918, aged 23. Remembered at Salonika (Lembet Road) Military Cemetery, Greece

FREDERICK HENRY MERREDEW

Among the artefacts that have come down to Frederick Henry Merredew's family is a roll book for 'C' company, which was then captained by *Henry Louis Nadaud*, who is also named on Stockwell War Memorial.

The book, which lists the members of the company, reveals that Merredew

was 18 years and seven months when he enrolled in the Army on 29 September 1908. He was 5ft 5½in tall, and wore size 6 boots.

A postcard from Merredew to his mother dated 15 March 1915 tells her that the company had left Hatfield, Hertfordshire and were ready to embark. 'Both quite well,' he wrote. It is unclear who the other party was. A letter from Frederick to his parents and dated the next day reads:

'At the time of writing we are having a few hours rest at a rest camp. We expect to start real business very soon. The trip from Southampton to here was splendid. The weather here is grand which will help us a great deal. Fancy us being in France at last; it is just like being at camp as we are all under canvas for tonight, Now dear people, don't worry about us, as I hope things will go all right with us. I am pleased to see all the boys in good spirits. We are all looking forward to pushing on and helping to get this [illegible] business over.'

Later, in an undated card, he wrote:

'Many thanks for the loving letters from all. Would you mind sending out the old papers as we cannot get any news, also a few fags [cigarettes] as we can't buy them here.'

Merredew, born in South Lambeth, was a player piano maker. Player pianos contain a mechanism that operates the piano action, usually via perforated paper.

The 1911 census shows Merredew, aged 21, living with his family at 36 Glenferrie Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, where they occupied six rooms. His father, Arthur James, 47, born in Clerkenwell, was also involved in the player piano trade, working as a wood machinist. Merredew's mother, Sarah Mary, 46, was from Kensington, west London. Frederick had eight siblings, seven of them living at home. His brother Arthur James Merredew served in the Labour Corps and survived the war.

WITH THANKS TO MERREDEW'S FAMILY
F.H. MERREDEW. Serjeant, London Regiment, 'C' Coy. 1/24th Bn. (The Queen's). Service no. 377. Killed in action on 26 May 1915, aged 25. Remembered at Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

THOMAS PERCY MESSENGER

In 1911 Thomas Percy Messenger, a 15-year-old grocer's errand boy, lived at 46 Horace Street (now disappeared, this street was near Wilcox Road), South Lambeth, where his family occupied four rooms. His father, John, 56, a wood and coal merchant from Ashton Keynes, Wiltshire, and mother, Elizabeth, 52, from Blackheath, southeast London, had 13 children. Five were listed on the census for this address. Family member Lin Marshall has contributed the following additional information:

Thomas (Tom) Percy Messenger was born in Lambeth in 1895. He was baptised on 5 September 1895 at St Anne's Church, South Lambeth Road. After working as an errand boy he became a chef, then joined the First Battalion of the London Regiment. He went missing, presumed dead, on 28 March 1918.

Lin discovered that Messenger's name was not included on the War Graves Commission's Roll of Honour and went through the process of having him added. His name is now included on the memorial at Soissons.

T.P. MESSENGER. Lance Corporal, London Regiment, 1/1st Bn. (Royal Fusiliers). Service no. 202245. Died on 28 May 1918, aged 22. Remembered at Soissons Memorial, Aisne, France

SIDNEY CHARLES MILES

Sidney Charles Miles was born in South Lambeth and lived in Battersea. He enlisted at Clapham Junction.

S.C. MILES. Private, London Regiment, 23rd Bn. Service no. 701380. Died of wounds on 30 March 1918. Remembered at Péronne Road Cemetery, Maricourt, Somme, France

ERNEST JOHN MILBORROW

In 1911, Ernest John Milborrow, 20, was an unemployed laundry warehouseman, living with his parents and six of his seven siblings in four rooms at 83 Hargwyne Street, Stockwell. His father, Ernest

Alfred Milborrow, 43, a silk tie cutter, and his mother, Ellen, 45, were both born in Lambeth.

Ernest Milborrow's Service history has not survived but those for his brothers William and Arthur Milborrow have. They both joined the Royal Field Artillery, 162nd (Howitzer) Brigade in Camberwell on the same day, 27 March 1916, and were given adjacent Service numbers.

William Milborrow, aged 23, 5ft 5³/₄in tall and working as a butcher when he enlisted, was demobbed in 1920 as a serjeant. His career included two disciplinary issues. He was reprimanded in October 1915 for insubordinate conduct to an officer and again in July 1918 for absence from parade. William Milborrow's medical history included having his infected teeth removed and inoculations against typhoid. He caught flu in March 1919, just at the start of the pandemic, but evidently recovered.

Arthur Thomas Milborrow, 5ft 3in tall, described himself as a bank messenger, and was 19 when he enlisted. He was disciplined in February 1917 for being absent from parade, and in March 1918 for going absent from leave for a day. He was hospitalised for two days with diarrhoea and for eight with a sprained foot ('nothing found,' said the doctors). Arthur Milborrow was demobbed as a driver in 1919.

E.J. MILBORROW. Gunner, Royal Field Artillery, 17th Bty. 83rd Bde. Service no. 93005. Died on 11 July 1918, aged 28. Remembered at St Souplet British Cemetery, Nord France

ARTHUR MORLEY MILLER



Arthur Morley Miller joined the King's Royal Rifle Corps at Battersea on 28 June 1915. He gave his address as 27 Courland Grove, Clapham (off Wandsworth Road) and described himself as a clerk. The Army assessed him as being 5ft 5in, with a 37in chest. He had two

moles under his left nipple. In October 1916 Arthur was wounded and sent back to England for treatment. At the London General Hospital in Poplar, east London, a doctor described the shrapnel injury to his left hand as a flesh wound with the bones not affected but the tendons exposed. He was discharged after three months and sent back to the front.

Arthur must have had at least one other period of leave because he married Kathleen Florence Cherrill in Lambeth on 16 February 1917. She later received his effects: a crucifix, two razors, a French book, letters, a religious book, a cap badge, dentures, diary, a wristwatch and strap, photos, a fountain pen and a whistle. By the time he died of wounds on 20 September 1917 Miller had risen to lance serjeant.

In 1911, aged 20, Miller was working as a builder's clerk and living at 27 Courland Grove, Stockwell where his family — parents, seven siblings and half-siblings and an aunt — occupied six rooms. His father, Lambeth-born Arthur William Miller, 53, worked as a carman. His mother, Emma Eliza Miller, 49, was from Marylebone, central London. Three other siblings lived elsewhere.

A.M. MILLER. Lance Serjeant, King's Royal Rifle Corps, 20th Bn. Service no. C/4039. Died of wounds on 30 September 1917, aged 27. Remembered at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

GEORGE HENRY MILLER

George Henry Miller was born in Exeter, Devon in 1873, the first child of James and Emily Miller. The family lived in east London around 1880 and near the time of 1891 census moved to Lambeth. George's mother had died and his father was now living in one room at 40 Paradise Road, off Clapham Road with two daughters, Florence and Emily. We have not found George and his younger brother Frank in the 1891 census.

George married Lambeth-born Martha Maria Dowding on 27 August 1899 at St Barnabas, South Lambeth. At that

time, he was working as a coal porter for the London & South Western Railway and living in Conroy Street, a dog-leg off Fountain Street on the west side of Wandsworth Road.

Martha's family home was in Neptune Street, off Wilcox Road, South Lambeth (both these streets have gone) and the marriage was witnessed by her mother and older brother. In the 1901 census she was living with her younger sister Emma Dowding in two rooms at 21 Camellia Street, South Lambeth but George was not present. George and Martha's first child was born in 1904. Their son was named after George's younger brother and baptised on 23 September 1904 at All Saints, Devonshire Road, South Lambeth with the given names of Frank Walter. George and Martha were living at 21 Camellia Street.

On Christmas Day 1904 George's brother Frank married Hanna Cody, also at All Saints, and this couple also gave 21 Camellia Street as their address. George and Martha's second son, George Davy Miller, was born on 29 November 1905 and baptised at All Saints on 28 January 1906 when the family had moved to 24 Fountain Street. Their third son, Arthur Davy Miller, was born on 8 December 1907 and a fourth, Charles Frederick George Miller, was born on 16 July 1910. By this time the family were living in Camellia Street again and George was described as working on the South Western Coal stage, a construction designed for coal and water locomotives.

In the 1911 census George, Martha and their four sons were living at 37 Camellia Street in four rooms. The property was home to another family of six living in just two rooms and a third family of three living in two rooms. The area was dominated by the London & South Western Railway Nine Elms complex, with all its associated noise and grime. George and Martha were now both aged 38.

George Miller was 41 at the outbreak of war and his decision to volunteer in September 1914 must have caused consternation in the Miller household. He went to 27 St Johns Hill, Clapham

Junction, to join the 23rd London Regiment, a Territorial Force battalion. George would have been in the St Albans, Hertfordshire area within a few days, as Private 980 Miller. The battalion was sent to France in March 1915 and months of trench-holding followed, interspersed with periods in billets, training and occasional recreation.

In the last week of October 1915 the battalion relieved the Post Office Rifles in a section of the front line between Auchy and Loos. Every day between 24 and 31 October a number of men were either killed or wounded. George was among the wounded and was evacuated as far as the No. 2 Canadian General Hospital at Le Tréport, where he died on 30 October.

Martha was awarded a weekly pension of 25 shillings for herself and her children, when the family were living in Thorncroft Road. She was still living in the same road when she passed away in 1938, aged 64.

A ceremony to commemorate 'the railwaymen who laid down their lives for their country in the great war 1914-1918' took place at St Paul's Cathedral, London, on Wednesday 14 May 1919. 'Lance Corporal G. Miller, an employee of the London And South Western Railway' appeared in the Order of Service. 'Miller G.' also appears on the L&SWR memorial at Waterloo Station, which was unveiled in March 1922 and rededicated in March 2022.

CHRIS BURGE

G.H. MILLER. Lance Corporal, London Regiment, 23rd Bn. Service no. 980.

Died of wounds on 30 October 1915, aged 42. Remembered at Le Tréport Military Cemetery, Seine-Maritime France and at Waterloo Station, south London

GEORGE SIDNEY MILLER

George Sidney Miller was born in Willesden, northwest London in 1892, the second child of George Henry and Elizabeth Miller, who were both originally from Great Yarmouth, Norfolk. At the time of the 1901 census, George, 33, and Elizabeth, 29, lived in four rooms at 47 Clapham High Street with their three children: Irene, 12; George, nine;

and Samuel, five. George (snr), a police sergeant, died in 1903, aged 36.

On 16 January 1909 Irene married Talbert Vincent Wilcocks at St Mark's Church, Kennington Oval, giving their addresses as 74 and 76 Clapham Road. The marriage was witnessed by Talbert's sister Lilian and Frederick Staughton.

By the time of the 1911 census, George's sister Irene was living in four rooms at 26A Mandalay Road, Clapham, with her husband and their two baby daughters. George Sidney Miller appeared in the census at the Royal Navy Torpedo School Ship HMS *Vernon*, Portsmouth, listed as 'Stoker 1st Class'. His age was given as 22 and his marital status as single, both of which were untrue.

George Sidney Miller had joined the Navy on 1 May 1907, signing for 12 years. He claimed to have been born in Willesden on 25 November 1888. He was described as 5ft 6in tall with dark brown hair, brown eyes and a fresh complexion.

He married Laura Hazelden on 17 November 1910 at St Barnabas, South Lambeth, where Laura had been baptised as a child. Her family home was at 8 Horace Street (off Wilcox Road and later renamed Luscombe Street). At the time of the wedding George gave his true age, which was 18, and HMS *Vernon* as his place of residence. Frederick Staughton, a policeman, was one of the witnesses of their marriage.

George and Laura's first child, George Frederick Sidney Miller, was born on 25 April 1911 and baptised on 10 May 1911 at St Stephen's, South Lambeth, at which time Laura gave her address as 76 Clapham Road, where she lived in one room, and her occupation as laundress.

In the 1911 census, policeman Frederick Staughton was living at 74 Clapham Road with his wife Amy and 15-year-old stepson John Miller, born in Harlesden, northwest London. Amy Staughton was 38 and from Great Yarmouth. Frederick had married an 'Amy Miller' in 1906. While it's not certain that George's mother Elizabeth and Amy were the same person, his younger brother was baptised Samuel John Miller, which suggests Frederick Staughton could

have been more than a family friend.

At the outbreak of war, George Miller had risen to leading stoker and already educationally passed for petty officer; he was at the *Pembroke II* shore station. Between July 1914 and May 1916, he served on HMS *Stour*, part of the 9th Destroyer Flotilla that patrolled home waters. George and Laura's second child, Eileen Laura, was born on 7 December 1915 and baptised at St Stephen's, South Lambeth two weeks later, when the family's home address was 35 St Stephen's Terrace, which was almost opposite the church.

A year later, 24-year-old George was involved in an incident that threatened to end his naval career. He appeared in court accused of the manslaughter of Herbert Jones and was bailed in a police court on 23 November 1916 after a Coroner's Inquest into Jones's death. The case was heard by Justice Avory on 13 December 1916 at the Old Bailey and was reported in newspapers soon after:

'A NAVAL WHIRLWIND. A naval stoker, aged 23, pleaded guilty at the Old Bailey to-day to the manslaughter of Herbert Jones, whom he was said have struck outside a public-house. It was alleged that an insulting remark had been used to him and he ran amok. Mr. Justice Avory said that he doubted whether the prisoner intended to hit the deceased.

"You were the victim of that mistaken kindness which people show men in the services home on leave. I wish it could be made a more serious offence than is now to treat soldiers and sailors. You were mad with drink for the time being, and you ran amok.

"I understand that someone called you a coward. Anything more calculated to irritate a man like you I don't know. You ran about waving your arms like a whirlwind, striking anyone and not caring who it was." Prisoner was bound over.'

Justice Avory's sympathetic hearing saved George from disgrace, and worse. Whether it was chance or the Navy deliberately keeping George out of further trouble, he found himself sent far from London to the Fleet at Scapa Flow where on

1 January 1917 he joined the crew of HMS *Vanguard* and by April was an acting petty officer (stoker). When launched in 1909, HMS *Vanguard* was the Royal Navy's seventh dreadnought battleship, part of the Naval Arms Race that had preceded the war when the public were associated with the chant 'We want eight and we won't wait!' The only time HMS *Vanguard* fired her guns in anger was during the battle of Jutland in 1916.

In the Fleet anchorage in Scapa Flow on the evening of Monday 9 July 1917, the sky was overcast, with a gentle northeasterly wind. *Vanguard* and her neighbours carried out their usual evening routines until about 11.20pm when, without warning, flames became visible abaft *Vanguard's* foremast, followed immediately by two heavy explosions, and the battleship disappeared under a pall of smoke. When the smoke lifted, the ship had gone. Of the 845 on board, only two survivors were found. George Sidney Miller died that day.

The Naval Court of Inquiry was unable to determine any definite cause for the explosion. It was only able to conclude that it may have been due to the ignition of cordite from an 'avoidable cause' or the deterioration of unstable cordite. No blame was attributed to any one person.

By the time the loss of the *Vanguard* was widely reported in the British press on 14 July 1917, the next of kin had been notified. Laura Miller was still living at St Stephens Terrace but by the time the Stockwell War Memorial was unveiled in 1922, she had been at 111 Gaskarth Road, near Clapham South for about four years. This was the home of George's sister Irene, whose husband Talbert served in the Royal Garrison Artillery during the war.

Laura Miller was married for a second time in 1925, to Edward Henry Gardener, an older man who had served in the Royal Navy between 1897 and 1906 and during the war. They lived in Boyd Road, Colliers Wood from 1925, where Laura was still living when Gardener died in 1954. Laura passed away in Merton in 1971, aged 78.

George and Laura's daughter Eileen Laura Miller died in 1934, aged 18. His

son George Frederick Sidney Miller died in 1989, aged 78.

CHRIS BURGE

G.S. MILLER. Petty Officer Stoker, Royal Navy, HMS 'Vanguard'. Service no. 311632. Died in an accidental explosion on 9 July 1917, aged 27. Remembered at Chatham Naval Memorial, Kent

JOHN CHARLES MILLER

John Charles Miller, a single man working as a clerk, was living at 300 Queens Street, Melbourne, Australia when he signed up for service on 12 December 1916. Within days he was on the troop ship *Ballarat* heading for Devonport, England, where he arrived in late April 1917. In England Miller was pulled up twice: for failing to report for duty when warned and for going absent without leave, for which he was punished with 24 hours' detention. He was also made to forfeit two days' pay (10s).

By September 1917 he had joined his battalion. He had a period of leave in England between 16 January and 16 February 1918, and on 19 May he suffered a shell wound to his left leg, which shattered. He died of wounds in the 5th Australian Field Ambulance. Miller left all his possessions to his widowed mother, Amy Miller of 296 Clapham Road.

Miller was 5ft 10in and 10½st, and his chest measured 41in. He had a scar on his right knee. He had blue eyes and brown hair.

J.C. MILLER. Private, Australian

Infantry, A.I.F., 21st Bn. Service no. 7267.

Died of wounds 19 May 1918, aged 21.

Remembered at Querrieu British Cemetery, Somme, France

JOSEPH EVAN MILLER

Joseph Evan Miller was born in Sydenham, southeast London in 1882, the son of Evan Jones Miller, a shop salesman, a shop salesman from Lakenheath, Suffolk, and Annie Eleanor Miller, from Paddington, west London. At the time of the 1911 census, Joseph lived with his parents and a younger sister, Gertrude Annie, an art needle worker in four rooms at 57 DeLaune

Street in Kennington, a property shared with a family of four in four rooms and a couple in another four rooms. Joseph's other two siblings lived elsewhere. Joseph, then aged 29, was described as an inspector of waste water. On 15 October 1916, Miller married 23-year-old Dorothy May at St Michael's Church, Stockwell Park Road, and gave his address as 5 Stafford Road and his occupation as inspector for the water board. He enlisted in Lambeth.

J.E. MILLER. Rifleman, Rifle Brigade, 3rd Bn. Service no. S/36204. Killed in action on 27 March 1918, aged about 35. Remembered at Pozières Memorial, Somme, France

WILLIAM ARTHUR ALFRED MILLS

In 1911 William Arthur Alfred Mills was 12 and living with his parents and sisters at 8 Tradescant Road, South Lambeth, where they occupied four rooms. *Frederick Thomas George Pulsford* and his family lived next door at No. 10.

William's father, William Hugh Mills, 49, was a railway porter from Islington, north London. His mother, Laura Helena (née Vye), 46, was from Bermondsey. William had two siblings.

He enlisted in Lambeth.

W.A. MILLS. Private, Devonshire Regiment, 2nd Bn. Service no. 30986. Died on 30 May 1918, aged 19. Remembered at Chambrecy British Cemetery, Marne, France

FREDERICK EDWARD MILNES

Brother of William Alexander Milnes

The 1911 census shows that Frederick Edward Milnes, 22 and single, was serving as a Private with the 12th Royal Lancers in Potchefstroom, Transvaal, South Africa

He was born in Kennington. His parents, Frederick Milnes and Anne Louisa Jane (née Titshall), lived at 3 Albert Mansions, South Lambeth Road.

F.E. MILNES. Private, 12th (Prince of Wales's Royal) Lancers. Service no. 917. Died on 24 June 1918, aged 28. Remembered at Berlin South-Western Cemetery, Germany

WILLIAM ALEXANDER MILNES

Brother of Frederick Edward Milnes

On the night of the 1911 census, 18-year-old William Alexander Milnes was visiting his friends the Martin family at 8 Smeaton Road, Southfields, Wandsworth, southwest London. William was a chemist's assistant.

He was born in Wandsworth and enlisted at Finsbury, north London.

W.A. MILNES. Corporal, Seaforth Highlanders, 2nd Bn. Service no.

S/12198. Died on 4 October 1917, aged 25. Remembered at Tyne Cot Memorial, Heuveland, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

FRANK SIDNEY MINTER

In 1911 Frank Sidney Minter was a 29-year-old commercial traveller selling herbs and seeds. He was born in South Lambeth, and was married to Ada Mary, also 29, from Stockwell. They lived in three rooms at 49 Jeffreys Road, Stockwell, and had one child, Lilian Ada, five months. Ada Mary's mother, Mary Goldsmith, 63, a laundress born in the City, lived with them. Frank enlisted in Clapham and later lived in Tooting, southwest London.

F.S. MINTER. Private, Royal Fusiliers, 22nd Bn.; formerly East Surrey Regiment. Service no. 60899. Killed in action on 10 March 1917, aged about 35. Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

JAMES MITCHELL

Tentative identification

No corroborative evidence has so far come to light other than a listing on the war memorial inside St Michael's Church.

J. MITCHELL. Remembered at St Michael's Church, Stockwell Park Road, Stockwell

THOMAS HENRY MIZEN

The *Natal* was an armoured cruiser, launched on 30 September 1905. She was sunk by an internal explosion in the Cromarty Firth on 30 December 1915 when, shortly after 3.20pm and without warning, a series of violent explosions

tore through the ship, which capsized five minutes later.

The most probable explanation was that a fire had broken out, possibly due to faulty cordite, which ignited a magazine. The exact number of casualties is unknown, but estimates range from 390 to 421. Some were killed in the immediate explosions; others drowned as the ship turned over or succumbed to the freezing water. Most of the bodies recovered from the sea were interred in Rosskeen Churchyard, Invergordon, with a few buried in the Gaelic Chapel graveyard in Cromarty.

Thomas Mizen was baptised at St Anne's Church, South Lambeth Road on 1 June 1894. His parents Thomas Mizen, a 'general dealer', and Elizabeth Ada Mizen, gave their address as 16 Portland Cottages, Kennington. At the time of the 1911 census Thomas Mizen, then 43, and Elizabeth A. Mizen, 42, lived with their children at 43 Simpson Street, Stockwell. Thomas (snr) was then a wood chopper; Thomas (jnr) a carman. There were five other children. *T.H. MIZEN. Able Seaman, Royal Navy, HMS 'Natal'. Service no. 202018. Died in an explosion on 30 December 1915, aged about 20. Remembered at Chatham Naval Memorial, Kent*

JARLATH VINCENT MOONEY

The 1911 census shows Southend-born Jarlath Vincent Mooney, 17, a clerk in 'mercantile offices', living in four rooms at 105 Franciscan Road, Tooting, southwest London with his mother Christian Rosa (née Waterfield), 39, born in Shoreditch, east London, and sister Kathleen Frances, a shorthand clerk-typist. We have not found his father, Jarlath Augustine Mooney, a debt collector from Ireland, on the 1911 census. Mooney's name is included in *Ireland's Memorial Records 1914-1918*. Jarlath's sister Kathleen served as a tally clerk in the Women's Royal Air Force for 15 months from July 1918.

J.V. MOONEY. Private, 8th (King's Royal Irish) Hussars. Service no. H/14352. Killed in action on 27 March 1917, aged 23. Remembered at Villers-Faucon Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France

SIDNEY MORGAN

Sidney Morgan was born in Highgate, north London and lived in Stockwell. He enlisted in Newbury, Berkshire. The Army Register of Soldiers' Effects lists Fanny Warren, whose identity we have been unable to discover, as his sole legatee.

S. MORGAN. Rifleman, Rifle Brigade, 2nd Bn. Service no. S/15651. Killed in action on 11 November 1916. Remembered at Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, Longueval, Somme, France

JAMES MORRIS

James Morris was born in Stockwell and lived in Brixton. He enlisted in London.

J. MORRIS. Corporal, Royal Garrison Artillery, 110th Heavy Bty.; formerly Middlesex Regiment. Service no. 148649. Died of wounds on 2 August 1917. Remembered at Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France and on the war memorial inside St Anne's Church, South Lambeth Road

HENRY THOMAS MOSS

Father of Henry Louis Moss; their names are listed side-by-side on the Memorial Henry Thomas Moss, a house painter, was born at Gosport, Hampshire and enlisted at Lambeth. In 1911, aged 40, he shared nine rooms at 114 Stockwell Road with his wife, Elizabeth Alice (née Martinelli), 38, and all 11 of their surviving children. A further three people occupied two rooms in the house.

Moss died in Bucklow, near Knutsford, Cheshire where the workhouse had been converted into a hospital.

Henry Moss was the son of Henry Masterson Moss, a sailmaker from Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, and Jane Susanna Annison, from Canvey Island, Essex.

H.T. MOSS. Gunner, Royal Garrison Artillery, 46th Anti-Aircraft Bty.; formerly Royal Field Artillery and 3rd Gloucester Regiment. Died on 28 October 1917, aged 46. Remembered at Lambeth Cemetery, Blackshaw Road, Tooting, southwest London

HENRY LOUIS MOSS

Son of Henry Thomas Moss

Henry Louis Moss was born in Walworth, Southwark, the eldest child of Henry Thomas Moss and Elizabeth Alice (née Martinelli). He was baptised on 20 September 1891 at St John the Evangelist, Walworth. In 1911, aged 19 and working as a goldsmith, Henry lived at 114 Stockwell Road with his parents and 10 siblings.

He enlisted at St Paul's Churchyard.

H.L. MOSS. Private, Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire Regiment), 5th Bn. Service no. 11338. Killed in action at Gallipoli on 10 August 1915, aged about 23.

Remembered at Helles Memorial, Turkey and at St Michael's Church, Stockwell Park Road, Stockwell

FREDERICK JAMES MOULDER



Frederick James Moulder joined the Army in the early days of the war and worked as a company and battalion runner since the days of the Somme push of 1916.

On 4 October 1918, *The South London Press* carried a short obituary of Moulder, who was killed while carrying a despatch, in which his comrade, Private E.A. McKeaton, is quoted: 'He was well known throughout the battalion and had earned the esteem and respect of all who knew him.'

Moulder appears on the 1911 census as a 14-year-old resident at 41 Ballater Road, Brixton. His father, also called Frederick, 51, was a general labourer working for a builder, and was originally from Basingstoke, Hampshire. His mother, Elizabeth, 50, was born in Stockwell. There were three siblings. The family later moved to 35 Cottage Grove, Stockwell.

F.J. MOULDER. Private, London Regiment, 'C' Coy. 1/14th Bn (London Scottish). Service no. 512364. Killed while carrying a despatch on 23 August 1918, aged 21. Remembered at Bucquoy Road Cemetery, Fichoux, Pas de Calais, France

ARTHUR JOSEPH MULLETT

Brother of George Thomas Mullett

In 1911 Arthur Joseph Mullett, then a 14-year-old schoolboy, lived at 12 Ely Place, Stockwell with his parents and two of his four siblings. His parents were from Dorset: Henry Mullett, 51, a horsekeeper for a brewery, was born in North Matravers; Harriett, 52, from Swanage. The family occupied four rooms. His brother, George Thomas Mullett, who is also listed on the Memorial, was serving with the Dorsetshire Regiment.

Arthur enlisted in Holborn, central London. Around March 1916 Arthur would have been transferred from the London Regiment to the Royal Engineers Special Brigade, who were responsible for much of Britain's offensive chemical warfare effort on the Western Front. Arthur would have been sent initially to Helfaut, some four miles south of St Omer, where the Special Brigade had established their expeditionary force Depot. He would have been billeted in one of the surrounding villages as the 3rd Battalion formed up. The unit was a cylinder company responsible for dispensing gas from heavy cylinders which had to be carried into the front line, often with assistance from the infantry, and installed in the front line trenches.

On the night of 30 June/1 July 1916, Arthur's K Company detachment was tasked with releasing cylinders containing 'White Star' gas, so-called because of the emblem on the cylinder. They were filled with a 50/50 mix of phosgene and chlorine. The former had a low vapour pressure and needed a propellant, which was provided by the chlorine, which had a higher vapour pressure. The release of this gas was part of a minor operation in support of 2nd Australian Brigade at Ploegsteert in Belgium.

The battalion war diary noted the following:

'106116 Cpl R.G. Williams, 1282286 Pioneer A Lewis and 130014 Pioneer A.J. Mullett were working in an emplacement, their Tower Respirators were fixed efficiently. A shell burst in front of our

parapet and blew a cloud of gas back so that some entered the bay occupied by these men. They all felt a slight irritation and reported to their section commander, who ordered them to go to at once to the dressing station. The two pioneers remained, but later Cpl Williams said that he felt quite well and returned to his work. He was sent back to the hospital at once. All three were dead by the following morning.'

Cpl Williams and Pioneer Lewis are recorded as dying on 30 June and Pioneer Mullet on 1 July at No. 8 Casualty Clearing Station. The report continued:

'The Tower Respirator which each man was wearing throughout the attack is proof against White Star gas.

'It is surmised that respirators must have been temporarily displaced by a shell which is known to have wrecked the emplacement.'

From a technical point of view, phosgene had a delayed-action effect, of anything up 48 hours. Any exertion could bring about tiredness and collapse during that time which fits with the casualties described above.

All three men are buried in Baileull Communal Cemetery. Cpl Williams and Pioneer Lewis side by side and Arthur Mullett just a few graves away in the same row.

TERRY REEVES

A.J. MULLETT. Pioneer, Royal Engineers, 3rd Bn. Special Brigade; formerly London Regiment. Service no. 130014. Died of phosgene gas inhalation on 1 July 1916, aged about 19. Remembered at Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France

GEORGE THOMAS MULLETT

Brother of Arthur Joseph Mullett

George Thomas Mullett's Army career stretched over eight years. He signed up with the Dorsetshire Regiment in Dorchester on 15 November 1909, ending his civilian role of barman. On enlistment Mullett was described as 5ft 7 $\frac{7}{8}$ in tall; he weighed a little under 10st and had a 36in chest. He had hazel eyes and brown hair. There was a scar on his right cheek.

Perhaps some of his old habits stayed with him — in 1911 he was severely reprimanded for allowing a man to smoke cigarettes on parade. Evidently, George learned from his mistake — there are no other misdemeanours on his conduct record. Rather, the files detail his steady rise through the ranks. He was promoted to Corporal in October 1913 and to Serjeant in September the following year.

George married Lucy Emma Cane at St Michael's Church, Stockwell on 16 April 1916. Lucy had a six-year-old son, Lewis George Cane, whom George lists on his Army form as 'illegitimate'.

On 1 July 1916, George's brother Arthur Joseph Mullett was killed. George survived until May 1918. A note in the file says that on 31 May 1918 he was wounded. Two weeks later this was amended to 'wounded and missing' and then in late August to 'to be regarded for official purposes as having died'.

Mullett's widow Lucy died in 1873 in Tunisia. Her son died the following year in Lambeth.

G.T. MULLETT. Serjeant, Dorsetshire Regiment, 1st Bn. Service no. 8760. Killed in action on 21 May 1918, aged about 28. Remembered at Arras Memorial, France

HUBERT MULLETT

Hubert Mullett was born 23 December 1891 and attended St Barnabas School from 1897. At that time, his family lived at 218 Wandsworth Road.

In 1911, aged 19, Mullett worked as a clerk for an engineering company, and lived with his family in eight rooms at 101 Stockwell Park Road. His father, James Edwin Mullett, 60, was an architect from Camberwell, southeast London. His mother, Alice, 51, was from Marylebone, northwest London. Hubert had six surviving siblings.

H. MULLETT. Private, The Queen's Own Royal West Surrey Regiment, 11th Bn. Service no. 11626. Died on 10 August 1917, aged about 25. Remembered at Godewaersvelde British Cemetery, Nord, France and at St Michael's Church, Stockwell Park Road, Stockwell

ALFRED GEORGE MURPHY

Alfred George Murphy enlisted in February 1917, and was later transferred to the Machine Gun Corps. He was sent to the front the following year.

In 1911, aged 12, Murphy lived with his parents, Walter Robert John Murphy, a 39-year-old butcher originally from Westminster, and Alice Mary née Farmer, 37, also from Westminster, and six siblings in five rooms at 6 Priory Grove, Stockwell. Hubert's maternal grandmother Mary Farmer also lived on the premises.

A.G. MURPHY. Private, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry), 203rd Coy.; formerly Bedfordshire Regiment. Service no. 126952. Died on 29 March 1918, aged 19. Remembered at St Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, Seine-Maritime, France

JOSEPH CHARLES MURRAY



Joseph Charles Murray, a porter in civilian life, was born in St Giles parish, London, in about 1886. His father was Charles Murray. He had seven sisters. Joseph was married

first to Emily Abigail Harris, with whom he had a daughter, Winifred. After Emily died, he married Florence Rogers, with whom he had a son, Joseph Edwin.

Joseph joined the Royal West Kent Regiment Army in 1903. The medical officer noted that he was 5ft 4½in and weighed 8st. His chest measured 31in. He had a fresh complexion with brown hair and grey eyes. There was a tattoo on his right forearm and he had scars on both knees, the left thigh, back of the neck and head and right eyebrow. By 1907 he was having trouble with his ears. He was diagnosed with double otorrhea, from which he recovered. He served in Malta, and after a spell in the Army Reserve after 1906, he was mobilised on 5 August 1914, almost immediately the war started.

By 30 June 1915 he was discharged as no longer physically fit for war service. He

was suffering from chronic inflammation of the middle ear, which led to loss of balance and headache. He was 29. His record stated that his character was 'very good' and that he had been awarded two badges. However, the medical board decided that his illness was not the result of active service, climate or ordinary military service, and that he was not entitled to incapacity payments. Later, the Army adjusted the assessment and decided that it was a quarter due to his service.

By 1917 Murray was described in Army medical reports as 'very deaf'. Murray, then living in Kibworth Street, Kennington, died on 7 May 1920 from otitis media and cerebrospinal meningitis (pneumococcal).

*STEVE WRIGHT
J.C. MURRAY. Private, Royal West Kent Regiment. Service no. L/7449. Died of illness on 7 May 1920, aged about 34*

WILLIAM LAWRENCE MURRAY

In 1911 William Lawrence Murray was a junior clerk working for the Amalgamated Press and living with his mother Elizabeth Alice Murray, 44, born in Holborn, central London, in a three-roomed apartment at 15 Rhodesia Road, Stockwell.

W.L. MURRAY. Rifleman, London Regiment, 6th Bn. (City of London Rifles). Service no. 2251. Killed in action on 25 September 1915, aged 21. Remembered at Maroc British Cemetery, Grenay, Pas de Calais, France

HENRY LOUIS FREDERICK BONNETAUT NADAUD

In 1911 Henry Nadaud, then aged 32 and working as a bank clerk for the London Joint Stock Company, lived at 100 Lansdowne Road, Stockwell with his parents, Louis Nadaud, 59, a retired civil servant, born in Soho, central London, and Marie Nadaud, 53, born in France; his brother Charles Nadaud, 28, an electrical engineer; an aunt, Theresa Nadaud, 57; and a live-in domestic servant.

A veteran of the London Regiment, having served in the Cadet Corps of the City of London Cadet Corps attached

to the Kings Royal Rifle Corps, Nadaud was shot in the left arm on 25 May 1915 at Givenchy. Three days later he was on the *Patrick* headed for The Hon. Mrs. Lindsay's Hospital' for Officers at 7 Charles Street in Mayfair, London. By mid-August he was not yet fit enough to return to the front, and his Service record does not tell us exactly when he made it back to France.

Nadaud was promoted to Major on 1 June 1916. A little under two years later, he was killed in action at Metz during heavy German bombardment and 'many gas shells'. He died alongside three others and was buried the next day in the civilian cemetery at Equancourt (his body was later moved to Fins). He had served for more than 10 years.

A note in the regimental history of the Lambeth and Southwark Volunteers, says that Nadaud was awarded the Territorial Decoration and that his name is recorded on the war memorial inside the Catholic Westminster Cathedral in Victoria, central London.

H.L.F.B. NADAUD. Major, London Regiment, 1/24th Bn. (The Queen's).

Killed in action on 21 March 1918, aged 39. Remembered at Fins New British Cemetery, Sorel-Le-Grand, Somme, France and at Westminster Cathedral, London

FRANK NAISH

Frank Naish was born in Brixton in 1891, the second child of Francis Naish, a parcel clerk from Somerset, and Clara (née Feaver), from Jersey in the Channel Islands. At the time of the 1901 census, he was one of five children living with their parents at 16 Cranmer Road, off the Brixton Road near Kennington Oval.

Twenty years later, when Frank's father completed the 1911 census return, the Naish household consisted of Francis, 46; Clara, 45; John, 21; Frank, 19; Dorothy, 18; Robert, 15; Evelyn, 11; and two lodgers, Emily and Beatrice Payne, 44 and 42. Frank's father was still working as a parcel clerk, his older brother was a leather cutter, Dorothy a milliner and Robert a messenger. Frank was a clerk. The household of nine lived in eight

rooms at 3 Belgrave Terrace, Stockwell Road, one of a row of six houses on the corner of Stockwell Road and Stockwell Park Walk, opposite the Brixton Tabernacle.

Frank Naish married 22-year-old Alice Rose Kingsford on 28 July 1917 at Christ Church, Clapham, when the couple gave Alice's family home at 73 Union Road as their address. The marriage was witnessed by the fathers of the bride and groom. Alice had been working as a 'multigraph operator' (a multigraph was an early machine for duplicating typewritten forms and letters). Frank's occupation was again recorded as 'clerk'.

However, other records suggest Frank had already enlisted in the Army. The Service papers of Frank Naish have not survived, but the level of the war gratuity paid at the end of the war is consistent with someone conscripted at the end of 1916. His entry in *Soldiers Died in the Great War* states he was formerly 7371, of the Royal Berkshire Yeomanry. The Royal Berkshire Yeomanry were part of the Territorial Force and not given new numbers until 1917. Their third-line training battalion was still in Britain until absorbed by other units around July 1917. His Service number when transferred to the 1st Wiltshire was in the range of several younger men conscripted in 1917 and not sent to France until late in April 1918.

There are no records to say when Frank Naish went to France. If it was late April 1918, he would have joined the 1st Wiltshire a few weeks after the battalion had suffered heavy losses during the enemy's spring offensive of 21 March 1918. They were immediately in action again on the Messines Ridge in April and by August 1918 ended up at Thiepval. On 24 August they attacked Miraumont Ridge and five days later led the advance towards Beaulencourt, which was captured on 1 September. The advance continued, and on 13 September they were at Heudicourt, when their war diary noted:

'10.00. Enemy opened a heavy barrage on and behind our line and attacked under cover of flame projectors. The

attack consisted of two strong parties, the Northern Party worked down reserve switch and attacked D Coy at the junction between D Coy and Div on our left. The Southern Party worked along CAVALRY SUPPORT and attacked C Coy at the junction between C Coy and Battn on our right. The two left posts of D Coy were forced to withdraw, but a counter attack was at once organized and original line restored. The Southern Party was driven off without difficulty. Casualties: Killed Officers Nil. OR 3. Wounded Officer 2nd Lieut R H Hamlett, 2nd Lieut A E Thompson (at duty). ORs 22. Missing Officers Nil. ORs 1. Captures Personnel Prisoners 10. War material: 1 Machine Gun.'

On 17 September the 1st Wiltshire had reached Equancourt, when the war diary noted: '20.00. Battn proceeded by march route to take up assembly positions W.23.6. In preparation for an attack.'

On 18 September at Equancourt, the war diary noted: '04.30. Move to assembly positions completed. Battn HQ established at W.23.6.1.0 (Sheet 57c) Battn attacked in conjunction with the Battns under cover of our barrage. Casualties: Killed Officers Nil. ORs 13. Wounded Officers Capt B C Mackie, Lieut D F Brown, 2nd Lieut J Carney, 2nd Lieut J C Kemp. ORs 71. Missing Officers Nil. ORs 8. Captures Personnel 4 Officers, 220 Ors. War material 8 Field Guns.'

Frank Naish was killed in action on this day and buried soon after at the Targelle Ravine British Cemetery, alongside 10 other men from the 1st Battalion Wiltshire Regiment.

After the Representation of the People Act (February 1918), lists of military personnel eligible to vote in the 14 December Election of that year were compiled and appeared on the Electoral Rolls of 1918 and spring 1919 as 'absent voters'. Applications for an absent vote had to be submitted by August 1918. Frank Naish appeared on the Wandsworth Absent Voters list registered at 73 Union Grove, SW8 along with Alice's brother Frederick Kingsford, who was in the Royal Field Artillery.

Alice had stayed with her family

throughout the war and Union Grove was her address when she was awarded the standard widow's pension of 28 shillings and sixpence a week at the end of the war.

Frank's parents, along with his brother John, were still living at 3 Belgrave Terrace when the Stockwell War Memorial was unveiled in 1922. In 1921 Alice married Arthur Cecil Day, who had served in the Royal Engineers during the War, and later lived in Kingston upon Thames, Surrey. She died in 1980, aged 85. CHRIS BURGE *F. NAISH. Private, Wiltshire Regiment, 1st Bn.; formerly Royal Berkshire Yeomanry (no. 7371). Service no. 37514. Killed in action 18 September 1918, aged about 24. Remembered at Targelle Ravine British Cemetery, Villers-Guislain, Nord, France*

WALTER HENRY NETHERCOTT

Walter Henry Nethercott, 23, a clerk, enlisted on 12 September 1914. He was described as having a healthy complexion with brown eyes and auburn hair. He had a mole on the tip of his left shoulder. He stood 5ft 7½ inches tall, weighed just over 9½st and his chest measured 35½in.

The Army recognised Nethercott's talents early. He rose through the ranks, was promoted in the field to Serjeant in July 1916 and Company Quartermaster Serjeant three months later.

In March 1915 Nethercott married Marjorie Ballance of 15 Walberswick Street, South Lambeth. She gave birth to a daughter, Margarette Phyllis, a year later. Nethercott's parents were deceased and he had no siblings.

In February 1918, four months after Nethercott was killed, the Army sent Marjorie his effects: a fountain pen, a disc and chain, a diary, Kitchener's message, a copy of *A Rifleman Should Know* and a lock of hair. However, a Mr. John Mayo, received Nethercott's medals, sent to him at 93 Larkhall Rise, Stockwell. The file does not tell us why this was done, and when Marjorie, then living at Walberswick Street, South Lambeth, wrote to request that they be sent to her,

the Army replied that they had already been sent to Mayo. Marjorie was given a weekly pension of £1 2s 6d for herself and Margarette.

In 1911 20-year-old Walter was working as a builder. He lived with his 45-year-old uncle, Jesse Nethercott, a brewer's millman, 22-year-old aunt Bertha, and a maid at 2 Brewery Cottages, Nine Elms, Vauxhall. In 1901 aged 10 he was living with his widowed grandmother, Mary A. Nethercott, 60, at 31 Wheatsheaf Lane, off South Lambeth Road. Mary was born in Godstone, Surrey, Walter in Battersea.

In 1923 Walter's widow Marjorie married Jack A. Gale. She died in 1950. *W.H. NETHERCOTT. Company Quartermaster Serjeant, Rifle Brigade, 3th Bn. Service no. Z/2766. Killed in action on 10 October 1917, aged about 26. Remembered at Tyne Cot Memorial, Heuveland, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium*

ALFRED WILLIAM NEWCOMBE



Alfred Newcombe, known to his family as Alf, was born William Alfred Eady at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, Marylebone Road, central London, on 14 September 1893 to Betsy Eady, a night-light maker of 98 Southville, off Wandsworth Road, in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, and acquired a new surname when his mother married William Newcombe, a labourer from Wembworthy, North Devon, on Christmas Day 1893.

In 1911 Alfred Newcombe, then 17, worked as a grocer's assistant and lived at 89 Priory Grove, South Lambeth where his family occupied four rooms. He enlisted at Bedford.

A.W. NEWCOMBE. Private, Bedfordshire Regiment, 8th Bn. Service no. 33465. Killed in action on 27 June 1917, aged about 24. Remembered at Philosphe British Cemetery, Mazingarbe, Pas de Calais, France

ARTHUR JOHN NEWMAN

Arthur John Newman's origins were in north London. He was born in Highgate, the son of Alfred and Mary Elizabeth (née Taylor), and baptised at St John's, Holloway in Islington, on 20 April 1890. He had an older brother Alfred Edward and sister Edith. The family were living in Kentish Town at the time of the 1891 census and had moved to Pimlico by the time of the 1901 census. Alfred Edward was married in 1905 and set up home in Kent.

By the time of the 1911 census, Arthur, his sister Edith and their parents had moved to south London and were living at 19A Goldsborough Road, off Wandsworth Road. Arthur's father was now 51 and his mother 50; they had been married 28 years. Arthur was working as a clerk, and both his parents and Edith were employed as office cleaners. The Newmans lived in four rooms of a sub-divided property that housed another family of six living in three other rooms.

Fragments of Arthur's Service papers have survived and show that he volunteered under Lord Derby's Group Scheme (see *Appendix*) on 4 December 1915, attesting at the Lambeth recruitment centre. He was not called up until 15 February 1916 and was processed at Whitehall, when he was posted to the 6th Battalion of the Rifle Brigade, a reserve battalion based at Eastchurch on the Isle of Sheppey, off the northern coast of Kent. On 14 June 1916, after four months of basic training, Private S/15670 Newman was sent to France in a draft of men destined for the 2nd Battalion. He reached the front on 9 July 1916. The keeper of the battalion's war diary noted on 11 July that a draft of one officer and 50 other ranks reported for duty and were posted to C and D companies.

Arthur Newman joined the battalion when it was in billets after moving north from the Somme to the Loos sector. Several periods of trench duty in the Hohenzollern sector followed during the rest of July, August and September. By mid-October the battalion had

returned to the Somme and took part, in deteriorating weather and ground conditions, in a divisional attack during the final stages of the offensive.

Their assault on enemy positions near Le Transloy on 23 October resulted in a loss of eight officers either killed or wounded and 230 other ranks killed, wounded or missing. Arthur was reported missing and his next of kin informed within a few weeks.

In August 1917, 10 months later, Arthur's family were told that he was officially presumed to have died on or since 23 October 1916.

After the end of the war Arthur's father Alfred completed Army Form W5080 listing the relatives of a deceased soldier in order that he could receive his son's medals, plaque and scroll. On 30 May 1919 Alfred took it to All Saints Church in Devonshire Road, South Lambeth, to be witnessed and countersigned. Arthur's parents were still at 19A Goldsborough Road when the Stockwell War Memorial was unveiled in 1922.

CHRIS BURGE

A.J. NEWMAN. Rifleman, Rifle Brigade, 2nd Bn. Service no. S/15670. Died on 23 October 1916, aged 26. Remembered at Thiépval Memorial, Somme, France

JAMES HENRY NEWMAN

In 1911 James Henry Newman was a 13-year-old schoolboy. He lived with his parents and six of his 11 siblings in four rooms at 39 Horace Street, South Lambeth (now gone, this street was near Wilcox Road). His father, James Newman, 51, was a railway guard for the London & South Western Railway, from Sturminster Newton, Dorset. His mother, Mary Jane (née Longman), 51, was from Holt, near Wimbourne in Dorset.

J.H. NEWMAN. Private, London Regiment, 1/24th Bn. (The Queen's). Service no. 3409. Killed in action on 17 September 1916, aged about 18. Remembered at Thiépval Memorial, Somme, France

C. NEWTON

Not identified

REGINALD NICHOLSON

Reginald Nicholson was born on 6 May 1899. After he was deserted as a baby he was admitted into the care of the Hammersmith Board of Guardians under whose care he remained until 1917. Baby Reginald was initially fostered by a 'Mrs Neal of Southbrook Street' before he was moved to the Milman Street Receiving Home For Children in Chelsea, west London. On 1 August 1903, four-year-old Reginald was sent to the 'District Schools, Ashford' whose records show that he was fostered on 20 July 1904.

In the 1911 census, Reginald, aged 11, was a boarder in the six-room home of George and Elizabeth Noyes and their son Earnest, aged nine, at Stockwell Furlong, Haddenham, Buckinghamshire. George Noyes was a 'coach smith' (blacksmith) and was originally from Lincoln. Elizabeth Noyes was born in Brixton and Earnest was born in Streatham, south London.

The Noyes' stay in Haddenham may have been a temporary interlude. George and Elizabeth had previously lived in Streatham for the decade after they were married at St Leonard's Church, Streatham, in 1900.

On 13 September 1911, Reginald was sent to the HMS training ship *Exmouth*, moored in the Thames off Grays. He was then 4ft 8in tall and weighed not quite 5st. Over the next three years, Reginald led an active life, excelling at swimming and gymnastics. His conduct was always rated as 'VG' (very good).

Reginald's expectation was to join the Navy as a boy sailor when he left the *Exmouth* on 7 September 1914 and he went straight to the shore-based HMS *Ganges* at Shotley, near Ipswich. Reginald was trained in the signalling methods of the time, a mixture of flag, semaphore, and Morse code, sent both by wireless telegraphy and searchlight.

On 6 May 1917, the day that the Hammersmith Board of Guardians ceased control of his life, Reginald Nicholson signed for 12 years service in the Navy. He was still small in stature, a little over 5ft, and was described as having fair hair,

brown eyes and a fresh complexion. The records show that he had been on board the battle cruiser HMS *Inflexible* for two years, after which, in November 1917 he was transferred to the destroyer HMS *Vehement*. Close to midnight on 1 August 1918, during mine-laying duties in the North Sea, HMS *Vehement* struck a mine. One officer and 47 ratings were killed in the resulting explosion which partly destroyed the ship. The remaining crew abandoned ship at 4am on 2 August, when all hope of saving HMS *Vehement* was lost and she began to sink.

The Noyes family had moved to Stockwell by 1918. Naval records show Reginald's next of kin as 'Mother:—Elizabeth. Goldsboro' Rd, Lambeth, S.W.8'. George and Elizabeth Noyes were still at the same address in 1934.

CHRIS BURGE

R. NICHOLSON. Signalman, Royal Navy, HMS 'Vehement'. Service no. J/32529. Died when his vessel hit a mine on 2 August 1918, aged 18. Remembered at Chatham Naval Memorial, Kent

A. NIGHTINGALE

Not identified

HARRY ALBERT NIXON

Harry Albert Nixon, a career soldier, enlisted in 1906. He was drafted to the Western Front shortly after the outbreak of war.

Nixon's Army Service records are extensive, as you might expect with such a long period of service (over eight years). He joined the Middlesex Regiment at Winchester, the city of his birth, on 24 February 1908, aged 19 and five months, leaving behind his civilian life as a van guard.

In 1908 Nixon's general condition was 'good'. He stood taller than average at 5ft 6½ inches and weighed just over 9½st. His chest measured 37½in. With a fresh complexion, grey eyes and fair hair, he must have been among the more healthy of recruits. However, Nixon was possibly something of a difficult character. He remained a Private throughout his long

Army career and it could have been that his poor conduct record accounted for his lack of advancement.

In January 1910 he was pulled up for inattention on the range. At Dum Dum in West Bengal he was absent from parade. He was punished for using improper language towards an NCO. At Malta he was punished for 'improper conduct — walking arm in arm with other soldiers' and 'using obscene language'. In September 1913 in Aden (in Yemen) he was punished again for using improper language towards an NCO and soon after shipped out to the 2nd Battalion. In Valletta, Malta he was disciplined for 'interfering with the military police'.

In Darjeeling in August 1911 Nixon was discovered to have syphilis. He sought treatment two weeks later and by 1912 the Army doctors at Dum Dum were treating him regularly. His appointments were weekly, although he is often marked as 'absent,' presumably because he was on operations. Nixon was dosed with mercury and iodides (neither of which would have been effective). Better medications had been developed by the German Nobel prize-winning physician Paul Erlich in 1906 but these were not yet widely available.

When the Great War started, Nixon was sent to France. He fought at Ypres, Loos, and Albert and was killed in action on 1 July 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme. He was listed as 'missing,' but his next of kin were not notified until 15 August. Eventually, he was classed as killed in action.

After his death, Nixon's effects were sent to his younger sister, Mrs. Alice Maude Weaver, who lived at 42 Margate Road, Brixton. 'I recive [sic] the photos quite safe,' she wrote in reply, 'thanking you very much for sending them.' Later, in 1919, when sent Harry's medals, she wrote: 'Recive [sic] with thanks. Thank you very much for sending me the 1914 Star, I am very proud of my Poor Brother.' On Army form W5080, in which relatives gave the names and addresses of family of the deceased, only two siblings were declared: Daisy Dorithy [sic] and

Fredrick. In reality there were or had been at least 11 siblings.

In 1911 Harry's family lived at 31 Priory Grove, South Lambeth, where they occupied four rooms. The household consisted of his parents, Frederick C. Nixon, 55, a general labourer born in Stepney, east London and Alice Nixon, 49, born in Dorset. The couple had 12 children, six of whom lived at home.

H.A. NIXON. Private, Middlesex Regiment, 2nd Bn. Service no. L/12127. Killed in action on 1 July 1916, aged about 27. Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

HENRY or HARRY NORRIS

Henry (known as Harry) Norris was born in 1893 in Stepney, east London, the first child of parents of Thomas Henry and Edith (née Hollole) who had married the previous year at St Mark's Church, Victoria Park in Tower Hamlets, east London. Harry's father was a serving Metropolitan Police constable, born in Chelsea, and his mother Edith was originally from Cornwall. Harry's younger brother Arthur was born in Chelsea in 1898 and by the time of the 1901 census the Norris family were living in Stepney. Another child, Rose, was born in 1900 in Stepney but died as an infant and a second brother, Charles, born in 1901 and baptised at St Anne's on South Lambeth Road on 5 August 1904, died in 1906. Henry's third brother Albert was born Lambeth in 1905.

In 1904 the family's address was 39 Coronation Buildings (since demolished and replaced with offices), opposite Vauxhall Park on South Lambeth Road. In the 1911 census, Thomas and Edith Norris were living with their three sons in four rooms at 26 Radnor Terrace, off South Lambeth Road, a property that also housed two other people in one other room. Henry's father was now 44 and his mother 46; they had been married for 18 years. Thomas listed all their children on the census return including the deceased Rose and Charles. Harry was working as a waiter at the War Office.

Just a year later, Harry had decided to

join the Army. His enlistment is recorded in the pages of the Surrey Recruitment Register. He had attested on 26 April 1912 at Kingston, Surrey, joining the Royal Horse Artillery. His stated age was 19 years and five months and he was 5ft 9¾in in height, weighed just under 10½st and had blue eyes. His occupation was described as 'light porter' and reference was made to Charles Dawes, a cheesemonger who lived with his family at 237 Wandsworth Road.

Harry was in India, serving in the Anglo-Indian Army at Kirkee (now known as Khadki) when war broke out. When the 6th (Poona) Division was mobilised in September 1914, Harry was posted to the 6th Ammunition Column of the Royal Field Artillery.

On 16 October the division sailed from Bombay for Mesopotamia (an area encompassing present-day Iraq and Kuwait, and parts of Iran, Syria and Turkey), ostensibly to protect the Anglo-Persian oil pipeline and the refinery at Abadan in the Persian Gulf. Oil was vital to the British Navy. The Anglo-Indian force landed in the Shattl-Al Arab waterway in November 1914 and Harry Norris was recorded as disembarking on the 20th.

Beyond the marshlands of the lower Tigris was flat desert with no roads and no water, except in rivers. In an ill-fated advance to capture Baghdad, the Anglo-Indian forces were repulsed at Ctesiphon (Tusbun, or Taysafun) on 24 November 1915. Pursued by Ottoman forces, 6th (Poona) Division retreated to Kut-al-Amara but after digging in on 7 December 1915 were surrounded and cut off.

On 29 April 1916, after 147 days, the siege of Kut-al-Amara ended in a humiliating surrender. An estimated 10,061 troops and 3,248 followers were taken captive. Already weakened by hunger and disease, thousands of men were force-marched across the Syrian desert to the mountainous region of Anatolia.

The survivors were mostly used as forced labour on railway construction and tunnelling work. According to the March 1916 returns taken at Kut before the surrender, the 6th Ammunition Column

numbered two officers, 37 British and 96 Indian other ranks, a total of 135 men.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission database lists the names of 37 British servicemen who served in the 6th Ammunition Column and died as prisoners of war. Most of the men had been scattered among the camps that sprang up around the railway works in half a dozen different places in Anatolia, in both the Amanus and Taurus Mountains. The majority perished at Baghtche and its associated camps. Among the identified deaths at the Tarsus camp was Harry Norris who died on 24 September 1916.

The date at which Harry's parents were informed of their son's death is unknown. An official report into the treatment of British Prisoners of War in Turkey presented to Parliament in 1918 and published by HMSO led to newspaper articles that could only have brought great distress to the families of these men. More than 60 per cent of the British troops taken prisoner at Kut were known to have died as prisoners of war.

The Norris family moved to 5 Meadow Road near Vauxhall Park during the war and remained there until at least 1930.

CHRIS BURGE

H. NORRIS. Gunner, Royal Field Artillery, 6th Ammunition Col. Service No. 70166. Died as a prisoner of war on 24 September 1916, aged about 23. Remembered at Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery, Iraq

A. NUNN

Not identified

ALFRED EDWARD NUNN

Alfred Edward Nunn was born in 1899 and baptised at St Andrew's, Landor Road, on 21 May 1899, the first child of Alfred and Emily Clara Nunn who lived at 7 Landor Road. Alfred's father worked as a laundry manager and his mother as a laundress.

The 1901 census shows that they shared their home with a daughter from Alfred's first marriage (he had been widowed). Alfred (snr) was now working on

the trams. A second son, George William Nunn, was born on 4 February 1903 and baptised at St Andrew's on 22 February 1903.

In the 1911 census, the Nunn family lived in five rooms at 38 Landor Street, close to the Avondale music and dance hall, and the Landor Hotel Public House. Alfred (snr), aged 49, worked as a motorman for the London County Council tramways. Alfred (jnr) and George were at school. The property was shared by an elderly widow and her daughter living in two other rooms and a family of three in another two rooms.

Alfred was 15 at the outbreak of war, but conscription was introduced in 1916 and Alfred was called up early in 1917. The Surrey Recruitment Registers, a rare survival of its type, record Alfred's details. After reporting at Wandsworth, Alfred was directed to be at Kingston by 30 March where he was assigned the Service number 45901 and instructed to join the 23rd Training Reserve Battalion for basic training. Alfred was 18 years and two months, 5ft 7in tall, almost 7³/₄st and had a chest size of 34in. His address was then 108 Manor Street, Clapham.

Training complete, Alfred was posted to the 7th Battalion of the Royal West Surrey Regiment. No records exist to say exactly when Alfred was sent to France. Spring 1918 was a time of crisis on the Western Front when the enemy threatened to break through. At this time, the 7th RWS were in the forward zone, to the east of Amiens. March and April were a time of retreat and counterattack. An assault on Hangard Wood on 26 April resulted in further casualties, a total of five officers and 141 other ranks. The first week of May was quiet as the 7th RWS worked hard to improve trenches, build shelters and erect barbed wire. The records note on the 4th May 1918, '2 O.R. wounded by shell whilst on way to join Battn, in the line.'

Alfred Edwin Nunn was among the wounded and died on 10 May 1918 in one of Rouen's many hospitals.

Alfred (snr) and Emily lived in Manor Street until Alfred's death in 1929 at the age of 67. Emily was living in Epping,

Essex when she passed away in 1943, aged 75. Alfred's brother George William died in 1979, aged 76.

CHRIS BURGE

A.E. NUNN. Private, The Queen's Own Royal West Surrey Regiment, 'A' Coy., 7th Bn. Service no. 63634. Died of wounds on 10 May 1918, aged 19. Remembered at St Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, Seine-Maritime, France

HERBERT CHARLES NUTHALL



Herbert Charles Nuthall was born in in Camberwell, southeast London on 17 August 1883 to Henry Nuthall, a commercial clerk, and Jane Nuthall (née Lindo). He was the seventh of their 10

children, and was baptised at St James's, Camberwell on 25 September that year. The family lived at 16 Carew Street.

At the time of the 1891 census, when Herbert was seven, he lived at 16 Kingsmore Road, Brixton, with his parents and three siblings. He attended Jessop Road School between the ages of five and 15. His address was 16 Wingmore Road, Brixton.

The 1901 census shows Herbert as a private in the Army, garrisoned at Colchester, Essex, while his parents and three siblings lived at Wingmore Road. His father was working as a clerk for Lambeth council.

By 1911 27-year-old Herbert had left the Army, his mother had died (in 1909, with his father following her in 1912) and he was recorded in the census as working as a window cleaner, one of two boarders at 9 Lingham Street, Stockwell living with William Davis, a bootmaker, and his family, sharing four rooms with six other people. The other boarder was Gertrude Morling, also 27, who was born in Camberwell.

Gertrude and Herbert married in 1912, and their daughter Hilda Alice Nuthall was born the following year.

Herbert's Service records have not survived so we do not know the

circumstances of his enlistment. His great-grandson Brian Denny has told us that Herbert may have been a witness to the Christmas 'truce' of 1914, the unofficial ceasefires along the Western Front, and the first gas attack in April 1915, as his regiment was in the vicinity of both. Herbert died at the Battle of Ypres.

Herbert's widow Gertrude, lived at 12 Lingham Street, Stockwell, and received a war gratuity of £5 19s and 3d for herself and Hilda. She died in 1957 and Hilda in 1996.

H.C. NUTHALL. Private, Royal Warwickshire Regiment, 1st Bn. Service no. 7498. Killed in action on 25 April 1915, aged 31. Remembered at Seaforth Cemetery, Cheddar Villa, Belgium

LEONARD WILLIAM OAKES

Leonard William Oakes was baptised at All Saints, Devonshire Road, South Lambeth on 26 August 1898, the son of John Thomas Oakes and Mary (née Spearing). He attended Springfield School.

In 1911 Leonard William Oakes, 12, lived at 64 Paradise Road, Stockwell with his widowed father, John Thomas Oakes, 56, a platelayer for the railway, originally from Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire, four of his five siblings and a boarder.

The service medals and awards rolls show that Leonard William Oakes joined the 10th Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers, and was first moved to the 23rd and then the 26th. For unknown reasons, his name is not included in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission database.

L.W. OAKES. Private, Royal Fusiliers, 26th Bn. Service no. 50044. Assumed dead 2 April 1918, aged 19

ERNEST FREDERICK OEHRING

In 1911 14-year-old Ernest Frederick Oehring was working as an engraver's errand boy. He lived at 85 Ferndale Road, Clapham, where his family had seven rooms. His father, Frederick A. Oehring, 44, was a bookbinder's finisher, born in Lambeth; his mother, Alice, 38, was also from Lambeth. Ernest had a younger

sister. Frederick A. Oehring's father, also called Frederick A. Oehring, was a tailor born in Leipzig, Germany but was by 1891 a naturalised British subject. Ernest enlisted at Camberwell.

E.F. OEHRING. Private, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry), 142nd Coy. Service no. 71553. Killed in action on 11 January 1918, aged 19. Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

GEORGE ORMOND

George Ormond, a van shifter for the London & South Western Railway, was born in Lambeth and lived in Clapham. He enlisted in London. His mother, Harriet Ormond, who lived at 56 Larkhall Lane, Stockwell, was born in Fordington, Dorset. Ormond's father, William Ormond, a railway porter, was from Tolpuddle, Dorset.

G. ORMOND. Private, Royal Fusiliers, 11th Bn. Service no. G/37729. Killed in action on 30 September 1918, aged 22. Remembered at Unicorn Cemetery, Vend'huil, France and at Waterloo Station War Memorial, London

GEORGE FREDERICK OSBORNE

In 1911 15-year-old George, the oldest child of Lydia Osborne (née Spinks) and George Lewis Osbourne, a plasterer's labourer, was working as a Post Office messenger. He lived with his family and a cousin in five rooms at 7 Bolney Street, Dorset Road. He was baptised at St Anne's, South Lambeth on 15 September 1895.

G.F. OSBORNE. Rifleman, Rifle Brigade (Prince Consort's Own); formerly Royal Engineers (Postal Section); posted to London Regiment (Post Office Rifles). Service no. 48694. Died of wounds on 10 July 1918, aged 23. Remembered at Pernois British Cemetery, Halloy-les-Pernois, Somme, France

CHARLES WILLIAM PACE

Charles William Pace was 26, working as an outdoor porter and living at 55 Dawlish Street, off Wilcox Road when he signed up at Camberwell on 4 March 1916. Pace

gave his mother Sarah Ann Pace as next of kin, but this was later amended to his wife, Florence (née Meredith), of 21 Seaham Street, Nine Elms. The couple married at St Barnabas Church, South Lambeth on 23 July 1916. Pace stood 5ft 1in tall, with a 36in chest.

Pace's file includes a letter from 19 October 1916 written on his mother's behalf. Over a month after her son had died, she pleaded with the Army: 'I have received no letter or tidings from him for some time now... If he has been wounded or fallen sick and has been removed to hospital would you please endeavour to trace him through your Records.' For his mother, the most likely possibility — that he was dead — was too dreadful to set down in a letter. Pace's record states merely 'missing after action'. He had served 280 days.

The 1911 census describes Charles William Pace, then 21, as a tea packer from Walworth, southeast London. He and his elder brother James Stephen, 24, a window cleaner, also born in Walworth, lived with their widowed mother, then aged 56, who was from Bermondsey, at 14 Gladstone Street, Stockwell, where they shared two rooms. Six other siblings lived elsewhere.

C.W. PACE. Private, London Regiment, 1/24th Bn. (The Queen's). Service no. 722461. Killed in action on 15 September 1916, aged about 26. Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

JOHN PACKER

In 1911 John Packer, 21, worked as a carman and shared five rooms at 4 Currie Street, near Nine Elms Lane, Battersea, with his widowed father, Joseph, 59, a grocer from Chelsea, and two siblings. Joseph and his deceased wife, Mary Ann, had had five other children. On Christmas Day 1914, John Packer married Lily Cecilia Baker at St Anne's Church, South Lambeth.

J. PACKER. Private, Royal Fusiliers, 4th Bn. Service no. G/17678. Killed in action on 26 March 1918, aged 28. Remembered at Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

ERNEST EDWARD PAGE

Born in Whetstone, Middlesex, lived in Lambeth, enlisted in Camberwell.

E.E. PAGE. Rifleman, London Regiment, 1/21st Bn. (First Surrey Rifles). Service no. 653413. Killed in action on 7 June 1917. Remembered at Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

CHARLES JOHN PAINTER

Charles John Painter lived in Stockwell and enlisted in Hoxton, east London.

In the 1901 census he is listed as a 15-year-old 'warehouse lad' living in Hackney with his parents, Thomas Richard Painter, a hosier, and Susan Painter (née Moyses), four siblings and a baby niece. Ten years later he was a boot salesman living with his parents and two siblings in Walthamstow, Essex.

C.J. PAINTER. Serjeant, London Regiment, 2/4th Bn. (Royal Fusiliers). Service no. 281508. Killed in action on 15 May 1917. Remembered at Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

ELI JOHN PALMER

Eli John Palmer was born in 1895, the only child of Eli John Palmer, a mason's labourer, and Julia Susan (née Smallcombe). Julia was 45 at the time of Eli's birth and had had at least eight children from a previous marriage. Eli grew up with his older half-siblings, living on the Lambeth Road.

By the time of the 1911 census, Julia had been widowed for second time —Eli's father had died in 1910. She was now 60 and no longer working. Two of her sons from her first marriage, Albert and Francis Hewett, lived with her as did young Eli, who was working as an errand boy for a hosier's. The four of them shared three rooms at 3 DeLaune Street, Kennington.

Perhaps spurred by the heady mix of patriotism and a sense of adventure, Eli volunteered in London early in the war and joined the 9/Devons in 1914. This 'New Army' battalion was finally ready to move to France on 27 July 1915.

After a few weeks of trench holding, the 9/Devons were at the first day of the Battle of Loos on 25 September 1915, facing a hail of fire when assaulting the enemy lines. During the bitter fighting, the 9/Devons were 'stood to' in the front line trench from 6.30pm on 29 September to 2.30am on the 30th, under intermittent shelling. Eli John Palmer was killed. During these few days, the battalion's total casualties were 15 officers and 461 men, close to 50 per cent of its strength.

Eli had nominated Julia as his next of kin and sole legatee. She received his £3 10s war gratuity and a small pension at the war's end. Julia lived at 16 Prideaux Road, near Clapham North, from 1919 until she passed away in 1924, aged 76. *CHRIS BURGE E.J. PALMER. Private, Devonshire Regiment, 9th Bn. Service no. 1242. Died on 30 September 1915, aged 21. Remembered on the Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France*

HENRY THOMAS PAYNE PARDUE

Henry Pardue was born in 1884 in Clerkenwell. In 1901 he was a 17-year-old litho apprentice living at 2 York Mansions, Newington, with his family. His father, Charles J. Pardue, born in 1848 in Westminster, was by 1901 a widowed lawyer's clerk. His deceased wife, Annie Eliza (née Payne), was a year younger.

In 1911, Henry Thomas Payne Pardue, 27, was living with his aunt Annie Warren, 39, his sister Gladys, a dancer, and Annie's four children at 85 Shakespeare Road, Stoke Newington, northeast London. His siblings were scattered across the country: Charles John Pardue, 36, was a law writer in Newcastle-upon-Tyne; William Pardue, 24, was a private in the Royal Marines at East Stonehouse, Devon. We have not managed to trace Henry's married sisters on the census.

Henry's widowed father, Charles John Pardue, 63, meanwhile, had started another family and had a total of at least 14 children from his two marriages. In 1911 he was working as a stationer's clerk and was married to Emma Matilda (née Barrett), 43; they lived with their four

children at 79 Corporation Street, West Ham, east London.

H. PARDUE. Serjeant, London Regiment, 1/12th Bn, (The Rangers); formerly 16th London Regiment. Service no. 473280.

Killed in action on 10 May 1917, aged 33.

Remembered at Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

CHARLES FREDERICK PARKER



Charles Frederick Parker was born on 23 November 1884 at 95 Dunnetts Road, St Pauls, Deptford, southeast London. He was one of 10 children of William James Parker, an engineer originally from Liverpool, and Elizabeth Emma (née Rutt) from Southwark, south London.

In 1905 Charles, aged 20, and Daisy Laura Hales, 21, married at Christ Church, Blackfriars and by 1911 they were living in two rooms in Block Q of the Blackfriars Peabody Estate with their daughter, Elsie Daisy, then aged two. A son, William, was born later. Charles was employed as an assistant stationary engineerman for the London Hydraulic Company.

Charles Frederick Parker enlisted in the Royal Field Artillery in Brixton in 1916 and was later transferred to the 34th Company Machine Gun Corp (Infantry). In February 1917, he was recovering at the Soldiers' Rest, St Mary Street, Cardiff. He had trench foot, a condition caused by continuous immersion in water. At the front, the water table was often only a few feet below the surface which meant that the men lived almost permanently in wet conditions.

Operation Michael, the major German counteroffensive known as the 'Kaiser's Battle', was launched along a 50-mile front at dawn on 21 March 1918, following a massive preliminary bombardment. The Germans broke through the British lines and the 34th Machine Gun Corps was almost completely surrounded. Parker was killed.

WITH THANKS TO RAY COLEMAN

C.F. PARKER. Private, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry), 34th Coy. Service no. 142427. Killed in action on 21 March 1918, aged 34. Remembered at Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

ALBERT PARSONS

Albert Parsons was born in Lambeth in 1891. The 1911 census records him as 20 years old and living at 346 South Lambeth Road with parents James, 52, from Snettisham, Norfolk, and Thirza Matilda (née Butler), 48, from Blockley, Worcestershire, plus siblings James Loose, 23, Dora, 22, and Stanley Horace, 10. Albert was working for his father who was a builder.

Parsons volunteered on 16 November 1915. He was posted to France as a private and became an unpaid Lance Corporal on 11 February 1917.

A. PARSONS. Lance Corporal, Honourable Artillery Company, 2nd Bn. Service no. 5196. Killed in action on 15 March 1917, aged about 25. Remembered at Gommecourt British Cemetery, No.2, Hebuterne, Pas de Calais, France

ALBERT EDWARD PARSONS

In 1911 Lambeth-born Albert Edward Parsons, 30, a drapery warehouseman, lived in five rooms at 40 Bellefields Road, Stockwell with his wife, Jessie Emily (née Bagwell), 29, from Southwark, two young sons and a boarder. Albert was baptised at St Mary the Less, Lambeth, on 1 December 1880, the son of Alfred, a stonemason, and Emma, of 34 Warwick Street.

A.E. PARSONS. Rifleman, London Regiment, 1/21st Bn. (First Surrey Rifles). Service no. 653411. Killed in action on 7 June 1917, aged about 36. Remembered at Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

ALBERT ABRAHAM GEORGE PASKINS

The 1891 census lists Albert A.G. Paskins as the four-year-old son of Henry Thomas Paskins, a greengrocer, and Ada Sophie (née Stacey), who lived with their three

children at 47 Akerman Road, Brixton.

Albert was born on 17 November 1886 and baptised at Christ Church, Brixton on 9 January the following year.

He served in France from 24 July 1915. *A.A.G. PASKINS. Gunner, Royal Field Artillery. Service no. 69796. Died in Lambeth in 1920, aged 33*

JOHN WALTER PATRICK

In 1911 John Walter Patrick, 17, a carman, lived with his parents and five of his six surviving siblings in four rooms at 11 Union Street, Clapham. His father, William Patrick, 56, was a general labourer, originally from Farnham, Surrey; his mother, Mary Jane (née Higgs), 54, was from Newington, southeast London.

John was born on 31 July 1893 and baptised on 27 August at St John the Evangelist, Clapham Road, near Clapham North. Aged four, he attended Larkhall School, Larkhall Lane.

J.W. PATRICK. Private, Royal Fusiliers, 12th Bn. Service no. 18989. Killed in action on 4 September 1916, aged 23. Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

FRED CECIL PAYNE

Fred Cecil Payne was born in Westminster on 15 April 1877 and baptised at St James's Piccadilly on 20 May.

At the time of the 1911 census he was working as a restaurant waiter and living with his widowed mother, Emily Matilda (née Nutt), 66, and his 27-year-old sister Winifred, a dressmaker, in two rooms at 2 Thorne Road, South Lambeth. His married brother Basil lived in west London. Their father, Fred, a lodging house keeper, died in 1891.

F.C. PAYNE. Private, Manchester Regiment, 18th Bn. Service no. 42266. Killed in action on 13 June 1917, aged 40. Remembered at Perth Cemetery (China Wall), Ypres, Belgium

FREDERICK JOHN PAYNE

Frederick John Payne was born on 13 November 1888, the son of Samuel

Payne, a general labourer from Stogumber, Somerset and Sarah Ann (née Stephenson), born in Surat, Gujarat, India. He was baptised on 5 April 1889 at St Barnabas, South Lambeth.

In 1911 Frederick lived with his parents and three of his five siblings at 6 Horace Street (now disappeared, this street was near Wilcox Road), South Lambeth, where they had four rooms.

In the summer of 1911 Frederick married Selina Ann Brittle, who lived with her family at 16 Wheatsheaf Lane, very close to Horace Street. The first of their three children, Frederick John Brittle Payne, was born out of wedlock, in 1909 and at the time of the 1911 census had been put out to nurse in Reading with the family of Jane Brooks. In the Second World War he served in the East Surrey Regiment and died in action, aged 35, on 30 November 1944 in Netherlands.

Selina married James Turk Johnson, a fishmonger, in 1923.

F.J. PAYNE. Private, Dorsetshire Regiment, 6th Bn. Service no. 11440. Killed in action on 7 July 1916, aged about 27. Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

EDWIN ROBERT GILBERT PEACOCK

Edwin Robert Gilbert Peacock, the son of Charles C. Peacock and Ellen M. Peacock, was born in Essex on 12 March 1891 and baptised five weeks later at All Saints, Southend-On-Sea, Essex.

In 1911, aged 20, he was working as a stonemason and boarded with the family of Charles Smith (also a stonemason) at 24 Lingham Street, Stockwell. Ten years earlier, Edwin, one of four sons, lived with his family in Prittlewell, Essex, where his father was a council dust inspector. His mother, Ellen, then 49, later moved to 38 Gaskill Street, Clapham.

E.R.G. PEACOCK. Serjeant, Machine Gun Corps, 17th Bn.; formerly Royal Fusiliers. Service no. 3261. Died of wounds on 3 September 1918, aged about 27. Remembered at Varennes Military Cemetery, Somme, France

PERCY WILLIAM PEARCE

Percy William Pearce, aged 14 in 1911 and working in a wheelwright's shop, lived with his parents, six siblings and a boarder in five rooms at 28 Tradescant Road, South Lambeth. He was one of eight children of George S. Pearce, 46, a railway police constable from Godalming, Surrey, and Marian, 46, from South Lambeth.

P.W. PEARCE. Lance Corporal, The Queen's Own Royal West Surrey Regiment, 11th Bn. Service no. 1432. Died of wounds on 17 July 1916, aged 20. Remembered at Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, France

GEORGE PEARCEY

George Pearcey, one of six children, enlisted at Handel Street, near Coram's Fields, London WC1. His widowed mother, Ada Pearcey, a charwoman (cleaner), lived at 104 Stockwell Road.

G. PEARCEY. Private, London Regiment, 1st Bn. (Royal Fusiliers). Service no. 202274. Died on 19 January 1919, aged 34. Remembered at Lambeth Cemetery, Screen Wall, Blackshaw Road, Tooting, southwest London

WILLIAM REGINALD GUY PEARSON



William Reginald Guy Pearson, known as Guy, was a captain in the RAF. He was one of five children of surgeon and physician Dr. Reginald Spencer Pearson and Minnie Savile Pearson, of Clapham Road, London. In 1911 the family lived in 10 rooms at 14 Lake Street, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, with two mother's helps. Guy Pearson was educated at Ashdown Park and Berkhamsted. He had ambitions to join the clergy. At the outbreak of war, however, he enlisted in the Empire Battalion, Royal Fusiliers, and later received a commission in the Army Service Corps. Pearson went to France in January 1915, joining the Royal Flying Corps soon afterwards in the role of

artillery observer. Returning to England, he completed his training as a Scout pilot, and served in France for nearly a year in a fighting squadron. In over 50 encounters with the enemy he brought down 11 enemy aircraft, and was mentioned in despatches.

In a letter from Belgium on 10 November 1917 to his friend Arthur Rose, Pearson wrote: 'I agree with you that those who speak of this as "the last war" have failed to realise that so long as there are men who possess this will [to conquer]... there will be factions inevitable. And further, if this ambition is in the heart of a race, it will most assuredly unite that race in an obsession to subdue other nations, and there will be war.'

Pearson became a Flight Commander and was promoted to Captain. He died at the aerodrome at Hooton Hall, Cheshire when the plane he was flying with Lieutenant William Smith MacFarlane clipped one flown by 20-year-old US airman Vincent Jerome Flynn. Pearson had been training the men in flying and they had been practising air attacks. All three men died in the accident and were buried in the churchyard at Eastham, although Flynn's body was later repatriated to New Jersey. Following the death of their son, Pearson's parents received over 150 letters of condolence, including one sent by the Keeper of the Privy Purse on behalf of the King and Queen.

After the war, Pearson's father played a major part in raising money for the Stockwell Memorial, but was unable to attend its unveiling. 'Dr. Pearson felt that he could not bear the strain which the ordeal of unveiling and dedicating this memorial would impose upon him,' observed *The Brixton Free Press*.

Guy's younger sister Kathleen Mary later became the bestselling children's author Mary Norton, perhaps best known for writing *The Borrowers*.

WITH THANKS TO PATRICIA PEARSON
W.R.G. PEARSON. Captain, Royal Air Force, No. 4 Training Depot Station. Died in a flying accident on 20 June 1918, aged 21. Mentioned in despatches. Remembered at Eastham (St Mary) Churchyard, Cheshire

GEORGE ALBERT PELLING

George Albert Pelling, who lived at 60 Union Grove, was born in Wandsworth in March 1894, enlisted on 28 May 1915 in London. His attestation papers give his height, 5ft 7³/₄in, with a chest measurement of 36¹/₂in. The middle finger of his right hand was missing; we can speculate that this was an industrial accident related to his occupation as a wood machinist.

He was posted on 6 January 1916 and discharged on 11 February the following year as 'No longer physically fit for service'.

Pelling was baptised on 4 February 1898 at All Saints, Devonshire Road, South Lambeth. Parents, George Pelling, a cab driver, and Miriam Mary Ann, lived at 99 Thorparch Road. In the 1911 census George Albert Pelling, then aged 17, was working as a painter and living with his parents and two of sisters at that address. *G.A. PELLING. Rifleman (served as batman), King's Royal Rifle Corps, 17th Bn. Service no. C/3505. Died in 1920, aged 26*

HORACE THOMAS PELLING

Horace Pelling was born on 9 December 1895 in Clapham. He enlisted on 3 July 1913, embarked on HMS *Bulwark* on 22 October 1914, and died on 26 November 1914, killed by an internal explosion when the ship was off the Kent coast at Sheerness. The explosion left all of *Bulwark's* officers dead; only 14 of 750 sailors survived and two of these subsequently died in hospital of their injuries.

In 1911, Pelling, then 15, was a labourer working in the manufacture of ammonia. His father, Horace John Pelling, 40, was a gas fitter, originally from Steyning, Sussex; his mother, Hanna Elizabeth, 41, was from Walworth. Horace had one sibling. The family lived in two rooms at 3 Garnies Street (now gone — there is a Garnies Close off Sumner Road), Camberwell. *H.T. PELLING. Private, Royal Marine Light Infantry, HMS 'Bulwark'. Service no. CH1/8111. Died in an accidental explosion on 26 November 1914, aged 18. Remembered at Chatham Naval Memorial, Kent*

ARTHUR PENN



The entry for Arthur Penn in *De Ruigny's Roll of Honour 1914-1918*, includes a passage from the letter his commanding officer wrote to his parents after their son had been killed in action at Arras in March 1917: 'I had known your boy ever since he joined the company when it was formed in England, and for the last six months I had seen a great deal of him as he was my office Sergeant. I had grown to like him very much, and respected him for his manly and sterling good qualities. He was, I know, a general favourite with the other sergeants and greatly liked by the men under him. We buried him here in the Military Cemetery, and all the officers off duty and a large number of N.C.O.s and men attended his funeral.'

While he was a corporal, Penn had shown great presence of mind. During a bombing class at Noeux, he had thrown a burning bomb clear and prevented serious injury to 130 men.

The 1911 census shows that Penn was one of five children of John Thomas Doody Penn, 53, a General Post Office sorter from Chatham, Kent and Victoria (née Goodland), 55, of Ilton, Somerset. Arthur Penn was working as a chauffeur for Shuttleworth & Co. in Bermondsey, southeast London. He lived with his parents, two siblings and a boarder in five rooms at 73 Union Road, Clapham, where another family of five had three rooms. *A. PENN. Serjeant, Royal Engineers, 74th Field Coy. Service no. 44243. Killed in action on 19 March 1917, aged 23. Remembered at Faubourg d'Amiens Cemetery, Arras, Pas de Calais, France*

HENRY or HARRY PENN

Henry Penn enlisted in the Suffolk Regiment at Lambeth on 11 November 1915, and was later transferred to the Lancasters. His service file gives an indication of how he looked: he was 5ft tall

with a 36½in chest, and he had a squint in his left eye.

In June 1916 he was wounded in the face and right arm, and a year later killed in action. His effects were sent to his mother: photographs, a small bag, four identity discs, a notebook, a letter case, letters, safety razor and blades, a pipe and tobacco pouch, a silver cigarette case, a metal mirror, a regimental book cover, buttons, a farthing, a card and two cap badges.

Henry William Penn lived at 74 Hargwyne Street, Stockwell with his parents, William Kenward Penn, 62, a boiler stoker born in Clapham, and Lucy Mary (née Harris), 57, from Marlow, Buckinghamshire. The family had three rooms. Two siblings lived elsewhere.

H. W. PENN. Private, King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment), 8th Bn. Service no. 22577. Killed in action on 16 June 1917, aged 34. Remembered at Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France and at St Andrew's Church, Landor Road, Stockwell

HENRY JOHN PENNEY

In 1911 15-year-old Henry John Penney was a goldsmith's apprentice. He lived at 29 Knowle Road, Brixton, with his parents, Henry Penney, 42, a stonemason from Southwark, and Louisa Mary Penney, 41, from Lambeth, two younger sisters and two boarders. The household occupied four rooms. He was born on 16 October 1895 and baptised at Emmanuel Church (now closed) in Distin Street, north Lambeth on 3 November, when his parents lived at 31 Tracey Street. Henry enlisted in Putney, southwest London.

H. J. PENNEY. Rifleman, London Regiment, 1/9th Bn. (Queen Victoria's Rifles). Service no. 7074. Died of wounds on 20 October 1916, age 21. Remembered at Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France and at St Michael's Church, Stockwell Park Road, Stockwell

BENJAMIN CHARLES PEPLUE

Stockwell-born Benjamin Charles Peplue, 19 in 1911, lived at 70 Lingham Street, where his family had four rooms. His

widowed mother, Mildred Elizabeth, 54, was a greengrocer from Euston, north London. Benjamin had four siblings, two of whom lived at home. The family had lived at Lingham Street, Stockwell for at least 20 years (they were there on the 1901 and 1891 censuses). Benjamin's deceased father was a fishmonger from Bermondsey, southeast London.

B. C. PEPLUE. Rifleman, London Regiment, 1/11th Bn. (Finsbury Rifles); formerly 9th London Regiment. Service no. 453135. Killed in action on 2 November 1917, aged 25. Remembered at Gaza War Memorial, Israel and at St Andrew's Church, Landor Road, Stockwell

WILLIAM GEORGE PERCY

In 1911 William George Percy, 29, worked as an optician's assistant. Born in Kennington, he lived with his wife, Nellie Ethel, 24 and from Leeds, in five rooms at 52 Hearnville Road, Balham, southwest London. His parents, meanwhile, lived at 11 Grantham Road, Stockwell. William Percy, 52, was an optician; Etheldreda Percy, 49, from Portland, Dorset was described as an assistant schoolmistress in the 1901 census.

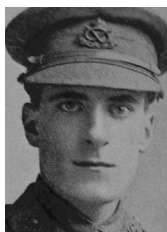
W. G. PERCY. Lance Corporal, London Regiment, 18th Bn. (London Irish Rifles). Service no. 3950. Killed in action on 22 May 1916, aged 34. Remembered at Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery, Souchez, Pas de Calais, France

ARTHUR EDWARD PERRY

In 1911 Arthur Edward Perry's parents and brother were living in four rooms at 45 Edithna Street, Stockwell. William James Perry, 57, was a coach painter born in Lambeth; Selina Perry, 62, was from Bothamsall, Nottinghamshire. They had three children. We have not found Arthur 1911 on the census; he was listed on the 1901 census as an errand boy.

A. E. PERRY. Private, King's Shropshire Light Infantry, 7th Bn. Service no. 8367. Killed in action on 14 July 1916, aged 28. Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

CECIL ERNEST PHILCOX



Brother of Percy William Arthur Philcox
Cecil Ernest Philcox was born in 1895. After attending Dulwich College public school he worked in a timber broker's office in the City (his father, Alfred

James Philcox, who died in 1913, was a timber merchant). Philcox enlisted in the ranks of 12th Battalion of the London Regiment (The Rangers). One of his brothers, Percy William Arthur Philcox, was killed in action with the Rangers on 8 May 1915.

On 20 April 1915 Philcox was transferred to the Inns of Court Officers Training Corps at Berkhamsted and in July he was given a temporary commission in the 10th (Reserve) Battalion of the South Staffordshire Regiment at Harrogate. He took part in action at High Wood, Mametz, Beaumont-Hamel, Arras, Serre, Martinpuich and Bullecourt.

In November 1916 Philcox was appointed Battalion Bombing Officer. He died on 24 May 1917 at No. 45 Casualty Clearing Station near Bullecourt. Three days earlier, during training, Private T. Hindley threw a defective No. 5 Mills grenade, mortally wounding Philcox, who sustained a fractured skull. Lance Corporal Carrington and Hindley himself were also injured. A Field Court of Enquiry, at which three witnesses gave evidence and Hindley made a statement, concluded that no one was to blame for Philcox's death. All described how Philcox had given the order to throw, how Hindley's throw was a good one and made in the regulation manner and how the grenade exploded when only six feet away from the bombing party.

Philcox was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty.

In 1911 Cecil was recorded as living with his uncle, Mervyn Philcox, a watch and jewellery dealer, aunt Martha Jane Philcox, and cousin Leonard Wilfred

Philcox at 29 Kingsmead Road, Tulse Hill, south London, where they had seven rooms. Cecil was then 15 and at school.

His father, Alfred James Philcox, a timber merchant, mother Alice Eliza (née Bennett) and brothers, Alfred Reginald and Percy William Arthur, both clerks working for their father, and sister Ethel Beatrice lived at 255 South Lambeth Road, where their family had nine rooms. A cousin, 19-year-old Florence Maud Philcox, and a 20-year-old servant, Kate Elizabeth Percival, also lived with them.

C.E. PHILCOX. Lieutenant, South Staffordshire Regiment, 1st Bn. Died of wounds received in a training accident on 24 May 1917, aged 21. Awarded the Military Cross; mentioned in despatches. Remembered at Achiet-le-Grand Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas de Calais, France, at St Michael's Church, Stockwell Park Road, Stockwell and on a memorial at West Norwood Cemetery

PERCY WILLIAM ARTHUR PHILCOX

Brother of Cecil Ernest Philcox

In 1911 19-year-old Percy William Arthur Philcox was living with his family at 255 South Lambeth Road and working as a clerk in his father's timber business.

P.W.A. PHILCOX. Rifleman, London Regiment (The Rangers), 'C' Coy. 1/12th Bn. Service no. 3252. Killed in action on 8 May 1915, aged 24. Remembered at Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium, at St Michael's Church, Stockwell Park Road, Stockwell and on a memorial at West Norwood Cemetery

ARTHUR BERTRAM PHILPOTT

Arthur Bertram Philpott was born and lived in Clapham, where he enlisted.

A.B. PHILPOTT. Gunner, Royal Garrison Artillery, 86th Bty. Service no. 33841. Died on 21 March 1917. Remembered at Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery, Iraq

THOMAS ALBERT PILGRIM

Thomas Albert Pilgrim's Army career spanned 17 years. During this time he

learned about Army discipline, rose through the ranks to be Company Quartermaster Serjeant, grew nearly four inches and acquired medals and tattoos — and a wife. He died of severe pneumonia in West Hartlepool, Cleveland in 1918, despite the best efforts of the medical staff to save him.

In November 1901 Pilgrim, aged nearly 18 and working as a general labourer, enlisted in the Royal Sussex Regiment. He was 17 years and 10 months, 5ft 5¼in tall, blue-eyed with brown hair; he had a scar by his left eye and tattoos on his left arm. At camp in Chichester, he was almost immediately in trouble: irregular conduct (punished with seven days' confinement to barracks); absent from parade (three days); quitting coal fatigue without permission (three days); not complying with an order (five days), and, at Jamestown, Ireland, making an improper reply.

More trouble followed. While serving in South Africa he made an improper reply to an NCO for which he was confined to barracks for 14 days. Back in England, at Shorncliffe Camp, Kent he was absent from Reveille. And it was from there, on 4 April 1903 that Pilgrim bought himself out of the regiment for £18.

In November 1907, aged 24, he was back at the recruitment office enlisting in the Cheshire Regiment. By now he had grown to 5ft 9in, and was a solid 11½st, with a 38½in chest. He had also acquired some more tattoos: a flower head, a woman, a head, flags and flowers on his left arm; a hand with two cards on his left hand; a snake, a palm tree and 'an Indian' on his right arm; a heart on his left knee.

There were only two black marks against him in this period. On 10 March 1909 he bought a pair of boots from a private, 'contrary to regulations', for which he was severely reprimanded; on 27 November in Belfast he was found drunk and disorderly for which he was reprimanded again. Generally, however, he had calmed down. Possibly his marriage in 1908 to a 29-year-old widow, Maud Kate Nurse, at Lambeth Register Office had an influence, as he now had responsibilities towards a

wife and young stepchild. In this period, Pilgrim acquired some qualifications. In 1908 he earned a third-class certificate of education, rising to second-class in 1910. He qualified as an assistant instructor in signalling in 1911.

Life was changing for Pilgrim. He started to gain promotions, making Serjeant in 1913, and on 9 July 1914, shortly after he suffered a bout of bronchopneumonia that had put him in hospital in Londonderry, he signed up for extended service. His military character was now judged to be excellent, his superior officers describing him as 'very hard working and efficient', 'reliable', and 'trustworthy'.

Soon he was off to France to fight in the war, but he served only three months there, between August and November 1914. Most of Pilgrim's war was served on the home front. He was appointed acting Company Serjeant in June 1915 and promoted six weeks later. But then Pilgrim was brought down by a severe case of pneumonia while at West Hartlepool. The doctor treating him at the No. 8 Durham Voluntary Aid Detachment Hospital, where he was admitted on 14 May 1918, described him as 'practically moribund' (that is, approaching death). The medical staff fed him carefully with fluids every half hour, administered strychnine (as a stimulant) and surrounded him with hot water bottles, but he succumbed five days later. He was 35 and had served for over 10 years. Maud Kate received a pension of 24s 2d for herself and her child.

Although Pilgrim did not appear on the 1911 census for Lambeth or Wandsworth, his mother, Susannah Silk, 56, and sister, Daisy May Pilgrim, 22, were listed at 3 Stockwell Grove, where they had two rooms. In 1901, before he signed up with the Royal Sussex Regiment, the 17-year-old Pilgrim was living with his mother, stepfather Tom Silk, who was a 39-year-old scaffolder from Battersea, and three siblings at that address.

T.A. PILGRIM. Company Quartermaster Serjeant, Cheshire Regiment, 86th Bty. Service no. 8761. Died of pneumonia on 19 May 1918, aged 35. Remembered at Hartlepool (Stranton) Cemetery, Cleveland

GEORGE HAND PORTER

Porter's three-year Army career in the 126th (Camberwell) Heavy Battery of the Royal Garrison Artillery was a series of appointments, promotions and demotions.

Porter signed up at Camberwell on 12 May 1915. He was 24. Blue-eyed with brown hair and a fresh complexion, Porter was 5ft 8¼in tall and weighed nearly 10st. His chest measurement was 37in, and his physical development was judged 'fair'.

The attestation form shows that he opted to allot sixpence a day from his pay to his wife — which was just as well because his wife Daisy (née Kennett) was pregnant with their child. It is likely that Porter was able to see his baby, Iris Georgina, who was born in November 1915, as he did not leave England until April the following year.

On 29 May 1915, before he had even left England, he was appointed acting Bombardier and within two weeks he was promoted to Bombardier; in less than a month he was made a Corporal.

On 29 April 1916 he proceeded to France. There, on 15 August 1916, he reverted to Gunner at his own request, but by November he was again acting Bombardier. Less than two months later he was a paid Bombardier. By September 1917 he had reverted to acting Bombardier, immediately becoming a paid Corporal, but by March 1918 he was an acting Serjeant, and then confirmed in this rank. In April 1918 he was wounded, but managed to remain on duty. Five months later he was killed in action.

George and Daisy Porter lived at 66 Kellett Road, Brixton, Daisy and Iris later moving to 61 Hinton Road, Herne Hill. From that address she sent a pained note to the Army on 2 January 1919:

'Dear Sir, Could you inform me the reason why my late husband George Hand Porter No. 290873. 126 Heavy Battery R.G.A.'s effects have not been sent to me as it is nearly four months since he was killed.'

These effects, when they reached her, were numerous and included: two wallets, photos, calendar, metal mirror,

watch, pen, guard and chain, collapsible cup, pocket knife, scissors, gold ring, rosary, cap badge, belt, match box cover, whistle, safety razor and case, cap badge, belt, tobacco pouch, cigarette case, celluloid whistle, letters, spectacles, magnifying glass and three lenses, five compasses, watch protector, razor strap, newspaper cuttings, fob watch, chevrons and brass crown.

In civilian life George Hand Porter had been a copperplate engraver. The job is highly skilled and the process demands sureness of touch combined with a light, delicate artistry. The objects returned to his widow speak of a careful, organised man used to close work.

Before he married in 1914, George Hand Porter lived with his widowed mother and three siblings at 111 Loughborough Road, Brixton. His mother, Martha Porter, 55, was from Walworth, southeast London. The 1901 census shows that George's father, listed simply as 'J. Porter', was a printer.

G.H. PORTER. Serjeant, Royal Garrison Artillery, 126th Heavy Bty. Service no. 290873. Killed in action on 12 September 1918, aged about 26. Remembered at Quéant Communal Cemetery British Extension, Pas de Calais, France

ARTHUR GEORGE POTTER

In 1911 31-year-old Arthur George Potter was working as a messenger for the Board of Education. He lived in three rooms at 86 Southville, off Wandsworth Road, with his wife Louisa Ann, 39. They were both born in Lambeth.

In 1901 he lived with his parents, John Potter, a 53-year-old railway inspector born in Croydon, and Mary A. Potter, 54, originally from Sellack, Herefordshire, and two brothers at 19 Rosetta Street (now disappeared, this street was near Kenchester Close), South Lambeth. Arthur enlisted at Clifton Street.

A.G. POTTER. Private, Coldstream Guards, 3rd Bn. Service no. 12028. Died on 13 April 1918, aged 39. Remembered at Ploegsteert Memorial, Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium

ERNEST ALEXANDER POTTS

Policeman's son Ernest Alexander Potts, a former railwayman, volunteered for the Coldstream Guards in September 1914 and was sent to the Western Front later that year. He fought at the Battles of Ypres, Arras, La Bassée and Givenchy. He was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in the field during heavy fighting at the Somme in 1918.

Potts enlisted on 3 September 1914, rose to the rank of lance serjeant and in early 1918 was discharged to join the Royal Fusiliers on a temporary commission. Severely wounded on 8 October, he died a week later.

At 6ft 3in, and weighing just over 11st, with a 36½in chest, Potts was exceptionally tall and slender rather than sturdy. He was pale, with blue eyes and brown hair. He suffered from eczema and was hospitalised for this several times. In early 1917, he was admitted to the Bethnal Green Military Hospital in east London, and treated with a staphylococcal vaccine.

The 1911 census shows that Potts was one of four children of Edward Alexander Potts, 56, born in Gateshead, County Durham, a police pensioner working as a watchman at the Bon Marché department store in Brixton, and Emma Potts, 55, of Kennington. Ernest, then 18, was a railway employee. The family occupied six rooms at 9 Mordaunt Street, Stockwell.

E.A. POTTS. Second Lieutenant, Royal Fusiliers, 24th Bn; attached 10th Bn. Died of wounds on 15 October 1918, aged 26. Awarded the Military Cross. Remembered at St Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, Seine-Maritime, France

CHARLES EDWARD R. POWELL

In 1911 Charles Edward R. Powell, 17, was a clerk to a stonemason. He lived with his family at 73 Grosvenor Road, Westminster, where they had three rooms. Powell's father, Charles Edward Powell, 45, was an Army pensioner from the West End of London. His mother, Amy Powell, 38, was from Winchester. Charles and two

of his siblings were born on the island of St Helena, a Crown Colony in the South Atlantic. He lived in Lambeth and enlisted in Westminster.

C.E.R. POWELL. Private, London Regiment, 'C' Coy. 2nd Bn. (Royal Fusiliers). Service no. 6966/233236. Killed in action on 18 March 1917, aged 23. Remembered at Beaurains Road Cemetery, Beaurains, Pas de Calais, France

JAMES SIDNEY PRESCOTT

Tentative identification – the engraver of the War Memorial panels may have reversed Prescott's initials

In 1911 James Sidney (sometimes Sydney) Prescott, aged 24, was serving with the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Scots Fusiliers at Harrismith, Orange Free State, South Africa. His parents and sister lived in two rooms at 38 South Island Place, Stockwell. William G. Prescott, 63, from Dover, Kent, was a Lambeth Borough Council pensioner; Mary Jane (née Copham), 67, was from Taunton, Somerset. They had five children. James appears on the 1901 census as a commercial clerk.

S.J. PRESCOTT. Serjeant, Royal Scots Fusiliers, 1st Bn. Service no. 8638. Died on 28 March 1918, aged about 31. Remembered at Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

HENRY JOHN PRESTON

Henry John Preston was the son of William and Ellen Preston. The 1911 census lists William, aged 49, a soda water bottler, and Ellen Preston, 46, both from St Pancras, north London living in three rooms at 37 Stockwell Road. A married couple had a further four rooms in the house. They had seven children, three of them at that address. We have not identified Henry John Preston in the 1911 census.

In 1901 the Preston family lived at 20 Dorset Street, Littlehamton, West Sussex. *H.J. PRESTON. Lance Corporal, London Regiment, 1/24th Bn. (The Queen's). Service no. 2462. Killed in action on 26 May 1915, aged 24. Remembered at Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France*

THOMAS PROTHEROE

In 1911, Thomas Protheroe, 29, the son of Thomas James Protheroe and Ruth Carrington, newly married to Florence Maud Todd, 28, lived at 40 Honeybrook Road, Clapham Park, where they had four rooms. Thomas worked as a process engraver in the newspaper industry. They had no children. Both were from Newington, southeast London.

Florence later moved to 108 Grantham Road, Stockwell. Thomas was born on 12 April 1881 and attended Harper Street School in Southwark. He was the eldest of six children.

T. PROTHEROE. Private, East Lancashire Regiment, 2/5th Bn.; formerly Royal Field Artillery. Service no. 39017. Died of wounds on 26 March 1918, aged 38. Remembered at Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France and at St Andrew's Church, Landor Road, Stockwell

FREDERICK THOMAS GEORGE PULSFORD



Aged 16, Frederick Thomas George Pulsford, a former pupil of Westminster City School, volunteered on 8 September 1914, and was sent to France the following March. He survived about six weeks. In a letter to Pulsford's parents, published in *De Ruigny's Roll of Honour, 1914-1919*, Second Lieutenant H.H. Bentley described how their son had died: Pulsford and his friend Elvin were in a dugout at Zonnebeke helping a badly-wounded comrade. All three were killed in a hail of shrapnel when a German shell fell into the dugout and exploded.

'The Rangers lost two fine soldiers in the painless heroic deaths of your son and his friend Elvin,' wrote Bentley. 'It gives me great pain to have to break this sad yet heroic news to you, because he was always a great friend of mine and one who always did the utmost of his duty.' Pulsford was buried at the back of the trenches.

Pulsford's father, Frederick Luke Pulsford, was a heraldic engraver (described as an employer in the 1911 census), born in Brixton; his mother, Blanche Bertha Pulsford (née Hawke), was from Saltash, Cornwall. The family, including a younger sister, May Irene, born in 1900, and grandmother, Mary Ann Pulsford, lived at 10 Tradescant Road, South Lambeth where they occupied the whole house. They had lived at this address since at least 1899.

Pulsford was baptised at St Stephen's Church, St Stephen's Terrace, Stockwell on 23 January 1899.

F.T.G. PULSFORD. Rifleman, London Regiment, 1/12th Bn. (The Rangers). Service no. 2338. Killed in action on 21 April 1915, aged 17. Remembered at Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium and on a 'war cruxifix', now lost, outside St Anne's Church, South Lambeth Road, Vauxhall

ALBERT EDWARD PURSLOW

Brother of William Charles Purslow

In 1911 William Purslow, 21, and Albert Purslow, 15, were shop assistants, William for a hosier and Albert for an oilman. The brothers lived in four rooms at 15 Burnley Road, Stockwell with their parents Charles Purslow, 50, from Lydford in Devon, a musician, and Alice Eva (née Shinner), 46, from Plymouth, and one of their two other siblings. Albert was born in Stonehouse, Devon and enlisted at Kingston upon Thames.

Family member Ray Gloster writes:

'Albert Edward Purslow married Emma Caroline Ann Shed at Wandsworth in 1915. They had a daughter Phyllis Jeanette Elinor Purslow, who was born on 10 November 1916, just eight days before Albert was killed in action on the Somme at the battle of the Ancre.

'He enlisted at Kingston upon Thames which, according to his pension records, was before the war, at the age of 18. It is likely that he was transferred to the 7th Battalion as a Non Commissioned Officer after it was formed in September 1914.

'In 1916 Emma was living in Brighton,

Sussex in 1916, and she stayed in Sussex until her death at Eastbourne in 1981. She did not remarry but brought up her daughter alone, and then her two grandsons. Phyllis died in Hailsham on 1 November 2008.

'Albert was a fourth generation professional soldier. His father Charles, although working as a music-hall musician in 1911, had served for 15 years in the Royal Marine Light Infantry at Plymouth, until 1899, 13 years as a musician, having previously served for almost six years in the 1st Battalion 53rd Shropshire Regiment of Foot at Plymouth, the same regiment as his father William and also his grandfather William, who was from Shrewsbury, Shropshire but continued to live in Plymouth in retirement.

'In 1908, Albert's sister Ethel married a musician, Alfred George Manning, one of four brothers who had served in the Royal Marines Light Infantry band (a fifth brother was also a musician, whilst the sixth was a baker). In 1913 she emigrated to Canada with her husband and son George (born 1909), their second son Alfred was born soon after arriving in Canada. The family settled in the United States a few years later.'

A.E. PURSLOW. Corporal, The Queen's Own Royal West Surrey Regiment, 7th Bn. Service no. 170. Died of wounds on 18 November 1916, aged 21. Remembered at Stump Road Cemetery, Grandcourt, Somme, France and at St Michael's Church, Stockwell Park Road, Stockwell

WILLIAM CHARLES PURSLOW

Brother of Albert Edward Purlow

William Charles Purslow died on 29 May 1916 after the amputation of his right arm. Eight days earlier he had sustained a gunshot wound. He had served just under a year, with only about three months in total at the front. According to his Service records, Purslow suffered from otitis media (inflammation of the middle ear) in March and he was treated on an ambulance train. There are few other details, apart from a list of his effects (identity disc, Testament, diary, photos,

cap badges, gold ring, letter). He was 25 when he joined up in London on 8 June 1915, and had a fresh complexion, blue eyes and brown hair.

Purslow left a widow, Eleanor Annie Purslow (née Hutchinson), whom he married in late 1915 (the banns were read at St Michael's Church, Stockwell). Eleanor later remarried, becoming Mrs. Hillyer.

W.C. PURSLOW. Corporal, Rifle Brigade, 'B' Coy, 3rd Bn. Service no. S/12717. Died of wounds on 29 May 1916, aged 26. Remembered at Bailleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France and at St Michael's Church, Stockwell Park Road, Stockwell

ERNEST ALBERT PYLE

Ernest Albert Pyle was born in Tottenham, north London, the son of Richard Pyle, a house painter from Islington, north London, and Sarah Jane Pyle, from Bristol. He enlisted in Lambeth in 1915 and served with the Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders. He was killed in action on 19 March 1918.

In 1911, Pyle was working as a house painter on the Holland Estate. He and his wife, Ellen, 25, who was also from Tottenham, had a two-year-old son, Ernest Richard. The family lived in four rooms at 59A Morat Street, Stockwell.

E.A. PYLE. Private, Royal Fusiliers, 23rd Bn. Service no. G/81351; formerly Middlesex Regiment. Killed in action on 19 March 1918, aged 31. Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France and at St Michael's Church, Stockwell Park Road, Stockwell

FREDERICK JAMES RAISHBROOK

In 1911 Frederick Raishbrook, aged 14 and working as a messenger boy in a newspaper office, lived at 46 Landor Road, Stockwell with his parents, siblings and two boarders. The household had five rooms. Frederick's father, William Edward Raishbrook, 40, a coal porter, was from Clapham, as was his mother, Louisa Anne, 37. Frederick had three siblings and there were two boarders including Robert

Schleicher, 24, an Austrian pastry cook.

Raishbrook was born on 2 January 1897 and baptised at St Andrew's, Landor Road, Stockwell Green on 21 February. His father described himself as a carman and the family lived at 25 Landor Road.

At the time he joined the 8th London Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery at Holland Road, Brixton, on 11 May 1914, three months before the outbreak of war, Frederick was living with his family at 46 Landor Road and working as a clerk at H.R. Baines & Co., of The Strand, London, the publisher of *The Daily Graphic* magazine. He was 17 and 10 months, and stood 5ft 8¾in, with a 32in chest. His physical development was described as 'moderate'.

On 18 November 1916 he was admitted to hospital with lacerations of five fingers of the left hand. Three weeks later, he fractured a finger. He convalesced at Boulogne. Raishbrook was wounded in the field on 2 December 1917. Two days later his family received a telegram: '[...] to inform you 955161 Gunner F. Raishbrook dangerously ill at 55 Casualty Clearance Station, France suffering from gunshot wounds multiple. Permission to visit cannot be granted.'

His effects, including disc, letters, photos, pipe, wallet, knife and mirror, were returned to his family.

F.J. RAISHBROOK. Gunner, Royal Field Artillery, Z/29 Trench Mortar Bty. Service no. 955161; formerly 1299. Died of wounds on 2 December 1917, aged 20. Remembered at Tincourt New British Cemetery, Somme, France

BERNARD CHRISTOPHER RANCE



Brother of Charles Frederick Rance

Spring 1915 must have been a difficult time for William and Sarah Rance, with four of their sons, Bernard, Charles, James and Richard, volunteering for service. Two years later, in March and June 1917, Bernard and Charles,

the youngest sons, were killed. Bernard Christopher Rance was sent to the front in December 1915. He fought at Ypres, the Somme, Ancre and Arras.

In 1911 the family was living at 16 Bolney Street, South Lambeth (they later moved to 155 Hartington Road). The household consisted of William Hugh Rance, 53, a furniture porter, born in Westminster; his wife Sarah (née Pratt), 53, also born in Westminster; two daughters and three sons, Albert, Bernard, aged 18 and 16, who were van guards, and 13-year-old Charlie. Four other children lived elsewhere.

Avril Heron, a great-niece of Bernard and Charlie, writes:

'William and Sarah Rance also had a daughter called Emily, my grandmother, my mother's mother. On the 1901 census she is shown working as a domestic kitchenmaid at 23 Wilkinson Street, just around the corner from Bolney Street where the rest of the family were living.

'Emily was very feisty lady, strong and independent. She married William Lowton, who lived in Dorset Road with his family and they emigrated to Canada, where my mother was born. William Lowton joined the Canadian Expeditionary Force. The story in the family was that he died of the Spanish flu after the war, after which Emily and her children returned to England.' In the space of about 18 months Emily had lost two brothers and her husband.

Albert and James survived the war. Albert's granddaughter Clare Stone writes to say that he was a gunner in the Royal Artillery Corps for eight years, and in the Army Reserve for 11.

B. C. RANCE. Gunner, Royal Field Artillery, 27th Bde. Service no. L/11692. Died on 26 March 1917, aged about 22. Remembered at Aubigny Communal Cemetery Extension, France

CHARLES FREDERICK RANCE

Brother of Bernard Christopher Rance
Charles Frederick Rance volunteered in April 1915 and in the following September was drafted to France where he fought in the Somme and at Arras. *The National Roll*

of the Great War says that he died at Vimy Ridge on 7 June 1917. According to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Rance is remembered at Ypres, Belgium, over 70 miles from Vimy Ridge.

C.F. RANCE. Rifleman, London Regiment, 1/6th Bn. (City of London Rifles). Service no. 321283. Killed in action on 7 June 1917, aged about 19. Remembered at Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

CHARLES HENRY RANDELL

Charles Henry Randell, born on 9 August 1888, the son of William Henry Randell and Lillian Randell of 43 Thorne Street (now Thorne Road), was baptised on 20 September 1888 along with two older siblings at St Barnabas Church, South Lambeth. Aged 20, working as a labourer, he married Caroline Lillian Shepherd at the same church. In 1911 Caroline had returned to her parents at 22 Camellia Street, Stockwell and was working as a machinist. The whereabouts of Charles is unknown.

C.H. RANDELL. Private, South Lancashire Regiment, 2nd Bn. Service no. 9114. Killed in action on 25 September 1915, aged about 26. Remembered at Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

HENRY RAY

Tentative identification

There are two candidates for H.W. Ray. The man whose details are given below was Lambeth-born Henry Ray, the son of Daniel David Ray and Catherine Ray, of 9 St Andrew's Place, Windmill Street, New Cut, Lambeth. He enlisted in Camberwell.

The 1911 census shows Henry Ray as a 13-year-old schoolboy living with his family at 17 Mary's Buildings, Tanswell Street, north Lambeth, where the family of nine had four rooms. Daniel Ray, who was from Southwark, earned a living as a costermonger, selling fruit and vegetables from a barrow. His mother Catherine, 39, was from Ireland. The couple had eight children, of whom seven lived at home.

There is also an H. Ray (first name unknown), a Private (Service no. L/15708)

in the Middlesex Regiment. He was born in Battersea and died on 26 March 1918.

H.W. RAY. Private, Lancashire Fusiliers, 10th Bn. Service no. 42425. Died on 26 September 1917, aged 19. Remembered at Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, France

WILLIAM CHARLES RAY

In 1911 William Charles Ray lived with his parents, William, a 37-year-old carman, and 32-year-old Louisa Esther (née Rainbow), and four siblings at 10 Broomgrove Road, Stockwell Green, where they occupied three rooms. Louisa's mother Caroline Rainbow lived in the other half of the house with a son, adopted daughter and a lodger.

William was almost 21 and working as an engine driver when he was called up 30 May 1918. He stood 5ft 5in, with brown hair and hazel eyes. His chest measured 33in. His physical development was judged to be 'Good'.

Ray had two misdemeanours on his Service record: failure to wash before breakfast, for which he was confined to barracks for three days, and overstaying his pass when on active service, for which six days' pay was withheld.

Ray married Annie Florence Judd in 1917. She lived at 44 Tregenna Street, Brixton Hill with their two daughters, Annie Edith, born in 1916, and Florence Violet, born posthumously in May 1919. She received his identity disc and a weekly widows' pension of 20s and 6d.

W.C. RAY. Private, East Surrey Regiment, 8th Bn. Service no. 39290. Killed in action on 23 October 1918, aged 23. Remembered at Forest Communal Cemetery, Nord, France

JOHN JAMES RENTON

The Memorial may be in error over Renton's initials. There is no J.H. Renton in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission records but there was a John James Renton who lived at 12 Stockwell Cottages, the son of J.H. Renton. In 1911 John James Renton, 19, a coal porter born in Brixton, lived at 1 Stockwell Cottages, Stockwell Green. His father, John Henry

Renton, 47, was a nightwatchman for Lambeth Borough Council. He was born in Walworth, Southwark. John James's mother, Kathrine, 44, was a washerwoman, born in Lambeth. The couple had six children, of whom four lived at home.

WITH THANKS TO BRENDA WILKINSON

J.H. RENTON. Private, East Surrey

Regiment, 2nd Bn. Service no. 6074.

Killed in action on 9 May 1915, aged

23. Remembered at Ypres (Menin Gate)

Memorial, Belgium

ERNEST REYNOLDS

In 1911 Ernest Reynolds, 13, lived in three rooms at 20 Tradescant Road, South Lambeth. His father, George Reynolds, 49, was a joiner and carpenter originally from Lowestoft, Suffolk. His mother, Jeanie, 45, was from Dufftown, Banffshire, Scotland. Ernest had three siblings, Ethel, 18, a mantle and coat maker, George, 16, a cinematographer, and Mabel, 11, at school. Ernest was born in Vauxhall. He enlisted at Croydon.

E. REYNOLDS. Sapper, Corps of Royal

Engineers, 104th Field Coy. Service no.

143376. Killed in action on 20 January

1918, aged about 20. Remembered at

Templeux-le-Guérard British Cemetery,

Somme, France

CHARLES ERNEST RHODES

Charles Rhodes was born in 1890 and baptised as Charles Ernest at St Peter's Church, Norbiton in Kingston upon Thames, Surrey on 29 October 1890, when his family was living in nearby Washington Road. The 1891 census shows Charles was the second youngest of Henry and Rossetta's seven children. Charles's mother died in January 1894 at the age of 34 and he lost his 16-year-old older sister, also named Rossetta, in 1899. Charles's widowed father Henry and four of the children were still living at Washington Road at the time of the 1901 census: Kate Louisa, 20; Frederick, 15, a van boy; Charles, 13, an errand boy; and schoolboy Frank, 11. Kate had helped bring up her younger brothers and effectively became

the head of the family when Charles's father died in the middle of 1901, aged 43.

By the time of the 1911 census, Kate was living in Battersea and working as a general domestic servant. Frank had found work as a groom in Patcham, near Brighton, Sussex. Frederick and Charles were living in one room at 12 Kimpton Road, close to Camberwell Green in southeast London. The property housed six other people in five additional rooms. Charles, now aged 22, was working as a carman for a 'Fruiters & Greengrocers'. Frederick, aged 25, completed the census return, giving his own occupation as 'soldier' and describing himself as 'boarder' which was later changed to 'head' of household.

Charles married Ellen Butler on 15 February 1914 at St Andrew's, Landor Road, opposite Hammerton's Stockwell Brewery. Ellen had grown up in Stockwell Green and had been working as a domestic servant before her marriage. Frederick was one of the witnesses at the wedding and the couple gave nearby 9 Moat Place as their address. Their daughter Ellen Rose was born on the 23 June 1914 and baptised on 19 August 1914 at St Andrew's, just two weeks after the outbreak of war when Charles and Ellen were living in Lowth Road, Camberwell.

Charles Rhodes' service number and war gratuity imply an enlistment around December 1915, under Lord Derby's Group Scheme (see *Appendix*). He was probably called up some time between January and March 1916. He may not have been considered A1 fit and was either posted initially to the Worcestershire Regiment's 1st (Reserve) Garrison Battalion or directly to the 'Severn Valley Pioneers', the 14th (Service) Battalion of the Worcestershire Regiment.

The battalion landed at Le Havre on the 21 June 1916. They were on the Somme between July and November 1916, at Arras in April 1917, again on the Somme March to August 1918, and near the Hindenburg Line between September and October 1918. The battalion often worked close to the front line and acted as infantry during the fighting when the 63rd Division were forced to retreat across

the old desolate Somme battlefields in March 1918.

Charles Rhodes' death in September 1918 was not combat-related and he was buried at Bac-Du-Sud British Cemetery at Bailleulval where a number of Casualty Clearing Stations were based.

Charles's widow Ellen and her daughter Ellen Rose were still living in Moat Place when Ellen Rose married William Crease in 1938. Three years later, Ellen married for a second time. She passed away in 1967, aged 72. Ellen Crease died in May 1971, aged 56.

CHRIS BURGE

C. RHODES. Private, Worcestershire Regiment, 14th Bn. Service No. 26775 Died on 19 September 1918, aged about 28. Remembered at Bac-Du-Sud British Cemetery, Bailleulval, Pas de Calais, France

FRANCIS WYNNE RHODES

Francis Wynne Rhodes, known as Frank, was born in Lambeth on 5 December 1892, the son of Samuel Rhodes and Alice (née Sales). He left a widow, Grace Lilian (née Hall), of 80 Crimsworth Road, South Lambeth, and two sons, Charles Wynn, born 1913, and Francis Mons, born in 1915, who died on war service in 1942.

F. RHODES. Serjeant, Royal Army

Medical Corps. Service no. 37889.

Died on 2 September 1916, aged 23.

Remembered at Basra War Cemetery, Iraq

EVERARD VAUGHAN RIDGE

Solicitor's son Everard Vaughan Ridge, a clerk at the Prudential Assurance Company, enlisted in the Territorial Force on 13 April 1913. He was 17. Ridge was in England from August 1914, serving as a gunner in the 7th County of London Battery Royal Garrison Artillery, until the following September when he was discharged to a commission in the 13th Reserve Battalion Worcestershire Regiment. He later transferred to the Machine Gun Corps, and was killed in action on 9 April 1917. At 5ft 6in tall with a 35in chest, Ridge's physical development was described as 'Good'. His father, twice-widowed Edward H. Ridge, 52, originally

from Manchester, and five siblings plus a housekeeper, lived at 55 Chelsham Road, Clapham.

E. V. RIDGE. Lieutenant, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry), 153rd Coy.

Killed in action on 9 April 1917, aged 21.

Remembered at Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France and at St John's Church, Clapham Road, Clapham

REGINALD PARNHAM RIDLEY

Reginald Parnham Ridley, aged 18 in 1911, was an electrical engineer. He was the eldest of three sons of Eliza Mary Ann Ridley, 47, a dressmaker. The family lived in nine rooms at 420 Clapham Road. Ridley's father, Frederick W. Ridley, was a grain merchant, but does not appear on the census return for this address. Ridley enlisted at Westminster.

R. P. RIDLEY. Rifleman, London

Regiment, 16th Bn. (Queen's Westminster Rifles). Service no. 589. Killed in action on

23 September 1916, aged 23. Remembered

at Delville Wood Cemetery, Longueval,

Somme, France and at St John's Church,

Clapham Road, Clapham

WALTER ALBERT RIDOUT

Streatham-born shoemaker Walter Albert Ridout volunteered early in the war. On 12 November 1914, aged 28, he presented himself to the attesting officer at Brighton and was signed up to the Royal Sussex Regiment, 8th Reserve Cyclists Battalion. His form states that he had lived in Vancouver, Canada, for more than three years. Ridout stood 5ft 5in tall, with a dark complexion, dark hair and grey eyes. His chest measured 36in.

By 17 February 1915 he was appointed acting Lance Corporal; he was promoted to acting Corporal on 11 March. By 20 April he had reverted to Private. However, on 25 June he was discharged from the Royal Sussex Regiment to join the Canadian Expeditionary Force at Southwold, Suffolk.

The 1911 census shows Walter Ridout was one of five children of Walter Young Ridout, a 60-year-old bootmaker and

repairer from Dorset, and Alice Ludia (née Plater), 49, who was 'assisting in the business'. Alice was born in the City of London. The family — Walter, his parents and two of his four siblings — lived at 14 Robsart Street, where they occupied five rooms and where they had been since at least 1901.

W.A. RIDOUT. Private, Canadian Corps Cyclist Battalion. Service no. 119029. Died on 16 June 1916, aged 30. Remembered at Nunhead (All Saints) Cemetery, Linden Grove, southeast London

NORMAN VICTOR RIVA

In 1911 Norman Riva, 14, was a dental assistant. He shared five rooms at 46 Priory Grove, South Lambeth, with his parents and five siblings. Riva's father, Charles Edward Forrester Riva, 42, a warehouseman, was from Camberwell; his mother, Susannah (née Martin), 41, was born in Westminster.

N.V. RIVA. Private, London Regiment, 2nd Bn. (Royal Fusiliers). Service no. 1891. Killed in action on 31 March 1915, aged 18. Remembered at Ferme Buterne Military Cemetery, Houplines, Nord, France

GEORGE RIXTON

In 1911 George Rixton, then aged 26, was boarding with the Reed family at 1A Elwell Road, Clapham and working as a brewer's cooper (he made or mended beer barrels). Rixton was born in Weymouth, Dorset, where his family still lived. The 1901 census shows that his father, Robert Rixton, then aged 43, was a brewer's cellarman from Muckleford, Dorset, and his mother Annie (née Reed), 47, was from Maiden Newton, Dorset.

G. RIXTON. Sapper, Royal Engineers, 2/1st Lowland Field Coy. Service no. 3483. Killed in action on 16 September 1916, aged 32. Remembered at Thiépal Memorial, Somme, France

ROBERT HARRY ROBERTS

In 1911 Robert Harry Roberts was a 12-year-old schoolboy living at 21 Cottage

Grove, Stockwell with his parents and two sisters. Roberts' father, Lambeth-born Robert Alfred Roberts, 43, was a clothworker; his mother, Emma Eliza (née Farr), 38, was from Islington, north London. Three boarders shared their six-room house.

Robert was baptised at Christ Church, Southwark on 29 May 1898 when his family lived at 48 Gray Street, Blackfriars. *R.H. ROBERTS. Private, Royal Sussex Regiment, 1/4th Bn. Service no. G/22229. Died on 7 August 1918, aged about 19. Remembered at St Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, Seine-Maritime, France and at St Andrew's Church, Landor Road, Stockwell*

ALFRED RODGERS or ROGERS

Alfred Rodgers was born in November 1894 in Pimlico on the north side of the Thames, the second child of Frederick William Rodgers and Mary Ellen (née Mulcahy). His older brother Frederick was born in Pimlico in 1890, in the same year that their parents married at St John's, Worlds End, Chelsea. By the time of the 1901 census, the four members of the Rodgers family lived at 55 Dalyell Road in Stockwell, in just one room in a property that housed two other families. The family faced considerable hardship as Alfred's father Frederick was unable to work after the amputation of his right leg. His mother Mary was a packer in a laundry.

In the 1911 census, brothers Frederick and Alfred Rodgers were still living with their parents, who were now both 43. The family had moved a few doors away to 40 Dalyell Road, where they lived in just two rooms of the three-storey building which also housed a family of six in four rooms, a widow in one room and a young mother and child in another room. Alfred's father had found work as a beer bottler while his mother was an ironer in a laundry. Alfred's brother Frederick, now 20, was an attendant in a cinema and Alfred, whose age was given as 18, was a shop boy for a bookmaker (betting shop).

Frederick volunteered at the very beginning of the war, on 9 September 1914

at Marylebone, central London, joining the Buffs (East Kent) Regiment. Within a week, as private 2176 Rodgers he was posted to the 8th Battalion at Shoreham, Sussex. His disciplinary record started to deteriorate in the spring of 1915; on six occasions between April and June he is absent without leave. The last of these was on 18 June 1915, when he was absent for over four days. On his return, he was given 14 days confinement to barracks and hauled before the Commanding Officer for a second time. On the 26 June he was posted as a deserter. He was reputedly the father of a child born in the Hastings area around March 1916 but his parents had no knowledge of his whereabouts, and possibly never heard from him again.

In mid 1915, the mayors of London boroughs were encouraged to boost the dwindling numbers of volunteers by launching new recruitment campaigns to raise local battalions. In Lambeth the designated battalion was the 11th battalion of the Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey), established on 9 June 1915. In neighbouring Wandsworth, it was the 'Wandsworth Regulars', the 13th (Service) battalion of the East Surrey Regiment.

Alfred Rodgers chose to volunteer at Wandsworth on the 9 July 1915, giving his address as 74 Paradise Road, Clapham and stating his age as 20 years and nine months. At his medical he was recorded as 5ft 1in tall, weighing 7½st, and with a 32in chest. His recorded occupation was 'vanguard'. His mother was listed as his next of kin.

The battalion made a series of farewell route marches around Wandsworth in late August 1915 before moving to Witley in Surrey and to Blackdown near Aldershot by February 1916. Alfred was not with the battalion when it finally departed for France in June 1916 as he had been transferred to the 14th Reserve Battalion in May and then the 10th Reserve Battalion on 24 June. He was finally sent to France in a draft of men supposedly destined for the 9th Battalion. They sailed from Folkestone on 27 July.

Once in France, Alfred and others were diverted to the 1st East Surrey, joining

them at the Somme front on 7 August. August was spent out of the line in a period of training and practising bombing and firing on the ranges. They returned to the trenches in very wet weather on 31 August. September was spent in and out of various support trenches in continuing bad weather until a brigade attack on enemy position took place on 25 September. Among the many casualties was Alfred Rodgers.

When Alfred's mother Mary Ellen took Army Form W5080 to be witnessed and countersigned at St Barnabas vicarage on 18 August 1919, she had written just her own and her husband's names on the form as the sole relatives of her dead son. She received her son's medal in August 1921.

Alfred parents Frederick William and Mary Ellen Rodgers were still living at 74 Paradise Road in 1938. They passed away within a few months of each other in 1944, both aged 77.

CHRIS BURGE

A. RODGERS. *Private, East Surrey Regiment, 1st Bn. Service no. 11158. Killed in action on 25 September 1916, aged 21. Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France*

JOSEPH ROGERS

Joseph Rogers, born in Lambeth in 1896, was the youngest of six siblings. He was baptised together with his two-year-old brother Edward on 16 December at St Stephen's Church, South Lambeth. His parents, Frederick James Rogers and Annie Maria (née Seeds), gave the family address as 18 Beech Street, off Dorset Road, Stockwell, and his father worked as a 'carman'. By the time of the 1911 census there had been four additions to the Rogers family and Joseph was now one of ten children whose ages ranged from eight to 21.

Joseph's father now worked as a 'fitter's labourer'. Three of Joseph's brothers worked in various jobs for the London & South Western Railway and two of his sisters worked as packers, one in a chemical factory and another in a preserves factory. Joseph, 14, worked as a 'printer's boy'. The 12 members of

the Rogers family lived in four rooms at 18 Beech Street, a property which also housed another family of six in four other rooms.

By the outbreak of war in 1914, both of Joseph's older sisters had married. His brother Edward had married in 1913 and had two children when he was conscripted in May 1916. Because he had longstanding health problems, he was placed on the Army Reserve and became a worker at Vickers munitions factory in Erith, Kent.

Joseph was conscripted towards the end of 1916 and served only in the 2nd Hampshire once in France in 1917 and in 1918. The 2nd Hampshire were present at the Arras offensive in 1917 and at 3rd Ypres, notably in August and October 1917. In March 1918 they were still in the Ypres Salient but were moved south in early April when the enemy offensive between Ypres and Bethune threatened the import centres of Armentières and Hazebrouck. The situation was only stabilised by the end of April when they were digging the reserve line around La Motte, some three miles to the south of Hazebrouck. A tour of duty in forward positions between the 6 and 13 May was described as 'quiet with few casualties'. Enemy planes had overflowed the nearby Bois d'Aval strafing and dropping bombs each afternoon with little effect, something that might have made Joseph think of his brother Charles who was in the RAF back in England in 1918. With no other detail, the casualties for the 6 May 1918 were listed as '3 killed, 3 wounded, 3 sick to hospital, 3 reinforcements, 1 died of wounds'. Joseph Rogers was one of those killed in action on that day.

The Rogers family were still living in Beech Street after the end of the war. Joseph's father Frederick James Rogers died in 1929, aged 64. Annie Maria Rogers was 81 when she passed away in 1948.

CHRIS BURGE

J. ROGERS. Private, Hampshire Regiment, 2nd Bn. Service no. 27971. Died on 6 May 1918, aged about 22. Remembered at Remembered at Cinq Rues British Cemetery, Hazebrouck, Nord, France

J.C. ROGERS

Not identified

SYDNEY or SIDNEY HERBERT ROGERS

Sydney (aka Sidney) Herbert Rogers was born in Lambeth in 1886 and baptised at All Saints, Devonshire Road, Stockwell on 24 October 1886. His parents, William and Mary Rogers, were living at 5 Gladstone Street, off Wyvil Road, at the time and his father worked as a porter for the London & South Western Railway, which employed many of Gladstone Street's inhabitants.

The 1891 census shows Sydney was the second youngest of six siblings and the Rogers family lived in four rooms at the Gladstone Street property, which was shared with a family of three in two other rooms. The Rogers family were still living at the same address 10 years later when Sydney's father was 56 and his mother 51. Sydney worked as a printer's messenger, his older sister Alice as a domestic servant and his younger brother Tom was at school. Sydney's widowed grandmother Mary lived with them.

Sydney's mother died in 1911, leaving just his sister Alice and brother Tom living with their father at Gladstone Street. William Rogers was still working as a railway porter for the L&SWR and Alice, 26, was looking after the family. Tom, 21, was now an engine stoker for the L&SWR. The property also housed another railway porter's family, with three young children, in two rooms.

In 1911, Sydney was one of Alice Swan's three boarders at 72 Fulwell Road in Teddington, Middlesex. All three boarders worked as railway engine stokers for the L&SWR, which had a locomotive shed at Fulwell Junction.

Sydney was conscripted in around March 1916. He first served in the 1/7th Battalion, a Territorial Force unit, as private 6064 Rogers, but there are no surviving records to say exactly when and where he was transferred to the 1st Middlesex, and was renumbered. Sydney Herbert Rogers' service in the

1st Middlesex probably dates from the beginning of 1917.

Sydney was killed in action during the final advance in Picardy when the end of the war was in sight. His 74-year-old father William was the sole beneficiary of his will, which amounted to £133 2s 1d.

Alice married George Griffin in 1917 and by 1925 the couple had moved to 5 Gladstone Street to be with William, who died in 1926, aged 81. They were still in residence when the street was renamed Trenchold Street in the 1930s. The street was redeveloped in 1948, its one remaining landmark being the Builders Arms pub.

CHRIS BURGE

S. ROGERS. Private, Middlesex Regiment, 1st Bn. Service no. G/43526. Died on 23 October 1918, aged 32. Remembered at Remembered at Vis-En-Artois Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

ALFRED ROSKILLY

After Alfred Roskilly died, there was some confusion in the War Office as to whether he was killed in action on 3 May 1917 or died just over a month later as a prisoner of war. The authorities had received information from the Red Cross, that an 'A. Rostkeilly' of the Royal West Surrey Regiment was held by the Germans. However, no real conclusion emerges from the files, except that, in the absence of firm evidence, the Army accepted the earlier date as Roskilly's date of death. The date was important as it affected the payments owing to the deceased.

Roskilly, an assistant clerk in the Post Office Savings Bank at Blythe Road, West Kensington, joined the 2nd (Cadet) Battalion of the London Regiment (Civil Service), moving to the 15th Battalion, and on 9 July 1915 transferring to the London Field Ambulance. He served one year and 225 days before being granted a temporary commission in the Royal West Surreys in March 1917. After that, he survived less than 10 weeks.

Arthur Roskilly was the eldest of four children of compositor (typesetter) Alfred Joseph Roskilly, from Dalston, east London, and Clara (née Guest),

from Southampton. He stood 5ft 7½in, weighed 9¾st and had a 39in chest. His military character was described as 'Very good'. In 1911 the Roskilly family lived at 32 Clitheroe Road, Stockwell, where they occupied six rooms. Arthur married Ruth Lambert at St Anne's, South Lambeth Road on 2 April 1914.

A. ROSKILLY. Second Lieutenant, The Queen's Own Royal West Surrey Regiment, 7th Bn. Killed in action or died of wounds as a prisoner of war on 3 May 1917, aged 26. Remembered at Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France and at St John's Church, Clapham Road, Clapham

THOMAS EDWARD ROSS

Thomas Edward Ross joined the Army Reserve on 24 June 1916. He was drafted for the British Expeditionary Force on 3 September 1918, joined the Hood Battalion five days later, and was killed on 29 September. He left a widow, Emily (née Brown), who lived at 56 South Island Place, Stockwell.

T.E. ROSS. Able Seaman, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, Hood Bn. R.N. Div. Service no. R/6733. Died on 29 September 1918, aged 24. Remembered at Anneux British Cemetery, Nord, France

ARTHUR FREDERICK VICTOR ROUTLEDGE

Arthur Routledge (known as Vic) was listed on the 1901 census as a 12-year-old living with his parents, Arthur Chapelhorn Routledge, 40, an upholsterer, and his wife, Selina, 34, and four siblings at 116 Junction Road, Islington, north London. After a period in Bournemouth, Arthur and Selina relocated to 13 Tregothnan Road, Stockwell.

Arthur's nephew, Norman Arthur Routledge, provided some additional information about the fiancée Arthur left behind. Official data such as the censuses and the Army Service and Pension files do not generally include mention of bereaved friends, girlfriends or fiancées of the war dead, so this vignette is especially valued:

'Vic's fiancée Maud had the very

handsome bronze commemorative plaque for Vic which the authorities sent to all the families of dead soldiers,' wrote Norman. 'She did not marry for a great many years and worked as a cook in Huntingdon. In old age she married three times – no doubt the cookery had something to do with that! You might be interested that Vic's younger brother, my father, Leonard George Routledge, also joined up (RAF) and was awarded the Croix de Guerre, which we have together with the citation signed by Pétain.'

A.F.V. ROUTLEDGE. Private, Leicestershire Regiment, 9th Bn. Service no. G/14788. Killed in action on 14 April 1917, aged 28. Remembered at St Leger British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

THOMAS WILLIAM RUDGE

Thomas William Rudge, the son of Richard Daniel Rudge and Isabella (née Baker) was baptised at St Paul's, Clapham on 11 December 1887 when his parents were living at 7 Trollope Street, Battersea.

In 1911 brewer's labourer Thomas William Rudge, 23, lived at 8 Eastcote Street, Stockwell, where his family had four rooms. His widowed father, Daniel Rudge, 59, from Dedham, Essex, was a pipe joiner for the Metropolitan Water Board. Thomas had three siblings.

T.W. RUDGE. Private, Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, 7th Bn. Service no. S/6582. Killed in action on 18 November 1916, aged about 28. Remembered at Stump Road Cemetery, Grandcourt, Somme, France and at St Andrew's Church, Lander Road, Stockwell

FRANK WILLIAM EDMUND RUSSELL



The 1911 census shows that commercial clerk Frank William Edmund Russell, then 20, was the youngest child of Farnham-born Francis Russell, 49, and Catherine Russell, 49, born in Camberwell.

Francis Russell owned a coffee shop at 89

London Road, Southwark, where the family occupied five rooms.

On 2 August 1915, at the Church of St Saviour with St Thomas in Southwark, Frank, aged 24 and working as a book-keeper, married 28-year-old typist Katherine Louisa Kies, of 34 Newcomen Street, Southwark, the daughter of Jacob Kies, a German baker. She later gave her address as 33 St Martin's Road, Stockwell.

Frank's family have preserved some postcards and letters from Frank. On 25 August 1916 Frank wrote to his sister's fiancé Jack from the training camp at Havant in Hampshire:

'I have just found out that I can get leave and will act as your best man, I hope your ankle is better than that you are able to use it. I am sorry Ern has to go under another operation, He seems to be having a rough time with his leg, I hope he will soon be better although I hardly think he will be able to go out again. A good thing too so long as he does not have any trouble in the future. I expect he will get off with a slight limp.'

In the middle of August 1917 Katherine received a handwritten letter from Quartermaster Sergeant Denny of 'D' Company: 'I am reluctantly writing to inform you that your husband [...] has been reported "MISSING" since Aug. 16 in an attack on the Prussian trenches East of Ypres. He may possibly have gone down to a hospital through the dressing station of another battalion, in which case you shall be informed.'

In the summer of 1929 Katherine married Albert Arthur Anderson, a pastry cook, at St Michael's Church, Stockwell Park Road. She died in Bromley, Kent in 1965.

WITH THANKS TO

ANDREW TATE AND STEPHANIE HIGGINS

F.W.E. RUSSELL. Rifleman, London Regiment, 'D' Coy. 1/5th Bn. (London Rifle Brigade). Service no. 302875. Killed in action on 16 August 1917, aged 26. Remembered at Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

H. RUSSELL

Not identified

GEORGE FREDERICK WILLIAM SACH

In 1911 George Frederick William Sach lived in six rooms at 28 Edithna Street, Stockwell with his parents George Sach, 39, a milkman from Ealing, and Emily Elizabeth (née Betts), 45, from Litcham, Norfolk, his younger brother and four other relatives.

The National Roll of the Great War 1914-1918 states: 'He volunteered in February 1915, and after completing his training served at home until 1917, when he was drafted to France. Whilst overseas, he fought on the Somme, at Ypres, Arras, Albert, St. Quentin, St Eloi and Lille. He also served in the Retreat of 1918, and on September 21st of that year was unfortunately killed in the Allied Advance. He was entitled to the General Service and Victory Medals.'

G.F.W. SACH. Rifleman, London Regiment, 12th Bn. (The Rangers). Service no. 470989. Killed in action on 21 September 1918, aged 21. Remembered at Villers Hill British Cemetery, Villers-Guislain, Nord, France and at St Andrew's Church, Landor Road, Stockwell

ALBERT GEORGE VICTOR SALES

On 18 April 1918 the Army declared that Albert Sales was 'regarded for official purposes as having died on or around 26/9/17'. After only three months at the front, Sales had been killed during the chaos of battle and his body was now untraceable.

Sales, a sheet metal worker, presented himself at the recruiting office on 24 February 1916. He gave his address as 82 Larkhall Lane, Stockwell. He was 5ft 6¼in tall, just over 10st and with a 38in chest; there was a squint in his right eye. Like many other conscripts, he went into the Army Reserve, waiting his turn to be mobilised.

In February 1917, he was trained and sent to France. However, Sales had repeated trouble with a septic foot. He was injured on 28 April, but did not receive treatment until 9 May. Then in late June

he was sent to the front and went missing.

Albert Sales was the son of Henry W. Sales, a railway labourer born in Westminster, and Theresa Sales, from Doncaster, Yorkshire. We have not located him in the 1911 census.

At that time, Theresa Sales, 56, was working as a railway waiting room attendant and living at 172 Stewarts Road, off Wandsworth Road with her youngest child, 15-year-old Archibald Oliver Sales, and a married daughter, Elizabeth Gertrude Riley, 29, and her two children.

A.G.V. SALES. Private, Leicestershire Regiment, 'A' Coy. 2/5th Bn. Service no. 242156. Killed in action on 26 September 1917, aged 33. Remembered at Tynne Cot Memorial, Heuvelland, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

HENRY or HARRY SAUNDERS

Tentative identification

We have not managed to connect the Henry Saunders detailed here with Stockwell specifically.

In the 1911 census he was recorded as living in Lambeth. Harry Saunders, then aged 15 and working as a van boy, lived with his parents, Henry Saunders, 48, a blacksmith from St Mary's Redcliffe, Bristol, and Georgina Louisa Ann (née Hall), 50, from Islington, north London, at 6 Howley Place, Waterloo, north Lambeth, where they occupied four rooms. Harry was born in Shoreditch, east London.

H. SAUNDERS. Died on 7 July 1916, aged 20. Private, Royal Fusiliers, 9th Bn. Service no. 9254. Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

SYDNEY HERBERT SCOTT

Sidney Herbert Scott volunteered in July 1915. He was sent overseas in the following year and served in the Somme. He was reported missing on 7 October 1916, and was later presumed to have been killed in action.

In 1911, 16-year-old Sidney was working as a shop assistant for a newsagent. He lived at 24 Edithna Street, Stockwell with his parents, Herbert F. Scott, 47, an

electrician from Park End, Gloucester, and Emma E. Scott, 44, who was born in Clerkenwell, four of his five siblings and a cousin.

S.H. SCOTT. Private, London Regiment, 'A' Coy. 1/7th Bn. (City of London). Service no. 352378. Killed in action on 7 October 1916, aged 23. Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

VICTOR ALBERT SCUTT

Tentative identification – the engraver of the War Memorial panels may have reversed Prescott's initials

This is a tentative identification as the Commonwealth War Graves Commission records and *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914–1919* list Scutt as Victor Albert rather than Albert Victor. He was born in and lived in Lambeth, and enlisted there.

V.A. SCUTT. Lance Corporal, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), 1st Bn. Service no. G/15812. Killed in action on 21 March 1918. Remembered at Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

CECIL FRANCIS SEYMOUR

Cecil Francis Seymour was born in 1892 at Christmas Common, Watlington, Oxfordshire, the youngest of Henry and Sarah Seymour's eight children. At the time of the 1911 census, Cecil was working as a hall boy at the Abbey at Witham, Oxford, one of 13 live-in domestic staff employed by Scottish-born landed proprietor Charles Adrian James Butter and his American wife Agnes Marguerite. Most of the staff were from Scotland.

On 9 August 1915 Cecil volunteered in Liverpool for the Scots Guards. He had previously been working as an attendant at Rainhill County Lunatic Asylum in St Helen's, Merseyside. His place of birth was either falsely given or incorrectly recorded as Edinburgh.

In keeping with the Guards tradition, Cecil at 5ft 11in was a tall individual. He was first sent to France on 5 October 1916 but suffered trench foot and a damaged ankle and was returned to England just after Christmas. This, and other illness,

prevented him from being declared fit for active service until he returned to France on 30 March 1918.

While in England, on 30 April 1917, Cecil married widowed Amy Maria Petrie (née Carrett) at Holy Trinity, Clapham. Amy gave her address as 12 Landor Road. Her first husband Robert Alexander Petrie, whom she had married in 1908, was a former military tailor in the Scots Guards who had re-enlisted on 2 August 1914 in the Army Service Corps. Petrie's service record was inaccurate, which meant that Amy had difficulty claiming her widow's pension, so she turned to the Moffat Institute at Esher Street (now Aveline Street), Upper Kennington Lane, for help. (The Moffat Institute carried out missionary work amongst the poor including cheap meals, religious instruction and a savings bank.) Further assistance was given by the Lambeth Branch of the London War Pensions Committee. Amy was awarded 10 shillings a week from September 1916.

Cecil Seymour rejoined his battalion when the enemy were at their most active on the Western Front. The 2nd Scots Guard had suffered around 160 casualties during nine days of constant heavy shelling at the end of March 1918. There was little respite until July when the battalion had its first contact with US troops, but they had to endure a night of gas shelling in the final week of July.

After a period of rest and training the battalion was ordered to attack and encircle the enemy at St Leger. Over the two days of 24/25 August 1918 the battalion suffered 16 other ranks killed and 94 wounded. Amy had been made a widow for a second time.

A letter from the Ministry of Pensions dated 28 March 1919 informed her that as the widow of the late 14265 Lance Corporal C.F. Seymour 2nd Scots Guards she has been awarded a weekly pension of 13 shillings and ninepence. Four weeks later, a small parcel of her late husband's effects was posted to her.

On 24 October 1923 37-year-old Amy departed England to start a new life in Australia. Her last address in the

United Kingdom was recorded as 12 Landor Road.

CHRIS BURGE

C.F. SEYMOUR. Lance Corporal, Scots Guards, 2nd Bn. Service no. 14265. Killed in action on 24 August 1918, aged about 26. Remembered at Mory Street Military Cemetery, St Leger, France and on the Rainhill Asylum roll of honour, now in the care of Rainhill British Legion

ARTHUR SHARMAN

Brother of Harry Sharman

In 1911, aged 17, Arthur Sharman was working as a labourer at a pottery; his brother Harry was 11 and at school. They were two of seven children of Edward Sharman, 62, a stone worker from Diss, Norfolk, and Elizabeth Sharman, 50, from King's Lynn, Norfolk. Arthur, Harry, their parents and a sister lived in two rooms at 17 Richmond Place, Stockwell. Another family of six lived in four rooms at the same address.

The names of Arthur Sharman and his brother Harry were added, out of sequence, to the last panel on the Memorial, probably at some time after the 1922 unveiling.

Edgar Stanley Sharman is also on the Memorial — it is not known if or how he is related to these two brothers.

A. SHARMAN. Rifleman, King's Royal Rifle Corps, 8th Bn. Service no. A/187. Died of wounds on 31 July 1915, aged 21. Remembered at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

EDGAR STANLEY SHARMAN

Edgar Stanley Sharman, aged 19 in 1911, was a ship's steward. He lived at 5 Tradescant Road, South Lambeth, with his widowed father, Charles William Sharman, 50, a commercial traveller (he sold hairdressing sundries), originally from Battersea, and two siblings.

E.S. SHARMAN. Rifleman, Rifle Brigade, 16th Bn. Service no. S/30908. Killed in action on 31 May 1917, aged 25. Remembered at Vlamertinghe Military Cemetery, Belgium

HARRY SHARMAN

Brother of Arthur Sharman

H. SHARMAN. Rifleman, King's Royal Rifle Corps, 51st Bn. Service no. TR/13/62040. Died on 8 November 1918, aged 18. Remembered at Lambeth Cemetery, Blackshaw Road, Tooting, southwest London

WILLIAM JAMES SHARP

In 1911, 24-year-old Clapham-born William Sharp was a tram driver. He lived with his widowed father, Joseph Sharp, 65, an unemployed coachman from Pimlico, on the north side of the Thames, in two rooms at 1 Northall Street (near Lingham Street), Stockwell.

On 14 October 1917 he married Grace Elizabeth Wickes at St Barnabas Church, South Lambeth. She later lived at 16 Paradise Road, Stockwell.

W.J. SHARP. Rifleman, London Regiment, 21st Bn. (First Surrey Rifles). Service no. 656082. Killed in action on 22 August 1918, aged 31. Remembered at Norfolk Cemetery, Bécordel-Bécourt, Somme, France

FREDERICK DAVID SHEA

Brother of George Shea

In 1911 Frederick David Shea, 22, was a clerk in a grocery warehouse. He lived in four rooms at 425 Forest Road, Walthamstow, east London, which he shared with his mother, Frances Shea, 49, a widow from Clapham, and two siblings (another lived elsewhere).

Ten years previously, when Frederick was a 12-year-old schoolboy, he and his younger brother George lived with their grandmother, Amelia Couturier, 67, a Clapham-born bookseller, at 209 Clapham Road, along with his uncle, Francis L. Couturier, a bookseller's assistant.

F.D. SHEA. Lance Corporal, The Queen's Own Royal West Surrey Regiment, 11th Bn. Service no. G/11619. Died of wounds on 19 January 1918, aged 28. Remembered at Giavera British Cemetery, Arcade, Italy

GEORGE SHEA

Brother of Frederick David Shea

George Shea was born on 15 March 1897 in Walthamstow, east London. In 1904, when he lived with his grandmother at 209 Clapham Road he was enrolled in Stockwell College. He enlisted in Hornsey, north London.

G. SHEA. Rifleman, London Regiment, 1/5th Bn. (London Rifle Brigade); formerly 7th Middlesex Regiment. Service no. 304330. Killed in action on 6 September 1916, aged about 19. Remembered at Thiépval Memorial, Somme, France

ARTHUR REGINALD SHEARING

Arthur Reginald Shearing was born in Lambeth on 22 April 1887. In 1891, he was enrolled at Heathfield School in 1891 at which time his family lived at 21 Ely Place, Stockwell. The 1901 census shows that Arthur's father, Robert, born in Chelsea was a general labourer in a pottery. His mother Sarah was born in Lambeth. He had at least five siblings.

Arthur worked for London County Council in an unknown uniformed role. He enlisted in London. He served in France for three months before he was killed.

A.R. SHEARING. Private, Highland Light Infantry, 2nd Bn. Service no. 9050. Killed in action on 1 November 1914, aged 27. Remembered at Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium and in the London County Council Record of Service in the Great War 1914-191 by Members of the Council's Staff

ALBERT HENRY SHOPLAND



Aged 23, Albert Henry Shopland, a farmer in Yarbo, Saskatchewan, Canada, joined the war effort on 17 March 1916, when he attested at Winnipeg. Shopland stood 5ft 11in tall, and had a fair complexion with blue eyes and dark brown hair. He stated that he had previously served with

the Royal West Surrey Territorials and gave his parents' address as 10 Rozel Road, Clapham.

The Canada War Graves Registers state that Shopland 'was hit in the head and killed instantly just as he was entering Cité St Emile during operations at Hill 70, Lens'.

Shopland was born in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire and as a child lived at 41A Goldsborough Road, off Wandsworth Road. In 1911, aged 18, he sailed for New Brunswick, Canada on the *Pomeranian*, giving his previous former occupation as bookbinder.

The 1911 census shows his family living at Goldsborough Road: William Robert, 49, a coach body maker from Bridgwater, Somerset; Jane, 45, from Windsor, Berkshire; and three of Shopland's four siblings.

A.H. SHOPLAND. Lance Sergeant, Canadian Infantry (Quebec Regiment), 24th Bn. Service no. 701250. Died of wounds on 16 August 1917, aged 24. Remembered at Vimy Memorial, France

HAROLD FREDERICK SIMPSON

In 1911 Battersea-born Harold Frederick Simpson, 15, lived at 52 Bellefields Road, Stockwell, where his family occupied five rooms. He was the eldest of three surviving children of Frederick Simpson, 44, a solicitor's clerk from the City of London, and Clara Jane (née Smith), 44, born in Marylebone, central London.

Harold was baptised at St Philip's, Battersea on 5 April 1896.

H.F. SIMPSON. Private, Royal Fusiliers, 2nd Bn. Service no. 5190. Died of wounds on 3 June 1918, aged 22. Remembered at Ebblesham Military Cemetery, Nord, France

LOUIS HENRY SIMS

Louis Henry Sims was an only child. In 1911, aged 24, he was working as a printer's labourer. He and his parents, Henry William Sims, 51, a copper and steel plate printer born in Lambeth, and Henrietta Sims, 50, from Richmond, Surrey, lived at 31 Ely Place, Stockwell in six rooms, which

they shared with three boarders. On 14 November Louis married Daisy Elizabeth Amos at St Stephen's, South Lambeth. *L.H. SIMS. Rifleman, King's Royal Rifle Corps, 9th Bn. Service no. R/25464. Killed in action on 21 August 1917, aged about 30. Remembered at Tyne Cot Memorial, Heuvelland, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium*

ERNEST THOMAS SKUDDER

On 18 February 1918, at Cambrai, France, Ernest Thomas Skudder, a 20-year-old rifleman in the 21st London Regiment, was with his platoon at the front. They were taking part in an exercise to test a new type of grenade, the No. 84 Mark II. Unfortunately, during testing, Skudder remained standing after the order was given to get down, and he died of multiple and severe wounds to the neck, left shoulder and arm. 'Hand spattered,' noted an officer in the records.

As was usual in such cases, the Army held a Court of Enquiry in the Field. The notes from this have been lost so we do not know the conclusions it came to. However, superior officers felt that questions remained after the Enquiry: 'Was a qualified officer in charge of the "throwing", in accordance with instructions contained in Para I, Chapter IX, SS 182 — Part II, please?' What happened, exactly, to Rifleman A. Silverton, who was apparently caught up in the explosion, and how did he get his less severe injuries? Were they self-inflicted?

The party had been testing the throwing of grenades with an instructor and an assistant. The thrower stood up with the instructor and aimed over the top of the trench at the rifle butts, which were about 100 yards away.

However, Skudder stood 15 yards to the right of this group, with the rest of his party behind him. He was not in the line of fire, but, according to one witness, Rifleman W. Richardson, he was the only one not to obey the order to get down. Lance Corporal Gray, whom the officers suspected had failed in his duties, claimed he did not notice anyone not lying down,

because he had got into the trench and was facing in the opposite direction.

The bomb landed in the trench near Skudder. The conclusion of the Enquiry includes the line: 'If Skudder had obeyed the order given by Sgt. W. Ellis he would not have been wounded. He went forward with the intention of throwing the bomb clear of the trench.'

This seems to imply that the bomb landed in the wrong place and Skudder tried to pick it up and throw it out of harm's way. In the event, the Enquiry team found no wilful negligence. They blamed Gray but decided to take no action as there was no intention to harm Skudder. As for Silverton, there was not enough evidence to decide how he was injured.

Skudder's death, after serving two years and 259 days, bereaved his parents, Emma Elizabeth (née Claiden) and Alfred Thomas, and sister Edith Emma. Six months later, in July, Emma died of flu and pleuropneumonia. She was 58.

The Army sent Skudder's effects to his family: an identity disc, letters, a small pocket notebook, a cigarette case, a Christmas card, a 'wounded stripe' (he had received a gunshot wound to his thigh in June 1917), a canvas wallet and a linen bag.

In life, Skudder stood 5ft 6¼in tall. He measured 36½in around the chest. His physical development was deemed 'Good'. We know from *The National Roll of the Great War* that he took part in several of the war's most bitter battles, including Hill 60, the Second Battle of Ypres, Loos and Vimy Ridge. During this time he had only one black mark against his name, and that was before he was posted to France — for being absent from Retreat until Tattoo on 21 November 1915, for which he was punished with three hours of pack drill and the loss of two days' pay.

He was in England for five months in 1916, during which he was hospitalised for 28 days with 'debility following influenza'.

The 1911 census shows Skudder, then 13, living in five rooms at 26 Clarence Street, Stockwell with his parents and sister. His father, Alfred Thomas Skudder, 53, was a brewer's drayman from

Greenwich; his mother, Elizabeth Emma, 50, was born in Clapham.

E.T. SKUDDER. Rifleman, London Regiment, 21st Bn. (First Surrey Rifles). Service no. 651614. Died of wounds received in bombing training on 18 February 1918, aged 20. Remembered at Rocquigny-Equancourt Road British Cemetery, Manancourt, Somme, France

EDWARD ARTHUR SLADE

Edward Arthur Slade was born in 1883 in Battersea, one of William and Leah Frances Slade's three children. By 1901 the family were living in Kennington and Edward Slade was working as a carpenter.

Edward married Jessie Florence Merryweather on 7 September 1901 at All Saints Church, Devonshire Road, South Lambeth, giving their address as 124 Crimsworth Road, an area dominated by the Nine Elms Locomotive Works.

By the time of the 1911 census, Edward and Jessie had three children, Edward, eight, Jessie, seven, and Florrie, five. Their son, Stanley Sidney Slade, was born in 1912. Edward now earned his living as a house painter and Jessie worked as a London County Council school cleaner. The family of five occupied three rooms at 12 Union Street, Clapham. Two other people lived in two rooms at the same address.

Edward Arthur Slade was probably conscripted in 1916, first joining a training battalion of the Royal Fusiliers. He was sent to France at an unknown date.

The Labour Corps was created at the beginning of 1917 with men from the Royal Fusiliers 36th (Labour) Battalion becoming the 105 Company and given service numbers between 62401 and 63000. It is likely that Edward Slade was wounded or injured while serving in the infantry before he was transferred to the Labour Corps some time in 1917. Edward Arthur Slade lost his life in unknown circumstances on 30 October 1917. His widow Jessie received a £6 10s war gratuity in 1919 and a widow's pension for herself and her four children.

Jessie married Charles E. Forbes in 1919

and continued to live at 12 Union Street until 1924. Edward's son Stanley was living in Larkhall Lane in the 1930s and was a resident of Sutton when he passed away in 2000, aged 87.

CHRIS BURGE

E.A. SLADE. Private, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment), Depot. Secondary Unit, Regiment transf. to (Cpl. 62899) 105th Coy. Labour Corps. Service no. G/17166. Died 30 October 1917, aged about 24. Remembered at Solferino Farm Cemetery, Belgium*

**This service number, given in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission records for E.A. Slade, is not quoted on any other document known to date*

PERCY HENDRICK SLOOTS

In 1911 Percy Hendrick Sloots was 15 and working as a telegraph messenger for the General Post Office. He lived in four rooms at 86 Stockwell Road with his father, Dutch-born hairdresser George Sloots, 42, and mother, Jane E. Sloots, 46, from Pimlico, and two younger brothers. A boarder, Hugh Vollbrecht, a hairdresser's assistant from Norwich, lived with the family.

On 5 March 1918 Sloots married Lillian Ellen Elizabeth Mann at St Andrew's Church, Landor Road. She lived at 84 Hargwyne Street, Stockwell and her father worked as a Post Office sorter.

P.H. SLOOTS. Lance Corporal, East Surrey Regiment, 12th Bn. Service no. 25582. Died on 31 October 1918, aged 24. Remembered at Kezelberg Military Cemetery, Wevelgem, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

JOSEPH CHARLES SMALE

Brother of William Herbert Smale

In 1911 Joseph Charles Smale, 19, was a laundry foreman; his brother William Herbert Smale, 25, was a soap-maker. They lived with their mother, Martha, 48, stepfather George Tucker, 50, and siblings at 3 Kenchester Street (near Wilcox Road), South Lambeth. George Tucker worked in a laundry and had been married to Martha for six years. They had a six-year-old son.

Three of Martha's other children also lived in the household.

J.C. SMALE. Private, The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, 'C' Coy., 8th Bn. Service no. G/2820. Died of wounds on 22 January 1916, aged 24. Remembered at Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, France

WILLIAM HERBERT SMALE

Brother of Joseph Charles Smale W.H. SMALE. Private, East Surrey Regiment, 'C' Coy., 1st Bn. Service no. 6810. Died on 29 July 1916, aged 30. Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

CHARLES EDWARD SMALL

Charles Edward Small presented himself at the Fulham recruiting office early in the war — on 16 September 1914. We do not know what kind of occupation he left behind as this was not noted in his Service records. Charles was 19 in 1914 and a good 5ft 7½in tall. His vision and physical development were noted as 'Very good'.

On 24 April 1918, after Charles was killed in action, his mother Laura wrote to the War Office to enquire about the 'watch and silver mizpah ring' which should have been among her son's effects. Mizpah rings, popular at the time, were given when close relatives or lovers were about to be separated.

In 1911, Charles, his widowed mother who worked as a dressmaker, and three siblings, lived at 61 Mordaunt Street, Stockwell where they had been since at least 1901. His father, from Reigate, Surrey, had been a coach painter.

C.E. SMALL. Driver, Royal Field Artillery, 'A' Bty. 302nd Bde. Service no. 960469. Killed in action on 31 October 1917, aged 21. Remembered at Jerusalem Memorial, Israel and at St Andrew's Church, Landor Road, Stockwell

EDWIN CHARLES SMART

On 7 November 1917 Elizabeth Ann Smart, widow of Edwin Charles Smart, wrote to the War Office from her home

at 12 Thorparch Road, near Wandsworth Road. 'Will you please let me have my marriage and other certificates which I have forwarded to you on 20th of Sept... I am sorry to trouble you only I have a [illegible] means a [illegible] £5 to me and of which I would be glad, being left with four young children.'

Elizabeth was struggling to manage on the money she had coming in. Edwin's death left her to care alone for the children: Eliza Louise, six, Alice Maisie, not yet five, and Edwin Alexander, three, all born before the couple married at Lambeth Register Office on 5 December 1914, plus Emlyn Thomas Campbell, 13, her son from a previous relationship.

Smart enlisted on 11 December 1915 when he was 34. He was described as 5ft 8in and 10st. His chest measured 39in and his physical development was 'Good'.
E.C. SMART. Rifleman, Monmouthshire Regiment, 1st Bn. Service no. 263068. Killed in action on 3 September 1917, aged 35. Remembered at Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

ARTHUR CHARLES SMITH

Arthur Charles Smith was born in Lambeth some time between July and September 1897, the first child of Arthur John and Caroline Kate Smith (née Brasier), who were both from Hampshire — Arthur from Basingstoke and Caroline from Winchester. Caroline had three children from her first marriage to Charles Stewart Heron. In the 1891 census, she was living with two daughters, Ellen Sarah and Elizabeth Jane, in Mandella Street, Battersea. A third daughter, Florence, was born in 1893.

Arthur John Smith and Caroline Kate Heron's second child, Emily May, was born in 1900. By the time of the 1901 census, Arthur John and Caroline Smith had moved to four rooms at 32 Bolney Street, South Lambeth with their five children, all of whom were listed with the surname Smith. Arthur John's occupation was recorded as labourer.

In the 1911 census, Arthur John chose to put down his own children before his

stepchildren, who were now listed with the surname Heron. The family's names and ages were written as: Arthur J. Smith, 39; Caroline Smith, 46; Arthur Charles Smith, 13; Emily May Smith, 11; Ellen Heron, 27; Elizabeth Heron, 25; Florence Heron, 18. Alice Peacock, 27, was boarding with the family. Arthur's father was now a labourer for a local gas company and all his older stepsisters worked in laundries, as did Alice Peacock. Eight people lived in the five rooms of the purpose-built maisonette at 29A Crimsworth Road, with another family of five in the five rooms of 29 Crimsworth Road. Their home faced the Nine Elms Works, which dominated the skyline.

At the beginning of 1916, Arthur's parents decided to legitimise their relationship in a civil wedding ceremony. Arthur was conscripted a few months later, in around June 1916 and joined the 'First Surrey Rifles' as Rifleman 7077. He was first in France on 8 October 1916. Arthur joined the battalion when it had moved from the Somme to the Ypres salient, manning trenches to the south of Ypres itself during the winter of 1916 into early 1917. Tours of trench duty were interspersed with relief, a pattern that continued until the end of May 1917. Early June was spent in preparations for the Second Army Offensive along the Messine Ridge, planned for 7 June 1917. The 21st London were to advance in the area of the Ypres-Comines Canal near a feature known as the 'spoilbank'. They failed to achieve their objectives, partly due to unsuppressed machine-gun fire from the eastern end of the 'spoilbank' which caused heavy casualties. Arthur Charles Smith was killed in action on that day and buried at Perth Cemetery (China Wall), Belgium. The Commonwealth War Grave Commission's records show that his remains were found in 1919 and identified by his disc.

By the end of the war, the Smith family's address was 26 Rosetta Street (since demolished and replaced with the Mawbey Estate), where they lived for many years. Arthur's mother died in 1929, aged 64. His father was still living in Rosetta Street

until at least 1939. He died in Lambeth in 1943, aged 71.

CHRIS BURGE

A.C. SMITH. Rifleman, London Regiment (First Surrey Rifles), 'D' Coy. 1st/21st Bn. Service no. 653487. Died on 7 June 1917, aged 19. Remembered at Perth Cemetery (China Wall), West-Vlaanderen Belgium

ALFRED FRANK SMITH

Alfred Frank Smith was born in Lambeth on 5 January 1896 and baptised at All Saints Church in Devonshire Road (the area was redeveloped as the Lansdowne Green Estate). He was the second child of Frank and Kate Caroline Smith (née Farley), both of them originally from Andover in Hampshire. The Smiths were living at 8 Riverhall Street in South Lambeth at that time. Frank worked as a 'horse keeper' for the London & South Western Railway. By the time of the 1901 census, he was the second of four children with an older sister and two younger brothers. The family were living in the four rooms of the property at 20 Fountain Street, near Wandsworth Road, along with Kate's brother George Farley, another L&SWR horse keeper.

By the time of the 1911 census Alfred was the second eldest of nine. His parents had been married 17 years, and all of their children were born in Lambeth. The family of 11 were now living in the four rooms of the property at 25 Bolney Street, off Dorset Road. Alfred's father still worked as a horse keeper for the L&SWR, his sister Elsie was a domestic servant and Albert was a van guard for the L&SWR.

There are no surviving records to date Alfred's conscription into the Army. It could have been at any time between June 1916 and February 1917, when the Light Railway companies were formed at Longmoor Camp at Bordon in Hampshire. On the Western Front, the use of light railways to carry goods, men and ammunition as close to the front line as possible started in 1917. Experienced railwaymen were recruited for the 'Railway Operation Division, Royal Engineers'. For example, sapper 218699 Edward Victor Harrington from Essex was a clerk on the

Great Eastern Railway who was originally rated B1 when medically examined in September 1916. Harrington was not called up until 2 January 1917, when he joined at Longmoor. Men like Harrington and Alfred Smith did not receive infantry training and were sent to France within weeks of joining. Harrington was qualified as a shunter and, like Albert, served in the 19th Light Railway Train Crew Company, until he was killed in action on 28 March 1918 while attached to the Canadian Light Railway section.

Alfred Frank Smith was killed in action in unknown circumstances on 14 June 1917. There may be further information in a summary diary of the '19th Light Railway Train Crew 16 Feb 1917 to 01 Sep 1917 Coy' held at the Royal Engineers Museum library at Chatham, Kent.

CHRIS BURGE

A.F. SMITH. Sapper, Royal Engineers, 19th Light Railway Train Crew Coy. Service no. 266259. Killed in action on 14 June 1917, aged 21. Remembered at St Quentin Cabaret Military Cemetery, Hainaut, Belgium

FREDERICK D. SMITH

Tentative identification

We have no information on F.D. Smith other than the listing on the war memorial at St Michael's Church.

F.D. SMITH. Remembered at St Michael's Church, Stockwell Park Road, Stockwell

SYDNEY GEORGE SMITH

Only three pages of Sydney George Smith's service record survive. They cover his five-year period of service with the Territorials, from 26 May 1909 to 25 May 1914, when he left the London Regiment (The Rangers) as a lance corporal. They state that Smith was 29 when he joined; he was married and living at 13 Effort Road, Highbury, north London; he was a clerk with Ellis & Co.; he was 5ft 10in tall, with a chest of 36½in. Smith had married Mabel Annie Mason on 6 September 1902 at St Andrew's Church, Stockwell. He was employed as a solicitor's clerk. On their

marriage record they both gave their address as 63 Mordaunt Street, Stockwell. They went on to have three children: Albert George (1903), Norman Frederick (1905) and Mabel Maria (1908). In 1911 the family lived at 42 Ferndale Road, Tottenham, north London.

S.G. SMITH. Company Serjeant Major, London Regiment, 12th Bn. (The Rangers). Service no 470355. Killed in action on 26 September 1917, aged 37. Remembered at Tyne Cot Cemetery, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium and at St Andrew's Church, Landor Road, Stockwell

WILLIAM EDWARD SMITH

William Edward Smith was born in Lambeth on 18 April 1897 and baptised on 16 May 1897 at St Saviour's, St George's Square, Pimlico, on the north side of the Thames. He was the first child of William Timothy Smith, from Bethnal Green in east London, and Esther Annie (née Butt) from Pimlico who were married at St Mary the Less, Lambeth, in 1895.

William Edward was born while his parents were living at 3 Hotspur Street, Kennington and William's father worked as a 'carman'. At the time of the 1901 census, the family were living in a five-storey tenement block at 279 Tooley Street, close to Tower Bridge and William's father was working from home as a self-employed newsagent.

The 1911 census shows how the family had grown since Edward was born. William (snr) was now 38 and Esther 33. In their 15 years of marriage eight children had been born, with five surviving infancy: Edward, 13; Lilly, six; Sidney, three, Frederic, two; and Violet, three months. Esther's widowed father John Butt was living with them, along with a niece, Nellie Tilbrook, who may have been an overnight visitor. William was still working as a newsagent. Home for the Smith family was now 53 Lambeth Walk where they lived in five rooms as the sole occupants of the property. There were a further three more additions to the family: Ernest, born in 1912, Ivy (1914) and Winifred (1918).

At the outbreak of war William Edward

Smith was 17 and the only child in the Smith family likely to play an active part in the conflict. A few damaged pages of his Service papers have survived, smudged and barely legible in places, from which it is clear that he was caught up in the surge of volunteering in late August and early September 1914. He enlisted in London on 9 September, falsely claiming to be 19. At a little over 5ft 10in tall, weighing almost 8³/₄st and with a 35in chest, he was not obviously underage.

He was recruited to the Rifle Brigade as rifleman S/2933 Smith, W.E. and initially posted to the newly-formed 9th Battalion but was transferred on 1 October to the 12th Rifle Brigade who were at Blackdown near Aldershot, Hampshire. His conduct sheet shows him overstaying a pass at Blackdown and smoking on parade both there and when the battalion had moved to Grayshott by March 1915, and irregular conduct on parade in April at Larkhill. The long months of equipping and training the battalion came to an end when they embarked for France, sailing from Southampton on 21 July 1915 and landing at Le Havre on 22 July 1915.

The battalion were first in trenches near Fleurbaix in early August and then Fauquissart on the Aubers Ridge. They worked on service and communications trenches in early September before returning to the front line trenches in the same area on 16 September.

Orders were received on the 21st for an attack on enemy positions in conjunction with the Meerut Division, to take place on the 25th. The enemy were alerted by the explosion of a mine in their sector and an artillery bombardment. The attack was a costly failure with nearly all the officers either killed or wounded; of the other ranks, 43 were killed, 213 wounded and 76 missing, but believed killed. Rfm S/2933 Smith W.E. was originally listed in the battalion casualty returns as wounded on 25 September. This was revised on 19 November to killed in action on that day.

At the end of the war the Smith family were living at 16 Priory Place and it was William's father who completed Army

Form W5080 in order to receive his son's medals, plaque and scroll. He listed the entire Smith family on the form, which was witnessed and countersigned at All Saints Church, Devonshire Road, South Lambeth.

CHRIS BURGE

W.E. SMITH. Rifleman, Rifle Brigade, 12th Bn. Service no. S/2933. Killed in action on 25 September 1915, aged 18. Remembered at Ploegsteert Memorial, Hainaut, Belgium

FREDERICK WILLIAM SNELLING

Brother of William Thomas Snelling and cousin of Harold Measday Snelling

Frederick William Snelling was born on 3 November 1891 in Mile End, east London, the second son of Charles Henry Snelling, a grocer born in Ramsgate, Kent, and Emily Jane Snelling (née Knudson), from Limehouse, east London. He was baptised at St Anne's, Limehouse on 6 December at which time the family lived at 121 Canal Street.

In 1911 the family were living at 154 Glengall Road in Peckham, southeast London. Nineteen-year-old Frederick worked as a 'boy clerk' in the Post Office. There were five other children (one had died as a young child), including William Thomas Snelling, then 16, a junior clerk for a law firm; an older brother, Charles Henry, who was a 21-year-old undergraduate at King's College, part of the University of London; and three sisters, Elsie Emily, 11, Edith Mary, three, and Ethel May, nine months. Charles Henry (snr) was now a timekeeper for a lock and safe company. Ellen Sophia Snelling, Charles Henry's (snr) sister-in-law, was visiting. The Snelling family later moved to 260 South Lambeth Road, Stockwell.

Frederick enlisted at Duke Street in the West End of London, and served in Europe from 18 March 1915 to the day of his death, 18 September 1916.

At the time the 1939 Register was taken, Charles and Emily Snelling were living at 44 Lansdowne Way, Stockwell with their youngest daughter, Emily May (later Bragg). Charles Snelling died in 1941 in

Lambeth at the age of 76, and Emily in Folkestone, Kent in 1954, aged 87. *F.W. SNELLING. Lance Corporal. London Regiment (Prince of Wales' Own Civil Service Rifles) 1st/15th Bn. Service no. 1676; formerly 880, 18th London Regt. Killed in action on 18 September 1916, aged 24. Remembered at Thiépval Memorial, Somme, France and on a now lost 'war crucifix' outside St Anne's Church, South Lambeth Road*

HAROLD MEASDAY SNELLING

Cousin of Frederick William Snelling and William Thomas Snelling

Harold Measday Snelling was born in Ramsgate, Kent in 1898, the third child of Frederick and Ellen Sophia (née Rogers) Snelling. In the 1901 census, Frederick worked as a baker and confectioner from premises at 15 King Street in the centre of Ramsgate, two doors from the Prince Albert public house. Ellen's younger sister Rose Rogers assisted with the business as did a journeyman baker and his sister.

By 1911 the Snelling family had moved to the more genteel surroundings of Sandwich, where Frederick ran his bakery from 9 The Cattle Market, in the heart of the town. Frederick and Ellen were now 43 and had been married for 20 years. Frederick listed his three children (one had died) in age order on his 1911 census return: Winifred, 19; Frederick John, 16; Harold, 13. He added Annie Lilian Rogers, his wife's younger sister, as a visitor. Ellen, Winifred and Frederick John all worked in the business. The family were the sole occupants of the five-room property.

Charles Henry Snelling and family moved to 260 South Lambeth Road around 1914 at which time Harold Snelling seemed to be living with his uncle and working in London. Harold was baptised as an adult at St Anne's, South Lambeth Road, on 22 December 1914. His cousin Frederick William Snelling, a civil service clerk, had volunteered at the beginning of the war. Harold volunteered around May 1915 in Central London joining the Queen Victoria's Rifles. He was drafted to the 1st/9th Battalion in France on 30

March 1916, joining the battalion in a group of 38 men. The QVR were out of the line for most of March and April and until they moved to Hebuterne, south of Gommecourt, at the end of May. They suffered numerous casualties in the front line until the final week of June when the QVR were digging service and assembly trenches in preparation for the beginning of the Somme offensive. On 1 July 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme, the QVR were part of the ill-fated diversionary attack at the northern extreme of the Somme sector at Gommecourt. The battalion suffered horrendous casualties in one day of fighting. Among the officers six were killed, five were wounded and five missing; in other ranks 51 were killed, 290 wounded and 188 missing; a total of 16 officers and 529 men. Harold Measday Snelling, an acting corporal at the time, was posted missing on this day.

An article appeared in the *Deal, Walmer & Sandwich Mercury* on 26 August 1916, entitled, 'SANDWICH LAD MISSING': 'The following appears in the "St Anne's (South Lambeth) Parish Magazine" for August regarding the youngest son of Mr. Frank Snelling, baker, of the Cattle Market, Sandwich, who was recently announced missing:— "News reaches us that Harold Snelling, a member of our choir and A.S.M [Assistant Scout Master] of our scouts, has been posted missing since July 1. He was in the Queen Victoria Rifles somewhere in France. We fear there is not much hope of his having been saved. It is just possible that he may be a prisoner of war, but confess it is unlikely. We are very sorry, and yet not a little proud. He was one of those people who do not talk a lot, but put a lot of reality into anything they undertake. Not least did Harold count his faith in Jesus Christ, and so we confidently believe he is all right where-ever he is.'

In the course of time, Snelling was officially presumed to have died on, or since, 1 July 1916. His cousin Frederick William Snelling was killed on the Somme on 18 September 1916 and another cousin, William Thomas Snelling, was killed in 1917 during 3rd Ypres.

Note: According to the 1911 census

returns, Ellen managed to be in two places on census day. She also appeared as a visitor on the return of Frederick's brother, Charles Henry Snelling, whose family were living at 154 Glengall Road, Peckham.

CHRIS BURGE

H.M. SNELLING. Rifleman, London Regiment (Queen Victoria's Rifles), 1st/9th Bn. Service no. 4746. Killed in action 1 July 1916, aged about 18. Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France, on Sandwich War Memorial and on a now lost 'war crucifix' outside St Anne's Church, South Lambeth Road

WILLIAM THOMAS SNELLING

Brother of Frederick William Snelling and cousin of Harold Measday Snelling
William Thomas Snelling was born in Limehouse, east London on 5 May 1894, the third son of Charles Henry and Emily Jane Snelling, and baptised at St Anne's, Limehouse on 30 May (see *Frederick William Snelling for family details*). Formerly of the 2/1st Westmorland and Cumberland Yeomanry, he enlisted in the Territorial Force on 30 August 1916, transferring to the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve on 16 June 1917. He joined the British Expeditionary Force on 4 July 1917 and Howe Battalion on 1 September.

W.T. SNELLING. Able Seaman, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, Howe Bn. RN Div. Service no. R/2283. Killed in action on 26 October 1917, aged 23. Remembered at Tyne Cot Memorial, Heuvelland, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

SYDNEY HERBERT JOHN SORÉ

In 1911 Sydney Herbert John Soré, aged 15, was an architect's clerk. His father, Alfred Soré, 48, was a solicitor's clerk, born in south London; his mother, Mary Emma (née Aldous), 40, was from Tuddenham, Suffolk. Sydney had one sibling, Kathleen Mary. The family lived at 8 Larkhall Lane, Clapham, where they occupied seven rooms.

Sydney Herbert was baptised at All Saints, South Lambeth Road on 14 July 1895. Soré enlisted at Oxford Street,

London. He served in France, Salonika and Palestine.

S.H.J. SORÉ. Private, London Regiment, 2/19th Bn. (St Pancras); formerly 9th London Regiment. Service no. 614318.

Killed in action on 22 March 1918, aged 22. Remembered at Jerusalem War Cemetery, Israel and at West Norwood Cemetery and Crematorium, southeast London

REGINALD CHARLES SOUTHON

In 1911 Reginald Charles Southon, aged 14, was an errand boy living at 27 Rossiter Road, Balham, where his family shared five rooms. He was born in Hampstead, northwest London, one of two children of John Charles Southon, 46, a gas meter maker from Clerkenwell. John Southon had been married for a year to Reginald's stepmother, Olivia Estall, 48, from Peterborough. Reginald Southon enlisted in Westminster.

R.C. SOUTHON. Private, Essex Regiment, 2nd Bn. Service no. 13008.

Killed in action on 23 October 1916, aged about 19. Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

FREDERICK JAMES EDMUND SPENCER

Frederick James Edmund Spencer was born on 25 September 1895 in the Manchester area, to Maud Spencer, the unmarried daughter of a bookmaker. Frederick's half-brother Reginald Spencer Wilson was born on 31 October 1900 in Pimlico, London, after Maud married William Wilson on 25 July 1899 at All Saints Church, Stretford, Lancashire. William was an Army tailor and Maud was described as a 27-year-old spinster at the time of her marriage, which was witnessed by her sister Adeline. Maud's address was 22 Sydney Street and she had worked as a dressmaker before her marriage. Reginald Spencer Wilson was baptised on 27 November 1900 at St Saviour's, St George's Square, Pimlico, London, when William and Maud lived at 22 Aylesford Street. Their address was close to the Royal Army Clothing Depot in Pimlico.

In the 1901 census, William, Maud and baby Reginald were in Lancashire again, recorded as boarders at 20 Sydney Street, Stretford, next door to Maud's widowed mother and siblings. William Wilson was now a lance corporal. We have not found Frederick Spencer in the 1901 census.

Maud Spencer died on 15 December 1907, while her husband was based in Aldershot, Hampshire. William Wilson was married for a second time in 1908 to Margaret Elizabeth McPherson on 23 July at Holy Trinity, Vauxhall Bridge Road. Margaret gave her address as 3 Bessborough Place in Pimlico and William gave his as 'Borden Camp Hants [Hampshire]'.

In the 1911 census, Sergeant William Wilson was a master tailor with the 2nd Battalion Devonshire Regiment at St George's Barracks, Malta. His wife Margaret and their children were in the married quarters, along with Reginald Spencer Wilson. Frederick Spencer's whereabouts in 1911 are unknown.

William Wilson left the Army in 1912 on the termination of his second period of service, with the intention of returning to 3 Bessborough Place. He had been in Egypt before his final discharge in Jersey. He soon moved his family across Vauxhall Bridge to Lambeth and was in Kennington by 1913 and first appeared at 22 Guildford Street in 1915, an address close to St Barnabas Church. It was in March 1915 that Frederick's half-brother Reginald joined the Army as a boy soldier and was assigned to the 5 Coldstream Guards. Reginald was an office boy at the time of joining and gave 22 Guildford Street as his home address. The recurrence of a unspecified childhood ailment was not helped by an operation to drain an abscess on his right kidney and Reginald was discharged unfit on 29 December 1916.

Frederick Spencer volunteered at the end of 1915 or early January 1916, and served as Private F/2792 in the Middlesex Regiment. His Service number and first date of entry in France on 4 May 1916 indicate that he served in the 23rd Battalion, nicknamed the 2nd Football Battalion, of the Middlesex Regiment.

Frederick Spencer served for around a year on the Western Front before he was recommended for a commission. He was gazetted on 1 August 1917 as a temporary 2nd Lieutenant in the Wiltshire Regiment, the notice appearing in the 1 September 1917 issue of the *London Gazette*.

F.J.E. Spencer was one of several junior officers who joined the 2nd Wiltshire at the Wytshaete Sector from the Rouen base in October 1917. The keeper of the battalion's war diary noted on 6 October 1917 that: '2/Lts G.R Gosling, G.D. Chapman, C.D. Baker, G.M. Jeans and C. Hirschhorn joined from Rouen and posted to "C", "B", "D", "A" and "D" Coys. respectively.' Frederick Spencer's arrival was noted on the 10 October 1917: '2/Lt F.J.E. Spencer arrived from Rouen & posted to "B" Coy.'

Like Frederick, William Robert Gosling (MM) and Cecil Hirschhorn were commissioned from the ranks. All had been the afforded the status, privileges and responsibilities of officer gentlemen, literally on a temporary basis for the duration of the war. As far as the battalion's war diary is concerned, 2/Lt F.J.E. Spencer remained an anonymous figure for many months until he was noted as being on leave on 16 March 1918, one of the last of his original group to be granted leave. This saved his life, if only in the short term.

The 2nd Wiltshire were holding a part of the front in the Savy area, south-west of St Quentin when they were in the path of the enemy's spring offensive which broke on 21 March 1918. Subjected to an intense five-hour bombardment, they faced an infantry assault of overwhelming numbers and were forced to give ground over the coming days. They were not relieved until 1 April 1918, by which time the battalion had lost 23 officers either killed, wounded or missing. Of other ranks, four were killed, nine wounded and 597 were missing. The battalion had in many senses ceased to exist. Among the missing were Frederick's fellow officers 2/Lts W. R. Gosling and C.D. Baker.

It had been a fluid and chaotic period, but there was no indication when, or if, Frederick Spencer had rejoined, what remained of his battalion by April, or

when they had moved north again in mid-April. A composite battalion was formed from what was left of the 2nd Wiltshires and 2nd Bedfordshire on 19 April 1918. Between 25 and 28 April this formation was heavily engaged in the area south of the Yser Canal near a feature called the 'spoilbank'.

According to the 2nd Bedfordshire war diary, 'Captain Smith (Wilts R.) and part of his company were captured on 26 April 1918' after the enemy crossed the canal. It is possible Spencer was taken prisoner here, but his name does not appear in either the 2nd Wiltshires or 2nd Bedfordshire war diaries. It is only German records that show he was captured in the Wyttschaete area on 25 April 1918.

Frederick was held at the Offizierlager, Mainz, which housed up to 700 prisoners. His records gave his address as 22 Guildford Road and incorrectly referred to his father as W. Spencer. Frederick died in the camp hospital on 9 November 1918 of 'infolge lungenentzündung und grippe' – he had contracted influenza. A death certificate was issued at the Festungslazarette I. Mainz dated 11 November 1918, the date of the ceasefire, and a copy passed to the International Red Cross, stamped 'Comminqué famille [family informed] 29.11.18'.

At the end of the war, the balance of Frederick's account and war gratuity, which amounted to £98 15s 1d, was paid to his only blood relative, his half-brother Reginald Spencer Wilson. A RNVR record dated April 1919 shows Reginald had been a ship's steward and part of the Mercantile Marine Reserve when he volunteered to work on mine clearance for a period of six months. He died in Essex in 1927, aged 27.

When the Stockwell War Memorial was unveiled in 1922, William Wilson and family were still living at 22 Guildford Road, which remained their home until at least 1939.

CHRIS BURGE

F.J. SPENCER. Second Lieutenant, Wiltshire Regiment. Formerly Private, Middlesex Regiment. Service no. F/2792. Died of influenza as a prisoner of war on 9 November 1918, aged 23. Remembered at Niederzwehren Cemetery, Kassel, Germany

ALBERT FRANK SPICE

Albert Frank Spice was born on 9 March 1891 in Clapham, the third child of James Spring Spice and Julia Elizabeth (née Attwood). The family were living in Larkhall Lane at the time. Albert's father worked as a house painter and decorator and by 1901 there had been two further additions to the family.

The family's fortunes changed with the death of Albert's father in 1905. The 1911 census shows Albert's mother Julia, 56, was employed at home as a sewing machinist doing piecework, and Albert's sisters Florence and Elsie worked as cardboard box makers. A cousin of Albert's mother was staying with them, together with a paying boarder. Five people were sharing five rooms at 133 Larkhall Lane.

Albert was not to be found at the family home in 1911 – he was in the Navy. Albert joined on 11 April 1910 as a 2nd Class Cook's Mate and had progressed to Cook's Mate in the intervening year. He served on HMS *Dreadnought* for two years and moved to HMS *Ariadne* in 1913 when he had passed for Leading Cook's Mate.

On 31 July 1914, Albert joined the armoured cruiser HMS *Good Hope*. Later that year, the ship was part of the 4th Cruiser Squadron, which engaged the enemy off the coast of Chile on 1 November. Outnumbered and outgunned, the *Good Hope* was lost with all hands, a total of 926 officers and ratings.

CHRIS BURGE

A.F. SPICE. Cook's Mate, HMS 'Good Hope'. Service no. M/1766. Died 1 November 1914, aged about 23. Remembered at Portsmouth Naval Memorial

ISAAC SPOONER

In 1911 ironmonger's assistant Isaac Spooner, 17, lived at 39 Brooklands Road, Stockwell, where his family had six rooms. His father, James Spooner, 55, from Newham, Hampshire, was a train engine driver for London & South Western Railway; his mother, Matilda Jane (née Hector), 55, was from Brixton. Three

of Spooner's six siblings lived at home: Norah, 31, a dressmaker's assistant, Henry, 27, a carman, and Sidney James (Isaac's twin), 17, a draper's assistant.

Spooner enlisted in Battersea on 6 October 1914, giving his occupation as carman. He was 5ft 4½in, 8⅔st, with a 36in chest. He had blue eyes, brown hair and a sallow complexion, with a scar in the centre of his forehead and on his left cheek. His physical development was judged to be 'Good'. On 8 July 1915 he joined the Expeditionary Force to France. On 20 August 1917 he was transferred to the West Riding Regiment.

Matilda, Spooner's widowed mother, died aged 62 of sarcoma of the jaw on 20 November 1918, 11 weeks after her son was killed in action.

I. SPOONER. Private, Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment), 9th Bn.; formerly Royal Army Service Corps. Service no. P25552. Killed in action on 1 September 1918, aged 24. Remembered at Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

FRANK SPRAGG

Frank Spragg, who enlisted in Westminster, was born in Dulwich in 1890, the son of Charles Spragg, a sewing machine salesman, and Emily (née Saunders). In 1911, aged 20 and working as a register clerk, he lived in four rooms at 212 Clapham Road, Stockwell, with his parents and two brothers (two siblings lived elsewhere).

F. SPRAGG. Lance Corporal, London Regiment, 1/16th Bn. (Queen's Westminster Rifles). Service no. 551013. Killed in action on 28 March 1918, aged 27. Remembered at Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

ALFRED ERNEST STAINER

Alfred Ernest Brooks Stainer (sometimes Stainer-Brooks), born in Walworth, south-east London on 1 May 1896, was the sixth of nine children of Frederick Thomas Stainer, a fishmonger, from Charminster, Dorset and Angelina (née Furzard), from Melcombe Regis, Dorset. He was baptised

at St Matthew's, Newington on 3 June, when his parents gave their address as 30 Weymouth Buildings, which were in Sayer Street, Southwark. On the night of the 1911 census the Stainer family lived in five rooms at 87 Mann Street, Walworth. The household consisted of Frank and Angelina, aged 48 and 49, and eight of their children. Alfred was employed as an office boy for a printer. A family of four had another two rooms. Later, the Stainers moved to 1 Paradise Road, Stockwell.

A.E. STAINER. Private, East Surrey Regiment, 9th Bn. Service no. 17371.

Died of wounds on 13 August 1916, aged 20. Remembered at Carnoy Military Cemetery, Somme, France

JOHN ALFRED STAMMERS

Few details of John Alfred Stammers' Army career survive. We know he joined the 186th Howitzer Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery on 6 September 1915 at Deptford as a driver. He was described as 5ft 5½in tall, with a 37in chest. His general physical development was 'Good' but he had a varicose vein in his right leg.

The 1911 census shows Stammers as a 16-year-old junior clerk living with his father, commercial clerk John William Stammers, 43, from Islington, north London and stepmother Phoebe Nellie (née Smith), 42, from Shoreditch, east London in four rooms at 64C Hackford Road, Stockwell. John Alfred's mother Louisa (née Fowler) died in 1901.

J.A. STAMMERS. Driver, Royal Field Artillery, 'B' Bty. 155th Bde. Service no. 41606. Killed in action on 4 November 1918, aged 24. Remembered at Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Pas de Calais, France and at St Michael's Church, Stockwell Park Road, Stockwell

WALTER SAMUEL STANDLEY

Walter Standley was a railway porter. In 1911, aged 28, he lived with his parents, two of his four siblings and a boarder at 2 Church Terrace, Union Grove, Clapham, where they had seven rooms. His father, Samuel, 55, a wheelwright, and mother,

Eleanor (née Dawson), 52, were both from Hethersett, Norfolk. Walter was baptised at All Saints, South Lambeth, on 30 August 1885, at which time the family lived at 14 Elwell Road. Eleanor died in 1915. After Walter's death Samuel gave his address as 26 Priory Road.

W.S. STANDLEY. Private, London Regiment, 1/20th Bn. (Blackheath and Woolwich). Service no. 5330. Killed in action on 1 October 1916, aged 35. Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

CHARLES JAMES STANLEY

In 1911 Charles James Stanley, a 19-year-old carter for a confectioner, lived in four rooms at 23 Clarence Street, Studley Road, Stockwell with his widowed mother, Henrietta (née Coleman), 46, who was born in Lambeth, and four of his seven siblings and other members of his extended family.

Stanley was born in 1891 and baptised at St Andrew's, Stockwell Green on 17 May 1893. His father, William Heysed Stanley, was a house decorator and the family lived at 19 Lingham Street.

In 1912 Charles James Stanley married Dorothy Mary Elizabeth Smith. A daughter, Dorothy Rose Muriel, was born in 1913 and a son, Charles Frederick Henry, posthumously, in 1917.

C.J. STANLEY. Driver, Royal Field Artillery, 2/47th Div. Ammunition Col. Service no. 2862. Died on 14 September 1916, aged 25. Remembered at Dantzig Alley British Cemetery, Mametz, Somme, France

WILLIAM GEORGE PERCY STANTON

William George Percy Stanton was born in Bethnal Green, east London. His parents John and Ellen gave their address as 37 Lansdowne Road, South Lambeth.

W.G.P. STANTON. Gunner, Royal Field Artillery, 'A' Bty. 290th Bde. Service no. 926496. Killed in action on 30 October 1917, aged 29. Remembered at St Julien Dressing Station Cemetery, Langemark-Poelkapelle, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

GEORGE ERNEST STARKEY

George Ernest Starkey had two Army careers, both short. On 12 May 1915 he joined the 21st Battalion of the London Regiment at the Flodden Road recruiting office in Camberwell. He was described as dark complexioned, with brown eyes and dark brown hair. He stood 5ft 6½in, with a 36½in chest, and weighed just over 7½st. There was a scar on the small of his back and four scars on the fingers of his left hand. He had flat feet. Despite this, his physical development was judged to be 'Good'.

He said he was a porter, and he said he was of age. Only 167 days passed before his lie about his age was discovered and he was discharged. 'This man would have continued a good soldier if he had been of the required age,' was written in his record. Starkey was 16.

Starkey was back on 17 March 1917, at Grove Park recruiting office. This time he joined the Army Service Corps as a driver. Although he had grown no taller, he was now broader: 11st, with a 39in chest. He was swiftly sent to join the 88th Training Reserve, and from there he joined the Durham Light Infantry.

During his career, Starkey committed two misdemeanours: at Seaham Harbour, County Durham on 6 December 1917 he was punished with seven days' confinement to barracks for 'inattention in afternoon parade'. In January the following year, and also at Seaham, he was docked three days' pay for 'overstaying his pass from 6pm and remaining absent until 10pm' when under orders for embarkation. On 9 January, after nearly a year in England, he sailed for France. He allotted part of his pay to his mother.

There are over 600 names from the Durham Light Infantry on the Pozières Memorial, which relates to the period between March and April 1918 when the Allied Fifth Army was driven back by the Germans across the former Somme battlefields.

Starkey's parents lived separately. The 1911 census shows that Starkey lived with his mother, Letitia A. Starkey, 37,

a furniture dealer, originally from The Borough, Southwark, and four siblings in eight-roomed accommodation at 85 St James's Road, Brixton. Letitia described herself as both married and the head of the household.

There is no mention on the census of George's father (who was also called George). However, he is given as next of kin on George's Army Service file.

G.E. STARKEY. Private, Durham Light Infantry, 15th Bn.; formerly Royal Army Service Corps (Motor Transport). Service no. 78033. Killed in action on 22 March 1918, aged 19. Remembered at Pozières Memorial, Somme, France

HENRY GEORGE STEED

Details of Henry George Steed's Army Service are scant. We do, however, know that he was a country boy. He was born in the village of Chadlington, in Oxfordshire, where he and his brother Albert, were 'under-carters'.

We do not know when he came to London, but once there, he found employment as a gardener, married Hannah Elizabeth and had three children, Eric George, born in 1913, Gwendoline (1915) and Kathleen (1917). Hannah later gave her address as 86 Acre Lane, Brixton.

On 10 December 1915 Steed enlisted in the London Regiment at Flodden Road, Camberwell. He was described as 5ft 9in tall, with a 40in chest. On 23 March 1918 he was wounded in action and went missing. 'Death presumed,' says the record.

H.G. STEED. Private, London Regiment, 'B' Coy., 1/23rd Bn. Service no. 702340. Killed in action on 23 March 1918, aged 32. Remembered at Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

JOHN WILLIAM STEVENSON

John William Stevenson was born in Chelsea and lived in Vauxhall. In 1911, aged 18 and working as an assistant in a butcher's shop, he lived with his parents, John Ernest Stevenson, 41, himself a butcher's shop assistant, from Pimlico, and

Annie Stevenson, 36, from Westminster in seven rooms at 27 Thorne Road, South Lambeth, an address accommodating a further two other households, each of three people, living in four rooms. John was one of seven children.

J.W. STEVENSON. Lance Corporal, King's Royal Rifle Corps, 12th Bn. Service no. R/15974. Killed in action on 18 September 1916, aged about 23. Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

HORACE STILLWELL

The file for Horace Stillwell is very damaged and only a few details are decipherable. He joined at Lambeth on 5 September 1914, weighing a little over 8½st. He was 5ft 5in tall, single and born in Bethnal Green, east London in 1890.

One of his descendants, Glynis Park, writes, 'Horace was the youngest of eight children of Thomas Stillwell. His father's first wife died of tuberculosis in 1873 aged just 36. In 1911 the family were living at 93 Old South Lambeth Road. Thomas, aged 76, was a beer retailer; his wife Emma Crockett was 63. Edwin Ernest, aged 23, and Horace, 21, were both assistant retailers in the business.'

H. STILLWELL. Private, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), 2nd Bn. Service no. G/6781. Killed in action on 28 September 1915, aged 25. Remembered at Loos Memorial, France

HERBERT MALCOLM STOCKTON

Brother of Harold Percival Stockton

Three Stockton brothers, Alfred, Herbert and Harold, signed up for Service. All of them joined the Royal Field Artillery, Herbert and Harold as Gunners. Alfred and Harold, who were in the 63rd Brigade, have adjacent Service numbers. Harold died in August 1915, Herbert in April 1917. Alfred survived. Herbert Malcolm Stockton volunteered in February 1915 aged about 20, and later that same year was drafted to France. He fought at several battles, including that at Armentières.

In 1911 the brothers were living in four

rooms at 39 Electric Avenue, Brixton (they later moved to 20 Rumsey Road, Stockwell) with their parents, Arthur Stockton, 57, a stationer from Islington, north London, and Clara (née Facer), 54, from Thornby, Northamptonshire, who had three other children. Herbert Malcolm Stockton, 16, was an apprentice brass finisher.

Clara died in 1916, aged 60, and Arthur in 1919, aged 66.

H.M. STOCKTON. Gunner, Royal Field Artillery, 'B' Bty. Service no. 49206. Killed in action on 11 April 1917, aged about 21. Remembered at Feuchy Chapel British Cemetery, Wancourt, Pas de Calais, France

HAROLD PERCIVAL STOCKTON

Brother of Herbert Malcolm Stockton
Harold volunteered in February 1915, and later that year was drafted to France, where he was a gunner in the Armentières sector. In August 1915 he was severely wounded in action, died of his injuries and was buried at Baillleul.

H.P. STOCKTON. Gunner, Royal Field Artillery, 'B' Bty. 63rd Bde. Service no. 8332. Died of wounds on 2 August 1915, aged 28. Remembered at Baillleul Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France

WALTER HENRY STONE

In 1911 Lambeth-born Walter Henry Stone, aged 13, lived at 13 Hargwyne Street, Stockwell, with his parents, Henry Stone, 40, a carter from Stocking Pelham, Hertfordshire, and Elizabeth Alice (née Arnold), 44, from Tylers Causeway, Hertfordshire. Walter had two younger siblings. The family lived in four rooms. Four other people occupied three other rooms in the same house.

W.H. STONE. Rifleman, King's Royal Rifle Corps, 8th Bn.; formerly Rifle Brigade and 20th Training Reserve Battalion. Service no. R/34903. Died of wounds on 2 May 1917, aged 19. Remembered at Bucquoy Road Cemetery, Ficheux, Pas de Calais, France and at St Andrew's Church, Landor Road, Stockwell

JOSEPH STRAND

In 1911 Barman Joseph Strand, 28, was unemployed. He lived with his widowed mother, Elizabeth Sarah, 58, brother Herbert Stanley, 25, and a boarder in two rooms at 57 Hartington Road, South Lambeth. Three siblings lived elsewhere. Henry Strand, Joseph's father, was a painter.

On 17 May 1913 Joseph Strand married Emma Jane Hope at St Stephen's Church, South Lambeth. He gave his occupation as 'coachman'. Emma married Arthur Theobald in 1919.

J. STRAND. Corporal, King's Royal Rifle Corps, 9th Bn. Service no. 6/9792. Died of wounds on 18 August 1917, aged about 33. Remembered at Mendinghem Military Cemetery, Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

GEORGE STEVEN STRANGE

George Steven (sometimes Stephen) Strange was born in 1893 in Stockwell and enlisted at Lambeth.

In 1911 he lived at 33 Cobbett Street, off Dorset Road, with his stepfather William Barrett, 45, a nightwatchman for a laundry, and mother Sarah Barrett, 47, from Stepney, east London, and 13-year-old sister Alice. George, then 17, worked as a kitchen porter in a hotel. George's father had been a brewer's labourer.

G.S. STRANGE. Private, Royal Fusiliers, 2nd Bn. Service no. 39606. Killed in action on 11 May 1917, aged about 24. Remembered at Wancourt British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

GEORGE WILLIAM SULLIVAN

Tentative identification
'Sullivin' on the Memorial may be a spelling error for Sullivan. According to *Soldiers Died in the Great War*, George William Sullivan was born in Lambeth and lived in Stockwell.

Henry and George Sullivan, the twin sons of Lydia Sullivan, a 38-year-old laundress, are recorded on the 1891 census at Clapham Maternity Hospital in Jeffreys

Road. So far, we have found no evidence that this is the same G.W. Sullivan.
G.W. SULLIVAN. Rifleman, King's Royal Rifle Corps, 20th Bn. Service no. R/32443. Died of wounds on 29 June 1917. Remembered at Mont Huon Military Cemetery, Le Tréport, Seine-Maritime, France

HUBERT TINDAL SUTTON

We have not identified Hubert Tindal Sutton, who was born in Medway, Kent in 1883, in the 1911 census, but his parents, Stanley, 49, a clerk and former pawnbroker from Tenterden, Kent, and Mary, 47, from Kennington, London, are found at Tendring, Essex. The family had a live-in servant. After the war, they lived at 5 Gauden Road, Clapham.

In 1901 the Sutton family lived at 41 and 43 Battersea Park Road. Hubert had two younger sisters.

H.T. SUTTON. Private, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Bn. Service no. 9005. Died on 21 November 1914, aged 30. Remembered at Ploegsteert Memorial, Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium

H. TANNER

Not identified

JOHN TANNER

John Tanner was born in 1876 and baptised at St Barnabas, South Lambeth on 16 June, the fourth child of house painter William Tanner and Jane (née Lightfoot) who lived at 7 Wellington Terrace, Horace Street (now renamed Luscombe Street). John spent all his early life in Lambeth. By 1891, then aged 15, he worked as a cabinet-maker and lived with his parents and six of his 10 siblings at 13 Horace Street.

On 13 February 1893, John joined the East Surrey Regiment at Kingston, Surrey. His Army career spanned over 12 years and included two years in Malta and nine in India. He extended his Service twice while in India and by 1901 was promoted to full corporal. John reluctantly left the Army at the termination of his period

of Service on 17 March 1905. In 1900, while he was in India, John learned of the death of his father William. His widowed mother Jane was obliged to earn money as a laundress and his married sister Mary Peagam and her husband Frederick, a railway carman, shared her Horace Street home. Following Frederick's example, John began work as a railway goods porter for the London & South Western Railway at the nearby Nine Elms complex. In 1906, John married 23-year-old Ellen Dunn, but he was widowed within a year. On 5 April 1908 he married Ellen May Taylor at St Stephen's, South Lambeth.

In the 1911 census, John and Ellen were living in three rooms at 57 Dashwood Road in Battersea with their two infant children, Ellen, aged two, and William, one. The property was also home to a family of four living in four rooms. Ellen was pregnant with their third child and John was still working as a railway goods porter. Lucy was born in May 1911, followed by Alice in August 1912 and Winifred in April 1914. By the outbreak of the war, John and family were living in a 'two up, two down' property at 11 Ely Place, off Dorset Road in Stockwell.

At the outbreak of war John put aside family responsibilities and on 20 August 1914, aged 40, volunteered to rejoin his old regiment. As an former NCO he was welcomed back. His medical was a formality — he was recorded as 5ft 4in tall and weighing almost 9³/₄st with a chest size of 37in. He was initially posted to the 3rd reserve battalion based at the Grand Shaft Barracks in Dover, with Service number 187. His soldierly qualities were soon recognised and by November 1914 he was promoted to Company Serjeant Major, WO Class 2.

John was part of the effort to train the recruits of Kitchener's New Army, an all-volunteer (at least initially) portion of the British Army. Only burnt fragments of his Service papers have survived but his movements over the following 16 months between Dover, Purfleet, Shoreham and back to Dover indicate he was working with the 10th reserve battalion. When he was sent to France in April 1916, he joined the 9th East Surrey, who were manning

trenches near Wulverghem, south of Ypres. The enemy was very active in April and May and casualties were sustained on an almost daily basis until the 9th East Surrey moved south in July and were on the Somme by early August.

An attack on an enemy strongpoint near Guillemont on 16 August lacked effective artillery support and was repulsed with heavy losses. The battalion was to move to new positions on 21 August and while going forward John Tanner was with two 'D' company officers when the group was hit by shell-fire. The acting Company Commanding Officer and Second Lieutenant G.C. Rivers was killed, Second Lieutenant G. Lillywhite was wounded and John Tanner was wounded in the neck and hand. He was invalided back to England by 17 August 1916 and admitted to Eastbourne Central Military Hospital. It was his first chance to meet his three-month-old daughter Elsie Maud, who had been born in May. Nine months later, John was fit to return to active duty.

He rejoined the 9th East Surreys in early May 1917. The battalion had been moved north in anticipation of the coming offensive at Ypres. The 'big push' on 31 July would turn into 'Passchendaele'. Constant rain and shelling had turned the battlefield into a quagmire. According to future playwright Second Lieutenant R.C. Sherriff of 'C' company, 'The shelling had destroyed everything. As far as you could see it was like an ocean of thick brown porridge'. Sherriff was wounded on 2 August as the battalion struggled to take up forward positions which were little better than waterlogged holes in the ground full of slime with rain-soaked sandbags that disintegrated when touched. Between 3 and 7 August constant shelling and an infantry attack on their line caused many casualties. The battalion Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel H.V.M. de la Fontane, was hit by a sniper on 5 August after coming forward to encourage his men.

The keeper of the battalion's war diary set out the casualty list in painstaking detail. It stretched over four pages with the names of all ranks killed, wounded or missing arranged in neat columns as

if still on parade. On the bottom of the first page, alongside the date of 5 August 1917, was written '6/8/17 187 C.S.M. Tanner (died of wounds)'. John Tanner had been evacuated to No. 32 Casualty Clearing Station at Brandhoek, which had been brought as near to the front line as possible. Despite being staffed with some of the best medical teams available, he succumbed to his wounds and was buried shortly after at Brandhoek.

John left a widow and six children, the eldest Ellen, then aged nine, later recalled hearing of her father's death: 'Father was well known in the community. I never cried in front of other people... you are taught that. I waited until I got to bed and then had a good cry, just as I'm sure Mum did when she was on her own.' Ellen also remembered that for a long time after, her mother could not bear to see her husband's photograph in the dining-room and turned it to the wall.

John's family were living at 39 Hartington Road at the end of the war. His widow Ellen started a new life when she married Robert Carter in 1921. Ellen was living in Lambeth when she passed away in 1950, aged 63.

CHRIS BURGE

J. TANNER. Company Serjeant Major, East Surrey Regiment, 9th Bn. Service no. 187 (previously 4056). Died of wounds on 6 August 1917, aged about 41. Remembered Brandhoek New Military Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium and at the London & South Western Railway Roll of Honour, Waterloo Station, London

OSCAR ALBERT TAYLOR



Oscar Albert Taylor's great-niece Sarah Mackay writes: 'Oscar Albert Taylor, born 21 September 1889, was the third child of Rose and Albert (known as Alfred) Taylor. At the time of his birth, his sister Mabel Maud was four years old and his brother Eric William was two. A fourth child, Henry Oswald, was

born in 1893. Oscar's father signed his name "Alfred W. Taylor, Atheist and Socialist". He was a cabinet-maker who also made musical instruments and grew dahlias in his spare time. Rose had been in domestic service before her marriage to Alf.

'In the 1911 census, Oscar's occupation is given as clerk and turf accountant worker [meaning he worked in the world of horserace betting]. Henry was a clerk for London County Council, Eric was a joiner and building worker and Mabel a milliner. Alf's father, William Taylor, was a retired head gamekeeper. There was also a boarder, Maud Mary Gladman, who was a shop assistant and drapery worker. Oscar joined up in 1914 and married his sweetheart, Ethel Andrews, while on leave in 1915, returning to duty with no time for a honeymoon.' The household at 41 Landor Road, Stockwell had six rooms and the family had lived at that address since at least 1901.

'In 1911, Ethel was living at 129 Blackshaw Road, Tooting with her older sister, Emily (Em) and Emily's husband, Ernest Hargreaves. Emily and Ernest had a daughter, Doris. Ethel worked as a shop assistant in a laundry. In the earlier 1901 census, although Ethel was not then living with her sister, the Hargreaves family was living at 41 Landor Road with the Taylors which is presumably how the families got to know each other.

'Oscar's sister Mabel died in the 1919 Spanish flu epidemic. Alf encouraged Oscar's widow Ethel and Mabel's widower Harry to marry, which they did in 1920. I remember as a child asking Granny (Ethel) what Oscar was like — her face lit up with a smile and she said, "Oh, he was lovely."

O.A. TAYLOR. Rifleman, London Regiment, 2/9th Bn. (Queen Victoria's Rifles). Service no. 397794. Killed in action on 27 September 1917, aged 28. Remembered at Tyne Cot Memorial, Heuveland, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

T. TAYLOR

Not identified

LEONARD HASTINGS TEAKLE

Leonard Hastings Teakle, 21 in 1911, was a bank clerk. He lived in six rooms with his widowed mother, 47-year-old Elizabeth Teakle, from Hackney, east London and four siblings at 26 Finchley Road, Walworth, southeast London.

Leonard was born on 5 December 1889 and baptised on 23 February 1890 at Holy Trinity, at Tulse Hill, the son of Hastings Charles Teakle, a wheelwright from Avening, Gloucestershire, and Elizabeth Mary Ann (née Adams). His father died in 1903.

L.H. TEAKLE. Lance Corporal, London Regiment, 'D' Coy. 1/5th Bn. (London Rifle Brigade). Service no. 157. Killed in action on 2 May 1915, aged 25. Remembered at Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium and at St Andrew's Church, Landor Road, Stockwell

JOSEPH CHARLES TERRETT

When Joseph Charles Terrett, a school attendance officer, joined the Army on 8 September 1914 at St John's Hill, Clapham Junction he left behind a wife, Mary Ann (née Green), and three sons: 14-year-old Joseph, 10-year-old Reginald, and Geoffrey, who was two. Joseph and Mary had married in May 1899 at St John the Evangelist, Walworth, when Joseph gave his occupation as 'composer'.

The Service file for Joseph Terrett does not contain much personal information. We know that he was 39 and had previously served in the 4th Battalion of the East Surrey Regiment, and that he joined his battalion on 12 November 1914. A torn scrap of paper in the file lists some of his effects including photo, knife and torch. The authorities wanted to send Terrett's medals to his widow, Mary Ann Terrett, but had difficulty ascertaining her whereabouts. Efforts to find her through her solicitors, Balderston, Warren and Potheary of Bedford Row, WC1, drew a blank; they were not even sure who Terrett was. In 1920 Mrs. Lawrence, Mrs. Terrett's neighbour at Knowle Road (the street has gone but Knowle Close, off Wynne Road,

remains), informed the authorities that in June Mrs. Terrett and her children had sailed for a new life in Canada.

Joseph Charles Terrett was one of seven of Joseph Benjamin Dobell Terrett, a cabinet-maker, and Louisa (née Butler), both from Newington, southeast London.

WITH THANKS TO SUE MCCULLOUGH

J.C. TERRETT. Private, London Regiment, 'C' Coy. 1/23rd Bn. Service no. 2746. Killed in action on 26 May 1915, aged 40. Remembered at Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

THOMAS THORNE

Thomas Thorne was born in Lambeth in 1892 and baptised on 31 January at St Andrew's, Landor Road, the third child of William and Sarah Jane Thorne. By 1901, William and Sarah were living at 52 Burgoyne Road, Stockwell with their seven children. Thomas' father worked as a brewer's carman, and his older brother Harry was a telegraph messenger. Burgoyne Road is close to Hammerton's Brewery in Stockwell Green.

In the 1911 census, William and Sarah were living with four of their children in five rooms at 70 Dalyell Road, Stockwell, across the road from the Marquis of Lorne pub. William was still working for a brewer.

Older brother Henry was now a Post Office sorter, younger sister Annie was a daily domestic and William was a school newsboy. Frank was still at school. The property was shared with a middle-aged couple living in two other rooms and a young couple and their baby living in one other room.

Thomas was elsewhere in 1911, a new recruit at the Army's Shorncliffe Camp near Folkestone, Kent. His Service records have not survived, but those of private 9947 Frederick John Wallace Austin do. He joined in London on 11 January 1911. Fred Austin's next of kin was living in the Stockwell Park Road. If Fred and Thomas were friends, their paths would soon diverge when Fred was posted to the 3rd KRRC and Thomas to the 2nd KRRC. The 2nd KRRC had been

based at the 'Blackdown Huts' in the two years before the war.

In the spring of 1914 Thomas Thorne married Gertrude Nellie Hall. Their son Thomas Clement Thorne was born soon after, on 12 May 1914. Within three months, Thomas was in France. The 2nd KRRC were mobilised on 4 August 1914, the day war was declared. They crossed from Southampton, reaching Le Havre at 2.45pm on 13 August 1914. They were near the Belgium border when the retreat from Mons began in late August. The battles of the Marne and Asine followed, a period when the battalion suffered a total of 322 casualties.

By 20 October they had moved to Boesinghe northeast of Ypres. By then the opposing forces had dug in. An assault on enemy trenches on 21 October was deemed a success despite the cost of 36 killed and 60 wounded. Before dawn, on the 31st, the enemy delivered a furious assault with overwhelming numbers of infantry and guns. In a desperate fight, the 2nd KRRC held the line before withdrawing to a less exposed position. The losses were severe, with over 400 men killed, wounded or missing.

Thomas Thorne was not accounted for and was posted missing. His wife and family clung to the hope that he had been taken prisoner. When Gertrude baptised her son Thomas Clement on 27 January 1915 at St John's, Worlds End, Chelsea, soldier Thomas Thorne was recorded as the father.

Well into 1915 Thomas's father William made enquiries via the British Red Cross, leaving his address as 116 Dalyell Road, Stockwell. The family's hopes were crushed in mid-1915 when Thomas was officially presumed to have died on 31 October 1914.

Gertrude, then living in Larkhall Lane, married police constable Alfred James Butter on Christmas Day 1924 at Christchurch, Clapham.

CHRIS BURGE

T. THORNE. Corporal, King's Royal Rifle Corps, 2nd Bn. Service no. 9948.

Died on 31 October 1914, aged 22.

Remembered at Ypres (Menin Gate)

Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

FRANCIS WILLIAM THURGOOD

Mobilised at the outbreak of war, Francis William Thurgood proceeded immediately to France, and fought in the Retreat from Mons, and in the Battles of the Marne and Aisne. He also took part in the fighting at Ypres and was killed in action at Loos in September 1915.

In 1911 Francis William Thurgood was a 16-year-old 'doctor's page' living in five rooms at 11 Arlesford Road, Stockwell with his parents, William Francis Thurgood, 42, a night inspector for trams employed by London County Council, and Ellen Thurgood, 40, and six siblings.

F.W. THURGOOD. Private, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment), 8th Bn. Service no. G/1529. Killed in action on 25 September 1915, aged about 20. Remembered at Loos Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

WILLIAM CHARLES TIDNAM

Just before midnight on 9 July, 1917, while positioned off Scapa Flow, northeast Scotland, the battleship HMS *Vanguard*, a veteran of the Battle of Jutland, blew up suddenly, taking over 800 of her crew down with her. Although German saboteurs were suspected, the cause was probably an explosion of cordite in one of the two magazines which served the amidships turrets. Ernest 'Mick' Moroney, an Able Seaman who witnessed the explosion while on watch duty aboard another ship, described how a nearby trawler was smothered with blood and body parts. Only one body was recovered. There were two survivors. Another Stockwell man, *William Albert Crowther*, a stoker, also died in the incident.

On the night of the 1911 census, William, 23, the son of a coachman, was staying at the Union Jack Club in Waterloo Road, listed as a Navy Able Seaman from Harleston, Norfolk. On 11 December 1916, Tidnam married Kathleen Mary Roberts at St Michael's Church, Stockwell.

W.C. TIDNAM. Able Seaman, Royal Navy, HMS 'Vanguard'. Service no. 227258. Died on 9 July 1917, aged 30. Remembered at Chatham Naval Memorial, Kent

ALBERT GEORGE TILLING

The National Roll of the Great War includes an entry for Albert George Tilling, who volunteered in 1915 in Camberwell, was sent to France later that year, saw action on the Somme and at Ypres, and died fighting at Armentières in 1917.

In 1911 census, Tilling lived in six rooms at 82 Wilcox Road, South Lambeth with his parents, John Tilling, 50, and Annie Tilling, 49, four siblings and two boarders. He was a horse-keeper working for the London & South Western Railway, as was his father.

A.G. TILLING. Gunner, Royal Field Artillery, 'A' Bty. 93rd Bde.. Service no. 83361. Killed in action on 8 June 1917, aged about 23. Remembered at Rue-Petillon Military Cemetery, Fleurbaix, France

FREDERICK TOMLIN

Father-of-five Frederick Tomlin, a salesman originally from Tring, Hertfordshire, lived with his wife Ethel (née Piggott) at 98 Dalzell Road, Brixton, and enlisted in May 1916.

Tomlin attested on 4 May 1915 at Sun Street in the City of London. His physical development was described as 'Good': he was 5ft 2in tall, had a 36in chest and weighed 10st. In various periods he performed the duties of the Company Accountant, meaning that he dealt with correspondence and pay administration for his Company. On 23 March 1918 Tomlin sustained a gunshot wound to his back and died the following day.

F. TOMLIN. Corporal, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry), 108th Coy.; formerly London Regiment. Service no. 42235. Died of wounds on 24 March 1918, aged 38. Remembered at Noyon New British Cemetery, Oise, France

ALBERT JOHN TOOLEY

In 1911 Albert John Tooley, an 18-year-old only child, was a student teacher. He lived in a three-roomed apartment at 14 Kimberley Road, Stockwell with his parents, John Tooley, 56, a railway guard

for the London & Southwestern Railway from Stockwell, and Bessie Tooley, 56, from St Columb, Cornwall.

Tozer was born in Stockwell on 3 May 1892 and baptised at St Andrew's, Landor Road on 29 June.

A.J. TOOLEY. Private, London Regiment, 20th Bn. (County of London). Service no. 1797. Killed in action on 23 January 1916, aged 23. Remembered at Maroc British Cemetery, Grenay, Pas de Calais, France and at St Andrew's Church, Landor Road, Stockwell

CHARLES JOHN TOTHAM

In 1911 Charles John Totham was living with his paternal grandparents, John Totham, 54, a carman, and Elizabeth, 55, both from Coggeshall, Essex, in four rooms at 1 Morton Terrace Mews, Pimlico on the north side of the Thames. His parents and two siblings are registered at 32 Eastcote Street, Stockwell, where they had two rooms. Totham's father, Arthur John Totham, 33, was a carman from Coggeshall; his mother, Emma Alice (née King), 33, was from Castle Combe, Wiltshire.

Charles was baptised on 19 July 1899 at St Andrew's, Landor Road, when his parents gave their address as 38 Southesk Street (it ran between Stockwell Road and Lingham Street), and his father's occupation as coachman.

When joining the King's Royal Rifle Corps at Battersea on 10 March 1915, Charles Totham lied about his age, telling the attesting officer that he was 18 years. Totham, only 15 or 16, was a slight lad, standing 5ft 3in tall, and weighing just over 8½st, with a 35in chest.

He was posted to Winchester on 12 March and then to Sheerness on 19 March, but was discharged on 19 June 1915 'having made a mis-statement as to age on enlistment'. He returned to his family at 24 Lingham Street, Stockwell and must have re-enlisted at a later date.

Charles's father Arthur died in 1917, and his mother Emma in 1935. Totham had one surviving sibling, Lilian Annie Totham (later Osmond), who was born

in 1902 and died in Luton, Bedfordshire in 1994.

C.J. TOTHAM. Private, The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment; then London Regiment, posted to 1/20th Bn. Service no. G/20867. Killed in action on 2 June 1918, aged 18. Remembered at Dernancourt Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France

DAVID TOWNSEND

David Townsend was born in August 1890, the third child of Harry Townsend and Elizabeth (née Taylor). In the 1891 census, the couple were living at 27 Broomgrove Road, off Stockwell Road, with their three children: George, Walter and baby David. Three other families lived at the same address, a total of 17 people in one property. The overcrowding was typical of the properties in this alley, which the social reformer Charles Booth described in his 1899 notebook as the only squalid part of the area, 'as like a den as I have seen anywhere'.

By the time of the 1901 census there had been three additions to the family: Florrie, Charles and Sarah Ada. The Townsends had moved next door to number 29, which was also home to the Williams family of nine. David's mother Elizabeth died in 1904 and the family began to split up.

In the 1911 census, siblings Florence and Charles were in live-in service, while only David's older brothers George and Walter were still in Lambeth. George was a boarder in the Wandsworth Road and Walter was in Stockwell. Walter had married Beatrice Elsie Hurley in 1909 and their first child Walter John was born and baptised in 1910. Walter (known as Jack) made a living as a fishmonger's assistant, Beatrice was a daily servant. Walter Townsend's family lived in three rooms at 29 Broomgrove Road, a property also occupied by another family of nine people. We cannot find David on the 1911 census.

David enlisted on 7 September 1914, shortly after the outbreak of war. Only burnt fragments of his Service papers have survived, but his Service number and other records suggest that pre-war he had

been in the 4th Extra Reserve Battalion of the East Surrey Regiment. All reservists had been urged to report for duty and were processed 'with all possible speed'.

At the time of his enlistment David was just over 24 years old. He was 5ft 4in tall and weighed just under 8½st with a 34in chest. He gave his brother 'Jack' at 31 Broomgrove Road as his next of kin. Passed medically fit, David was first posted to the 3rd East Surrey stationed at Dover.

He was sent to France on 3 December 1914 as part of a draft of 160 men who reached the 1st East Surrey eight days later. David endured the winter in the trenches of the Ypres Salient. Spring 1915 brought a renewal of fighting, notably at Hill 60 in April and David's battalion was subjected to chlorine gas in early May. Quieter months followed and they were near Morlancourt, on the Somme, by September 1915. It was noted on 16 September that two men were wounded by trench mortar fire and another by an accidental explosion of one of their own bombs. David Townsend was wounded in the back and invalided back to England by 26 September. He would not rejoin his battalion in France until 25 May the following year.

Almost another year of fighting had passed when the 1st East Surrey took part in the Battle of Arras in April and May 1917. An attack on Oppy Wood and Village on 8 May was a costly failure, with the total of killed, wounded or missing of all ranks numbering 509. David Townsend was posted missing that day. An enquiry was made via the British Red Cross on 20 July, but eventually on 13 February 1918 private 442, David Townsend was regraded for official purposes as having died on or since 8 May 1917.

It was David's brother Walter who received his medals in 1920 and 1921. It was also Walter who took the Army form W5080 to be witnessed and countersigned at St Andrew's Vicarage on 17 March 1921, in order to receive his late brother's plaque and scroll. According to Walter, David Townsend's only other living relatives were his brother Charles and married

sister Florence. Walter and Beatrice Townsend lived at 31 Broomgrove Road until around 1930, when they moved to Stockwell Grove.

Postscript: David Townsend's brother 'Jack', also served in the Great War. Walter John Townsend was marked as a 'Naval or Military absent voter' in the 1918 Electoral Roll for Lambeth at 31 Broomgrove Road. The separate list of Lambeth's absent voters, which would have identified his unit, has not survived. Between May 1915 and the war's end Private '6546 Walter John Townsend' served in the same company of the 1st East Surrey as David Townsend. It's possible that the brothers had both been in the East Surrey Regiment before the war.

CHRIS BURGE
D. TOWNSEND. Private, East Surrey Regiment, 1st Bn. Service no. 442. Died on 8 May 1917, aged 26. Remembered at Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

GEORGE CHARLES TOZE

In 1911, three years before the outbreak of war, George Charles Toze, aged 21, was registered on the census as a lance corporal in the King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment), at the Clarence Barracks, at Spithead Forts, Portsmouth, Hampshire.

He was born in Kennington and baptised at St Peter's, Vauxhall on 5 February 1890, the son of John Toze, a harness maker, and Ellen (known as Nellie) (née Fisher), from Bampton, Devon. The family lived at 236 Upper Kennington Lane. In 1911 Nellie, 43, widowed since 1907, lived at 11 Stockwell Green, and was working as a housekeeper. She shared her two-roomed home with two other sons and a boarder.
G.C. TOZE. Serjeant, King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment), 1st Bn. Service no. 9451. Died on 24 May 1915, aged 27. Remembered at Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

HAROLD PERCY TOZER

Harold Percy Tozer was born on 9 September 1891 and baptised on 18 October at St Barnabas, Guildford Road, South Lambeth. His father, Henry James,

was a solicitor's clerk from Shadwell, east London; his mother, Agnes Emma (née Cooper), was from Ipswich, Suffolk. In 1911, the Tozers lived at 31 Lansdowne Gardens, Stockwell. Aged 19, Harold was working as a clerk for a timber merchant; his sister, Lilian Elizabeth Tozer, 16, was a clerk for a stamp dealer. A cook, his wife and young son lodged with the family.

Tozer enlisted in the 4th Battalion of the Cameron Highlanders on 11 September 1914 and served for 347 days as a private. His enlistment papers describe him as 5ft 9in tall, with a 40in chest. He was sent to France on 19 February 1915 and suffered a gunshot wound to the elbow, after which he was invalided back to Fairfield Hospital, Broadstairs. Later that year he was granted a temporary commission: Second Lieutenant in the Durham Light Infantry. Tozer's Service from then until the flying accident that killed him in 1916 is not known.

H.P. TOZER. Second Lieutenant, Royal Flying Corps/Durham Light Infantry, 9th Bn. Died in a flying accident on 16 December 1916, aged 25. Remembered at East Harnham (All Saints) Churchyard, Wiltshire

JAMES TRACE

In 1911 James Trace was an office boy for a firm of solicitors. He shared four rooms at 70B Hackford Road, Stockwell with his parents and siblings. His father, unemployed cab driver John Trace, 59, was from Torbryan, Devon; his mother, Lucy Trace, 51, was from Leicestershire. Three other children lived at home and there were seven other siblings living elsewhere. Trace enlisted in Westminster.

James was baptised at St John the Divine, Kennington, on 4 September 1895, when his parents lived at 116 Cowley Road. At that time his father described himself as an ostler (he looked after horses at an inn).

J. TRACE. Rifleman, London Regiment, 1/16th Bn. (Queen's Westminster Rifles). Service no. 8867. Killed in action on 1 July 1916, aged about 21. Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

CECIL ARCHIBALD JAQUES TREACHER

In 1911 Stockwell-born apprentice electrical wireman Cecil Archibald Jaques Treacher, 17, lived in five rooms at 14 Stansfield Road, Stockwell with his parents, Joseph Jaques Treacher, 48, an electrical wireman from Clerkenwell, north London, and Sarah Ann (née Satchwell), 50, from Bermondsey, southeast London, and an older brother, Joseph, 20, an instructor of handicrafts. Another family of three also lived at the address, in three rooms. Cecil's Service dated from 19 June 1916. His death was recorded in Birkenhead, Cheshire.

C.A.J. TREACHER. Private 2nd Class, Royal Air Force. Service no. 33191.

Died on 9 May 1918, aged 25. Remembered at Lambeth Cemetery, Blackshaw Road, Tooting

STANLEY HUMPHREY TREMELLING



Stanley Humphrey Tremelling, aged 18 at the time of the 1911 census, was a machine ruler working for a general printing firm. He lived with his 55-year-old widowed mother, Lucy (née Blundell), from Poplar, and 30-year-old stepsister Hilda Tremelling (his deceased father's daughter), who was working as a dressmaker. The family lived in eight rooms at 1 Milkwood Road, Brixton. Tremelling's father had been a patten maker (he made clogs or protective wooden soles to fit under shoes). Tremelling enlisted in Kennington.

Stanley was born on 26 October 1892 and baptised at St Mary's, Newington on 27 November. His family lived at 45 Sharsted Street, and his father described himself as an engineer.

S.H. TREMELLING. Private, London Regiment, 1/24th Bn. (The Queen's). Service no. 3000. Killed in action on 26 May 1915, aged 22. Remembered at Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

BERTRAM TRIANCE

In 1911, Bertram Triance, aged 22, a publisher's clerk from Kilburn, northwest London, lived at 32 Army Street, Clapham with his wife Elizabeth Daisy (née Salter), 22, from Walworth, southeast London, and baby daughter, Kathleen Margaret, who was six weeks old. The couple, who married in 1909, went on to have three further children.

Ten years earlier, Bertram lived at 55 Lower Marsh, Waterloo, north Lambeth with his parents, William H. Triance, 50, a coffee house keeper from Middleton, Norfolk, and Isabella (née Nightingale), 45, from Hampstead, northwest London. Bertram was one of at least five children.

Ian Mackarel, Bertram Triance's great-grandson, writes:

'My grandmother (Bertram's daughter) Jean Louise recounted the circumstances of his death to me some years ago. I took some brief notes about this and other family details at the time. The account given to his family was that he was hit by an artillery shell and died instantly. I was told that he had only joined the Army six weeks before his death following an incident at work where he was given white feathers [social shaming for not joining the military] by colleagues. He had been exempted service previously. His widow, Daisy, subsequently remarried.'

B. TRIANCE. Sapper, Royal Engineers, 219th Field Coy. Service no. 164288.

Died on 19 November 1916, aged 28.

Remembered at Maily Wood Cemetery, Maily-Maillet, Somme, France

JAMES TRIMMER

The 1911 census shows James Trimmer as a private in the 1st Battalion of the North Lancashire Regiment. He was stationed at the Bhurtpore Barracks, in South Tidworth, Hampshire. His parents, Harry Trimmer, 53, a locomotive engine driver from Holybourne, Hampshire, and Sophia Elizabeth (née Adams), 56, from Marylebone, central London were living in four rooms at 94 Wilcox Road, South Lambeth, where they had

been since at least 1901. James was one of three children.

J. TRIMMER. Serjeant, The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, 1st Bn. Service no. 9374. Killed in action on 18 August 1916, aged 26. Remembered at Delville Wood Cemetery, Longueval, Somme, France

ROBERT WILLIAM TRUSSLER

Robert William Trussler, who lived at 29 Crimsworth Road, off Wandsworth Road and who joined the Navy in 1913, was with the *Russell* in the Mediterranean from August 1914. The *Russell* joined the Channel Fleet in November 1914 and after bombarding the coast of Belgium was sent to join the Dardanelles Campaign off the Gallipoli Peninsula.

The battleship stayed at Mudros, a small Greek port on the Mediterranean island of Lemnos, as support for HMS *Hibernia* and she took part in the evacuation of Cape Helles from 7 to 9 January 1916. After the end of the Campaign, the *Russell* stayed on in the eastern Mediterranean.

The ship was steaming off Malta early on the morning of 27 April 1916 when she struck two mines laid by the German submarine *U-73*. A fire broke out and the order to abandon ship was given. Then there was an explosion and the ship started to list. She sank slowly, allowing most of her crew to escape, but 27 officers and 98 ratings, including Trussler, were lost.

R. W. TRUSSLER. Aviation Boatswain's Mate, Royal Navy, HMS 'Russell'. Died on 27 April 1916. Remembered at Portsmouth Naval Memorial

ARTHUR GEORGE TUFFREY

Arthur George Tuffrey enlisted on 29 November 1915 and served as a gunner in the Royal Field Artillery.

He was born on 16 December 1881 to John and Mary Tuffrey (née Parnham), in Brompton, west London, and grew up in and around Chelsea, where his father was a coachman. Before the war he worked as a bank messenger.

He and Madeline Ruth Barnes were

married at St Barnabas, Pimlico on the north side of the Thames on 8 August 1908. The couple moved to Stockwell and lodged at 49 Thorne Road. A son, Alec Arthur John, followed and the family of three is shown in the 1911 census as living in three rooms at that address. Madeline died just days after the birth of her second son, Mervyn Harry in November 1911.

The family moved in with Tuffrey's parents at 30 Edithna Street, off Landor Road, Stockwell. Also in the neighbourhood was Arthur's older brother William Frank, a postman, living at 43 Tradescant Road with his wife Ellen.

Under these circumstances, it is all the more remarkable that Arthur decided to enlist. Perhaps the answer lies in him having previously served four years in the 2nd Middlesex Artillery Volunteers before the war started. After signing up in November 1915 he was mobilised in June 1916.

The records are silent about his Service during this short period but they do tell us he was of fair complexion, with grey eyes and light hair and 5ft 9in tall. His military character was 'Good', and he was described as steady and sober.

Illness cut short his Service, assessed as not the result of ordinary military duties but aggravated by it, resulting in total disablement and entitling him to a pension. He was discharged from Norfolk War Hospital, Norwich on 26 April 1917, as permanently unfit to serve. He had tuberculosis and bronchitis on both lungs and died at Greenwich on 17 December 1917.

Just a few months before that, Arthur's brother Harry died, aged 33, also of illness aggravated by active service, and also leaving a widow and two young children. Arthur and Harry's mother Mary died in 1919 and their father in 1924, aged 73.

And what of Arthur George Tuffrey's orphaned sons, Alec and Mervyn? They moved to Oxfordshire to be cared for by Hannah Turner, a cousin, who received the widow's pension.

MIKE TUFFREY

A.G. TUFFREY. Gunner, Royal Field Artillery (3rd Prov Bty). Service no. 93886. Died on 17 December 1917, aged 35

WILLIAM EVAN TURPIN



William Evan Turpin joined in January 1917 at Clapham, and the following May was sent to France, where he took part in the fighting at Bullecourt and Messines. Later he was transferred to Italy. The 1911 census shows Turpin, 25, a grocer's assistant, living in three rooms at 15 Elwell Road, Clapham, with his wife, Emma (née Guy), 25, from Wolverhampton, and their son, William. William Turpin's parents, Jesse, a 48-year-old bricklayer's labourer from Little London, Essex, and Mary, 48, from Aberaeron, Cardiganshire, lived at 62 Paradise Road, Stockwell.

William attested on 8 December 1915. He was 5ft 11in tall, with a 43in chest. His Service record states that he died of shell injuries to the right side of body, particularly his stomach and hand. After an Enquiry in the Field, these injuries were judged to be 'negligently self-inflicted', 'an accident due to disobedience to orders'. Lieutenant-Colonel W.D. Alexandria came to the conclusion that Turpin died after 'scraping the nose of an old Austrian fuze and having done that he walked away and the explosion took place in his hand.' Three of Turpin's comrades stated that they had seen him scraping the fuze and heard an explosion soon afterwards. Alexandria stated that 'all men in the battery have been warned repeatedly not to tamper with enemy duds, fuzes etc.'

Emma was awarded a widow's pension of £1 7s 7d a week for herself and the children. She died in Lambeth in 1973.

George Cody, Emma's great-nephew, adds: 'Sadly William and Emma's son Ernest Walter was also killed in action, in World War Two, and is interred in a military cemetery, also in Italy.'

W.E. TURPIN. Gunner, Royal Garrison Artillery, 172nd Siege Bty. Service no. 140311. Died of accidental wounds on 31 May 1918, aged 32. Remembered at Montecchio Precalcino Communal Cemetery Extension, near Vicenza, Italy

HERBERT GEORGE UNDERWOOD

In 1911, Herbert George Underwood, a motor cab washer, was 28 and living in four rooms at 4 Dorset Road, Stockwell with his widowed mother, Anne Underwood, 69, from Northamptonshire, and two of his five siblings plus a cousin. Underwood enlisted at Lambeth.

H.G. UNDERWOOD. Rifleman, King's Royal Rifle Corps, 10th Bn. Service no. A/200471. Killed in action on 10 August 1917, aged about 34. Remembered at Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

ALBERT EDWARD UPTON

Albert Edward Upton, aged 16 in 1911, was described by his father Edward Upton on the 1911 census as 'youth not settled.' For emphasis, Edward wrote the word 'unsettled' again and added, confusingly, 'butcher'.

Albert lived at 7 Dawlish Street, South Lambeth with his parents, Edward Upton, 54, a goods guard for the London & South Western Railway, who was born in Stockwell, and Mary Ann (née Corbin), 54, from Beaulieu, Hampshire. Albert Edward Upton was one of two children.

A.E. UPTON. Private, London Regiment, 7th Bn. (City of London); formerly Middlesex Regiment. Service no. L/17507. Killed in action on 21 March 1918, aged about 23. Remembered at Chauny Communal Cemetery British Extension, Aisne, France

FREDERICK CHARLES VINCENT UPTON

Frederick Charles Vincent Upton, who was born on 24 June 1900 in Farnham, Surrey, appears as Frederick William Upton on the 1911 census, an 11-year-old schoolboy born in Farnham, Surrey, and the only son of Frederick William Upton, 39, a coffee shop keeper from Betsham, Kent, and Annie Upton, 37, from Farnham, Surrey 'assisting in the business'. The couple had three daughters. The family lived in five rooms at 2 Portland Place South (now disappeared although the

remnant survives as Portland Grove), near Clapham Road.

F.C.V. UPTON. Air Mechanic 2nd Class, Royal Air Force, 116th Sqdn. Service no. 189301. Died on 11 November 1918 (Armistice Day), aged 18. Remembered at Aylesbury Cemetery, Tring Road, Buckinghamshire

GEORGE EDWARDS VERNEY

Brixton-born George Edwards Verney was a baker. In 1911, aged 26, he was living with his parents, George Verney, 53, a cab driver from Winslow, Buckinghamshire, and Annie (née Edwards), 60, from Riverhead, Kent, and a younger sister at 20 Gilbey Road, Tooting, southwest London, where the family had five rooms. Three other sisters lived elsewhere. The Verneys later moved to 53 Dalberg Road, Brixton.

G.E. VERNEY. Private, Royal Sussex Regiment, 13th Bn. Service no. G/13935. Killed in action on 26 September 1917, aged 33. Remembered at Tyne Cot Memorial, Heuwelland, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

ALBERT HENRY VICKERS

Albert Henry Vickers, born in Stratford, east London, was one of 10 children of Thomas George Vickers, 52, a stoker at Lambeth Workhouse, from Poplar, east London, and Sarah (née Bird), 51, from Stockwell. Thomas and Sarah lived at 26 Moat Place, a four-roomed tenement, with three of their children. The family had lived at that address since at least 1901. In 1911, Albert was a 15-year-old apprentice bootmaker living with the Goward family at 39 Elm Road, New Malden, Surrey.

Vickers's name is included in *Ireland's Memorial Records 1914-1918*.

A.H. VICKERS. Private, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, 2nd Bn. Service no. 10022. Killed in action on 28 January 1917, aged 20. Remembered at Sucrierie Military Cemetery, Colincamps, Somme, France

THOMAS VINCENT

Thomas Vincent, aged 15 in 1911, was a messenger for the telegraph office of the

General Post Office. He lived with his parents and two brothers at 15 Springfield Place (now disappeared, it was in the area near Lansdowne Way and Wandsworth Road), Stockwell. His father, also called Thomas Vincent, 70, worked as a messenger for Lambeth Borough Council and was originally from Islington, north London. His mother, Maria Vincent, 48, was from Hanwell, west London. Thomas had two younger brothers. He enlisted at Hertford.

T. VINCENT. Lance Corporal, Bedfordshire Regiment, 1st Bn. Service no. 10262. Killed in action on 22 October 1914, aged 19. Remembered at Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

WILLIAM CHARLES VINEY

In March 1918 *The South London Press* reported on William Charles Viney's funeral. It explained that Viney had for a long while been exempt from military service because of the 'importance of his duties' (he worked for sugar manufacturer James Pascall Ltd) and because he was considered unfit for duty. However, he was re-examined, passed as fit, joined the Royal Garrison Artillery at Camberwell and went to train in Derby. Three weeks later he had a seizure and never regained consciousness. He was buried with full military honours at Lambeth Cemetery.

Viney's widow, Florence Emily (née Sheaff) and three children, lived at Portland Place South, near Clapham Road. William, then 25, and Florence, 27, had married at All Saints Church, Newington (near Elephant and Castle), on 27 August 1911. William was described as a stock-keeper for a confectionery company. The 1911 census, conducted a few months earlier, shows William Charles Viney boarding at 7 Freemantle Street, Newington, where he lived with engine fitter Alfred Webster and his family.

W.C. VINEY. Gunner, Royal Garrison Artillery, No. 1 Depot. Service no. 179460. Died on 21 February 1918, aged 31. Remembered at Lambeth Cemetery, Screen Wall, Blackshaw Road, Tooting, southwest London

WILLIAM CHILDS WADMORE

We believe this inscription is an error on the Memorial. We can find no trace of a C.W. Wadmore, but there is evidence that a W.C. Wadmore lived in Stockwell at the appropriate time. In addition, *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914–1919* includes a William Childs Wadmore, born in Stockwell.

The 1911 census tells us that William Childs Wadmore, then 15, was the eldest son of William Wadmore, 43, a carman from Clapham, and Eliza Wadmore, 40, from Stockwell. He was employed in what his father called merely 'work'. William (snr) may have struggled to complete the census return. The names of his children are badly spelt ('harrey' for Harry, for example), and he included one daughter ('douter') who was not at home but at 'reformerty school'.

Charles Booth, the social observer who walked the streets of London between 1886 and 1903, remarked on the 'indescribable filth and squalor' of Bromsgrove Road, which he said was '[by] far the worst place in the division.' This was where the Wadmore family lived about 10 years after Booth toured the area — all 10 of them in three rooms at no. 17.

Both William Childs Wadmore and his father, William Wadmore, enlisted. *The National Roll of the Great War* states that William Childs Wadmore volunteered in September 1915 and was sent to France in December of the same year. He was killed in action at Loos two months later. This conflicts with the Commonwealth War Graves information that he was buried 55 miles away at Sailly-Saillisel.

No Service records have survived for William Childs but Pension records exist for his father, who enlisted in April 1915 and survived. On his Army Pension papers, William Wadmore described himself as a coal porter and stated that he was a widower — his wife Eliza had died at some point after the 1911 census — with five dependant children. Two of them, Annie and Charles, were 'domiciled in Reformatory school'.

Wadmore Snr served in the Army

Service Corps in France, but was transferred to the Reserve after he became ill with rheumatism (he also suffered two episodes of scabies) and was discharged, aged 50, on 19 October 1917. His military character was described as 'sober and trustworthy'. In 1915 he had told the recruiting officer that he was 44, so it is possible that he lied about his age in order to increase his chances of being accepted. The Pensions Board awarded him a £16 10s gratuity and a small pension.

C.W. WADMORE. Rifleman, King's Royal Rifle Corps, 10th Bn. Service no. R/31892. Killed in action on 9 January 1917, aged about 21. Remembered at Sailly-Saillisel British Cemetery, Somme, France

JOHN FREDERICK WAKE

In 1911 John Frederick Wake was a 12-year-old schoolboy. He lived with his family at 25 Bognor Street, Battersea (this street has now disappeared but was once in a tight knot of streets off Thessaly Road). Wake's father, James Stowe Wake, 43, was a painter's labourer originally from Westminster; his mother, Elizabeth (née James), 39, was born in Lambeth. There were five other children.

J.F. WAKE. Private, Royal Fusiliers, 10th Bn. Service no. 75115; formerly 42273, 99th Training Reserve Battalion. Died of wounds on 18 May 1918, aged 19. Remembered at St Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, Seine-Maritime, France

GEORGE WILLIAM WAKELIN

In 1911 estate agent's clerk George William Wakelin, 24, lived at 40 Sidney Road, Stockwell, with his parents, George Fordham Wakelin, 70, a rent collector born in the West End of London, and Alice Ann (née Barnes), 51, from Leckhampton, Gloucestershire, and two younger siblings. The family occupied seven rooms.

G.W. WAKELIN. Private, The Queen's Own Royal West Surrey Regiment, 10th Bn. Service no. G/11762. Killed in action on 27 July 1916, aged 29. Remembered at London Rifle Brigade Cemetery, Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium

ARTHUR AMBROSE WALLIS

In 1911 Arthur Ambrose Wallis was a 13-year-old schoolboy living in three rooms at 29 Fountain Street, off Wandsworth Road, with his parents and seven siblings. His father, Herbert Wallis, 38, was a railway porter from Tunbridge Wells, Kent; his mother, Alice Louisa (née Lawrence), 34, was from Westminster. Wallis enlisted in Camberwell.

When Arthur was baptised at All Saints, South Lambeth, his parents lived at 9 Lansdowne Gardens, Stockwell.

A.A. WALLIS. Private, Welsh Regiment, 2nd Bn. Service no. 30098. Killed in action on 8 September 1916, aged 18. Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

WALTER PERCY WALLIS

In 1911 Walter Percy Wallis, a 12-year-old schoolboy and only child, lived at 11 Glendall Street, Stockwell with his parents, Percy William Wallis, 38, a railway riveter from West Malling, Kent, and Sarah Naomi (née Walker), 40, from Rye, Sussex. Walter was born in Ashford, Kent. They shared their four-roomed home with John James Seckert, a single 44-year-old restaurant waiter from Maintz, Germany.

W.P. WALLIS. Private, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry), 200th Bn. Service no. 153407. Died on 3 February 1919, aged 19. Remembered at Lapugnoy Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

FREDERICK WARD

Frederick Ward was born in Lambeth and baptised on 20 May 1894 at St Andrew's, Landor Road, Stockwell, when his parents Edwin Ward and Agnes (née Woolsey) were living at 19 Stockwell Green, and his father worked as a decorator. In the 1901 census Frederick was the third eldest of five siblings living with their parents in four rooms at 8 Clark's Row (between Ingleton and Robsart Streets, near Brixton Road). Frederick's father Edwin was then employed as a 'laundry carman'. Hardship followed when Edwin died in 1902, aged 46. The family suffered further loss in

1903 when Frederick's younger brothers Ernest and Christopher died.

When Frederick's 51-year-old mother Agnes completed her 1911 census return, the household consisted of five other people: her children Agnes, 22, Edwin, 21, and Frederick, 16, and boarder Charles Ward, a widower aged 59. Agnes entered 'no occupation' for herself and Elsie, who was disabled. Edwin worked as a restaurant porter and Frederick as a milkman's assistant. They lived in five rooms at 5 Ingleton Street, off Brixton Road.

Edwin was married with a young child when he volunteered in October 1915, serving as a motor driver in the Army Service Corps throughout the war. Frederick was conscripted late in 1916 and was first sent to Salonika, landing on 1 March 1917. He spent three months there in miserable weather. Morale was low and the men were glad to leave in June 1917 when the battalion was moved to Egypt. The battalion took part in the campaign in Palestine in 1917 and 1918. They were present at the hugely symbolic capture and subsequent defence of Jerusalem in December 1917. 'B' company fought at 'Talaat ed Dumm' in February 1918. Late in March 1918 they were part of the forces that attacked Amman for the first time. Frederick Ward was wounded and evacuated to the 76th Casualty Clearing Station, where he died on 3 April 1918.

Frederick's brother Edwin returned to his family at 15 Medwin Street in April 1919. Frederick's mother Agnes and sister Elsie lived at 5 Ingleton Street until Agnes passed away in 1932, aged 73. Elsie later lived with Edwin's family in Sevenoaks, Kent.

CHRIS BURGE

F. WARD. Private, London Regiment, 'B' Coy. 2nd/19th Bn. Service no. 614287. Died of wounds on 3 April 1918, aged 23. Remembered at Ramleh War Cemetery, Israel and Palestine (including Gaza) and at St Michael's Church, Stockwell Park Road, Stockwell

G. WARD

Not identified

WILLIAM GEORGE WARE

The 1911 census shows that William George Ware, 16, was employed as a junior clerk at the Army & Navy Stores in Victoria. He lived at 16 Dalyell Road, Stockwell, with his parents, William Henry Ware, 45, a foreman for a timber merchant, born in Battersea, and Edith Annie (née Etheridge), 39, from Chelsea, and an elder sister. The family had eight rooms.

Ware enlisted in Westminster.

W.G. WARE. Private, London Regiment, 2nd Bn. (Royal Fusiliers). Service no. 1187. Killed in action on 27 March 1915, aged 22. Remembered at Ferme Buterne Military Cemetery, Houplines, Nord, France and at St Andrew's Church, Landor Road, Stockwell

FREDERICK WALTER WARMAN

Frederick Walter Warman was born in Ramsgate, Kent in 1885, the third child of John Warman and Ellen Eva (née Adams). By 1891, John and Ellen lived with their five children close to the seafront at 2 Pleasant Villas, Victoria Road, St Lawrence, Ramsgate in Kent. John Warman, who worked in a public house as a barman and cellarman, died in 1894. By the time of the 1901 census widowed Ellen was running her home as a boarding house, with the assistance of her 21-year-old daughter Lilian. Frederick, 15, was employed in a local hotel, possibly the nearby Granville Hotel on Victoria Parade.

In the 1911 census, Ellen had moved a short distance to 1 Avenue Villa, Avenue Road. Her three-storey home, one of four in the terrace, was adjacent to Holy Trinity Church and the open space of Arklow Square. Ellen now lived with three of her five surviving children: Lillian, 31, John, 27, and Ernest, 23. Both of Frederick's brothers worked as hotel porters. The six-room property was also home to two male boarders.

Frederick Warman was living at 83 Carter Street, Walworth, southeast London, renting one of Annie Smith's five rooms and working in London hotels. He

married Florence Agnes Rowland early in 1915, in Southwark. She was the daughter of confectionery maker James Rowland who had premises in Borough High Street, Southwark, and a family home at 247 South Lambeth Road, Stockwell. The couple's son, John Metcalf Warman, was born on 21 July 1915. Frederick's brothers Ernest and John had both volunteered by the end of 1915, but Frederick waited to be conscripted.

He was called up in the second half of 1916 and sent to France in February 1917 as Lance Corporal 8838 Warman of the 1st/8th London Bn. (The Post Office Rifles). At some stage in 1917, he was transferred to the 9th Royal Irish Rifles and renumbered L/Cpl. 9/44903. He received medical treatment for a bad case of trench fever, a lice-borne infection, in August 1917 at the 18th General Hospital in France, which was then run by the US Army. The 8th and 9th RIR were amalgamated at the end of August 1917.

Late in 1917, Frederick Warman was with the 15th RIR who were part of a major offensive near Cambrai, when tanks were used *en masse* for the first time. Their assault on part of the Hindenburg line on 22 November was met with stiff resistance and the 15th RIR suffered many casualties. Soon after, Frederick's wife Florence received news that her husband had been posted missing that day. Florence made enquiries through the Red Cross in the hope that Frederick was still alive. A search was made but the response was '*néгатif envoyé*' (negative), Frederick had not been found as a prisoner.

Six months later, in July 1918, Frederick Warman was officially presumed to have died on or since 22 November 1917. Florence was awarded a weekly widow's pension of 13s 9d on 27 July 1918. She was still at her Stockwell address in 1920 when she made the decision to emigrate to America with her young son.

Frederick Warman's name is included in *Ireland's Memorial Records 1914–1918*.

Two of Frederick's brothers also served: Ernest Petley Warman (Royal Fusiliers) and John Philip Warman (Grenadier Guards). Ernest, who was posted missing

was later presumed to have died on 1 April 1917. John survived the war. CHRIS BURGE *F.W. WARMAN. Lance Corporal, Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Bn. Service No. 44903. Died on 22 November 1917, aged 32. Remembered at Cambrai Memorial, Louverval, France*

ARTHUR SPURGEON WATERMAN

Arthur Spurgeon Waterman, possibly named after the famous 19th-century Baptist evangelist and founder of Stockwell Orphanage Charles Spurgeon, was a house painter. In 1911, aged 19, he lived with his parents and four of his five siblings at 100 Paradise Road, Stockwell where the family had eight rooms. They had lived at that address since at least 1901. Arthur's father George Phillip Waterman, 56, was a house decorator, born in Clapham; his mother Jane (née Wise), 58, was born in Islington, north London.

A.S. WATERMAN. Private, Royal Fusiliers, 12th Bn. Service no. 3295. Killed in action on 18 July 1916, aged about 23. Remembered at Dranoutre Military Cemetery, Hewvelland, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

ALFRED HERBERT WATTS

In 1911 Alfred Herbert Watts was a 13-year-old schoolboy and part-time milkboy. His father, George Henry Watts, 49, originally from Trowbridge, Wiltshire, was a carman, working for the London & South Western Railway. His mother, Sarah Jane (née Doel), 46, was from Yarnbrook, Wiltshire. There were two older siblings, a nine-year-old cousin and a boarder in the household, which occupied five rooms at 28 Rosetta Street, South Lambeth (now disappeared, although a Rosetta Close, near Kenchester Close, remains).

Watts's name is included in *Ireland's Memorial Records 1914–1918*.

A.H. WATTS. Rifleman, Royal Irish Rifles, 15th Bn. Service no. 44390; formerly London Regiment. Killed in action on 14 October 1918, aged 20. Remembered at Tyne Cot Memorial, Hewvelland, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

GEORGE JOSEPH WATTS

In 1911 George Joseph Watts, who was born in Westminster in 1881, worked as a porter and lived in six rooms with his wife Elizabeth Jane (née Bates) and two toddler daughters, and a lodger, at 51 Brookland Road, off Wandsworth Road. He married Elizabeth at St John the Evangelist, Westminster in 1905.

When Watts attested on 12 October 1914, he was working as an outside porter. He had previously served in the Royal West Kents. Watts was 5ft 5in, just under 8½st with a 36½in chest. He had blue eyes, brown hair and a fresh complexion, and 'profuse' tattooing on both forearms and calves. His physical development was judged to be 'Good'. He was posted to the Special Reserve of the Royal West Kent Regiment, landed in France on 7 December 1914 and joined 'H' Company of his battalion on 4 January 1915. Just over a month later, he was appointed unpaid lance corporal. He was posted missing on 23 April, having served a total of 194 days.

Watts's widow Elizabeth was left to bring up three daughters, Rose Elizabeth (born 1906), Lilian Maud (1909) and Violet May (1911), on an Army pension of 16s 2d a week.

G.J. WATTS. Private, The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, 1st Bn. Service no. S/1117. Killed in action on 23 April 1915, aged 34. Remembered at Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

ALBERT EDWARD WAYMARK

When Albert Edward Waymark, 36, enlisted at Cleethorpes, Lincolnshire on 9 December 1914, he was measured as 5ft 2¾in tall, 9½st and 40in around the chest. He was assigned to the 15th (Service) Battalion (Nottingham), a bantam battalion for troops under the normal regulation minimum of 5ft 3in.

Waymark joined the British Expeditionary Force on 18 July 1916. During that month, the battalion took part in the fighting for Arrow Head Copse and Maltz Horn Farm and for Falfemont Farm, on the Somme.

Waymark appears on the 1911 census as a 32-year-old labourer boarding with the Shephard family at Donington-on-Bain, a small village near Louth in Lincolnshire. Waymark had been in Lincolnshire in 1901, when he lived in Wigtoft, Lincolnshire, again boarding. The 1891 census shows Waymark living with his parents, William Henry Waymark, a valet, and Sarah Ann (née Hardy), and three older siblings at 9 Stamford Buildings, off South Lambeth Road. Sarah later moved to 38 Heyford Avenue, South Lambeth.

A.E. WAYMARK. Private, Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment), 15th Bn. Service no. 40762. Killed in action on 26 November 1916, aged 37. Remembered at Faubourg d'Amiens Cemetery, Arras, Pas de Calais, France

HENRY THOMAS WEATHERLEY

In 1911 Henry Thomas Weatherley was 14 and out of work. He lived with his parents, Alfred Weatherley, 45, a painter from Uxbridge, and Elizabeth Jane (née Taylor), 45, from Maldon, Essex, at 158 Larkhall Lane, Stockwell where the family had five rooms. Three of his four siblings lived at home. Henry's uncle Jack John Weatherley, a married baker and father of nine, lived with the family.

H.T. WEATHERLEY. Private, London Regiment, 24th Bn. (The Queen's). Service no. 4712. Died on 24 January 1916, aged about 19. Remembered at Noeux-les-Mines Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

ARTHUR WEBB

Shortly after draper Arthur Webb presented himself at the Camberwell recruiting office in Flodden Road in June 1915 he started on a rapid trajectory up the ranks. Exactly a month later, he was appointed paid lance corporal. By the end of July he was corporal, by October lance serjeant, and before he was posted to France he was acting serjeant. By January 1917 he was serjeant. Webb's conduct was excellent — but not perfect. He was reprimanded for being late for company parade some time in May 1917. On 31

August 1918, Webb died of a gunshot wound that had penetrated his spine.

Webb stood 5ft 4½in with a 39in chest. He weighed 8¾st. He left a collection of effects, all forwarded to his mother, including the usual photos, letters, identity discs, pipe and notebook, but also two pairs of glasses, a watch and chain and a rosary in a tin box.

Webb's documents state clearly that he was a member of the Church of England congregation at St Andrew's in Landor Road. Before the war, Webb lived in a Church institution. The 1911 census shows him, then aged 27 and working as a commercial clerk, living with his widowed mother, Kennington-born Mary Jane Webb (née Wood), 51, three siblings and two boarders (they were young Church of England ministers) at 57 Stockwell Road, a 'preventive home' for girls, dedicated to training girls for domestic service. Mary Jane Webb later moved to 22 Kendoa Road, Clapham.

In 1901 the Webbs — Arthur, his mother, his older brother Henry, and younger siblings Florence and Alfred — lived at 58 Dalzell Road, Brixton. Arthur and Henry worked as draper's assistants. Arthur's father James Webb, a letter carrier, died in 1897.

A. WEBB. Serjeant, London Regiment, 21st Bn. (First Surrey Rifles). Service no. 651657. Died of wounds on 31 August 1918, aged 35. Remembered at St Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, Seine-Maritime, France, and at St Andrew's Church, Landor Road, Stockwell

ALBERT EDWARD WEBB

Albert Edward Webb lived in Stockwell. He enlisted at Camberwell.

A.E. WEBB. Gunner, Royal Field Artillery, 'C' Bty. 275th Bde. Service no. 210735.

Killed in action on 18 April 1918. Remembered at Fouquières Churchyard Extension, Pas de Calais, France

GILBERT ROLAND WEBB

Gilbert Roland Webb was born in Bristol in 1893, the first child of Francis James

and Emily Charlotte Webb. Gilbert was baptised on 1 March 1893 at St Clement's Church, Bristol.

By the time of the 1901 census, Gilbert was the oldest of four siblings. His father worked on print machines. By 1911, Francis had brought his family to London and was living in Lambeth. When he completed his census return, the household consisted of Francis James, 44; Emily Charlotte, 41; Frederick George, 17; William Edward, 15; Lilian Emily, 13; Frances May, 11; Arthur Frank, eight; Albert Joseph, six; Ernest James, four; Thomas John, two; and baby Emily Charlotte, one. In 25 years of marriage, Gilbert's mother had given birth to 15 children, with 10 surviving infancy. The family of 11 were living in six rooms at 3 Wheatsheaf Lane, a subdivided property housing 11 other people next door at 3A, close to the Mission Hall, the Wheatsheaf Public House and Wyvil School.

Gilbert was not in Lambeth in 1911 as he was by now a serving soldier, a gunner in the 133rd Battery of the Royal Field Artillery, counted on census day at barracks at Ewshot near Farnham, Hampshire. Mobilised at the beginning of the war, Gunner Webb was part of the 45th Battery of the 42nd Brigade RFA attached to the 3rd Division of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) which landed in France on 18 August 1914. Gilbert Webb's battery supported all the 3rd Division's actions in 1914, at Mons, on the Marne and on the Aisne and was present in the Ypres salient in 1915. In late March and early April 1916 the six 18-pounder guns of Gilbert Webb's battery fired in support of operations at the St Eloi Craters, three miles south of Ypres where there had been much mining and counter-mining activity. The explosion of three large mines by the British on 27 March led to a gruesome struggle for control of the craters. The 42nd Brigade had fired 11,063 rounds in the week prior to 2 April. As the British barrage continued, the batteries near the Dickebusch Road and Lake were badly hit by counter-battery fire, including gas shells, on 6 April 1916. Gunner Gilbert Webb died of his wounds on that day.

Members of the the Webb family were

living at 2 Horace Street, off Wilcox Road at the end of the war and up to 1925. Gilbert's mother had died at the beginning of 1914 in Kent, aged 43. Gilbert's father Francis passed away in Lambeth in 1934, aged 67.

CHRIS BURGE

G.R. WEBB. Gunner, Royal Field Artillery, 45th Bty. Service No. 576.

Died on 6 April 1916, aged about 23.

Remembered at Dickebusch New Military Cemetery, Belgium

GEORGE ROBERT HENRY WEDDERBURN



George Wedderburn was born on 30 August 1892, the first child of George Wedderburn and Clara (née Wilmott) of 5 Chapel Street (since renamed Mowll Street), Stockwell and baptised George Robert

Henry Wedderburn on 18 October 1892 at Christ Church, north Brixton. George (snr), originally from Newcastle, worked as a stable groom for the Waine furnishing company at 131–139 Newington Butts, close to the Elephant and Castle. Clara was born and raised in Lambeth. When George's younger brother Joseph Alfred was born in 1896, the family were still in Chapel Street and George's father was described as a 'comedian', a hint of another side to the lives of the Wedderburn family.

By 1901, eight-year-old George was one of four children and the Wedderburn family were living at 14 Buff Place, Camberwell, southeast London. George's father was described as a horse dealer. Three families making a total of 17 people were living at the same address. Although close to Camberwell Green and the surrounding amenities, Buff Place was one of a group of side alleys described by the social surveyor Charles Booth in 1899 as comprising 'shoddy three storey buildings'.

In the 1911 census, George was now one of eight children. His parents were both 37 and the children's details were set out in the clear hand of their father: George, 18;

Joseph, 15; Robert, 13; Clara, 10; James nine; Isabella, seven; Samuel, four; and Gladys, two. Their father was working as a domestic groom, while Joseph was a newsboy and George (jnr) was a labourer. Large families were the norm, but in this case 10 people were crammed into just four rooms at 21 Ely Place, South Lambeth, one of a group of turnings off Dorset Road that were all marked as a poor area when visited 10 years earlier by Booth.

Towards the end of 1915 with conscription looming, it was clear that both George and his brothers Joseph and Robert would not escape service. In the case of George, only his discharge papers have survived. They tell the story of a man broken in mind and body, revealing that before the war George had wholly, or in part, earned his living as a variety artist, performing for around five years in various Moss Empire theatres. His family later said he was known to perform comical songs and dances in a double act with his father.

George's Army life began at the end of November 1915 when he chose to attest under Lord Derby's Group Scheme (see *Appendix*). He joined the reserve of the 19th London Regiment, a Territorial Force unit whose administrative base was in Camden Town, near St Pancras Station. George was given the Service number 5116. Perhaps it was no coincidence that music-hall artist brothers Henry Arthur and Ronald Gladstone Moon joined 19th London Regiment at the same time. Brixton and the surrounding area was popular with variety artists for its good transport links. Henry Moon gave a Brixton Road address when he attested in Lambeth on 30 November 1915. His service number was 5100, and his brother Ronald's was 5121.

George was given compassionate leave to marry Mabel Jane Wright on 28 May 1916 at St Paul's, Lorrimore Square, Southwark, which was close to Mabel's home in Lorrimore Road, Kennington. After this, George returned to his unit and within four months was sent to France.

He landed at Le Havre on 13 August, spent nearly a month at the infantry base

and finally reached the 1/19th London on 23 September 1916. It was the height of the Somme offensive and his battalion, which had already suffered heavy casualties attacking High Wood, was briefly out of the front line. Back in the line, intense shelling buried men alive or dead. In October the battalion was withdrawn from the Somme, only to be sent north to the Ypres sector. Trench conditions were always at their worst in winter and sporadic shelling invariably added to the casualty lists. George was admitted to a Field Ambulance on 14 January 1917 with a high fever and was in hospital in Boulogne a week later before being transferred to England on 30 January.

George's health deteriorated to the point that on 8 June he was sent to convalesce at Summerdown Camp near Eastbourne. His condition worsened and by August 1917 he was transferred to the 1st London General Hospital after displaying the classic symptoms of neurasthenia, an illness now renamed dysautonomia, an imbalance of the autonomic nervous system. George may have suffered from the condition commonly known as shell-shock. After 32 days George was moved to the Tooting Grove Military Hospital where he stayed for nearly five months and was described as 'nervous and excited at the least thing'. In February 1918, George was moved again, this time to the 4th General Hospital at Denmark Hill (on the site of today's Kings College Hospital), Camberwell where he stayed for 51 days, still suffering from neurasthenia. Finally, on 29 March 1918 George was transferred across the street to the Maudsley Neurological Clearing Hospital and appeared before a medical board on 19 April 1918. The board found him to be permanently unfit for service and awarded him a pension, but only for six months. He was discharged on 10 May 1918 after spending 41 days at the Maudsley, free to return home to Mabel at 81 Lorrimore Road. When completing his discharge papers, George wrote, in the section asking about what kind of work he desired, 'Variety Artiste (if possible) Gardening or Farming'.

It is not known if George found

employment by the time his pension expired, but there was a new beginning in his life when he became a father in 1918. Following family tradition, George and Mabel named their son George Bruce.

George Wedderburn was laid to rest in Southwark on 6 March 1919. The authorities refused Mabel's claim for a war pension.

Mabel lived at 81 Lorrimore Road until at least 1945 when her son George Bruce Wedderburn was a 'service voter' at the same address in the 1945 election. He had been in the Army since 1939. Mabel was living in Norwich when she died in 1984, aged 89. George Bruce Wedderburn died in Norwich in 1998, aged 79. CHRIS BURGE *G. WEDDERBURN. Private, London Regiment, 19th Bn. Service no. 611750. Died of illness in early 1919, after discharge, aged 26. Buried in Southwark, location unknown, on 6 March 1919*

W. WEIGHT

Not identified

ALFRED GEORGE WELLINGS

Brother of Thomas Henry Wellings

The 1901 census shows seven-year-old Alfred George Wellings as one of three children of Alfred Wellings, a 32-year-old horse keeper born in Vauxhall, and Elizabeth Martha (née McGoun), 33, a cardboard box maker from Blackfriars in the City of London, living at 29 Mansion House Street, Kennington.

Alfred was born on 27 January 1894 and attended Walnut Tree Walk School in Kennington. His family lived at 3 Hotspur Street, off Black Price Road.

In 1911 Alfred was working as a page at the Junior Athenaeum Club at 116 Piccadilly, London, a gentleman's club whose members were MPs and peers, members of the universities, fellows of the learned and scientific Societies, and gentlemen connected with literature, science, and art. Thirty-five servants lived in at the club.

His widowed mother Martha and brothers Thomas and George lived in

two rooms at 35 Camellia Street, South Lambeth. Martha was still working as a cardboard box maker.

A.G. WELLINGS. Private, Coldstream Guards, 3rd Bn. Service no. 10167. Killed in action on 2 August 1917, aged about 23. Remembered at Artillery Wood Cemetery, Belgium

THOMAS HENRY WELLINGS

Brother of Alfred George Wellings

In 1903, Thomas Henry Wellings, who was born on 20 May 1899, was enrolled in Walnut Tree Walk school. At the time his family lived at 8 St Olave's House, a block of social housing in Walnut Tree Walk.

Pension records show that on 20 July 1915 he enlisted in the 21st Battalion of the London Regiment. Thomas gave his age as 19 and two months but he was only 16 and was discharged. The Army was impressed with his good military character. 'Could have made a good soldier if of the required military age,' was written in his file.

Wellings's discharge papers describe him as having a fresh complexion, grey eyes, light brown hair; he was 5ft 6in, with a 36in chest, and under 8st. His physical development was judged to be 'Fair'. He gave his address as 2 Thorncroft Street, a few streets away from Camellia Street. He must have re-enlisted later.

T.H. WELLINGS. Private, The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, 1st Bn. Service no. 29546. Died of wounds on 1 October 1918, aged 19. Remembered at Grevillers British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

THOMAS FREDERICK WELLINGTON

On 10 August 1915, less than a month after Thomas Frederick Wellington, a driver, was killed in action at Ypres, the Royal Engineers Records Office wrote to his bereaved mother, Rose Cockman: 'Special information has been received... He was killed in action 2/7/15 and was buried behind Signal Station at Zillebeke, approx: Square L.22.D Map Belgium Sheet 28. 1/40,000.' But somehow Wellington's remains were lost, and he is remembered

instead on the panels of the Menin Gate Memorial to the missing of Ypres.

The Records Officer's letter crossed with one of Mrs. Cockman's own in which she asked about the whereabouts of her son's will and small-book (a pocket-sized book containing an abbreviated record of Service, as well as instructions for cleaning equipment and uniform, notes on field cooking, Army rules and regulations). These were not in his custody, the officer told Mrs. Cockman in his reply sent the following day. However, Wellington's personal effects were found and sent on. As well as the usual watch, pipe, diary, letters, handkerchiefs, gloves, and so on, they included a holdall containing a razor, two toothbrushes, a lather brush, shaving soap and a 'housewife' (a small sewing kit for making repairs to uniforms), and his driver's licence.

Wellington's Army career was solid, with no conduct issues. He started out in the London Army Troops of the Royal Engineers. He stayed 139 days and was discharged 'in consequence of joining [the] regular army'. He transferred to the London Signals Training Centre and from there on 16 December 1914 went to Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire, where the Electrical Signalling Branch of the School of Military Engineering was based. He went to France on 26 December.

Thomas Frederick Wellington, 5ft 6in tall (or 5ft 8in depending on who was doing the measuring — both heights are given in his records), weighed over 10½st, with a 39in chest, was judged of 'Good' physical development. He had a fair complexion, dark grey eyes and light brown hair.

In civilian life he had a varied career: from 'ticket printer' in 1911, to engineer's photographer at the time he joined the Army in 1914. He also described himself as a draughtsman. The 1911 census shows Thomas Wellington, then 21, living with his mother, stepfather, and siblings and stepsiblings at 15 Horace Street (this street is now disappeared), Stockwell. The social researcher Charles Booth, in his poverty map of 1886–1903 described Horace Street as 'poor and crowded'.

Thomas's mother, Rosena (née Gunn),

44, from Torrington, Essex, had married Ernest Cockman, 39, a timber carman from Wandsworth, in about 1894. She had at least two children from her previous marriage: Thomas, and Rose Wellington, 10, both born in Southwark. At the time of his death, Thomas had eight siblings.

T.F. WELLINGTON. Driver, Royal Engineers, L.Z. Cable Section. Service no. 70152. Killed in action on 2 July 1915, aged 26. Remembered at Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

J. WELLS

Not identified

CLARENCE GEORGE WHEELER

In 1911 Clarence George Wheeler, 18, was a grocer's assistant. He lived with his parents, George Henry Wheeler, 46, a glass cutter from Sevenoaks, Kent, and Fanny (Frances Susan, née Jones) Wheeler, 48, from Canterbury, Kent, in four rooms at 35 Holland Street (now Caldwell Street), Stockwell, as well as his four siblings. Clarence was born in Stepney, east London.

C.G. WHEELER. Driver, Royal Field Artillery, 'A' Bty. 162nd Bde. Service no. L/21895. Died of wounds on 4 April 1917, aged 24. Remembered at Faubourg d'Amiens Cemetery, Arras, Pas de Calais, France

ALBERT VICTOR OWERS WHITE

Albert White was born in 1894 in the village of March, Cambridgeshire. His parents Edward White and Florence Mary Owers had married in 1875 and Albert was the youngest of nine children when he was born. In the 1901 census the White family were living in Soham, Cambridgeshire, in Fen Country, where both his parents and the majority of his siblings had been born. His father was working on steam-driven threshing machines.

Florence Mary White first appeared in Lambeth on the Electoral Rolls of 1907 and 1908 living at 58 Walnut Tree Walk in Kennington. By the time of the 1911 census,

Florence had moved to 123 St George's Road, Southwark, a busy thoroughfare running from Westminster Bridge Road to the Elephant and Castle. Florence was now 49 and in 25 years of marriage had given birth to 13 children, three of whom had died as infants. Florence neglected to state the 'relationship' of the individuals she named on her census form, but two were clearly her youngest children, Albert Victor White, 17, and Mildred Victoria Landlord White, 13. The enumerator later pencilled in the relationships, wrongly identifying widow Florence Clarissa Hayhoe as Florence's sister; she was Florence's daughter, who had married horse dealer Harry Hayhoe in 1898. He died in 1909 when the couple were living in Borough Road.

Florence White earned her income as a landlady. Her own father and brothers had been piano-tuners. Perhaps it was her love of music and the theatre which led her to seek 'theatrical types' as her guests. Her boarders in 1911 were two actors and a music-hall artist. Albert had also been attracted to the world of theatre and Florence described her son's occupation, confusingly, as 'super-theatrical'. The White family and their three guests lived in six rooms of the property with a young couple and their baby son in three other rooms.

An entry in the Queens Royal West Surrey Regiment Rough Register of Recruits shows that 3438 Private White A. aged 21 enlisted on 16 November 1914. Albert volunteered in central London and probably trained with the 3rd Royal West Surrey Reserve based at the Chatham Lines before he was sent to France on 11 March 1915.

A draft of 50 men reached the 1st RWS on Sunday 14 March when the battalion was in billets in the Bethune area. The battalion was held in reserve and on standby during March and April. More routine work followed in May. One man was killed and five wounded in a party helping to collect the wounded and bury the dead during the night near Givenchy on 26 May. June and July were months of providing various working parties

before the battalion entered trenches near Cuinchy in the last week of July, sustaining small numbers of casualties on most days before returning to billets on 15 August 1915.

More trench duty followed before the battalion prepared for their part in the offensive on 25 September. They advanced under cover of smoke wearing rudimentary gas helmets. Counterattacked, they were forced to retire under heavy machine-gun fire. Nine officers were killed or wounded, a total of 226 other ranks were killed, wounded or missing. Private 3438 White A. was posted missing that day.

Florence made enquiries via the Red Cross, hoping that Albert was a prisoner of war. The related card record showed her son had served in 'D' company, but there was no trace of the missing soldier who had '*disparu* [disappeared] 25 Sept 1915'. Florence gave her address as 'Mrs. F. M. White, 3 Lansdowne Gardens, Stockwell, London S.W.'. The reply was '*rien* [nothing] 17.11.15'.

After some months, Albert White was officially presumed to have died on or since 25 September 1915.

After 1918 Florence moved from Lansdowne Gardens to 66 Wilcox Road where she remained until 1928. There are no existing public records that show Albert's initials as A.V.O.; to the Army he was plain Albert. Florence may have added two initials to make her son's name more prominent on the Stockwell War Memorial.

CHRIS BURGE

A.V.O. WHITE. *Private, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment), 1st Bn. Service no. G/3438. Killed in action on 25 September 1915, aged 22. Remembered at Loos Memorial, France*

F. H. WHITE

Not identified

HENRY INGHAM WHITE

Henry Ingham White was born in 1887, the youngest of William George and Emma White's two sons. He was baptised on 20 July at St Barnabas, Pimlico, on the

north side of the Thames, where William and Emma (née Wallington) had married seven years previously. The family lived at 3 Union Street, Pimlico Bridge and Henry's father worked as a 'shopman'.

Within a decade the White family had moved to 11 Stirling Street, a seven-room property off Clapham Road, Stockwell. Henry was still at school, and his brother William John, then 17, assisted their father, who managed a shop selling luggage trunks.

The 1911 census reveals that Henry and his brother had joined their father in the luggage trade. William, 28, was a secretary for a 'trunk and bag stores' and Henry, 22, was a 'fancy leather worker'.

The key surviving document in understanding Henry's war service is his entry in the Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects. A low service number of 3308 was added beneath the 550898 number and his war gratuity amounted to £13, indicating that he joined up in 1914.

When Henry volunteered, his links with Pimlico drew him to 58 Buckingham Gate, Westminster, home of the Queen's Westminster Rifles, the 16th Battalion County of London Regiment. The QWR had departed for France on 1 November 1914 and were recruiting for their reserve. Perhaps Henry met Frederick Watson Haggett from Clapham as he stood in line on 7 November. Henry became private 3308, and Frederick 3309.

Frederick and men with similar numbers were drafted in France at the end of June 1916, soon to be on the Somme. It is possible Henry was held in England for other duties but he was certainly in France by 19 April 1917.

The QWR were in action in July and August near Ypres in the battle commonly called Passchendaele. He was wounded on, or shortly before, 15 August after trenches held by the QWR were heavily shelled, and was evacuated to the 3rd Canadian Casualty Clearing Station at Remy sidings, five miles behind front lines. Henry Ingham White was one of the five deaths noted on the 15 August 1917.

It must have been a bitter blow for Henry's father William, who had lost

his wife Emma and a sister in 1916. He died in 1924, aged 65.

CHRIS BURGE

H.I. WHITE. Rifleman, London Regiment, 12th Bn. (Queen's Westminster Rifles). Service no. 550898. Died of wounds on 15 August 1917, aged 30. Remembered at Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium

WILLIAM HENRY WHITE

William Henry White, a private in the Leicestershire Regiment, was in England until 3 May 1916, when he sailed for Le Havre. The records show that he returned to London on 22 August 1916 and was admitted to the 3rd London General Hospital at Wandsworth, where he was treated for trench fever. This disease, variously known as Wolhynia fever, shin bone fever, quintan fever or five-day fever, is caused by an organism transmitted by body lice.

Soldiers serving on the front line lived in squalid, damp and cold conditions. In the fire trench — that is, the foremost of the three zig-zag trenches, the others being the support trench and the reserve trench — soldiers frequently lived among decaying bodies and faeces. These were ideal conditions for rats and flies, and for transmitting dysentery and lice. In the freezing cold, men huddled together for warmth, enabling lice to pass from one person to the next. Even when not in the fire trench, the men stayed close to one another because they were not allowed to light fires as these would attract shelling or, later in the war, attack by enemy aircraft.

Opportunities for bathing and washing clothes were limited. The aim was to take a bath every 10 days when away from the front line but this was not always possible. Therefore, soldiers suffered almost permanent lice infestations, especially in the seams of their uniforms. The usual method for killing lice was to run a candle up and down the seams or to pick them off by hand. Lice eggs attached to body hair were killed using a paste of naphthalene. From 1915 to 1918 between one-fifth and one-third of all British troops reported ill

had trench fever, and it is estimated that 97 per cent of men, including officers, had lice.

Trench fever was an unpleasant disease. Symptoms came on suddenly and included high fever, severe headache, painful eyeballs, soreness of the muscles of the legs and back and hypersensitivity of the shins. The patient could relapse frequently and recovery usually took about a month. Even so, White's 47 days in hospital were probably a welcome respite from service on the front.

White, a messenger in civilian life, claimed to be just over 19 when he enlisted on 13 August 1915, although he was probably only 16. His file does not indicate that his deception was discovered. He was 5ft 4in tall, with a 38in chest and a scar on the middle finger of his right hand. His physical development was judged to be 'Good'. White went missing on 27 May 1918 and was later declared dead.

In 1911 White lived with his parents and three siblings in four rooms at 8 Rattray Road, Brixton. His father, William Henry White, 40, an assistant in a bootmaker's shop, was born in South Lambeth; his mother, Matilda White, 33, was from Battersea.

CHRIS BURGE

W.H. WHITE. Private, Leicestershire Regiment, 8th Bn.; formerly Royal West Surrey Regiment. Service no. 41697. Killed in action on 27 May 1918, aged 19. Remembered at Soissons Memorial, Aisne, France

ERNEST FRANK WHITING

In 1911 Ernest Frank Whiting, 20, a law clerk, lived at 25 Durand Gardens, Stockwell with his parents, Edward Whiting, 60, a joiner, and Susannah (née Kingsford), 57, both from Dover, Kent, and four siblings plus a brother-in-law, a niece and a boarder. Whiting enlisted in Dorking, Surrey.

E.F. WHITING. Private, East Surrey Regiment, 8th Bn. Service no 25607. Died of wounds on 14 October 1917, aged 26. Remembered at Dozinghem Military Cemetery, Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium and at St Michael's Church, Stockwell Park Road, Stockwell

STANLEY FRANKLIN WHITING

In 1911 Clapham-born Stanley Franklin Whiting was 13 and living in a six-roomed house at 85 Larkhall Lane, Stockwell where his family had lived since at least 1901. His father, Benjamin Franklin Whiting, 40, was a corn and coal merchant, born in Battersea; his mother, Augusta (née Burkitt), 39, was from Biggleswade, Bedfordshire. Stanley had one sibling, Eric, and the family had a live-in domestic servant.

S.F. WHITING. Aircraftman 1st Class, Royal Naval Air Service, HMS 'President II'. Service no. F/13871. Died of illness on 27 January 1918, aged 20. Remembered at Wandsworth (Streatham) Cemetery, Garratt Lane, Tooting, southwest London

CLAUDE LIONEL WHITTINGHAM

Brother of Horace John Baker Whittingham

Claude Lionel Whittingham enlisted at Camberwell on 10 December 1914 and was attached to the 1st London General Hospital of the Royal Army Medical Corps (the military extension of St Bartholomew's Hospital in east London). The hospital was stationed in buildings requisitioned from St Gabriel's College, a residential training college for women teachers, on Cormont Road, Myatts Fields, Stockwell. Myatts Fields Park was closed to the public until 1921, due to its use as a hospital.

By September 1915 Whittingham was serving on the HMHS *Aquitania*, which was built as a luxury liner but which had been converted to a hospital ship. With 4,182 beds, the *Aquitania* was the largest of 71 hospital ships used during the First World War. Whittingham served as an orderly until March 1916, when he joined the war effort in Gallipoli. We do not know what Whittingham's role was in this theatre of war but he may have continued to serve in some capacity on the *Aquitania*. He returned to England on 7 May 1916.

On 19 July, while based in England, Whittingham requested a transfer to the 3/5th London Field Artillery Brigade 'for the purpose of serving abroad'.

Whittingham was transferred first to the Essex Regiment and, on 9 September, to the Hertfordshires. He was posted to France on 4 November and listed as missing in action on 31 July 1917. A short time later he was presumed dead.

In civilian life Whittingham was a grocer's clerk. When he joined up he was 5ft 6in tall, 9st, with a 35½in chest, a fair complexion, with grey eyes and 'reddish' hair. By the time he transferred to the Hertfordshires he had grown three inches in both height and chest. His military character was described as 'Very good'.

The 1911 census shows Claude Whittingham as a 13-year-old living at 28 Angell Road, Brixton, with his parents, Manchester-born John Whittingham, 48, an apartment housekeeper, and Alice Whittingham, 48, from Bermondsey, and five siblings (including 17-year-old *Horace Whittingham*, a junior commercial clerk, who is also on the Memorial) and six boarders, among them an Irish producer of plays and a pair of music-hall artists.

C.L. WHITTINGHAM. Private, Hertfordshire Regiment; formerly Essex Regiment. Service no. 269729. Killed in action on 31 July 1917, aged 19. Remembered at Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

HORACE JOHN BAKER WHITTINGHAM

Brother of Claude Lionel Whittingham H.J. WHITTINGHAM. Corporal, Tank Corps, 1st Bn.; formerly Royal Fusiliers. Service no. 76274. Died of wounds on 28 April 1918, aged 24. Remembered at Marissel French National Cemetery (near Beauvais), Oise, France

HENRY CHARLES WICKENS

After volunteering in 1914 and completing his training, Henry Charles Wickens served with 'C' battery. He became seriously ill (the details are unknown) and died in the military hospital at Millbank, London in 1918.

In 1911 Henry Charles Wickens, then aged 22, was an assistant in a fish shop. He

lived with his parents, Alfred Wickens, 49, who worked for a jam maker and was born in Camberwell, and Harriett Wickens, 47, whose place of birth is unknown. Henry was one of three children (the other two lived elsewhere) and the family occupied three rooms at 123 Wandsworth Road.

In 1913 Henry married Clara Caroline (née Davison), a cap finisher, at St Anne's, South Lambeth Road. Their child, Henry Charles, was born in 1916, when Henry, then working as a doorman, and Clara lived at 75 Hercules Road, Lambeth.

In 1920 Clara married Henry F. Glasgow and died in 1927, four months after the birth of their fourth child.

H.C. WICKENS. Driver, Royal Field Artillery, 'C' Bty., 342nd Bde. Service no. 238091. Died of illness on 22 October 1918, aged 29. Remembered at Brookwood Military Cemetery, near Pirbright, Woking, Surrey

ALFRED ERNEST WICKES

Alfred Ernest Wickes was born in Aldershot, Hampshire in 1877, the first child of Alfred Henry and Amelia Wickes (née Wetton). Alfred was baptised on 13 May 1877 at St Michael the Archangel, Aldershot, Hampshire, when his father was still in the Army Service Corps.

Alfred's parents were from London: Alfred (snr) was born in Brixton and Amelia in Hammersmith, west London. By the time Alfred Henry's sister Amelia Maud was born in 1879, his father had left the Army and brought his family to Lambeth, where he found work as a railway porter. By 1881 the family were living at 26 Camellia Street in the shadow of the Nine Elms Railway works. William was born in February 1881 and the Wickes family of five shared a property that housed two other families, a total of 14 people.

At the time of the 1901 census, the Wickes family lived at 16 Paradise Road, Stockwell. Alfred, now 13 and the oldest of eight, had left school and was working as a paper boy. The family lived in four rooms of the property, which also housed a family of three living in one other room.

Alfred married Kate Letitia Thomas on

24 February 1906 in the parish church of Weedon Bec, Northamptonshire. By this time, Alfred was calling himself Ernest Alfred and working as a printer. He gave his address as 16 Paradise Road. Kate gave her address as The Barracks, Weedon. The marriage was witnessed by her half-brother Benjamin Robert Smith. Ernest and Kate's first child was born in Lambeth on 18 December 1906 and was baptised Edward Ernest Robert Wickes at the parish church of Weedon on 31 March 1907, when the family's home address was 13 Dawlish Street, off Wyvil Road in South Lambeth.

At the time of the 1911 census Ernest and Kate were living in Camberwell. The household consisted of Ernest, 33; Kate Letitia, 28; Edward, four; and Ernest's parents-in-law Robert, a self-employed coal dealer, and Catherine Smith, 66 and 58. Ernest was now working as a shopkeeper in a general store with the assistance of his wife. The family of five were living in four rooms at 205 Cator Street, Peckham, southeast London.

Ernest and Kate's second child, Benjamin Joseph, was born on 19 March 1912 and baptised at St Anne's, South Lambeth Road, on 2 June 1912 by which time the family had moved to 36 Heyford Avenue, close to the Beaufoy Vinegar Factory in Vauxhall. Their third child, Thomas Alfred, was born on 5 May 1914 and baptised at St Anne's on 11 October 1914.

What motivated grocer Ernest Alfred Wickes to volunteer at the age of 37 years and eight months is an open question, but he decided to leave his wife and three young children to join the Army, becoming Private 4145 Wickes E.A., having attested on 11 January 1915, and was recruited to the Royal West Surrey Regiment. The Regimental Medal Roll shows Private 4145 Wickes entering France on '9.2.15' and joining the 1st Battalion, indicating that he had volunteered some months earlier in 1914. A date of '2.9.15' seems more likely. A draft of 18 other ranks had reached the 1 RWS on 15 September 1915 near Bethune, just ten days before the Battle of Loos.

The Battalion remained in the Loos sector during the winter of 1915 into the spring. They only started to move south to the

Somme on 8 July 1916 and were close to Fricourt by 13 July. They moved to positions close to High Wood in preparation for an attack on 15 July 1916. No significant gains were made and the 1 RWS withdrew after three-quarters of the officers in action that day were either killed or wounded; of other ranks 28 were killed, 52 were wounded and 207 were missing. Alfred Ernest Wickes was killed in action on that day.

The death of Alfred Ernest Wickes had tragic consequences for his family. His widow Kate Letitia suffered a breakdown and in 1917 her three young sons were taken into the care. In September, they passed from the Renfrew Road receiving ward to the Norwood School and nursery at Elder Road, West Norwood. It was probably Alfred's family who arranged for his name to appear on the Stockwell Memorial.

Kate Letitia Wickes was recorded as the anonymous female patient 'KLW' at Banstead Hospital in 1921 and again 18 years later in 1939 as the widow 'Kate L Wicks' born 1884, a female patient at London County Council Banstead Hospital, Sutton. She died at the hospital in 1946, aged 62.

Edward Ernest Robert Wickes passed away in the district of Shepway, Kent in 1994, aged 87. Benjamin Joseph Wickes married in Islington in 1937 and was living in Essex when he died in 1992, aged 82. Thomas Alfred Wickes sought new a life in Australia, where he died in Hobart City on 4 September 1967, aged 53. CHRIS BURGE
A.E. WICKES. Private, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment), 1st Bn. Service no. 4154. Died on 15 July 1916, aged 39. Remembered at Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, Longueval, France

HERBERT WILLIAM WILD



*Brother of Reuben
Edward Wild*

Herbert John Wild's attempts to find out what happened to his two sons, Herbert William Wild and Reuben Edward Wild, and the whereabouts

of Reuben's body have survived in the

archives. Wild's letters are businesslike and to the point, but they make difficult reading. His sense of frustration with the lack of information coming from the Army and his grief for his sons bubble just below the surface.

Four of the five Wild boys, Herbert, John, Reuben and Edward, served in the war. Cicero, aged eight in 1914, was too young.

The first sign of trouble was in October 1915. Their mother, Annie Wild (née Shannon), wrote to the Army authorities enquiring about Reuben: 'Could you give me any information concerning my son who I have not heard from for 3 weeks.' The Army, it appears, had not yet told his family that he was missing in action at the Battle of Loos. The letter is annotated 'No report on hand.' The Wilds, however, persisted.

In 10 September 1916, nearly a year after Reuben died, Herbert John wrote, 'In answer to your letter regarding my son's death on 25/9/15, will you kindly inform me of how he met his death and also the name of the place.' He was anxious also about proving to the insurance company that his son was dead as there was no death certificate. In fact, there were in the file two reports on the circumstances of Reuben's death. One includes a transcript of a statement given by Rifleman McMeahon:

'Wild is another chum of mine and he [went] missing 25/9/15. I asked a man called [Private] C. Taylor whose number I forget but he is in C [Company] 11 Platoon and he told me he saw [Private] Wild wounded in the shoulder in the second line of German trenches at the Railway at Ypres and he asked him to go back with him but he would not. The Capt. called one of them to go back with him so Taylor went on to the third line with the Capt. and left Wild in the trench. I understand they were driven back to the 2nd line where [Private] Wild was wounded but he has been missing ever since.'

There was another report, from Private J. Taylor: 'Wild was a short fair [man] about 19. He had no moustache. I saw him dead in the trench killed by a bomb. There was no time to bury him.'

The files do not record whether this information was passed on to the family. On 3 April 1920, however, after receiving Reuben's medals, Herbert John, wrote: 'I had four sons serving in the Great War. Two of them sacrificed their lives and I have never received any good information as to where they were killed or buried.' This letter, badly damaged and illegible in parts, includes the words, 'I intend to go to Belgium or France... If you would kindly... the name of the place... son R. Wild was last seen alive I shall be grateful to you. [...] My other son was killed in the Battle of the Somme 1916... several times by the Graves Commission but up to now I have not received any.'

The 'other son' was Herbert William Wild, who was killed in action on 15 September 1916, nearly a year after Reuben's disappearance. He was married to Polly Lily May Wild and had a baby daughter, Ivy May, born on 6 February 1916.

A note in Herbert William's file says that his personal effects were posted in February 1917 but in November his grieving father wrote:

'My daughter in law [Polly] informs me that she has received no effects of her Husband the late Rifleman H.W. Wild... who has been dead 14 months. All she has received is his identification disc. I myself have the official information of where he was buried... If he was buried [and it was] possible to recover his identification disc it must also be possible to recover any other personal effects. I have lost two sons in this war and have two others serving... I have nothing at all to prove the other son's death [Reuben] as he was reported missing after the Battle of Loos.'

In civilian life, Herbert William was an oil and calorman (selling fuel to householders), living at 34 Crawshay Road (now disappeared, this was adjacent to Eythorne Road, on the east side of Brixton Road). He stood 5ft 2½in tall and his chest measured 39in. His physical development was deemed to be 'Good'. After the war, his widow was awarded 18s 9d a week. She and her daughter lived at 64 Robsart Street, Stockwell.

At 5ft 3in, Reuben Wild was a little taller than his brother. He weighed 8st and had a 36in chest and his physical development was also judged to be 'Good'. As there are no Service records for Reuben, his occupation is unknown (the 1911 census describes him as an errand boy). Herbert John Wild, was a gas slot meter collector from Lambeth; Annie was from Southwark. In 1911 the family lived at 24 Halstead Street, Brixton.

H.W. WILD. Rifleman, London Regiment, 21st Bn. (First Surrey Rifles). Service no. 4023. Killed in action on 15 September 1916, aged 27. Remembered at Warlencourt British Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France and at St Michael's Church, Stockwell Park Road, Stockwell

REUBEN EDWARD WILD

Brother of Herbert William Wild

Reuben was born in 1896 in Battersea.
R.E. WILD. Rifleman, King's Royal Rifle Corps, 'C' Coy. 9th Bn. Service no. R/6573. Died of wounds on 25 September 1915, aged 20. Remembered at Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium and at St Michael's Church, Stockwell Park Road, Stockwell

JOHN WILKIN

John Wilkin enlisted in Southwark in June 1915, and in September was sent to the front. He saw action in the Battle of Loos and died in August 1916, during the first Battle of the Somme. He lived at 26 Wyvil Road, off South Lambeth Road.

The 1911 census includes only one John Wilkin in Lambeth, a 19-year-old flour mill labourer who was one of 13 children of flour mill worker Robert Wilkin, 45, and Annie Amelia (née Ellis), 46, who at that time lived at 48 Commercial Road, Waterloo.

On 19 June 1915 John Wilkin married Violet Edith Baker, at St Barnabas, South Kennington, who was awarded a weekly pension of 10s after John's death.

J. WILKIN. Private, Royal Fusiliers, 12th Bn. Service no. 17677. Killed in action on 16 August 1916, aged 24. Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

HENRY WILLIAMS

Henry Williams was born in Lambeth in about 1879. There are no clues to his early life apart from the fact he was named after his father, who was a soldier. Henry Williams was 19 when he married Frances Matilda Oliffe, a domestic servant of the same age, at St John the Evangelist, Walworth, Southwark on 10 April 1898. The marriage was not witnessed by relatives of either Henry or Frances, who was only able to sign her name with a mark.

By the time of the 1901 census, Henry and Matilda had two young children, Frances, three, and Harry, one. They lived in a single room at 5 Northall Street (now disappeared, it was off Lingham Street), Stockwell, a property that housed 10 other people in four rooms.

There were two more children in the Williams family when Henry completed his 1911 census return. Neatly listed by age, his children were Elizabeth Franc [sic], 13; Harry, 11; Ada, eight; and Thomas, 10 months. Henry appears to have misjudged the space on the form, shortening the middle name of both his daughter and his wife whose name was written as 'Matilda Franc Williams'. Henry was now 32 and working as a coal porter and Matilda was 31. The family lived in two rooms at 35 Lingham Street, a property that also housed an elderly couple living in one room and a family of six living in three rooms. Their youngest son was baptised Thomas Edward George at St Andrew's, Landor Road, on 2 September 1914 by which time the family had moved to 7 Stockwell Cottages.

Henry Williams made the critical decision to volunteer in May 1915, a time when renewed recruitment campaigns across London were attempting to boost the dwindling numbers of volunteers. The campaigns often emphasised the pay and allowances for married men, which may have swayed Henry. He went to 27 St John's Hill, Clapham Junction on Wednesday 19 May 1915 to join the 23rd Battalion of the London Regiment, part of the Territorial Force. He was 38 years old, 5ft 6in tall with a 37in chest and physically fit. He signed

the agreement to serve overseas which all Territorial Force soldiers were asked to make there and then and was posted to the 3rd reserve of the 23rd London as private 4180, Williams H.

He was not drafted to France until October 1915, embarking from Southampton on 9 October, and joined his unit by 14 October 1915. Henry was one of 78 men noted to have joined the battalion on a day when they were in billets in the Loos sector. The battalion stayed in there until they moved to the Souchez sector in May 1916. In July they were south of Lens near Vimy. The keeper of the battalion's war diary simply noted that seven men were killed and eight wounded when in the front line on 18 July 1916. Henry Williams had been promoted to unpaid lance corporal on 16 July, just two days before he was killed in action.

Henry's pocket book with letters, cards and photos was returned to his wife in October 1916, a year after her husband had first gone to France. Frances Matilda Williams was now living at 4 Bricknell Place, an alley off the southwest side of Stockwell Road, close to the Plough public house on the corner of Stockwell Road and Stockwell Green. She was subsequently informed that she had been awarded a weekly pension of 21s for herself and her two youngest children, with effect from 29 January 1917.

Matilda Frances and her son Thomas were still living at 4 Bricknell Place in the 1930s.

CHRIS BURGE

H. WILLIAMS. Lance Corporal, London Regiment, 23rd Bn. Service no. 4180. Killed in action on 18 July 1916, aged about 39. Remembered at Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery, Souchez, France

H. WILLIAMS

Not identified

SIDNEY WILLIAMS

Sidney Williams was born in 1881, the youngest of Charles Richard Williams and Mary Ann Ford's 10 children. Sidney spent his formative years in the heart of

Southwark, living near London Bridge Station at 185 Borough High Street above his father's successful clothier and tailor shop. At the time of the 1901 census, Sidney was not quite 20 and working as an auctioneer's clerk. The household consisted of Sidney, his parents, four older siblings (a brother and three sisters), as well as an infant niece.

On retirement, Charles Richard and Mary Ann Williams moved to the relative quiet of 86 Gauden Road, North Clapham, where they rented four rooms. In the 1911 census, Sidney, 29, was living there with his parents and two sisters, 45-year-old Emily and 35-year-old Ada Lily, a schoolteacher. Sidney's parents were now 73 and his father Charles lived on a masonic annuity (he had joined the Royal Jublia masonic lodge in the year before Sidney was born). Sidney was still working as an auctioneer's clerk. Six other rooms at the same address were home to the family of Sidney's older brother Mark Albert Williams, his wife Ellen and their three children.

Sidney Williams married Ethel Mary Edwards, a dressmaker from Dorset, in the spring of 1914 in a civil ceremony, which took place near the home of Ethel's married sister Florence Richards who lived near Acton Green, west London. The couple lived in Jefferys Road, Clapham after their marriage. Ethel died soon after the birth of their son Frederick Charles Sidney Williams on 27 October 1916 and was buried in Wandsworth Cemetery.

Sidney Williams may have been put on Army Reserve due to his personal circumstances, but around August 1917 he was called up and processed at the Central Recruitment Office in Whitehall, joining the 16th Bn. London Regiment as rifleman 556984 Williams, leaving baby Frederick in the care of his late wife's sister, Florence Robinson. He entered France on 2 January 1918, and was one of around 50 reinforcements who joined the Queen's Westminster Rifles in the first week of 1918.

They moved to the Gravelle sector in February where they remained during March. It was Sidney's misfortune to be

in the forward zone on 28 March 1918 when they suffered the full force of the enemy's spring offensive, and was among the many killed, wounded and missing. After suffering a wound to his right leg, he was taken prisoner and held in the Friedrichsfeld POW Camp, near Wesel in Germany. Poor camp conditions and the lack of good medical care led to his death from sepsis on 11 May 1918, as reported on the camp's *Toten-List* (death list), dated 21 May 2018.

When taken prisoner Sidney had given his 80-year-old father Charles as his next of kin and he would have been the first to be informed of his youngest son's death. Both Charles and Mary Ann died in 1919, and it was left to other family members to arrange for Sidney's name to be added to the Stockwell War Memorial.

Sidney's son Frederick remained with his aunt Florence and her husband and died in 1988, aged 72. CHRIS BURGE
S. WILLIAMS. Rifleman, 'D' Coy., London Regiment (Queen's Westminster Rifles). Service no. 556984. Died on 11 May 1918, aged about 36. Remembered at Cologne Southern Cemetery, Germany

WILLIAM JOHN WILLIAMS

William John Williams was born in Vauxhall and lived in Lambeth. He enlisted in Piccadilly, central London. His parents, James and Henrietta Williams, both originally from Hampshire, lived at 36 Kenchester Street (now replaced by Kenchester Close), near Wilcox Road.
W.J. WILLIAMS. Rifleman, King's Royal Rifle Corps, 'D' Coy. 11th Bn. Service no. R/19181. Died on 8 August 1917, aged 30. Remembered at Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

STANLEY HERBERT WILLIAMSON

Stanley Herbert Williamson was born on 5 January 1896, the sixth child of George, a dairyman, and Matilda Williamson. Stanley was baptised at St Gabriel's, Pimlico, on the north side of the Thames, on 4 March 1896 when the family lived at 7 Clarendon Street. By

1901, the Williamsons had moved nearer to Westminster and Stanley was joined by a sibling.

In the 1911 census the family had moved south of the river. Stanley, his five siblings and parents occupied eight rooms at 105 Kennington Road, Southwark. Stanley's father was now a wharfman and Stanley, 15, was a forwarder and older brother Walter a finisher in the bookbinding trade. Forwarders carried out the processes following sewing and including covering.

Stanley volunteered in the first days of November 1914, travelling to Brighton to join a newly formed cyclist battalion, the 2nd/6th battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment. His original Service number was 920. The battalion had converted to infantry by November 1915 and on 4 February 1916 sailed from Devonport to India. Stanley's death in 1917 was not combat-related.

He had nominated his father as next of kin and sole legatee. George Williamson received his son's war gratuity and medals in 1919 and 1920. For around a decade after the war ended, Stanley's parents lived at 4 St Martin's Road, Stockwell.

CHRIS BURGE

S.H. WILLIAMSON. Private, Royal Sussex Regiment, 2nd/6th Bn. Service no. TF/265478. Died 29 August 1917, aged 21. Remembered at Rawalpindi War Cemetery, Pakistan

ALFRED WILLIS

Alfred Willis was born in Clapham in 1897 to Arthur and Ellen Mary Willis who had married in 1894. Both of Alfred's parents were from Kent. Arthur was listed on the 1897 Electoral Roll at 4 Larkhall Lane, Stockwell. In the 1901 census, the family of three were living at 2 Larkhall Lane and Arthur was working as a hay and straw salesman. Alfred's younger sister Marion Edith Willis was born in 1902.

By the time of the 1911 census the Willis household had moved to 267 South Lambeth Road, situated just beyond Stockwell Terrace, and consisted of Arthur, 43; Ellen Mary, 42; Alfred, 13; Marion Edith, nine; and Arthur's cousin

by marriage Ellen Laura Dowell, 37. One of Arthur and Ellen's babies had died in infancy. Arthur still made his income as a salesman of hay and straw. The family lived in some comfort in a two-storey house with seven rooms and a basement.

Alfred Willis was conscripted around May 1916, a date estimated from the war gratuity paid to his father in 1919. Alfred joined a Territorial Force unit of the Royal Engineers as denoted by his original Army service number T/2833.

His Service papers have not survived but the papers of Sapper 563844 (T/2384) V.H. Prodhams provide a guide. Prodhams, a clerk from Ealing, worked for the Gas, Light & Coke Company in Horseferry Road, Westminster and was conscripted into the 'London Electrical Engineers'; his Service reckoned from 8 May 1915. At the outbreak of the war the London Electrical Engineers, who specialised in searchlights, were based at 46 Regency Street, Westminster, on the north side of Vauxhall Bridge.

London experienced its first Zeppelin raids on 31 May/1 June 1915 and a double ring of searchlights and anti-aircraft guns was established around London in 1916. Zeppelin raids continued into 1916 with bombs dropping on Brixton and elsewhere in south London. Gotha bombers began raids in May 1917. Between June 1917 and May 1918 they made about 17 attacks on London.

There is some ambiguity in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission records as to the AA company Alfred served in and whether Alfred was deployed in England or France before the 1918 Armistice. Both the 39th Coy. AA Sect. and 3/Coy AA Sect. are mentioned in CWGC documents; they had both operated in France from 1916. There was also a No. 39 AA Company based at Bower's Gifford on the Isle of Sheppey operating six three-inch 20-hundredweight guns plus eight searchlights, as part of the Thames and Medway AA Defence Command.

Commonwealth forces entered Cologne on 6 December 1918, less than a month after the Armistice, and the city was occupied under the terms of the Treaty

of Versailles until January 1926. Alfred's death was not combat-related and he may have passed away during the third wave of influenza pandemic in 1919 while serving in the army of occupation.

Alfred's parents remained at 267 South Lambeth Road with Ellen Laura Powell until about 1930.

CHRIS BURGE

A. WILLIS. Lance Corporal, Royal Engineers, 39th Coy. AA Section. Service no. 563845. Died on 7 March 1919, aged 21. Remembered at Cologne Southern Cemetery, Germany

STANLEY FRANK WILLIS

Stanley Frank Willis was born in Clapham and lived in Stockwell. He enlisted in Camberwell.

S.F. WILLIS. Rifleman, London Regiment, 1/9th Bn. (Queen Victoria's Rifles); formerly 7th London Regiment. Service no. 415208. Died on 13 August 1917. Remembered at Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium

WILLIAM HENRY WILSON

William Henry Wilson has born on 25 June 1892, one of the five children of Thomas Reeves and Ellen Agnes Wilson. William was baptised on 21 August 1892 at St John, Hoxton, east London when the family lived in 65 Wenlock Street, where they remained for 20 years.

By the time of the 1911 census, William's mother had died and he was sharing three rooms at 65 Wenlock Street with his father Thomas, sister Florence Agnes and younger brother George Albert. William worked as a 'carman contractor'.

William volunteered around the end of 1914 at Holloway, north London, joining the Royal Field Artillery and was eventually posted to the 109th Brigade who were equipped with howitzers.

On 4 April 1915, at St Matthews Church, Islington, north London, while serving, William married Alice Florence Edwards, giving their address as 21 Morton Road. Just four months later, 66127 Wilson was sent to France, disembarking on 29 August 1915.

Almost a year later to the day, William

was in action on the Somme as his 'A' Battery shot to support British advances. The batteries of the 109th Brigade were under constant shelling themselves, losing eight men in the week before 25 August. On that day, they moved to new positions north of Montauban, and three more men were wounded and another killed. On 28 August, in bad weather, another man was killed and three others wounded. William Henry Wilson died of wounds on this day.

By the end of the war, William's widow Alice was living at 17 Chantrey Road, Brixton, where she remained until 1934 when she married Frederick Muspratt, who had been a ASC lorry driver in the war. She was widowed for a second time when Frederick died in 1946.

Alice Florence was living at 34 Kemerton Road, Camberwell, when she passed away on 21 July 1981, aged 86.

CHRIS BURGE

W.H. WILSON. Bombardier, Royal Field Artillery, 'A' Bty. 109th Bde. Service no. 66127. Died 28 August 1916, aged 24. Remembered at Heilly Station Cemetery, Mericourt-L'Abbé, France

BERTRAM HORACE WINTER

Milkman and former butcher Bertram Horace Winter signed up at the Whitehall recruiting office on 15 February 1916. He served just over nine months before dying at Arras on 11 April 1917. Winter initially joined the 3rd Battalion, but was transferred to the 13th in July 1916, and was appointed unpaid corporal in November. He stood 5ft 4½in tall, with a 37in chest, and weighed a little over 8½st. His physical development was judged to be 'Good'.

Bertram's widowed mother Augusta (née Sexton) was named as next of kin. She lived at 25 Viceroy Road, South Lambeth. The 1911 census shows that Winter was working as a butcher's assistant. He lived at 147 Larkhall Lane, over the shop, with butcher Albert Henry and his wife Lydia Eliza Henry, both 41.

In 1911, Bertram's parents, William Charles Winter, 59, a paper hanger and house decorator, and Augusta Winter, 58, both Lambeth-born, lived at 31 Courland

Grove, Stockwell. They had seven children, four living at home, and had lived at this address since at least 1901.

B.H. WINTER. Rifleman, Rifle Brigade, 13th Bn. Service no. S/15614. Killed in action on 11 April 1917, aged 27. Remembered at Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France

EDWARD ERNEST WINTER

It was easy to find Edward Ernest Winter in the standard sources of information, *Soldiers Died in the Great War*, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission records and the *National Roll of the Great War*. However, Winter did not seem to exist in the 1911 census. We doubted that he was related to Bertram Horace Winter, as we had not seen the name Edward in any of the census returns for that family. We then searched the 1911 census for 49 Kimberley Road, Stockwell, the address quoted in the *National Roll of the Great War*, to see if Edward was living at that address before the war. But there was no trace of him: the house was occupied by two families: the Gibsons and the Weingartners.

When we searched for Winter in Army Service records we struck lucky — his file had survived. What's more, it contained a surprise. Edward Ernest Winter gave his next of kin as his mother, Mrs. S.E. Weingartner of 49 Kimberley Road. Like thousands of others who carried names of German origin, he had changed his name. Thousands of families with German origins did this after the war started.

Although by the early 20th century the German community was deeply knitted into the social fabric of Britain, particularly in cities where many worked in baking, confectionery and hairdressing, some felt under threat from local animosity. (Edward's father Charles Weingartner, who died at some point between 1891 and 1901, was from Vienna, Austria.)

By the time Edward attested on 12 July 1915 (he volunteered in August 1914), south London had already experienced anti-German riots. In October 1914 there was a wave of protests against

businesses and buildings believed to be German-owned, and this was followed by widespread aggression after 1 May 1915 when the passenger ship *Lusitania* was attacked by the Germans without warning and sank within minutes. While some Stockwell families with German-sounding names were confident enough to keep them (including those of *Leonard Erdbeer*, *Bertie Hoft*, *Henry Lippold* and *Ernest Oehring*, who are listed on Stockwell War Memorial), it seems that the Weingartners were not.

Edward Winter's family was deeply concerned about his welfare. On 29 September 1916, about a month after he was later deemed to have died, his sister Lina, who had changed her name to Vera, was desperate for news of him. 'The last I heard from him was the 11th of August... I heard through a friend [illegible] he had been wounded,' she wrote to the Army authorities.

On the day she wrote, the Army issued a form letter stating that Edward was missing. Vera wrote again in October. 'Can you give me any news respecting L/Cpl. E. Winter... I may mention he has been wounded and missing since August 21st 16. Anxiously awaiting any news.' Finally, there is a short, resigned note. By then the family can have had no expectations that he would be found: 'I suppose there is still no further news of L/Cpl E. Winter.'

The National Roll of Honour sums up Edward's war career: 'Having volunteered in August 1914, he was drafted to France in January 1915 and took part in the fighting at Neuve Chapelle, Hill 60, Ypres, Festubert, Vermeiles, Vimy Ridge and the Somme. He was reported missing on the Somme on 24 August 1916, and was presumed to have been killed in action.'

From the Service records an image of Edward emerges: he was 5ft 4½in tall with a 39in chest; there was a small mole in the middle of his back; he said his civilian job was 'gas meter tester'.

In 1911 Edward was a boarder at 54 Penton Place, Newington, near the Elephant and Castle, where he lived with Henry Burnett, 69, a jewel case maker, and his wife Martha Ann Burnett,

65, and Martha's daughter Florence Emily Bousted, 39. At that time he was employed as a clerk. His mother, Sarah Ellen Weingartner, 68, from Marcham, Berkshire, lived with three of her seven children, including Lina/Vera at 49 Kimberley Road, Stockwell, where they occupied five rooms.

E.E. WINTER. Lance Corporal, King's Royal Rifle Corps, 8th Bn. Service no. R/14491. Died of wounds on 24 August 1916, aged 34. Remembered at Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France

SIDNEY CHARLES WITHEY

In 1911, insurance clerk Sidney Charles Withey lived at 14 Dalvell Road, Brixton with his parents and six siblings. His father, William Henry Withey, 46, was a travelling salesman for grocery products, born in Yeovil, Somerset. His mother, Louisa Emily (née Hutchings), 45, was from Camden Town, north London. The family occupied six rooms and had lived at this address since at least 1894. Withey enlisted in Kensington.

Sidney Charles and his older brother William James were baptised together on 19 September 1894 at St Andrew's, Landor Road.

S.C. WITHEY. Serjeant, London Regiment, 2/13th Bn. (Kensington). Service no. 490673. Killed in action on 8 December 1917, aged about 22. Remembered at Jerusalem War Cemetery, Israel and at St Andrew's Church, Landor Road, Stockwell

WILLIAM GEORGE EDWIN WOODARD

William George Edwin Woodard, who died aged 55, is the oldest of the men on the Memorial whose age at death we have been able to identify.

The 1911 census shows that he was born in about 1864 and worked as a taxi driver. His address was 16 Canterbury Road, Brixton, which he shared with his wife, Helena Sylvia (née Robshaw), then 49, originally from Holborn, central London; sons William, 23, a taxi driver,

and Frederick, 21, an assistant in a grocer's shop; mother-in-law Elizabeth Robshaw, 78, from Witham, Essex; May Robshaw, 21, an assistant in a draper's shop; cousin Frederick Robshaw, 33, a bookbinder's assistant; and Dorothy Sherry, 22, a grocer's shop assistant. Another of William and Helena's children lived elsewhere. The family occupied seven rooms. In 1901 the Woodard family lived at 39 Chester Street, north Lambeth.

William Woodard and Helena married at St Paul's, Westminster Bridge Road, Southwark on 5 March 1887. He gave his occupation as 'conductor', presumably on horsedrawn omnibuses.

W.G.E. WOODARD. Lance Corporal, Army Service Corps, 364th Mechanical Transport Coy. Service no M2/079669. Died of wounds on 12 August 1918, aged 55. Remembered at Les Baraques Military Cemetery, Sangatte, France

HENRY JAMES ROBERT WOODCOCK

The Service history file for Henry James Robert Woodcock contains few details. Woodcock enlisted in the Territorial Force on 28 February 1916 and was posted on the same day. The 1911 census shows Henry, aged 16, was one of eight children of 'charwoman' (cleaner) Eliza Woodcock, 41, from Donhead St Mary, Wiltshire. He lived with his family at 125 Lavender Hill, Battersea, and worked as a book assistant. Henry's father, also called Henry, 44, from Gorleston, Norfolk, was described on the 1901 census as a 'master bookseller'. In 1911 Henry's father was a patient in the Wandsworth Union Infirmary on St John's Hill, Battersea.

H.J.R. WOODCOCK. Private, London Regiment, 1/14th Bn. (London Scottish). Service no. 6951. Killed in action on 9 September 1916, aged 21. Remembered at Serre Road Cemetery No. 2, Somme, France

THOMAS JAMES WOODLEY

*Brother-in-law to Arthur Worby
Printer's labourer Thomas James Woodley, aged 23 in 1911, lived at 6*

Edithna Street, Stockwell, where his family occupied six rooms. The other members of the household were his widowed mother, Rosa Ann Woodley, 55, from Southwark, and five siblings. Woodley married Ethel Worby at St Andrew's Church on 14 December 1916. She later gave her address as 14 Glenelg Road, Acre Lane, Brixton.

Family member Howard Anderson writes: 'Thomas James Woodley was a career soldier, formerly a regular in the Royal Bucks Hussars before being killed whilst serving with the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry during the Battle of Asiago fighting the Austrians.

'There is an added poignancy about the names on the memorial. T.J. Woodley is right next to A. Worby, close in stone and in life, they were brothers-in-law. Thomas married Arthur Worby's sister Ethel Maude Worby but was killed just 18 months later. Although she married again, it ruined her life. I remember her as a sad old lady.'

T.J. WOODLEY. Private, Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, 1/4th Bn. Service no. 203597; formerly 2725, Royal Buckinghamshire Hussars. Killed in action on 15 June 1918, aged 29. Remembered at Boscon British Cemetery, near Asiago, Italy and at St Andrew's Church, Landor Road, Stockwell

ARTHUR WORBY

Brother-in-law to Thomas James Woodley

In 1911, Arthur Worby, aged 12, lived at 76 Crimsworth Road, near Wandsworth Road. His father, widower John Worby, 53, was an Army pensioner from Cambridge. Arthur Worby's mother, Bridget Finnigham, died in 1909. There were five siblings on the 1911 census return, their places of birth possibly reflecting their father's Army career. Emma, 24, was born in Chatham, Kent; Jessie, 20, a laundress, was born in Port Royal, Jamaica; John, 15, an errand boy, was born in Dublin, Ireland; Frank William, 16, an errand boy, was born in Middlesbrough; Arthur, 12, was born in South Lambeth. Arthur's one-year-old nephew, Arthur Worby Gridner, was present on the night of the census.

Howard Anderson, Arthur Worby's great-nephew, writes: 'Arthur Worby came from a military family, his father John Worby was a career soldier, leaving the Royal Engineers as a Quartermaster Serjeant after 21 years of service. Arthur was one of 11 children, most born in barracks around the world, one was my grandmother Jessie, born on a troop ship in Kingston, Jamaica.

'Arthur Worby's sister Jessie married Albert Allen (a common Stockwell name) who was an Old Contemptible who survived the war. In the 1st Middlesex Regiment, he was Mentioned in Despatches three times for staying behind with the wounded. His son Ted repeated that at Arnhem in 1944, being awarded the Dutch Bronze Cross for gallantry, for staying with the wounded when the Germans overran the town.'

Arthur Worby was brother-in-law to Thomas James Woodley, who married his sister Ethel Maude Worby.

A. WORBY. Private, The Queen's Own Royal West Surrey Regiment. Service no. G/61093. Died of influenza on 16 November 1918, aged about 20. Remembered at Lambeth Cemetery, Screen Wall, Blackshaw Road, Tooting, southwest London

THOMAS ISAAC WORLEY

In 1911 Thomas Isaac Worley, then 27, was an auctioneer's clerk. He lived at 47 Lansdowne Gardens, Stockwell with his parents, Isaac Brames Worley, 56, a cook from Pimlico, and Margaret (née Richards), 53, from Coventry, and older brother James Gingell Richards Worley. The family shared nine rooms. Another sibling lived elsewhere. The address was shared with a married couple living in two rooms.

Thomas, born 9 October 1883, was baptised at St Matthew's, Newington, Southwark, on 25 February 1899 along with his mother Margaret and older brother James.

T.I. WORLEY. Private, London Regiment, 1/19th Bn. (St Pancras). Service no. 613802. Died of wounds on 8 December 1917, aged 34. Remembered at Etaples Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France

FRANK WORTHY

In 1911 Frank Worthy was a 14-year-old schoolboy. He lived at 5 Addison Place, Brixton (now part of Normandy Road) with his parents, Alfred James Worthy, 45, a sign writer for the council, and Matilda Clara Worthy, 37, both born in Lambeth. Frank had two sisters. The family occupied four rooms.

Frank, who was born on 23 October 1898, attended Stockwell Road School and in 1908 received a bursary to attend Battersea Polytechnic Boys' Secondary School. He left in July 1914 to train as a teacher at the London Day Training College.

Frank Worthy enlisted on 27 January 1916 in Lambeth, giving his age as 19, occupation as teacher. He had previously been rejected for service. Frank stood 5ft 11in tall, with a chest measurement of 33½in. His moles on his upper right arm and abdomen were noted. He joined the British Expeditionary Force on 15 June 1916 and survived exactly three months after that.

The Worthys were members of the Plymouth Brethren. Form W5080 was signed by the vicar of Christ Church, Brixton Road.

F. WORTHY. Rifleman, London Regiment, 'D' Coy. 1/21st Bn. (First Surrey Rifles). Service no. 4785. Killed in action on 15 September 1916, aged 19. Remembered at Thiépval Memorial, Somme, France

JOHN THOMAS WOTTON

Wotton was born in Herne Bay, Kent, the son of Thomas Wotton, a carriage painter from Birchington, Kent, and Mary Ann (née Mount), from Herne Bay. By 1901 the family had moved to 187 Wirtemberg Street, Clapham and John's father was working as a railway guard. Two siblings had joined John and the household included two boarders.

In 1911 John Thomas Wotton, then 22, was working as a potman and barman at the Wirtemberg Arms at 165 Wirtemberg Street. He lived above the premises with the licensee and three other staff.

In 1913, aged 24, when Wotton married Annie Lillian Ellis, 26, at St Andrew's Church, Landor Road, he gave his address as 65 Cottage Grove, Stockwell. The couple had two children: Howard John Wotton (born 1914) and Iris Constance Wotton (born 1915). Annie died in 1975, aged 88.

J.T. WOTTON. Corporal, East Surrey Regiment, 13th Bn. Service no. 13413.

Died on 6 March 1917, aged 29.

Remembered at Abbeville Community Cemetery Extension, Somme, France

ARTHUR GEORGE WRIGHT



Arthur George Wright was born in South Lambeth on 8 November 1895 and baptised at St Anne's, South Lambeth Road on 20 March the following year. He was the second child of

Arthur John Wright, a carman born in Clapham, and Mary Ann (née Lanfear) from Rockley, Wiltshire, who lived at 1 Wyvil Street.

On 26 August 1901, when the family was living at 14 Kenchester Street, Arthur George and his older sister Beatrice were admitted to St Barnabas School.

The couple had a total of eight children. Beatrice died at the age of ten in 1907 and another child, Ellen, died as an infant. On the 1911 census Arthur John listed all his children, alive and dead, but scored through the lines for Beatrice and Ellen.

The census shows that Arthur George was working as an errand boy and that the family of eight lived in three rooms at 62 Goldsborough Road. Another household of seven lived in a further four rooms at the same address.

Arthur George enlisted in Westminster. After the war, his father gave his address as 34 Thorncroft Street, Wandsworth Road.

A.G. WRIGHT. Private, London Regiment, 2nd Bn. (Royal Fusiliers). Service no. 1633. Died of wounds on 9 August 1916, aged 20. Remembered at Warlincourt Halte British Cemetery, Saulty, Pas de Calais, France

FRANK WYBREW

Frank Wybrew was baptised at St Andrew's Church, Landor Road, Stockwell on 14 May 1893, the second of three children of William Joseph Wybrew, a saddler, and Maria Rose (née Millett). They gave their address as 65 Andalus Road, Stockwell.

Frank's father died in 1896, at around the time Maria Rose gave birth to their third child. She subsequently married James Edward Whitcombe, a harness maker.

In 1911, Frank Wybrew lived with his mother, stepfather James Edward Whitcombe, a harness maker, a younger sister, three of his five half-siblings and his maternal grandfather in a four-roomed flat, 12 Emily Mansions on Landor Road, Stockwell. He worked as a 'general hand' for a seed merchant.

F. WYBREW. Private, West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own), 1st Bn. Service no. 10622. Killed in action on 18 September 1916, aged 23. Remembered at Thiépval Memorial, Somme, France, and at St Andrew's Church, Landor Road, Stockwell

CHARLES JOHN YOUNG

The 1911 census shows Charles John Young, who was born in 1899 in Putney, as a 12-year-old schoolboy living at 21 Camellia Street, Stockwell. His widowed mother, Elizabeth (née Faber), 44, was born in Germany and made her living as a domestic cleaner. There were six siblings and the family lived in two rooms. Elizabeth later lived at 97 Hartington Road, South Lambeth.

Charles was killed in March 1918. Five months later, on 10 August 1918, his brother Walter Mafeking Young, aged 18, was called up and appeared at the recruitment centre at Kingston Upon Thames, Surrey, joining the 1st Surrey Rifles as a signaller. He gave his occupation as 'pianoforte finisher'. He stood 5ft 3in tall, with a 33½in chest measurement, with fair hair and blue eyes. Walter was punished with the loss of 12

days' pay for overstaying his pass. He was demobbed in October 1919.

C.J. YOUNG. Private, Essex Regiment, 11th Bn.; formerly Northamptonshire Regiment. Service no. 42404. Killed in action on 21 March 1918, aged 20. Remembered at Beaumetz-les-Cambrai Military Cemetery No. 1, Pas de Calais, France

MARY BETHIA MARSHALL



Mary Bethia Marshall does not appear on Stockwell War Memorial, which lists exclusively local men who died during the First World War. However, we thought it appropriate to include

her name here as a reminder to us all that thousands of women also contributed to the war and lost their lives as a result.

The 1911 census shows Mary Bethia Marshall as a 24-year-old resident hospital nurse at the Royal Southern Hospital, Toxteth Park in Liverpool. She was born in Gutcher, North Yell, Shetland, Scotland in 1866, the daughter of James Marshall, a locomotive blacksmith, and James's first wife, Catherine Hoseason, who died in 1893. In 1911 James Marshall and his second wife Jessie (née McIver) lived at 218 Southampton Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire with their seven children. They later moved to 22 Durand Gardens, Stockwell.

Mary served in the British Red Cross Liverpool Merchants Mobile Hospital. In 1919 she was awarded the 1914-1915 Star and in 1921 the British War Medal and Victory Medal.

The 1 August 1917 edition of *The Leeds Mercury*: 'Staff Nurse Mary B. Marshall, a Clapham lady, was killed at the post of duty when the 37th General Hospital at Salonika was bombed on March 12th last, refusing to take shelter and sacrificing her life for the good of others.

'With promptitude the French Government conferred on Nurse Marshall the posthumous honour of the Croix de

Guerre with palms in recognition of her courage and devotion to duty. Her father has now received a letter from the officer in command stating that a marble cross has been erected to her memory.'

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service was formed on 27 March 1902. At the outbreak of war in 1914 there were just under 300 nurses in the QAIMNS. By the end of the war this had risen to over 10,000. The nurses served in Flanders, the Mediterranean, the Balkans, the Middle East and aboard hospital ships. Almost 200 army nurses died on active service.

M.B. MARSHALL. Staff Nurse, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. Died in an aerial bombing raid on 12 March 1917, aged 30. Remembered at Mikra British Cemetery, Kalamaria, Greece

APPENDIX

The starting point of this project was, of course, Stockwell War Memorial itself and the 574 names on it. Our primary source for the biographies was the information available online (both free and paid-for). We also used the National Archives, Lambeth Archives, newspaper archives and libraries, books, local newspapers, maps and — most important and utterly invaluable — information and images provided by the families and fellow researchers kind enough to share their discoveries.

THE NAMES

There are several errors in the names on the Memorial (transposed initials and spelling errors) and some names are not in strict alphabetical order. For the book, we have corrected the order and noted the mistakes we have discovered.

Died In some cases, *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914–1919* gives information on how servicemen died. The usual descriptions are ‘Died’, ‘Died of wounds’ and ‘Killed in action’. In many cases, the cause of death was not recorded or was not known (these were listed simply as ‘Died’). Where we have discovered other details, these have been included.

Service We have given rank, regiment and service number as provided by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC). Where a soldier or sailor is not listed by the CWGC we have used details in *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914–1919*. In a few cases, details are taken directly from Army Service records.

Medals We have not listed campaign or standard issue medals, but where we are aware that a man has been awarded a Military Cross or a Military Medal or similar we have noted this.

Abbreviations Bn.=Battalion; Coy.=Company; Bty.=Battery.

MILITARY RECORDS

The first place to look for information on war casualties is the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC), whose records are available free online at cwgc.org. The database has information on surname and initials; first names; Service number; rank; regiment; company; battalion or division; age at death; date of death; additional information (for example, next of kin’s name, home town, address); cemetery or memorial details; nationality.

It should be noted that many entries are incomplete and some names are not included through error or other mishap; others fall outside the eligibility criteria, for example if their deaths occurred after they left service and/or were not officially ascribed to war injury.

We also consulted *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914–1919*. In

many cases, information on birthplace, place of residence and place of enlistment is included in the entries, and this helped us to identify many of the names that were not in the CWGC database or were otherwise difficult to find.

For some names, we found short biographies in the publications *The National Roll of the Great War 1914–1918* and *De Ruvinny's Roll of Honour 1914–18*. Information on some of the naval casualties is available on the Royal Naval Division Records 1914–1919. We also made some use of the Medal Roll, Register of Soldiers' Effects, various regimental histories and official war diaries.

The most fruitful free resource for information about the men is the collection of service and pension records held in the National Archive at Kew. Records for the men are available there on microfilm and online through various (paid-for) family history sites. It should be noted that the original collection of paper files was severely damaged during the Second World War when the building where they were kept was hit by a bomb. Some were destroyed completely, others were badly affected by fire and water. Furthermore, the microfilm files are in some disarray. Many are mis-labelled during the photography process and pages are in the wrong order. It is possible that we have missed some information as a result. The records relating to officers are held as paper originals at the National Archives.

THE CENSUSES

The 1911 census provides a snapshot of life three years before the outbreak of war and was one of our main sources of information about the origins and families of the men. It was the first census in which householders wrote out and signed their own returns, and in which the number of rooms in each dwelling were noted. We also made extensive use of the earlier censuses.

Occupation Most of the occupations are taken from the census (some are from service and pension records where they exist).

Accommodation The 1911 census returns give number of rooms occupied per dwelling. This does not include 'scullery, landing, lobby, closet, or bathroom.'

LORD DERBY'S GROUP SCHEME

By spring 1915 the number of volunteers joining the services was dwindling. In an attempt to boost enlistment, the upper age limit was raised from 38 to 40. On 15 July 1915 the government passed the National Registration Act as a step towards stimulating recruitment and to discover how many men between the ages of 15 and 65 were engaged in each trade.

The results showed that almost five million men of military age were not in the forces, of whom 1.6m were in 'starred' occupations, that is, they were in protected, scarce or high-skilled jobs.

In October 1915 Lord Derby, Director-General of Recruiting, brought in a programme under which eligible men aged 18 to 40 could either enlist voluntarily or attest with an obligation to come forward if called up later on. If they passed a medical, they were sworn in and paid a 'signing bonus' of 2s 9d. The next day, men who chose to defer their service until called ('Class A') were transferred to Section B Army Reserve. A khaki armband bearing the Royal Crown was provided to all who had enlisted, or who had been rejected, as well as to starred and discharged men.

Such was the need for men that in January 1916 Lord Derby's scheme was closed and compulsory conscription instituted.

MAPS

The 1938 *Geographers' Edition of the London A-Z*, compiled before the Second World War bombing of London, was useful for tracing the location of long-gone streets, as were Godfrey's *Old Ordnance Survey Maps*, especially the 1913 editions for Stockwell & Camberwell, Kennington & Walworth and Battersea & Clapham. The Ordnance Survey, *Five Feet to a Mile* (1895), available on the National Library of Scotland website was useful for the layout of the streets. Lambeth Archives' image bank (boroughphotos.org/lambeth) includes maps showing renumbering and renaming of streets. In addition, Charles Booth's 'poverty map', created in 1898, along with his digitised notebooks, reveals information about the demographics of the area and is available online at booth.lse.ac.uk.

LOCATIONS

One of the difficulties of researching the lives of the men is locating streets have have long been destroyed or redeveloped. Wherever possible we have tried to give an indication of the locations of these lost streets.

Another issue is that of describing geographic areas of London in particular. Part of this is the changing perception of 'where things are'. The centre of Stockwell was once considered to be at Stockwell Green; now it is the area around the tube station. Is a street in Stockwell or South Lambeth? Please excuse any inconsistencies and bear in mind that some area 'tags' have come from contemporary records and relate to long-abolished electoral districts or arise in some other way. At all times, we have tried to help our readers towards an understanding of the locations of streets.

OTHER LOCAL MEMORIALS

The tiled memorial inside St Andrew's Church in Landor Road, Stockwell where some of the Stockwell men are also listed with their first names and dates of death, helped us make identifications. (Sadly, since the closure of the church, the memorial is no longer accessible.) Other local memorials, for example, inside St Michael's Church, Stockwell Park Road, the memorial cross at St Mark's at Kennington Oval and the panels inside St John's in north Clapham, St Michael's, Stockwell Park Road and St Anne's, South Lambeth Road, include some of the Stockwell men. Where we are aware that the men are listed or remembered elsewhere or on rolls of honour we have noted this.

Contemporary reports in *The South London Press* listed men who were named on temporary (and for the most part now lost) wooden war shrines at St Mark's, Kennington, St Michael's, Stockwell, and St Anne's, South Lambeth Road, and we have noted this where known.

NEWSPAPERS

The South London Press carried comprehensive coverage of the war and its impact on South London, including a weekly page devoted to lists of casualties (wounded, missing and killed) and extensive coverage of the service of men from local schools, workplaces and regiments. *The Brixton Free Press* had excellent coverage in the first months of the war. Both publications reported in detail on the unveiling of the Memorial on 3 May 1922.

IMPERIAL AND METRIC MEASUREMENTS

We have given imperial measurements (feet, inches and stone) throughout. As a ready reckoner we offer the following:

5ft	152.4cm	32in	81.3cm	8st	51kg
5ft 6in	167.6cm	34in	86.4cm	9st	57kg
6ft	182.8cm	36in	91.4cm	10st	64kg

CURRENCY

All sums of money are given in the original pre-decimal pounds, shillings and pence (£, s and d) and have not been converted to contemporary values. There were 20 shillings in a pound; hence 30 shillings was £1 and 10s (the equivalent of £1.50). There were 12d (pence) in a shilling. 6d was sixpence.

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