



**THE
EVERCREECH WAR MEMORIAL
BOOK**

WORLD WAR ONE

Introduction

The information for this book was researched during 2011 and 2012 and updated many times since then.

The book presented to the Evercreech Branch of the Royal British Legion in the Evercreech Parish church on Armistice Day 2012.

The information is not complete and in some cases, despite our best efforts, may not be entirely accurate. Many of the soldiers changed regiments during the war so we have given the regiment listed by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. It is hoped that the details can be updated and further corrected as more information becomes available.

Included is a list of the men who we know joined-up but this list is almost certainly incomplete. After WW1 all men who had been on active service were awarded The British War Medal and The Victory Medal so we have not listed these individually.

The men are listed in alphabetical order.

If you can help with any further information about the men who are recorded in this book we will be happy to amend the text.

To change or add any details please contact David and Gill Lindsay on dlandgl@btinternet.com

Glossary

Btn. Battalion. Section of a regiment

CWGC Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

SLI Somerset Light Infantry

Enlisted Men

After the details of the 42 Evercreech servicemen who died you will find a list of the 212 men from Evercreech known to have enlisted.

Please see page 87 for more details and some statistics.

ANDREWS Herbert Arthur John

Private 25408

14th Gloucesters

Died 10th September 1918

Age 22

Evercreech Cemetery

H.A.Andrews was the son of Hugh and Jane Andrews who were living in Evercreech when their son joined the army. The family moved to Milton Clevedon in 1917.

He enlisted with the 14th Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment in Gosport on 15th November 1915 and gave his home address as Heytesbury, Wiltshire. He was initially based at the Regimental Depot, but then served in France from 14th June 1917. He was wounded with a gunshot wound to the face on 27th August 1917 and spent some time in hospital. He was posted back to the regimental depot in England on 18th February 1918.

Later in 1918 he spent three months in Shepton Mallet Military Hospital because he was suffering from Bright's Disease (kidney failure). He was discharged from the army and sent home the day before he died. He has an official war grave in Evercreech Cemetery.

Herbert ANDREWS

MILTON CLEVEDON.

SOLDIER'S FUNERAL.—On Saturday afternoon, in Evercreech Churchyard, the remains were laid to rest of Pte. H. Andrews, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Andrews, who came home discharged from hospital on 9th inst., and died next day. He had seen nearly three years' service, in France and Belgium, and was 22 years of age. He was a gunner in the 2/4 Gloucesters, and had been wounded twice, having participated in the fighting around Arras and the Somme. The Rev. R. Y. Bonsey, vicar of Evercreech, conducted the funeral service, which was attended by the deceased's parents (his father is a munition worker in a Hampshire aeroplane department), Pte. N. L. Andrews (Tank Corps) a younger brother, four sisters, and friends, also six wounded soldiers from the Shepton Mallet Hospital, members of the Comrades of the Great War, and of Federated soldiers at Shepton Mallet, and others. The parents, family, wounded and discharged soldiers, all sent floral wreaths. A muffled peal was rung on Milton Church bells, and appropriate hymns were sung, on Sunday both at Milton and Evercreech, and reference made to the death of this another soldier well known in the neighbourhood, and who had surrendered all for his country.

From the Shepton Mallet Journal September 1918

ASHFORD Arthur James

Private 3/8464

Enlisted Dorchester

Dorsetshire Regiment 1st Home Service Garrison
Battalion

Accidentally Killed 23rd December 1916

Age 43

Buried in Evercreech Cemetery

Arthur Ashford was born at Lydlynch in 1872. By 1911 he was married with two daughters and living at Park Cottage, Southwood. He appears on the census as a farm worker. Originally he was a regular soldier, joining the Dorsetshire regiment in 1892 and serving in the 1st Boer War in South Africa. He rejoined in 1914 in the Dorset Regiment's Home Service Garrison. Arthur was at the Dorsets' training camp at Wyke Regis, Weymouth. He died of a head injury after falling into a gulley whilst out walking on Portland.

His grave in Evercreech Cemetery is separate from the other three men, also buried in Evercreech cemetery, who died later in the war.

Arthur ASHFORD

Inquest Report in the Dorsetshire and Somersetshire Gazette December 28th 1916

Fatality to a soldier – A sad fatality befell a soldier named Arthur Ashford (43) as the result of a fall, deceased having fallen down a gulley near the Rector's house at Portland and sustained such injuries that he died early on Saturday. Ashford had served twelve years in the army previous to the present campaign and saw service in the Boer War. When war broke out he joined up again. An inquest on the body was held by Mr G.P.Symes on Saturday afternoon. Mr J. Burgess was the foreman of the jury. Opening the enquiry the Coroner commented that a similar fatality occurred in the gulley about twelve months previously. There was no evidence to show how Ashford got there, but it is probable that his hat blew off and he went down to get it. They could not imagine that anything else occurred – that anyone pushed him into the gulley. Evidence of identification was given by the widow Amy Ashford who said her husband was 43 years of age. Deceased was a native of Evercreech. He had served in the army before the outbreak of war and had rejoined the colours in September 1914. Witness last saw her husband three weeks ago when he took her to hospital at Evercreech. Witness had been suffering from Pneumonia and had left that institution the previous Monday. Her husband had no troubles. Witness heard from him a few days previously. P.C.Gilham said that at a quarter to twelve on Friday morning he was near the old lime kiln at Yeates. On looking over the wall – he did it out of curiosity – and in the deep gulley of a disused quarry railway he saw the deceased lying on his back. That was a drop of about forty feet. Deceased was about 20 yards from the lime kiln. Witness went to the spot by the path and found Ashford unconscious. On the left temple there was a wound two inches long. There was blood on the left leg near the hip. Deceased was foaming at the mouth and his cap and stick were near his feet. Witness sent for Doctor Howard and a stretcher party came. Deceased was taken to the Verne. Witness examined the spot and came to the conclusion that the deceased got over the wall, his heel caught in the edge of turf and he fell into the gulley. There was a mark of blood on a sharp stone and witness came to the conclusion that the deceased struck his head against it in falling. There was no sign of a struggle and the deceased's clothing was not deranged in any way. Ashford's clothes were saturated as heavy rain fell during the night. His watch stopped at 5.30. Private Samuel Collis said he had known Ashford 25 years and had worked with him on the Somerset and Dorset line. Ashford was an honest, sober, steady and obedient man. Witness saw Ashford at 5.30 on Thursday evening. He was in a very cheerful..... time. Thursday evening was veryWitness was of the opinion that deceasedinto the gulley to get his cap which had...blown off. Captain E.C.Pratt..... when admitted to hospital deceased was unconscious. There was an incised wound over the left eye and on probing it witness found that the skull was fractured. The pupils of his eyes were contracted, the breathing was labored and his face congested. There was a bruise over the left hip and a small puncture wound to the left thigh, but there were no other injuries to the body. Deceased lived until 1.30 that morning. He did not recover consciousness. The Coroner said they would do anything to prevent men getting over the wall. If they put a fence there men would get over. Mr Score observed that if they started filling in one gulley they would have to fill in the whole of the island. A suggestion was made that servicemen should be warned of the dangerous places all over Portland and it was stated that steps would be taken to bring this to the notice of the proper authorities. Mr Durston thought something should be done at the spot by the council or the War Department. The jury's verdict was that death was caused by Ashford's accidentally falling into a gulley by Yeates. They expressed their sympathy with the widow, to whom they gave their fees. At the suggestion of the foreman the Coroner is to make representation to the proper quarter with a view to Mrs Ashford being granted a pension.

BROWN Stanley
Private 1840
Enlisted at Evercreech
Royal Berkshire Regiment
Killed in action 11th June 1916
Age 19
Laventie Cemetery, Nord, France

Stanley Brown was one of the family of four sons and four daughters of William Brown, variously described as a haulage contractor and a coal merchant. In 1901 the Brown family lived in one of the cottages in the rank which faces the north side of the Parish Church. By 1911 the family had moved to Shapway Lane, Stanley was a carter in his father's business.

Stanley died in the fighting taking place in the north of France, close to the Belgian border, a few miles west of Lille. He died just a month before the start of the battle of Fromelles.

The obituary of Stanley Brown as printed in the Shepton Mallet Journal on 23rd June 1916 is reprinted opposite.

Stanley BROWN

EVERCREECH.

To the memory of Lord Kitchener, a muffled peal was rung after evensong at the Parish Church last Sunday.

MR. WILLIAM BROWN has received information from Second-Lieut. Gibson, 2/4 Royal Berks Regiment, of the death of his son, Private Stanley Brown, from wounds caused by the explosion of a shell near him on Saturday, the 10th inst., death taking place on Whit-Sunday afternoon. Private Brown, who was 19 years of age, was much liked in the village, and the news of his death was received with general regret, much sympathy being expressed with his parents in their bereavement. He joined the P.A.S.L.I. (Territorial) Regiment about three years ago, and at the outbreak of the war was called up for active service. At the time of his death he was attached to the Royal Berkshire Regiment. He was home on leave at Easter, returning to his regiment on May 4th, shortly after which he was sent to France. The letter to his parents announcing his death was as follows:—"2/4 Royal Berks Regiment, British Expeditionary Force, ———, 12th June, 1916. Dear Sir,—It is with deep regret that I have to break to you the sad news of your son's (S. Brown) death yesterday, caused by wounds from a shell which exploded near him. He passed away quite peacefully without any pain at 4.30 p.m. I wish to assure you of my deepest sorrow and heartfelt sympathy with you and yours in your great sorrow. I am, yours sincerely, C. B. GIBSON, Second-Lieut."

A cutting from The Shepton Mallet Journal June 1916

CARVER Wilfred Henry
Private 26828 Enlisted Shepton Mallet
Somerset Light Infantry
Died of wounds 11th November 1918

Age 21

Delsaux Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France

Born in Bagborough Wilfred Carver's name appears on the Chesterblade memorial along with Allen John Green's, the only two names on the Chesterblade memorial. They died within six days of each other in the last week of the war.

W.H. Carver's father Albert was from Croscombe, his mother Mary from Wraxall. Like his father, Wilfred was a farm worker. In 1901 the family lived in Doultong but were living in Bagborough on the 1911 census. Perhaps before the outbreak of WW1 the family had moved to Chesterblade.

The only other man from Chesterblade to die, Allen John Greed was wounded on 4th November 1918 and died the following day. The small village of Chesterblade, therefore, lost both its only two fatal casualties in the last week of the war !

In some documents this man's first name is recorded as Wilford.

Wilfred CARVER



Delsaux Cemetery

History Information

The area around Delsaux Farm was taken by the 5th Division on 2 September 1918, and on the next day the same division occupied Beugny village. In March 1918, the Germans made a cemetery at the cross-roads, and in it buried 103 Commonwealth and 82 German dead. The site was extended in October - November 1918 by the 29th and 46th Casualty Clearing Stations, which came to Delsaux Farm and made the present cemetery. A little later, the German graves of March 1918 were removed and the 103 Commonwealth dead reburied. The rest of the cemetery was extended when graves were later brought in from the battlefields of the Battle of The Selle. Delsaux Farm Cemetery contains 495 burials and commemorations of the First World War. 61 of the burials are unidentified and 32 others, identified as a whole but not individually, are marked with headstones inscribed "Buried near this spot".

CATLEY Edward George
Private M2/222994 Army Service Corps
Died in hospital 17th November 1918
Age 21
Haifa War Cemetery, Palestine

In 1901, Edward Catley's father Walter was employed as a groom. The family lived in Weston Town, two doors from a grocer's shop run by George Thrasher.

In 1911 Edward was the errand boy for the village doctor, Dr Claud Gee, who was to join the RAMC and serve as a Major in a casualty clearing station.

Edward is listed by CWGC as being in the army service corps. Within that unit he was, whilst serving in Palestine, part of 347 Motor Transport company. It has not been possible to discover whether he was a driver or a mechanic in the transport company.

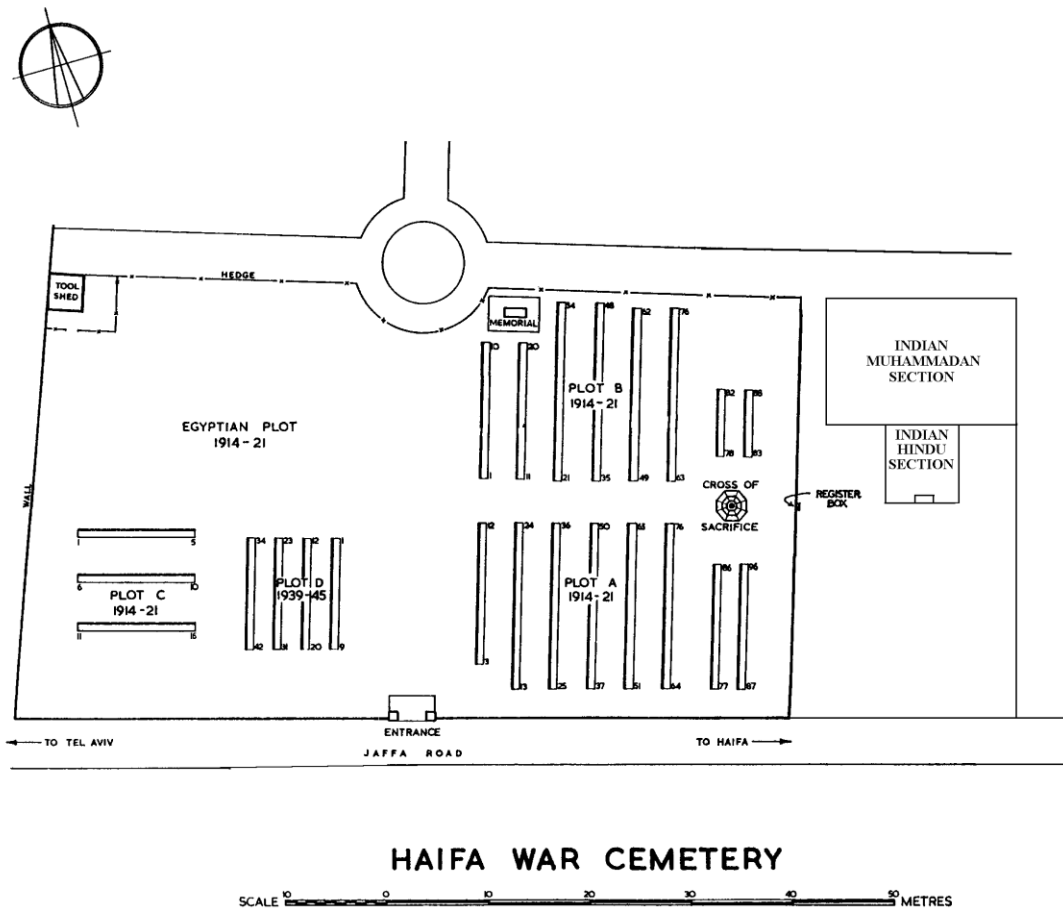
Edward's three brothers were all in uniform. Alfred fought with the Cheshire Regiment, Clement in the Somerset Light Infantry and Ernest in the Royal Hussars, they all survived the war.

The CWGC term "died in hospital" implies that he died of disease rather than died of wounds.

EDWARD GEORGE CATLEY

HAIFA WAR CEMETERY history Information

Haifa was captured by the Mysore and Jodhpur Lancers on 23 September 1918 and the 33rd Combined Clearing Hospital was moved to the town on the 15 October. Haifa War Cemetery, which was originally part of the German cemetery, was used mainly for hospital burials, but some graves were brought in from the battlefields. Haifa was of great strategic importance during the Second World War because of its deep water harbour and airfield. It was also the terminus of the railway line from Egypt and of the Kirkuk-Haifa oil pipeline. Haifa became one of the main supply bases and arms depots serving the Middle East forces and a large naval depot was established at Haifa Bay. The cemetery was again used during the early part of the war until the new war cemetery at Khayat Beach was opened. Haifa War Cemetery now contains 305 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, 86 of them unidentified. Second World War burials number 36.



CHARLTON Stanley

Private 1838

2/4th Btn. Somerset Light Infantry

Killed In Action 12th December 1915 in

Age 22

Kut War Cemetery, Mesopotamia (Iraq)

Born in Evercreech in 1893 Stanley Charlton was the third son of a family of 12 children, eight boys and four girls living in Church Lane. Like his father Maurice, Stanley Charlton was a mason, helping in the family building and undertaking business.

Stanley's battalion of the Somerset Light Infantry went to India in 1914. In 1915 he was sent, with a small detachment, to join the Dorset Regiment in Iraq where he fought and died in the battle of Kut.

His brothers William, Arthur and Charles also fought with the Somerset Light Infantry and survived the war. Another survivor from the family was Maurice who, having emigrated to Australia before the war, returned to Europe to fight with the Australian Light Horse Brigade. After the war Maurice remained in England where he married and raised a family in Evercreech.

The Charlton family continued as a well known Evercreech building firm throughout the twentieth century.

Stanley Charlton

Kut War Cemetery

History Information

In April 1915, the Indian Expeditionary Force 'D', which had landed at Fao the previous November, began its advance inland with the intention of clearing Turkish forces out of south-west Iraq. Amara was occupied in early June and the advance continued along the line of the Euphrates to Nasiriya, and along the Tigris to Kut, which was taken on 29 September. The advance to Baghdad was resumed on 11 November, but was brought to a standstill against the strong Turkish defences at Ctesiphon on 22-24 November. By 3 December, the force, comprising chiefly the 6th (Poona) Division of the Indian Army, was back in its entrenched camp at Kut, where they were besieged by Turkish forces. Heavy casualties were suffered in desperate but unsuccessful attempts to reach the town and raise the siege in January, March and April. The garrison was forced to capitulate on 29 April 1916 and nearly 12,000 men were taken prisoner, many of whom later died in captivity. The town was reoccupied by Commonwealth forces in February 1917 and at the end of June it became an administrative, railway and hospital centre. Kut War Cemetery was made by the 6th (Poona) Division between October 1915 and May 1916 and was increased in size when graves were brought in from other sites after the Armistice. The cemetery now contains 420 First World War burials



COX Herbert Edward
Private 46008
Royal Berkshire Regiment
Died (accidentally gassed) Dec 9th 1918
Age 19
Desnie Churchyard, Liege, Belgium.

In 1901 Herbert Cox's father Charles was the Inn Keeper at The Pecking Mill Inn and also a road contractor. By 1911 Charles Cox was on the census as a farmer. Herbert was still at school in 1911: one of eight children in the family. He had one older and two younger brothers as well as an older sister and three younger sisters.

In the extremely cold December of 1918 the Berkshire regiment was still in eastern Belgium. Herbert and four other soldiers shared a billet in an old cottage where they lit a fire.

Unfortunately the chimney was blocked and the five men died of Carbon Monoxide poisoning. All five men are buried in the neighbouring churchyard.

HERBERT EDWARD COX

History Information

Desnie Churchyard contains five Commonwealth burials of the First World War, all men of the 1st Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment who died in an incident in December 1918.



DESNIE CHURCHYARD

The five GWGC headstones are seen together in the middle of this picture of the village churchyard.

COX Robert
Private 1831
Enlisted Evercreech
Somerset Light Infantry
Died at sea 9th October 1916
Age 19
Commemorated on the Basra Memorial, Iraq

In 1911 Robert Cox was living in a cottage two doors from The Supply Stores (Rock's) opposite the church gate with his father Edward a house painter and his mother Ellen. Robert was the eldest of eight children, a house builder's labourer and one of the Evercreech church bell ringers prior to his enlistment. He was also a member of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association of Ringers

His military records show that he died at sea. In 1916 the 1/4th battalion of the SLI were fighting in Iraq so Robert probably died on a hospital ship while being evacuated from Basra (Iraq) with injuries or dysentery. Many liners and commercial vessels were turned into hospital ships in the Great War. Some of these ships were sunk by enemy action in spite of displaying the internationally recognized Red Cross.

Robert Cox

Basra Memorial and Cemetery Visiting Information

NOTE: Whilst the current climate of political instability persists it is extremely challenging for the Commission to manage or maintain its cemeteries and memorials located within Iraq. Alternative arrangements for commemoration have therefore been implemented and a two volume Roll of Honour listing all casualties buried and commemorated in Iraq has been produced. These volumes are on display at the Commission's Head Office in Maidenhead and are available for the public to view. The Commission continues to monitor the situation in Iraq and once the political climate has improved to an acceptable level the Commission will commence a major rehabilitation project for its cemeteries and commemorations.



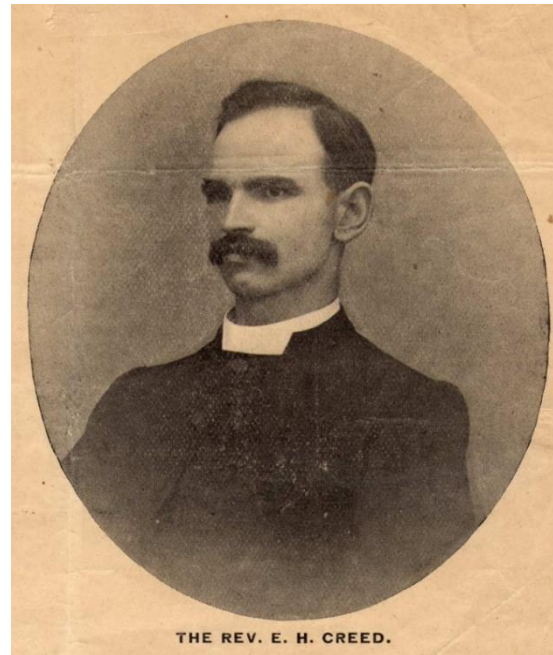
CREED Rev. Edwin Haine
Private 444750. Enlisted in Canada in 1915
26th Battalion Canadian Infantry.
Died on 26th December 1916. Age 42
Etaples Cemetery, France

Edwin Creed was living at Westbrook Farm in 1901 with his mother Annie, a brother and two sisters. Edwin became a Methodist Minister and went to Canada where he appears on the 1911 census in Hampton, New Brunswick with his wife, Mary. He was minister of the Methodist Church at Hampton but when his wife died early in 1915 he resigned his ministry and on 29th May 1915 joined the Canadian Army to fight as a private. On his attestation papers, he enlisted as a 42 year old widowed Methodist clergyman. We can only speculate why he joined as a private soldier, not as non-combatant chaplain, as he trained with 55th Bttn Canadian Infantry.

On October 12th 1916 he joined 26th bttn Canadian Expeditionary Force, in France, who were involved in the Battle of Ancre Heights. In December 1916 Edwin developed a hernia and was evacuated to a base hospital at Etaples. Following his hernia operation he developed nephritis (kidney failure) that caused his death on 26 December 1916.

His name appears on the War memorial in Hampton, New Brunswick and his parents put his name on the Evercreech War memorial.

Edwin CREE



Widower

ATTESTATION PAPER.

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

No. *44750*
Folio. *2*

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.

- | | (ANSWERS) |
|--|--|
| 1. What is your name?..... | <i>Edwin Haden Creed</i> |
| 2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born?..... | <i>Somerset</i>
<i>Ever Creech, Somersetshire, Eng.</i> |
| 3. What is the name of your next-of-kin?..... | <i>Egbert P. Creed (Brother).</i> |
| 4. What is the address of your next-of-kin?..... | <i>Ever Creech, Somersetshire, Eng.</i> |
| 5. What is the date of your birth?..... | <i>13th May 1874</i> |
| 6. What is your Trade or Calling?..... | <i>Chortyman. #2</i> |
| 7. Are you married?..... | <i>Widower.</i> |
| 8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated?..... | <i>Yes.</i> |
| 9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia?..... | <i>No.</i> |
| 10. Have you ever served in any Military Force?..
If so, state particulars of former Service. | <i>No.</i> |
| 11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement?..... | <i>Yes.</i> |
| 12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE?] | <i>Yes.</i> |

E. H. Creed..... (Signature of Man).
Howard Baynton..... (Signature of Witness).

DUNFORD Herbert David
Private 1073
Enlisted Taunton
Welsh Guards
Killed in action 27th September 1915
Age 24
Loos Memorial, Pas-de-Calais, France

Herbert Dunford's family lived in one of the cottages next to The Shapway Inn in 1901. He had five brothers and a sister who taught in the local school. Herbert became an agricultural labourer. He lived in Stoney Stratton with his wife Milly (née Wiltshire) until he enlisted in 1915. He was reported missing in September 1915 and his wife was not sent official notification of his death until November 1916.

His brother Ernest, who was in the North Somerset Yeomanry, survived the war as did his brother Albert who was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for his services in Gallipoli.

Herbert was reported missing on the 3rd day of the battle of Loos. His body was never found so he does not have a grave headstone but his name is engraved on memorial in the arcaded walk you can see at the top of the cemetery picture below.

Herbert DUNFORD

0



WELSH GUARDS		
CAPTAIN	PRIVATE	PRIVATE
PALMER A.P.D.S.O.	ARROWSMITH H.	HOUSE E.J.
LIEUTENANT	BOWEN W.A.	JACOBS H.
MAWBY E.G.	BRIDGES W.R.	JONES R.
RANDOLPH J.	CLARKE A.E.	LANGABEER R.E.
SUTTON H.J.	CLARKE F.	LLEWELLYN E.
SECOND LIEUT.	CLEMENTS W.F.	MARKLOVE G.C.
SMITH R.	CRADDOCK J.	MORGAN A.
LCE SERJEANT	DAVIES D.H.	MORGAN H.
OWEN M.	DAVIES T.	MORGAN T.
CORPORAL	DAVIES W.J.	PALMER A.
HUNT F.C.	DUNFORD H.D.	PLAISTOW H.A.
LCE CORPORAL	EAST W.	POUND H.J.
EMANUEL I.	EDWARDS D.J.	REED W.
HANBY A.	ELLIS E.	REEVES E.L.
HOOPER A.	ELLIS H.J.	ROW H.D.
	EVANS B.	ROWLANDS D.
	EVANS D.W.	ROWLANDS F.L.
	EVANS W.B.	SOLMAN G.
	GRANT D.C.	THOMAS W.
	GUPPY E.J.	TRUMAN I.

EDWARDS Frederick
Gunner 41483
Enlisted Taunton: Royal Field Artillery
Died of wounds 7th July 1916
Age 25
Daours Cemetery, Somme, France

Frederick Edwards was the fifth son, in a family of thirteen children, of the Edwards' family who lived in Back Lane, Stoney Stratton (see also Harry Edwards). As a boy one of his brothers, Walter, was employed as a store boy for a cheese factor and in 1914 joined the SLI. The men of the family were all employed as agricultural labourers.

Frederick was wounded when his regiment was fighting on the left (western) flank of the battle of the Somme.

During the war four of the Edwards brothers were in uniform. Walter survived the war. Frank and Harry served in the Ox and Bucks: Frank survived the war, Harry died in 1918.

See also: Harry Edward

Frederick EDWARDS



Grave Marker (before CWGS erected headstones)

EDWARDS Harry Dennis

Private 24488

Ox and Bucks Regiment

Killed in Action: 1st March 1918 Age 24

Metz-en-Couture, Pas-de-Calais, France

The sixth son of a farm labourer Harry was also employed as an agricultural labourer, before he enlisted. The family lived in Back Lane, Stoney Stratton.

In early 1918 the Ox & Bucks were holding the line in northern France west and south of Cambrai. Aerial reconnaissance showed that the German forces were massing opposite them for operation 'Michael' the first of the huge final German offensives that started in March 1918. This German offensive was timed to strike before the American army could be deployed in large numbers. It relied on the large German forces freed from the Eastern front by the collapse of Russia after the October revolution and the subsequent Russian/German peace.

See also: Frederick Edwards

Harry EDWARDS



Metz-en-Couture Cemetery

FRY Edgar Stanley

Private 1425

Enlisted Pontypridd. Welsh Regiment.

Died 17th February 1915.

Age 18

Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Belgium

Edgar (known as Stanley) Fry was the son of a police sergeant in Evercreech on the 1911 census. The address given for the police station was High Street, Evercreech. Stanley was an apprentice at the cycle works run by Bob Whitehead in a property now demolished next to (west of) the original Methodist Chapel on Weymouth Road.

Soon after the 1911 census Edgar and a few other young men from Evercreech, including Walter Russ who also died, went to the Welsh Valleys to find work in the coal mines.

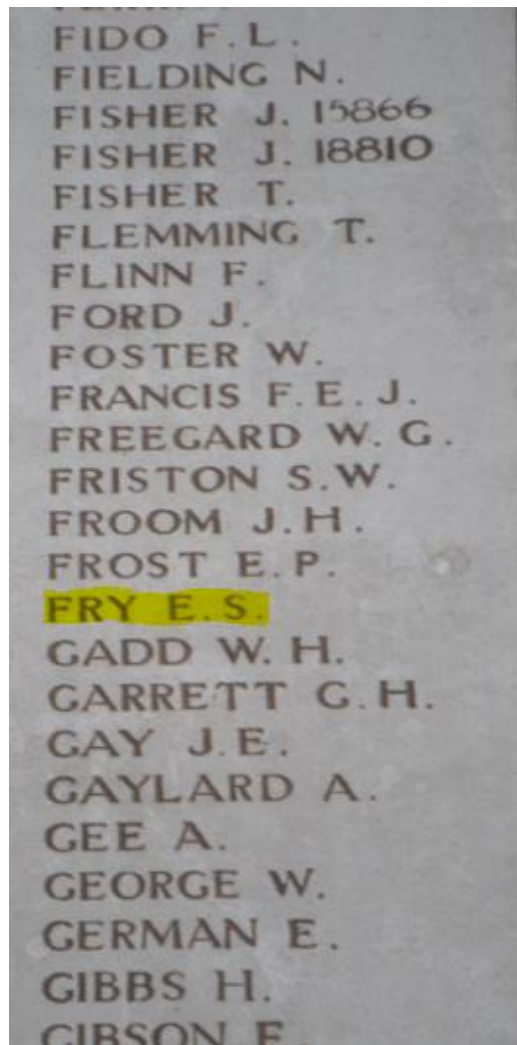
Edgar Fry's battalion of the Welsh Regiment, having been involved in the 1st battle of Ypres, remained in this area through the winter prior to the start of the 2nd battle of Ypres on 24th April 1915. It must be assumed, therefore, that Edgar Fry was lost his life as a result of the sporadic trench fighting.

After the end of the war his parents James and Annie Fry retired to Bruton.

Edgar Stanley FRY



The Menin Gate Memorial



Edgar Stanley's name on panel 37 of the Menin Gate

Charles GANE



Lievin Cemetery

Pas-de-Calais France

GREEN Allen John

Private 42915. Enlisted Frome 1918

A coy. 6th Btn. Dorsetshire Regiment

Died of wounds 5 November 1918

Age 19

Caudry Military Cemetery, Picardy, France

Allen was the eldest son of Sidney and Mabel (née Osborn) Green of Banks Farm, Chesterblade. As the eldest son of the farm he was exempt from military service until May 1918. He was called up in June 1918, sent to a training camp near Weymouth until October when he was sent to France. He died of wounds on 5th November 1918, his parents received the news of his death in a telegram delivered on Armistice Day.

In 2011 a bag, containing letters he wrote from training camp, postcards and a notebook that he wrote in France, was found in the attic of a local farm. The letters, now in the Dorset's Regimental Museum, give some details of his sixteen weeks in training. His postcards and the notebook from France give very little detail of life at the front but we know that his first exposure to the fighting was in the Battle of Neuville. He was then involved in the Battle of the Sambre, east of Cambrai, where he received a fatal chest wound. This was the last battle fought by the British Army in the Great War.

Allen was in France for only three weeks before he was killed.

Allen John GREEN



Allen at home prior to enlistment
unifor



In his Somerset Light Infantry



GREEN Charles William
Private 25537
Enlisted Castle Cary
Somerset Light Infantry
Killed in action 6th November 1917
Age 20
Beersheba Cemetery, Palestine.

Born in Evercreech Charles Green lived in Weston Town not far from the railway station. His father, who had been a railway porter in 1901,

had become a self-employed railway carrier working for the Somerset and Dorset Railway company by 1911. Charles helped his father in his business. They probably delivered parcels, luggage or goods, which arrived at Evercreech New Station, around the village.

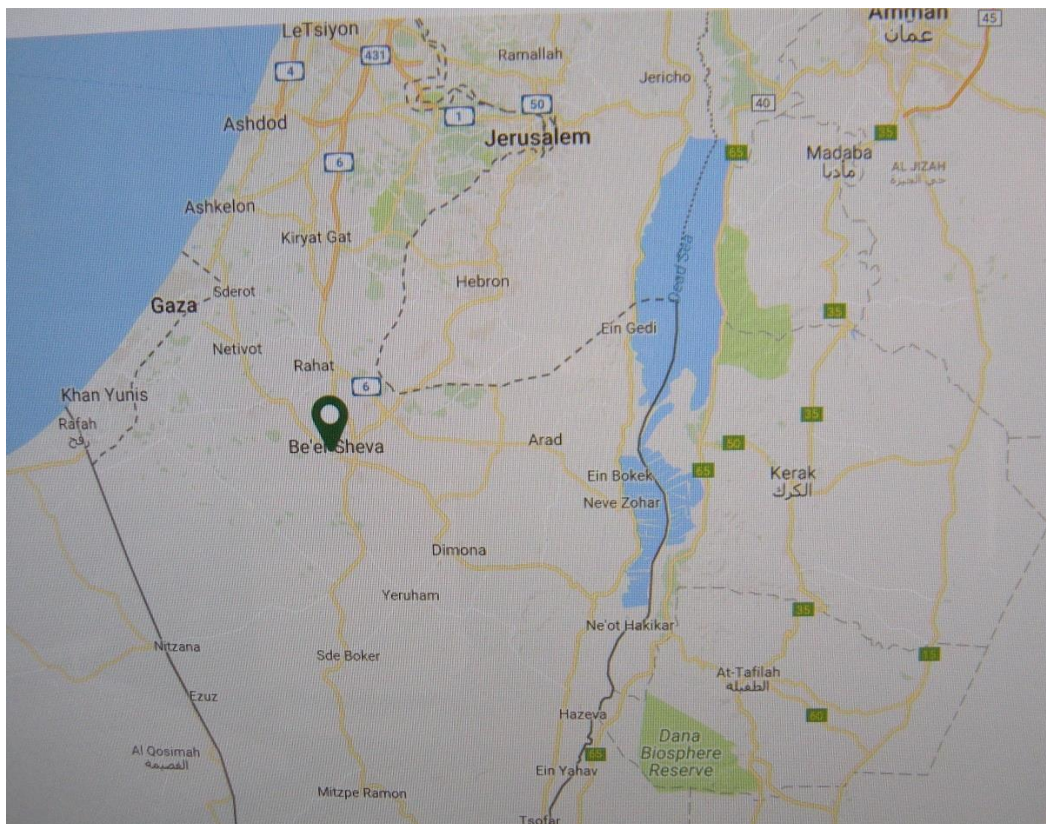
Charles was killed when his battalion was fighting the Turks to gain control of the Gaza to Beersheba railway.

During the war his brother Arthur Robert was a sergeant in the Royal Engineers.

Charles William GREEN



Evercreech New Station



Palestine showing Beersheba where Charles Green is buried.

GREY John Henry

Sgt 5701: Enlisted Taunton

Household Cavalry: 1st Royal Dragoons

Died of wounds: 25th October 1914. Age 25

Ypres Town Cemetery, Belgium

John Henry Grey (known as Jack) was born on 18 December 1888 in Meare Somerset. He had a younger brother and sister: Walter George born 1890 and Dorothy Damaris born 1893. John was a pupil at the boy's school in Evercreech where his father was head teacher as well as being organist in the Parish Church. John then went to Sexey's School in Bruton until March 1903. In September 1903 at the age of 14 he enrolled in the First Royal Dragoon Guards (The Blues). He was described as a musician. He served in India and South Africa where he married Amy Potten in 1913. With the regiment they returned to England in October 1914 and John went immediately to Flanders.

John was killed at Ypres on 25th October 1914 aged 25. He is buried in Ypres Town Cemetery as, at that stage in the war, the army had no concept of the number of casualties that would follow. Initially used existing local town cemeteries for the earliest burials. The Imperial (now Commonwealth) War Graves Commission was established in 1917 to set out and maintain designated Allied war cemeteries and memorials.

Sergeant Grey was the first Evercreech man to die in action. During the war the names of the fallen were added to the village War Shrine, on which the deaths were listed as they occurred. The framed Roll hung from the village's medieval cross facing the church. The list is now displayed inside our Church.

John's daughter Dorothy Joan was born in early 1915. John Grey's father, Walter Grey Snr was headmaster of the boys' school at Evercreech School from 1895 to 1927. John's younger brother Walter was to die in 1917. In the school logbook their father recorded that a fast train stopped at Evercreech station, as a mark of respect to all the fallen, as the church clock struck eleven on November 11th 1919, the first anniversary of Armistice Day.

John Henry GREY



John Grey in Dragoons Uniform



John Grey's Headstone



The White CWGC headstones in Ypres

GREY Walter George
Gunner 111435. Enlisted Hounslow
Royal Garrison Artillery
Killed in action 21st May 1917
Age 27
Bois-de-Noulette British Cemetery,
Pas-de-Calais, France

Walter Grey was the younger of the two sons of Walter Grey, senior, the long serving headmaster of the boys' school in Evercreech. Educated at Evercreech School and Sexey's school in Bruton, Walter (Jnr) took the Civil Service Exam and had various jobs before enlisting.

He was killed in action on his first day at the front when his battery was engaged in the battle of Lens. He left a widow Ella Albina (nee Read)

On Armistice Day in 1919 Walter Grey, (snr) stood in the school playground with all the current pupils, to read out the names of thirty Evercreech scholars and the other Evercreech servicemen who had died during the Great War.

His thoughts must have been with his two dead sons.

See also John Grey

Walter Grey

Bois-de-Noulette British Cemetery

History Information: This cemetery was made by Field Ambulances between April 1916, and May 1917, and was at first Bois-de-Noulette New Cemetery, to distinguish it from the many small French military cemeteries in or near the wood. There are now over 100, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. The cemetery covers an area of 857 square metres and is enclosed by a rubble wall.



John Grey (see previous entry) and his brother Walter , above, are buried less than 50 miles apart but in the most contrasting settings

GRIFFIN Thomas
Private 5251. Enlisted Taunton
6th Dragoon Guards,
(Carabiniers: Household Cavalry & Cavalry of the Line
(inc. Yeomanry & Imperial Camel Corps))
Killed 17th May 1917 France: Age 44
Templeux-le-Gueriard Communal Cemetery
Somme, France

It is difficult to be sure of this man's link to Evercreech but his name is on the village war memorial. Thomas was borne in Bradford-on-Tone and in 1881, age nine, was at The Somerset Industrial School in Twerton. Boys were sent to Industrial Schools to learn a trade. The Griffin family lived at Crossdale Cottage, Pecking Mill in 1901 and 1911, but Thomas does not appear in this household.

We know that he was a regular in the army as his service number tells us that he enlisted in the Dragoons in the summer of 1904, aged 30. His regiment, originally raised to fight the Monmouth Rebellion, took part in the Delhi Dugar in 1906 and went to France, as part of the BEF, on 14th August 1914.

He was killed in the fighting pushing eastwards following the Battle of Arras.

Thomas Griffin

Templeux-le-Gueriard Communal Cemetery

History Information

Templeux-le-Guerard was taken early in April 1917, lost on the 21st March 1918, and retaken by the 15th Suffolks of the 74th (Yeomanry) Division on the following 18th September. The Extension was begun by the 59th (North Midland) Division immediately after the capture of the village, and carried on by the 34th and other Divisions until October 1917. Further British burials were made in it in March, 1918 by the Germans and in September and October 1918, by the British. There are now over 100, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site.



HARTNELL Walter
Private 6661 Enlisted Taunton
Machine Gun Corps
Died in hospital 15th April 1917. Age 28
Buried in Evercreech cemetery

Twentyeight year old Walter Hartnell was a packer on the railway before the Great War and his father, on the 1901 census, was a foreman railway shunter. The family lived in Backway Lane. On the 1911 census his father is recorded as an invalided railway worker. Two of his sisters, Ellen and Jane, were employed cleaning silk at the factory. At that date the only silk mill still working was Kemp and Son on the north side of Shapway Lane opposite the old Ward's Mill.

Walter's relatively low army number indicates that he was in the army before the start of the Great War.

Walter had a twin brother Ernest who joined the Navy as a young cadet, and two other brothers fought in the Great War: Charles in the Royal Berkshire regiment and Frederick in the 4th South Wales Borderers. These three brothers survived the war.

Walter died in a hospital in England presumably after receiving a "Blighty" wound that necessitated repatriation or possibly one of the earlier victims of the "Spanish Flu".

Walter HARTNELL



Walter Hartnell's CWGC headstone in Evercreech cemetery.

HARVEY Victor
Private 799
North Somerset Yeomanry
Died of wounds 18 November 1914
Age 19
Poperinghe Cemetery, Belgium.

Victor Harvey's family lived at The New Inn, Stoney Stratton where the head of the household, Edgar Harvey, was the publican and also a butcher. The remains of the slaughter house are still to be found in Stoney Stratton. By 1911 Victor was working as a farm labourer, his brother was a carpenter. Victor's mother Martha and his two sisters were helping their father run the New Inn.

Victor Harvey was in the territorial regiment, The North Somerset Yeomanry, before the outbreak of the war and so was amongst those sent to the continent as part of the British Expeditionary Force. In mid October 1914 the NSY were deployed to Belgium where they joined the 6th Cavalry brigade on the 13th November and entered the front line immediately to defend Ypres. The Germans had launched an offensive, in an attempt to capture the sea ports of Calais and Dunkirk, to deprive the British of easy access to the most northerly parts of France. At Ypres the BEF, often referred to as the *Old Contemptibles*, blocked the German army in what became known as, the 1st battle of Ypres.

Victor HARVEY

Poperinghe Old Military Cemetery



This picture shows the headstones “shoulder to shoulder”. This was done when it was not possible to identify individual bodies although the names of the men were known.



The grave of Victor Harvey who died of wounds received towards the later stages of the First Battle of Ypres



HASKELL Edwin Charles

Private 17097

Enlisted Taunton

8th Btn. Somerset Light Infantry

Killed in action 20th March 1918

Age 24

Hooge Crater Cemetery, Belgium

Edwin Haskell was born in Bagborough where his father worked as a cowman. By 1911 the family were living at Waddon Cottage in Lamyatt. By that date Edwin was working as a general farm labourer. Like so many young men he probably enlisted out of a sense of patriotism but he may also have seen the army as an escape from the hard life as a farm labourer.

In March 1918 Edwin Haskell, who was in the 8th battalion of the SLI, remained near Ypres whilst the other battalions of the SLI were preparing their defenses against the German spring offensive in the Arras area. Edwin must have died in the constant trench skirmishing.

His brother William also served in the Somerset Light Infantry: he survived the war.

By the time of Edwin's death his parents, Edwin Snr and Mary Lucy, had moved back to Bagborough.

Edwin Charles HASKELL



Hoge Crater Cemetery

Edwin Haskell was initially buried in Bass Wood Cemetery adjacent to the battlefield where he fell.

Hoge Crater cemetery was started in October 1917 and by the end of the war contained only 76 graves. The bodies from several nearby cemeteries were exhumed, including the 36 men from Bass Wood, and moved after the war to an enlarged Hoge Crater Cemetery

HIGDON Cornelius

Private 66029

Enlisted Castle Cary

1st/8th Worcester Regiment

Killed in Action 24th October 1918 Age 34

Cross Roads Cemetery, Fontaine-au-Bois, France.

Cornelius Higdon was born at Parbrook one of nine children. He started work as a farm labourer in Parbrook. By 1911 he was married to an Evercreech girl called Annie. At that date they had one child, Lavinia, then four months old. The family lived at Pecking Mill. Cornelius had been employed as a brick burner in a brick and tile works, probably the brick company at Southwood. On enlistment he had two other children.

Cornelius Higdon was killed in the fierce fighting east of Cambrai. His battalion was in the battle of the Selle where the Allied armies were finally routing the Germans in what proved to be one of the last of the British Army's battles of The Great War.

He left a widow Annie Lavinia Higdon and his two children who lived in Victoria Lane, Evercreech.

Cornelius HIGDON



Cross Roads Cemetery

MOODY Thomas Edward
Private 165438. North Somerset Yeomanry
Died of wounds in hospital 27th April 1919
Age 28
Buried in Evercreech Cemetery

Thomas Moody was born in 1891 at East Pennard. In 1901 he was living at Hopper's Hole in Prestleigh where his father was a carter on a farm. By 1911 Thomas's father had become a stone quarry carter at a local lime works and Thomas was a quarry labourer probably at the same lime works. The family were then living in Jubilee Cottages, Back Lane, Stoney Stratton.

It has not been possible to prove where Pte. Moody was fighting when he received the wound that eventually proved fatal. It is possible that such a late postwar death may have been the result of a wound complicated by the "Spanish Flu" that was so devastating from mid 1917 to mid 1919

In May 1926 the parish council received a letter from the Imperial War Graves Committee authorizing the purchase of the spaces of the four fallen soldiers in Evercreech cemetery. Their four official War Grave headstones are easy to find in the Evercreech cemetery.

Thomas Edward MOODY



Jubilee Cottages in Stoney Stratton where Thomas Moody
lived with his parents in 1911

PALMER Alexander
Private 25985
Enlisted Castle Cary. Wiltshire Regiment
Died in hospital 31st December 1916
Age 19
Basra Cemetery, Mesopotamia (Iraq).

In 1911 the Palmer family were living at Fossecombe Cottage, Evercreech. Head of the household Thomas was a general farm labourer, his wife Emma was from Scotland. Alexander had been a farm labourer as had been his brother, Percy, who was also killed in WW1.

Alexander had, initially, served in the 2nd battalion, Somerset Light Infantry with whom he had been posted to India. As part of the campaign to secure the oilfields in Iraq men had been sent from the SLI detachment in India to reinforce the Wiltshire regiment in Iraq. The death rate from disease was higher than the death rate from combat and as CWGC say he “Died in Hospital” as opposed to “Died of Wounds” it can be assumed that his death was the result of one of the many local “tropical” diseases.

See also Percy Palmer.

Alexander PALMER



Basra Cemetery Iraq

PALMER Percy Thomas

Private 20346

Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry

Killed in action 17th November 1916

Age 24

Doiran Memorial, Salonika, Northern Greece.

Born in Burcott, near Wells, Percy Palmer moved with his family to Fossecombe Cottage, Evercreech where his father and brother worked as agricultural labourers.

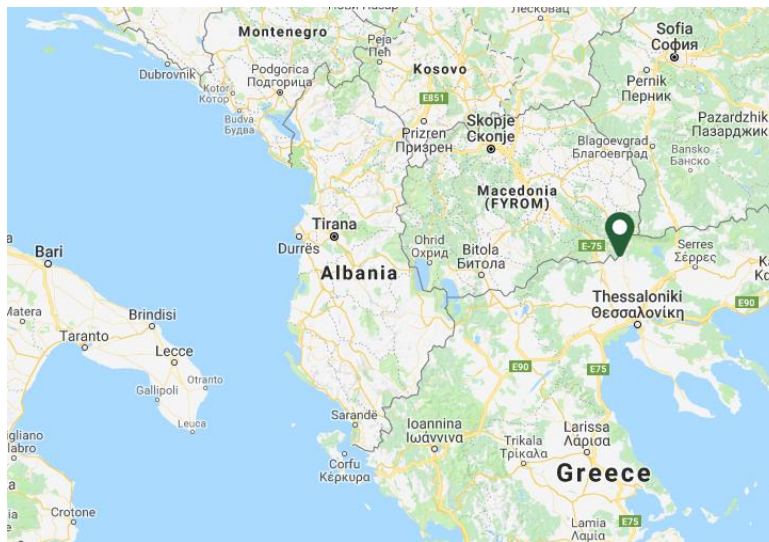
The 2nd battalion of the DCLI were involved, in late 1916, in the Salonika (Greek) campaign. They were fighting with French, Russian and Italian troops against a combined force of Serbian, Bulgarian, Turkish, German and Austria/Hungarian troops, who were attempting to invade Greece to take advantage of the unstable political position in there at that time.

The Palmer family lost two of their sons in the war. Their deaths were only one month apart.

See also Alexander Palmer

Percy Thomas PALMER

History Information. The DOIRAN MEMORIAL stands roughly in the centre of the line occupied for two years by the Allies in Macedonia, but close to the western end, which was held by Commonwealth forces. It marks the scene of the fierce fighting of 1917-1918, which caused the majority of the Commonwealth battle casualties. From October 1915 to the end of November 1918, the British Salonika Force suffered some 2,800 deaths in action, 1,400 from wounds and 4,200 from sickness. The campaign afforded few successes for the Allies, and none of any importance until the last two months. The action of the Commonwealth force was hampered throughout by widespread and unavoidable sickness and by continual diplomatic and personal differences with neutrals or Allies. On one front there was a wide malarial river valley and on the other, difficult mountain ranges, and many of the roads and railways it required had to be specially constructed. The memorial serves the dual purpose of Battle Memorial of the British Salonika Force (for which a large sum of money was subscribed by the officers and men of that force), and place of commemoration for more than 2,000 Commonwealth servicemen who died in Macedonia and whose graves are not known.



The Doiran Memorial

READ Ernest Stanley
Private SPTS 1716 Enlisted Hornchurch
Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment)
Killed in action 27th July 1916 Age 34
Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.

Ernest Read was the son of Charles Andrew Read described as a Grocer and Draper on the 1891 census. His original shop was one of a number of small properties, now demolished, west of the old Methodist Chapel. Ernest Stanley does not appear on the 1901: nor the 1911 census when he was in his late twenties. His army number indicates that he was a regular in the army long before the Great War. By 1911 his father, and mother Ellen, had taken over The Long House as a double fronted shop on the corner of the High Street and Bruton Road, opposite the Parish Church. Ernest Read's sisters May and Rose were both VAD (voluntary) nurses in WW1 (see section on VADs). Read's shop was still being run by Ernest Read's sister Rose, always known as Miss Read, until the late 1960s.

Ernest's brother Albert was a sergeant in the Somerset Light Infantry and his brother, Robert, served in the Tank Corps; both survived the war.

Ernest Stanley READ



His home: Read's Shop (The Long House) on the right of the picture.
A drawing by local artist Reg Gammon of area in front of the church as it would
have been in about 1910

ROCK Stanley James
Private 33872. Enlisted Gloucester
Loyal North Lancashire Regiment
Killed in action 22nd March 1918
Age 23
Arras Memorial, France,

Born at Milborne Port to William and Louisa Rock, Stanley lived in the Supply Stores in Evercreech. This was a general shop in the three story, red brick building opposite the church gate, later to become a branch of the Co-op, now a private house. William Rock was a baker and grocer. He was also a parish councilor and school manager. Stanley and his sister had helped in the shop before the war.

Stanley was killed, near Arras, on the second day of the German Army's desperate last assault on the allied forces in north west France known by the German code name as "Operation Michael." This attack was named after the German National saint, St Michael, and employed the German troops freed from the Eastern front by the collapse of the Russian army, after the Russian Bolshevik October 1917 revolution.

Stanley ROCK



A preacher on the steps of the cross outside Rock's Supply Store

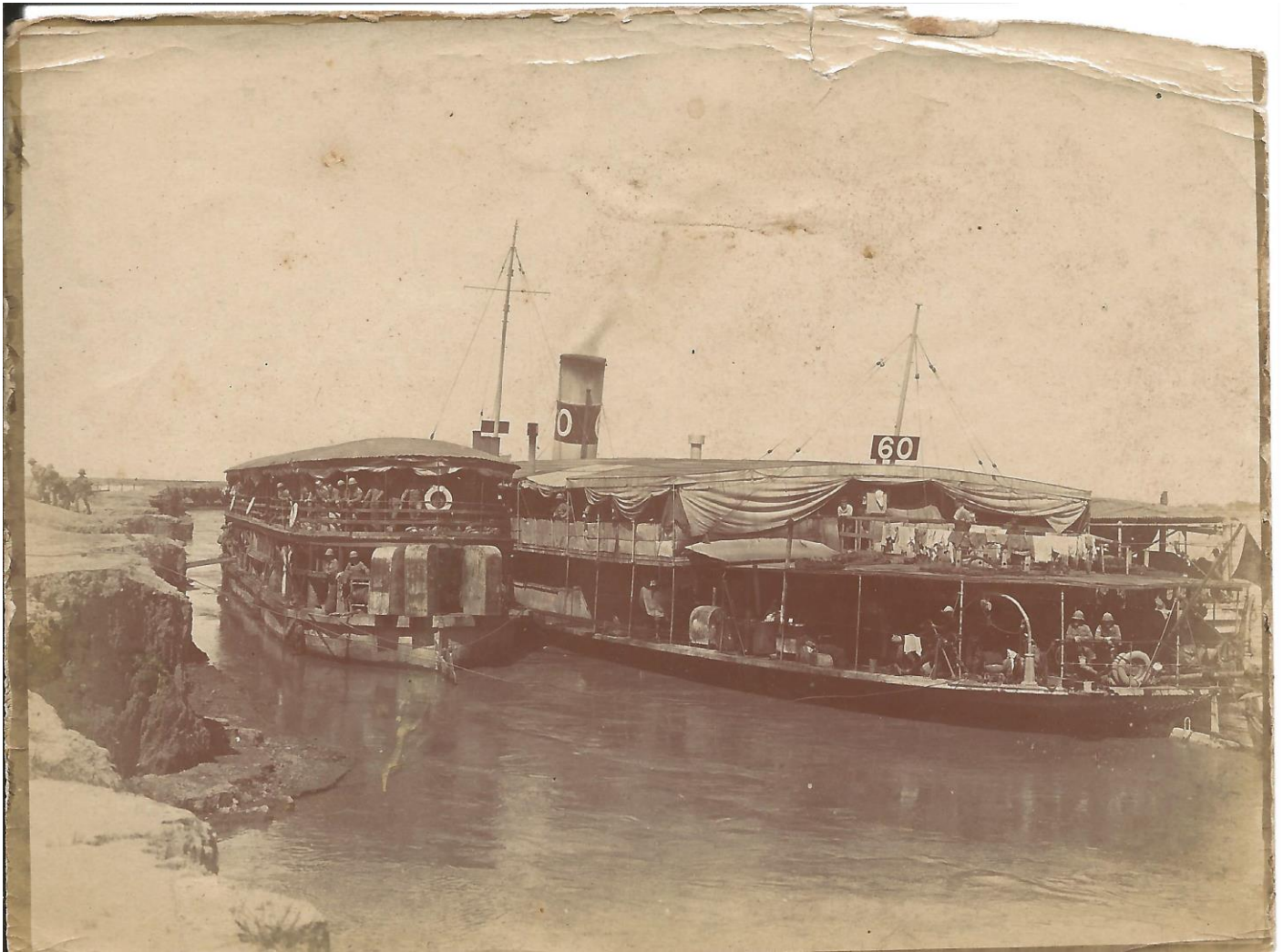
ROGERS John Alexander (Alec)
Private 200648. Enlisted Castle Cary
1/4th Somerset Light Infantry
Died in hospital 11th November 1918
Age 26
Baghdad Cemetery, Mesopotamia (Iraq)

The Rogers family lived in Walnut Cottage, Weston Town (off the Drang). Alec's father, John, was a cheese factor who was also a very long serving Clerk to the Parish Council. Alec had been a clerk in the Lime and Stone Works, probably Mead & Sons, in Leighton Lane now the site of the trading estate.

He was initially posted to the 1/4th battalion of the SLI in North West India. Late in the war this battalion was relocated to the Middle East in order to keep the river Tigris open as a supply line from the port of Basra to Baghdad. It is not known if Alec died of disease or wounds.

Alec's brother Vincent, who was a Lance Corporal in the King's Own Royal Lancashire Regiment, survived the war.

John Alexander ROGERS



Transport up the river Tigris for the men of the SLI who were on their way
from India to Baghdad

Original photograph from Bill Upshall, who survived the war, reproduced courtesy of Jeanette
Upshall

ROSSITER William Frederick
Able Seaman (Signalman)
Howe Battalion, Royal Naval Division
No K.W/235
Died from wounds Aug 20th 1917
Age 20
Aubigny Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France

The Rossiter family were all born in Evercreech. William had been a farm labourer; his father Thomas was a cowman. William had one sister and three brothers. They lived at The Paddock in Stoney Stratton.

In September 1914 William enlisted in the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry but within two weeks he had been transferred to the Royal Navy. At the beginning of WW1 the Navy had so many reserves and volunteers that 6 battalions of infantry were formed from the men who were surplus to the Navy's seagoing requirements and William Rossiter found himself in Howe Battalion.

Howe battalion formed part of the 63rd Royal Naval Division fighting in the battle of Arras through the spring and summer of 1917 following the Canadian victory, in April 1917, at Vimy Ridge.

When he died William's next of kin was given as his mother Harriet.

Two of his brothers fought and survived WW1: Edward in the Dorset Yeomanry and Ernest as a sergeant in the Grenadier Guards.

William Frederick ROSSITER



Cap Badge of the Howe Battalion of the
Royal Naval Division.

RUSS Walter Henry
Driver. 64256
Enlisted Pontypridd
Royal Field Artillery
Died of wounds 15th August 1917
Age 25
Brandhoek New Cemetery, Belgium

Walter Russ, one of seven children, grew up in the middle cottage of Jubilee Cottages in Back Lane, Stoney Stratton. With other young men from Evercreech, Walter Russ went to the valleys of South Wales to find work in the coal mines some years before the war started. This move was presumably why he enlisted in Pontypridd.

Walter Russ was a driver with the Royal Field artillery; he fought and died whilst serving in the early part of the 3rd battle of Ypres (Passchendaele). Brandhoek New Cemetery, between Ypres and Poperinghe, is now on the edge of a new housing estate.

On the 1918 Absent Voters list two other members of the Russ family appear as living in Milton Clevedon. Ernest and Thomas were both in the Royal Field Artillery, and both survived.

Walter Henry RUSS



Brandhoek new cemetery



His CWGC headstone

SHERSTON Somerset Arthur
Captain, MC
The Rifle Brigade
Killed in action 9th May 1915. Age 35
Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium

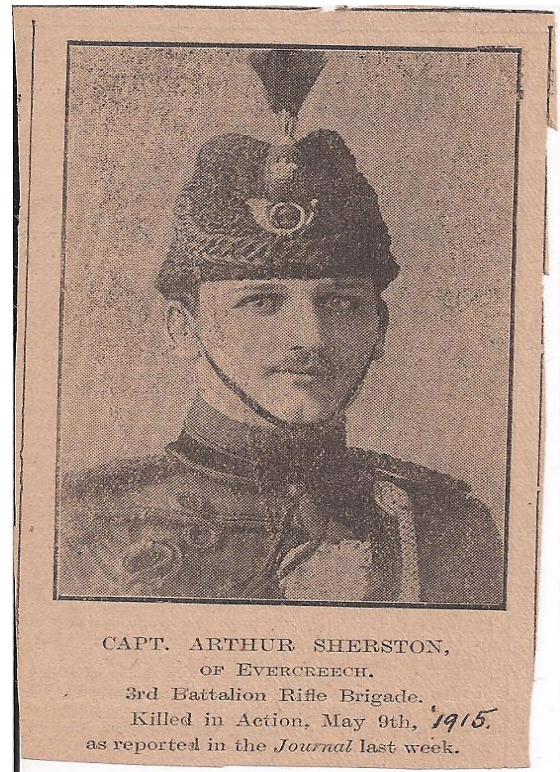
Arthur (as he was known) Sherston was the son of Charles and Edith (nee Talbot) Sherston, of Evercreech House. Charles was a retired Major in the Rifle Brigade and a local JP. Somerset Sherston was a regular soldier who had joined The Rifle Brigade in 1902. He served in India and West Africa before the war. He was married Dorothy Parke, in 1911 in Marylebone London, and their son William Edric was born in 1912

In October 1914, as a captain, Arthur was company commander of A company of the 3rd battalion of The Rifle Brigade. He won the Military Cross when capturing Hill 40 in the battle of Neuve Chapelle. By May 1915 he, and A company, were part of the 2nd battalion The Rifle Brigade and he was killed in close quarter trench fighting near Fromelles.

His elder brother, Charles, was a land agent until he joined the army. His younger brother, George, was a Commander in the Royal Navy on HMS *Colleen*: both survived the war.

Somerset Arthur SHERSTON

Capt. Sherston in Rifle Brigade
Dress Uniform.



Capt. Sherston and fellow officers at their HQ in Northern France.

SOUTHWAY Arthur John
Private 26389
Somerset Light Infantry
Killed in Action 4th October 1917
Age 24
Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium

Arthur Southway lived in Weston Town, Evercreech. He was a stone quarry labourer. One of his brothers, Alfred, worked at the milk factory, another brother Jesse was a milkman's assistant. There were two younger brothers Ernest and Hubert, still at school on the 1911 census.

On the 4th October 1917 the 1st and 8th battalions of the SLI were fighting in the Battle of Broodseinde. Arthur was a stretcher bearer during this particular engagement that was part of the Third Battle of Ypres: (Paschendale).

He left a wife and two small children living in Pylle, where his parents James and Mary also lived.

His eldest brother William fought with the Royal Field Artillery and came home safely.

Arthur John SOUTHWAY



An aerial view of Tyne Cot with the Memorial Walls at the top.



A Memorial wall at Tyne Cot.

STOCK William
Private 19136. Enlisted Bath
Dorsetshire Regiment
Died of wounds 17th Aug 1917
Age 23
Mendinghem Cemetery, Belgium.

William Stock's family were living at Pecking Mill in 1911, both William and his father, Walter, were agricultural labourers. William's mother was Elizabeth Ann Stock. When William enlisted he was living and working at Ham, above Bowlsh in Shepton Mallet. At the time of his death his father was recorded by CWGC as Walter Stock of 33 Danylan Terrace, Pwllgwaun, Pontypridd, Wales.

Little can be traced about this man's war service because initially he enlisted in the North Somerset Yeomanry (army number 1141) and later transferred to C company 5th Dorsets. Unfortunately nothing is recorded about him at the Dorset's Regimental museum but the date of his death and the cemetery where he is buried indicate that he was a casualty of the first phase of battle of Passchendaele.

William STOCK

History Information

Mendinghem, like Dozinghem and Bandaghem, were the popular names given by the troops to groups of casualty clearing stations posted to this area during the First World War. In July 1916, the 46th (1st/1st Wessex) Casualty Clearing Station was opened at Proven and this site was chosen for its cemetery. The first burials took place in August 1916. In July 1917, four further Casualty Clearing Stations arrived at Proven in readiness for the forthcoming Allied offensive on this front and three of them, the 46th, 12th and 64th, stayed until 1918.



The marker spot on the map shows the position of the Casualty Clearing Station, well behind the front line around Ypres, and adjacent to the French Belgian border.

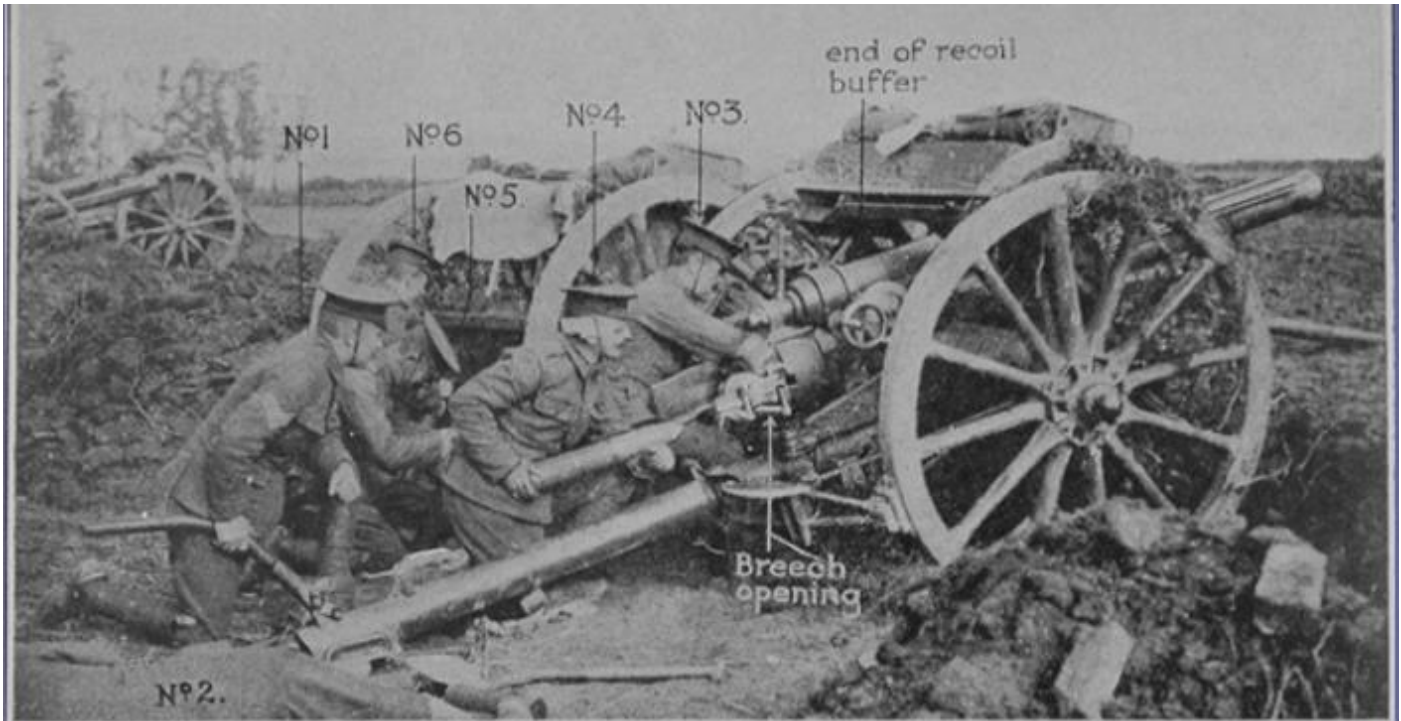
THORN William George
Bombardier 39844 Enlisted Wells, Norfolk
Royal Field Artillery
Killed in action 21st June 1917. Age 27
Ecoivres Cemetery, Pas-de-Calais, France

Son of an army pensioner, William Thorn (Snr) and his wife Amelia; William (Jnr) Appears on the 1901 census as a scholar (schoolboy) and stable boy. The family lived in Weymouth Road, Evercreech. By 1911 his father had died and his mother Amelia was living on her husband's army pension.

William died in the fighting that continued in the area of Mont St Eloi after the end of the battle of Arras. He is remembered on his mother's gravestone in Evercreech Cemetery. His widow Rose lived at 2 Chapel Cottages, Corfe Castle at the time of William's death and subsequently married a Mr Jeffries.

NB. On the family gravestone in Evercreech Cemetery the family name is shown as Thorn. This spelling is confirmed on the 1911 census return, however, the village War Memorial gives his name as Thorne as does the list of already enlisted man published in the Shepton Mallet Journal on 15th April 1915.

William THORN



ON THE WESTERN FRONT.

A British 18-pounder quick-firing gun in action.

No. 1 (the sergeant), with his hand on the spade, gives instructions to the rest of the detachment. At the actual moment when this picture was taken No. 2 was lying down. If the gun were actually firing his position would be to the right of the breech. No. 3 is ready to fire the gun; No. 4 has the shell in the correct position for placing in the bore; No. 5 adjusts the fuse and hands the shell to No. 4; No. 6, the farthest away, also prepares the ammunition and hands it to No. 5. The upper portion of the gun has been partially covered in order to conceal it from observers.

This picture is of a gun team of the Royal Field Artillery in action.

TREBBLE John

Able Seaman SS3243

HM Submarine E22

Killed as a result of enemy action 25th April 1916

Age 25

Portsmouth Naval Memorial

John Trebble was born in Bridgwater. On the 1901 census he was the second of five children living on Pye Hill very close to Evercreech. His father was a lime works labourer. John Trebble served on HM submarine E22 which was torpedoed and sunk by a U Boat (UB 18). Some members of the crew of E22 were picked up by the U Boat and landed at Zeebrugge, John Trebble was not one of the lucky few. From naval records it is clear that he was married at the time of his service. His widow was informed of his death, according to naval records, at her home address: The Villa, Weston Town, Evercreech, Somerset.

John Trebble's younger brother Sidney was a driver with the Royal Garrison Artillery. He survived the war.

<http://www.britsub.net/html/eclass.html> will show you the type of submarine in which John Trebble was lost.

John TREBBLE

HMS E22



E Class Submarine

Laid Down. 27/08/1914
Launched. 27/08/1915
Completed. 08/11/1915
Builder. Vickers
Build Group. E3
Length. 181 ft.
Diving Depth. 200 ft.
Speed. 15.25 Knots
Complement. 30
Fate. Torpedoed 25/04/1916

E22 was built by Vickers, Barrow-in-Furness. She was laid down on 27 August 1914 and was commissioned on 8 November 1915. E22 was involved in experiments in the North Sea to intercept Zeppelins on 24 April 1916. E22 carried two Sopwith Schneider seaplane scouts on her casing. The boat would then submerge in calm waters and the planes would float on the surface. They would take off and then return to the East coast of England to Felixstowe, the headquarters of the East Coast Submarine Flotilla. E22 was torpedoed by the German U-boat UB-18 off Great Yarmouth in the North Sea on 25 April 1916.

TROTT Charles Mario Augustus

Private 8718

Enlisted Taunton

Somerset Light Infantry

Died 27th Feb 1917 in India

Age 25

Buried Quetta Cemetery and recorded on Delhi
Memorial, India

Charles Trott's family lived at Pecking Mill. His father was a stone quarryman as were his two elder brothers. His father was from Drayton, his mother, Fanny, was from Langport: Charles was born at Curry Rivel. He does not appear on the 1911 census. It appears that Charles may have been in the SLI by 1911 on the basis of his low army number.

Charles Trott served in the 2nd battalion of the Somerset Light Infantry who spent the war stationed at Quetta in Northern India where they saw little enemy action. It is, therefore, most likely that he died of disease.

Charles TROTT



A pre-First World War troop ship passing through the Suez Canal
on route for India.

This photograph is from the Sherston Family archive. It was probably taken by Major Charles Sherston the father of Somerset Arthur Sherston who was killed in action in May 1915. (See Somerset Arthur Sherston's entry on page 65)

UPSHALL Thomas Edwin
Private 7290
Enlisted Bournemouth
Hampshire Regiment
Killed in action 13th May 1915
Age 30
Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Belgium.

Tom Upshall lived in Backway Lane, Evercreech in 1901 with his parents William and Caroline, seven brothers and four sisters. He joined the army in 1904: served one year in Bermuda and completed his service in December 1906. On the 1911 census he was married to Ada with a one year old daughter Muriel. He was a dairyman employed at Prideaux's Creamery (the village milk factory) when, as a reservist, he was called up in August 1914. He was mentioned in dispatches "for conspicuous gallantry" in November 1914. At the time of his death he left a widow and two small children.

During the war he had two brothers in uniform: Frederick in the Royal Garrison Artillery and William (Bill) in the Somerset Light Infantry; they both survived.

Tom Upshall died in the 2nd Battle of Ypres that had started as a German advance on 22 April 1915.

Tom Upshall



PTE. T. E. UPSHALL,

1st Hampshire Regiment, mentioned in despatches for conspicuous bravery Nov. 1st, 1914, and killed in action May 13th, 1915. He was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Upshall, of Evercreech, and was 29 years of age. An epitome of his services appeared in the last issue of the *Journal*.

A letter sent home to Evercreech from Ypres by Private Tom Upshall.

From The Shepton Mallet Journal
June 5th 1915

"We have been fighting now for 9 days and just got back out of it, but I expect we shall soon be at it again. It was worse than hell ever

could be; the ground fairly shook under us, and the poisonous gases were awful. We had to put wet pads or handkerchiefs over our mouths. How I lived to get through it God only knows. For 9 days and nights we have had hardly any sleep, and not much food only water to drink: still we keep the Germans back, though with big losses in our regiment. I expect you will see in the paper the list of our losses. I hope I shall never have to go through anything like it again. We are having a few days' rest but of course we do not know a minute when we shall go in the firing line again. I hope I do not see any more of it. I have been through enough, nearly 9 months out here... I hope the war does not last much longer."

Tom Upshall was killed one week after he wrote that letter: his body was never found and his name is remembered on the Menin Gate.

WADMAN Henry (Harry) Bracher

L/Cpl 14837

Enlisted in Bristol in 1914

12th Btn. Gloucestershire Regiment

Killed in action 3rd Sept 1916. Age 20

Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France.

Harry Wadman was born in Gillingham (Dorset) in 1895: he had an elder brother John. Their mother Emma, nee Bratcher, died when both boys were under five and their father's sister Sarah, moved in to look after them. The boy's father died in 1909, by which time Sarah had married into the well-known Evercreech family of Leversedge. Harry was a pupil at King's College, Taunton on the 1911 census. At school he was a Lance Corporal of the school's Officer Training Corp. Harry and John were related to Robert Wadman, their Father's brother, who farmed at Yew Tree Farm, Prestleigh, adjacent to The Prestleigh Inn. The family at Prestleigh also had a son, Robert, who died in France in 1918.

The 12th Gloucesters joined the Battle of The Somme on 29th July 1916 near the village of Guillemont. On 3rd September the 12th Gloucesters, part of 95th brigade, attacked the German line south of the village of Guillemont. They progressed as far as Wedge Wood but then suffered heavy casualties from German machine gun fire.

Harry's body was never found so he is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial and both the Gillingham and Evercreech war Memorials.

He was awarded the Victory and British War medals and the 1914-15 Star.

Harry WADMAN



The Thiepval Memorial.

On this memorial, to the men killed in The Battle of the Somme who have no known grave, there are 72,336 names of British and Commonwealth soldiers, who died between

1st July and late November 1916.

WHITE Wilfred Henry Ernest
Guardsman 26861. Enlisted Shepton Mallet
Grenadier Guards
Died of wounds 23rd July 1917. Age 34
Bleuet Farm Cemetery, Belgium.

Wilfred White was born near Frome. In 1901 he was living at Higher Farm in Bagborough where his father Joseph was the farm bailiff and his elder brother Stanley the assistant bailiff. By 1911 Wilfred was living at Bridge Farm, Pylle (on the side of the Fosse Way) with his brother Stanley who was farming. Their sister Dorothy was their housekeeper. Wilfred was described on the census return in 1901 as a brewer's clerk and in 1911 as a secretary.

In July 1917 the Grenadier Guards were active, north of the Ypres, in the weeks before the Third Battle of Ypres now known as the battle of Passchendaele. Bleuet Farm was a frontline dressing station as well as the name of the cemetery, beside the dressing station, where Wilfred White is buried.

His next of kin, in 1917, was his widow Fanny White of Pylle.

Wilfred White



Bleuet Farm Cemetery.

Guardsmen White's headstone is at plot 1, Row C, position 2.

WILLIS Ernest John
Guardsman 27822
Enlisted Shepton Mallet
Grenadier Guards
Killed in action 12th April 1918
Age 33
Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium.

The Willis family were living at Southwood in 1911. Ernest's father was a farmer and cattle cake dealer, Ernest helped in the management of the business as did his mother and one sister. Another sister was a cheesemaker, the third sister a milliner.

In the spring of 1918 the Grenadier Guards were holding the front line trenches south of Ypres in the month before the major German offensive; Operation Georgette. At this time the Guards were coping with minor skirmishes and German sniper fire.

Ernest Willis has no known grave and hence his name is recorded on one of the many regional memorials.

Ernest John WILLIS



The Ploegsteert Memorial and Cemetery.

These Memorials are sited on either side of the main road from Ypres to Messines.

WILLIS Frank
Private 874980
8th Battalion Canadian Infantry
Killed 15th August 1917
Age 29
Vimy Ridge Memorial, France

Frank Willis was the son of John and Jessie Willis, originally from Dorset, who farmed at Southwood Farm in 1901. Frank was one of eleven children. In 1906 he sailed from Liverpool on the SS Tunisia bound for St John's, New Brunswick.

In April 1917 the Canadian forces took the strategic positions on Vimy Ridge; the only significant success in the Battle of Arras. The Canadians continued to defend the ridge for some months after the main battle.

On his attestation papers Frank gave his next of kin as his wife Sadie Willis (née Armstrong) at 1347 Downing Street, Winnipeg. He gave his occupation as farmer. On the Commonwealth War Graves site his wife's address is given as 174 Helmsdale Avenue, East Kildonan, Winnipeg.



The Vimy Ridge Memorial

As part of an Allied offensive, a major attack was planned in the area of Arras, France. In this attack, the Canadians would be tasked with capturing Vimy Ridge in April 1917.

The Vimy Memorial overlooks the Douai Plain from the highest point of Vimy Ridge. Located north of Arras in France, the Vimy Memorial is Canada's largest overseas National Memorial. It commemorates more than 11,000 men of the Canadian Expeditionary Force killed during the First World War in France and who have no known grave. Many of them died in the Battle of Vimy Ridge.

SOME DETAILS OF ENLISTMENT

On the next 5 pages are the names and other information on the 212 Evercreech men known to have enlisted.

Please be aware that it has not been possible to trace any man who enlisted between April 1915 and April 1918 and who was invalided out of the services during that time.

Before this war the 1911 national census shows that living in Evercreech were 615 males and 660 females.

Number of men enlisted: 212

Percent of the male population known to have enlisted: 34.5%

Number of Evercreech servicemen who died: 42

Death rate (of enlisted men) 19.8%

Percent of deaths of the male population: 6.8%

Number of deaths by calendar year

1914	2
1915	5
1916	10
1917	12
1918	12
1919	1

Names of Men Known to have enlisted during World War 1

Name	Rank	First Name	Regiment	1914	1915	AVL	Killed
	if known		where known				
Abbott	Pte	Fred	4 Som LI		*		
Allen	Pte	Arthur G	5 Aus LH		*		
Allen		Aubrey J	RAF		*	*	
Allen		Leslie JH	RAF			*	
Allen	L/Cpl	Percival	ASC		*	*	
Andrews	Pte	Herbert	Glos			*	1918
Andrews		Hugh				*	
Andrews	Pte	Norman	Lab Corps			*	
Appleby	Pte	Archibald	RAMC		*	*	
Appleby	Pte	Charles S	Cyclists			*	
Ashford	Pte	Arthur J	Dorsets		*		1916
Ashford	Sgt	Edward	Som LI		*	*	
Ashford	Pte	Ernest	DCLI			*	
Ashford	Pte	Herbert J	Devons			*	
Ashman	Gnr	Arthur	RGA			*	
Ashman	Pte	Cecil	Life Guards		*		
Ashman	Pte	Ernest G	Glos			*	
Ashman	Pte	Frank	Som LI		*		
Ashman	Sgt-Mjr	Fred	W. Yorks		*		
Ashman	Pte	Reginald	Dorsets			*	
Ashman	Pte	Richard F	Som LI			*	
Ashman	Pte	Stanley	Aus L H		*		
Ashman	Pte	Thomas	RGA	*	*	*	
Ashman	Pte	Wilfred C				*	
Baber	Pte	Ernest				*	
Barber	L/Cpl	Harold	RAMC	*	*	*	
Bartlett	AM	Arthur J	RAF		*	*	
Bartlett		Howard R	RAF			*	
Belfield	Cpl	Edward	Som LI	*	*	*	
Betts		Victor J	RAF			*	
Brake	Sgt	John	Som LI		*	*	
Brown	Pte	Percival	Som LI			*	
Brown	Pte	Stanley	Som LI	*	*		1916
Brown	Pte	William H	Worcs			*	
Bryce		Frank	ASC		*	*	
Bugg		Robert J				*	
Burton	Pte	Edward G	Ag Lab Corps			*	
Button	Spr	Henry A	RE			*	
Cannon		Albert W				*	
Carew	Pte	Victor L	MGC			*	
Carter	Pte	Edward F	Som LI			*	
Carver	Pte	Wilfred C	Som LI			*	1918
Catley	Pte	Alfred J	Cheshires			*	
Catley	Pte	Clement W	Som LI	*	*	*	
Catley	Pte	Edward G	ASC			*	1918
Catley	L/Cpl	Ernest	Hussars		*	*	
Chappell	Pte	John	Som LI		*		
Charlton	Sgt	Arthur	Som LI		*		
Charlton	Sgt	Charles	Som LI	*	*	*	

1914

1915

AVL

Shepton Mallet Journal

Shepton Mallet Journal

Absent Voters lists

11 Sept. 1914.

April. 1915.

1918

Names of Men Known to have enlisted during World War 1

Name	Rank	First Name	Regiment	1914	1915	AVL	Killed
	if known		where known				
Charlton		Maurice	Aus LH		*		
Charlton	Pte	Stanley	Som LI	*	*		1915
Charlton	Pte	William	Som LI	*	*	*	
Chinnock		F. Bertram		*			
Chinnock	CSM	Henry	Som LI			*	
Chinnock	Pte	William	RM		*	*	
Clark		Alfred J				*	
Clarke	Pte	Noah	MGC			*	
Clifford	Sgt-Mjr	J	West Yorks		*		
Clifford	Pte	Thomas	Lab Corps			*	
Codling	L/Cpl	Arthur J	RE		*	*	
Cole	Pte	William T	Ag Lab Corps			*	
Collins	Pte	William S	Som LI			*	
Copp	CSM	William S	Hussars		*	*	
Cornell	L/Cpl	Charles S	RAF			*	
Corp		Edward J				*	
Corp	Pte	Lot	Lab Corps			*	
Courage	L/Cpl	Wilfred F			*		
Cox		Charles S				*	
Cox	Pte	Frederick	MGC			*	
Cox	Pte	Herbert J	R. Berks				1918
Cox	Pte	John W	Ag Lab corps			*	
Cox	Pte	Robert J	Som LI	*	*		1916
Creed	Pte	Rev Edwin H	Canadian Inf				1916
Curtis	Pte	Frederick	Som LI	*	*		
Davis	Pte	Cyril	RFA		*	*	
Davis	Pte	Harry	Som LI		*	*	
Dawe	Pte	Sidney	Worcs			*	
Deane	Spr	William	RE		*	*	
Downton	Spr	Bertram	RE			*	
Dunford		Albert W	RN		*		
Dunford	Pte	Ernest	N Som Yeo		*	*	
Dunford	Pte	Herbert	Guards		*		1915
Dupe	Pte	Arthur	MGC			*	
Dupe	Pte	Ernest	Som LI	*		*	
Edwards	Pte	Frank	Ox and Bucks			*	
Edwards	Pte	Frederick	RFA		*		1916
Edwards	Pte	Harry	Ox and Bucks				1918
Edwards	Pte	Walter	SomLI		*		
Edwards	Pte	Walter	RFA		*		
Everett	Pte	Frank	Dorsets		*		
Feaver	Cpt	Henry	Worcs			*	
Field	Pte	Frederick	Lab Corps			*	
Forte		Gilbert				*	
Fry	Pte	Stanley	Welsh Reg		*		1915
Gane	Pte	Charles	Som LI			*	1918
Gane	Pte	Frank	RAMC		*	*	
Gane	Cpt	Herbert	Som L.I.				
Garland		Arthur				*	
Gee	Mjr	Dr. Claude	RAMC			*	
Gibbs	Gnr	Frank	RFA			*	
Gibbs	Serg	Walter	RE	*	*	*	
Gillard	Pte	Arthur	Som L.I			*	
Godfrey	Dvr	Albert	RE			*	

1914 Shepton Mallet Journal 11 Sept. 1914.
 1915 Shepton Mallet Journal April. 1915.
 AVL Absent Voters lists 1918

Names of Men Known to have enlisted during World War 1

Name	Rank if known	First Name	Regiment where known	1914	1915	AVL	Killed
Goodheart		Arthur		*		*	
Goodheart	Pte	Ernest	RFA	*	*	*	
Goodheart	BSM	Frederick	RFA	*		*	
Goodheart	Sgt	Frank	Lancers		*		
Goodheart	Capt	Oswald	E. Kents			*	
Grant-Dalton	Capt	Duncan	Pioneers	*	*	*	
Grant-Dalton	Capt	Edward	West Yorks	*	*	*	
Green	Pte	Allen	Dorsets				1918
Green	Sgt	Arthur	RE			*	
Green	Pte	C. William	Som LI	*	*	*	1917
Green	Sgt	Arthur	RE			*	
Grey	Sgt	John	Dragoons				1914
Grey	Gnr	Walter	RGA				1917
Griffin	Pte	Thomas	Dragoons		*		1917
Griffin	Pte	Charles	ASC			*	
Griffin	Pte	Walter	Lab Corps			*	
Hall	Pte	Frederick	Dorsets	*	*	*	
Harris		Henry G		*			
Harris	Cpl	William	Som L.I.		*		
Hartnell	Pte	Charles	Berks			*	
Hartnell	Ernest		RN				
Hartnell	Pte	Frederick	South W B			*	
Hartnell	Pte	Walter	M G C				1917
Harwood	Pte	Albert	Som L. I			*	
Harvey	Pte	Edward	RE		*		
Harvey	Pte	Victor	N. Som Yeo				1914
Haskell	Pte	Edwin	Som L.I.				1918
Haskell	Pte	William	Som L.I.			*	
Hayes	Pte	Ernest	Canadians		*	*	
Hayes	Pte	William	N.Som Yeo		*		
Heal		Edward				*	
Heard	L/Cpl	Walter	MP			*	
Hicks	Pte	George	N.Som Yeo		*	*	
Hicks	Pte	William	Lancs			*	
Higdon	Pte	Cornelius	Worcs			*	1918
Higdon	Pte	Edward	N.Som Yeo		*		
Higgins	Pte	Ernest	Som L.I.		*	*	
Hill	Pte	Edward	Ag Lab corps			*	
Hill	Lieut	Hubert	L.N.Lancs		*	*	
Hillard	Gnr	Reginald	RGA			*	
Loverock	Pte	Frederick	Ag Lab corps			*	
Lucas	Pte	Frederick	Som L.I.		*		
Lucas	L/Cpl	Henry	MP			*	
Lucas	Pte	William	Suffolks			*	
Luff	Lieut	Frederick	N.Som Yeo	*	*	*	
Luff		Murray					
Macey	Pnr	William	RE			*	
Marsh			RN	*			
Marsh			RN	*			
Martin	Pte	Albert	Som L.I.		*		
Martin	Pte	Sidney	RFA		*	*	
Mathews	Gnr	Walter	RGA			*	
Medlam	Pte	William	RE		*		

1914	Shepton	Mallet Journal	11 Sept. 1914.
1915	Shepton	Mallet Journal	April. 1915.
AVL	Absent	Voters lists	1918

Names of Men Known to have enlisted during World War 1

Moody	Pte	Edward	N S Yeo			*	
Moody	Pte	Thomas	N.Som Yeo		*		1919
Mullett	Spr	Thomas	RE			*	
Palmer	Pte	Alexander	Som L.I.				1916
Palmer	Pte	Herbert	Hants		*		
Palmer	Pte	Percy	Som L.I.		*		1916
Palmer	Pte	Robert	RM		*	*	
Park	Gnr	Sidney	RN				
Parsons	Sto	James	RN			*	
Prince	Pte	Arthur	Som L I			*	
Rayes	Pte	Frederick	R I Fus			*	
Reakes		Albert				*	
Reakes	Pte	Arthur	RM	*	*	*	
Reakes	Bdr	Ernest	RFA		*	*	
Reakes	Pte	Edgar	Worcs			*	
Reakes	Pte	Frederick W	ASC	*		*	
Reakes	Pte	Frederick J.	Som L.I.			*	
Reakes	QSM	Frank	Som L.I.			*	
Read	Sgt	Albert	Som L.I.		*	*	
Read	Pte	Robert	Tank Corps			*	
Rhymes		Frederick	RGA			*	
Riggs	Sgt	Alfred	Vet Corps		*	*	
Rimmell				*			
Rock	Pte	Stanley	L.N.Lancs				1918
Rogers	L/Cpl	Albert	Som L.il			*	
Rogers	Pte	Alec	Som L.I.		*		1918
Rogers	L/Cpl	Vincent	Kings Lancs			*	
Rossiter	Pte	Edward	Dorset Yeo			*	
Rossiter	Sgt	Ernest	Gren Guards		*	*	
Rossiter	Pnr	Frank	RE			*	
Rossiter	AS	William	RND		*		1918
Robinson	Pte	Charles	Som L.I.		*		
Russ	Gnr	Ernest	R F A			*	
Russ	Bdr	Thomas	R F A			*	
Russ	Dvr	Walter	R H A				1917
Russell	Pte	Alfred	RFA		*		
Salmon	Dvr	Ernest	RFA			*	
Sanger	Gnr	Robert	RGA			*	
Sealey	Pte	Lot	Worcs			*	
Sherston	Capt	Arthur	Rifles	*	*		1915
Sherston	Lieut	George	RN	*	*		
Smith	As	George	RN		*		
Southway	Pte	Arthur	Som L.I.				1917
Southway	Pte	Ernest	Dorsets			*	
Southway	Pte	William	RGA		*	*	
Steel	Sgt	George	Ag Lab corps			*	
Stock	Pte	William	Dorsets				1917
Stride	Pte	Frederick	Lab Corps			*	

1914 Shepton Mallet Journal 11 Sept. 1914.
1915 Shepton Mallet Journal April. 1915.
AVL Absent Voters lists 1918

Names of Men Known to have enlisted during World War 1

Name	Rank	First Name	Regiment	1914	1915	AVL	Killed
	if known		where known				
Tidball	Pte	Richard F	Som L.I.	*	*		
Thompson	Pte	Harry	RFA	*	*	*	
Thorn	Bdr	William	RFA		*		1917
Treasure	Bdr	Clifford	RHA	*	*	*	
Trebbles	AS	John	RN		*		1916
Trevett	Pte	John	Middx			*	
Trim	Pte	Albert	RFA		*		
Trott	Pte	Albert	RFA		*		
Trott	Pte	Charles	Som L.I.		*		1917
Trott	Pte	Gilbert	RFA		*		
Tucker	Pte	John	Ag Lab corps			*	
Upshall	Pte	Frederick	RGA	*	*	*	
Upshall	Pte	Thomas	Hants	*	*		1915
Upshall	Pte	William	Som L.I.	*	*	*	
Vaughan	Spr	John	Re			*	
Vincent	Pte	Reginald	Worcs			*	
Vining	L/Cpl	Harry	MP	*	*	*	
Wadman	LCpl	Harry	Glos		*		1916
Wenmouth	P O	Charles				*	
Wentworth			RN				
Wentworth			RN				

1914	Shepton	Mallet Journal	11 Sept. 1914.
1915	Shepton	Mallet Journal	April. 1915.
AVL	Absent	Voters lists	1918