

MICKLEHAM WAR MEMORIAL



HISTORICAL PROFILES
OF THE MEN
WHOSE NAMES ARE
LISTED ON THE
CROSS OF
REMEMBRANCE

MICKLEHAM, SURREY

RESEARCHED AND COMPILED BY THE
MICKLEHAM & WESTHUMBLE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP
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MICKLEHAM WAR MEMORIAL

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I tried to save the Shire, and it has been saved, but not for me. It must often be so, Sam, when things are in danger: someone has to give them up, lose them, so that others may keep them.

JRR Tolkein, *The Return of the King*, final chapter

...their name liveth for evermore Ecclesiasticus 44:14 KJV

THE MICKLEHAM WAR MEMORIAL CROSS



THE IDEA OF A MEMORIAL to commemorate the men lost in World War I was raised at a public meeting in the village hall in early January 1920. A committee was formed and costs were presented at a special meeting on 27th January. The estimated cost of £136 was agreed as was the proposed design of the memorial cross, to be constructed from grey Forest of Dean stone.

The Mickleham War Memorial Cross was unveiled at a ceremony on Friday 16th July 1920 by the High Sheriff of Surrey H H Gordon Clark DI. It was dedicated by the Venerable the Archdeacon of Surrey assisted by the Rector the Reverend W R Lloyd, MA. Bugler Wilfred Bruford, brother of Sydney who is named on the memorial, played the 'Last Post'.

The monument, adapted from a Pardon* cross in Normandy, is approximately 20 feet high. The cross itself rises from a plinth which in turn stands upon three slightly sloping steps.

**The Pardon cross or crucifix was first introduced at the Marion Congress of Rome in 1904. Its aim was to obtain the pardon of God and to pardon one's neighbour.*

The names of the fallen in World War II were added after VE Day.



IN MEMORY OF PRIVATE FREDERICK GEORGE BERRYMAN

G/37444 11th Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment
Died 22nd June 1917, Aged 36. Belgium



Frederick Berryman and family

Born: 1881 Dorking
Father: James Berryman 1847-1928 labourer/gardener
Mother: Caroline Dickenson 1847-1921 laundress
Married 12 August 1877 in Fulham
Siblings: Edith Alice (born 1877)
Caroline Celia (born 1878)
Walter James (born 1880)
Henrietta Mary (born 1882)
Ellen Annie (born 1883)
Lydia Susan (born 1887)
Residences: 1881 Adlers Lane, Westhumble
1901 11 Leslie Road, Pixham
1914 Chalkpit Cottages, Mickleham
Married: Emmeline Elizabeth Jane Shilling
in Dorking 1905
Children: Frederick (1906)
William (1909-1993)
Gladys (1915-2007)
Occupation: Gardener at Norbury Park

Private FREDERICK BERRYMAN

Military history:

- The 11th battalion of the Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment was a service battalion formed at Lambeth on 16th June 1915 by the Mayor and Borough of Lambeth. In May 1916 the battalion left Aldershot for Southampton embarking on the SS Caesarea and landing at Le Havre.
- In September 1916, as part of the 123rd Brigade of the 41st Division, the battalion fought at the Battle of Flers-Courcelette, one of the battles of the Somme and notable for being the first time that tanks were used in battle. The British had developed this new weapon in great secrecy and it came as a surprise to both the German and British troops.
- By the spring of 1917 the battalion was based at Reninghelst, Flanders about 10km from Ypres and fought in the Battle of Messines which targeted the Messines Ridge, held by the Germans. The battle began on 7th June with the detonation of 19 underground mines beneath the German lines. The massive explosion was reported to be audible in London and Dublin and devastated the German front lines allowing the British troops to capture the ridge and thus greatly boosting their morale.
- Between 20th and 24th June the battalion was in the trenches near Voormezele sending out working parties each night to work on forward communication trenches and it was during this period, on 22nd June, that Private Berryman lost his life. He is commemorated on the Menin Gate, Ypres.

Additional information:

- Frederick's brother, Walter James, died in 1916 – had rheumatic fever as a child and suffered from heart problems thereafter.
- Frederick's widow, Elizabeth Jane Berryman, married James William Gadd of 4 Gravel Hill, Leatherhead in Dorking parish church on 12th April 1919. They continued to live at Chalkpit Cottages until 1937. In the 1938-1945 Electoral Register Elizabeth and James are at 2 Flint Cottages, London Road.
- Frederick's son, William George Berryman, married Winnie F E Reynolds in 1929. They had five children: David (born 1930), Peter (born 1931), Barbara (born 1933), Patricia (born 1935) and Diana (born 1937). In his later years William lived at 3 Dell Close Cottages with his daughter, Barbara and Tony, Diana's son. Tony and his family are living there today. William George, Winnie and Barbara are all buried in St Michael's churchyard. Frederick's daughter Gladys married John Lillioth at Mickleham in 1938. The Lillioths lived at Lammas Cottage, School Lane, Mickleham.

Photograph: Ben Tatham



Menin Gate, Ypres

IN MEMORY OF BOMBARDIER PERCY BODMAN

115724. 233 Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery
Died: 1st November 1918, aged 32, Westhumble



Born: 1885, 20 New Union Street, London
 Father: William James Bodman (1859-1919)
 Mother: Alice Ann Ryle (1860-1944)
 Siblings: Cyril (1887-1925)
 George (born 1892)
 Beatrice (1895-1973)
 Residences: 1891 St Giles Cripplegate, London
 1901 67 King William Street, London
 1911 17 Lancaster Road, Kensington, London
 Lynton, Carshalton Park Road. Carshalton, Surrey
 38 Marchsnow Road, Wallington
 Married: Daisy Amy Arthur (1884-1973)
 Children: Barbara (1916-2008)
 Occupation: Steamship agent and Musician

Military History:

Percy enlisted in The Royal Garrison Artillery on 8th Dec 1915 in London. He was attached to 233 Siege Battery and served for 1 year and 175 days. He was gassed during operations at Nieuwpoort, West Vlaanderen, Belgium on 29th July, 1917, and as a result was invalided back to England where he served 260 days with the Army Reserve and was finally discharged being 'no longer physically fit for war service' on 15th February 1918.

Additional information:

- Percy Bodman was born in New Union Street, London on 23rd November 1885. The family moved twice within the City of London.
- For seventeen years he was with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company at their London city offices. Records show that he travelled to Quebec, Canada at the age of 24, arriving 28th October 1910 but was back in the UK in early November 1910. It is likely that this trip was related to his job.
- He was for some time organist and choirmaster at Frensham parish church, also deputy organist at Browning Hall and St Mary's Church, Soho, London.
- Percy's wife, Daisy was the daughter of Albert Arthur, landlord of The Railway Arms (now The Stepping Stones) in Westhumble. According to the 1901 census records for Mickleham, Daisy, aged 15, was living with her family in Mickleham and working as a dressmaker.
- After discharge from the army Percy was treated at a chest hospital in Carshalton. Later he, his wife and baby daughter moved to the Railway Arms, because he felt that he would recover more quickly and benefit from the cleaner air at Westhumble. He died at the Railway Arms on 1st November 1918.
- Percy is buried in Mickleham churchyard. Because he had been invalided out of the army before his death on 1st November 1918, he was not recognised as a war casualty. For more than four years Percy's granddaughter, Lesley Wood, worked tirelessly to put this right. On 5th January 2015 she received confirmation of Percy's status as a Commonwealth war casualty. After ninety-six years his last resting place has been designated as a Commonwealth War Grave.

We are grateful to Lesley Wood for her help in compiling this record.



Photographs: Ben Tatham

Percy Bodman's grave (marked with a remembrance cross) in St Michael's churchyard and a close-up of his memorial stone

IN MEMORY OF PRIVATE SYDNEY DAVIS BRUFORD

G107 6th Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment
Died Thursday 5th October 1916, aged 25, France



From the Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser

Born: 1890 (Baptised 21st September 1890 Mickleham.)
 Father: Charles Bruford (1851-1923)
 Mother: Dinah Davis (1857-1938)
 Married: 1879 Greenwich
 Siblings: (Isaac) John (1879-1948) Dorothy Annie (1892-1961)
 Harry Charles (1881-1942) Alice May (1895-1914)
 William Edwin (1882-1920) Wilfred Frank (1896-1962)
 Charles Ernest (1884-1944) Carmilla Ellen (1898-1906)
 George (1886-1951) Agnes Victoria Grace (1901-1991)
 Ethel Zillah (1888-1957)
 Marital Status: Single
 Residences: Fernbank Cottages, Bittern (Byttom) Hill, Mickleham
 St George, Hanover Square, London
 Occupation: Footman

Military history:

The 6th Battalion of The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment was a service battalion formed at Guildford in August 1914. In May 1915 it was mobilised for war and landed at Boulogne. At the beginning of October 1916 the battalion was at a shelter camp near Albert in the département of the Somme, close to the Allied Front Line, moving into the front line trenches in Guedecourt on 3rd October. During the following two days the front line was shelled intermittently by the Germans, resulting in numerous casualties. Sydney Bruford was one of three men from his battalion killed on 5th October.

According to Sydney's obituary in the Dorking Advertiser he was the first Mickleham man to join up and also the first one to be killed in the service of his country. The newspaper also noted that all seven of the Bruford brothers were in the Forces. Sydney's friend Private G Clabon of the Queen's said that Sydney, who was a great favourite with the men, had been hit by a shell and died about half an hour later. He was buried just outside a small village near the front line.

Private Sydney Bruford is commemorated on the Thiepval memorial, which commemorates 72,000 officers and men who died between July and November 1916. Grave reference/panel number: Pier and Face 5D and 6D

Additional information:

- The Bruford family lived in one of the three cottages on the south side of the King William IV (now demolished).
- The children excelled at school and won prizes for attendance – the brothers attended Evening School which was voluntary.
- George and Wilfred worked at Swanworth Stud Farm. (Leopold Salomons of Norbury Park was famous for his shire horses – he bred them at his stud farm in Swanworth Lane.)
- A younger brother, Wilfred, was the bugler who played the Last Post at the dedication of Mickleham War Memorial in 1920.
- The January 1924 Mickleham Parish Magazine included this obituary for Sydney's father, Charles Bruford: 'Our village lost a much respected member when he passed to his rest, after short illness, on December 9th. For forty-seven years he had lived here and worked always at Mickleham Downs. His cheery happy ways and the happiness of a united and large family circle, proved the goodness of his heart. He was also a regular attendant at our Church till the last. No wonder there was a large attendance at his funeral. Mrs. Bruford and her family desire to thank those friends who sent flowers and messages of sympathy on the occasion of their bereavement.'



*Thiepval War Cemetery and Memorial to the Missing**

IN MEMORY OF PRIVATE EDWARD HENRY CLARKE

3183/266069 1st Battalion Norfolk Regiment
Died 28th October 1917 aged 29, Ypres Salient, Belgium



Born: 1888, Maiden Erlegh Berkshire
 Father: Henry Clarke (born 1859)
 Mother: Elizabeth Clarke née Taylor (born 1861)
 Siblings: Olivette (born 1890)
 Ivy (born 1895)
 Married: Lilian Clarke née Barnes
 30th September 1917, St Martin's Church, Dorking
 Residences: Earley, Berkshire
 Pressforward Lodge, (Listed as Norbury Park, Leatherhead in 1911 census)
 11 Albert Road, Epsom
 12 Wathen Road, Dorking
 Occupation: Groom/Gardener

Military history:

Edward enlisted at Houghton Barracks on 5th October 1916 and joined 2/6th (Cyclist) Battalion of the Norfolk Regiment with service number 3183. On 7th May 1917 he was transferred to the 4th Reserve Battalion of the Norfolk Regiment with a new service number, 266069. On 11th October he was assigned to the 17th Infantry Base Depot (IBD) of the British Expeditionary Force, which was one of the holding camps in France set up to keep men in training while waiting to be posted to the front. The following day he embarked at Folkestone and landed at Boulogne. He could only have spent a few days at the IBD because he joined the 1st Battalion of the Norfolk Regiment in Berthen, France (about 15 km from Ypres) on 18th October. The battalion had suffered heavy casualties earlier in the month and almost 300 additional men were assigned to it on 17th-18th October. Conditions for the troops

were appalling during the autumn of 1917 as persistent heavy rain and constant shelling had turned the soil to thick mud.

On 23rd October the battalion left Berthen, crossed into Belgium and, on 26th October, went into the trenches at 'Stirling Castle', about 5 km east of Ypres and close to Sanctuary Wood. The battalion remained in the trenches for three days and was shelled repeatedly. It was during this period, on 28th October, that Private Clarke was killed. He is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial which bears the names of those who went missing in the Ypres Salient after 16th August 1917. Edward's name is also on the Dorking War Memorial.

Additional information:

- Edward's father was a farrier, but in the 1911 census he is listed as a nightwatchman and the family were living in Pressforward Lodge part of the Norbury Park estate.
- Edward and Lilian had been courting for many years and when they found out that he was to be posted to France they married straight away on 30th September.
- Edward was killed just 28 days later. Lilian was notified of Edward's death on 12th November 1917. She was sent his medals along with a scroll and a plaque. She moved to Epsom to be with her sister Edie after receiving the news of Edward's death.
- Lilian remarried and had a daughter, Joan, whose son Brian Miller and wife Susan now have Edward Clarke's medals and photographs.
- Edward and his two sisters were married within five days of each other: Ivy on 29th September (the day before Edward and Lilian) and Olivette on 4th October.



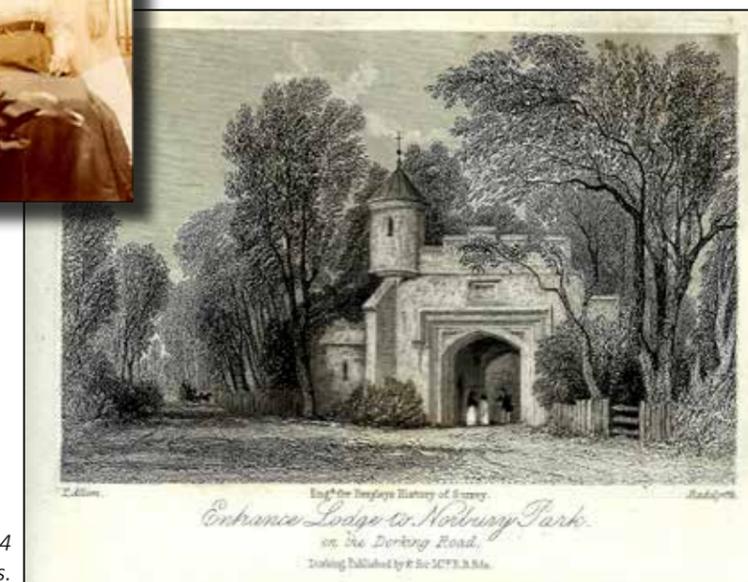
Teddy's medals

We are grateful to Dorking Museum for their assistance in gathering this information.



The Clarke family

*Pressforward Lodge – demolished circa 1934
to make way for the Mickleham By-pass.*



IN MEMORY OF PRIVATE WILLIAM COLLINS

G/22135 6th Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment

Died 12th April 1917 aged 41, France



Born: 1876, Easthampstead, Berkshire
 Father: George Collins (born 1821)
 Mother: Ann Collins née Prior (born 1844)
 Siblings: Albert James (born 1866)
 George W (born 1869)
 John (born 1871)
 Charles (born 1879)
 Arthur (born 1881)
 Fred (born 1892)
 Residences: Bagshot, Berkshire
 Hampshire (son born)
 High Ashurst, Dorking
 Married: Laura Dalton (1876-1966)
 Children: George William (1904-1971)
 Percy (died 1930)
 Edith (Burbidge)
 Gladys
 Occupation: Postman
 Gamekeeper

Military History:

William died from wounds received during the Battle of Monchy le Preux, near Arras in France. No specific grave exists but he is mentioned at the Arras Memorial commemorating almost 35,000 casualties of the British, New Zealand and South African forces who died between Spring 1916 and 7th August 1918 who have no known grave. He is also commemorated on the Headley War Memorial and in St Mary the Virgin Church, Headley.

Additional information:

- His father was one of eight deerkeepers/gamekeepers for Queen Victoria.
- William was a keen sportsman and played cricket for Headley where he received an award for highest batting average. He also played rugby and was a keen golfer.
- He was head gamekeeper on the High Ashurst estate and his wife, Laura, was caterer for the shooting syndicate.
- Laura, one of 13 children, had been sent to work in the kitchen of a parsonage when quite young. The parson educated her with his own children and later on she worked in the kitchen of a house in Albermarle Street, London. She became an excellent cook.
- After William's death Laura and her four children had to leave their tied accommodation. In 1921 with the money from William's life insurance policy (taken out by the shooting syndicate) and £100 borrowed from her brother, Laura bought a smallholding on Box Hill and began serving teas from the cottage. The Upper Farm business grew to include tea rooms, a camp site and, in 1933, a swimming pool. The business continued after Laura's death until her eldest son George died in 1971.
- Son Percy raced motorcycles at Brooklands and at one time held the speed record (over 63 mph). He was killed in a road accident on his way home from racing at Brooklands in 1930.



William Collins, Gamekeeper

We are grateful to Maureen Collins for supplying the photographs and much of the information about her grandfather.

IN MEMORY OF PRIVATE HENRY EDGINGTON DCM

191 7th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment
Died 21st September 1917, aged 23, France



Born: 1894, Mickleham, Surrey
 Father:: William James Edgington (1861-1919)
 Mother: Fanny Gosling (1868-1951)
 Married Christmas Day 1888, Mickleham
 Siblings: William Alfred (1889 killed in action at Gallipoli August 1915)
 Lily Elizabeth (born 1890)
 Edith (born 1892)
 Reginald (1898-1899)
 Percy (1899-1906)
 Albert Edward (born 1901)
 George Henry (born 1902)
 Cyril (born 1906)
 Edward Charles (born 1908)
 Nelson James (born 1910)
 There are also two more siblings who died before 1911
 Residence: 2 Railway Cottages, Swanworth Lane, Mickleham
 Marital Status: Single
 Occupation: Gardener/Labourer

Military history:

Harry enlisted on 20th August 1914 in Kingston-upon-Thames and was attached to the 7th (Service) Battalion of the East Surrey Regiment which was part of the 37th Brigade in the 12th (Eastern) Division. The battalion was mobilised for war in 1915 and landed at Boulogne on 2nd June. He was promoted to Lance Corporal on 20th December 1915. There is a report that he was wounded in his right leg on 11th August. 1916. The 12th (Eastern) Division served on the Western Front for the duration of the war, fighting in the Battles of the Somme in 1916 and the Arras Offensive in 1917. In March 1917 Harry was attached to the 37th Brigade Sniping Company.

He died on 21st September 1917 during the Arras Offensive, only a few days after he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. He is buried in Tilloy British Cemetery in Tilloy-les-Mofflaines, a village close to Arras.

Additional information:

- Henry (Harry) was baptised in Mickleham in 1894 and attended the village school where he won prizes for excellent attendance and took part in annual Christmas entertainments.
- Although Harry is listed as a Private by the CWGC and some of his service records, other parts of his records and his obituary in the Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser refer to him as a Lance Corporal.
- The Distinguished Conduct Medal was awarded for 'distinguished, gallant and good conduct in the field'. For all ranks below commissioned officers, it was the second highest award for gallantry in action after the Victoria Cross, and the other ranks' equivalent of the Distinguished Service Order, which was awarded to commissioned officers for bravery.



Distinguished Conduct Medal George V

191 Pte. H. Edgington (Dorking) E. Surrey R.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. With two comrades he held a block in our trench against a strong party of the enemy at a most critical moment, when our advanced posts had been captured. Subsequently he posted himself and comrades in shell-holes, causing such casualties to a fresh hostile attack that the enemy bolted back to cover. By the very great initiative and exceptional gallantry of these men a very awkward situation was got well in hand.

*Recorded in the Gazette (London Gazette)
14th September 1917, supplement 30287*

A MICKLEHAM HERO

Mickleham has heard with very sincere regret that another of its brave sons has fallen in action. The news has been received with particular pathos, for it was only a few days ago that the parents heard the glad tidings that their son had been awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal. We refer to Lce. Corpl. Harry Edgington of the East Surrey Regt., who in his boyhood attended the Mickleham Schools. His father, now residing in Lincoln Road, Dorking, lived for many years at the Mickleham level crossing, and after leaving school Harry worked in the gardens at Juniper Hill, where he was much respected, he being a nice-mannered lad. Here he was employed when he joined the Army. Out in France he proved himself a clever sniper, and some twelve months ago was recommended for distinction, though it did not mature. Quite recently he again came under the notice of his superior officer for some meritorious act, it is believed in the trenches, and within a few days of receiving the glad news of the honour conferred upon him the parents received the official intimation of his death. This is the second son they have given to their King and country during the war. Lce. Corpl. Edgington, we believe, is the first Mickleham man to whom has been awarded the D.C.M.

*Dorking and Leatherhead Advertiser
13th October 1917*

IN MEMORY OF PRIVATE WILLIAM ALFRED EDGINGTON

2061 13th Battalion, Australian Infantry, Australian Imperial Force
Died 27th August 1915, aged 26, Gallipoli, Turkey

Born: 15th September 1889, Mickleham, Surrey
 Father:: William James Edgington (1861-1919)
 Mother: Fanny Gosling 1868-1951
 Married Christmas Day 1888, Mickleham
 Siblings: Lily Elizabeth (born 1890)
 Edith (born 1892)
 Henry (Harry) (born 1894-killed in action in France September 1917)
 Reginald (1898-1899)
 Percy (1899-1906)
 Albert Edward (born 1901)
 George Henry (born 1902)
 Cyril (born 1906)
 Edward Charles (born 1908)
 Nelson James (born 1910)
 There are also two more siblings who died before 1911
 Residence: 2 Railway Cottages, Swanworth Lane, Mickleham, Surrey
 Marital Status: Single
 Occupation: Gardener/Labourer/Ship's waiter

Military history:

William joined the Australian Imperial Force as a Private on 11th February 1915 and took the oath on 16th February at Liverpool, New South Wales. He was listed as a British Subject. He embarked for active service at Sydney on the 'Kynara' on 13th April and joined his unit at Gallipoli from Alexandra on 27th August. During the battle at Gallipoli he was reported as missing in action. His death was confirmed on 27th August 1915. He was buried at the Lone Pine Cemetery in Turkey. Grave/Memorial Reference: 37

William was awarded the 1914/15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Additional information:

- William also baptised in Mickleham in 1889 and attended the village school, leaving in June 1903.
- There is a record of William Edgington, labourer, sailing on 7th July 1911 from London to Adelaide on the 'Osterley', one of the Orient Line ships.
- Between 1912 and 1914 William was working as a general servant and waiter on the TSS Demosthenes, one of the Aberdeen Line steamships which covered the route between London, South Africa and Australia.



*Railway Cottages at the level crossing in Swanworth Lane,
now called 'Norbury View'*



*Lone Pine Cemetery, Anzac, Gallipoli, Turkey**

IN MEMORY OF CORPORAL FREDERICK RICHARD FIELD

492653 2nd/13th Battalion, London Regiment (Kensington)

Died 8th December 1917, aged 27, Palestine



Printed courtesy of the Surrey Advertiser

Born: 1890. Hounslow
 Father: Frederick Field (1855-1932) gardener
 Mother: Letitia Ann Still (1851-1940) iron hand (washing servant) in 1881
 Married Sevenoaks, Kent 1889
 Sister: Frances Harriet (1892-1992)
 Married Ernest E Vidler. 1941
 Residences: Heston, Middlesex
 6 Elm Cottages. Byttom Hill, Mickleham, Surrey
 Marital Status: Single
 Occupation: Miller's clerk

Military history

Frederick Richard enlisted in 1915. In June 1916 the battalion was mobilised for war, landing at Le Havre before being sent into the line in the Vimy sector. In November the battalion was deployed to Salonika and then sent to Alexandria in July 1917 as part of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force in the Palestine Campaign. Corporal Field died on 8th December 1917 during the capture of Jerusalem, the day before the city surrendered. He is commemorated on the Jerusalem Memorial and also on the Horsell Village War Memorial in Surrey.

Additional information:

- In 1891 Frederick and Letitia were living with their eight-month-old baby Frederick in Bath Road, Heston, Hounslow. They moved to Mickleham about 1901, now also with their daughter Frances, where they lived at Laundry Cottage, 6 Elm Cottages. Elm Cottages were known as Praed's Cottages after the wealthy Mackworth Praed family of Mickleham Downs who owned them. During the time the Field family lived in Mickleham, Robert Mackworth Praed was Lord of the Manor of Mickleham.
- According to the Mickleham School Logbook on 17th April 1905 Frederick went to Dorking for Confirmation, and on 2nd August 1905 he left school. He was described as a 'good and diligent scholar'.
- By 1915 Frederick (senior) and Letitia had moved to Arthur's Bridge Road, Horsell with Frances, who continued to live in the house with her husband Ernest Vidler after the death of her parents. The Commonwealth War Grave Commission entry for Frederick Richard lists the name of the house as 'Mickleham', presumably chosen by his parents to remember their time at Laundry Cottage.



Elm Cottages, is the row of houses above the London Road, in Byttom Hill. Laundry Cottage (No 6) is on the far left.

IN MEMORY OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL BERNARD SALWEY GRISSELL DSO

Commanding 1st/5th Battalion, Norfolk Regiment
Died Thursday 19th April 1917 aged 37, Gaza



Born: 1879, Norbury Park House, Mickleham, Surrey.
Baptised at St Michaels Church, Mickleham

Father: Thomas de la Garde Grissell (1852-1915)

Mother: Frances Adelaide de la Garde Grissell (née Beale) (1854-1888)
Married 1877 Clun, Shropshire

Siblings: Thomas de la Garde 1878-1970
Margaret Hope 1880-1933
Arthur de la Garde 1882-1896
Francis 1886 (killed at Battle of Somme, September 1916)

Early years: Norbury Park House, Mickleham
1891 7 Fourth Ave, Hove, Sussex
Educated at Warren Hill & Harrow

Married: Mary Olive daughter of Col. H. Wood in 1907

Children: Veronica (born 1908)
Rosemary (born 1910)
Michael (born 1913)
Lavender (born 1916)

Residences: 6 Third Ave, Hove, Sussex
Barracks St Margaret & St John, London.
Tivoli, Withdean, Brighton

Military history:

Lieutenant Colonel Grissell received his Commission in the Norfolk Regiment in 1899, and served throughout the South African War, being present at the Relief of Kimberley, and at the Battles of Paardeberg, Poplar Grove, and many other engagements. He served in the Boer war in South Africa (1899-1902). He was granted the South African Medal & Clasp (1st April 1901). He served in India (1903-1911) and acted as Adjutant General to His Imperial Majesty The King/Emperor during Delhi Durbar in 1911.

Three battles of Gaza – Lieutenant Colonel Grissell was reported missing after the second battle of Gaza (17th-19th April 1917) following the arrival of Turkish reinforcements. He had been given the command of a Territorial Battalion of his own regiment. In the following November (according to Harrow records) his body was recovered two miles south-east of Gaza on the way to Beersheba. 'His regiment' (The Norfolk Regiment) as Colonel Kemp wrote, 'had been proud to find themselves under his command ...though apparently of a stern disposition, he was truly sympathetic and uniformly just ...he displayed powers of organisation ...patience and unerring judgement in the heavy work which then devolved on us. The Distinguished Service Order (DSO) is a military decoration of the United Kingdom, and formerly of other parts of the Commonwealth of Nations and British Empire, awarded for meritorious or distinguished service by officers of the armed forces during wartime, typically in actual combat.

Lieutenant Colonel Salwey Grissell DSO is remembered with honour in Gaza War Cemetery. Of the British soldiers there the great majority of casualties belong to the 52nd (Lowland), the 53rd (Welsh), the 54th (East Anglian) and the 74th (Yeomanry) Divisions.

THE GRISSELL FAMILY

BERNARD AND FRANCIS Grissell were the great-grandsons of Thomas Grissell (1801-1874) who made his fortune as a public works contractor. He was responsible for constructing a number of prestigious buildings in England, including Nelson's Column, Clerkenwell Prison, the Lyceum and St. James' theatres, and part of the Houses of Parliament. His firm was also engaged in railway building, including parts of the Great Western Railway and the South Eastern Railway.

As a result of the profits from his business, Thomas Grissell was able to live well. In 1850 he moved from Kensington Gardens to Norbury Park in Mickleham. There he was appointed a magistrate, and in 1853, high sheriff of the county. In 1861 when the proposed route of the railway from Leatherhead included parts of Norbury Park, Thomas laid down stringent conditions, including a tunnel which should have no shafts and the company was forbidden to disturb the surface above it. At his behest the railway station at Westhumble was built in the French château style.

Thomas died at Norbury Park and was buried in the churchyard at St Michael's Church in Mickleham. He left an estate of almost £200,000. There is a memorial to Thomas and various members of his family in St Michael's Norbury Chapel.

A stained glass window on the left hand side of the north wall of the church was given by Bernard and Francis' father, Thomas de la Garde Grissell. The inscription across the bottom reads: 'To the honour of The Great Redeemer and in memory of my grandfather Thomas Grissell and my father Thomas de la Garde Grissell I dedicate this window.' In its lower right hand corner is the family coat of arms and motto 'PRESSFORWARD'. In Mickleham today we have Pressforward Cottages and Pressforward Bridge. (Pressforward Lodge was demolished in the 1930s to make way for the Mickleham bypass.)

The Grissell family continued to live at Norbury Park until 1890 when it was sold to Leopold Salomons.



IN MEMORY OF LIEUTENANT FRANCIS GRISSELL

1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards
Died 15th September, 1916, aged 30, Ginchy, France



Born: 1886 in Mickleham, Surrey
Baptised at St. Michael's Church, Mickleham

Father: Thomas de la Garde Grissell (1852-1915)

Mother: Frances Adelaide de la Garde Grissell (née Beale) (1854-1888)
Married: 1877 Clun, Shropshire

Siblings: Bernard 1879 (Killed at Gaza April 1917)
Thomas de la Garde 1878-1970
Margaret Hope 1880-1933
Arthur de la Garde 1882-1896

Early years: Norbury Park House, Mickleham,
1891 7 Fourth Ave. Hove, Sussex
1901 The Park, Harrow School, Middlesex

Marital Status: Single

Residences: Norbury Park
Redisham Hall, Ringsfield, Suffolk
7 Adam Street, Adelphi, Middlesex

Occupation: Francis Grissell qualified as an architect (The Times, Wednesday 30th July 1913) and completed his articles with Corlette and Nicholson. Nicholson was a renowned church architect. Francis Grissell made a bequest to the Royal Institute 'to be used for the benefit of the library' before leaving England for a three-year engagement in Hong Kong. He returned on 26th June 1915 (record of his journey on ship passenger list – Miyazaki Maru) and subsequently enlisted in the Guards.

Military history:

At the beginning of September 1916 the 1st Battalion of the Coldstream Guards was based at Morlancourt, about 7 km south of Albert, where they spent a week in training and practising for an attack on enemy trenches.

On 9th September the battalion marched to billets in 'Happy Valley', which acquired its name because it could not be seen from the German front lines. Five days later the battalion arrived at Ginchy, about 2 km south of Flers and close to Delville Wood, in preparation for a major attack the following morning. This offensive from 15th to 22nd September became known as the Battle of Flers-Courcelette and was the first time that tanks were used in large numbers in battle, heralding a new era in warfare. However, the two tanks that should have been at the front of the 1st Battalion's attack never arrived. The battalion suffered heavy losses and the Harrow Memorial states that 'he (Lieutenant Grissell) was killed by a German hand-grenade after reaching the second objective in the Guards' advance.'



The war diary reports that on 15th September 'the Battalion went into attack with 17 officers and 690 other ranks and came out with 3 officers and 221 other ranks'.

Francis Grissell is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial which bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men who died in the Somme sector before 20 March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916.

Francis's brother Lieutenant Colonel Bernard Salwey Grissell DSO was killed at Gaza in April 1917. (See page 22).

Additional information:

- At the time of his death, according to his probate record, Francis was living at 7 Adam Street, Adelphi, Middlesex. This area near The Strand, in what is now Central London, was designed by Robert Adam and his brothers in the early 1770s and Francis, as an architect, must have appreciated the characteristic Adam style.

7 Adam Street, Adelphi, Middlesex*

* See page 52 for photograph credits

IN MEMORY OF PRIVATE OLIVER SNELLING

33085 1st Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment
Died Friday 30th August 1918, aged 39, Pas de Calais, France

Born: 1879 Camberwell, Surrey
Baptised Mickleham 17th October 1886

Father: Daniel Snelling (1839-1905)

Mother: Sarah White (1853-1933) Married in Mickleham

Siblings: Edwin James (1878-1943)
Alice Beatrice Eugenie (1880-1926)
Ernest (1886-1889)
Cecil (1888-1974)
Emily Agnes Selina (1891-1990)

Early years: Mickleham, Surrey

Married: Hilda Caroline Church (1879-1966), Leatherhead 1901

Children: John Oliver (born 1902)
George A (1904-1983)

Residences: 26 Church Gardens, Dorking
14 Curtis Gardens, Dorking

Occupations: Butler / House painter

Military history:

Oliver joined the Surrey Yeomanry in October 1914, then served in the Essex Yeomanry before transferring to the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. According to his obituary in the Dorking Advertiser, Oliver served in the Dardanelles, Egypt and Ireland before being sent to the Western Front.

At the end of August 1918 his battalion was occupying the village of Remy close to Arras and on the morning of 30th August received an order to move forward in preparation for an attack. The battalion came under a heavy machine gun and artillery barrage and Oliver was one of 16 men, including two officers, from the battalion who were killed that day with an additional 127 wounded.

The Chaplain wrote to Oliver's widow Hilda that her husband 'died of shell wounds in the chest; he lived about 15 minutes, but was practically unconscious'. He has no known grave but is commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial screen wall in Pas de Calais in France.

Records indicate that Oliver had two other service numbers:

- 2284 1/1 Battalion Surrey Yeomanry
- 18796 1/1 Battalion Essex Yeomanry

Additional information:

Oliver's mother, Sarah, was Daniel's second wife. In 1857 he had married Lucy Easton with whom he had four children:

Edwin Charles Thomas James (born 1857) Daniel Walter (1868-1917)
Clara Agnes (born 1870) William George (born 1874)

The Snelling family were living in Peckham during the 1870s, where Daniel was a shoemaker in Bedford Street. By the time of the 1881 census the family had moved to Ivy Cottages, London Road Mickleham where Sarah's family lived.

Later Ivy Cottages became St Michael's Tea Cottage and then St Michael's Restaurant. It is now a private residence. At the time of his marriage Oliver was the butler in the house of a Justice of the Peace

in Yate, Gloucestershire. The couple moved to Dorking where Oliver became a house painter.



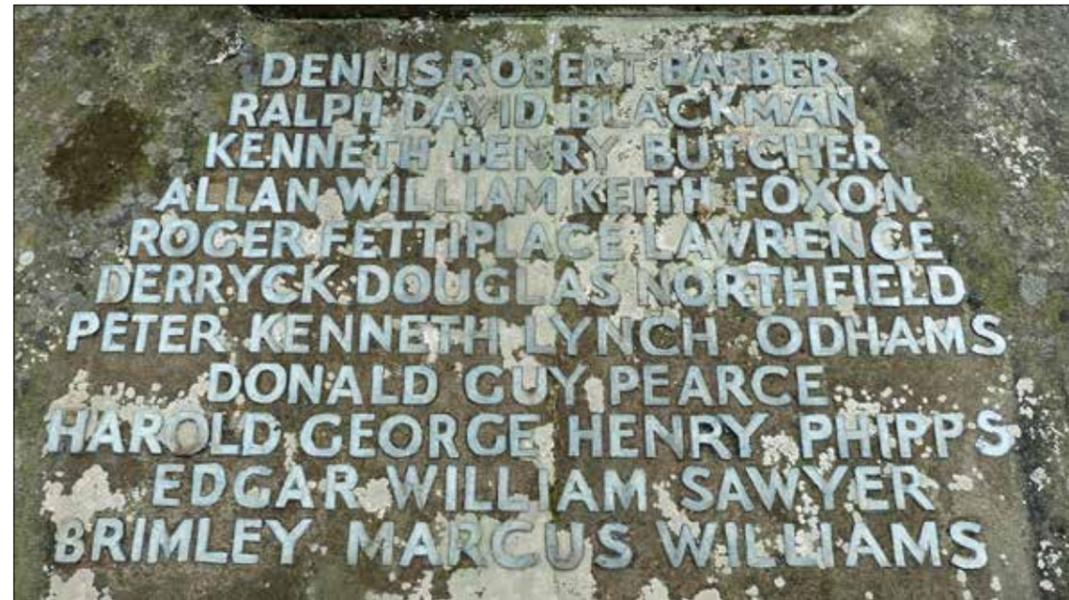
St Michael's Cottage formerly Ivy Cottages, home of the Snelling family



Oliver's brother, Cecil, emigrated to Canada in 1910 and joined the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force in June 1917. He survived the war and later returned to England with his second wife Ada. Both are buried in Bexleyheath cemetery.

The only picture of Oliver Snelling we could find was this one as a choirboy at Mickleham Church. This labelled photograph dated 1893 is from the Bryant album in our archives. We believe that Oliver is the boy on the right.

CROSS OF REMEMBRANCE WORLD WAR 2 1939 – 1945



*Names of the fallen in WW2 as they appear on the Mickleham War Memorial
(some have been misspelt)*

SEVERAL FACTORS HAVE made our research about the men who died as a result of WW2 more difficult than for WW1. Whereas most of the men named on the Great War Memorial came from or were connected with long-established local families, the building boom in the 1930s and improvements in railway connections brought about great social change between the wars. People moved out of London and into the surrounding countryside.

In 1932 much of the farmland of the Leladene (Camilla Lacey) Estate was sold to developers and houses sprang up along new roads (Camilla Drive, Pilgrims Way and Close, and Burney Road) in Westhumble. When war was declared in 1939 some of our men had lived in the area only a short time and in some instances their family moved elsewhere soon after.

Furthermore, the 100-year embargo on the release of census data and other restrictions on access to information has rendered some of our records incomplete. It is hoped that when more information becomes available it will be added to the accounts of these men's lives.

IN MEMORY OF SERGEANT DENNIS BARBER

1354869 No. 9 Squadron Bomber Command RAF Volunteer Reserve
Died 1st May 1943, aged 22 over Germany



Born: 10th July 1920. Kilverstone, Thetford, Norfolk

Father: Herbert John Barber (1886-1970) blacksmith
Married 1. Hannah Wilson, East Ruston, Norfolk 1909
2. Mildred Daisy Stimpson, Surrey 1949
3. Dorothy May Grant, Surrey 1955

Mother: Mildred Daisy Stimpson (1885-1954) domestic servant

Siblings/Half-siblings: Mildred Kathleen (1909-2003)
Herbert George 'Sam' (1912-1987)
Auvory E Beryl (born 1913)
Patricia Ella Barbara (born 1916)
Noel John 'Bill' (1918-1982)
Beatrice (born and died 1922)

Education: Mickleham School (1925-1933)

Marital Status: Single

Residences: Thetford 1920-1922
Cowslip Cottage, Norbury Park, Mickleham 1922-1925
Lovedon Cottage, Westhumble, 1926 onwards

Military history:

Dennis' sister Beryl's daughter, was told he joined the RAF Volunteer Reserve after his brother Bill became a prisoner of war. By 1943 Dennis was a rear gunner in No. 9 Squadron Bomber Command. During WW2 the squadron was based initially at Honington, between Bury St Edmunds and Thetford, before moving to Waddington, near Lincoln, in August 1942. In April 1943 the squadron moved again to a nearby RAF base at Bardney. Dennis and six other crew members died when their Lancaster bomber was lost on a bombing raid to Essen on 1st May 1943. His plane was the first to be lost from Bardney and the crew members are all commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial.

Additional information:

- Dennis must have been a talented pupil as he was awarded a Junior Technical Scholarship at Mickleham School 1933.
- The Barber family history is rather complicated because Herbert John, the father of Dennis, married three times and several of his children were known by nicknames instead of their actual given names. The family came from Norfolk and in 1911 Herbert was the blacksmith in East Ruston. However, by the time Dennis was born in 1920 in Thetford, Herbert's occupation had changed to farm labourer so perhaps he moved his family to Surrey to find work as a blacksmith. His second wife Mildred (Dennis' mother) although born in Wacton, Norfolk, had been a domestic servant in Walton-on-Thames and possibly had contacts in the area.
- The entire family moved to Cowslip Cottages in Norbury Park in 1922 which must have been very cramped as there were only two bedrooms!
- By the time Herbert opened an independent smithy at Norbury Farm in 1927 the family had moved to Lovedon Cottage, Westhumble. Herbert made the cross on the Westhumble Chapel of Ease and is said to have made candlesticks for Canterbury Cathedral. By all accounts he was quite a character and a great storyteller.
- Dennis' brother Bill (Noel John), an auto mechanic who lived in Lovedon Cottage after his father died, is still remembered in Mickleham and Westhumble today.

We would like to thank Maxine McNamara, the granddaughter of Herbert John's brother Ernest, for her help in gathering information about the Barber family.



Drawing of Lovedon Cottage circa 1970 by local artist Sydney Irwin

IN MEMORY OF STEWARD RALPH DAVID BLACKMAN

C/LX23365. H.M. Boom Defence Vessel Thomas Connolly, Royal Navy
Died 17th December 1940, aged 21, off Sheerness

Born: 30th March 1919
Baptised 23rd October 1919 at Christchurch, Epsom, Surrey

Father: Harold born 1887, Pembury, Kent. Science master employed by London County Council, Army Supply Corps in WW1. Later, a civil servant. Died 1955, Dorking

Mother: Irene Elizabeth Strickland Taylor (1893- 1961)

Siblings: Anthony Strickland Blackman (born 18th August 1920)
Baptised 25th February 1921, Christchurch, Epsom, Surrey
Married Elizabeth Keely in 1949 in Brentford

Marital Status: Single

Residences: 1919-1925 Byron House, West Hill, Epsom
1926-1938 Barnett Wood Lane, Ashted
1939 Hadi (now Gallinar), Pilgrims Close, Westhumble, Surrey

Military history:

Named on Chatham Naval Memorial, Kent. Grave reference: 39, 3.

HM THOMAS CONNOLLY

- 1939 (30th November): Requisitioned by Admiralty as Boom Defence Vessel, based at Sheerness. Carried a 'Z' Pennant – an international maritime signal flag – one of its meanings is: 'I am shooting nets'.
- 1940 (17th December): Sunk by mine off Sheerness. From Lloyds Register, Shipyard history by Thompson, Newton, Robinson & Lofthouse. Various Ian Allen publications.
- A personal account by an unknown seaman: "I was posted to a ship at Sheerness that was part of the 'BOOM DEFENCE'. The Boom Defence consisted of three ships, one on the left-hand (LH) side, one in the middle and one on the right-hand (RH) side. Incoming ships sailed between the middle ship and the RH ship. Nets were laid either side of the ships to provide further protection. The only way in or out was through the 'Boom Defence'... Horlicken guns were fitted on the Boom ships; every fifth shell was a tracer – they lit up the area – so we could see to shoot down the doodlebugs."

Additional information:

- Brother Anthony was an 'army officer resident in Malaya' on the passenger list of the William Ruys sailing from Southampton to Singapore in 1956. In 1959 he went to live in South Africa, where he became a listed artist, selling numerous works under the name 'Anthony Strickland'. Died 2000.



*Chatham Naval War Memorial**

IN MEMORY OF CORPORAL KENNETH BUTCHER

924312 Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
Died 8th January 1944, aged 24, England



Born: 1919 in Lewisham
 Father: Henry Butcher (1896-1945)
 Mother: Mabel Lilian Gander (1896-1979)
 Married 1916 in Woolwich
 Siblings: Joan Leslie (1917-2011)
 Donald J (born 1921)
 Alan G (1926-1974)

 Residences: 1919-1939 131 Footscray Road, London SE9
 1939-1944 Friston, Pilgrims Close, Westhumble
 Marital Status: Single

Military history:

Kenneth was stationed in Kent and it is thought that he was involved in secret war work, possibly concerning radar. It is believed that he was hit by a truck when cycling from the base to his accommodation. He died as a result of injuries at Hurtwood Park Hospital, Haywards Heath, Sussex on 8th January 1944 and was buried on January 13th 1944. His grave in St Barnabas's churchyard, Ranmore, is an official war grave tended annually by a local representative of the War Graves commission.

Additional information:

- Kenneth left £297 5s 7d to his father Henry Butcher, a company secretary.
- At the time of Kenneth's death his brother Donald, an RAF Flying Officer, was being held in a Prisoner of War camp from which he later escaped. Meanwhile his other brother Alan was taken seriously ill in an army base in Yorkshire. Due to the gravity of the illness his parents were summoned to his bedside – fortunately he recovered.
- Kenneth's father Henry Butcher died in 1945, aged 56, and was buried in the grave adjacent to Kenneth's at St Barnabas Church, Ranmore.



Kenneth Butcher



Kenneth Butcher's grave in St Barnabas' churchyard, Ranmore

IN MEMORY OF LIEUTENANT (A) ALAN WILLIAM KEITH FOXON

Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve 879 Squadron – HMS Attacker
Died 11th July 1945, aged 23, at sea off Colombo, Ceylon



Born: 1922 West Ham, Essex
 Father: William Luke Foxon (1884-1963) bank clerk
 Mother: Mildred Jessie Corlett (1887-1974) dressmaker
 Married 1912. West Ham
 Siblings: Eric Corlett (1912-1973)
 Phyllis Mildred (1914-1990)
 Married Frederick R Bacon 1939, Mickleham
 Residences: Windy Ridge, Green Curve, Banstead 1930-1938
 Bembridge (now Hollies), Pilgrims Way, Westhumble
 Married: Felicitie Desmond (Dorothy) Carson
 4th May 1944, Durban, South Africa
 Occupation: Clerk

Military history:

Alan joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve in 1942, training as a temporary midshipman on HMS Daedalus, the Fleet Air Arm base in Lee-on-Solent. He then served on bases in Durban, South Africa and Colombo, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). In early 1945 he was promoted to temporary lieutenant and on 18th May joined 879 Squadron at their base in Katakurunda, 30 miles south of Colombo. On 10th July the squadron pilots were due to fly aboard HMS Attacker, an escort

aircraft carrier refitted as an assault carrier, which had just docked in Colombo. However, lack of wind made landing the planes on the ship extremely difficult. A number of the pilots needed multiple attempts and several of the planes were damaged. Alan died on 11th July during an attempted landing when the arrestor hook on his Seafire (the naval equivalent of a Spitfire) failed to engage and his plane went through the barrier and into the sea.

Memorial: Fleet Air Arm Memorial, Lee-on-Solent, Hampshire. Bay 6 panel 3.

Additional information:

- During his time in Durban, Alan met Dorothy Carson, a South African, whom he married by special licence in May 1944. After the war Dorothy moved to England and later ran a nightclub in London.
- Roger Bacon, the son of Alan's sister Phyllis and born after Alan died, remembers meeting 'Aunt Dorothy' when he was a young child. Roger was born in Dorking then lived at Rosedene in Adlers Lane, Westhumble until he was 17. His family's house was behind that of the Foxons and a footpath joined the gardens.

We would like to thank Roger for sending us the photograph of Alan and providing many of the details about the Foxon family.



Fleet Air Arm Memorial, Lee-on-Solent, Hampshire

IN MEMORY OF CAPTAIN ROGER FETTIPLACE LAWRENCE

117520 Royal Artillery – 155 Battery, 172nd Field Regiment in North Africa
Died 15th January 1944, aged 24, Italy



Born: 19th August 1919, Surrey
 Father: Sir William Matthew Trevor Lawrence, 3rd Baronet (1870-1934)
 Mother: Bertha Iris Eyre Crabbe (1887-1955)
 Married 1908. London
 Siblings: Mary Barbara (1909-1975)
 Elizabeth Anne (1910-1985)
 William (4th Baronet) (1913-1986)
 Naomi (1915-1993)
 ,
 Marital Status: Single
 Education: Downsend School, Leatherhead, Surrey
 Language Student at University of London
 Residence: Burford Lodge, Westhumble, Surrey
 Riverdale, London Road, Dorking

Military history:

Roger Fettiplace Lawrence was commissioned in the Royal Artillery and saw active service around Cherbourg in 1940. In February 1943, his 155 Battery, 172nd Field Regiment RA earned the sobriquet 'the VC Battery' for their gallant action against German tanks at Sidi Nsir, during the battle of Beja. Most of the battery were killed, the rest captured. After a month in a military hospital, Roger joined other POWs at a camp in Fontanellato near Parma in northern Italy.

A few months later, in September 1943, Italy signed an armistice with the allies, but the Germans invaded and imposed martial law over the north of the country. Six hundred men escaped from the Fontanellato camp. Roger and a small group began the long and dangerous walk towards the south,

where they hoped to find General Montgomery and the Eighth Army. Along the way, they were sheltered and fed by Italian villagers. After four months, Roger had travelled 400km. He was shot while sheltering in a hut in a tiny village high in the Apennines below Monte Sirente.

The parish priest who buried him recorded that he had been shot by Germans, although an elderly woman recalls that he was killed by Fascists.

After the war ended, Roger's body was exhumed and reburied in the Moro River Canadian War Cemetery near Ortona.

Additional information:

- Roger's father, Sir William Matthew Trevor Lawrence, was an eminent horticulturalist, collector and hospital administrator who succeeded to his father's title and the Burford estate in 1913.
- His mother's family lived at Carriden, London Road, Mickleham. By 1935 this house had been demolished and its grounds subsumed into the Dalewood estate, now Box Hill School.
- His eldest sister, Barbara, married Alfred Gordon Clark, a county court judge and crime writer under the name of Cyril Hare. They lived at Berry's Croft, Westhumble. One of their daughters is Lady Sandra Wedgwood who lives in Dorking.
- His other sisters, Anne and Naomi lived for many years at Swiss Cottage on Box Hill. Anne's daughter was Rose Gray, co-founder of The River Café, a very successful restaurant in London.



*Roger Lawrence with sister Barbara (Gordon Clark) and children
Charles and Sandra (Wedgwood)*

We are grateful to Sandra Wedgwood and Charles Gordon Clark for their help with compiling this record and supplying the photographs.

IN MEMORY OF SERGEANT DERRYCK DOUGLAS NORTHFIELD

1388137 101 Squadron (Wellington) Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
Died 1st August, 1942, aged 20, over Dusseldorf, Germany

Born: 19th June 1922. Edmonton. Oxfordshire
Father: William H Northfield (1887-1953)
Assistant Manager, Midland Bank Ltd
Mother: Mary Phoebe Duck (1888-1972)
Married 1914 Epping, Essex
Brother: Kenneth William (1916-1994) bank clerk
Residence: Green Ridge (now Woodbury) Pilgrim's Way, Westhumble

Military history:

Derryck was listed as Observer in 101 Squadron, Bomber Command at the time when it was flying Wellingtons. In May and June 1942, it took part in the celebrated 1,000-bomber raids on Cologne, Essen and Bremen; on each occasion all its aircraft returned safely. The Wellington with Derryck on board which took off from Bourn, Cambridgeshire on Friday 31st July 1942 was not so lucky. It was shot down over Dusseldorf, Germany on 1st August. Derryck was buried at Rheinberg War Cemetery Coll. grave 2. B. 1-4.

Additional information:

- In the probate list we see that Derryck's father was living at Green Ridge, Pilgrims Way when he died in 1953.
- We have found a card which shows that Derryck's brother Kenneth joined the Midland Bank Aero Club in 1948. His address was given as Green Ridge, Pilgrims Way – as above.
- Kenneth married twice and searches show that it is possible that one of his granddaughters was living in the Dorking area in 2013.



*Rheinberg War Cemetery Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany**

Photograph: Ben Tatham



Mickleham War Memorial in 2015

IN MEMORY OF LIEUTENANT PETER KENNETH LYNCH ODHAMS

Royal Navy, 767 Squadron, Fleet Air Arm
Died 15th December 1940, aged 25, Scotland



Born: 6th August 1915 Southcote House, Nutfield Rd, Merstham
Father: Ernest Lynch Odhams (1880-1947)
Mother: Frances Louise Crozier (1877-1949)
 Married: St Stephen's Church, Paddington, London 1905
Siblings: John Walter Lynch (born & died 1906)
 Barbara Joan Lynch (1908-1996)
 Married James Walters September 1939, Mickleham
 Bernard Ernest Lynch (1910-1941)
 Married Joan Sigrid Petch 1934, Surrey
 Katherine Rosemary Lynch (1917-2008)
 Married John Penrose Angold 1939, Mickleham
 David Valentine Lynch (1921-2007)
 Married Fay (Judy) Jordan 1952, London
Married: Jeronime Frances (Jerry) Montesor
 Garrison Church, Portsmouth, 26th October 1939
Daughter: Jacqueline (born 1941)
Residences: His family moved house frequently, living in Chiswick, Merstham, Reigate and Teddington before settling in Mickleham at The Glen (now Ilex Trees) around 1938. They also lived at Rectory Cottage, Mickleham and, at the time of Ernest Lynch Odham's death, April Cottage, Fredley.

Military history:

Peter joined the Royal Navy in 1938 and by 1939 was a Sub-Lieutenant on HMS Enchantress which served initially as an anti-submarine escort and then as a convoy escort. By May 1940 he had been promoted to Lieutenant and took an Observers' Course at the RN War College in Greenwich. Shortly before his death he underwent further training on HMS Excellent, the RN gunnery school on Whaley Island. He died in Scotland during land navigation exercises with the Fleet Air Arm on 15th December 1940. He and two other men were killed when their Fairey Swordfish of No.767 Squadron, which had taken off from Arbroath, crashed into a hillside in low-lying cloud in Glen Logie, north of Kirriemuir.

Peter is buried in St Michael's churchyard, Mickleham, together with his parents, sisters and brother David.

Additional information:

- Peter Odham's great-grandfather started the publishing business which would become Odhams Press.
- Peter's older brother, Flying Officer Bernard Ernest Lynch Odhams of the RAF Volunteer Reserve, died in December 1941 in the Middle East and is commemorated on the Alamein Memorial.



- Peter's brother-in-law, Flying Officer John Penrose Angold of the RAF, died in a flying accident in Cumbria in 1943 and is buried in Westcott.

We would like to thank the Leatherhead & District Local History Society and Michael Angold for the photograph of Peter and information about his family.



Stone marking Peter Odham's grave in St Michael's churchyard and its inscription

IN MEMORY OF CAPTAIN DONALD GUY PEARCE

149746 Ayrshire Yeomanry (Earl of Carrick's Own)
152 Field Regiment Royal Artillery
Died 2nd August 1944, aged 25, Italy



Photograph: With kind permission of the Governors of Dulwich College

Born: 13th July 1919 Camberwell
 Father: Mark Guy Pearce (1884/5-1937) Refreshment caterer
 Mother: Beatrice Austin (1882-1972)
 Married 27th April 1911. Chatsworth Road Chapel,
 West Norwood (Particular Baptist)
 Siblings: Beatrice Doreen (1912-2004)
 Jessie Mary (1914-2012)
 Gwynneth Anne (1924-2010)
 Education: Dulwich College 1932-1935
 Married: Agnes Gilbert (Penny) Stephenson 29th August 1942.
 St Peter & St Paul Church, Burgh-le-Marsh, Lincolnshire
 Daughter: Susannah Elizabeth (born 1943)
 Residences: Rosemount, Chislehurst Common, Kent 1930s
 Mickleham 1942
 4 Burford Cottages, Westhumble 1944

Military history:

Donald joined the Royal Artillery as a gunner in December 1939 and was commissioned the following year. In June 1942 he joined the Ayrshire Yeomanry 152 Field Regiment which was attached to the 6th Armoured Division and deployed to North Africa in November 1942, fighting in the Tunisia Campaign. In March 1944 the Division arrived in Italy where Donald worked as a forward observation officer and was mentioned in Despatches. He was killed in action near Arezzo on 2nd August 1944.

Donald was buried at Arezzo War Cemetery in Tuscany. Grave Reference: VI. A.11

Additional information:

- According to the Dulwich College War Record, after leaving school Donald studied medicine for some time and later was articled to an architect.
- We believe the Pearce family moved from Chislehurst to Burford Cottages to avoid the threat of bombing during WW2
- In 1942 when Donald married Agnes Stephenson (who at the time was nursing at the Middlesex Hospital) the ceremony took place in Lincolnshire, where the Stephenson family lived. Agnes was the great-granddaughter of Sir Rowland MacDonald Stephenson who was instrumental in introducing the railway into India. He also established the East Indian Railway Company.
- Donald's address on his marriage certificate is given as Mickleham, Surrey and later his probate record lists him at 4 Burford Cottages, Westhumble. Sadly, Donald never had the chance to meet his daughter
- Donald Pearce's grandfather, John Pearce, was a well-known member of the National

cwgc.org



Temperance Caterers' Association who owned about 80 'Pearce and Plenty' and 'British Tea Table' tea and coffee shops. Donald's father, Mark Guy Pearce, was also in the catering business.



Arezzo War Cemetery in Tuscany, Italy and inscription* near the entrance which reads:
 'The land on which this cemetery stands is the gift of the Italian people for the perpetual resting place
 of the sailors, soldiers & airmen who are honoured here'

* See page 52 for photograph credits

IN MEMORY OF FLIGHT LIEUTENANT HAROLD GEORGE HENRY PHIPPS

82094 Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve
Died 20th September 1943, aged 43, England



Born: 9th July 1900
 Father: George John Phipps (1871-1957)
 Mother: Beatrice Louisa Potter (1875-1966)
 Married 3rd July 1897. St George the Martyr, Southwark
 Siblings: Violet Beatrice Louisa (1899-1995) Teacher in Reigate
 Gladys Montague (1902-1987) Teacher at Northampton High School
 Marjorie Florence (1906-1997) Administration assistant to Phyllis
 Phyllis Hilda (1910-2001) General Medical Practitioner in Dorking
 Marital Status: Single
 Education: Alleyns School, Dulwich
 Residences: 1900-1912 10 Placquet Place, Camberwell
 1912-1924 Montague, 86 Woodwarde Road, East Dulwich
 1924-1932 Woodton, Oakshade Road, Oxshott
 1932-1943 Garden Court, Westhumble

Military history:

At age 17 Harold enlisted in the RAF for the duration of WW1. It is not known what career he pursued following his discharge. In 1940 he was commissioned in the Administrative Branch of the RAF and after several postings in the UK became the commander of a radar base: 5001 A.M.E.S. (Air Ministry Experimental Station), on the coast of West Africa at Tumbu, Sierra Leone

In April 1943, only four months after arriving at Tumbu he collapsed and was admitted to the Military Hospital in Freetown, Sierra Leone. Unfortunately his illness worsened and he was flown to the UK where he died of lung cancer in King Edward VII Emergency Chest Hospital, Midhurst, Sussex, in September 1943. He was buried at Camberwell Old Cemetery.

Additional information:

- In the 1930s the family lived at Garden Court, Westhumble. However in 1940 they moved out to Sussex for the war years when the house was taken over by the army, returning after the war.
- His four sisters never married and lived together in Garden Court for the rest of their lives. During the entire period of his military service Harold wrote many letters to his mother and sisters and on occasion enclosed photographs and even pressed flowers for his sisters. Many of his letters were among their effects when they died, but people who knew the sisters recall that they never spoke of Harold – 'far too painful'.



*Pre-war photographs of Harold (in striped blazer) and his family.
Phyllis seated front left and Marjorie far right.*

We are grateful to Jean Suckling for supplying the photographs and much of the information included in this record.

IN MEMORY OF SERGEANT EDGAR WILLIAM SAWYER

6092249 1st/5th Battalion The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment
Died 25th October 1942, aged 24, North Africa

Born: 29th September 1918. Dorking District
 Father: Edgar William Sawyer (1873-1961)
 Mother: Rosetta Stratton (1880-1965)
 Married 1918
 Sibling: Arthur Henry (twin)
 Married Annie E Mabbitt 1942
 Education: Mickleham School
 Married: Catherine Munro of Inverness 1941
 Daughter: Joyce C Sawyer (born 1941)
 Residence: 7 Chalkpit Cottages (became Hillside Cottages in 1923)

Military history:

At the time of his death Edgar Sawyer was a Lance Sergeant in the 1st/5th battalion of The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment. The 1st/5th was one of the Territorial Battalions in the 131 Queen's Brigade, part of the 44 Home Counties Division. During the winter of 1941 the Division was part of the Dover Garrison but was mobilised for overseas service in May 1942, embarking at Gourock in the Clyde estuary and disembarking at Port Suez in Egypt. Following several weeks of training for desert warfare the Division joined the Eighth Army in August 1942.

Edgar died on 25th October 1942 at the Second battle of El Alamein. This battle (23rd October – 11th November 1942) took place near the Egyptian railway halt of El Alamein. With the Allies victorious, it marked a major turning point in the Western Desert Campaign of the Second World War.

Paul Kingsford, Platoon Commander of 'A' Company of 1st/5th Queens, reported that the men were 'pinned down by machine-gun fire' most of that day. Queen's 1st/5th suffered a number of casualties on the day Sergeant Sawyer lost his life. He was buried at El Alamein War Cemetery, grave reference XXV. E. 10.

Additional information:

- Edgar's father (Edgar William Sawyer senior) was born in 1873 in Suffolk where his family had a farm in Tunstall. In 1911 he was working as a waggoner on the quaintly named 'Horsie Land Farm' in Newdigate, Surrey.
- In 1918, after his marriage to Rosetta Stratton, Edgar Sawyer (senior) moved into 7 Chalkpit Cottages, Mickleham where Rosetta had lived all her life and was then living with her widowed father Henry. Rosetta and Edgar remained in the cottage for more than 40 years until Edgar's death in 1961.



Centre: Chalkpit Cottages, London Road, Mickleham - James I Lewis 1908
View of London Road looking south from Flint Cottages
Renamed Hillside Cottages in 1923 and demolished in two stages around 1970



El Alamein War Cemetery

IN MEMORY OF DRIVER BRINLEY MARCUS WILLIAMS

T/142943 Royal Army Service Corps
Died 27th/28th May 1940, aged 23, at sea off Dunkirk

Born: 6th February 1917. Bryn Gwyn St, Bedwas, Monmouthshire
 Father: William Stephen Williams (born 1890)
 Mother: Minnie Richards (born 1896)
 Married 1914. Cardiff
 Brother: Glyndwr John (1916-1930)
 Early years: Wales
 Married: Kathleen Mary Parrott (born 1912) domestic servant
 20th February 1937. Surrey South Eastern Register Office
 Children: Evelyn (born 1937)
 Enid (born 1939)
 Occupation: General labourer
 Residences: 1917-1930 Bedwas, Monmouthshire
 1932-1937 Cannonside, Fetcham, Surrey
 1938-1939 30 Oakdene Close, Brockham, Surrey



Dunkirk Memorial, Dunkirk*

Military history:

Brinley served as a driver in the Royal Army Service Corps although he seems to have been known as Marcus Brinley. The RASC records only show an M B Williams, reported as 'missing, believed killed', in October 1940, changed to 'reported killed' by July 1941. He is commemorated on the Dunkirk Memorial (Column 139) where his name is given as Marcus Brindley. His name was also added to the gravestone of his brother Glyndwr with the inscription 'Missing at Dunkirk May 1940'.

Additional information:

- Brinley's father was a haulage rider in the local colliery.
- According to his gravestone in St Barrwg's churchyard in Bedwas, Brinley's older brother Glyndwr 'lost his life on the surface of the Bedwas colliery on April 17th 1930 in his 15th year'. Perhaps it was this family tragedy that caused the family to leave Bedwas but we do not know why they moved to Surrey. However, in 1932 the Electoral Register for Fetcham shows William and Minnie living at Joydene, No. 5 Road (now 28 Cannonside). By 1934 they had moved to a house on the opposite side of the street and named it Glyndwr (now 25 Cannonside), no doubt in memory of their older son.
- Brinley is commemorated on the Mickleham War Memorial because in 1939, according to the Electoral Register, his parents were living at Burford Lodge, Westhumble. By 1945 they had moved to 2 New Cottages, later known as New Burford Cottages, where they were still living in 1967.

Photographs: Jackie and Peter Allen



Brinley William's brother's tombstone in Bedwas churchyard with detail of inscription on right

* See page 52 for photograph credits

CREDITS FOR PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN FROM THE WEB

Page 11 THIEPVAL MEMORIAL TO THE MISSING

Thiepval By Chris Hartford from London, UK- Flickr,

Page 19 LONE PINE CEMETERY, ANZAC, GALLIPOLI, TURKEY

Gary Blakeley- Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=27832184>

Page 25 7 ADAM STREET, ADELPHI, MIDDLESEX

'Plate 92: No. 7, Adam Street', in *Survey of London: Volume 18, St Martin-in-The-Fields II: the Strand*, ed. G H Gater and E P Wheeler (London, 1937), p. 92. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/survey-london/vol18/pt2/plate-92> [accessed 16 August 2016].

Page 35 CHATHAM NAVAL WAR MEMORIAL

Clem Rutter, Rochester Kent- Own work, CC BY 2.5, Link

Page 39 FLEET AIR ARM MEMORIAL, LEE-ON-SOLENT, HAMPSHIRE *HampshireCam* – David Packman

Page 43 RHEINBERG WAR CEMETERY NORDRHEIN-WESTFALEN, GERMANY

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Page 47 AREZZO INSCRIPTION

Giovanni Baldini- http://www.resistenzatoscana.it/monumenti/arezzo/arezzo_war_cemetery/, CC BY 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=49200080>

Page 50 DUNKIRK MEMORIAL, DUNKIRK

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Researchers

Paul Brown

Roger Davis

Caroline Freuler

Judy Kinloch

Judith Long

Phil Randles

Veronica Randles

Sue Tatham

Fiona Taylor

With assistance from Andrew Tatham and Ben Tatham

Booklet Design

Sue Tatham

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THEY SHALL GROW NOT OLD,
AS WE THAT ARE LEFT GROW OLD:
AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM,
NOR THE YEARS CONDEMN
AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN
AND IN THE MORNING
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.