

Ashmansworth and Crux Easton

The Great War

1914 - 1919

Ashmansworth War Memorial

George Edgar Booth

Private George Edgar Booth was the eldest son of Charles and Emily Booth. of Village Road, Ashmansworth. Upon being called up he joined the 2nd Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. He later transferred to the 1st Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment. On the evening of the 17th June 1917 the battalion moved into the front line near Nieupoort. Belgium. By 1.15 am on the 18th June 1917 the relief was complete. Later that day the battalion suffered one man wounded, and then on the 19th June 1917 a total of 12 men were wounded in action. Two of the men subsequently died of their wounds. Private George Edgar Booth died of wounds on the 19th June 1917, aged 21. He is buried in Coxyde Military Cemetery, Belgium.

Ashmansworth War Memorial

Charles Cox

Sergeant Charles Cox was the son of Chedorlaomer and Jane Cox, of Bramshott, Hampshire, and husband of Nora Robertine Cox, and the father of one child, of Ashmansworth. Prior to the war he was a Regular soldier serving with the Royal Field Artillery. Upon mobilisation he went with his unit, the 113th Battery, 25th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery to France, arriving there on the 18th August 1914. In May 1916 his battery was in Les Brebis, near Bully Grenay, France. On the 28th and 29th May 1916 Les Brebis was shelled by the Germans, the shelling eased on the 30th, and on the 31st – *‘During the day the hostile artillery were unusually quiet but became rather active towards evening’*. During one of these bombardments, Sergeant Charles Cox was killed whilst trying successful to save a horse. He was aged 39. He is buried in Bully-Grenay Communal Cemetery, British Extension. France. He had previously been Mentioned in Despatches.

Ashmansworth War Memorial

Albert Etwell

Gunner Albert Etwell was the son of Edward and Jane Etwell of Village Road, Ashmansworth, and husband of Frances Etwell (nee Mason), and the father of two children, of Curzon Street. Faccombe, Andover. He volunteered for the army in November 1914 joining the Royal Field Artillery. After training near Exeter, he was transferred to the Mounted Military Police in Edinburgh. He went to France early in October 1916 where he joined the Reserve Division, Trench Mortar Battery, Royal Field Artillery. Gunner Albert Etwell was one of five men from his unit killed in action on the 29th July 1917. He was aged 36. He is buried in Dud Corner Cemetery, Loos, France.

Ashmansworth War Memorial

Frank Fouks

No biography available

Ashmansworth – not listed on war memorial

Edward James Hazell

Private Edward James Hazell was the son of Edwin and Ann Hazell, of Brightwalton, Wantage, and husband of Edith Ellen Hazell (nee Scull, originally from Ashmansworth), and the father of one child, of Northbrook Place, Newbury. He was an Army Reservist and went with his unit, 1st Battalion, Princess Charlotte of Wales (Royal Berkshire) Regiment, to France, landing there on the 13th August 1914. After being engaged in fighting near Gheluvelt, Belgium, the battalion moved, on the 7th November 1914 to positions near Westhoek. They stayed in this area for nine days, exposed to incessant rain and heavy shell fire. Private Edward James Hazell was killed in action on the 15th November 1914. He was aged 27. He has no known grave and is commemorated on Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium. His brother in law, Harvey Scull was also killed in the war.

Ashmansworth War Memorial

William Edward Johnson

Private William Edward Johnson was the son of Charles and Matilda Johnson of Ashmansworth and husband of Florence Maud Johnson, of 3 East Cottage, Datchet, Buckinghamshire. He volunteered for the army joining the 2nd/1st (Buckinghamshire) Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. On the 19th July 1916 the battalion were in the trenches near Fauquissart, France, where they were due to take part in a large scale attack on the German Positions

on the River Laves. Whilst waiting to attack, the battalion was heavily shelled, including with gas shells, by the Germans, and then a British shell landed short and ruptured one of their own gas cylinders. They suffered 163 Casualties before they left the trenches. The remainder of the battalion then 'went over top', but were mown down by heavy machine gun fire. The battalion suffered 342 casualties in the assault, Private William Edward Johnson was killed in action on the 19th July 1916. He was aged 23. He has no known grave, and is commemorated on the Loos Memorial, France.

Crux Easton – not listed on war memorial

Edward Joseph Kennedy

Private Edmund Joseph Kennedy was the son of Patrick and Mary Kennedy, of Kearney, Ontario, Canada, and the husband of Rosa May Kennedy, of Manor Farm, Crux Easton. He was born in 1888 in Springstown, Ontario. He volunteered for the Canadian Army on the 7th November 1914, and arrived with his unit, the 24th (Victoria Riles) Battalion, Canadian Infantry, in France on the 8th June 1915. On the 13th May 1916 he transferred, after a period of illness, to the Regimental Pay and Record Office in London. Whilst here he met Rosa May Goulstone, and they married in January 1917. On the 25th August 1917 he returned to active duty with his unit. On the 6th November 1917 the battalion were in the frontline near Passchendaele, Belgium. After an attack by the 26th Battalion, the 24th Battalion positions were intensely shelled - part of the battalion were '*practically wiped out, their trenches being absolutely demolished*'. Private Edmund Joseph Kennedy was one of 233 casualties in the battalion that day; he was killed in action, aged 32. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium.

Ashmansworth – not listed on war memorial

William Kneller

Sergeant William Kneller was the son of James and Emma Kneller of Whitchurch, and husband of Mary Kneller, of Ashmansworth. He volunteered for the army joining the 12th Battalion, Hampshire Regiment. He later transferred to the 7th Battalion, Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire) Regiment. Having served most of the war in Salonika, Greece, the battalion moved to the Western Front on the 1st July 1918. Throughout October and early November 1918 the battalion was engaged in pursuing the retreating German Army. By the 29th October they had reached Le Cateau, France. The next day the battalion relieved the 9th Battalion, Devonshire Regiment in the Line. Sergeant William Kneller was killed in action on the 31st October 1918, aged 36. He is buried in Cross Roads Cemetery, Fontaine-Au-Bois, France.

Ashmansworth War Memorial

Harvey Scull

Private Harvey Scull was the son of Henry and Emily Scull of Ashmansworth, and husband of Annie Elizabeth Dorothea Scull, of 1008, Hay Street, Perth, Western Australia. He enlisted on the 3rd April 1916, and after training in Australia landed in France on the 17th January 1917, where he joined the 16th Battalion, Australian Infantry Force on the 21st January 1917. On the 9th June 1917 the battalion *'relieved a New Zealand Battalion in the Support Line, back of Messines and remained here until the evening of the 11th June 1917. Whilst here the men were engaged on various fatigue works. At intervals these support trenches were heavily shelled, and we suffered some casualties'*. Private Harvey Scull was killed in action on the 11th June 1917, aged 23. He is buried in Messines Ridge British Cemetery, Belgium. His brother in law, James Hazell was also killed in the war.

Ashmansworth War Memorial

Claud Rokako A' Beckett Terrell

Captain Claud Rokako A'Beckett Terrell MC was the son of Arthur and Georgie A'Beckett Terrell, of 12, Fitzjames Avenue, Kensington, and Ashmansworth. He volunteered for the army on the 27th December 1915, having just returned from Singapore where he had been employed as a Lawyer. He was commissioned Second Lieutenant and joined the 460th Battery, 15th Brigade, Royal Horse Artillery. He was promoted Captain on the 9th April 1917. On the 8th June 1917 Captain Claud Rokako A'Beckett Terrell was *'seriously wounded by a high velocity shell while he was walking from the OP [Observation Post] to the battery'*. He died of wounds on the 10th June 1917 in 41 Casualty Clearing Station. He was aged 33. He is buried in Duisans British Cemetery, Etrun, France. In April 1917 he was awarded the Military Cross (MC) for conspicuous bravery and gallantry in action.