

## First World War - Hamble Losses

Ten Hamble men made the ultimate sacrifice to enable us to enjoy our free lives today. As well as these men, fifty one TS Mercury Old Boys who trained at Hamble lost their lives during the Great War. There were around 700 people living in the village at this time.

The village's War Memorial, next to the Church Lychgate, has the names of these men on it, but other than their names what do we know about them. With improved access to old records through the use of computers, we can find out more about them but unfortunately two thirds of the First World War service records were destroyed by enemy bombing during the Second World War.

The war did not discriminate between the men who died, with the son of the owner of 'Ravenswood' in Satchell Lane, a large house with servants, who lived off her private means and the son of an agricultural labourer living in the 'Thatched Cottages' in the same Lane both losing their lives. Edmund Lansdowne Beale a Captain in the 21st Cambridge Regiment was killed in action on the 22nd March 1918, aged 26. He left a widow and assets worth £3,720. Harry Redding was a Private in the Hampshire Regiment died on 3rd September 1916 when he was about 19 years old. Both died at Somme in France.

The widow of a shellfish merchant who lived at 'Riverbank' next to the foreshore sadly lost both of her sons. Frederick Penney who was a Corporal in the Hampshire Regiment died in 1917, in what is now Iraq and is buried in a Baghdad war cemetery. He was aged 25. Albert, her other son, who was a Private in the Royal Hussars, died towards the end of the war in March 1918, aged 27, at Somme. Prior to the war he helped in the family business. Unfortunately their names are spelt incorrectly on the village's War Memorial, i.e. Penny.

George Kenward, a Gunner in the Royal Garrison Artillery, whose family lived at 'Sydney Farm' and William Candy a Corporal in the Royal Flying Corps both died in 1916 and are buried in Baghdad. William, who was a boatyard labourer and then a printer prior to the war, originally signed up with the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment.

Also in 1916 Walter Bedbrook, son of the widow of a fishing smack and yacht mariner who lived in the Square, died in France as a member of the London Regiment, aged 29. He was buried at Rouen. Charles Taylor, who worked in the family's house building business, a Lance Corporal in the Royal Engineers died in September 1917 at Ypres and is buried in a Belgium war cemetery.

The first person to die, whose name is on the War Memorial, was Alfred Vye and he lost his life at Gallipoli in 1915 and records state his death place was at sea. His family are recorded as living at Upham at his death.

Finally, George Gill a Petty Officer on the 'HMS Laurentic', an Armed Merchant Cruiser, lost his life when it was sunk off Northern Ireland by U-boat laid mines in 1917. It was travelling to New York and around 350 people died.

When you are next looking at our War Memorial remember the people recorded on it were village residents just like us and they are not just names. They did not return home to Hamble, as they were either lost at sea or are lying in the war fields and cemeteries in foreign countries.

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