

# Remembrance Day Event

## 11 November 2023

This was an open-air event held on 11 November 2023 to celebrate both the Ewelme men and the animals who served and who died in World War 1.





# The Presentation given by David Orpwood

*This memorial is not just about Nancy & Tom Orpwood, my grandfather, they were the lucky ones, they survived. Tom's brother Jack went to the front on 20<sup>th</sup> May 1915 and was killed 22<sup>nd</sup> June same year, a month after arriving, I believe when Jack Orpwood was shot, by a sniper, Purse Tuckwell, Kay Tuckwell's grandfather, was with him when it happened. There are 20 names on the memorial in the church of those fallen in WW1, it is unclear how many from Ewelme left to go to the front and like so many facts they have now faded and there are conflicting numbers, the sad fact is those that did not return, to our never ending gratitude and*

**THEY WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN.**

*On the church memorial it says, 'THE GREAT WAR', don't be fooled, no war is great, look what's happening in Ukraine and Israel & Palestine now.*

*As I said these two are the lucky ones. In WW1 it is reported that 8 million horses/donkeys/mules died in the most awful conditions. We believe Nancy survived because Grandpa, being a farmer, not only knew how to look after animals but he would tend to her before himself, as any farmer did and does. The Queens Own Oxford Hussars, know as Queer Objects On Horseback, were dispatched to Dunkirk from Southampton on SS Bellerophon on 20<sup>th</sup> September 1914, there were 24 officers, 447 other ranks and 455 horses. There were dogs and homing pigeons also employed in this campaign, it is recorded that perhaps 30,000 dogs 20,000 pigeons died in the campaign, and one can only imagine the squalor they had to live in.*

*At the end of the campaign Tom & Nancy were demobbed on February 27<sup>th</sup> 1919. The story has been well publicised that on his return from Culham Station Grandpa stopped for a beer at pub, presumably The Shepherds Hut, when he came out Nancy was nowhere to be seen. She had walked back to her stable after 4.5 years. She then spent the rest of her life on the farm with Tom and we believe she died in her early 30's and is buried at the Hyde, not 100 yards from here (her stable). It was customary for only cavalry horses and officers' horses to be returned, the rest were left behind in France & Belgium. The horses left behind*

*were used by local farmers or eaten, or if too poor just shot; pretty grim after what they'd been through. As I said nothing great in war.*

*The current armed forces have moved on with the use of animals; rats are used for mine detection, dolphins for mines at sea, war dogs for detection and aggression. Camels in deserts, and of course horses are still used for ceremonial duties, the days of cavalry charges against modern guns are long gone.*

*There is a great similarity between our armed forces, now and then and the police force who also use animals, the police horses for surveillance, crowd control and neighbourhood policing. They use dogs for detection and, as I'm sure some of you know, control. The greatest similarity between soldiers and police is they run towards danger, not away from it and it is because of their dedication to our safety we owe them the greatest respect. It was because of the likes of Tom and Nancy we are standing here today in a free country, and it is our armed forces and police, like Rachel, that maintain that freedom. We hold you all in high regard and owe you a huge debt of gratitude.*

*The names to be read out by Michael Whitfeld of the fallen from Ewelme have many relations I have known, historic Ewelme families like Jessup, Shepherd, Winfield, Munday, Champion, Kent, Keen and Langsley. If only I had asked questions of Tom, Purse Tuckwell & others when they were alive, but Tom died when I was 12 years old and I believe Purse at similar time. They never talked about it to us youngsters or probably no one, it was just too awful, and I guess they carried those scars for the rest of their lives. Just think what it must have been like for their parents left at home hearing such grim tales. What is great about WAR? We mourn for the fallen-*

### **THEY WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN**

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The following pages are derived from an exhibition in the village hall of Ewelme and World War 1, following the well-attended out-door ceremony held at the Village Pound.

Grateful thanks to the many villagers who loaned artefacts that belonged to their ancestors who served in WW1.

# Introduction

This exhibition has a number of “threads” including:-

- Ewelme men and families who served in WWI including many who made the ultimate sacrifice;
- Memorabilia of WWI held by Ewelme families;
- Animals that served in WWI;
- Plus a number of loosely related miscellanea.

The exhibition was put together by Carol Sawbridge, Yvonne Solomon and David Solomon using material from

the Ewelme Society Archive, the detailed researches of Karen Kaye, and various local families. Thanks are due to the following:- Sandra Ayling, Sue Brown (Bensington Society History Group), Marilyn Fletcher, Richard Luker, Tony Munday, William Munday, David Orpwood, Andy Russell and Cynthia Winfield, with apologies to anyone we have missed.

We have put together a series of boards of local families from which more than one WWI serviceman was drawn. We have presented limited family trees extending only far enough to show how the various servicemen were related. Men who served are highlighted in yellow; those who died, in orange. The type of material presented varies considerable between families; this is just a reflection of what was available to us.

If you have material on Ewelme WWI people and things that are not represented here please let Carol Sawbridge know, such material is of great interest to the local archive.





# Those who gave their lives

These sheets are the results of research by Karen Kaye and include all those that she had identified as living in, or having been born in Ewelme

## Walter Ernest Munday

14<sup>th</sup> August 1916

Born in Ewelme in early 1889 to George and Caroline, Walter was one of seven children. His father, George, was an agricultural labourer in 1891. He is described as a cow keeper on the common in the 1901 census, while Walter age 12 is not shown to have an occupation, nor is listed as being at school. In 1911, George was an Almsman with his wife living in the cloisters, while Walter is currently missing from the census.

Walter was a private with the 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry. He had been fighting in France since the end of March 1915 and was killed on 14<sup>th</sup> August 1916 when there was great activity in the Somme region. He is remembered on the huge Thiepval Memorial.

## Herbert Winfield

13th July 1916

Son of Richard and Ruth Winfield, Herbert had 1 brother and 2 sisters. He was born in Ewelme in the early part of 1884. By the age of 17 he was a groom, a position he held for many years as he is still listed in this way 10 years later on the 1911 census when he was 27.

He joined the 2nd/4th Bn Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry and went to war during 1916. We don't know exactly when but it must have been after 1915 as he is not awarded the 1915 star, a medal for those entering active service during that year. At the time of his death, his parents were well into their 60s and were living at 9 The Cloisters as Almsmen. Herbert is remembered on the Pont-Du-Hem Military Cemetery, La Gorgue.

## Thomas Hinton

16 Apr 1918

Birth Place: Ewelme, Oxon  
Death Date:  
Death Location: France & Flanders  
Enlistment Location: Carmarthen  
Rank: SPR.  
Regiment: Corps of Royal Engineers  
Number: 48824  
Type of Casualty: Died of wounds  
Theatre of War: Western European Theatre  
Comments: 64th H.A.G. Bde., Signal Sub-Sect., R.E.

## Alfred Thomas Cripps

28th July 1917

Alfred Thomas was born on 17th February 1898 to parents Richard and Bridgie. Richard was a shepherd. The family lived at Kings Pond but moved to settle on Potters Farm for many years. Bridgie was originally from Ireland.

Just after his 17th birthday, Alfred joined the Great Western Railway at Didcot to become an engine cleaner, earning 2'/4d. From this position there was opportunity to rise through the ranks to one day become an engine driver, every little boys dream. However, something interrupted Alfred, and just 2 days later he resigned his post. Maybe it wasn't the job for him or maybe he thought he should sign up for war duty instead, we can't know.

We do know that he did join up with the 8th Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment and went to the Western Front, where he was killed 28th July 1917. He is buried at Oostaverne Wood Cemetery.

*We will remember him*



## William Lansley

30<sup>th</sup> March 1919

William Lansley died at the Berkshire Asylum, Cholsey of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, which he had had for some time. He is the only one of our men for which there is a surviving Army service record. His death is not recognised as an official war death as he was discharged from the army in 1917 due to ill health.

William was born in Ashmansworth, near Highclere, in 1885.

His father, also William, was a Blacksmith. By the age of 15,

William had followed in his father's footsteps and was a blacksmith's apprentice. He joined up with the 20th Hussars on 7th March 1905 and was appointed Shoeing Smith on 1st March 1907. We know from his Attestation papers that he had a fresh complexion, blue eyes and dark brown hair. In July 1914, while shoeing a horse, a chip of steel struck his right eye, damaging the cornea. This resulted in him being only able to see light in that eye, and was subsequently recommended for discharge. The records are unclear but either the recommendation was not approved or he rejoined, as he appears with the Army Service Corps for the First World War, again as a Shoeing Smith.

He went abroad as part of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force and was in Salonika. He suffered from dysentery and was returned home to a war hospital to recover, where he was found to be dull and listless, and suffering from what they called confusional insanity. Presumably the village felt that he should be recognised as a soldier and whilst he didn't die on the battle field, his illnesses could be attributed to his time there. We remember him here.

## John Edward Orpwood

22 June 1915

Birth Place: Ewelme, Berks  
Residence: Ewelme, Berks  
Death Location: France & Flanders  
Enlistment Location: Oxford  
Rank: Private  
Regiment: Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry  
Battalion: 5th Battalion  
Number: 15979  
Type of Casualty: Killed in action  
Theatre of War: Western European Theatre

## Harry Smith

13th July 1916

Birth Place: Ewelme, Oxon  
Death Date: 13 Nov 1916  
Death Location: France & Flanders  
Enlistment Location: Reading  
Rank: Private  
Regiment: Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry  
Battalion: 2nd Battalion  
Number: 33233  
Type of Casualty: Died of wounds  
Theatre of War: Western European Theatre  
Comments: Formerly 25934, R. Berks Regt.

## John Winfield

13 November 1916

Birth Place: Ewelme, Berks  
Residence: Brightwell, Oxon  
Death Location: France & Flanders  
Enlistment Location: Oxford  
Rank: Private  
Regiment: Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry  
Battalion: 2nd Battalion  
Number: 6502  
Type of Casualty: Killed in action  
Theatre of War: Western European Theatre.

*We will remember him.*





## John Godden

1st December 1918

Staff Farrier Sergeant John Godden is the only man remembered on the memorial to have been buried in Ewelme. You can find his grave in the upper churchyard towards the top right hand corner. His grave is recognised and supported by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

He was born in 1872 in Whitchurch. By 1881 the family had settled in Ewelme, where his father Edward was a blacksmith and shoeing smith. John had many years service in the military, having previously gone to South Africa as part of the 7th Queen's Own Hussars to fight in the Matabele Expedition and Boer War. He settled in South Africa for a while, married and had a daughter, Gertrude, in Johannesburg. His gravestone records that he was in the police whilst there. During WW1 he was with the Royal Field Artillery. The nature of his death is unknown but he died at the Military Hospital in Middlesbrough on 1st December 1918.

He was 46. He is the eldest to be remembered on the memorial at Ewelme.

*We will remember him*

## Arthur Thomas Shepherd

31 May 1916

Arthur was born on 11th November 1898, a poignant date given what was to follow. He was born and brought up in Ewelme, where his father Harry was recorded as a roadman for the council in the 1901 census and a gardener's labourer in that of 1911. His mother Ellen, originally from Britwell, had 10 children in total, one of whom died in infancy.

Arthur joined the navy aged 16, and was described as a farm worker before joining up. He started his career on HMS Powerful, and within 9 months had risen from rating Boy 2nd Class to Boy 1st Class. He then joined HMS Defiance for a short time before moving to HMS Defence. During the Battle of Jutland on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1916, HMS Defence was hit in her rear magazine, the resulting explosion and fire causing further magazines to explode and sink the ship with all onboard, approximately 900 men.

Arthur is remembered on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial. He is the youngest to be remembered on the memorial in Ewelme, at just 17 years of age.

## Albert Cook

16 August 1916

Albert's family moved quite a lot, possibly due to the nature of his father's work. William Cook was a shepherd. He and his wife, Eliza Ellen had 6 children. Albert was the eldest born in Kintbury, Berkshire. Further children followed at 2 yearly intervals, first Ellen, then Thomas both born in Mapledurham. Next was Alfred, born in Ruscombe near Twyford followed by Elizabeth back in Mapledurham.

Three years later, they were in Oxfordshire (Greys Church?) where Rose was born.

In 1911, Eliza and the children are living in Ewelme but without husband William. They are living with a William Davies and Eliza is his housekeeper. William Cook is a carter on a farm but living by himself in Binfield, near Bracknell. Albert was described in the 1911 census as a 1st Class Golf Caddy, aged 16. There were several boys in the village with this occupation, which seemed surprising as I imagined it to be a relatively new pastime. However, there were a number of golf clubs and courses in the area. There was even a 9 hole golf course in Ewelme for a time, based on the common.

Albert joined the 10th Bn Gloucestershire Regiment, with whom he became a Corporal. He went to France on 9th August 1915 but was killed in action on 16th August 1916. He is buried in Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, Longueval.



## Charles Henry Champion

6 January 1917

Charles Henry started life as Henry Champion in the summer of 1876, born in Oxford. By the time of the 1881 census, he was known as Charles Henry. The family were living in Roke Lane, Roke. In 1891, they still lived in Roke. By this time Charles was 15 and was working as a Carter's Boy. During the next decade, the family moved to Eyre's Lane, Ewelme. Charles, his brother George and his father are all recorded as Farm Servants on the 1901 census, while younger brother John was a Plough Boy.

A further 10 years on, in the 1911 census, the 3 boys are still living with their parents, now in Cat Lane. All 3 boys work on a farm, Charles and John as labourers, brother George as a Carter. His parents were Stephen and Mary Julia. By 1911, Stephen at age 74 had retired. They had had a long marriage of 49 years at that time. They had 12 children in total but 4 died in infancy.

Charles was about 36 at the outbreak of war. The Military Service Act of 1916 stated that all men between 18-45 could be called up for service unless they were married, widowed, a minister of religion or in a reserved occupation. Prior to this, enlistment was voluntary. Charles joined the Royal Berkshire Regiment, otherwise known as Princess Charlotte of Wales's, in the 12th Labour Battalion, which was formed in June 1916 and went to France in August. He died in France on 6th January 1917. He is buried in Calais Southern Cemetery.

## Albert George Henry Munday

23 October 1917

Albert George Henry Munday was born in 1898, but was known in the family as George. The family lived at Huntinglands Farm in Ewelme. There were 10 children and they lived in a 6 room house. Father Alfred was a carter on the farm. There were 6 children living at home in 1911 with a lodger, so it must have been a bit of squash.

George was at school in 1911 with younger brother John. He was only 15 when war broke out.

George enlisted in Watlington to the Wiltshire Regiment. He then transferred to the 6th Battalion Prince Albert's (Somerset Light Infantry). He was killed in action on 23rd October 1917. He is remembered at Tyne Cot Memorial.

*We will remember him*



## Harry Jessup

21 March 1915

Harry Jessup was born in Tunbridge Wells in 1886. His father was Thomas but he passed away, leaving his mother a widow with 3 young children. In the 1891 census she is listed as a laundress. They are living in Stedham in West Sussex and appear to be in the employ of the Ruck Keene family, Henry Ruck Keene being a Clerk in Holy Orders. Harry's older sister Evelyn is a Housemaid for the family. In 1901, Harry is a Groom aged 17 and is boarding with the Coachman and his wife in Slinfold, Sussex.

In 1911, he is recorded on the census with the 2nd Grenadier Guards at barracks in Aldershot. On his medal record he is listed as a Private with the 1st Grenadier Guards, regimental number 14513. It lists his entry into the theatre of war as 6th October 1914. He gained all three medals, the British Medal, Victory Medal, and 1914 Star.

He died 21st March 1915, aged 30. His death was announced in a local newspaper, "Death at the Front - Deep regret is felt here at the death at the Front of Private Jessop, of the Grenadier Guards, who till he joined the Army was in the employ of F Lawson Esq. He was very badly wounded at the terrible Battle of Neuve Chappell, losing a leg and sustaining a grievous injury to the spine. He was removed to the hospital at Boulogne where he died a day or two ago." He is buried in the Boulogne Eastern Cemetery.

## William Charles Alfred Mundy

25 September 1915

Birth Place: Ewelme, Oxon

Death Location: France & Flanders

Enlistment Location: Stow-on-the-wold

Rank: Private

Regiment: Gloucestershire Regiment

Battalion: 10th (Service) Battalion

Number: 17351

Type of Casualty: Killed in action

Theatre of War: Western European Theatre

## Arthur Frederick Benning

23 December 1917

Arthur Frederick Benning was born on 10th February 1897 in Wendover Buckinghamshire, to parents Annie and William. It was quite a large family of 6 children. In 1901, he is living in Wendover with his family. They were living in a house of 4 rooms on Tring Road. By 1911, the family had moved to Ewelme and father William was working as he had for many years as a hay binder/straw tyer.

Arthur had followed him into this line of work. However, 2 years later, Arthur decides a land locked life is not for him and joins the Navy at 16 to begin his adventure at sea. We know from his service record that he had brown hair, blue eyes and was of fair complexion. At 16, he was 5'3" with a chest measurement of 33". By the outbreak of war 2 years later, he had grown to 5'7" with a 36" chest. The Navy had obviously fed him well and built up his strength. Arthur served on several ships, with names such as Ganges, Edgar, Vivid I, and the Duke of Edinburgh, with whom he spent much of the war and fought at the Battle of Jutland. He finally joined HMS Tornado on 30th October 1917. Throughout his service his conduct was reported as Very Good and his ability as Superior.

On 23rd December 1917, HMS Tornado ran into a minefield, laid to protect the port of Rotterdam near the Maas Light Buoy, whilst travelling with HMS Torrent, HMS Surprise and HMS Radiant. These were newly built destroyers described as the best the Royal Navy had. Only HMS Radiant survived. The other 3 hit mines and were sunk with the loss of 252 lives. HMS Tornado had 82 men on board, only 1 survived. Arthur is remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial.



## Charles Henry Aves

16 August 1917

Charles was born in 1886 in Terling near Braintree, Essex to parents Henry & Emily Aves. Henry was an agricultural labourer. They had 4 other children, Edith Annie, Edward, Agnes, and Owen. In 1891 they lived in Brick Cottages in Terling. It must have been an agricultural area, as all of their neighbours are also agricultural labourers. By 1901, there are a further 2 children, Fred and Alfred. Henry is listed as a stockman on a farm, looking after cattle. Charles at the age of 15 is working as a gardener's labourer.

On the 1911 census, Charles has left home and is now in Ewelme. He is based at Ewelme Downs and is a gardener. He is living with 2 other men, who both work at the estate. One is from Paris and is described as a motor driver, and the other from St Martins in the Field, London and is the motor cleaner; occupations that demonstrate this was a wealthy household. They were all literate, as each has filled in his own portion of the census (you can see the handwriting is different on all 3 entries).

Charles married Edith Smith in the summer of 1913. They had 2 children, Harry Robert in 1914 and Eric C in 1916. Charles was part of the Herts Regiment and then the Essex Regiment, with regimental number 202873. He received the Victory and the British medal. Charles was killed on 16th August 1917. He is remembered with honour at the Poelcapelle British Cemetery, north-east of Ieper.

As a footnote, his son, Harry Robert Aves fought in the Second World War. He was an Aircraftman 2nd Class in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. He was killed in action and is also remembered on the Ewelme war memorial.

## Adonijah Smith

23 July 1916

It seems he was known as Nijah and is recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as N. Smith. He joined "A" Coy. 1st/4th Bn., Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry and his service number was 5210.

He was born in Ewelme towards the end of 1897. His father, John Edward Smith was from Lewknor and was a butcher and slaughterman. His mother Ellen was from Brightwell, where their first 4 children were born. A 5th was born in Berrick and the family must have moved to Ewelme during the course of 1897 before the birth of Adonijah. By 1911, only Adonijah, and brother Harry were living at home with their parents. Adonijah goes to school, Harry is a chauffeur and father John was a watercress cutter.

Adonijah was 18 when he died.

## Harry Augustus Kent

10 August 1917

Harry was born in the 3rd quarter of 1886. In 1891 the family were living on Beggar Bush Hill. Harry was living with his parents James and Emma and his 4 siblings. There were a further 5 siblings who had already left home by this time. His father James was a lime kiln labourer, a dangerous occupation. His mother, Emma, hailed from Shoreditch in London. His parents were relatively old (49 and 40) when Harry was born.

In 1901, they were still living on Beggar Bush Hill and had a further child, Daisy. So in total they had 11 children, although 2 died in infancy. In 1901, aged 14, Harry was a gardener's boy. In 1911, aged 24, he was a labourer. He was still living with his parents, older brother Horace, and younger sister Daisy, on Beggar Bush Hill. The family lived in a property with 4 rooms, so relatively small but was a stable arrangement as they had been there for at least 20 years.

Harry served with 7th Battalion Queens Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) as a private. He gained the British and Victory medal. He died of wounds on 10th August 1917 aged 31. He is buried in Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery.

## William Thomas Busby

13 September 1918

William was registered at birth as Thomas William Busby but on all later records is mentioned as William Thomas.

He was born in the first quarter of 1900. His parents were Harry and Ada from Blewbury and Upton respectively. In 1901, they lived in Ewelme with older son, Harry aged 12 born in Upton and William aged 1 born in Ewelme. They were living on The Street. Father Harry was an agricultural labourer. By 1911, they had another son, Jim then aged 5. Harry was still a farm labourer and son Harry, now 22, was a bricklayer's labourer. William at age 11 was at school.

When war broke out, William was only 14. He signed up at Cowley Barracks, Oxford and joined the Hampshire regiment, 2nd/4th Battalion, his regimental number was 29034. He was killed in action on 13th September 1918 aged just 18. He is remembered on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial. From the Commonwealth War Graves Commission information: "This Memorial bears the names of over 9,000 men who fell in the period from 8 August 1918 to the date of the Armistice in the Advance to Victory in Picardy and Artois, between the Somme and Loos, and who have no known grave."

## William Small

8 January 1916

Birth Place: Ewelme, Oxon  
Residence: Wallingford, Berks  
Death Location: Persian Gulf  
Enlistment Location: Oxford  
Rank: Private  
Regiment: Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light  
Infantry  
Battalion: 1st Battalion  
Number: 8244  
Type of Casualty: Died of wounds  
Theatre of War: Asiatic Theatres

## Harry Wigmore

21 August 1917

Birth Place: Bucklebury, Berks  
Residence: Ewelme, Oxon  
Death Location: France & Flanders  
Enlistment Location: Caversham, Berks  
Rank: Private  
Regiment: Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light  
Infantry  
Battalion: 2/4th Battalion  
Number: 204225  
Type of Casualty: Killed in action  
Theatre of War: Western European Theatre

## Jesse Walter Harmer

20 September 1917

Birth Place: Ewelme, Oxon  
Death Location: France & Flanders  
Enlistment Location: Wallingford, Berks  
Rank: Private  
Regiment: Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light  
Infantry  
Battalion: 6th Battalion  
Number: 33639  
Type of Casualty: Killed in action  
Theatre of War: Western European Theatre

## John Edward Orpwood

22 June 1915

John Edward Orpwood was killed on the Western Front on 22nd June 1915. We know from his Medal Record Index Card, that he only entered the field of battle on 20th May 1915. His war lasted a mere month. He was aged 22.

Prior to joining the Army, John worked on his father's farm. He was born in 1893 to parents Herbert & Ellen. Herbert was a farmer who employed people. In 1901 when John was 7, they had a general domestic servant and a mother's help assisting them around the house. However John's 3 older siblings, 2 boys and a girl, did not appear to be living with the family. They were boarding with an elderly widow, Jane Payne and her widowed daughter Harriet Payne at 12 Castle Street, Wallingford. By 1911, the family is living altogether, with the 3 sons all helping out on the family farm.

John served with the 5th Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry. John's brothers also fought, Herbert James for the 6th Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry and Thomas Champion for the Queens Own Oxfordshire Hussars. They both survived and went on to become farmers themselves. John is remembered on the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres.

*We will remember him*



## Ira Berry

17 March 1918

Birth Place: Ewelme, Oxford  
Death Location: Home  
Enlistment Location: Reading, Berks  
Rank: Private  
Regiment: Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry  
Battalion: 11th Battalion  
Number: 48222  
Type of Casualty: Died  
Theatre of War: Home  
Comments: T.R./24848

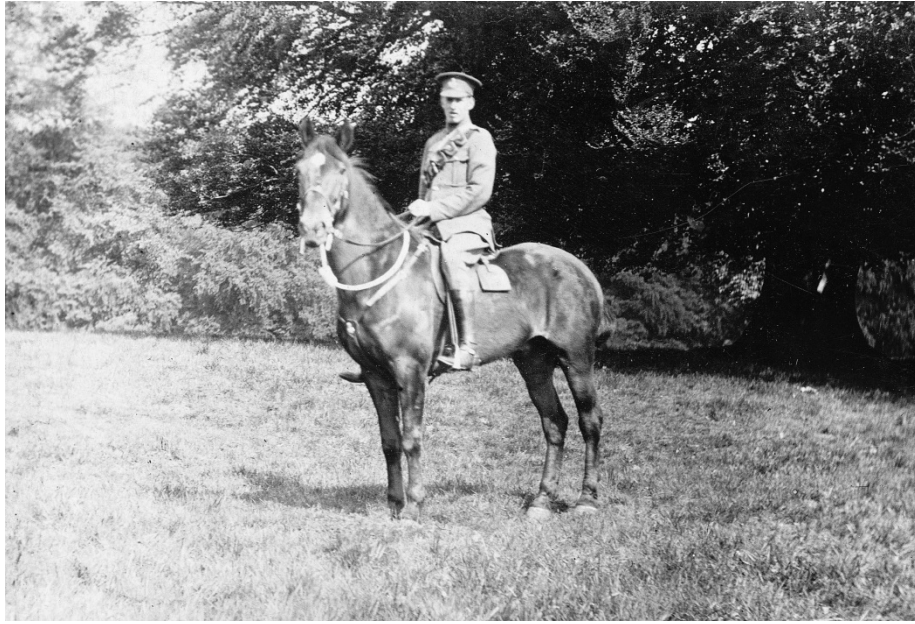


# Those that served

## Those that died highlighted in grey

Alder, Herbert, A.	Hicks, Frederick	Orpwood, Thomas Champion
Aves, Charles Henry	Hill, George	Orr, James
Balcombe, John Edward	Hinton, Thomas	Orr, Thomas
Benning, Arthur Frederick	Howell, Cyril	Paget, Stewart
Benning, Ernest William	Howell, Leslie	Palmer, Eric T.L.
Benning, John	Hutchings, Frederick Charles	Palmer, Victor G.I.
Berry, Ira	Hutchings, John Thomas	Richens, George Henry
Brown, Edward John	Hutchings, William	Scaldwell, Robert
Burgess, Alfred J.	Jessup, Harry	Schunk, Frank
Busby, William Thomas	Jones, George William	Shepherd, Arthur Thomas
Champion, Arthur	Justins, Edward	Shepherd, George A.
Champion, Charles Henry	Justins, George	Small, William
Champion, George	Keen, Francis	Smith, Adonijah
Champion, John	Keen, William J.	Smith, Ashley Quartermaine
Cherrill, Edward	Keene, Frank William	Smith, Harry
Cherrill, Robert	Keene, John	Smith, Jesse
Clack, Vivian E.	Kent, Harry A.R.	Smith, John
Clack, Walter	Kent, Horace E.J.	Strudley, Alfred George
Cook, Albert	Kingham, Harold	Strudley, Charles
Cook, Thomas	Kingham, Harry Albert	Strudley, Frederick
Cripps, Alfred T.	Lansley, Walter	Talbot, William
Cripps, John	Lansley, William	Tallant, J.
Cripps, Richard W.	Lawrence, Albert E.	Tanner, Charles
Davis, William	Lawrence, James Thomas	Temple, William
Eagle-Bott, Claude	Lawrence, William P.	Thornton, George
Eldridge, Edward Henry	Lewis, David	Tipper, Carlton
Evans, Bertram	Long, William	Trendell, Thomas H.
Foster, George	Luker, James	Tuckwell, Harry
Foster, Henry E.	Luker, John N.T.	Tuckwell, Percy William
Franklin, Arthur I.	Meade, Daniel	Weedon, Albert
Godden, Frank	Mitchell, Albert T.	Weston, Frederick
Godden, John	Mitchell, Arthur G.H.	Weston, Henry F.
Godden, Samuel Edward	Mitchell, Harold	Whant, Albert
Grant, A. Frederick	Mitchell, Harry	Whant, Percy
Green, Fred G.	Mitchell, William	Wheeler, Frederick
Greenwood, Thomas	Mitchell, William	Wheeler, William Thomas
Hampden, Geoffrey	Munday, Albert George H.	Wigmore, Harry
Handscomb, J.	Munday, Alfred T.	Wigmore, James
Harmer, Jesse Walter	Munday, David	Winfield, Herbert
Harris, James	Munday, Ernest	Winfield, John Henry
Hatt, Harold Ernest	Munday, Josiah	Winfield, Theodore
Hatt, Richard Charles	Munday, Percival William	Winfield, Thomas
Hay, Stuart	Munday, Reuben	Winfield, Tom
Hewett, Frederick Charles	Munday, Walter	Wingfield, H. John
Hewett, Leslie	Munday, William Charles Alfred	Wootton, William
Hewett, Sidney William	Orpwood, John Edward	Young, William

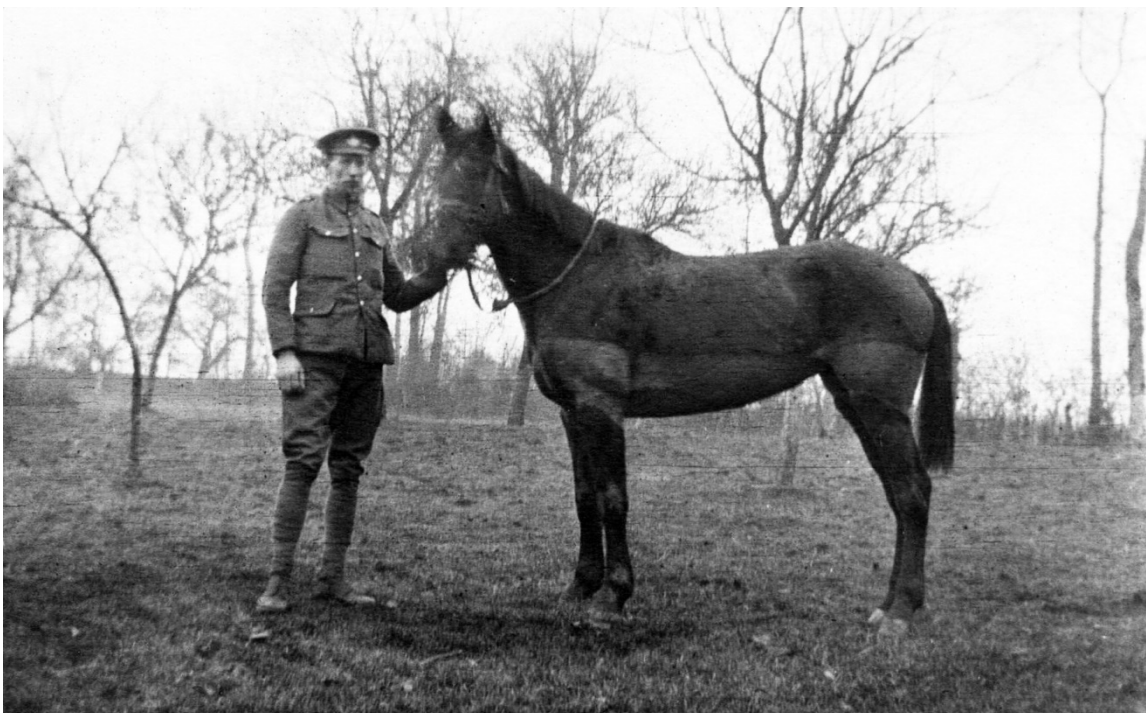
# Nancy the Warhorse



Nancy was the mare who accompanied Sergeant Thomas Champion Orpwood as his mount when he served with the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars in France in the First World War.

At the end of hostilities Sgt Orpwood and Nancy returned to England, unloading at Culham Railway Station for their final march home. When her master paused for a pint in the Shepherd's Hut, Nancy decided to walk back to her old stable – alone. The stable was opposite the site of the Village Pound.

Nancy is buried in the orchard behind Lower Farm House (now renamed Fields End). She was about 24 years old when she died in the early 1930's.

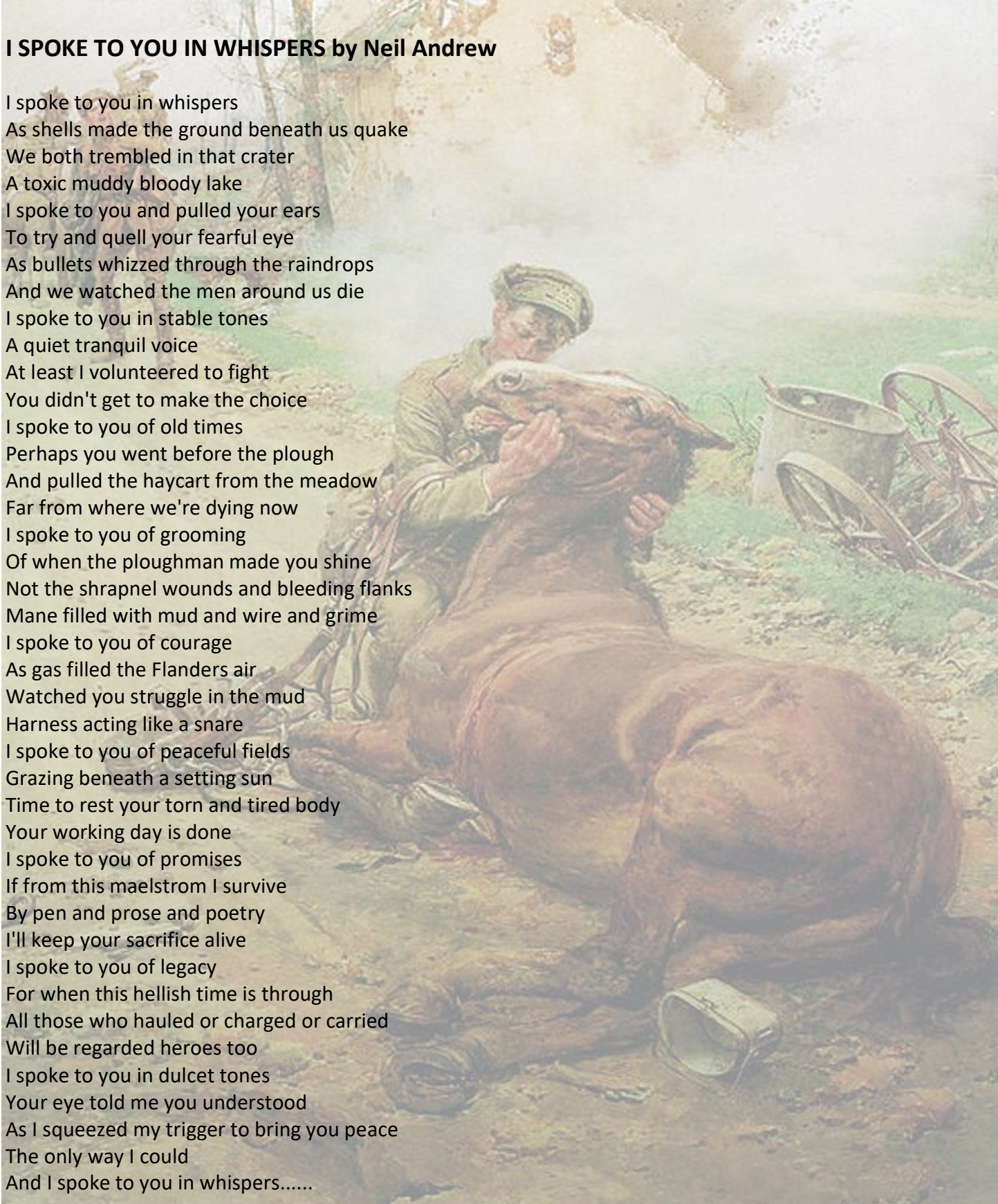




# Animals serving in World War I

It is estimated that more than 16 million animals served in WWI. The role of horses such as Ewelme's own Nancy is well known, but a wide range of other species also played their part – including dogs, camels, bullocks, cats, canaries, mascots of various types – and even slugs, which were used to detect poison gas.

## I SPOKE TO YOU IN WHISPERS by Neil Andrew



I spoke to you in whispers  
As shells made the ground beneath us quake  
We both trembled in that crater  
A toxic muddy bloody lake  
I spoke to you and pulled your ears  
To try and quell your fearful eye  
As bullets whizzed through the raindrops  
And we watched the men around us die  
I spoke to you in stable tones  
A quiet tranquil voice  
At least I volunteered to fight  
You didn't get to make the choice  
I spoke to you of old times  
Perhaps you went before the plough  
And pulled the haycart from the meadow  
Far from where we're dying now  
I spoke to you of grooming  
Of when the ploughman made you shine  
Not the shrapnel wounds and bleeding flanks  
Mane filled with mud and wire and grime  
I spoke to you of courage  
As gas filled the Flanders air  
Watched you struggle in the mud  
Harness acting like a snare  
I spoke to you of peaceful fields  
Grazing beneath a setting sun  
Time to rest your torn and tired body  
Your working day is done  
I spoke to you of promises  
If from this maelstrom I survive  
By pen and prose and poetry  
I'll keep your sacrifice alive  
I spoke to you of legacy  
For when this hellish time is through  
All those who hauled or charged or carried  
Will be regarded heroes too  
I spoke to you in dulcet tones  
Your eye told me you understood  
As I squeezed my trigger to bring you peace  
The only way I could  
And I spoke to you in whispers.....



# Horses

Horses were used for a range of tasks in addition to their use as personal transport by Cavalry and other Regiments.



Horses hauling guns and ambulances



Carrying artillery shells. This picture shows the appalling ground conditions with which horses could cope; conditions that would have had motor vehicles of the time, such as the truck in the background, hopelessly bogged down.

The RSPCA has estimated that a total of 484,143 horses, mules and bullocks were killed in British service between 1914 and 1918. Not all were as fortunate as Nancy.





Comandeered horses awaiting distribution.



Horses were extremely valuable at the front, and were treated well. This injured animal is receiving veterinary attention. Ewelme resident Mick Gilbeys father rode the lead horse for a mobile gun. He claimed that if the carriage turned over the officers would shout “save the horses”; the men trapped underneath could be replaced, the horses could not.



## Dogs

Of all the animals that served, dogs may have performed the widest range of duties. Perhaps the best-known role was as Red Cross dogs, carrying medical supplies and sustenance to injured soldiers awaiting rescue by comrades. An extension of this was that of companion dogs, who located wounded soldiers and stayed with them for company until they were rescued or died of their injuries. Other roles are shown in the photographs below.

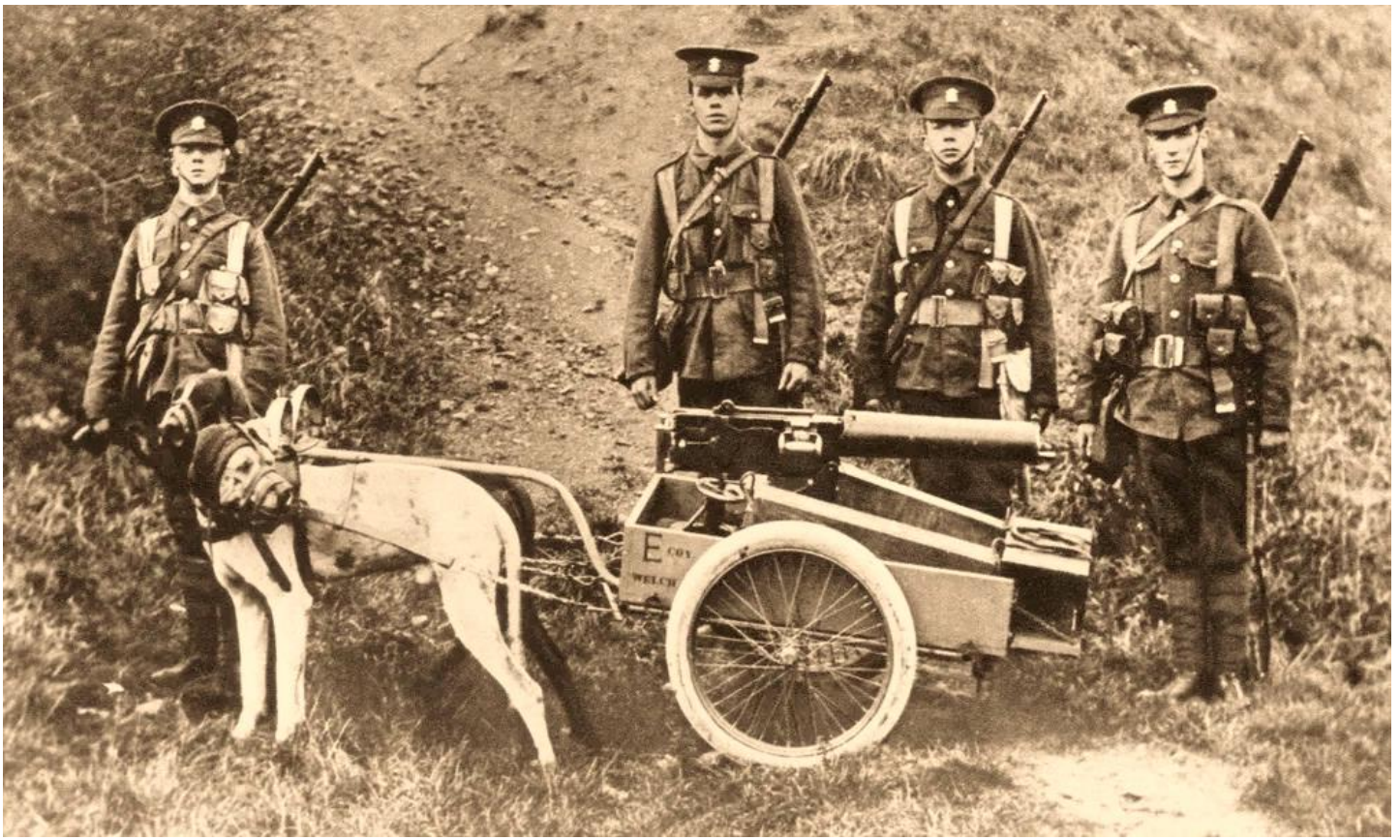


French Red Cross dogs with their handlers. A wide range of breeds is apparent here!



A messenger dog leaps over a German trench. The message was carried in a canister on the collar.





Hauling a machine gun



Laying a telephone wire.





The trenches were often infested with rats; dogs helped with their control.

## Camels

Camels were used extensively in African, Middle Eastern and Indian campaigns, with a similar role to that of horses elsewhere.



Camels rigged to carry stretchers. In the background three soldiers appear to be riding on a single animal.



## Carrier pigeons

Homing pigeons were extensively used throughout WWI for carrying messages.



## Canaries

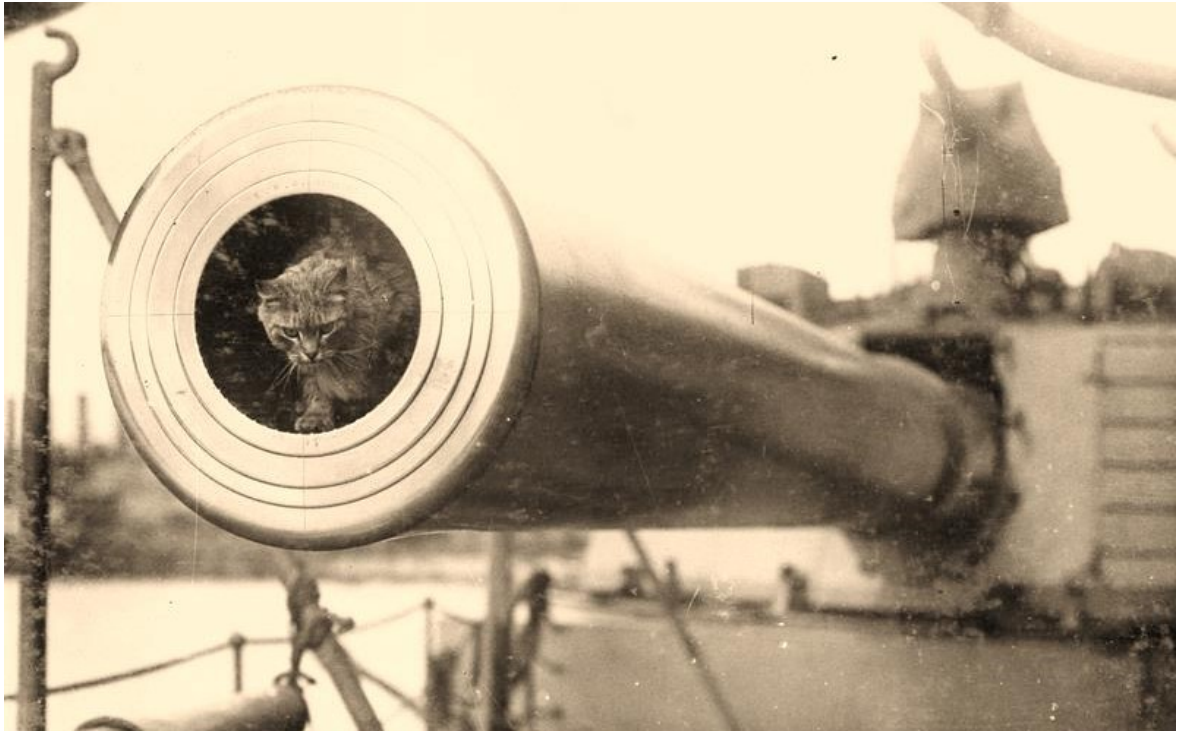
Canaries and mice were used as indicators of the presence of poisonous gas.





## Mascots

A wide range of animals, from cats to monkeys, were adopted by fighting units as mascots.

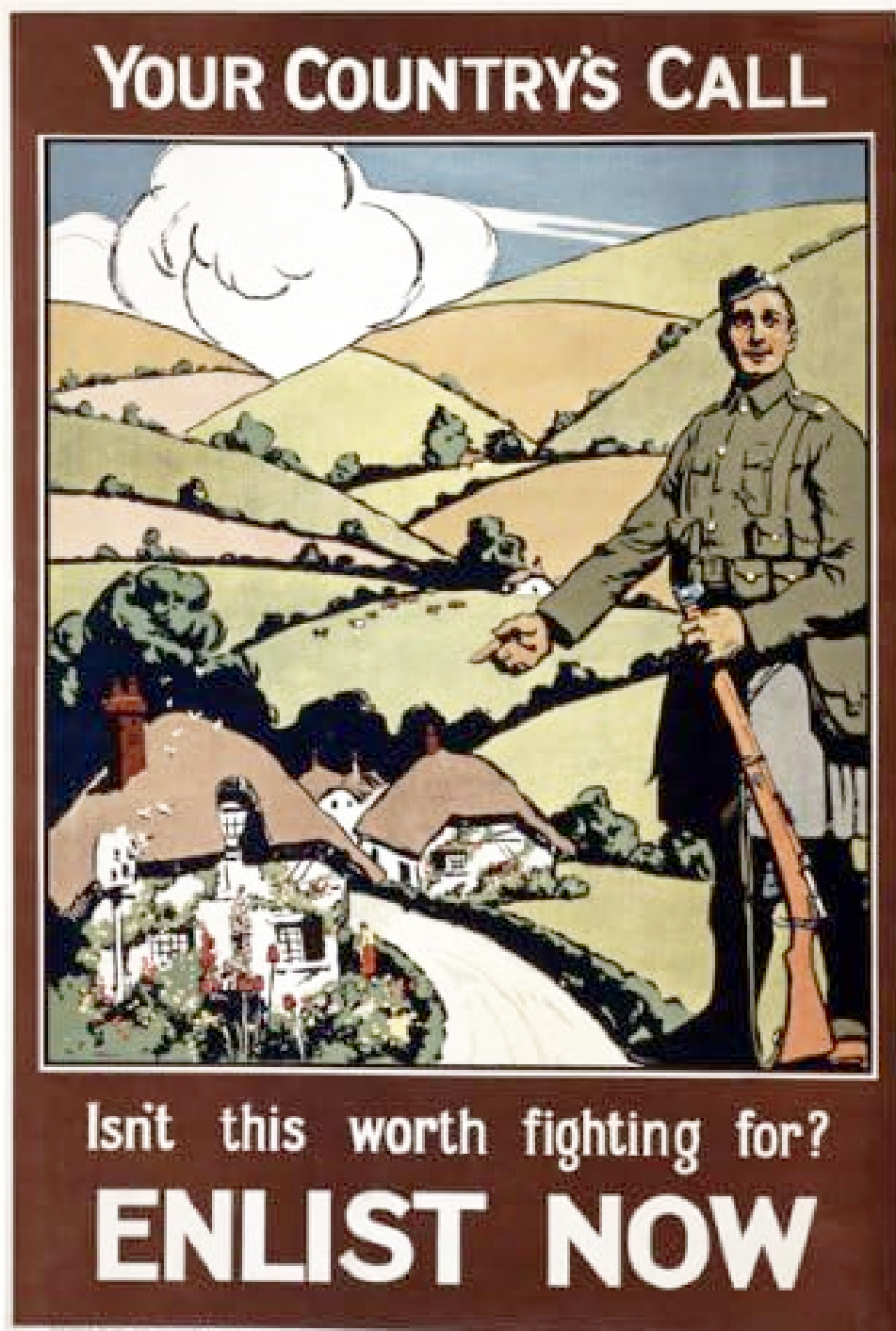


This cat was a mascot on board the battleship HMS Dreadnought. Hopefully the crew checked the barrel before firing. Not a bad job for an applicant of the right calibre!



**Animal pictures credit – Imperial War Museum**

## Recruitment



In the earlier part of World War I, recruitment was limited to reservists and to volunteers, age 18-41, though no-one under the age of 19 was supposed to be sent to fight. The response was tremendous (according to the Reading Standard dated December 5, 1914, seventy men from Ewelme had already joined-up), but by 1916 more men were needed. In March that year compulsory conscription was introduced for all single men and widowers under 41, and in May this was extended to include married men. Later the age limit was raised to 50.

In the volunteer days, dozens of different recruiting posters were produced, many aimed at specific groups or locations. The one shown above, depicting an idyllic small village scene, is likely to have been used in rural areas such as Ewelme.

# Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry (OBLI)



OBLI was one of the local regiments and was the one in which the greatest number of men from Ewelme served; of the 85 recruits whose units were known, 27 joined OBLI. The battalion of the regiment with the greatest number of men from Ewelme (10) was the 8<sup>th</sup> (Pioneer) Battalion, which was formed from volunteers in Oxford in October 1914.

The pictures show the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion at different times. These are copied from framed photographs belonging to Marilyn Fletcher, whose grandfather Edward Justins served in this battalion. There are likely to be several Ewelme men in each picture. Note the three mascot dogs in one of the photographs.



# Ewelme Miniature Rifle Club

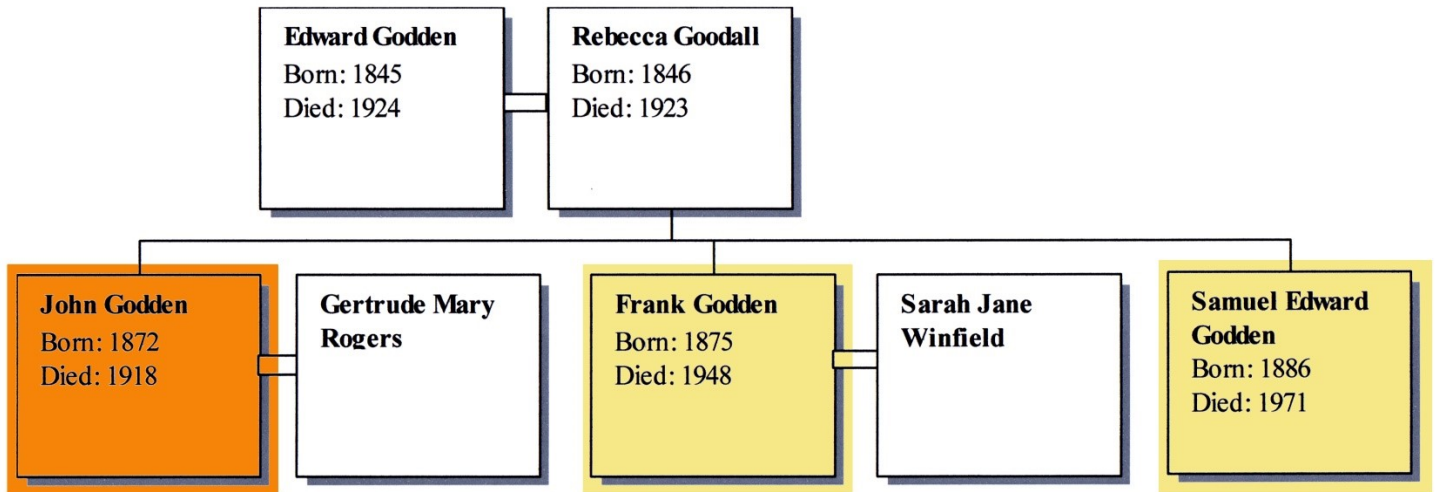


Before the First World War, Ewelme had a very active rifle club based at the rifle range in what was to become the Village Hall. The guns used were “miniature” rifles, weapons specifically designed for target shooting and limited to 0.23 inch calibre (the standard service rifle was .303 calibre). The club was founded by Charles Schunck.

The picture shows a team from the Ewelme Club in 1912. They are (standing, L to R) Fred Wheeler, Albert Cook, George Justins, William Wheeler and John Orpwood; seated, Harry Smith, Charles Adalbert Schunck and Harry Walklin.

Of these eight, Schunck (born about 1865) and Walklin (born about 1877) were exempt from WWI service due to age; the other six joined up. Two of them (Albert Cook and John Orpwood) were killed in action.

# The Godden Family



Edward Godden (1845-1924) was the village blacksmith working at the forge in The Street. He and his wife Rebecca had three sons who served in WWI.

John (1872-1918) had been a soldier (7<sup>th</sup> Queen's Own Hussars) and in the police in South Africa for many years. At the outbreak of WWI he joined the Royal Artillery and became a Sergeant Farrier and shoeing smith. He was injured and contracted pneumonia, and tragically died a week after the war ended. He is the only WWI serviceman to be buried in Ewelme Churchyard.

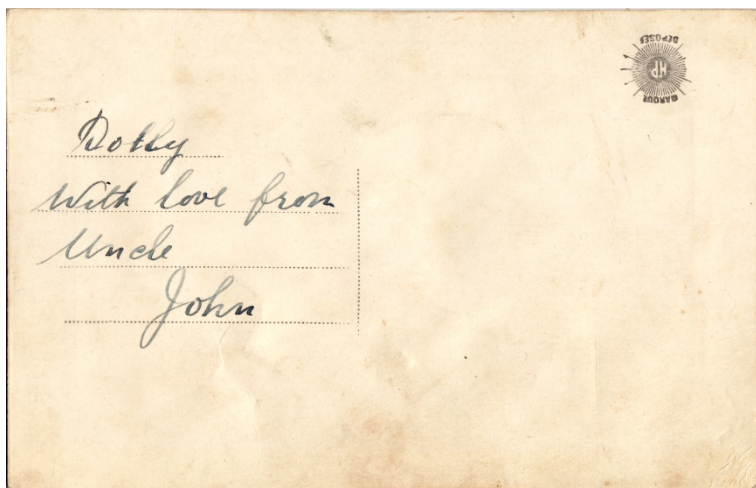
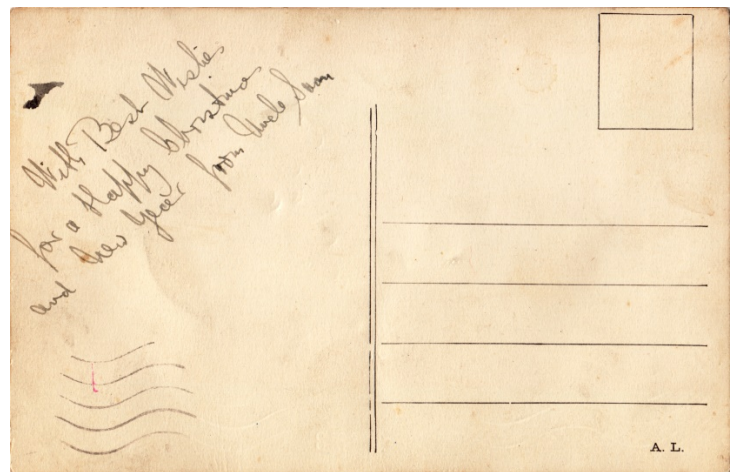
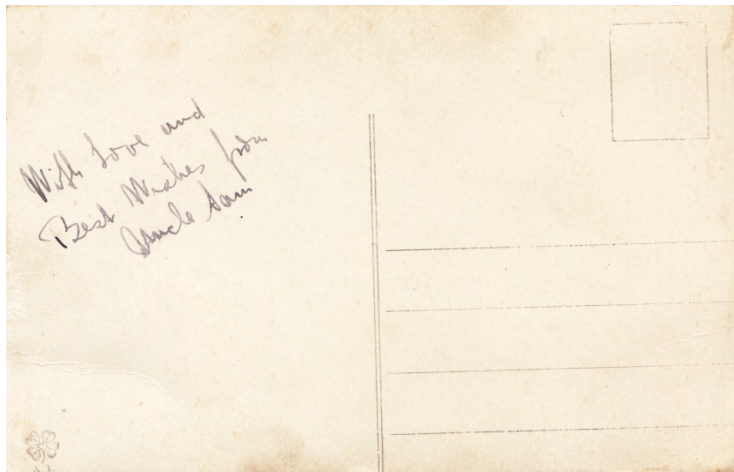
Sam (1886-1971) was in the Army Medical Corps, and was an ambulance driver.

Frank (1875-1948) was exempted from service for most of the war because of his work, but joined the RAF in July 1918. He was grandfather to Cynthia Winfield and great grandfather to Nadine Pudwell.

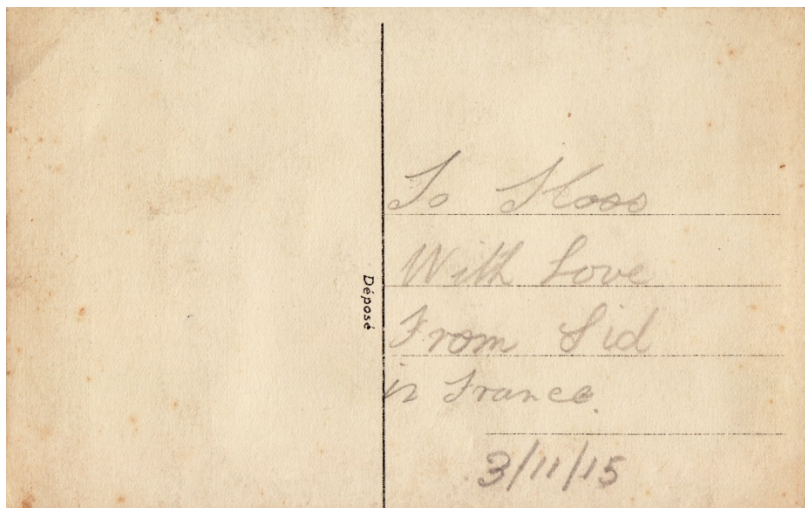
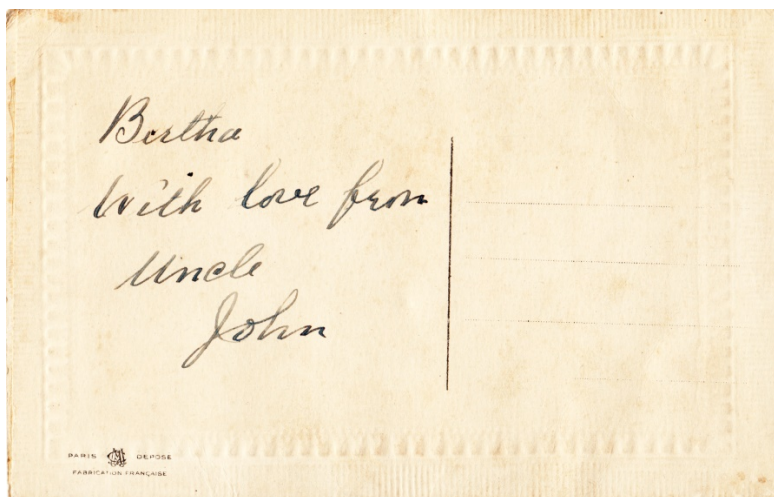


# Godden Family Silk Cards

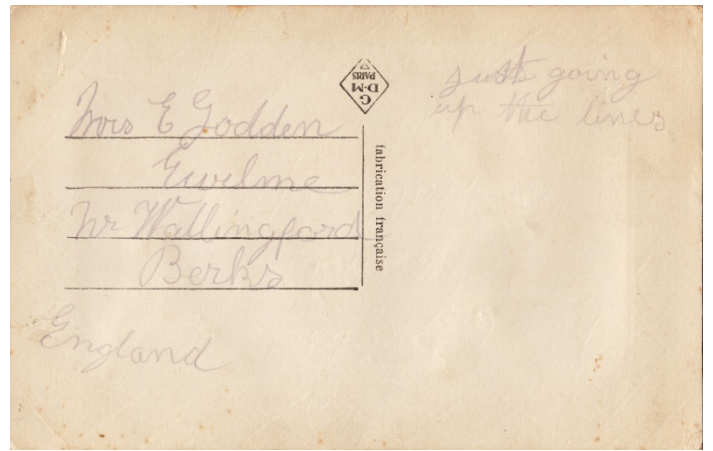
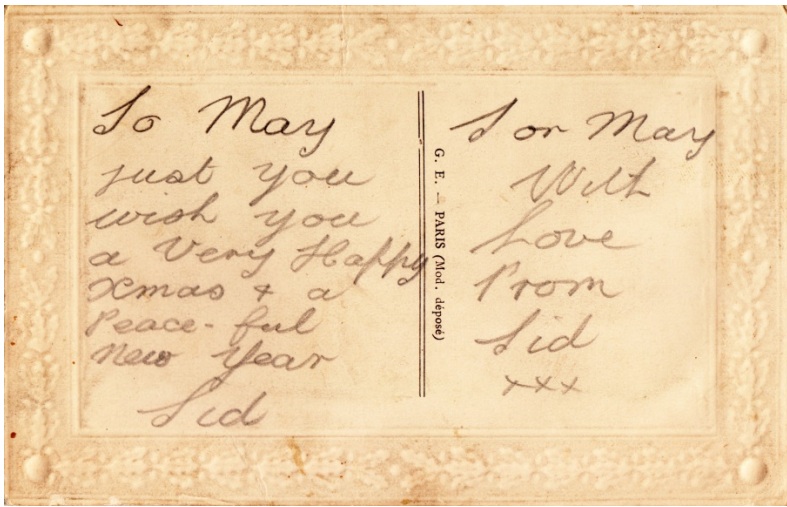
The cards in these photographs were sent from the front by John and Sam Godden to their family back home. They have been loaned by Cynthia Winfield. The actual cards are on display elsewhere in this exhibition.





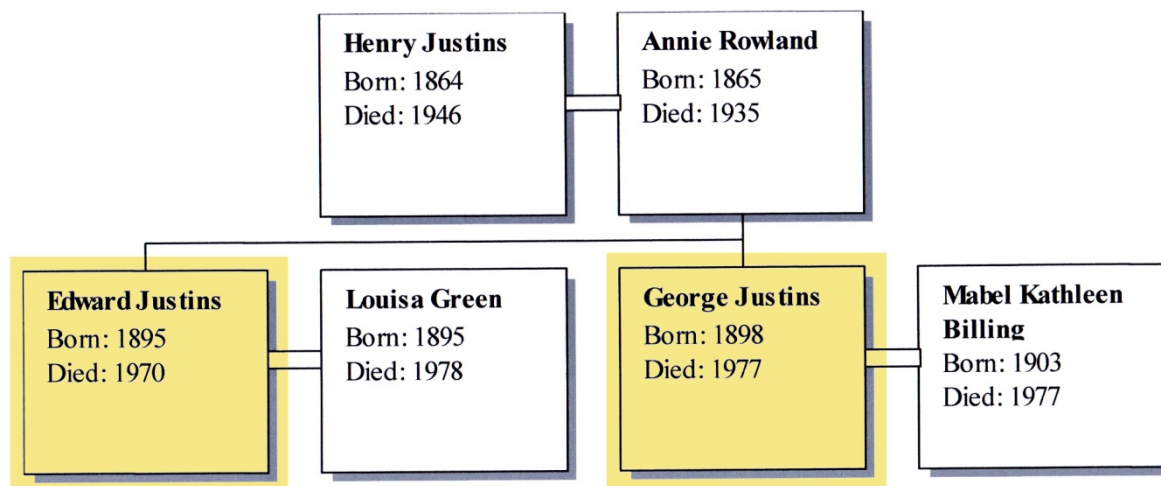








# The Justins Family



Left: the Justins brothers, above Edward below George



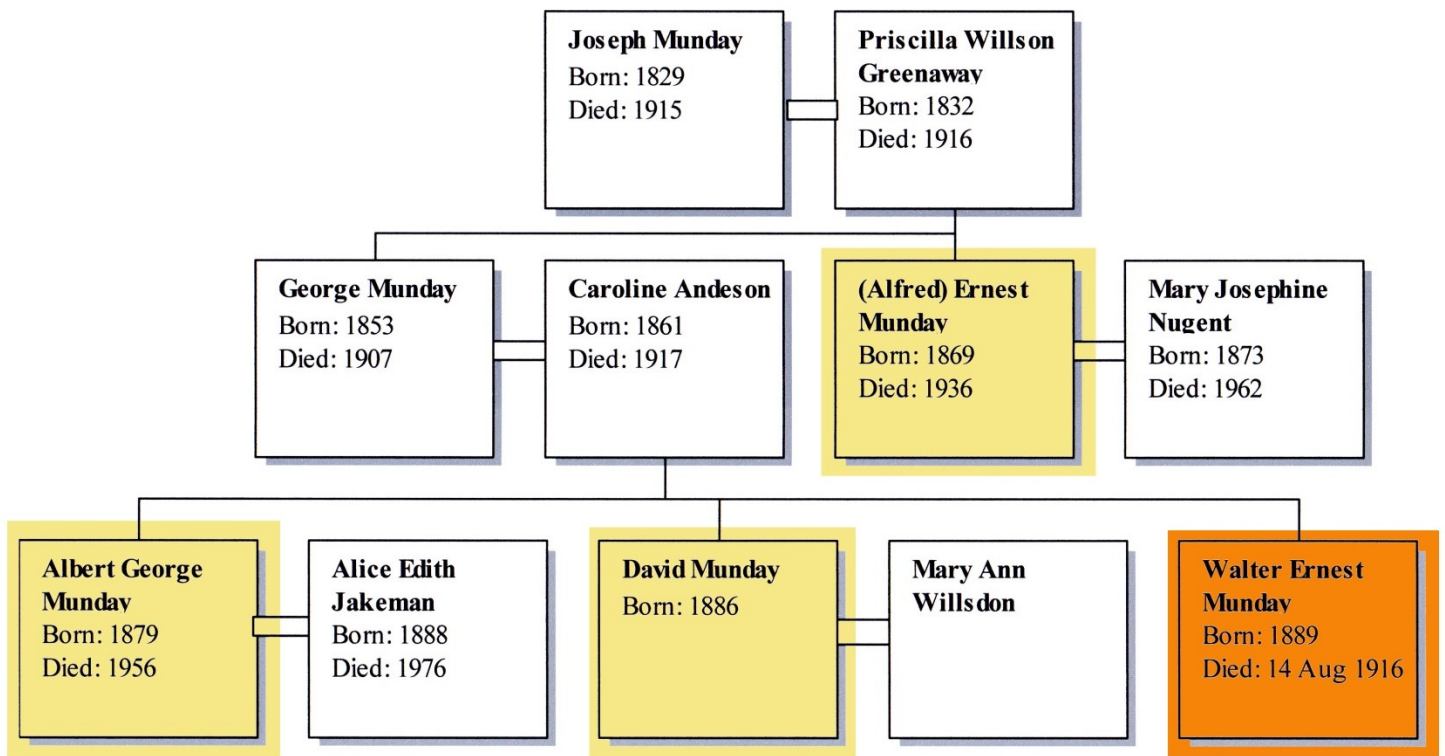
The Justins brothers were keen members of the Ewelme Rifle Club before the war. Edward volunteered on November 14 1914 at Watlington, at the age of 19 years and 4 months. He joined the OBLI 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, like so many of his Ewelme friends. He clearly did well as he was promoted to Lance Corporal in September 1915, and Corporal in May 1917. At that time he transferred to the OBLI 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion as a specialist gas and mortar instructor. His younger brother George was too



young to serve at the start of hostilities but joined up some time after his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. He also joined the OBLI 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion, but his service records were destroyed by enemy action in WWII (about 60% of WWI records were lost in this way) and we have no further information on his wartime activities. Both brothers survived the war to marry and have families. Edward was Marilyn Fletcher's grandfather.



# The Munday Family (1)



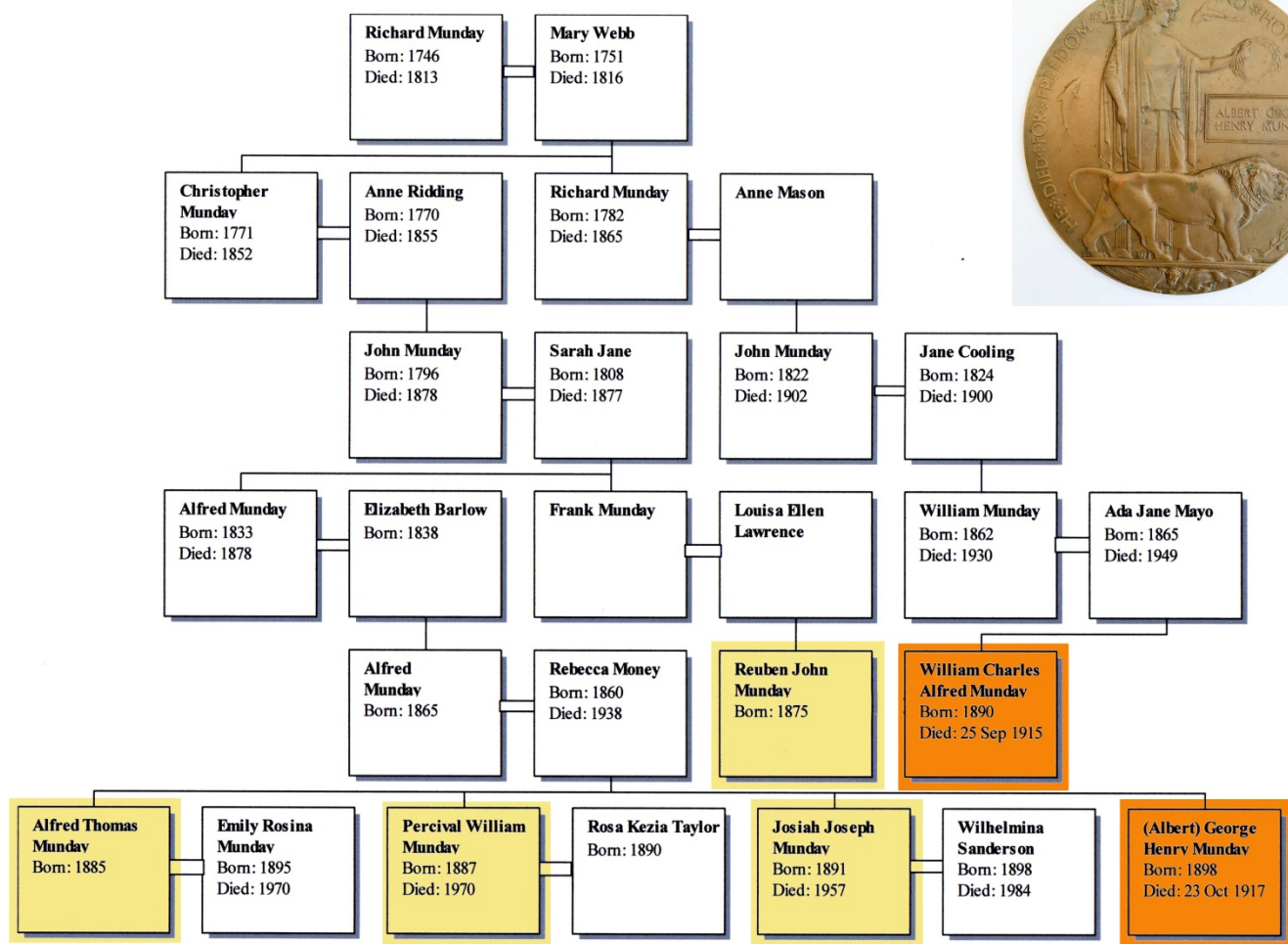
The Munday family are long-established in the Ewelme area and the relationship between branches is not always known. This family comprise three brothers who served in WWI, plus their Uncle, (Alfred) Ernest (1869-1936) who had been a professional soldier and re-enlisted at the outbreak of war. He joined the Royal Berkshire Regiment but transferred to the labour Corps in 1917.

The oldest of the three brothers, Albert George (1879-1956) served as a driver in the Royal Horse Artillery and later the Royal Field Artillery.

The middle brother David (1886-?) joined the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion of OBLI.

The youngest brother, Walter Ernest (1889-1916) joined the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion of OBLI and was killed in action on August 14 1916.

# The Munday Family (2)



Alfred and Rebecca Munday had four sons who went away to war; a fifth was too young. Alfred Thomas (1885-1951) joined the navy in 1903, and served until 1913. He re-enlisted for the war, with the Royal Marines Light Infantry.

Percival William (1887-1970) joined the 15<sup>th</sup> Hampshire Regiment, and rose to become a Sergeant - see next board for photographs and other ephemera.

Josiah Joseph Munday (1891-1957) joined the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. Some of his medals are displayed in one of the cases.

Albert George Henry Munday (1898-1917) joined the 6<sup>th</sup> Somerset Light Infantry and Gloucester Regiment. He was killed in action on October 23 1917, and is buried at Zonnebeke, Flanders. His memorial plaque is shown above.

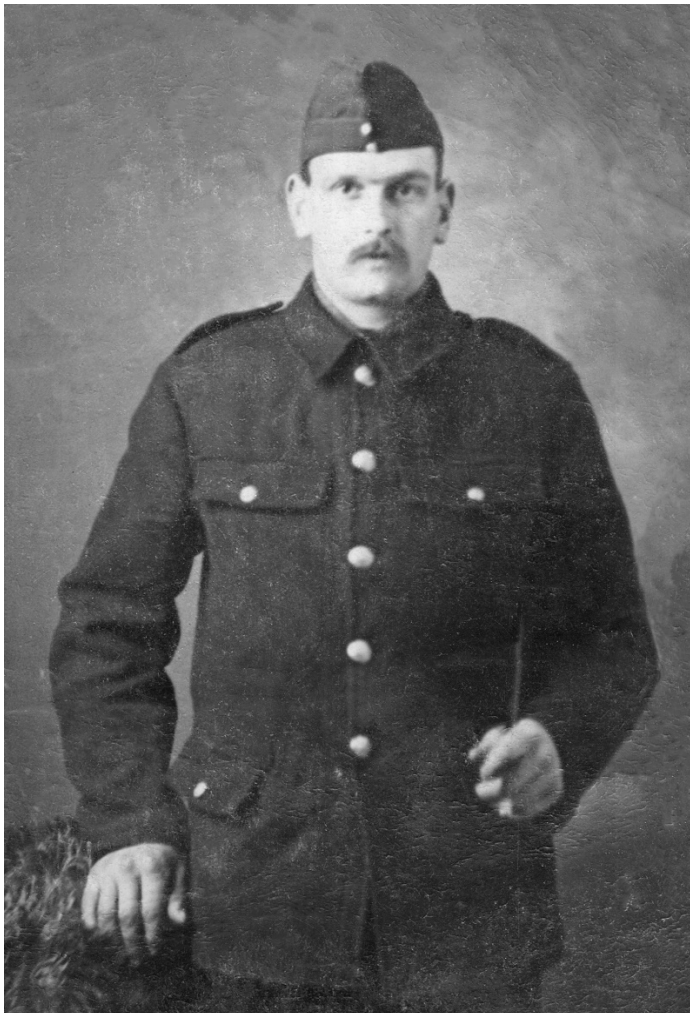
Reuben John Munday (1875-?) was first cousin once removed to the four brothers. He joined OBLI in 1891. He was discharged in 1916 suffering from TB.

William Charles Alfred Munday (1890-1915) was third cousin once removed to the four brothers. He was killed on September 25 1915.

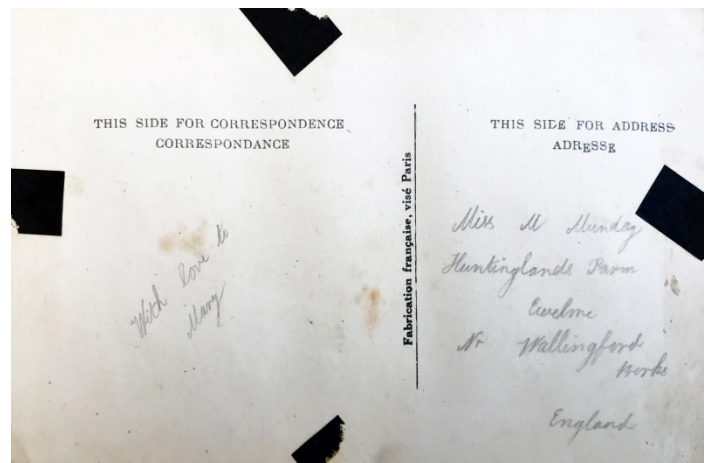
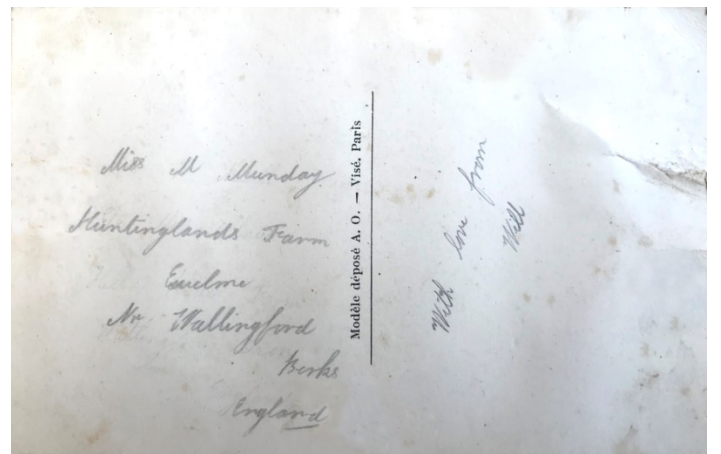
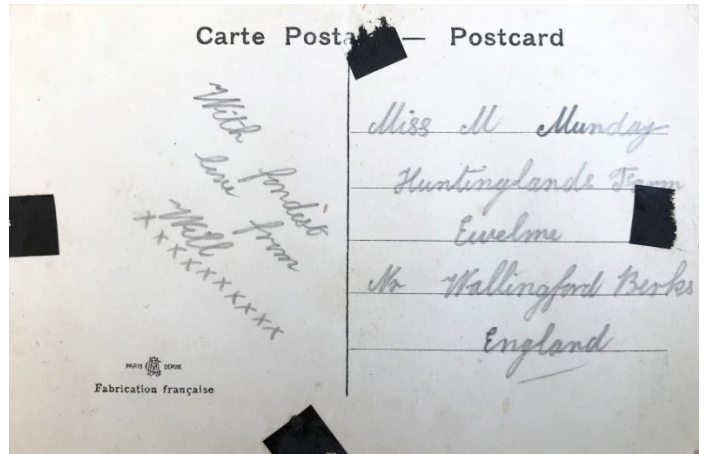
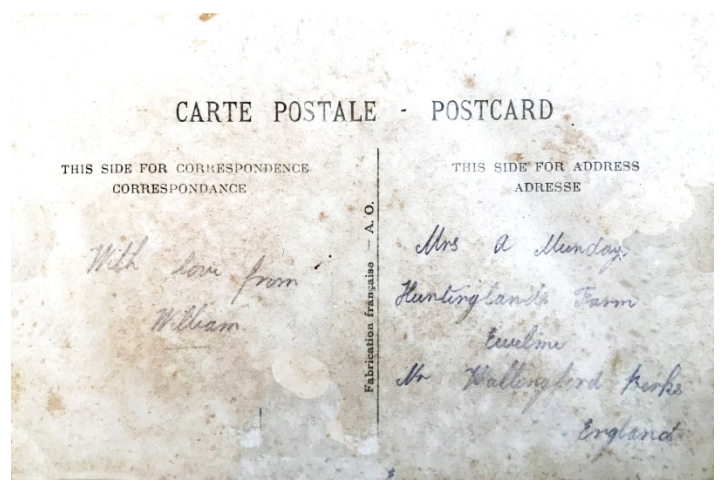


## Percival William Munday (1887-1970)

He was known as Billy. He first joined OBLI in 1915. On promotion to Corporal he was transferred to the Hampshire Regiment. The photograph below, with rifle, shows him in OBLI uniform and is from the Ewelme Archive. The other is copied from a photo in the possession of his grandson, William Munday. The silk cards were sent home to his mother and sister, and are in the possession of his great nephew Tony Munday.

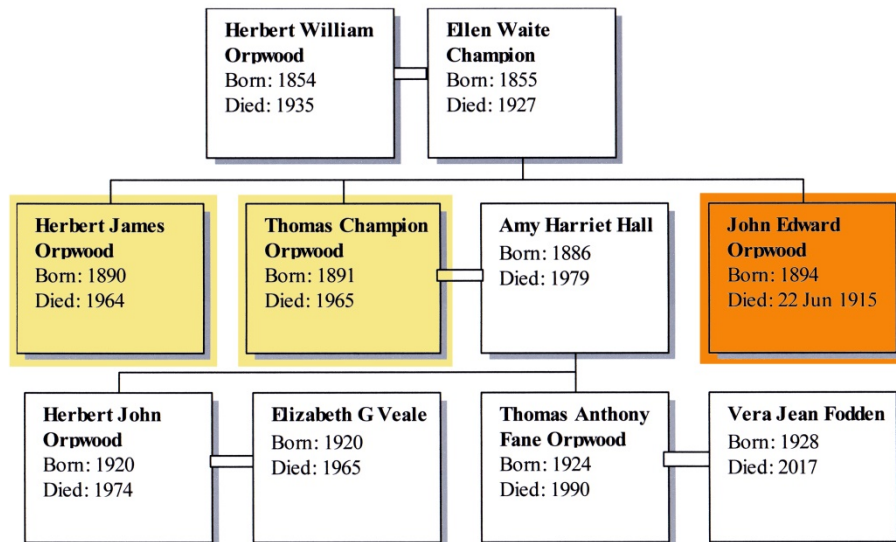








# The Orpwood Family



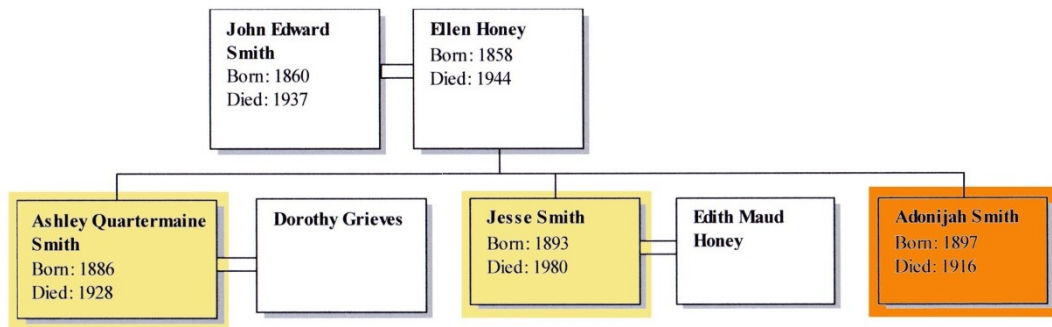
The Orpwoods were (and still are) a local farming family, at the time of WWI living at Levers Farm (now Church Barn) on Parson's Lane. All three sons of Herbert and Ellen served. John Edward (left in picture) joined the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion of OBLI and was killed by a sniper's bullet barely a month after being deployed in the battlefield. His name appears on the memorial at the Menin Gate in Ypres.

Thomas Champion (right in picture) joined the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars in September 1914. This was a Yeomanry Cavalry Regiment, and as such its recruits were required to provide their own

horses. Tom's horse was Nancy, Ewelme's war horse celebrated on the permanent board by the Village Pound. His grandson David played a major part in arranging today's event.

We know little of the war service of the third brother, Herbert James, and we have no photograph of him. He served in the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion of OBLI.

# The Smith Family (1)



**Left: Jesse Smith with his sisters in 1915. His hat band identifies him as serving on HMS Assistance, a repair and water-distilling ship**

John Edward Smith and his wife Ellen had three sons who served in WWI, though all in fact joined the armed services well before war broke out. Despite being a watercress merchant and born in Lewknor John Edward appears unrelated to the other two Lewknor-origin watercress Smith families in Ewelme.

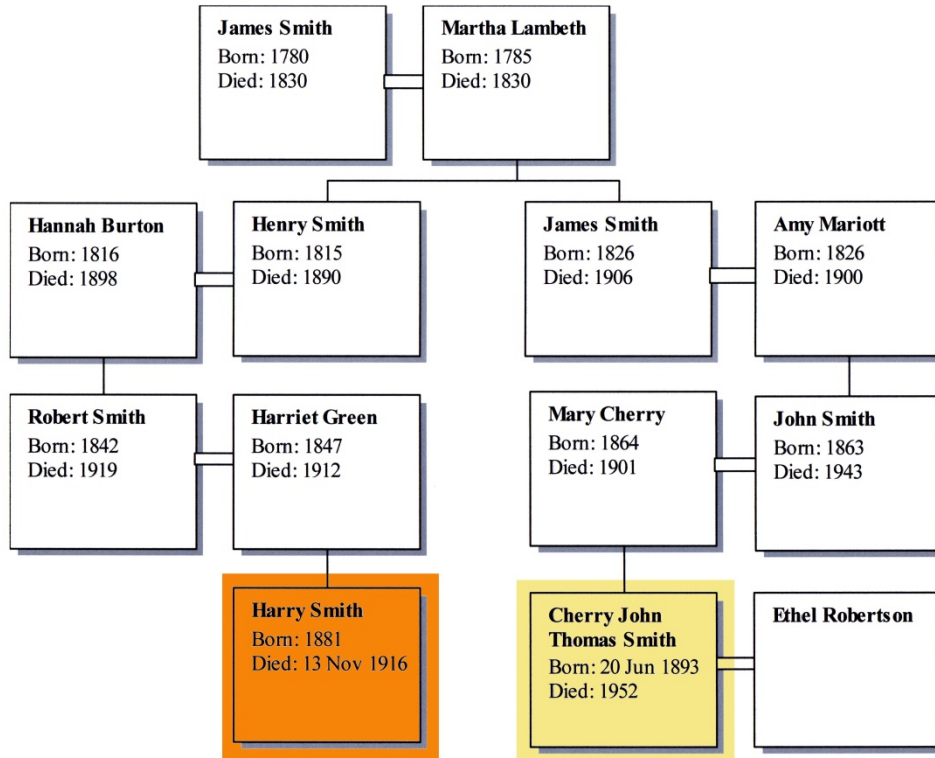
Ashley Quartermaine Smith (1886-1928) joined the Army Medical Corps in 1906, but went into the reserves in 1911. He remobilised in 1914.

Jesse (1893-1980) joined the navy in 1911. At the time the photograph (right) was taken he was serving in HMS Assistance (believed to be 1915).

Adonijah ('Nijah) joined the army by 1912 and served in the 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion of OBLI until he was killed on July 23, 1916, at the age of 18. He is commemorated at the Pozieres British Cemetery at Ovillers-la-Boiselle.



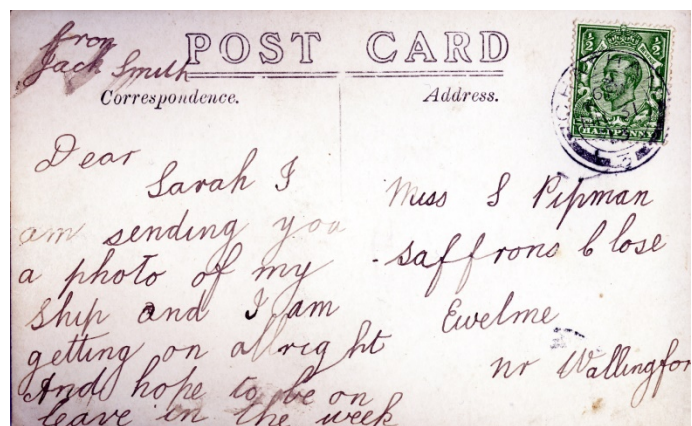
# The Smith Family (2)



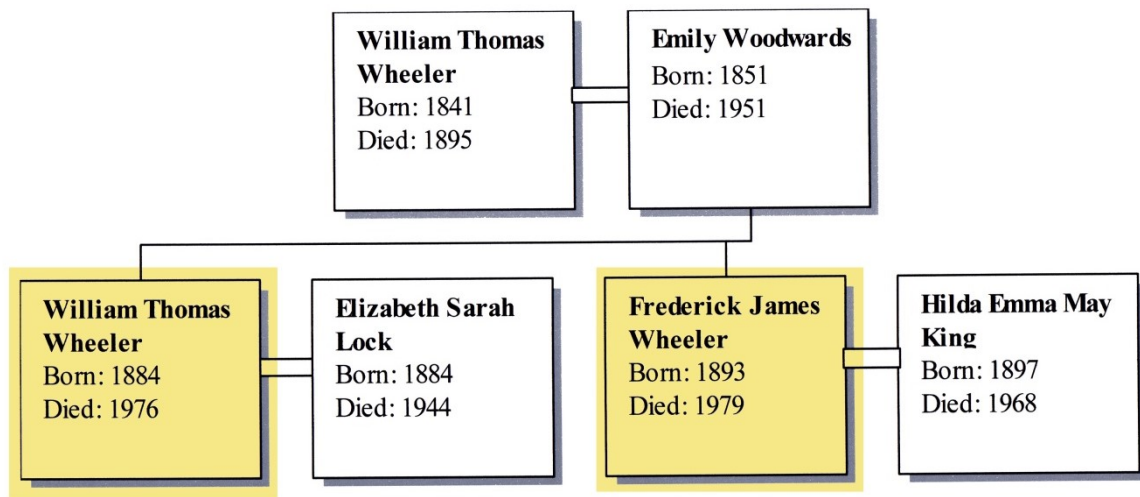
Apparently unrelated to the other family of Smiths having sons in the war, this extended family lived nearby. Harry and Cherry John Smith (known as Jack) were third cousins.

Harry was a member of the Ewelme Rifle Club (see Rifle Club board) and joined the Royal Berkshire Regiment. He later transferred to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of OBLI. He died in action on November 13 1916. For some reason his name does not appear on the Ewelme memorial.

Jack joined the navy in August 1910. In 1913 he was serving on HMS Agamemnon – see postcard; this ship was said to be a “pre-Dreadnought battleship of the Lord Nelson Class”.



# The Wheeler Family



William (1884-1976) (left picture) and Fred (1893-1979) (right picture) Wheeler and their three sisters were raised by their parents, William and Emily, in the thatched cottage on the corner near the shop (now called King's Pool Cottage).

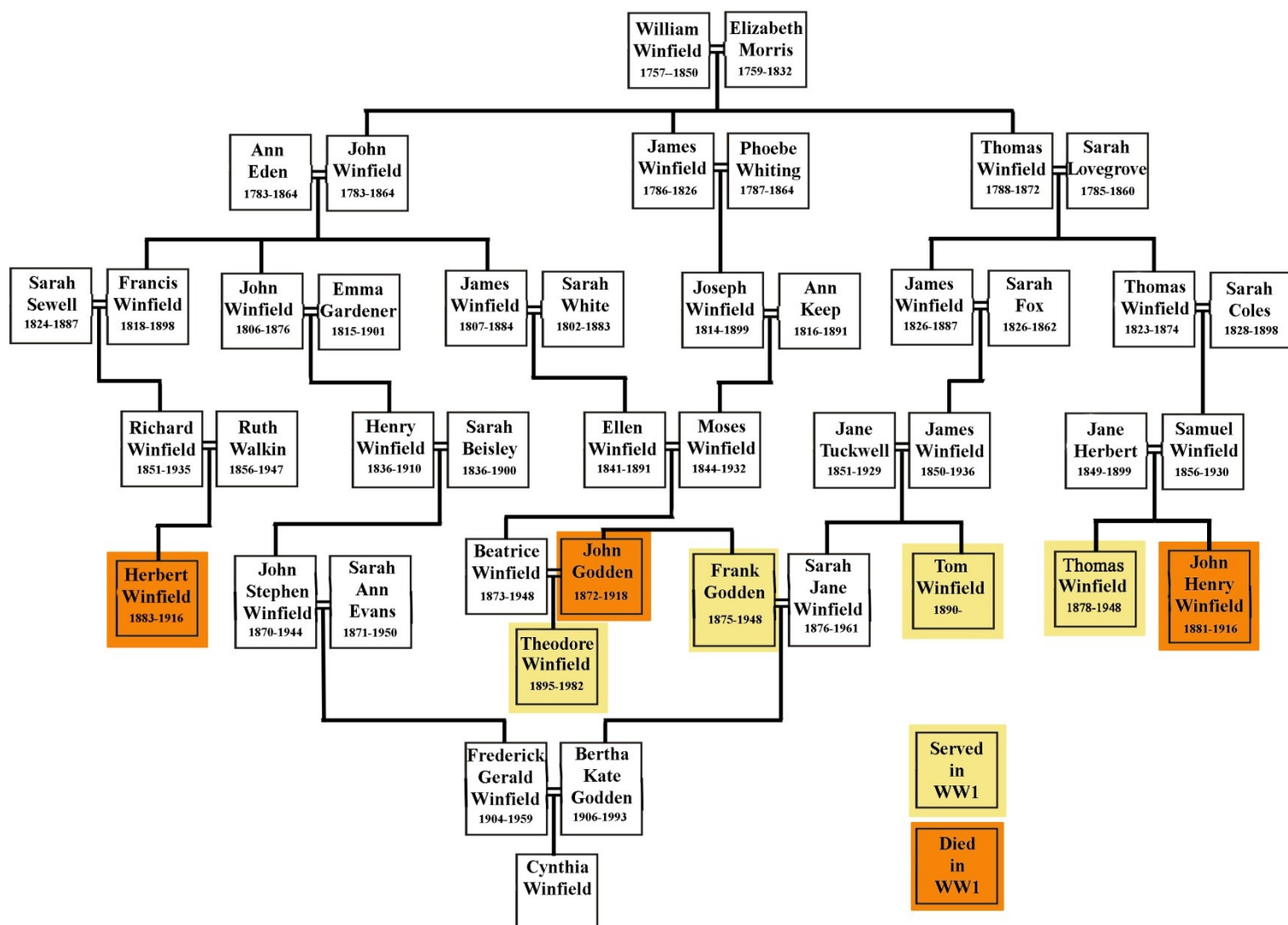
They were both keen members of the Ewelme Rifle Club (see rifle club board), and both joined the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion of OBLI. In 1917 William transferred to the Agricultural Corps Regiment, Labour Corps, possibly following an injury.

Frederick's war records have not survived.



# The Winfield Family

## WINFIELD FAMILY



The Winfields are a long-established local family with many branches. We know of five Winfields who served in WWI.

Herbert (1883-1916) was a groom at Ewelme Manor and joined the 2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion of OBLI. He was killed in action only a few months later on July 13 1916, and is remembered at the Pont-du-Hem Cemetery, La Gorgue.

Tom Winfield (1890 -1972) joined OBLI in September 1914. He served in Salonika with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

Thomas Winfield (1878-1948) joined the army in 1898, and re-enlisted during WWI.



**Above: Herbert Winfield when a groom at Ewelme Manor**

Thomas's brother John Henry Winfield (1881-1916) joined the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of OBLI and was killed in action on November 13 1916.

Theodore Winfield (1895-1982), known as Dorie, joined the 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion of OBLI in September 1915.



**Dorie playing the Tenor Horn**



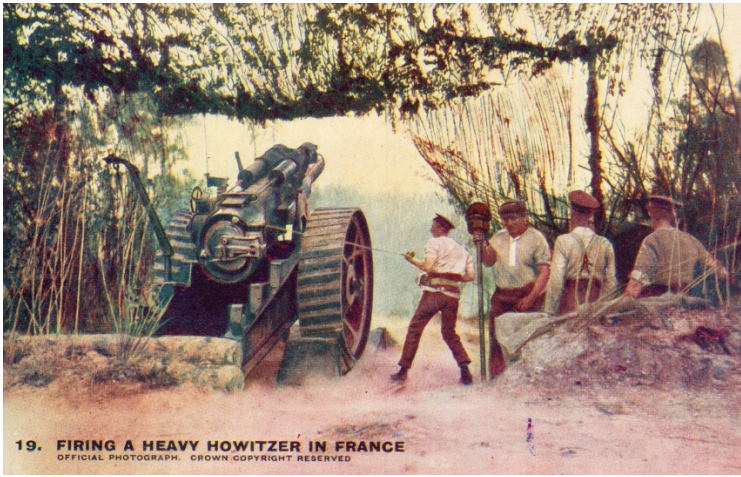
# Official Photographs

Battlefield photography by serving soldiers was against the regulations, though this rule was not rigidly applied in WWI. The pictures shown here are from a collection of “official” pictures taken by professional photographers, and published as postcards in a series produced by *The Daily Mail* at sixpence for a pack of eight. These are copied from a collection held by Cynthia Winfield.

The photographs, carefully taken and officially selected, showed a somewhat sanitised, blurred and low resolution picture of the war and the conditions faced by our soldiers. Ones taken by soldiers themselves often showed a much harsher, and probably more authentic, view of the horrors of war; see the next board.







19. FIRING A HEAVY HOWITZER IN FRANCE  
OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH, CROWN COPYRIGHT RESERVED



CHURCH SERVICE BEFORE BATTLE  
OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH, CROWN COPYRIGHT RESERVED



3. A PRESENT FOR WILLIE  
SERVICEMEN'S GAZETTE, 1917  
WAR POSTERS LTD.



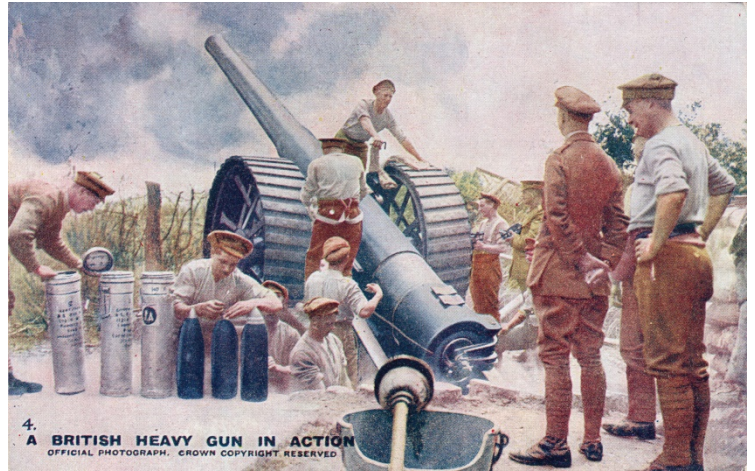
OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH, CROWN COPYRIGHT RESERVED.

"FAC" AFTER A FIGHT.

№11



THE OUTSKIRTS OF FORT VAUX, VERDUN



4. A BRITISH HEAVY GUN IN ACTION  
OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH, CROWN COPYRIGHT RESERVED



20. "TOMMY" AT HOME IN GERMAN DUG-OUTS  
OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH, CROWN COPYRIGHT RESERVED

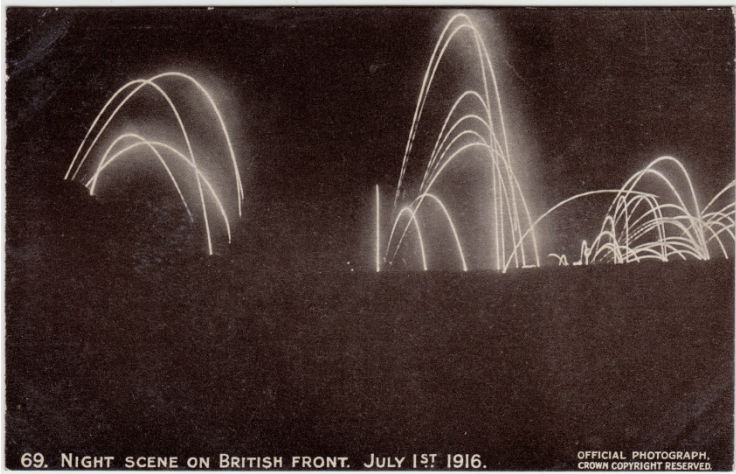


OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH, CROWN COPYRIGHT RESERVED.

YPRES AFTER TWO YEARS OF WAR.

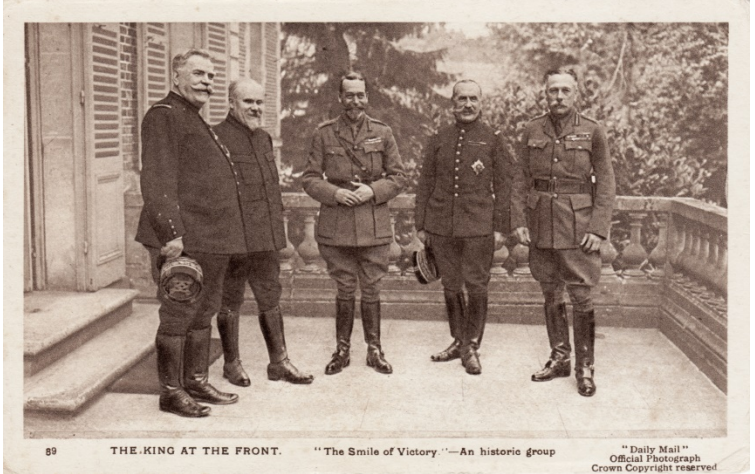
№9





69. NIGHT SCENE ON BRITISH FRONT. JULY 1<sup>ST</sup> 1916.

OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH.  
CROWN COPYRIGHT RESERVED.



89

THE KING AT THE FRONT.

"The Smile of Victory."—An historic group

"Daily Mail"  
Official Photograph  
Crown Copyright reserved



HELPING AN AMBULANCE THROUGH THE MUD.

16

Official Photograph  
Crown Copyright reserved  
Daily Mail War Pictures



93

THE KING AT THE FRONT.

Attending Church Service in the Field

"Daily Mail"  
Official Photograph  
Crown Copyright reserved





Charles Aves  
Herts Regiment and  
Essex Regiment



Thomas Bishop Greenwood  
5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, OBLI



William Temple  
8<sup>th</sup> Battalion OBLI



William James Keene  
1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> battalion OBLI

The medals displayed here are the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal, and the Victory Medal. They were awarded to every serviceman who was serving overseas at the appropriate time.

Contents of this case loaned by Andy Russell



German uniform buckles and buttons brought home as trophies



Queen's Own  
Oxfordshire Hussars

Uniform badges



Royal Field Artillery



Oxfordshire and  
Buckinghamshire Light Infantry  
(OBLI)



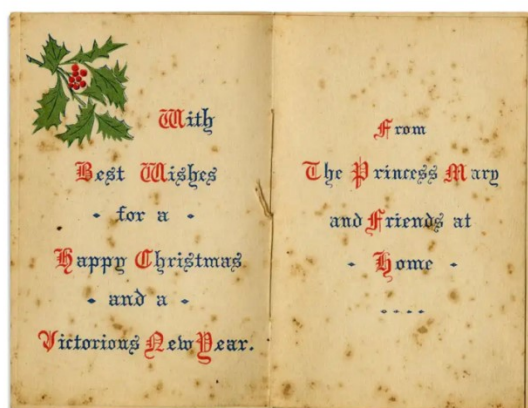
Percival William  
Munday



The family of every serviceman killed in WWI received a commemorative plaque, colloquially termed a "death penny". This one was for John Orpwood.

Medals loaned by William Munday. Other items by David Orpwood





One of these gift tins, containing cigarettes, tobacco and a greetings card, was distributed to every serving serviceman at Christmas 1914. These are nowadays considered very collectable, especially with the original contents.

Tin loaned by Sandra Ayling