

BRIZE NORTON REMEMBERS



BRIZE NORTON AND WORLD WAR ONE

by

Dr Phil Holmes

7th November - Marking the Centenary of WW1

Brize Norton and World War One

BRIZE NORTON AND WORLD WAR ONE

PREVIEW COPY

This book has been prepared by Dr Phil Holmes to mark the centenary of the First World War and to commemorate those from the village of Brize Norton who fought in it.

This document is a work in progress and still the subject of editing and revision. In particular the chapter on those who fought and who did not die, is still being developed.

Copyright Dr P L Holmes

Brize Norton and World War One

Treatment & Approach

The structure and rationale for the book relies on the use of different sources of information. Although one approach would have been to write a chapter on each person who died, with one large chapter of many pages for each this does not tie in with the plan of the book which has more general chapters. The layout can be seen from the contents page. Inevitably this leads to some duplication of basic information but it does allow for specific themes to be developed. With the first approach there would be duplication where more than one soldier had the same regiment, memorial or family.

For example, the chapters rely on specific sources of a different provenance. Chapter 2 relies on an analysis of census information from the 1911 census for Brize Norton and the adjacent hamlets. Chapter 3 uses Schools Admission data. Chapter 4 uses data largely from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission plus material from a personal account by Howell Powell. Chapter 5 goes back to census records (often from more than one census) to reveal their families, relationships and occupations. Chapter 6 pulls out details of the Commonwealth Graves Commission Memorials going into detail including their location, the site in relation to the battle fields and a site map and picture. This chapter would be of particular interest to those who wanted to visit the actual war graves across the continent. Chapter 7 describes the regiments in which the fallen served. Chapter 8 is an attempt to pin down or deduce where the fallen were fighting when they died in part relying on correlating the information from the memorial site, with the date of their death and information about their regiment and battalion during the various battles and campaigns. Chapter 9 represents the data to

Brize Norton and World War One

create a time line showing when and where they fell. Chapter 10 analyses census and other information to show others from the village who fought but mercifully came back after the war - this chapter is far from complete. The remaining chapters and appendices are in process of being written.

Sources.

It follows that the sources used are of different provenance and completeness. For example, the Commonwealth War Graves material is accurate and can be relied up. The Census information relates to a particular time and place, ten years apart it relies on the thoroughness of the census taker and the accuracy of data given For example, there are misspellings and inaccuracies because of oral questioning and, perhaps most disappointing is that nearly all addresses were recorded as “cottage”, this makes identifying particular properties in Brize difficult, if not impossible.

The military records are of very variable quality some badly damaged and illegible. We are aware that many records were lost as a result of enemy action in World War 2. Most were written from oral examination so that misspelt names frequently occur - a good example are the various spellings Brize Norton or indeed the absence of this vital link. Surnames are also misspelt and don't always tie up with the census data. It is partly for this reason that the sources have deliberately contained within separate chapters. We acknowledge there can b inconsistencies across the chapters.

To preserve the individual integrity of the actual data extracted into this book and the various tables, each data element has been

Brize Norton and World War One

taken as given in the relevant source. This may be seen a purist approach but I believe is justified - we cannot re-write the records and cannot take the view that one source is right and another wrong, although one might regard from the above discussion that one source is unreliable. It should also be noted that Howell Powell's accounts are based on his own observations and memories and can be questioned at times, especially when correlated to census information. Also the chapter on where they fought and died (Chapter 9) is based on deduction and in many cases we do not know or cannot know the precise facts as so many died whose bodies were never found - "Known only unto God".

A corollary of the way the book is written there is that is some duplication and repetition but hopefully this will be tolerated. Cross references will serve to make it easier to link to related information - perhaps more details across the chapters. Viewed electronically navigation through the book will be easier.

Abbreviations

In most cases the abbreviations have been spelt out. However there are occasions where Battalion, Company, etc have been abbreviated to Btn, Co, etc,

Access to data sources

I have relied at this stage on online sources with few exceptions. It is possible that hard copy records from military and other archives in regimental museums, local and county libraries, and national archives and museums could furnish more information

Brize Norton and World War One

but this clearly would necessitate time and travel to visit these resources or the cost of employing researchers.

Availability of service records

Readers should be aware that 60 percent of military service records were destroyed during air raids in WW2. Many of the other records were water damaged or scorched so being renders illegible. Unfortunately there is no sign of records for our fallen. Medal record cards can be found but without the regimental service numbers it is not always possible to distinguish soldiers with the same name or regiment (these instances are noted). Pension records can also assist in tracking down the right person, but the whole business is fraught by inaccuracies in spelling, etc.

Brize Norton and World War One

Contents

Chapter 1 - A rural community	1
Chapter 2 - The Village School	9
Chapter 3 - Who was eligible to fight?	25
Chapter 4 - Those who fought and died	29
Our First World War Dead	31
Private CHARLES HENRY ARCHER (Charlie)	31
Lance Corporal ERNEST BELLENGER (Nickut)	33
Private ALBERT EDWARD BLACKWELL (Bert)	35
Private HAROLD CASTLE	38
Private JOHN CASTLE (Jack)	41
Private ALBERT EDWARD FAULKNER (Bert or Swinny)	43
Acting Bombardier ARTHUR FAULKNER (Art)	45
Private WILLIAM JOSEPH GARRATT (Bill)	48
Private HENRY FREDERICK GODWIN	50
Private FRANK LOCK	52
Sergeant EDWIN JOHN MILES (Ted)	54
Leading Seaman WILLIAM EDWARD PARKER	57
Captain THOMAS W POWELL MC (Tom)	58
Lance Corporal MARCUS JOHN TIMMS (Young Mark or Jack)	65
Private PERCIVAL L TIMMS	67
Private JACK STANLEY UPSTONE	69
Private ALBERT J WILKINS (Bert)	71
Private EDWARD WILKINS (Ted)	73
Chapter 5 - The families and where they lived	75

Brize Norton and World War One

Charles Henry Archer	75
Ernest Bellenger	77
Albert Edward Blackwell	80
Harold Castle	81
John Castle	83
Albert Edward Faulkner	84
Arthur Faulkner	85
William Joseph Garratt	86
Henry Frederick Godwin	87
Frank Lock	88
Edwin John Miles	90
William Edward Parker	94
Thomas W Powell	96
Marcus John Timms	98
Percival L Timms	100
Jack S Upstone	102
Albert J Wilkins	104
Edward Wilkins	106

Chapter 6 - Their memorials 109

Arras Memorial	110
Brize Norton Churchyard Extension	113
Caberet-Rouge British Cemetery, Souchez	114
Helles Memorial	118
La ville-aux-bois Military Cemetery	121
Le Touret Memorial	124
Loos Memorial	128
Mendinghem Military Cemetery	131
Noordwijk General Cemetery	134
Pozieres British Cemetery, Ovillers-la-Boisselle	136
Roeux British Cemetery	140
St. Venant-Robecq Road British Cemetery, Robecq	143
St Sever Cemetery, Rouen	145

Brize Norton and World War One

Salonika (Lembet Road) Military Cemetery	148
Thiepval Memorial	151
Unicorn Cemetery, Vendhuile	155

Chapter 7 - Their Regiments 159

Grenadier Guards	160
Lincolnshire Regiment	161
Oxon & Bucks Light Infantry (OBLI)	163
Queens Own Oxfordshire Hussars	165
Royal Army Medical Corps	166
Royal Berkshire	167
Royal Garrison Artillery	168
Royal Hampshire Regiment	170
Royal Navy, HMS Scott	172
Tank Corps	174
The Machine Gun Corps	179
The Wiltshire Regiment	181
Welsh Regiment	182
Worcestershire Regiment	184

Chapter 8 - Where they fought and died 185

Charles Henry Archer	185
Ernest Bellenger	185
Albert Edward Blackwell	186
Harold Castle	187
John Castle	187
Albert Edward Faulkner	188
Arthur Faulkner	190
William Joseph Garratt	191
Henry Frederick Godwin	193
Frank Lock	196
Edwin John Miles	196
William Edward Parker	198

Brize Norton and World War One

Thomas W Powell MC	199
Marcus John Timms	200
Percival L Timms	201
Jack Stanley Upstone	203
Albert J Wilkins	204
Edward Wilkins	205
 Chapter 9 - Timeline & Centenary Celebration	 209
Children's letters to the fallen	218
 Chapter 10 - Others who fought	 239
Betram Thomas (Bertie) Archer	245
George Edward Bellenger	247
Charles <u>William</u> Bellinger	248
William Bellenger	250
Walter Frank Blackwell	251
Thomas Butler	252
Aubrey Cambray	253
Charles William Cambray	254
Frank Cambray	255
Aubrey Castle	256
Cecil Hayward Dicks	256
Frederick Charles Richard Giles	257
Albert Parker	258
Alfred William Timms	259
Henry Timms	260
Frederick Charles Tinson	260
Frederick James Thomas Tovey	261
James Upstone	262
John Winfield	263
Joseph Winfield	264

Brize Norton and World War One

Chapter 11 - Brize Norton after WW1	265
Sources	267
Appendices	269
Appendix 1 - Recruitment to the British Army during the First World War	271
Appendix 2 - Listing of male residents of Brize Norton in 1911 - those eligible to fight.	278

Brize Norton and World War One

Brize Norton and World War One

Chapter 1 - A rural community

Brize Norton is a small rural community in the Cotswolds situated 6 miles to the west of Witney and 3 miles north of Bampton. The village is mentioned in the Domesday Book. The history of the village is given in a number of sources, notably the Victorian History Society publication and Brize Norton Parish Council's publication - "Brize Norton through the Ages" compiled by the author.



In 1911 the population for Brize Norton and Lew was 627 (553 in Brize Norton itself). An analysis of the 1911 census shows the occupations of the villagers were nearly all related to the land.

The table below shows a breakdown

Brize Norton and World War One

<u>Males</u>		<u>Females</u>	
allotment holder	2	agricultural labourer	1
army	3	assistant draper	2
assistant grocer	2	assistant in business	3
assistant on farm	2	assistant on dairy farm	2
assistant overseer	1	assistant in post office	2
assists in business	2	teacher	10
bailiff	1	child under school age	64
baker	4	companion	1
butler	1	cook	1
boat maker	1	dairy woman	2
butcher	2	domestic	6
carpenter/wheel wright	4	dressmaker	5
carrier	2	farmer	2
carter on farm	12	farm related	2

<u>Males</u>		<u>Females</u>	
--------------	--	----------------	--

Brize Norton and World War One

cattleman	3	general storekeeper	1
certified teacher	1	gloveress	1
child under school age	50	governess	1
clergyman	1	housekeeper	1
coach painter	1	housemaid	3
coal dealer/porter	2	housewife*	123
cowman	6	inn keeper	1
farm labourer	46	milliner	1
farm waggoner	1	oap	7
farmer	16	parlourmaid	3
gardener	11	postmistress	1
general labourer	8	poultry farmer	1
grocer	3	private means	8
groom	3	scholar	36
haulier	1	seamstress	1
hay tyer on farm	1	secretary	1
helping on farm	7	servant	7
horse boy/horseman on farm	11	shop keeper	1

Brize Norton and World War One

Males		<u>Females</u>	
keeper game	1	widowed	8
mason	8	other	2
model engineering	1		
motor driver	1		
oap/retired	9		
plough boy	4		
police	1		
railway	7		
road labourer/road man	8		
road surveyor	1		
scholar	36		
shepherd	8		
solicitor	1		
stud groom	1		
sub postmaster	1		
tailor	1		
threshing machine proprietor	1		

Brize Norton and World War One

<u>Males</u>		<u>Females</u>	
traction engine driver	3		
waggoner/under waggoner	8		
other	4		
<u>Totals</u>	<u>316</u>		<u>311</u>
			<u>627</u>

* Note that "housewife" includes single women at home.

A further analysis shows the "insularity" of the villages. 114 females (36%) were bred and born in Brize Norton, whilst 152 males (50%) were bred and born there. Incomers to the village numbers 203 females (64%) and 154 males (50%). Taking a sample of around 20% we find of 29 females came from the following counties: Berkshire (2), Devonshire (1), Gloucestershire (3), Middlesex (1), Oxfordshire (15), Somerset (3), Wiltshire (3) and Yorkshire (1). Noting the actual locations most are fairly close to Brize Norton (Faringdon, Easington, Witney, Lechlade, Swindon all figure). Similarly for 26 males we find the following: Berkshire (4), Bucks (1), London (1), Middlesex (1), Oxfordshire (14), Somerset (1), Wiltshire (3) and Yorkshire (1).

Brize was a close community with a few well established families. Many were inter-related.

The table below is based on persons in the village in 1911 that were bred and born in the village, together with those incoming

Brize Norton and World War One

residents with the same surname and address. Only those with more than one household are given.

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Number of households</u>	<u>People per household</u>	<u>Total</u>
Timms	13	1+7+3+1+9+8+ 3+3+1+3+1+2+ 1	43
Drinkwater	8	5+5+4+2+3+6+ 3+1	29
Faulkner	7	4+3+8+2+4+8+ 3	33
Hunt	6	1+8+1+2+4+6	22
Bellenger	5	4+2+7+5+3	19
Smith	5	1+2+1+5+6	15
Joynes	4	2+1+4+2	9
Kinchen	4	6+10+1+3	20
Upstone	4	8+2+5+3	18
Archer	3	4+6+2	12
Barnes	3	8+4+3	15
Field	3	2+3+5	10
Fowler	3	3+1+3	7
Gardiner	3	2+1+1	4
Holtom	3	3+5+5	13
Castle	2	4+1	5

Brize Norton and World War One

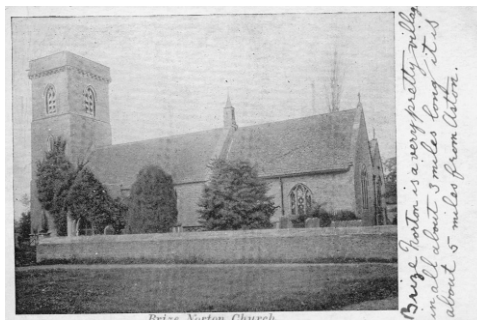
<u>Surname</u>	<u>Number of households</u>	<u>People per household</u>	<u>Total</u>
Clack	2	2+1	3
Garratt	2	1+6	7
Knight	2	6+1	7
Silman	2	1+3	4
Waite	2	5+1	6
Wiggins	2	1+2	3
Winfield	2	5+5	10

Other names that figure include Arkell, Badger, Black, Blackwell, Bright, Brogdon, Busby, Bye, Cambray, Fletcher, Giles, Gray, Gullett, Hardy, Higgs, Hollis, Iles, May, Preston, Rowles, Taylor, Tovey and Williams, each with one household. The remainder who lived in the village represent incomers only.



Brize Norton and World War One

This, then, is the background against which a whole generation of males were picked to fight in the First World War. Most will have had no experience of life beyond the village.



Brize Norton and World War One

Chapter 2 - The Village School

I have been lucky enough to loan the school register for Brize Norton School since its inception. This is an invaluable source of information about the school and the village community. My thanks to Mrs Anna Fairhurst, The Head teacher for the loan of this precious piece of village/school history.

I have concentrated on an analysis of the register for the boys who might have fought in the First World War and who attended the village school. A complete analysis of the document would provide a good incite of the school population over the ages, but this would necessarily be in another publication following a good deal of work.

The admissions register for Brize Norton School provides the following information for the years with which we are concerned: The admission number, the date of admission (and re-admission), the scholar's name, the address of the parents or guardian, the name of the parent or guardian, the scholar's date of birth, the previous school if any, the date last attended the school and the reason for leaving.

Not only can we identify the boys who might have fought in WW1 but we can find valuable information about those who died for our country including their actual date of birth.

The table below is an extract of the schools admissions register solely for those within the ambit of our research for this book.

Brize Norton and World War One

Date admitted	Name		Parent		DOB	Last attended	Aged	Cause of leaving
	Aged	Name						
01/04/1889	5	Thomas	Bye	Thos	15/06/1884			
06/05/1889	4	Willie	Keen	John	15/08/1885	question		left for work
13/05/1889	6	Frank	Rouse	Charles	06/08/1883	05/10/1894	11	removed
20/05/1889		John	Millen	John			0	
20/05/1889	4	Willie	Wilkins	Charles	05/01/1885	10/07/1896	12	labourer
20/05/1889	5	Arthur	Bellenger	Harry	11/11/1884	08/07/1896	12	labourer
22/07/1889	4	Frederic	Hunt	Fred	03/05/1885			
23/09/1889	4	John	Tovey	John	19/07/1885	16/07/1897	12	left for labour
04/11/1889	4	George	Gunn	Henry	05/07/1885	05/08/1898	13	left for labour
11/11/1889	5	Thomas	Temple	Chas	03/03/1885			
12/11/1889	4	George	Smallbone	William	20/06/1885			
12/11/1889	4	Ernest	Bright	John	14/09/1885			
12/11/1889	4	Thomas	Winfield	Thomas	05/11/1885	16/07/1897	12	left for labour

Brize Norton and World War One

Date admitted	Aged	Name	Parent		DOB	Last attended	Aged	Cause of leaving
18/11/1889		William Henry	Upston	John	Upston			
20/01/1890	4	John	Drinkwater	John	Drinkwater			
03/02/1890	5	Charles	Timbrell	John	Timbrell	10/07/1896	11	left for labour
17/04/1890	4	Wilfred	Timbrell	John	Timbrell	06/10/1897	11	left for labour
21/03/1890	5	Frank	Silman	James	Silman			
22/09/1890	7	Frederic	Timms	Joseph	Timms			
22/09/1890	4	Frederic	Bye	Charles	Bye			
29/09/1890	5	William	Timms	Joseph	Timms	20/07/1899	14	left for work
29/09/1890	6	Willie	Hollis	Edward	Hollis	28/04/1899	14	left for work
06/10/1890	7	Frederic	Powell	Fred	Powell			
14/10/1890	7	John	Hill	Thomas	Hill			
28/10/1890	7	Thomas	Wiggins	Charles	Wiggins			
28/10/1890	5	William	Wiggins	Charles	Wiggins			

Brize Norton and World War One

Date admitted	Aged	Name		Parent		DOB	Last attended	Aged	Cause of leaving
18/11/1889		William Henry	Upston	John	Upston				
20/01/1890	4	John	Drinkwater	John	Drinkwater	15/09/1885			
03/02/1890	5	Charles	Timbrell	John	Timbrell	11/01/1885	10/07/1896	11	left for labour
17/04/1890	4	Wilfred	Timbrell	John	Timbrell	21/09/1886	06/10/1897	11	left for labour
21/03/1890	5	Frank	Silman	James	Silman	30/04/1885			
22/09/1890	7	Frederic	Timms	Joseph	Timms	30/10/1883			
22/09/1890	4	Frederic	Bye	Charles	Bye	06/08/1886			
29/09/1890	5	William	Timms	Joseph	Timms	18/06/1885	20/07/1899	14	left for work
29/09/1890	6	Willie	Hollis	Edward	Hollis	07/11/1884	28/04/1899	14	left for work
06/10/1890	7	Frederic	Powell	Fred	Powell	03/06/1883			
14/10/1890	7	John	Hill	Thomas	Hill	29/09/1883			
28/10/1890	7	Thomas	Wiggins	Charles	Wiggins	23/11/1883			

Brize Norton and World War One

Date admitted	Aged	Name		Parent		DOB	Last attended	Aged at leaving	Cause of leaving
28/10/1890	5	William	Wiggins	Charles	Wiggins	02/11/1885			
16/02/1891	6	Arthur	Hill	Thomas	Hill	29/09/1896			
06/04/1891	4	Edward	Wilkins	Thomas	Wilkins	26/11/1886	21/09/1899	13	left for work
06/04/1891	3	Sydney	Brogden	Thomas	Brogden	05/11/1887			
13/04/1891	5	John	Phipps	John	Phipps	04/10/1886			
04/05/1891	4	Harold	Bellenger	Peter	Bellenger	04/05/1887	04/05/1900	13	left for work
25/05/1891	4	Cyril	Joynes	George	Joynes	19/05/1887			
01/05/1891	5	Leak	Holtom	Edward	Holtom	29/07/1886			
10/08/1891	4	Willie	Timms	Thos	Timms	24/06/1887	12/10/1894	7	removed
05/10/1891	4	Willie	Bellenger	William	Bellenger	01/10/1887	27/07/1900	13	left for work
13/10/1891		Richard	Eagle	George	Fox				
21/10/1891	4	James	Hill	Thos	Hill	12/03/1888			
30/11/1891		George William	Hall	George	Hall				
02/02/1892	4	William	Hunt	Fred	Hunt	02/02/1888	29/06/1900	12	Labour C

Brize Norton and World War One

Date admitted	Aged	Name	Parent		DOB	Last attended	Aged	Cause of leaving
21/03/1892	4	Frederic	Winfield	Thos	15/03/1888	29/06/1900	12	Labour C
28/03/1892	4	George	Holtom	Edward	13/10/1887	26/07/1900	13	left for labour
05/04/1892	4	Henry	Wilkins	Charles	14/02/1888	08/02/1901	13	left for labour
25/04/1892	5	Walter	Jeffries	William	20/06/1887	07/05/1900	13	left for work
25/04/1892	4	William	Winfield	Edward	07/04/1888	04/04/1900	12	left for labour
25/04/1892	4	Arthur	Timms	Joseph	23/04/1888	25/07/1900	12	left for labour
25/04/1892	5	Bertie	Bye	Thos	14/07/1887	25/02/1901	14	left for labour
25/04/1892	5	Frank	Eustace	Richard	21/01/1887			
25/04/1892	4	Frank	Kinchen	Chars	18/01/1888	17/01/1901	13	left for labour
16/05/1892	4	Harold A	Hollis	Edward	13/05/1888	12/04/1896	8	ill
16/05/1892	5	Frederic	Rouse	Chas	17/01/1887	05/10/1894	8	remove d
26/09/1892		Harry	Bellenger	Harry	Bellenger	28/06/1901		left for work
26/09/1892	4	Willie	Eustace	Richard				

Brize Norton and World War One

Date admitted	Aged	Name		Parent		DOB	Last attended	Aged	Cause of leaving
26/09/1892	4	Arthur	Artus	John	Artus	06/09/1888			
17/10/1892		Henry	Comley	Fred	Comley				
17/10/1892		Thomas	Comley	Fred	Comley				
24/10/1892	9	Arthur	Preston	Thos	Preston	08/07/1883			
25/10/1892	4	Rowland	Timms	Edwin	Timms	24/10/1888	23/10/1901	13	left for work
31/10/1892	4	Willie	Arkell	Chas	Arkell	26/10/1888	25/10/1901	13	left for work
07/11/1892	8	George	Preston	Thos	Preston	26/03/1885	16/09/1901	16	left for work
02/11/1892	4	Frank	Drinkwater	Noah	Drinkwater	18/07/1888			
02/01/1893	4	Francis	Timms	Fred	Timms	25/12/1888	31/05/1895	6	removed
13/03/1893	4	Edwin	Bright	John	Bright	08/11/1888	29/03/1894	5	left for work
20/03/1893	4	Albert E	Timms	Mark	Timms	18/03/1889	14/03/1902	13	left for work
10/04/1894	5	Fred	Phipps	Job	Phipps	13/04/1889	08/12/1899	11	left for work
24/04/1893	6	Frederic	Silman	James	Silman	28/08/1887	26/07/1900	13	left for work

Brize Norton and World War One

Date admitted	Aged	Name		Parent		DOB	Last attended		Aged	Cause of leaving
11/09/1893	4	Joseph	Upston	Amos	Upston	28/08/1889				
12/09/1893	5	Daniel	Faulkner	Joseph	Faulkner	28/06/1888	01/08/1901	13	left for work	
22/01/1894	4	James	Hollis	Thomas	Hollis	04/12/1889				
14/03/1894	4	Ernest	Bellenger	Harry	Bellenger	12/03/1890				
21/05/1894	5	Arthur	Luckett	George	Luckett	28/08/1889				
04/06/1894	4	George	Timms	Fred	Timms	29/06/1890				
02/07/1894	4	George	Drinkwater	Amos	Drinkwater	29/06/1890				
24/09/1894	4	David	Winfield	Thos	Winfield	15/09/1890	19/08/1905	15	left for work	
24/09/1894	6	Harold	Applegate	E H	Applegate	20/07/1888	12/04/1895	7	removed	
24/09/1894	6	Percy	Applegate	E H	Applegate	20/07/1888	12/04/1895	7	removed	
22/01/1895	5	Ernest	Drinkwater	John	Drinkwater	01/07/1890				
01/04/1895	5	George	Fox			16/09/1890				
22/04/1895	5	Harry	Smallbone	William	Smallbone	12/07/1890				

Brize Norton and World War One

Date admitted	Aged	Name	Parent		DOB	Last attended	Aged	Cause of leaving
22/07/1895	4	Arthur	Barnes	William	10/06/1891			
30/09/1895	5	Edwin	Miles	George	30/06/1890			
15/10/1895	4	William	Faulkner	William	19/06/1891	30/09/1897	6	left for work
25/11/1895	12	Aubrey	Cambrey	Thos	12/05/1884	03/02/1899	15	left for labour
25/11/1895	10	Charles	Cambrey	thos	16/02/1886	23/12/1902	17	left for service
02/01/1896	4	Albert Ed	Faulkner	fred	30/12/1891	11/01/1905	13	left of age
10/02/1896	4	George	Hollis	Thos	11/02/1892	10/02/1905	13	left for labour
25/02/1896	13	William	Wilsdon	James	11/08/1883	10/02/1905	22	left of age
07/05/1888	5	Rupert	Smith	Henry	16/08/1883			
01/06/1896	4	George	Bellenger	Henry	22/03/1892	22/03/1905	13	left of age
01/06/1896	4	Frank Wm	Drinkwater	Amos	23/05/1892	23/05/1905	13	left of age
02/06/1896	5	Edward	Wickson	Henry	10/07/1891	24/04/1898	7	left the place
01/06/1896	7	Francis	Timms	Fred	25/12/1888			left of age

Brize Norton and World War One

Date admitted	Aged		Name	Parent		DOB	Last attended	Aged	Cause of leaving
13/07/1896	4	Alfred	Phipps	Joseph	Phipps	22/08/1892	04/08/1905	13	left of age
13/07/1896	4	Marcus	Timms	Mark	Timms	22/08/1892	13/05/1911	19	left of age
13/07/1896	4	John	Upston	Amos	Upston	16/10/1892	13/10/1905	13	left the parish
13/07/1896	4	Ernest	Fowler	Ernest	Fowler	24/12/1892	18/11/1901	9	left the parish
14/07/1896	5	Frederic	Peachey	William	Peachey	29/03/1891			left the place
07/09/1896	4	Frederic John	Upston	William	Upston	31/12/1892			
07/09/1896	5	John	Silman	John	Silman	17/11/1891			left the place
07/09/1896	6	Robert	Smith	Lot	Smith	10/09/1890	04/06/1897	7	left of age
07/09/1896	1	Henry	Timms	Henry	Timms	30/06/1895	01/06/1906	11	left of age
05/10/1896	12	Wm John	Wallcroft	John	Wallcroft	02/06/1884			left the place
05/10/1896	5	Ernest George	Wallcroft	John	Wallcroft	02/05/1891			left the place
03/02/1897	3	Ernest	Timms	Thos	Timms	12/09/1893			left the place

Brize Norton and World War One

Date admitted	Aged	Name	Parent		DOB	Last attended	Aged	Cause of leaving
09/02/1897	3	Frank	Timms	Leonard	Timms	02/01/1894		left of age
03/02/1897	3	Ernest	Timms	Thos	Timms	12/09/1893		left of age
15/03/1897	4	Arthur	Holtom	George	Holtom	12/02/1893		left of age
16/02/1897	4	Albert	Wilkins	Charles	Wilkins	12/02/1893		left of age
12/04/1897	3	Frank	Cambrey	Thos	Cambrey	11/11/1893	09/11/1906	left of age
14/05/1897	4	Henry Charles	James	Ernest	James	05/05/1893	14/03/1898	left the place
17/05/1897	3	Arthur	Fowler	Ernest	Fowler	22/04/1894	18/11/1901	left the parish
23/06/1897	3	John	Winfield	Thos	Winfield	19/04/1894	19/04/1907	left of age
20/09/1897	6	William	Turner	Leonard	Turner	24/06/1891	20/09/1908	left the parish
11/10/1897	5	William	Garratt	William	Garratt	25/08/1892	04/08/1905	left of age
25/10/1897	5	Frederick Marcus	Drinkwater	John	Drinkwater	23/11/1892	22/11/1905	left of age
03/01/1898	4	William	Kinchen	William	Thatcher	02/05/1894	06/04/1898	left the place

Brize Norton and World War One

Date admitted	Aged	Name		Parent		DOB	Last attended	Aged	Cause of leaving
18/04/1898	3	Arthur	Faulkner	Agnes	Faulkner	14/02/1895	02/08/1907	12	passed "L" exam
02/05/1898	4	Howell John	Powell	D H W	Powell	11/12/1893	04/11/1904	11	left for Witney
02/05/1898	3	Thomas William	Powell	D H W	Powell	11/02/1895	04/11/1904	10	left for Witney
06/05/1898	4	Richard	Hunt	Richard	Hunt	04/11/1894	02/08/1907	13	left for work
06/05/1898	10	Harold	Hollis	Edward	Hollis	13/05/1888	24/06/1903	15	left the parish
19/09/1898	12	Robert	Baxter	Robert	Baxter	21/12/1886	14/06/1899	12	left the parish
19/09/1898	10	Reginald	Baxter	Robert	Baxter	08/08/1888	15/06/1899	11	left the parish
26/09/1898	6	John Kenneth	Worley	Edward	Worley	13/09/1892	06/05/1904	12	left the parish
20/10/1898	3	Edward James	Gunn	Henry	Gunn	23/05/1895	24/06/1904	9	left the place
20/09/1898	4	George	Faulkner	William	Faulkner	02/04/1894	24/06/1904	10	left the place
21/09/1898	3	James	Upstone	Amos	Upstone	22/09/1895	28/01/1908	12	left Lab cert
24/10/1898	5	Edward Thos	Claridge	Chas	Claridge	18/05/1893	10/10/1901	8	left the parish

Brize Norton and World War One

Date admitted	Aged	Name	Parent		DOB	Last attended	Aged	Cause of leaving
10/01/1899	3	Victor	Drinkwater	Noah	11/12/1895	04/12/1907	12	left for work
06/03/1899	3	Joseph	Winfield	Thos	20/11/1895	19/11/1908	13	left for work
13/02/1899	3	Frederic	Fowler	Ernest	05/10/1895	18/11/1901	6	left the parish
10/04/1899	5	George	Garratt	William	15/01/1894	15/01/1907	13	left for work
12/09/1899	3	Daniel	Upstone	William	06/08/1896	21/09/1909	13	left for work
12/09/1899	3	Henry	Faulkner	Joseph	27/08/1896	19/01/1909	12	left for work
04/10/1899	13	James	Parker	Thos	16/02/1887	09/03/1900	13	left for work
04/07/1899	10	William	Parker	Charles	24/02/1889	27/03/1902	13	left for work
03/07/1899	3	William	Hollis	Thos	12/09/1896	02/10/1908	12	left for grammar school
03/07/1899	3	Alfred	Timms	Leonard	04/6/1896	19/01/1909	13	left for work
16/10/1899	10	William	Beacher	William	16/09/1889	10/10/1901	12	left for work
05/03/1900	4	John	Hunt	John	08/05/1896	19/01/1909	13	left the parish

Brize Norton and World War One

Date admitted	Aged	Name		Parent		DOB	Last attended	Aged	Cause of leaving
15/10/1900	4	Albert	Parker	Chars	Parker	10/09/1896			
28/02/1901	4	William	Hickman			04/08/1897	13/03/1901	4	left the parish
02/01/1901	3	John	Newel			20/07/1897			
16/04/1901	4	John	Fowler	William	Fowler	26/05/1897	14/11/1901	4	left the parish
02/07/1901	4	Edward	Timms	Henry	Timms	19/05/1897	19/05/1911	14	left for work
30/09/1801		Percy	Timms	Alfred	Timms	18/09/1898	15/07/1910	12	left for work
30/09/1901	4	Charles	Smith	Com	Smith	15/07/1897	15/07/1910	13	left for work
30/09/1901	5	William	Isles	Elyah	Isles	19/08/1896	19/08/1909	13	left for work

Brize Norton and World War One

The key information for each of those who attended the school and subsequently fell in battle is given below:

Marcus	Timms	22/08/1892
Albert	Wilkins	12/02/1893
William	Garratt	25/08/1892
Arthur	Faulkner	14/02/1895
Howell John	Powell	11/12/1893
Thomas William	Powel	11/02/1895
George	Faulkner	02/04/1894
James	Upstone	22/09/1895
William	Parker	24/02/1889
Percy	Timms	18/09/1898

Thus, so far, we have found 12 of the 18 who fell in the school register. Those absent include Charles Henry Archer, Albert Edward Blackwell, Harold and John Castle, Henry Frederick Godwin and Frank Lock.

The admission register combined with the census information will aid the identification of others who fought in WW1. This is the subject of Chapter 10.

Brize Norton and World War One

Brize Norton and World War One

Chapter 3 - Who was eligible to fight?

At the beginning of 1914 the British Army had a reported a strength of 710,000 men including reserves, of which around 80,000 were regular troops ready for war. By the end of World War One almost 1 in 4 of the total male population of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland had joined up, over five million men. Of these men, 2.67 million joined as Volunteers and 2.77 million as conscripts (although some volunteered after conscription was introduced and would most likely have been conscripted anyway). Monthly recruiting rates for the army varied dramatically.

BRITONS



JOIN YOUR COUNTRY'S ARMY!

Before conscription for WW1 recruits were volunteers often attracted by recruitment campaigns – the lure of service life or the actions of peers.

Conscription during First World War began when the British government passed the Military Service Act in 1916. The act specified that single men aged 18 to 45 years old were liable to be called up for military service unless they were widowed with children or ministers of a religion. There was a system of Military

Service Tribunals to adjudicate upon claims for exemption upon the grounds of performing civilian work of national importance, domestic hardship, health, and conscientious objection. The law went through several changes before the war ended. Married men were exempt in the original Act, although this was changed in June 1916. The age limit was also eventually raised to 51 years

Brize Norton and World War One

old. Recognition of work of national importance also diminished, and in the last year of the war there was some support for the conscription of clergy. Conscription lasted until mid-1919.

A more detailed account can be found in the Appendix.

An analysis of the population of Brize Norton from the 1911 Census shows the age structure and therefore who became eligible to fight. Note that the 15 - 18 year group would have been over 18 by 1914.

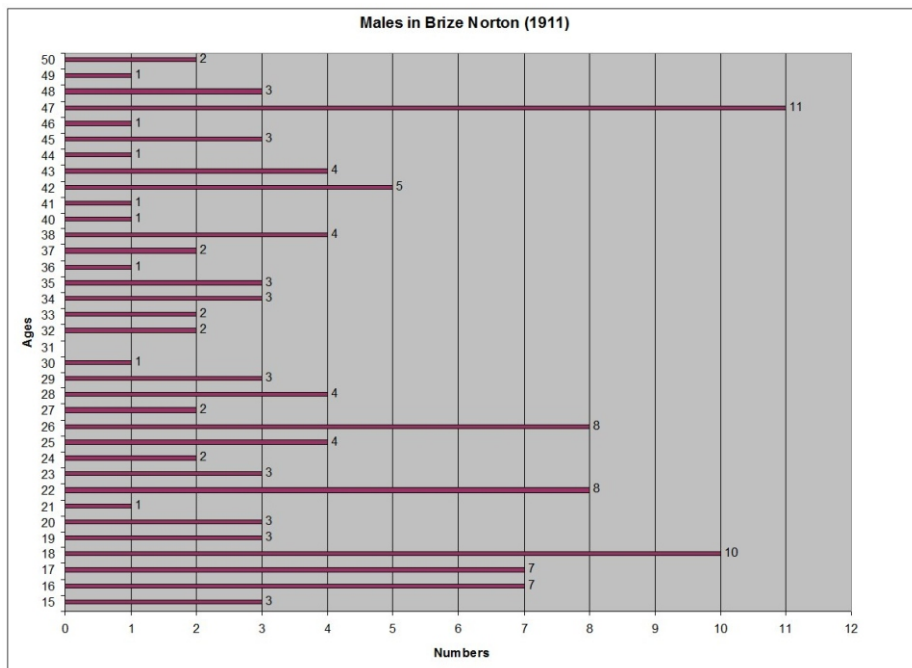
Male under 15	Male 15 - 18	Male 18- 50	Male over 50	Female under 18	Female 18 - 50	Female over 50	Totals
92	24	84	84	90	94	65	533

An analysis of the male population between the ages of 15 and 50 in 1911 is given in the breakdown in the chart overleaf. One can move the date line forward by 3 years to show the numbers in 1914 at the start of the war.

Overall the numbers who could have fought was a small percentage of the population of Brize Norton (just under 20 percent). But you need to take account of the different ages for conscription.

If we examine the ages of those who died we can count their number in relation to the numbers in their age group within the village. This shows what a relatively large proportion of each age group died. This must have had a devastating effect on the village.

Brize Norton and World War One



This can only be an approximation as the population will have changed in the three years from March 2011 and the start of WW1. Also some of those we commemorate may not have been living in Brize in 1911 even though they were born there.

The specific ages of those who served and died during the war can be found in Chapter 3.

If we look at the individuals concerned we can see precisely how the various age groups were affected. A whole generation (10

Brize Norton and World War One

years) of men in their prime were affected, and overall 34% died in the war.

AGE IN 1914	NUMBER IN AGE GROUP	FALLEN IN AGE GROUP	PERCENTAGE
18	3	1	33%
19	7	1	14%
20	7	1	14%
21	10	2	20%
22	3	3	100%
23	3	2	67%
24	1	1	100%
25	8	2	25%
26	3	2	67%
27	2	1	25%
36	2	1	50%
TOTALS	53	18	34%

Brize Norton and World War One

Chapter 4 - Those who fought and died

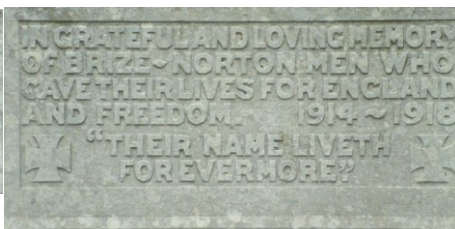
The easiest to track down are those who fought in WW1 and who died and are commemorated on our war memorial and in cemeteries run by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC). We can start with these and they are listed here in alphabetical order.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Died</u>	<u>Aged</u>	<u>Memorial at</u>
Charles Henry Archer	16/05/1915	36	Le Touret
Ernest Bellenger	05/07/1916	26	Thievcpval
Albert Edward Blackwell	25/04/1917	23	Salonika
Harold Castle	22/06/1917	29	Vendhuile
John Castle	23/01/1918	29	Pozieres
Arthur Faulkner	08/08/1917	22	Mendinghem
Albert Edward Faulkner	03/05/1917	25	Arras
William Joseph Garratt	06/08/1915	22	Helles
Henry Frederick Godwin	25/09/1915	19	Loos
Frank Lock	07/10/1917	26	Brize Norton
Edwin John Miles	24/05/1918	28	Robecq
William Edward Parker	15/08/1918	29	Noordvijk

Brize Norton and World War One

<u>Name</u>	<u>Died</u>	<u>Aged</u>	<u>Memorial at</u>
Thomas W Powell	24/11/1918	25	Brize Norton
Marcus John Timms	27/04/1916	24	Souchez
Percival L Timms	28/05/1918	19	La Ville Aux Bois
Jack S Upstone	10/09/1917	23	Rouen
Edward Wilkins	28/09/1916	29	Rouen
Albert J Wilkins	28/04/1917	24	Roeux

An account for each of the fallen is given below.



Brize Norton and World War One

Our First World War Dead

Private CHARLES HENRY ARCHER (Charlie)

Army reservist called up before the First World War.

9945, 2nd Bn., Oxon and Bucks Light Infantry *see page 163*
who died age 36 on 16 May 1915.
Charles had fought previously in
India and South Africa. (*See page 185*).

Son of Edwin Archer, of Brize Norton; husband of Ellen Archer, of Field View, Brize Norton. *See page 75*

He left a wife and five children.

Remembered with honour at LE
TOURET MEMORIAL *see page 124*

He has no known grave.



Photo Circa 1900

H J Powell remembers him in his memoir - On the Army Reserve he worked as a railway ganger. We kids respected him: if he said "Stop that you boys!" we stopped it — and a back-answer would bring a back-hander. Called up before the War he was killed in May '15 leaving a wife and five children, some still live in Brize. That spring my elder brother David, commissioned by the University in the Gunners, was trekking to the Arras front when an infantry battalion "fell" out to let David's battery

Brize Norton and World War One

through. Suddenly David became aware of an infantryman half waving, half saluting and wholly grinning — it was Charlie! Dave only had time to give him a handshake and the old tag, “Keep thee yed down, Charlie, even if thee cassint thee fat backside, cheerio boy!” “Cheerio Dave!”. He had stripes up David thought.

Charles' WW1 Medal Rolls Index Cards show that he was awarded the Victory, British War and the 15 Star medals.

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
ARCHER	2nd Ox & Bucks Lys	Pte	9945
Charles H			
Medal	Vol.	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	2/106 B	82	
BRITISH			
15 STAR	4/4 B	9	11 in A
Theatre of War first served in	1. France		
Date of entry therein	26-1-15		



Brize Norton and World War One

Lance Corporal ERNEST BELLENGER (Nickut)

Ernest was married to Cathleen Wilkins and had two children (Frank and Arthur). He was a milker on a farm.

18050, 1st Bn, Wiltshire Regiment *see page 181*
died aged 26 (DOB 12/03/1890) during the battle of the Somme
on 05 July 1916. (*See page 185*).

Son of Henry and Elizabeth Bellenger of Burford Road, Brize Norton. *See page 77*

Remembered with honour
THIEPVAL MEMORIAL *see page 151*

He has no known grave.

H J Powell remembers him in his memoir - "Nickut" (nicknames are often due to infantile mispronunciations) enlisted in the "Oxon and Bucks" like most Norton chaps. He was always captain of Upstريت teams and was leader of us choir boys. "Nickut" was three years older than I. He worked at Kilkenny Farm and sometimes helped his dad quarrying on the latter's Liberal Government's famous "small-holding". Nick married the belle of the village and had two children. A couple of years ago his grandson won an exhibition at the academically select Balliol College.

Brize Norton and World War One

Ernest' WW1 Medal Rolls Index Cards show that he was awarded the Victory, British War and the 15 Star medals.

68 Campaign :-		1914-15.		(A) Where decoration was earned.	
				(B) Present situation.	
Name	Corps	Rank	Reg. No.	Roll on which included (if any)	PAGE
(A) <i>BELLINGER Pilot R</i>	<i>1050</i>			VICTORY	<i>C/1/102 B 129</i>
(B) <i>Ernest</i>				BRITISH	<i>203</i>
Action taken				<i>Died</i>	
THEATRE OF WAR.		<i>(2nd) Balkans</i>			
QUALIFYING DATE.		<i>12.7.15</i>			
(6 34 46) W234—HP6590 500,000 4/19 HWV(P240) K608 [Over.					



Brize Norton and World War One

Private ALBERT EDWARD BLACKWELL (Bert)

Bert worked for the Great Western Railway, and was based at Garnant with the Signals Department, but entrained for Swindon after the outbreak of war, where he enlisted into the Royal Army Medical Corps. Albert was posted to Salonika on 7th January 1917, where he became attached to the 79th Company, Machine Gun Corps, which was part of the 27th Division. Albert became ill and died in Salonika of myelitis (see report that follows).



88338, Royal Army Medical Corps *see page 166*
attd. 79th Coy., Machine Gun Corps
who died age 23 on 25 May 1917. (*See page 186*).

Son of William and Emily Blackwell (nee Woodley) of Brize Norton. *See page 80*

Remembered with honour SALONIKA (LEMBET ROAD)
MILITARY CEMETERY *see page 148*

H J Powell remembers him in his memoir - Bert was a kid to me. He and his dad ran a coal yard. Bert was also odd-job man at Mr Nesbit's Lower Haddon Farm which is in Bampton though seemingly in Brize. Bert wasn't married. (Mr Nesbit's only son, Murray Nesbit, a friend of my younger brother was killed in the War). Bert joined the Royal Army Service Corps and was killed in the Salonika big stunt of 1917.

Brize Norton and World War One

Alberts' WW1 Medal Rolls Index Cards show that he was awarded the Victory and British War medals.

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regt. No.
BLACKWELL	R.A.M.C.	PA	58338
Albert E.			
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	RAMC 101 B	169	
BRITISH	- 26 -	26	
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			



Albert's WW1 service records show he signed up on 14th June 1915 in Swindon. He was living at Lower Hadden Farm. There is a medical report from No 28 General Hospital in Salonika (overleaf)

Albert's mother had to sign for his effects:

Pipe, knife & fork, ? book, correspondence, pouch, identity disc, ?, cigarette lighter, crucifix, penknife, cigarette case, comb, testament, wallet, pencil, mirror and case.

Brize Norton and World War One



6 JUL 1917

Report on illness resulting in the death of No. 68338 Pte BLACKWELL AE
R.A.M.C.

The above-mentioned soldier was admitted to No 28 General Hospital
on 12/5/17, suffering from myelitis (acute ascending).

He gave a history of 5 days "tingling in the lower limbs" and to a
less extent in his arms, followed suddenly by complete loss of power in
his legs, and he was admitted to Hospital.

On admission all reflexes in lower limbs absent. The conditions
gradually progressed ending in complete paralysis of all muscles
up to the upper intercostals, with failure of respiration due to the
implication of the phrenic nerve.

Certified that the disease was contracted on active service.

4-7-17.

R. H. H. H. H.
Captain, R.A.M.C.,
Registrar,
for O.C. 28 General Hospital.

Brize Norton and World War One

Private HAROLD CASTLE

He enlisted in the Oxford Yeomanry but as a farmer could have been exempt.

2979, 285583, Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars *see page 165* who died age 29 on 22 June 1917. (*See page 187*).

Son of Edward and Mary Anne Castle, of The Manor House, Brize Norton. *See page 81*

Remembered with honour UNICORN CEMETERY, VENDHUILE *see page 155*

H J Powell remembers him in his memoir - Harold and Jack Castle - enlisted in the Oxford Yeomanry. They were killed in France in 1918 but not at the same time. Neither was married. They worked on their father's six hundred acre Manor Farm, Christ Church College, Oxford, being the landlord. Their father took the farm over from his father-in-law Mr Worley (the latter's father and he were Vicar's Warden consecutively for nearly a hundred years.) The Castle boys never mixed with us villagers except to grunt "How do" shyness maybe. They never came to our village socials and dances as did their sisters. I fell desperately in love with Miss Nora who took the younger kids in Sunday School. She lent me books e.g. "The Count of Monte Cristo!" I was too shy to fetch them. Tom, my brother, did but charged me a halfpenny a-time. Mr Castle was a first class farmer but a bit of a tartar. He was always on horseback. We wondered whether he went to bed on horseback. He made Dad give up his handful of chickens because they strayed into Little Garson's meadow. In the shade of the elms and withies some of

Brize Norton and World War One

us kids during the holidays were one day mucking about on Garson's little stone bridge. Stretched full length I was feeling for trout in the holes of the bridge when someone shouted "Here comes ol' devil Castle!" They all, except Tom and me, skedaddled over the stone stile and onto the road. (Tom my young brother was fourteen months younger than I and as big). I sat up and looked to see if he were bunking. No! not he and so not I though my heart beat a bit. Master Castle cantered towards us cracking his long thonged whip like mad. Again I looked at Tom, there was still time to beat it, he was calmly chewing the white stalk of a blade of grass. Master Castle pulled his nag "Dick" almost on its gaunches just short of us and shouted, "What the devil are you doing trespassing on my land?" "Nothing Maaster Castle, please," I pleaded. "Well don't do it, and clear off!" He pulled Dick round and cleared off himself. "Well I be blowed!" I gasped. "What else could he do?" laughed Tom.



*Farmer Mr Castle on his horse, Elderbank Cottage, and 'Benny's Field'
(all fields locally had names but no one had any idea as to who 'Benny' was).*

Harold's WW1 Medal Rolls Index Cards show that he was awarded the Victory and the British War medals.

Brize Norton and World War One

Harold had two regimental numbers

A man would generally enlist once - and be given a service number - or army number - on joining his regiment. If he joined another regiment he would be given a different number. It is possible, as with his brother John, Harold transferred from The Oxon & Bucks Light Infantry.

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
CASTLE Harold	Cof. 400 6 of 1100	Pte	2979 288552
Medal	Ref.	Page	Remarks
VICTORIA	64/104	395	
BARBAR	do	do	
BRAN			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			



Brize Norton and World War One

Private JOHN CASTLE (Jack)

Enlisted in the Oxford Yeomanry with his brother Harold, he also could have been exempt as he worked on his father's farm.

2002, 285251, Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars *see page 165* who died age 29 on 23 March 1918. (*See page 187*).

Son of Edward and Mary Anne Castle, of The Manor, Brize Norton. *See page 83*

Remembered with honour POZIERES MEMORIAL, SOMME *see page 136*



The Manor House

Brize Norton and World War One

H J Powell remembers him in his memoir about Harold and Jack Castle (see the entry for Harold Castle)

John's WW1 Medal Rolls Index Cards show that he was awarded the Victory, the British War and the 14 Star medals.

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regt. No.
CASTLE John	*Q.O. ONE H. C of Hqs	Pte	2002 288251
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY +	*C4/10413	398	
BRITISH	do	do	
14 STAR	CY/6	7	
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein		20.9.14	



John also had two regimental numbers

It is possible, as with his brother Harold, John transferred from The Oxon & Bucks Light Infantry.

Brize Norton and World War One

Private ALBERT EDWARD FAULKNER (Bert or Swinny)

Albert was an under-carter at Manor Farm working for Mr Castle.

16687, 5th Bn., Oxon and Bucks Light Infantry *see page 163* who died age 25 (DOB 30/12/1891) on 03 May 1917. He died of his wounds. (*See page 188*).

Son of Frederick and Bertha Ellen Faulkner, of Brize Norton. *See page 84*

Remembered with honour ARRAS MEMORIAL *see page 110*

H J Powell remembers him in his memoir - "Bert" "Swinny". Bert was the best all-rounder I ever came across in class, work or in play: he had a greased-lightning flick from cover-point comparable to Jack Hobbs's (as M.O. later to the Surrey Cricket Club for umpteen years I reckoned them equal). Bert was under-carter to good old Fred Field at Manor Farm (Fred kept wicket without gloves and close up! With his trombone he timed the Chapel Band). Bert was a crack builder of loads, high ones, and his ploughed furrows were straight as a die. The ten farm cart horses loved him and would nose into his big pockets for a lump of sugar, and if disappointed would snort like a trumpet in one of Bert's ear-holes. Bert was killed before he had time to be recommended for a commission. My youngest sister, a V.A.D. in France wrote what perfect manners "Bert" had and - O - how she wished her dear brothers had too! The cheeky kid! I wrote and asked her if she remembered how, when a snivelling brat of seven she was ticked off by the then parson's wife for not curtsying, how the good lady made her curtsy six times, and how the little wretch stuck her tongue out behind that good

Brize Norton and World War One

lady's back as she went away proud of her good deed! But I picture ol' Bert best as a kid sliding on Manor pond, hands nonchalantly in his trouser pockets, his feet, close together, doing the "Cobblers Knock" - the toes and heel of one foot alternately tapping the ice. Then at the end of the slide with one foot stationary the other cut a semicircle on the ice- the white "Rasher of Bacon" the while my arms would be flapping like sails and my feet feet apart.

Albert's war medal cards show he was awarded the Victory, British War and the 15 Star medals.

#3

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
FAULKNER	Inf. - Poles L.I.	2nd Cpl	16654
		* Cpl	

AME Card

Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	* L/106 B7	1348	bird
BRITISH	L.d	d	
15 STAR	L/14 B.	1467	

Theatre of War first served in	1 France
Date of entry therein	20.5.18

K 1380



Brize Norton and World War One

Acting Bombardier ARTHUR FAULKNER (Art)

Arthur was a village boy, a farm horseman who then joined the police force in Birmingham before the war.

297205, 156th Heavy Bty., Royal Garrison Artillery *see page 168* who died aged 22 (DOB 14/02/1895) on 08 August 1917. (*See page 190*).

Son of Agnes Faulkner, brought up by grandparents John and Eliza of Station Road, Brize Norton. *See page 85*.

Remembered with honour MENDINGHEM MILITARY CEMETERY *see page 131*

H J Powell remembers him in his memoir - Granny's and Grampy's grandson lived with them till he joined the Brummagem police. He had a relative there. Even as a kid Art had this slow measured tread of a policeman due perhaps to having to wear his Grampy's cast off hob-nailed boots: but almost all of us had to wear cast-offs in some form. Tom and Art hit it off well. Art was never one to chuck his weight and words about and one waited to hear what he had to say. I think of him, Tom and me harvesting up in "Sixty Acres" (name not a measure, Carterton is sprouting over it now-a-days). Except for the ousting of the sickle by the scythe, harvesting as we knew it at the turn of the century differed but little from that in Ruth's time in the Old Testament, "She gleaned in the field after the reapers-" In "Sixty Acres" each labourer was allotted an acreage of corn to scythe; kids made bonds, and a woman with a bond tied sufficient of the swath to make a sheaf. Art taught Tom and me how to make bonds: enough corn stalks were grasped in

Brize Norton and World War One

each hand close to the ears of corn and the two were twisted and than intertwined and Bob was your uncle. The old people “shocked” the sheaves. I felt cocky when later I took loaded waggons to the rickyard and then the empty waggons back to the cornfield. When the last sheaves and rakings were carted away villagers were allowed to leaze (glean) there. But the best job was riding the for’est horse pulling the binder. We boys were paid four bob a week. What I remember best is, wacked to the world, we would go and bathe in the lovely Cuckoo Pen withy surrounded and stanked to five foot: the lovely Cuckoo Pen buried this many a year neath the concreted runway! I was knee high to a harvest bug (I not yet breeched) when the one horsed reaper appeared. Our age was to see epoch making development in harvesting. That reaper had two sails which swept the cut corn into swaths. The elevater came next. Then the binder turned up before the first war. Pulled by three horses or two it cut the corn, tied it into sheaves and then chucked the sheaves out. Finally around the end of the First World War arrived the majestic petrol driven combine which cut the corn, threshed it and poured the grain into sacks or into a truck. The valuable tractor was introduced about the some time. We kids also saw the last of “broad casting” seed by hand, and the last of “Rook Starving” with a rattle so frightening birds away from sown seed. The automatic gun does this nowadays. But O my Blossom! O my Jewel of long ago! And “Swinny” with their sugar! And Art! Art’s death nearly killed poor old Gran. Fortunately her nursing kept her busy. There was no State nurse as yet. Gran was not hospital trained, but trained by Life. Common sense was her stand-by. Her sandy hair and lively smiling eyes made her forty not seventy. She was full of old sayings, e.g. “You never see an old fat man!” “Feed a cold starve a fever”, “Lazy gel” (delayed labour). She and her house were as

Brize Norton and World War One

clean as two pins. She always smelt of freshly ironed clothes airing in the sun. Our mother died when I was ten: Gran kept an eye on us I have since realised. Art and Tom were her favourites. She would have been terribly upset had she known that unwittingly she had shown it. But honestly we others didn't mind because we were all her favourites really. She lived to over ninety.

Arthur's war medal cards show he was awarded the Victory and the British War medals.

Name.	Grade.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
FAULKNER.	PSA do	Snr.	5944 297205
Arthur			
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	PSA/245B	14590	
BRITISH	do		
Star			
Theatre of War first awarded in			
Date of entry therein			



Arthur had two regimental numbers, suggesting that he transferred to the Royal Garrison Artillery possibly from the Oxon and Bucks Light Infantry.

Brize Norton and World War One

Private WILLIAM JOSEPH GARRATT (Bill)

He worked as a horseman on a farm.

9983, 17292, 2nd Bn., Hampshire Regiment *see page 170* who died age 22 (DOB 25/08/1892) on 06 August 1915 at Gallipoli, Turkey. (*See page 191*).

Son of William and Annie Garratt, of Brize Norton. *See page 86.*

Remembered with honour HELLES MEMORIAL *see page 118*

H J Powell remembers him in his memoir - No orisons from me - Bill wouldn't want them. We were in the some standards together at school, and together till teacher separated us for Bill and I saw the same sorts of things. While still at school Bill played 'OOMPah in the Shilton Band of which his dad was bandmaster. George his young brother played in the band too. The Garratts lived at Lingermans the farthest north of Norton's houses. Shilton was not much farther away than Norton church. The band practised in the Club Room of the "Rose and Crown" in Shilton. Bill was late for practise one evening, they were playing "Men of Harlech", Bill rushed in bellowing, "Wonderful! Come outside and listen to it!" And some of them put their instruments on the floor and went outside to listen: Bill all over! Most Saturday nights Bill and I and sometimes Bert Wilkins and Tom biked into Witney to give the Witney wenches a treat but my thatch-like hair stood no chance with Bill's curly quiff. We always got our literature then. Bill "The Boys Realm" and I "The Magnet" (price ha'penny) and we swapped over on Wednesday. One time it started to rain on our way to Witney so we sheltered under a tree. Already there was a la-di-da bloke there. He at

Brize Norton and World War One

once started to grumble about the weather. Bill at once put on his big bumpkin look (easy as pet for him) and spluttered “ Oh I dwunt know, Maister, any weather be better nor no weather at all!” The bloke couldn’t fathom this, trance-like he mounted his bike and sloped off. No farm work for Bill. He enlisted some time before the First World War almost certainly in the band (in those early days bandsmen were stretcher bearers). And no one seemed to know what Bill was in! He was killed at the Dardenelles.

William's medal records show that he was awarded the Victory, British War and 15 Star Medals

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regt. No.
SEE GARRATT W.T. Oxon Bucks	2nd	9983	
GARRATT William J	Oxon Bucks Lt	9983	17292
	Hampshire R.		

Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
Victory	C/1103 B/11	1138	
British	do	do	
14 Star	A/2/2	124	
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry theatre			

C/1103/2/3099 K. 1380



William had two regimental numbers - first when he joined the Oxon and Bucks Light Infantry and then when he transferred to the Hampshire Regiment.

Brize Norton and World War One

Private HENRY FREDERICK GODWIN

13116, 2nd Bn., Oxon and Bucks Light Infantry *see page 163* who died age 19 on 25 September 1915. (*See page 187*).

Son of Cornelius and Frances Mary Godwin, of Woodside, Burford. *See page 87*.

Remembered with honour LOOS MEMORIAL *see page 128*

He has no known grave.

H J Powell remembers him in his memoir - "Oxon and Bucks." He was single. Before the war he worked for Mr Hoskins at Kilkenny Farm. He lodged at that rose-smothered cottage which bordered the then bridle track to Rock Farm soon to become Carterton with its galvanized little freehold bungalows at fifty quid a time! He was reported "Missing believed killed" and later "Killed".

Henry's medal card shows he was awarded the Victory, British War and 15 Star medals.

Brize Norton and World War One

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
GODWIN	2/oxfordshire	Lieut	15116
Henry			
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	4/10608	1515	
BRITISH	do	do	
15 SPAS	14168	166	KimA
Theatre of War first served in (1) France			
Date of entry thereof 1 - 5 - 14.			

K. 1280.



Brize Norton and World War One

Private FRANK LOCK

Born at Brize Norton. He enlisted, was badly wounded, gassed and developed tuberculosis.

20598, Grenadier Guards *see page 160* who died age 26 on 07 October 1917. (*See page 196*).

Son of John and Mary A. Lock, of South View, Carterton. *See page 88*.

Remembered with honour BRIZE NORTON (ST. BRITIUS) CHURCHYARD EXTENSION *see page 113*

H J Powell remembers him in his memoir - Frank was after my time. I was prep teaching in wonderful London. I had met him when he was helping his father run "The Axe" (The Carpenter Arms). Mr Lock took over from Mr Drinkwater before the War. Addle yeaded "foreigners guffawed their yeads off at "Drinkwater" keeping a pub. It meant another drink and laughter. On the quiet it paid! Frank enlisted in the Grenadiers Guards and was badly wounded. Unfortunately he developed tuberculosis, a killer in those days. The double fight was too much for him.

Frank's war medal record shows he was awarded the Victory, British War and 15 Star medals.

Brize Norton and World War One

1914-15

Campaign:—

(A) Where decoration was earned.

(B) Present situation.

Name	Corps	Rank	Reg. No.	Roll on which recorded or any MEDAL ROLL	PAGE
(A) LOCK	G. Gds.	20578		VICTORY 5/10/15	46
(B) Frank				25 STAR 6/1/15	135

Action taken

THEATRE OF WAR: France

SWB G.G./53

QUALIFYING DATE: 8/9/15

(9 34 46) W331—H/P5590 500,000 4/19 HWV/P245) K608

OVER



The medal index cards and medal rolls refer to codes that tell in which theatre of war the soldier first served after leaving his native shore.

There was a further award, the Silver War Badge (SWB). This was strictly not a medal, but a badge which was given to servicemen who had been released from active service under para 392 (xvi) of King's Regulations because of wounds or sickness.

Brize Norton and World War One

Sergeant EDWIN JOHN MILES (Ted)

He worked on a farm before working in Barnes shop.

1052, 200040, 2nd/4th Bn., Oxon and Bucks Light Infantry *see page 163* who died age 28 (DOB 30/06/1890) on 24 May 1918. (*See page 196*).

Son of George and Flora Miles, of Brize Norton. *See page 90.*

Remembered with honour ST.
VENANT-ROBECQ ROAD BRITISH
CEMETERY, ROBECQ *see page 143*



H J Powell remembers him in his memoir - Ted's mother was Charlie Archer's sister A widow she married a widower - none other than dear old John Luckett. John was Dad's foreman on the roads. John always had grin for us kids and a humbug in one of his hands for us to choose which , but we had a sweet anyroad. Early Saturday mornings we would take Mrs Luckett's cake to Barnes's bakehouse and fetch it when done - what a lovely smell was there! She always gave us a slice apiece of the last cake. She was a dear and so was John's second wife, but we couldn't very well mention that slice of cake. Ted always looked spick and span. He worked in Barnes's who sold everything under the sun from corduroys - even the smelly ones - to kids toys, from candles to sandals, everything. At the end of the counter there were half a dozen sacks of currants and a big box of broken biscuits. When our hands hung down they accidental

Brize Norton and World War One

of a purpose touched one or other and it was a watchful battle between - well - us kids and Ted. For a time Ted worked at Henley. Ted had a beautiful new bike, first of its kind, the tyres weren't solid but pneumatic and a brake on the front wheel and a lovely sounding bell - beautiful! - Ted was in the Territorials sometime before the War. Nobody seemed to know his rank. I wouldn't mind betting he was comissioned.

Edwin's war medal card shows he was awarded the Victory, British War and 15 Star medals

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
<i>MILES</i> <i>Edwin</i>	<i>146th Buffs Bucks L Co</i>	<i>Cpl</i>	<i>1052</i> <i>200040</i>
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
Victory	<i>4/10 B 13</i>	<i>2630</i>	<i>R in A</i>
British	<i>4/4 B</i>	<i>265</i>	
15 STAR			
Theatre of War first served in	<i>(1) France</i>		
Date of entry therein	<i>29.3.15</i>		



He had two regimental numbers.

Two articles in the Witney Gazette are very poignant:

Brize Norton and World War One

- From the Witney Gazette, Saturday June 15th 1918

Death

Miles' - killed in action in France, 200040 Sgt. E.J.Miles, of the 2/4 Oxon and Bucks Lt. Inf, eldest and beloved son of Flora and George Miles, Burwell Cottages, Witney. —

God giveth his beloved sheep

- From the Witney Gazette, Saturday June 22nd 1918

Death of Serg. E J Miles- we regret to announce the death of Serg. E J Miles, of Burwell, which took place in France on May 24th. He went on active service some time ago, and was subsequently invalided home. On recovering he returned to France where he met his death. He was the grandson of Mr Archer of Brizenorton, and he is the seventh member of that family to fall in the war. The deceased was an excellent soldier, and the following letters show how popular he was with both officers and men:- “Oxon and Bucks Light Infantry, France.

Dear Mrs Miles, I write to condole with you in the sad death of your son and express my sympathy with you in the loss. Serg.Miles had served a great many months with me in France. When he joined the Battalion I at once recognised him as one of my old comrades of 1915. Few men wearing sergeants stripes could have joined this Battalion with a better record behind him. I regret most extremely that he should have been killed; his loss to the Battalion is great. Yours sincerely G.K. Rose,

Major, 2nd in command. -

Brize Norton and World War One

Leading Seaman WILLIAM EDWARD PARKER

He joined the Navy before the war and went down with his ship when it was sunk in the North Sea.

J/54290, H.M.S. "Scott.", Royal Navy *see page 172* who died age 29 (DOB 24/02/1885) on 15 August 1918. (*See page 198*).

Son of Charles and Mary Ann Parker, of Brize Norton. *See page 94*.

Remembered with honour NOORDWIJK GENERAL CEMETERY
see page 134

H J Powell remembers him in his memoir - Some four years older than I, Bill was in the Navy, and was in it before the War, being soon a leading seaman. What I remember most about him was his kindness and he didn't swear - well not much. I liked him. Somehow I don't think he liked Norton. He went down with the ship, HMS Scott, when it was sunk in the North Sea, 1917. Why did I feel sorry for Bill?

William's war medal card doesn't come up in ancestry.com but forces-war-records indicates that William was awarded the Victory and British War medals



Brize Norton and World War One

Captain THOMAS W POWELL MC (Tom)

A London prep school teacher who enlisted in the London TA.

2439, London Regiment, Welsh Regiment *see page 182* and The Royal Tank Corps *see page 174* who died aged 25 (11/02/1895) on 24 November 1918. (*See page 199*).

Son of David & Britannia Powell of The Limes, Brize Norton. *See page 96*.

Remembered with honour BRIZE NORTON (ST. BRITIUS) CHURCHYARD EXTENSION *see page 113*

H J Powell remembers him in his memoir - Tom and I were as big friends as we were brothers. I was fourteen months the elder. Full grown Tom lacked half inch to six foot and I half inch to him. Mate could be awk'ard as the divil. The following two instances were Tom to the "T": due to begin at the Grammar School in the September Tom was dead set on his butt, Bill Hollis, going there with him as he reckoned no kid would know as well or as fast as Bill how many beans make five! So Tom and Bill waylaying school boss tackled him, "please Sir, we want Bill to take the exam for a free place at the Grammar School and for you to cram him for the three weeks, please Sir - " "What utter nonsense and colossal cheek! Besides he hasn't a ghost of - " "Right, Sir!" "Tom exclaimed, "I shall write to the Prime Minister and the Duke of Marlborough and let them know young Bill is being done out of his disserts!" There was silence until Tom moving away spoke "come Bill". Quaking, school boss caved in, "Steady on Tom, half a mo! I'll start on Bill tomorrow 6.30" "Thank you, Sir!" and Bill passed! The second instance;

Brize Norton and World War One

wonderful. Witney Feast. Tom, fifteen, studied the Boxing Booth and its notices "Stand up for three rounds and earn five bob against a pro." Tom muttered, "Easy as pie. 'Money for Jam!'" The pro lost his grin in the second round the same time Tom's eye closed. But he won his five bob! Being short of spondulicks - later I asked him to lend me a bob. "Righto, you, but I shall charge sixpence interest." Another characteristic of his - he always counted his pennies and named them one by one.

John, for whom we worked in the holidays, asked Tom to join him in partnership on his farm on leaving school. But Tom preferred to paint London red with me after school. We didn't teach in the same prep school (seventy pounds a year and keep). Like eighty percent of Nortoners we hadn't been to London nor like them had we seen the sea. We soon put that to rights. We took our gels on one of those Sunday excursions three bob return to Brighton. My Louisette was a lovely little French gel and as smart as they made um; Tom's Vivienne was a smart big wench with some spare avoir du pois. They worked in Paquins of Paris, London branch in Mount Street off Park Lane. We first met them one glorious June Sunday evening when listening to the Guard's glorious band in Hyde Park. Later in strolling in the Park we came to the railings bordering one of the footpaths. I picked Louisette up and gently threw her over to Tom and Tom threw her back to me she giggling with glee. Then pretending to be cross she made me hold her little mirror for her, but sometimes her eyes slipped past her mirror to search mine. I think the - metaphorically - cow-dung on my boots and the straw in my hair intrigued her but soon we got to like each other a lot. She spoke English very well. I did French for London Matric but my spoken French was laughable. I am everlastingly grateful to her for the gentle way she for instance taught me how to help a lady

Brize Norton and World War One

onto a bus or off: there weren't no busses running from Nortons' Ting Tang Lane to her Park Lane. Tom got on fine with Vivi, she was almost his height. But she objected to his smacking her behind.

The war was declared. The girls had to go back to Paris. We saw them off. Louissette cried and cried and I nearly did. We promised to write. Vivi too cried and didn't mind at all now Tom's patting her behind. We waved and waved and so did they - till the end.

Sad I went home. Tom was catching a later train as he wanted to say ta-ta to one of the girl teachers. When I got home Dad looked anxious but said nothing. When Tom arrived back I took him to the parlour and getting him to put his hand on the big family bible made him say after me, "I hereby swear by almighty God that whatever happens to me I will not go back to teaching." Bernard Shaw said "He who can't -teaches!" David came home next day. He was getting through his university a commission in the "Gunnery". Tom and I were enlisting in the London Territorials so as to get our evenings off in London! Tom was for the 24th County of London Territorials, Kennington, a tough crowd. Now, I was calming down after a severe attack of post Impressionists painting shared enjoyably with the knowledgeable Louissette: I for the "Artist's Rifles", the Twenty Eight County of London, its H.Q. in Bloomsbury. They were a crack crowd and no mistake! Within three weeks Tom's Colonel recommended him for a commission. At the same time "The Artists" clamped down on letting chaps go for commissions. David advised me to ask for a week's leave and sit for the next entrance exam into Sandhurst. I was successful. I told Tom to do the same. "No!" He was emphatic, "the damned war will be

Brize Norton and World War One

over. I want to see what it is like.” In no time David was in France. In no time I would be passing out of Sandhurst and no longer a “Gentleman Cadet”. In no time Tom, a second lieutenant, had joined the 9th Battalion The Welsh Regiment, just before the big battle of Loos, and in no time Tom was being recommended for the Victoria Cross!

I possess a letter written to Tom by his Colonel in which he commiserates with Tom on his not having been awarded the Victoria Cross. “In the eyes of this Division you earned it, Tom”. Unfortunately the battle of Loos was a colossal failure, many senior officers were sent home including the Commander-in-Chief. The Boche knew all our plans for Loos! Tom’s battalion was in the front line of attack. Almost at the last minute zero hour was postponed for an hour. The tragedy was Tom’s brigade never got the new order! Our guns dropped their barrage on the German wire which our men were struggling through. They found the thick German barb wire was almost intact and our wire cutters almost useless: a terrible slaughtering resulted! Tom with Sergeant Williams and eleven men got a good footing in the Boche front line and terrific hand to hand fighting took place.

(Afterwards Tom got leave and came to see me at Clock House Hospital on the Chelsea Embankment at my first wounding. This account of his I wrote down immediately afterwards. Some of the bloodier details I have omitted). One screaming Boche did a belly-flop onto Tom’s bayonet, he preferred a rifle to a revolver! It was like pitching over a waggon a heavy sodden bolten of straw. There was no sleep at all. The Boches’s very lights made night light. We rarely used them. The crowd to go through Tom’s lot never materialised. Sergeant Williams was

Brize Norton and World War One

wounded but refused to leave - good man. After two bloody days and nights they were reduced to himself, Sergt. Williams and three men. Tom sneaked out to shift a pile of dead Boche that obstructed our line of fire. He morsed back that he was running out of ammunition, of water and grub. He reckoned 43 dead Germans - not all his killing of course.

Almost all his men had chucked back Boche grenades but Walters had been unlucky. Tom had orders to retire; he promised his helpless wounded they would be fetched.

The old front line was smashed to hell. No officer remained. Tom took over. There were 23 of "C" company left. Concertina barbed wire was put out at the double and doubled. Still no sleep. Dig in! First counter attack beaten off! He and Sergt. Williams in turn fetched in the badly wounded men as promised. Williams was hit again and swearing like a trooper! Tom found a bullet jammed in his Sam Brown buckle. (Officers still wore officer's kit in battle! Loos changed that stupidity). After two days they were relieved.

Tom's captaincy of "C" company was confirmed. Eventually he received one of the first Military Crosses, Sergt. Williams got the DSM and three of the grand boys a Military Medal each!

Tom was chosen for the Hush! Hush! tanks and soon commanded a company of them. Meanwhile I had been wounded a second time and evacuated home. I married my precious V.A.D. who nursed me the first time I caught out. Tom wangled leave to be my best man. We had spent the night before putting the world to rights. We swore this time that whatever happened, we would go in for medicine after the war. Next

Brize Norton and World War One

morning we went to Guy's Hospital and he registered there, then over to St. Mary's Hospital where I registered. We would become doctors though God alone knew how! Buy a taxi with our gratuities and do night work in turn. Soon we were sitting in the church waiting when the divil frightened me to death with "Has't got the ring, you?"

Panic stricken I protested "I gave it thee breakfast time damned thee!" "Don't swear in church, you!" The divil had it of course! That was the last time I was ever to see him. At Cambrai one of his tanks stalled. He got out of his to examine it and got gassed. In England they discovered that his heart had endocarditis (inflammation). What chance had he at all against that flu epidemic.

The Rank Service of S.			
Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
POWELL	24/Land R.	2nd Lt	2nd 39
Thomas. William	Welsh R.	*2nd Lieut	
	Tank Corps	*Capt	
Name	Regt.	Page	Remarks
Tank Corps: 000/226	4		1/1
15 Welsh R. x 000/138	24		2nd Lt U.K. 24/11/18.
			14x/4309 d/31.10.22 14x/77892
Theatre of War first served in (1) 18.7.15.			
Date of entry therein 14.3.22.			
NW/4/14892 K. 1389			

Brize Norton and World War One

Military Cross

Instituted on 28th December 1914 the Military Cross (M.C.) is the third level military decoration awarded to Officers. This decoration was awarded to Thomas William Powell for an act or acts of exemplary gallantry during active operations against the enemy.

Thomas William Powell, as an owner of the Military Cross, is entitled to use the letters M.C. after his name. Citations for the M.C. were published in the London Gazette during the Great War. However if the M.C. was a King's Birthday or New Year award, details were not published and in most cases will not be available.

Award Details: King's Birthday Honour List

Gazette Info: 5576

Gazette Date: 03/06/1916



Brize Norton and World War One

Lance Corporal MARCUS JOHN TIMMS (Young Mark or Jack)

16691, 5th Bn., Oxon and Bucks Light Infantry *see page 163* who died aged 24 (DOB 22/08/1892) on 27 April 1916. (*See page 200*).

Son of Mark and Annie Timms (nee Faulkner) of Station Road, Brize Norton. *See page 98*.

Remembered with honour CABARET-ROUGE BRITISH CEMETERY, SOUCHEZ *see page 114*

H J Powell remembers him in his memoir - "Young Mark", after his dad was as good a cricketer as his cousin "Swinny". Any two people in Norton those days were cousins. Jack was fast left hander and a good inside forward (between the Wars for two summers the village cricket team was composed solely of Timms). "Young Leaky" after his dad was as good a bowler as his dad. He survived the War as a sergeant and with a D.C.M. Jack had worked with Mr Harry Smith our butcher. They did say Mr Smith made his money mostly from "crock" meat that is by bleeding dying animals. (Art his son, made a fortune in his big emporium on Tooting Broadway). Another to survive the First World War was Jack's elder brother Sergeant Bert Timms, The Grenadier Guards. For a while I was gone on one of their sisters but she preferred a blooming Bam bloke. Bert was the spit of our terrific Grenadier company instructor at Sandhurst. Later Bert was to become landlord of the "AXE". A typical Norton story emanated from the "AXE". Two elderly brothers, local farmers came in one Saturday night after a match. Fred, the younger, had on a brand new pair of breeches, made of big

Brize Norton and World War One

black and white checks, which he kept admiring. At last Bert said to him, "Fred, get down on thee knees and elbows and let us have a game of draughts on thee backside!" Up sprang Joe, Fred's brother, protesting, "how dare thee insult my brother's breeches!"

Marcus's war medal cards show that he was awarded the Victory, British War and 15 Star medals

Name T. M. M. S.		Corps 90th F. B. Co. L. I.		Rank Pte	Regt. No. 16691																
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Medal</td> <td>Roll</td> <td>Page</td> <td>Remarks</td> </tr> <tr> <td>VICTORY</td> <td>2/106 B. 18</td> <td>3770</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>BRITISH</td> <td>- - -</td> <td>- - -</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>15 STAR</td> <td>L. 4. B.</td> <td>388</td> <td>Hin A</td> </tr> </table>						Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks	VICTORY	2/106 B. 18	3770		BRITISH	- - -	- - -		15 STAR	L. 4. B.	388	Hin A
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks																		
VICTORY	2/106 B. 18	3770																			
BRITISH	- - -	- - -																			
15 STAR	L. 4. B.	388	Hin A																		
Theatre of War first served in France		Date of entry therein 20.5.15																			



Brize Norton and World War One

Private PERCIVAL L TIMMS

Worked on Tom Pratt's (Landlord of the Chequers) Farm.

57358, 3rd Bn., Worcestershire Regiment *see page 184* who died age 19 (DOB 18/09/1898) in the Battle of the Aisne on 28 May 1918. (*See page 201*).

Son of Alfred W. and Kate Timms, of 18, Princess St., Swindon. Born at Brize Norton. *See page 100*.

Remembered with honour LA VILLE-AUX-BOIS BRITISH CEMETERY *see page 121*

H J Powell remembers him in his memoir - Perce, a cousin to Jack, was only a kid in my time and not yet in long trousers. Boys were "trouserred" according to their years and not their size - a personal grievance to Tom and me. After leaving school he worked on Tom Pratt's farm (Tom Pratt kept the Chequers as well) Perce must have put his age up to join up. He died as he was being taken to a Prisoners Camp hospital. It was his first trip to France. He was in the "Oxon and Bucks". His father had a big name as a Cots'll stone worker. The Timms were essentially masons. Aggy Dawson lived with the family. She



The middle of Brize Norton, from a postcard dated 6 January 1907. Farm workers with their carts and horses stop at The Chequers public house.

Brize Norton and World War One

was a pupil teacher along with one of my sisters. A pupil teacher was a pupil for half a day and a pupil teacher other half. I have never forgotten her calling me “the biggest ass in christendom.” The other kids putting a wrong interpretation on the “Ass” - and I was a big chap - laughed their heads off. I didn’t mind much because her eyes were laughing too. She and my sister started teaching at twenty pounds a year. Her son has just retired as Headmaster of Sherborne School, Dorset.

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regt. No.
TIMMS	Capt. Buckle L	Pte	31280
Percy. L	Warc R		54358
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	R/102 28	6888	
BESTIAL	-do-	do	
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

K. 1580



Brize Norton and World War One

Private JACK STANLEY UPSTONE

Worked on Tom Pratt's Farm. Killed on his second trip to France.

16580, 2nd Bn., Oxon and Bucks Light Infantry *see page 163* who died aged 23 (DOB 22/09/1885) on 10 September 1917. (*See page 203*).

Son of John and Annie Upstone. *See page 102.*

Remembered with honour ST. SEVER CEMETERY EXTENSION, ROUEN *see page 145*

H J Powell remembers him in his memoir - Jack. His death hit me. We had always been butties and in the same standards. He was a quiet shy chap: you could lead him but never drive him. Without being asked he would carry a football post, or stumps and always "Sampson". The latter was a one piece oak bat heavy as lead and jarred like blazes. It had been in the village for generations. Jack worked on Tom Pratt's farm. In the County Regiment he was killed on his second trip out. I'll bet he was as good a soldier as his two brothers Joe and Jim. Joe had enlisted before the war. He came down home, for our Whitsuntide wonderful Club Feast, in swanky red coat, blue trousers - all of it! He hailed me "Hullo, my little man!" And I nigh as tall as he and he three years younger "And thee, hast come in thee fancy rig-out to do a little rook-staring?" All the same Joe survived the war and ended Regimental Sergeant Major and D.C.M. and Jim survived the war as sergeant and Military Medal. For years he was the backbone of the County Cricket Club as seam bowler and an awkward No 7 batsmen. He

Brize Norton and World War One

held down a good job at Smith's blanket factory. But it is of Jack that I think.

Jack's war medal card shows him as John. He was awarded the Victory, British War and 15 Star medals.

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
UPSTONE.	6. O.F. B. 219	Pte	16580
John S.			
Medal	Roll	Page	Remarks
VICTORY	4/1063/19	3873	
BRITISH	-d-	d.	
15 STAR	448	392	O.A. 1918
Theatre of War first served in			
1. France			
Date of entry therein			
21. 7. 18			



Brize Norton and World War One

Private ALBERT J WILKINS (Bert)

Helped his dad on the farm and on a covered-in carrier's cart plying market days between Norton, Witney and Oxford.

5907, 43508, 10th Bn., Lincolnshire Regiment *see page 161* who died age 24 (DOB 12/02/1893) on 28 April 1917. (*See page 204*).

Son of Charles and Martha Wilkins, of Brize Norton. *See page 104*.

Remembered with honour ROEUX BRITISH CEMETERY *see page 140*

H J Powell remembers him in his memoir - Good old stick - "Bert" and I also passed through the classes together. When we were in Class III Bert was a mite smit on my youngest sister, but she told him to save his breath as she intended marrying a duke. Bert worked hard at home. Not only had Mr Wilkins a small farm but he also had a covered-in carriers cart plying market days between Norton and Witney and Norton and Oxford. He went loaded and came home loaded e.g., he always brought back a whacking great slab of delicious dripping from Christ Church College kitchen. We were brought up on that dripping. Only on Sundays had we bread and butter or jam. The dripping was tuppence a pound. Barnes's shop lard was fourpence a pound; butter tenpence a pound and a dozen boxes of matches were also a penny three farthings. Almost every house kept a pig and fowl. Milk was tuppence a pint and beer the same. A gang of us kids on Saturday mornings would saunter over the fields and through the 'nut copse to lonely Cas'll Farm with its moats. There whatever the size of our receptacles, Tom's and

Brize Norton and World War One

mine was a smallish bucket, they were all filled with milk for only a penny each! We had had strict instructions to thank kind Mrs Joslin. All I remember is that she smiled all the time we were there. Bert's brother Bill and the latter's sons have farmed the Manor farm since the thirties. Poor Mr Castle what a loss just when he could have done with Harold and Jack. Bert was a dabster at "tots" at school. A "tot" was an enormous addition or multiplication with some thirty items in pounds shillings and pence and such! Issued out at 3.30 on Fridays and "go when done correctly ". Bert would always cough going past me. One Saturday morning I went up to see if he were coming to Witney in the evening. There was no telephone then. His sister Liz said he was up cleaning the pigs out. She came with me to see." Yes " she said " There he is! That's Bert the one with the cap on! It was the first time ever I had heard that old chestnut! Any road we three burst out laughing. And remembering Bert's roar I laugh again!

Albert's war medal card shows he was awarded the Victory and the British War medals.

Name	Service	Regt. No.
WILKINS	2nd Bn. Buffs L.I.	5907
ALBERT J.	2nd Bn. Buffs L.I.	43508
Medal	Roll	Page
Victory	2/1053/6	2/53
British	— do —	—
Other		
Theatre of War first served in		
Date of entry therein		

Albert had two regimental numbers.



Brize Norton and World War One

Private EDWARD WILKINS (Ted)

18666, 8th Bn., Royal Berkshire Regiment *see page 167* who died age 29 (DOB 26/11/1886) missing believed killed on the Somme on 28 September 1916. (*See page 205*).

Son of Thomas and Elizabeth Wilkins, of Brize Norton. *See page 106.*

Remembered with honour ST. SEVER CEMETERY, ROUEN *see page 145*

H J Powell remembers him in his memoir - "Ted" was the son of Mr Tom Wilkins of Manor Cottages who worked for Mr Castle. Ted worked in Barnes's shop after Ted Miles left. He was a quick obliging server, and took care we kids did not help ourselves to broken biscuits. Ted was in the Territorials before the war began. He was reported "Missing believed Killed" on the Somme in 1916. Ted was the sort of chap to get commissioned rank.

Edward's war medal card shows he was awarded the Victory, British War and 15 Star medals.

Brize Norton and World War One

Name.		Corps.		Rank.		Regt. No.	
WILKINS		R. Berks. R.		Pls		18666	
Edward							
Medal.		Roll.		Page.		Remarks.	
VICTORY		4/105 B 20		2465		D.O.W.	
BRITISH		4/313		1489			
15 STAR							
Theatre of War first served in		(1) France					
Date of entry therein		19. 10. 15					



Brize Norton and World War One

Chapter 5 - The families and where they lived

Charles Henry Archer

From page 31

Husband of Ellen Archer, Field View, Brize Norton. Charles and Ellen had four children, Frederick, Ernest, Lilian & Helen in 1911.

1911 England Census about Charles Henry Archer

Name:	Charles Henry Archer
Age in 1911:	32
Estimated birth year:	abt 1879
Relation to Head:	Head
Gender:	Male
Birth Place:	Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, England
Civil Parish:	Brize Norton and Lew
County/Island:	Oxfordshire
Country:	England
Street address:	Field View Brize Norton Bampton R S O Bampton Oxon
Marital Status:	Married
Occupation:	Rly Laborer

Charles Henry Archer	Head	32	Married	4	4	4	4	Rly Laborer	619	Brize Norton	Brize Norton	Brize Norton	Brize Norton	Brize Norton	Brize Norton
Ellen Archer	Wife	32	Married	0	4	4	4	Housewife							
Frederick John Archer	Son	5						School							
Ernest Harry Archer	Son	3 1/2													
Lillian Janet Archer	Daughter	2 1/2													
Helen Mary Archer	Daughter	1 1/2													

Household Members:	Name	Age
	Charles Henry Archer	32
	Ellen Archer	32
	Fredrick John Archer	5
	Ernest Harry Archer	3
	Lillian Janet Archer	2
	Helen Mary Archer	3/12

Brize Norton and World War One

Charles's parents also lived in the village. Their names were Edwin & Mary Archer. In the 1891 census we can see they had five children, Alfred, Jemima, Charles himself, Betram and Ellen.

1891 England Census about Edwin Archer	
Name:	Edwin Archer
Age:	44
Estimated birth year:	abt 1847
Relation:	Head
Spouse's Name:	Mary A Archer
Gender:	Male
Where born:	Newland, Oxfordshire, England
Civil Parish:	Brize Norton
Ecclesiastical parish:	Brize Norton St Britius
Town:	Brize Norton
County/Island:	Oxfordshire

9	Bo	1	X	Edwin Archer	Head	M	44	X	Bo	Newland
				Mary A	Wife	M	42	X	Bo	Brize Norton
				Alfred	Bo	S	17	X	Bo	Brize Norton
				Jemima	Bo	Daughter	16	X	Bo	Bo
				Charles H	Bo	Son	12	X	Bo	Bo
				Bertram S	Bo	Son	9	X	Bo	Bo
				Ellen	Bo	Daughter	6	X	Bo	Bo

Household Members:	Name	Age
	Edwin Archer	44
	Mary A Archer	42
	Alfred Archer	17
	Jemima Archer	16
	Charles H Archer	12
	Bertram S Archer	9
	Ellen Archer	6

Brize Norton and World War One

Ernest Bellenger

From page 33

The 1911 census shows that Ernest was married to Cathleen Bertha Mary Bellenger and lived in Maston Maisey, Wiltshire working as a milker on a farm. They had a 3 month old - Frank Harry Bellenger. His parents were Henry & Elizabeth Bellenger, Burford Road, Brize Norton.

1911 England Census about Ernest Bellenger	
Name:	Ernest Bellenger
Age in 1911:	21
Estimated birth year:	abt 1890
Relation to Head:	Head
Gender:	Male
Birth Place:	Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, England
Civil Parish:	Marston Maisey
County/Island:	Wiltshire
Country:	England
Street address:	Marston Meysey, Cricklade, Wilts
Marital Status:	Married
Years Married:	0
Estimated Marriage Year:	1911
Occupation:	Milker on Farm

1	Ernest Bellenger	Head	21	Married under 1	1	none	Milker on Farm	2.0	Wiltshire	Brize Norton, Oxon, English
2	Cathleen Bertha Mary Bellenger	Wife	20	Married - 0	1	1				Marston, Oxon, " "
3	Frank Henry Bellenger	Son	3 months							Marston Meysey, Wilts " "

Brize Norton and World War One

Household Members:	Name	Age
	Ernest Bellenger	21
	Cathleen Bertha	20
	Mary Bellenger	

Ernest's parents, Henry and Elizabeth Bellenger lived in Burford Road, Brize Norton. The 1901 census shows the whole family, with Ernest aged 11 and two older siblings, Arthur and Elsie, and three younger, George, Kezia and Elizabeth.

1901 England Census about Henry Bellenger	
Name:	Henry Bellenger
Age:	40
Estimated birth year:	abt 1861
Relation to Head:	Head
Gender:	Male
Spouse:	Elizabeth Bellenger
Birth Place:	Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, England
Civil Parish:	Brize Norton
Ecclesiastical parish:	Brize Norton St Britius
Town:	Brize Norton
County/Island:	Oxfordshire

64	Cottage	1				Henry Bellenger	Head	M	40			✓	Top of house			Brize Norton, Oxon.
						Elizabeth B	Wife	F	38			✓	Do			"
						Arthur	Bo		16			✓	Do			"
						Elsie	Do		14			✓	Do			"
						Henry Jr	Bo		12			✓	Do			"
						Ernest	Bo		11			✓	Do			"
						George	Bo		9			✓	Do			"
						Kezia	Do		5			✓	Do			"
						Elizabeth	Do		1			✓	Do			"

Brize Norton and World War One

Household Members:	Name	Age
	Henry Bellenger	40
	Elizabeth Bellenger	38
	Arthur Bellenger	16
	Elsie Bellenger	14
	Harry F Bellenger	12
	Ernest Bellenger	11
	George E Bellenger	9
	Kezia Bellenger	5
	Elizabeth Bellenger	1

The picture at home in Brize Norton is shown from the 1911 census

1	Henry Bellenger	Head	50	Married	27			Farmer & Haulier ^{1,2}		and down	Brize Norton
2	Elizabeth Bellenger	Wife	48	Married	27	9	7				Brize Norton
3	Arthur Bellenger	Son	26	Single				Horseman on farm ³	Worked		Brize Norton
4	Harry F Bellenger	Son	22	Single				Farmer on farm ^{5,6}	Worked		Brize Norton
5	George E Bellenger	Son	19	Single				Farmer on farm ^{7,8,9}	Worked		Brize Norton
6	Kezia Bellenger	Daughter	15	Single				Farmer on farm ¹⁰	Worked		Brize Norton
7	Elizabeth Bellenger	Daughter	11	Single				School	3V 34p		Brize Norton

Brize Norton and World War One

Albert Edward Blackwell

From page 35

In 1911 Albert lived with his parents William and Emily Blackwell and brothers, Walter Frank and Harold Frederick in the school cottages in Lew. They subsequently moved to Lower Haddon Farm.

1911 England Census about Albert Edward Blackwell	
Name:	Albert Edward Blackwell
Age in 1911:	17
Estimated birth year:	abt 1894
Relation to Head:	Son
Gender:	Male
Birth Place:	Comner, Berkshire
Civil Parish:	Brize Norton and Lew
County/Island:	Oxfordshire
Country:	England
Street address:	School Cottages Lew Bampton Oxon
Marital Status:	Single
Occupation:	Carter

1	William Richard Blackwell	Head	50		Married	33	10	9	7	Cowman	174	64	20	0	Comner	berks	4
2	Emily Blackwell	Wife	50		Married	33	10	9	7					0	Cutham	oxon	
3	Albert Edward Blackwell	Son	17		Single					Under Carter	130	62	20	0	Comner	berks	
4	Walter Frank Blackwell	Son	14							plough boy	110	64	20	0	Lew	oxon	
5	Harold Frederick Blackwell	Son	10											0	Lew	oxon	

Household Members:	Name	Age
	William Richard Blackwell	50
	Emily Blackwell	50
	Albert Edward Blackwell	17
	Walter Frank Blackwell	14
	Harold Fredrick Blackwell	10

Brize Norton and World War One

Harold Castle

Back to see page 38

Harold was the son of Edward & Mary Castle, Manor House,
Brize Norton.

Name:	Harold Castle
Age:	2
Estimated birth year:	abt 1889
Relation:	Son
Father's Name:	Edward Castle
Mother's name:	Mary A Castle
Gender:	Male
Where born:	Tackley, Oxfordshire, England
Civil Parish:	Tackley
Ecclesiastical parish:	Tackley
Town:	Tackley
County/Island:	Oxfordshire

Harold was born in Tackley, Oxon. where his father was a farmer. His early years can be tracked through the 1891, 1901 and 1911 censuses.

[illegible]

Name:	Harold Castle
Age:	12
Estimated birth year:	abt 1889
Relation to Head:	Boarder
Gender:	Male
Birth Place:	Tackley, Oxfordshire, England
Civil Parish:	Brackley
Ecclesiastical parish:	Brackley St James and Brackley St Peter
Town:	Brackley
County/Island:	Northamptonshire

Brize Norton and World War One

1911 England Census [about](#) Harold Castle

Name:	Harold Castle
Age in 1911:	22
Estimated birth year:	abt 1889
Relation to Head:	Assistant
Gender:	Male
Birth Place:	Tackley, Oxon
Civil Parish:	Lower Winchendon Upper Winchendon
County/Island:	Buckinghamshire
Country:	England
Street address:	Upper Winchedon Aylesbury, Bucks
Marital Status:	Single
Occupation:	Farmer Assistant

His parents, Edward and Mary Anne, can be found in Brize Norton in 1911 at the Manor House. There were the two brothers, Harold and John (the latter living at home in 1911) and three sisters, Nora, Kate and Sarah.

1911 England Census [about](#) Edward Castle

Name:	Edward Castle
Age in 1911:	59
Estimated birth year:	abt 1852
Relation to Head:	Head
Gender:	Male
Birth Place:	Stanton Harcourt, Oxfordshire, England
Civil Parish:	Brize Norton and Lew
County/Island:	Oxfordshire
Country:	England
Street address:	Manor House Brize Norton Bampton Oxon
Marital Status:	Married

Brize Norton and World War One

John Castle

From page 41

Son of Edward & Mary Castle, Manor House, Brize Norton.

John can be found living with his parents at the Manor House in Brize Norton (see the entry for Harold Castle above).

Household Members:	Name	Age
	Edward Castle	59
	Mary Ann Castle	55
	Nora Castle	24
	John Castle	21
	Kate Castle	19
	Sarah Parker	43

Pictures of Edward Castle and the Manor House can be found on pages 29 and 30.

Brize Norton and World War One

Albert Edward Faulkner

From page 43

Albert can be found living as a horseman on a farm with his parents, Frederick (a farm labourer) & Bertha Ellen Faulkner, in Brize Norton from the 1911 census. He had a younger sister Bessie.

1911 England Census about Albert Edward Faulkner	
Name:	Albert Edward Faulkner
Age in 1911:	19
Estimated birth year:	abt 1892
Relation to Head:	Son
Gender:	Male
Birth Place:	Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, England
Civil Parish:	Brize Norton
County/Island:	Oxfordshire
Country:	England
Street address:	Brize Norton Bampton Oxon
Marital Status:	Single

1	Friedrich Faulkner	Head	24		Married	20	5	4	1	Farm Laborer ¹³⁰	Married	Expatriate Bury Indian
2	Abba Ellen Faulkner	Wife	22		Married	20	5	4	1	Farm Laborer ¹³⁰	Married	Expatriate Bury Indian
3	Walter Edward Faulkner	Son	19		Single					Harmon on Farm ¹³⁰	Married	Expatriate Bury Indian
4	Bessie Faulkner	Daughter	13							Chapel ²⁴		Expatriate Bury Indian

Household Members:	Name	Age
	Frederick Faulkner	44
	Bertha Ellen Faulkner	38
	Albert Edward Faulkner	19
	Bessie Faulkner	13

Brize Norton and World War One

Arthur Faulkner

From page 45

Arthur was the son of Agnes Faulkner and was brought up by grandparents John & Eliza, Station Road, Brize Norton. The 1911 Census shows him living in Brize Norton. One set of records suggest he was living in Birmingham when he signed up.

1911 England Census about Arthur Faulkner	
Name:	Arthur Faulkner
Age in 1911:	16
Estimated birth year:	abt 1895
Relation to Head:	Grandson
Gender:	Male
Birth Place:	Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, England
Civil Parish:	Brize Norton and Lew
County/Island:	Oxfordshire
Country:	England
Street address:	High St Brize Norton Bampton Oxon
Marital Status:	Single
Occupation:	Labourer On Farm

1	John Faulkner	Head	67		Married	115	5	6	1	Labourer on farm	115	Woker		Brize Norton Green
2	Eliza Faulkner	Wife	62		Married	115	5	6	1					Brize Norton
3	Ada Faulkner	Daughter	32		Single									Brize Norton
4	Arthur Faulkner	Grandson	16		Single					Labourer on farm	115	Woker		Brize Norton
5	Agnes Hunt	Granddaughter	12							School	390			Brize Norton
6	James Mills	Grandson	16		Single					Gardener Domestic	2287	Woker		Brize Norton
7														

Household Members:	Name	Age
	John Faulkner	67
	Eliza Faulkner	62
	Ada Faulkner	32
	Arthur Faulkner	16
	Agnes Hunt	12
	James Mills	26

Brize Norton and World War One

William Joseph Garratt

From page 48

The 1911 Census shows William, a horseman on a farm, at home with his parents, William (a farm labourer) and Annie, in Lingermans on the Burford Road, Brize Norton. He had two brothers: George (17), Charles Ernest (9) and Frederick James (4) together with one sister Nora.

1911 England Census about William Joseph Garratt	
Name:	William Joseph Garratt
Age in 1911:	18
Estimated birth year:	abt 1893
Relation to Head:	Son
Gender:	Male
Birth Place:	Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, England
Civil Parish:	Brize Norton
County/Island:	Oxfordshire
Country:	England
Street address:	Lingermans Cottages Brize Norton Bampton Oxon
Marital Status:	Single

		Age		Sex		Color		Breed		Remarks	
1	William Corvate	Head	50	March 19	6	6	8	Farm Laborer	100	Head	Black
2	John Corvate	Head	43	March 19	6	6	8	Horse Man on Farm	150	Head	Black
3	George Corvate	Son	15	April	6	6	8	Horse Man on Farm	150	Head	Black
4	George Corvate	Son	17	April	6	6	8	Horse Man on Farm	150	Head	Black
5	Charles Corvate	Daughter	11	April	6	6	8	Black	150	Head	Black
6	Charles Corvate	Son	9	April	6	6	8	Black	150	Head	Black
7	Edouard James Corvate	Son	4	April	6	6	8	Black	150	Head	Black

Household Members:	Name	Age
	William Garratt	50
	Annie Garratt	43
	William Joseph Garratt	18
	George Garratt	17
	Nora Annie Garratt	11
	Charles Ernest Garratt	9
	Frederick James Garratt	4

Brize Norton and World War One

Henry Frederick Godwin

From page 50

In the 1911 census Henry can be found as a ploughboy of 14 living with his parents, Cornelius (a shepherd) & Francis Mary Godwin, in Shilton. He was then eldest of five boys, with one sister. His parents subsequently moved to Woodside, Burford.

1911 England Census about Henry Fredrick Godwin

Name:	Henry Fredrick Godwin
Age in 1911:	14
Estimated birth year:	abt 1897
Relation to Head:	Son
Gender:	Male
Birth Place:	Stratton Near Swindon, Wiltshire
Civil Parish:	Shilton and Bradwell
County/Island:	Oxfordshire

1	Cornelius Godwin	Head	36	M	Married	7	7	Shepherd in town	562	Stratton	Wiltshire	Longford Lane	English
2	Francis Mary Godwin	Wife	36	F	Married	7	7					High Street	20a
3	Henry Fredrick Godwin	Son	14	M	Single			Plough boy on farm	150			Stratton near town	
4	William Charles Godwin	Son	12	M				School	970			Stratton	
5	Ernest George Godwin	Son	10	M				School				Stratton	
6	Arabella Edith Godwin	Daughter	9	F								Stratton	
7	Robert Frances Godwin	Son	5	M								Stratton in bluffs	
8	Albert Edward Godwin	Son	3	M								Stratton in bluffs	
9	Wilfred Cornelius Godwin	Son	1	M								Stratton	
10	Frank Godwin	Son	4	M								Stratton	

Household Members:	Name	Age
	Cornelius	42
	Godwin	
	Francis Mary	36
	Godwin	
	Henry Fredrick	14
	Godwin	
	William Charles	12
	Godwin	
	Ernest George	10
	Godwin	
	Arabella Edith	9
	Godwin	
	Robert Frances	5
	Godwin	

plus Albert Edward Godwin (3) and Wilfred Godwin (1)

Brize Norton and World War One

Frank Lock

From page 52

The 1911 Census shows Frank's parents, John (a farm labourer) and Mary Anne Lock, living at Hill Cottages in Lew. Frank was not there. Howell Powell recalls that Frank helped his father run the Carpenters Arms (The Axe). Frank can be found in the 1901 census living alone with his parents at Lenedarne, Glamorgan.

1911 England Census about John Lock	
Name:	John Lock
Age in 1911:	48
Estimated birth year:	abt 1863
Relation to Head:	Head
Gender:	Male
Birth Place:	Black Torrington, Devonshire
Civil Parish:	Brize Norton and Lew
County/Island:	Oxfordshire

1901 Wales Census about Frank Lock	
Name:	Frank Lock
Age in 1901:	8
Estimated birth year:	abt 1893
Relation:	Son
Father's Name:	John Lock
Mother's name:	Mary Ann Lock
Gender:	Male
Where born:	Radyr, Glamorgan, Wales
Civil Parish:	Llanedarne
Ecclesiastical parish:	Llanedarne

26	Long 7.000 10000	1					John Lock	Head M.	36	36	Maginary Agricultural Laborer	James Blackington	English
							Mary Ann Lock	Wife M.				Brecon South	English
							Frank Lock	Son	8	8		Glasgow Ridge	English

Brize Norton and World War One



The Carpenters Arms (known locally as 'The Axe'), at the southern end of Brize Norton, in 1905. It ceased trading in 1992.

Brize Norton and World War One

Edwin John Miles

From page 54

Edwin has not been found in the census records, nor his parents, George and Flora Miles. However Howell Powell writes - Flora r was Charlie Archer's sister. A widow she married a widower - none other than dear old John Luckett. John was Dad's foreman on the roads.

Harold's recollections don't seem to tie up with Edwin's parents as recorded in his military records as the next of kin.

However, Debbie Betts of Chipping Norton has shed some light on the subject. She says that Edwin's surname at birth was Wiggins, as was the whole family. She says that the family does not know when and why their surname was changed.

At the time of Edwin's death his home was Burwell Cottages in Witney. Debbie Betts' uncle, Stephen, now aged 89 clearly remembers having summer holidays with his grandmother, Flora Miles (nee Archer) who was Edwin's mother.

Armed with this new information we can locate Edwin in the 1911 census living in Chimney aged 20 and confirm he was born in Brize Norton.

We can also track his mother and her connection to the Archer family by working back through the censuses.

Brize Norton and World War One

1911 England Census about Edwin John Wiggins	
Name:	Edwin John Wiggins
Age in 1911:	20
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1891
Relation to Head:	Son
Gender:	Male
Birth Place:	Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, England
Civil Parish:	Yelford, Brighthampton, Shifford and Chimney
County/Island:	Oxfordshire
Country:	England

1	George Wiggins	Head	46	Married	20	6	6	0	Wiggins on Farm	130	Noted	Brize Norton, Oxfordshire
2	Flora Wiggins	Wife	39	Married	20	6	6	0	Wiggins on Farm	130	Noted	Brize Norton, Oxfordshire
3	Edwin John Wiggins	Son	20	Single					Wiggins on Farm	130	Noted	Brize Norton, Oxfordshire
4	Alfred William Wiggins	Son	10						School	39	0	Bampton, Oxfordshire
5	Thomas Harold Wiggins	Son	1									Bampton, Oxfordshire
6	James Harold Wiggins	Son	1									Bampton, Oxfordshire
7	John Philip Wiggins	Son	24	Single					Groom on Farm	130	Noted	Brize Norton, Oxfordshire

1901 England Census about Flora Wiggins	
Name:	Flora Wiggins
Age:	29
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1872
Relation to Head:	Wife
Gender:	Female
Spouse:	George Wiggins
Birth Place:	Cogges, Oxfordshire, England
Civil Parish:	Bampton
Ecclesiastical parish:	Bampton St Mary
Town:	Bampton
County/Island:	Oxfordshire

Brize Norton and World War One

Household Members:	Name	Age
	George Wiggins	38
	Flora Wiggins	29
	Edwin J Wiggins	10
	Elizabeth S Wiggins	8
	Martha Wiggins	6
	(not transcribed)	3
		Weeks
	Alfred F Radband	17

1891 England Census about Flora Wiggins	
Name:	Flora Wiggins
Age:	19
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1872
Relation:	Wife
Spouse's Name:	George Wiggins
Gender:	Female
Where born:	Newland, Oxfordshire, England
Civil Parish:	Brize Norton
Ecclesiastical parish:	Brize Norton St Britius
Town:	Brize Norton
County/Island:	Oxfordshire

11	do	1	George Wiggins	Head	M	27	Agricultural Labourer	X	In	Brize Norton
			Flora	Wife	M	19			In	Newland
			Edwin John	Son	M	10			In	Brize Norton
			Martha Archer	Relative	F	6			In	Brize Norton

Household Members:	Name	Age
	George Wiggins	27
	Flora Wiggins	19
	Edwin John Wiggins	9/12
	Martha Archer	

Brize Norton and World War One

1881 England Census about Flora Archer	
Name:	Flora Archer
Age:	9
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1872
Relationship to Head:	Daughter
Father:	Edwin Archer
Mother:	Mary Ann Archer
Gender:	Female
Where born:	Coggs Witney, Oxfordshire, England
Civil Parish:	Brize Norton
County/Island:	Oxfordshire
Country:	England
Education:	} View image
Employment status:	
Occupation:	Scholar

Household Members:	Name	Age
	Edwin Archer	33
	Mary Ann Archer	34
	William Archer	14
	Flora Archer	9
	Jemmima Archer	6
	Alfred Archer	7
	Martha Archer	4
	Charles Archer	2

Brize Norton and World War One

William Edward Parker

From page 57

William's parents, Charles & Mary Ann Parker lived in Brize Norton

William can be found aged 12 in the 1901 census with his mother, Mary Ann, as head of the household. William had an elder brother, James a plough horse boy (aged 14) and a younger brother, Bertie (aged 4). He had three sisters. William is not living at home in 1911

1901 England Census about William E Parker	
Name:	William E Parker
Age:	12
Estimated birth year:	abt 1889
Relation to Head:	Son
Gender:	Male
Mother:	Mary A Parker
Birth Place:	Everingham, Yorkshire, England
Civil Parish:	Brize Norton
Ecclesiastical parish:	Brize Norton St Britius

[illegible]

Brize Norton and World War One

Household Members:	Name	Age
	Mary A Parker	34
	James A Parker	14
	William E Parker	12
	Mabel M Parker	10
	Ethel L Parker	7
	Bertie Parker	4
	Winefred Parker	2
	Evelyn Parker	2

Brize Norton and World War One

Thomas W Powell

From page 58

Thomas' parents were David (a road surveyor) & Britannia Powell, The Limes, Brize Norton

Thomas can be found in the 1911 Census living at home with his father, David, at The Limes in Carterton Road, Brize Norton. His mother Britannia was deceased and the three elder sisters were living there. Howell Powell, the author of the memoirs, had left home.

1911 English Census about Thomas William Powell	
Name:	Thomas William Powell
Age in 1911:	16
Estimated birth year:	abt 1895
Relation to Head:	Son
Gender:	Male
Birth Place:	Kingswood, Gloucestershire
Civil Parish:	Brize Norton
County/Island:	Oxfordshire
Country:	England
Street address:	The Limes Brize Norton Bampton Oxon
Marital Status:	Single
Occupation:	At school

[illegible]

Brize Norton and World War One

Household Members:	Name	Age
	David H W Powell	57
	Grizella F Powell	23
	Edith Annie Powell	21
	Isabel Reed Powell	19
	Thomas William Powell	16



The Limes
Could that be Thomas in the upstairs window?

Brize Norton and World War One

Marcus John Timms

From page 65

Marcus can be found in the 1911 Census living in Brize Norton with his parents, Mark (a walling mason) and Annie Timms (nee Faulkner), brothers Albert (22), Raymond (10) and Eric (3) plus three sisters, Leah, Olive and Vera.

1911 England Census about Marcus J Timms	
Name:	Marcus J Timms
Age in 1911:	18
Estimated birth year:	abt 1893
Relation to Head:	Son
Gender:	Male
Birth Place:	Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, England
Civil Parish:	Brize Norton
County/Island:	Oxfordshire
Country:	England
Street address:	Brize Norton Bampton Oxon
Marital Status:	Single
Occupation:	Butcher
Registration district:	Witney

1	Mark E Timms	Head	47	46	married	44	11	1	Walling Mason	Worke	Brize Norton	Brize Norton
2	Annie Timms	Wife	46	46	married	44	11	1	House Wife	Worke	Brize Norton	Brize Norton
3	Albert Timms	Son	22	22	Single	44	11	1	Farm Labourer	Worke	Brize Norton	Brize Norton
4	Marcus J Timms	Son	18	18	Single	44	11	1	Butcher	Worke	Brize Norton	Brize Norton
5	Leah E Timms	Daughter	13	13	Single	44	11	1	School	Worke	Brize Norton	Brize Norton
6	Raymond Timms	Son	10	10	Single	44	11	1	School	Worke	Brize Norton	Brize Norton
7	Olive Timms	Daughter	8	8	Single	44	11	1	School	Worke	Brize Norton	Brize Norton
8	Vera Timms	Daughter	6	6	Single	44	11	1	School	Worke	Brize Norton	Brize Norton
9	Eric Timms	Son	3	3	Single	44	11	1	School	Worke	Brize Norton	Brize Norton
10											Oxon	

Brize Norton and World War One

Household Members:	Name	Age
	Mark E Timms	47
	Annie Timms	46
	Albert Timms	22
	Marcus J Timms	18
	Leah A Timms	13
	Raymond Timms	10
	Olive Timms	8
	Vera Timms	6
	Eric Timms	3

Brize Norton and World War One

Percival L Timms

From page 67

Percival's parents, Alfred William (a stonemason) & Kate Timms, moved to 18 Princess Street, Swindon but were born at Brize Norton

In 1901 Percival lived with his parents in Brize Norton. He had two uncles, Leonard and Edgar and a cousin, Alfred living with them. In 1911 Percy was 12, Alfred was 14 and there were two other boys: Aubrey (7) and Norman (5) and two daughters Winifred and Ellen.

1901 England Census about Alfred Timms	
Name:	Alfred Timms [Alfred William Timms]
Age:	25
Estimated birth year:	abt 1876
Relation to Head:	Head
Gender:	Male
Spouse:	Kate Timms
Birth Place:	Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, England
Civil Parish:	Brize Norton
Ecclesiastical parish:	Brize Norton St Britius
Town:	Brize Norton
County/Island:	Oxfordshire
Country:	England
Street address:	

25	1	Alfred Timms	Head	M	25	Stone Mason	Swindon				
		Kate	Wife	F	25						
		Percival	Bo		2						
		Leonard	Bo	Brother	30	Stone Mason	Swindon				
		Alfred	Bo	Nephew	4						
		Edgar	Bo	Brother	21	General Labourer					

Brize Norton and World War One

Household Members:	Name	Age
	Alfred Timms	25
	Kate Timms	25
	Percival Timms	2
	Leonard Timms	30
	Alfred Timms	4
	Edgar Timms	21

Brize Norton and World War One

Jack S Upstone

From page 69

Jack, or John presents a mystery. His parents, John & Annie Upstone can be found in the 1881 census living in Sussex and Annie (Anne) appears alone in the 1891 Census living in Banbury with a John C Upstone aged one. When we get to the 1901 Census we find a John Upstone aged 8 with different parents, Amos and Caroline. He can be found in the 1911 Census, aged 18 (a horseman on a farm), living with his brother James (15) and sisters May and Fanny. Caroline was widowed. In each case the parents were born in Brize Norton but the relationship between John& Annie, Amos and Caroline and Jack/John is unclear.

1901 England Census about John Upstone	
Name:	John Upstone
Age:	8
Estimated birth year:	abt 1893
Relation to Head:	Son
Gender:	Male
Father:	Amos Upstone
Mother:	Caroline Upstone
Birth Place:	Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, England
Civil Parish:	Brize Norton
Ecclesiastical parish:	Brize Norton St Britius
Town:	Brize Norton
County/Island:	Oxfordshire

Brize Norton and World War One

1911 England Census about John Upstone

Name:	John Upstone
Age in 1911:	18
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1893
Relation to Head:	Son
Gender:	Male
Birth Place:	Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, England
Civil Parish:	Brize Norton and Lew
County/Island:	Oxfordshire
Country:	England
Street address:	High St Brize Norton Bampton Oxon

	Caroline Upstone	Head	7 ²	Widow	→ ← →			Lote Croon
3	Johan Upstone	Son	18	Singl	Horse man on Farm	150	Worker	Bryce Johnston Croon
4	James Upstone	Son	15	Singl	House boy on Farm	90	Worker	Bryce Johnston Croon
5	Mary Upstone	Daughter	12		at school	300	0	Bryce Johnston Croon
6	Fanny Upstone	Daughter	9		School			Bryce Johnston Croon

Household Members:	Name	Age
	Caroline Upstone	45
	John Upstone	18
	James Upstone	15
	May Upstone	12
	Fanny Upstone	9

Brize Norton and World War One

Albert J Wilkins

From page 71

Albert can be found in the 1911 census aged 18 living and working with his parents, Charles (farmer and carrier) and Martha at Sturt Farm, Swinbrook with brothers William (26) and Harry (23), one elder sister, Elizabeth (21) and one younger sister, Annie (16).

1911 England Census about Albert Wilkins												
Name:	Albert Wilkins											
Age in 1911:	18											
Estimated birth year:	abt 1893											
Relation to Head:	Son											
Gender:	Male											
Birth Place:	Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, England											
Civil Parish:	Asthall, Swinbrook and Widford											
County/Island:	Oxfordshire											
Country:	England											
Street address:	Sturt Farm Swinbrook Burford Oxon											
Marital Status:	Single											

1 Charles Wilkins	Head	51	Married	56	5	1	Farmer	100	Employed	Brize Norton Oxfordshire
2 Martha Wilkins	Wife	53	Married	27	6	5				Brize Norton Oxfordshire
3 William Wilkins	Son	26	Single				Farmer son working on farm	10	Worker	Brize Norton Oxfordshire
4 Harry Wilkins	Son	23	Single						Worker	"
5 Elizabeth Wilkins	Daughter	21	Single				Farmer's daughter		Worker	"
6 Albert Wilkins	Son	18	Single				Farmer son working on farm		Worker	"
7 Annie Wilkins	Daughter	16	Single				Farmer's daughter		"	"

Household Members:	Name	Age
	Charles Wilkins	51
	Martha Wilkins	53
	William Wilkins	26
	Harry Wilkins	23
	Elizabeth Wilkins	21
	Albert Wilkins	18
	Annie Wilkins	16

Brize Norton and World War One



Charles Wilkins, the Brize Norton carrier, with his wife, Martha, and daughter, Annie, in

Brize Norton and World War One

Edward Wilkins

From page 73

Edward can be found in the 1901 Census, aged 14 living with his parents, Thomas (a groom and cattleman) and Elizabeth. In 1911, aged 24 he was boarding in Henley on Thames as a shopkeeper's grocers assistant.

1901 England Census about Edward Wilkins	
Name:	Edward Wilkins
Age:	14
Estimated birth year:	abt 1887
Relation to Head:	Son
Gender:	Male
Father:	Thomas Wilkins
Mother:	Elizabeth Wilkins
Birth Place:	Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, England
Civil Parish:	Brize Norton
Ecclesiastical parish:	Brize Norton St Britius
Town:	Brize Norton
County/Island:	Oxfordshire
Country:	England

				Miles		Wm. Woods		Aunt		(N) Amount	
48	Pottagen	1		Thomas Kithins	Head	56	Long	Woods	Butler	Butler	Butler
				Lizbeth B.	Wife	56	Long	Woods	Butler	Butler	Butler
				Richard B.			Long	Woods	Butler	Butler	Butler
				Charles Black	Brother	44	Long	Woods	Butler	Butler	Butler

Household Members:	Name	Age
	Thomas Wilkins	56
	Elizabeth Wilkins	56
	Edward Wilkins	14
	Charles Clack	40

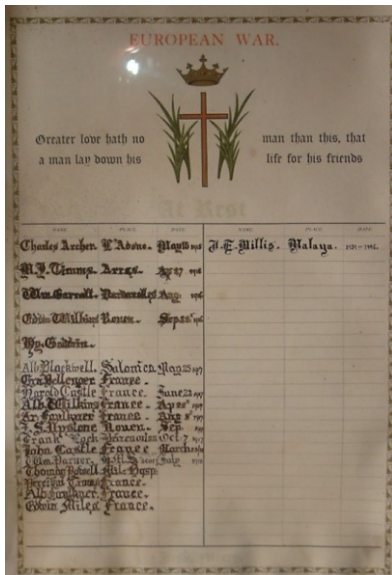
Brize Norton and World War One

1911 England Census about Edward Wilkins	
Name:	Edward Wilkins
Age in 1911:	24
Estimated birth year:	abt 1887
Relation to Head:	Boarder
Gender:	Male
Birth Place:	Bridge Norton, Oxfordshire, England
Civil Parish:	Henley on Thames
County/Island:	Oxfordshire
Country:	England
Street address:	1 Niagara Rd Henley On Thames Henley Oxon
Marital Status:	Single
Occupation:	shop Keepers Grocers Assistant
Registration district:	Henley

Brize Norton and World War One

Chapter 6 - Their memorials

The fallen of Brize Norton were first only remembered on a hand written manuscript in the porch of St Britius Church. As each person died the records were updated. Later on the War Memorial was erected outside the church and now their names are on the new plaque placed on the village recreation ground to mark the 100th years after the First World War (see chapter 9)



Beyond this, each person is commemorated at one of the War Graves Military Cemeteries on the continent of Europe. It was the practice to bury the dead near to where they fell unless they survived for a period after their injuries when their graves are at home. Hence the two graves in the St Britius Churchyard Extension.

Below are details of the Commonwealth War Graves Cemeteries.

Brize Norton and World War One

Arras Memorial

Country: France

Locality: Pas de Calais

Identified Casualties: 34,774

Location Information

The Arras Memorial is in the Faubourg-d'Amiens Cemetery, which is in the Boulevard du General de Gaulle in the western part of the town of Arras. The cemetery is near the Citadel, approximately 2 kms due west of the railway station. The GPS coordinates for the cemetery are 50.28670, 2.76057



Visiting Information

Wheelchair access to the memorial is possible via an alternative entrance at the rear of Faubourg-d'Amiens Cemetery.

Historical Information

The French handed over Arras to Commonwealth forces in the spring of 1916 and the system of tunnels upon which the town is built were used and developed in preparation for the major offensive planned for April 1917.

The Commonwealth section of the FAUBOURG D'AMIENS CEMETERY was begun in March 1916, behind the French military cemetery established earlier. It continued to be used by field ambulances and fighting units until November 1918. The cemetery was enlarged after the Armistice when graves were brought in from the battlefields and from two smaller cemeteries in the vicinity.

Brize Norton and World War One

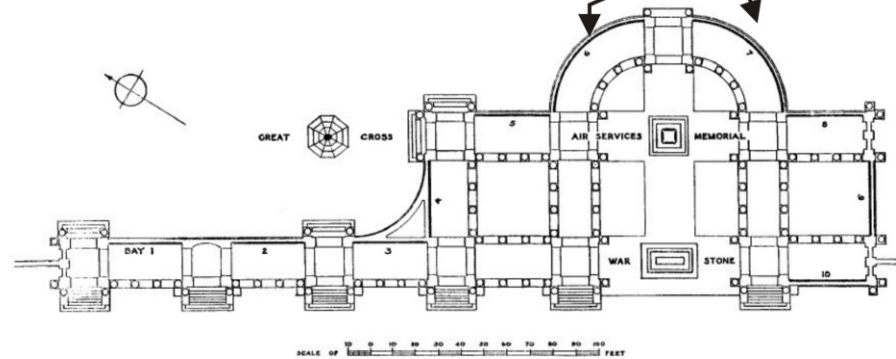
The cemetery contains over 2,650 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, 10 of which are unidentified. The graves in the French military cemetery were removed after the war to other burial grounds and the land they had occupied was used for the construction of the Arras Memorial and Arras Flying Services Memorial.

The adjacent ARRAS MEMORIAL commemorates almost 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom, South Africa and New Zealand who died in the Arras sector between the spring of 1916 and 7 August 1918, the eve of the Advance to Victory, and have no known grave. The most conspicuous events of this period were the Arras offensive of April-May 1917, and the German attack in the spring of 1918. Canadian and Australian servicemen killed in these operations are commemorated by memorials at Vimy and Villers-Bretonneux. A separate memorial remembers those killed in the Battle of Cambrai in 1917.

Both cemetery and memorial were designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, with sculpture by Sir William Reid Dick. The memorial was unveiled by Lord Trenchard, Marshal of the Royal Air Force on the 31 July 1932 (originally it had been scheduled for 15 May, but due to the sudden death of French President Doumer, as a mark of respect, the ceremony was postponed until July).

Brize Norton and World War One

FAULKNER, ALBERT EDWARD	Private	16687	03/05/1917	25	Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry	United Kingdom	Bay 6 and 7.	ARRAS MEMORIAL
-------------------------------	---------	-------	------------	----	------------------------------------	-------------------	-----------------	-------------------



LAY-OUT OF THE PANELS (OR BAYS).

Brize Norton and World War One

Brize Norton Churchyard Extension

Country: England

Location: Brize Norton, Oxfordshire - situated opposite St Britius church in Brize Norton village.

Open at all times

Casualties: Two from the first war and one from the second.

Soldiers who came home following their injuries.

LOCK, F	Private	20598	07/10/1917	26	Grenadier Guards	United Kingdom	BRIZE NORTON (ST. BRITIUS) CHURCHYARD EXTENSION
POWELL, T W	Captain		24/11/1918		Tank Corps	United Kingdom	BRIZE NORTON (ST. BRITIUS) CHURCHYARD EXTENSION



On Frank's grave -

"In Ever Loving Memory
FRANK LOCK
Grenadier Guards
The only child of John &
Mary Anne Lock
of Brize Norton
Who was gassed & seriously
wounded in France and after
a long illness patiently borne
died Oct. 7th 1917 aged 26
years.
Peace be his rest his
memory ever near"



and on Thomas' grave-

"In Ever Loving Memory
Captain T W Powell MC
Tank Corps
Died November 24th 1918
after being gassed at Loos
and St Julien aged 23 years
Peace perfect peace"

Brize Norton and World War One

Caberet-Rouge British Cemetery, Souchez

Country: France
Locality: Pas de Calais
Identified Casualties: 3185

Location Information

Souchez is a village 3.5 kilometres north of Arras on the main road to Bethune. The cemetery is about 1.5 kilometres south of the village on the west side of the D937 Arras-Bethune Road.

Historical Information

Caberet-Rouge was a small, red-bricked, red-tiled café that stood close to this site in the early days of the First World War. The café was destroyed by shellfire in March 1915 but it gave its unusual name to this sector and to a communication trench that led troops up the front-line. Commonwealth soldiers began burying their fallen comrades here in March 1916. The cemetery was used mostly by the 47th (London) Division and the Canadian Corps until August 1917 and by different fighting units until September 1918. It was greatly enlarged in the years after the war when as many as 7,000 graves were concentrated here from over 100 other cemeteries in the area. For much of the twentieth century, Cabaret-Rouge served as one of a small number of 'open cemeteries' at which the remains of fallen



Brize Norton and World War One

servicemen newly discovered in the region were buried. Today the cemetery contains over 7,650 burials of the First World War, over half of which remain unidentified.

The Canadian Connection

Many different Commonwealth units served in this sector during the war and the cemetery contains the graves of British, Irish, Australian, New Zealand, Indian and South African soldiers. It is also the final resting place of over 70 officers of the Royal Flying Corps and Royal Air Force. Cabaret-Rouge has a particularly close connection with the Canadian Infantry, however, as hundreds of Canadians who were killed at the Battle of Vimy Ridge in April 1917 were ultimately laid to rest here.

The cemetery and shelter buildings were designed by former Canadian Army officer Frank Higginson. Higginson worked as an architect for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in the 1920s and later acted as Secretary to the Commission.

In May 2000 the remains of an unknown Canadian soldier were taken from this cemetery and buried in a special tomb at the foot of the National War Memorial in Ottawa, Canada. A focal point for remembrance, he represents more than 116,000 Canadians who lost their lives during the First World War. A headstone in plot 8, Row E, Grave 7 marks his original grave.

The Importance of Vimy Ridge

German forces seized the village of Souchez and the surrounding countryside as they advanced through Northern France in 1914. German artillery units were able to control this sector of the front from two ridges which flanked the village – Vimy Ridge to the east, and Notre Dame de Lorette to the west. After 12 months of

Brize Norton and World War One

bitter fighting, the French forces captured the high ground at Lorette in the autumn of 1915. When the French handed this part of the line to the Commonwealth forces in March 1916, Vimy Ridge was still in German hands.

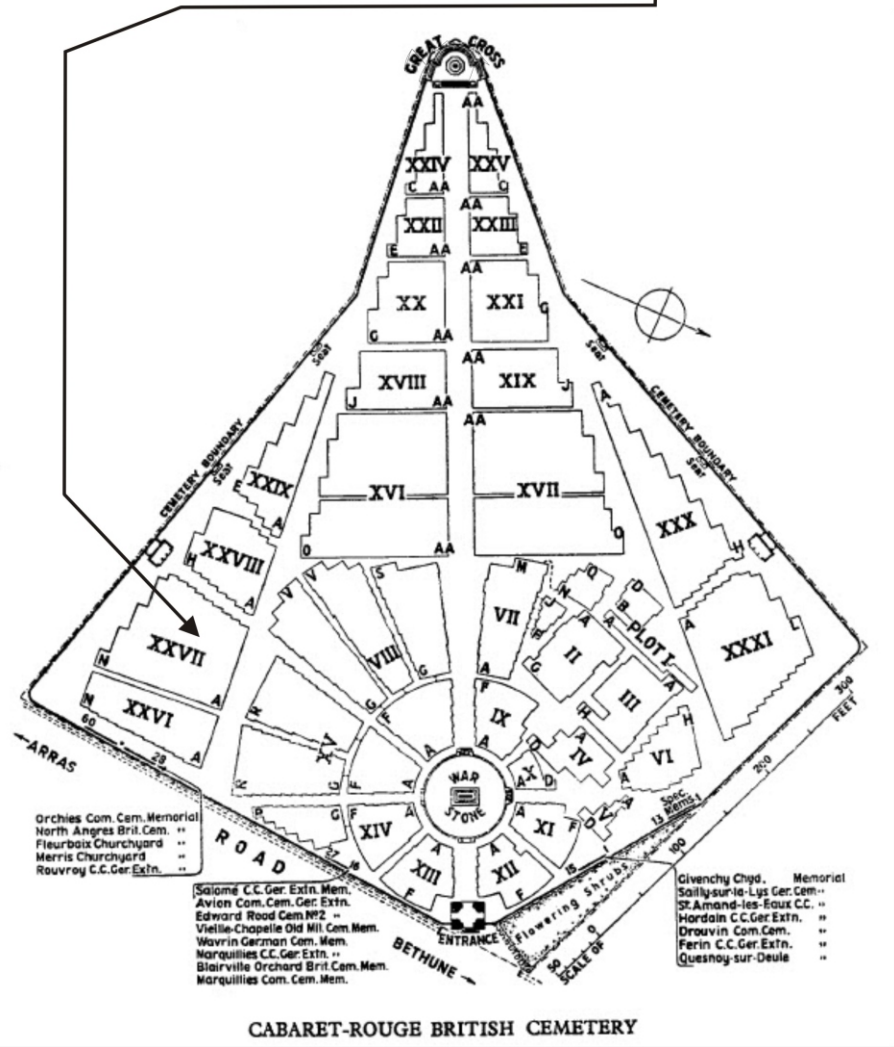
Vimy Ridge was the key to the German defensive system in this sector. It protected an area of occupied France in which coal mines and factories were in full production for the German war effort and the fortified vantage points on the ridge dominated the surrounding battlefields.

The Battle of Vimy Ridge formed part of the opening phase of the British-led Battle of Arras which began on 9 April 1917. The Canadian forces managed to capture most of the German positions on the ridge on the first day of the attack and by 12 April they had occupied the village of Thélus and pushed the Germans back to the Oppy-Méricourt line. By taking the ridge the Canadians achieved a major tactical success, but in just four days of fighting they suffered over 10,000 casualties, 3,500 of whom were killed. The battle was the first action in which all four divisions of the Canadian Corps fought together and had a major impact on Canadian national identity.

(updated - August 2012)

Brize Norton and World War One

TIMMS, M J	Lance Corporal	16691	27/04/1916	Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry	United Kingdom	XVII. H. 16.	CABARET-ROUGE BRITISH CEMETERY, SOUCHEZ
---------------	-------------------	-------	------------	---------------------------------------	-------------------	--------------	---



Brize Norton and World War One

Helles Memorial

Country: Turkey (including Gallipoli)
Identified Casualties: 20878

Location Information

The Anzac and Suvla cemeteries are first signposted from the left hand junction of the Eceabat- Bigali Road. From this junction travel into the main Anzac area.



Follow the road to Helles, opposite the Kabatepe Museum, at 14.2 kms. take a right turn at the 'T' junction and at 14.3 kms. take the left fork. After a total of 22.8 kms, take a right turn to the memorial along a rough track 500m long.

The Helles Memorial stands on the tip of the Gallipoli Peninsula. It takes the form of an obelisk over 30 metres high that can be seen by ships passing through the Dardanelles.

Visiting Information

The site is permanently open and may be visited at any time.

Please note that in the absence of a cemetery register, visitors are advised to locate the Grave/Memorial reference before visiting.

The Panel Numbers quoted at the end of each entry relate to the panels dedicated to the Regiment served with. In some instances where a casualty is recorded as attached to another Regiment, his name may alternatively appear within their Regimental Panels. Please refer to the on-site Memorial Register Introduction to

Brize Norton and World War One

determine the alternative panel numbers if you do not find the name within the quoted Panels.

For further information and enquiries please contact
maoffice@cwgc.org

Historical Information

The eight month campaign in Gallipoli was fought by Commonwealth and French forces in an attempt to force Turkey out of the war, to relieve the deadlock of the Western Front in France and Belgium, and to open a supply route to Russia through the Dardanelles and the Black Sea.

The Allies landed on the peninsula on 25-26 April 1915; the 29th Division at Cape Helles in the south and the Australian and New Zealand Corps north of Gaba Tepe on the west coast, an area soon known as Anzac. On 6 August, further landings were made at Suvla, just north of Anzac, and the climax of the campaign came in early August when simultaneous assaults were launched on all three fronts. However, the difficult terrain and stiff Turkish resistance soon led to the stalemate of trench warfare. From the end of August, no further serious action was fought and the lines remained unchanged. The peninsula was successfully evacuated in December and early January 1916.

The Helles Memorial serves the dual function of Commonwealth battle memorial for the whole Gallipoli campaign and place of commemoration for many of those Commonwealth servicemen who died there and have no known grave.

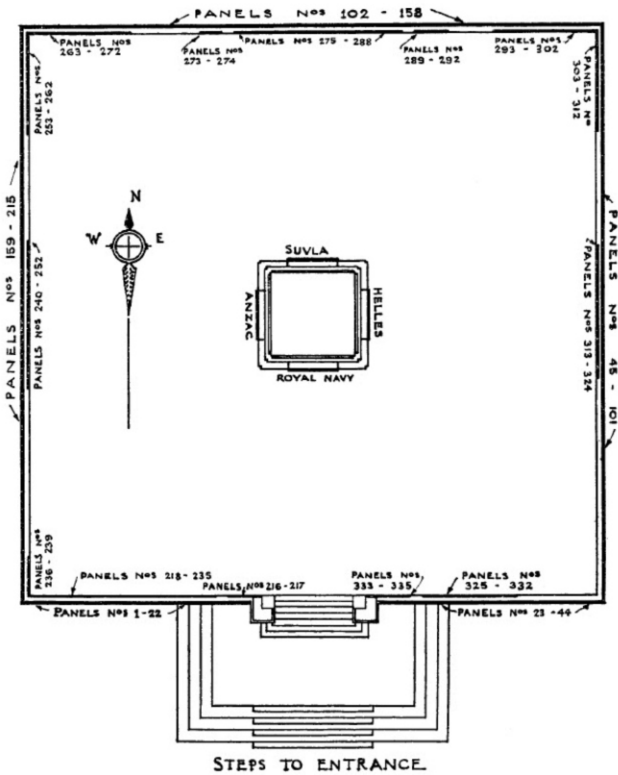
The United Kingdom and Indian forces named on the memorial died in operations throughout the peninsula, the Australians at

Brize Norton and World War One

Helles. There are also panels for those who died or were buried at sea in Gallipoli waters. The memorial bears more than 21,000 names.

GARRATT, WILLIAM JOSEPH	Private	17292	06/08/1915	22	Hampshire Regiment	United Kingdom	Panel 125-134 or 223-226 228-229 & 328.	HELLES MEMORIAL
-------------------------------	---------	-------	------------	----	-----------------------	-------------------	---	--------------------

THE HELLES MEMORIAL



PLAN INDICATING THE POSITION OF THE PANELS

Brize Norton and World War One

La ville-aux-bois Military Cemetery

Country: France

Locality: Aisne

Identified Casualties: 152

Location Information

La Ville-aux-Bois British Cemetery lies south of Laon and north of the city of Reims.



La Ville-aux-Bois British Cemetery can be reached from the direction of Laon via the N44, Laon to Reims road. After about 18 kilometres from leaving the Laon ring road, the road goes through the village of Corbeny. After a further 4 kilometres, La Ville-aux-Bois British Cemetery is visible on the right side of this busy road. A CWGC sign gives an early indication several metres before the cemetery.

Alternatively, the cemetery can be reached from Junction 14 of the A26 motorway (Berry Au Bac). Take the D925 and continue for 3 kilometres and then join the N44 and follow above instructions, but noting that the cemetery approach will be from the opposite direction.

Historical Information

La-Ville-Aux-Bois-Les-Pontavert village was captured by the French, after severe fighting, in April 1917; and on the 27th May 1918, the 50th Division was driven from the high ground behind it, in the Battle of the Aisne. The 2nd Devons and the 5th Battery, 45th Brigade, R.F.A., won the Croix de Guerre for their devoted courage on this occasion, and a granite cross, erected by the

Brize Norton and World War One

Devonshire Regiment, stands on the main road near the place where the Battalion was annihilated. The village was completely destroyed.

The British Cemetery was made after the Armistice by the addition of isolated graves from a wide area and from the following cemeteries:-

PONTAVERT GERMAN CEMETERY

SISSONNE GERMAN CEMETERY

NOTRE DAME-DE-LIESSE GERMAN CEMETERY

PROUVAIS COMMUNAL CEMETERY GERMAN EXTENSION

BOUVANCOURT FRENCH MILITARY CEMETERY

One further burial was made in 1920.

There are now 564 Commonwealth burials of the 1914-18 war commemorated here, of which 413 are unidentified. There is also 2 burials of the 1939-45 war, 1 being an airman of the United Kingdom and 1 being a French Foreign National. Special memorials are erected to four United Kingdom soldiers, known or believed to be buried among them. Other special memorials record the names of 18 others, buried in certain German Cemeteries, whose graves could not be found.

The cemetery covers an area of 1,700 square metres and is enclosed on three sides by a low rubble wall.

Brize Norton and World War One

TIMMS, P
L

Private

57358

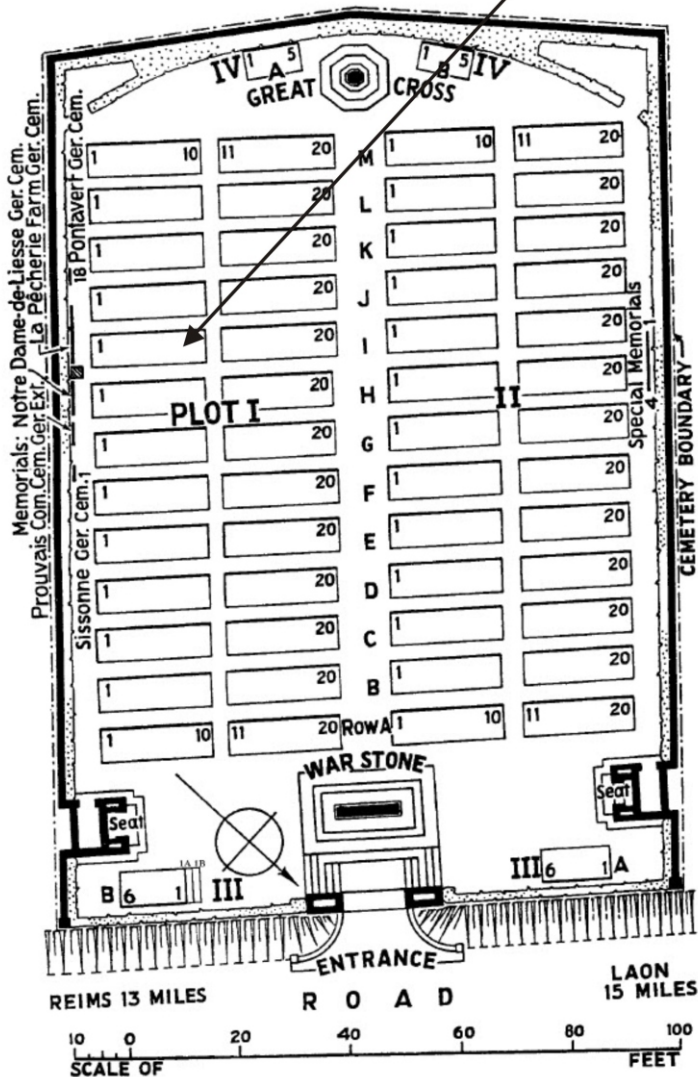
28/05/1918 19

Worcestershire
Regiment

United
Kingdom

I. E. 9.

LA VILLE-AUX-BOIS
BRITISH CEMETERY



LA VILLE-AUX-BOIS BRITISH CEMETERY

Brize Norton and World War One

Le Touret Memorial

Country: France

Locality: Pas de Calais

Identified Casualties: 908

Location Information

From Bethune follow the signs for Armentieres until you are on the D171. Continue on this road through Essars and Le Touret village.

Approximately 1 kilometre after Le Touret village and about 5 kilometres before you reach the intersection with the D947, Estaires to La Bassee road, the Cemetery lies on the right hand side of the road.



Located at the east end of the cemetery is Le Touret Memorial, which commemorates over 13,000 servicemen who fell in this area before 25 September 1915 and who have no known grave.

Historical Information

The Cemetery was begun by the Indian Corps (and in particular by the 2nd Leicesters) in November, 1914, and it was used continuously by Field Ambulances and fighting units until March, 1918. It passed into German hands in April, 1918, and after its recapture a few further burials were made in Plot IV in September and October. The grave of one Officer of the London Regiment was brought in in 1925 from a position on the Estaires-La Bassee road near "Port Arthur", and the 264 Portuguese graves of March, 1917 and April, 1919 were removed to Richebourg-L'Avoue Portuguese National Cemetery after the Armistice.

Brize Norton and World War One

There are now over 900, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. The graves of three men of the King's Liverpool Regiment, which were destroyed by shell fire, are now represented by special headstones.

The Cemetery covers an area of 7,036 square metres and is enclosed by a low brick wall.

As mentioned above The Le Touret Memorial commemorates over 13,400 British soldiers who were killed in this sector of the Western Front from the beginning of October 1914 to the eve of the Battle of Loos in late September 1915 and who have no known grave. The Memorial takes the form of a loggia surrounding an open rectangular court. The names of those commemorated are listed on panels set into the walls of the court and the gallery, arranged by regiment, rank and alphabetically by surname within the rank. The memorial was designed by John Reginald Truelove, who had served as an officer with the London Regiment during the war, and unveiled by the British ambassador to France, Lord Tyrrell, on 22 March 1930.

Almost all of the men commemorated on the Memorial served with regular or territorial regiments from across the United Kingdom and were killed in actions that took place along a section of the front line that stretched from Estaires in the north to Grenay in the south. This part of the Western Front was the scene of some of the heaviest fighting of the first year of the war, including the battles of La Bassée (10 October – 2 November 1914), Neuve Chapelle (10 – 12 March 1915), Aubers Ridge (9 – 10 May 1915), and Festubert (15 – 25 May 1915). Soldiers serving with Indian and Canadian units who were killed in this sector in 1914 and '15 whose remains were never identified are

Brize Norton and World War One

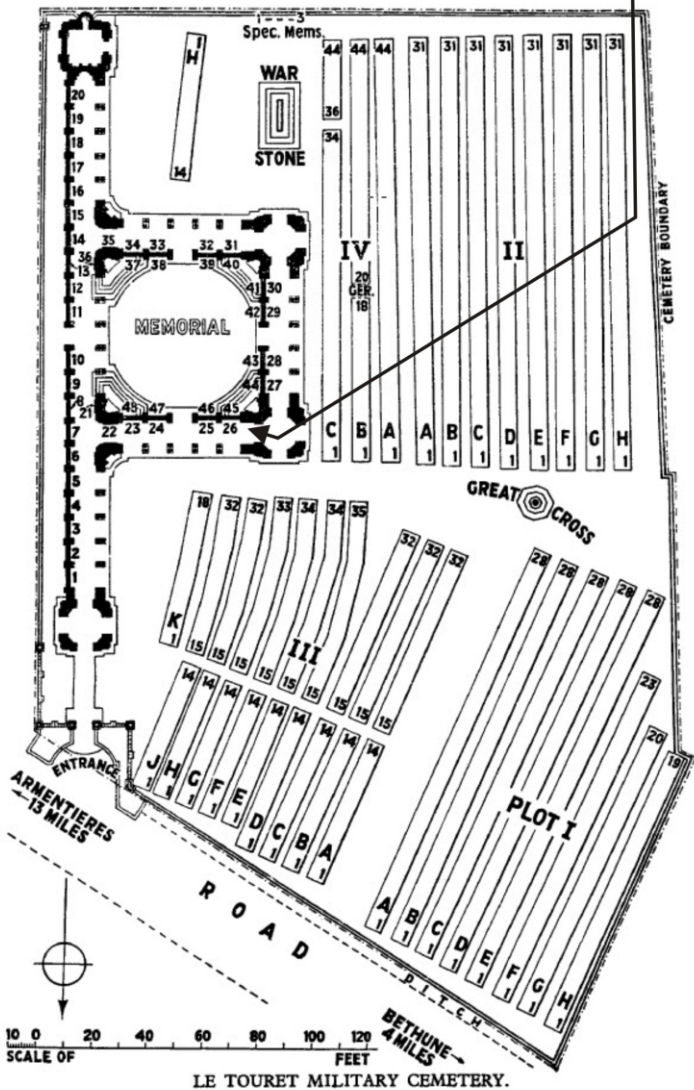
commemorated on the Neuve Chapelle and Vimy memorials, while those who fell during the northern pincer attack at the Battle of Aubers Ridge are commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial.

The British Expeditionary Force in French Flanders, 1914 - 1915.

In October 1914, II Corps of the British Expeditionary Force moved north from Picardy and took up positions in French Flanders where they were immediately engaged in the series of attacks and counter attacks that would become known as the 'race to the sea'. Over the course of the next year most of the British activity in this sector focused on attempting to dislodge the German forces from their advantageous position on the Aubers Ridge and capture the city of Lille, a major industrial and transport centre which the Germans had occupied early in the war. The ridge is a slight incline in an otherwise extremely flat landscape from which the Germans were able to observe and bombard the British lines. Following the British capture of the village of Neuve Chapelle in March 1915, the Germans greatly strengthened their defences along the ridge, reinforcing their positions with thick barbed wire entanglements, concrete blockhouses and machine gun emplacements. These extra defences frustrated British attempts to break through enemy lines and led to very heavy casualties at the battles of Aubers Ridge and Festubert in May 1915.

Brize Norton and World War One

ARCHER, CHARLES HENRY	Private	9945	16/05/1915	36	Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry	United Kingdom	Panel 26.	LE TOURET MEMORIAL
--------------------------	---------	------	------------	----	------------------------------------	-------------------	-----------	-----------------------



Brize Norton and World War One

Loos Memorial

Country: France

Locality: Pas de Calais

Identified Casualties: 20617

Location Information

The Loos Memorial forms the sides and back of Dud Corner Cemetery.



Loos-en-Gohelle is a village 5 kilometres north-west of Lens, and Dud Corner Cemetery is located about 1 kilometre west of the village, to the north-east of the N943, the main Lens to Bethune road.

Visiting Information

Wheelchair access to the cemetery is possible, but may be by alternative entrance. For further information regarding wheelchair access, please contact our Enquiries Section on 01628 507200.

The Panel Numbers quoted at the end of each entry relate to the panels dedicated to the Regiment served with. In some instances where a casualty is recorded as attached to another Regiment, his name may alternatively appear within their Regimental Panels. Please refer to the on-site Memorial Register Introduction to determine the alternative panel numbers if you do not find the name within the quoted Panels.

Historical Information

Dud Corner Cemetery stands almost on the site of a German

Brize Norton and World War One

strong point, the Lens Road Redoubt, captured by the 15th (Scottish) Division on the first day of the battle.

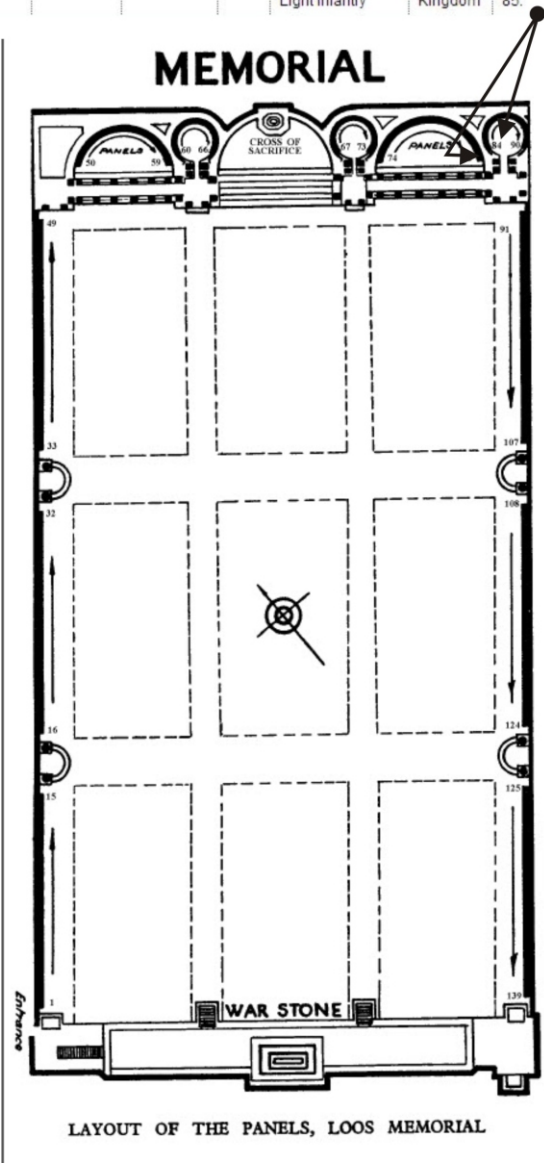
The name "Dud Corner" is believed to be due to the large number of unexploded enemy shells found in the neighbourhood after the Armistice.

The Loos Memorial commemorates over 20,000 officers and men who have no known grave, who fell in the area from the River Lys to the old southern boundary of the First Army, east and west of Grenay. On either side of the cemetery is a wall 15 feet high, to which are fixed tablets on which are carved the names of those commemorated. At the back are four small circular courts, open to the sky, in which the lines of tablets are continued, and between these courts are three semicircular walls or apses, two of which carry tablets, while on the centre apse is erected the Cross of Sacrifice.

The memorial was designed by Sir Herbert Baker with sculpture by Charles Wheeler. It was unveiled by Sir Nevil Macready on 4 August 1930.

Brize Norton and World War One

GODWIN, HENRY FREDERICK	Private	13116	25/09/1915	19	Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry	United Kingdom	Panel 83 to 85.	LOOS MEMORIAL
----------------------------	---------	-------	------------	----	------------------------------------	-------------------	--------------------	------------------



Brize Norton and World War One

Mendinghem Military Cemetery

Country: Belgium

Locality: Poperinge,

West-Vlaanderen

Identified Casualties: 2383



Location Information

Mendinghem Military Cemetery is located 17 Kms north-west of Ieper town centre on the N308 connecting Ieper to Poperinge and on to Oost-Cappel.

From Ieper town centre the Poperingseweg (N308), is reached via Elverdingsestraat then directly over two small roundabouts in the J. Capronstraat. The Poperingseweg is a continuation of the J. Capronstraat and begins after a prominent railway level crossing.

On reaching the ring road of Poperinge R33 Europalaan, the left hand clockwise route circles the town of Poperinge and rejoins the N308 towards Oost-Cappel. 6.5 Kms after joining the N308 lies the village of Proven. The cemetery is located 500 metres beyond the village of Proven on the left hand side of the road (which at this point is called Roesbruggestraat).

Visiting Information

Visitors to this site should note a 200 metre gravelled access road to this site which is suitable for small vehicles.

Wheelchair access is possible via the main entrance.

Brize Norton and World War One

Historical Information

Mendinghem, like Dozinghem and Bandaghem, were the popular names given by the troops to groups of casualty clearing stations posted to this area during the First World War.

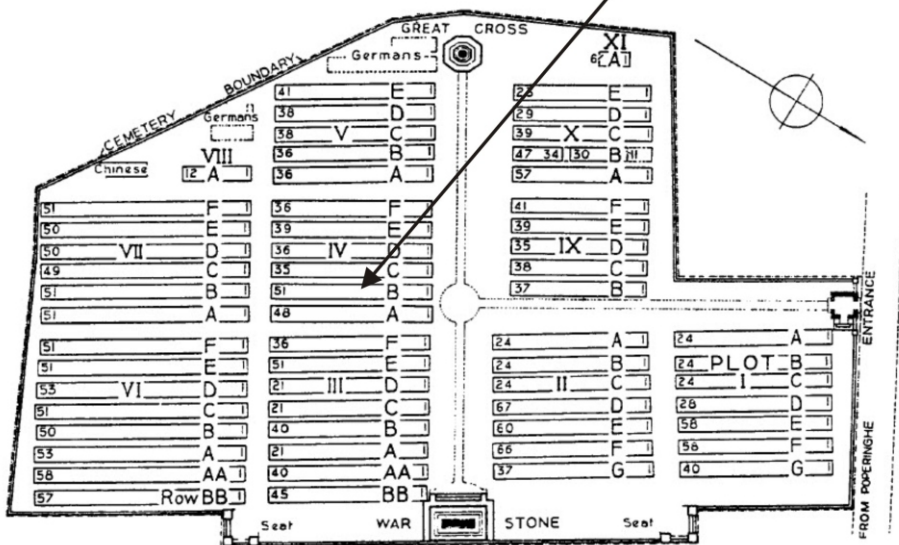
In July 1916, the 46th (1st/1st Wessex) Casualty Clearing Station was opened at Proven and this site was chosen for its cemetery. The first burials took place in August 1916. In July 1917, four further clearing stations arrived at Proven in readiness for the forthcoming Allied offensive on this front and three of them, the 46th, 12th and 64th, stayed until 1918. From May to July 1918, while the German offensive was at its height, field ambulances were posted at Proven. The cemetery was closed (except for one later burial) in September 1918.

There are now 2,391 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in this cemetery and 52 German war graves.

The cemetery was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield.

Brize Norton and World War One

FAULKNER, A	Acting Bombardier	297205	08/08/1917	Royal Garrison Artillery	United Kingdom	IV. B. 16.	MENDINGHEM MILITARY CEMETERY
----------------	----------------------	--------	------------	--------------------------------	-------------------	------------	---------------------------------



MENDINGHEM MILITARY CEMETERY PROVEN

Brize Norton and World War One

Noordwijk General Cemetery

Country: Netherlands
Locality: Zuid-Holland
Identified Casualties: 60

Location Information

Cemetery Address: Oude Zeeweg 32
2202 Noordwijk
GPS Location: N 52° 14' 015" E 04°
26' 000"



Noordwijk is situated to the north of Den Haag on the coast. From the A44 motorway take exit (afrit) 8 LEIDEN /NOORDWIJK / KATWIJK / TRANSFERIUM and follow the N206 direction NOORDWIJK. From the N206 take the exit NOORDWIJK and follow the signs for NOORDWIJK AAN ZEE, continue along the BEEKLAAN and turn right at signpost for ALGEMENE BEGRAAFPLAATS

The Commonwealth War Graves plots are in the centre of the cemetery and also on the higher level on the left side.

Visiting Information

Cemetery opening hours are:

1st April to 1st October daily 0730 to 1830hrs

Sunday and Holiday's 1000 to 1600hrs

1st October to 1st April 0730 to 1630hrs

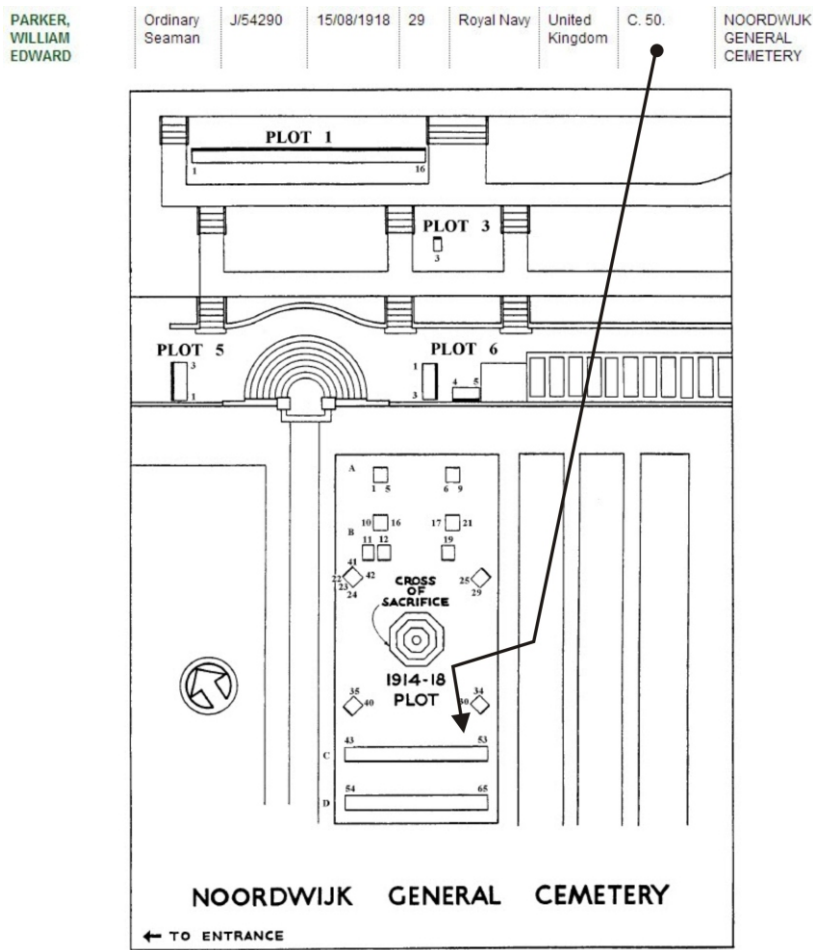
Sunday and Holiday's 1000 to 1600hrs

Historical Information

The Commonwealth plot in Noordwijk General Cemetery

Brize Norton and World War One

contains 81 burials of the First World War, including 54 unidentified naval ratings. Of the 52 Second World War burials, 19 are unidentified. The plot also contains 2 Polish Airmen's graves, 1 is unidentified.



Brize Norton and World War One

Pozières British Cemetery, Ovillers-la-Boisselle

Country: France

Locality: Somme

Identified Casualties: 1378

Location Information

Pozières is a village some 6 kilometres north-east of Albert, and the Cemetery, which is enclosed by the Pozières Memorial, is a little south-west of the village on the north side of the main road (D929) from Albert to Pozières.



Visiting Information

Wheelchair access is possible via a ramp.

Historical Information

The village of Pozières was attacked on 23 July 1916 by the 1st Australian and 48th (South Midland) Divisions, and was taken on the following day. It was lost on 24-25 March 1918, during the great German advance, and recaptured by the 17th Division on the following 24 August.

Plot II of POZIERES BRITISH CEMETERY contains the original burials of 1916, 1917 and 1918, carried out by fighting units and field ambulances. The remaining plots were made after the Armistice when graves were brought in from the battlefields immediately surrounding the cemetery, the majority of them of soldiers who died in the Autumn of 1916, but a few represent the fighting in August 1918.

Brize Norton and World War One

The following were among the more important burial grounds from which British graves were concentrated to Pozieres British Cemetery:-

CASUALTY CORNER CEMETERY, CONTALMAISON, on the road from Pozieres to Fricourt, used in the summer and autumn of 1916, which contained the graves of 21 Canadian soldiers, 21 Australian and 13 from the United Kingdom.

DANUBE POST CEMETERY, THIEPVAL (named from a trench and a Dressing Station), between the site of Thiepval village and Mouquet Farm. Here were buried, in the winter of 1916-17, 34 soldiers from the United Kingdom, mainly of the R.F.A.

NAB JUNCTION CEMETERY, OVILLERS-LA BOISSELLE, at the crossing of the Thiepval-Pozieres Road and "Nab Valley", in which 60 soldiers from the United Kingdom and one German prisoner were buried in the winter of 1916-17.

There are now 2,760 Commonwealth servicemen buried or commemorated in this cemetery. 1,382 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to 23 casualties known or believed to be buried among them. There is also 1 German soldier buried here.

The cemetery is enclosed by the POZIERES MEMORIAL, which relates to the period of crisis in March and April 1918 when the Allied Fifth Army was driven back by overwhelming numbers across the former Somme battlefields, and the months that followed before the Advance to Victory, which began on 8 August 1918.

Brize Norton and World War One

The Memorial commemorates over 14,000 casualties of the United Kingdom and 300 of the South African Forces who have no known grave and who died in France during the Fifth Army area retreat on the Somme from 21 March to 7 August 1918. The Corps and Regiments most largely represented are The Rifle Brigade with over 600 names, The Durham Light Infantry with approximately 600 names, the Machine Gun Corps with over 500, The Manchester Regiment with approximately 500 and The Royal Horse and Royal Field Artillery with over 400 names.

The cemetery and memorial were designed by W H Cowlshaw.

Brize Norton and World War One

CASTLE,
JOHN

Private

285251

23/03/1918

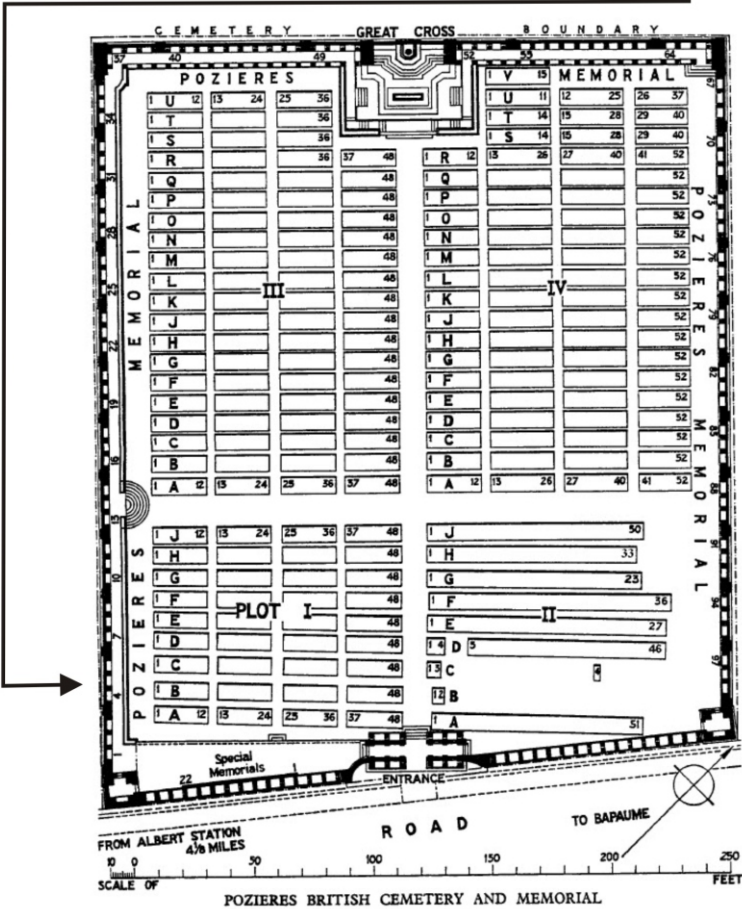
29

Queen's Own
Oxfordshire Hussars

United
Kingdom

Panel 6.

POZIERES
MEMORIAL



Brize Norton and World War One

Roeux British Cemetery

Country: France

Locality: Pas de Calais

Identified Casualties: 319

Location Information

Roeux is a village 13 kilometres east of Arras on the D33.



From Roeux, take the Chemin de Fampoux towards Fampoux. 200 metres outside the village take the track, followed by a smaller track, to the cemetery.

Visiting Information

The location or design of this site makes wheelchair access impossible.

For further information regarding wheelchair access, please contact our Enquiries Section on 01628 634221.

Historical Information

Roeux was built over a system of caves which helped to make its capture in 1917 exceptionally difficult. It was attacked by the 9th (Scottish) Division without success on 12 April. The chemical works close to the railway station were taken by the 51st (Highland) Division on 22 April, and after incessant fighting the village was cleared by the same Division on 14 May. The chemical works were lost on 16 May, and it was finally taken by the 51st Division on the following 26 August.

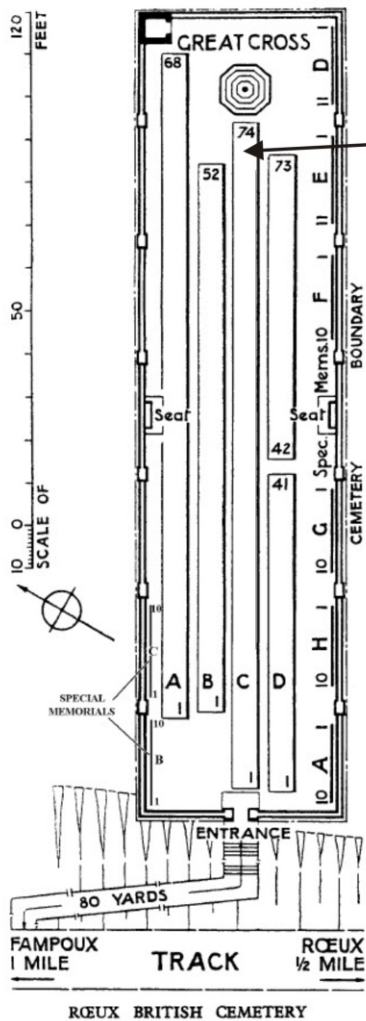
Brize Norton and World War One

Roeux British Cemetery was made by fighting units between April and November 1917.

The cemetery contains 350 burials and commemorations of the First World War. 31 of the burials are unidentified and 82 graves destroyed by shell fire are now represented by special memorials.

Brize Norton and World War One

WILKINS, A J	Private	43508	28/04/1917	24	Lincolnshire Regiment	United Kingdom	C. 73.	ROEUX BRITISH CEMETERY
-----------------	---------	-------	------------	----	--------------------------	-------------------	--------	---------------------------



Brize Norton and World War One

St. Venant-Robecq Road British Cemetery, Robecq

Country: France

Locality: Pas de Calais

Identified Casualties: 394

Location Information

St. Venant is a small town in the Department of the Pas-de-Calais about 15 kilometres north-west of Bethune. Robecq Road British

Cemetery is on the east side of the main road between St. Venant and Robecq, a smaller village 3 kilometres to the south east.



Historical Information

For much of the First World War, the villages of St. Venant and Robecq remained practically undamaged, but in April 1918, during the Battle of the Lys, the German line was established within 2 kilometres of the road that joins them. The cemetery was begun around 12 April and used as a front line cemetery until the end of July. At the Armistice it contained 47 burials, but was then greatly enlarged when graves were brought in from the battlefields south of St. Venant and from other cemeteries in the vicinity. The most important of these cemeteries were LA HAYE BRITISH CEMETERY at St. Venant (65 graves), used by the 2/7th Royal Warwicks and 2/8th Worcesters between April and August 1918, and CARVIN BRITISH CEMETERY, Mont-Bernenchon (54 graves), used by fighting units and field ambulances during the same period.

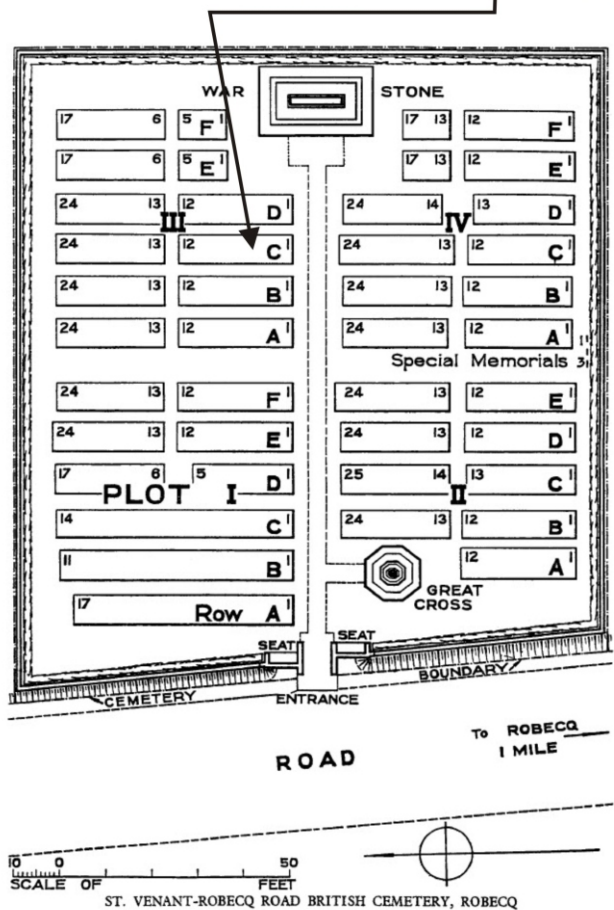
St. Venant-Robecq Road British Cemetery now contains 479 burials and commemorations of the First World War. 85 of the

Brize Norton and World War One

burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to five casualties known or believed to be buried among them.

The cemetery was designed by Sir Herbert Baker.

MILES, EDWIN JOHN	Serjeant	200040	24/05/1918	28	Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry	United Kingdom	III. C. 6.	ST. VENANT-ROBEQ ROAD BRITISH CEMETERY, ROBEQ
-------------------------	----------	--------	------------	----	---------------------------------------	-------------------	------------	---



Brize Norton and World War One

St Sever Cemetery, Rouen

Country: France

Locality: Seine-Maritime

Identified Casualties: 3080

Location Information

St Sever Cemetery and St Sever Cemetery Extension are located within a large communal cemetery situated on the eastern edge of the southern Rouen suburbs of Le Grand Quevilly and Le Petit Quevilly.



If approaching Rouen from the north, head for the centre of town and cross over the river Seine, following signs for Caen. Follow this route until you get to the 'Rond Point des Bruyeres' roundabout (next to the football stadium), then take the first exit into the Boulevard Stanislas Girardin. The cemetery is 150 metres down this road on the left.

If approaching Rouen from the south, follow the N138 (Avenue des Canadiens) towards the centre of town. At the 'Rond Point des Bruyeres' roundabout (next to the football stadium), take the fourth exit into the Boulevard Stanislas Girardin. The cemetery is 150 metres down this road on the left.

If arriving on foot, the easiest option is to take the N°7 bus, which runs from Rouges Terres in the north of the city, through the centre (several stops, including the Hôtel de Ville), to Zénith Park Expo in the south. From the city centre, take the bus for Zénith Park Expo, alighting at the Rond-point des Bruyères (sports

Brize Norton and World War One

stadia). From the roundabout, walk WNW into Boulevard Stanislas Girardin. The cemetery entrance is 150 metres down this road on the left.

Visiting Information

OPENING TIMES

1 March - 1 November: Monday-Saturday: 0815 - 1745

Sundays/Public Holidays : 0815 - 1745

2 November-28 February: Every Day: 0815 - 1645

Historical Information

During the First World War, Commonwealth camps and hospitals were stationed on the southern outskirts of Rouen. A base supply depot and the 3rd Echelon of General Headquarters were also established in the city.

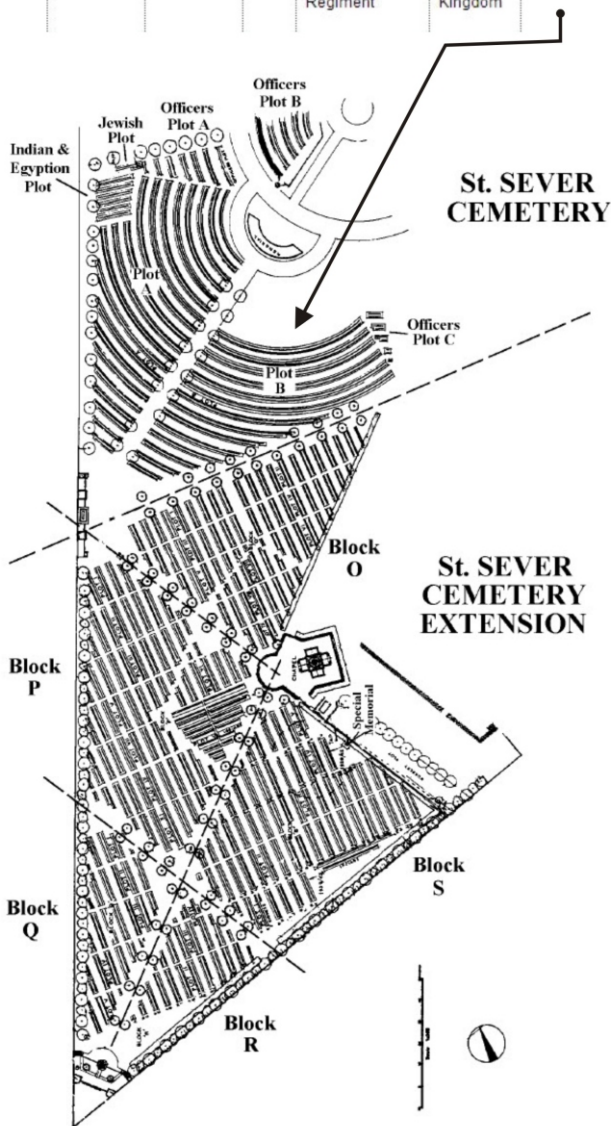
Almost all of the hospitals at Rouen remained there for practically the whole of the war. They included eight general, five stationary, one British Red Cross, one labour hospital, and No. 2 Convalescent Depot. A number of the dead from these hospitals were buried in other cemeteries, but the great majority were taken to the city cemetery of St. Sever. In September 1916, it was found necessary to begin an extension.

St. Sever Cemetery contains 3,082 Commonwealth burials of the First World War. There is also 1 French burial and 1 non war service burial here.

The Commonwealth plots were designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield.

Brize Norton and World War One

WILKINS, EDWARD	Private	18666	28/09/1916	29	Royal Berkshire Regiment	United Kingdom	B. 21. 59.	ST. SEVER CEMETERY, ROUEN
--------------------	---------	-------	------------	----	-----------------------------	-------------------	------------	---------------------------------



Brize Norton and World War One

Salonika (Lembet Road) Military Cemetery

Country: Greece

Identified Casualties: 1634

Location Information

The Cemetery is located at 192 Langada Street on the Serres highway approximately 2 km north of Thessaloniki city centre on the west side of Langada Street. The cemetery is inside a very large, mainly First World War Allied cemetery containing Serbian, French and Italian casualties and is known locally as "Zeitenlik" and is to the rear of the Serbian, French and Italian sections. The main entrance to the CWGC cemetery is clearly signposted on Langada Street.



Visiting Information

The Cemetery is permanently open and may be visited at any time.

For further information and enquiries please contact
maoffice@cwgc.org

Historical Information

At the invitation of the Greek Prime Minister, M.Venizelos, Salonika (now Thessalonika) was occupied by three French Divisions and the 10th (Irish) Division from Gallipoli in October 1915. Other French and Commonwealth forces landed during the year and in the summer of 1916, they were joined by Russian and Italian troops. In August 1916, a Greek revolution broke out at

Brize Norton and World War One

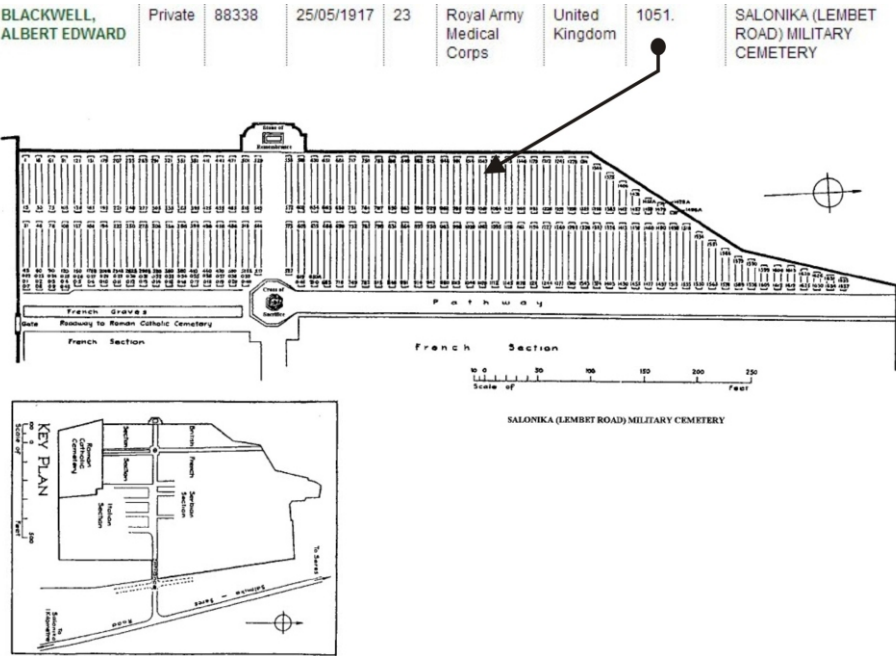
Salonika, with the result that the Greek national army came into the war on the Allied side.

The town was the base of the British Salonika Force and it contained, from time to time, eighteen general and stationary hospitals. Three of these hospitals were Canadian, although there were no other Canadian units in the force.

The earliest Commonwealth burials took place in the local Protestant and Roman Catholic cemeteries. Salonika (Lembet Road) Military Cemetery (formerly known as the Anglo-French Military Cemetery) was begun in November 1915 and Commonwealth, French, Serbian, Italian and Russian sections were formed. The Commonwealth section remained in use until October 1918, although from the beginning of 1917, burials were also made in Mikra British Cemetery. After the Armistice, some graves were brought in from other cemeteries in Macedonia, Albania and from Scala Cemetery, near Cassivita, on the island of Thasos.

There are now 1,648 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in this cemetery. The Commonwealth plot also contains 45 Bulgarian and one Serbian war graves.

Brize Norton and World War One



Brize Norton and World War One

Thiepval Memorial

Country: France

Locality: Somme

Identified Casualties: 72198

Location Information

The Thiepval Memorial will be found on the D73, next to the village of Thiepval, off the main Bapaume to Albert road (D929).



Each year a major ceremony is held at the memorial on 1 July

Visiting Information

The Panel numbers (or Pier and Face) quoted at the end of each entry relate to the panels dedicated to the Regiment served with. In some instances where a casualty is recorded as attached to another Regiment, his name may alternatively appear within their Regimental Panel (or Pier and Face). Please refer to the on-site Memorial Register Introduction to determine the alternative panel numbers (or Pier and Face) if you do not find the name within the quoted Panels (or Pier and Face).

Historical Information

On 1 July 1916, supported by a French attack to the south, thirteen divisions of Commonwealth forces launched an offensive on a line from north of Gommecourt to Maricourt. Despite a preliminary bombardment lasting seven days, the German defences were barely touched and the attack met unexpectedly fierce resistance. Losses were catastrophic and with only minimal advances on the southern flank, the initial attack was a failure. In

Brize Norton and World War One

the following weeks, huge resources of manpower and equipment were deployed in an attempt to exploit the modest successes of the first day. However, the German Army resisted tenaciously and repeated attacks and counter attacks meant a major battle for every village, copse and farmhouse gained. At the end of September, Thiepval was finally captured. The village had been an original objective of 1 July. Attacks north and east continued throughout October and into November in increasingly difficult weather conditions. The Battle of the Somme finally ended on 18 November with the onset of winter.

In the spring of 1917, the German forces fell back to their newly prepared defences, the Hindenburg Line, and there were no further significant engagements in the Somme sector until the Germans mounted their major offensive in March 1918.

The Thiepval Memorial, the Memorial to the Missing of the Somme, bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces 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. The memorial also serves as an Anglo-French Battle Memorial in recognition of the joint nature of the 1916 offensive and a small cemetery containing equal numbers of Commonwealth and French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

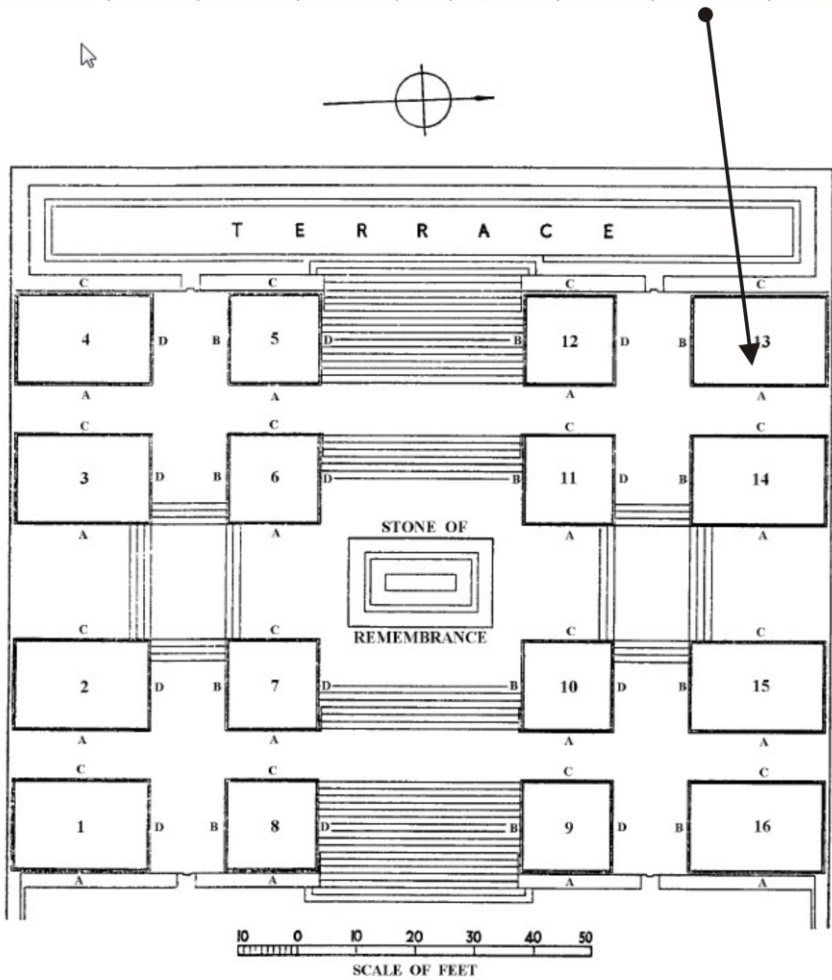
The memorial, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, was built between 1928 and 1932 and unveiled by the Prince of Wales, in the presence of the President of France, on 1 August 1932 (originally scheduled for 16 May but due to the death of French President Doumer the ceremony was postponed until August).

Brize Norton and World War One

The dead of other Commonwealth countries, who died on the Somme and have no known graves, are commemorated on national memorials elsewhere.

Brize Norton and World War One

BELLINGER, ERNEST	Lance Corporal	18050	05/07/1916	Wiltshire Regiment	United Kingdom	Pier and Face 13 A.	THIEPVAL MEMORIAL
----------------------	-------------------	-------	------------	-----------------------	-------------------	------------------------	----------------------



THIEPVAL MEMORIAL

THE NUMBERS OF THE PIERS
AND LETTERS OF THE FACES

Brize Norton and World War One

Unicorn Cemetery, Vendhuile

Country: France

Locality: Aisne

Identified Casualties: 599

Location Information

Vendhuile is a village about 19

kilometres north of St Quentin and

24 kilometres south-east of

Peronne. Unicorn Cemetery is about

3 kilometres south-west of

Vendhuile on the west side of the road to the villages of Lempire and Ronssoy.



Historical Information

Vendhuile (Vend'huile) was very nearly reached in the Battle of Cambrai 1917. It was taken by the 27th and 30th American Divisions at the end of September 1918, and cleared by the 12th and 18th Divisions on 30 September. After the fight, men of the 18th Division were buried by the 50th (Northumbrian) Division in Plot I, Row A, of Unicorn Cemetery (the name is taken from the Divisional mark of the 50th Division). The rest of the cemetery was formed after the Armistice when graves were brought in from the surrounding battlefields, isolated sites and from the following small cemeteries of 1917 and 1918:-

LA PAURELLE BRITISH CEMETERY, RONSSOY, contained 110 graves of soldiers from the United Kingdom. It was in a hamlet on the Basse Boulogne-Epehy road. It was begun by 1/5th Gloucesters in April 1917 and used by cavalry and infantry units until February 1918. After the recapture of Ronssoy by the 18th

Brize Norton and World War One

Division on the 18th September 1918, it was used again by the 6th Northhamptons.

BASSE-BOULOGNE BRITISH CEMETERY, LEMPIRE, contained the graves of 67 soldiers from the United Kingdom and Australia. It was made by the 103rd Labour Company after the capture of Basse-Boulogne on the 18th September 1918, by the 6th Northhamptons. It was a little East of the hamlet of Basse-Boulogne.

LEMPIRE BRITISH CEMETERY, originally contained the graves of 118 soldiers from the United Kingdom, one from Australia, 15 American soldiers and 40 German prisoners. It was made by the 18th Division Burial Officer after the Division had cleared Lempire on the 19th September 1918. It was on the Eastern side of Lempire village.

LEMPIRE and VEND'HUILE COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSIONS, contained respectively the graves of seven and six soldiers from the United Kingdom.

The cemetery now contains 1,008 burials and commemorations of the First World War. 409 of the burials are unidentified but there are special memorials to ten casualties known or believed to be buried among them. There are also special memorials to eight casualties buried in Lempire British Cemetery whose graves could not be found on concentration.

The cemetery was designed by Charles Holden.

Brize Norton and World War One

CASTLE,
HAROLD

Private 285583

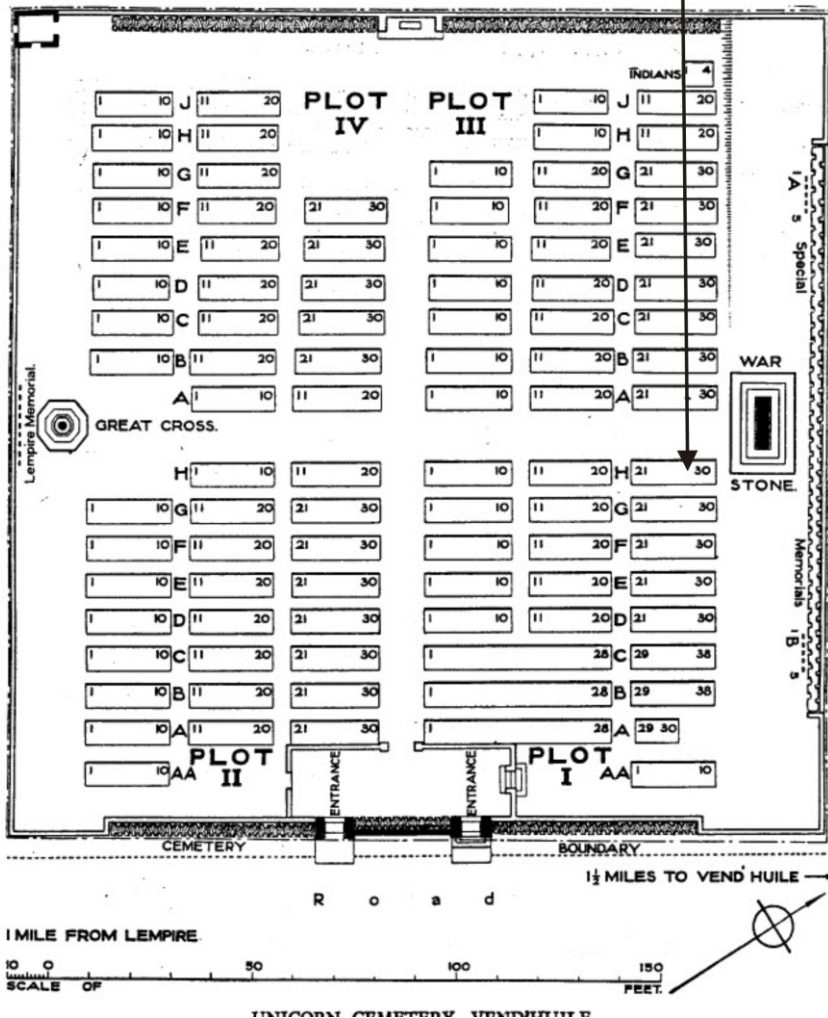
22/06/1917 29

Queen's Own
Oxfordshire
Hussars

United
Kingdom

I. H. 27.

UNICORN
CEMETERY,
VENDHUILE



Brize Norton and World War One

Brize Norton and World War One

Chapter 7 - Their Regiments

The Oxon and Bucks Light Infantry (OBLI) and the Queens Own Oxfordshire Hussars (originally the Oxfordshire Yeomanry (OY) were the obvious choices for those of Brize Norton who enlisted in the services. However, quite a few from Brize choose other regiments or were posted to other regiments. Why?, family connections or work away from home, we can only speculate.

Here is a complete list of the regiments that our fallen of Brize Norton served with:

Grenadier Guards
Lincolnshire Regiment
Oxon & Bucks Light Infantry
Queens Own Oxfordshire Hussars
Royal Army Medical Corps
Royal Berkshire
Royal Garrison Artillery
Royal Hampshire
Royal Navy, HMS Scott
Tank Corps
The Machine Corps
The Wiltshire Regiment
Welsh Regiment
Worcestershire Regiment

Brize Norton and World War One

Grenadier Guards

Private Frank Lock (20596) (see page 52) served with the Grenadier Guards.

At the outbreak of the First World War in August 1914, the regiment consisted of three battalions. With the commencement of hostilities the regiment raised a service battalion, the 4th Battalion, and a reserve battalion known as the 5th (Reserve) Battalion, which was used to carry out ceremonial duties in London and Windsor during the war. The 2nd Battalion of the regiment was sent to France in August, and the 1st Battalion followed to Belgium in October. They took part in the early stages of the fighting during the period known as "Race to the Sea", during which time they were involved significantly at the First Battle of Ypres. In February 1915, a fifth Guards regiment was raised, known as The Welsh Guards. In recognition of the significant contribution Welshmen had made to The Grenadier Guards, the regiment transferred five officers and 634 other ranks to the newly formed unit. A short time later, permission was received for the formation of the Guards Division, the brainchild of Lord Kitchener, and on 18 August 1915, the division came into existence, consisting of three brigades, each with four battalions. Following this the four service battalions of the regiment fought in a number of significant battles including Loos, the Somme, Cambrai, Arras and the Hindenburg Line. Seven members of the regiment received the Victoria Cross during the war.

Brize Norton and World War One

Lincolnshire Regiment

Private Albert J Wilkins (43508) (see page 71) served in the 10th Battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment.

The Grimsby Chums as they were called, formed part of the the Third Army in 1917, were not the same fighting force they were in 1916. Their ranks of Grimsby men had been diluted by new drafts. They were now to attack in the Arras sector in support of the diversion for the French Army attack on the Aisne. A small bombardment of four days was arranged for this battle. It was 9th April 1917.

The first wave set off at 5.30 am with great success. The enemy lines were reached and occupied. A creeping barrage then allowed the Chums to make further attacks, 1500 yards forward of their start positions. This attack was no repeat of the Somme, and although there were casualties, the objectives were reached and the Chums could "dig in" on captured territory. The Chums were now on the forward slopes of Vimy Ridge, and were able to look down on the enemy across the Doui plain in front of them. The Chums had played their part in the most successful day of the war so far.

After a brief period of rest out of the line, the Lincolns carried on with the offensive. The target was not an open countryside target of the previous week, but a heavily fortified town position at Reoux, and its Chemical Works. The Chums Brigade were to attack on April 28th. The attack was started at 4.15 am but was not destined to be a success. Forming up in the open alerted the Germans who opened up with mortar and machine guns. The Chums set off already fragmented. The attack was soon broken

Brize Norton and World War One

up, with small groups of isolated men unable to continue. A German counter attack at 8.00 am led to a retreat and was effectively the end of the Chums attack. The losses were high, 420 dead, missing and wounded. The Battalion was withdrawn from the line on 30th April, shattered.

Brize Norton and World War One

Oxon & Bucks Light Infantry (OBLI)

Private Charles Henry Archer (9945) (see page 31), 2nd Battalion

Private Henry Godwin (13116) (see page 50), 2nd Battalion

Sergeant Edwin John Miles (1052, 200040) (see page 54), 2nd/4th Battalion

Private Jack Stanley Upstone (16580) (see page 69), 2nd Battalion

Private Albert Edward Faulkner (16687) (see page 43), 5th Battalion

Lance Corporal Marcus John Timms (16691) (see page 65), 5th Battalion

These six soldiers served with the Oxon & Bucks Light Infantry.

Two 18th Century regiments, the 43rd Regiment of Foot and the 52nd Regiment of Foot, went through several name changes. By coincidence, they often served together, both being founder regiments of the Light Division in 1803, then serving side by side throughout the Peninsular War. In 1881 they were united into the county regiment, The Oxon and Bucks Light Infantry. It then had two battalions, the 1st Battalion being known as the 43rd, the 2nd as the 52nd, together often known as the “43rd and 52nd”. Many of the traditions of the 43rd and 52nd became firm habits of The Royal Green Jackets and can still be seen strongly in The Rifles.

Brize Norton and World War One

In 1915 trench warfare commenced with both sides developing impregnable defences; leading to high casualties in return for minimal gains. At the battle of Festubert (9–16 May) – which was launched in support of the French attack south of Vimy Ridge – the 2nd Ox and Bucks were part of the second wave of the 5th Brigade attack and, during the course of the battle, suffered just under 400 casualties: the largest number the regiment had sustained in a single battle since the Siege of Badajoz (1812) over 100 years earlier. The Battle of Festubert was the first British night action of the war. The 2nd Ox and Bucks were involved in heavy fighting at Richebourg l'Avoue on 15–16 May. The 2nd Ox and Bucks and other battalions of the regiment also saw action at Loos (25 September - 8 October): 2nd Ox and Bucks took part in the subsidiary attack at Givenchy with 263 casualties on 25 September. The 2nd Battalion took part in the subsequent attack against the Hohenzollern Redoubt (13–19 October). Following the battle of Loos few pre-1914 2nd Ox and Bucks officers remained, they had either become casualties or promoted to take up positions in other battalions. The gallantry awards made to members of the battalion for bravery during the battle of Loos included the award of the Distinguished Conduct Medal to CSM Fred Clare.

5th (Service) Battalion

Formed at Oxford in August 1914 as part of K1 and placed under orders of 42nd Brigade in 14th (Light) Division.

21 May 1915 : landed at Boulogne

27 April 1918 : reduced to cadre strength.

16 June 1918: transferred to 16th Division and returned to England.

20 June 1918: absorbed by 18th Bn, the Gloucestershire Regiment.

Brize Norton and World War One

Queens Own Oxfordshire Hussars

Private Harold Castle (285583) (see page 38)

Private John Castle (285251) (see page 41)

Both soldiers served in The Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars

The Yeomanry regiments began to be formed for home defence during the Napoleonic Wars. The first Oxford unit was the Oxfordshire Fencible Cavalry, the forerunners of the Yeomanry.

Their service was not distinguished in their early years, but the regiment - originally simply the "Oxfordshire Yeomanry" (hence "OY") - gradually developed its identity and became very much a feature of life in the county; indeed, at times it mirrored the social structure.

After decades of increasingly glorious uniforms, life suddenly became serious when volunteers from the regiment joined the Imperial Yeomanry in the Boer War, and lives were lost.

An impetus to proper soldiering was the membership of Winston Churchill as the commander of the Henley Squadron for several years; he ensured high standards, which served them well during 4 years active service in France in the Great War.

Brize Norton and World War One

Royal Army Medical Corps

Private Albert Edward Blackwell (88338) (see page 35) served with the RAMC and was attached to 79th Company, Machine Gun Corps

Formed: 1898

The Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) is a specialist corps in the British Army which provides medical services to all British Army personnel and their families in war and in peace. Together with the Royal Army Veterinary Corps, the Royal Army Dental Corps and Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, the RAMC forms the British Army's essential Army Medical Services.



The RAMC does not carry a Regimental Colour or Queen's Colour, although it has a Regimental Flag. Nor does it have battle honours, as elements of the corps have been present in almost every single war the army has fought. Because it is not a fighting arm, under the Geneva Conventions, members of the RAMC may only use their weapons for self-defence. For this reason, there are two traditions that the RAMC perform when on parade:

Officers do not draw their swords - instead they hold their scabbard with their left hand while saluting with their right.

Other Ranks do not fix bayonets.

Brize Norton and World War One

Royal Berkshire

Private Edward Wilkins (18666) (see page 73) served in the 8th Battalion the Royal Berkshire Regiment.

The 8th (Service) Battalion, Royal Berkshire Regiment was a Kitchener Battalion, raised at Reading in September 1914 and joined 26th Division. They underwent training on Salisbury Plain and returned to Reading in November 1914. They moved to Sutton Veny in May 1915 and proceeded to France on the 8th of August 1915, landing at Le Havre to join 1st Brigade, 1st Division who had suffered heavy casualties in the first year of the war. They served in France and Flanders taking part in many major battles, including Loos in late 1915, The Somme in 1916 and Ypres in 1917. In February 1918 they transferred to 53rd Brigade, 18th (Eastern) Division and fought on The Somme and in the Battles of the Hindenburg Line.

Brize Norton and World War One

Royal Garrison Artillery

Acting Bombadier Arthur Faulkner (297205) (see page 45) served in the 156th Heavy Bty. Royal Garrison Artillery.

8 August 1917

The Siege Batteries of the Royal Garrison Artillery

An unidentified British soldier standing with a 9.2 inch howitzer Mk I, named Berdamedia, which was supporting the Australians on the Somme. The camouflaged box in front of the gun is known as a dirt box, which was filled with soil and attached to the gun to act as a counterweight to the force of the blast and keep the gun in position. Hanging on the side of the box is a horseshoe. Note in the background (left) a timber structure, probably an observation tower and rows of shells in front of the structure. Photo taken at Corbie in May 1918. AWM photograph E04820, with permission.



Brize Norton and World War One

The role of the Siege Battery

Siege Batteries RGA were equipped with heavy howitzers, sending large calibre high explosive shells in high trajectory, plunging fire. The usual armaments were 6 inch, 8 inch and 9.2 inch howitzers, although some had huge railway- or road-mounted 12 inch howitzers. As British artillery tactics developed, the Siege Batteries were most often employed in destroying or neutralising the enemy artillery, as well as putting destructive fire down on strongpoints, dumps, stores, roads and railways behind enemy lines.

9.2 inch howitzers of a Siege Battery in action on the Western Front.



Brize Norton and World War One

Royal Hampshire Regiment

Private William Joseph Garratt (17292) (see page 48) served in the 2nd Battalion the Royal Hampshire Regiment.

The Hampshire Regiment was formed on 1 July 1881 under the Childers reforms from the merger of the 37th (North Hampshire) Regiment of Foot and the 67th (South Hampshire) Regiment of Foot along with the militia and rifle volunteers of the county of Hampshire.

A regimental tradition was that on 1 August, known as Minden Day, each year battalion members would wear a rose in their head dress to commemorate the Battle of Minden.

World War I

The SS River Clyde holds dead of the Royal Hampshire Regiment who were killed while attempting to get ashore at Sedd el Bahr during the Gallipoli Campaign.

In World War I it took part in the Battle of Gallipoli when engaged in the fatal Landing at Cape Helles of the 88th Brigade, 29th (UK) Division.

2nd Battalion, The Hampshire Regiment were in Mhow, India when war broke out in August 1914. As soon as a territorial unit arrived to take over the garrison, they departed for England, landing at Plymouth on the 22nd of December 1914. They moved to Romsey and then on to Stratford-upon-Avon on the 13th of February to join 88th Brigade, 29th Division. They moved to Warwick and were training for France when orders arrived to

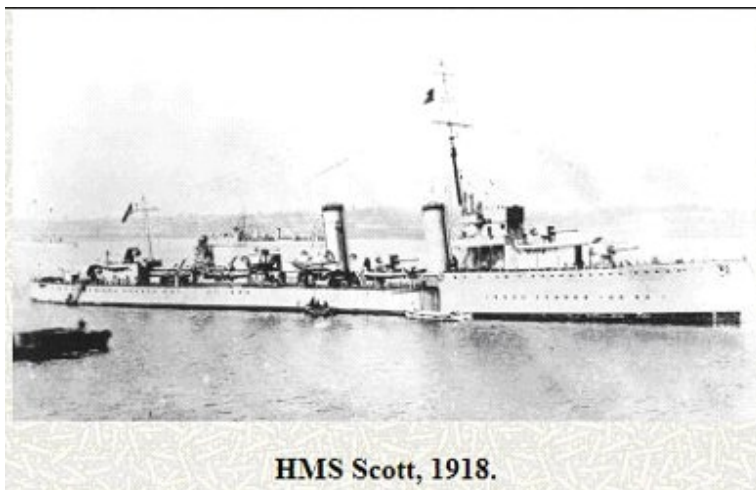
Brize Norton and World War One

prepare to depart for Gallipoli. They embarked from Avonmouth on the 29th of March 1915 sailing via Malta to Alexandria then on to Mudros in April. They landed at Cape Helles, Gallipoli on the 25 April 1915 and were involved in heavy fighting until the evacuation on the nights of the 7th and 8th of January 1916 when they returned to Egypt.

Brize Norton and World War One

Royal Navy, HMS Scott

Ordinary Seaman William Edward Parker (J/54290) (see page 57) served in The Royal Navy on HMS Scott



HISTORY

The first HMS Scott was a World War 1 destroyer, name-ship of the Scott class, built by Cammell Laird and launched on 18 October 1917; she and her class sisters were named after historical Scottish leaders.

Displacing just over 1,800 tons, the ship mounted five 4.7in guns and six 21in torpedo tubes, but her career with the Royal Navy was short-lived – she was torpedoed and sank in the North Sea

Brize Norton and World War One

off the Dutch coast on 15 August 1918, an attack generally credited to UC-71

U-boat attacks on Destroyer leader Scott

	Date	U-boat	Loss type	Position	Location	Route	Cargo	Casualties
1	15 Aug. 1918	U 71 (Richard Scheurlen)	Sunk	Mined off Ijmuiden	52.29N, 03.55E			22
	Previously credited to UC 17 but now definitely to U 71							

Position of attack on Scott

Brize Norton and World War One

Tank Corps

Captain Thomas W Powell MC (2439) (see page 58) served with the Welsh Regiment and then with the Tank Corps.

First development and deployment

In the autumn of 1914, Lieutenant-Colonel E.D. Swinton suggested the idea of an armoured vehicle to the military authorities at home. It was not until January 1915 when Winston Churchill, then the First Lord of the Admiralty, interested himself in Col. Swinton's suggestion and the idea of a "land battleship" began to take official form.

The first experimental machine was completed in December 1915 and in March 1916 the headquarters of what was to be known as the Heavy Section Machine Gun Corps was established at Bisley under the command of Col. Swinton. Later this section was moved to Elveden Camp, where six companies of tanks were raised.

On 13 August 1916 four of these companies began to embark for France, but the Headquarters of the Heavy Section and its commander remained in England. The supply of machines was the responsibility of the "Mechanical Warfare Supply Department" of the Ministry of Munitions, which was controlled by Lieutenant-Colonel Albert Stern.

Tanks were used for the first time in action on the battlefield of the Somme on 15 September 1916. 36 Mark 1 tanks of C and D Companies arrived on the start line for the renewal of the Somme offensive: this action was later designated as the Battle of

Brize Norton and World War One

Flers-Courcelette. Arguments continue as to whether it would have been better to wait until much larger numbers of tanks were available before they were used in battle. The Heavy Section MGC was redesignated as the Heavy Branch MGC in November 1916.

The early tanks

The first tanks, known as Mark 1, were built in two types which were essentially the same except for their armament. The 'Male' type carried two Hotchkiss 6-pounder (57mm) guns and 4 machine guns; the 'Female' 5 machine guns.

Motive power came from a 105hp Daimler engine, driving the caterpillar tracks through three independent gearboxes. Turning was a complex manoeuvre which required the tank to halt, making it an easy target. Early machines has a tail wheel which was designed to aid balance but which in practice proved useless and were soon abandoned.

At best, the early tanks could achieve a top speed of 4 miles per hour. On the battlefield this was rarely realised and in many cases infantry moved far faster. The machines were crewed by a Subaltern, 3 Drivers and 4 Gunners, of which one was an NCO. Interior conditions were truly appalling, being a combination of intense heat, noise and exhaust from the engine, violent movement as the tank crossed the ground and molten metal splash as bullets struck the plating. Men would often be violently sick or badly incapacitated by the conditions and were often in no fit state to continue after quite short journeys. It was difficult to communicate within the tank and with men and other tanks outside. The tank officer often had to get out and walk, to reconnoiter his path or to work with the infantry. The tanks also

Brize Norton and World War One

proved to be mechanically unreliable and vulnerable to shellfire. Some tanks carried a wire frame on the roof, designed to deflect grenades. Nonetheless, the first appearance of the tanks caused considerable alarm to the Germans ... until they realised their shortcomings and began to organise tactics and armament to defend against them.



Further development

Mark II tanks were training vehicles although some played a part at the Battle of Arras in April and May 1917. They carried even less armour than the Mark I. The Hotchkiss machine guns were exchanged for the Lewis Gun, which was a highly effective weapon in infantry hands but proved less so in the tanks. The next step saw an upgrade in the production of the Mark IV. It carried more armour and had an external fuel tank. Mechanically, it was similar to the Mark I. These tanks weighed 28 tons. The Mark IV first saw service at The Battle of Messines in June 1917. Battlefield lessons were being applied: many tanks now carried fascines, which were huge bundles of wood that could be dropped to bridge wide trenches and ditches.

Brize Norton and World War One

A lighter (14 ton), faster tank - all of 8 miles per hour - called the Whippet came into service by the time of the German attack in early 1918. It was lightly armed but highly effective, bringing a degree of mobility back to the battlefield. The most effective variant, Mark V, was in service for the Allied attacks that began in July 1918. It was more powerful and had an improved steering and control mechanism that allowed a reduction in the crew. Mark V types were also produced as supply carriers and - less successfully - as gun carriers. A stretched version called the Mark V* was also produced, better able to cross wide trenches without needing a fascine. The Tank Corps also operated a variety of armoured cars.

Tank organisation

Originally formed as Companies of the Heavy Section MGC, designated A, B, C and D, each Company consisted of 4 Sections of 3 tanks of each type (male and female Mk 1's). Companies also had another machine in reserve.

In November 1916 the Companies were expanded to Battalions, carrying the same letter designations. A Battalion consisted of 3 Companies. Three mobile workshops provided the engineering back-up to service the tanks. An expansion programme was ordered by GHQ, to build a force of 14 additional Battalions.

The Tank Corps was formed from the Heavy Branch MGC on 27 July 1917 and the Battalions adopted numbering rather than letter designations (although tank names followed the same lettering: for example, 7th Battalion tanks were all named with a letter G, like Grouse, Grumble, etc.) Each Tank Battalion had a complement of 32 officers and 374 men.

Brize Norton and World War One

From the earliest days, men of the HBMGC were often drawn from the Motor Machine Gun units, with drivers from the Army Service Corps. In many cases the men never actually officially transferred and fought in the tanks under their original regiments.

Finally, an E Company was formed for service in Palestine.

On 20 November 1917, Byng's Third Army launched a limited and tactically radical attack at Cambrai, where ground conditions were far more favourable than any seen to date. Following a surprise, hurricane artillery bombardment 378 Mark IV tanks smashed through the Hindenburg Line positions, temporarily creating a rupture to the German lines and the chance for a breakthrough. Insufficient mobile reserves could get through in time to exploit the tanks' success, and within days the chance had gone. However, Cambrai proved to be a key learning experience for the British command.

Brize Norton and World War One

The Machine Gun Corps

Private Albert Edward Blackwell (88338) (see page 35) served with the RAMC and was attached to 79th Company, Machine Gun Corps

At the outbreak of World War I in August 1914 the tactical potential of machine guns was not appreciated by the British Military. The Army therefore went to war with each infantry battalion and cavalry regiment containing a machine gun section of just two guns each. This was supplemented in November 1914 by the formation of the Motor Machine Gun Service (MMGS), administered by the Royal Artillery, consisting of motor-cycle mounted machine gun batteries. A machine gun school was also opened in France.

A year of warfare on the Western Front proved that, to be fully effective, machine guns must be used in larger units and crewed by specially trained men. To achieve this, the Machine Gun Corps was formed in October 1915 with Infantry, Cavalry and Motor branches, followed in 1916 by the Heavy Branch. A depot and training centre was established at Belton Park in Grantham, Lincolnshire, and a base dépôt at Camiers in France.



The Infantry Branch was by far the largest and was formed initially by the transfer of battalion machine gun sections to the MGC, these being grouped into Brigade Machine Gun Companies, three per division. New companies were raised at

Brize Norton and World War One

Grantham. In 1917 a fourth company was added to each division. In February and March 1918, the four companies in each division were formed into a Machine Gun Battalion.

The Guards Division formed their own machine gun support unit the Guards Machine Gun Regiment.

Brize Norton and World War One

The Wiltshire Regiment

Lance Corporal Ernest Bellenger (18050) (see page 33) served in the 1st Battalion, The Wiltshire Regiment.

In August 1914 the 1st Battalion was at Tidworth under the command of 7th Brigade in 3rd Division. On 14 August 1914 it landed at Rouen. On 18 October 1915 it transferred with the Brigade to 25th Division and in 21 June 1918 it transferred to 110th Brigade in 21st Division.

Men of the Wiltshire Regiment waving their helmets as they march along the Acheux road to the trenches during the 1916 Battle of the Somme. Image Q 740 courtesy of the Imperial War Museum.



Brize Norton and World War One

Welsh Regiment

Captain Thomas W Powell MC (2439) (see page 58) served with the Welsh Regiment and then with the Tank Corps.

When war broke out on 4 August 1914 The Welsh Regiment consisted of 1st and 2nd Battalions, respectively, in India and at home. Regimental Headquarters with 3rd (Special Reserve) and 7th (Cyclist) Battalions at Cardiff, 4th Battalion at Llanelli, 5th Battalion at Pontypridd and the 6th Battalion at Swansea.

Service Battalions were formed and the total number of Battalions of The Welsh Regiment rose to thirty four.

Fighting in the First World War was world-wide but the main theatre of war was in France and Belgium where the greatest strengths were deployed and the most important battles were fought and the heaviest casualties sustained. In a war of such magnitude covering so many theatres upon so vast a scale it is impossible to give detailed accounts of battles fought by The Welsh Regiment in this short history. But there are names that will live forever in the annals of The Welsh Regiment and Wales.

Of the thirty four Battalions of The Welsh Regiment, nineteen served actively overseas at a cost of nearly 8000 officers and men killed or died of wounds or illness.

So wide-flung was the extent of the First World War that it was finally decided that each Regiment should be awarded 10 Principal Battle Honours to be borne on the Colours and that, in addition, further Honours to which it was entitled would be

Brize Norton and World War One

shown on the Army List. Of these latter Honours the Regiment earned sixty one.

The Principal Battle Honours carried on the Colours of the Regiment's Battalions are:

Aisne 1914,1918; Ypres 1914,1915,1917; Gheluvelt; Loos; Somme 1916,1918; Pilckem; Cambrai 1917,1918; Macedonia 1915–1918; Gallipoli; Gaza.

Brize Norton and World War One

Worcestershire Regiment

Private Percival L Timms (57358) (see page 67) served in the 3rd Battalion, the Worcestershire Regiment.

3rd Battalion, Worcestershire Regiment were based in Tidworth with 7th Brigade, 3rd Division when war broke out in August 1914. They proceeded to France, landing at Rouen on the 16th of August 1914. They saw action in The Battle of Mons and the rearguard action at Solesmes, The Battle of Le Cateau, The Battle of the Marne, The Battle of the Aisne, at La Bassee, Messines and the First Battle of Ypres. They took part in the Winter Operations of 1914-15, The First Attack on Bellewaarde and the Actions at Hooze. On the 18th of October 1915 the 3rd Worcesters transferred with 7th Brigade to 25th Division to strengthen the newly arrived Division and on the 10th of November they transferred to 74th Brigade still in 25th Division. The 25th Division's first action was in defence of the German attack on Vimy Ridge in May 1916. They then moved to The Somme and joined the Battle just after the main attack, with 75th Brigade making a costly attack near Thiepval on the 3rd of July. The Division was in action at The Battle of Bazentin, The Battle of Pozieres and The Battle of the Ancre Heights. In 1917 they were in action at The Battle of Messines attacking between the Wulverghem-Messines and Wulverghem-Wytschaete roads. In the Third battle of Ypres they were in action during The Battle of Pilkem. In 1918 they were in action on The Somme, in the Battles of the Lys. In 22 June 1918 the 3rd Worcesters transferred to 57th Brigade in 19th (Western) Division, and absorbed the 10th Battalion. They were in action in the Final Advance in Picardy and at the Armistice in billets near Bavay.

Brize Norton and World War One

Chapter 8 - Where they fought and died

Charles Henry Archer

2nd Bn. Oxon & Bucks Light Infantry (*see page 163*)
died 16th May 1915 during the Battle of Festubert

In 1915 trench warfare commenced with both sides developing impregnable defences: leading to high casualties in return for minimal gains. At the Battle of Festubert (9–16 May) – which was launched in support of the French attack south of Vimy Ridge – the 2nd Ox and Bucks were part of the second wave of the 5th Brigade attack and, during the course of the battle, suffered just under 400 casualties: the largest number the regiment had sustained in a single battle since the Siege of Badajoz (1812) over 100 years earlier. The Battle of Festubert was the first British night action of the war. The 2nd Ox and Bucks were involved in heavy fighting at Richebourg l'Avoue on 15–16 May.

Ernest Bellenger

1st Bn. Wiltshire Regiment (*see page 181*)
died 5 July 1916 during The Battle of Albert

On 1 July 1916, supported by a French attack to the south, thirteen divisions of Commonwealth forces launched an offensive on a line from north of Gommecourt to Maricourt. Despite a preliminary bombardment lasting seven days, the German defences were barely touched and the attack met unexpectedly fierce resistance. Losses were catastrophic and with only minimal

Brize Norton and World War One

advances on the southern flank, the initial attack was a failure. In the following weeks, huge resources of manpower and equipment were deployed in an attempt to exploit the modest successes of the first day. However, the German Army resisted tenaciously and repeated attacks and counter attacks meant a major battle for every village, copse and farmhouse gained. At the end of September, Thiepval was finally captured. The village had been an original objective of 1 July.

Albert Edward Blackwell

Royal Army Medical Corps, attached to the 79th Company Machine Gun Corps, died 25 May 1917 in Salonika

At the invitation of the Greek Prime Minister, M.Venizelos, Salonika (now Thessalonika) was occupied by three French Divisions and the 10th (Irish) Division from Gallipoli in October 1915. Other French and Commonwealth forces landed during the year and in the summer of 1916, they were joined by Russian and Italian troops. In August 1916, a Greek revolution broke out at Salonika, with the result that the Greek national army came into the war on the Allied side.

The town was the base of the British Salonika Force and it contained, from time to time, eighteen general and stationary hospitals. Three of these hospitals were Canadian, although there were no other Canadian units in the force.

Albert was posted to Salonika on 7 January 1917, where he became attached to the 79th Company, Machine Gun Corps,

Brize Norton and World War One

which was part of the 27th Division. Albert became ill and died in Salonika of myelitis on 25 May 1917

Harold Castle

Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars (*see page 165*)
died 22 June 1917 before the Battle of Cambrai later that year,
possibly during the Battle of Messines and the associated actions
between 7th June and 17th July

We cannot be sure where Harold was fighting but he was buried
in Unicorn Cemetery, Vendhuile (*see page 155*) near to the battle
site. He was probably involved in the various unsuccessful
attempts to capture Cambrai.

John Castle

Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars
died 23 March 1918 during the Battle of St Quentin

The Battle of St Quentin (21 -23 March, a phase of the of the First
Battles of the Somme in which the Division was engaged until 1
April)

The German offensive around St Quentin - Operation Michael -
began on March 21st 1918 and succeeded in driving back the
allied forces some forty miles in ten days before their advance
was halted. The Oxfordshire Hussars were among many

Brize Norton and World War One

regiments who fought valiantly but to begin with unsuccessfully to stop the German advance. Eventually the enemy were brought to a halt at the gates of Amiens

Albert Edward Faulkner

5th Bn Oxon & Bucks Light Infantry (*see page 163*)
died 3 May 1917 during the Battle of Arras.

The Battle of Arras (also known as the Second Battle of Arras) was a British offensive during the First World War. From 9 April to 16 May 1917, British, Canadian, South African, New Zealand, Newfoundland, and Australian troops attacked German defences near the French city of Arras on the Western Front. There were major gains on the first day, followed by stalemate. The battle cost nearly 160,000 British casualties and about 125,000 German casualties.

For much of the war, the opposing armies on the Western Front were at a stalemate, with a continuous line of trenches stretching from the Belgian coast to the Swiss border. In essence, the Allied objective from early 1915 was to break through the German defences into the open ground beyond and engage the numerically inferior German army in a war of movement. The Arras offensive was conceived as part of a plan to bring about this result. It was planned in conjunction with the French High Command, who were simultaneously embarking on a massive attack (the Nivelle Offensive) about eighty kilometres to the south. The aim of this combined operation was to end the war in forty-eight hours. At Arras the Allied objectives were to draw German troops away from the ground chosen for the French

Brize Norton and World War One

attack and to take the German-held high ground that dominated the plain of Douai.

The British effort was a relatively broad front assault between Vimy in the northwest and Bullecourt in the south-east. After considerable bombardment, Canadian troops advancing in the north were able to capture the strategically significant Vimy Ridge and British divisions in the centre were also able to make significant gains astride the Scarpe river. In the south, British and Australian forces were frustrated by the elastic defence and made only minimal gains. Following these initial successes, British forces engaged in a series of small-scale operations to consolidate the newly won positions. Although these battles were generally successful in achieving limited aims, these were gained at the price of relatively large numbers of casualties.

When the battle officially ended on 16 May, British Empire troops had made significant advances but had been unable to achieve a breakthrough. New tactics (embodied in SS. 135, Instructions for the Training of Divisions for Offensive Action and SS.143 Instructions for the Training of Platoons for Offensive Action) and the equipment to exploit them, with the platoon becoming the principal tactical unit, in four sections: Lewis gun, rifle grenade, bomber and rifle; with the creeping barrage, the graze fuze and counter-battery fire had been used, particularly in the first phase and had demonstrated that set-piece assaults against heavily fortified positions could be successful. This sector then reverted to the stalemate that typified most of the war on the Western Front.

Brize Norton and World War One

Arthur Faulkner

156th Heavy Bty. Royal Garrison Artillery (*see page 168*)
died 8 August 1917

Arthur's body lies in The Mendinghem Military Cemetery (*see page 131*) which was one of several casualty clearing stations in Belgium. It is likely that he was wounded in the Third Battle of Ypres, Passchendaele, and died of his wounds at Mendinghem.

The Battle of Passchendaele (or Third Battle of Ypres or "Passchendaele") took place on the Western Front, between July and November 1917, for control of the ridges south and east of the Belgian city of Ypres in West Flanders, as part of a strategy decided by the Allies at conferences in November 1916 and May 1917. Passchendaele lay on the last ridge east of Ypres, five miles from a railway junction at Roeselare, which was a vital part of the supply system of the German Fourth Army.

A campaign in Flanders was controversial in 1917 and has remained so. British Prime Minister Lloyd George opposed the offensive as did General Foch the French Chief of the General Staff. The British commander Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig did not receive approval for the Flanders operation from the War Cabinet until 25 July. Matters of dispute by the participants and writers and historians since the war have included the wisdom of pursuing an offensive strategy in the wake of the failed Nivelle Offensive, rather than waiting for the arrival of the American armies in France; the choice of Flanders over areas further south or the Italian front; the climate and weather in Flanders; Haig's selection of General Hubert Gough and the Fifth Army to conduct the offensive; debates over the nature of the opening attack

Brize Norton and World War One

between advocates of shallow and deeper objectives; the passage of time between the Battle of Messines and the opening attack of the Battles of Ypres; the extent to which the internal troubles of the French armies motivated British persistence in the offensive; the effect of mud on operations; the decision to continue the offensive in October once the weather had broken and the human cost of the campaign on the soldiers of the German and British armies.

William Joseph Garratt

Second Battalion the Royal Hampshire (*see page 170*)
died 6th August 1915 in capturing the heights of Chunuk Bair in Gallipoli, Turkey

6 AUGUST 1915

On this day began the August offensive at Anzac, aimed at capturing the heights of Chunuk Bair in the Sari Bair Range. Events recorded here reflect only the actions of British and Indian Army troops fighting at Anzac and Suvla between 6 August and 10 August.

At 2.30 pm at Helles elements of the British 29th Division attacked towards a feature known as the Vineyard. This attack, like that by the Australians at Lone Pine at Anzac, was aimed at holding down Turkish reinforcements from the main thrust of the August offensive — the night march up the Sari Bair range to take Chunuk Bair and Hill 971 and the British landings at Suvla Bay.

Brize Norton and World War One

Little progress was made in the Vineyard attack and the British 88th Brigade lost more than 2,000 men.

Along with Australian, New Zealand and British units, the 29th Indian Brigade — the 14th Sikhs, and 5th, 6th and 18th Gurkha Rifles — made their way from North Beach, Anzac, into the Sari Bair range and up towards Chunuk Bair and other peaks.

At 10.30 pm British troops began landing at Suvla Bay.

The Gallipoli peninsula lies in Turkey, forming one land side of the Dardanelles Straits, an historic waterway that links the Black Sea and the Aegean Sea. The peninsula is only 10 miles at the widest point and is about 45 miles long. Cape Helles lies at the southernmost tip. The terrain is inhospitable: it is a rocky, scrub-covered area with little water. The hills are steep-sided and are cut into deep gulleys and ravines. Among the hills which lie along the spine of the Peninsula, there are many peaks and valleys. The most important heights are the summits of Achi Baba (709 feet), which overlooks all of Cape Helles; and Sari Bair (971 feet) from which can be seen ANZAC beach and the Asian side of the Straits. At the southernmost (Aegean) tip are a number of small sandy beaches, and there are some small stretches of beach on the Western side too. There are no such beaches on eastern (Straits) side. To the North-West is a flat area surrounding a salt lake. There are no towns on the peninsula (although today holiday houses are being built around the coast). There are a number of small settlements, of which Krithia in the south and Bulair in the north are the most important.

Brize Norton and World War One



Now quiet again, the landing beaches of Gallipoli. This view of part of Anzac is courtesy of kale1915 at Panoramio, with thanks

Henry Frederick Godwin

Oxon and Bucks Light Infantry (*see page 163*)
died 25th September 1915 at the start of the Battle of Loos

The Battle of Loos was part of the wider Third Battle of Artois, itself part of a wider Allied attack on the German lines in the autumn of 1915 (First World War). 25 September saw the start of

Brize Norton and World War One

the Second Battle of Champagne, while in Artois the French attacked Vimy Ridge.

The British attack was to be launched by six divisions from Douglas Haig's First Army (three regular – the 1st, 2nd and 7th, two from the New Army – the 9th and 15th Scottish divisions and the 47th Territorial). Two reserve divisions – the 21st and 24th were in the vicinity, but Sir John French refused to release them to Haig's command before the battle, and on 25 September the reserves were six miles from the battlefield. The attack was preceded by a four day bombardment and would see the first use of poisoned gas by the British.

The Chlorine gas would be a great disappointment. It was released at 5.50 am, giving it forty minutes to do its work before the infantry attacked at 6.30. However, much of the gas either lingered in no mans land or drifted back over the British lines.

Despite this setback, the first British assault was a success. The German front line was breached, with the New Army divisions performing well. North of Loos the strong Hohenzollern redoubt fell to the 9th Division, while further south the village of Loos was captured. Early on the morning of 25 September Haig asked for the reserves to be sent in. French agreed, and ordered the two reserve divisions to join the attack.

Haig needed the reserves because of the nature of the German lines. Having decided to stay on the defensive in the west, and concentrate on winning the war in the East, the Germans had begun to dig in in earnest. Part of this preparation involved the creation of an entire second line of fortifications, running as far as three miles behind the first line. This gap made it very unlikely

Brize Norton and World War One

that any Allied attack could break through both German lines, and allowed the Germans to launch their own counterattacks once the Allied assaults ran out of energy.

By the end of 25 September the British had advanced to within a thousand yards of the German second line to the north of Loos. The reserve divisions were needed to attack this intact second line of defences. However, poor communications and poor planning, partly by French and partly by Haig, meant that the reserves didn't reach the original British lines until the end of 25 September. The next afternoon the 21st and 24th Divisions launched an attack in ten columns across the open ground in front of the German second line. Largely unaffected by the four day bombardment, the barbed wire in front of this second line was intact. The British advanced to the wire, taking horrific casualties all the time, and were then forced to retreat. The battle had been so one sided that many Germans stopped firing during the British retreat. By the end of the battle the 21st and 24th Divisions had lost 8,000 of their 15,000 infantry killed or wounded. This part of the fighting became known as the "corpse ground of Loos".

The battle continued for another three weeks. When the fighting finally died down, the British front line stood close to the line reached at the end of the first day, although the Germans had recaptured the Hohenzollern Redoubt. British losses at Loos were close to 50,000, with 16,000 dead and 25,000 wounded. Estimates of German casualty figures vary, but the most common figure is for a total of 25,000 losses, half the British figure. The autumn battles of 1915 all ended in a similar tale of Allied failure and heavy losses.

Brize Norton and World War One

Frank Lock

Grenadier Guards (*see page 160*)

died 7th October 1917 during the Battle of Passchendaele (July 31 – November 6, 1917) also known as the Third Battle of Ypres.

The Ypres battle honour has the oddity in that it was won by the Grenadier Guards 'twice'; once in 1914 in 1st Ypres and again in 1917 at 3rd Ypres. The first battle of Ypres lasted for four weeks, from 19 October to 20 November. The 1st and 2nd Battalions were pulled back into the Belgian town of Ypres in order to join the desperate defensive battle. The seven battalions suffered heavy losses and spent the remainder of the winter in and out of the trenches around Ypres and Loos. The 3rd Ypres, also known as the battle of Passchendaele, followed the successful advance of the Guards Brigade at the Somme. With the French close to outright mutiny the Guards Division moved North. It took three months to advance four miles over a front of some 1500 yards. The battle was bogged down and men were seen fighting often up to their knees in water. By the standards of the war casualties were modest which were between twenty-five and forty percent.

Frank came back to Brize Norton where he died from his injuries suffering from the effects of gas and eventually from tuberculosis.

Edwin John Miles

Oxon and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry (*see page 163*)

died 24th May 1918 near Robecq after the Battle of Lys

For much of the First World War, the villages of St. Venant and Robecq remained practically undamaged, but in April 1918,

Brize Norton and World War One

during the Battle of the Lys, the German line was established within 2 kilometres of the road that joins them.

Edwin was hit by a shell as described by Second Lieutenant. Arthur C Stowell .

"France 31st May 1918,

Dear Mrs Miles, it is with deepest regret, and a heartfelt sympathy that I write to you regarding the death of your son, Sergeant E. J. Miles. He was my Platoon Sergeant, and though only with us for one short month, he was loved and respected by all. We were more brothers to each other than sergeant and officer, and it was a great blow to me when I heard that he had been wounded by the very first shell we had that day (the 24th inst.) He died before I reached him, the only consolation being in the fact that he did not suffer, being unconscious from the first. He was buried with all honour beneath a big poplar tree, in an orchard behind the farm, known as 'Carvin Farm' a few hundred yards north of the village of Robece (Robecq). A cross has been erected to the memory of a God-fearing man, and a fine soldier, your son.

We have just completed an eight days tour in the trenches, dating from the 22nd. I have been unable to write to you before. May God give you all his strength and courage to face this your great trial and bring you back to happiness once more. My Colonel and Company Commander desire me to convey to you their deep sympathy. I should like to tell you that your son, when we were not fighting, treated all the boys as his children, never tiring in his efforts for their amusement and pleasure. He was the instigator of a topping little concert party, and was the

Brize Norton and World War One

life and soul of many a good laugh, from which alone we will always remember him. Never down-hearted in the trenches, I thought at times he took rather unnecessary risks, but he always insisted, saying it was good for the moral of the Platoon. I do hope you are not taking it too hard. God's will be done. Believe me, in deep sympathy yours very sincerely, Arthur C. Stowell, 2nd Lieut."

William Edward Parker

HMS Scott (see page 172)

died 15 August 1915 when torpedoed in the North Sea

An un-named source provided some details

"Had a quick look at my "Encyclopedia of Weapons and Warfare" and found that HMS Scott was a the leader of a destroyer class, of which Bruce, Douglas, Montrose, Campbell, Mackay, Malcolm were also part. Scott was built by Cammell Laird and completed in 1918. Scott, Bruce and Montrose were with the 10th Destroyer Flotilla at Harwich. Scott was torpedoed by a submarine and lost off the Dutch Coast on, as you say, Aug 15th, presumably on patrol in the Channel. I had a quick look in the PRO, Kew for the log book but the last log book that they have for the ship is dated 30th April 1918. Sorry, I didn't have any more time available to delve deeper for you. There is a copy of Jane's Fighting Ships for the period in the Portsmouth Library that I'll check out for you the next time I get there. Hope this little bit helps"

Brize Norton and World War One

See chapter 7 (*page 172*) for picture and more information.

Thomas W Powell MC

London Regiment, Welsh Regiment (*see page 182*) and then the Tank Corps (*see page 174*)

died 24 November 1918 having returned home to Brize Norton after being gassed at Loos and St Julien and, as his brother describes, at Cambrai.

Battle of St Julien (24 April — 5 May 1915)

Positions on about 30 April, before the British pullback.

The village of St. Julien had been comfortably in the rear of the 1st Canadian Division until the poison gas attack of 22 April, when it became the front line. Some of the first fighting in the village involved a hasty stop, which included the stand of Lance Corporal Frederick Fisher of the 13th Battalion CEF's machine-gun detachment; who twice went out with a handful of men and a Colt Machine-gun and prevented advancing German troops from passing through St. Julien, into the rear of the Canadian front line; Fisher was killed the next day using the same tactics.

On the morning of 24 April the Germans released another cloud of chlorine, towards the re-formed Canadian line just west of St. Julien. Word was passed among the Canadian troops to urinate on their handkerchiefs and place these over their noses and mouths. The counter measures were insufficient and German troops took the village. Next day the York and Durham Brigade units of the Northumberland Division counter-attacked, failed to

Brize Norton and World War One

secure their objectives but established a new line closer to the village. On 26 April the Northumberland Brigade attacked again and gained a foothold in the village but were forced back with the loss of more than 1,940 casualties. The 2nd Royal Dublin Fusiliers had hundreds of casualties and with no respite took part in the battles at Frezenberg and Bellewaarde. On 24 May the battalion was subject to a German chlorine gas attack near St. Julien and was nearly annihilated.

After the first German chlorine gas attacks, Allied troops were supplied with masks of cotton pads that had been soaked in urine. It was found that the ammonia in the pad neutralized the chlorine. These pads were held over the face until the gas dispersed. Other soldiers preferred to use handkerchiefs, a sock, a flannel body-belt, dampened with a solution of bicarbonate of soda, tied across the mouth and nose until the gas passed over. Soldiers found it difficult to fight like this and attempts were made to develop a better means of protecting men against gas attacks. By July 1915 soldiers were given efficient gas masks and anti-asphyxiation respirators.

Marcus John Timms

Oxon and Bucks Light Infantry (*see page 163*)
died 27nd April 1916

The 5th Service Battalion of the Oxon and Bucks Light Infantry landed in Bolougne on the 21 May 1915.

The British Fourth Army was formed in March 1916 and it took over the Somme battlefield from the British Third Army between Fonquevillers and Maricourt on the Somme river. The British

Brize Norton and World War One

operational plan for an offensive between Serre on the left wing and Maricourt on the right wing developed during April, May and June 1916. It was approved that the Third Army would commit two infantry divisions for a subsidiary attack at the same time as the main offensive against the heavily fortified German front at Gommecourt on the Fourth Army's northern left flank. On the other side of the wire opposite the British line north of the Somme river five German frontline divisions were in position to defend their Front Line, with four in reserve and/or at rest.

From the early spring of 1916 into June the Somme battlefield sector behind the British and French lines was the scene of a huge build-up of troops, artillery and equipment in preparation for the large-scale offensive against the German defensive line.

Later, the battalion saw action at Delville Wood at the 1916 Somme battle. However, Marcus died before this in the area between Arras and Bethune

Percival L Timms

Worcestershire Regiment (*see page 184*)
died 28th May 1913 during the Battle of Aisne.

The Third Battle of the Aisne was the third major offensive launched by the Germans on the Western Front in the summer of 1918. The first of those offensives, the Second Battle of the Somme, had come close to breaking the allied lines, threatening to split apart the British and French armies. The second, on the Lys River, had pushed the British line back, but had not had quite the same impact. Ludendorff then decided to launch a third attack on the French lines in the Chemin des Dames (Operation

Brize Norton and World War One

Blueher-Yorck). This would threaten Paris, and hopefully force the allies to concentrate their reserves in front of the city. If that happened, then the Germans would launch a new attack against the weakened British lines to the north.

Despite being described as a diversion, Ludendorff assembled a massive army for the attack on the Aisne. Forty one divisions supported by as many as 6,000 guns (1st Army under General Bruno von Mudra and 7th Army under General von Boehn) were lined up against sixteen Allied divisions, three of which were British divisions moved south for a rest after the fighting further north (French 6th Army under General Duchene).

The battle began with one of the most intense artillery bombardments of the war. The Germans fired some two million shells in four hours on the morning of 27 May and then launched their attack with seventeen divisions. The Allied lines on the Chemin des Dames were shattered. The Germans were able to advance thirteen miles on the first day of the battle, the single biggest advance since the beginning of trench warfare in 1914. The bridges across the Aisne were captured intact and the Germans began an advance towards the Marne.

The Allied response to this crisis was rather better organised than during the attack on the Somme. Twenty seven divisions were fed into the line between 28 May and 3 June. The German advance continued throughout May. Soissons was captured on 23 May. German troops crossed the Marne around Jaulgonne and on 30 May reached Chateau Thierry. German troops were now only thirty seven miles from Paris.

Brize Norton and World War One

This was as close as they would get. The advancing German troops had outrun their supplies. They had lost over 100,000 men in the battle (as did the Allies), and by the start of June had lost much of their numerical advantage. The battle also saw the appearance of large numbers of American troops in the front line for the first time. On 1 June the American 3rd Division had taken up the defence of Chateau Thierry, before launching a counter attack that forced the Germans back across the Marne. They were followed into action by the 2nd Division, who on 6 June attacked the German positions at Belleau Wood, to the north west of Chateau Thierry.

Jack Stanley Upstone

Oxon and Bucks Light Infantry (*see page 163*)
died 19 September 1917 during the Battle of Passchendaele.

The New Year of 1917 brought with it a period of severe weather conditions on the Somme plain which led to an unofficial truce between the two sides. In March 1917, the Germans began the withdrawal to the Hindenburg Line (14 March - 5 April) and at the end of March the 2nd Oxon and Bucks moved from the Somme to the back areas of Arras. The 2nd Oxon and Bucks and other battalions of the regiment saw much involvement in the Arras Offensive (9 April - 16 May), including at the Battles of Scarpe and Arleux. The 2nd Oxon and Bucks took part in the battle of Arras from 11 April and had a leading role in the battle of Arleux on 28-29 April: during the battle the battalion protected the right flank of the Canadian 1st Division which was critical to the capture of the village of Arleux and sustained more than 200 casualties.

Brize Norton and World War One

In the summer of 1917, the 2nd Oxon and Bucks held the line at Bailleulemont, near Arras. The battalions of the Oxon and Bucks saw further service in many of the subsidiary battles during the Battle of Passehendaele (also known as Third Ypres) that took place between 31 July- 6 November. Some of the battles that the Oxon and Bucks took part in included Menin Road and Polygon Wood in September and early October. The 2nd Oxon and Bucks and the 6th (Service) Battalion, Oxon and Bucks also took part in the Battle of Cambrai (20 November-3 December) that saw the first large-scale use of tanks by the British and was the last major battle of the year.

Jack is buried at the St Sever Cemetery extension in Rouen (*see page 145*) so he would have been brought there from the front following injury.

Albert J Wilkins

Lincolnshire Regiment (*see page 161*)

died 28th April 1917 during the Defence and capture of Roeux.

Albert was probably involved in the action involving the 10th Lincolns (Grimsby Chums) at Roeux 15th-30th April 1917. Briefly the Germans had retreated about a mile behind a gap in the Hindenburg line leaving fortified strongpoints manned with machine guns in the gap. The Chums who had recently been reinforced with raw recruits were ordered to make a (with hindsight) hasty attack with the rest of the 101st Brigade. Companies became separated and cut off in the open and took shelter in shell holes, the enemy counter attacked and surrounded many of the men.

Brize Norton and World War One

The attacks on the village of Roeux were part of the Battle of Arras (9 April - 17 May) carried out by the Third Army under the

command of General Allenby. Arras was to be the British contribution to the Allied Spring Offensive. Twelve divisions, with a further five in reserve, attacked on a 14-mile front between Vimy in the north and Croisilles in the south. The attack was intended to act as a diversion to prevent the Germans from feeding reinforcements further south where the French Army (commanded by General Nivelle) planned a major offensive on the Aisne. However, the latter was delayed by the German withdrawal to the Hindenburg line, and it was decided that the British attack should go ahead as planned.

On 23 April, a fourth attack was made on Roeux, this time by the 34th and 37th Divisions. The attack on the village itself being made by the 101 Brigade, with the 103 Brigade attacking north of the railway. A heavy bombardment preceded the advance, but as the 101 Brigade moved forward behind their creeping barrage they encountered blockhouses, bunkers and tunnels and again faced strong counter attacks, which drove them back, with few gains.

Edward Wilkins

Royal Berkshire Regiment (*see page 167*)
died 28th September 1916 following the Battle of Morval.

The 8th Battalion the Royal Berkshire Regiment were engaged in the Battle of Morval, 25-28 September 1916, was an attack during the Battle of the Somme by the British Fourth Army on the villages of Morval, Gueudecourt and Lesboeuks held by the

Brize Norton and World War One

German 1st Army, which had been the final objectives of the Battle of Flers-Courcelette (15-22 September). The main British attack was postponed to combine with attacks by the French Sixth Army on the village of Combles, south of Morval, which were intended to bring the Sixth Army closer to the German defences between Moislains and Le Transloy, near the Péronne-Bapaume road (N 17). The combined attack from the Somme river north to Martinpuich on the Albert-Bapaume road, was also intended to deprive the German defenders further west near Thiepval of reinforcements, before an attack by the Reserve Army, due on 26 September. The postponement was extended from 21-25 September because of rain, which affected operations more frequently during September.

Combles, Morval, Lesboeufs and Gueudecourt were captured and many casualties inflicted on the Germans. The French made slower progress near the inter-army boundary, due to the obstruction of St Pierre Vaast Wood to the French attack north towards Sailly and Sailly-Saillisel. The inter-army boundary was moved north from 27-28 September to allow the French more room to deploy their forces but the great quantity of German artillery fire limited the French advance. The Fourth Army advance on 25 September was its deepest since 14 July and left the Germans in severe difficulties, particularly in a salient which developed to the north-east of Combles, although tiredness and lack of reserves prevented the Fourth Army exploiting its success beyond patrolling and cavalry probes. The Reserve Army attack began on 26 September in the Battle of Thiepval Ridge.

Deteriorating weather and the shorter days greatly increased British and French transport difficulties. Rain and fog grounded aircraft and impeded artillery observation. Mud reduced the blast

Brize Norton and World War One

effect of shells and immobilised infantry, which favoured the defenders. A small number of tanks joined in the battle later in the afternoon, after having been held back because of the later start and reduced a number of German strongpoints, which had withstood earlier attacks.

Edward died in Rouen in one of the military hospitals where the wounded were taken and he was buried in the St Sever Cemetery (*see page 145*).

Brize Norton and World War One

Chapter 9 - Timeline & Centenary Celebration

We can put the names of those who fell into chronological order of the date they died and plot on a map the locations of each memorial. Chapter 8 is a discussion of which battles they were fighting in when they died and these can be related to their memorials.

Name	Died	Aged	
Charles Henry Archer	16/05/1915	36	Le Touret
William Joseph Garratt	06/08/1915	22	Helles
Henry Frederick Godwin	25/09/1915	19	Loos
Marcus John Timms	27/04/1916	24	Souchez
Ernest Bellenger	05/07/1916	26	Thiepval
Edward Wilkins	28/09/1916	29	Rouen
Albert Edward Blackwell	25/04/1917	23	Salonika
Albert J Wilkins	28/04/1917	24	Roeux
Albert Edward Faulkner	03/05/1917	25	Arras
Harold Castle	22/06/1917	29	Vendhuile
Arthur Faulkner	08/08/1917	22	Mendinghem
Jack S Upstone	10/09/1917	23	Rouen
Frank Lock	07/10/1917	26	Brize Norton
John Castle	23/01/1918	29	Pozieres
Edwin John Miles	24/05/1918	28	Robecq

Brize Norton and World War One

Percival L Timms	28/05/1918	19	La Ville Aux Bois
William Edward Parker	15/08/1918	29	Noordvijk
Thomas W Powell	24/11/1918	25	Brize Norton

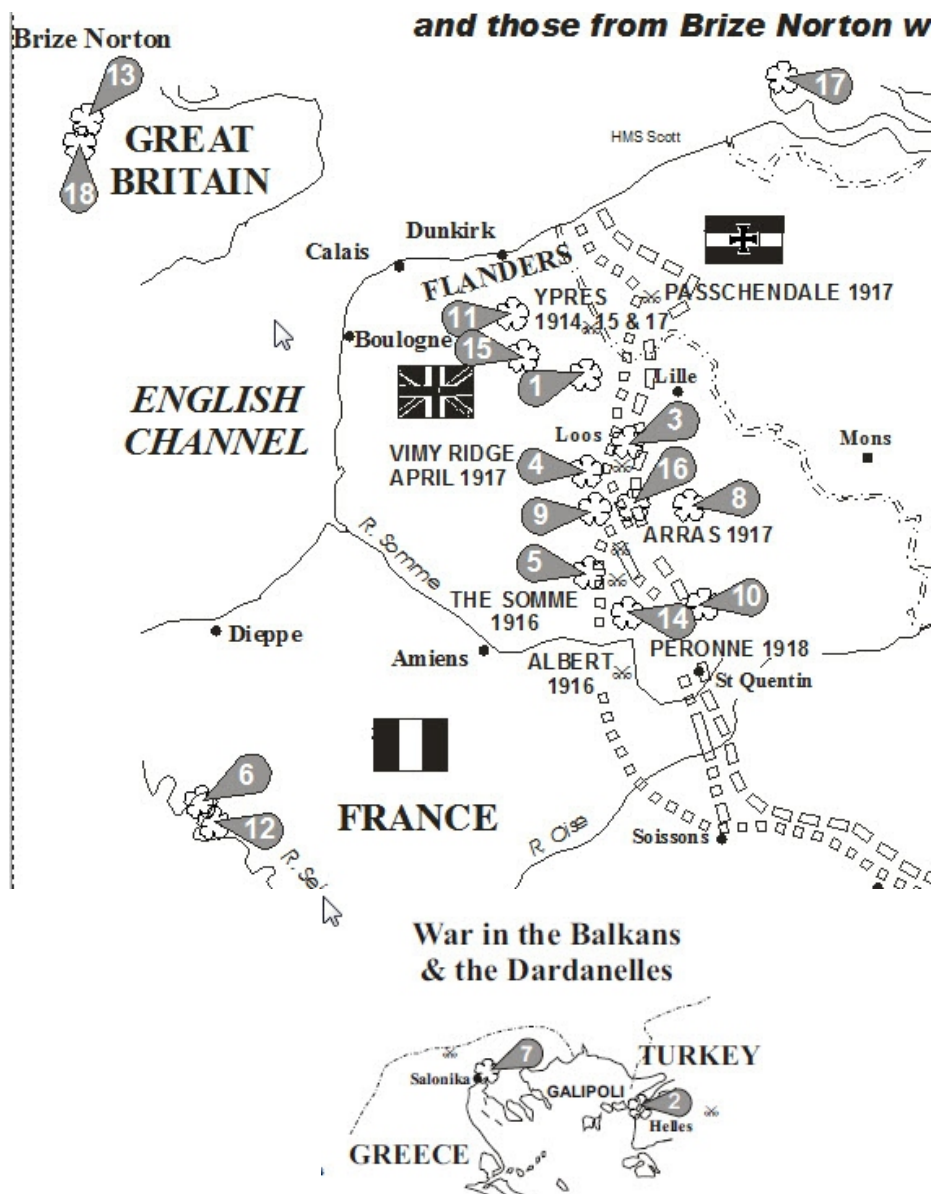
In this way we can illustrate the spread of their memorials across Europe and in the Balkans and the Dardenelles. Using a numbered key we can plot the progress of the War across the continent.

Key	Name	Died	Aged	Memorial
1	Charles Henry Archer	16/05/1915	36	Le Touret
2	William Joseph Garratt	06/08/1915	22	Helles
3	Henry Frederick Godwin	25/09/1915	19	Loos
4	Marcus John Timms	27/04/1916	24	Souchez
5	Ernest Bellenger	05/07/1916	26	Thiepval
6	Edward Wilkins	28/09/1916	29	Rouen
7	Albert Edward Blackwell	25/04/1917	23	Salonika
8	Albert J Wilkins	28/04/1917	24	Roeux
9	Albert Edward Faulkner	03/05/1917	25	Arras

Key	Name	Died	Aged	Memorial
10	Harold Castle	22/06/1917	29	Vendhuile
11	Arthur Faulkner	08/08/1917	22	Mendinghem
12	Jack S Upstone	10/09/1917	23	Rouen
13	Frank Lock	07/10/1917	26	Brize Norton
14	John Castle	23/01/1918	29	Pozieres
15	Edwin John Miles	24/05/1918	28	Robecq
16	Percival L Timms	28/05/1918	19	La Ville Aux Bois
17	William Edward Parker	15/08/1918	29	Noordvijk
18	Thomas W Powell	24/11/1918	25	Brize Norton

The results are shown in two frames - one for Western Europe and one for the Balkans and Dardenelles.

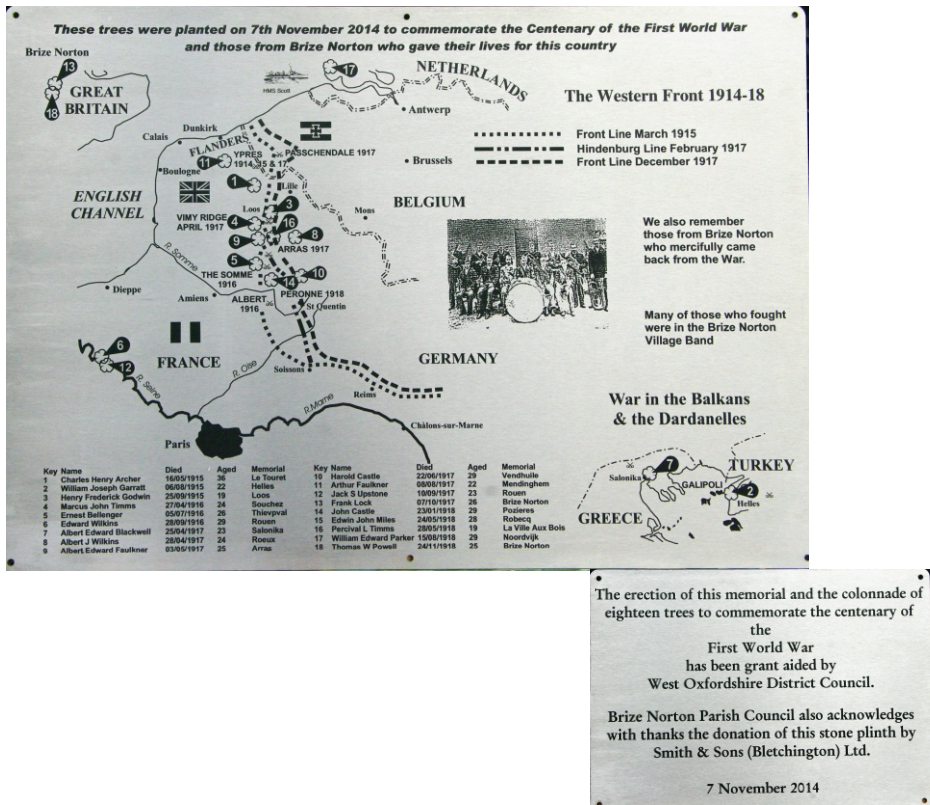
Brize Norton and World War One



Brize Norton and World War One

Using this information we have created a stainless steel etched plaque that will sit on a stone plinth alongside the 18 Lombardy Popular Trees planted in Brize Norton Recreation Ground to celebrate the centenary of the First World War. The date of this commemoration is 7th November 2014.

Here is a photo of the actual plaque together with the acknowledgement.



|BRIZE NORTON REMEMBERS

I



WW 1 CENTENARY COMMEMORATION

**On FRIDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2014
At THE RECREATION GROUND,
STATION ROAD, BRIZE NORTON
At 2PM**

**AND AFTERWARDS AT THE ELDERBANK HALL
FOR LIGHT REFRESHMENTS**

Brize Norton and World War One

The war memorial that stands in front of the village church of St Britius lists the names of the 18 village servicemen who were killed in the 1914-1918 Great War. To commemorate the anniversary of the start of the war Brize Norton Parish Council have planted a colonnade of 18 Lombardy poplar trees on the boundary of the Recreation Ground together with a natural stone plinth from a local quarry. A plaque attached to the plinth details an outline map of Europe showing the location of Brize Norton and the places where the fallen fought and are buried. Most lie on the along the Western Front (France/Belgium border). The plaque details the names and where they are laid to rest and illustrates that our villagers served in many theatres of war. These ordinary men and boys of the village made an extraordinary journey from Brize Norton and paid the ultimate sacrifice in serving their country in The Great War.

Brize Norton Parish Council would like to thank the following for their help in this commemoration event:

Grant aided by



WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL

West Oxfordshire District Council for their grant aid support.

The Directors of Smiths of Bletchington for the donation of the memorial plinth, the stonemasonry and fitting of the plaque.

Dr Phil Holmes for the computer design of the plaque and sourcing of the engraver Croft Castings Ltd. Also for his ongoing research and recording of the lives and times of the WW1 servicemen who were resident in the village – those who fell and also those who returned.

The staff and children of Brize Norton Primary School.

Mr Fred Bellenger, Mr Jason Peach and Mr Tony Robey.

Are you a descendent of those listed on the war memorial or of servicemen resident in the village who fought and returned from the war? If you have memorabilia of letters, photos or family stories that you would be happy to share with a view to them being recorded in a book that is being compiled by Dr Phil Holmes please contact The Clerk of the Parish Council, Mrs Carolyn Peach, 01993 844102 or clerk@brizenortonparishcouncil.co.uk.

Brize Norton and World War One

BRIZE NORTON REMEMBERS

WWI Commemoration – order of ceremony

Opening address - Councillor Keith Glazier, Chairman of Brize Norton Parish Council

Crosses placed around trees - The children of Brize Norton Primary School

Letters 'To the Front' written by Brize Norton Primary School children year 6 - Matthew Webster, Charlie Anderson, Gracie Lavers, Martha Weedon

Soldiers of Joint Air Delivery Test and Evaluation Unit parade by trees

Royal British Legion representatives take up post

Address by Chairman of West Oxfordshire District Council
Councillor Norman McRae and ceremonial planting of trees

Reading of the names of the fallen

Address by The Vice Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, Mr John Harwood and the unveiling of the commemoration plaque and stone

Service of commemoration and dedication of memorial plaque, stone and trees led by Padre David Vince

ALL STAND

Reading from the poem 'For the Fallen' by Laurence Binyon - Mike Henderson and Jim Lewendon

ALL RESPOND "WE WILL REMEMBER THEM"

The Last Post – bugler Mr Matthew Harris

The Minutes silence

Reveille

Soldiers of JADTEU and members of the British Legion march off

Please take some time for quiet reflection to view the commemorative plaque and read the letters to the individual servicemen that are affixed to the tree supports. Preview copies of Phil Holmes' book are available to view.

The Brize Norton Parish Council welcome you all to take light refreshments of tea, coffee, cake and biscuits at the Elderbank Hall.

Brize Norton and World War One



Brize Norton and World War One



Brize Norton and World War One

Children's letters to the fallen

Charles Henry Archer

Dear Charles Henry Archer,

We are from Brize Norton School and our names are Charlie and Evie. Charlie's full name is Charles (like you!) Edward Anderson and Evie's full name is Eva Lily Reid. Charlie likes playing FIFA and playing football and Evie likes climbing trees and being outdoors. We wonder what you liked to do in your spare time. When Charlie is older he wants to be a footballer and Evie wants to be a traveller.

We know you had a family - was it hard to leave them. Did you want to be a soldier? Did you have a best friend? If so, what was his name? We found out you went to war twice you must have been a good hardworking soldier. What made you want to fight again? When you joined the forces did you fit in or was it hard?

When we were researching, we found out that you earned lots of medals including the Victory and 15 Star medals. You must have been very brave and fought courageously. We found out that the trenches were very cramped and smelly so it must have been very difficult.

We thank you for risking your life for us. If it wasn't for you Britain wouldn't be like how it is today. Thank you for serving our country and making us proud again.

Yours sincerely,

Charlie and Evie

Brize Norton and World War One

William Joseph Garratt

Dear William Joseph Garrett,

We are Year 6 children at Brize Norton Primary School and our names are Holly and Caitlyn. Our friends call us Caitin and Katie as well as Hols. We know that your nickname is Bill and that you used to play in a band. Is this what you wanted to do when you were older? Holly has always wanted to run a cake business and Caitlyn wants to be a vet.

We know that your parents were called Annie and William Garrett. We also have found out that you had four siblings that were called George, Charles, Frederick and Nora. Caitlyn has two older brothers called George and Tom and one older sister called Sarah. When we found out that you worked as a horseman on a farm, we thought about Caitlyn's father who also works on his farm with lots of animals. When we found out that you came from a family of five we tried to imagine what it was like to be in the trenches, away from your family for four years. When we did the research, we found it hard to imagine ourselves in your position - with the bombs raining down hard and fast as well as rats running around the floor. It must have been a difficult time for you and the other soldiers.

While we were researching, we came up with some questions that we would like to ask you. Did you miss your family while you were away? We would find it hard to be away from our families. Did you feel proud that you were fighting for your country?

Thank you for fighting for our country and giving us freedom. We are proud of you; we will remember and honour you

Yours sincerely,

Caitlyn and Holly

Brize Norton and World War One

Henry Frederick Godwin

Dear Henry Fredrick Godwin,

We are Daniel and Connor from Brize Norton Primary School. Connor was born in Wiltshire and has also lived in Lincolnshire and Cyprus. Daniel has lived in Brize Norton his whole life. We are in Year 6, Class 4 and are aged 10 and 11. Daniel wants to be a football player when he is older, and Connor wants to be a commercial airline pilot for British Airways.

We found it very interesting to see that you were awarded the Victory, British War and 15 Star medals. You were obviously very brave and courageous throughout the war. We were wondering what age you were when you joined the army? In our research we found out that you died at the age 19. We can only imagine how sad and heartbroken your family were.

We know that you had four brothers; did any of them also join the forces? We heard that you went missing - did you sometimes feel like running away? We know that you worked at Kilkenny Farm and wonder what job you did there. We also know that your dad was a shepherd. Was Kilkenny Farm owned by your dad? What was it like in the trenches? We cannot imagine how difficult it must have been.

Thank you for serving our country - you were very brave and we are extremely grateful. Thank you for putting your life at risk to save our country. Thank you for making our county proud.

Yours sincerely,

Connor and Daniel.

Brize Norton and World War One

Marcus John Timms

Dear Marcus John Timms,

We are from Brize Norton Primary School and we are in Year 6, Class 4. We are ten and eleven years old and a mix of boys and girls. We wonder what you liked doing in your spare time. We like playing video games, playing sport and writing stories. When we are older, Dylan wants to be a marine biologist or a lifeguard and Amy wants to be an author of fantasy novels or a professional badminton player. We see that your family enjoyed the game of cricket and we also play cricket at school too!

We found it very interesting that before the war you worked as a butcher. We have friends who are butchers, and believe it is very hard work. Both of us have brothers or sisters, like you. We know you had two nicknames, and wonder if your friends called you Young Mark or Jack in the war? We also want to know what your most prized possession was.

We have researched life in the trenches during our lessons and cannot believe the awful conditions that you had to endure whilst fighting in the trenches for our country. We are truly grateful for the sacrifice you made for the future. Thank you for going to fight in the war and for our freedom.

Yours sincerely,

Amy and Dylan

Brize Norton and World War One

Ernest Bellenger

Dear Ernest Bellenger,

We are from Brize Norton Primary School and we are from Class 4, Year 6 and we are both 10 years old. We wonder how you got your nickname of Nickut. Tatianna's nickname is Tea but Lucas doesn't have one. In our spare time, Lucas likes to play sports and read, and Tatianna likes to style hair and dance. Tatianna's ambition is to be a business lady and Lucas wants to be an architect.

We found it very interesting that you were a Lance Corporal in the war. Also during research, we found out that you have an older sister and brother and three younger siblings. Lucas has one younger sister and Tatty has one older sister and two younger siblings. We understand that you worked at Kilkenny farm so you must have been hard working as you sometimes worked in a quarry too. You must have been a good leader as you were leader of the choir boys. Did you enjoy being in charge?

Whilst researching, we thought of lots of questions that we wish to ask you. What was your favourite job to do in the trenches? Were you forced to go to war? Did you enjoy being at war?

We thank you for saving our country for us and fighting for our freedom. We honour and remember your sacrifice as well as making our country proud. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Tatianna and Lucas

Brize Norton and World War One

Edward Wilkins

Dear Edward Wilkins,

We go to Brize Norton Primary School and we are in Year 6, Class 4. We wonder what you liked doing in your spare time. We like playing football, playing with our pet cats, playing FIFA and pranking people. When we are older, Alex would like to be a BASE jumper and Lily, a designer. Alex's nickname is Chicken and Lily's is Lilabell. We found out your nickname is Ted, and we wonder how you got it.

We know you worked as a shopkeeper's assistant and stopped kids stealing broken biscuits. You must have been reliable and strong with your words as people obviously listened to you. You grew up in the village with your family - what was Brize Norton like then? When we were researching about you, we found out you wanted to be an officer. What was life like during the war? Did you want to go to war or did you have to?

Thank you for serving our country and fighting for our freedom. You risked your life for others. Your determination and courage has made this country very proud. Thank you for everything.

Yours sincerely,

Lily and Alex

Albert Edward Blackwell

Dear Albert Edward Blackwell,

I come from Brize Norton Primary School and I am 11 years old. I wonder where you got your nickname of Bert from. My nickname is Nemo which I got from school. In my spare time, I like feeding animals in my dad's zoo and baking with my mum. When I am older, I would like to be a zoo keeper because I would like to follow in my dad's footsteps.

I found out lots of different facts about you when I was researching. I know you had two older brothers called Walter and Harold; I have an

Brize Norton and World War One

older brother called Jai. I also know that you were an odd-job man so you must have been very helpful at work but also very tired at the end of the day.

I have never heard of the illness myelitis - it must have been a shock for you and your family. I have a lot of interesting questions that I would like to ask you such as: did you miss your family when you were away? I would find it really hard. Was it exciting being able to go to war? I bet it was very interesting but I would be really scared. Did you feel proud? I would find it quite an experience.

Thank you for risking your life for us and serving our country. Thank you for your determination and living in the terrible conditions. Thank you for being around when we needed it. And finally thank you for giving us freedom.

Yours sincerely,

Niemi

Albert J Wilkins

Dear Albert J. Wilkins,

We are from Brize Norton Primary School and we are in Year 6, Class 4 and we are both 10 years old. We know you had a nickname of Bert; Alex's is Buster and Gracie's is Geeps. When Alex is older he wants to be a rugby player or a chef and Gracie wants to be an actress and own a sweet shop.

We know you had two sisters - one who was older called Elizabeth, and a younger sister called Annie. Alex has an older sister called Georgie and his nanny is called Annie. Gracie had a younger sister called Cerys. We think you must have been hard working because you worked on a farm. We also know that you worked on a market stall and sold lots of produce and always brought back a big slab of dripping for your mother's kitchen. That was very kind and thoughtful of you.

Brize Norton and World War One

Did you sign up for the war or would you have liked to carry on working at the market and on the farm? What were the trenches like? We have an idea that the trenches were muddy, wet and cold with a constant terror of being killed but we are sure they were much worse than we can imagine. We can't picture elephants being used during the war. Did you ever witness an elephant? Did you make friends in the trenches?

Thank you for serving our country and giving your life in World War 1 and being loyal to our king and our country. Thank you for risking your life for future generations. If it wasn't for your sacrifice, our country wouldn't be what it is today.

Yours sincerely,

Alex and Gracie

Albert Edward Faulkner

Dear Albert Edward Faulkner,

We are from Brize Norton Primary School and we are in Year 6, Class 4. We are both 10 years old and our class is a mix of boys and girls. We wonder what you liked to do in your spare time. Barney likes to cuddle his dog and play with his cat and Amelie likes swimming and walking her dog. When we grow up, Barney wants to be a film director, a spy or a footballer and Amelie wants to be a vet so she can work with animals.

We know that your nickname was Bert or Swinny - Barney's nickname is either Barney Boo or Barnabus but Amelie doesn't have a nickname. We heard you were bright and cheeky so you must have been lots of fun and very popular. We also know that you had a younger sister called Bessie - did you get along with her? Barney has a younger sister too, called Martha. We know that you used to be in a cricket club so you must have enjoyed playing sport. Did you feel proud joining the army? Did your friends join too?

You have made this country proud by serving in World War 1 and you have not died in vain. Thank you for risking your life to save others.

Brize Norton and World War One

Yours sincerely,

Barney and Amelie

Harold Castle

Dear Private Harold Castle,

Hello, we are Zachary and Daisy from year 5 at Brize Norton Primary School and we've been doing some research on soldiers from Brize Norton, who played a part in WW1 and your name came up.

We are here to today to give you a huge thank you because without you and the other men that went to war there is the chance that things could have been completely different: not only here in Brize, but in the whole world.

You should have been extremely proud of volunteering to fight for your county in order to gain peace. We are truly sorry to hear that you had to abandon your family for the lives of others, which was an amazing sacrifice; on you part, but look what you achieved. You helped to save millions of lives just by being there and serving you country with bravery and determination.

We would like to tell you a bit about us. Zach is ten years old whilst Daisy is nine. Daisy's life ambition is to be an inventor and Zach's is to be a top surgeon. We both live in Oxfordshire which means that we are connected to you (in a way). We also, like you, attend Brize Norton School.

Given the same circumstances we are not sure if either of us would have volunteered to join up as you did. You were extremely brave; you stepped up and put your life on the line for others. We can only imagine what it would have been like in the trenches, but not 100%. It must have been vile clambering over dead bodies whilst the sound of cannons and bombs filled the background. You must have lived with the constant thought of death passing through you mind, even when you were asleep.

Brize Norton and World War One

What happened to you in the war is beyond our understanding, but the good thing about 2014 is that we can still remember and honour all the amazing war heroes today. Thank you for putting your life on the line to save others. We know that the world can seem like an absolutely evil place, but believe us when we say there is more good in it than bad; you just have to look hard enough.

Yours sincerely,

Zach and Daisy.

Arthur Faulkner

Dear Arthur Faulkner,

Our names are Jai and Rosie. We are both nine years old, year five students at Brize-Norton School. Our class has been researching about people from Brize-Norton who fought during WW 1 and your name came up. We know that you worked during the war as a bomb engineer -which sounds pretty terrifying to us.

We sit here and wonder if you actually wanted to fight in the war. We know that before the war you worked as a policeman in Birmingham. To be a good policeman you need to be; loyal, disciplined, inspiring, brave and heroic and we think that these are the same qualities that you need to be a good soldier, so we know that you must have been prepared, in the most part, for your life as a soldier.

We are writing to you today, in the centenary year of WW1, to thank you for all you did for your country and fellow villagers in Brize Norton. Being in the trenches, as you were, must have been vile and a million miles away from the peace of village life in Brize-Norton, that we experience and you must remember from your childhood.

Thank you for your bravery and courage and for all that you have done for us. We will remember you.

Yours sincerely,

Brize Norton and World War One

Jai and Rosie.

Jack S Upstone

Dear Jack Stanley Upstone,

We are Sean-Rhys Williams and Michaela Louise Stevens who are in Year Five at Brize Norton School. We have been thinking about WW1 in its centenary year and decided to research about the soldiers from Brize-Norton, who fought during the First World War and your name came up.

We share Brize-Norton as a connection with you and feel excited to write this letter, to thank a fellow villager for what they have done, not only for us, but for our country. We found out that before the war you worked on Tom Pratt's farm, which shows us that you must have been very hard working. We think that this work may have helped to prepare you for the long work hours and discipline that you need as a soldier.

We also know that you had two brothers; Joe and Jim. Jim enlisted before the war and whilst we do not know what happened to him, we do know that Joe luckily survived the war and received regimental sergeant major and D.C.M. Sadly you, like so many others, did not survive the war. Despite being evacuated to a military hospital in Rouen, on your second trip to France, you died there from your injuries.

We realise and appreciate that your sacrifices have helped to give us freedom and opportunities. Sean, who is ten, enjoys fishing and wants to be a car designer after school. Whereas Michaela, who is nine, likes art and when she grows up she wants to be a famous actor and live in Hollywood.

Perhaps, because of the war, your dreams were not realised. You were incredibly courageous to fight in the trenches and were brave enough to defend your country for which you risked and sadly lost your life. Your country honours you and your brothers and all those who fought during WW1.

Brize Norton and World War One

Thank you Jack Stanley Upstone, you will live on as long as we remember your courage and sacrifice.

Yours sincerely,

Sean-Rhys and Michaela Louise.

Frank Lock

Dear Frank Lock,

One hundred years have passed in Brize Norton since the start of WW1 and you are still on our minds. We are truly grateful for everything you did for us. To face the horrors of war and to sacrifice your life for others means you are a true hero and should be remembered today and always.

We and our classmates, in Year Five at Brize Norton School, have been researching the history of men from Brize who fought during the First World War. We've seen pictures of the trenches and they look dreadful, but they're only images and we can't imagine what it was like to have actually been there, to directly witness it and hear the screaming of the bombs, the weeping of the shocked and deafened soldiers and the terror of seeing the injured and mortally wounded. The war was awful.

We know that before the war you helped your father run the Carpenter Arms pub (which some people called 'The Axe'). This work must have helped you to develop your communication skills, which we are sure made you a good person to have in a team.

You are not forgotten and are remembered with honour at Brize Norton Churchyard.

Yours sincerely,

Mia and Catherine.

Brize Norton and World War One

John Castle

Dear John Castle,

My name is Stuey and this is Issy. Issy and I have been researching about you because you went to Brize Norton Primary school like us. Sometimes we sit and wonder about how you and your family felt when you went off to war.

Now a little about us: we are both ten years old and Stuey's hobby is tennis, whereas Issy's hobby is baking cakes. Stuey likes playing with his pet dog, Rosie, and Issy likes playing with her pet tortoise, Toby. When Stuey is older he would like to be an inspector and when Issy's older she would like to be a hair dresser.

We know you had two brothers (Harold and Tom) and two sisters. We also know that your parents were both farmers. You were a very brave man because you won 14 star medals and that must have been a great honour for you.

A hundred years ago you chose to go to war even though you could have stayed on the farm. We respect and salute your courage to enlist. We know that you were 29 years old when you died with your dreams not realised. We acknowledge and appreciate the sacrifice that you made.

You will always be remembered as a terrific man for your bravery and we are very grateful for not only saving Brize Norton, but the whole country. Every year on the 11th of November, we wear poppies with pride to remember you and the many thousands of soldiers who died in battle.

Yours sincerely,

Issy and Stuey.

Brize Norton and World War One

Edwin John Miles

Dear Edwin John Miles,

We are Amy and William from Year 5 at Brize Norton School. Amy is from Burford and William from Carterton. William likes football, swimming and rugby, and dreams of becoming a footballer and scoring lots of goals. Whereas Amy likes running, having fun with friends, climbing and has dreams of being a vet or an Olympic runner.

We have been inspired by your WW1 story and were wondering what it would be like to be in a soldier's shoe. This is what we found out; we understand that you used to work in Barnes shop after becoming a farmer (as a matter of fact we learned about Barnes shop in a class topic) and found it interesting. We know that Barnes shop sold things like; children's toys and candles to sacks of currants and broken biscuits in tins.

When you enlisted to fight in the war as a soldier it must have been terrifying and you must have been a very courageous and brave person. Whilst we were learning about WW1 we came across some pictures of trenches. They look dreadful, but they are just pictures and what we were seeing was probably nowhere near how horrible it really was to be bunched together with a group of unknown people. To be put in a muddy trench that smelt horrible must have been absolutely horrendous. We feel so bad for you. Not seeing your family would have been heart breaking. Looking at these pictures we wondered if you took a photograph of your family with you to keep their memory with you forever.

Unfortunately you died early; however, you were awarded the Victory British War Medal (how proud your family must have been) as well as 15 star medals. So lastly to Edwin John Mills we must say a huge thank you for risking everything for us to have a decent future.

One hundred years have passed and it is important for you to know what a great part you played in the war. No one will forget the sacrifice you made and we appreciate you bravery. So, for one last time, a massive THANK YOU.

Brize Norton and World War One

Yours sincerely,

Amy and Will.

Percival L Timms

Dear Percival Timms,

Our names are Shaye and Grace and we are writing from Year Five at Brize Norton Primary School, where we have been studying about the men from Brize Norton Village who fought in WW1.

We both like horse riding and you must have been very close to horses as you worked on a farm. We wondered if you worked with the horses on the battlefields and if the horses were as terrified and as frightened as the young soldiers were.

One hundred years have passed since the start of WW1, yet we still all remember what you did for Brize village and the whole country. It must have been terrible being in the trenches. We have a picture in our minds of the horror but the reality must have been so much worse. We can't imagine living with the constant fear of death and watching your friends die in front of you.

We are very grateful for what you have done for us. In our lives you are very special and you will always be remembered. Thank you very much for your sacrifices. Your family and friends must have been very proud of you and we wear poppies every year to remember the brave soldiers that died.

Yours sincerely,

Grace and Shaye

Brize Norton and World War One

William Edward Parker

Dear Leading Seaman William Edward Parker,

We are Finlay and Matthew and have, along with our classmates in Year Five at Brize-Norton School, been looking back one-hundred years at what you, and other people from Brize, did for your country during WW1.

But first a bit about us: Fin wants to be an engineer when he is older while Matthew wants to be a famous footballer.

Now back to you. We know how you risked your lives to save the other people's lives. We are so grateful for this. You must have been really brave to just go out there and risk your life for everyone. Your selfless actions have given us the opportunity to do the best that we can and make a difference in the world today, just like you did in your day.

Your relatives and friends are very proud at what you did for us. We are planting a tree in your honour. Your death was very upsetting but inspiring. We know you got the Victory and British war medals. We have found out your boat was the HMS Scott. It is very unfortunate that your boat sank in the northern sea in 1917. But you should know that you made a huge impact to our modern day lives.

We have also got a few questions for you:

What was the atmosphere like on the boat?

Why did you sign up for the war in the first place?

Were you forced to join up?

We thank you for what you did. You should be proud of yourself as we are of you. May your name be remembered in Brize Norton until the world ends.

Brize Norton and World War One

Yours sincerely

Matthew and Finlay

Thomas W Powell

Dear Captain Thomas W Powell,

One hundred years have passed since the start of WW1, yet we still remember the sacrifices you made for your country and here for us at Brize- Norton.

My name is Martha and I am a year five pupil at Brize-Norton School, where I also live and am a member of the local Brownies. I believe that you were a teacher before you were a soldier and as a matter of fact my dream job is to be a teacher too.

As I sit here and write this letter I realise how much you must have missed home. Never being able to see you children grow and celebrate Christmas and birthdays with your family. We respect and realise what sacrifices you made for us. I am so sorry that you never saw your children grow up.

I feel honoured to be writing to somebody who was awarded the Military Cross: you must have been extremely brave to be awarded such a prestigious award. Your two brothers, mother and father must have been so proud of you.

Being a tank commander must have been a really tricky and challenging job, but you carried on no matter what until the fateful day in action when your life sadly came to an end. But we will always remember what you have done for us and will never forget you.

So thank you Captain Powell for everything you have done for us, we will always remember you. I feel proud of men like you who went to a foreign land to fight in order to make a better future. We are planting these trees today in memory of you and your friends and family. I am proud to

Brize Norton and World War One

be a part of this piece of history today. Thank you: we remember your life and sacrifice with honour.

Yours sincerely,

Martha.



Brize Norton and World War One



Brize Norton and World War One

Brize Norton and World War One

Chapter 10 - Others who fought

What about others from the village who fought and mercifully came back?

We have a good start with an item in the Witney Gazette from the time:

AUG-DEC 1914 BRIZE NORTON MEN WHO JOINED UP
(source Witney Gazette with thanks to Wendy Morgan). Those who died are highlighted in red.

*For the first three months of the Great War in August-December 1914 many young men from towns and villages rushed to 'do their bit' for King and Country but also for the thrill of adventure. Brize Norton men, of all ages, were amongst them and here is a list of those who left the village to fight during those three months. **Charles Archer**; **Ernest**, George and William Bellenger; **Albert Blackwell**; Charles and Frank Cambray; Aubrey and **John** Castle; Albert, Jacob and William Drinkwater; Frederick Eeles; George and **William Garratt**; **Henry Godwin**; Richard, Frederick and Henry Hunt; Albert Johnson; Cecil Kekewich; Albert Packer; James and **Albert Parker**; Alfred, Frederick, Richard and Ewart Phipps; Howell, David and **Thomas** Powell; Thomas Sanders; Edward Sturges; Edward, Albert, Henry, Mark and William Timms; Harry and William Tovey; James, Joseph and John Upstone; John and Joseph Winfield. Nine of those men are noted on our War Memorial as casualties.*

Brize Norton and World War One

That was 45 men, born or living in Brize Norton, who joined up in the first three months of war. How many more from the village would do so during the next four years?

We have correlated the Witney Gazette list of those who joined up between August to December 1914 with the 1911 Census and the School Admissions register. We have also searched for military records on ancestry.co.uk with the results shown in the following table. The initials in the medal column are V - The Victory Medal, B - the British War Medal and S - the 1914 or 1915 Star.

Where we can find no record pertaining to that person, despite a mention in the Witney Gazette article the row is put in italics. Otherwise the columns are marked where we can find relevant data. There may be a number of reasons for our failure to find records. The person may not have gone to school in Brize Norton or not be resident when the 1911 census was taken. The military records in ancestry.co.uk may be absent or without a identifiable address - we know of many miss-spellings of, for example, Brize Norton or of surnames. Another reason may be that the Witney Gazette approached village families who reported that a member of their family had joined up even though they did not live in Brize Norton. We have reported what we have found thus far!

There will also be people identified from the 1911 Census who come into the age range for call up - we know that over time the age of compulsory recruitment increased and fewer were exempted because of their work on the land or in a reserved occupation. An appendix gives a list of "eligible" males sorted by age. It should be noted that we have no other military records on amazon.co.uk matched by place of residence.

Brize Norton and World War One

Cname	Mname	Sname	DOB	Age 1911	Gazette	Census	Sc	Military	Medal	Reg No	Regiment
Bertie		Archer			?	✓	✓	✓		7071	Royal Engineers
Bertie		Archer			?	✓	✓	✓		5418	Oxon & Bucks Light Infantry
Betram	Thomas	Acher	14/10/1881	28		✓	✓	✓	VB	307343	Royal Tank Corp
Ernest		Archer			WG	x	x				
George		Archer			WG	x	x				
George		Archer			WG	x	x				
George	Edward	Bellenger	22/03/1892	19	✓	✓	✓	✓	VB	94876	Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire) regiment
Charles	<u>William</u>	Bellenger			WG	✓	✓	✓	VB S	22149, 304622	Army Service Corps
William		Bellegner	1888	23	✓	x	✓	✓	VB	27385, 39364	Gloucestershire then Royal Berkshire Regiment
Walter	Frank	Blackwell	1897	14		✓	✓	✓	VB S	29316	Army Service Corps
Thomas		Butler			x	x	✓	?	?	4544	Oxon & Bucks Light Infantry
Aubrey		Cambray	22/05/1884				✓	✓	VB	31844	Rifle Brigade
Charles	William	Cambray	18/02/1886		✓	✓					Army Reserve, Witney
Frank		Cambray	11/11/1893		✓	✓		VB S	14427, 211698		19th Hussars, Royal Garrison Regiment
Aubrey		Castle			WG	x	x	✓	VB	4911, 201694	Oxon & Buck Light Infantry

Brize Norton and World War One

Cname	Mname	Sname	DOB	Age 1911	Gazette	Census	School	Military	Medal	Reg Number	Regiment
Cecil	Hayward	Dicks			x	x	✓	VB		347275, 140288, 278980	Royal Engineers, Royal Garrison Artillery
Albert		Drinkwater		W/G	x	x					
Jacob		Drinkwater		W/G	x	x					
William	John	Drinkwater	1899	12 W/G	✓	x					
Frederic k		Eeles		W/G	x	x					
George		Garraitt	15/01/1894	17 W/G	✓	✓					
Frederic k	Charles Richard	Giles			✓	x	✓	VB		140199	ASC Supply Bake
Frederic k		Hunt		W/G	✓	✓					
Henry		Hunt		W/G	x	x					
Richard		Hunt		W/G	✓	✓					
Albert		Johnson		W/G	x	x					
Cecil		Kekewich		W/G	x	x					

Brize Norton and World War One

Cname	Mname	Sname	DOB	Age 1911	Gazette	Census	School	Military	Medal	Reg No	Regiment
Albert		Parker		WG	X	✓	✓	VB		16398	Oxon & Bucks Light Infantry
James	Alex	Parker		WG	✓	✓					
Alfred		Phipps		WG	X	✓					
Ewart		Phipps		WG	X	X					
Frederick		Phipps		WG	X	✓					
Richard		Phipps		WG	X	X					
David		Powell		WG	✓	X					
Howell		Powell		WG	X	✓					
Thomas		Sanders		WG	X	X					
Edward		Sturges		WG	X	X					
Albert		Timms		WG	✓	✓					
Alfred	William	Timms			✓	✓	✓	?		23221	Labour Corps

Brize Norton and World War One

CName	MName	SName	DOB	Age 1911	Gazette	Census	School	Military	Medal	Reg No	Regiment
Henry		Timms		WG	✓	✓					Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry
Rowland		Timms			X	X					
William		Timms		WG	X	✓					
Frederick	Charles	Tinson					✓	VB		36559	Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry & Machine Gun Corps
Frederick	James Thomas	Tovey					✓	VB		201240, 220285	Oxon & Bucks Light Infantry, Queen Charlottes Own Berkshire Regiment
Harry		Tovey		WG	X	X					
William		Tovey		WG	X	X					
James		Upstone		WG	✓	✓	✓	VB S		3111, 200899	Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry
Joseph		Upstone		WG	X	✓					
John		Winfield		WG	✓	✓	✓			16342	Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry
Joseph		Winfield		WG	✓	✓		VB S		16343	Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry

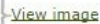
Brize Norton and World War One

In searching amazon.co.uk for military records we trawled by name and by place of residence, broadening the search as far as possible. Our search was not completely exhaustive.

We can commence to list those from Brize Norton with a military record known to have served. Each person is recorded below with some brief details of their service. We welcome receipt of further information from relatives and others to make this list as complete as possible. Please note that those who died and are recorded in earlier chapters of the book are **not** listed here.

Betram Thomas (Bertie) Archer

There are three entries for Bertie. He enlisted, aged 17 years and six months in 1899 in the Oxon & Bucks Light Infantry (Reg No. 5418) and again aged 19 in 1900 in the Royal Engineers (Reg No. 7071). In the first entry his birth year was 1881 and in the second it was 1882.

1901 England Census about Bertie Archer	
Name:	Bertie Archer
Age:	19
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1882
Gender:	Male
Birth Place:	Bampton, Oxfordshire, England
Civil Parish:	Aldershot Military in Stanhope and Wellington Lines
Ecclesiastical parish:	Aldershot St Michael
County/Island:	Hampshire
Country:	England
Street address:	
Occupation:	
Condition as to marriage:	
Education:	
Employment status:	
Registration district:	Farnham
Sub-registration district:	Aldershot
ED, institution, or vessel:	Royal Engineers Mounted and Imperial Yeomanry

In the 1901 Census he is recorded in the Royal Engineers Mounted and Imperial Yeomanry based in Aldershot.

Brize Norton and World War One

Bertie's first attestation certificate is dated 26th April 1899. His address is given as Brize Norton and he is described as a labourer working for a Mr Titcombe a farmer in Burford.

Bertie's second attestation was given on 28th November 1900.

The records show that he was discharged at the end of his engagement on 27 November 1912 - before the First World War! On closer examination Bertie fought in South Africa between 1899 and 1909 where he was decorated. His father was Edwin Archer of Brize Norton, mother was Mary Archer and he had 4 sisters and 3 brothers (William, Alfred & Charles). Of course,

Charles Henry died in WW1 and is the subject of earlier chapters and census details for the family can be found in Chapter 5 (*see page 75*). He married Amelia Jane Tinson at Bampton Parish Church on 23 July 1910. Bertie became a signalman with the GWR although he was certified as a platelayer.

However this was not the end of his story. He enlisted for a third time in the Royal Tank

British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920 about Be		
Name:	Bertram Thomas Archer	
Gender:	Male	
Birth Date:	abt 1881	
Age at Enlistment:	34	
Marriage Date:	23 Jul 1910	
Marriage Place:	Parish Church Bampton DC	
Residence Place:	Bampton R S O, Oxon	
Document Year:	1915	
Regimental Number:	307343	
Regiment Name:	Royal Tank Corps	
Number of Images:	37	
Form Title:	Short Service Attestation	
Other Records:	Search for 'Bertram Thomas Archer' in other WWI collections	
Family Members:	Name	Relation to Soldier
	Bertram Thomas Archer	Self (Head)
	Amelia Jane Tinson	Spouse
	Hilda May Archer	Child
	Albert Sidney Archer	Child
	Edith Rose Archer	Child
	Charles Reginald Archer	Child

Brize Norton and World War One

Corps at the age of 34 in 1916. His regimental number was 307343. He had four children by this time - Hilda, Albert, Edith and Charles. Bertie was wounded on 27th September 1918. He was demobilised on 26th March 1919.

Bertie lived in Ivy Cottage, Brize Norton.

George Edward Bellenger

George's attestation is dated 12th October 1916. His age is recorded as 23 years and 8 months and his occupation was a builders labourer and baker. He served in France and was demobilised on 15th November 1919.

British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920 about George Edward Bellenger		
Name:	George Edward Bellenger	
Gender:	Male	
Birth Date:	abt 1892	
Age at Enlistment:	23	
Residence Place:	Brize Norton, Bampton	
Document Year:	1915	
Regimental Number:	94876	
Regiment Name:	Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltsire) Regiment	
Number of Images:	3	
Form Title:	Short Service Attestation	
Other Records:	Search for 'George Edward Bellenger' in other WWI collections	
Family Members:	Name	Relation to Soldier
	George Edward Bellenger	Self (Head)
	Henry Bellenger	Father

George's father was Henry Bellenger. His elder brother Ernest died in the war. Details of the family can be found in Chapter 5 (*see page 77*).

Brize Norton and World War One



Charles William Bellinger

British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920 about Ch		
Name:	Charles William Bellinger	
Gender:	Male	
Birth Date:	abt 1873	
Age at Enlistment:	42	
Marriage Date:	21 May 1904	
Marriage Place:	Brize Norton	
Residence Place:	Brize Norton, Nr Bampton, Oxon	
Document Year:	1915	
Regimental Number:	22149	
Other Regimental Numbers:	304622	
Regiment Name:	Army Service Corps	
Number of Images:	12	
Form Title:	Short Service Attestation	
Other Records:	Search for 'Charles William Bellinger' in other WWI collections	
Family Members:	Name	Relation to Soldier
	Charles William Bellinger	Self (Head)
	Alice Williams	Spouse
	Lesslie Bellinger	Child
	Iver John Bellinger	Child
	Charles Edward Bellinger	Child
	Reginald Thomas Bellinger	Child
	Clifford Bellinger	Child

The 1911 Census shows the name William C Bellinger. Other details match the service record.

William (regimental number 22149) joined the Army Service Corps on 8th November 1915. His occupation was a navvy. He was married to Alice on 21 May 1904 and has five children. He transferred to the 725 Labour Corps (regimental number 304622) and was demobilised on 2 February 1919.

Brize Norton and World War One

1911 England Census about William C Bellinger		
Name:	William C Bellinger [User-submitted-comment] 	
Age in 1911:	38	
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1873	
Relation to Head:	Head 	
Gender:	Female	
Birth Place:	Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, England	
Civil Parish:	Brize Norton	
County/Island:	Oxfordshire	
Country:	England	
Street address:	Brize Norton Near Bampton Oxon	
Marital Status:	Married	
Occupation:	General Labourer	
Registration district:	Witney	
Registration District Number:	156	
Sub-registration district:	Bampton	
ED, institution, or vessel:	6	
Household schedule number:	63	
Piece:	8215	
Household Members:	Name	Age
	William C Bellinger	38
	Alice Bellinger	36
	Leslie Bellinger	4
	Ivor John Bellinger	3
	Charles E Bellinger	1

Brize Norton and World War One

William Bellenger

The family of William Bellenger have provided missing information from a report commissioned from the archives of the "Old Front Line". William's medal records do exist but his military records perished in the Second World War.



Goucester Regiment circa 1915/16

Private William Bellenger was a war-time volunteer who joined the Gloucestershire Regiment in 1915. After training he was posted to the 14th Battalion, part of the 35 Division, and served overseas with this battalion from early-mid 1916 onwards. He then transferred to Royal Berkshire Regiment sometime in 1917, after being shot in the calf muscle. He was posted to the 6th Battalion Royal Berkshire

Regiment, part of 18th (Eastern) Division, and fought with them until they were disbanded in early 1918. He was then posted to the 2/4th Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment in the 61st (South Midland) Division. He seemingly served with this unit until the end of the war; it is worth noting that this unit lost many men taken prisoner on the Somme in March where he was gassed and blinded and spent a year recovering in hospital, possibly in

Brize Norton and World War One

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
BELLENGER	Blount R R. Burke R	Pte	24385 39364
William			
Medal	Regt.	Page	Remarks
Victoria	L/10582	249	
Burton			
Star			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry thereon			
R. 1989			

Ireland. He had two
Regimental Numbers;
27286 and then
39364.

Walter Frank Blackwell

British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920 about V					
Name:	Walter Frank Blackwell				
Gender:	Male				
Birth Date:	abt 1895				
Age at Enlistment:	19				
Residence Place:	Lower Haddon Nr Bampton, Oxon				
Document Year:	1914				
Regimental Number:	029319				
Regiment Name:	Army Service Corps				
Number of Images:	7				
Form Title:	Short Service Attestation				
Other Records:	Search for 'Walter Frank Blackwell' in other WWI collections				
Family Members:	<table><tr><td>Name</td><td>Relation to Soldier</td></tr><tr><td>Walter Frank Blackwell</td><td>Self (Head)</td></tr></table>	Name	Relation to Soldier	Walter Frank Blackwell	Self (Head)
Name	Relation to Soldier				
Walter Frank Blackwell	Self (Head)				

Walter's Army Service
Record shows that he
joined the Army
Service Corps
(Regimental Service
Number 0295316).
His attestation shows
that this was on 10th
December 1914 aged 19
years and 1 month.
He was a farm
labourer at Lower
Haddon (Farm)

Frank was a brother of
Albert Blackwell who

Brize Norton and World War One

died. Details of the family can be found in Chapter 5. *See page 80.*

Thomas Butler

British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920 about Th	
Name:	Thomas Butler
Age at enlistment:	23
Birth Parish:	Brize Norton
Birth County:	Oxfordshire
Regimental Number:	4544
Regiment Name:	Oxfordshire Lt Inf
Number of Images:	9

Thomas is listed as living in Brize Norton. He enlisted in the Oxon & Bucks Light Infantry (Regimental Number 4544). His attestation record is not decipherable.

Brize Norton and World War One

British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920 about Aubrey Cambray		
Name:	Aubrey Cambray	
Gender:	Male	
Birth Date:	abt 1885	
Age at Enlistment:	32	
Marriage Date:	1 Feb 1913	
Marriage Place:	St Britenus Church Brizi Norton Oxen	
Residence Place:	Brize Norton Bampton, Oxfordshire	
Document Year:	1917	
Regimental Number:	31844	
Regiment Name:	Rifle Brigade	
Number of Images:	8	
Form Title:	Certificate	
Other Records:	Search for 'Aubrey Cambray' in other WWI collections	
Family Members:	Name	Relation to Soldier
	Aubrey Cambray	Self (Head)
	Lilian Agatha Cambray	Spouse
	George Thomas Cambray	Child
	Betty Kathleen Cambray	Child

Aubrey Cambray

Aubrey's British Army records showed that he joined the Rifle Brigade (Regimental Number 31844) on 17th April 1917 aged 32 and 11 months. He was married to Lilian R with two children (George Thomas and Betty Kathleen) and his occupation was a shopkeeper. He was wounded in action in November 1917 ending up in Rouen and returned to the front on 16th January 1918. He was later taken as a prisoner at Saulcourt on 22 March 1918 being "repatriated" on 24th October 1919.

Guyencourt-Saulcourt is a commune containing the villages of Guyencourt and Saulcourt. It lies about 5 kilometres east of the road from Peronne to Cambrai. Saulcourt Churchyard Extension

Brize Norton and World War One

was begun by British troops in April, 1917, the Germans in March and April, 1918 occupied this location.

Charles William Cambray

Charles is recorded in the Army Reserve, Witney.

1911 England Census about Charles William Cambray		
Name:	Charles William Cambray	
Age in 1911:	25	
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1886	
Relation to Head:	Son	
Gender:	Male	
Birth Place:	Witney, Oxfordshire, England	
Civil Parish:	Brize Norton	
County/Island:	Oxfordshire	
Country:	England	
Street address:	Brize Norton Bampton Oxon	
Marital Status:	Single	
Occupation:	Army Reserve General Labourer	
Registration district:	Witney	
Registration District Number:	156	
Sub-registration district:	Bampton	
ED, institution, or vessel:	6	
Household schedule number:	26	
Piece:	8215	
Household Members:	Name	Age
	Thomas Cambray	56
	Mary Elizabeth Cambray	52
	Charles William Cambray	25
	Lillian Cambray	15

Brize Norton and World War One

Frank Cambray

Name	Unit	Rank	Regt. No.
CAMBRAY	19th Hussars G.A.	Pte Gnr	14427 211698
Frank			
Serial	Regt.	Page	Remarks
15	RGA/278 1276	20	Class 2. 11-2. 19
15	RGA/193	375	
Theatre of War first served in			
(1) France			
Date of entry theatre			
20-4-15			

Frank's military records seem to be missing, perhaps damaged in the Second World War. However there is a medal record which may be his.

If so, it shows that he joined the 15th Hussars (Regimental Number 14427) then the Royal Garrison Artillery (Regimental Number 211698).

In the 1901 Census, Frank can be found living with his parents, Thomas & Elizabeth in Brize Norton.

1901 England Census about Frank Cambray	
Name:	Frank Cambray
Age:	7
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1894
Relation to Head:	Son
Gender:	Male
Father:	Thomas Cambray
Mother:	Elizabeth Cambray
Birth Place:	Witney, Oxfordshire, England
Civil Parish:	Brize Norton
Ecclesiastical parish:	Brize Norton St Britius
Town:	Brize Norton

Brize Norton and World War One

Name	Castle	Corps	2/4 oxon B L I	Rank	Pte	Regimental No	4911 201694
Surname	Castle	First Name	Aubrey	Rank	Pte	Regimental No	4911 201694
Medal		Rank		Regimental No			
Victory		Rank	2/106 B L I 728	Regimental No			
Bar		Rank	-do-	Regimental No			
Bar		Rank	-do-	Regimental No			
Threats of War first served in		Rank		Regimental No			
Date of entry service		Rank		Regimental No			

Aubrey Castle

We have a medal card for Aubrey confirming his regimental numbers (4911 and 201694) of the 2nd and 4th Battalion the Oxon & Bucks Light Infantry.

Cecil Hayward Dicks

Cecil's British Army WW1 Service record shows him enlisted into the Royal Engineers at aged 39. He was the station master at


British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920 about Cecil Hayward Dicks	
Name:	Cecil Haywood Dicks
Estimated birth year:	abt 1877
Age at enlistment:	39
Residence:	Brize Norton, Oxon
Document Year:	1916
Regiment Name:	RE
Number of Images:	5

Bampton (GWR). He was married to Edith Phipps on 15th August 1908 and had three children. His Medal Record shows that he started in the Royal Engineers (Regimental Number 347275), transferred to the Royal Garrison

Brize Norton and World War One

Artillery (Regimental Number 170288) then back to the Royal Engineers (Regimental Number 278980).

Frederick Charles Richard Giles

British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920 <small>about Frederick Charles Richard Giles</small>	
Name:	Frederick Charles Richard Giles
Estimated birth year:	abt 1890
Age at enlistment:	25
Residence:	Brize Norton, Oxon
Document Year:	1915
Regimental Number:	140199
 Regiment Name:	ASC Supply Bake
Number of Images:	8

Frederick's British Army WW1 Service record shows that he enlisted aged 25 and 4 months in 1915 in the Army Service Corps Supply Bake. His regimental number was 140199. His civilian occupation was a baker, apparently he had a slight eye condition! His wife

was Annie Kate Webb and they were married on 9th November 1911. They had two children. It appears that Frederick and Richard worked in Mr Barnes's shop according to the 1911 Census.

Brize Norton and World War One

Albert Parker

British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920 <small>about Albert Parker</small>		
Name:	Albert Parke	
Gender:	Male	
Birth Date:	abt 1895	
Age at Enlistment:	19	
Residence Place:	Brize Norton, Nr Bampton Oxon	
Document Year:	1914	
Regimental Number:	16398	
Regiment Name:	Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry	
Number of Images:	27	
Form Title:	Short Service Attestation	
Other Records:	Search for 'Albert Parke' in other WWI collections	
Family Members:	Name	Relation to Soldier
	Albert Parke	Self (Head)
	Charles Parkes	Mother

Albert is identified in British Army WW1 service records as joining the Oxon and Bucks Light Infantry (Regimental Service Number 16398) in 1914 aged 19. In his attestation dated 19 November 1914 he signs himself as Albert Parker living with his mother Cherica (?) Parker. He was demobbed on 7th May 1919.

Brize Norton and World War One

British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920 about Alfred William Timms

Name:	Alfred William Timms	
Gender:	Male	
Birth Date:	abt 1896	
Age at Enlistment:	19	
Residence Place:	Brize Norton Bampton, Oxon	
Document Year:	1915	
Regimental Number:	94632	
Regiment Name:	Labour Corps	
Number of Images:	25	
Form Title:	Short Service Attestation	
Other Records:	Search for 'Alfred William Timms' in other WWI collections	
Family Members:	Name	Relation to Soldier
	Alfred William Timms	Self (Head)

Alfred William Timms

Aged 19 years and 6 months, Alfred joined the Labour Corps in 1915. His next of kin was Leonard Timms (father) living in Witney. He was assigned to the Wiltshire Regiment and was demobilised on 5th October 1919.

In 1911 Alfred was living with relations in Brize Norton

Name:	Alfred Timms	
Age in 1911:	14	
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1897	
Relation to Head:	Nephew	
Gender:	Male	
Birth Place:	Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, England	
Civil Parish:	Brize Norton	Household Members:
County/Island:	Oxfordshire	
Country:	England	
Street address:	Brize Norton B	
Occupation:	Plough Boy On	
Registration district:	Witney	

Alfred was related to Percy Timms who died in the War. For further information about the family see

Name	Age
Alfred Timms	35
Kate Timms	35
Alfred Timms	14
Percy Timms	12
Winifred Timms	9
Aubrey Timms	7
Norman Timms	5
Ellen Timms	2

Chapter 5.

Brize Norton and World War One

Henry Timms

British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920 about F		
Name:	Frederick Charles Tinson	
Gender:	Male	
Birth Date:	abt 1893	
Age at Enlistment:	22	
Residence Place:	Brize Norton, Bampton Oxon	
Document Year:	1915	
Regimental Number:	36559	
Regiment Name:	Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry	
Number of Images:	4	
Form Title:	Short Service Attestation	
Other Records:	Search for 'Frederick Charles Tinson' in other WWI collections	
Family Members:	Name	Relation to Soldier
	Frederick Charles Tinson	Self (Head)
	Henry William Tinson	Father

We do have a 1911 census entry for Henry Timms aged 51 who was a baker and butcher. It seems unlikely that this person served in the WW1. For the moment he remains a mystery.

Frederick Charles Tinson

Frederick served in the Oxon and Bucks Light Infantry aged 22 joining on 24th November 1915. He transferred to the Machine Gun Corps on

13th May 1916. His Regimental Service Number was 36559. His father was Henry William Tinson. Frederick was a railway

Brize Norton and World War One

porter (GWR). He was promoted to acting corporal on 22 June 1916 and was demobilised on 17th December 1917.

British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920 about Tovey		
Name:	Frederick James Thomas Tovey	
Gender:	Male	
Residence Place:	Brizenorton, Bampton Oxon	
Document Year:	1914	
Regimental Number:	220285	
Regiment Name:	Reserve Battn Oxf and Bucks Lt??	
Number of Images:	23	
Form Title:	Territorial Force Attestation	
Other Records:	Search for 'Frederick James Thomas Tovey' in other WWI collections	
Family Member	Name	Relation to Soldier
	Frederick James Thomas Tovey	Self (Head)

Frederick James Thomas Tovey

Frederick's Army Service Record shows he was in a Reserve Battalion of the Oxon and Bucks Light Infantry enlisting in 1914 with a Regimental Service Number of 3648. He was transfered to the Royal Berks on 8th August 1917 where he served on the front with a Regimental

Service Number of 220285. He was a butcher by trade.

Brize Norton and World War One

James Upstone

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regt. No.
UPSTONE	14	Infantry Pte	3111
James.			200899
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	4/06.19	3872	Details from page 291
Division	26	26	auth 2 miles 14 213
15	STAR	448 487	Disemb
Theatre of War first served in	(11) France		
Date of entry therein	25.6.15		
			nm/3/19/15 1300.

James was the brother of Jack S Upstone who died (see chapter 5 page 102 for the family details). We have James' medal record but his military record is not to hand.

Brize Norton and World War One

John Winfield

British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920 <small>about John Winfield</small>		
Name:	John Winfield	
Gender:	Male	
Birth Date:	abt 1894	
Age at Enlistment:	20	
Residence Place:	Brige Norton, Nr Bampton Oxon	
Document Year:	1914	
Regimental Number:	16342	
Regiment Name:	Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry	
Number of Images:	16	
Form Title:	Short Service Attestation	
Other Records:	Search for 'John Winfield' in other WWI collections	
Family Members:	Name	Relation to Soldier
	John Winfield	Self (Head)
	Thomas Winfield	Father

John's British Army WW1 service record shows that he joined the Oxon and Bucks Light Infantry on 17th November 1914 at the age of 20 years and 7 months. (Regimental Service Number 16342). His occupation is a general labourer. John's father was Thomas Winfield.

The 1911 Census record is shown below.

1911 England Census <small>about John Winfield</small>				
Name:	John Winfield			
Age in 1911:	16			
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1895			
Relation to Head:	Son			
Gender:	Male			
Birth Place:	Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, England			
Civil Parish:	Brize Norton	Household Members:	Name	Age
County/Island:	Oxfordshire		Thomas Winfield	50
Country:	England		Elizabeth Ann Winfield	47
Street address:	Brize Norton		Frederic Winfield	23
Marital Status:	Single		John Winfield	16
Occupation:	Gardener		Joseph Winfield	15

Brize Norton and World War One

Joseph Winfield

British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920 <small>about Jos</small>		
Name:	Joseph Winfield	
Gender:	Male	
Birth Date:	abt 1895	
Age at Enlistment:	19	
Residence Place:	Brize Norton, Nr Bampton Oxon	
Document Year:	1914	
Regimental Number:	16343	
Regiment Name:	Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry	
Number of Images:	30	
Form Title:	Short Service Attestation	
Other Records:	Search for 'Joseph Winfield' in other WWI collections	
Family Members:	Name	Relation to Soldier
	Joseph Winfield	Self (Head)
	Thomas Winfield	Father

Joseph was a brother to John. He also joined the Oxon and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry aged 19 in 1914 and had a Regimental Number of 16343 (one number after John - so they enlisted at the same time). He is described as a painter.

Brize Norton and World War One

Chapter 11 - Brize Norton after WW1

For the moment we can only write in generalities. When the 1921 census becomes available after 2021 it will be possible to do an analysis similar to that given in Chapter 1. We can predict a significant change in the population and especially their occupations. Of course we know that almost a whole generation of young men perished but we also know that those who fought and returned often did not return to their old jobs and that the women folk had had to work to fill the void left by the men. Social attitudes changed and family incomes were affected.

Brize Norton and World War One

Sources

Here is a list of the online sources used for the book.

Census records available through <http://www.ancestry.co.uk>

Commonwealth War Graves Commission records at
<http://www.cwgc.org/>

Military records (medal record cards, service and pension records) in the ancestry collection at
<http://www.ancestry.co.uk/cs/uk/world-war-1>

Forces War Records available at
<http://www.forces-war-records.co.uk/>

Various sources have been used for the regimental histories including, for example,
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oxfordshire_and_Buckinghamshire_Light_Infantry,
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grenadier_Guards, etc.
The Long, Long Trail at <http://www.1914-1918.net/army.htm>
The Grenadier Guards 1914-18
<http://battlefields1418.50megs.com/regiment001.htm>
and other sources too numerous to mention.

In all cases, I have freely copied or extracted information and acknowledge and thank the publishers aware that some information will be copyright though arguing that this represents fair use given the context in which they have been used.

Brize Norton and World War One

Brize Norton and World War One

Appendices

Brize Norton and World War One

Appendix 1 - Recruitment to the British Army during the First World War

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Contents

- § 1 August 1914
- § 2 Volunteer Army, 1914-15
- § 3 Conscition, 1916-18
- § 5 References

BRITONS



JOIN YOUR COUNTRY'S ARMY!

A World War I recruitment poster featuring Kitchener (Alfred Leete 1882–1933)

August 1914

For a century, British governmental policy and public opinion was against conscription for foreign wars. At the start of World War I, the British Army consisted of six divisions and one cavalry division in the United Kingdom, and four divisions overseas. 14 Territorial Army divisions also existed, and 300,000 in the Reserve Army. Lord Kitchener, the Secretary of State for War, considered the Territorial Army untrained and useless. He believed that the regular army must not be wasted in immediate battle, but instead used to help train a new army with 70 divisions—the size of the French and German armies—that he foresaw would be needed to fight a war lasting many years.

Brize Norton and World War One

Volunteer Army, 1914-15

The traditional image of recruitment in 1914 is of an initial wave of enthusiasm and volunteering greeting the outbreak of war. At the beginning of August 1914, Parliament issued a call for an extra 100,000 soldiers. Recruitment in the first few weeks of war was high, but the real 'recruiting boom' began in the last week of August, when news of the British retreat following the Battle of Mons reached Britain. Recruiting peaked in the first week of September.

By the end of September, over 750,000 men had enlisted; by January 1915, a million. The government was in pieces. The reasons for their enlistment cannot be pinned down to a single factor; enthusiasm and a war spirit certainly drove some, while for others unemployment prompted enlistment. Some employers forced men to join up, while occasionally Poor Law Guardians would also refuse to pay support for fit military-aged men. The timing of the recruiting boom in the wake of the news from Mons, though, suggests that men joined knowing that the war was dangerous and indeed many joined precisely because it seemed to be a threat to their home, district and country.



World War I recruitment poster

One early peculiarity was the formation of "Pals battalions": groups of men from the same factory, football team, bank or

Brize Norton and World War One

similar, joining and fighting together. The idea was first suggested at a public meeting by Lord Derby. Within three days, he oversaw enough volunteers sufficient for three battalions. Lord Kitchener gave official approval for the measure almost instantly and the response was impressive. Manchester raised fifteen specific 'Pals' battalions; one of the smallest was Accrington, in Lancashire, which raised one. The drawback of 'Pals' battalions was that a whole town could lose its military-aged menfolk in a single day.

The government demand for men continued unabated, and after the first call in August for 500,000 men; a further 3.5 million were called for before the year ended. The pre-war calculations had supposed that the British Expeditionary Force would lose around 40% of its manpower in the first six months of fighting. Kitchener's predictions of three years fighting and a million men needed was regarded as incredible. The seven divisions of the BEF, totalling 85,000 men, had been landed in France at the outbreak of war; casualties in the first three months totalled almost 90,000. By mid-1915, this total had risen to around 375,000 even before the autumn offensives and the rate of recruitment was falling off, for a number of reasons.

In 1915 the total available number of men of military age was 5.5 million, with around 500,000 more reaching the age each year.



May 1915 poster by E. V. Kealey, from the *Parliamentary Recruiting Committee*

Brize Norton and World War One

By late September, 2.25 million men had been enlisted and 1.5 million were in reserved occupations. Of the rest, the recruiters had uncovered a dismaying fact — almost two in every five volunteers were entirely unsuitable for military service on the grounds of health. When volunteer numbers fell to around 80,000 a month after the Dardanelles Expedition, the government felt forced to intervene, although they initially avoided conscription. A National Registration Act in 1915 created a register that revealed the number of men still available and they were targeted in a number of ways. The skills of advertising were brought to bear with posters, public meetings, tales of German atrocities, and the threat of shame. The 'Derby Scheme' used door-to-door visits to gather men to 'attest' to serve if needed, with a promise that bachelors would be called up before married men.

Many public institutions of all sorts mobilized to help recruit for the war. The women's suffrage movement was sharply divided, the slight majority becoming very enthusiastic patriots and asking their members to give white feathers (the sign of the coward) in the streets to men who appeared to be of military age to shame them into service. After assaults became prevalent the Silver War Badge was issued to men who were not eligible or discharged.

The popular music hall artistes of the time worked enthusiastically for recruitment. Harry Lauder toured the music halls, recruiting young soldiers on stage in front of the audience, often offering 'ten pounds for the first recruit tonight'. Marie Lloyd sang a recruiting song "I didn't like you much before you joined the army, John, but I do like you, cockie, now you've got

Brize Norton and World War One

yer khaki on" (1914). Vesta Tilley sang "The Army of Today's alright".

Conscription, 1916–18

With insufficient numbers of bachelors attesting for the Derby Scheme to be workable, and the French Army in dire need of relief, a Military Service Bill was introduced in January 1916, providing for the conscription of single men aged 18-41; in May conscription was extended to married men. Calculating for the whole of the war, conscripts made up a majority of British serving soldiers. The government pledged not to send teenagers to serve in the front line. Ireland, (which was part of the United Kingdom at the time), was excluded from the scheme (later proposals to introduce conscription in Ireland led to widespread support for Sinn Féin and independence). Conscription, however, had little impact on enlistment. The number continued to decline towards 40,000 a month, as essential men were needed for war work and the poor health of many others remained, even as the requirements were progressively reduced. From 1.28 million enlisting in 1915, this had fallen to 1.19 million for 1916 and fell to around 820,000 for 1917. The healthy manpower was simply not there — in 1917–18 only 36% of men examined were suitable for full military duties, 40% were either totally unfit or were classified as unable to undergo physical exertion. In 1918, the British Army was actually smaller than in 1917 (3.84 million to 3.9 million) and almost half the infantry was nineteen or younger.

Men who were due to be called up for military service were able to appeal against their conscription; they or their employers could appeal to a local Military Service Tribunal in their town or

Brize Norton and World War One

district. These appeals could be made on the grounds of work of national importance, business or domestic hardship, medical unfitness, and conscientious objection. A very large number of men appealed: by the end of June 1916, 748,587 men had appealed to tribunals. Over the same period around 770,000 men joined the army. Most men were given some kind of exemption, usually temporary (between a few weeks and six months) or conditional on their situation at work or home remaining serious enough to warrant their retention at home. In October 1.12 million men nationally held tribunal exemption or had cases pending, by May 1917 this had fallen to 780,000 exempt and 110,000 pending. At this point there were also 1.8 million men with exemptions granted by the government (for example, those working in war industries); combined these exemptions covered more men than were serving overseas with the British Army. Some men gained exemption on the condition that they joined the Volunteer Training Corps for part-time training and home defence duties; by February 1918, 101,000 men had been directed to the Corps by the tribunals.

Although it has been the focus of the tribunals' image since the war, only around 2% of those appealing were Conscientious Objectors. Around 7,000 men were granted non-combatant duties, while a further 3,000 ended up in special work camps. 6,000 were imprisoned. Some forty-two were sent to France to potentially face the threat of a firing squad. This threat was more real to thirty five who were formally sentenced to death, but immediately reprieved, with ten years penal servitude substituted.

Brize Norton and World War One

References

1. Tuchman, Barbara (1962). *The Guns of August*. New York: Random House. pp.231–233.
2. Peter Simkins, *Kitchener's Army: The Raising of the New Armies 1914-1916* (Manchester, Manchester University Press: 1988
3. Adrian Gregory, *The Last Great War* (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press: 2007)
4. J.E. Edmonds, *Military Operations: France and Belgium: 1916*, vol. i (London: 1932), p152.
5. The National Archives, CAB 17/158, Derby scheme: Statement of the War Committee, 24/10/1916
6. *Statistics of the Military Effort of the British Empire during the Great War. 1914-1920* (London: 1922).
7. I. F. Ian Frederick William Beckett (1985). *A Nation in Arms: A Social Study of the British Army in the First World War*. Manchester University Press. p.31. ISBN 978-0-7190-1737-7.

Brize Norton and World War One

Appendix 2 - Listing of male residents of Brize Norton in 1911 - those eligible to fight.

Please note this list is in chronological order by age in 1911. The house number is that used by the census enumerator. This is not the house number, since house numbers were introduced later, with few exceptions all were simply known as "the cottage".

<u>Name</u>			<u>House No</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Year of Birth</u>	<u>Occupation</u>
thomas		ayriss	57	12	1899	scholar
william	john	drinkwater	62	12	1899	scholar
walter		higgs	49	12	1899	scholar
alfred	john william	launchbury	16	12	1899	scholar
percy		timms	21	12	1899	scholar
thomas		timms	13	12	1899	scholar
fred		tovey	9	12	1899	scholar
arthur		adams	12	13	1898	bakers apprentice
cyril	marcus	barnes	24	13	1898	scholar
richard		hickman	47	13	1898	working on farm
christopher	william	silman	64	13	1898	plough boy
charles	r	smith	65	13	1898	horse boy on farm
edward		timms	44	13	1898	scholar
walter	frank	blackwell	71	14	1897	plough boy on farm

Brize Norton and World War One

<u>Name</u>			<u>House No</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Year of Birth</u>	<u>Occupation</u>
henry		faulkner	43	14	1897	plough boy on farm
albert	george	francis	59	14	1897	odd boy on farm
william	john	hibberd	42	14	1897	working on farm
william	j	hollis	28	14	1897	scholar
john		hunt	28	14	1897	under waggoner on farm
william	edward	iles	83	14	1897	labourer on farm
harry		johnson	61	14	1897	farm labourer
bertie		parker	11	14	1897	farm labourer
stanley		stratford	52	14	1897	waggoner
alfred		timms	21	14	1897	plough boy
daniel		upstone	7	14	1897	child
frederick		smith	63	15	1896	horseman on farm
james		upstone	22	15	1896	house boy on farm
joseph		winfield	14	15	1896	gardener
victor		drinkwater	73	16	1895	horseman on farm
arthur		faulkner	31	16	1895	labourer on farm

Brize Norton and World War One

<u>Name</u>			<u>House No</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Year of Birth</u>	<u>Occupation</u>
richard		hunt	28	16	1895	under waggoner on farm
william		kinchen	11	16	1895	gardner
william		peacock	51	16	1895	carter on farm
water	john	porter	58	16	1895	groom domestic
thomas	william	powell	40	16	1895	scholar
john		winfield	14	16	1895	gardener
frank		woods	7	16	1895	boat maker
albert	edward	blackwell	71	17	1894	carter
frank		cambray	3	17	1894	cowman
marcus		drinkwater	58	17	1894	farm waggoner
frank		francis	59	17	1894	estate carpenter
george		garratt	85	17	1894	horseman on farm
ernest		timms	13	17	1894	waggoner
frank		timms	19	17	1894	gardener
henry		timms	41	17	1894	Oxon & Bucks Light Infantry
albert	william	barnes	24	18	1893	assistant grocer
william	joseph	garratt	85	18	1893	horseman on farm

Brize Norton and World War One

<u>Name</u>			<u>House No</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Year of Birth</u>	<u>Occupation</u>
frederick		gray	51	18	1893	cowman
arthur		higgs	49	18	1893	model engineer brass & steel
arthur		holtom	79	18	1893	gardner
fred		terry	35	18	1893	signal porter
marcus	j	timms	20	18	1893	butcher
frederick	john	upstone	7	18	1893	housewife
john		upstone	22	18	1893	horseman on farm
ralph		woods	43	18	1893	horseman on farm
george	f	bellenger	60	19	1892	horseman on farm
albert	edward	faulkner	17	19	1892	horseman on farm
albert		packer	9	19	1892	assists father in business
ernest		drinkwater	58	20	1891	farm labourer
george		drinkwater	27	20	1891	carter on farm
frederick	clara richard	giles	30	20	1891	baker maker & journey-man
john		castle	36	21	1890	assistant on farm

Brize Norton and World War One

<u>Name</u>			<u>House No</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Year of Birth</u>	<u>Occupation</u>
harold		bellenger	69	22	1889	farm labourer
harry	f	bellenger	60	22	1889	gardener
edwin	e	bright	40	22	1889	working on farm, farmers son
frank		drinkwater	80	22	1889	farm labourer
daniel		faulkner	23	22	1889	housewife
william		gotobed	50	22	1889	farm labourer
albert		timms	20	22	1889	farm labourer
rowland	albert	timms	36	22	1889	road man labourer
william		winfield	32	22	1889	carrier
william		bellenger	26	23	1888	farm labourer
albert		bye	22	23	1888	road man
albert		castle	38	23	1888	shepherd
frederic		winfield	14	23	1888	road man
walter		gotobed	50	24	1887	cattleman
percival	joseph	haynes	69	24	1887	assisting on farm
samuel		morley	3	24	1887	private means
james	alex	parker	11	24	1887	under waggoner on farm

Brize Norton and World War One

<u>Name</u>			<u>House No</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Year of Birth</u>	<u>Occupati on</u>
ernest	e	bright	40	25	1886	working on farm, farmers son
henry		caisley	60	25	1886	motor driver domestic
charles	william	cambray	26	25	1886	army reserve general labourer
frank		pearman	81	25	1886	farmer
john		tovey	9	25	1886	traction engine driver
john		adams	35	26	1885	signal porter
arthur		bellenger	60	26	1885	horseman on farm
percival		bellenger	69	26	1885	farm labourer
thomas		bellenger	26	26	1885	wagonner
walter		holtom	79	26	1885	farm labourer
james		mills	31	26	1885	gardener
george		rowles	77	26	1885	labourer on farm
aurther		simms	48	26	1885	farm labourer
albert	earnest	faulkner	18	27	1884	farm labourer

Brize Norton and World War One

<u>Name</u>			<u>House No</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Year of Birth</u>	<u>Occupation</u>
ernest	william	hedges	39	27	1884	assistant grocer
betram		archer	34	28	1883	general labourer
thomas		clarke	24	28	1883	coach painter
H	W	fowler	78	28	1883	helping on farm
arthur	edward	preston	32	28	1883	traction engine driver
george	edward	drinkwater	74	29	1882	carter on farm
john		packer	9	29	1882	assists father in business
isaac	james	waite	8	29	1882	publican
george	a	badger	50	30	1881	farmer at westwell
charles		spencer	54	30	1881	labourer on farm
thomas		hunt	45	31	1880	groom domestic
charles	henry	archer	13	32	1879	railway labourer
thomas	james	hardy	61	32	1879	batler
william		badger	50	33	1878	farmer
george		bushnell	67	33	1878	keeper game
harry		cooper	70	33	1878	shepherd

Brize Norton and World War One

<u>Name</u>			<u>House No</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Year of Birth</u>	<u>Occupation</u>
percy	henry girvan	warner	53	33	1878	farmer
william		giles	72	34	1877	hay tyer on farm
william	j	knight	16	34	1877	gardener
william		morley	2	34	1877	farmer and threshing contractor
cecil	haywood	hicks	1	35	1876	station master
george		holton	82	35	1876	shepherd
alfred		timms	21	35	1876	stone mason
william		faulkner	48	36	1875	quaryman delivery of stone