

The War Memorial

Weedon & Hardwick



STORIES OF THE FORGOTTEN FALLEN

**RALPH FOLLOWELL
WEEDON
2024**

THE FORGOTTEN FALLEN

FOREWORD

Yorkshire stone can become hazardous to walk on when wet due to a green slimy mould which grows on it. After cleaning the path to the Chapel with a new pressure hose, it was so easy to see that the War Memorial which stands in the grounds of the Chapel in Weedon could do with a cleanup too. What was not easy was to see the names of the men recorded there.



After some difficulty, all were identified, and the Parish Council had brass plates made which are now attached to the memorial and copies displayed inside the Chapel so that their names would be preserved.

With the exception of the Ming family, it was realised that none of those recorded had any descendants living in Weedon.

The memorial was erected in the early 1920s by the Parish Council with a similar one in Hardwick. The names are the same on both memorials.

This publication is the result of an attempt to find out as much as possible about these men from historical records.

It has been my privilege to visit every grave and memorial of all but Charles Jones, who died in Basra in Iraq. It took me to Northern France and Belgium. What follows is hopefully correct, but I would appreciate any help with any incorrect factual information herein.

It is a deeply moving and humbling experience to stand in the cemeteries and memorials of these men and spend a few moments reflecting and praying for them. They gave their lives so that those like me could enjoy the life we have.

Three were aged 19; five were in their 20s and three in their 30s with one a 43-year-old. The only one who was married, Leonard Halsey (to Vera Ming), had a daughter he probably never saw, who died and was buried on 5th May just two months after his death.

Ralph Followell, Weedon, 2024

THE FORGOTTEN FALLEN

Article in The Bucks Herald May 1921

Original

Transcribed text: *HARDWICKE WAR MEMORIAL*



The twin parishes of Hardwicke and Weedon have honoured the memory of their sons who fell in the Great War by erecting a Clipsham stone cross set on three octagonal bases and comprising a moulded die and taper shaft surmounted by a highly carved, crosshead with Gothic ornamentation. The inscription chiselled out on the front of the die reads "1914-1918, To the Glory of God and in loving memory of those who laid down their lives in The Great War".

The base immediately below the die records the names of the fallen as follows:- William George Abbey, Lionel Allen, Leonard Halsey, Charles Frederic Hopcraft, Leonard Williams Hughes, Herbert William Jeffs, Charles Jones, Frederick Jones, Herbert William Ming, William Ming, Herbert Owen Todd, and Musgrave Cazenove Wroughton.

The whole of the work of preparation carrying and erection has been skilfully performed by Messrs. Newman and Harper, monumental masons of Aylesbury, who worked on the design of an Oxford architect. A similar cross, identical in every respect, even to the inscription and roll of honour was unveiled in Weedon on Thursday, a joint scheme having been agreed for the two Parishes and successfully carried out by a representative committee which included Rev. H.B.Walton (Chairman), Messrs W.A Woods, G.E.Moore, H. Bates, J. Abbey, F. Hopcraft, J. Clarke, H. Rickard, R Rickard and T. Rolls (hon. secretary). The estimated cost of the scheme is £390 towards which the two Parishes have raised £345 by voluntary subscription, no special functions having been arranged with a view to augmenting the fund.

The unveiling ceremony at Hardwicke on Thursday week was attended by a large number of parishioners, many carrying floral tributes which they eventually laid at the base of the memorial. Ex-service men paraded in command of Lieut.-Col Haughton and a contingent of Bucks Defence Corps. was officered by Major F. Lawson D.S.O., M.C. (Royal Bucks Hussars) and Capt. and Adj. W.A. Seaton (Royal Bucks Hussars). The Rector Rev. H.B. Walton officiated at the ceremony, assisted by the Warden of New College Oxford (Rev. A.W.

Spooner, who performed the unveiling. Rev. F.E Allen late rector of Hardwicke; Rev. J.R.C. Forrest (Swanbourne), H. Wood (Whitchurch) and J.E Pugh (Aston Abbotts), and Mr. J.S. Clark (Representing Hardwicke Mission Hall).

A deeply impressive and reverent service commenced with the hymn "O God our help in ages past", the surpliced choir of Hardwicke Church leading the singing under the direction of Mr. Gardiner, choir master. Rev. F.E. Allen, who appeared to enjoy good health in spite of advancing years, read a prayer of thanksgiving for the memory of men who "fought a good fight and finished their course with joy" and of comfort for those that mourn. Another appropriate hymn sung was "For all the saints who from their labours rest," and Mr. J.S. Clark read a passage from Revelations.

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Rev. H.B. Walton invited the large assembly to remember with thanksgiving before Almighty God those who laid down their lives in the Great War, especially the men of the parish, whom they mourned. He read their names, as they were inscribed on the War Memorial. Mr. W.A.Woods (People's Warden), invited the Warden of New College to unveil the cross at the same time welcoming him to "An ancient Parish which had for centuries had close connection with that College".

The Warden removed the Union Jack which covered the face of the memorial, and immediately dedicated the cross "To the Glory of God and in memory of the men, faithful unto death, who gave their lives in defence of our Country". He prayed that the cross might bear witness to all who pass by inspiring them to deny themselves and take up their cross.

Addressing the congregation, the Warden drew an analogy between the cenotaph erected at Westminster then, permanently in Whitehall, and local war memorials. The cenotaph, he said, was a common monument dedicated to the memory of all those – whether in England or in the Dominions beyond the sea – who laid down their lives in the defence of their country. That was right and truthful, because the victory had been won and the work accomplished by the united efforts of this land and the Dominions. Also, there had been erected, or were being erected in every part of our country, memorials to the fallen who came from a district or county or parish, and it was right that such local memorials should be erected.

There were many good reasons for it. In the first place it was a natural instinct that those who had done worthy deeds should be held in memory by those who, in their lives, were their neighbours, relatives or friends. All knew how the greatest and most distinguished men in the country had ever loved, as their lives came to an end, to visit once more, or to be remembered in the houses where they lived in their youth, and among neighbours with whom they were familiar. He could not doubt that those whose memory they in Hardwicke cherished that day would have had something of that feeling, too, – that it would have been pleasing and grateful to them to be assured that what they suffered and accomplished was not forgotten among those in the midst of whom they passed their youth and that their own district and parish held them in grateful remembrance.

Secondly, that memorial was a real proof of the gratitude to those who went to war with the men who fell –who were their comrades in danger, hardship and battle – and who returned. He hoped they would take that message and assurance of gratitude.

Thirdly, the memorial served to remind people of their common unity and common purpose. There were, among the names recorded on it, those who held in life different stations, who followed different occupations, who had different prospects. In their lives, when they went to the war, they were not divided in their death still they are not divided. As one looked at the monument and thought of how the men shared in a common work, there must be a reminder of the value of national unity- that if we in future are to be happy and prosperous nation we must not forget the comradeship and unity which the war created; that in peace no less than in war, in difficulties, in dangers that lie before us, we could only surmount them if we were prepared to sacrifice something for the sake of others, feeling that they were in truth all brothers. There was a lesson in the words of the prophet to two of the nations who quarrelled "Sirs, ye are brothers, why do ye wrong one to another?".

The memorial spoke too of the future. The congregation met that day to commemorate the brave deeds of those who had been taken from them because they wished to preserve their good example and to hand to their children and remote descendants the memory of those brave deeds by which the country was preserved and strengthened. The form which the memorial had taken should surely bring that lesson home to them. They were reminded in the words of the dedication of Him who being the Saviour of men was content to live and die for them and that cross-bore witness to and reminded all who passed by day-by-day week by week of the call to deny themselves take up their cross and follow Christ.

A minute of silent prayer was observed at the close of the address. Finally, the Lord's Prayer was recited, and the congregation sang the hymn "Through the night of doubt and sorrow". The Rector pronounced the Blessing, and the National Anthem was sung. The solemn notes of the Last Post were sounded by Mr A Guntrip, of Aylesbury then there was heard the Long Reveille crisp and clear with its vigorous wakening call. A wreath from the ex-service men of Hardwicke and Weedon was first placed on the memorial by Sergt. J Abbey and others followed, in profusion, from relatives and friends of the fallen.

THE FORGOTTEN FALLEN

THE WAR ON THE WESTERN FRONT, 1914 – 1918

In the First World War, the Western Front – a battle line extending from the Channel coast to Switzerland along which for four years, millions of men fought and died – was the principal and vital theatre. Against the German Army were arrayed the Armies of the British Commonwealth, France, Belgium and latterly, the United States. The first two months, a war of movement, saw the containment and partial repulse of the initial German thrust. There then followed three and half years of static trench fighting, a war of attrition, during which defensive power was paramount. Neither side could effect a breakthrough, and great battles were fought for small territorial gains. The last seven months were again, a war of movement, culminating in the Allied offensive, starting in August, which finally achieved the breakthrough leading to the Armistice of 11th November 1918.

The six divisions of the British Expeditionary Force which went to France at the outset in 1914 were deployed amongst the French armies and played their full part from 23rd August in the Battle of Mons, Le Cateau, the Marne and the Aisne. The next three weeks during which the battle line moved every day, were a highly critical period in which the German plan for ending the war at a stroke was foiled and the issue deferred.

In the first two weeks of October, the BEF was moved from the central sector of the front to Flanders. This move shortened its lines of communication, which ran through Dunkirk, Calais and Boulogne and enabled it to protect these ports which were vital both to its own supply and reinforcement and to the Royal Navy's command of the Channel. Over the next four years during which its strength rose to fifty British and twelve overseas Commonwealth divisions – Canadian, Australian, New Zealand, South African, Indian and troops from Newfoundland, the British West Indies and other territories – the BEF progressively took over more of the northern sector of the Allied line and fought a series of battles of attrition of which the greatest was the First Battle of the Somme in 1916.

After the German offensives of late March to mid July 1918 had been contained, the advance to victory began on 8th August with the Battle of Amiens, continued on a broadening front with the Second Battles of the Somme and of Arras and, in September, extended to the Ypres Salient. The advance swiftly gathered momentum and by the day of the armistice the front line ran fifty miles or more eastward of the starting points.

Nearly 750,000 Commonwealth soldiers, sailors and airmen died of the Western Front. 200,000 in Belgium and over 500,000 in France. They are commemorated upon headstones marking graves in over 1,000 war cemeteries and 2,000 civil cemeteries or on one of the six memorials in Belgium and twenty in France which carry the names of more than 300,000 who have no known grave.

THE FORGOTTEN FALLEN

THE FALLEN OF THE GREAT WAR FROM WEEDON & HARDWICK

WILLIAM GEORGE ABBEY



**Private 57274
4th Battalion, Worcestershire Regiment**

**Died of Wounds aged 19
30th September 1918**

**Buried at Haringhe (Bandaghem) Military Cemetery
Poperinge, Belgium**

William Abbey's birth in early 1899 was registered in St Albans. The 1901 census shows the family living in 5 Oak Road, Church End, Willesden and identifies that he was born in Loxton, which is near Kings Langley, in Middlesex, the son of John and Kate Abbey. Father John, then aged 30, is described as a Haybinder and it also shows that his mother was born in Cublington. William had a sister, four years older than him, named Evelyn and brother Joseph just two years older.

The 1911 census shows the family living in Stockaway in Weedon with younger sisters Winifred and new baby, Phylis, together with younger brothers Cecil and Horace. William was then aged 13. A family of 8 lived in a 3 roomed house. The places where the children were born show that the family moved about in Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire during this period.

William enlisted in Oxford; however, his British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Card shows that he was previously Private 71559 in the Royal Berkshire Regiment. Other records show that the family were living in New Road, Weedon at the time of his death. John and Kate had another child Grace Elizabeth who was born 24th July 1918.



The war in Belgium centred around Ypres and Poperinge was behind the lines with many field hospitals and resting areas. Three cemeteries nearby were colloquially called 'mendingthem', 'dozingthem' and 'bandingthem' by the troops. William is buried in Haringhe Military Cemetery (Bandaghem) which is near to the village of Haringhe, in the middle of what is now agricultural land, some 18 kilometres north west of Ypres. Wind-blown and isolated from the rest of the area, it is maintained to a very high standard by the local gardeners and helpers. Simple fencing retains the area of the graves with a Cross of Remembrance at one end and a stone plinth in the centre of the area. The cemetery contains 811 burials from the battles of 1917/18. Of these 742 are British, 30 Commonwealth and 39 German.

William was part of the advance from Ypres along the Menin Road to the Battle of Koelenburg Ridge, which was taken on the day he died. It is reported that William's brother Joseph who served in and survived the Great War was a member of the committee who raised money for the provision of the War Memorial in Weedon.

THE FORGOTTEN FALLEN

LIONEL EDWARD ALLEN



Private 766372

1st/28th Battalion, London Regiment (Artists' Rifles)

Died of wounds aged 34

2nd January 1918

**Buried Rocquigny-Equancourt Road British Cemetery
Manancourt, Somme, France**

Lionel Edward Allen was born in the spring of 1883 with the birth registered in Louth. The 1891 census shows him living in the Vicarage in Romford, Essex, the son of Francis and Rose Allen, the youngest of nine, with five older sisters and three older brothers. It also shows that he was born in Binbrooke in Lincolnshire although his brothers and sisters were born elsewhere in Somerset and Dorset. The 1901 census shows him visiting the Wright family in The Lodge, South Street, Romford where Alfred Wright was a Surgeon and Lionel is shown as a Clerk at the Bank of England.

By 1911, although still single, he has his own residence in Luton Road, Harpenden and is still with the Bank. When he enlisted in July 1917, at the Central London Recruiting Depot in Whitehall, he gave as his address, 18 Vincent Square, London. His parents moved to Hardwick in 1904 where Francis, his father, was Rector of St Mary's Parish Church. His death was reported in the Bucks Herald.

Bucks Herald Report January 1918

HARDWICKE & WEEDON

A local Hero – The death of Lionel Edward Allen in a Casualty Clearing Station in France, from wounds received in action, came as a great shock to the inhabitants of the village, of which his father had been the beloved Rector for 13 years. Mr Allen, previous to the war, and up to the time of his joining up, had been on the staff of the Bank of England, where he had gained the esteem and confidence of the heads of the Bank through his thoroughness and devotion to duty. As an illustration of this, he was last winter sent by the Bank to New York on important business. He had from the first the desire to take his share in the great war, but the great business pressure at the Bank, due not only to shortage of staff but also to the heavy work entailed by successive war loans, kept him at his post. When the pressure somewhat relaxed the Bank at his request released him. He joined the 1st Artists Rifles as a private, preferring to go through the ranks, and went to training at Romford, where his father was Rector before going to Hardwicke. After completing his training, he went to France. He could have been there barely two months when his Battalion went into action. On December 30th, the Germans had secured a foothold in their trenches, whereupon two Companies, of which was Lionel Allen's, who were holding the counterattack area, were detailed to advance over the open and push out the enemy. In this action he was wounded and died in the Casualty Clearing Station on January 2nd. Captain Pike who was in command of his Company stated; 'I was never prouder in my life than when we went over. The absolute bravery of the men was splendid. There was no hesitation whatever, and the company excelled itself'. In this action the Battalion lost 100 men. All the officers were casualties. Thus, has passed away another of England's promising lives. He spurned to stay at home but took his life in his hands to help save his country in the hour of her distress.

THE FORGOTTEN FALLEN



Manancourt lies between the towns of Peronne and Bapaume in Northern France, east of Thiepval where the British Memorial stands; another site in farming land well outside the local village. An imposing stone archway leads to a walled site with a central pathway leading to the Cross of Remembrance. The area was captured from the Germans in April 1917, lost in March 1918 and retaken five months later. The cemetery was started in 1917, later used by the Germans for British burials and finally by British troops until the end of the war. It contains the graves of 1,767 British, 82 Commonwealth, 10 French and 198 German soldiers, sailors and airmen. Many other members of the Artists' Rifles lie buried here.

The Artists' Rifles were founded in 1859 amid fears of invasion from France. Edward Stirling formed a volunteer group of painters, sculptors, musicians, architects, engravers and actors from the London artistic community. They bought their own uniforms, and the cap badge was the head of Mars, the Roman God of War and Minerva, goddess of wisdom and arts. During the Great War, the Artist's won 8 VCs, 822 MCs and many other decorations. In 1941, David Sterling of the Scots Guards drew up plans for a hand-picked unit to wreak havoc behind enemy lines. The unit was called the 1st Special Air Services Brigade. After World War Two, the regiment sought a role in the regular army and a marriage of convenience was arranged to incorporate the Artists' Rifles, thus giving rise to the SAS as it is known today. Their magazine is still known as 'Mars and Minerva'.

THE FORGOTTEN FALLEN

LEONARD HALSEY



Private T/242918

7th Battalion, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment)

Killed in action aged 30

23rd March 1918

No Known Grave but commemorated on a panel at Pozieres Memorial, Albert, Somme, France

Leonard Halsey was born in early 1888 and although his name was misspelled with two 'lls'; it was registered in Aylesbury. The 1891 census shows him to be the fourth son of five boys and one girl of Harry, an agricultural labourer born in Cublington and Mary Halsey from Great Brickhill. Leonard is shown as being born in Aston Abbots where they were then living between the Post Office and the Teacher's House. In 1901 the family were still there, and the father's job was now described as a Shepherd.

By 1911 Leonard was living and working as a Farm Labourer for Thomas Pargeter and family, a farmer at Upper Burston. At the beginning of 1917, Leonard married Vera Bertha Ming the daughter of Thomas and Annie Ming and sister of younger brother Herbert William Ming, who died in 1915 – of whom more later. At the time of his death, his wife Vera was living at 'Myncott' in Weedon, (maybe Ming Cottage). Phylis Vera Halsey was buried on 15th May 1918 when less than a year old. Her father would have known that his wife was expecting a child but may never have known of her birth or death.



The Pozieres Memorial is on the north-west side, about 6 kilometres north east of Albert on the road to Bapaume. On the road frontage is an open arcade terminated by small buildings and broken in the middle by an entrance building and gates.

Along the sides and back, stone tablets are fixed in the stone rubble walls. They list the names under their Regiments of those with no known grave. The Cross of Sacrifice and Stone of Remembrance stand on a platform at the far end of the main path of the Cemetery. The number of Men and Officers commemorated number 14,600; of these 13,000 fell in the sixteen days of the German offensive. However, there are thousands of such graves within the burial area of the site.

It is probable that Leonard lies in one of these unmarked graves. His name is listed on the panel of the Queens Regiment and the poem below, by an unknown author, was found together with a cross on the platform of the panel.

THAT SPECIAL PLACE

Take my hand and come with me
To a special place across the sea
A sacred place in hallowed ground
A place where love and sorrows found
It's not a church you'll understand
Just a part of home in another land.

A place where gravestones stand arrayed
Like a phantom army on parade
Stand close to me and patience keep
And soon you'll see a brave man weep
He cries for his comrade beneath the stones
And I tell you friend, he's not alone

Scenes like this are commonplace
In our special meeting place
So, as you stroll down memory lane
Think of us who must remain
And now it's time to say adieu
But remember friend, we died for you

THE FORGOTTEN FALLEN

CHARLES FREDERICK HOPCRAFT



Corporal 265759

2nd/1st Bucks Battalion, Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry

Killed in action aged 19

26th April 1917

**Buried in Chapelle British Cemetery, Holnon, Aisne nr St.Quentin,
France**

Charles Frederick Hopcraft was born in the spring of 1897 and his birth registered in Aylesbury. The 1901 census shows him staying at 35 Wellington Square, St Giles Oxford, with his grandmother and father's sister. His parents, Frederick and Florence and baby sister Dorothy are listed as living at 71 Buckingham Road, Aylesbury near the New Zealand Public House. His father's occupation is a Grocers Assistant, and he was born in Wendover. In 1911 the family lived in Hardwick at the Post Office with Charles and his sister at school.



The Chapelle British Cemetery was created after the Armistice from various battlefields around Holnon and nearby woods. It lies North West of St. Quentin and is quite small compared to others nearby, with the graves of 621 British soldiers who fell there during heavy fighting in the area in September 1918. A slate stone wall surrounds the site with a small enclosure and a Stone Cross at the rear. It is now on the edge of a new housing development with main roads nearby; a credit to those who maintain it.

THE FORGOTTEN FALLEN

LEONARD WILLIAM HUGHES



Private 204775

15th (Hampshire Yeomanry) Battalion, Hampshire Regiment

Died of wounds aged 24

23rd March 1918

Buried in Grevillers British Cemetery, Nr Bapaume, France

Leonard William Hughes birth in the first quarter of 1894 was registered in Aylesbury. In the 1901 census, he is shown as having been born and living in Hardwick with his sister Lizzie and parents William and Jane. His father is listed as an Agricultural Labourer and his grandparents George and Selina lived next door. By 1911, as a 17-year-old, although still living with his parents, he is working in a farm as a Labourer. The home later called Leonard Cottage is described as near Thornes Cottage.

The Hardwick Parish Registers show that at least four generations of the Hughes family have lived in Hardwick since the 1760's. Leonard's father William, the sixth of ten children, was born in 1861 and married his mother Jane Miller in 1884. William's father George, the fourth of nine children of another William who had married Eliza Watkins in 1820 in the Parish Church of St. Mary's in Hardwick, had himself married, at the same church in 1849, Selina Honour. Both the Watkins and Honour families had also lived in Hardwick and Weedon for many generations.

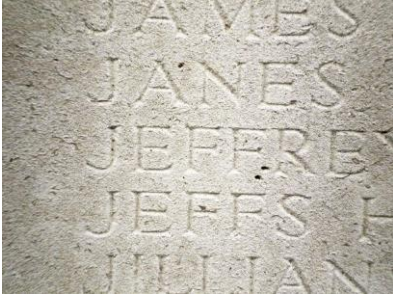


Grevillers British Cemetery has a very imposing brick and stone entrance and surrounding wall, designed by Sir Edward Lutyens, some 3 kilometres from Bapaume in the Pas de Calais. The village of Grevillers was occupied by Commonwealth troops on 14th March 1917. An Australian casualty clearing station was posted nearby in April and May and started to use the cemetery for the next 12 months. At this point it was recaptured by the Germans during their great advance.

In August 1918, the Australians were back, and the cemetery began to expand. Of 2,106 Commonwealth service men buried here only 189 are not identified. Leonard's last resting place, as are all other Commonwealth War Graves, is kept to an immaculate standard and this site rewards the visitor within its serenity.

THE FORGOTTEN FALLEN

HERBERT WILLIAM JEFFS



Private 266164

2nd/1st Bucks Battalion, Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry

Killed in action aged 19

22nd August 1917

No Known Grave but commemorated on panel at Tyne Cot Memorial Passchendaele, Belgium

Herbert Jeffs' birth was registered in Aylesbury as Herbert William. He was baptised on 18th April 1898 in the Parish Church of St. Mary's in Hardwick; however, his full names do not appear on the 1901 census when he is shown living at 9 Providence Place in Weedon with older sisters Ellen and Alice. His father was named John, an Agricultural Labourer born in Hardwick; his mother was born in Broughton; her maiden name was Elizabeth Fincher, and she had married John on 31st October 1887. They probably moved to Weedon shortly afterwards as the 1891 census shows them living there. Two of their children died when very young and another aged four just before the 1901 census.

By 1911, Herbert William was a 13-year-old scholar. William's grandmother, Rachel had seven children and according to the Parish Registers remained a spinster. Divorce and remarriage were almost unheard of in those times and whether there was a permanent relationship with one individual or not is not known at this time. Rachel was the fifth child of six born to George and Mary who in turn was the son of John and Frances Watts, who married in 1790. John's father was another John who died in 1806. Rachel's brother, Daniel, moved to Weedon and lived in Ford Cottage, East End and Stockaway during the nineteenth century.



Tyne Cot Cemetery overlooks the battlefields of Passchendaele and is built around German blockhouses. Indeed, the central Cross of Remembrance is built on and around one. Its name was given by the men of the Northumberland Fusiliers (Tyne-siders). One of the pillboxes was an Advanced Dressing Station. It was captured by the 3rd Australian Division in October 1917, lost in April 1918 and recaptured five months later.

There are 11,956 graves there and 8,637 are of unnamed soldiers. It is the largest number of burials of any war. The panels have inscribed the names of 33,783 men by their respective Regiments who have no known grave and Herbert is listed on his Regiment's panel but may be one of them buried there.

THE FORGOTTEN FALLEN

CHARLES JONES



The Rolls of Honour held at the Commission's Head Office commemorating by name all the Commonwealth casualties who died in Iraq during the two World Wars

Lance Corporal 9920

1st Bucks Battalion, Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry

Died of wounds aged 20

8th April 1916

No Known Grave but commemorated in the Basra Memorial, Iraq

Charles Jones' birth was registered in High Wycombe in the spring of 1896. The third son of Charles and Laura Jones, he also had two sisters, and another brother followed, who lived at the Five Elms Public House in Weedon. His parents were the landlords from about 1900 until the end of the Great War. All four of men of the family served in the Great War and one of his elder brothers, Fred was killed later in 1918.

By the time of the 1911 census Charles was working on a local farm. He saw service in France and was wounded on 25th August 1915 whilst serving with the 6th Battalion. In 1917, his parents left the Five Elms having lived there since 1899 and went to live in Luton in Bedfordshire.

Bucks Herald Report April 1916

DEATH OF A WEEDON MAN

Mr C Jones of the Five Elms, Weedon, received news on Saturday that his son, Private Charles Jones of the Oxford and Bucks. Light Infantry had died from wounds received in action in the Persian Gulf on December 8th. The deceased joined the Army when only 16 years of age and was not 20 at the time of his death. He was in the 1st Battalion Oxford and Bucks. Light Infantry and in August 1915 was wounded at Festubert.

After being invalided to England for two months, he was transferred to depot, and eventually to the 2nd Battalion Oxford and Bucks. Light Infantry with which he was drafted to the Persian Gulf, where as stated he was wounded and died as a result.

Deceased's father is an ex-Colour-Sergeant of the Oxford and Bucks. Light Infantry and served for seven years on the permanent staff of the Bucks. Militia, in which capacity he assisted in the training on the occasion of the last visit of the Militia to Aylesbury. He has three other sons serving with the Colours, one of whom was wounded in the Battle of Mons.

THE FORGOTTEN FALLEN

FREDERICK JONES

OXFORD & BUCKS. LIGHT INF.	
CORPORAL	PRIVATE
PAYNE H.E.	GRAY E.G.
LCE CORPORAL	GRIDLEY C.E.
BARNARD H.	HALLETT R.
BOYLE J.	HEDGE W.J.
COCKSHOTT J.P.	HUNT E.J.
KILWORTH J.W.	JONES F.
MAHONEY E.	ROBINS E.E.
SARGENT H.D.	SCRAGG E.
VALE J.H.D.C.M.	SPIGATT A.
PRIVATE	STRINGFELLOW C.E.
BOVINGTON A.E.	WATSON F.F.
	WELTON J.C.
	WHITING H.W.
	WOODWARD J.W.

Private 9083

2nd Bucks Battalion, Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry

Killed in Action aged 26

11th September 1918

No Known Grave but commemorated on Vis-en-Artois Memorial, Arras, France

The birth of Frederick Jones is reported in censuses to be in Gosport but remains unconfirmed. However, it seems likely that he was born in the spring of 1892. The second son of Charles and Laura Jones; he had two sisters and three brothers when they lived at the Five Elms Public House in Weedon. His parents were the landlords from about 1900 until the end of the Great War.

The 1911 census shows Fred, aged 19, working along with about 30 other young men as a Stoker in Edinburgh Road Portsmouth and he is reported to have enlisted in nearby Gosport, where he was born. He is known to have served as 72620 in the Yorkshire Regiment and also the 1st Battalion of the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry in Mesopotamia where he was twice wounded. He was the brother of Charles Jones who was killed in 1916. After the war, his parents left the Five Elms and went to live in Luton in Bedfordshire.



Vis-en-Artois Cemetery is situated 10 kilometres south east of Arras in northern France, just outside the town in open countryside. Steps lead up to the Cross of Remembrance which, with walls either side by the roadside, acts as the entrance to the site. A series of large imposing panels, with two high columns, like needles, form the far part of the cemetery.

Many of the graves are marked as 'Known unto God' and Fred, as he was known in most of the documents appertaining to him, is probably one of these. His name is inscribed on the panel of his Regiment. The area was captured by the Canadian Corps in late August 1918. The cemetery was started then and continued in use after the Armistice for reburials from the battlefields. It contains the graves of 1,748 British and 590 Commonwealth soldiers and airmen.

THE FORGOTTEN FALLEN

HERBERT WILLIAM MING



Private 15996
1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards

Killed in Action aged 21
13th March 1915

No Known Grave but commemorated on Le Touret Memorial
Bethune, Pas de Calais, France

Herbert William Ming was born in Weedon in the spring of 1894 and his birth registered in Aylesbury. The 1901 census shows him as the elder son of Tom and Annie Ming and the family living at 5 Providence Place. His older sister Vera married Leonard Halsey in 1917, and he was killed in 1918. His father worked with horses on a local farm and as a Waggoner. In the 1911 census, Herbert is working as an Assistant in a Grocers Shop.

Tom and Annie had another son after Herbert was killed and they called him Herbert Arthur James, but sadly he died in December 1918 and is buried in the churchyard in Weedon. The Ming family can be traced back to the 1800s with Thomas's grandfather marrying Elizabeth Fipkin in 1822 and their son William marrying Elizabeth Simonds in 1861. Thomas was their first son, and he married Herbert's mother Annie Arnold in June 1889. Herbert and William George were first cousins once removed.



The Memorial in Le Touret Cemetery lies 6 kilometres north of the town of Bethune on the main road to Armentieres, in the Pas de Calais. This area lay close to the front line and was occupied by fighting units from the start of the war until March 1918, when it passed into German hands for five months. It was mainly used by the Guards Divisions and Indian Corps during the Battle of Festubert. This impressive Memorial takes the form of a loggia surrounding an open rectangular court which is enclosed by three solid walls and on the eastern side by a colonnade which is itself extended southward forming a long gallery. Small pavilions mark the ends of the gallery buildings with the graves of 890 British and 20 Commonwealth soldiers spread all around the structure.

The Memorial Panels list by Regiment the names of 13,373 soldiers of the British Army, who fell on the battlefields of La Basse, Neuve Chapelle, Aubers Ridge and Festubert before 25 September 1915. The memorial was not finished and dedicated until 1930. Herbert's name can be found on the panel of the Grenadier Guards.

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WILLIAM GEORGE MING



Private 29980

1st/8th Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment

Killed in Action aged 42

27th August 1917

**No Known Grave but commemorated on Tyne Cot Memorial
Passchendaele, Belgium**

William George Ming's birth is registered in Aylesbury in the summer of 1875 and the 1881 census shows that he was born in Weedon, the third son of George and Jane Ming, a farm labourer living in the Barracks (now known as Providence Place). In 1891, this home is given as number 8 (now 61) with the Arnold family on one side and the Jeffs the other. By 1901, aged 24, he is working as a Farm Labourer like his father.

In the census of 1911, it states that his parents have been married for 48 years and he was still living with them. William's father George was the younger brother of William who was married to Elizabeth Simonds. George married Jane Hounslow in 1862. William and Herbert's father were cousins. It is reported that he formerly served as a Private 23036 in the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry.



Tyne Cot Cemetery overlooks the battlefields of Passchendaele and is built around German blockhouses. Indeed, the central Cross of Remembrance is built on and around one. Its name was given by the men of the Northumberland Fusiliers (Tyne-siders). One of the pillboxes was an Advanced Dressing Station. It was captured by the 3rd Australian Division in October 1917, lost in April 1918 and recaptured five months later.

There are 11,956 graves there and 8,637 are of unnamed soldiers. It is the largest number of burials of any war. The panels have inscribed the names of 33,783 men by their respective Regiments who have 'no known grave' and William's name is inscribed under his Regiment and may be one who is buried there.

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HERBERT OWEN TODD



**Private 53125
18th Battalion, The King's (Liverpool Regiment)**

**Died from Wounds aged 37
20th July 1917**

Buried in St. Mary's Churchyard, Hardwick, England

Herbert Owen Todd was born and lived in Hardwick before enlisting in Kilburn London where he had worked for a number of years. The 1891 census shows Herbert as the elder son of William and Sarah Todd, and he had two sisters at the time. However, the census for ten years earlier shows two older sisters who had probably left home by 1891. His father was an agricultural labourer, and they lived in a house called Sots Hole. His mother was a lacemaker. No record of him has been found in the 1901 census, but by 1911 he is working as a Brewers Labourer in London and living at 65 Dynham Road, West Hampstead, as a boarder with the Brown family and unmarried. He is known to have been with the East Surrey Regiment (20502).

The Todd family can be traced through the Parish Registers in Hardwick from about 1780 when Herbert's great grandfather Richard was born. He married Hannah Cosby in the Parish Church in 1809, and they had five children with Herbert's grandfather John their second son, born in 1816. John married a Mary, and they had eight children with Herbert's father William, a twin, with brother Stephen born on 28th February 1847. Hardwick Churchyard contains the Commonwealth War Grave of Herbert Owen Todd in the south west corner.

Bucks Herald Report July 1917



HARDWICK - DEATH OF HERBERT TODD. The many friends of Herbert Todd in Hardwick and neighbouring villages will hear with regret that he died in hospital at Liverpool on July 20th from wounds and following illness which necessitated his return from the front.

He entered the army early in the spring of 1916 and after a very short spell of training passed over into France and took part in some of the fierce fighting of that time. It was some little satisfaction to his relatives to be able to bring the body from the north and lay it in the pretty churchyard of his native village on the sloping ground overlooking a valley of wood and meadow.

There was a large gathering at the church and graveside including Mr. W Todd (father) and Mr. and Mrs. Noble, of Aylesbury; Mr. and Mrs. Mason Hardwick; Mr and Mrs. Cox, Oving (brother-in-law and sisters, representatives from the firm at Kilburn where deceased had been employed for nearly twenty years, and many friends who had known him intimately from boyhood. Appropriate hymns were interspersed in the beautiful burial service, both in the church and at the graveside, and the organist, Mr. Rickard, played selections from the works of Handel and Mendelssohn. The grave was covered with many floral offerings.

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MUSGRAVE CAZENOVE WROUGHTON



**Second Lieutenant
12th (Prince of Wales's Royal) Lancers**

**Died from wounds aged 23
30th October 1914**

**Buried in Kemmel Churchyard
Kemmel, Belgium.**

Musgrave Cazenove Wroughton was born in London on 1st October 1891, the only son of William Musgrave Wroughton who had married Edith Constance Cazenove at St. Mary's Parish Church in Hardwick on 24th June 1880, his sister Cecily was christened in the same church on 14th February 1886.

His mother was the daughter of Henry Cazenove, of the banking family and at the time High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire, who lived at Lilies in Weedon. His grandmother was responsible for the provision of the Schoolroom in Weedon together with its sanctuary whereby the elderly residents of Weedon could enjoy their own services and not have to walk to Hardwick, in all weathers.

The census of 1891 was taken in April and does not contain any knowledge of Musgrave but another sister, Dulce, is listed, born about 1888. The family were living at 30 Chester Square in Knightsbridge, London. In 1901, they are all still there complete with a German Governess, Belgium Butler, Footman, Cook and four Domestic servants.

Musgrave, who to his friends and colleagues was known as 'Bob', went to Harrow School and also Christchurch in Oxford. He served for four years in the Northamptonshire Yeomanry before being commissioned into the Lancers. Other reports mention service with the Household Cavalry and the Imperial Camel Corps. The 1911 census has no mention of him and presumably that was the time he was in South Africa with Baden Powell or elsewhere with his regiment. In December 1917, his mother applied for him to be given the 1914 Star, and she was sent roll of Officers who were eligible. It is not known whether he was so honoured.



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The village, or now rather a small town of Kemmel, lies about 8 kilometres to the south west of Ypres and there are many other Commonwealth War Cemeteries in and around.

Musgrave though is buried in the churchyard of the village church. One of about 21 graves; all dating from early in the war. The church has probably been restored since those times and is quite large for the size of the village, beautifully kept, regularly used and very interesting. The graveyard contains the remains of villagers going back quite some time and notably many of their tombs are very large and ornate.

In one area within these and overlooking the village is an enclave of these war graves with Musgrave in the middle of the plot. Although well maintained there was no evidence of recent visits. (Many crosses and flowers are regularly seen when visiting other graves).

Taken from de Ruvigny's Roll of Honour

WROUGHTON, MUSGRAVE CAZENOVE 2nd Lieut., 12th (Prince of Wales's Royal) Lancers, only s. of William Musgrave Wroughton, of 77 Chester Square, London, S.W., and of Creton Lodge, co. Northampton, by his wife, Edith Constance, dau. Of Henry Cazenove, of Lilies, Aylesbury, and nephew of Philip Wroughton, of Woolley Park, co. Berks, M.P., J.P., D.L (see The Plantagenet Roll, Mortimer-Percy, Vol.1, p.203); b. in London, 1 Oct. 1891.

He was educ. at Harrow and at Christchurch, Oxford, and during his school and college vacations was a keen follower of the Pytchley Hounds, of which pack his father was master for many years. On leaving Harrow he received a commission in the Northamptonshire Yeomanry, and in 1912 he accompanied Sir Robert Baden-Powell as A.D.C. on his world tour in connection with the Boy Scouts' movement.

After serving for four years in the Northamptonshire Yeomanry, he was given a commission in the Special Reserve, 12th Lancers, as 2nd Lieut. (on probation) in Oct. 1913; the appointment was confirmed after his death, to date from 29 Oct. 1914. In Aug. 1914, he accompanied his regt. to the Front and was mentioned in Sir John French's Despatch of 14 Jan. 1915, for gallant and distinguished service in the field. He was killed in action near Ypres, 30 Oct. 1914 and was buried in Kemmel Churchyard, Belgium; unm

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REFLECTIONS

William George Ming and **Herbert Jeffs** died within 5 days of each other and their names are recorded on the panels, albeit under different Regiments, at the Tyne Cot Cemetery in Belgium. William was 23 years older than Herbert, but they lived, according to the census records, in Providence Place. William would have known Herbert throughout his life from a small baby to a young adult. Being in different Regiments, they may not have known that they were both in Belgium and indeed at the Battle of Passchendaele. They both may be buried in one of the 8,637 unnamed, out of the 11,954, graves of those soldiers who fell during the fighting there in August 1917.

Herbert William Ming joined the Grenadier Guards but would have known Herbert Jeffs and his cousin (first removed) William. If you examine the Weedon census records over a number of decades, you soon realise that there were a number of families who lived in adjacent dwellings in Providence Place. The Ming's lived at No. 55; both father George in 1881 and then son Tom with grandson Herbert William after 1891. The Jeffs were at No. 63 from 1891 onwards. When son Tom, after 1891, took over No. 55, George and his wife with unmarried son William George moved into No. 61. Tom's wife was Annie Arnold, and the Arnold family lived at No.59.

Two Leonards died on the same day in March 1918, one **Leonard Hughes**, from Hardwick, of the Hampshire Yeomanry, who was helping defend positions during the sixteen days of the German big advance and the other **Leonard Halsey**, from Weedon, of the Queens Royal West Surrey Regiment who was in the same area of conflict. Their cemeteries are less than 10 kilometres apart. Leonard Halsey came from Aston Abbots and married Vera Ming the daughter of Tom Ming whose son Herbert William had died in 1915.

All these four men – Herbert William Ming, William George Ming, Herbert Jeffs and Leonard Halsey – would have known each other well. They joined different Regiments and saw different areas of France and Belgium. None of them has a known grave and it is only on the panels of their Regiments that their names are found, although there are many graves in the cemeteries where they could be. Sadly, some of them may have no remains, as nothing of them was ever found.

By contrast, all of the men lost from Hardwick have graves and lie with comrades from the battles in which they fought. **Lionel Allen**, **Charles Hopcraft** and **Leonard Hughes** are buried in France within 20 kilometres of the British Memorial at Thiepval. **Herbert Todd** is in Hardwick cemetery.

William Abbey, who rests in Belgium, was the only man born in Weedon to have a known grave and was the last man in the villages to die. **Frederick Jones** is listed on a memorial east of Arras and his brother **Charles** is somewhere in Basra, in Iraq. These three may well have known each other as they all resided, before the war, in Stockaway. Charles and Frederick Jones were the sons of the publican who lived at the Five Elms from 1899 to 1917.

Musgrave Wroughton, who was apparently known as Bob by all who knew him, was also buried and was the first soldier in the villages to be killed. However, he was born, not in Weedon, but in London.

His mother was married in Hardwick Church, but the family left Weedon before Musgrave was born. A plaque was placed by his mother in Hardwick Church and his grandparents Henry Cazenove and wife were known benefactors. Maybe Musgrave's mother helped towards the costs of

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erecting the memorials in both villages. Maybe she felt that, as her son went to school in Harrow and Oxford and then joined the army, he had no real roots in London, and Weedon was her childhood home. Who knows? There is no doubt that he had a very distinguished service career and was a very gallant soldier, who was very attached to his mother's childhood family home.

Nothing, of course, in this appraisal refers to the many men who served in the war and returned home wounded, lost limbs, suffered from shell shock, were gassed and then may have had to contend with Spanish Flu.

'The War to end all Wars' certainly failed to achieve that hope.

Ralph A Followell 2024

Forgotten Fallen of World War I	Born in	Died	Commemorated/Buried
<u>William George ABBEY</u>	Weedon	30 Sept 1918	Haringhe Military Cemetery, Poperinge, Belgium
<u>Lionel Edward ALLEN</u>	Hardwick	2 January 1918	Rocquigny-Equancourt Road British Cemetery, Manancourt, Somme, France
<u>Leonard HALSEY</u>	Weedon	23 March 1918	Pozieres Memorial, Albert, Somme, France
<u>Charles Frederick HOPCRAFT</u>	Hardwick	26 April 1917	Chapelle British Cemetery, Holnon, Aisne, France
<u>Leonard William HUGHES</u>	Hardwick	23 March 1918	Grevillers British Cemetery, nr Bapaume, France
<u>Herbert William JEFFS</u>	Weedon	22 August 1917	Tyne Cot Memorial, Passchendaele, Belgium
<u>Charles JONES</u>	Weedon	8 April 1916	Basra Memorial, Iraq
<u>Frederick JONES</u>	Weedon	11 September 1918	Vis-enArtois Memorial, Arras, France
<u>Herbert William MING</u>	Weedon	13 March 1915	Le Touret Memorial, Bethune, Pas de Calais, France
<u>William George MING</u>	Weedon	27 August 1917	Tyne Cot Memorial, Passchendaele, Belgium
<u>Herbert Owen TODD</u>	Hardwick	20 July 1917	St Mary's Churchyard, Hardwick
<u>Musgrave Cazenove WROUGHTON</u>	Weedon	30 October 1914	Kemmel Churchyard, Kemmel, Belgium