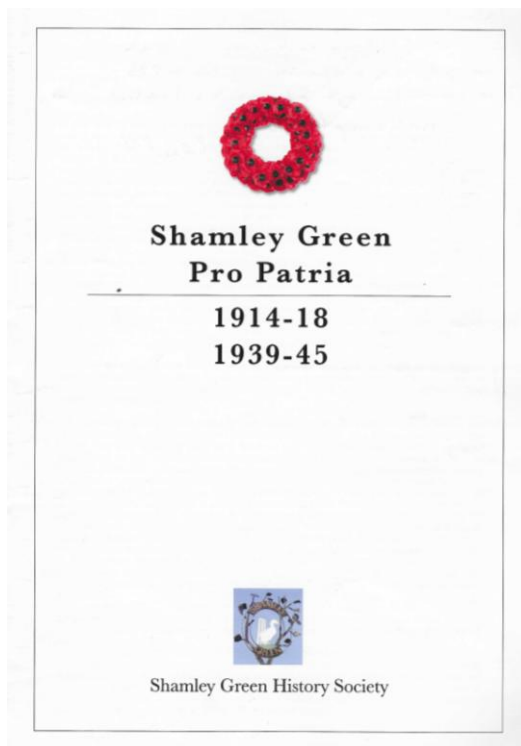


## IN MEMORIAM - LEST WE FORGET

During the last 12 months I have referred each month to those from the Village who gave their life in the two World Wars. The information was taken from Michael Harding's "Pro Patria" document.



In the following table all the names are listed in order of the month in which they fell. This list could be used if there is any place for a monthly reminder, rather than just the annual Remembrance Sunday. In the world as it is today, it is important to remember what sacrifices war demands. "WM" indicates those remembered on the war memorial at Christ Church, Shamley Green.

| Name                           | Date             | WM | Rank          |      |
|--------------------------------|------------------|----|---------------|------|
| Jenkin Robert Oswald Thompson  | 24 January 1944  |    | Captain       | WWII |
| Albert Street                  | 10 February 1918 | WM | Rifleman      | WWI  |
| Ralph (Rafe) Bonfoy Rooper     | 16 March 1944    | WM | Lieutenant    | WWII |
| Cyril Arthur Godwin Hodgson    | 20 March 1918    |    | Captain       | WWI  |
| Ernest James Jenner            | 23 March 1918    | WM | Private       | WWI  |
| George Edwin Valler            | 23 March 1918    | WM | Private       | WWI  |
| Charles Swayne                 | 29 March 1943    | WM | Signalman     | WWII |
| Charles Basil Mortimer Hodgson | 1 April 1918     |    | Captain       | WWI  |
| Frederick Alfred Hart          | 5 April 1918     |    | Corporal      | WWI  |
| John George Sparkes            | 11 April 1928    |    | Colonel       | WWI  |
| Timothy Stevens                | 15 April 1917    |    | Private       | WWI  |
| Gilbert V Foster               | 21 April 1917    |    | Private       | WWI  |
| James Miles                    | 23 April 1918    | WM | Private       | WWI  |
| Donald Alexander Jameson       | 24 April 1945    |    | First Officer | WWII |
| A Collins                      | 27 April 1917    |    | Private       | WWI  |

| Name                              | Date             | WM | Rank            |      |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|----|-----------------|------|
| J Croucher                        | 8 May 1915       | WM |                 | WWI  |
| Ernest John Griffin               | 8 May 1918       | WM | Sergeant        | WWI  |
| William Gay Burdett               | 15 May 1940      | WM | Captain         | WWII |
| Albert (Bill) Edward Harding      | 22 May 1941      | WM | Comm. Boatswain | WWII |
| Hugh Deane Wyldbore-Smith         | 24 May 1941      | WM | Lt. Commander   | WWII |
| Sydney Stevens                    | 10 June 1944     | WM | Sapper          | WWII |
| John Anthony Rooper               | 11 June 1941     | WM | Lieutenant      | WWII |
| Robin Barnes                      | 25 June 1943     | WM | Sergeant        | WWII |
| Fred Abbott                       | 1 July 1917      | WM | Private         | WWI  |
| John Selwyn Moll                  | 24 July 1942     |    | Captain         | WWII |
| Albert (Bert) Kelsey              | 26 July 1916     |    | Private         | WWI  |
| Arthur John (John) Goff           | 26 July 1945     | WM | Sergeant        | WWII |
| John Seaton Burns Ivey            | 28 July 1944     | WM | Lieutenant      | WWII |
| James Robert Sole                 | 6 August 1917    | WM | Leading Seaman  | WWI  |
| Lionel Edward Lock                | 6 August 1944    | WM | Gunner          | WWII |
| Nelson Buck                       | 9 August 1918    | WM | Private         | WWI  |
| Thomas William Lloyd              | 9 August 1916    |    | Private         | WWI  |
| William Otway Overington          | 24 August 1918   | WM | Private         | WWI  |
| Wilfred John Humphreys            | 25 August 1918   | WM | Rifleman        | WWI  |
| Frederick George Oliver           | 18 Sept 1918     | WM | Gunner          | WWI  |
| Herbert John Ernest Olds          | 20 Sept 1918     |    | Private         | WWI  |
| Graham Howard Shepard             | 20 Sept 1943     |    | Lieutenant      | WWII |
| William Thomas Baker              | 21 Sept 1918     |    | Private         | WWI  |
| George Henry Ruddock              | 5 October 1917   | WM | Lance Corporal  | WWI  |
| Francis Robert Bailey             | 23 October 1940  |    | Lance Sergeant  | WWII |
| Frederick Victor Innis Risbridger | 26 October 1917  |    | Private         | WWI  |
| Percy Stevens                     | 27 October 1916  | WM | 2nd Cooks' Mate | WWI  |
| Arthur Charles Royal              | 1 November 1914  | WM | Able Seaman     | WWI  |
| George Frederick A Richardson     | 18 November 1916 |    | Private         | WWI  |
| Archibald Frank Salsbury          | 24 November 1944 |    | Colonel         | WWII |
| Nigel Harold Cain                 | 22 December 1943 |    | Flying Officer  | WWII |
| William Messenger                 | 30 December 1918 |    | Lieutenant      | WWI  |

## JANUARY

**WWII, 24 January 1944, Jenkin Robert Oswald Thompson GC, LRCP, MRCS, Captain** Royal Army Medical Corps,. Born in Fulham. He married Marjorie Annie Bispham, described as being of the village of Shamley Green in 1939. Died aged 32. The London Gazette of 2 February 1945 reported that he had been awarded the George Cross for most conspicuous gallantry in carrying out hazardous work in a very brave manner. Cited many times for bravery aboard Hospital Ships from the very beginning of the war, particularly with the H.M.H.S. "Paris" at Dunkirk and the "St. David" at Sicily. At Anzio aboard the rapidly sinking vessel "St. David" he organised parties to remove all the wounded to safety in nearby boats. Finally, when all were ordered to save themselves, Thompson returned alone, to the one remaining patient who was still trapped below deck. Captain Thompson remained with this man and both perished together when the ship went down. His name is commemorated on Brookwood 1939-45

Memorial. Full details of his conspicuous service during the war can be read in K Peterborough's contribution to 'Find a Grave' on the internet.

## FEBRUARY

**WWI, 10 February 1918, Albert Street, Rifleman** was one of at least 10 known children of Thomas and Charlotte Street née Mitchell. He enlisted in 1<sup>st</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> City of London Battalion, Post Office Rifles of the London Regiment died on 10 February 1918 aged 30 probably as a victim of the flu epidemic. He is buried at Etaples Military Cemetery. His father managed the Surrey Trading Village Shop, now Village Country Stores and Post Office. Other members of the family continued to live in the village until the Millennium.

## MARCH

**WWII, 16 March 1944, Ralph (Rafe) Bonfoy Rooper, Lieutenant RN**, killed in action at the age of 25, when his MTB 417 was badly damaged by enemy fire off Calais. He was buried in Bergen General Cemetery in the Netherlands. He had already been awarded the DSC for gallantry while serving on Motor Torpedo Boats (MTB).

The Rooper children grew up at Reel Hall, Woodhill Lane. Their father John Roydon Rooper was one of the Senior Directors of the Cunard Line whose liners had in peace time crossed the Atlantic to carry passengers in luxury to and from the USA and Canada. In war time the liners were converted into troop ships which brought thousands of US troops to Britain in preparation for D Day.



Their mother Isobel Iris Rooper née Caltrop was an inspirational local wartime organiser of good works, whether in spite of, or because of, the loss of her sons. Because of Cunard's links with Canada and USA she and another local resident Mrs Shadbolt, formerly of Hyde Farm but in war time resident with her daughter Virginia at Cherrytrees in Sweetwater Lane, with similar trans Atlantic links due to her holdings of Canadian Pacific shares made maximum use of these contacts to organize a steady supply of American and Canadian food parcels containing tins of butter and packets of dried fruit. After the war John and Isobel Rooper gave a carved litany desk to Christ Church in memory of their two sons who had been killed. This stands in the Chancel in front of the Vicar's stall and continues in regular use today.

**WWI, 20 March 1918, Cyril Arthur Godwin Hodgson, Captain, North Devon Regiment.** Died on 20 March 1918, aged 33, from a fatal form of malarial fever, while stationed in Egypt. Buried in the Cairo War Cemetery. Son of the beer baron Charles Hodgson of the Hallams, Blackheath, Cyril is named on the

Blackheath War Memorial; but because he was on the electoral roll for Christ Church, Shamley Green, the nearest church in which a memorial could be erected, there is a stained glass window in what is now the choir vestry, which attributes his infection to his time in Palestine.

**WWI, 23 March 1918, Ernest James Jenner**, Private, the Queens Own Royal West Kent Regiment. Died in action during the Battle of St Quentin. We know of no burial place but he is also remembered on the Arras Memorial.



**WWI, 23 March 1918, George Edwin Valler**, Private, Queens Royal West Surrey. Killed in action aged 37, the oldest of the WW1 fatalities, with no known grave; but is remembered on Pozieres Memorial (which commemorates over 14,000 casualties of the United Kingdom and 300 of the South African Forces who have no known grave and who died on the Somme from 21 March to 7 August 1918). His wife, Minna, died on 30th June 1965 and is buried in Christ Church graveyard. Her husband's memory is commemorated on her headstone, "Missing during the Great War – Reunited".



**WWII, 29 March 1943, Charles Swayne**, *Signalman*, 45<sup>th</sup> Division Royal Signals. Died of illness, probably tuberculosis, aged 26. Son of Sidney George and Alice Mary Swayne, née Blackman, of Hullbrook Lane, buried in our churchyard. Though his death was due to medical causes, he was at the time serving in the uniformed services so his name is engraved on our War Memorial. At the time this was contentious.



## APRIL

**WWI, 1 April 1918, Charles Basil Mortimer Hodgson, Captain,** initially served with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion the Queens Royal West Surrey, later attached to the 2<sup>nd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the London Regiment which formed part of General Allenby's Army when it was deployed in Egypt and Palestine working with Colonel TE Lawrence and Arab forces to drive the Turkish forces out of Palestine and Syria. It seems likely that the award of the Croix de Guerre with Palm given to him by our French allies was for his ability to speak French and facilitate joint action successfully thanks to his skills in liaison and cooperation between British and French forces though we do not know the precise wording of the citation for the award. He died of wounds on 1 April 1918 aged 37, just ten days after his younger brother Cyril. Both are buried in the Cairo War Memorial Cemetery Charles was the husband of Mary A Hodgson the daughter of one of the Salisbury Cathedral Clergy, so her parental home was in the Cathedral Close and to where she returned after her husband's death. The home of his parents Charles and Emily Hodgson was The Hallams, Blackheath and both brothers names are on the Blackheath War Memorial. The parents sold the Hallams and moved away in the early 1930s.

**WWI, 5 April 1918, Frederick Alfred Hart, Corporal,** enlisted in Epsom into the National Reserve on 14 November 1914 and later served in the Machine Gun Corps. Killed in action on the Somme on 5 April 1918 aged 26 and is buried at Bouzincourt Communal Cemetery Extension Somme. He was born in Shamley Green in 1893 the last child of 9 born to George and Emily Hart née Mitchell. He was baptized in Christ Church. The family had moved to Epsom by 1911. He married Florence May Barber in St Barnabus Church in Epsom on 10 April 1915.

**WWI, 11 April 1928, John George Sparkes, Colonel,** 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion the Derbyshire Regiment. of Woodyers, Wonersh who did not die until 11 April 1928, aged 77. He had made his name serving with the Derbyshire Regiment and possibly suffered from war wounds. The Sparkes family was well regarded and influential in the local area once owning large properties at Gosden, Bramley, Green Place in Wonersh and Woodhill Manor, Shamley Green. While Colonel John Sparkes was the highest ranking local army man his second cousin the much older Admiral of the Blue Copeland-Sparkes was the senior naval officer put out to pasture on half pay well before the 1<sup>st</sup> World War started but still running his large 350+acre estate. There may be a touch of pulling the forelocks to ones better in the deference with which he was respected but unusually John Sparkes name continues to be read out at the November Remembrance Services at the War Memorial prior to the two minutes silence prior to which the tradition has evolved of the Sunday Club children seeking out the memorial headstones of those who died in the service of their country and are commemorated in our churchyard to place poppy crosses on relevant graves.

Born in 1850 and baptized in St John the Baptist on 21 November 1850. He was the son of John and Catherine Hay Sparkes née Copland. He married Mabel Louisa Warren in 1884 in Fareham, Hampshire. They had a daughter Annie Frederica Copland born on 30 June 1885. Annie married Aubrey High Vernon Sudbury on 10 April 1916 in St John the Baptist in Wonersh. They had two children, Rosemary Ann Sudbury and Vernon Cecil Warren Sudbury. John's wife Mabel died on 11 September 1955.

**WWI, 15 April 1917, Timothy Stevens, Private, Australian 13<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, died of wounds 15 April 1917, aged 29.** He was born on 2 December 1888 at Shamley Green, the son of Timothy and Rosina P Stevens née Brookman and baptized in Christ Church on 3 February 1889. He attended the village school and trained as a carpenter becoming involved in the construction of several local houses and saving enough to buy a plot of land in Stonards Brow from Mr Charman. In 1913 he emigrated to Australia but in a letter home which his family still have he expressed disappointment at having difficulty in getting paid employment. This may have been a factor to explain his enlistment in the Australian Imperial Force, where he swore the oath of allegiance on 11 April 1916 in Sydney, New South Wales, correctly anticipating that this would speed up his return to the United Kingdom. He was allocated to the Australian 13<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion which was sent to Cedford Barracks in Wiltshire on the edge of Salisbury Plain for intensive training in trench warfare. As his unit were moved across Southern England, prior to embarkation to France they were marched from Aldershot via Guildford through Shamley Green on their way to the South Coast. He was therefore briefly able to see members of his family for what subsequently proved to be the last time. This was at a date when his sister Esther resided with her husband Harry Heather and their children in what is now called Quoin Cottage.

Not long after his arrival in France he was seriously wounded in his leg, on 11 April 1917 at Bantigny where he was taken prisoner. Four days later on 15 April 1917 he died of wounds at a German Feld Lazarett (Field Hospital) at the age of 29, as a prisoner in occupied France. Initially he was buried nearby but subsequently reinterred in the Canadian France 481 Ontario Cemetery at Sais-les-Marquoin beside two other Australian fatalities.

**WWI, 21 April 1917, Gilbert V Foster, Private, Queens Royal West Surrey, died of wounds 21 April 1917, aged 31, buried in St Sever Cemetery Extension near Rouen.** He was born in 1886 in Shamley Green to Reuben and Eliza Foster née Stevens. The family lived on Smithbrook Common. He married Bessie Foster née Tickner who subsequently remarried Albert E Adams of Thatched House Dunsfold in St Nicolas Church in Cranleigh on 25 December 1919. His father died in 1903 and his widowed mother Eliza was living in Cranleigh when war ended. She died in 1932.

**WWI, 23 April 1918, James Miles, Private, Royal Army Medical Corps, killed in action during the Battle of Lys on 23 April 1918 aged 29, buried at Il Grooterbeek Cemetery in Belgium.** He was born in Midhurst in 1899, one of nine children of George and Ann Miles née Carter. His father George died the same year in Shamley Green. The family had moved from Sussex to Shamley Green between 1891 and 1894 when Frederick, the first of the Surrey born children was baptised in Christ Church. Three daughters were to follow, twins Mabel and Edith and then Lilian. His widowed mother Annie was living in Woodhill Cottages, Woodhill Lane with sons William, George and Frederick and the twins Mabel and Lilian and she died in 1920. Following the death of a son, widowed mothers were not usually entitled to a war pension even though he was the bread winner. Such situations often caused much hardship. If applicants went through an appeals procedure they were sometimes successful, his sister was paid two gratuities.



**WWII, 24 April 1945, Donald Alexander Jameson** *First Officer*, Air Transport Auxilliary (ATA) died on 24 April 1945 aged 33 as a result of a flying accident. He was one of the three sons of Arthur Sampson and Dora Kincaid Jameson née Rowand and had been born in Redhill and baptized there in St James' Church. He had married (Beatrice) Joan Allen in 1940 having gained his Aviator's Certificate at Redhill on 24 May 1939. His death had been registered in Cambridge and at that time his and his wife's official home address was at Fleet View, West Cookham in Berkshire. It is believed that the aircraft crashed in Cambridgeshire possibly as a result of the notorious Fenland Fogs which made navigation and landing extremely difficult for solo pilots. Both parents were buried in Christ Church graveyard. Three years after the burial of his father, Donald was also buried here.

**WWI, 27 April 1917, A Collins**, *Private*, 43rd Mobile Vet. Sect. Army Veterinary Corps, died on 27 April 1917 aged 35, buried at Warlincourt Halte British Cemetery in Saulty. He was the son of William and Annie Collins and married to Caroline of Lee Farm Cottages in Shamley Green. Caroline later married Sidney Smith in 1918.



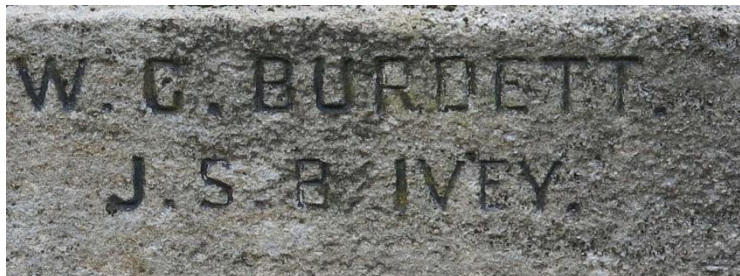
## MAY

**WWI, 8 May 1915, J Croucher**, thought to be Kings own Regiment, died 8 May 1915, aged 33 in Belgium and is listed on the Ypres Memorial.. He might have been linked to the community of Independants based at Lords Hill which also had links with a similar group at Loxwood. It is possible he was enlisted in a non combatant role as we do not know his rank, age or where his next of kin lived, though the fact that his name is on our war memorial indicates that he or his parents

must have lived somewhere in the village. The Commonwealth Grave records state there are nine J Crouchers, four of whom are John.

**WWI, 8 May 1918, Ernest John Griffin, Sergeant, Duke of Cambridge's Lancers, killed on 8 May 1918, aged 37.** He is buried in Vignacourt British Cemetery. He was born in Rawsham in Buckinghamshire in 1881. He had married Ella Annie Griffin née Dryburgh in 1908. In 1911 he was a coachman living with Ella and their son Ronald Ernest Griffin born 1909 in Sweetwater Lane. By 1939 Ella had moved to Watford where she died in 1973. Their son Ronald was baptised in Christ Church, he married Edith May Picton a local girl at Watford in 1935 and died there 1967.

**WWII, 15 May 1940, William Gay Burdett, captain, Royal Army Services Corps, killed at sea during operations in Northern Norway centred around Narvik on 15 May 1940 aged 31.** He was born on 15 November 1908 in Poplar in London and was the youngest of three children. He was a Supplies Officer in the Royal Army Service Corps. He is commemorated in Christ Church on the grave of his wife, on the village war memorial and on the Brookwood memorial. The latter lists 3,500 men and women who also died with no known graves. His parents were Halford Gay and Helena Georgina Burdett née Jewesbury, his father Halford having died in 1916 from heart failure in Tunbridge Wells. His mother Helena moved somewhere in Sussex with her children. William Gay Burdett married Doris Barbara Wintle in 1927 in St George Hanover Square and in 1939 they were living at April Cottage, Lords Hill. Very sadly she had predeceased him by four days. Given that he was so far away engaged in a fierce but brief action it seems unlikely that he was aware of this fact when he was killed.



**WWII, 22 May 1941, Albert (Bill) Edward Harding, Commissioned Boatswain, RN, killed on 22 May 1941, aged 40, buried at sea.** He was serving on *HMS Warspite*, the flagship of the British Mediterranean fleet. Twenty eight other members of the ships company were also killed in action during an aerial bombardment by an ME 109 dive bomber which had cleverly descended from the direction of the mid day sun making it almost impossible to see. Most of those killed were members of the two starboard 6" and 4" guns which my father commanded. He was killed instantly in the explosion that blew the whole of one nearby gun turret and its crew into the sea. Others were killed or injured while extinguishing the fires which raged as a result from the bombing. All those killed on *HMS Warspite* were buried at sea in conformity with naval custom, He was the third of 10 children and second son of Walter Robert and Rosina Harding née Gale of Harrow Weald. In 1927 he became engaged to Nancy Elliott and they were married at Christ Church in August 1930 by Reverend Eagles.

Albert Harding was the father of Michael Harding. Michael reports: "In 1941 my mother Nancy was left a war widow with three young children, myself aged 8, my sister Joy aged 3 and baby brother Christopher aged 1. My father had only seen photographs of Chris as he was born in May 1940 after Dad had left in what proved to be his final commission with the Mediterranean Fleet."



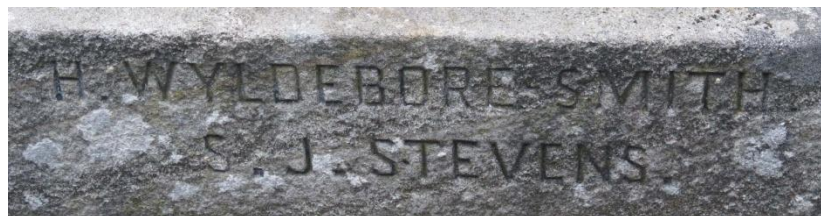
**WWII, 22 May 1941, Lieutenant Commander Hugh Deane Wyldbore-Smith**, Lieutenant Commander RN killed on 24 May 1941, aged 34. He was serving as Signals Officer on HMS Hood when it was sunk by the more powerful German battleship Bismark. He was the third child of Hugh and Kate Beatrice Wyldbore-Smith née Deane, they had five children in total. He married Rachel Caroline Lucy, née Orlebar, of Weymouth. He is remembered on Christ Church War Memorial and the Portsmouth Naval Memorial.



## JUNE

**WWII, 10 June 1944, Sydney Stevens**, Sapper, Royal Engineers, killed on 10 June 1944, aged 34, while clearing mines and other explosive obstacles from the Normandy beaches, shortly after D Day, close to the invasion beaches.

His parents were William and Rose Stevens née Jones and he was the youngest of a large family who was able to field full cricket team of Stevens relatives. Sydney had worked pre war under his father in the family building business based at what is now the Court House Barn next to the Forge. He had married Honor Stevens née Shaw and had two daughters and one son.



**WWII, 11 June 1941, John Anthony Rooper**, Lieutenant RN, died on 11 June 1941 aged 24 as a result of a flying accident when serving in the aircraft carrier HMS Ark Royal. He was a Fleet Air Arm Officer. He has no known place of burial; as well as being commemorated on Christ Church War Memorial his name appears on the Lee on Solent Memorial.



**WWII, 25 June 1943, Robin Barnes**, Sergeant, Royal Air Force, 102 Squadron of Bomber Command, flying Halifax Bombers based at Pocklington in Yorkshire. Presumed dead on 25 June 1943 aged 29. The Halifax on which Robin regularly flew, with the six other crew members, took off on 24 June 1943 at 2300 hours on a Ruhr bombing mission led by Flying Officer Lewis and Pilot Officer Perkins. It was damaged by Ack Ack fire, caught fire and crashed. The body of two crew members were recovered and buried at Rheinburg War Cemetery and the rest of the crew are remembered on the RAF Runnymede Memorial. Sergeant Barnes name can be seen on Panel 141 there as well as on the Shamley Green Memorial.



## JULY

**WWI, 1 July 1917, Fred Abbot**, Private, Queens 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, died of wounds in 1 July 1917 aged 25. The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion were involved in routine trench warfare on the Somme. He is buried in the Greville Cemetery near Bapaume.

**WWII, 24 July 1942, John Selwyn Moll**, Captain, 2nd/7th Battalion The Queens Royal West Surrey, died during training, 24 July 1942, aged 29.

**WWI, 26 July 1916, Albert (Bert) Kelsey, Albert (Bert) Kelsey**, Private, 20<sup>th</sup> Battalion of Australian Imperial Force, killed in action on 26 July 1916 aged 28 in France, remembered at the Villers Bretnneux Memorial in Picardie.

**WWII, 26 July 1945, Arthur John (John) Goff**, Sergeant, 21 Light Artillery Regiment, died aged 25 as a prisoner of the Japanese, 26 July 1945 shortly before they surrendered following the nuclear bombing raid on Japan. John is buried in the Labuan War Cemetery in Borneo.

**WWII, 28 July 1944, John Seaton Burns Ivey**, Lieutenant, 142 Regiment Royal Armoured Corps, died on 28 July 1944 aged 31, fatally injured while fighting on the Arno line. He is buried at the British War Cemetery in Florence, Italy.

## AUGUST

**WWI, 6 August 1917, James Robert Sole**, *Leading Seaman*, DSM, killed in action on 6 August 1917 aged 25. He is buried in Coxyde Military Cemetery in Belgium. James served with distinction on the Royal Navy's siege guns at Dunkerque The son of William and Emma Sole née Lemon. His father died in 1897 and his mother in 1899 leaving a young family of 5 children. The eldest Emma became a domestic servant. Alice also became a servant and married one of the sons in the family for whom she was working. Harry went to stay with his paternal grandparents who died in 1903 and 1907. James and Thomas initially boarded with Harry and Annie Hart. James joined the Training Ship Exmouth on 14 November 1906 and was discharged on 5 December 1907. He married Alice E Holmes in 1916.



**WWII, 6 August 1944, Lionel Edward Lock**, *Gunner*, 11<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment of the Royal Artillery. Part of the Eighth Army, advancing up Italy after having liberated North Africa. He died, aged 28 on 6 August 1944 and is buried in the Arezzo Cemetery close to the Arno line.



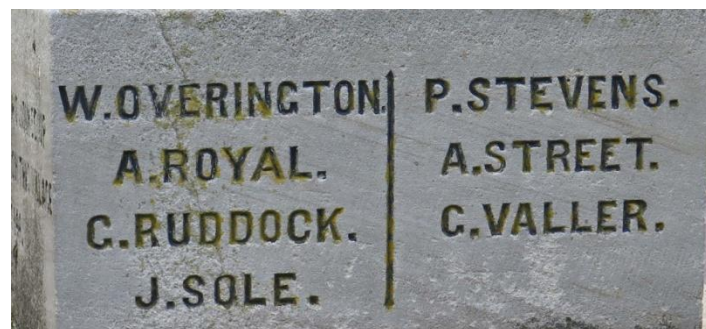
**WWI, 9 August 1918, Nelson Buck**, *Private*, in the infantry of the Australian army. Killed in action on 9 August 1918, aged 26 and is buried in Heath Cemetery Harbonnieres. His father and mother Charles and Jane Buck lived at Gaston Cottages which although in Shamley Green has a Cranleigh postal

address. His father Charles died in 1919, his mother moved to Godalming where she died in 1951. Nelson had three younger siblings.



**WWI, 9 August 1916, Thomas William Lloyd, Private, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of The Kings (Liverpool Regiment).** Died 9 August 1916 in France, aged 20. He is remembered on Thiepval Memorial Pier Face 1D 8b and 8. Thomas was born in 1896 in Liverpool, the first of seven children to George Sadler and Ellen Eliza Lloyd nee Quirk. He started his working life as a telegraph messenger. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission link Thomas Lloyd to our village. However Michael Harding reports "As yet we have not established a positive link with the village though a family of that name still lives here".

**WWI, 24 August 1918, Otway Overington, Private,** enlisted in the East Surreys became a German Prisoner of War and died on 24 August 1918 aged 35. Now buried in the Berlin S.W. Cemetery. He was born in Loxwood in 1882, the son of Obediah and Caroline Oliver née Thayre who lived at Loxwood. This strongly suggests he had links with the Dependants and his name is also on the Loxwood memorial. He married Margaret Clarke in St Matthew in West Kensington on 24 December 1903 and on the 1911 census they were living in Shepherds Bush. They had two daughters Elsie May born 1905 and Marguerite Alice born 1906.



**WWI, 25 August 1918, Wilfred John Humphries, Rifleman** died on 25 August 1918 aged only 19 years and is buried at Gorniecourt Smith cemetery near Bapaume. was born 1899 in Shalbourne, Berkshire, one of four children. He seems to have enlisted in Guildford while living at Willinghurst in Shamley Green. His parents, John and Rachel Jane Humphries had moved to Dorking by 1939 and interestingly named their house Willinghurst, 1 Leith Road in Dorking and another son Bernard and his wife Ada Dorothy Mercer a Dorking girl was living next door at Willinghurst, 2 Leith Road presumably a pair of semi detached cottages. The village of Gorniecourt had been captured two days before he was killed so he might well have been helping to repel a German counter attack. At that time the Shamley Green postmaster, living at Barn Cottage

at the entrance to Woodhill Lane was a member of the Humphries family and almost certainly related to the deceased. When he had a telegram to be delivered he flew a flag on the pole in front of the cottage post office. Local boys would hurry on their bicycles to be allowed to deliver the telegrams hopeful of gaining a tip but of course in war time telegrams often brought sad sorrowful unwanted news.



## SEPTEMBER

**WWI, 18 September 1918, Frederick George Oliver**, *Gunner, Royal Artillery*, died on 18 September 1918 aged 29, probably from disease. He is buried in Doiran Military Cemetery in Greece. The war poet Rupert Brooke also died of fever in this theatre of war. Frederick was born in Shamley Green in 1890, baptized in Christ Church. He was the son of George and Ellen Sarah Oliver née Mullard. They lived at 7 Southview, Sweetwater Lane until their deaths. Frederick had two sisters Lily Oliver born 1892 who married Walter Childs in 1911 and Rose Ellen Oliver born in 1887. He served with a mortar battery of the Royal Artillery.

**WWI, 20 September 1918, Herbert John Ernest Olds**, *Private, Lincolnshire Regiment, 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion* died on 20 September, 1918, aged 39, in France, killed fighting on the Hindenburg Line, buried in Gouzeaucourt New British Cemetery. He was born in 1879 in Wonersh and baptised on 12 January 1879 in St John the Baptist. He was one of two children of Samuel and Emma Olds née Callender. His father was a school teacher at a private school and the family moved from Wonersh to 16 Grove House Road in Hornsey by 1891. Herbert was a clerk in a correspondence college when he married Lilian Helen Wright on 25 July 1908 in St Bride, Liverpool. They had a son, Ernest who was born in 1909 in Edmonton and died shortly afterwards, they then moved to Windermere, Crouch End. Lilian married William Dobbie in 1925. Is the local link something to do with his sibling? He is more correctly commemorated among the Wonersh Fallen. We do not know why the War Graves Commission link him to Shamley Green.

**WWII, 20 September 1943, Lieutenant Graham Howard Shepard**, *Royal Naval Reserve (RNVR)*, died on 20 September 1943, 36 years old. He was serving on the destroyer HMS Polyanthus on convoy duties when it was sunk by German U boat 0952. From the crew of 85 only one survivor was picked up by another ship which was itself sunk by torpedoes two days later and he was drowned. His widow Ann did not die until 1997.

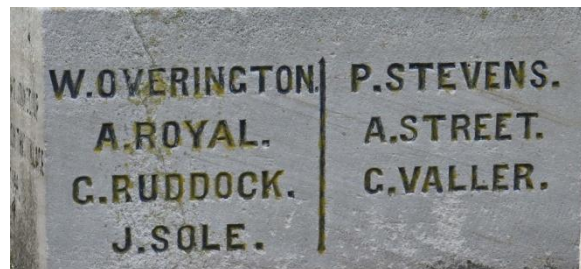
Graham was the only son of the now world famous artist Captain Ernest H Shepard (EHS) and his first wife Florence E Shepard née Chaplin. Graham was born when his parents were living at Arden, now Rose Cottage, Upper House Lane, Shamley Green on 7 July 1907. His sister Mary Eleanor Jessie Shepard was

born two years later on 25 December 1909 at about the time when they moved to Red Cottage (now Hullbrook) in Hullbrook Lane, Shamley Green. Sadly their mother Florence died eighteen years later in 1927 and is buried in Shamley Green graveyard. Graham had married Ann Faith Gibbon in Guildford on 26 September 1931 and their daughter Harriett Jessie Minette was born in April 1937.

**WWI, 21 September 1918, William Thomas Baker, Private, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Royal West Surrey Regiment, died on 21 September 1918, is buried in Domino British Cemetery, Epehy ref II.A.7. William was the son of Thomas and Sarah Baker née Moss. They had 8 children. William Thomas married Ellen Catherine Langrish on 26 December 1903 at St Mary's Shalford. In 1911 they lived in 2 Laburnum Villa, Onslow Road in Guildford. William enlisted in Guildford. The electoral register of 1918 listed them as living at 85 Walnut Tree Close, in Guildford. Ellen Catherine Baker married James Cannings in St Andrews in Cobham stating she was now a widow. Interestingly George Houghton witnesses both of her marriages. During the 1930/40s a family with the same Baker surname lived in 2 Lake Cottages but there is no known connection.**

## OCTOBER

**WW1, 5 October 1917, George Henry Ruddock, Lance Corporal, 2nd Battalion Australian Infantry, died on 5 October 1917 aged 31 in Edgebaston Hospital of Carcinoma of the liver and is buried in Molesey Cemetery. He was born in Byfleet on 8 January 1886, baptised in St Mary in Byfleet on 14 February 1886. He was one of the 7 children of George and Mary Ann Ruddock née Mitchell. George and Mary Ruddock moved to Shamley Green around 1896, their last two children were both baptized in Christ Church and the family lived in Stroud Lane, Shamley Green. Perhaps he had emigrated prior to 1914. His gravestone states he was Sergeant, had he been promoted? George's brother Harry served in the Royal Garrison Artillery as a signaller and returned home.**



**WWII, 23 October 1940, Francis Robert Bailey Lance Sergeant, 144 Battery 35 Light Anti Aircraft Regiment, Royal Artillery. His death was recorded, aged 27, in Wallingford and he was buried at Christ Church on 23 October 1940. He was born in Paddington and baptised on 6 August 1913 in St Peter in Kensington. He was the youngest of four children to John Norman and Agnes Elizabeth Bailey née Harrison. His siblings were Mary Katherine born 1909, James Albert Norman in 1910 and John Rupert in 1912 all three boys were baptised in London.**

**WWI, 26 October 1917, Frederick Victor Innis Risbridger, Private, Kings' Own Royal Lancashire Regiment, killed in action on 26 October 1917 during the second Battle of Paschendale aged 29. He was born in 1887 in Shamley Green and baptized in Christ Church. He was one of 8 children born to Henry and Catherine Risbridger née Hawkins. They married in Christ Church on 25 October 1884. The family moved to Grafham between 1895 and 1898 and then on to Selhurst Common in Bramley.**

He is remembered on the Tyne Cot Memorial in France and his name is on the St Andrews Grafham Memorial Board attached to the church. He is also remembered on the Bramley Village War Memorial.

**WWI, 27 October 1916, Percy Stevens, 2<sup>nd</sup> Cooks' Mate, Royal Navy, on destroyer HMS Mohawk** which carried out convoy duties in the Channel. Killed in action on 27 October 1916, aged 29 was possibly the oldest of at least 16 known children to William and Rose Stevens née Jones. The Stevens home was a small house which formerly stood in front of Walnut Tree Cottage bordering the Green. He is buried at St James Cemetery, Copt Hill, Dover. Percy's death occurred during the Mohawk's response to an offensive attack by 23 high speed German Topedo boats on the Dover Barrage and Allied shipping in Dover harbour. They sank six drifters and also the empty British Troop Transport 'Queen' off the Goodwin Sands after taking its 10 member crew prisoners. In the subsequent engagement 45 men including Percy were killed and 4 were wounded. Three British destroyers, three drifters and a naval trawler were damaged. Only one German MTB was damaged and they sustained no casualties so they got away lightly due to the intensity and speed of the attack. The family building firm of the Stevens could field a full team of cricketers. The death of Percy was only part of their sacrifice. One of his brothers also died as a result of a German U Boat attack. He drowned but his body was recovered and the shipping line which owned the liner paid for his corpse to be returned to be buried here. Friends and neighbours left a huge array of floral tributes but no headstone was ever erected over his grave. Another brother suffered serious injury. He survived but the bullet in his head could not be extracted and for the rest of his life he was continually in and out of mental hospitals. The Stevens family were to pay another sacrifice when their youngest son Sidney Thomas died clearing mines on the D-Day beaches of Normandy on 10 June 1944 during WWII. (For war memorial, see Ruddock above.)

## **NOVEMBER**

**WWI, 1 November 1914, Arthur Charles Royal, Able Seaman, Royal Navy, HMS Good Hope,** died 1 November 1914 aged 28. He is remembered on our War Memorial; and also on the Portsmouth Naval memorial. He was the first of our WW1 fatalities. His ship together with HMS Monmouth were sunk with all hands in the first major naval engagement of the war. This took place off the coast of Chile in the South Pacific in the Battle of Coronel. The more modern German cruisers Scharnhorst and Geisenau under their Admiral Graf von Spee had to be engaged to deter their interference with British Merchant Shipping. Although the Germans had the advantage of the engagement inflicting heavy loss of life they were sufficiently deterred from their mission as to withdraw following the British cruisers convoys courageous if somewhat foolhardy attack on a more superior modern force. This subsequently made it much easier for our Japanese and Australian allies to take over control of all former German Pacific Island colonies. He was born in 1886 was baptized in Christ Church and the family lived at Lords Hill. He was the last of seven children born to Charles and Emily Royal née Edwards. Both Charles and George had been born at Alton in Hampshire. His Uncle George and Aunt Emma née Spreadborough also lived in Shamley Green and had 7 children.



**WWI, 18 November 1916, George Frederick Albert Richardson, Private, 17<sup>th</sup>** (Empire) Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers City of London, died of wounds on 18 November 1916 aged 29. He is buried in Cruin British Cemetery near Douliens. He was born in 1888 in Shamley Green and baptized in Christ Church. He was the son of James Thomas and Sarah Caroline Richardson née Mitchell.

**WWII, 25 November 1944, Archibald Frank Salsbury, Colonel, Royal Dental Corps,** died on 25 November 1944 at Chester, aged 53. We do not know the cause of Archibald's death, at that time was serving as a dentist in the Royal Dental Corps. His home address was given as being in Ewhurst where his father lived.

Archibald was born in Guildford in 1891 and was the eldest of the five children of Frank Edwin and Alice Maude Salsbury née Lemare. Frank had been a watchmaker, jeweller and engraver and his wife Alice had died in 1923 at Hullbrook, she had already been buried on 19 August 1923 in Christ Church graveyard where Archibald joined her when he died in 1944. His father would be buried there on 24 April 1950. He married Leontine Mary Snell in 1918 in Exeter. She died in Hordle Grange Nursing Home in Hordle, Hampshire after him on 2 November 1981.

Archibald had begun his service as a regular officer in the Dental Corps during WWI being promoted to Lieutenant on 28 June 1907, then Major in 1920 so was clearly a very experienced and skilled professional. As his further elevation to the rank of Colonel makes clear he was obviously held in high regard by Army authorities.

## DECEMBER

**WWII, 22 December 1943, Nigel Harold Cain, Flying Officer.** Born 1922 in Bromley Kent. The family moved to Wonersh in 1927. Nigel was educated in Bradfield College, volunteered shortly after the outbreak of war and joined the first British Airforce cadets to go to Alabama in America to learn to fly, moving to Canada to complete his training. He met Joy Louise Taplin while in Alabama where they married. Nigel brought his wife home and they went to live with his parents in New Barn, The Street in Wonersh.

Served with 129 Squadron, a fighter squadron equipped with Spitfires that had moved to the Orkneys to provide air defence between September 1942 and February 1943. The squadron then returned to the south coast to resume escort control. In June 1943 the squadron had become one of the founding members of Second Tactical Air Force, the British contribution to the massive Allied air fleets created to support the D Day landings.

Nigel was killed on 22 December 1943. His name appears on the Roll of Honour plaque in St John the Baptist Church in Wonersh. Joy gave birth to his son Christopher Nigel Harold Cain

born 2 May 1944, he was never to know his father. Details about Nigel Cain can also be seen in the 'In Memory of the Womersley Fallen' booklet.

**WWI, 30 December 1918, William G Messenger DSC, Lieutenant RNVR.** Died on 30 December 1918 aged 33 just a month after the signing of the Armistice. The cause of death was pneumonia and probably due to the Spanish Influenza pandemic which killed more people in 1919 than were killed on both sides in the whole of the war. Buried in our churchyard as he had previously lived with his parents at Longacre. The trawler on which he served, HMT "Kunishi" was probably used frequently for mine sweeping giving plenty of opportunities for individual acts of heroism. This may explain his DSC decoration, DSC with two Bars.