

WWI LIVES REMEMBERED

Free exhibition revealing the stories of some of the 146 men from Southgate, Barnet & Palmers Green listed on the WW1 memorial inside Christ Church Southgate

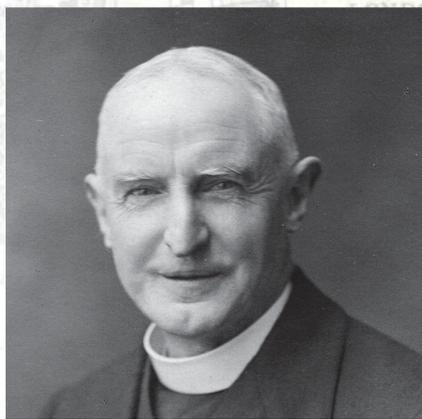


Christ Church Southgate 1914 - 1918

THE HOME FRONT



The Vicar's letter to the parish on the outbreak of war



Charles Frederick Peplow was the second longest serving Vicar of Christ Church Southgate, after the first vicar, James Baird.

Peplow was Vicar of the nearby St Mark's Bush Hill Park before becoming Vicar of Christ Church Southgate. During his incumbency, Southgate underwent great change, including the redevelopment of the local 'Great Estates' with the sale of land for housing; transforming the area into the suburb we know today. He was incumbent before, during and after the First World War.

My Dear People,

Since I last wrote, that which Europe has feared for the last 50 years, and which our own statesmen especially, and all true lovers of liberty and peace have striven to avert, has unhappily taken place, a great war of the nations. Man's ruthless ambition and an arrogant belief that "might is right" has brought upon the peace-loving and industrious nations all the devilish horrors of war, with its cruel destruction of life and property, and has rendered abortive the Church's prayer, "Give peace in our time, O Lord."

I believe a calm and impartial study of history and facts teach us that this dread catastrophe is primarily due to the German War Lord, and the powerful militarist caste and Pan-German professors whose creed is that Germany must dominate the world regardless of the rights and wishes of the nations small and great.

The British Empire enters into a gigantic struggle to-day for the same reasons which 100 years ago bid our forefathers not sheath the sword till the power of the Corsican Despot, Napoleon I, was broken, and his iron heel removed from the neck of Europe.

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Many Germans are good and estimable people; many are not lovers of war, and at the elections the political party which opposes Militarism, polled about 5,000,000 votes; but they have no power to sway the nation's policy.

Germany has no real representative government; their Parliament is a mere debating society, and is not allowed to shape the nation's destiny. Absolute power rests with the Kaiser, his war lords and the great officers of State, who are not accountable to the people. The press only speaks what it is taught to speak. Liberty, democracy and constitutional government, the rule "of the people, by the people, for the people," do not exist. In a word, the powers that be and hold in their hands the issues of war are a Military Despotism fitter for the 17th than the 20th century, and a constant menace to Europe and the world. This must be broken if we are ever to have lasting peace.

Neither as a nation nor as individuals do we desire war, and no man could have striven harder to the last in the cause of peace than Sir Edward Grey, and, without doubt, it was quite within the power of Germany to avert this war; the question between Austria and Serbia was a mere pretence, and when the latter, though no proof was given of her complicity in the murder of the Austrian Archduke, agreed to almost all the exorbitant demands made on her only, asking two might be submitted to arbitration, her appeal for peace, like our own, was rejected, and Austria, the catspaw of Germany, declared war. It is well to note that Russia advised Serbia to make satisfaction as above, unjust as it might seem.

Germany, then, as in the past, was secretly armed to the teeth, prepared to attack France by way of Belgium, though more than once, like ourselves, she had plighted her word not to violate the neutrality of this small, peaceful and industrious people, and with a lack of honour, truth and justice, detestable alike in a man or in a nation, on our Ambassador declaring we could never agree to the breaking of our sacred word, pledged again and again in signed treaties, the German Chancellor asked "if we wished to go to war over a scrap of paper!"

Comment is needless. Belgium has been pitilessly attacked and crushed by the "mailed fist." Her soldiers and many non-combatants lie dead, towns, villages and fields are ruined, and because this gallant little nation dare to resist a brutal overbearing foe Brussels must pay £8,000,000. This is very like murder followed by robbery.

What State, however powerful, is safe? Had we been willing to sit still and see our neighbours beaten and crushed, our own turn would have come later, and we should hardly have dared to look for help from God or man.

We have now, with all the strength of our united Empire, to "see the thing through" to the bitter end. A victorious Germany would mean the loss of Colonies and Fleet, an enormous indemnity ruining our trade and commerce, throwing thousands out of work, raising rents and prices, and involving untold pain, misery and dishonour.

We commit our country and our cause into God's Hands. We must all pray to Him, Who as King of Kings is the Ruler of all things, to grant us, if it be His will, speedy victory and a lasting peace, and in the days to come the establishment of "peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety," once again in the family of nations.

Special opportunities for united prayer and intercession are being given at Christ Church and St. Andrew's, and already our Roll of Honour contains the names of over fifty men under arms in the service of their King and Country, either from this district or friends of ours who desire the prayers of the church.

Let every man, woman and child do what they can. We must all learn to exercise self-denial and be ready to make sacrifices in our Country's cause, to be calm and self-controlled. More of our young men might take their places in the ranks of the King's forces. Too many citizens have been content to be patriots by proxy and let others bear their burden. Let us act and work and pray and strive to be worthy of the noble heritage bequeathed us by our fathers. "England expects that every man will do his duty!"

Yours very faithfully,

Charles F. Peplow, Vicar



Women in WWI

Thanks to research by Sue Light, we know that Charles Peplow's wife Kathleen was heavily involved in the war effort, turning the Vicarage into a War Hospital Supply Depot (WHSD). WHSD's were workrooms that produced bandages and clothing for War Hospitals. Records published by the Red Cross show several volunteers from the recently built Selborne Road and The Mall, assisting in local workrooms. As well as supplying hospitals with much needed supplies, Kathleen co-ordinated foodparcels for British POWs in Germany. She received over 300 letters of thanks. She was a strong advocate for the plight of the POW's as shown in this letter published in the Times on 18th May 1917. It is amazing to think that at this time not all women had the right to vote.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.
Sir,—Not only on the Russian front, but on the Western front also the Germans appear to be sending our unfortunate prisoners into the firing line. For about two years—from June, 1915—we have been sending parcels to our prisoners of war and I have had over 300 letters and post-cards from them. I received the letter which follows to-day. The writer is a private of the Middlesex Regiment, and was captured at Mons:—
"Dear Madam,—Just a line to let you know where I am in case you should communicate with me. We are now in the German firing line as an act of reprisal, and the conditions are many times worse than in 1914. The work also is very hard, apart from the conditions of the weather. Many men are suffering from frostbite and the general health is very bad indeed. It is now over five weeks since we received any parcels, and the food consists of four men to a loaf, with one hot meal per day, which—(words deleted, by censor). We sleep in a tent, and altogether our plight is a very deep one. Could you favour us all by making these facts known? as we all think it very unfair either to German or English prisoners to be in such a position.—Yours truly,
I enclose the letter and hope some means may be devised to save the remaining prisoners of our gallant little Army from such a fate.
KATHLEEN M. PEPLow.
Southgate, N.

| | | | |
|---|------------------------------|-------|------------|
| Surname | Innis | Rec'd | 1 JUL 1919 |
| Christian Name | E. Miss | | |
| Permanent Address | 82 The Mall, Southgate, N.14 | | |
| Date of Engagement | May 1917. | Rank | Pay |
| Date of Termination | | Rank | Pay |
| Particulars of Duties | Workroom | | |
| Whether whole or part time, and if latter No. of hours served | 1 day per week | | |
| Previous Engagements under Joint War Committee, if any, and where | | | |
| Honours awarded | V. K. Badge. | | SEE OVER. |

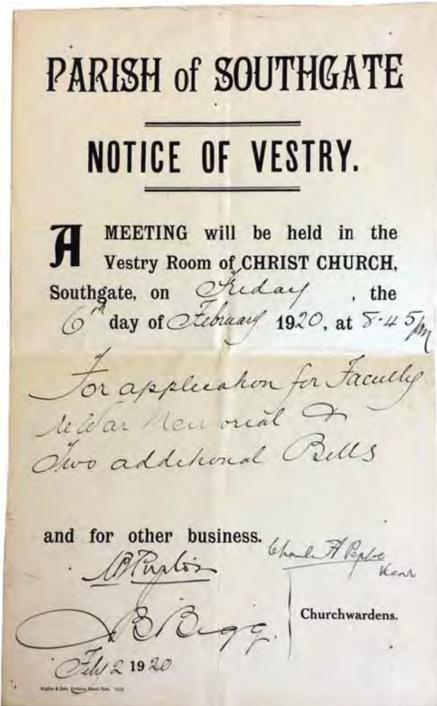
| | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|-------|------------|
| Surname | Coleman | Rec'd | 1 JUL 1919 |
| Christian Name | Emma | | |
| Permanent Address | 24 Ullswater Rd, Southgate, N.14 | | |
| Date of Engagement | Jan 1917. | Rank | Pay |
| Date of Termination | | Rank | Pay |
| Particulars of Duties | Workroom | | |
| Whether whole or part time, and if latter No. of hours served | 2 days per week | | |
| Previous Engagements under Joint War Committee, if any, and where | | | |
| Honours awarded | V. K. Badge. | | |

Christ Church Southgate 1914 - 1918

OUR WWI MEMORIALS



We will remember them



The first "Roll of Honour" appeared in the Parish Magazine in December 1914. It listed 183 men serving in action who were living in or were otherwise connected to the parish. The names were submitted by members of the congregation. By June 1916 this list numbered 300. In subsequent editions of the magazine, only those who had been killed in action were recorded.

Our parish magazines, which can be viewed by appointment at the London Metropolitan Archive, record much debate and discussion on how best to remember the dead. It seems that the congregation of the newly built St Andrew's Church were the first to decide to raise funds for a memorial. The people of Christ Church appeared hesitant early in the war. Some families erected their own memorial plaques to the fallen (such as those to Clifford and Geoffrey Sewell, which can be seen on the wall of the nave). The vicar originally favoured a new pulpit and organ screen, but it was eventually decided that a permanent memorial plaque should also be erected inside the church.



Christ Church War Memorial.

The Hon. Secretary acknowledges with sincere thanks the sum of £5 5s. from Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Barker ("In memory of our dear Cyril"), £5 from Mr. H. Rennie, and £1 1s. from Mr. P. B. Freeman. This makes the total subscriptions which have been received up to the 20th November, £680 9s.

There are also two other items to be added: Sale of Work, 12s. 6d.; and collections at Christ Church, £3 4s. 7d.

J. BROWN, Hon. Sec.

After careful consideration the Committee decided to accept the designs of Mr. C. M. Oldrid Scott. The pulpit will be a beautiful piece of work, carved in English oak, on a base of Devonshire marble. The centre panel will be a representation of St. George and the Dragon, symbolising the victory of Right over Wrong. The panels on either side will contain two other Soldier Saints, St. Martin (on whose day, November 11th, the Armistice was concluded), and St. Alban, the first British martyr. On another panel will be a suitable inscription. Round the pulpit will run the well-known line from the Te Deum (the ancient hymn sung throughout the world in thanksgiving for victory and peace): "Make them to be numbered with Thy saints in glory everlasting." The Roll of Honour will be inscribed on bronze plates in a framework of dull white marble, headed by a cross and laurel wreath, with the arms of S. George and of the Diocese of London on either side. Beneath this will run the inscription, and at the end of the Roll the words: "They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old; Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn; At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them."

Any further names, not already received, of those who laid down their lives in their country's service, and who lived in Christ Church Parish or attended the Church, should be sent in at once. As stated in the appeal for funds, there will be no distinction of "rank, class, or denomination."

This explains why there are two WW1 memorials in Christ Church. The memorial tablet and our oak pulpit, which replaced the original stone pulpit, cost £128 (approximately £6,000 today) with funds donated by members of the parish. Four designs were obtained by the Vicar and churchwardens. The London Metropolitan Archives contains the plans of the winning design, by Charles Marriott Oldrid Scott – grandson of George Gilbert Scott, who designed our church. Permission from the bishop for the work was obtained in February 1920 following a special "vestry" meeting (see poster).

The oak pulpit contains sculptures of three "soldier saints" – St Alban, St George and St Martin. The war memorial tablet is carved from Hopton Wood Limestone (known as Derbyshire Marble) with the names of the fallen cast in four bronze panels. A strike at the quarry and problems encountered during the casting process delayed the completion of the memorial (due to be unveiled in December 1920). It was not until Sunday 19th December 1921 that the memorials were dedicated by the Lord Bishop of Willesden at a special service attended by 150 relatives of the fallen. The pulpit was unveiled by the Right Hon. Lord Inverforth, who by that time had bought Arnos Grove from the Walker Family.

146
18
43
10

the number of men killed listed on our memorial

the age of the youngest man named on our memorial
Alan Ernest Wale

the age of the oldest man named on our memorial
Ernest Charles Whiskin

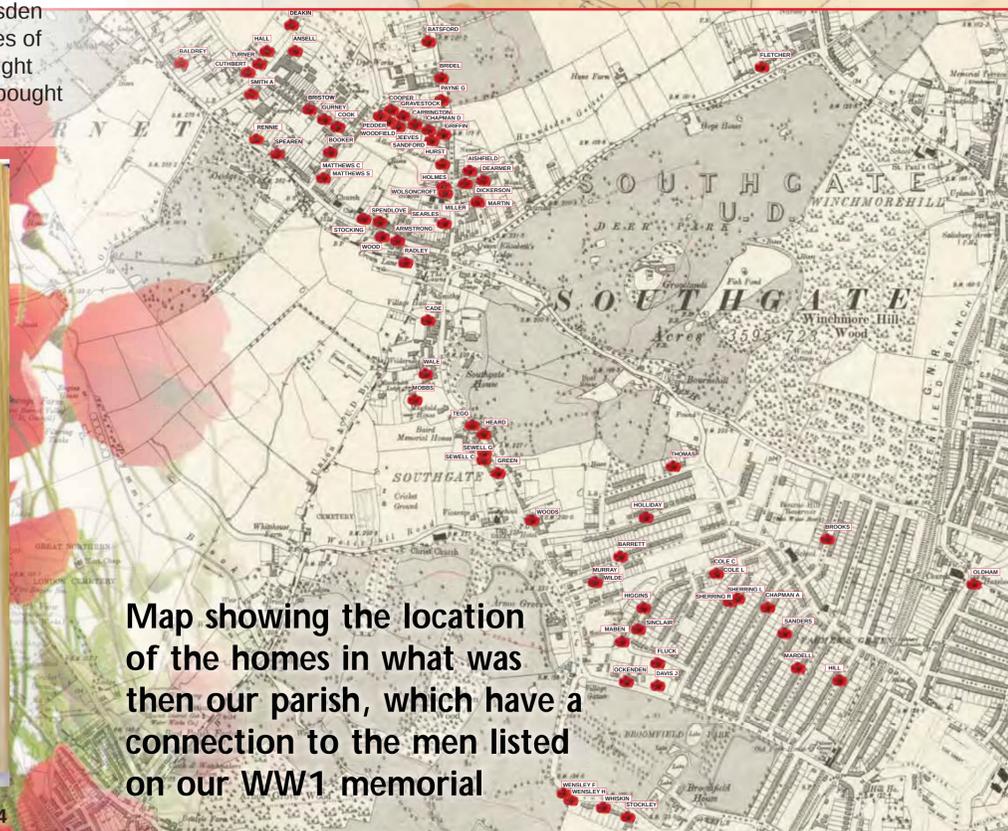
the highest number of men from a single street in the parish to be killed in action (Ivy Road)



SOUTHGATE PARISH MAGAZINE.

Roll of Honour.

| Regiment. | Name. | Regiment. | Name. |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 49. Alfred Lacey | Royal Field Artillery | 50. Charles Thomas | Royal Field Artillery |
| 51. J. Williams | 4th Bedfordshire Regt. | 52. Fredk. W. Brown | Royal Horse Guards |
| 53. Frank Collet | Hampshire Regt. | 54. Harold Collet | H.M.S. "Forward" |
| 55. Harold S. Barber | Royal Marine Artillery | 56. Harold Pagniez | Royal Marine Artillery |
| 57. Cyril Coote | 58. Walter Alabaster | 59. John T. Cole | Arctic Rifles |
| 60. Coleridge Cole | Queen's Westminsters | 61. David H. Jones | Queen's Westminsters |
| 62. J. Sparrivood | Duke of Cornwall's L.L. | 63. John Bart | Wildshire Regt. |
| 64. Edwin Cole (B) | 10th Royal Fusiliers | 65. Frank Bigg | 20th County of London |
| 66. Cecil Collier | Royal West Kent Regt. | 67. Stuart W. Weldon | Royal West Kent Regt. |
| 68. Denis Hill | 69. John Pock | 70. George Stocking | 71. Charles Sticking |
| 72. Wm. Thompson | 73. Ian Fairweather | 74. Alfred Rose | London Scottish |
| 75. Stanley A. Bonner | Arctic Rifles | 76. Norman Wood | Legion of Frontiersmen |
| 77. Jack Reynolds | 4th Royal Sussex Regt. | 78. Walter Eric Holt | 10th Hussars |
| 79. Reginald Cade | Royal West Kent Regt. | 80. Arthur Matthews | Royal West Kent Regt. |
| 81. Arthur Matthews | 82. Philip S. Johns | 83. Michael Cox | 84. Robert H. Vincent |
| 85. Philip S. Johns | 86. Ezzard Stone | 87. James Seaman | 88. A. G. Chapman |
| 89. H. W. Reynolds | 90. Alfred J. Taylor | 91. Sidney F. Goulson | 92. A. C. Carrington |
| 93. Charles Freeman | 94. Percy Matthews | 95. Reginald Pyde | 96. E. J. Goodhall |



Map showing the location of the homes in what was then our parish, which have a connection to the men listed on our WW1 memorial

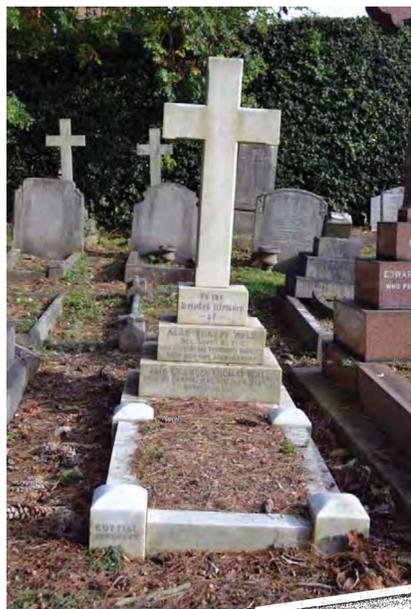
Above The first Roll of Honour December 1914

Christ Church Southgate 1914 - 1918

WWI LIVES REMEMBERED



The youngest man



ALAN ERNEST WALE

Second Lieutenant, Royal Flying Corps
Died 23rd November 1917 aged 18
Lived at Laverock Cottage, Blagdens Lane

The youngest man listed on the war memorial in Christ Church Southgate is Alan Ernest Wale. His grave lies in the cemetery opposite the church and shows that he served in the Royal Flying Corps. Alan was the son of Charles Thomas Wale and lived at Laverock Cottage, Blagdens Lane, Southgate. His father was the son of one of the landlords of The Woodman and worked as a Secretary to a publishing company. We know that Alan attended Southgate County School and his name is listed on the war memorial which now hangs inside Southgate School. Alan's medal card shows that he served in Egypt and Salonika in 1916 and must have been among the first members of the Royal Flying Corps to be stationed in Egypt. Alan died in an accident at the RFC Central Flying School in Norwich at 11.40am on Friday 23rd November 1917. The casualty report states that the accident was caused by an error of judgement on take off, when Alan stalled his B.E.2 plane, it crashed and caught fire.



"..we exchanged gifts of cigarettes and various Christmas good things and altogether spent quite a pleasant time in each other's company."



The oldest man

ERNEST CHARLES WHISKIN

Company Quartermaster Serjeant, London Regiment
(Queen's Westminster Rifles)
Died 3rd May 1915 aged 43
Lived at "Bancroft" Powys Lane, N13

Ernest Charles Whiskin lived at Bancroft, Powys Lane with his wife Annie (whom he married at St Pancras New Church on 6th September 1902). Together they had two daughters, Agnes Nora (born 19th July 1903) and Winnifred Ethel (born 30th May 1906).

Born in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire on 13th May 1870, he joined the Queen's Westminster Rifles in 1892, and in 1908, when the Territorial Force was formed, he continued his service in the same regiment. Originally working as a member of clerical staff for the Buckinghamshire Herald and later holding a senior position at the furnisiers Jas Shooldred & Co in Tottenham Court Road, he was for many years a Sergeant in the firm's Company, which rank he held when the Battalion left for France on 1 November 1914. His was the first Company to take over a fire trench on the 14th of that month, when they relieved 'B' Company of the East Yorkshires at Burnt-out Farm, near Gris Pot - at this time he was No. 1 Platoon Sergeant.

Returning home, he later reported to the Bucks Herald the events of the "Christmas Day Truce":

"He states that two or three of our own men were the first to show themselves out of the trenches, but others from both sides quickly joined them, meeting half-way - a visit to each other's trenches being strictly forbidden, and they came to a mutual arrangement that there should be no firing on Christmas Day. They shook hands, wished each other the "compliments of the season, exchanged gifts of cigarettes and various Christmas good things and altogether spent quite a pleasant time in each other's company."

Ernest Charles Whiskin was promoted to Company Quarter-Master Sergeant on 26 February 1915, and was killed in action at Houplines, Flanders, 3 May 1915. Whiskin's death in action is referred to in the Battalion's war diary:

'3 May: The Battalion lost three killed and eight wounded, one of the killed being C.Q.M.S. E. C. Whiskin, who came out with the Battalion in 'A' Company. He had done good work in France, and the loss of his influence and personality was a great blow both to his Company and the Battalion.'



AN AYLESBURY MAN IN THE TRENCHES.

BRITISH AND GERMAN EXCHANGING CHRISTMAS GIFTS AND GREETINGS.

Sergeant E. C. Whiskin, of the Queen's Westminster's - one of the first Territorial regiments to go to the front - was home on furlough for a few days last week - Sergeant Whiskin, who was a good many years ago a member of the clerical staff of the *Bucks Herald*, and was until the war broke with Messrs. Shooldred, has been in two or three engagements, and has seen a good deal of trench work, coming out of all without injury. It is interesting to know that he took part in the fraternisation between some of our troops and German soldiers on Xmas Eve and Xmas Day which has been so much talked about, and for which the Germans (they were Saxons in front of the Westminster's) have been so severely reprimanded. He states that two or three of our own men were the first to show themselves out of the trenches, but others from both sides quickly joined them, meeting half-way - a visit to each other's trenches being strictly forbidden, and they came to a mutual arrangement that there should be no firing on Christmas Day. They shook hands, wished each other the "compliments of the season," exchanged gifts of cigarettes and various Christmas good things, and altogether spent quite a pleasant time in each other's company. During the day one unpleasant duty was performed. There were some dead Germans lying in a ditch between the lines who were buried by both parties combined. The Westminster's left the trenches the next day to enjoy their turn of rest at the depot, after which it was Sergeant Whiskin's good fortune to enjoy his turn of leave home. Sergeant Whiskin describes the shell fire as giving them somewhat of a natural fright at first, but that the feeling soon wears off, owing largely to the sense of companionship with others until hardly any notice is taken of the shells as they pass overhead. The Sergeant is looking remarkably well, and is in good spirits. He returned to duty at the end of last week with the best wishes of his many friends. It may be added that the Westminster's, who completed their training at Leverstock Green, a few miles from Hemel Hempstead, arrived in France at the beginning of November, and were up in the firing line a fortnight later. They have since been in the trenches, and have experienced a good deal of shell firing and sniping. Sergeant Whiskin speaks well of the excellent commissariat arrangements and of the comfort of the troops generally.

ALFRED ROWLAND HOLLIDAY

Second Lieutenant, London Regiment (London Rifle Brigade)
Died 20th November 1917 aged 23
Born at 42 The Mall, Southgate & moved to Clematis Villa, Avenue Road



Alfred Rowland Holliday was born on the 12th of November 1893, the son of Alfred and Constance Holliday of Kintore, 42 The Mall, Southgate. He was educated at Stationers School and at Southgate County School from May 1907. Alfred worked as a clerk for Fester Fothergill & Hartung, Lloyd's brokers, and later as an advertising journalist. Alfred enlisted as Private 1115 in the 28th Battalion London Regiment (Artist's Rifles) on the 5th of November 1912. He then transferred to the London Army Troop Regiment, Royal Engineers and was a member of the Signal Company with the rank of Driver on the 11th of July 1913. He was married in 1915 to Edna and they lived at Clematis Villa, Avenue Road, Southgate in London.

Alfred transferred to the 3/5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade) as Private 1699 on the 3rd of March 1915 and was promoted to Lance Corporal on the 8th of

December 1915. On the 4th of March 1916, while he was at Fovant Camp near Salisbury, he applied for a commission in the 3/5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade) in an application which was supported by Mr A.J. Warren, Head Master of Southgate County School. He was passed as fit for general service at a medical examination held at Fovant on the same day. He joined No 8 Officer Cadet Battalion at Lichfield on the 3rd of July 1916 and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in 3/5th (County of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade) on the 24th of October 1916. Alfred went to France on the 5th of January 1917, where he was posted to the 12th Battalion Rifle Brigade. On the 27th of September he embarked from Boulogne for home leave, landing at Folkestone the same day. He returned to the front on the 7th of October.

At 5pm on the afternoon of the 19th of November 1917 the 12th Battalion Rifle Brigade moved from their camp at Heudicourt and arrived at Villers-Plouich at 9pm in preparation for an attack at Cambrai the following day. The battalion was to be on the left of the Brigade attack, in the second wave of the advance, and was to be supported by nine tanks in their task. They were to attack on a 600 yard frontage for a distance of some two miles. Ten minutes before zero hour on the morning on the 20th of November 1917 the first wave of tanks began moving forward, quickly followed by the infantry, some thousand yards in front of the enemy first line. Forty were killed or wounded in the attack which followed, including Alfred Holliday, the only officer to die. (This biographical information was compiled by John Hamblin of Lloyds of London as part of the WW1 Centenary in 2014).

Christ Church Southgate 1914 - 1918

CHORISTERS WHO FELL



Two choristers who sang, served and died fighting alongside each other

ERNEST WOLSONCROFT

Serjeant, London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers)

Died 25th May 1915 aged 21

Lived at 3 Park Cottages, Chase Road, Southgate

CHARLES "CHARLIE" DEARMER

Serjeant, London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers)

Died 15th May 1915 aged 20

Lived at 50 Hillside Grove, Southgate

Obituary published in the Southgate Parish Magazine, July 1917, written by the Vicar

It is with a sense of great loss we record that two of the lads of our choir have been killed in action in France – Charles Dearmer and Ernest Wolsoncroft, both Sergeants in the Royal Fusiliers. Charlie Dearmer was known and liked by everyone in the village. He sang in the choir, both as a boy and afterwards as a senior member; he was a member of the G.H.S. and a server at the altar. His Captain writes as follows :- "He died doing his duty as a soldier and a man. By his death I have lost a keen, reliable, and thoroughly good serjeant, and I personally feel his loss very greatly. He was always cheerful, always helping his men and most unselfish."

Ernest Wolsoncroft was, it would seem, wounded in the same engagement. He and Charlie had for a long time been the greatest of friends. They worked together, they were both members of the choir, they joined up together, in the early days of the war – both attained the rank of Serjeant and together they went out to France. Though very seriously wounded, it was hoped that he might recover. However it was not to be, and he passed away in hospital about a week later. "Throughout the whole action," writes his officer, "he was simply splendid. He was quite fearless and kept his men well in hand. I have lost a good serjeant and the men a friend." Whilst we feel how great our loss is, we cannot help being grateful when we read of the way in which our lads are acquitting themselves.

"Grant them, O Lord, eternal rest,
And let light perpetual shine upon them."

We express our sincere sympathy with their parents and friends. We pray God in His mercy to comfort them in their great sorrow.

Mr and Mrs Dearmer would like to take this opportunity of expressing their appreciation of the very great kindness shown to them in their trouble.

WILLIAM FRANK ANTHONY

Rifleman, London Regiment (London Rifle Brigade)

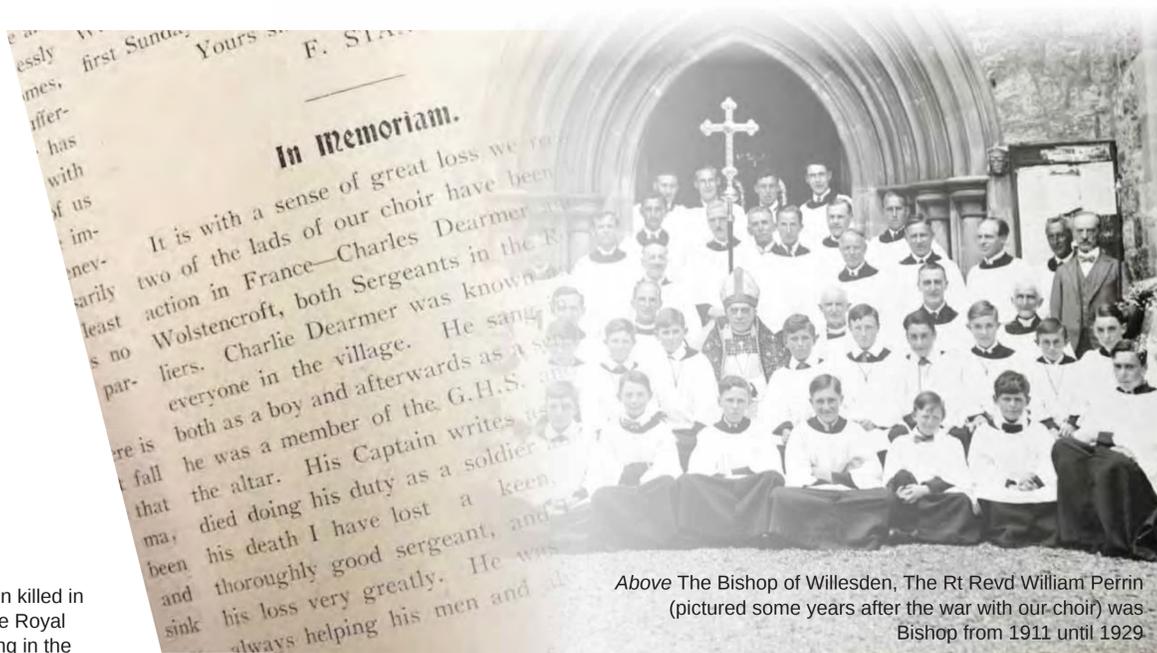
14th August 1917 aged 19

Lived at 37, Salisbury Road, High Barnet

Obituary published in the Southgate Parish Magazine, October 1917

It was mingled feelings of pride and sorrow we heard that another of our lads – William Frank Anthony – for many years a member of our choir and a server – had made the great sacrifice. Although there was that in his kindly, somewhat sensitive nature which inevitably shrank from much in a soldier's life – yet, at the call of duty, he cheerfully and bravely went forth to fight, and if so it were God's will, to die for his country. We cannot but realise how great is our loss. We have lost a true friend and a devoted worker. We cannot, however, grieve for him, for we know that few have been more ready to answer the great call. He had lived a blameless life. He died as he lived, a true soldier of Christ, fighting in the cause of truth, and justice and liberty. The sincerest sympathy of all who knew him is with his family in their sad bereavement.

"Grant him, O Lord, eternal rest, and may light perpetual shine upon him."



Above The Bishop of Willesden, The Rt Revd William Perrin (pictured some years after the war with our choir) was Bishop from 1911 until 1929



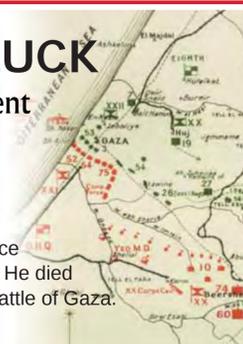
HAROLD GRAHAM FLUCK

Second Lieutenant, Middlesex Regiment

Died 3rd November 1917 aged 26

Lived at 22 Conway Road, Southgate

Harold was the son of Theodore Graham Fluck and Alice Jane Frederica Fluck, of 22 Conway Road, Southgate. He died on 3rd November from wounds received at the Third Battle of Gaza.



Palmers Green to the Arctic

CHARLES F MARDELL

Private, Royal Sussex Regiment

Died 11th May 1919 aged 41

Lived at 61 Grovelands Road, N13

Obituary published in the Parish Magazine, July 1919

It is with deep regret that we record upon our Roll of Honour the name of yet another of our bravest and best, who has laid down his life in what we firmly believe is not only our country's cause but in the cause of God – for Truth and Right, for Freedom and Brotherhood and Peace. Sig. C.F.Mardell was called up in June 1916, and went to France June 1st, 1917. He served at Arras, Vimy Ridge, etc., and was invalided home in November of that year.

After convalescence he went to North Russia in 1918 having been appointed Asst. R.T.O. in February, 1919. He died of pneumonia at Kandalaksha on May 11th, in his 42nd year. We may say he gave his life to save the people of Russia from the results of wicked German intrigue, anarchy, ruin and death. So he fought a good fight and finished his course; henceforth –

"Grant unto him, O Lord, with all Thy faithful soldiers and servants, eternal rest and peace."

Christ Church Southgate 1914 - 1918

OUR FIRST SCOUTMASTER



The first to be decorated in battle

ARTHUR GORDON "JIM" CADE

Lieutenant Colonel, Middlesex Regiment

Died 26th April 1918 aged 26

Lived at 6, The Close, Southgate

These photographs and the biographical information have been kindly sent to us by one of Jim's descendants, Roberta Tweedy, to whom we are most grateful. Known to most as "Jim", Arthur was the first Scoutmaster at Christ Church Southgate and a former Haileybury pupil. He grew up at 6, The Close, Southgate. Jim joined the Middlesex Regiment, who were based in Mill Hill. After training in Malta in 1913, Jim was sent to the Front in 1914 and took part in many crucial battles during the ensuing four years, being awarded the Military Cross at Neuve Chappelle in 1915, a Bar to his MC in December 1915 and a DSO in September 1917: he was also mentioned in despatches three times. He was killed on 26th April 1918, having married in February that year, leaving behind a pregnant wife (his daughter was born in November 1918).



War Diary Report Ovilliers 57D 3E.4 23/8 1st July 1916 The Battle of the Somme

The Battalion in conjunction with the remainder of the 8th Division assaulted the German front line system between OVILLIERS LA BOISSELLE and LA BOISSELLE at 7:30am after an intense bombardment lasting 65 minutes. The assault was carried out in 4 waves - the leading wave consisting of 2 Platoons of "B" Coy on the right and 2 Platoons of "A" Coy: The second wave which followed at 50 yds distance consisting of the remaining Platoon of "A" & "B" Companies. The third and fourth waves similarly composed of "D" and "C" Coy followed the preceding waves at 50 yards distance. The Battalion Bombers were distributed by squads amongst the four waves & the 8 Lewis gun teams amongst the 2/D 3/D & 4/d waves. On the right were a battalion of the TYNESIDE SCOTTISH belonging to the 34th Division & on the left were the 2/D Devons R. As soon as our leading waves left our trenches to assault it was caught by heavy machine gun fire and suffered heavy losses. As soon as the succeeding waves came under fire they doubled forward and before anyone reached the German front line the original wave formation had ceased to exist. About 200 of all ranks succeeded in reaching the German lines - passing over the front line they entered the 2/D line of trenches, but after a short fight, during which about half became casualties, they were forced to retire to the German front line. There, under the leadership of MAJOR H.B.W. SAVILLE, CAPT & ADJ. R.J.YOUNG, 2/LIEUTS P.M.ELLIOTT W.SPATZ & H.C. HUNT the survivors proceeded to consolidate.

By 9:15am the handful of unwounded men, numbering perhaps a dozen, were forced to retire to the shell holes outside the enemy front line, where the majority remained until darkness enabled them to regain our lines. Of the 23 Officers who took part in the assault only 2/LIEUT H. C. HUNT regained our lines unwounded. Of the 650 NCO's & men who took part in the assault a lone 50 answered their names in the early hours of July 2/D.

The following Officers were reported as casualties.
Killed. CAPT. C.S. HILTON 2/LIEUTS P.M. ELLIOTT, R.E.GRUNDY, W.SPATZ, J. WILSON, CAPT MEEKE.
WOUNDED LT.COL. E.T.F.SANDYS MAJOR H.B.W. SAVILLE CAPT & ADJ R.J.YOUNG CAPT G. JOHNSON LIEUTS W.J.CLACHAN & R. McDYORSTON H.PECKHAM 2/LIEUTS C.H.RAWSON O.N.S. DOBBS. Wounded & missing 2/LIEUTS C.S.DAVIS (K), W.S.FORGE (K), G.SCOTT (K), T.S. McMANUS, F.VAN-DEN-BOK (K) H.D.WOOD (W) A.I. FROST (K).

Scout Troop Flag presented by Jim's Mother April 1913



Medals awarded to "Jim" Cade

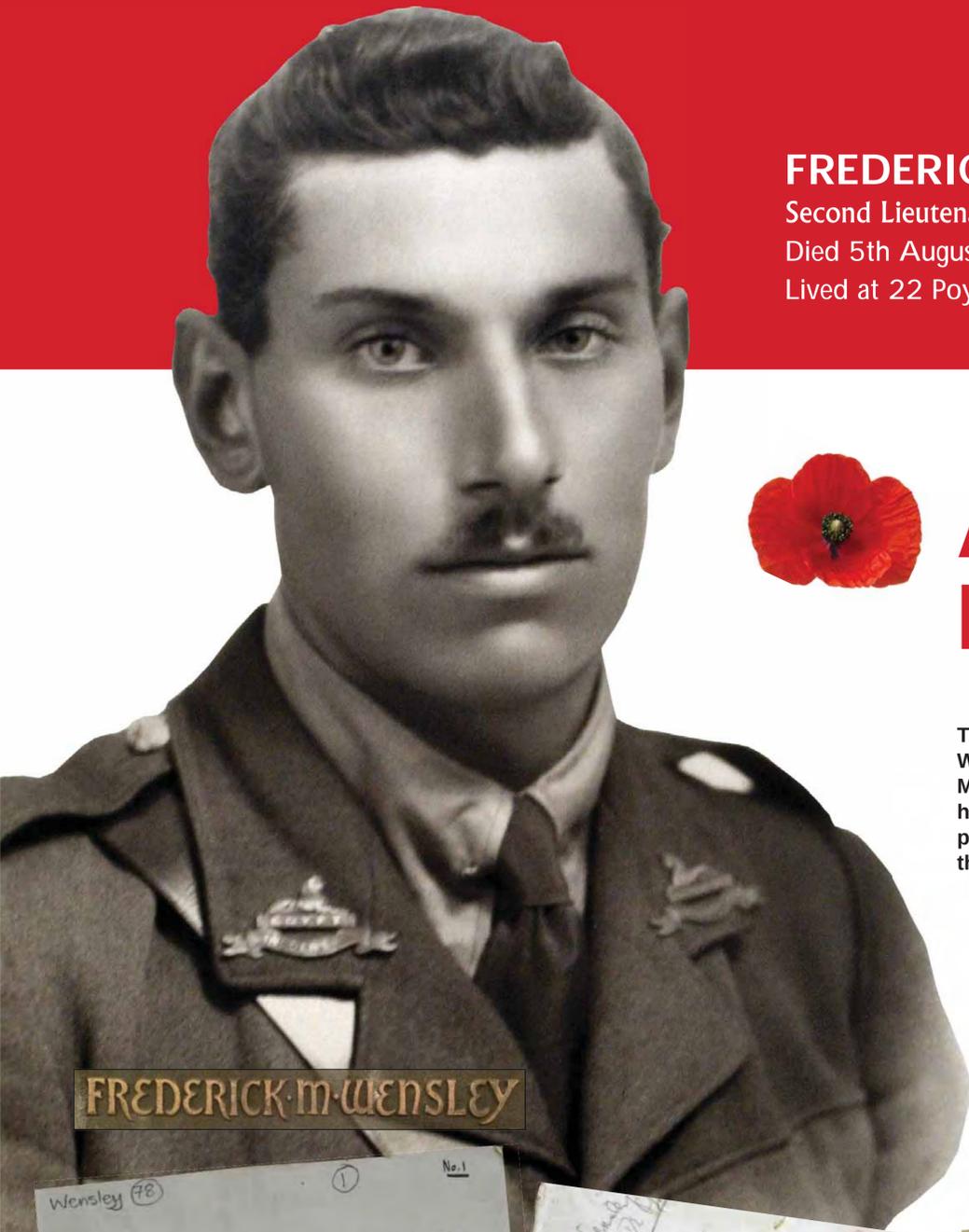


Left to Right The Distinguished Service Order (DSO), Military Cross with Second Award Bar, 1914 Star, British War Medal & Victory Medal

"So far as we know, he is the first soldier on the long Roll of Honour of this parish and district to gain distinction. May he win still further laurels."

Parish Magazine, July 1916

ARTHUR G. CADE



FREDERICK MARTIN WENSLEY
 Second Lieutenant, Lincolnshire Regiment
 Died 5th August 1916 aged 22
 Lived at 22 Poyws Lane, N13



A sister keeps her brothers' memory alive

The personal papers of the Detective Frederick Porter Wensley (who played an important role in the Houndsditch Murders and the subsequent Siege of Sidney Street) are held at the Bishopsgate Institute. They contain letters and photographs from both his sons who died in WW1. Some of these are reproduced here with the kind permission of the Bishopsgate Institute. The family moved to Powys Lane in 1913. Frederick Porter Wensley retired from Scotland Yard in 1929. That the collection has survived is largely due to Edie who, after the death of her brothers in the 'Great War', took upon herself the task of keeping the memories of the family alive. Edie remained living in the parish after the war and opened a shop on Palmers Green Triangle.

Left Portrait of Frederick Martin Wensley in Lincolnshire regiment uniform 1915

Right Edith "Edie" Wensley (later Cory) in 1914 aged 16



FREDERICK M. WENSLEY

Wensley 78
 A.P.O. 511.
 A.P.O. 517.
 FRANCE.
 OFFICERS CLUB.
 Feb 13th 1916.
 Dear Mother & Dad,
 As you see I am now in France, indeed I came across on Thursday after all but could not write as I had no permanent address. Expect now to join the 7th Lincolns tomorrow and letters addressed to

Wensley 79
 Mrs F Wensley
 22 Poyws Lane
 Palmers Green N
 England.
 1450
 PASS.
 15

Postcard from Fred to Edie
 25th March 1916

FIELD SERVICE
 POST CARD
 Mrs F Wensley
 22 Poyws Lane
 Palmers Green N
 England.

Wensley 85
 NOTHING is to be written on this side except the date and signature of the sender. Sentences and required may be erased. If anything else is added the post card will be destroyed.
 I am quite well.
 I have been admitted into hospital, sick and am going on well, wounded and hope to be discharged soon.
 I am being sent down to the base, letter dated March 22.
 I have received your telegram parcel.
 Letter follows at first opportunity.
 I have received no letter from you lately for a long time.
 Signature only. Fred
 Date March 25
 [Postage must be prepaid on any letter or post card addressed to the sender of this card.]
 (92048) Wt. W3097.263 2,000m. 1/18 J. J. K. & Co., Ltd.

Extracts from a letter from Frederick Martin Wensley to Colonel Newbury 16 April 1916

"The dugout walls are generally about a foot below the ground. Beneath that to the unplumbed mud. I tested it at the first night by going up to the waist – as I found no bottom I insisted on being pulled out in order to carry out further experiments with a flag staff. In places the designer of these Communication Trenches has put up canvas screens whether in the wild hope of stopping spent bullets or in a praiseworthy endeavour to disguise the place as a cottage, I have yet been unable to determine. Anyway it forms a good ranging mark for enemy machine guns and while they are practising on that it is comforting to know that they can't be doing much material damage to the front line.

The front line itself is indeed a surprise. It is peacefulness itself. During the day it is a matter for comment and retaliation if a shot is fired and during the night as neither party can see the other, both put on tin helmets and pot away at the moon or their favourite stars until the days ammunition ration is exhausted. A small supply is kept back to push into the breastwork and hang one's equipment on – it looks so much more partial than mere nails.

The front line is about the nearest approach to a real rest-case I have ever seen. We reckon to do about 3 1/2 hours work in 24 – 3 hours watch at night – 1/2 hr rifle and foot inspection in the afternoon. The rest of the time is divided between sleeping and eating.

Wensley 82
 April 16 1916
 Dear Col. Newbury
 As you see I am in France, indeed I came across on Thursday after all but could not write as I had no permanent address. Expect now to join the 7th Lincolns tomorrow and letters addressed to

Letter from Fred to his mother & father 13th February 1916, Officers Club, France

Dear Mother & Dad,

As you see I am now in France, indeed I came across on Thursday after all but could not write as I had no permanent address.

I expect now to join the 7th Lincolns tomorrow and letters addressed to

7th Lincs Regt
 17th Division
 B.E.F. France

will find me. I have had some glorious fun here already. Neither my friend or myself can speak French but we make ourselves understood all the same. He professes to understand the language but I have grave doubts on the subject.

We have had some trouble with our baggage which the others so kindly brought along with them. They left notes all along the route saying they were looking for it but when we arrived at the base they calmly told us they had lost it. We sent hourly telegrams and telephoned wildly at various times and after two days it turned up all right.

I am much amused by the train service here. Before they start someone blows a hooter, somebody else a whistle then a horn and finally the engine itself shrieks. Then we move off at two m.p.h. I am not sure that a man does not walk in front with a red flag for danger. At all events he could do so without any risk whatever.

Christ Church Southgate 1914 - 1918

THE WENSLEY BROTHERS

HAROLD WILLIAM WENSLEY

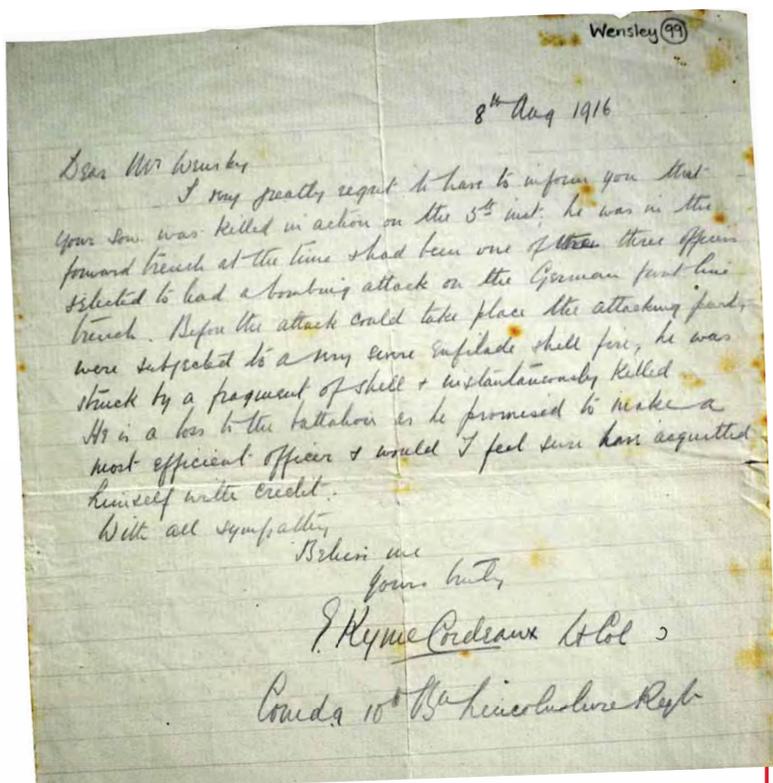
Second Lieutenant, Lincolnshire Regiment
Died 15th November 1918 aged 19
Lived at 22 Powys Lane, N13



Left Harold William Wensley (right) on manouvers on Salisbury Plain 1915

Above Harold Wensley St Olaves School 1917

Right Frederick Porter Wensley & "Lollie" (Laura) at the grave of Harold William Wensley Caudry British Cemetery, France



Letter from Lieutenant Colonel Edward Kyme Cordeaux informing Mr & Mrs Wensley of the death of their eldest son 8th August 1916

Dear Mr Wensley,

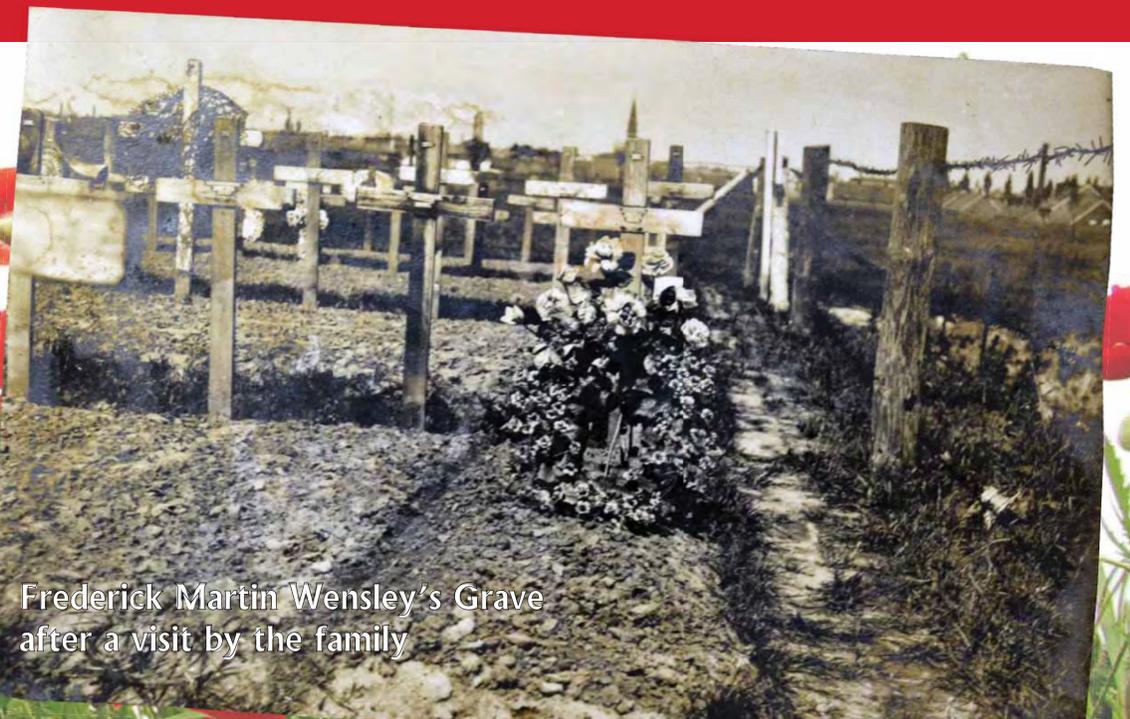
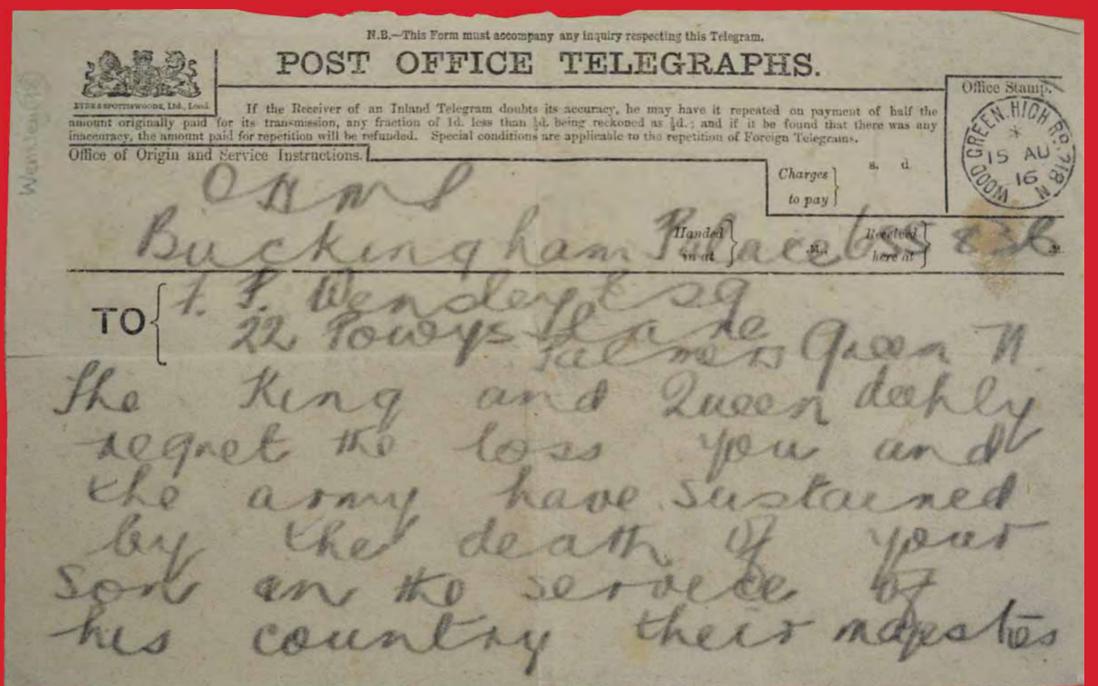
I very greatly regret to have to inform you that your son was killed in action on the 5th inst; he was in the forward trench at the time and had been one of three officers selected to lead a bombing attack on the German front line trench. Before the attack could take place the attacking party were subjected to a very severe enfilade shell fire, he was struck by a fragment of shell and instantaneously killed.

He is a loss to the battalion as he promised to make a most efficient officer and would I feel have acquitted himself with credit.

With all sympathy, Believe me,
Yours truly,

E. Kyme Cordeaux Lt Col
Commander 10th & 15th Lincolnshire Regiment

Telegram from King George V informing Mr & Mrs Wensley of the death of their eldest son Frederick William Wensley 15 August 1916



Frederick Martin Wensley's Grave after a visit by the family

Christ Church Southgate 1914 - 1918

WWI LIVES REMEMBERED

his form may be used by attested men and by men applying under the Military Service Act, 1916.

R.-43

NOTICE OF APPEAL.

TO BE FILLED UP BY APPELLANT.
(The attached duplicate form must also be filled up and sent to the Local Tribunal with this form.)

1. Man in respect of whom appeal made.

(a) Name (in full) *George William Fletcher*

(b) Address (in full) *2, Burrows Cottages, Winchmore Hill Rd Southgate N.*

(c) Occupation, profession or business *Chartered Accountant's Clerk*

(d) Whether he is a

2. Grounds on which appeal made. (These should be fully stated.)

- 1. Father totally blind. Income 14/- per week. 4/- of this deferred sick pay from Hearts of Oak Benefit Society remaining. 10/- temporary allowance from late Employer.*
- 2. Mother employed as Church Caretaker, wages (after deducting money paid for assistance) about £20 per annum, but owing to ill health this may soon be given up.*
- 3. Sister age 15 yrs, an Apprentice, Pocket Money 2/6 weekly, therefore dependant on Applicant & Parents.*
- 4. Only brother late Cpl 8th Rifle Brigade killed in action at Arras July 1915, who previous to this assisted in the maintenance of the home. We understand that no pension is payable in cases such as these, but a small Gratuity may be granted.*
- 5. On 17th March 1916 I appealed to the Local Tribunal and was granted Temporary Exemption to 31st May, conditional on continuance of existing circumstances. On 2nd June with circumstances exactly the same they dismissed the appeal.*

3. (a) Signature of appellant *Geo. Wm Fletcher*

If appeal not made by the man—

Fletcher has been totally blind 4 years, after some years of partial loss of sight. His wife has had to help keep the home going by doing cleaning at Winchmore Hill Church. The family consists of two boys and one girl. The eldest boy joined up, went to France and was killed on July 30th, 1915. Mrs. Fletcher received 12/- per week, then 11/6d and afterwards 10/-, until July 30th, 1916. Soon afterwards gratuity money was paid her (about) £18.16.0 but no pension granted.

Detach duplicate along

A brother appeals against conscription

JOHN "JACK" FLETCHER

Corporal, Rifle Brigade

Died 30th July 1915 aged 20

Lived at 2 Burrows Cottages, Winchmore Hill Road

Jack was the eldest son of Emma Fletcher of 2 Burrows Cottages, Winchmore Hill Road, Southgate. We know little of his life, other than that he was born in Winchmore Hill and at the time of the 1911 census he worked as a shop assistant. However, we can glimpse the life of the Fletcher family through documents at the National Archives, which chart the unsuccessful appeal by his younger brother, George, against conscription. Written in his own hand, George's appeal to the Southgate Military Service Appeals Tribunal dated 5th June 1916, describes the difficult family circumstances, stating the reasons for his appeal as follows;

1. Father totally Blind. Income 14/- per week. 4/- of this deferred sick pay through the Hearts of Oak Benefit Society. Remaining 10/- temporary allowance from late Employer.
2. Mother employed as Church Caretaker, wages (after deducting money paid for assistance) about £20 per annum but owing to ill health this may soon be given up.
3. Sister age 15 years, an Apprentice, Pocket Money 2/6 weekly, therefore dependant on applicant & parents.
4. Only brother late Cpl 8th Rifle Brigade killed in action July 1915 who previous to this assisted in the maintenance of the home. We understand from the Army Authorities that no pension is payable in cases such as these, but a small Gratuity may be granted.
5. On 17th March 1916 I appealed to the Local Tribunal and was qualified Temporary Exemption to 31st May "Conditional on Continuance of existing circumstances." On 2nd June with circumstances exactly the same they dismissed the appeal.

George's appeal was rejected by the Southgate Tribunal. He took his case to the Middlesex Appeals Tribunal which granted a six month reprieve. Once this expired, he appealed again. His case was heard at Guildhall, Westminster at 2.30pm on Wednesday 10th January 1917 and was dismissed, although the Appeal Tribunal deferred George's call up until 31st January 1917. We do not know if George survived the war. He is not listed on the War Memorial in Christ Church Southgate.



Sisters from Selborne Road widowed

Emily Horobin (born 1879) and her younger sister Clara (born 1880) were the only daughters of William Horobin, clerk to a firm of stockbrokers. They grew up at 58 Falkland Road, Harringey. Clara married Percy Montague Clifton Wilde in 1902. Emily married Percy Simmons Murray (who also worked as a clerk to a stockbroker) three years later, in 1905. The 1911 census records Clara living in Emily and Percy's home at 10 Selborne Road along with Emily's children and two domestic servants. Within twelve months both husbands had been killed in action.

PERCY SIMMONS MURRAY

Private, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment)

Died 3rd May 1917 aged 39

Husband of Emily Murray (née Horobin) of 10 Selborne Road



Percy Simmons Murray was born in 1878 - the son of James Gough Murray, of India. He married Emily Murray of 10 Selborne Road Southgate in 1905. Emily's sister, Clara, lost her husband, also named Percy, a year earlier. Percy Simmons Murray had been a clerk in the firms of Cohen, Laming and Co. and Williams and Gray before becoming a member of the Stock Exchange in 1904, and in 1910 he joined Hubert Williams and Co.

He was a keen cyclist, and a prominent member of the North Road Cycling Club, winning many prizes in open competitions. At the outbreak of the South African War he volunteered for service but was refused on account of his eyesight. Volunteering again seventeen years later he was drafted into The Buffs and underwent six months' training in England before being sent overseas.

Proceeding to France in November 1916, he was reported "Wounded and Missing" on 3 May 1917 (aged 39), during the fiercest period of the Battle of Arras. He had previously refused to go to hospital, making light of his wound to encourage his comrades. In March 1918 he was posted as "presumed killed."

PERCY MONTAGUE CLIFTON WILDE

Captain, Royal Marine Artillery

Died 31st May 1916 aged 35

Husband of Clara Wilde (née Horobin) of 10 Selborne Road, Southgate



Percy Clifton Wilde served in the Royal Marine Artillery and held the rank of Captain. He died when the ship on which he served, HMS Indefatigable (pictured below) was sunk during the Battle of Jutland, the largest naval battle of the war. Shells from the German battlecruiser Von der Tann caused an explosion ripping a hole in the hull of the vessel and a second explosion hurled large pieces of the ship 200 feet (60 m) in the air. Only two of the crew of 1,019 survived. Prior to serving on the HMS Indefatigable, he had served on HMS Minotaur and as Naval Intelligence Officer and Japanese Interpreter at China Station. He lived at 10 Selborne Road, Southgate with his wife Clara whose sister Emily lost her husband a year later.

The sinking of HMS Indefatigable which claimed 1017 lives

