



1594 - 1991

OLD  
CESTREFELDIANS  
IN THE  
GREAT WAR

ROLL OF HONOUR





THEY WHOM THIS SCROLL COMMEMORATES WERE NUMBERED AMONG THOSE WHO, AT THE CALL OF KING AND COUNTRY, LEFT ALL THAT WAS DEAR TO THEM, ENDURED HARDSHIP, FACED DANGER AND FINALLY PASSED OUT OF THE SIGHT OF MEN BY THE PATH OF DUTY AND SELF SACRIFICE, GIVING UP THEIR OWN LIVES THAT OTHERS MIGHT LIVE IN FREEDOM.

LET THOSE WHO COME AFTER SEE TO IT THAT THEIR NAMES BE NOT FORGOTTEN.

IN AFFECTIONATE REMEMBRANCE OF THE LOYAL AND FAITHFUL OLD CESTREFELDIANS WHO DIED IN THE GREAT WAR.

*"In sacred sleep they lie.*

*Say not that the brave die."*

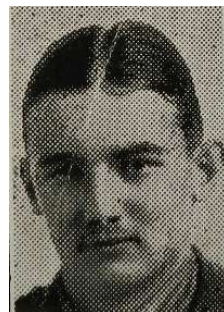
Name	Died	Unit	Rank
W B Alliban	1917	Sherwood Foresters	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt
F V Ashcroft	1918	Royal Engineers	Sapper
B M Babcock	1918	Sherwood Foresters	2nd Lt
T B Bamford	1916	King's (Liverpool)	Private
E Barnes	1918	Royal Flying Corps	2nd Lt
R Beardsley	1916	Machine Gun Corps	Private
F N Bond	1916	Sherwood Foresters	Private
R W Burr	1916	RAMC	L Cpl
R Capps	1917	West Yorkshire	Private
F C Clare	1916	Royal Warwickshire	Private
H C Clarke	1916	Canadian Expeditionary Force	Cpl
R B Cockburn	1918	Army Veterinary Corp	Capt
W A Cockett	1917	Gordon Highlanders	2nd Lt
F Cooper	1917	King's Royal Rifle Corps	L Cpl
A E Conner	1919	Royal Engineers	Sapper
T C Cummins	1918	York & Lancaster	2nd Lt
L E Cutts	1918	Royal Engineers	Lt
A P Dale	1918	Royal Flying Corps	2nd Lt
H C Ditcher	1916	Machine Gun Corps	Cpl
N S Bryan Donkin	1915	Rifle Brigade	Rifleman
C F Drabble	1918	Durham Light Infantry	Lt
P J Eldridge	1916	Royal Fusiliers	L Cpl
G Exford	1916	Royal Marine Lt Inf	Private
A E Eyre	1918	Royal Air Force	2nd Lt
P D Forrett	1916	Northumberland Fus	Capt
C B Furmston	1917	Machine Gun Corps	2nd Lt
J W Godber	1918	London Regiment	Private
D K Hall	1917	Royal Field Artillery	2nd Lt
J V Hall	1914	Royal Flying Corps	Apprentice
F Hancock	1918	KO Yorkshire Light Inf	
H Hardy	1917	Sherwood Foresters	Private

Name	Died	Unit	Rank
F V Hicks	1916	Royal Engineers	Pioneer
G Horner	1915	Royal Engineers	Sapper
W B Houston	1916	Sherwood Foresters	Private
R Howe	1916	Sherwood Foresters	Private
W Husband	1918	Northumberland Fus	2nd Lt
W E Ind	1917	Civil Service Rifles	Capt
W G Jacques	1918	Sherwood Foresters	2nd Lt
A Jephson	1917	King's (Liverpool)	Private
F C Jephson	1917	Sherwood Foresters	Private
B E Kelly	1917	York & Lancaster	2nd Lt
A Kerr	1918	Sherwood Foresters	Capt
F C King	1917	King's Royal Rifle Crps	Rifleman
H Lack	1916	York & Lancaster	Private
W H Lockett	1916	Durham Light Infantry	2nd Lt
W H Lucas	1916	North Staffs	Lt
J H Marsden	1917	Sherwood Foresters	Capt
J Mellor	1916	Royal Fusiliers	Private
G W Moore	1918	Royal Corps of Engrns	Sapper
C N Newcombe	1915	Yorks Light Infantry	Lt
A E Nuttall	1917	King's (Liverpool)	Private
J J R Oldham	1916	Grenadier Guards	Guardsman
A E O'Neill	1917	King's (Liverpool)	2nd Lt
J F Organ	1916	HMS M E22	Artificer
H G Peach	1918	Northumberland Fus	Private
A R Pearson	1916	East Surrey	Private
A H Petty	1916		2nd Lt
P W Phlipps	1917	Canadian Infantry	L Sgt
A L Pogson	1918	London (Scottish)	Private
F W Pogson	1917	Queen Victoria Rifles	Rifleman
F Renshaw	1916	Sherwood Foresters	2nd Lt
V Renshaw	1917	Royal Rifle Corps	Rifleman

Name	Died	Unit	Rank
F L Reynolds	1916	Sherwood Foresters	2nd Lt
G H Reynolds	1916	Po Wales South Lancs	2nd Lt
C Rhodes	1916	Royal Corps of Engnrs	Sapper
R C Riggott	1917	Lancashire Fusiliers	2nd Lt
S A Rogers	1918	Sherwood Foresters	Lt
W H Round	1916	Sherwood Foresters	Capt
T V Scattergood	1917	London-Artists Rifles	2nd Lt
H Simpson	1916	Sherwood Foresters	2nd Lt
A H Smith	1917	Cameron Highlanders	Private
A D Swale	1918	Sherwood Foresters	Lt
S C Syddall	1915	Royal Corps of Engnrs	L Cpl
C Tatlow	1915	Leicesters Yeomanry	Private
D W K Taylor	1915	Australian Infantry	Private
G S Taylor	1917	RAMC	Private
H Troth	1918	Sherwood Foresters	Private
J A Verner	1916	York & Lancaster	Private
R H Verner	1916	York & Lancaster	Private
H P Weber	1916	KO Royal Lancaster	2nd Lt
D H Wells	1917	York & Lancaster	2nd Lt
R C Wildgoose	1917	Sherwood Foresters	Cpl
J J D Wilson	1914	HMS Hawke	
R T Wright	1917	Sherwood Foresters	2nd Lt
T W Yates	1917	Oxon & Bucks	Private

## William Beaumont Alliban (1908 – 1912)

A Lieutenant in the 2/5th Battalion, The Sherwood Foresters who was killed in action on Saturday 5th May 1917 aged 20. A member in the Inns of Court Officer Training Corps William obtained a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the 5th Sherwood Foresters on 11th March 1915. He arrived in France with the 59th Division in February 1917 and was killed during an attack on the fortified German trench systems at Malakoff and Cologne Farms at Hargicourt near St Quentin between 3rd and 5th May 1917.



The Battalion suffered over 150 Officers and men killed, wounded or missing. William has no known grave and is commemorated on Thiepval Memorial (Pier and Face 10C 10D and 11A). William was the son of Mr. and Mrs. WH Alliban of Tupton Hall near Chesterfield.

*Cestrefeldian July 1917: Lieutenant Beaumont Alliban was a pupil here for a considerable number of years, and is another sad example of a most promising career cut short, for though officially reported as missing, we cannot but assume that his life has been lost. Alliban was a most pleasing personality whilst with us at school, and although he did not appear to be very robust, yet he gave early promise that he would some day do great things, for he always put his heart and soul into anything that he took up. He was particularly successful in work amongst the Boy Scouts. And great things he has done, for he has died a hero's death, fighting gamely to the last, covering the retreat of those committed to his care, a true captain. Shortly before he was last seen he had carried out a particularly hazardous piece of work, for which his name was sent in for recognition. His superior officer says of him: - "He possessed the two greatest military virtues, absolute fearlessness and cheerfulness under all circumstances. He was most popular alike with officers and men, and personally I feel his loss very deeply."*



## Frederick Vaughan Ashcroft

A Sapper (WR/203625) in the Railway Operating Division of the Corps of Royal Engineers who died at home on Monday 13th May 1918 as a result of gas poisoning. Frank was formerly in the Scottish Rifles (17804) 42nd B.G.O. Company and arrived in France in October 1915. Although born in Manchester, Frank was a resident of Chesterfield and is buried in Newbold (St John) Churchyard.



## Benjamin Morley Badcock (1910 – 1913)

A Second Lieutenant in the 1st/6th Battalion, The Sherwood Foresters who died on Tuesday 9th July 1918 aged 20. A member of the Inns of Court he was commissioned into the 5th Sherwood Foresters in October 1917. Benjamin arrived in France on 27th June 1918 and was killed in action 12 days later on a night patrol whilst the Battalion were holding front line trenches in the Essars Sector.



He is buried in Fouquieres Churchyard extension (grave III.G.4). The 46th North Midland Territorial Division spent three years in this region of the front line and placed their transport and field ambulances in the village of Fouquieres. Born in Staveley on December 7th 1897 he was the son of Dr Benjamin and Mrs Badcock of Staveley Town.

*Cestrefeldian Dec 1918: ... Second-Lieut. Benjamin Morley (Benny) Badcock, Sherwood Foresters, fell in action in France in July. He had been in France but a short while. He was in the school from 1910-1913, and was a bright, jolly lad, whom one could not but help loving even when he got into a scrape. We met him several times after he had left school, and though he took a more serious view of life, he was still the same light-hearted, charming fellow, a boon companion. It is sad to feel that such as he has been taken away from us. We need such light-hearted young knights to cheer us on our way in days like these, when we are somewhat too apt to be overwhelmed by the very weight of the problems which confront us.*



## Tom Benjamin Bamford (1903 – 1910)

A Private (5198) in the 1st/10th (Scottish) Battalion, The King's (Liverpool Regiment) who died on Wednesday 9th August 1916 aged 25. His death is commemorated on Thiepval Memorial (Pier and Face 1D 8B and 8C) and on the Hasland Village Memorial. The 1st/10th (Scottish) Battalion, The Kings formed part of the 166th Brigade, 55th (West Lancashire) Division. On 9th August the Battalion was involved in the attack on Guillemont and following four unsuccessful charges suffered over 280 casualties.



*"He was killed while taking part in an attack on German trenches and I am taking this opportunity to express on behalf of your son's comrades and his Company Commander Captain Jaegers and myself our deepest sympathies with you in your heavy bereavement. Private Bamford was always a good and conscientious soldier and his loss will be keenly felt by all who knew him and particularly by his comrades of the Lewis Gun Section"*

[Pte Bamford's Section Officer]

After attending Chesterfield Grammar School, Tom studied at Nottingham University before moving to Nantes to study French. He was a schoolteacher and the son of Thomas and Ellen Bamford of Hazel Grove in Hasland. Thomas Bamford (Snr) was an engine driver on the Midland Railway.

*Cestrefeldian December 1916: He spent seven years at this school (1903-1910), and was very popular with all who knew him. He was a strapping fellow of over six feet, and whenever he took part in sports he came off well. In 1909 he gained honours in the Oxford Senior Local, and afterwards made a special study of French. He left us to go to the School of Languages at Nantes, and subsequently took up an appointment at Eastward Ho College, Felixstowe. He held this position at the time when he enlisted in August 1915.*

## Edmund Barnes (1909 – 1917)

A Second Lieutenant in the Royal Flying Corps who was killed on the 27th January 1918 aged 18 following a flying accident. He is buried in GRANTHAM CEMETERY (grave 4. J. 28) in Lincolnshire. The son of William Edmund and Eliza Mary Barnes of 25 Spring Bank Road in Chesterfield.



*Further background information added courtesy of O.C. Tony Hine.*

*His death on 27<sup>th</sup> January 1918 is recorded as resulting from an accident while flying in England. In view of his age and the short time since he enlisted, he did not see active service abroad. But that is not the point. He lost his life, as did countless others, in the service of his country..*

*He was born on 6<sup>th</sup> April 1899, the son of William Edmund Barnes, shown in the 1901 census as a law stationer, and Eliza Mary Barnes. He had two older sisters, Jessie and Ida Mary, and they lived at 16 Compton Street, Chesterfield. His father died in 1907 and in 1909 Barnes was admitted to Chesterfield Grammar School, by which time, according to the 1911 census the family had moved to 20 Saltergate.*

*Extracts from the Cestrefeldian, record Barnes' many scholastic achievements. The April 1911 edition shows him as a 2<sup>nd</sup> form prize-winner. The December 2014 edition records that in the Oxford Local Certificates taken in July 1914 he obtained 1<sup>st</sup> class honours and was ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in the whole country. In individual subjects, he was ranked nationally 2<sup>nd</sup> in English, 15<sup>th</sup> in History, 10<sup>th</sup> in Latin and 74<sup>th</sup> in French. He was a prize-winner in the lower 6<sup>th</sup> and a school librarian.*

*The July 1915 Cestrefeldian included his essay on "Greek Oratory," which won for him the "Churton Collins" Scholarship for Literature, in connection with the Oxford Extension Movement. This enabled him to visit the Oxford Summer School. The magazine noted "The essay is, undoubtedly, a wonderful piece of work for so young a boy, and it has called forth unstinted praise in many quarters". By December 1915 he was the prefect for Foljambe House and winner of the VI form Classics prize.*

*In April 1916, he was secretary of the Debating Society and the December 1916 edition records that he won the VI form Classics prize again, and was awarded a County Major Scholarship to Oxford University. He left school in December 1916. The next mention of him is in the April 1918 edition and this reads as follows:*

*"In the death of Edmund Barnes the school has received a blow that is hard to bear. The loss of one who promised such great achievement cannot but bring home to us in all its terrible reality the sacrifice which this war entails. It is no exaggeration to say that Barnes's intellectual gifts were such as marked him for one of our future leaders in thought. For one so young, he was gifted with a truly marvellous power of thought, with an extraordinary insight into those things which really mattered, and with a most wonderful enthusiasm and power of concentration in everything which he took up.*

*His was a wonderful school record, a record that has adorned the pages of "The Cestrefeldian" from time to time, and which will always be read with admiration. It culminated in his gaining an Open Classical Scholarship of £80 a year for four years at Oriel College, Oxford, whither he had scarcely proceeded when the Army claimed his services. He elected to join the Royal Flying Corps. He might perhaps have chosen a less dangerous branch of the Service, but such was the choice he made. In his new work he very quickly gained fresh honours and in a short time was gazetted Second Lieutenant. It seems an irony of fate that he should have been cut off before striking even one blow at the enemy. Perhaps it was willed that he should be taken to rest before he had shed the blood of others.*

*Edmund Barnes was very dear to us all, and those who gained his friendship felt proud of being admitted into his confidences. He is the second member of the Cadet Corps whose life has been laid down in the present struggle, and the Corps paid a last tribute of respect to their fellow-comrades by parading at the Memorial Service which was held at the Elder Yard Chapel on Sunday, February 3rd. The Rev. K. Bond, who conducted the service, spoke in very high terms of Edmund Barnes. Imagine, he said, what a loss the world would have sustained had such a war as this brought about the death of Shakespeare. He also reminded the Cadets that their lives were doubly precious now, in that such sacrifices as these were being made from them.*

*We deeply sympathise with Mrs. Barnes and her daughters in the loss of such a son and brother, their only one alas!"*

### **Reginald Beardsley (1905 – 1908)**

A Private (6535) in the 72nd Company of the Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) who died of wounds on 21st May 1916 aged 22. Reginald had previously served with the 13th Battalion, The Sherwood Foresters before transferring to the MGC. At the time of his death the 72nd MG Company were in fixed strong points in the 2nd line of defence close to Kemmel and Wulverghem. On the 30th/31st April 12 Officers and men were wounded or poisoned following a German gas attack.



He was the son of John and Leila Beardsley of 12 Valley Road in Spital, Chesterfield and is buried at Bailleul Communal Cemetery (grave II.B.103). Bailleul was an important railhead and hospital centre with the numerous Casualty Clearing Stations quartered there.

### **Frederick Noel Bond (1913 -1914)**

A Private (SP/3311) in the 24th (Service) Battalion of The Royal Fusiliers (2nd Sportsman's City of London) who died on Friday 28th July 1916. Commemorated on Thiepval Memorial (Pier and Face 8C 9A and 16A). The 24th Battalion Royal Fusiliers formed part of the 5th Brigade in the 2nd Division. On the 28th July the Battalion was holding front line trenches near Trones Wood just to the west of Guillemont. A shell explosion killed Frederick whilst he was carrying ammunition to



his comrades in the firing line. Born in Swadlincote in March 1897 he was the Son of Reverend Kenneth Herbert and Mrs Emma Louise Bond of 7 Shaftesbury Avenue and he enlisted in Chesterfield in March 1915 aged 18. His older brother Kenneth Hills Bond served in the 1/6th Battalion, The Sherwood Foresters and was awarded the Military Cross.

*Cestrefeldian 1914/15: Prefect Foljambe House, Secretary of the Debating Society, Assistant Editor of the Magazine, English Prize winner*

*Cestrefeldian April 1915: F. N. Bond, the Prefect of Foljambe House, is the first in this School who has gone straight from the classroom to join the ranks of Kitchener's Army. A few days before the end of term he announced that he had joined the Sportsman's Battalion (Royal Fusiliers). He has certainly made a very appropriate choice, as he is essentially a sportsman. He has always been ready to take his place in the team when required and has never felt in the least aggrieved when not called upon. His influence in the School has always been of the very best, and, by his modest bearing, he set an example that might well be followed by others.*

*Cestrefeldian December 1916: Private F. Noel Bond, Sportsman's Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (1913 – 1915), who was reported missing, probably killed by the bursting of a shell in the middle of his company, had the honour of being the first boy to leave the school for the purpose of joining the Colours. Although he was only with us a short time, he was perhaps the most popular boy throughout the whole school, a distinction which he by his cheery disposition, and a desire not so much to excel as to help in all and sundry school activities. He was one of the most thorough sportsmen we have ever known. In circles of study he had a great reputation too. We were always rather jealous that it should be "Wyggie" – Wyggeston Grammar School, Leicester – and not our school which had produced such a fine fellow. But we can take a pride in him as partly ours, at any rate. It was characteristic of him that he would never have told a lie but to help him to serve his country - and that was to put a year on his age at the recruiting office.*

### **Robert Walter Burr (1902 – 1903)**

A Lance Corporal (2266) in the Royal Army Medical Corps (2nd London Sanitary Company) who died at home on Friday 7th January 1916 aged 27. He was the son of Walter and Sarah Burr of Oak Close, Brimington and is buried in Brimington Cemetery and commemorated on Brimington Village Memorial. Although Robert was resident in

Chesterfield he enlisted in Chelsea and arrived in the Balkans on 30th May 1915. He was returned to England due to wounds he died in Western General Hospital in Manchester.



## Robert Capps (1907 – 1911)

A Private (200720) in the 1st/5th Battalion, The West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales' Own) who died on Thursday 3rd May 1917 and is commemorated on the Loos Memorial (Panel 39 and 40). The 1st/5th Battalion attacked Bullecourt (Hindenburg Line) on the 3rd May and suffered over 360 casualties.



*"Private Robert Capps (WY), son of Mrs Capps, 11 Dragon Parade, Harrogate, who was reported missing on 3rd May, it has been ascertained, was killed in action. News came to this effect from Sergeant Abbott, who is a prisoner in Germany. He was coming home in May for his commission, a fact that makes the blow all the more severe. He joined in September, 1914, and for some time acted as instructor, going to France in January, 1917."*

Born 1898 in Chesterfield. In 1911 lived at Market Place and was the son of John and Rachel Capps who were grocers. Robert enlisted in Harrogate.

*Cestrefeldian December 1917: Private Robert Capps, West Yorkshire Regiment, attached Machine Gun Section, was reported missing after the attack on Bullecourt on 3rd May last, and since been reported killed. He was frequently commended by his C.O. for his courage, and was to have returned home on 9th May to join an O.C.B.*

## Francis Cyril Clare (1905 – 1906 but see below)

A Private (14/868) in 14th (Service) Battalion, The Royal Warwickshire Regiment (1st Birmingham Pals), who died on Sunday 30th July 1916 aged 28 and is buried in Delville Wood Cemetery (grave XXXI.E.5). The Battalion, which formed part of the 13th Brigade in the 5th Division, moved to the front line trenches at Longueval on the 29th of July and then attacked several strong points to the northwest of the village on the following day suffering over 170 casualties.



Francis's remains were exhumed in 1920 and he now lies in Delville Wood Cemetery. He was the son of John Clare of 44 Compton Street in Chesterfield. Francis was born in Staveley in 1887, but at the outbreak of the war he was a

resident of Edgbaston in Birmingham where he was a schoolteacher. Francis arrived in France with his Battalion on the 21st November 1915. He is also commemorated on the Church of the Annunciation Memorial Plaque.

*Cestrefeldian December 1916: Private Francis Cyril Clare, Warwickshire Regt., was shot through the head when mounting the parapet on August 3rd, 1916. After leaving school he taught at the Roman Catholic Schools here, and afterwards went to St. Mary's Catholic College, Hammersmith. He subsequently taught at the Oratory Schools, Birmingham. A month after the outbreak of the War he joined a Birmingham Battalion of the Warwickshire Regt. N.B. The Cestrefeldian is inconsistent on his years at School. In the Roll of Honour 1905 – 1906 is claimed whereas elsewhere it states 1906 – 1908.*

### **Harry Covey Clarke (1899 – 1901)**

A Corporal (460686) in the 8th Battalion (90th Winnipeg Rifles) Canadian Expeditionary Force he was killed in action in France on the 26th September 1916 during the Battle of the Somme. On this day the 8th Battalion attacked Zollern Trench but were enfiladed by German machine gun fire. They succeeded in their objective and pushed on to Hessian Trench suffering many casualties. Harry is buried in Mericourt-l'Abbe cemetery.

*Cestrefeldian July 1917: Corporal Harry Covey Clarke (1899-1901) was a boarder in the school house, a boy of happy temperament, who made many friends. On leaving us he went to Canada and settled in Winnipeg, where he took up the work of an electrical engineer and made for himself an extensive and prosperous business connection. He came to England with the Canadian Infantry in 1916, and soon proceeded to France. He was killed on the Somme Front on September 26th. He was married, and leaves one son.*

### **Robert Bowes Cockburn (1901 – 1907)**

A Captain in the Army Veterinary Corps, attached to the 130th Brigade Royal Field Artillery, who died on Friday 27th September 1918, aged 28 and is buried in the Bralo British Cemetery in Greece. Bralo was a major hospital and communication and rest centre. Many of the burials in the cemetery are a result of the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918. He was the son of Robert and Annie Cockburn of Eastwood, Nottingham.



*Cestrefeldian December 1918: Captain Robert Bowes Cockburn (1901-07), R.A.V.C., died of pneumonia in Salonica, 27<sup>th</sup> September, 1918. He obtained a commission in the Royal Army Veterinary Corps early in the war, and saw much service on the Balkan Front. He was the elder son of Mr. and Mrs. Cockburn, of Eastwood, Notts., and was married.*

### **William Arthur Cockett (1906 – 1909)**

A Second Lieutenant in the 2nd Battalion the Gordon Highlanders, who died on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October 1917 and is buried in Hooze Crater Cemetery near Ieper in Belgium (grave VIA.A.17). At the time he was killed the Battalion were involved in the Second Battle of Passchendaele, which started on the day William was killed. Born in 1893 William was a resident of Hasland and had originally served as a Lance Corporal in the 12<sup>th</sup> Royal West Sussex Regiment before gaining a Commission.

### **Frank Cooper (1905 – 1913)**

A Lance Corporal (A/200022) in the 17th Battalion, The King's Royal Rifle Corps who was killed in action on 7th February 1917 aged 21. He is buried in Vlamertinghe Military Cemetery (Plot V. H. 9). Frank enlisted with the 5th (City of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade) at Staveley in September 1915, but later transferred to the 17th (Service) Battalion (British Empire League), King's Royal Rifle Corps. At the time of his death the Battalion were holding front line trenches near the Railway Wood sector and came under shell and sniper fire.



*Cestrefeldian 1911/12/13: Prefect of Large House*

*Cestrefeldian Dec 1911: He achieved a distinction in French in the Oxford Locals.*

*Cestrefeldian April 1917: On a Saturday morning towards the close of the term, the Headmaster spoke to the assembled school of the further losses we had sustained through the death in action mentioning F. Cooper. Frank Cooper was of our most brilliant scholars. A modest and retiring fellow, he won the hearts of all those who knew him well. Careful and earnest in all his work, thoroughly*

*straightforward, and inspired with the highest principles and sense of duty, he set an example to all, an example perhaps difficult for many to follow, but one which all would desire to attain. He was destined for the law and before enlisting was articled to a solicitor in Sheffield.*

### **Arthur Edward Connor**

A Sapper (29465) in the 17th Divisional Signal Company, The Royal Engineers, who died on 13th June 1919, aged 27. Arthur is commemorated on face 1 of the Delhi Memorial (India Gate). He was the son of the late Walter and Francis Connor. There is a note in the C.W.G.C. that he is buried in the Tank Cemetery.

### **Thomas Coote Cummins (1910 – 1913)**

A Second Lieutenant in the 7th Battalion The York and Lancaster Regiment he was killed in action on the 25th March 1918 aged 19. Thomas is buried in Warlencourt British Cemetery (grave V.L.20) after his body was exhumed in 1922.



*“Your son went out on patrol with an NCO and two men with the idea of silencing an enemy machine gun. It was a very gallant effort, but the enemy fire was too great, as they were just preparing to attack. His effort to capture the machine gun was very plucky and a very fine effort”* [Letter to Dr Cummins from their Son’s Commanding Officer]

Thomas was the son of Dr. WM and Mrs. EM Cummins of The Laburnums in Tattenhall near Chester.

*Cestrefeldian December 1918: Second-Lieut. Thomas Coote Cummins, York and Lancaster Regiment, was killed in action in France in April, 1918. He was in the school from 1910-1913. He was an only son and one of whom his parents were justly proud. He had a charming manner and was a general favourite. His career as an officer in France was dramatically short, being brought to an end within a week or two of his landing on French soil. We are most heartily sorry for Dr. and Mrs. Cummins who have lost so bright a boy.*

## Leonard Edwin Cutts (1901 – 1903)

A Lieutenant in the 256th Tunnelling Company The Royal Engineers, who died on Friday 11th October 1918, aged 31 and is buried in Noyon New British Cemetery near Oise in France (grave II.G.10). This cemetery was made after the Armistice by the concentration of graves from other burial grounds and from the surrounding battlefields. Leonard's body was discovered amongst French War dead and was exhumed by the French Authorities in April 1922. He was the son of the late Mr. JW and Mrs. Cutts of Blackwell near Alfreton and the husband of Winifred M Cutts of Coningsby in Lincoln.

*Cestrefeldian December 1918: Lieut. (Acting Captain) Leonard Edwin Cutts (1901-03), Royal Engineers, who died at the base hospital, Rouen, of pneumonia, was the son of the late W. Cutts and of Mrs. Cutts, of Westfield House, Blackwell. He was the eldest of four brothers, two of whom are in the Army and one, the youngest, training for the Navy. He left the important post of Assistant Manager of the Maltby Colliery Company early in the war to take up a commission in the Royal Engineers, and he saw much active service up to the day of his death.*

*Leonard Cutts was a man of high principle, who followed the path of duty no matter how stern and rugged it might be. His mother has lost a dearly-loved son and his younger brothers a wise and capable guide and guardian, and we deeply sympathise with them.*

## Alfred Parks Dale (1901)

A Second Lieutenant in the 57th Training Squadron of The Royal Flying Corps, who died on Friday 15th March 1918, aged 31 and is buried at the Ismailia War Memorial Cemetery in Egypt (grave B. 113). He was the son of the late Alfred and Annie Frances Dale of Eckington and husband of Frances M. Dale of 36 Salter Gate.



*Cestrefeldian April 1918: Second-Lieut. Alfred Parks Dale, R.F.C., who was accidentally killed on March 15th, whilst flying in Egypt, had seen much service. He joined the R.A.M.C. immediately after the outbreak of hostilities, and before being drafted to Egypt to help with the wounded from Gallipoli, he*

*was engaged in nursing cases of spotted fever at Folkestone. Towards the end of 1916 he was transferred as a mechanic to the R.F.C. and subsequently taking to flying he was given his commission in December last. In civilian life Lieut. Dale was Unionist Agent for the Chesterfield Division of Derbyshire. He was married and leaves a widow and a little girl, to whom we extend our sincerest sympathy.*

### **Herbert Colin Ditcher (1907 – 1910)**

A Corporal (11136) in the 48th Company The Machine Gun Corps (Infantry), who died of wounds on Monday 3rd July 1916, aged 20 and is buried in the Bethune Town Cemetery (grave V. F. 39). Herbert was the son of John Howard Ditcher and Emma Ditcher of 15 Station Road, Eckington. He was born and resident in Eckington. He was formerly in the Sherwood Foresters.



*Cestrefeldian December 1916: Corporal Herbert Colin Ditcher, Sherwood Foresters, who was later transferred to the Machine Gun Section, was killed in action in France, July 1916. When at school he was full of activity and energy, and was well liked by all his acquaintances. After leaving school he was with the Staveley Coal and Iron Co., and also later in chemical laboratory of Jonas and Colver, steel manufacturers, Sheffield.*

### **Norman Stanton Bryan Donkin (1905)**

A Rifleman (S/491) in the 8th Battalion The Rifle Brigade (The Prince Consort's Own) who was killed in action on the 30th June 1915. He is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, panel 46 - 48 and 50. At the time of his death the Rifles were occupying front line trenches in the Ypres Salient. Norman was born in Norwood in Surrey and enlisted in Westminster, but was a resident of Calow at the outbreak of the War. On the Calow Memorial he is recorded as serving with the York and Lancashire Regiment.

### **Charles Frederick Drabble (1911 – 1913)**

A Lieutenant in the 19th Battalion Durham Light Infantry, who was attached to 13th Squadron Royal Air Force when he died on Tuesday 13th August 1918, aged 21. Charles is buried in Flesquieres Hill British Cemetery (grave

IV.B.21/22). He was the son of Alexander and Emma Kinder Drabble of 45 Collegiate Crescent in Sheffield and a native of Clay Cross.

*Cestrefeldian December 1918: We learned some time ago that Lieut. C. F. Drabble, Royal Air Force, was reported as missing since August 13th. We have not heard anything further as to the fate of this fine young officer, another of our Old Boys. We share the anxiety of his relatives and trust that even yet they may be cheered by the news that he has been spared. He attended School from 1911 to 1913.*

### **Percy John Eldridge (1913 – 1915)**

*Lance-Corporal Percy John Eldridge, B.Sc. Royal Fusiliers, killed in France, July 1916.*

*Mr Eldridge was a master at the School from 1913 to 1915. He does not appear on the Roll of Honour plaque.*



*Cestrefeldian December 1916: The news that Mr. Percy J. Eldridge, B.Sc., had been killed in action came as a great shock to us at the close of last term and cast a gloom over our work. Less than a year before he had been in our midst, and at that time no one even knew that he had any thought of enlisting in the Summer Holidays.*

*As one goes about the school buildings, more especially as one enters the Physical Laboratory, it is difficult to realise that he will never again be seen amongst us.*

*His Commanding Officer said of him: "He was a great favourite with all the other men and greatly respected by the officers." Mr. Eldridge certainly won the respect of all those with whom he came in contact. Those who really knew him learned not only to respect him but came to love him as a real friend, and to admire him as a type of the true English gentleman. Gentle he certainly was in manner and bearing, but beneath a certain reserve there lay a wonderful strength of character, and a devotion to the highest principles such is rarely met with. His might be said to have been a blameless life.*

*There is no wonder, too that he was a “favourite with all the other men, as he possessed an unending store of wit and humour, as readers of these pages will know from the amusing contributions he sent us from time to time.*

*There is no need for us to speak of his high scholastic attainments. It is enough to say that he had a brilliant career before him, and we extend our heartfelt sympathy to his parents on the loss of so splendid a son.*

### **George Exford (1897 – 1898)**

A Private (PO/12829) in the Royal Marine Light Infantry. He was serving on HMS Queen Mary when he died on Wednesday 31st May 1916 during the Battle of Jutland. George is Commemorated on the PORTSMOUTH NAVAL MEMORIAL in Hampshire.



### **Arthur Noel Eyre (1904 – 1909)**

A 2nd Lieutenant in the 6th Battalion, The Sherwood Foresters and 57th Squadron Royal Air Force. Arthur was killed in action on the 26th September 1918 aged 27. He is commemorated on the Arras Flying Services Memorial in the Faubourg-D'Amiens Cemetery. 2/Lt A N Eyre was the observer in DH 4 D8419 of No 57 Sqn RAF, flown by Lt Percy Walter Johnson Timson, when both airmen were killed in action on 26 September 1918. They were on a bombing mission over Cambrai when they were engaged in combat with enemy aircraft and shot down out of control from 1000 feet. There doesn't appear to be a German fighter pilot claim that matches the loss of D8419. Arthur was the son of John and Eliza Eyre of Avondale Road in Chesterfield.



*Cestrefeldian December 1918: Lieutenant Arthur Noel Eyre attended School from 1904 to 1910 and proceeded to take his part in the well-known business of Eyre and Sons, Ltd., and from what we used to hear of him from time to time, there was every prospect of his worthily upholding the traditions of the firm. Soon after the outbreak of the war he applied for his commission and was gazetted to the Sherwood Foresters in 1915. At a later date he transferred to the R.A.F., and in this branch of the service he made the supreme sacrifice in*

*September, whilst engaged with the enemy over the German lines. At school he was popular and a good sportsman. Of a cheerful disposition, he did not forget that life was a serious business, and he tackled his work with earnestness, and his life was of that healthy moral tone which points to a career of useful and respected citizenship. We deeply regret his loss.*

### **Percy Donald Forrett (1895 – 1902)**

A Captain in the 5th Battalion (Territorial) Northumberland Fusiliers he was killed in action on the 5th February 1916 aged 31. He is buried in the Maple Copse Cemetery at Ypres (Special Memorial E. 6.).

*“A bad day for us – Captain PD FORRETT being killed and 2Lt PHILLIPS badly wounded by a shell which burst just outside the door of their dugout – by this we lose not only a valuable officer but one who has been associated with the Battn for many years”*  
[Battalion War Diary]

Maple Copse was to the west of Sanctuary Wood and was the close to the advanced dressing stages of those divisions holding the front line. During the fighting of June 1916 the graves in the cemetery were mainly obliterated and of the 256 known graves, only 26 could be definitely located after the Armistice. Of the remaining 230 there are special memorials to these men.

*Cestrefeldian April 1916: Capt. Percy Donald Forrett, 5th Batt. Northumberland Fusiliers (T.F.), killed in action in France early in February. Capt. Forrett had been connected with the Territoria1 Force for many years. He entered the school in 1895, and left from the VIth Form in 1902. He held masterhips at Sleaford and Ashby-de-la-Zouch Grammar Schools, and when the war broke out was science master at Allan’s Endowed School, Newcastle-on-Tyne.*

*Those of us whose privilege it was to know Forrett will remember him as one of a very capable set of fellows who formed our VIth Form some fourteen years ago. Always cheerful, he had a rare store of humour, to which he frequently gave expression by clever work with the pencil.*



## Clement Barrington Furmston (1903 – 1904)

A 2nd Lieutenant in the 154th Company of the Machine Gun Corps (Infantry), who was killed in action on the 9th April 1917 aged 22 and is buried in Roclincourt Military Cemetery (grave I.A.3). Clement was killed on the first day of the Battle of Arras.

*"He was killed half an hour after the beginning of the action. A shell landed in the middle of his gun team whilst it was in action and instantaneously killed him and the three men with him."* [Major AV Board, Officer Commanding]



He was the Son of the Reverend Samuel and Susan Furmston of Blackwell Vicarage in Alfreton he was a native of Mansfield. He is also commemorated at St Werburgh's Churchyard in Blackwell Derbyshire.

*Cestrefeldian April 1917: Second-Lieut. Clement Barrington Furmston, Machine Gun Corps, was killed in the first stages of the great attack on Easter Monday. He entered the school in the beginning of 1903 and left at the end of 1904, on gaining a foundation scholarship at St. John's, Leatherhead. He was articled to Mr. W. Mortimer Wilson, Alfreton, and on the outbreak of war he enlisted in U.P.S Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers, with which he served in France. He received his commission with the M.G.C. in March last. Clement Furmston had previously been wounded and his death was a great blow to us. Clean, honourable, frank and happy in temperament, he made friends for himself wherever he went. He was frequently with us and no one received nor deserved a heartier welcome. He was very dear to us!*

## John William Godber (1911 – 1914)

Private (534476) in "B" Company, 1st/15th Battalion (County of London), The London Regiment (Prince of Wales' Own Civil Service Rifles), who was killed in action on Tuesday 24th September 1918, aged 20. He is commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial (Panel 10), which bears the names of over 9000 men who fell in the period from 8th August to the date of the Armistice in the advance to victory in Picardy and Artois and who have no known grave. John

was the son of William and Lucy Godber of 207 Elmton Road in Creswell near Mansfield.

*Cestrefeldian December 1918: Rifleman John William Godber, King's Royal Rifle Corps, fell in action in France in September. He was at school here from 1911 to 1914, and during that time was very much liked by all of us who knew him. He was a bright boy, keen on all that he undertook, and full of that clean manly spirit which is so gratifying to the parents of such a son. We can but trust that the world will be a better place to live in after the sacrifice of such young lives as his, for we could ill afford to lose boys like Godber.*

### **Donald K Hall (1910 – 1912)**

*Second-Lieut. Donald K. Hall, Royal Field Artillery, killed in action in Flanders, October, 1917.*

*Cestrefeldian April 1917: He fell in action at Passchendaele Ridge on October 9th, 1917, aged twenty.*



*Whilst he was with us, Hall, by his keenness and vivacity, gave promise of a life of energy, though one little thought in those days of the sphere in which this energy would be displayed. He was intended for the engineering world, and on leaving School took up a position in the laboratory of Messrs. John Brown and Co. Ltd., Atlas Works, Sheffield, and attended classes at the University. He enlisted as a gunner in the 2/3rd West Riding Royal Field Artillery (T.F.) and served eight months in the ranks. He then went to Woolwich upon a special nomination from the University to train for a commission in the Regular Forces. He passed out 3rd and got his commission in August, 1916. At the Front he saw much service both with Trench Mortar Battery and with an 18-pdr. Field Battery. At the time of his death he was acting as Forward Observing Officer. His C.O. said of him, "He was a keen and fearless officer." And so he looked the last time we saw him. We are truly grieved that he has been taken from us so early. Lieut. Hall was the nephew of A. D. Hall, Esq., M.A., F.R.S., Permanent Secretary to the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries.*

### **John Vernon Hall**

Born in 1891 at Clay Cross, in 1911 he was a Mechanical Engineers Apprentice living at Broomhill Villa, Old Whittington near Chesterfield. John enlisted into

the Royal Flying Corps in October 1913 and died 23 June 1914 whilst serving with 5th Squadron at Netley. John's name appears on the plaque even though his death predated the start of the war.

### **Frank Hancock (1915 – 1916)**

Frank was born in Brampton and enlisted in Chesterfield into the 6th Training Reserve Battalion. He was later posted to the 2/4th Battalion, King's Own (Yorkshire Light Infantry) and killed in action on the 27th August 1918 aged 19. He is buried in Gomiecourt South Cemetery. At the time of his death the 2/4th Battalion KOYLI of the 187th Brigade were attacking German positions close to L'Homme Mort and came under heavy machine gun fire, which inflicted many casualties. When darkness fell small groups of men managed to return to the British positions and in total the Battalion suffered over 200 men killed, wounded or missing.

*Cestrefeldian December 1918: Private Frank Hancock, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, was killed in action in France in August. He came to us as a pupil teacher in 1915 (- 1916), and by applying himself to his work qualified for entrance to a Training College, whither he would have proceeded but for his military duties. His was a very pleasing disposition.*

*Modest and unassuming in his demeanour, he was full of determination, and both on the football field and in the classroom his efforts met with the success they deserved. He was a boy whom we should have liked to have in our midst for a longer period, as his influence was good in every way. By his death in action the teaching profession has lost one who would have done much good work for the rising generation.*

### **Harold Hardy (1910 – 1915)**

A Private (307427) in the 2nd/8th Battalion, The Sherwood Foresters who was killed in action on the 7th April 1917 aged 19. At the time of his death the Battalion, along with the 178th Brigade of the 59th Division, were involved in the Battle of Arras and attacked German trenches near to Le Verguir.



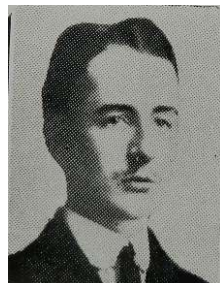
The German wire had not been cut and the Battalion suffered over 100 casualties. Harold has no known grave and is now commemorated on the

Thiepval Memorial. Harold was born and resident in Staveley prior to the outbreak of the War.

*Cestrefeldian July 1917: Private Harold Hardy left us but a short time ago, and we are truly sorry to learn that he has lost his life on the fields of France. A quiet, modest, retiring boy, Hardy was one who was full of unexpected powers, and came to be much admired by those who really knew him. He was always most willing to do anything that he could to uphold the credit of his school, and any team in cricket or in football was the better for having him included in its ranks. Though naturally quiet, he had a fund of humour, and was a most lovable companion. He was intended for the engineering profession, but like so many others of our promising young fellows, his life has been cut short ere it had scarce begun.*

### **Frederick Victor Hicks (1911 – 1912)**

A Pioneer in the 83rd Field Company of the Corps of Royal Engineers, who was killed in action on the 2nd July 1916 aged 20. He is buried in the Menin Road South Military Cemetery in Ieper, grave I. O. 25. A comrade wrote home to say that Frederick was on duty at an advanced store when a shell burst and he was wounded in the leg and killed by the concussion.



Frederick was the son of Edward and Lilian Hicks of "Leylands" 2 Stanley Street in Chesterfield. He was born in Stroud Green, Middlesex. Prior to enlisting he worked in the drawing Office of Bryan Donkin Company.

### **Gilbert Horner (1908 – 1913)**

A Sapper (37367) in the 71st Field Company, Royal Engineers, who was killed in action on the 16th December 1915, aged 19. He is buried in the Lala Baba Cemetery in Turkey (grave II. C. 1). Gilbert was the son of Isaac and Mary Horner of 156 Park Road in Chesterfield.



## William Bamford Houston (1910 – 1912)

A Private (70667) in the 2nd Battalion, The Sherwood Foresters, killed in action on Sunday 15th October 1916, aged 19. Commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Pier and Face 10 C 10 D and 11A. He was the son of Frederick and Edith Houston of 140 South Street in New Whittington. On the 15th October the 2nd Sherwood Foresters attacked German gun pits from the north of Lesboeuks. The attack was successful and the gains were held and consolidated.



The first indication that John and Edith Houston had lost their son William was contained in a letter from a comrade. *"October 28th - It is my painful duty to send you here with more photos and a letter which were found in your son's possession. No doubt the War Office by now has informed that Billy was killed on the 14th inst. so I am sincerely hoping that my letter will prove too great a shock for you. I cannot give you any further information at present."* [Pte. Watson, Lewis Gun Section, attached to the Sherwood Foresters]

Prior to enlisting 'Billy' Houston was training as a chemist in his Father's business in South Street. He was called up in February 1916 and received his training in Watford. He had been at Watford for 10 weeks when he was posted to Ireland with 178th Brigade during the Easter Rebellion. In August he was part of a draft of men sent to the 2nd Sherwood Foresters in France.

*Cestrefeldian April 1917: William Bamford Houston was a pupil here some five years ago. He has been "missing" for some months, and it must be only too true that his life has been lost in the service of his country. Houston was a steady, quiet, unassuming fellow, one who treated all his work with due seriousness and who won the friendship of many of his contemporaries. We have received letters from France from one or two who were at school with him, expressing sorrow at the news of the loss of an old schoolfellow whom they much admired.*

*After leaving school he joined his father in business, and it was hoped that one day he would succeed his father, and he showed every sign of being a worthy successor. We deeply sympathise with his parents in their sad loss and grievous disappointment.*

## Ronald Howe (1907 – 1909)

A Private (31742) in "C" Company, 10th Battalion, The Sherwood Foresters who died of wounds on the 6th July 1916 aged 22. He is buried in Boulogne Eastern Cemetery (grave VIII. C. 104). The 10th Battalion was heavily involved in the attacks on the German trenches near Fricourt Farm.



*"We had spent the night in the wood crouching in shell holes to avoid snipers, who were all over the place. At daybreak the birds began to sing as though nothing was wrong, but it was a sight. The wood was practically blasted away, and a village near was laid flat, when the order came. Away we went and the first soldier down was the one next to me. Then I saw Ronald Howe bleeding from the legs, but we had to push on. I don't know how I came through, but I did. When we got into the trenches the Germans surrendered in scores. They put up their hands and yelled 'Mercy ! Comrades.' Some of our chaps gave them mercy with the cold steel."* [Pte Frank Bower, aged 17, from Chesterfield]

Ronald and his twin brother George were the sons of William and Florence Howe of Spital, Chesterfield. He was a resident of Clay Cross.

## William Husband (1907 – 1909)

A Second Lieutenant in the Northumberland Fusiliers attached to 15th Battalion Durham Light Infantry, who died of wounds on Tuesday the 25th June 1918, aged 28. He is buried in Whittington (St Bartholomew) Churchyard.

*Cestrefeldian December 1918: Sec.-Lieut. William Husband (1907-09), Northumberland Fusiliers, died in a Bristol hospital at the end of June from wounds received in action in France on May 8th, 1918. He enlisted in the Sherwoods in December, 1914, he went to France in September 1915, where he saw much heavy fighting. He received his commission in the early part of the present year.*

*After passing his qualifying examinations with distinction he left us to take up school work and when he enlisted he held a teaching post in Peterborough. He too, was a soldier of the "Fighting Fifth," and also of our own glorious Sherwoods.*

## William Ernest Ind (1903 – 1909)

A Captain in the 15th (County of London) Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Civil Service Rifles. He died of wounds on the 7th June 1917 aged 25 and is buried in Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery in West Flanders (grave X. A. 45). Lijssenthoek was the site of numerous clearing hospitals for the Divisions that were holding the front line around the Ypres salient.



*"Lt Ind in his eagerness to see that all went well, had followed the Bn up the hollow ground before the first objective, he was hit in the head by a shell fragment, was so badly wound that he died in 10 Casualty Clearing Station, near Poperinghe, without ever regaining consciousness. No man could have worked harder for the welfare of the Bn, nor could anyone be more fearless or unselfish than he was."*

[Battalion War Diary 1917]

He was awarded the Military Cross in January 1917 for Conspicuous Gallantry at High Wood during the Battle of the Somme in August 1916. William was born in 1891 and was the son of William and Martha Ind of Duckmanton.

*Cestrefeldian December 1908/09: Prefect. Magazine editor,*

*Cestrefeldian December 1908: ... passed the Intermediate Arts Examination at the London University*

*Cestrefeldian September 1909: Athletic Club Committee. The Silver School Patriotism Cup given annually by an "Old Boy" has this year been awarded by the vote of the school to W. E. Ind, of the Upper VIth. Ind has been in the School since September, 1903, and has consequently completed his fifth year. His record is so good that it is worth reproducing. In 1906 he passed the Oxford Junior Local with first-class honours, and in the same year he was awarded a County Intermediate Scholarship of £15 a year. In 1907 he passed the Senior Local with third-class honours, and he matriculated and passed the Intermediate Examination for the degree of Bachelor of Arts of the London University in 1908.*

*He has taken a full share in the outside interests of the School, and although he is not a great cricketer or football player, he has always been ready to do what he could. This magazine owes much to him, for he was one of the first editors,*



*and the School Debating Society has received a good deal of useful help from him. Briefly it may be said that his attitude towards the School has been directed by good sense, good feeling and loyalty, and that he has identified himself with everything having a good influence on the well-being of the School.*

*Cestrefeldian April 1916: .... the school heard with feelings of pride of the special acts of bravery in the field of Lieut. W. E. Ind (1903 – 1909) which had gained the high approval of their Brigadiers.*

*Cestrefeldian July 1917: Capt. and Adjutant William Ernest Ind, M.C. (1903 - 09), London Regiment, died in France from wounds received in action, 6th April, 1917. He had a brilliant career at school, passing the Junior and Senior Oxford Locals with first-class honours, and the Matriculation and Intermediate Arts examinations of the London University. He obtained a high place in the examination for second-class clerkships in the Civil Service, and was appointed to the Scottish Education Office, and subsequently to the office of the Local Government Board. He was a Territorial when war broke out, and had 2½ years' service on the various fronts in France, taking part in many of the important battles. He was mentioned in Brigadier's orders and in despatches, and gained the Military Cross. For a month before his death he was acting as Brigade Major.*

*His men said of him, "He is a top-hole chap" – "one of the best" – "we will follow him anywhere" – "everything will be all right if Ind is about." A former C.O. says: - "His memory was remarkable, his energy boundless. On the ----- last autumn he was invaluable, not only to his own battalion but to the brigade, and he was personally thanked by the Brigadier for the assistance he had given to the brigade staff."*

*He was the first prefect of Large and played in the School Football XI. He gained the Devonshire Cup for School Patriotism in 1909. He was one of our great old boys, outstanding alike for his power and will to work and for his good influence over his fellows. To him the path of duty seemed ever clean cut, and he never hesitated to tread it. He was a dear, good fellow, a fine example of the best of our England's young manhood - the more one knew him, the better one loved him.*

## William Gladstone Jacques (1909 – 1914)

A Second Lieutenant in the 5th Battalion, The Sherwood Foresters, killed in action on the 17th October 1918, aged 21. He is buried in Fresnoy-Le-Grand Communal Cemetery near St Quentin in France (grave B. II). The extension was made and used by the 46th Division in 1918. Fresnoy-Le-Grand was evacuated by the Germans on the 9th October 1918 and occupied by the 46th (North Midland) Division, which contained the Sherwood Foresters (139th) Brigade. On 17th October the 139th Brigade were engaged in the attack on Reginicourt and Andigney-les-Fermes.



The attack started at 5.20 a.m. The 8th Sherwood Foresters formed the attacking battalion and two Companies of the 5th Sherwood Foresters were held in support, with the remainder dug in under a bank in the shelter of a small wall. The assaulting troops came under heavy machine gun fire but succeeded in reaching their objectives and taking over 100 prisoners.

William was the son of William and Kate Jacques of 19 Avondale Road in Chesterfield.

*Cestrefeldian December 1918: Second-Lieut. William Gladstone Jacques (1909 – 1914) fell in action in October at the early age of twenty. Poor boy! We can hardly think of him, except as a boy! His brief career in the Army affords us a striking example of what this war has so plainly demonstrated to all, and that is, that your true Britisher has the fighting spirit in him somewhere hidden away, though it may not be much in evidence in times of peace. Willie Jacques was one of the last whom we should have accused of being pugnacious. He was always particularly modest and unassuming in his manner – a very pleasing companion and one most easy to get on with.*

*On leaving school he joined the staff Parr's Bank at Alfreton, and in 1916 he enlisted, and subsequently gained a commission in the Sherwood Foresters. Having offered his services to his King and country, he set about mastering his new duties as thoroughly as lay within his power, and, though but a boy in years, he quickly came to realise that an officer's job is very largely one of thinking more of the men entrusted to his care than of himself. This was how*

*he died. He was leading his men on, away in front of everyone. Then came the moment when the party met with murderous machine gun fire. Men were falling every second. Young Jacques encouraged them to "stick it. Whilst he was seeing that the men got what cover they could, he himself was hit and killed.*

*All we can say is: "Well done, dear boy, well done! We shall miss you very much, but the memory of your gallant end will ever serve to point us along the path of true unselfishness and duty."*

### **Arnold Jephson (1900 – 1903) and Frederick Charles Jephson (1907 – 1910)**

The sons of Walter and Mary Jepson of Ashgate Road, Chesterfield. Both are commemorated on the War Memorial in the grounds of St Thomas' Church in Brampton.

Arnold was a Private (38354) in the 11th Battalion King's (Liverpool) Regiment and was killed in action on Thursday the 17th May 1917, aged 28. He is buried in London Cemetery, Neuville-Vitasse (grave III.D.9). Although a resident of Chesterfield he enlisted in Manchester. At the time of his death the Battalion were digging trenches near to Wancourt when they were caught in a German artillery barrage and suffered several casualties.



*Arnold*

*Cestrefeldian July 1917: Pte. Arnold Jephson (1900-03), King's Liverpool Regt., was killed in France in May last. On leaving us he took up a commercial career with considerable success, and gained the goodwill and esteem of all with whom he came into contact.*

Frederick was a Private (240753) in the 2/6th Battalion Sherwood Foresters, 59th (North Midland) Division and was killed in action on the 17th December 1917, aged 23. He is buried in Ribecourt Military Cemetery near Trescault (grave I. C. 19). At the time of his death the Battalion were involved in the Battle of Cambrai and occupying Reserve Trenches near to Flesquiers. Ribecourt was eventually taken by the British 6th



*Frederick*

Division on 20th November 1917, but following the conclusion of the Battle of Cambrai was practically on front line.

*Cestrefeldian April 1918: It is with great regret that we record the death in action last December of Private Frederick Charles Jephson, who was in the Signalling Section of one of the Sherwood's Battalions. This is the second time that Mr. and Mrs. Jephson have been bereaved during the past year, as they lost their eldest son in May. Our sincerest sympathy goes out to them and we trust that their youngest son may be spared. On leaving school, Jephson, who was a general favourite, thanks to his modest bearing, entered the drawing office of the Bryan Donkin Works. Along with his brother, he enlisted at the very commencement of hostilities, and first saw service in the Irish disturbances. His officer writing of him says: - "He was a man highly thought of, not only by those over him, but by his comrades." This is exactly what we should have thought of him ourselves.*

### **Brian Edmund Kelly (1903 – 1906)**

A Second Lieutenant in the 2nd Battalion York and Lancaster Regiment, killed in action on the 2nd December 1917. He is commemorated on the Cambrai Memorial near Louverval (panel 9 and 10). At the time of his death the Battalion were holding front line trenches near to Havrincourt Wood and the Hindenburg Line during a German attack.



He is also commemorated on the Church of the Annunciation Memorial Plaque.

*Cestrefeldian April 1918: Second-Lieut. Brian Edmund Kelly, Yorks. and Lancs. Regiment (1903-1906), fell whilst bravely leading his men on the Cambrai Front on December 1st. Lieut. Kelly enlisted in the Sheffield City Battalion on the outbreak of hostilities, but was transferred to a Surrey Regiment, and fought with them in several engagements. He was wounded in the shoulder in 1916, and on recovery was given commissioned rank in his old regiment. He returned to the Western Front in August, 1917, and saw much hard fighting before he fell. He was a bright, cheery fellow, and a keen sportsman. His O.C. speaks of him as having made at great name for himself and laments the loss of a*

*valuable officer and comrade. He leaves a widow and one child, whom we join in mourning the loss of a gallant gentleman.*

### **Adam Kerr (1895 -1898)**

A Captain in the 10th Battalion Sherwood Foresters, who died of wounds on The 3rd November 1918, aged 35 and is buried in Forest Communal Cemetery (grave C. 6). At the time the Battalion was involved in the fighting around Forest and the surrounding country during the advance to victory. Captain Kerr had led a patrol to the German trenches was mortally wounded by shellfire on the return journey. Adam was the son of John and Margaret Kerr and a native of Chesterfield. He left a wife, Maggie, a resident of Whiteley Road Sheffield.

*Cestrefeldian December 1918: Captain Adam Kerr, Sherwood Foresters, died in France on November 3rd from wounds received in action. He enlisted in the first call for men in the Sheffield City Battalion of the York and Lancaster Regt., and was given a commission in the Sherwoods in September, 1915. He went to France in March, 1916, and did such excellent work that he was given his company in the following September. In civil life he held a responsible post in the commercial department of the "Sheffield Daily Telegraph." He was married.*

*Adam Kerr was a clever and successful boy in the school, but he was more than this; he was one of the school's most loyal and patriotic sons, just one of those who would most readily respond to his country's call. We lament the loss of one who had endeared himself to us in every way, and we profoundly sympathise with his wife, his mother and father, and the other members of his family.*

### **Frederick Christian King (1907 – 1915)**

A Rifleman (R/19052) in the 16th Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps (Church Lads Brigade), who was killed in action on the 2nd February 1917, aged 20. He is buried in Peronne Communal Cemetery Extension on the Somme, grave V. D. 25. At the time of his death the



Battalion were holding front line trenches near to Clery-Sur-Somme. He was the son of Mrs L King of Allport Terrace, Westhouses in Alfreton. Fred was born in Blackwell, and although a resident of Alfreton he enlisted at Ilkeston.

*Cestrefeldian 1913/14/15: Prefect Large House.*

### *Cestrefeldian December 1914: Devonshire Cup for School Patriotism*

*Cestrefeldian December 1915: Leaving Scholarship (£30 per annum) was granted by the Governors to F. C. King. King is holding his at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, where he has obtained a Sizarship (£28 per annum).*

*Cestrefeldian April 1917: Frederick Christian King - Perut ante diem, sed miles, sed pro patria. - All our bereavements are grievous, but it is indeed hard to bear the loss of one who showed such promise of an upright and distinguished career. King was a man with great powers, who from his own retiring disposition rarely received his due meed of praise, and ever hung back while others received the award of his achievements. At last, however, he received the highest mark of honour which his school could grant – the Devonshire School Patriotism Cup.*

*From the very beginning of his school life King had shown no ordinary gifts. Both from attainments and from character he was fitted for this distinction. He gained a County Major Scholarship which he held at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. He was a true gentleman such as England's school boast of producing. Innate courtesy was coupled with a perfectly frank and outspoken character; he recognised always that truth and straightforwardness were the real keystones of character and life.*

### **Herbert Lack (1907 – 1910)**

A Private (12/429) in the 12th (Service) Battalion of York and Lancaster Regiment (The Sheffield Pals) and died on the 6th July 1916. He is buried in St. Sever Cemetery in Rouen (grave A. 24. 2). Herbert was the only son of Councilor Thomas and Lara Lack of "Westridge" Poplar Avenue in Chesterfield. He was christened at St Thomas' Church in Brampton and is commemorated on the Brampton Memorial.



He was admitted to hospital on June 12th with blood poisoning, which he contracted in the trenches. Herbert enlisted shortly after the outbreak of the War and arrived in France in April 1916. Prior to enlisting he worked as a draughtsman at Bryan Donkin Co., having previously studied at Sheffield

University. He was a useful cricketer and played for the Chesterfield Club in which he topped the bowling averages in 1914.

### **William Henry Lockett (1902 – 1906)**

A Second Lieutenant in the 16th Battalion Durham Light Infantry, who was killed in action on the 7th October 1916, aged 26. He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial (pier and face 14 A and 15 C). At the time of his death William was attached to the 12th Battalion DLI, which on the 7th October had attacked the front line trenches near Le Sars.



'A' and 'C' companies successfully captured The Tangle and the sunken Eaucourt l'Abbaye Road, whilst 'B' company moved through and gained ground at Le Sars. William was the son of Henry and Elizabeth Lockett of 180 South Street, New Whittington. He received a B.A. from Durham University.

*Cestrefeldian December 1918: Second-Lieut. W. H. Lockett, B.A. of the Durham Light Infantry, of whose death so many O.C.'s will sincerely regret to hear, was killed in action in France on October 7th, 1916. He gained a scholarship to this school in 1902, and after four years left us to teach at Clowne. He proceeded to Durham University, where he was a member of the O.T.C., and after gaining his degree took up an appointment at Weston-super-Mare. He gained his commission in May, 1915, and after training spent, only ten weeks in France before his death. At that time he was in command of a company, and had made keen preparations for action, in consequence of which his Colonel was about to recommend him the M.C. The latter, in his letter to Lockett's father, says that he was well liked and respected by all. The last letter which he wrote home is particularly fine. "I do want you to remember, whatever happens, that our ancestors fought and died for the privileges we have all enjoyed during the prolonged years of peace, and it is up to us to do the same."*

### **William Herbert Lucas (1902 – 1905)**

A Lieutenant in the 8th Battalion Princes of Wales's (North Staffordshire) Regiment who died of wounds on the 21st January 1916 aged 25. At this time the Battalion were holding front line trenches and suffered a number of casualties due to German artillery.



He is buried in Merville Communal Cemetery (grave VII. A. 3) near Bethune. This cemetery was used by the casualty clearing from 1915-1918. William was the son of Herbert and Florence Lucas of "The Chantry" in Dronfield.

### **John Horace Marsden (1893 – 1895)**

A Captain in the 2/6th Battalion, The Sherwood Foresters, who was killed in action on the 27th April 1917, aged 38. He is buried in Templeux-Le-Guerrard British Cemetery (grave I. A. 47) near Peronne. John was the son of Mary Marsden of 29 Avondale Road, Chesterfield and the late John Marsden who had been a well-known Solicitor. He was awarded the Military Cross.

John Horace Marsden was Commissioned into the Sherwood Foresters (Notts & Derby) Regiment shortly after the outbreak of the Great War and joined the 2/6th (Territorial) Battalion at their Headquarters in the Empire Hotel at Buxton in November 1914. He was quickly made the Battalion's first Transport Officer and preceded with them to the Harpenden training area in the spring of 1915. By this time the 2/6th Battalion were Brigaded with other Sherwood Foresters Territorial Battalions into the 178th (2nd Sherwood Foresters) Brigade of the 59th (2nd North Midland) Division. April 1916 saw the 2/6th Battalion boarding the Mail Steamer Ulster at Liverpool docks and heading to Dublin to help suppress the Easter Rising, where they would suffer their first casualties. Following a summer of flying column activity the 2/6th Battalion returned to England for final training before embarkation to France and the Western Front. After a Special Service held at Salisbury Cathedral on 11th February the 59th (2nd North Midland Division) embarked from Folkestone and arrived in Boulogne on 26th February 1917. Following a period of final training and acclimatisation the 2/6th Battalion participated in their first action of the War on the 31st March when they were called upon to attack the villages of Vendelles and Jeancourt during the German retreat to the Hindenburg line. By this time John had been promoted to Captain and was commanding a Rifle Company. The 2/6th Battalion captured all their objectives and in doing so Captain Marsden showed "*conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty*". A month later on the 27th April the Sherwood Foresters Brigade was called upon to assault a German strong point known as 'Cologne Farm'. The 2/6th Battalion formed the right flank and were instructed to attack and hold an area of former quarry workings. Details of this action are scant, but it is clear that the 2/6th Battalion achieved their objectives; however, this came at a heavy price.

Captain Marsden and thirty-six Officers and men were killed in action or missing presumed dead and numerous others were wounded, some fatally. The bodies of John Marsden and fourteen other Derbyshire men killed in action that day were removed and buried in a small cemetery behind the British lines. Their bodies now lie next to each other in a 'Sherwood row'; *comrades in arms united in death*. The bodies of thirteen men were not recovered at the time and they are now commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the missing. In 1953 a single isolated grave was found containing the bodies of six men from the 2/6th Battalion and they were subsequently reburied. On 18th June 1917 the London Gazette announced that Captain John Horace Marsden had been posthumously awarded the Military Cross:

*"For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He led his men in the most gallant manner and succeeded in capturing nine prisoners. He has at all times set a splendid example of courage and determination."*

*Cestrefeldian July 1917: Captain John H. Marsden, M.C. (1893-1895), Sherwood Foresters, was killed in France whilst gallantly cutting wire to enable his men to advance in attack. Those who knew him would say that this is precisely what he would do - in a tight corner he would not for a moment think of himself, but only of his duty, and of those who had to rely on him for direction.*

*He had previously gained the Military Cross, when he "showed fine handling of his command during the advance and, by anticipating a movement of the enemy, was able to kill one enemy and capture nine unwounded and one wounded prisoners at the attack on Jeancourt on March 31st 1917."*

*Exactly twenty-four years ago he was one of the first to welcome us in Chesterfield, and it has been our pleasure and our privilege to know him as a true friend ever since. He was an able man of affairs and his delightful personality cast a happy radiance around him wherever he might chance to be. He was no laggard. He had a very clear conception of duty and what was right, and in all his actions he would always insist on the straight deal with everybody. He was indeed "a very parfit, gentil Knyghte."*

## John Mellor (1908 – 1913)

A Private (10407) in the 8th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (City of London), who was killed in action on the 3rd August 1916 aged 20. He enlisted in April 1916 and is commemorated on Thiepval Memorial. At this time the Battalion was heavily involved with the Battle of the Somme near Pozieres, and on this day made successful attacks on the German 4th Avenue and Ration Trenches and repulsed a counter attack.



His brother Willoughby was killed in action near the Dardanelles in May 1915 and two cousins, Ernest Mellor (Scots Guards) and Wilfred Mellor (Sherwoods) were also killed in 1915. John was the son of Joseph and Elizabeth Mellor of 31 York Street, Hasland, Chesterfield. John is also Commemorated on the Hasland Memorial.

*Cestrefeldian December 1916: Private John Mellor, Public Schools Battalion, Royal Fusiliers, was killed in action in France on August 3rd, 1916. At school he was such a modest fellow that his acquaintance was confined to a somewhat narrow circle, but he was none the less sincerely liked and respected in it on that account. In study he lived up to the high reputation which he enjoyed by gaining first-class honours in the Oxford Senior Locals. He gained a scholarship for Cheltenham College, but as this place had been taken over by the Government, he had to wait until he could enter Chester College; meanwhile he taught at the St. Helen's Street Schools. He attested and in April, 1916, joined the Public Schools Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers.*

## George William Moore (1911 – 1912)

A Sapper 127885 in the 3rd Field Survey Company, Royal Corps of Engineers who died of wounds on the 27th September 1918. He is buried in the Louverval Military Cemetery (grave A. 21) near Doignies. George was resident in Chesterfield when he enlisted.

*Cestrefeldian December 1918: Sapper George William Moore was in the 20th Observation Section, Royal Engineers. He enlisted in September, 1916, and was killed last September in the advance towards Cambrai. His grave is on the*

*Bapaume - Cambrai road, in a district sacred to the memory of so many of our gallant dead.*

### **Charles Neil Newcombe (1900 – 1910)**

A Lieutenant in the 7th Battalion King's Own (Yorkshire Light Infantry) who was killed in action on the 27th December 1915 aged 24. He is buried in Y FARM MILITARY CEMETERY (grave K. 13) near BOIS-GRENIER. Charles was killed with two of his men when a German artillery shell hit their dugout in front lines trenches near to Fleurbaix.



Charles was born in Yarmouth on the 16th March 1891. He was the son of E. Percy G. Newcombe and Helen Ada L. Newcombe, of Matlock and was head boy at Chesterfield School in 1909. He played football for Chesterfield Town (between 1910 and 1912), Sheepbridge Works, Rotherham Town and Tibshelf Colliery. He was also a useful cricketer and played once for Derbyshire C.C.C. in 1910.

*Cestrefeldian 1908/09: School Captain, Athletics Committee, Debating Society Secretary*

*Cestrefeldian April, Sept 1909: Magazine Business Manager, School Patriotism Cup (1906)*

*Cestrefeldian April 1916: Lieutenant Charles Neil Newcombe, (King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry).*

*Entered the School in 1900; gained School Patriotism Cup 1906; school captain 1908 - 1910; passed the Oxford Senior Local 1910, and was excused London Matriculation; played in the Derbyshire Cricket IX. against Yorkshire, 1910. Entered Nottingham University College the same year; left 1913. Became a mining pupil of Mr. J. P. Hufton, of Chesterfield, 1913. In November, 1914, gained a commission in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. Killed in France Dec., 1915.*

*When we think of the death of Newcombe, we immediately call up before our mind's eye his image as he used to be at school, the centre of every group, the life and soul of every movement. In those days everyone admired and idolised Newcombe, none the less for his modest bearing and sensible conduct than for*

*his athletic powers and prowess in sports, and he in his turn denied none his friendship. There was no one in the whole school too insignificant for him to encourage and help. He was an example by whom all set their conduct, and yet neither in deed nor word did he show himself conceited or priggish. For he always thought it no shame, thought it indeed but right to submit to authority. Thus he won the respect of the masters as well as the love of the boys, and was trusted by both alike in any capacity. All who knew him at school, must have been influenced by him; he helped to mould the character, to raise the ideal of the place. And not only at school; for despite the shortness of his career in the Army, he gained the hearts of all his men, and the same wonderful influence held sway; there too his name has become a tradition. None of those who were his friends will ever cease to think of him as one who needs no greater monument than our memory.*

### **Albert Edward Nuttall (1894 – 1896)**

A Private (358306) in the 1st/10th Battalion King's (Liverpool Regiment), who was killed in action on the 31st July 1917, aged 37. He is commemorated on the Menin Gate in Ypres. On the night of the 29th July, 25 Officers and 475 men of the Battalion marched up to the attack on German positions near to Wieltje and suffered 241 Officers and men killed, wounded or missing.



Albert was the son of Thomas and Elizabeth Nuttall of 46 Clarence Road, Chesterfield and was born in Liverpool.

*Cestrefeldian December 1917: Private Albert E. Nuttall, Liverpool Scottish, entered the school in 1894, and on leaving us in 1896 took up a business career. He excelled at games and, for some years previous to joining the Colours, was a warm supporter of the various athletic activities of the town. He fell in Flanders last July.*

### **John Joseph Robert Oldham (1897 – 1902)**

A Guardsman (19626) of the 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards, who was killed in action on The 14th September 1916, aged 32 and is commemorated on Thiepval Memorial. On September 14th the 3/GG were in assembly trenches

near to Ginchy getting ready for an attack on Lesboeufts where they suffered heavy casualties. John was born in Brampton and is commemorated on the Brampton Memorial. He lived at 47 Old Road and was well known around Chesterfield as a temporary postman. He enlisted on October 3rd 1914 and served for 13 months in France without a furlough. His wife received a telegram from the King and Queen. He was an apprentice to Mr. Cecil Jackson who was an architect.

*Cestrefeldian December 1916: Private John J. R. Oldham, Coldstream Guards, was killed in action between September 14th and 17th. He was a boarder in the school house and was deservedly popular on account of his never failing good temper. Although a giant in inches, he was gentle and considerate to all. He had a quiet sense of humour and he and Stanley Pitcher were the creators and "cornermen" of a school troupe of Christy Minstrels which met with a good deal of success.*

### **Alfred Edward O'Neill (1905 – 1906)**

A Second Lieutenant in the 1/7th Battalion, The King's Liverpool Regiment, who died of wounds received in action in France, 23rd September 1917. Alfred is buried in Nine Elms Cemetery in Belgium (grave I.E.4). At the time of his wounding the Battalion attacked a strong German position known as the POMMEL REDOUBT close to Zonnebeke as part of the Battle of Passchendaele.



They came under heavy shellfire during the attack and over a three-day period the Battalion suffered 243 casualties. Prior to the War he worked at the Bank of Liverpool Ltd. in Bootle and had previously served in the Lancashire Hussars. Son of William and Elizabeth O'Neill; husband of Mary O'Neill of 16 Elmbank Road in Liverpool.

*Cestrefeldian December 1917: Second-Lieut. Alfred Edward O'Neill enlisted in the Lancashire Hussars towards the end of 1915, and in July last was gazetted Second-Lieutenant in the King's Liverpool Regiment, and went out to France in August. He was wounded on 20th September, on the Menin Road, while leading his men into action, and died on September 23rd. On leaving school he took up*

*banking as his profession, and met with considerable success. He leaves a widow.*

### **John Frederick Organ (1899 – 1900)**

An Engine Room Artificer 3rd Class (M/1694) in the Royal Navy who served on HMS/M. "E22" and died on Tuesday 25th April 1916. E22 was torpedoed by the German U-boat *UB-18* off Great Yarmouth in the North Sea on 25 April 1916 and there were only two survivors taken prisoner by the U-Boat. Commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial in Kent.

### **Harry Grenfell Peach (1911 – 1913)**

A Private (60026) in the 19th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers, who died of wounds on the 22nd August 1918, aged 19. He is buried in Arneke British Cemetery (grave III.E.13), which acted as the cemetery for numerous casualty-clearing stations from October 1917. Harry was the son of William and Alice Peach of 27 Gloucester Road, Chesterfield. He was born in Brimington and before the War was an official of Thomas Firth and Sons Ltd in Sheffield. Harry is also commemorated on the Newbold Memorial.

*Cestrefeldian December 1918: Pte. Harry Grenfell Peach, 19th Northumberland Fusiliers, fell in action near Albert in France on August 22nd, 1918. In civil life he was wages and pay clerk in the offices of Messrs. Thos. Firth and Sons, of Sheffield. He had fought all through the spring defensive and was killed by a shell in the subsequent Allied offensive.*

### **Arthur Reginald Pearson (1910 – 1912)**

A Private in the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion East Surrey Regt. Arthur enlisted in Kingston-upon-Thames in August 1915 and arrived in France in January 1916. Posted missing and made a prisoner of war in April 1918 he was later discharged on the 27th November 1918 due to dysentery and typhus. A resident of Alfreton.



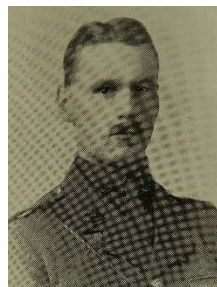
### **Arthur Hallam Petty (1912 – 1913)**

*Second-Lieut. Arthur Hallam Petty, B.Sc.. Sherwood Foresters, died a prisoner of war in German hands from wounds received in action, July, 1916.*

*Mr Petty was a master at the School from 1912 to 1913. He does not appear on the Roll of Honour plaque.*

*Cestrefeldian December 1916 - Another deplorable loss is that of Mr. Arthur H. Petty, B.Sc., who died of his wounds in the German. Hospital at St. Quentin.*

*Mr. Petty was a master here for one year and during that period won the hearts of many of us by his dignified bearing, his sportsmanlike qualities, and his downright manly character.*



### **Percy Woodville Philipps (1897 – 1899)**

A Lance Sergeant (434728) in the 50th Battalion Canadian Infantry (Alberta Regiment), who died on the 10th April 1917, aged 34. Percy is buried in the Givenchy-en-Gohelle Canadian Cemetery near Souchez. This Village was taken by the 2nd Canadian Division during the battle of Vimy Ridge and the cemetery was begun by the Canadian Corps in March 1917. Percy was the son of Mr RH Philipps of South Street, Chesterfield.

*Cestrefeldian July 1917: Lance-Sergt. Percy Woodville Philipps (1897-99), Canadian Infantry, was killed in France last April. Soon after leaving school he went to Canada, but like many of his compatriots he heard the call of the Mother Country for help, and readily and bravely answered it. Our sorrow is for a brave fellow who has nobly died for our country.*

### **Arthur Louis Pogson (1911 – 1913) and Frank Woodhead Pogson (1907 – 1913)**

Arthur was a Private (515645) in the 14th Battalion London Regiment (London Scottish), who was killed in action on the 31st March 1918, aged 19. He is buried in the Aubigny Communal Cemetery Extension (grave III. D. 380) near the village of Aubigny-en-Artois.



*Arthur*

*Cestrefeldian April 1918: It was only a short time ago that Mr. and Mrs. Pogson lost their eldest son Frank, one of our most esteemed Old Boys, and now they have received news that their second son, Arthur Louis Pogson, has succumbed to his grievous injuries (gas poisoning and other wounds), received in the recent great onslaught of the enemy. Poor boy! It seems but a few days ago since he came to see us, as the Corps was parading on the school field one Wednesday afternoon. He was then, as ever, bright, cheerful and happy, just as a boy should be. He was one whom we were always pleased to meet, after he had left school. He always looked on the bright side of things and was full of keenness and enthusiasm in everything he undertook. On leaving school he joined the staff of the Midland Railway Company at Chesterfield Station, and on reaching military age he enlisted in the London Scottish. He had been in France but a few weeks before he was gassed and dangerously wounded, injuries from which he failed to recover. We are truly sorry for the bereaved relatives of these dear boys, and share with them their grief.*

Frank was a Rifleman (392020) in the 2nd/9th Battalion London Regiment (Queen Victoria's Rifles), killed in action on the 27th September 1917 aged 22. He is commemorated on Tyne Cot Memorial in Zonnebeke. At this time the Battalion attacked the German trenches as part of the British Offensive at Passchendaele and suffered heavy casualties. Many of the men were reported missing and their bodies were never recovered.



*Frank*

*Cestrefeldian 1911/12/13: Debating Society Secretary, Magazine Assistant Editor,*

*Cestrefeldian April 1913: Prefect Heathcote House*

*Cestrefeldian December 1917: In Rifleman Frank W Pogson, Queen Victoria's Rifles, another dear boy of exceptional merit and promise has been taken from us. Pogson was training for the teaching profession on the outbreak of war, and he was exactly the type of God-fearing, manly young fellow that is needed for such work. His was altogether a loveable character; modest, unassuming, yet strong and vigorous with a very pleasant sense of humour. Some of his letters to us from the Front we shall ever keep by us, and read from time to time, they are so typical of this honest fellow's outlook on the world as he found it. It*

*seems scarcely necessary to tell those who really knew Pogson that he lost his life in an attempt to bring in a wounded companion. That he risked his life in this way was not the mere impulse of moment; with him it would be done calmly and deliberately - such he was.*

Arthur and Frank Pogson were the sons of Louis and Emma Pogson of Newbold Road, Chesterfield and both brothers were residents of Chesterfield. Frank enlisted in London, whereas Arthur enlisted in Chesterfield.

### **Frank Renshaw (1905 – 1908)**

A 2nd Lieutenant in the 17th (Service) Battalion Sherwood Foresters (Welbeck Rangers), killed in action on the 12th July 1916, aged 28. He is buried in Le Touret Military Cemetery (grave III. J. 32) near Richebourg-L'Avoue. At this time the Battalion had been occupying front line trenches near to Festubert since 11th June.



Frank was the son of A. A. and Edith Renshaw of 91 Skinnerthorpe Road, Pitsmoor near Sheffield.

*Cestrefeldian December 1916: Second-Lieut. Frank Renshaw, Sherwood Foresters, was killed in action on 12th July, 1916. After leaving school he taught for some time at Ridgeway; at the commencement of the War he was taking his course at Cheltenham Training College, but without waiting to complete it he joined the Public Schools Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers. He gained a commission in May 1915, and besides being a most capable officer was very popular with his men.*

### **Vernon Renshaw (1909 – 1913)**

A Rifleman (R/38362) in the 13th Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps, died of wounds on the 4th October 1917, aged 20. He is buried in the Larch Wood (Railway Cutting) Cemetery (grave III. A. 8) near to Ypres. At this time the Battalion were involved in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele) and attacked a German trench system known as Tower Trench. Vernon was the son of Frederick and Margaret Renshaw of Exeter Villa, 28 Clarence Road in Chesterfield. He was born and resident in Chesterfield, but enlisted in Sheerness.

*Cestrefeldian December 1918: Rifleman Vernon Renshaw, King's Royal Rifle Corps, died from wounds received in action on October 4th. He was for some time in the Sheffield University O.T.C., but left before completing his training, to enlist in the K.R.R.C., in April, 1917. He was drafted to France in May. Receiving grievous wounds in action, he died in a forward dressing station without regaining consciousness.*

### **Frank Leslie Reynolds and twin brother George Hubbard Reynolds (1906 – 1912)**

Frank was a 2nd Lieutenant in the 11th Battalion Sherwood Foresters, attached to the 15th Battalion, killed in action on the 20th July 1916, aged 22. He is commemorated on Thiepval Memorial. On the 20th July the 15/SF were ordered to capture 1000 yards of trench from Maltz Horn Farm northwards. The Battalion suffered heavy casualties during this attack.



*"The Company made an attack and the last Officer to see Mr Reynolds says that he was leading the men and shouting "Come on boys". From the later reports of the men I am afraid there is little hope that he is alive"*

*Cestrefeldian 1910/11/12: The Lingard House Prefect.*

*Cestrefeldian Dec 1916: It is with the utmost regret that we have to record that Second-Lieutenant Frank L. Reynolds has been killed in action in France. We had hoped that he would be spared to be a comfort to his parents in the loss of their other son, his twin brother George, who fell in Mesopotamia last Spring.*

*Like his brother, Leslie was of a quiet but very sturdy character, and whilst with us deservedly made many friends. He excelled in sport, especially in the football field, and we read of him that he endeared himself to his men by taking an active part in such pastimes.*

*He died a hero's death, as did his brother, leading his men in action. There is something pathetic, yet impressive, in these twins growing up together, educated together, and falling in the same great cause, though their graves are separated by a few thousand miles.*

George was a 2nd Lieutenant in the 10th Battalion Prince of Wales's Volunteers (South Lancashire Regiment), who was killed in action on the 9th April 1916, aged 22. He is commemorated on the Basra Memorial in Iraq.

Frank and George were the sons of John and Emma Reynolds of Tibshelf near Alfreton.



### **Cecil Rhodes (1908 – 1910)**

A Sapper (45274) in the 84th Field Company, Royal Corps of Engineers, killed in action on the 26th June 1916, aged 20. He is buried in Brandhoek Military Cemetery (grave 1914. I. J. 7A) near Vlamertinghe in West Flanders. Cecil was the son of Arthur and Louisa Rhodes of Brampton, Chesterfield. He volunteered on September the 2nd 1914 and is commemorated on the Brampton Memorial.



*Cestrefeldian Dec 1918: Mentioned in Brigadier's Orders.*

### **Robert Cecil Riggott (1904 – 1907)**

A 2nd Lieutenant in the 2nd/5th Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers, killed in action on the 20th September 1917, aged 27. On this day the Battalion attacked German trenches known as Schuler Galleries, a long row of enemy pill-boxes, during the 3rd Battle of Ypres. Attacking at dawn they were met by heavy machine gun fire and did not succeed in capturing their objective.



They dug in and held on, but the German artillery was so heavy that no reinforcements could reach them for 5 days. He is buried in Tyne Cot Cemetery (grave V. A. 17) near Zonnebeke and is also commemorated on the Newbold Memorial.

Robert was the son of James and Louisa Riggott of 97 Gloucester Road, Chesterfield.

## Stanley Arthur Rogers (1904 – 1905)

A Lieutenant in the 2nd/6th Battalion The Sherwood Foresters, killed in action on the 21st March 1918. He is commemorated on the Arras Memorial in Bay 7. Born at Somercotes near Alfreton on 21st January 1890. He applied for a Commission in the Territorial Force as a 2nd Lieutenant on 29th October 1915. Prior to enlisting he had been a salesman and had served for several years as a trooper in the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry. Appointed 2nd Lieutenant on 13th November 1915. He returned to England on 14th May 1917 after being wounded in the stomach and was admitted to Fazakerley Hospital in Liverpool. On June 13th a medical board recommended 3 weeks in the Officers Convalescent Home at Eaton Hall in Chester. On 28th June he was certified fit for General Service, granted 3 weeks leave then told to report to O.C 6th Battn Sher. For. Appointed Temporary Captain (date unknown). Statements received from Lt Col Hogkin and Lt LW Allen (both POW in Germany) to the effect that Lt Rogers was killed on 21st March 1918 at Bullecourt. This was the start of German Spring Offensive and the 2/6<sup>th</sup> Battalion along with the other Battalions 178<sup>th</sup> Brigade of the 59<sup>th</sup> Division were surrounded and practically ceased to exist. The casualty toll was horrific.

*Cestrefeldian Dec 1918: Lieut. Stanley Arthur Rogers (1904-05), Sherwood Foresters, was reported in July last to be a prisoner of war, but he has since been officially placed among the killed. He returned from Canada soon after the commencement of the war to take his part in the great struggle, and was offered a commission in the 6th Sherwoods by Colonel Clayton, the Chairman of our Governing Body. His battalion suffered great casualties in the July fighting, in which he lost his life. Stanley Rogers was a great favourite. He obtained his place in both the Cricket and football XI.'s of the School. He was a man of grand physique and of a happy and sunny nature, who endeared himself to all. He had no fear, because he was so transparently honest.*

## William Haldane Round

A Captain in the 1/7th (Robin Hood) Battalion of the Sherwood Foresters. Killed in action on the 1st July 1916 during the attack on the Gommecourt Salient. He was 23 years of age and the son of William and Edith Hornby Round of East Drayton Vicarage in Redford. William is buried in Foncquevillers Military Cemetery in grave I.L.18. William Round was the officer in charge of "D"

company, which was the carrying and digging company that followed the attacking waves of "A", "B" and "C" companies. The company suffered heavy casualties as they climbed over the parapet and moved through the wire. It was at this point in the attack that William Round was killed and his two subalterns wounded. Very few of the company advanced beyond the old fire trench. In total the battalion suffered nearly 450 casualties on the 1st day of the Somme.

*"I had always hoped that Capt. W. H. Round, with his brilliant scholarly achievements, would have been spared to do this, but alas, it was not to be; he was killed on that ill-fated day of July 1st 1916, at Gommecourt."*

[Lieut.-Colonel Arthur W. Brewill, Commanding 7th (Robin Hood) Battalion Sherwood Foresters. Prelude to "The Robin Hoods" 1/7th, 2/7th & 3/7th Battns. Sherwood Foresters 1914-1918. Written by Officers of the Battalion. J. & H. Bell, Nottingham, 1921.]

### **Tom Victor Scattergood (1898 – 1901)**

In March 1915 Tom enlisted in the 28th (County of London) Battalion, The London Regiment, (Artists' Rifles) and entered France on 18 August 1915. In January 1917 he was Commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in the 21st (2nd Tyneside Scottish) Battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers, he died of wounds on the 6th June 1917, aged 30. At this time the Tyneside Scottish were involved in an attack on the German trenches on the western slope of Greenland Hill near to Arras.



Tom is buried in Duisans Military Cemetery (grave IV. F. 35) near Etrun. Also Commemorated on the Great Central Railway Company MCMXIV - XIX (1914 – 19) located by Chief Goods Manager's Office, Marylebone, London. Tom was the brother of Miss N. G. Scattergood of "Woodcote", 42 Bourne Street, Dudley, Staffordshire.

*Cestrefeldian July 1917: Lieut. Tom Victor Scattergood was amongst us from January, 1898, to April, 1901, and left us to enter the service of the old Lancashire, Derbyshire, and East Coast Railway Company. When the Great Central took over the working of this line he was transferred to the general*



*headquarters of this Company in London. He joined the Artists' O.T.C. in February 15th, was gazetted to the Northumberland Fusiliers (Tyneside Scottish), where his promotion was rapid. He died on June 8th from wounds received in France.*

### **Herbert Simpson (1900 – 1901)**

A 2nd Lieutenant in the 1/6th Battalion The Sherwood Foresters, he died of wounds (on the 7th July) received at Gommecourt on the 1st July, aged 30. The only son of John William Bramhall Simpson and Julia Simpson of "South Dene," Ashgate Rd., Chesterfield. He is buried at ST. SEVER CEMETERY, ROUEN, Seine-Maritime (grave A. 3. 6.) and is commemorated on the Brampton and Old Brampton Memorials. Enlisting shortly after the outbreak of War in the 12th York and Lancs. (Sheffield City Battalion), he received his commission towards the end of 1915 and was gazetted to the Sherwood Foresters, whom he joined on May 8th.

### **BATTLEFIELD HERO**

#### **SEC.-LIEUT SIMPSON SPURS ON HIS MEN WHEN MORTALLY WOUNDED**

"Amid their personnel grief, Mr and Mrs J. W. B. Simpson of South Dene, Ashgate Road, Chesterfield, have every reason to be proud of their gallant son, second Lieutenant Herbert Simpson, for, as he lay on the battlefield mortally wounded, he spurred his men on to victory. "Don't worry," he remarked, "I am only slightly hit." Thus he veiled the terrible news that his left arm was completely shattered, that he was mauled all down the left side from shoulder to his foot, and that his right hand was smashed. Under the withering cross fire of the opposing forces he lay in the open from early morn till dawn, shells burst round about him, and when he could stand the pain no longer he propelled his maimed body, bit by bit, until he reached the British lines. His wounds were dressed, and in the course of time he was admitted to No. 2 Red Cross Hospital, Rouen. Here he made a gallant fight for life, but an imperative operation, delayed until the last moment, brought the end near, and he died in the presence of his mother, his father, whom the War Office would not permit to make the journey till Thursday afternoon, arriving just too late to see his only son alive."

[The Derbyshire Times, Saturday, July 15, 1916]

## Albert Henry Smith (1914 – 1916)

A Private S/25164 in the 5th Battalion Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, who died of wounds on 2nd March 1917, aged 19. He is buried in Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery. Albert was the son of Francis and Sarah Ann Smith of Barlow. Born in Sheffield he was a resident of Chesterfield when he enlisted



*Cestrefeldian 1915/16: Athletics Club Vice-Captain*

*Cestrefeldian April 1917: Albert Henry Smith, the first member of the Cadet Corps to make the supreme sacrifice, will be remembered by more than half the boys now in the school, as it is little more than six months ago since he left to join the Cameron Highlanders. His career in the Army, alas! was but too short. He crossed to France in the middle of December, and on March 2nd he received in action wounds to which he succumbed the following day. Albert Smith was a very fine young fellow, and his influence throughout the school was of the very best. His was a most cheerful nature, and it did one good to be in his company. He was an excellent sportsman, and his scholastic attainments were of no mean order. Teaching was the profession he had chosen, and he would have done splendid work, as he knew well the power and value of sympathy. His work amongst us will never be forgotten.*

## Arthur Duncan Swale (1910 – 1914)

A Lieutenant Commissioned into the 6th Battalion, attached 11th Battalion, The Sherwood Foresters, who died of wounds on the 5th October 1918 aged 21. Arthur arrived in France on the 7th October 1916. He is buried in Doingt Communal Cemetery Extension (grave III. B. 18) on the Somme. The cemetery was made by Casualty clearing stations during the months of September and October 1918.



Arthur was wounded on the night of the 3/4 October during heavy shelling of the trenches the Battalion was occupying at Mount St Martin. One other Officer (WR GARRETT) was wounded, 2 men were killed (Sergt Varney MM and

Pte Thompson), 5 wounded and 1 missing. Arthur was the son of Arthur and Emmeline Swale of Hady House, Chesterfield.

*Cestrefeldian 1913/14: School Captain, Football Captain, Magazine Assistant Editor, Cricket Captain.*

*Cestrefeldian April 1915: .... the Headmaster pointed out that the special prize. Awarded to Swale, who for two years had been School Captain and Senior Prefect, was the gift of the masters. They felt they could not allow him to leave the School without giving him something to signify how much they appreciated his work. He had set an example to any boy attending the School.*

*Cestrefeldian December 1918: Lieutenant Arthur Duncan Swale died of wounds received in action in the early days of October. As School Captain Duncan Swale was deservedly popular with the boys, being not only a fine fellow physically, but a thorough sportsman and a good leader. But there was a good deal more in Swale's character than would be sufficient to make him merely popular as a School Captain. He won the esteem of the members of the staff to an extent that few boys could attain, and this was shown in a striking manner when he left us in July, 1914; for the masters of that time were spontaneously moved to make him a special gift of books, as an indication of their feelings towards him. So far as we know this is the only occasion that such a thing has been done at this school. Swale did not win this honour for his intellectual gifts or for his athletic prowess, but, rather for the power for good which was in him and which he exercised so well, and which all who really knew him could not fail to appreciate. We have often, in days past, been close to him on the football field in an uphill game and felt a real sense of confidence in his calm strength, so admirably under control. The whole atmosphere about him was one that compelled confidence, and he must have made a splendid leader.*

*On leaving us he joined the Nottingham University O.T.C., and was later gazetted to the Sherwood Foresters. He first served abroad in France, and then went with the first British contingent to Italy. On recovering from a slight wound he was returned to France, where, alas, he did not live long. At the time of his death he held the permanent rank of Lieutenant in the Regular Army.*

## **Sydney Cecil Syddall (1908 – 1909)**

A Lance Corporal (40727) in the 91st Field Company, Corps of Royal Engineers, who was killed in action aged 20 on the 25th September 1915 during the Battle of Loos. He is commemorated on the Loos Memorial. Sydney was a resident of Brampton and the son of Sydney and Florence Syddall of "Coniston" on Summerfield Road in Chesterfield. He was a fitter and turner and enlisted in August 1914 aged 19. Sydney embarked for France on the 10th July 1915. At the time of his death the 91<sup>st</sup> FC RE were serving with the 15<sup>th</sup> (Scottish) Division which saw heavy fighting in the Battle of Loos in which it seized the village of Loos and Hill 70, the deepest penetration of the German positions by the six British divisions involved on the first day.

## **Charles Tatlow (1893 - 1899)**

A Private 2097 in the 1/1st The Leicestershire Yeomanry (Prince Albert's Own), Corps of Lancers. Charles arrived in France on the 1st April 1915 and was killed in action on the 13th May 1915 (near Ypres). During that time the Regiment were involved in repulsing multiple attacks by the Germans.

*"The enemy then began to pour over their parapets with the evident intention of attacking, but being met by heavy fire from our men, they retired again to their trenches. A second and more violent bombardment began, and was kept up until 7.30am. Our losses during this bombardment were much heavier, and the machine guns were knocked out and a trench blown in."*

"The counter attack drove the enemy out of the new trenches which they had made near our Support trenches, but did not retake our advanced trenches, consequently the dead and wounded from these were never recovered. The Regiment was relieved during the night of the 13th/14th May."

The casualties of the action on the 13th May were 5 Officers and 47 other ranks killed, 5 Officers and 90 other ranks wounded and 39 other ranks missing. Charles has no known grave and is commemorated on the Menin Gate in Ypres (Panel 5). Charles was born in Chesterfield in 1883 and was an engineer's toolmaker. He was a resident of Leicester.

## Derrick William Kennedy Taylor (1905 – 1909)

A Private (2229) in the 3rd Battalion Australian Infantry (Australian Imperial Force), who died on Friday 6th August 1915. Derrick was born in 1895 at Lifton in Devon and moved to Australia where he was an agricultural student. He enlisted in May 1915 and left Sydney on the 16th June 1915 on HMAT Karoola with the 6th Reinforcement of the 3rd Battalion. He arrived in Gallipoli on the 4th August 1915. He was reported missing presumed killed between the 6th and 12th August 1915 following a Court of Enquiry. He is commemorated on the Lone Pine Memorial in Turkey, which commemorates the 3,268 Australian Soldiers who fought and were killed at Gallipoli, but have no known grave. His mother lived at “Karamea” on Whittington Moor.

## George Stewart Taylor (1904 – 1911)

A Private (63859) in the Royal Army Medical Corps. George was born in Nottingham but enlisted in Chesterfield. He served with the 17th Field Ambulance in the 6th Division and was missing presumed dead on or after the 18th September 1917. During this time the 17th FA RAMC were near the front line trenches at Noeux-Les-Mines. Has now has no known grave and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial.



*Cestrefeldian December 1909: 24th in Latin in the country, Oxford Locals First Class Honours*

*Cestrefeldian 1909/10/11: Magazine Editor*

*Cestrefeldian December 1911: Taylor not only gained first place in the County in the competition for Major Scholarships but also obtained 100 per cent in one of his papers, namely English Composition. This is truly a great achievement, and, so far as we can remember, the maximum number of marks has never before been awarded for any subject.*

*We congratulate him most heartily, and wish him a distinguished career at Cambridge. He has also gained a Sizarship of £27 at Sidney Sussex College, the Archdeacon Hill Exhibition of £18, and a School leaving Scholarship worth £30. His County Scholarship is worth £60 so that he has gone up to Cambridge with*

*scholarships worth altogether £135 per annum. No doubt he will win others before very long.*

*Cestrefeldian April 1917: George Stuart Taylor, B.A. (Cantab.), who has been missing since September 18th, 1916, was posted with other R.A.M.C. men to bring down the wounded in the darkness and under enemy shell-fire. There can no longer be any doubt that the poor fellow was killed by a shell.*

*He belonged to a gifted family and whilst with us he made the utmost use of his exceptional powers and proceeded to Cambridge the holder of at least three Scholarships. He was a boy of remarkably strong character, straightforward, earnest and sincere, most thoughtful, and one not ready to express an opinion unless convinced in his own mind of the truth of it. He was a son of whom his parents were justly proud and of whom they held the highest hopes, and with them we mourn the loss of one whose life promised to be one of high honour and distinction.*

## **Harry Troth**

A Private (49224) in the 2nd Battalion The Sherwood Foresters who was killed in action on the 20th September 1918 aged 34. During this time the 2/Sherwood Foresters were heavily engaged in an attack on a group of German trenches known as the 'Quadrilateral' where they suffered nearly 400 men killed, wounded or missing. Harry has no known grave and is commemorated on the Vis-en-Artois Memorial (panel 7) in the Pas de Calais. This Memorial commemorates over 9000 men who were killed from 8th August to the Armistice during the Advance to Victory in Picardy and Artois. Harry was the son of Isaac and Sarah Troth of School Board Lane, Brampton and the husband of Catherine Troth of 61 Valley Road, Spital.

## **Julius Adrian Verner (1895 – 1899) and Richard Henry Verner (1899 -1903)**

Privates 12/537 and 12/538, 12th (Service) Battalion York and Lancaster Regiment (Sheffield Pals) who both died on Saturday 1st July 1916 aged 30 and 28 respectively. Both are commemorated on Thiepval Memorial, Pier and Face 14A and 14B and on the Village Memorial in Calow. Julius and Richard were the sons of



*Adrian*

Julius Anton Verner and Eleanor Verner of Bank House, Ashover, Chesterfield.

Adrian was a civil engineer in South America and Richard was the manager of the Oxcroft Colliery, which was part of the Bolsover Company. The two brothers enlisted together in Sheffield on 11<sup>th</sup> September 1914



*Richard*

and after training at Redmires the Sheffield Pals embarked for Alexandria in the Mediterranean in December 1915. They moved to France in March 1916. On the first morning of the Somme offensive the Sheffield Pals attacked the fortified village of Serre and suffered over 500 casualties. Their sister's Husband, Private Donkin, was killed in action with the 8th Battalion the Rifle Brigade in June 1915.

*"It is my very painful to have to inform you of the death of both of your sons. They both fell during the attack we made on the first of this month, with many friends. They could not possibly have had more noble deaths, but that is poor consolation, I know, for such terrible news"* [Lieut. J.L. Middleton, son of the late Town Clerk of Chesterfield].

*Cestrefeldian December 1916: Private Julius Adrian Verner, York and Lancaster Regt., was the second son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Verner, of Spring House, Calow. On leaving school he took up, with much success, the profession of a civil engineer and held an important post in South America. He returned home to take the A.M.I.C.E. examination, but on the outbreak of the War, he at once enlisted in the York and Lancs. Regt. He had been recommended for a commission when he fell in action.*

*Private Richard Henry Verner was the brother of Adrian Verner. Like his brother he joined up with the York and Lancs. at the outbreak of the War, and both brave fellows fell in the same action. He, too, had been recommended for a commission. He was manager at Oxcroft Colliery.*

### **Harry Percy Weber (1898 – 1900)**

A 2nd Lieutenant in the 3rd Battalion, attached 7th Battalion, The King's Own (Royal Lancaster) Regiment. Killed in action on the 15th November 1916 aged 31. He is buried in Martinsart British Cemetery (grave II. B. 6), which was used



as a front line cemetery during the Battle of the Somme. Henry "Harry" Percy Weber was born at Georgetown in British Guiana on the 27th of September 1885 the youngest son of Arthur Weber, merchant and Prussian Consul at Demerara, and Magdalena Johanna (nee Verwayen) Weber of Georgetown, Demerara, British Guiana. The 7th Battalion Royal Lancs. were involved in the attack on St. Pierre Divion and Hansa Line during the last few days of the Somme Offensive. On the 15th November the Battalion were holding the Hansa Line.

*"His death was a real loss to the battalion, as he was in every way a brave, good officer-always ready and more than ready to do his duty in every way possible. He was liked by both his men and his brother officers. I know that I personally lost a good hard working, brave officer when he was killed."*

*Cestrefeldian Dec 1916: Second-Lieut. Henry Percy Weber, Royal Lancaster Regiment, who was killed in action on November 16th, was the youngest son of the late Arthur Weber, of Georgetown, Demerara, and of Mrs. Weber. On leaving us he went to Lancing College and in 1909 was called to the Bar at Gray's Inn. On the outbreak of the War he relinquished the appointment of acting British Magistrate at Essequibo, British Guiana, and came to England in charge of the 1st British West Indian Contingent. In December, 1915, he obtained a commission in the Royal Lancaster Regiment. He was in the School house and during his last year at school was in the XI. which was then under the captaincy of his brother, Hubert C. Weber, now assistant Medical Officer in the Straits Settlements.*

### **Douglas Henry Wells (1903)**

Commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in the 2/5th Battalion of the York and Lancaster Regiment in December 1915 and was killed in action on the 3rd May 1917 aged 24. He is commemorated on the Arras Memorial (Bay 80), which dedicated to the dead of Spring 1916 - August 1918 and have no known grave. During this time the Battalion attacked the Hindenburg Line near to Bullecourt.



*"The attack was not successful although the greater part of the Battalion got into the HINDENBURG LINE and many into the SUPPORT LINE. Those who did*

*reach their objectives put up a gallant fight all day and were either killed or wounded, a few withdrawing at night fall*" [Colonel Leonard Hart, Battalion War Diary]

Total casualties were 8 Officers and 251 other ranks killed, wounded or missing.

Douglas had previously been awarded the Military Cross.

*"For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when 'in command of a patrol. He carried out a difficult reconnaissance, and obtained most valuable information. Later, he rendered invaluable service when in command of a company"* [SUPPLEMENT TO THE EDINBURGH GAZETTE, APRIL 28, 1917]

Douglas was the son of Mr and Mrs Wells of Eckington, Derbyshire. He was in Canada at the outbreak of the War and enlisted on the first day.

*Cestrefeldian July 1917: Second-Lieut. Douglas Henry Wells, Yorks. and Lancashire Regt., who was killed in action in France in May last, was in the school but a short time, and with his brother, Lieut. Norman L. Wells, was a boarder in the school house. On the removal of his family to Reading he left the school. We remember him as a delightful small boy of charming manner and happy disposition. His Colonel writes of him that "he was leading his men in face of heavy fire when he was killed. He was one of the most gallant officers I ever met, particularly capable and efficient as a leader of men." Another writes: "He was an excellent soldier, and his M.C. was only the beginning of what he would have done if he had been spared."*

### **Richard Cotton Wildgoose (1908 – 1910)**

A Corporal (241620) in the 2/6th Battalion, The Sherwood Foresters who was wounded and missing on the 27th April 1917 aged 20. He is commemorated on Thiepval Memorial. Richard enlisted in January 1916 and served with "A" Company 2/6th Battalion during the Irish Rebellion in Dublin. He arrived in France with the 2/6th Battalion in February 1917.



On the 27th April 1917 the 2/6th Battalion made an attack on the "QUARRIES" and "COLOGNE FARM". Seven prisoners and a machine gun were captured. The 2/6th Battalion suffered 37 Officers and men killed, 18 of whom have no

known grave and are commemorated on Thiepval Memorial. In 1953 an isolated grave was found near Hargicourt containing the remains of L/Cpl Hayes and 5 other men of the 2/6th Battalion killed on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 1917. Their bodies were exhumed and reburied in London Cemetery Extension Cemetery. Amongst the Officers killed that day was Captain John Horace Marsden who was also an Old Cestrefeldian.

Richard was the son of Richard and Jane Wildgoose of Tapton Cottage, Newton near Alfreton. The Memorial Roll of the Great Central Railway shows he that was in the Traffic Department.

*Cestrefeldian Dec 1917: Corporal Richard Cotton Wildgoose, Sherwood Foresters, was reported missing, believed killed, in our last issue. As no further news of him has been received, it is to be feared that he has fallen in action. Whilst at School with us Wildgoose showed that he possessed abilities of the very highest order. He always worked with wonderful intelligence, and had a most pleasing manner. On leaving School he entered the service of the Great Central Railway company. He joined the army in January, 1916, and served through the Irish rebellion. He had been in France but a few weeks before he was missing. His officer, writing of him, says: "Corporal Wildgoose had not been with me very long, but I had already found that he was a man to be trusted, and was of that intelligent type that can be ill-spared. He knew no fear, and was always ready and willing to do what he could for his comrades and his company. The day before we went into action I took him with me to view the ground, and was highly pleased with his conduct and perception of the situation." This is exactly the kind of report we should have expected from Wildgoose. It is the loss of such promising young lives as these that makes us wonder how the Old Country will "carry on" when it is all over.*

### **John Joseph Dexter Wilson (1911 – 1912)**

John Joseph Dexter Wilson was born in Alfreton, Nottinghamshire on the 26th of February 1898. He was killed in action while serving on HMS Hawke, which was torpedoed on the 15th of October 1914 by U-9. Boy 1st Class on H.M.S. "Hawke" Royal Navy, who was killed on Thursday 15th October 1914 aged just 16. He



is commemorated on Portsmouth Memorial in Hampshire. *“Early in the First World War, Hawke, commanded by Capt. Hugh P.E.T. Williams, was engaged in various operations in the North Sea. On 15 October 1914 Hawke, sailing with her sister ship Theseus, was torpedoed by German submarine U-9. The submarine's first torpedo missed Theseus but hit Hawke, igniting a magazine and causing a tremendous explosion, which ripped much of the ship apart. Hawke sank in a few minutes with the loss of her captain, 26 officers and 497 men; only 70 of her 594 crew survived.”*

*Cestrefeldian Dec 1914: It was with great regret that we learned of the death of J. J. D. Wilson, an O.C., who was drowned when H.M.S. Hawke was submarined. Wilson was in his 17th year, and had only recently been transferred from the training ship, H.M.S. Ganges.*

*After attending the School, Wilson was apprenticed to Messrs. Bryan Donkin and Co., but he had always favoured a naval career, and soon joined the training ship. Judging by letters received from him by his relations, he greatly enjoyed sea life, his one regret being that the Germans refused to “come out and face our ships.” The spirit of Wilson’s communications seemed to be determination to do his share for his country, in whose defence he has so nobly died.*

*We all extend our deepest sympathy to the bereaved parents and relations; there is consolation in the fact that he has died helping to keep our shores inviolate, and our people free.*

### **Richard Taylor Wright (1906 – 1910)**

A Second Lieutenant in the 4th, attached 15th Battalion, The Sherwood Foresters who was killed in action on the 1st November 1917 aged 26. He is buried in Artillery Wood Cemetery (grave I. E. 8) near Boezinghe in West Flanders. Richard joined the 15/Sherwoods in November 1916. The Battalion had been in the front line trenches since 29th October 1917 and was subjected to regular German artillery barrages, which left 15 Officers and men dead.



Richard was the son of Joseph and Grace Wright of Turnley House, Heaton Street in Chesterfield. He is also commemorated on the Brampton and Calow Memorials.

*Cestrefeldian Dec 1917: Second-Lieutenant Robert Taylor Wright, Sherwood Foresters, was training for the teaching profession on the outbreak of war. He served for some time in the ranks in the Middlesex Regiment, and subsequently gained his commission in the Sherwoods. He is another example of a manly young Christian, whose influence in the class-room would have meant much for those who came under his care. Wright was a jolly fellow, one of those who loved the open-air, and who seemed to carry about with him something of the moorland breezes. This is how we knew him, and this is how he was known to his comrades on the fields of France. Utterly unselfish, always thinking of anyone but himself, he turned aside to assist a wounded man in another regiment, and on his way was struck by a bursting shell, dying very shortly afterwards.*

### **Thomas William Yates (1906 – 1908)**

A Private (1935/200266) in the 1/4th Battalion Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry who was killed in action on the 19th April 1917. A resident of New Whittington he enlisted at Culham in Oxfordshire. Thomas arrived in France in March 1915. At the time of his death the Battalion were in the front line near GILLEMONT FARM when “D” Company were ordered to attack the German trenches in the evening.



However, the raiding party came under heavy rifle and machine gun fire and the Battalion suffered 1 Officer and 9 men killed, 3 men missing and 46 wounded. Thomas has no known grave and is commemorated on the Thiepval memorial to the missing.

*Cestrefeldian July 1917: Private Thomas William Yates, Oxford Light Infantry, was in the Training College at Culham when war broke out. He at once joined the Oxford Light Infantry, and was in the fighting line almost continuously for over two years. He fell on the Somme in April last. He passed the Oxford Senior Local and the Preliminary Examination for the Certificate in 1908, and had a*

*most promising career before him as a teacher. He endeared himself to all with whom he came into contact.*

The Old Cestrefeldians Trust is extremely grateful to Michael Briggs for all the research that he undertook to make the production of this booklet possible.

The photographs which have been added are taken from contemporary editions of the Cestrefeldian, the magazine of Chesterfield Grammar School. Italicised additional text has been derived from the same source.

### Michael Briggs



Michael attended Chesterfield School (Clarke House) from 1980 – 1985. Following A-levels he studied Biochemistry at Liverpool John Moores University, before completing a PhD in Molecular Genetics at Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School. After spending several years researching human genetics at the University of California in Los Angeles he returned to the UK and worked for 15 years at Manchester University before taking up a Chair in Genetics at Newcastle University in 2012.

This booklet, commissioned by the Old Cestrefeldians' Trust, has been made possible by the efforts of Mike Briggs's work scouring regimental records and other archives to put together 83 individual pen-portraits of our fellow OCs who died in WW1. These have then been later supplemented by John Drabble who, after combing through relevant copies of the *Cestrefeldian*, has been able to add, in many cases, a photo and extracts relating to the individual's schooldays. These bring into sharp focus the thought that, not many years before their deaths, these same individuals had been walking the corridors and classrooms at Sheffield Road which, by permission of Chesterfield College's West Studios, we are still able to use to honour their names in our annual Remembrance Service.

A similar publication, in respect of our WWII fallen comrades, is being researched and written at the moment by fellow OC, Philip Riden, and will be available shortly.

Frank Gorman  
Chairman  
11.11.20



