

SUSSEX ROAD SCHOOL

Now the 'Sydney Walter Centre'



THE BOYS WHO WENT TO WAR

**The stories of local young men who fought
for their country in the First World War
(1914-1918)**



**Researched by the children of
Chesswood Middle School**

SUSSEX ROAD SCHOOL: THE BOYS WHO WENT TO WAR

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www.chesswood.w-sussex.sch.uk



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Cover photograph

World War One parade, South Street, Worthing, c1915. The parade celebrated the young men leaving to fight for their country.

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The cover photograph, and some others in this booklet, were used with kind permission of the West Sussex County Council Library Service that have two websites that you may be interested in: West Sussex Past Pictures (over 2200 pictures of Worthing and 188 First World War photographs) and The Great War West Sussex 1914-18 site (which has 17 articles about Worthing) – www.westsussexpast.org.uk

FOREWORD

Visitors to the Sidney Walter Centre in Sussex Road frequently remark on the two war memorials prominently on display inside the building. One memorial recalls the sacrifice made by former boys of Sussex Road School who died fighting in the First World War. The school closed in 1960, but the memorial was retained when the building became a community centre. The other memorial comes from St. George's School, which stood on a site now occupied by Waitrose in High Street. This school closed in 1940 and the building was later demolished, at which point the school memorial was moved to Sussex Road.

The partnership between Sidney Walter Centre and Chesswood School has been a very fruitful one. The Year 7 pupils who undertook research for this booklet had previously worked with the Centre on the Worthing Village Heritage Project (www.oldworthingstreet.com) and have shown that they have the understanding and enthusiasm to be very capable local historians. It was a delight to join them on a visit to Worthing Museum and to see how diligently and thoroughly they researched the First World War archive made available to them as part of this project.

The pupils have combined the information from the museum with further details of the Sussex Road war dead available on the Ancestry website and also from the newspaper archive at Worthing Library. Some excellent work has been produced and is published here for the first time. It is fitting that it should have been pupils from our local school who researched the lives and deaths of young men, many of whom had only been a few years out of school when they went to fight and die on the battlefields of France.

The publication of this booklet is all the more prescient given that this year marks the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. It is a very fitting tribute to the young men of central Worthing who gave their lives for their country in the years 1914-18. I am sure all who read these pages will be moved by the tragic loss of young lives and the huge impact their deaths had on their families and the entire local community.

Chris Hare
www.historypeopleuk.org.uk
Sidney Walter Centre, November 2014.

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West Sussex County Council Library
Service

Worthing Library

Worthing Museum

SUSSEX ROAD SCHOOL

ALLEN, Reginald Charles

Born: 1897 (died aged 20)

Private, 4th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment (Army)

Reginald Charles Allen was the only son of Charles and Emily Allen. His parents and two sisters, Doris and Grace, lived at 11 Stanley Road. Prior to the war, Reginald was an apprentice plumber.

Reginald was killed in action at the First Battle of Gaza, in what is now Israel, on 26th March 1917.

BLAKER, Frank

Born: 1889 (died age 26)

Private, 12th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment (Army)

Frank's brother, Leonard, is also remembered on the Late National Boys' School memorial.

Frank Blaker lived at 12 Richmond Road with his parents Benjamin, a shoemaker, Lucy Blaker, and siblings Daisy and Leonard. Sadly, his brother Leonard also fought during the war and was also killed. Leonard is remembered on 'The Late Boys' National School' memorial. Frank and Leonard were both killed in action on



Archibald Botting's grave in France.

30th June 1916 at The Battle of the Boar's Head.

BOTTING, Archibald

Born: 1890 (died age 26)

Lance Corporal, 11th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment (Army)

Archibald Botting lived in Worthing; his father ran a baker's shop next to the Egremont Hotel in Brighton Road.

Archibald was killed in action during the battle of Boar's Head in 1916. This battle was also referred to "as the day Sussex died" due to so many members of the Royal Sussex Regiment being killed. He is buried at Cabaret Rouge, British War Cemetery in Souchez, France.

BRACE, Albert

Born: 1892 (died age 27)

Lance Corporal, 16th Armoured Car Battalion, Machine Gun Corps (Motors) (Army)

BRACE, Victor J (known as John or Jack)

Born: 1897 (died age 21)

Lance Corporal, 16th (Sussex Yeomanry) Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment (Army)

Albert and Victor were the sons of Albert and Elizabeth Brace. The family lived at 44 Ashdown Road. Victor died on 2nd September 1918 at the age of 21, almost certainly at the Second Battle of The Somme. Albert died less than a year later on 24th June 1919 in India where he had been stationed throughout the war.

BRETT, George Albert

Born: 1896 (died aged 20)

Rifleman, 18th (Arts and Crafts) Battalion Kings Royal Rifle Corps (Army)

Before the war, George had been working as an apprentice stationer. The only child of George and Edith Brett, they lived at 31 Queen Street. George was killed in action on 19th June 1916 in Flanders, France.

CHILTON, Wilfred

Born: 1897 (died age 17)
Private, 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards
(Army)

Wilfred and his sister Mary were orphans, probably the children of John and Mary Chilton. He joined the Scots Guards underage in Liverpool. Wilfred was killed in action in Flanders, France on 25th February 1915.

COLLINS, Charles

Born: 1895 (died age 20)
Private, 11th Battalion, Royal Sussex
Regiment (Army)

Charles Collins lived with his mother, Annie Chaplin, in "Beverley," Park Road. He enlisted on the 10th September 1914. Charles died of shrapnel wounds on 18th March 1916.

COOK, Alfred Lewis

Born: 1895 (died age 20)
Corporal, 4th Territorial Battalion, Royal
Sussex Regiment and 2nd Battalion,
Royal Scots Fusiliers (Army)

Alfred Lewis Cook lived at 35 Ashdown Road with his parents Alfred and Emily Cook, two sisters, Emily and Mable, and a younger brother, Leonard. Alfred with discharged from the Royal Sussex Regiment after an appendectomy went wrong. However, like so many young men, Alfred still wanted to fight for his country, so he



George Brett's grave
in Belgium.

travelled to Ayr, Scotland, nearly 500 miles away, and enlisted in the Royal Scots Fusiliers within a

week of his medical discharge. Alfred died on 30th September 1915 and is remembered on the Loos memorial. Given the date, Alfred probably died of fatal wounds he suffered fighting the Battle of Loos.

COUSENS, Arthur

Born: October 1899 (died age 19)
Private, 12th Battalion Gloucestershire
Regiment (Army)

Arthur Cousens was the son of Arthur and Fanny Cousens. He lived with his parents, and brother William at 116 Newland Road. Arthur died on 28th June 1918 probably at the Battle of La Becque as his regiment fought there that day.

DENNIS, Alfred Horton (registered at birth as Alfred Horton Dennes)

Born: About 1896 (died age 20)
Lance Corporal, 7th Battalion, Royal
Sussex Regiment (Army)

According to the 1901 and 1911 Census, Alfred lived with 9 other people including his mother, father and fellow siblings at 3 Stanley Road, Worthing, West Sussex. On the 1911 Census, he and his father Henry were described as butchers. Unfortunately, he died from serious shrapnel wounds on 3rd May 1916 and was buried in Calais Southern Cemetery, France.

FEAST, James Alfred

Born: Sompting 1899 (died aged 18)
Private, 7th Battalion, Essex Regiment
(Army)

Son of William J and Mary Ann Feast, the family of 8 children lived at 66 High Street, Worthing. In 1911, James was still at school. According to his service record, he was a butcher when he joined up in June 1915. He added

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three years to his age, claiming to be 18. En route to protect the Suez Canal, James was killed on 3rd November 1917 in the 3rd Battle of Gaza, near the current Gaza City in the Gaza strip. He is remembered on the Jerusalem Memorial.

HENSHAW-AZZOPARDI, George

Born: 1896 (died aged 20)

Private, 13th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment (Army)

George Henshaw-Azzopardi was born to John and Jane Azzopardi. They initially lived in 74 Cranworth Road, but after his father's death, his widowed mother and he moved to 3 Broadwater Terrace. George was a caddie before signing up to the Royal Sussex Regiment.

He signed up and died under his mother's maiden name rather than his foreign born father's name. He died on 30th June 1916 another casualty of the Battle of the Boar's Head.

HUNT, George

Born: 1891 (died aged 27)

Air Mechanic 1st Class, 1st Supply Depot Repair Park (Royal Air Force)

George William Hunt was one of two children living with their widowed mother, Maria. In 1911, they lived in the Royal George pub in Market Street, now the site of the Guildbourne Centre. Before signing up, George had been an apprentice carpenter and had married Mrs W. R. Hunt.

He died on 24 September 1918 at an RAF Repair Depot and is buried at Terlincun British Cemetery, Wimille, France

HUTCHINSON, Harry

Born: 1892 (died age 26)

Gunner, Royal Field Artillery (Army)

Harry's brother, Frank, is also remembered on the Late National Boys' School memorial.

Harry Hutchinson was one of two brothers killed in the 1st World War, sons to James (a boat builder) and Kate Hutchinson of 22 Graham Road. At the time of the 1911 Census Harry was a chauffeur and was married with children. Harry had a brother, Frank, who is remembered on 'The Late Boys' National School' memorial. Frank died on 1st May 1917 and sadly Harry died nearly a year later on 20th April 1918, aged 26.

JERVIS, Charles

Born: 1892 (died age 25)

Private, 1st/4th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment (Army)

JERVIS, John

Born: 1891 (died age 26)

Private 9th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment (Army)

Charles and John were brothers born to John and Flora Jervis who also had a daughter called Flora. The family lived at 98 Becket Road. In 1911, Charles was an engineering fitter and John worked in his father's carpentry and joinery business

Charles was injured at the Battle of Hill 60 in the Gallipoli Campaign and died later on 27th August 1915. Sadly, a month later, John was killed in action at The Battle of Loos on 25th September 1915.

LEAL, Archibald Charles

Born: 13th September 1894 (died age 22)
Private, 15th Battalion, Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force (Canadian Army)

Private Archibald Leal, fourth son of Clara and George Leal, was in the fifteenth battalion of the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Forces. His regimental number was 27219. His father owned a well-known dairy business in Worthing at 66 Newland Road, where the family also lived (his older brother George later ran the business until the 1950's). Archibald later moved to Toronto, Canada.

At the outbreak of war, he joined the Canadian Infantry and was later wounded near St. Eloi, near Ypres (this was the second time he had been wounded). He later died of tetanus in Epsom Military Hospital and is buried at Broadwater Cemetery. After his death, a large funeral was held in Worthing, which was reported in the Worthing Gazette.

LELLIOTT, Alfred

Born: 1892 (died age 26)
Bombardier, Royal Horse Artillery (Army)

The Lelliott family were a large family of 8 Children that lived at 17 Ashdown Road. On the 1911 Census, Alfred's occupation was listed as an 'Assistant in Business'. His father William was a carman, i.e. light delivery driver.

Alfred died of wounds on 5th April 1918 in Flanders, France.



An official letter of sympathy from Buckingham Palace and the Secretary of State for War sent to the Worthing family of a lost serviceman. Photograph of an original document held at Worthing Museum.

MACEY, Frederick

Born: 1900 (died aged 18)
Private, 17th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (Army)

He was born in Paddington, London, son of Frederick John Macey (a butcher) and Annie Macey. On the 1911 census, the family were living at 75 Ham Road, Worthing, having moved down from London. He had one younger sister, Violet, born 1909.

He died on the 25 August 1918 and is buried at St. Hilaire Cemetery Extension, Frevent.

MERCER, Albert Winton

Born: 1897 (died age 19)
Private, Royal Marines Light Infantry, HMS Queen Mary (Royal Marines)

Albert Mercer lived with his parents, William (a carpenter) and Emma Mercer, and a very large family of 11 at "Kingston," Buckingham Road. Albert was one of 1200 people who died on HMS Queen Mary when she sank at The Battle of Jutland – this

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was considered to be the biggest naval disaster of the First World War.

MURRAY, Henry Edward

Born: 1890 (died aged 27)
Lance Corporal, 12th Lancers (Army)

In 1911, Henry, an apprentice carpenter lived with his father George Ogg Murray and mother Martha Mary Murray at Northview, Courtlands, Goring. Henry was born in Shepherds Bush, London; the family lived in London at the time of both the 1891 and 1901 Census.

Henry died on the 3rd April 1918 and is buried in Rouen cemetery in France.

OSBOURNE, Bernard Leslie

Born: 1893 (died age 25)
Sergeant, 8th Battalion, Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) (Army)

Bernard Osbourne (sometimes spelt Osborne) was the eldest child of John and Emily Osbourne. They lived at 70 Newland Road, where his father ran a butchers shop and where Bernard



The memorial at Abbeville Community Cemetery Extension where 1754 commonwealth servicemen are buried from the First World War, including Alfred Patching.

assisted him according to the 1911 Census. This is now the "Express Supermarket" on the corner of High Street.

He was fatally wounded and died on 23rd October 1918 in England. He is buried at Broadwater Cemetery.

PATCHING, Alfred

Born: 1897 (died age 21)
Gunner, Royal Field Artillery (Army)

Alfred Patching was a grocer's errand boy before signing up. He lived at 17 Winton Place with his siblings Daisy, Thomas, James, Florence and parents James (a bricklayer's labourer) and Sarah Patching.

He is buried at Abbeville Communal Cemetery Extension, having died on 26th October 1918. As this was near an Army hospital that dealt with long-term cases, we assume that Alfred had been ill for some time.

PELLING, William Henry

Born: 9th February 1897 (died age 18)
Private, 2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment (Army)

According to the 1911 census, William Henry Pelling was a baker's errand boy before the war. His parents ran a laundry business from their home in Southdownview Road.

William died of wounds on 9 May 1915, almost certainly sustained at the Battle of Aubers Ridge where the regiment had fought.

RUSSELL, Cecil

Born: 1897 (died age 18)

Private, 4th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment (Army)

Cecil Russell was born to musician Jesse Russell and his wife Kate. They lived at 62 Ashdown Road. He was an architect's clerk at the time of the 1911 Census.

Cecil was shot in the stomach, during the landings at Suvla Bay, in Gallipoli, and died of his injuries on 9th August 1915.

SANDELL, Lionel W

Born 1899 (died aged 19)

Lance Corporal, 10th Battalion, Royal West Kents / 4th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment (Army)

Lionel was related to the well known firm of Worthing builders Frank Sandell and sons, which is still trading in Worthing. He was the oldest son of Herbert and Edith Sandell. In 1911, the family lived at 10 Upper High Street, Worthing. Lionel was the oldest of three children.

Lionel served in two regiments, the 4th Royal Sussex, which he joined at the age of 15, having lied about his age. He eventually served in the Royal West Kents and was killed on the 9 September 1918. He was court martialled and demoted having shot another soldier by accident.

SEWELL, Herbert

Born: 1899 (died aged 17)

Sergeant, 13th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment (Army)

Herbert Sewell must have had a difficult childhood, living in a children's

home with his older brother in Bethnal Green, London by 1911. His father, a stationmaster, had died whilst Herbert was very young in 1908.

He lied about his age to join the army at 15 in 1915. He was promoted rapidly to sergeant by 1916, but sadly was killed in action on 3rd April 1917 not yet 18 years old.

SHIMELL, Reginald Bertie

Born: 1896 (died age 21)

Gunner, Royal Field Artillery (Army)

Reginald Shimell was the son of Walter and Sarah Shimell. They lived at 15 Ashdown Road, next to the Lelliott family at no 17, who had lost their son Alfred (also remembered on the Sussex Road School memorial).

Reginald was already in the Army prior to the start of the war, having lied about his age and joining at 15. On the 1911 Census, he is listed as living in barracks as a soldier, claiming to be 19. Reginald was killed in action on 12th July 1917 in Flanders, France.



The Worthing Ambulance and crew. They would almost certainly have been involved in helping to transport casualties recuperating in Worthing.
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SHORT, Herbert

Born: 1889 (died age 28)
Private, 7th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment (Army)

Herbert Short was the son of Charles (a gardener) and Ada Short. Although he was born in Salehurst, Kent, the family lived in Worthing at the time of the 1901 and 1911 censuses.

Before signing up, he was a tailor. Herbert enlisted in December 1915, whilst his family were living at 136 Tarring Road. He married Beatrice Short a year before his death as a German prisoner of war on 29th March 1918.

STRIDE, Stanley Sidney

Born: 1890 (died age 27)
Private, 1st/4th Hallamshire Battalion, York and Lancaster Regiment (Army)

Stanley Stride lived with his parents, William, a commercial traveller, and Kate Stride at 58 Ashdown Road. Stanley married, in April 1915 and he and his wife lived at 5 Merton Terrace, Brighton Road.

According to his sign up papers, he was a boot shop manager. He was fatally wounded on 15th August 1917, aged 27. He is buried in Longuenesse (St. Omer).

STUBBS, Charles

Born: 1896 (died age 19)
Private, 4th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment (Army)

According to a war memorial website for Worthing, Charles Stubbs was born to Charles and Helen Stubbs, of 8 Dagmar Street, Worthing. Charles was born in Rustington, but the family appear to have lived in Littlehampton

for most of their lives including Charles' two brothers and two sisters. Before enlisting, Charles was a greengrocer's assistant working with his Father.

Charles died of wounds on 14th August 1915, fighting at the Gallipoli Landings. His brother Sydney, a regular soldier, had been killed in May 1915.

SWAIN, Arthur George

Born: 1898 (died age 20)
Private, 4th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers (Army)

SWAIN, George William

Born: 1896 (died aged 21)
Company Sergeant Major, 11th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment (Army)

George William and Arthur George Swain were brothers; the sons of Alfred and Annie Swain. Along with a further two children, Alfred and Ethel, the family lived at 15 Winton Place. Before enlisting on the 21st September 1914, George had been an apprentice printer. George was promoted to Company Sergeant Major, noted in the local press as an 'unusually rapid promotion'. George died on 7th November 1917 and is remembered on the Tyne Cot Memorial in Belgium.

Arthur, the younger of the brothers, enlisted on 14th June 1916. He died less than six months after his brother on 10th April 1918. Arthur is buried in Festubert, France.

TIER, Harry

Born: 1892 (died age 24)
Lance Corporal, 12th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment (Army)

Harry Tier was the eldest son of Harry and Matilda Tier. Along with older sister Florence, and younger siblings Emily and George, the family lived at 26 Stanley Road – very close to the Sussex Road School. Harry died on 21st March 1916. His brother enlisted after his brother's death and fortunately survived the war.

TOWN, Leonard

Born: 1897 (died aged 20)
Private, 2nd Battalion, Middlesex Regiment (Army)

Leonard Town was the son of James and Esther Town, born in 1897. In 1901 and 1911, the family lived in Library Place, Worthing, where Worthing Bus Garage is now. He was one of 8 surviving children. In 1911 he was working for a horse racing trainer in Findon .

His family had run a horse cab business in Worthing since the 1850's.

He was killed in action on 31 July 1917 and is buried in Hooze Crater Cemetery, near Ypres, Belgium.

WINTER, Charles Herbert

Born: 1891 (died age 27)
Private, Royal Sussex Regiment (Army)

In 1911, Charles Herbert Winter lived with his widowed father Charles, a boot maker, and two sisters at 38 Portland Road. His sign up (or attestation papers) state that Herbert was a boot maker apprenticed to his father before enlisting.

Herbert enlisted in the Royal Sussex Regiment early in the war on 10 September 1914, although he was not posted abroad until March 1916.

Charles was killed in action on the 27th April 1918. Although his military records do not show a wife amongst his next of kin, his personal possessions were forwarded to a Mabel Tregidga of 33 Ashdown Road, who we assume was his fiancée. There is a full list on his service record.

YOUNG, Stanley

Born 1895 (died aged 20)
Private 4th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment (Army)

Stanley was born in 1895 in Worthing, the son of John (a tailor) and Emma Young. His mother died in 1906. In 1911, aged 16, he lived at 23 High Street, Worthing with his father, step mother two siblings, and two step siblings. He was an apprentice tailor.

He was killed in action at Gallipoli on the 25 August 1915 as part of the 4th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment, at the age of about 20. He was one of nine Worthing men in the 4th Battalion killed at Gallipoli in August 1915.



Borre British Cemetery, France where 367 commonwealth servicemen are buried, including Charles Winter.

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NATIONAL SCHOOL, RICHMOND ROAD

(Closed in 1902, written on the memorial as 'The Late Boys' National School')

BIGGS, William

Born: 1887 (died age 28)

Private, 3RD Battalion, Canadian Infantry (Army)

William Biggs, born in Warlingham near Croydon, was the son of Henry, a butcher, and Clara Biggs of 128 High

Street. He was one of 11 Children, three of whom had died. William was house painter at the time of the 1911 Census.

He must have emigrated shortly after the 1911 Census, as he fought in the 3rd Battalion of Canadian infantry. He died on 2nd May 1915 and his name is on the Menin Gate memorial for soldiers who died in this area with no known grave.

BOROUGH OF WORTHING.
WAR MEMORIAL.

It is requested that in the event of any member of your household having been killed or died in the War, you will kindly fill in the following particulars and forward this form to the Town Clerk, Worthing:

1. Full Name and Address of man who has been killed or died in the War:

Surname	Christian Name in full	Address
Biggs	William John	128 High Street

2. Date of Joining H.M. Forces... *August 1914*

3. **NAVY**

a. Official No. *7777*

b. Rank or Rating

c. Branch of Service, i.e. R.N., R.F.R., R.N.R., R.N.V.R., R.M.A., etc.

4. **ARMY OR AIR FORCE**

a. Official No. *9999*

b. Unit, i.e. Regt. and Battalion or Squadron *3rd Batt. Canadian Grenadiers*

5. Please state fully Rank attained and Honours conferred

6. Whether killed in action or dead as a result of wounds, or otherwise, and in what Campaign *Killed in Action on Hill 60 at Ypres France*

7. Give Date of Death *May 9th 1915*

8. Any other information

Signature of Informant *C. Biggs*
Address *128 High Street Worthing*

William Bigg's memorial application held in Worthing Museum. This is one of many applications that the museum has. Each application was completed by relatives of lost serviceman and often provides a fascinating insight into the lives of the servicemen and their families. This application tells us that William was serving with the Canadian Grenadiers when he lost his life in Ypres.

Photograph of the original document held in Worthing Museum.

BLAKER, Leonard

Born: 1887 (died age 28)

Private, 13th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment (Army)

Leonard's brother, Frank, is also remembered on the Sussex Road School memorial.

Leonard Blaker was part of a family of five including his mum and dad, older sister, and older brother. His brother, Frank, was also killed during the war and is memorialised on the 'Sussex Road School' memorial. The Blaker family lived at 12 Richmond Road in Worthing. Leonard joined the army when he was eighteen.

Leonard died on the same day, at the same battle, as his brother Frank. Both were killed in action at The Battle of the Boar's Head on 30th June 1916.

BLANN, William

Born: 1892 (died age 25)

Lance Corporal, 12th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment (Army)

William Blann, like his father, was a fisherman. The Blann family, well known fishermen, lived at 1 Buckingham Road. Although one of six children, only two of the Blann children survived – three dying at a young age and William during the war. Although we know that William died of flu whilst in Germany as a prisoner of war, no service record has survived to tell us what his role in the war was, or how he was caught.

DELL, Alfred John

Born: 1888 (died aged 26)

Rifleman, 2nd Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps (Army)

Alfred John Dell lived with his large family at 3 Ashdown Road when he attended Sussex Road School. The family later moved to 3 Kingsland Road where Alfred's parents, Alfred and Mary Ann, lived with their three surviving children. Alfred married Sarah Montague early in 1914 in Worthing, his daughter Mary was born on 13 August 1914 just as the war started.

Alfred was a regular soldier before the 1st World War and joined the Army on 11 September 1906. He was called back as a reservist. According to his service record, he was found dead on 3 December 1914 in Nordewild Germany - he had been taken prisoner.

It is not possible to say where he was buried - presumably in Germany. The Commonwealth Grave Commission (CWGC) site says he is remembered on the Menin Gate at Ypres.



There was great excitement in Worthing on 28th October 1919 – shortly after the war. Like many towns, the people of Worthing were thanked for their contributions to the war effort. As part of this recognition, the town was presented with this tank. It may seem odd to give away military hardware like this, but the technology was so new and unreliable, that most First World War tanks lasted only a few battles and were quickly life expired. Sadly, most of these tanks were taken back during the Second World War as the metal was needed for that war effort. The tank (possibly a Mark IV (Female) tank) can be seen in more detail in the close up below.

© West Sussex County Council Library Service



EVANS, Leonard Lloyd

Born: 1884 (died age 32)
Serjeant, 3rd Battalion, Grenadier
Guards (Army)

Leonard Lloyd Evans was the son of Evan, an old soldier in the Life Guards, and Charlotte Evans of "The Shanty," Archibald Road.

Leonard was one of the 73,000 soldiers who died at The Somme with no known grave, remembered on the Thiepval Memorial on the Somme. Leonard died on 14th September 1916.

FRENCH, Ernest W

Born: 4th March 1883 (died age 34)
Corporal, 7th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment (Army)

Ernest French was one of four children born to Sarah and Peter French. He had two sisters and a brother. His grandfather, George French, was editor of the Worthing Gazette. His father Peter died very young at the age of 26 in 1889. His mother remarried, and in 1911, the family lived at 2 Jubilee Cottages, Broadwater. Ernest was a gardener.

Ernest was killed in action on 3rd May 1917 at The Third Battle of the Scarpe.

HEWS, Harry

Born: 1890 (died age 27)
Private, 8th Battalion, Royal West Kent Regiment (Army)

Harry Hews lived at 13 Montague Place along with three brothers and two sisters. His father was a gardener and his mother ran the lodging house where they lived.

Harry was an apprentice printer before signing up to fight. He was killed in

action on the 18th June 1917 in Flanders, France. His brothers Robert and Reginald also served and survived the First World War.

HUTCHINSON, Frank (Francis) Frederick

Born: 1884 (died age 33)
Lance Corporal, 6th Battalion, the Buffs (East Kent Regiment) (Army)

Frank's brother, Harry, is also remembered on the Sussex Road School memorial.

Frank Hutchinson was one of two sons of James Hutchinson, a boat builder, of 27 Graham Road, Worthing and was the husband of Ethel Hutchinson. When he enlisted, Frank and his wife were living in Charlton, London, and had a son named Francis. Frank was living at home in 1911 with his parents and was a house painter.

Frank's brother, Harry, is remembered on the 'Sussex Road School' memorial and died in April 1918. Frank, the elder brother, died on 1st May 1917.

MARSHALL, Ernest

Born: 1887 (died age 30)
Corporal, Royal Sussex Regiment and 11th Battalion, Royal West Surrey Regiment (Army)

Ernest Marshall, the son of Charles, a builder's clerk, and Alice Marshall, lived at 2 Winton Place before moving to London.

When he enlisted with the Royal Sussex Regiment, he was a hotel hall porter living in Piccadilly, presumably in the hotel he worked in, but at some time transferred to the Royal West Surrey Regiment. Ernest married Ethel Packard in 1916 before he died on 7th

CHESSWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL

June 1917, possibly wounded at the Battle of Messines.

PARSONS, Edward Carter

Born: 1889 (died aged 29)
Sapper, 97th Field Company, Royal Engineers (Army)



Edward Carter Parsons was one of the youngest of 6 children of William, a plasterer, and Eliza Parsons. In 1911 Edward, by then a plasterer as well, lived at 43 Tarring Road, Worthing.

He enlisted on 8 November 1915 in Brighton as a Sapper in the Royal Engineers. He was killed in action on 21st March 1918. He is buried in Gouzeaucourt New Cemetery in France.

SAYERS, Harold Theodore

Born: 1889 (died aged 27)
Private, 7th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment (Army)

The youngest son of William and Catherine Sayers' nine children, Harold and his family lived at 30 Lennox Road in 1911. Both Harold and his father, William, were carpenters and joiners.

He died of wounds on 11 July 1916, during the early stages of the Battle of the Somme, and is buried in Warloy-

Baillon Communal Cemetery near the Somme Battlefield.

SEALL, William Samuel

Born: 1882 (died age 34)
Private, 11th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment (Army)

William Samuel Seall was one of 9 children of William and Caroline Seall. In 1911, William was living with his widowed mother and 2 older sisters, who were running a laundry from their home at Clifton House, 88 Portland Road. Four younger brothers and sisters were also living at home. William was a piano tuner and repairer.

He enlisted in Worthing on the 7 September 1914 in the South Downs Battalions of the Royal Sussex Regiment. He was killed in action on 13 March 1916 and is buried in Rue David Military Cemetery at Fleurbaix, France.

STONER, George

Born: September 1885 (Died aged 33)
Private, 1st/4th Battalion, Royal Sussex (Army)

George was one of 3 children born to Harry and Emily Stoner – Harry was a carpenter. On the 1911 Census he was a railway clerk living with his wife Mary Jane at 31 Southfield Road, Broadwater with two children. A further son was born in 1913. He joined the railway in 1900 and was working in Worthing goods yard that year.

He was killed in action on the 29 July 1918 and is buried in Oulchy Le Chateau Cemetery in France.

ST. GEORGE'S BOYS' SCHOOL

AUSTIN , Ernest Alfred

Born: 1882 (died aged 31)

*Private, 1st Battalion, Coldstream
Guards (Army)*

Ernest was born in Sompting in 1882. His birth was registered as Alfred Ernest Austin, the son of Alfred Austin, a market gardener, and Emily. His parents and some of his siblings emigrated to Canada between the 1901 and 1911 Census. In 1911 Ernest, also a market gardener, was living at "Glendor," Brougham Road, Worthing, with his wife Mary and 4 Children.

He enlisted in Worthing and served in the Coldstream Guards on the Western Front. Ernest died of his wounds on 22nd March 1915 and is buried in Bethune Town Cemetery in France. His oldest brother Frederick Austin (born 1878) was also killed a year later on the 19th July 1916.

BRADEN, Cecil Victor

Born: 1894 (died aged 20)

*Rifleman, 2nd Battalion, Kings Royal
Rifle Corps (Army)*

Cecil was the youngest child of six born in Worthing to James and Fanny Braden. His father, James, was described as a labourer on the 1911 Census. Cecil was called Victor on the 1911 Census and described as an assistant outfitter. The family were living in Broadwater Street in 1911; the street was not numbered at that time. In 1901 they lived at 29 Ashdown Road, Worthing.

Cecil died on the 16 September 1914; he was the in the 2nd Battalion of the Kings Royal Rifle Corps. Although his military records do not exist, as he

died so early in the war, he must have been a regular soldier or reservist.

He is buried in Villers En Prayeres Cemetery near the Aisne River in France. This was the decisive battle that stopped the German advance in 1914.

BROWN, Albert Edward

Born: 1893 (died age roughly 21)

*Rifleman, 2nd Battalion Rifle Brigade
(Army)*

Albert Brown was born in Worthing in 1893, the son of George, a builder, and Ellen Brown. The family of 8 children lived at 64 High Street in 1901, approximately where Waitrose is. Albert Edward Brown is on the 1911 Census as a soldier in the Rifle Brigade in Winchester. The rest of the family in 1911 were living in an old Cottage called Alma Cottage, which was on the site of Waitrose in the High Street.

He signed up to the Army at 18 and fought as a rifleman in Flanders. Albert was killed in action on the 14 March 1915, possibly killed in the battle of Neuve Chapelle. He is remembered on the Le Touret Memorial for 13,400 soldiers with no known grave, who died in the first year of the War in this area.

COBBY, Benjamin

Born: after 1900 (died aged roughly 18)

*Private, 6th Battalion, Queen's Own
(Royal West Kent Regiment) (Army)*

Benjamin Cobby lived at 6 Lyndhurst Terrace, Lyndhurst Road. He was the youngest of seven surviving children born to George (a general labourer) and Charlotte Cobby.

Benjamin was killed in action on 19th September 1918, probably at The Battle of Épehy, where his regiment had been fighting. He is remembered on the Vis En Artois Memorial on the road between Arras and Cambrai in France for 9,800 soldiers with no known grave, who fought in this area. Another brother, William Richard Cobby, died of wounds on the 24th September 1916. He served with the 2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment and is buried in Etaples Military cemetery near Dieppe.

His older brothers Herbert and Walter also served. Walter was wounded and received a war pension.

where they had two children, George and Gladys. Frederick was described as a mineral water manufacturer in 1911, but that meant he worked in a mineral water factory.

Frederick had served in the Royal Sussex Regiment before the 1st World War and appears in Chichester in the 1901 Census in Chichester Barracks. As a relatively recently discharged soldier and reservist, he would have been called back straightaway when the war started.

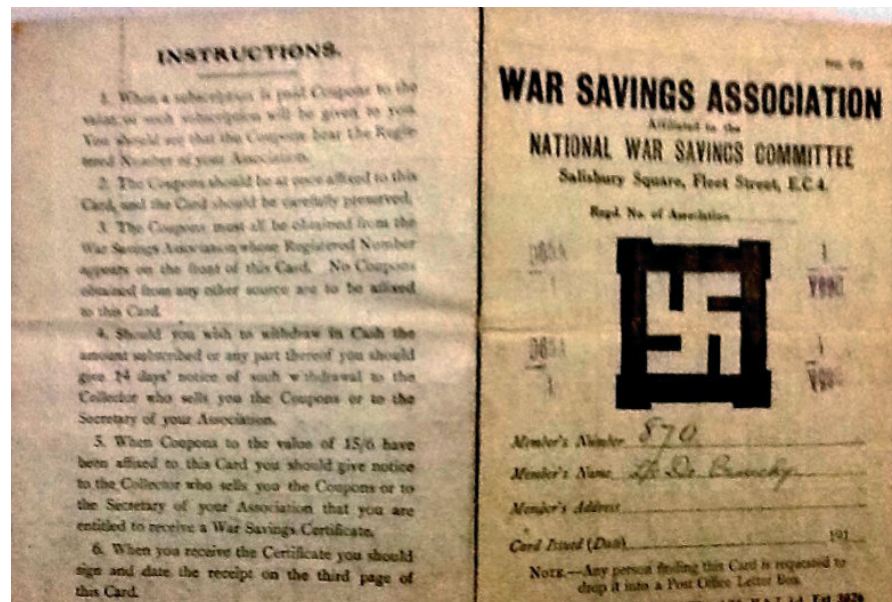
Frederick died on 30th October 1914 and is named on the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres.

HOLLAND, Frederick Curtis

Born: 1882 (died age 32)

Private, 2nd Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment (Army)

Frederick Holland was one of nine children born to George, a general labourer, and Harriet Holland. As a child the family lived in Newland Road, Worthing. Frederick married Elizabeth Chambers in 1911 and they moved to 118 Station Road



The wrong war?

Many of us will look at the recognisable symbol on this savings book and associate it with the Nazi regime and the Second World War. The swastika symbol was actually a popular pattern used in many places before World War Two - particularly by Hindus, Buddhists, and Jains which led many to believe it had an Indian origin. The Nazi's believed there to be a link between German and Indian languages and felt that the swastika represented the 'Aryan' race. In Sanskrit, an ancient Indian language, 'swastika' actually means well-being.

Photograph of the original document held in Worthing Museum.

JORDAN, Archibald

Born: 1895 (died age 21)

Private, 11th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment (Army)

Archibald was the youngest of five children born to James Theophilus, a gardener, and Ellen Jordan. In 1911 the family lived at 82 Park Road including Kate, Archibald's youngest sister, where his father ran a gardening and florist's business.

Archibald was a carpenter's apprentice, before signing up at age 19, in Worthing, on 11 September 1914.



A photograph of the Jordan family. Archibald is sat at the front, second from the left. Actual photos were a rare treat during this project.

Archibald was killed in action on 3 September 1916 at the Battle of The Somme. He is buried at Hamel Cemetery at Beaumont Hamel on The Somme in France.

MASSEY, William George

Born: 1893 (died aged 24)

Lance Corporal, 7th Battalion, the Queen's (Royal West Surrey Regiment) (Army)

William George Massey was born in 1893 in Southsea, Hampshire the only child of Elizabeth Massey. Elizabeth married Henry Taylor in 1910 who became George's stepfather – George

and Henry worked together as flower gardeners. They lived at 1 Elmwood Terrace, Ham Road. William married Daisy Bowring in 1914 and they had a son called George, born 1915.

William was killed in action at The Somme on 27 February 1917, with another 73,000 soldiers killed in the Somme area, whose bodies were never found. His name is on the Thiepval Memorial .

SLAUGHTER, Leonard

Born: 1887 (died age 29)

Sergeant, 13th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment (Army)

SLAUGHTER, (Hubert) Melville

Born: 1892 (died age 24)

Pioneer, 67th Division Signal Company, Royal Engineers (Army)

SLAUGHTER, Walter Harry

Born: 1882 (died aged 33)

Sergeant, 4th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment (Army)

The three Slaughter brothers were killed during the First World War. They were the sons of Walter, a sign writer, and Cunetia Slaughter, who lived at 15 Gordon Road in 1911.

In 1911, Walter Slaughter Junior, an electric meter repairer, was living with wife Amy and daughter Doris aged 3 at 19 Cobden Road.

His attestation papers show that he joined the 4th Territorial Battalion of the Royal Sussex in 1908 as a "part time" or "weekend" soldier. He was killed in action on 14th August 1915 fighting at Gallipoli. He is buried in Turkey.

CHESSWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Leonard, born 1887, the middle brother, was an assistant grocer living at home with his parents in 1911.

He was a Sergeant in the 13th Battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment, one of the three "Southdown" Battalions raised at the beginning of the war. All three suffered heavy casualties at the Battle of The Boars Head on 30 June 1916. So we suspect the wounds he died of on 7th July 1916 in an Oxford Hospital were received there. He is buried in Broadwater Cemetery.

Hubert Melville, born 1892, was the youngest of the three brothers. In 1911 he was an electrician and living at home with his brother Leonard and the youngest child of the family, Phyllis. Poor Hubert married Edith Johnson a few weeks prior to his death and it appears a son, William, was born in Worthing on 27 October 1916 - he died in Dover in 1996.

Sadly, just a month later than his brother Leonard, Hubert died on 25th August 1916 in Canterbury, Kent and was buried in Broadwater with him. It's not clear from the limited military records how he died.

Their mother Cunetia, after the war, having lost three sons and her husband who died in 1912, joined her only surviving child Phyllis Wilson in Canada in 1923 (married 1917), who had emigrated in 1919. It appears that she died in Winnipeg in 1949, aged 93.



For the servicemen who were lucky enough to make it back to Worthing alive, this was the sight that waited for many of them. This is an old photograph St. Mary's Convalescent Home, which was used as a hospital during the First World War. St. Mary's still exists today as a Christian care home, albeit in more modern buildings, on the same site on Westbrooke near Our Lady of Sion Junior School. They received a 'Certificate of Appreciation' from the War Office, signed by Winston Churchill.

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SUSSEX ROAD SCHOOL: THE BOYS WHO WENT TO WAR

ABOUT THIS PROJECT

Year 7 pupils (aged 11 and 12) at Chesswood Middle School, only a few streets away from the original Sussex Road School, conducted this local history research project. Had these pupils been born a century ago, they would have attended the Sussex Road School. Teachers in school, as well as several groups and individuals in the community supported the children in their project.

The research was comprised of several stages. Children, working in small groups, were assigned a name from one of the First World War memorials in the Sydney Walter Centre. Initial research was conducted using Ancestry.com to find out about each name – this was the stage when the names became actual people for the children.

Using a combination of internet research, visits to Worthing Library (including reading their excellent library of the Worthing Gazette), and preserved War Memorial application forms (held by Worthing Museum), children were then able to piece together the family histories of each young man, and work out their stories. This culminated in an exhibition held at the Sydney Walter Centre.

This booklet was produced using funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and is for members of the community to find out about our local history, as well as support future efforts to trace the histories of these incredible young men. The information inside was written by the children, with some additional input from Phil Wood (a local researcher), and edited by Andrew Clarke (Chesswood Middle School History Leader).

Although this project was highly successful in finding histories for most of the names on the memorials, a few names are omitted from this booklet. Unfortunately, despite the children's best efforts, no additional information could be found.

