

A Military History of Aynho

600 BC to 2012

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This is a compendium of stories, facts and feats involving the people and parish of Aynho. All have a connection to military events or service. I have tried to enhance these with additional information or explanation so that the broadest history is discovered.

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“TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN THANKFUL REMEMBRANCE OF THE MEN OF
AYNHOE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES”

And those who have served prior and subsequently

Quote from Aynho's WW1 War Memorial

CHAPTER I

This compendium records the military deeds and actions of men and women who have lived in Aynho. They have either fought for or been prepared to fight for their Lord, their beliefs or their Country. Also recorded are events or artefacts which have had a military connection with or impact on Aynho.

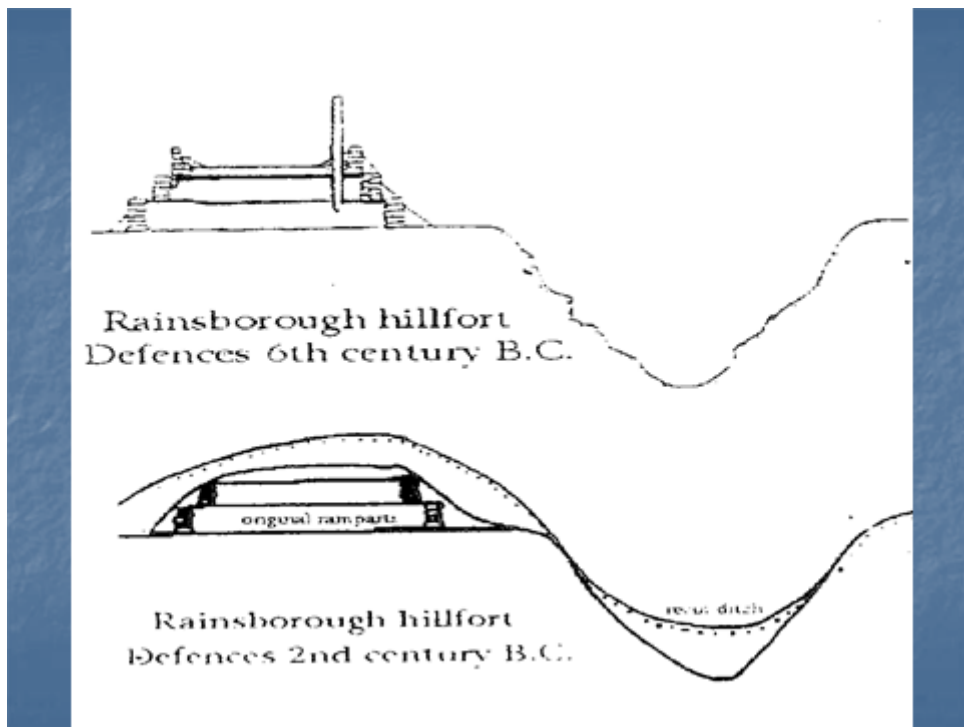
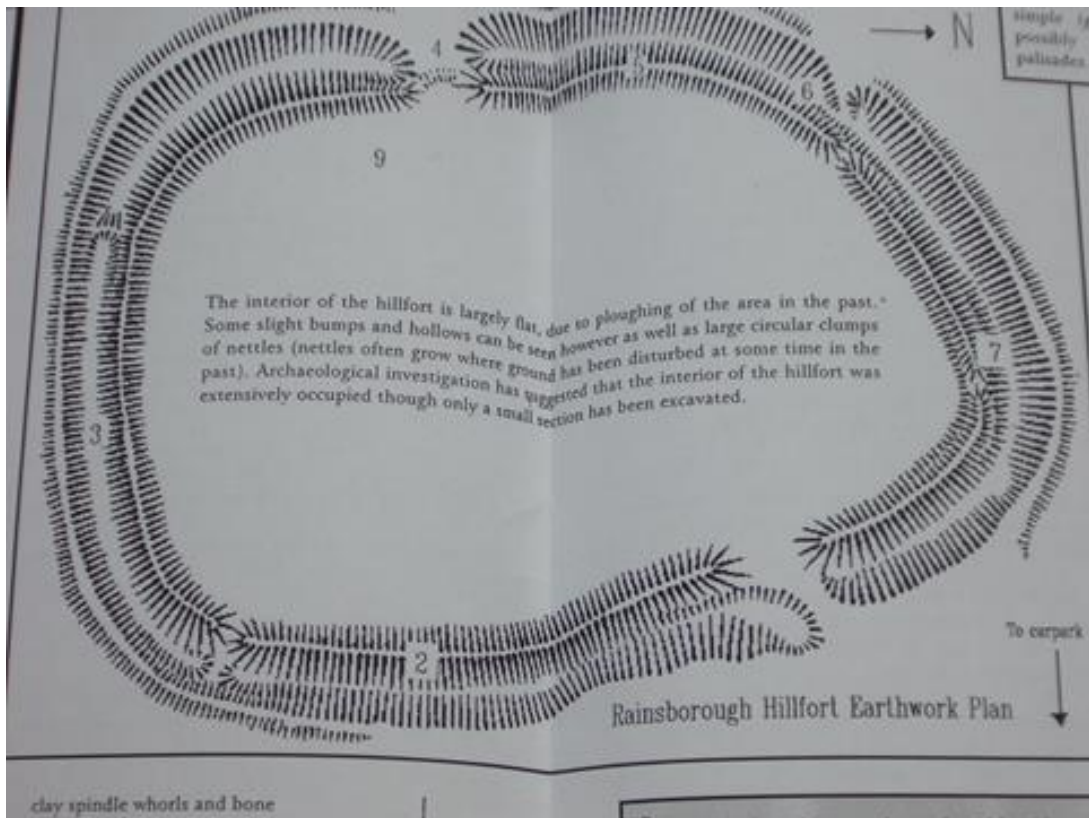
The earliest known warriors were the Iron Age men of the 6th century BC. They lived around Rainsborough camp and left behind archaeological evidence including a unique (in Britain) "La Tene" iron spear head and close by, the halt of an Iron Age spear. They were early Britain's, mainly Celts, originally from Wales. They fought clan against clan. The Rainsborough camp is a typical Iron Age fort. Archaeological investigations have shown that it was attacked in the 4th century BC, raised to the ground and left decimated. Not until the 2nd century BC was it re-occupied but then only briefly.

The XX and XIV Roman legions moved across the country from Dover via London to the line of the Fosse Way in AD 44-47. They retraced their steps in AD 59 to defeat Boadicea at Towcester. Although the thousands of soldiers may not have been seen by the local population, their progress would certainly have been talked about as Towcester is less than a day's ride away. There is no doubt that Romans settled in the vicinity, Croughton has its villa and Roman burials are recorded in Aynho. During the later Roman period, the Rainsborough site was a non-defensive settlement, was this a reflection of the calm before the storm? Quite when the camp returned to farmland, its current state, is unknown.

The camp had a timber palisade made of 12foot x1foot oak posts, each weighing 700lbs. At least 2000 posts will have been needed. Between 1000 and 1500 trees would have been felled to provide these. It would have been a herculean effort to source and "collect" these from the local area so the Aynho camp builders must have planted approximately 4 hectares of oak plantation in the immediate vicinity. By planting 300 to 400 stems per hectare, the trees were encouraged to grow tall and straight. Therefore the minimum amount of land was used for this non-food crop. After 50 years of growth, the timber could be harvested.

The banks of the camp were lined with dry stone walling. A two man team can lay a 20 foot by 4 foot section of wall in a day. If the camp wall was 2000foot long and both inside and outside was built that team could be employed for a year and a half. They would of course need a ready supply of stone. In the surrounding fields there are few stone walls and little stone left to litter the ground; this is testimony of the stone picking for the camp. Stone pits may also have been dug to provide further supplies, as is evident between Rainsborough and west Charlton.

The men were smaller than the average man today, may be 5ft tall but it is estimated that they would have the effective strength of five modern man. A combination of being fit for purpose, i.e. lifting heavy weights for hours on end, year after year, and the perfection of techniques enabled them to do feats only professional athletes could do today.







Groups of Angles moved into the Midlands via the Nene, Ouse and Thames around 500AD. Their reputation preceded them, London was sacked. Local Anglo-Saxons led by **CYNRIC** and **CAEWLIN** fought the “new” Romano-Britain’s in 556 AD. Ceawlin and Cutha fought the Britain's again at Stoke Lyne in 584 at the Battle of Pethanleag. . Cutha was killed but “Ceawlin captured many villages and countless spoils and went away in anger to his own land”. Anglo Saxon Chronicle. The newcomers helped establish the Kingdom of Mercia which for the next 300 years was the dominant Kingdom of England. Nodoubt Aynho must have feared these invaders if not suffered at the hands.

Aynho stands on one of two ancient roads: the Salt Way, leading from Droitwich in Worcestershire to London and the South East of England, its primary use being the transportation of salt. In Aynho we call this the Portway. It runs from Borough Hill (Benaventa) to Chipping Warden (Brinavic) The second, Banbury Lane, which began near Northampton and fairly closely followed the modern 22-mile-long road before running through Banbury's High Street and on towards the Fosse Way at Stow-on-the-Wold. In the year 913AD a band of Danes, who had settled in Northampton, travelled along Banbury Lane and ravaged north Oxfordshire. Mercia was split, from Towcester, west was English, the area to the east Danish. The boundary followed along Watling Street. Aynho must have suffered the Danegeld tax payable to the Viking invaders. Oxford had one of the key mints from whence payment was made. It is thought the Danes also fought a battle at Edgcote.

Aynho being part of the King Sutton Hundred would have had a body of men like a militia called the “Hundred Men”. They would serve as a militia in times of invasion.

Aynho probably had a fortified manor on the current site of Aynhoe Park. In the cellars there are several Norman pillars which “support” this theory. Aynho’s population would certainly have seen Deddington, Banbury (built 1135) and depending on the woodland coverage, Mixbury castle. The Norman invaders intended and principally achieved their aim of intimidating the English through the ever present shadow of the Mott and bailey castles. As they established their control, the new Norman landlords often rebuilt these castles in stone and ever bigger sizes. Deddington castle belonged to William’s brother, Bishop Odo but slowly fell into disrepair, finally, it was demolished in 1377.

The first recorded Overlord of Aynho was a Dane, called **ASGAR the Staller**. He was one of the most distinguished Thanes in the Saxon court of Edward the Confessor. He held the honorary office of the Royal Standard-bearer. Our earliest named military man, he commanded the London trained band at the Battle of Hastings and then the defences of London against the Normans in 1066. The title “staller” is given to men close to the King.

William the Conquer, gave Aynho to one of his most noble knights, **Geoffrey de MANDEVILLE** as a reward for helping with the invasion. It is unlikely that de Mandeville visited the area as he had been given at least 140 manors spread over nine counties. He was designated a “Companion of the Conquer”. William deliberately distributed pockets of land rather than co-herent swathes. In effect this restricted the Norman Barons ability to concentrate their land, thus wealth thus power thus threat to him. Nonetheless, Geoffrey subsequently held the office of Chief Officer of the City of London and later was awarded the earldom of Essex.

The third generation, another **Geoffrey de Mandeville** fought with and against King Stephen and other Barons during this period of instability. Geoffrey deserted his King and sided with Empress Maud. In return he was made “Constable of the Tower of London”. He was famous and synonymous with violence and treachery; a contemporary chronicler recalled how these Barons controlled “the wretched [sic] men of the land with castleworks...they filled them with devils and evil men....and tortured them with unutterable tortures...many thousands they killed”. Perhaps it was not unexpected that “an arrow to the head while besieging Burwell Castle, put a period [sic] to his life in 1144.”

His son **William** fought in the crusades in 1177-8, he also waged war against the French with Henry II

Did these men call up their Aynho retainers to follow them in their own private armies? We don’t know.

Aynho was passed from William to his relative, Alice of Essex. She was remarried to **Henry of ESSEX**. Henry was hereditary standard-bearer of England, he fought with King Stephen and in France with Henry II. This position along with his titles and estates were forfeited when he deserted his “Colour” during the Welsh War. Tried for treason, he almost died during a “trial by battle” against Robert de Montfort. His sentence was commuted to life as a Benedictine monk in Reading Abbey.

During the 1200’s major jousting tournaments were held at five locations in England, one was Brackley castle. It is more than likely that some of this period’s great knights would have travelled from the West through Aynho to get to these events. The knights would have brought their household, with all their finery so as to impress and illustrate their power. Quite a spectacle.

Aynho passed to Robert fitz Richard and to his son John. **John fitz RICHARD** lost Aynho to King John as punishment for his role in opposition during the civil war. The estate was returned to John but probably after he paid a fine to the royal coffers. Aynho may well have contributed to another fine when John's son John was captured and ransomed at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314.

Northamptonshire bowmen were sent to Wales to fight against Owen Glendour. Maybe a man of Aynho was part of that "expedition".

A record of how boys and men trained to use the bows with high draw weights survives from the reign of Henry VII.

[My yeoman father] taught me how to draw, how to lay my body in my bow ... not to draw with strength of arms as divers other nations do ... I had my bows bought me according to my age and strength, as I increased in them, so my bows were made bigger and bigger. For men shall never shoot well unless they be brought up to it.

—Hugh Latimer

Such was the demand for yew wood to make bows that the Statute of Westminster in 1472, every ship coming to an English port had to bring four bow staves for every tun. Richard III of England increased this to ten for every tun. Eventually staves were imported from the whole of Europe, from the Baltic to Spain. The scarcity of material for both bow and arrow encouraged the change to muskets. Aynho's Butts Close originally were the Great and little Butts. These were the practice ranges for those famous men of England and Wales- the Archers of Azincort and Crecy

It was the difficulty in using the longbow which led various monarchs of England to issue instructions encouraging their ownership and practice, including the Assize of Arms of 1252 and King Edward III's declaration of 1363: "Whereas the people of our realm, rich and poor alike, were accustomed formerly in their games to practice archery – whence by God's help, it is well known that high honour and profit came to our realm, and no small advantage to ourselves in our warlike enterprises... that every man in the same country, if he be able-bodied, shall, upon holidays, make use, in his games, of bows and arrows... and so learn and practice archery." If the people practiced archery, it would be that much easier for the King to recruit the proficient longbowmen he needed for his wars. Along with the greater ability of gunfire to penetrate plate armour, it was the long training needed by longbowmen which eventually led to their being replaced by musketeers. It took at least 81 pounds-force and possibly more than 130 lb. Considerable practice was required to produce the swift and effective combat shooting required. Skeletons of longbow archers are recognisably deformed, with enlarged left arms and often bone spurs on left wrists, left shoulders and right fingers. A bone spur is a growth of bone at the point of where a tendon is attached to the skeleton, there more pressure that is placed on that point the more the bone grows to strengthen the connection. Between 1341 and 1359 the English crown is known to have obtained 1,232,400 arrows. A flight arrow of a professional archer of Edward III's time could reach 400 yds. It is also well known that no practice range was allowed to be less than 220 yds by order of Henry VIII.

The scarcity of material for both bow and arrow, the length and complexity of the training and improvements in armour technology encouraged the change to muskets.

The longbow was last used in the English Civil War. During the Napoleonic wars the Duke of Wellington asked for a corp of longbows to provide a force producing more rapid fire than muskets could. These he considered would have been particularly devastating against the

then unarmoured French foot soldiers .Sadly the skills had been lost and the training too arduous so there were none available.

It is worth remembering that men today are an average a foot taller than their medieval ancestors. Few of the modern day “giants” have the strength to draw the six feet long, longbow. Respect is due to those highly skilled professional soldiers.

King Edward IV's army fought on Edgcote Moor in 1469; this became known as the Battle of Banbury. Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick a rebel on the side of Richard of York won the day. It was not one of the great battles of the Wars of the Cousins (from Victorian times renamed the Wars of the Roses) but frightening nonetheless for the local population. The HS2 rail link was re-routed to avoid the battlefield and by coincidence moved it further from Edgcote House, home to many an Aynho born Cartwright. Surely the news of gathering armies, the sourcing of food and fodder, then the battle and its aftermath must have known or experience by Aynho.

Aynho had passed through the control of the Earls of Arundel, they used the surname Fitz Alan and also the title Lord Maltravers. **Richard Earl of ARUNDEL** fought at the Battle of Falkirk 1293 and at the siege of Carlaverock in 1300. A subsequent **EARL RICHARD** laid siege to Calais in 1345-8. **John Fitz Alan, 1st BARON ARUNDEL** built Betchworth Castle and led a successful naval expedition against the French fleet off the coast of Cornwall. In 1379 while harassing (for all intents, being a pirate) the French coastal communities, a storm blew up, his ship was wrecked and he was swept out to sea. His last actions were to set about murdering members of his crew who failed to set out for the beach during the storm.

The estate was passed to **John FitzAlan, 2nd BARON ARUNDEL**. He fought the Scots in 1383 and patrolled the western coast of France with the English navy. John's brother **Thomas** became **Archbishop of Canterbury** in 1396. This fact must have been known in Aynho, likewise his exile to France and replacement by Archbishop Walden a year later. King Richard II will have rued his decision to exile Thomas; as allied to the similarly exiled Henry Bolingbroke, they invaded England. Together they forced Richard to yield the crown to Henry IV. Thomas became Primate of All England and Lord Chancellor during Henry's reign. Religious intolerance against the Lollards reach a peak during Thomas's term. The condemned were burnt at the stake. The village passed to, **John Lord MALTRAVERS, 14th Earl of Arundel**. He was present at the siege of Rouen 1418. He had previously fought at Compiègne, Anglure and Louviers. He undertook further expeditions against France in 1434, he was wounded in the leg, in an action at Gerberoy 1435. Although the leg was amputated, he died a month later.

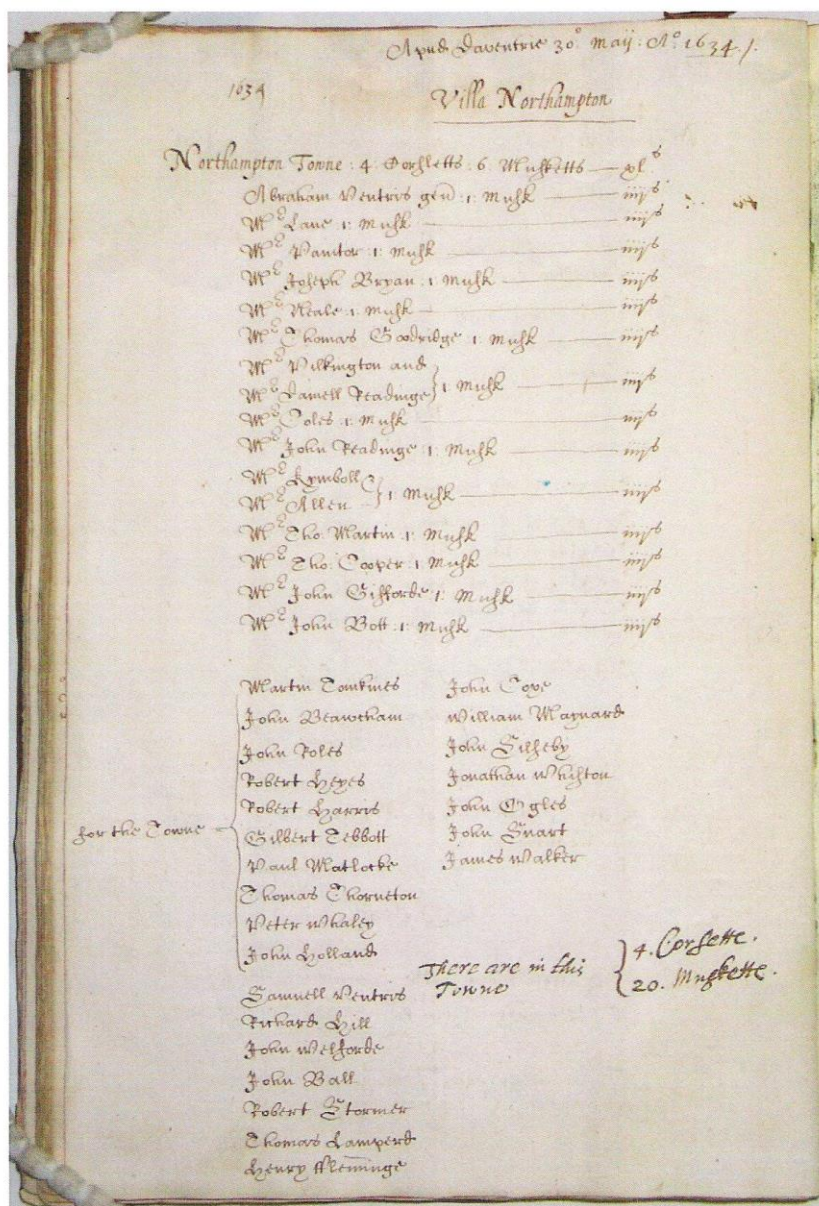
John's son Humphrey died aged nine. Aynho passed on to his Uncle, **William FitzAlan, 16th EARL OF ARUNDEL**. He was a supporter of the Yorkist cause, his wife's brother was Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick and commander of the Yorkist forces. William fought at the second Battle of St Albans 1461. For his support during the Wars of the Roses, Edward IV named him a Knight of the Garter.

On his death Aynho became the property of his son Thomas, the 17th Earl and then to William the 18th Earl, then in 1540 to his son Henry. **Henry 19th EARL OF ARUNDEL** was appointed Deputy of Calais in 1540. At his own expense he enhanced the fortifications of the port. Perhaps this is why he mortgaged Aynho and subsequently sold it to Rowland Marmion, a London mercer, in 1540. Henry returned to Calais in 1544 to fight the French. His Godfather was Henry VIII, he partook in the trials of Anne Boleyn and helped Mary to the throne over Jane Grey.

Born in 1565 in Aynho, **Sir Ralph WINWOOD** travelled with Sir Henry Neville to France. He was a diplomat and statesman as he was recorded as having “a considerate knowledge of commercial and military affairs”. Was he also a spy?

Shakerley MARMION was baptised in Aynho 21st January 1602. Such was the perilous state of the family finances that he was sent to the Low country as a military adventurer under the command of Sir Alexander Zinzan. On his return, his friend Sir John Suckling raised a troop for King Charles. Shakerley was commissioned into it; they headed North to fight the Scottish Covenanters in 1639. He got to York, fell ill, and was sent back to London where he died. He had sold Aynho to the Cartwrights in 1615.

Richard CARTWRIGHT was responsible for keeping the military muster books for Lord Exeter in the 1630's. The example below is from the Cartwright Papers

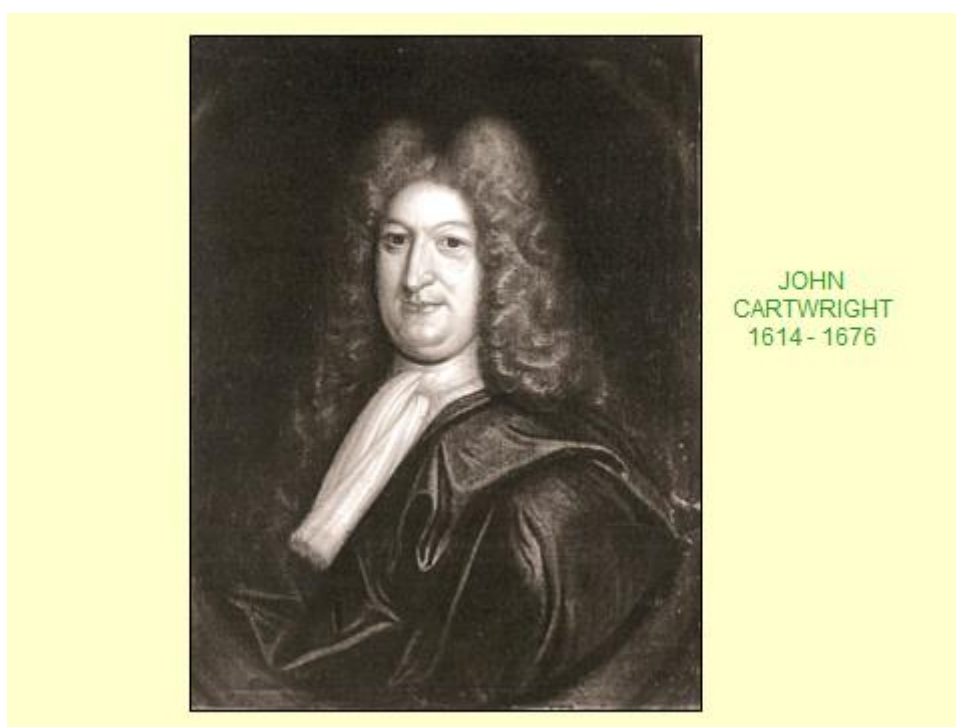


No. 4. Muster book 1631 - 1636

In opposition to the expansion of the Ship Tax in 1635, Richard and then **John CARTWRIGHT** joined the likes of John Hampton, the Copes of Hanwell Castle and the Fiennes of Broughton Castle as key players in the Parliamentary cause. They all lost their local homes during the course of the war. Mention should be made of **William STANTON**, **Thomas SWETNAM**, **John HOWES**, **Thomas DAVIES** and others who took on Sir Robert Banastre the Sheriff who had come to Aynho to collect the said Ship Tax. They were arrested and taken to Northampton and London for their defiance. John Cartwright petitioned

for their release and paid his dues. They were truly loyal to their Lord and vice versa. The fervour of their defence was on a par to the local support for Puritanism and the Parliamentary cause. Banbury was a hot bed of both.

The nursery rhyme “The big ship sails on the Alley Alley Oh” is according to a key member of the Sealed Knot re-enactment Society, relevant to Aynho. When sung, it was referring to Cromwell advancing towards the location of those singing it. This would be a morale booster or warning depending on whose side you were on. The explanation is that the first Alley is actually the City of Ely, the second, Alley Oh is Aynho. Cromwell was MP for Ely and is “the Big Ship” being head of the Parliamentarians. I believe there is also an in joke, Cromwell being referred to as the Ship; the Ship Tax being so critical to the start of the war. The explanation for Aynho’s inclusion is that John Cartwright had married Charles I’s Chancellor of the Exchequer’s daughter. His spectacular falling out with his Father in Law over the Ship Tax was fuelled by John putting his wife under impoverished house arrest and spending her dowry for his purposes. John really was a key player. A decoded version would be Cromwell is marching from Ely to meet Cartwright of Aynho.



Many of Aynho’s population could have moved to Banbury looking for a safe haven as Civil War broke out in 1642. On numerous occasions troops from both sides skirmished in the area surrounding Aynho. The troops moving north-south and east-west through Aynho. This was not only in the way of tactical movements but to find food and forage.

The village would have seen the smoke of battle rising above the northern horizon during the Battle of Edgehill in October 1642. Subsequently Banbury Castle fell to the Royalists and **King CHARLES 1** spent one night in Aynho thus writing a letter “from our Court at Aynho”. Charles 1 being an absolute ruler is without doubt the most important person known to have visited Aynho; naturally he led the Army, at least in name.

On the 1st September, the Parliamentary army approached Brackley; the Earl of Essex made his HQ at Aynho. His troops covered an area from Souldern to Adderbury. The Royalists

brought a strong force of horse towards Aynho, Colonel Middleton faced them with his two regiments of foot. Essex reported a series of skirmishes around either Nell Bridge or Clifton.

1643 saw the Parliamentarians forces advance north through Souldern via Aynho to Hook Norton. The following June, victorious Royalist forces left the battlefield of Cropredy and camped in Aynho, the King this time overnighing in Deddington. Thereafter Major Compton and approximately 60 Royalists were stationed in Aynhoe Park it being safer than King's Sutton. King's Sutton was the local source of saltpetre, how much was transported south along the Portway through Aynho?

Sir Samuel Luke, Scoutmaster General (Chief Spy) for Essex records in his journal covering the period late January to early February 1644 "John Lane returned yesterday from Ano on the Hill and saith that there are 3 troopes of the Kings horse quartered in the towne", further horse were in Kings Sutton and Prince Charles's regiment was in Adderbury and Deddington. Under the command of "Lord of Andever"(Lord Andover) elements of these units moved on to Hilsden to attack "Captaine Crumwell" (Cromwell). John Lane was an Aynho man, he was part of Luke's 300 strong circle of "informers". The Parliamentarians had a distinct advantage in the quality and quantity of their military intelligence when compared to the Royalists. Each "troope" would have between 50 and 100 men, typically 60. 180 men and horses would have had a significant impact on the stores of food and fodder held in Aynho. Previously, between 1st November and 1st December 1643 Lane was reporting in from Towcester, Brackley. London and Oxford to Newport Pagnell (where his boss, Sir Samuel Luke, was based). Presumably to be able to travel so freely, he was disguised as a travelling salesman of some type.

The 1st of July 1644 saw Charles cross the Cherwell near Aynho with his army. He spent the night in Deddington. There continued to be raids on Adderbury and Croughton. Banbury Castle was also attacked in the winter of 1644-45 but held out. The castle would have been visible from Aynho as it was reputed to be the size of Warwick Castle.

Again, in 1646, from 23rd of January to 27th April the Roundheads besieged the Castle. It fell and was rendered useless as a defensive position. The masonry was pulled down in 1648 so that the damage suffered by Banbury town during the Great fire of 1628 and Civil War could be repaired and rebuilt.

Musket balls found to the field to the south of Aynhoe Park



During the post Edgehill period, John Cartwright wrote to the Provost of Eton College asking for a reduction in rent payable on the Rectory at Bloxham. The reason for the request was the fall in income as a result of the war. At the same time, he waived rents due from farm land in Deddington, due from the Duchy of Lancaster.

It was the reparations claimed after the war from Charles II which enabled John Cartwright to commission William Marshall to rebuild the fire damaged Aynhoe Park. The retreating Royalist garrison fired the building as they left. In the cellars of Aynhoe Park, charred beams can still be seen. The village also bares the scars of the Royalist occupation. There are two raised areas to the south east and west of the house, could these have been part of the fortifications along with the west facing bastions?



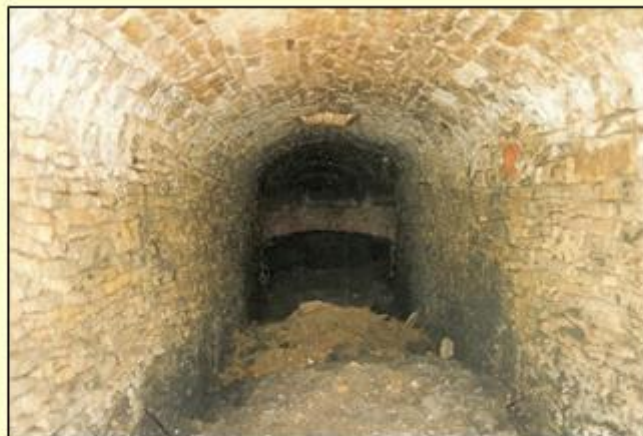


Legend has it that beneath “the wilderness”, at the western end of the Aynhoe Park gardens there was a civil war burial pit. Elizabeth Cartwright carried out an exploratory dig and found human remains in that area. Only further excavation and new analytical investigations would determine whether these were bodies from an earlier period, a burial site for Civil War soldiers killed in action or soldiers and villagers who died from disease. In times of trouble, burial pits were often used rather than individual plots in the Church yard. During the war the population had suffered as troops scavenged the area for food, one of the harvests was as bad as any in living memory and with so many troop movements in the area disease epidemics were not uncommon. The British death toll from both battle casualties and disease may have been as many as 200,000 from a population of 5 million. War has never again had such an impact on this country. Aynho being in the middle of it must have suffered. There are also plenty of examples of lead musket balls, buckles and a cannon ball recovered from the south side of the house. Catton House’s garden also gave up a rare officers helmet from the 1580’s. It may well have been used in the Civil War. A rapier or sidesword is connected to the same property, how or where it came from is not known. It may well have been used by a trumpeter as his side weapon rather than the heavier cavalry sword. Might it have been left by one of King Charles’ trumpeters or the Royalist garrison?

When Aynhoe Park was opened to the public in the 1950’s, two pairs of Civil War boots were kept in the front hall, one pair Royalist, one pair Parliamentarian.

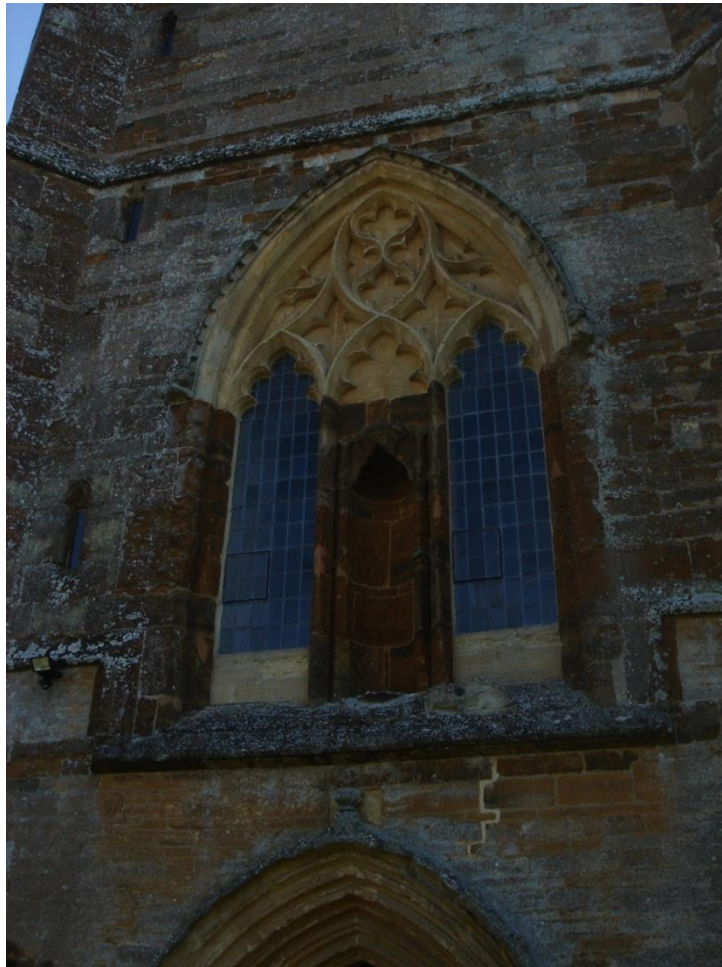


The village has a network of tunnels which were shortlisted for a "Timeteam" excavation. Current thinking is that they were built not so much as a secret network between key buildings i.e. the church, not as a storage facility (too narrow) but as job to keep the soldiers fit and off the drink.



AYNHO TUNNELS
DISCOVERED 1995 IN GROUNDS
OF ST.MICHAEL'S HOUSE
(FORMER RECTORY)

Another consequence of Cromwell's victory was the impact of Puritanism. Our Church lost statues of the Saints, knocked down as part of the new order. The walls would also have been white washed to cover the medieval wall paintings, Croughton's survive but not Aynho's. Such was the dilapidated state of the Church post war that it had to be rebuilt, this started in 1723.



In 1649, part of the New Model Army mutinied in Banbury over their lack of pay, a frightening proposition for the local population.

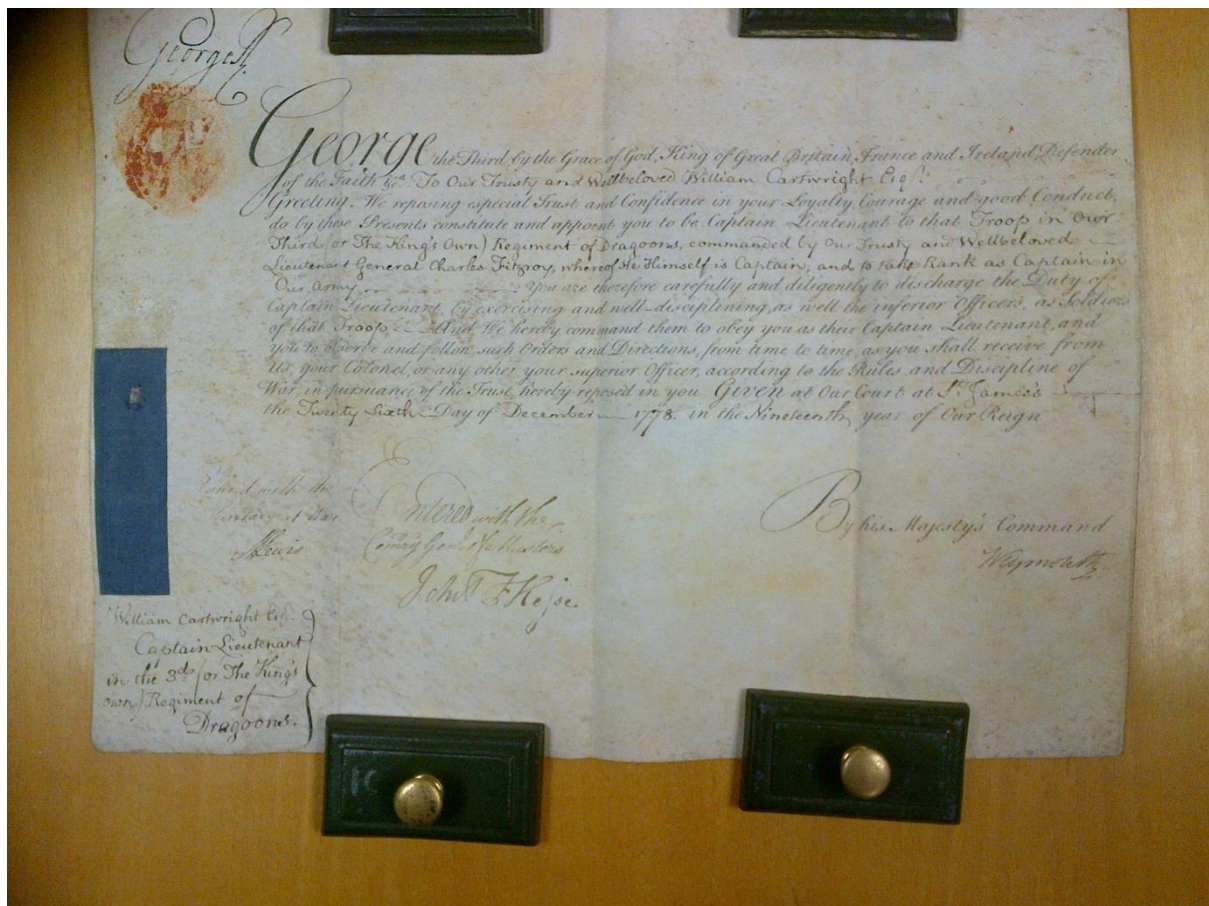
William CARTWRIGHT married the Honourable Ursula Fairfax in 1669. Her Father, Ferdinando fought in the Netherlands and then at Marston Moor in 1644. He held senior rank in the Parliamentary army. Her brother Charles was killed at Marston Moor. Another brother, Thomas became one of the senior Parliamentary military leaders. General Thomas Fairfax, wrote "A Short memorial of some things to be cleared during my command in ye Army". A copy has sat on the library shelves in Aynhoe Park until it was relocated to the Northampton Records Office. Passages of it are altered by hand, his?

CHAPTER II

Letters held in the Northampton Records Office, written by **Thomas CARTWRIGHT** from 1712 to 1732 show he was particularly concerned about the standing army. These include "Military estimates and cost of maintaining garrisons in England and Scotland", there is also correspondence regarding a treaty between Britain and Spain concerning the seizure of ships. "Constitutional Queries" was a draft address to the King against the Duke of Cumberland about the dangers of a standing army.

William CARTWRIGHT started in 1769 a military career typical of wealth gentry.

22nd February 1769 Cornet 10th Dragoons, without doubt, purchased. He progresses to being promoted on 24th March 1775 to be a Lieutenant with the 10th Dragoons. By 26th December 1778 he was a Captain Lieutenant in the 3rd Dragoons



Further promotion or purchases of rank ensured further enhancement, 29th June 1779 he became a Captain 10th Dragoons. Followed by, 10th May 1786 Major 10th Prince of Wales Light Dragoons and finally the Colonel of the 1ST Dragoon Guards.

The King's Regiment of Dragoon Guards also known as the First Dragoon Guards was the foremost elite cavalry unit in the Army.

By 1794 he was known as General Cartwright . Then he was promoted to Major General in the 23rd Light Dragoons

Horse Guards

17th September 1804

Sir,

I have much pleasure in acquainting
you, that His Majesty has been graciously pleased
to appoint you to the Command of the 23rd Regiment
of Light Dragoons, vacant by the removal of Lieutenant
General Floyd to the 8th Dragoons.

I am,

Sir,

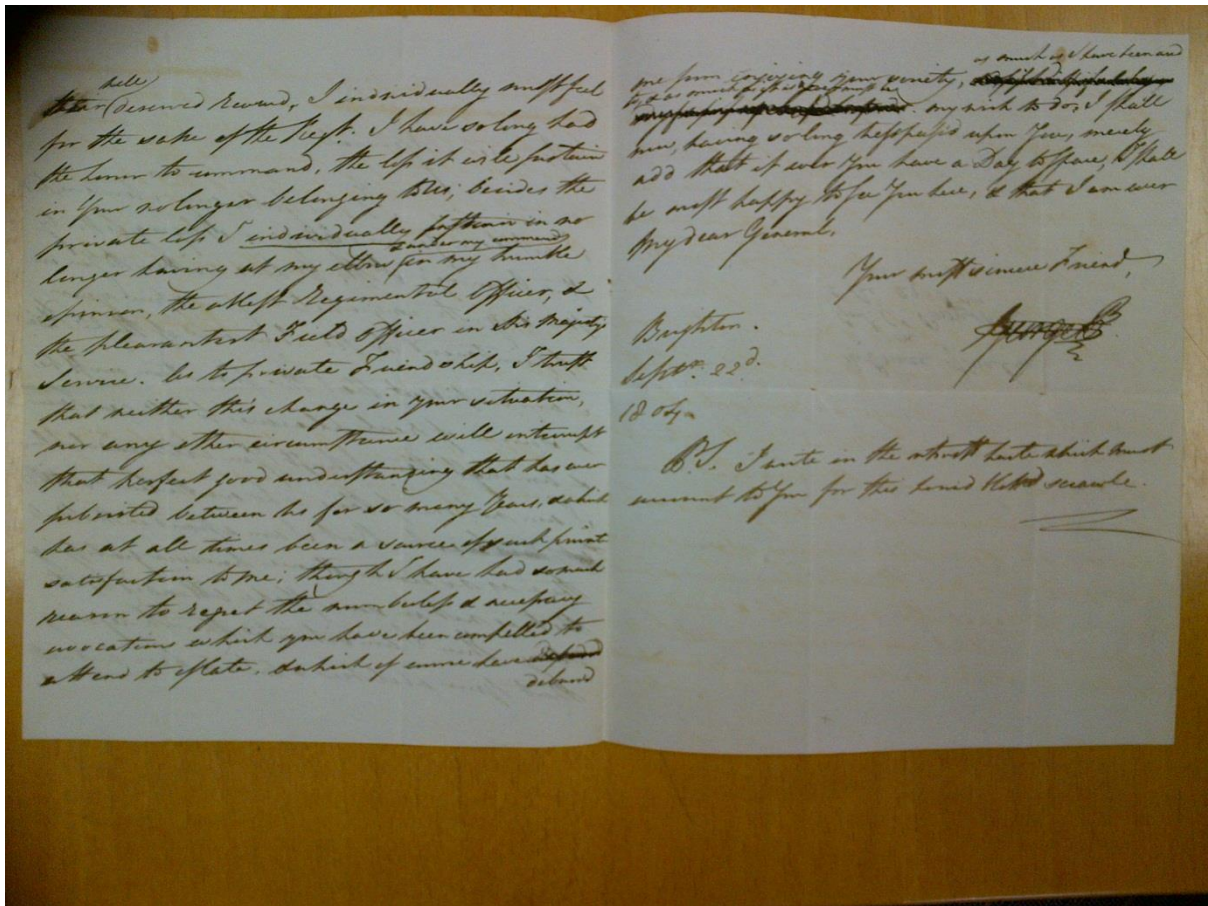
Yours

Frederick
Commander in Chief

Major General Cartwright

My dear General,

It was fully my intention, had
I not been furnished with your obliging letter by
this morning's Post, to have written to you on
this day, to congratulate you upon your
appointment to the Command of the 25th Regt.
I am confident that this promotion must be
a source of real pleasure to all your friends
& amongst them I trust you will readily believe
I am not one of those who are the least delighted
at ~~that~~ ^{such} a promotion. But I am afraid in this world,
there is no circumstance however gratifying
that is not in some shape attended by its
allay. Thus I am situated, though rejoicing
that your abilities & talents have met with



The above is a congratulatory letter from George Prince of Wales, soon to be crowned King George III.

William Cartwright was responsible for the wellbeing of the Royal stable of King George III, he was an Equerry. The letter below "discusses" the Kings requirement for more horses for his stable. He also took quite a shine to one of George's daughters but being a commoner was in no position to propose marriage. |

Windsor August 1808

George B.

You are to go to London and after fixing with General Burkeley the manner in which the Light Horse is to be drafted from them to form a body of ten horses, and another of eight for the Master of the Horses, you are in the course of tomorrow forenoon to direct Gray my Body Coachman and Messrs the Farriers to attend to the Horses being free from blemishes and fit for the purposes required of them the Price to be 40^l. for each Horse, consequently 400^l is to be given for them; the accompanying stamped draft on Messrs. Hammond will enable you to settle the business at the time of choosing the Horses. The Brown Phœnix Horses have had an addition of two Horses which enables them to perform the greatest part of the Road Work, therefore fixing the Body Guard at ten horses, Fries and Foster's at eight horses and Phipps at the same number the reduction of horses will amount to five Horses, which will be of utility in diminishing the expence of the Stable. To Major General Cockburn's Lt. G. B.

Legal documents exist which recall that Lieutenant-Colonel William Cartwright was involved in a case against the Duke of York and the inappropriate selling of commissions within the King's Own!

Burley, 14th Sept. 1808.

Dear Colonel; In reply to your inquiries respecting the scrape into which it appears that Captain Turner of my Regiment has got with some woman of moderate repute, I have to say, that I am entirely ignorant of everything which relates to this matter; but, for your satisfaction,

will endeavour to inform myself of particulars, which, when obtained, shall be transmitted to you. Yours, &c. W Cartwright

Prior to the Napoleonic war, Aynho men between 18 and 45 years of age were selected by lottery to join the Volunteers, a Militia unit. As news of mass mobilisation in France reached local ears, a meeting in 1794 in Northampton led to the opening of a subscription to raise a force of Yeomanry cavalry. See document below. This unit was formed primarily as a mobile "police force" to be used against any mob who might emulate what was happening in revolutionary France. There was at this point in time no threat of a French invasion. This regiment became the Northamptonshire Yeomanry, more of whom later (See Peter Smith). William Ralph Cartwright enrolled as a Major, his £200 made him one of the primary donators. Anyone raising two companies was entitled to the rank of Major. Others respected members of the village such as Mr Leonard the schoolmaster joined the ranks. To enlist with the cavalry required a suitable mount therefore money thus status. How much fun they must have had clad in green coats and buff breeches parading for all to see. Most men had to make do being foot soldiers in the Aynho company, the fifth, of the Brackley Volunteers. William Ralph had also been commissioned as a Lieutenant in 1793 in the militia. They were regularly drilled, often rewarded with supper. They were armed with muskets, which were kept in the village armoury. A fife and drum band was formed with the pre-requisite uniform. The better musicians were sent to train other local Volunteer bandsmen. William Ralph was paid to take the infantry colours to Northampton in 1807 as the unit disbanded.

At a MEETING of the COUNTY of NORTHAMPTON,

HELD at the COUNTY-HALL, in NORTHAMPTON,

On the TENTH DAY of APRIL, 1794,

Convened by the HIGH SHERIFF, at the Request of the THREE DEPUTY-LIEUTENANTS of the County, (acting in the Absence of the LORD-LIEUTENANT) to take into Consideration the Propositions which they had received from his Majesty's Secretaries of State:—

THE following P L A N, recommended by Government, was produced by Sir WILLIAM DOLBEN, one of the said DEPUTY-LIEUTENANTS.

WHITEHALL, 14th MARCH, 1794.

In Order to provide more completely for the Security of the Country against any Attempts which may be made on the Part of the Enemy, it may be expedient to adopt some, or all, of the following Measures:—

I. To augment the Militia by Volunteer Companies, as was practised in the last War; or by an additional Number of Volunteers, to be added as Privates to each Company.

II. To form Volunteer Companies in particular Towns, especially in those situated on or near the Sea Coast, for the Purpose of the local Defence of the particular Places where they may be raised, according to the accompanying Plan, or such other as may, on Application for that Purpose, be approved of, as best adapted to the Circumstances of any particular Town.

III. To raise Volunteer Troops of Fencible Cavalry, consisting of not less than Fifty, nor more than Eighty per Troop, who will be to serve only during the War, and within the Kingdom. The Officers will have temporary Rank only, and will not be entitled to Half-Pay: The Arms, Accoutrements, and Cloathing will be furnished by Government; but the Levy-Money for the Men to be furnished by the Persons who undertake to raise such Troops; and the Horses to be found by them, but to be paid for, at a reasonable Price, by Government.

A Person raising two Troops to have the temporary Rank of Major; four Troops, that of Lieutenant-Colonel; and Six Troops, that of Colonel.

IV. To form other Bodies of Cavalry within particular Counties or Districts, to consist of the Gentlemen and Yeomanry, or such Persons as they shall bring forward, according to the Plans to be approved of by the King, or by the Lords-Lieutenants under Authority from His Majesty: And the Officers to receive temporary Commissions from His Majesty; and the Muster-Rolls also to be approved by His Majesty, or by the Lords-Lieutenants, at Periods to be fixed. No Levy-Money to be given, and the Horses to be furnished by the Gentry or Yeomanry who compose the Corps; but the Arms and Accoutrements to be supplied at the Expence of the Public. Such Corps to be exercised only at such Times as shall be fixed by Warrant from His Majesty, or by the Approbation of the Lords-Lieutenants: To be liable to be embodied or called

out of their Counties by special Directions from His Majesty, in Case of actual Appearance of Invasion; and to be liable to be called upon, by Order from His Majesty, or by the Lord-Lieutenant or Sheriff of the County, to act within the County, or in the adjacent Counties, for the Suppression of Riots and Tumults: In either Case, while actually in Service, they shall receive Pay as Cavalry, and be liable to the Provisions of the Mutiny Bill.

V. To enrol and appoint Places of Rendezvous for a sufficient Number of Persons in different Parishes and Districts, particularly in Places near the Sea Coast, to serve as Pioneers, or to assist the Regular Force in any Manner that may be necessary, on the shortest Notice, in Cases of Emergency.

Resolved unanimously, That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to the HIGH SHERIFF, for his Readiness in calling this Meeting, and for his Conduct this Day.

Resolved unanimously, That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to the Right Hon. EARL SPENCER, the Mover of the above Resolutions.

Resolved unanimously, That the Thanks of this Meeting be also given to Mr. CARTWRIGHT, who seconded the Motion for the above Resolutions.

RICHARD BOOTH, Sheriff.

A SUBSCRIPTION was immediately opened, in Pursuance of the Second of the above Resolutions; and the following Sums of Money were subscribed:

£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Spencer - - - - - 500 0 0	Robt. Andrew - - - 50 0 0
Pomfret - - - - - 300 0 0	Geo. Abby - - - - 21 0 0
J. Coventry - - - 100 0 0	Edw. Bayley - - - 10 10 0
Fred. Montagu - - 100 0 0	J. Dryden - - - - 100 0 0
Gen. Robinson - - 100 0 0	Wm. Walcot, jun. - 50 0 0
Cullen - - - - - 100 0 0	Jos. Clark - - - - 21 0 0
Northampton - - 100 0 0	W. Z. L. Ward - - 70 0 0
Compton - - - - 100 0 0	J. Morrice - - - - 20 0 0
W. Dolben - - - - 50 0 0	A. E. Young - - - 30 0 0
Robt. Gunning - - 100 0 0	C. Tibbits - - - - 30 0 0
T. Powsy - - - - 100 0 0	Henry Rook - - - 20 0 0
F. Dickens - - - 100 0 0	Chas. Smyth - - - 21 0 0
V. Knightly - - - 100 0 0	L. Powsy - - - - 10 10 0
John English Dolben 50 0 0	J. W. Roberts - - 20 0 0
Sondes - - - - - 300 0 0	J. Brampton - - - 20 0 0
J. Langham - - - 100 0 0	S. Blencowe - - - 50 0 0
W. R. Cartwright - 200 0 0	Jno. Butcher, jun. 10 10 0

out of their Counties by special Directions from His Majesty, in Case of actual Appearance of Invasion; and to be liable to be called upon, by Order from His Majesty, or by the Lord-Lieutenant or Sheriff of the County, to act within the County, or in the adjacent Counties, for the Suppression of Riots and Tumults: In either Case, while actually in Service, they shall receive Pay as Cavalry, and be liable to the Provisions of the Mutiny Bill.

V. To enrol and appoint Places of Rendezvous for a sufficient Number of Persons in different Parishes and Districts, particularly in Places near the Sea Coast, to serve as Pioneers, or to assist the Regular Force in any Manner that may be necessary, on the shortest Notice, in Cases of Emergency.

After which the following RESOLUTIONS were moved, and unanimously agreed to:

First, That it is the Opinion of this Meeting, that, in the present critical Situation of Europe, it is highly expedient that the greatest Exertions should be made, in every Part of this Kingdom, to increase, under the Sanction of Parliament, the Means of Internal Defence and Security.

Second, That a Subscription be opened to defray the Expence of carrying into Effect such Measures as shall have received the Sanction of Parliament; shall be judged most likely to increase the Internal Defence and Security of this Kingdom; and may, at the same Time, be best adapted to the Inland Situation of this County.

Third, That the Money subscribed be under the Disposal of a Committee.

Fourth, That it be recommended to such Committee to direct their Attention, in the first Instance, towards carrying into Execution the Fourth Article of the Plan which has been sent, by his Majesty's Secretary of State, to the several Lords-Lieutenants of Counties, as being the Mode of Defence which will the least interfere with the regular Recruiting Service; will be attended with the least Expence to Government; and will, it is hoped, be an effectual Means of providing for the Internal Defence and Security of this County in particular, and of the Kingdom in general.

Fifth, That the Committee be also empowered, after making due Provision for the above-mentioned Object, to contribute as much of the Money subscribed as they shall think fit, towards RAISING TROOPS OF FENCIBLE CAVALRY, under the Description contained in the Third Article of the Plan circulated by the Secretary of State; or under any such Modifications as may be deemed more advisable, and may obtain the Approbation of Government.

Sixth, That the various Details attending the Execution of these several Plans, be referred to the said Committee.

Seventh, That the said Committee do consist of the High Sheriff of the County for the Time being, the Deputy-Lieutenants, the Acting Magistrates, those Gentlemen who have served on the Grand Jury, and the Field-Officers and Captains of any Corps, which may be established in Consequence of these Resolutions.

Eighth, That the said Committee do meet immediately at the RECORD-ROOM, in Northampton; that they be empowered to adjourn from Time to Time, and from Place to Place, and to divide themselves into Sub-Committees, in the several Districts, for the Execution of such Parts of the Plan as shall be delegated to such Sub-Com-

J. F. Willes - - - 50 0 0	H. Looch - - - - 5 5 0
William Corrie - 26 5 0	

N. B. The Subscription Papers remain with Mr. SMYTH, at Northampton, and Mr. BRAMSTON, at Oundle.

Immediately after the Meeting, the Right Hon. Earl Spencer, Richard Booth, Esq. (High Sheriff) Allen Edward Young, Esq. Charles Tibbits, Esq. Sir John Dryden, Knt. Mr. Robert Steiner, Mr. John Eyswell, Mr. Thomas Knight, Mr. Bryan Pywell, and Mr. John Kepp, entered their Names, with the Intention of enrolling themselves in the proposed Corps of NORTHAMPTONSHIRE YEOMANRY; and the List has since been increased by the Addition of near 40 other respectable Names.

APRIL 10, 1794.

At a MEETING of the COMMITTEE, in Pursuance of the above Resolutions, (EARL SPENCER, in the Chair)

It was Ordered,

That Mr. SMYTH, of Northampton, and Mr. BRAMSTON, of Oundle, be appointed Treasurers, for the Receipt of the Subscriptions under the Resolutions this Day made at the above Meeting.

That JOSEPH CLARK, Esq. of Northampton, be appointed Secretary of this Committee.

That the Proceedings of the General Meeting be advertised in the Northampton Newspaper, and in the Sun and the Star; and One Thousand Copies be printed and distributed through the County.

That the Members of the General Committee do form themselves into Sub-Committees, of not less than two Members; which Sub-Committees shall attend at the Places, and on the Days, hereafter-mentioned, viz.

Northampton—Saturday the 19th instant, at the RECORD-ROOM.

Peterborough—Saturday the 26th instant, at the ANGEL.

Oundle—Saturday the 26th instant, at the TALBOT.

Thrapston—Tuesday the 29th instant, at the WHITE-HART.

Descentry—Wednesday the 16th instant, at the WHEAT-SHEAF.

Brackley—Wednesday the 16th instant, at the CROWN.

Wellingborough—Wednesday the 23d instant, at the HIND.

Towcester—Tuesday the 29th instant, at the SARACEN'S-HEAD.

Kettering—Thursday the 17th, and Friday the 25th instant, at the WHITE-HART.

That it be an Injunction to the Sub-Committees, that the Persons whose Names shall under their Inspection be subscribed to the Enrolment, be substantial Householders, who shall engage to bring a Horse to be approved of by the Commanding-Officer of the Troop belonging to the District in which they shall enrol themselves.

That this Committee be adjourned to the GEORGE INN, in NORTHAMPTON, to Saturday the 3d Day of MAY next.

SPENCER, Chairman.

INSTRUCTIONS to be observed by the Volunteers,
if suddenly ordered to march and assemble on any
named point.

HORSEGUARDS,
March, 1804.

BEING provided with Horses and Carriages, as pointed out in the Secretary of State's Letter of the 16th January, The Corps will leave every Incumbrance whatever behind them.—No Women are to move with the Corps on any Account.—They will march as much as possible together in the Brigades or Corps into which they are formed, agreeable to the particular Routes and Orders that have been forwarded from the Head Quarters of their District, to be acted upon after the Certainty of the Enemy's appearance on the Coast.

In the first Hurry of assembling the Troops, on the landing of an Enemy, it may be impossible (in all Cases) to prescribe positive Routes, and to prevent crossing, crowding, and interference in the March of so many Bodies moving from distant Places, and tending to the same Point. The Prudence and Arrangement of the Commanding Officers must, therefore, as far as possible, provide against these unavoidable Difficulties.

When the Troops march in Corps, and encamp, they are more easily provided for; but when they are cantoned and pressed forward, they must be satisfied with the most crowded and slightest Accommodation, and a rigorous Discipline must prevent them from requiring more than the Country and Circumstances can allow.

On the Routes where Troops are to march, sufficient Bread and Oats may certainly be provided by the Army Bakers, and Purveyors of Oats in the Market Towns, on a short Notice:—should not this be the case, Commanding Officers must themselves make the best general Arrangements on this Head that Circumstances will permit, and not allow Individuals to trespass or commit Outrages:—and it is again earnestly recommended to the Corps, both of Cavalry and Infantry, also to the Proprietors

Militia standing orders

A True List of all persons between the Age of Eighteen Years and Forty five within the Constabley of Aynhoe and Walton in the County of Northampton Liable to serve in the Militia By Prusuant in this Case to the Act of parliament made and provided

(Names in red are crossed out in the original document)

Thomas Cartwright Esq	Thomas Smith – Labourer – poor – 8 children
Edward Burbidge	Richard Chilton – Serveant
Edward Lawrence – Victlier – 3 children	William Peckover – Shoe maker – poor – 1 child
Edward Kitteridge – Labourer – poor – 1 child	Daniel Peckover – Wheelwright – poor – 3 children
William Standly – Labourer	Thomas George – Serveant
John Handcock – Tayler – poor – 3 children	Mathew Borton – Labourer
Emery Walker – Gardiner – 4 children	John Watts – Blacksmith
Thomas Bricknell – Farmer	William Watts – Apprentice
William Aris – Weaver – poor – 4 children	Thomas Green – Farmer – Lame
William Borton – Labourer	William Bambury – Serveant
Thomas Marsh	Edward Walker – Serveant
Thomas Brighton – Labourer	John Bower – Butcher
William Smith – Labourer – one eye – 1 child	John Turbitt – Slater
Timothy Halberd – Apprentice	Martin Wallson – Labourer – poor – 5 children
Timothy Hall – Labourer – poor – 1 child	Richard Dimmock – Labourer – poor – 1 child
William Righton – Labourer – Younger	Humphrey Smith
Robert Haynes – Discharged from the King's Service by reason of sickness	Joseph Waggstaff – Weaver
John Polton – Labourer – poor – 3 children	Thomas Waggstaff – Serveant
William Whidby – Shepherd – poor – 2 children	Martin Garner – Serveant
Thomas Collins – Labourer – poor – 5 children	William Dry – Cooper – poor – 3 children
Timothy Burbrough – Farmer	Timothy Coates – Baker
Thomas Peake – Labourer – poor – 3 children	Erasmus Bambury – Malster
John Smith – Serveant	Benjamin Coates – Younger
William Priest – Constable of Stean	Thomas Bygrave – Serveant to Mr Cartwright
Alexander Kirby – Serveant	Richard Chimes – Milkman
	Natthanell Grant – Labourer
John Tappin – Serveant	Moses Collins – Labourer
Thomas Smith – Schoolmaster – Lame	William Franklin – Labourer
	William Betts – Serveant
	Richard Ansty – Serveant
	William Lane – Serveant – poor – 5 children
William Seacole – Mason	John Collins – Labourer
Joseph Seacole – Mason	John Buckingham – Serveant
Thomas Goodger – Labourer – poor – 1 child	Thomas Marsh – Shoe maker – Ruptured
Thomas Gregory – Labourer – poor – 3 children	Edward Dunn
Henry Tarrin – Labourer – poor – 2 children	William Merry – Serveant
Daniel Taylor	John Merry – Serveant
James Merry – Serveant	Nathan Merry's Carter name not known
Benjamin Morron – Serveant	Thomas Aris – Serveant
Martin Harris – Labourer – poor – 7 children	William Bradley – Officer of Excise
Joseph Byles – Serveant	Thomas Byles – Serveant
Robert Salmon – Farmer	John Turner – Serveant
William Minton – Serveant	Edward Fathers – Mason – poor – 5 children
Thomas Friday – Serveant	William Jakeman – Serveant

This is to give Notice that the Militia Meeting will be on Munday the 29th Day of this Instant November at the three Conies at Thropmundwell by Ten a Clock of the forenoon that all persons thinking themselves thereby aggrieved may then Appeal and that no Appeals will be afterwards Received.

1777

Bongeman Blackwell, labour .
Thomas Cad, labour
Thomas Bayliss, labour

Thomus Pollard, sarvant
<Thomas Jerroms, labour>
Thomas Kilpin, sarvant

John Edmunds, constable.

AYNHO

A list of all men usually and at this time dwelling within the constable-
wick of Aynho and Walton made December the 6th 1777.
between ye age of 18 & 45 years.

34
38
10
3
3
39
17
10
42
46
23
—
14

8
1
1
2
6
77
1
4
6
13
5
77
86
5
20
3
1
14
18
5
6
10
1
11
—
14

Astwell

Wm. Merry, miller
John Letch, farmer
Joseph Smith
Edward Smith
Peter Smith
<Mathew Borton, labour,
7 children>
John Haynes, servant
Wm. Allcock, wheelwright
Sam. Goude, carpender, 1 child
John Howes, labour
<John Turvey, labour, 3 children>
<Edwd. Kelleridge, labour,
6 children>
<Joseph Tarry, labour, 3 children>
Wm. Buckler, labour 2 children
James Betts, labour, 2 children
<Wm. Righton, labour,
4 children> past age
<John Watts, blacksmith,
4 children>
<Saml. illegible, labour,
4 children>
<John French, labour, 6 children>
<Wm. Seawell, mason, 4 children>
John Bridge, labour
Jethro Eelley
<Tim. Hall, labour, 4 children>
<Thos. Claydon, servant, hard
of hearing>
<Thos. Gregory, labour,
4 children>
Thos. Walker, wheelwright
<Thos. Marsh, shoumaker,
bussen>
<Wm. Bull, labour, 3 children>
Thos. Steel, labour, 1 child
John Bailey, servant
<Wm. Wattson, labour,
3 children>
<John Staple, servant>
John Handcock, taylour,
2 children

<John Buckingham, labour,
4 children>
<Richd. Chilton, labour,
6 children>
<John Goude, carpender>
Robert Walton, servant
Thos. Miller, servant
Wm. Whidby, servant
<Tim. Halbird, baker>
<Thos. Silver, labour, 3 children>
Richd. Terry, labour, 1 child
<Zach. Dolton, labour,
5 children>
Wm. Watts, blacksmith, 1 child
Wm. Simson, servant
Phillip Treadwell, servant
Richd. Hollier, servant
Thos. Treadwell, servant
<Edwd. Spires, carpender,
4 children>
Henry Dry, cooper
Joseph Wagstaff, weaver
<Wm. Turner, labour, 3 children>
John Collins, labour, 1 child
John Taylour, servant
John Pollard, servant
James Coates, baker
John Endall, malster
George Wheatton, baker
James Snellson, labour
John Nickolls, labour
Edwd. Baylis, servant
John Merry, servant
<John Cosse, servant and heard
of hearing>
Wm. Balding, servant
Chris. Shires, servant
Wm. Cross, servant
Thos. Goodyer, labour,
2 children
Edwd. Bygrave, butcher
John Alday, servant

P.T.O.

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Ref: AYNHO MILITIA LIST 1777, PAGE 1

(AYNHO CONTINUED)

These have been drawn:	<Wm. Balding, labour>
<Thos. Bygrave, malster>	<Wm. Callaway, labour>
<Richd. Claridge, servant>	<Fra. Collins, carpender>
<Richd. Ansty, labour>	<Wm. Knatt, blacksmith>

The day of appeal is on Monday the eight of this month at Throp and all persons who shall think themselves aggrieved may then appeal and that no appeal will be afterward received.

The Constable desire them who think to make an appeal to let him know to night and for them to be at Throp by ten o'clock to morrow morning before the list is given in.

OLD BRACKLEY

December 5th 1777. A list of all the person in the constablewick of Old Brackley in the county of Northampton that are liable to serve for militia men are as follow.

James Bating, serv.	Charles Nind, labr.
Edward Tanner, serv.	Wm. Pollard, labr.
Henry Garrett, serv.	George Buttler, labr.
David Corby, serv.	<Wm. Kilby, labr.>
<John Billing, serv.>	Wm. Archer, labr.
Sam. Seckinton, serv.	John Minnil, labr.
Benj. Tanner, labr.	Tho. Watson, currier
<Edward Beere, labr.>	Wm. Boneham, labr.

John Nichols, constable.

The day of appeal will be on Munday the eighth day of December next 1777 at Thorpe and all persons who shall think themselves aggrieved may then appeal and that no appeal will afterwards received.

BRACKLEY ST. JAMES

A list of all persons between the ages of eighteen and forty five years in the parrish of Brackley St. James's to be drafted as millitta men &c.

Edwd. Jones, gent.	Mr. John Yates
Edwd. Ridgeway	Wm. Paxton
Thos. Durrant	Edwd. Wills
John Lathbury	John Timbs
Richd. Howard	Robt. East
Joseph Grigery	Thos. Layton
Thos. Green	<Wm. Lamprey>
Ezrh. Norton	Mr. John Burrows
William Holloway	Mr. Oldfield, offic. of excise
John Walton	Thos. Tuckey
Wm. Warner	John Wootton
Jonathan Carpenter	Wm. Steedon
Richd. Blaby	James Warr
Wm. Daniel	John Jecock
Edwd. Tuckey	Wm. Robins
Thos. Perrin	Wm. Knibbs
John Painter	John French

1777

John
Richd
Wm.
John
<Richd
James
John
Danie
Thos.
Richd
John
Mr. J
Wm.
James
Wm.
Franc

N.B. J Thorpe

BRAC
Decen
wick c
ton th
Thor
Josep
Tho.
John
Obac
John
Jame
Robt
John
Mick
Thos
Tho.
Josep
<Mart
<Willi
Wm.
Rich
Paul
Rich
Edm
Geor
<Josep
Saml
John
Wm.
Josep
John
The d

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Ref: AYNHO MILITIA LIST 1777, PART 2.

A List of Men Usually and at this Time Dwelling in the Constabewick of Aynho and Walton Between the Ages of Eighteen and Forty five years – January 20th 1781

(Names in red are crossed out in the original document)

Robert Weston - Gent
 John Rufsell – Servant
 George Beesle – Servant
 John Pollard – Labour –1 child
 Jeremiah Tibbetts
 Phillip Treadwell – Servant
 Thomas Treadwell – Servant
 Joseph Smith
 Mathew Borton – Farmer
 John Borton
 William Watts – Blacksmith – 2 children
 John Letch – Farmer
 William Allcock – Wheelwright
 Samuell Goude – Carpenter – 1 child
 Thomas Kimball – Baker
 Richard Terry – Labour – 2 children
 George Fathers – Mason
 John Howes – Labour – 2 children
 James Hallwell – Servant
 Joseph Wagstaff – Weaver

John Day - Cooper
 William Barrett - Joyner
 Edward Bygrave
 John Borton – Labour – 2 children
 Jethro Eby
 George Wheatton -Baker
 Thomas Walker – Wheelwright
 William Buckler – labour - 2 children
 Robert Walton – Shepherd – I child
 William Handcock – Taylour
 John Handcock – Taylour
 Petter Kirby - Servant
 James Snellson – Labour
 Richard Hollier – Labour – 1 child
 William Ellard – Servant
 William Wain – Servant
 William Holden– Servant
 Samuel Ale – Servant
 Benjamin Tustin – Servant
 John Isard – Servant
 Constable John Baker

The Day of Appeal will be on Wednesday the 24th Instant at Thropmundwell and all persons who think themselves aggrieved may then Appeal and that no Appeals will be Afterward Received. 2nd January 1781 Verified upon Oath before me

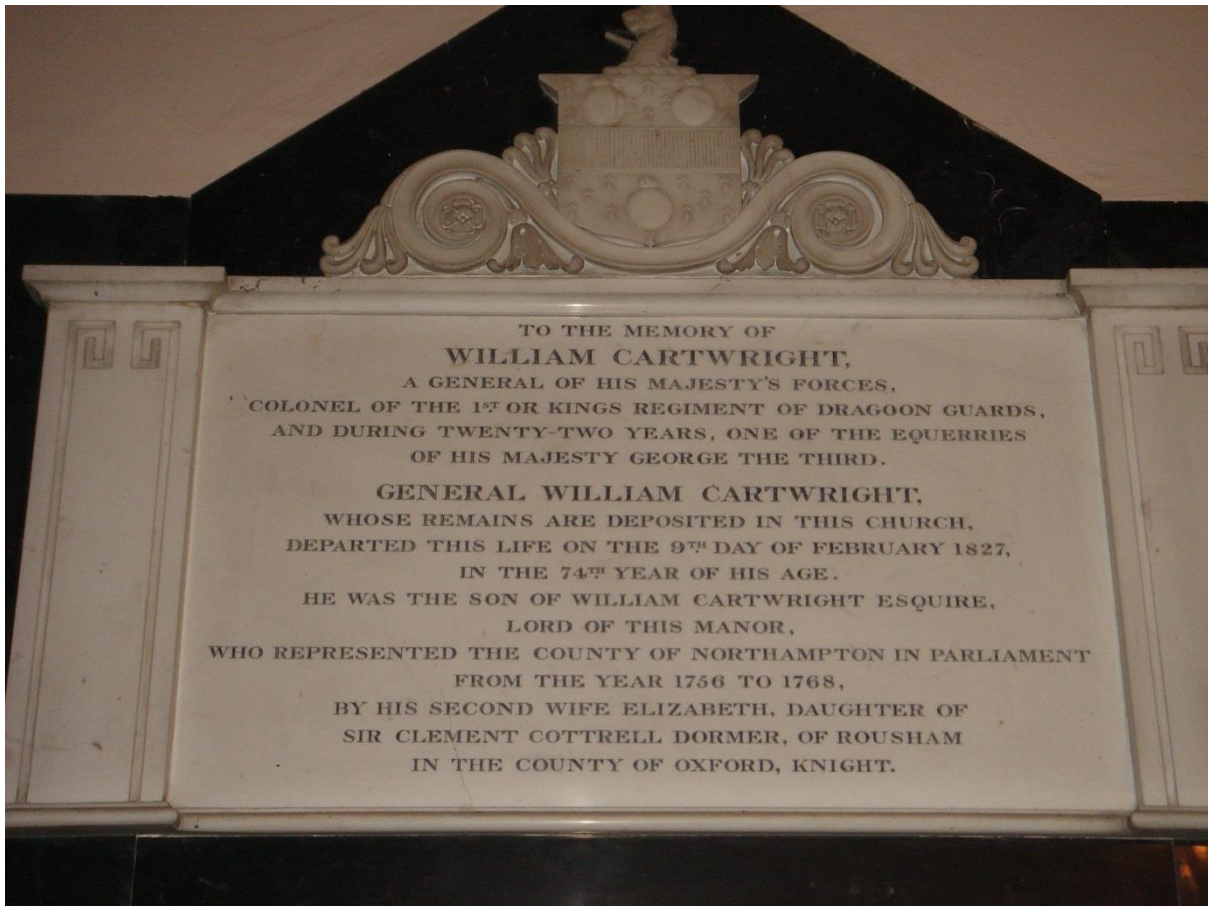
W Clare Wm H Chauney



PRE - BROWN BESS FLINTLOCK RIFLE
 c. mid 17th C.



WILLIAM RALPH CARTWRIGHT, COLONEL, BRACKEY VOLUNTEERS



By 1809, due to Nelson's victory at Trafalgar, the Volunteers were disbanded. This must have been a sad affair for the men as each man could have earned at least 20 shillings a year for attending. Colonel William Ralph Cartwright paid off each of the 401 men, 2/6, the Government contributing a further shilling, food and drink was also provided on that final day. The families had also received a Parish allowance while their men were "away" on duty.

In 1811 the population of Aynho was 631, 310 male and 321 female. 142 families lived in 128 inhabited houses. Of these families, 89 worked in agriculture and 40 in trades, 13 were neither. The vast majority of Aynho men must have been involved with the Volunteers. It would have been foolish not to have accepted the extra food and money particularly as agricultural income had been falling.

For the previous 100 years families left Aynho for a new life in North America. This migration was to continue over the next centuries. I can only assume that some of these people could have fought the indigenous Indians, in the War of Independence, in the 1812 War or the American Civil War. If there are any American readers who can make these links do please let me know through the Aynho History Society. It also goes without saying that if anyone has more information or more importantly any corrections I should make, do please forward them.

William PECKOVER has to be Aynho's greatest sailor and adventurer. He left Aynho to be a sailor in Whitby. He later joined the Royal Navy and served with Captain James Cook. Not only did he undertake the three famous journeys, he also served under Captain William Bligh. He was set adrift with his Captain and survived the 3,600 journey to Timor. The full

story of his adventures is posted on Aynho village website- Aynho History Society.



How many other men left Aynho to take “the King’s shilling” and join the regular Army or Navy is unknown but we know of one; William Ralph’s son William.

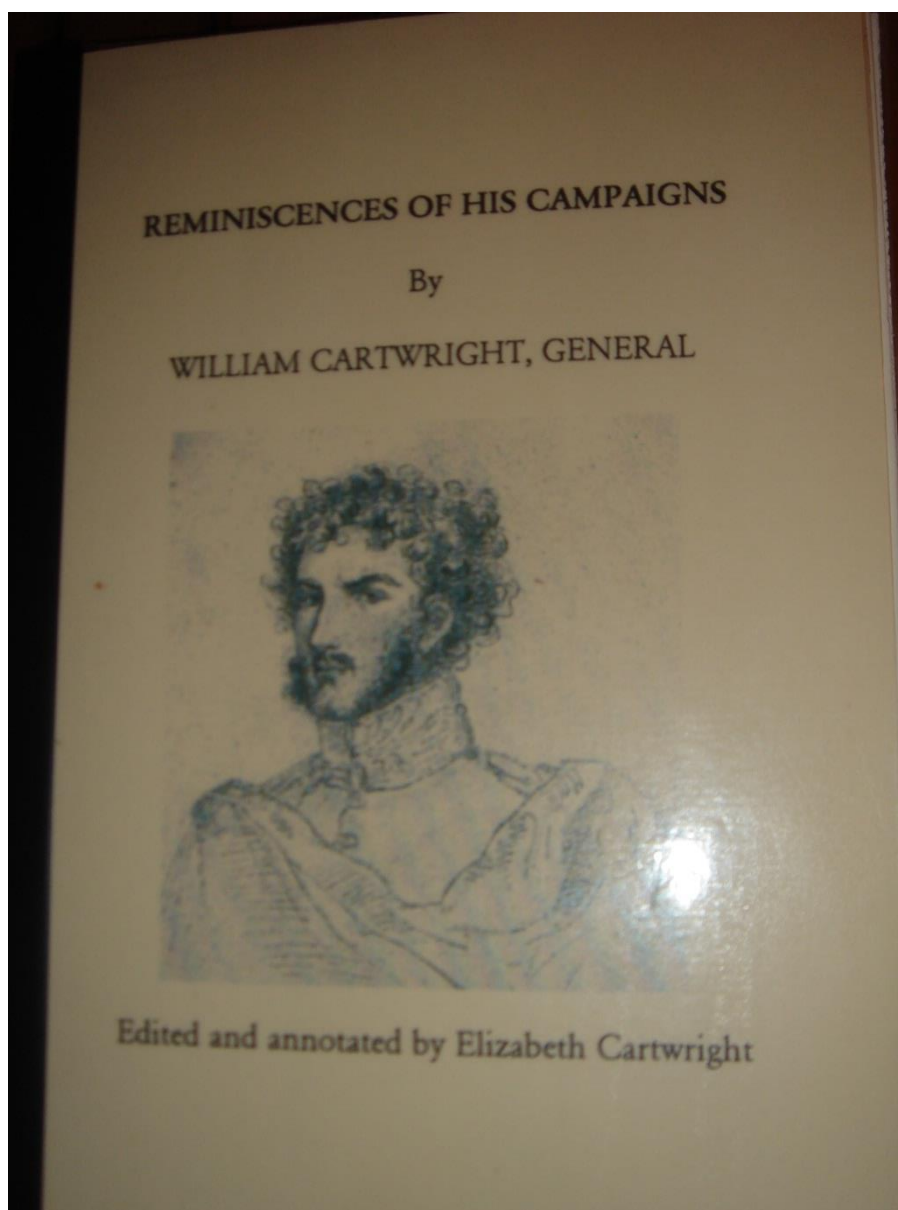
The original letters and journals are still with one branch of the family but William Ralph had them copied for distribution. It is from one of these copies that the text is taken.



9

Aged 15, **William CARTWRIGHT** joined the 6th Foot, then the 6th Prince of Wales Royal regiment of light dragoons. Changing again, he joined the 61th Foot, the Glosters, with whom he fought in the Peninsula Wars of 1813, Pyrennes, Nivelle, Nive, Othres and Toulouse. At Toulouse, the Glosters lost 20 Officers and 161 men. He was lucky to have survived, particularly as French sharpshooters were trained to pick off the officers.

His letters to his parents, recording his adventures still exist in their original form. Adventures they really were, even with a rank, a little money and connections within the officer corp, he marched, starved and joined in the brutality of Napoleonic warfare. The letters are sanitised to a greater extent, no doubt to reduce maternal concern, but the lifestyle obviously suited.



He, with his Father's money bought a commission in the 3rd Lt Dragoons 6 Jan 1814. This was followed by a move to the 10th Hussars, 12th November 1814, just prior to the Hundred Days Campaign.

In the Low Countries, William's unit was posted to the furthest south westerly corner of Wellington's deployment, too far from the famous Duchess of Richmond's Ball to be involved. All too soon, he saw action at Quatre Bras, on 16th June 1815. He was covering the sodden retreat of Wellington's army after a hard fought action to halt Napoleon's rapid advance on Brussels. William wrote home about his involvement.

LETTER

Three days after Waterloo

On the Advance

My dear Mother,

Having at length a day's halt I take the opportunity of writing to you and give you some account of our proceedings which commenced on the 16th, which day about 4 o'clock a.m. we were routed out and marched to Nivelles - it was just about 7 p.m. when we reached that place but as the scene of action was two leagues on we trotted and got into the field of action just before dusk. We bivouacked there the whole night, and the next morning the skirmishing again commenced. This lasted till about 10 o'clock, from 4 in the morning.

When the Duke, our noble commander, having heard that Blucher (who was on our left) had been repulsed, he determined to retreat in order to communicate with this old gentleman. Accordingly the Infantry all went to the rear and the Hussars, for they are always more employed than any other Cavalry, were to cover the retreat. The Hussars' General, Sir Hussey Vivian, appointed our Regiment and the 7th to this unpleasant duty - for such it is - we shewed front to the enemy for 2 or 3 hours after the Army had retreated till at last the enemy brought up a very large force of Cuirasseurs who are all in armour. We were then forced to retreat and of course these fellows followed us up. We fought and retired and so on till at length we came up to our Infantry who were in position. We then took our post and a great deal of cannonading etc. ensued. We bivouacked on the top of

This photograph is of Gemincourt Farm just south of the Quatre Bras cross roads. William retreated from right to left and then further back to the Quatre Bras cross roads.



On 18th June 1815, the Anglo-Dutch army stood to repulse Napoleon at the Waterloo cross roads. Below is a view looking east along to the Waterloo cross roads. William's starting position was in reserve behind Wellington's left flank. This was typical of Wellington, positioning his troops on the reverse side of the slope. The French deployed out of picture far right (south).



The following is an extract of William's letter home describing the Battle of Waterloo.

the position on this night (17th) and a pretty rainy one it was- I never was so wet and miserable in my life.

The next morning of course we expected an attack but 9 o'clock passed and nothing new, so nothing till 11, when our picquet was driven in - of course we all turned out immediately and took our place in our position which I assure you was rather formidable. The enemy then brought on very heavy columns both of Infantry and Cavalry.

All of ours awaited the attack which was conducted by Napoleon himself and with great vigour, they made attacks every moment bringing on French troops every time - but our fellows, fighting more like lions than men managed to keep them down. He had about 130,000 in the field - we had not more than 70,000 including everything Hanoverians etc. - of course numbers will tell at last and our Right began to waver - this was on the main road - we then moved from the Left which - was our former place in the position to the right and supported the Infantry in some style - we were kept under the heaviest fire that ever was heard - both of musketry and cannon - for some time.

About 7 p.m. however the Prussians at length made their appearance on the left and began with the enemy - this gave us double spirit and we went on like tigers - we actually went up to the mouth of the cannon, while we were thus engaged the enemy heard the Prussians on the left - this they did not seem to like and we of course pushed on the more.

However our Commandant of the Brigade, Sir Hussey Vivian, ordered us to form in Column, right in front, this brought me as I was commanding the right Troops, in front. We then went on and the enemy formed squares. We did not mind this but deployed as steady as if we were at a Field day. It was just here that poor Gunning was killed. We then moved on and came to the charge. The squares of course made a desperate resistance

but our valour soon extinguished their squares. Their Cavalry then came down with Lancers, armour etc enough to frighten us but we charged them, though twice our number and quite panic struck them, some ran off; others were tumbling off their horses, others attempted to defend themselves and so on - we, however, gave a pretty fair account of them.

After this they brought on more Cavalry but we played them the same trick - we took an immense number of prisoners, cannon etc. etc and flatter ourselves we were the means of saving the day. I will give you a copy of the orders issued by the Commander as follows :

"Major General Sir Hussey Vivian begs to express in the strongest possible terms to the Brigade he has the honour and pleasure to command, the infinite admiration with which he beheld the conduct of the Regiment composing it in the memorable and glorious battle of yesterday. The attacks of the 10th and 18th Hussars were made with that spirit that ensured success, and the second attack of the 10th Hussars on a Square of Infantry was a proof of what discipline can accomplish - The Major General desires that every individual officer and those engaged yesterday on the Plains of Waterloo will together with the strongest expressions of his approbation accept his very best thanks for their valour and steadiness."

(signed) Hussey Vivian - Major Genl.

What can be more satisfactory than the above order - besides this there is a letter despatched to the Prince about the Regiment.

We have just been giving them a taste of the New Tenth. Having lost everything I had by the Brave Belge who sabred my poor servant and plundered everything - horses included, I have just got poor Gunning's baggage up, I must take it and intend getting it valued by our Adjutant which is the regular manner and then send the account to my Father.

We intend to be in Paris in a fortnight - nobody knows where Buony is - they say we are to have another battle at Laon - where he is making a stand - the rascals killed all the prisoners they took - we are not working on their principle.

The Prussians are following them up on our left.

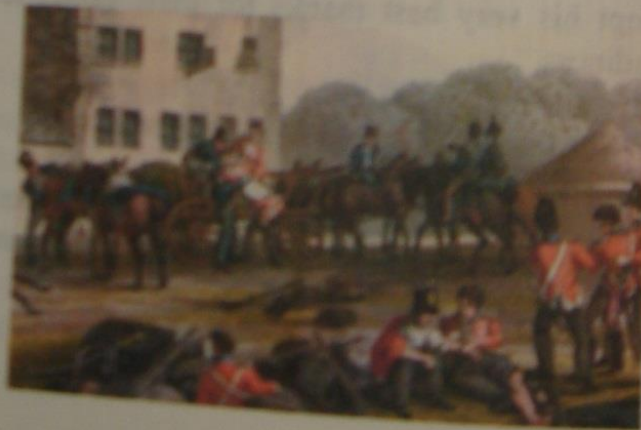
You will see by the Gazette that the Cavalry had a very fair share in the battle.

I must now conclude as I am going to put on a clean shirt for the first time since we began.

Adieu my dear Mother, pray excuse this scrawl- and forgive all faults - and believe me

Ever your most affectionate son,
With best love to my dear Father, Brothers and Sisters,

Wm. Cartwright.





The Earl of Uxbridge (pointing sword) leading the 10th Hussars at Waterloo. Note that the 10th wore red shakos instead of the fur busby. This is a detail of a painting by Denis Dighton depicting Vivien Hussey's British Hussar Brigade attacking the Garde infantry square and the 2nd Garde "Red Lancers".



William and the 10th have been moved from Wellington's far left flank to shore up his right centre. La Haye Sainte farm house is the white building centre left. Elements of the French Middle Garde supported by remnants of Ney's cavalry charges make the final desperate

advance for victory. Maitland's Foot Guards and the 52th Foot (Ox and Bucks) break the Garde Imperiale just off the picture to the right. William was a member of Captain H.C. Stapylton's Troop, No.3 of 6 with a strength of 72men. The 10th launched their attack on the square of the 2 Battalion 3rd Regiment Grenadiers a Pied. This battalion was not involved in the French advance but was held back as a rallying point just to the east of Hougomont. The square was also attacked by infantry, the result, 580 men were reduced to approximately 100. The 10th lost 94 of 452 including just two officers, Major Howard and Lt Gunning of Taylor's No.2 troop (as referred to by William) .To charge a square made up of Europe's finest soldiers can only be described as foolhardy. To also take on the fearsome lancers who supported them was all but suicidal. If this had happened during the core of the battle the 10th would have been annihilated. The collapse of the French army at this late stage (8pm) into a rout, undoubtedly saved the 10th from further casualties. They joined the remainder of the light cavalry to hack at the fleeing French as they fled south.

George Orlando Gunning came from Horton, 5 miles south of Northampton. His aristocratic family held senior Government positions as diplomats and MPs and were also founding members of the Northants Yeomanry. George's brother, Reverend Sir Henry John Gunning, 4th Bt. married Mary Catherine Cartwright, William's sister in 1827. George died aged 18.

When the conquering hero returned to Aynho we can only imagine the scenes of jubilation.

He would have worn the French Wars medal with five clasps and the Waterloo Medal.

There is a Cartwright family story which recalled William returned from the campaign with a fine porcelaine dinner service. Sadly, this is not true, the dinner service in question was brought into the family by marriage.

After the War, William was promoted to a Captain in the 8th Hussars either on 16th November 1820 or 12th December 1823,(I have conflicting records). He became a half pay Major, sometime before 19th May 1825 (unattached to a regiment). Lieutenant Colonel, on 28th August 1838. By 13th November 1847 he was a Colonel, Major General 16th May 1857 and then was promoted to a Lieutenant General 9 October 1863. On 19th November 1871 he was made up to General

He also held a commission in the Brackley and Chipping Warden Yeoman Cavalry, being commissioned 12th February 1831. By 14th February 1831 he was Captain Commandant, on 22nd April 1833 he became a Major.

By The Right Honorable John Earl of Westmorland
Lord Lieutenant of the County of Northampton.

To William Cartwright Esquire

By virtue of the power and authority to me given by the said John Earl of Westmorland in His Majesty's name by this Present Cometh to be appointed and commissioned you the said William Cartwright to be Major of the Buckley and Chippingwarden Squadron of Yeomanry Cavalry but not to take rank in the Army except during the time of the said Squadron being called out into actual service. You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the Duty of Major by exercising and well disciplining both the Officers and Soldiers of the said Squadron of Yeomanry Cavalry who are hereby commanded in His Majesty's name to obey you as their Major. And you are to observe and follow each Order and direction from time to time as you shall receive from his Majesty or any other your Superior Officer according to the Rules and discipline of War in pursuance of the trust hereby reposed in you. Given under my hand and seal the twenty second day of April in the third Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord William the seventh by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland King Defender of the Faith and in the Year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and thirty three.

Wm. Cartwright
Majr



Captain W. Cartwright
J. & Co. Tailors, Manchester

1824

Jan 29	1 pair of Regimental Grey Coats	L 2-15-0
	1 pair of polished Steel Chains for 8	4-0
Feb 17	1 Pairing 2/4 for Grey Coats	2-0
21	1 fustian jacket for Sergeant	15-0
28	2 buff Casimers waists with Slaves for 8	1-15-0
	Shipping Lark Satin Waist w/ falling on buckle & top	7-6
	Shipping blue Serge waist Jacket	5-6
	1 fustian jacket and Coats for Petticoat	1-10-0
	1 pair of Scarlet Coats	5-10-0
	1 Ship's Coasting Jacket for Footman	15-0
	1 Blue Serge Great Coat with Cape for 8	4-10-0
	1 Shipping blue jacket for Petticoat	2-5-0
March 6	1 pair of black plush Breeches with Slaves	2-15-0
	Buff Coats 8 Coats for Footman	17-0
15	Account of Mr. Richards Bill of Larder Breeches	2-0-0
20	1 blue Great Coat for Petticoat	4-10-0
	Shipping & Coasting Grey Coats	15-0
27	1 Sizing waist with Slaves for Watcher	17-0
Apr 3	1 pair of black Casimers Breeches for 8	1-6
	1 Ship's Coasting jacket for 8	14-0
	1 blue Serge jacket Coat with Velvet Collar for 8	2-5-0
	1 buff Casimer waist with Slaves for 8	17-0
10	1 pair of black wester Breeches with Slaves	1-5-0
	1 blue jacket for 8 with Velvet Collar	3-5-0
15	1 pair of black Silk for Michael Cartwrights	13-0
17	1 pair of Undershirt jacket	7-7-0
	1 blue Serge Coat for Footman	3-8-0
	1 blue Serge for Butler	3-8-0
	1 pair of black plush Breeches with Slaves for 8	2-15-0
	1 blue blue Coat with Velvet collar	10-0
May 1	1 Riding habit for Madam Cartwright	7-0-0
15	1 pair of shipping waist Coats lining to velvet vest	1-0-0
	Account Carried over	L 69-2-0

The bill from the regimental tailor

This Indenture made the *Eight* Day of *March 1831* in the *Fourth* Year of the

Reign of our Sovereign Lord *William* the ~~Fourth~~ *Fourth*, by the ~~Grace~~ of God, King of *Great Britain and Ireland*, Defender of the Faith, &c. Between *Lieut. Genl. Sir James Kemp* *of. G. 13*

Master-General of HIS MAJESTY's Ordnance, and the Principal Officers of the same, on the Behalf of the KING's Most Excellent MAJESTY on the one Part; And *Major Eastwight Com. Brackley and Chepping* *Major Eastwight Com. Brackley* *and Chepping* *Major Eastwight Com. Brackley* *and Chepping* on the other Part;

Witnesseth that the said *Major Eastwight* hath received out of HIS MAJESTY's Stores, within the Office of Ordnance, *as follows*

the following particulars *completing* *Board's* *Order* *1st March* *1831*

- 100* *100*
- 100* *100*
- 1* *1*
- 1* *1*
- 2* *2*

Francis Sillat
Secretary

10404

sent 2/4 the
1st 2-19

The Cartwright Collection contains the 1834-35 Brackley Troop muster book.

RETURN of the *Brackley* Troop of the *Brackley & Shipping Orders*
Yeomanry Cavalry, for the Year from the 1st April, 1834, to the 31st March, 1835.

No.	Rank	NAME	Number of Days on Duty with the Corps					REMARKS
			On Foot with the Troop	In aid of the Civil Power	For exercise etc. by the Act of the 24 Geo. 3, cap. 34, Sec. 10, this Act, &c.	Under the Act of the 18 Geo. 3, cap. 29.	TOTAL	
1	Captain	<i>W. Miller</i>			<i>1</i>		<i>1</i>	
1	Lieutenant							
2								
1	Cornet	<i>H. Walter</i>			<i>1</i>		<i>1</i>	
1	Quarter Master	<i>Whaler</i>			<i>1</i>		<i>14</i>	
1	Sergeant	<i>Hopcraft</i>			<i>1</i>		<i>1</i>	
2		<i>Moore</i>						<i>off</i>
3		<i>Cave</i>			<i>1</i>		<i>1</i>	
4								
1	Corporal	<i>Edwards</i>			<i>1</i>		<i>1</i>	
2		<i>Lock</i>			<i>1</i>		<i>1</i>	
3		<i>Taylor</i>			<i>1</i>		<i>1</i>	
4								
1	Trumpeter	<i>T. White</i>			<i>1</i>		<i>1</i>	
1	Private	<i>1st Bygrave</i>			<i>1</i>		<i>1</i>	
2		<i>2^d Bygrave</i>			<i>1</i>		<i>1</i>	
3		<i>3^d Bygrave</i>			<i>1</i>		<i>1</i>	
4		<i>4th Bygrave</i>			<i>1</i>		<i>1</i>	
5		<i>Ballie</i>			<i>1</i>			<i>absent</i>
6		<i>Butterfield</i>			<i>1</i>			
7		<i>Butterfield</i>			<i>1</i>			
8		<i>Booth</i>			<i>1</i>			
9		<i>Clark</i>						<i>absent</i>
10		<i>1st Clark</i>			<i>1</i>			
11		<i>Collier</i>			<i>1</i>			
12		<i>Dix</i>			<i>1</i>			
13		<i>Grimby</i>			<i>1</i>			
14		<i>Hall</i>			<i>1</i>			
15		<i>Hall</i>			<i>1</i>			
16		<i>Hopcraft</i>			<i>1</i>			
17		<i>8th Holloway</i>			<i>1</i>			
18		<i>8th Holloway</i>			<i>1</i>			
19		<i>Mason</i>			<i>1</i>			
20		<i>Merry</i>			<i>1</i>			
21		<i>Morton</i>			<i>1</i>			



William's grave and memorial in St Michael's, Aynho.

He also has a memorial in Flore Church, Nr Northampton

“SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF GENERAL WILLIAM CARTWRIGHT / SECOND SON OF THE LATE WILLIAM RALPH CARTWRIGHT MP. / HE WAS BORN 28 FEB 1797 AND DIED IN LONDON / 5 JUNE 1873. / WHILE YET YOUNG HE SAW MUCH MILITARY SERVICE / IN THE PENINSULA, HOLDING COMMISSIONS IN THE 61ST FOOT / AND THE 3RD DRAGOONS AND 10TH HUSSARS BEING PRESENT AT THE / BATTLE OF THE PYRENEES, NIVELLE, NIVE AND ORTHES, / AND ALSO AT THE FINAL VICTORY OF WATERLOO. / THE COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HAS LOST IN HIM A / MAGISTRATE DISTINGUISHED BY AN UNUSUAL CAPACITY FOR BUSINESS / AND THIS PARISH, THE PLACE OF HIS RESIDENCE FOR THIRTY / YEARS / A MUNIFICENT BENEFACTOR TO THE POOR AND A CONSTANT / SUPPORTER OF THE CHURCH.”

By coincidence, Byzantia Cartwright the daughter of Thomas and Byzantia Cartwright, married Sir William Henry Clerke, 8th Baronet, they also had a son William. Lt.-Col. Sir William Clerke, 9th Bt. was commissioned in 1811, in the service of the 52nd Regiment. He fought in the Peninsular Wars and in the Battle of Waterloo.

The Aynho Rector Revd. Stephen Ralph Cartwright's wife Lady Fanny Hay lost a brother, Lord James Hay, Ensign 1st Foot Guards, was killed at the Battle of Quatre Bras.

William Cornwallace Cartwright wrote a poem “On Waterloo” while in Stockholm. Waterloo was the event to write about, hundreds of books and poems were produced by the end of 1816. William followed in the footsteps of Scott, Wordsworth and Byron!

Writing poetry was a classic past time for ladies of standing. Clementine Cartwright wrote a poem on the 1871 Siege of Paris by the Prussians. She wrote it unsurprisingly in French possibly to show sympathy but also education.

Henry CARTWRIGHT was fortunate to avoid any direct military action due to the period of peace between the Napoleonic and Crimean wars. It is believed he was in the 3rd Battalion which was posted to Dublin during the Crimean War. Joining a prestigious regiment was not a cheap option, £1200, then there were the uniforms, kit and life style to pay for.

Horse Guards
27 July 1832.

Major General Lord D'Ango Somers, presents
his compliments to Mr Cartwright, and
has the honour to acquaint him by direction
of the General commanding in Chief, that
His Majesty has been pleased to appoint Mr
Henry Cartwright to the commission of Ensign
and Lieutenant in the 1st Grenadier Guards,
by purchase.

H. Cartwright Esq.
+ + +

Horse Guards
20th July 1832.

Sir

I am directed by General Lord Wellington
to acquaint you, that on your lodging
the sum of £1200: in the hands of
Messrs Greenwood Coy & Co, His Lordship will
submit your name to His Majesty, for
the purchase of the Commission of Ensign
& Lieutenant in the 1st or 2nd Grenadier
Regiment of Foot Guards.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble servant

Henry Cartwright Esq.

Wm Pitt Rivers

IN MEMORY OF
COLONEL HENRY CARTWRIGHT,
SEVENTH SON OF W.R.CARTWRIGHT, LORD OF THIS MANOR :
BY HIS SECOND WIFE JULIA FRANCES,
ONLY SISTER OF SIR T.D.AUBREY, BART.,
BORN 1ST SEPTEMBER 1814,
SERVED IN H.M.GRENADIER GUARDS 1832 TO 1857,
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
FOR SOUTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE 1858 TO 1868,
DIED 26TH JULY 1890.
AND OF **JANE**, HIS WIFE,
DAUGHTER OF W.HOLBECH, OF FARNBOROUGH, WARWICKSHIRE,
BORN 25TH MAY 1820, DIED 29TH DECEMBER 1877.
BURIED TOGETHER AT EYDON, IN THIS COUNTY.
" LORD, THOU HAST BEEN OUR REFUGE :
FROM ONE GENERATION TO ANOTHER "

E.J. PHYSICK, SC.
LONDON.



He was the seventh son of William Ralph Cartwright, he was born at Aynhoe Park on 1 September 1814 and educated at Eton. He joined the army as an ensign in the Grenadier Guards (the Foot Guards were renamed to reflect their beating on the French Grenadiers at Waterloo) on 26 July 1832, rising to the rank of captain on 2 October 1846 and colonel on 20 June 1854. He sold out in 1857.

Sir Thomas CARTWRIGHT, William Ralph Cartwright's eldest son, spent a number of years in Brussels and elsewhere as a diplomat in the 1830's. The European political conditions became unstable after the 1830 Revolution in France. This led the German states to pass the Six Articles in 1832. Thomas received a letter(s?) from the Foreign Secretary Lord Palmerston discussing the threat of breakdown of law and order in the German states. He was greatly concerned about the defection of the state armies from their Aristocratic to the new liberals.

One of these letters is reproduced below, the reference is that of the Cartwright Papers held at the Northants record Office.

C(A) BOX 15 152

Private

Foreign Office 3 Aug 1832

My dear Sir,

I have received & read with much interest, your able Reports upon the State & Progress of Affairs in Germany. These matters have assumed a Character of extreme Importance, & require to be watched with unceasing anxiety & attention - It is much to be feared that the violent Measures resorted to by Austria & Prussia to suppress Discontent & put down Revolution, will have the effect

of increasing the former Sea fold
and greatly augmenting the chances
of the latter. as long as the
matter stands as it now does, Govts
not belonging to the Confederation
have not much ground for Inter-
ference; but the next Mooves must
bring on either civil discord between
the Constitutional Sovereigns & their
States, or hostile Collision between
the Confederate Body & some of its
Individual Members, and in either
Case the Events which may happen
must necessarily affect the settle-
ment of Quebec and give a Right
of Interference to all the Powers

who signed or were Parties to, the
Treaty of Vienna -- This is in
general the language I should wish
you to hold; separating any attempt
to carry into active Execution the
Resolutions of the Diet, because
such an attempt could not fail
to produce consequences which
might in their result shake
to its Foundation the present settle-
ment of Europe; Asking that
the Revolutionary Party on the one
Hand will be induced to desist
from any Endeavour to disturb
the National Tranquillity of States
but that on the other the Govern-

Mints will not have recourse to
a system of violence, which is always
sure in the end to produce in an
aggravated degree the very danger
which it is intended to prevent.

The example of Polignac might
be a warning; and that instance
also proved that Troops cannot
always be depended upon when
called to act against their fellow
Countrymen, and are often them-
selves defeated by the very Principles
which they are employed to put
down

My dear Sir

Yrs Faithfully

Thos Cartwright Esq

Palmerston

During this period, Thomas was involved in the drawing up of a truce between Belgium and Holland. This involved preparations to lift the trade blockades and exchange prisoners. An incident between Lady Sydney, Lady Baring and the Russian Ambassador over seats at the opera in 1831 required comment in his correspondence back to Aynho. How many of the villagers heard of this international news is unknown, it may have stayed the preserve of the study or dining room.

CARTWRIGHT CARRIAGE



This British carriage brought back from Scandinavia by Sir Thomas was purported to have been used by Admiral Lord Nelson a week or two after his victory at Copenhagen when he went to treat with the Danish authorities. Its remains are buried in Spion Kop, sadly it was lost in the 1933 fire which destroyed the Home farm yard and sawmill.

Aubrey Agar CARTWRIGHT

Memorial at All Saints Church, Flore, Northamptonshire - "To the memory of Aubrey Agar Cartwright, second son of William and Mary Cartwright, Captain in the First Battalion of the Rifle Brigade who fell nobly at the Battle of Inkermann on the 5th November 1854 aged 29 years having served in that distinguished regiment at the Battles of the Alma and Balaclava in the Crimea and at Bloeme Plaatz in the Caffre War."

This is his Aynho memorial.



Was Inkermann Farm at Souldern named after Captain Aubrey? Possibly or could another man of Souldern have been at the battle?.

Aubrey was Commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in the Rifle Brigade, 18th April 1842 then to 1st Lieutenant 24th April 1846.



Case holding Aubrey Agas's Rifle Brigade sword
fell at Inkerman 1854
and John Digby's Durham Light Infantry sword (or Nigel's?)

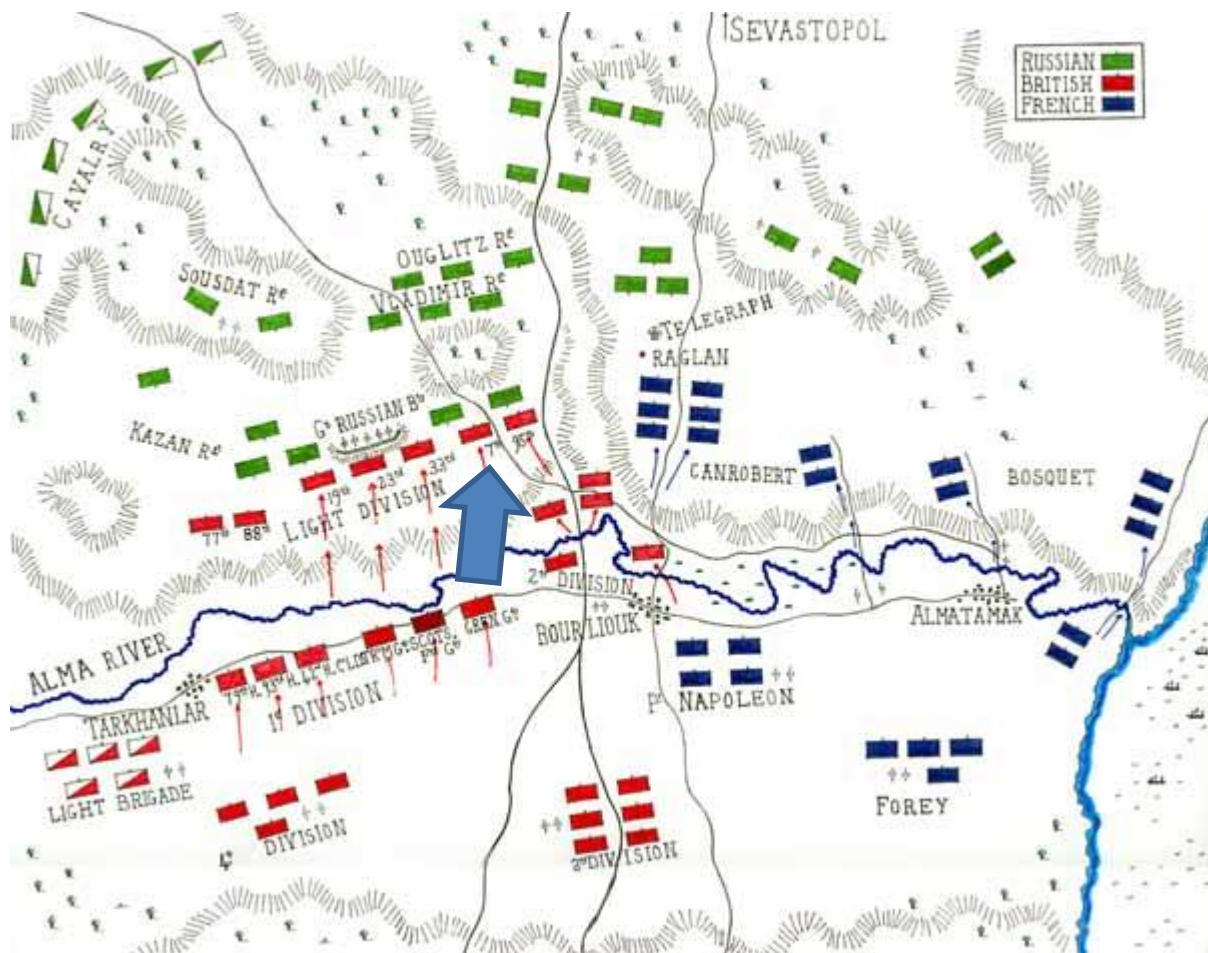
There were a series of battles between British forces and Boer farmers against the indigenous Kaffir tribes in the area surrounding Cape Town. Sir Harry Smith of Peninsula and Waterloo fame led the forces, he being Governor, his Portuguese wife had the town of Ladysmith named after her, such was their success in running this corner of South Africa.

Aubrey won the South Africa medal and fought through the Second and Third Caffre War, also known as the Seventh and Eighth Frontier Wars between 1846 and 1853. Suffice to say the Allies won and are recorded in the Green jackets Museum in Winchester. However, these actions are missing from many military encyclopaedia.

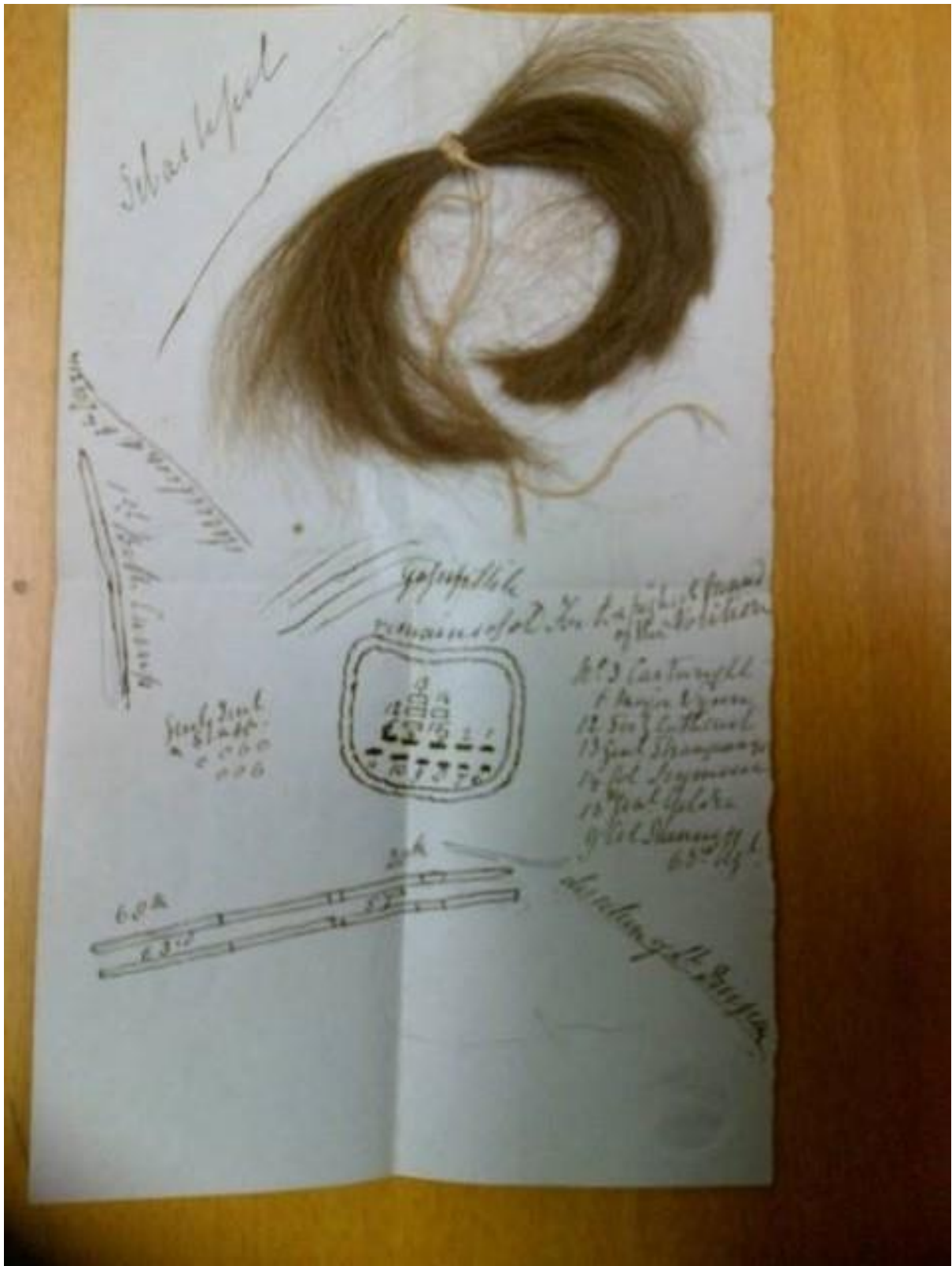
The Cartwright Collection has letter from Aubrey which recall his outward journey to the South Africa. 3rd November 1847, aboard troop ship bound for Fairlie and Table Bay. They were at Reisenahoeek 9th December 1847.

Aubrey's next tour of duty is also recorded in the Archive.

On 24th June 1854 Aubrey was in Malta, further letters are from Beicos Bay, then the famous battles of Alma, Sebastapol and Balaklava.



Alma, Aubrey's advance →

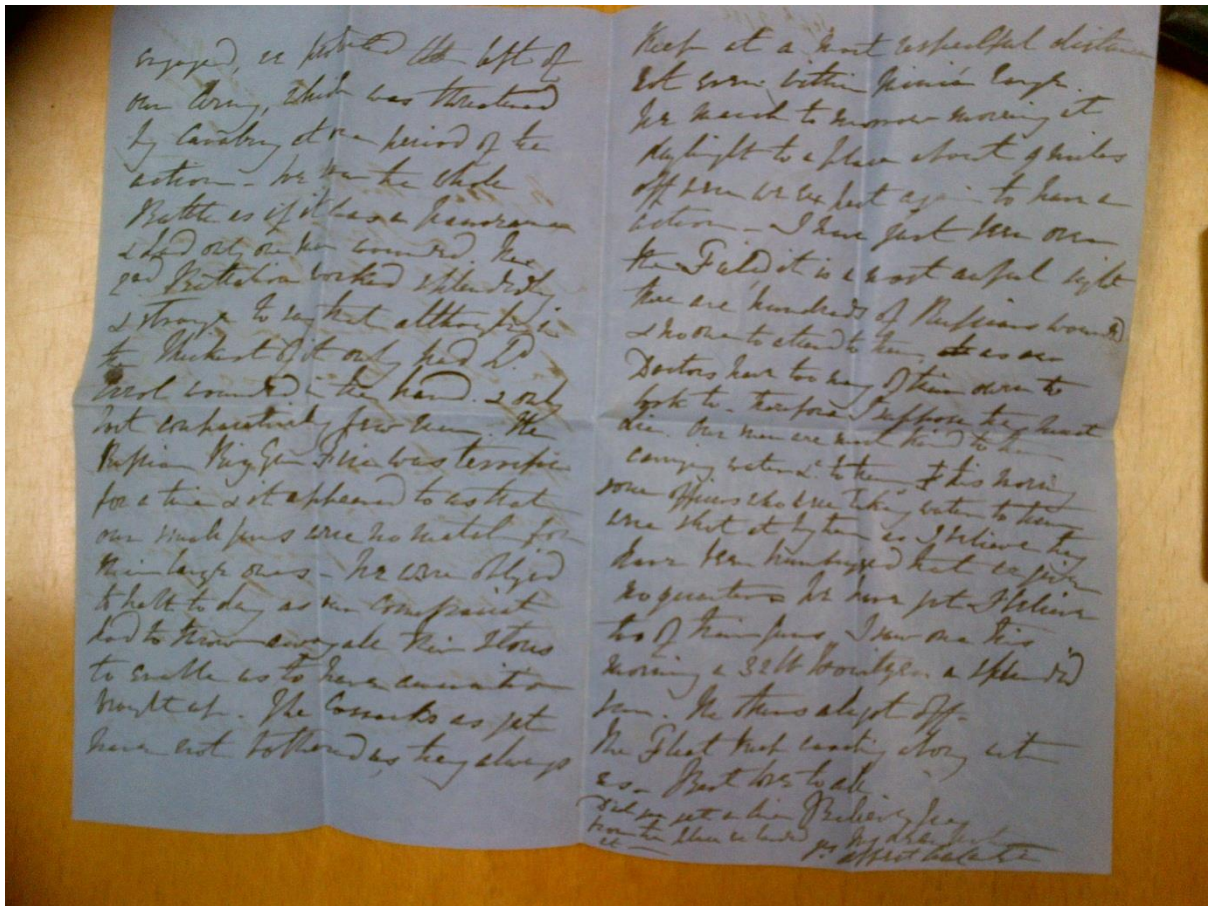


A locket of Aubrey's hair and his map of the engagement

Camp ^{de la Province} Alma
 June 23rd

My dear Mother

I write to you happy
 I am all right. he had an
 action yesterday on the 22nd
 for there were two Russian
 batteries, playing a war. I am
 afraid that our troops suffered
 more than 12000 men with
 the Russian position, you may
 maybe see plenty strong one
 from the army, for it was
 the 23rd of June I am afraid
 suffered most. We were hardly



Inkermann – “The soldiers’ battle” so named because of the ferocity of the fighting and the reliance of the men on their company, battalion or regiment.

When Gen Cathcart, commanding the 4th Division, at whose head was the 1st Battalion, went to the assistance of the hard-pressed Gen Pennefather on the heights of Inkermann, he said 'I have brought you a Battalion which can do anything'. Col Horsford split his Battalion. Major Rooper took the leading three Companies to the left, whilst he himself led three Companies to the right, where they fought their way round the Barrier and completed a pincer movement. During this terrible battle many of the Riflemen true to their traditions fought independently or in twos and threes, taking detonating caps from dead Russians' when their own were exhausted. Finally Horsford pushed up the Shell hill and, charging with fixed swords, the Rifles drove the Russians from the ridge.

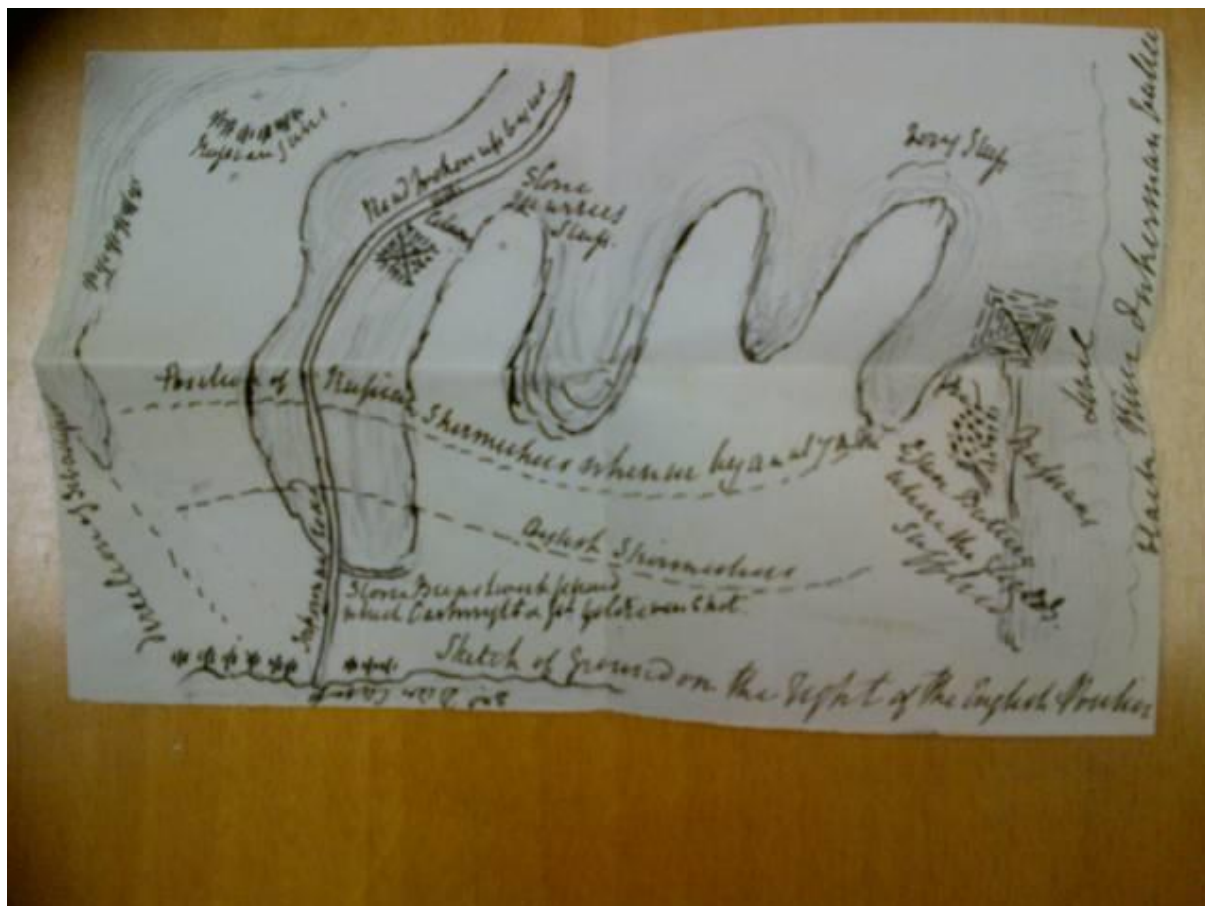
A rather gruesome addition to the Archive is the “hair removed from bullet”, I presume the one that killed him. There is also a watercolour of his grave and a battlefield plan of Inkermann. He was one of 6 officers and 144 men to perish that day.

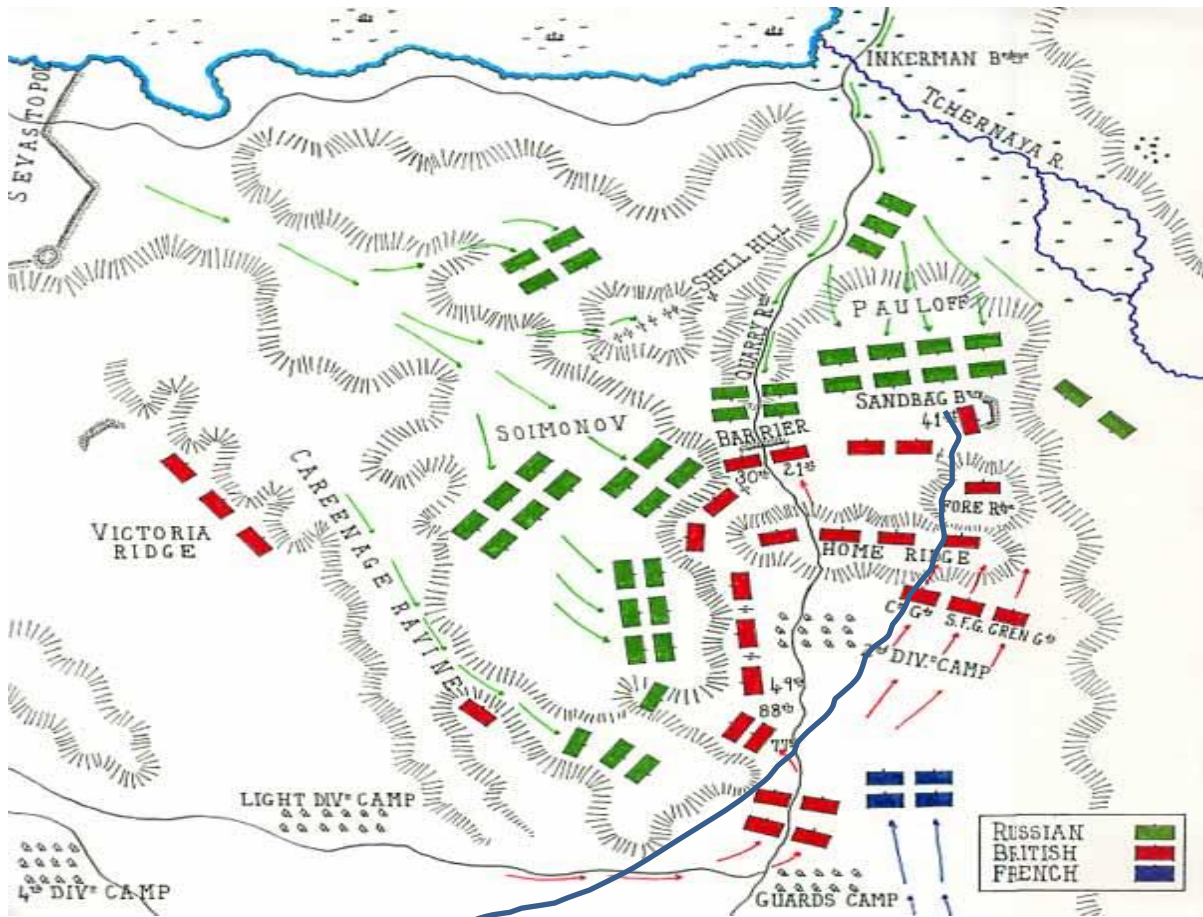
C(R) Box 53/240

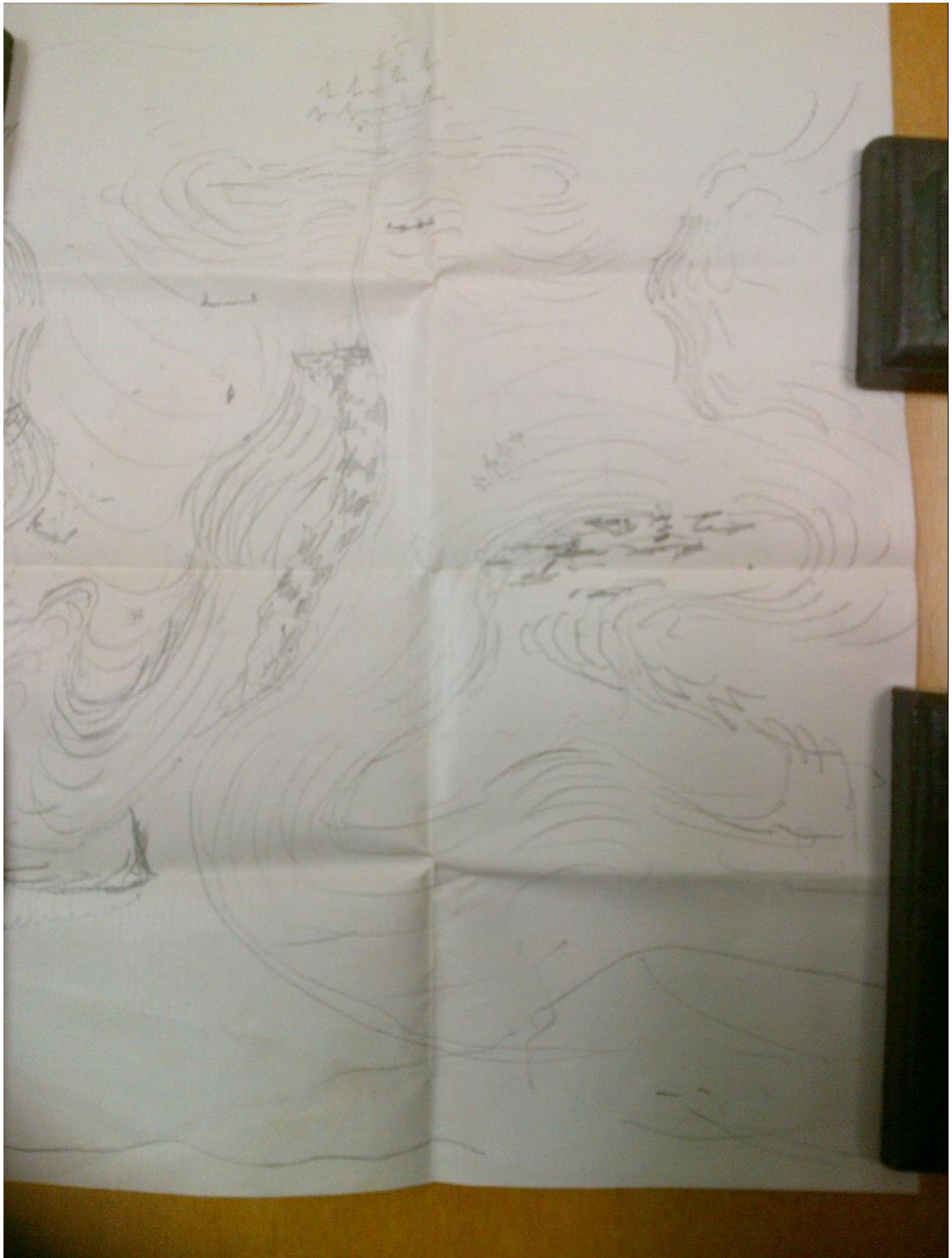
M^{rs} Cartwright
Hair returned from
bullet



Drawings by Aubrey

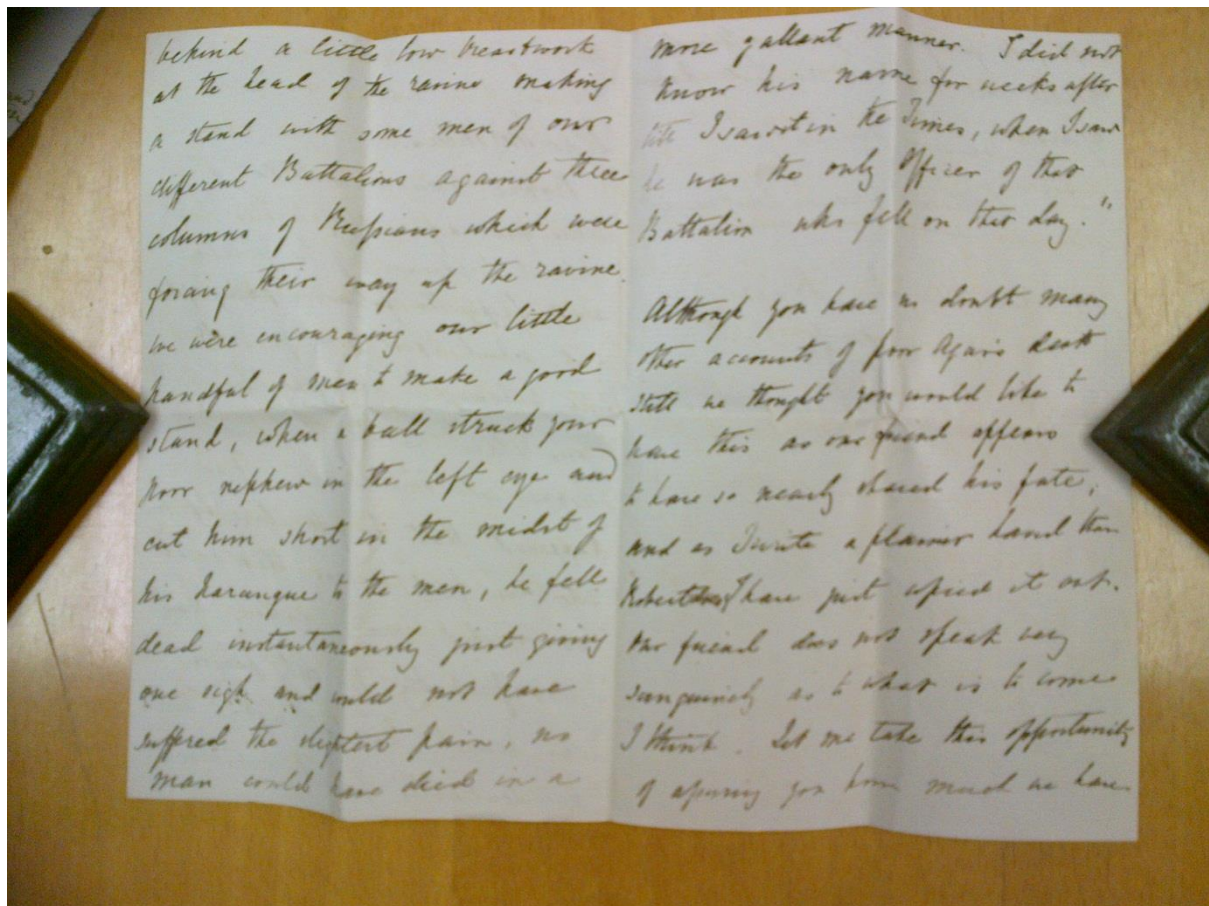






Dear Mrs William

Robert received yesterday a letter from a friend of his, Colonel Stephenson of the Guards, and I copy the following paragraph in it which I feel sure you will like to hear. — "You mention in your letter the death of your nephew at Inkerman. It so happened that he fell close at my side, in fact so near that he all but touched me in falling and I was probably the only person who heard his last sigh; we accidentally found ourselves



Aynho men not only joined the Northants Yeomanry but also the Oxfordshire equivalent

Sergeant Thomas BONNER enlisted 10th January 1831 , he served until discharged on 8th May 1840. He was involved in the Otmoor riots. Resistance from the Moor men and disagreements between the landowners meant that land around Charlton-on-Otmoor wasn't enclosed until well after the riots. Local residents had maintained closely guarded common rights to use the moor for many centuries. Enclosure would mean that these rights were lost and the gentry, Oxford Colleges and local clergy would be awarded the majority of the land. Many of the landowners were absent from the area. Events came to a head in late August and early September 1830 when significant destruction of hedges, fencing, ditches and gateways took place on the moor. The local landowners were concerned that events were spiralling out of control when violence erupted and further property was destroyed. The militia was called out to quell the rioting. The rioters became far bolder with a thousand men, women and children perambulating around the moor. The cry of 'Otmoor for Ever!' was frequently heard. The 'Riot Act' was read by the local magistrates and sixty six rioters were arrested by the militia and taken to Islip to appear before the magistrate. Forty four of the prisoners were chosen to be taken to Oxford for imprisonment. An inadequate detachment of cavalry was detailed to guard the prisoners on their journey. News of the arrests had reached Oxford prior to the arrival of the detail. St Giles Fair was being held at the time.

Agitators incited the crowds. The soldiers were pelted with stones, bricks and timber. The prisoners were allowed to escape. Many were recaptured soon afterwards.

CAUTION

AND

Reward and Pardon.

WHEREAS Property to a great extent has been feloniously and maliciously destroyed, and the Peace frequently broken, at

OTMOOR,

and acts of general depredation committed by Persons riotously and tumultuously assembled and conspiring by Night for such unlawful purposes, and wilfully cutting the Fences, and destroying the Bridges, whereby the whole Neighbourhood has been kept for a long time in a state of dangerous excitement and alarm; ALL PERSONS ARE HEREBY CAUTIONED from being induced to join in such outrages, as they will subject themselves to the most severe punishment; And Notice is hereby given, That

A REWARD OF FIFTY POUNDS

will be paid on application to the Clerk of the Peace of this County, upon such information and evidence being given as shall lead to a conviction of any Person or Persons upon any Indictment that may be preferred against him or them for having actually committed any of the Crimes of

Felony, Riot, or Conspiracy,

upon the Moor, or for having instigated to or encouraged the commission of any of those Crimes either by Words, or by giving Money or Beer.

And Notice is hereby further given, That, in addition to the above Reward, HIS MAJESTY, for the better apprehending and bringing to justice the Persons concerned in the above Offences, has been pleased to promise the most gracious

PARDON

to any ACCOMPLICE who may be the means of effecting a conviction as aforesaid; And a FURTHER REWARD OF

ONE HUNDRED POUNDS

upon such information and evidence as aforesaid being given. Such last mentioned Reward to be paid by His Majesty's Treasury of State for the Home Department.

By Authority,
DAVENPORT,

Oxford, March 1st, 1844.

Clerk of the Peace.

The Queens Own Oxfordshire Yeomanry (QOOY) also included **Henry HOLLOWAY** enlisted 6th July 1838 and was discharged 27th April 1840. **William SCOTT**, the farmer at Walton Grounds farm, (also Churchwarden) enlisted 6th July 1838 and was discharged March 1851. Others include, **Edward HOLLOWAY** landlord of the Red Lion (now the Cartwright Hotel), (also Churchwarden) enlisted 15th May 1848. **Charles WATTS** enlisted 9th September 1851. **George RUTTER** landlord of Alfred Head (now the Great Western Arms at Aynho Wharf) enlisted 12th May 1852 (a second George Rutter, 4th April 1854 to 15th April 1856, could be the same man). **George FROST** enlisted 8th September 1851 and discharged 17th June 1852. **George LITCHFIELD** (may have been a relative of Rector Litchfield of Farthinghoe, also a local magistrate) enlisted 21st April 1853 and **Thomas WARRINGTON** enlisted 19th May 1854. **Private Henry BYGRAVE** in 1864 and **Private A DUNN** in 1901 also joined the regiment.

These men were used as a countywide police force, the law enforcement tool of the local Magistrates. They were usually led by nobility and upper middle class men of property. Some were business men, all with the means and ability to ride as cavalry. Over the decades the quality of training improved and the uniforms ever more glamorous. Joining the

regiment was a real indication of status in society. If the QUOY cavalry was good enough for Winston Churchill, it was good enough for Aynho's smart set!



Alfred Richard MAYO was born in 1845 and lived with his parents in Aynho. His older brother Joseph and Eliza Mayo emigrated out to New Zealand in 1865 on the ship *Bombay*.

According to a timeline the 68th (Durham) Light Infantry went out to New Zealand in January 1864 and returned to the UK in March 1866

New Zealand 1864 01 Three ships arrived at Auckland on different dates

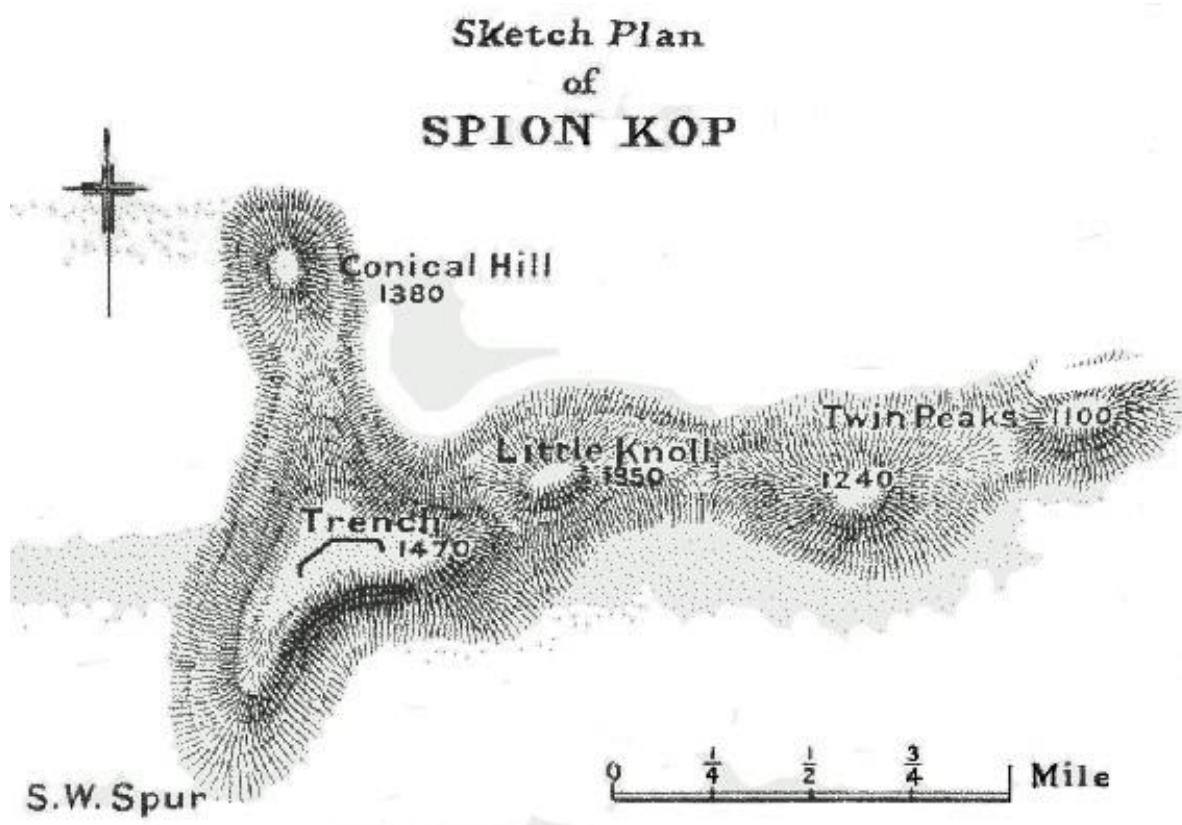
New Zealand 1864 01/20 Headquarters and six companies embarked on H.M.S. *Miranda*

New Zealand 1864 01/21 Land in Tauranga harbour, Bay of Plenty, North Island

New Zealand 1864 01/23 Detachments sent to Rangariri and Razorback from party on *Armenian* which reached Auckland on the previous day
 New Zealand 1864 04/25 All detachments rejoin headquarters
 New Zealand 1864 04/27 Regiment forms cordon around Maori fortification of Gate Pah being stormed by 43rd near Te Papa
 New Zealand 1864 05/23 A redoubt was thrown up at Judea and a detachment was left there.
 New Zealand 1864 05 Two companies were detached to Maketu and two companies to Gate Pah
 New Zealand 1864 06/21 Regiment defeat Maoris at Te Ranga
 New Zealand 1865 01/01 At Camp Te Papa, Tauranga
 New Zealand 1865 01/10 A detachment was sent to Auckland on H.M.S. *Esk* and then to Onehanga
 New Zealand 1865 02/19 Embarked for Wanganui
 New Zealand 1865 02/27 Move to advanced camp beyond Patea
 New Zealand 1865 03/13 Advancing forces defeat 200 Maoris at Kakaramea
 New Zealand 1865 06/17 Detachment returns to Wanganui
 New Zealand 1866 02/21 Marched to Tauranga. Boarded the steamer *Ladybird*
 New Zealand 1866 02/22 Arrived at Auckland and marched first to Albert Barracks and then to Otahuhu
 New Zealand 1866 03/12 Regiment marched from Otahuhu to Auckland
 New Zealand 1866 03/15 Embarked on three ships, the *Ballarat*, *Percy* and *Maori*
 UK 1866 06/12 *Ballarat* reached Portsmouth
 UK 1866 06/30 *Percy* reached Portsmouth
 UK 1866 07/07 *Maori* reached Portsmouth

Then Alfred went out to New Zealand on the *Pegasus* arriving on the 19.09.1866. He did not marry until 1889.

Northwest of the Portway/Charleton road crossing is Spion Kop wood. Why has a Boer War battlefield given its name to a little corner of England? It was probably to celebrate a victory. The most recent analysis suggests the battle was won by neither sides as both British and Boer were too damaged and too unclear of their strengths, to continue with the battle to win a convincing victory. Perhaps there is a link to George Parrish who fought the Boers.



Baden Powell, founder of the Scouts was a British officer, ditto Winston Churchill; Ghandi was a stretcher bearer and the Scotland Yard inspector, Charles Warren, who investigated the Jack the Ripper case also fought. Several football grounds named their open terraced stands after the hill, they shape being similar in profile. Celtic, Liverpool and other clubs may be deliberately, maybe unwittingly remember this desolate place.

Probably the most famous memory of the battle is the photograph of the shallow trench full of British dead. This was a warning of what would happen in the Great War.



Battle of Spion Kop, January 24, 1900

Memorial of Fairfax William Cartwright



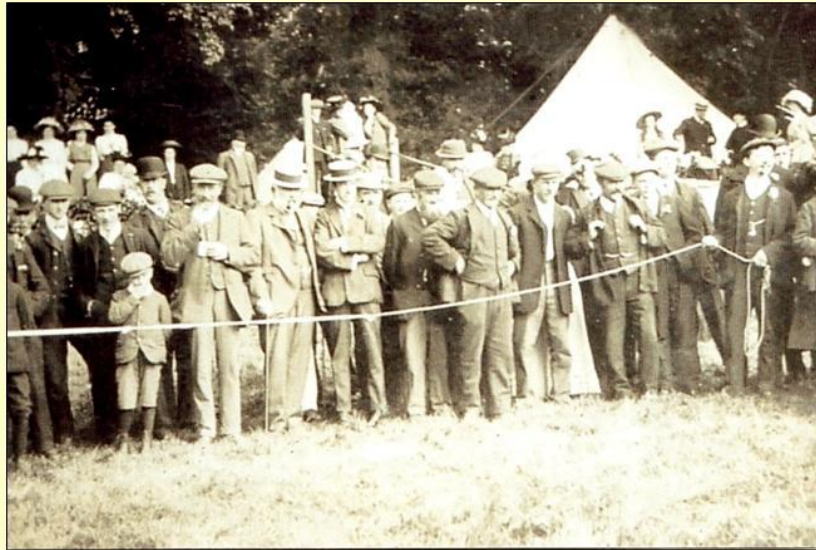
As a youth, he ran away to Rome after some unspecified trouble at home. He was helped by his cousin William Cornwallis Cartwright who was in Rome for his health at the time. Quite why he joined the Austrian army is uncertain but Fairfax William was discharged from the Austrian Imperial Army 7th October 1855. Dying unmarried, he left all his money to William Cornwallis in gratitude. This enabled his cousin to return to live in the Park House from the 1880's, it having been let from the early 1850's due to lack of funds.

Henry Aubrey Cartwright, , Lieut.-Col. (ret.),
Capt. late 68th Durham L.I

Known to the Cartwright family as "Col. Harry", he was one of the Edgcote Cartwrights. William Ralph was his Grandfather. He wrote a short history of the family at the end of his life, he died in the 1930's in Sixpenny Handley, Dorset. He had met or knew of all the nineteenth century Cartwrights. He was son of Rt. Hon. Sir Fairfax Leighton Cartwright, P.C., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., Ambassador at Austria-Hungary 1908-13 and Donna Maria Chigi, daughter of Marchese Chigi-Zondadari, Senator of Italy.

The relief of the siege of Mafeking in 1903 was commemorated by the planting of the tree on the corner of the Deddington and Banbury Roads opposite Prospect terrace, by Thomas George Humphris.

FLOWER SHOW c.1910



How many of these men were to be involved in the Great War?

Rt. Hon. Sir Fairfax Leighton CARTWRIGHT, P.C., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., was British Ambassador at Vienna 1908-13. The Cartwright archive contains his copies of the diplomatic despatches he sent back to London. He and the French Ambassador sent warning that the Kaiser was spoiling for a fight. In 1913 Sir Fairfax wrote "Some day Serbia will set Europe by the ears and bring about a universal war on the continent." They both urged their respective Governments to do everything to create a plan to halt the march to war. Their aim was to link Austria with Britain and France so reducing the power of the German speaking alliance.

CHAPTER III

Aynho's Memorial to the fallen of the Great War is one of an estimated 100,000 memorials in the United Kingdom. There are in excess of 750,000 Britain men commemorated.

These men of Aynho are also recorded in Commonwealth War Grave Commission cemeteries and often on other memorials.

The CWGC memorials were paid for by the State, the others by a family, an employer, a school, a Regiment or by public subscription. Those men shot as deserters or for cowardice were usually, but not always excluded.

It has not been established who initiated the Aynho memorial and therefore the "rules" determining who could be included. Until these are discovered it would not be deemed appropriate to consider any additions to Aynho's memorial. Therefore, the names of other members of the Aynho community who died for their Country are added to this list of heroes so that they are also remembered.

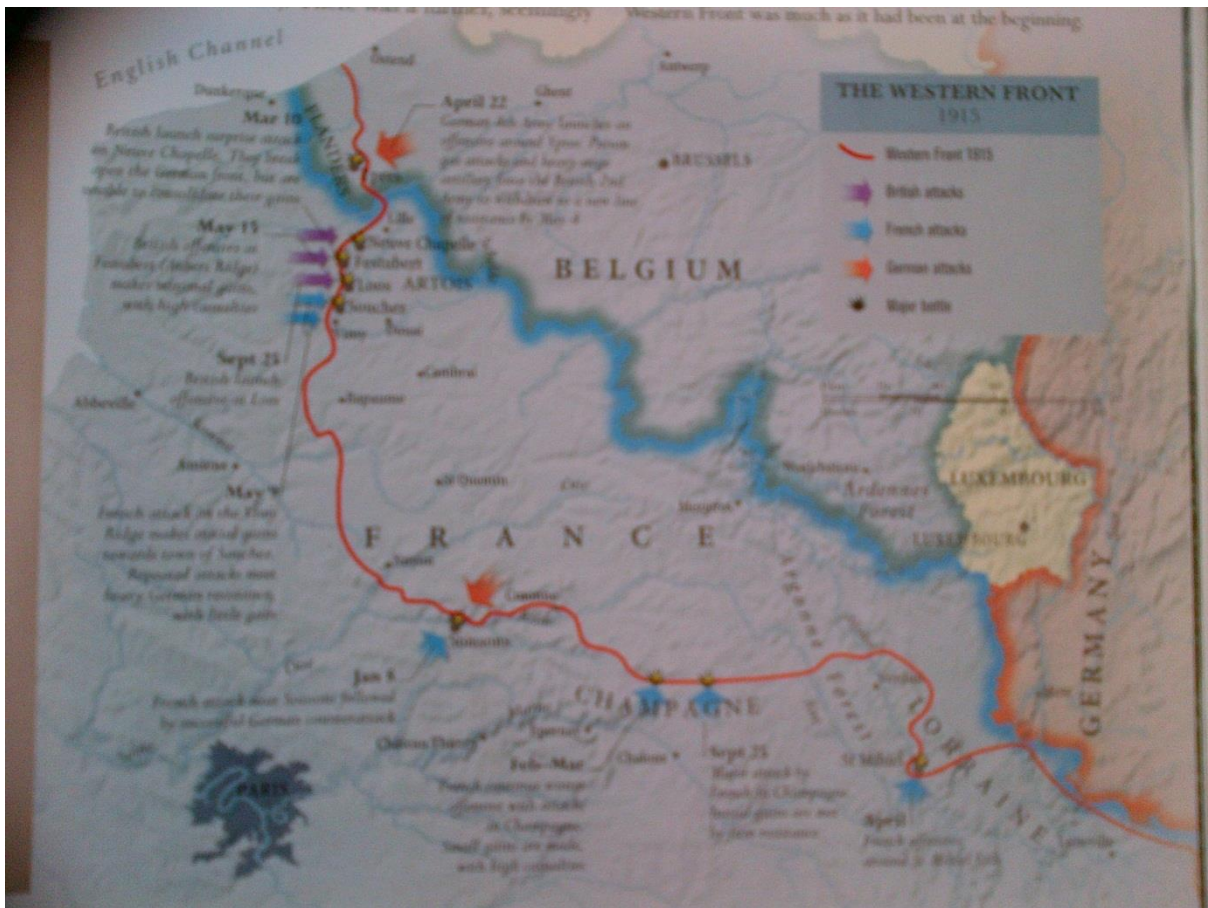
I have tried to explain the context in which these brave men perished. The majority fought in famous actions but all faced experiences typical for the millions of soldiers fighting around the globe between 1914-1919. For some, their deaths will have given them relief from unimaginable horrors.

What should also be remembered is that 192,000 British women became widows; in excess of 360,000 children lost their fathers. Countless parents lost a son, often several. Every community was affected, few families went unscathed. Spare a thought for those women who would never marry or raise a family, their future suitors lost overseas.

On the global theme, British men lost their lives alongside troops both black and white from the British and French Empires, China, Portugal and North America. By its close, 65 million men had taken up arms, it truly was the Great War.

Those who survived certainly did so at a cost, suffering painful wounds, disfigurement, mental and physical disability; the like not seen in such numbers before. They also had to face the "guilt of the survivor", rationing, Spanish Flu and within the decade, the Great Depression.

For others, there was a renewed optimism, a thirst for life, a time of innovation, the roaring 20's and the pride of being a hero, medals and recognition. I hope all the heroes who died will always be remembered not just as names cut in stone but as brave men, part of this community for which they gave their lives



The Great War dead in chronological order

Arthur Bygraves	23/05/1915	Battle of Festubert
John Cartwright	09/08/1915	Hooge crater East of Ypres
Joseph Seccull	25/09/1915	Battle of Loos
W Cross	14/02/1916 (poss)	Hooge
William Cross	03/07/1916 (poss)	Day 3 of the Battle of the Somme
Alfred Wrighton	17/08/1916	Delville Wood the Somme
Clement Wrighton	19/08/1916	Delville Wood the Somme
Albert Stewart	24/08/1916	Delville Wood the Somme
William Coles	13/11/1916	Battle of Ancre
Arthur Colley	04/03/1917	Peronne nr Albert the Somme
George Day	23/03/1917	Convoy duty English Channel
Albert Wrighton	09/04/1917	Vimy Ridge
Edward Savings	03/05/1917	Battle for the Scarpe
Joseph Williams	15/08/1917	Battle for Hill 70 – Arras offensive
Edward Seccull	24/08/1917	Battle of Passchendaele
Nigel Cartwright	21/09/1917	Battle of Passchendaele
Reginald Wrighton	09/10/1917	Battle of Passchendaele
Arthur Woolnought	01/12/1917	Battle of Cambrai
Edward Bygrave	01/12/1917	Battle of Cambrai
James Bygrave	22/01/1918	Holding the line in the Somme
George Coles	21/03/1918	St.Quentin
Benjamin Cooley	30/03/1918	Near Arras
Wallace Williams	06/06/1918	Pas de Calais
John Hands	15/06/1918	Battle of Piave, Italy
Ernest Seccull	31/10/1918	On service in India

86 fought, 25 died, 62 survived World War One

Arthur BYGRAVES



Private, 2nd Battalion, The Royal Warwickshire Regiment, 22 Brigade, 7th Division. Army number 1407

He was killed in action on 23 May 1915 during the Battle for Festubert.

He is buried in Grave I A 130 Longuenesse Cemetery, St Omer. Many of the grave stones stand shoulder to shoulder in date of death order. This suggests that the bodies were brought from other burial sites and reburied in St Omer. It is unclear if the family spelt their name inconsistently or that a mistake has been made on the grave stone.

It is believed that he died in a Hospital Centre. Festubert is about 40 miles from the cemetery so although he is recorded as dying in action he must have died of his wounds in hospital. St Omer was behind the lines and known as a training and rest area.

He was a son of Edward and Edith Bygraves. Edward was an estate game keeper, Edith worked as a domestic in 1911, there were two other sons who would have been old enough to fight in the Great War, Edward 17 (see below) and William 15.



The attack was made by the British First Army under Sir Douglas Haig against a German salient, the Aubers Ridge, between Neuve Chapelle to the north and the village of Festubert to the south. The assault was planned along a three mile front, and would initially be made mainly by Indian troops. This would be the first British army night attack of the war. The battle was preceded by a 60 hour bombardment by 433 artillery pieces that fired about 100,000 shells. This bombardment failed to significantly damage the wire defenses of the German Sixth Army. By the 19th the British 7th divisions had to be withdrawn due to heavy losses. The British on this part of the line were enraged by the use of gas at Ypres and the sinking of the Lusitania. From May 20 until the 25th the attack was renewed, resulting in the capture of the village of Festubert.

"In the battle of Festubert the enemy was driven from a position which was strongly entrenched and fortified, and ground was won on a front of four miles to an average depth of 600 yards." Sir John French

At a cost of 16,000 casualties.

Edward Thomas BYGRAVE



Brother of Arthur, above.

Enlisted in Worcester, became a Sergeant in the 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards. No 15362

Killed in action 1st December 1917

The 2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards was based in Chelsea with 4th (Guards) Brigade, 2nd Division when war broke out in August 1914. On the 15th of August 1914 they proceeded to France, landing at Le Havre. He was in action in The Battle of Mons and the subsequent retreat, The Battle of the Marne, The Battle of the Aisne, the First Battle of Ypres and the Winter Operations of 1914-15. In 1915 they were in action during The Battle of Aubers and then on the 20th of August 1915 they transferred to the newly formed 1st Guards Brigade, Guards Division. They saw action in The Battle of Loos. In 1916 they fought on The Somme in The Battle of Flers-Courcelette and The Battle of Morval, capturing Lesboeufs. In 1917 they were in action in The German retreat to the Hindenburg Line, the Third Battle of Ypres and The Battle of Cambrai.

On the same day that Byng was closing down his offensive, the Second German Army received orders to hit back. The plan – devised and organised with exceptional pace for an action of this magnitude - was for a main force from the Busigny and Caudry Groups to strike from the south, recapture the Hindenburg positions at Havrincourt and Flesquieres and then roll up the British forces now stuck in Bourlon Wood, when forces of the Arras Group north and west of that area would also join the attack. Such was German confidence that reserves were assembled to exploit success, and a further operation north of Saint Quentin was authorised to add to the pressure. On 28 November, operations opened with a heavy gas bombardment of Bourlon.

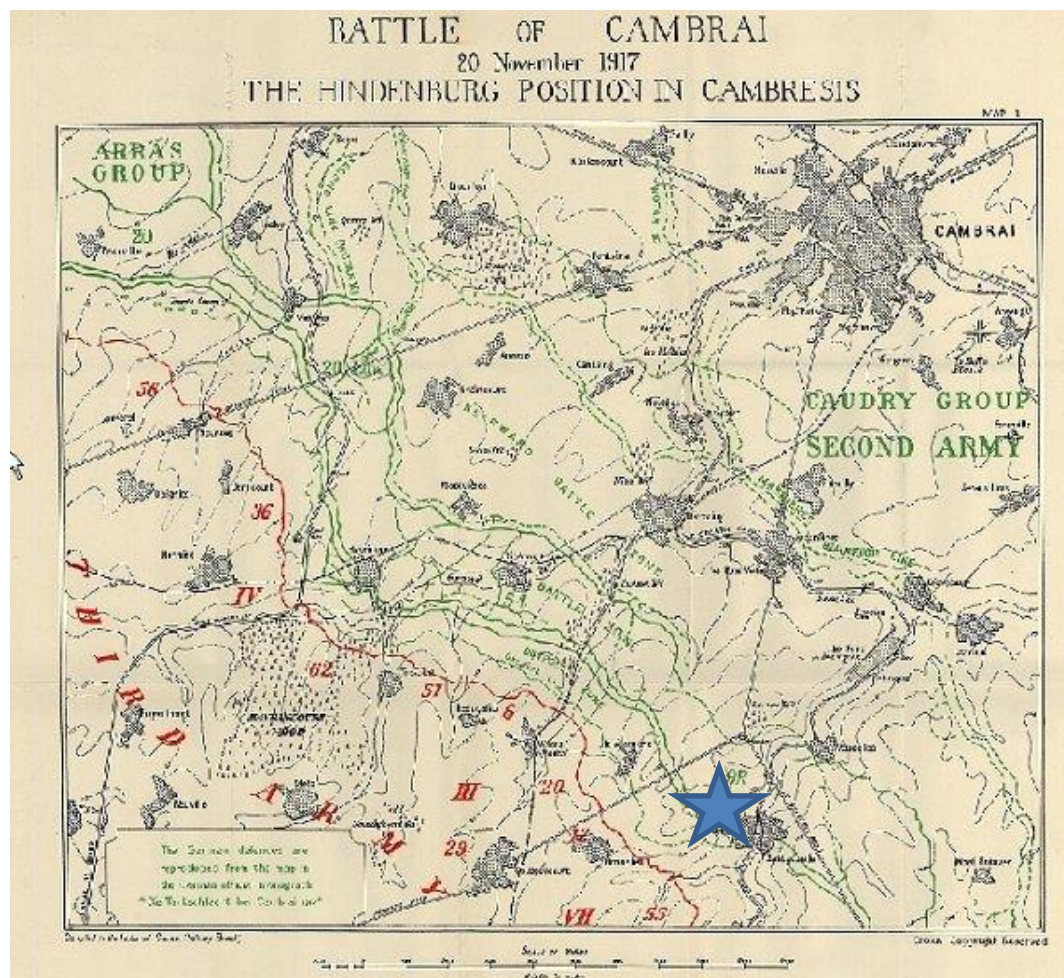
Two days later, the counter attack began in earnest. On the right flank, south of the Gouzeaucourt-Bonavis road, the break into British positions was swift. The defending 55 (2/West Lancashire) Division and much of 12 (Eastern) and 20 (Light) Divisions seemed to evaporate, and Snow called for reinforcements as early as 9am. Many artillery batteries soon came within range of advancing German infantry. Both they and units hurriedly ordered to shore up the clearly splintering defence were shocked at what they saw. Not least of them was the Guards Division, still recuperating from a mauling in Fontaine Notre Dame and now heading into what would become a bitter fight to hold the enemy at Gouzeaucourt: "First we had to struggle through the flood of terrified men ... nothing seemed to stem the torrent of frightened men with eyes of hunted deer, without rifles or equipment, among them half-

dressed officers presumably surprised in their sleep, and gunners who had had the sense and calmness to remove the breech blocks from their guns and were carrying them in their hands. Many were shouting alarming rumours, others yelling "Which is the nearest way to the coast?" Using their tanks from H Battalion to good effect, they carried and held the ridge running from Gonnellieu down to Gouche wood. Major Pratt's Company of tanks had the following order, taken from the Regimental war diary. "SE corner of Gauche Wood. The attack started at 5.30am. By 7.50am all 12 tanks of Major Pratt's Company were in Gauche wood supporting the 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards. They silenced many enemy MGs but made slow progress against stubborn resistance. The ten H battalion tanks from the Brigades composite company arrived and joined in the attack. Many tanks were knocked out by direct hits from guns situated on the ridge to the SE. Several tanks split from the others and advanced on Villers Guislin, some were knocked out by the direct artillery fire but three reached the village and patrolled therein without infantry support. Major Pratt withdrew the 8 surviving tanks of his company at 10am on the 2nd [December] and then pulled back to Gouzeaucourt Wood.

This is probably where Edward fell.

As yet I have yet to find Edward's name on a Somme battlefield memorial.

The battle petered out as the Armies retired to the best ground for their winter lines.



star locates Edward Bygrave

George Walter COLES

Private, Queens Own Oxfordshire Hussars, 3rd Brigade, 2nd Cavalry Division, Fifth Army (Gough), III Corps (Butler). Army number 285837.

He joined the Regiment on or about 22nd September 1915 and was killed in action on 21st March 1918 at the Battle of St Quentin age 23

He was the son of George and Amy Coles of Bicester but was native of Aynho

He has no known grave but his name appears on Panel 6 of the Pozières Memorial

In 1914, after only a month's training, the regiment received an unexpected telegram. It came from the First Lord of the Admiralty, Winston Churchill, instructing them to prepare for immediate embarkation. They were to join the Naval Brigade which he was sending to Flanders, specifically Antwerp, to prevent a German advance towards the Channel ports. The QOOH became the first Territorial unit to see action. It was typical of Churchill's boyish enthusiasm for "amateur" soldiering that he should have thought up this plan for his yeomanry regiment, in which his younger brother, Jack Churchill, was then serving.

The regiment soon hardened to the realities of war, the QOOH took part in many actions from Ypres in 1914 to Amiens and the final advance in 1918, winning battle honours and the lasting respect of their fellow members of the 2nd Cavalry Division.

As cavalry they spent frustrating periods waiting in readiness to push on through the gap in the enemy's line, which never came. They toiled in working parties bringing up supplies, digging defensive positions, suffering the discomforts of appalling conditions, and frequently dismounting to fight fierce engagements on foot and in the trenches themselves.

George's last weeks.

On 11 November 1917, the German High Command decided to make a decisive attack in the west in the following Spring. Their target was the British Army. They believed that the British were exhausted by the four major efforts in 1917 (Arras, Messines, Passchendaele and Cambrai). By mid-February 1918, the Germans had moved many Divisions from the now collapsed Eastern front to the West. By late 1918, the manpower advantage enjoyed by Germany would be gone as the American forces slowly built up to strength. The time to strike was now: it would win the war; it was to be the "Kaiserschlacht" (Kaiser's Battle). Ludendorff's aim was actually to cut through on the Somme - "punch a hole and things would develop" and then wheel north-west to cut the British lines of communication behind the Artois fronts, bottling up the BEF in the narrow neck of land in Flanders. The British army would be surrounded with no means of escape, which would inevitably lead to surrender.

The 'line' that the BEF had recently taken over from the French barely existed, and much labouring and construction work was needed to put it in a defensible state. Unfortunately, the labour was just not available. When the battle opened, few of the defensive positions were ready, and the second and third lines did not exist at all. The colossal German offensive was launched on 21st March. The Germans opened the offensive with the largest bombardment ever seen on the Western Front, the weather was also in their favour. Thick fog made it impossible for the British to use signals or target spotting to counter bombard. The regimental diary below, records that fog. The attack resulted in spectacular successes but failed to achieve the outright breakthrough sought by Ludendorff. In their sector, the Queens

Own had to effect fighting retreats as they were under constant threat of encirclement and being fired on by their own flank support. It was extremely difficult to establish who was to the left and right such was the fog and disjointed communication system. George died that first day.

Sheet I

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

WAR DIARY
of QUEEN'S OWN OXFORDSHIRE HUSSARS.
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.
VOL XLIII

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DEVISE	1	-	Oxfordshire A th Duty Regiment from 9 a.m. Marched to new area at ENNEMAIN. Very crowded.	
ENNEMAIN	3	1300	A th Dismounted Bde paraded to march to YERMIAND to be in reserve for one night, to take over line of post on night 4/5 th Major J.J. DODIE, 3 rd (K.O.) Coy in command. Major Hon A.G.C. VILLIERS, D.S.O. 2 nd Lt. Capt. H.A. FANE in command of Q.O.O.H. Company. 200 strong. Horses remained at ENNEMAIN, 1 man to 4 horses left behind.	By Mob. 3 rd QUENTIN 175.000
	8	-	S.M. H. TOMPKINS, S.M. H. EWISE, D.M. Sgt. J.J. LIST (Q.O.O.H.) appointed 2 nd Lt. in the Regiment from 1 March 1918.	
	11	-	Travel party returned. Very quiet line. I.O.R. wounded.	
	13	-	Moved to new billeting area at GRANDRU. Horses out in the open, men in tents. 3 rd Coy Car Rides in trenches.	
GRANDRU	16	-	Lt A.F. MACCOLL rejoined Regiment, Lt C.H. BOTTOMLEY evacuated sick.	
	17	-	Lt C.T. HARDY evacuated sick.	
	20	-	Working Party under Capt. W. PEPPER with Lt R. WORSLEY + Lt H. SMITHAM + 5 th O.P.s from A th Sq. left for forward area at COMBACH 7/4 H. P. 1000	
	21	4 30am	1000am Base as Bombing Instructor, Reinforcements. R.S.M. MATHIESON left for Cadet School. S.M. HEATHER, 20 th Coy joined Regt. 10 30am	
			Intense hostile bombardment started. Thick fog during morning.	
			10 30am A th Dismounted Bde Group (Battalion) ordered to ambush at X roads APPALY. Lt Col. R. DUBOISE, O.C. Coy in command, Lt Col. O.C. Coy Major S. HERBYER, 6 th Coy 2 nd Command. Capt. H.A. FANE in command O.C. Coy Company with Capt. S. POLYMER, 2 nd Lt. L.A.E.H. ALFREY, D. WILLIAMS + 50 O.P.s	

CR/11

AG 915 Wt. W12422 M1160 350px 12/10 D.D.A.I. Form C/2118/14

William COLES

Private, 2nd Battalion, The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry

5 Brigade, 2nd Division. Army number 9841

He was killed in action at the Battle of the Ancre on 13 November 1916.

Was he related to George?

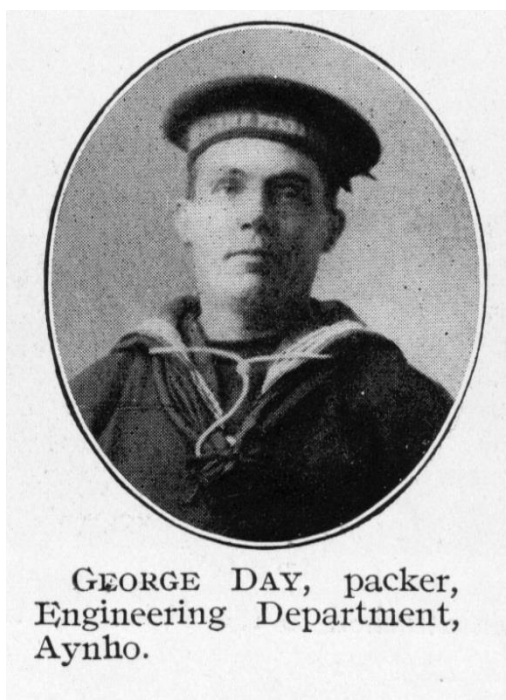
The battle of the Ancre, 13-19 November 1916, was the final phase of the first battle of the Somme. It involved an attack on the German front line as it crossed the Ancre River, a sector of the front that had first been attacked on the first day of the battle without success. The attack along the Ancre had originally been planned for 15 October, as part of the battle of the Ancre Heights, but had been postponed repeatedly by bad weather. By November the original plan had been reducing in scope from an attempt to push the Germans back up to five miles along the Ancre to one to capture Beaucourt and push the Germans back at most two miles.

This was a strong sector of the German front. The first British objective involved an advance of 800 yards and would require the capture of at least three lines of trenches. The next target was the German second line, from Serre south to the Ancre. Finally it was hoped to capture Beaucourt, on the Ancre.

William as part of the 2nd Division managed to capture parts of Redan Ridge. The attack was a relative success. Beaumont Hamel and Beaucourt were captured, but Serre and the northern part of the German line remained untouched.

He has no known grave but his name appears on Pier and Face 10A and 10D of Thiepval Memorial

George Moore Day



Chatham Dock memorial

George wears the uniform of HMS Pembroke a training establishment at Chatham Dock.

Official record CWGC

No	Surname	Rank	Service Number	Date Of Death	Age	Regiment/Service	Nationality	Grave/Memorial Ref.	Cemetery/Memorial Name
1	DAY , GEORGE MOORE	Stoker 2nd Class	K/37983	23/03/1917	36	Royal Navy	United Kingdom	24.	CHATHAM NAVAL MEMORIAL

On the GWR Roll of Honour, G Day is listed under the Engineering Department, based at Aynho

A bound set of GWR documents entitled Enlistment of Railway men lists the following details - G Day, Grade: Packer, Department: Engineering, Aynho, Drowned. This report is dated May 1st 1917 (please note this is not the date of death but the date G Day's details were recorded in this document)

The number of Great Western men who joined His Majesty's Forces was 25,479, representing thirty-three per cent of the Company's staff. Those who gave their lives in the war numbered 2,524.

The GWR 1914-18 Memorial is in the Ticket Clerks Office at the Railway Station, Chester, Cheshire. The public cannot enter the office, so must view the memorial from a distance. (Includes George Day)

A packer working for the engineering department was responsible for packing the ballast under the railway lines. As he was based at Aynho, I would suggest that he was responsible for the upkeep of the track ballast in that area.

HMS LEFOREY



HMS *Laforey* was the lead ship of her class of destroyer built for the Royal Navy. . *Laforey* was launched at Govan in 1913, following construction by the Company. She was attached to the Dover Patrol. *Laforey* saw action in several engagements with German torpedo boats, including the Battle off Noordhinder Bank and the Action of 17 March 1917. She was named for Francis Laforey, captain of HMS *Spartiate* at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. The destroyer was fitted with three QF 4 in (100 mm) Mk IV guns, one QF 2-pounder pom-pom Mk. II gun, and four 21 in (530 mm) torpedo tubes in two twin mounts. *Laforey* was designed to operate in British coastal waters against enemy surface and submarine shipping. On 23 March 1917, *Laforey* and sister ship, *Laertes* were escorting several cargo ships to France, using the Folkstone to Boulogne route. The merchant ships arrived safely, but at around 16:30, after the destroyers had begun the return trip, a large explosion occurred amidships on *Laforey*. The ship immediately broke in half, and the stern rapidly sank. The bow remained afloat for a short time before sinking, during which *Laertes* struggled to rescue survivors. Only 18 of the 77 aboard survived. The wreck remains in situ, off Selsy Bill near Brighton

latitude:	50°38.6XX' N
longitude:	000°13.8XX' W

John HANDS

Private 1st/4th Battalion, The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry,
145 Brigade, 48th Division. Army number 202208

He was killed in action at the Battle of the Piave on 15 June 1918. He was 37.



Austro-Hungarian troops of the Tenth and Eleventh Armies attacked along the Trentino. "At dawn on June 15th it began along this great stretch of ground with a bombardment of terrible efficiency. Some of the British officers told me they had never seen better shooting or a hotter barrage in France. The result was that early that morning the Austrians carried with little resistance almost the whole front line of the Allies from Asiago to the marshes at the Piave mouth. But their success on the mountains was short lived. The British, furious at losing any ground to the Austrians, drove them out again with fearful slaughter, and pursued them into their own lines, where all resistance ceased."

G M Trevelyan, Historian

The Austrians had intended to capture Verona, they proved of little effectiveness. Faced with strong counter-attacks by the Italian Fourth and Sixth Armies (which included British and French troops) the Austro-Hungarians suffered 40,000 casualties within a week. The comprehensive failure of the offensive served merely to hasten the disintegration of the Austro-Hungarian army, which effectively ceased to exist as a single cohesive force.

He was the son of Henry and Ann Hands and a native of Aynho

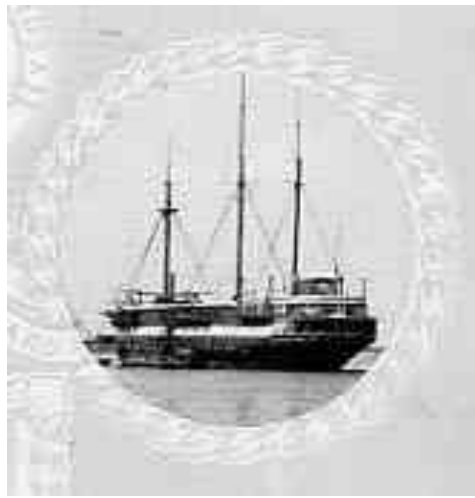
He is buried in Plot 2 Row A Grave 11, Boscon British Cemetery, Italy

Ernest SECCULL

Gunner, 9th Mountain Battery Royal Garrison Artillery in India serving with 2nd (Rawalpindi) Division, Army number 27372

He died on 31 October 1918 age 28, probably from an illness or an accident

A native of Aynho he was the son of the late Henry and of Sarah Secull latterly Melton of Leamington Spa. Henry died when Ernest was two, the family had no option but to enter into the Brackley Workhouse. Ernest was then sent to a Naval Training ship, the Arethusa before joining the Army.



The Arethusa

He has no known grave but his name appears on the Karachi 1914-1918 War Memorial



Name	Company	Rank	Reg. No.
SECCULL	R G 51	4th	27372
<i>Ernest</i>			
Serial	Regt.	Comp.	Remarks
710007	R G 51 A 44		
800000			
870000			
Theater of War first served to:			
Date of Army Discharge:			

Correspondence

Address

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1917

Joseph Henry SECCULL

Private, 2nd Battalion, The Royal Warwickshire Regiment, 22 Brigade, 7th Division. Army number 2516

The 2nd Battalion landed at Zeebrugge 6 October 1914.

“13. In the attack of the 1st Corps the 7th Division was directed on the Quarries. The 9th Division was to capture the Hohenzollern Redoubt and then to push on to Fosse 8. The assault of the 7th Division succeeded at once, and in a very short time they had reached the western edge; of the Quarries, Cite St. Elie and even the village of Haisnes,..... I deeply regret the heavy casualties which were incurred in this battle, but in view of the great strength of the position, the stubborn defence of the enemy and the powerful artillery by which he was supported, I do not think they were excessive. I am happy to be able to add that the proportion of slightly wounded is relatively very large indeed.” Sir John French’s Ninth Despatch, Printed in the Fourth Supplement to the London Gazette of 1 November 1915

He was killed in action on the first day of the Battle of Loos on 25 September 1915 age 20



The British infantry advance through the clouds of gas. This was the first occasion the British used gas.

A native of Aynho he was the son of the late Henry and of Sarah Seccull latterly Melton of Leamington Spa. Henry died while Joseph, one of twin boys was seven. The family went into the Brackley Workhouse. Ernest was then sent to the Naval Training ship Arethusa before joining the Army. The Arethusa was one of the ships sponsored by the Shaftesbury Homes. This was and continues to be a charity which supports underprivileged boys.

He has no known grave but his name appears on Panel 22 to 25 of the Loos Memorial

Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regt. No.
SECCULL	R. War. R.	Pte.	2516

Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	L/104 B 29	6254	Died.
BRITISH	do		
'15 STAR	L/6 B	452	
Theatre of War first served in	(1) France		
Date of entry therein	26-1-15.		

K 1980.

Correspondence.

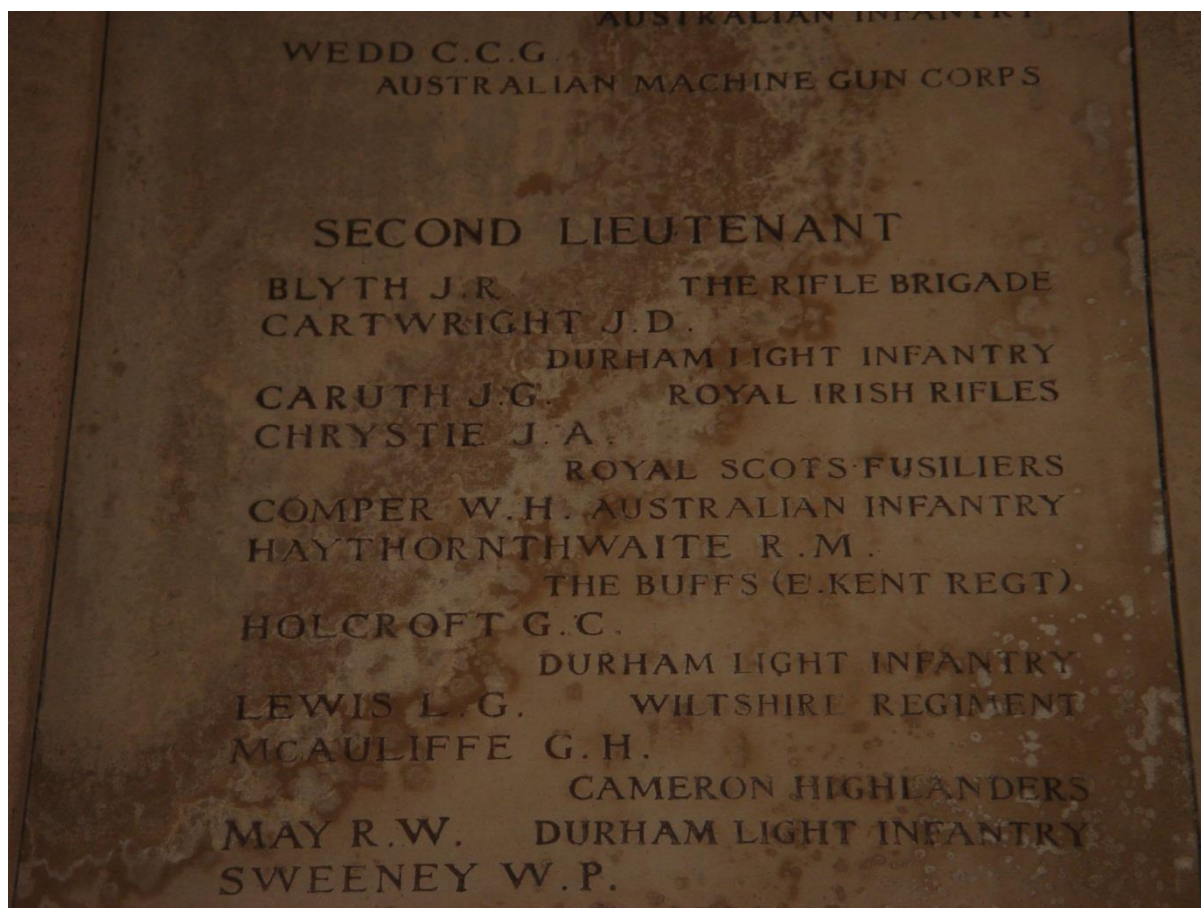
Address.

John Digby CARTWRIGHT

Second Lieutenant, 2nd Battalion, The Durham Light Infantry, 18 Brigade, 6th Division

He was killed in action during the attack on Hooge Crater on 9 August 1915. He was 20. DOB 23/6/1895

He has no known grave but his name appears on Addenda Panel 57 of the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Belgium.



He was the eldest son of the Rev. William Digby and Lucy Harriette Maud Cartwright of Aynho Rectory. His brother Nigel Walter Henry Cartwright also fell. His Grandfather was Colonel Henry Cartwright. Home was 29 Church Cottage, now known as Catton House. In 1914 the family moved to the Rectory, William becoming Rector. John's sister Mary became head of Girton College Oxford. She is buried in Aynho alongside their sister Jane, Guile Maclean.

The action at Hooge had a limited objective, to retake Hooge, a village on high ground straddling the Menin Road, 2 miles from Ypres. For both sides, control of this high ground allowed them to get a clear view of the surrounding area and therefore dominate this section of the front. So vital, it was described as "one of the most odious and dangerous places north of the River Somme.". "The Hell of Hooge" was to be fought over for 3 years.

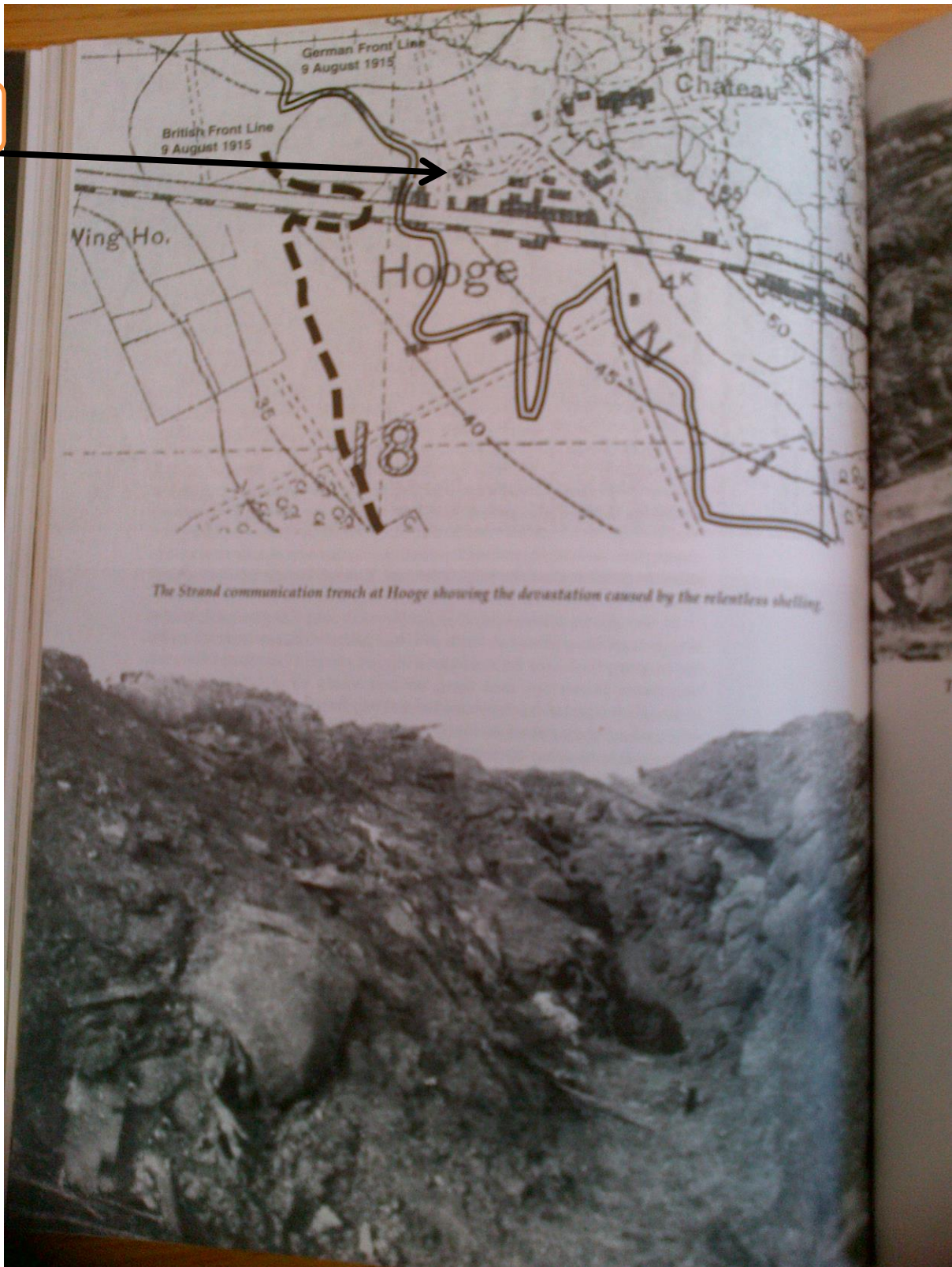
A 4,500lb mine had been excavated and blown by the British under the German lines on 19th July; it was the biggest of the war so far. The Germans retaliated with their new weapon, the flame thrower and then on 7th August, gas.

On 9 August at 02.45 hrs, a short, heavy artillery bombardment was laid down on the German positions. Half an hour later it stopped and the British troops who had been crawling out into no-man's land attacked the German defences. The 2nd Battalion, the Durham Light Infantry emerged from Sanctuary Wood and attacked the crater. This area of the Somme was a muddy morass of shell holes and damaged trenches, both sides used "bombs" (we would call them grenades) to clear the immediate few yards ahead of them. There was no quick win just a slow gruelling slog to advance 80 yards.

They made good progress taking the crater relatively swiftly but the attack had cost the Durhams a third of their strength in casualties, 498 wounded, missing and dead. Having won the crater and the surrounding objective by 08.00hrs the Durhams had to hold their gain, under continuous shelling until relieved at 24.00hrs.

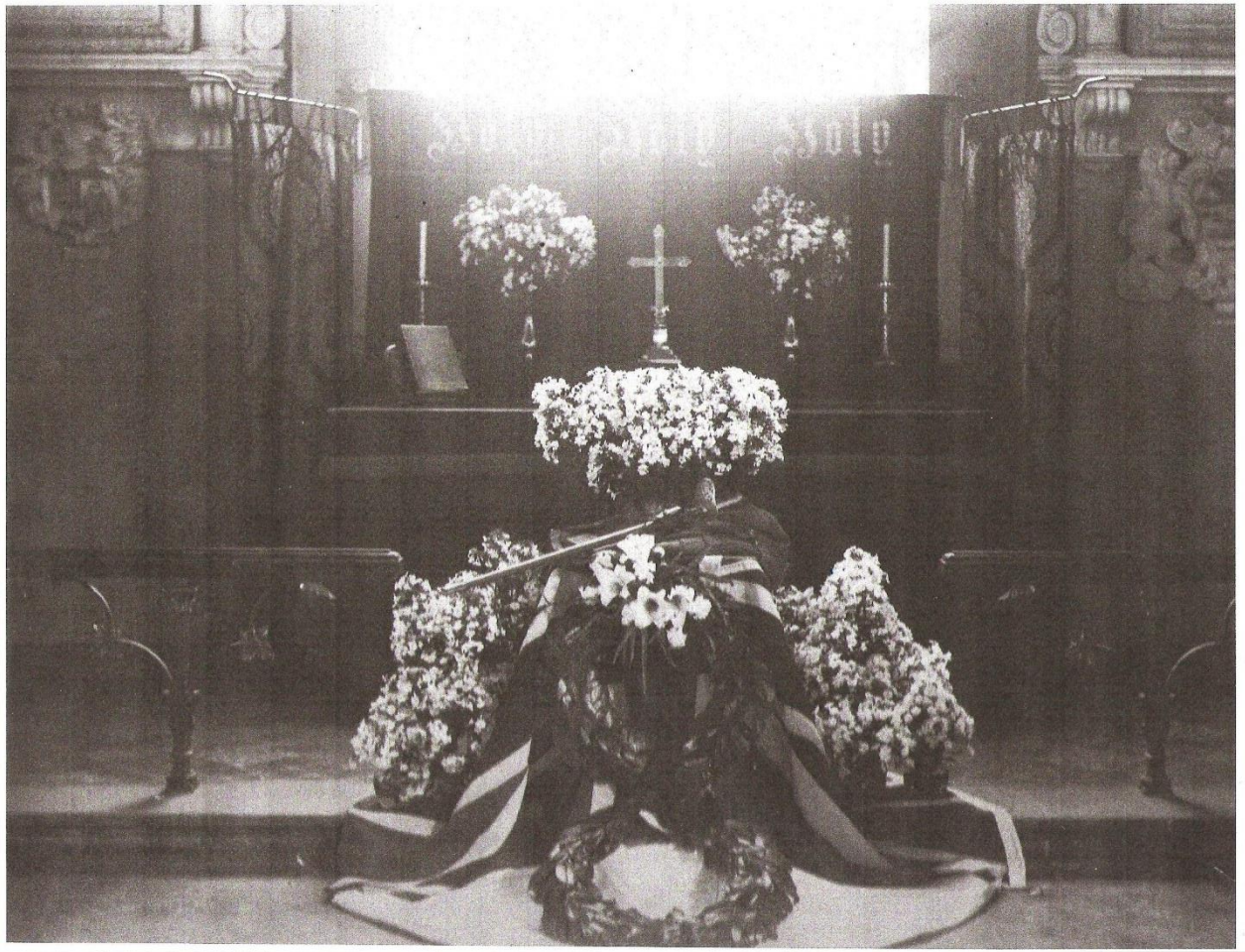
John commanded D company, holding the right flank of the advance. His last message back to command was written at 07.30hrs just before "victory" was secured.





crater

For his efforts he was mentioned in despatches on 1st January 1916, and a service of remembrance was held in St Michaels,



John Conroy's 11th annual dinner
St. Michael's Avenue 2nd floor

HYMN No. 595.

HOLY Father, in Thy mercy,
Hear our anxious prayer,
Keep our loved ones, now far absent,
Neath Thy care.

Jesus, Saviour, let Thy presence,
Be their light and guide ;
Keep, oh, keep them, in their weakness,
At Thy side.

When in sorrow, when in danger,
When in loneliness,
In Thy love look down and comfort
Their distress.

May the joy of Thy salvation
Be their strength and stay ;
May they love and may they praise Thee
Day by day.

Holy Spirit, let Thy teaching
Sanctify their life ;
Send Thy grace, that they may conquer
In the strife.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
God the One in Three,
Bless them, guide them, save them, keep them
Near to Thee. Amen.

S. Michael's, Aynhoe.

MEMORIAL SERVICE.

SEC.-LIEUTENANT JOHN DIGBY CARTWRIGHT,
2nd Battalion Durham Light Infantry.

Killed in Action at Hooge, August 9th, 1915.

HYMN No. 165.

O GOD our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.

Beneath the shadow of Thy Throne
Thy Saints have dwelt secure ;
Sufficient is Thine Arm alone,
And our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame ;
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the Same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone ;
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away ;
They fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last
And our eternal home. Amen.



John Digby Cartwright.

CARTWRIGHT, JOHN DIGBY, 2nd Lieut., 2nd Battn. Durham L.I., eldest s. of the Rev. William Digby Cartwright, Rector of Aynhoe, by his wife, Lucy Harriette Maud, dau. of Edward Bury, and gdson. of Col. Henry Cartwright, Grenadier Guards, J.P., M.P. [7th s. of Lieut.-Col. William Ralph Cartwright, of Aynhoe Park, M.P.]; *b.* Aynhoe, co. Northants, 23 June, 1895; educ. Durnford, Wellington College and Sandhurst; received his commission in the 3rd Reserve Battn. of the Durham L.I., 10 Nov. 1914, and was afterwards transferred to the 2nd Battn. He went to the Front, 15 June, 1915, and was killed in action at Hooge, 9 Aug. 1915, being buried there; *unm.* He was mentioned in Sir John French's Despatch dated 30 Nov. 1915.

CARTWRIGHT, JOHN DIGBY, 2nd Lieut., 2nd Battn (106th Foot) The Durham Light Infantry, eldest s. of the Rev. William Digby Cartwright, Rector of Aynhoe, co. Northampton, by his wife, Lucy Harriette Maud, dau. of Edward Bury; *b.* Aynhoe, 23 June, 1895; educ. Durnford, Wellington College, and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst; was gazetted 2nd Lieut. 10 Nov. 1914; served with the Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders from 15 June, 1915, and was killed in action at Hooge 9 Aug. following. Buried there. He was mentioned in Despatches [London Gazette, 1 Jan. 1916], by F.M. Sir John (now Lord) French, for gallant and distinguished service in the field; *unm.*



Happier days with fellow officers of H company at the Royal Military College October 1914.



HE whom this scroll commemorates was numbered among those who, at the call of King and Country, left all that was dear to them, endured hardness, 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.

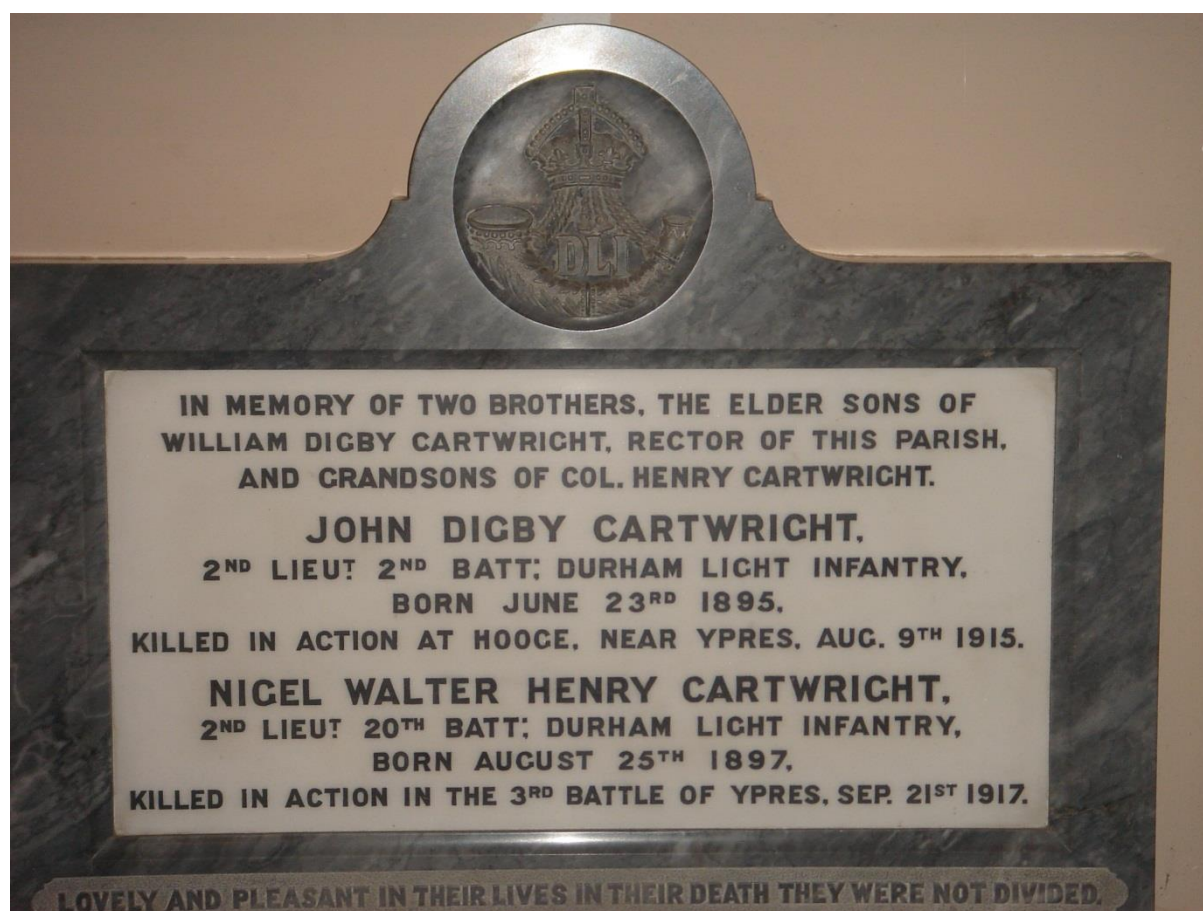
Let those who come after see to it that his name be not forgotten.

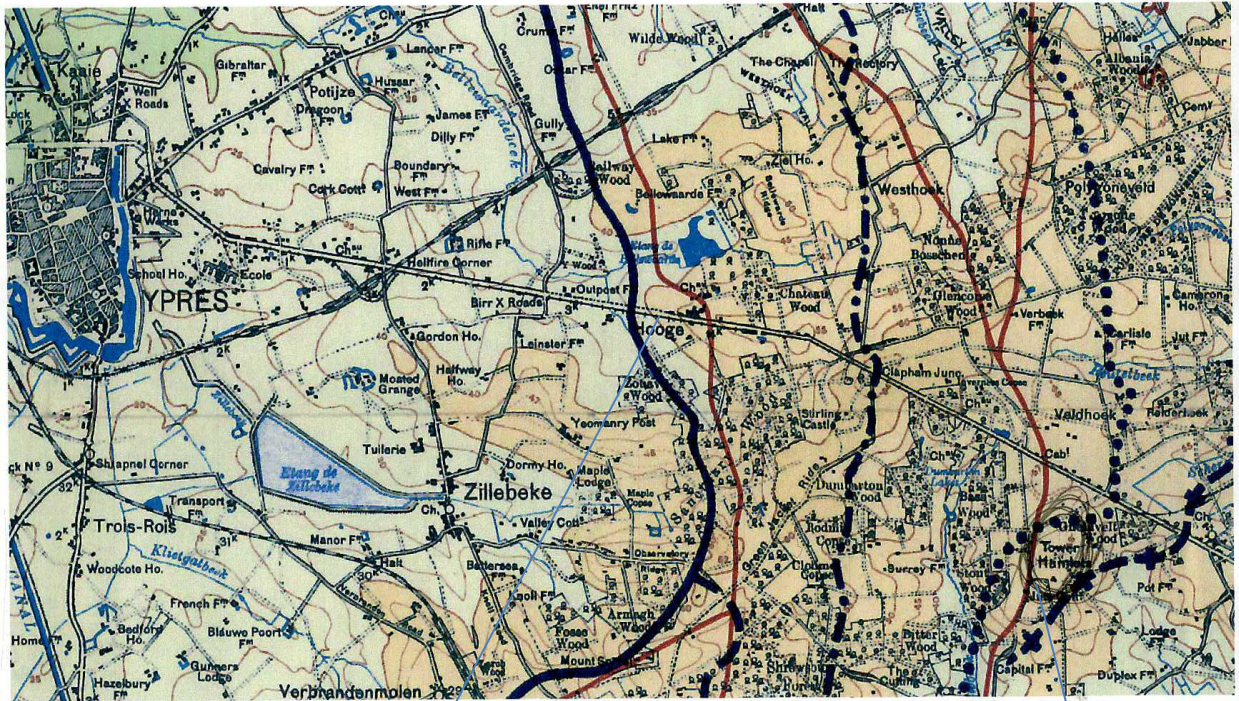
*2nd Lt. John Digby Cartwright
Durham Light Infantry*

He is also recorded in the parish church of Langston Matravers Dorset, close to Durnford School. 53 alumni died in World War 1, they are remembered in St George's Church in a memorial window.

The National Probate Register records John leaving £104 6s 6d.

Author Ian Fleming was also a pupil at Durnford; all the pupils undertook the morning ritual of swimming in the sea off Dancing Ledge. In recent years a colleague of Fleming's in MI6 has lived in Catton House; Peggy Harmer is reputed to be the model for Fleming's Bond character Miss Money Penny, being involved in the establishing of the Commandos and the race to gain control of key scientists, intelligence staff and military development sites at the end of WW2.





John Digby Cartwright

Nigel Walter Henry Cartwright

Last known sightings of the brothers.

Nigel Walter Henry CARTWRIGHT

Second Lieutenant, 20th Battalion, The Durham Light Infantry, 123 Brigade, 41st Division.

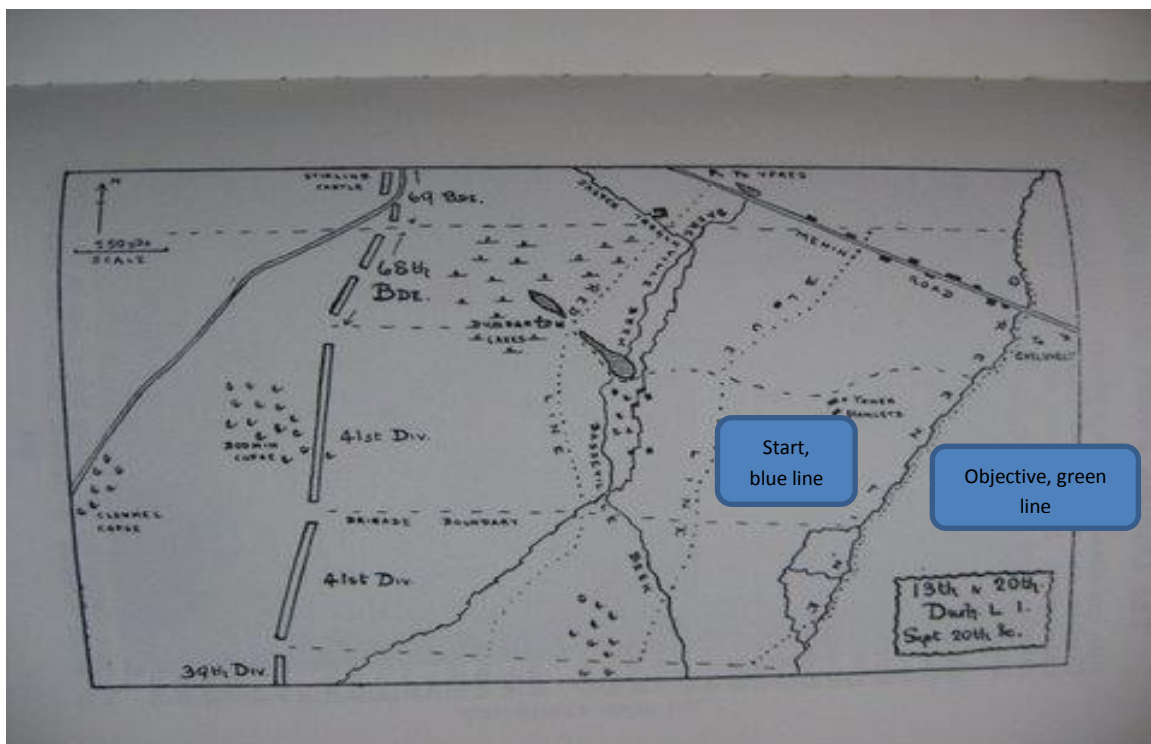


“The Wearsiders” were formed in Sunderland on 10 July 1915 by the Mayor and a committee. Training was undertaken in Wensleydale in August 1915 and then in Barnard Castle in October 1915. January 1916 saw the Regiment move to Aldershot where they were attached to the 123rd Brigade in the 41st Division. On the 5 May 1916 the Regiment landed at Le Havre.

He was killed in action on 21 September 1917 during the attack south of the Menin Road Ridge, east of Bodmin copse during the Third battle of Ypres which we now call Passchendaele. He was 20, DOB 25/8/1897.

Considering the devastation caused by Third Wipers, and the following year of war, there is little wonder that, despite numerous searches of the battlefield there were no identifiable remains of Nigel, nor those of almost thirty five thousand other missing officers and men. The thirty five thousand names of the servicemen with ‘no known grave’ had eventually been commemorated on the ‘Tyne Cot’ Memorial to the Missing, at Zonnebeke, Panel 128 -131 and 162 and 162A.

Regimental records of the “Wearsiders” have no detailed records of Nigel’s part in the action. However, Captain Wilfred Miles wrote in the 1920’s “The Durham forces in the Field 1914-1918” “At 9.08am the Wearsiders went forward the barrage proved a failure and the German machine-guns and snipers were practically untouched. The attack was pushed for about 200 yards at a heavy cost of killed and wounded; the 20th dug in”. Ten officers including Nigel were killed (or wounded) during this attack, one a D.S.O., and another an M.C.. “About 3pm the Germans advanced over the Tower Hamlets ridge, but were driven back by Lewis gun and rifle fire which inflicted heavy losses on them. This enemy counter-attack was attempted without artillery support. An hour later a hostile barrage came down on the forward slope of the ridge behind Basseville Beck and then a box barrage was put on the line held by the 20th. Under cover of this came another counter-attack at about 7.40pm, but it was repulsed by artillery, Lewis gun and rifle fire”. The “Wearsiders” suffered a further day of bombardment before being relieved at the end of three days in action. 303 men had died.



All the land won was to be lost to the Germans in their offensive operation of April 1918. This area saw almost continual action for four years.

He was the son of the Rev. William Digby and Lucy Harriette Maud Cartwright of Aynho Rectory. His brother John Digby Cartwright also fell.

Nigel is also recorded on Langston Matravers memorial, Dorset; the memorial of Christ Church College, Oxford and The Times Oct 18, 1917.

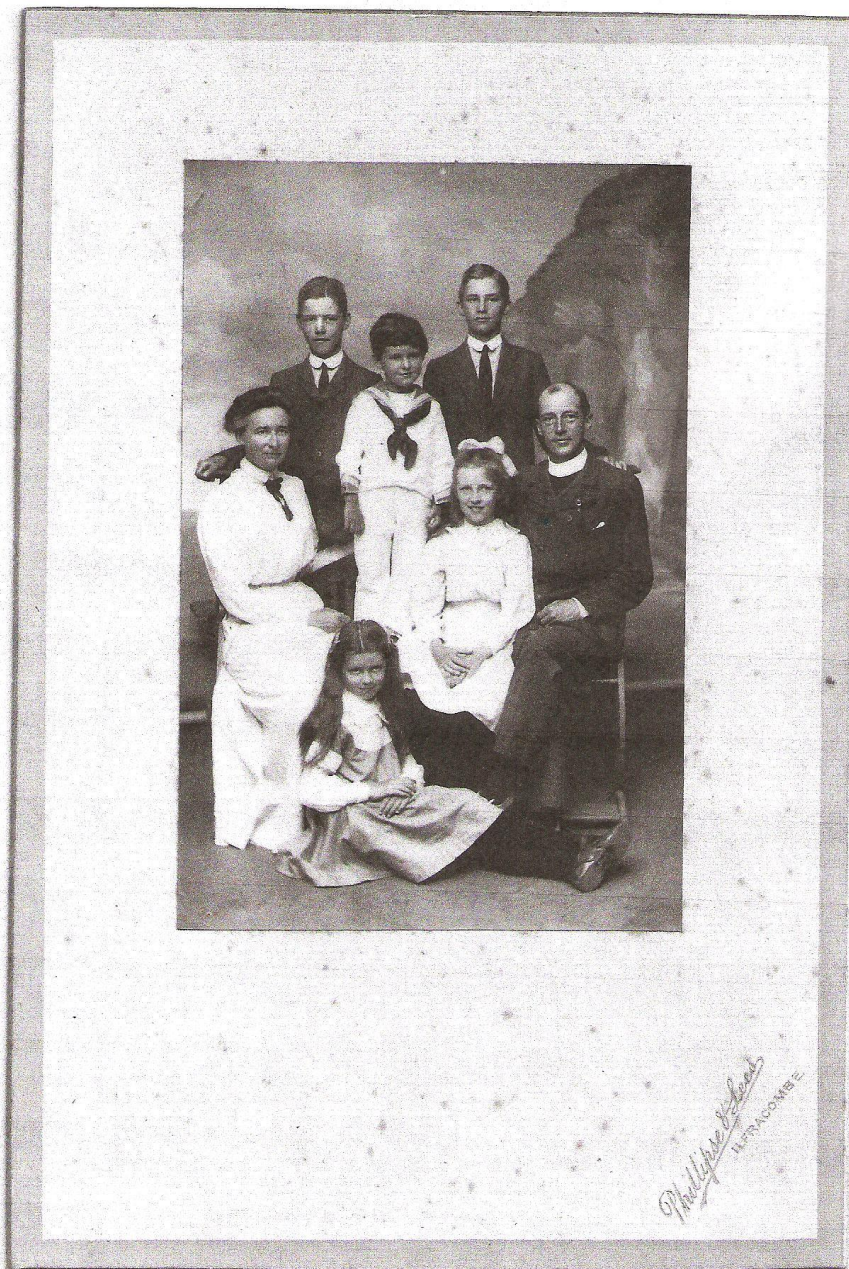
SECOND LIEUTENANT NIGEL WALTER HENRY CARTWRIGHT, killed on September 21, was the second surviving son of the Rev. W. D. Cartwright and Mrs. Cartwright, of Aynhoe Rectory, Banbury, his elder brother having been killed in action at Hooze on August 9, 1915. He was educated at Durnford and Wellington College, and went to Sandhurst in September, 1915. He joined the Durham Light Infantry in April, 1916, and went to the front in the following December.

SECOND LIEUTENANT A. J. CHAPMAN, R.F.C., was the elder son of Mr. J. B. CHAPMAN, M.P.

Nigel's effects are recorded at £79 17s 4d in the National Probate records

For many years a sprig of rosemary was placed on his Aynho memorial by his fiancée.

Cartwright family records are sparse, to lose one son...but two... from the same regiment, of the same rank, age and little more than a mile apart along the same road. Unimaginable.



Lucy & William Carlwright with
their children - John, Angel, Mary,
Jane, and Frederic

Above the family about 1910.

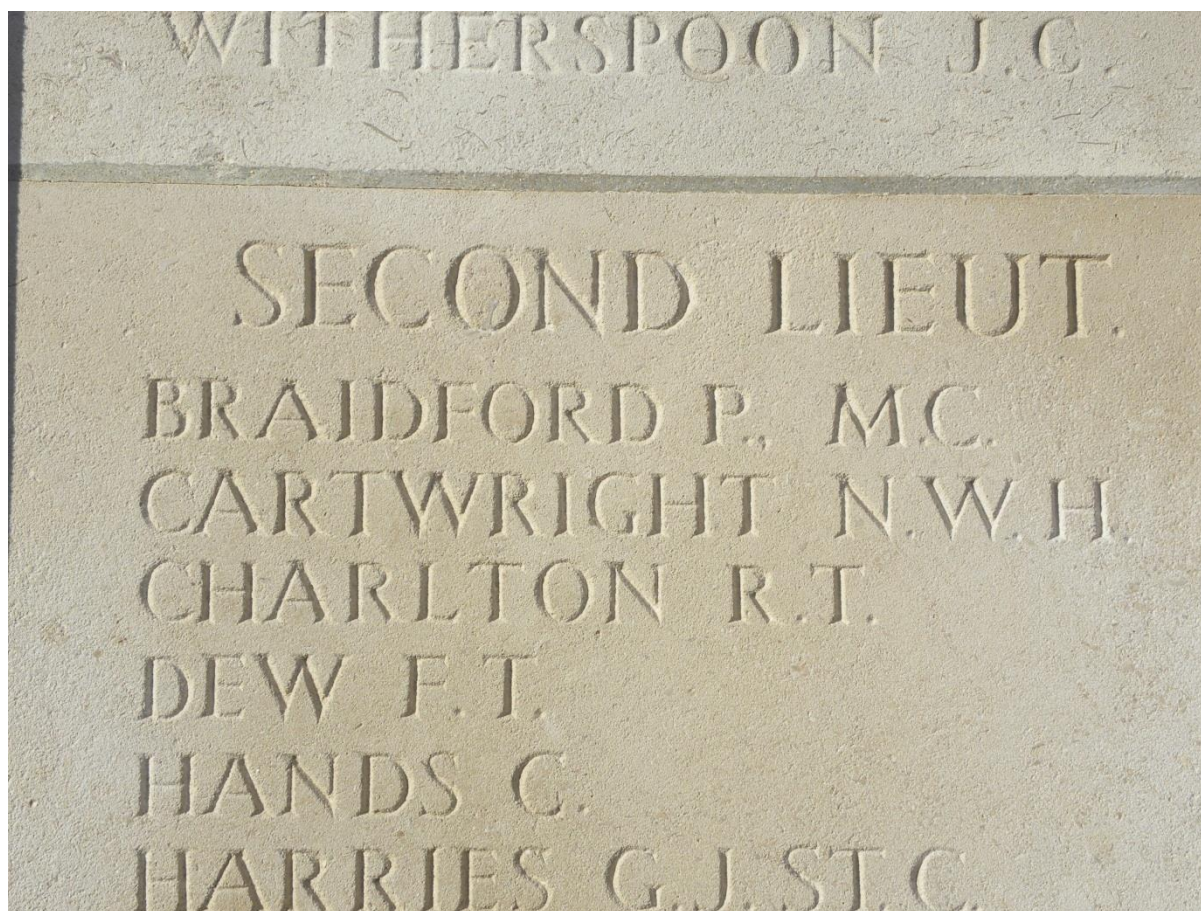
And two little boys.....

James John Conroy



Families losing several members are sadly not rare. One Mother, Charlotte Wood saw her eleven sons enlist; five did not return home. The greatest loss was a family who lost eight of their children during a Zeppelin bombing raid on London.

It is also worth commenting that Second Lieutenants had an average life expectancy of six weeks at the front. Many had received a minimum of training. The Establishment relied upon their, upper class family background, Public school education and University honed intellect to gain “natural” respect from the ranks. These men led by example, often being the first “over the top”. Innate leadership skills could only take these officers so far, those who survived learnt fast and so did the Army. Lessons were studied and as the war progressed, planning and practice became the expected norm. The survivors talked of the Science of War involving tanks, co-ordination between the infantry, artillery and air force; using ever more deadly weapons all on an industrial scale, worldwide.



Tyne Cot Memorial near Ypres

Arthur Edward COLLEY

Private, 2nd Battalion, The Northamptonshire Regiment, 24 Brigade, 8 Division.

Army number 40189.

He was killed in action on 4 March 1917 aged 26. At Bouchavesnes, a village north of Peronne, east of Albert in the Somme.

He has no known grave but his name appears on Pier and Face 11A and 11D of the Thiepval Memorial

He was the son of Elias and Caroline Colley of Aynho, they lived at 118 Main Road. Elias was a stud groom then coalman, Caroline a Domestic. Although not an Aynho family by birth, the last of seven children, Alfred Leonard was Aynho born. Before joining up Arthur was a carpenter as recorded in the 1911 census.

Benjamin COOLEY, Private, 25847. 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards

Killed in action near Arras on March 30 1918. Age 27.

Husband of Elsie Caroline Cooley of 39, Aynho. Benjamin was born in Northchurch near Hemel Hempstead.

Bac-du-Sud British Cemetery.



William CROSS

Probably: Private, 5th Battalion, The Northamptonshire Regiment which was a Pioneer Battalion in 12th Division. Army number 13796.

The 5th Battalion had landed in France 30th May 1915, having been formed in August 1914.

William was killed in action on 3 July 1916 at the battle of the Somme, this was two days after the British Army had lost its greatest number of casualties in a single day 60,000. William was not involved in the start of the battle but will have been brought up to the front to replace the regiments lost in action on days one and two. His battalion would have been used to dig or repair the trench network. It is therefore probable that he was killed by shell fire rather than as part of an assault. He has no known grave, his body being unrecognisable or destroyed by the weight of shelling. His name appears on Pier and Face 11A and 11D of the Thiepval Memorial.

Edward Charles SAVINGS

Private, 6th Battalion, The Northamptonshire Regiment, 54 Brigade, 18th Division.

Army number 31017.

He was killed in action on 3 May 1917 during the 3rd Battle for the Scarpe age 38.

Following on from the Battles of Arras and Vimy Ridge, the British determined to launch another attack east from Monchy to try and breakthrough the *Boiry Riegel* and reach the *Wotanstellung*, a major German defensive fortification. This was scheduled to coincide with the Australian attack at Bullecourt in order to present the Germans with a two-pronged assault. British commanders hoped that success in this venture would force the Germans to retreat further to the east. With this objective in mind, the British launched another attack near the Scarpe on 3 May. However, neither prong was able to make any significant advances and the attack was called off the following day after incurring heavy casualties. Although this battle was a failure, the British learned important lessons about the need for close liaison between tanks, infantry, and artillery, which they would later apply in the Battle of Cambrai. The prolonged fighting in this area cost 150,000 Allied casualties.

He has no known grave but his name appears on Bay 7 of the Arras Memorial

He was the son of Richard and Caroline Webb Savings, 84 Brackley Road, Aynho. Neither parents were from Aynho; Richard was an Ironstone miner, presumably either at Nell Bridge or Adderbury quarries. Edward was an agricultural worker.



ENROLMENT PAPER

For men deemed to be enlisted in H.M. Regular Forces for General Service with the Colours or in the Reserve for the period of the War, under the provisions of the Military Service Act, 1916.

No. 3 (17). Name *Savings, Edw.* NORTHAMPTONSHIRE REGT.

Questions to be put to the Recruit on Enrolment.

- 1. What is your Name? ... *Savings, Edward Charles*
- 2. What is your full Address? ... *Brackley St. Aynhoe, Banbury.*
- 3. Are you a British Subject? ... *Yes.*
- 4. What is your Age? ... *34* Years *8* Months
- 5. What is your Trade or Calling? ... *Farm Labourer.*
- 6. Are you Married? ... *Yes.*
- 7. Have you ever served in any branch of His Majesty's Forces, naval or military? If so, which?
- 8. Have you any preference for any particular branch of the service, if so, which?
- 9. Are you desirous of serving in the Royal Navy, if so, state your qualifications.

I, *Edward Charles Savings* solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true.

Edward C. Savings SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.
Rev. George J. Barnett Signature of Witness.

EXEMPTION FROM COMBATANT SERVICE ON CONSCIENTIOUS GROUNDS.

If the Recruit has been exempted by a Tribunal on conscientious grounds from serving as a combatant it should be so stated here

MEDICAL CLASSIFICATION AS TO FITNESS FOR SERVICE ON ENROLMENT.

Classification* *Class A*

*To be filled in by the Recruiting Officer after Classification by the Medical Board.

† Certificate of Approving Officer.

I approve the enrolment of the above-named man, and appoint him to the ‡

Date *21 NOV 1916* 19
Place *Northampton* *Northamptonshire Regt.* Approving Officer.

‡ The signature of the Approving Officer is to be affixed in the presence of the Recruit. [Here insert the "Corps" to which the Recruit has been appointed.

* If so, the Recruit is to be asked the particulars of his former service, and to produce, if possible, his Certificate of Discharge and Certificate of Character which should be returned to him contemporaneously endorsed in red ink, as follows, viz.—(Name) on the (Date)

0599

Edward John SECCULL

Sergeant, 115th Company, Machine Gun Corps (Infantry), 38th (Welsh) Division. Army number 27240. He had previously served with The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry.

Army Form B. 178.

**To be used for recruits enlisting direct into the Regular Army only.
Army Form B. 178^a to be used for Special Reserve recruits and
Special Reservists enlisting into the Regular Army.**

MEDICAL HISTORY of

Surname Secull Christian Name Edward John

TABLE I.—GENERAL TABLE

Birthplace ... Parish Aynhoe County Northampton

Examined ... { on 25th day of October 1915.
at Swansea

Declared Age ... 27 years 180 days.

Trade or Occupation ... roads checker

Height ... 5 feet, 5.2 inches.

Weight ... 120 lbs.

Chest Measurement: { Girth when fully Expanded. 35.5 inches.
Range of Expansion. 2.5 inches.

Physical Development ...

Vaccination Marks { Arm ... Right Left
Number ...

When Vaccinated ...

Vision ... { R.E.—V = 12
L.E.—V = 6
(a) 12

(a) Marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease ...

(b) Slight defects but not sufficient to cause rejection ... (b) slight defect on left side of forehead

Approved by (Signature) [Signature]
(Rank) _____ Medical Officer.

Enlisted ... { at Swansea
on 27th day of October 1915.

Corps.	Regt. No.
<u>MC & BACCHS BY INTE</u>	<u>26924</u> <u>27240</u>

Joined on Enlistment ...

Transferred to ...

Became non-effective by ...

on _____ day of _____ 1915.

(Signature) _____
(Rank) _____

(7218.) Wt. 1908, 1912, 1913. J. T. & S., Ltd. Form B. 178.

0629

He was killed in action on 24 August 1917 during the Battle of Passchendaele. The Battle of Passchendaele was one of the major battles of the WW1 taking place between July and November 1917. Ground conditions during the whole Ypres-Passchendaele action were bad because the ground was already fought-over and was partially flooded. Continuous shelling had destroyed drainage canals in the area and unseasonable heavy rain in August turned areas into a sea of mud and water-filled shell-craters. The objectives of the offensive were 'wearing out the enemy' and 'securing the Belgian coast and connecting with the Dutch frontier'. The battle consisted of a series of 'bite and hold' attacks to capture critical terrain and to wear down the German army. Attack and counter-attacks by the German army to repulse Allied attacks and recapture ground, lasted until the Canadian Corps took Passchendaele on 6 November 1917, ending the battle on 10 November apart from minor operations. Inflicting irreplaceable casualties on the Germans, the Allies had captured 5 miles (8 km) of some of the most heavily defended territory in the world at a cost of 140,000 dead, a ratio of roughly 2 inches gained per dead soldier.

Edward has no known grave but his name appears on Panel 154-159 and 163A of the Tyne Cot Memorial

He was 24 and the son of Eli and Rhoda Ann Seccull of Aynho. In 1901 the family of four children lived in 102 Back Road, they had lived in 3 Skittle Alley (93 Aynho). Eli was a stone mason like many of the Seccull family. Eli was the last Seccull living in Aynho until his death in 1933.



Name.	Corps.	Rank.	Regtl. No.
SECCULL.	M.G.C.	A/Cjt.	27240.
EDWARD. J.			
Medal.	Roll.	Page.	Remarks.
VICTORY	M.G.C/101. B. 20	2077.	
BRITISH	---	---	
STAR			
Theatre of War first served in			
Date of entry therein			

K. 1380

Correspondence

Address

(991) W. 701/B. P. 6930 1,000m. 24/5/21 N.H.&Co.Ltd. E. 7600

Albert Edward STEWART

Probably Private, 5th Battalion, The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry,

42 Brigade, 14th Division. Army number 19512. Enlisted Oxford

He was killed in action during the fight for Delville Wood on 24 August 1916. He was 21

The battle of Delville Wood, 15 July-3 September 1916, began as part of the battle of Bazentine Ridge, itself part of the first battle of the Somme. Delville Wood was on the extreme right flank of the attack on Bazentine Ridge, and by the end of the 14 July the British had reached the southern edge of the wood, which for the next six weeks would be at the north east corner of the British line. The 156 acres of woodland was fought over, back and forth until, finally, on 8th September the British took it and held it. The battle is recorded as a battle honour by the Ox and Bucks.

THE OXF & BUCKS LIGHT INFANTRY. 5 th BATTALION WAR DIARIES			
PLACE	Date	SUMMARY of EVENTS & INFORMATION	PAGE No 58.
FRICOURT.	14.08.16.	Rest.	
	15.08.16.	Rest.	
	16.08.16.	Rest.	
	17.08.16.	Rest.	
	18.08.16.	Orders to move at ½ hours notice.	
	19.08.16.	Moved to MONTAUBAN (57 S.W. 1/20000) and occupied North & North West defences.	
	20.08.16.	Slight shelling 3 O.R. wounded. Digging party.	
	21.08.16.	Slight shelling. 2 nd Lt. STYLES wounded. Digging & carrying.	
	22.08.16.	Slight shelling. 7 O.R. wounded. Digging & carrying.	
	23.08.16.	Occupied in Delville Wood trenches occupied & vacated by 5 th K.S.L.I. (see separate orders)	
	24.08.16.	Assaulted & took German trenches in Delville Wood allotted to Battn. Line finally established from junction with Worcester Regt. 100 th Bde. 33 rd Div. on FLERS Rd S 12.a.54. through S.12.c.99 to S.12.c.84 where 5 th K.S.L.I. joined 5 th K.S.L.I. holding from Inner Trench to edge of wood. Casualties. 2 nd Lt's. BRADLEY & WESTON-WEBB Killed. Capt. CRAWFORD, Lt. FORSHAW, 2 nd Lt's CLUTSON, ROBINSON, DE PASS, & THOMAS wounded. 2 nd Lt. TALBOT missing. O.R. 39 Killed, 115 wounded, 9 missing. One M.G. captured with 200 prisoners including 5 Officers, estimated enemy killed and wounded 150 – 200.	
	25.08.16.	Relieved by 6 th K.O.Y.L.I. and returned to camp at F.8.d.5.0	

He has no known grave but his name appears on Pier and Face 10A and 10D of the Thiépval Memorial. The memorial is reserved for those missing, or unidentified, soldiers who have no known grave, 72195 British and South African names are recorded on Lutyens memorial. It was inaugurated in 1932.

Additional information

It has not been possible to identify his parents from the census returns

Joseph Edward WILLIAMS

Private, 26th Battalion, Canadian Infantry (New Brunswick Regiment). 5th Brigade, 2nd Division. Army number 742069.

He was killed in action age 20 on 15 August 1917. This was the first day of an offensive on the Western Front near Lens between four Divisions of Canadian troops and elements of the German Sixth Army. The assault on Hill 70 during the Arras offensive was an attempt to draw German reserves away from the battle for Passchendaele. Sadly Joseph's death did not save Edward Seccull falling nine days later at Passchendaele. Joseph would attack the rubble remains of the suburbs of Cite St. Edouard, St Laurent and St. Emile directly south of Hill 70. The assault began at 4.25am, their first objective won in 20 minutes, the first German counter attack was launched by 6.00am. The battle lasted until the 25th August. The Canadians achieved their objective, gaining the high ground, stopping the inevitable counter attack, captured 1300 prisoners and suffered the latest German weapon, sulphur mustard gas.

He was the son of Frederick and the late Ann E Williams of Aynho. It is thought he emigrated to Canada and gained Canadian citizenship. He had at least seven siblings, Father and the eldest being farm labourers.

He is remembered in Canadian Cemetery No. 3 Memorial 49 of Loos British Cemetery

This action saw Corporal Filip Konowal be awarded a VC, the only Ukrainian to receive such an honour, fighting in a Canadian regiment for the British Empire.

Wallace James WILLIAMS

Private, 1st Battalion, The Northumberland Fusiliers, 9 Brigade, 3rd Division.

Army number 52864. Enlisted Oxford. Formerly 17295 A.C.C.

Often known as the "Fighting Fifth" as the regiment was until 1881 the Fifth Foot, the Northumberland Fusiliers raised no fewer than 51 battalions for service in the Great War. This makes it the second largest after the London Regiment.

Fouquereuil is a small village in the Department of the Pas- de-Calais between Bethune and Bruay la Buisserie. On 6th June 1918, Wallace was killed in action during the Kaiser's last Battle. He was 19. He is buried in grave II C 2 Sandpits British Cemetery, Fouquereuil, along with more than 30 comrades from the Fighting Fifth. Wallace was typical of these men; most were aged 20 years and died in June 1918. They had died stopping a last desperate attempt by Ludendorff to break through the British line and head to the Channel coast. The aim was to force a widespread British retreat, a retreat to protect their supply lines from being cut off. The Germans were fast running out of men, 900,000 had died between March and June, supplies were short and they had to win before the Americans could replace any further British losses. Early success, by 1st July German forces were within 18 miles of Dunkirk, was short lived. A month later, the tide had turned, Ludendorff called 8th August "a black day for the German Army", he realised there was to be no victory. Within weeks, the remaining Northumberland Fusiliers were to become part of the army of occupation.

The cemetery was begun by XIII Corps at the outset of the German advance in April 1918, and continued to be used by them until September 1918. The cemetery, like so many, was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens

He was the son of James and Elizabeth Williams of Aynho. James was a carter, he was Aynho born and predeceased his son.

Arthur Stanley WOOLNOUGH

Second Lieutenant, C Company, 7th Battalion, The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry

61 Brigade, 20th Division.

He died of his wounds on 1 December 1917 whilst held prisoner by the Germans. He had probably been wounded and captured during the German counter-attacks during the battle of Cambrai. He was 27.

He was born in Aynho, enlisted in the Devon Yeomanry in August 1914 and served in Gallipoli and in Egypt. He was Gazetted Second Lieutenant in 1916.

He is buried in grave V C 24 Caudry British Cemetery.

He was the son of Matthew Henry and Kate Woolnough, White House, Adderbury and the husband of Mrs A S Woolnough of Tintagel, Cornwall. He is remembered on the Tintagel memorial.

Arthur was born in Aynho, his Father being Estate Steward. IN 1911, Arthur was a pupil in the Estate Office.

No photograph has been found which is unusual for an officer. So far, regimental records have been unable to add any great detail to the circumstances surrounding his death.

We know from the general records of Arthur's involvement.

The four month stalemate of Passchendaele ending in October 1917 led to the introduction of a new way to wage war, "Armoured warfare". It was to be a combined and coordinated attack by tank, infantry, artillery and aircraft. The German lines had 4 bands of wire each 50m thick. There was no conventional way through for the British. The introduction of the tank, en masse, combined with supporting infantry, was the only realistic way to get through the wire. 21st November saw the start of this new offensive, the battle of Cambrai had begun. The British broke through, up to 4 miles, heading towards Broulon and the St Quentin Canal. Arthur would have headed North East towards Le Quennet Farm, a heavily fortified German strong point. He would have attacked with the tanks of A and I battalion. The action was declared a success. The Germans having lost territory, counter attacked on 30th November and 1st December. At some point he was wounded, was captured and died. 47,596 British soldiers were casualties in the battle of Cambria, approximately a third died.

Probably the most famous member of the regiment was Harry Patch, Britain's longest lived "Tommy" who served in the 7th DCLI.



Ernst Junger, the most famous German infantryman and diarist fought in this action. Arthur's younger brother, James also fought in and survived WW1. He was born in 1893

Albert Philip WRIGHTON



Private, 6th Battalion, The Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment), 72 Brigade, 24th Division. Army number G/14575

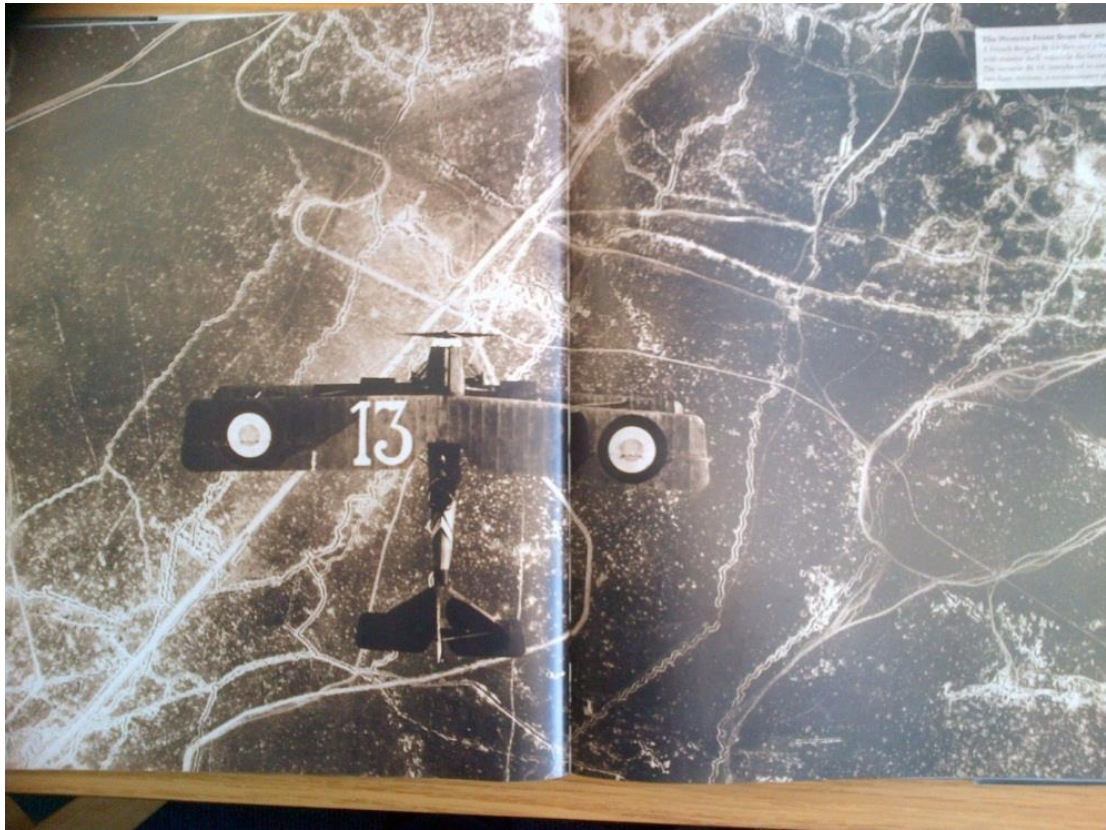
He was killed in action on the first day of the Battle of Vimy Ridge on 9 April 1917. He was 38 years of age.

He was the brother of Reginald and the son of the late George and of Hannah Wrighton of Aynho. At the time of his death, his Father, George an estate worker, had predeceased him. The family lived in 98 Brackley Road in 1901 and later 81 Aynho.

The Battle of Vimy Ridge was fought primarily as part of the Battle of Arras, took place from 9 to 12 April 1917, was part of the opening phase of the British-led Battle of Arras, a diversionary attack for the French Nivelle Offensive. The action was fought predominantly by Canadian forces, the ridge was won.

By the end of the war the Regiment had lost 6,866 officers and other ranks. And lastly to quote General Sir H. Smith-Dorrien: "I am perfectly certain there is no other Battalion that has made such a name for itself as The Royal West Kents. Everyone is talking about you. They say: Give them a job, they will do it; they never leave the trenches!"

Albert has no known grave but his name appears on Bay 7 of the Arras Memorial



Typical picture of the Somme, trenched, the chalk showing through the soil and the pockmarks left by the shelling.



Born at Ashton
Res. at Ashton
NORTHAMPTON.

SHORT SERVICE.

(For the Duration of the War, with the Colours and in the Army Reserve).

Card No.
13
20

ATTESTATION OF

No. 1326 Name Albert Phillip Whipton Corps 1st Kent Regt.

Questions to be put to the Recruit before Enlistment.

1. What is your Name? Whipton
2. What is your full Address? Ashton
3. Are you a British Subject? Yes
4. What is your Age? 23 Years 2 Months
5. What is your Trade or Calling? Walter
6. Are you Married? No
7. Have you ever served in any branch of His Majesty's Forces, naval or military, if so, which? No
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? Yes
9. Are you willing to be enlisted for General Service? Yes
10. Did you receive a Notice, and do you understand its meaning, and who gave it to you? Yes Name Mr. Thomas Corps 1st Kent Regt.
11. Are you willing to serve upon the following conditions provided His Majesty should so long require your services?
For the duration of the War, at the end of which you will be discharged with all convenient speed. You will be required to serve for one day with the Colours and the remainder of the period in the Army Reserve, in accordance with the provisions of the Royal Warrant dated 20th Oct., 1915, until such time as you may be called up by order of the Army Council. If employed with Hospitals, depots of Mounted Units, or as a Clerk, etc., you may be retained after the termination of hostilities until your services can be spared, but such retention shall in no case exceed six months. Yes

I, Albert Phillip Whipton do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements made.

Albert Phillip Whipton SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.
J. H. Thomas Signature of Witness.

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.

I, Albert Phillip Whipton swear by Almighty God, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs, and Successors, and that I will, as in duty bound, honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, in Person, Crown, and Dignity against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE OR ATTESTING OFFICER.

The Recruit above named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me at WIMBORNE on this 10th day of Nov 1915.

Signature of the Justice J. H. Thomas

† Certificate of Approving Officer.

I certify that this Attestation of the above-named Recruit is correct, and properly filled up, and that the required forms appear to have been complied with. I accordingly approve, and appoint him to the 1st Kent Regt.

If enlisted by special authority, Army Form B. 203 (or other authority for the enlistment) will be attached to the original attestation.

Date 19 APR 1916 19 16
Place Northampton 1st Lt. L. H. Col. } Approving Officer.
Northamptonshire Regt.

† The signature of the Approving Officer is to be affixed in the presence of the Recruit.
‡ Here insert the "Corps" for which the Recruit has been enlisted.

* If so, the Recruit is to be asked the particulars of his former service, and to produce, if possible, his Certificate of Discharge and Certificate of Character, which should be returned to him conspicuously enclosed in red ink, as follows, viz.—(Name) _____ on the (Date) _____

0479

BANBURY.

NORTHAMPTON.

ARMY FORM B. 178.

to be used (a) for recruits enlisting direct into the Regular Army, and (b) for men of the Territorial Force when they are admitted to Hospital. Army Form B. 178A to be used for Special Reserve recruits and Special Reservists enlisting into the Regular Army.

MEDICAL HISTORY of

Surname Wright Christian Name Philip

TABLE I.—GENERAL TABLE.

Birthplace ... Parish Agbe County Northampton

Examined ... on 29th day of April 1916
at

Declared Age ... years ... days ...

Trade or Occupation ...

Height ... feet ... inches.

Weight ... lbs.

Chest Measurement { Girth when fully Expanded ... inches.
Range of Expansion ... inches.

Physical Development ... Good.

Vaccination Marks { Arm ...
Number ...

When Vaccinated ...

Vision ... (R.E.—V= ...
L.E.—V= ...)

(a) Marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease ...

(b) Slight defects but not sufficient to cause rejection ...

Approved by (Signature) E. C. ...

(Rank) ... Medical Officer.

Enlisted ... at ...

on 29th day of April 1916

Joined on Enlistment ... Corps ... Regt. No. ...

Transferred to ...

Became non-effective by ...

on ... day of ... 1916

(Signature) ...

(Rank) ...

RE-EXAMINED by ... Lt. Colonel ... (R.F.)

NORTHAMPTON. 19 APR 1916

0490

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT ON ENLISTMENT.

(To correspond with Entries on the Medical History Sheet.)
 Applicable to all ranks.

Name Alvin ... Bailey
 Apparent age 37 years ... months Height 5 feet 10 inches.
 Chest Measurement { Girth when fully expanded 35 inches.
 Range of expansion 3 inches.
 Distinctive marks

INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY RECRUIT.

Name and Address of next-of-kin Harriet Wrightin Ayoko Bailey
 Relationship Mother

Particulars as to Marriage.

(a) Christian and Surname of Woman to whom married, and whether spinster or widow. (b) Place and date of marriage.
 (c) Present address. (d) Initials of Officer verifying entry.

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)

Particulars as to Children.

Christian Names	Date and Place of Birth

MILITARY HISTORY SHEET.

1. Passed classes of Instruction †					
† This includes any authorized class of instruction, e.g., in swimming, chiropody, &c.					
2. Campaigns ... (including Actions)					
3. Wounded ...					
4. Special instances of gallant conduct and mentions in public despatches					
5. Medals, decorations and annuities		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name of Medal</th> <th>Clasps</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name of Medal	Clasps	
Name of Medal	Clasps				
6. Injuries in or by the service ...					

0480

83

Army Form B. 103.

Casualty Form—Active Service.

Regimental Number

6/145/5

Rank PLC Regiment or Corps ROYAL WEST KENT REGT
 Surname Wrighton Christian Name Albert Phillip
 Religion _____ Age of Enlistment 34 years 2 months
 Enlisted (a) 29.11.15 Terms of Service (a) 3 Yr Service reckons from (a) 29.11.15
 Date of promotion to present rank _____ Date of appointment to lance rank _____
 Extended { } Re-engaged { } Qualification (b) _____
 or Corps Trade and Rate _____

Signature of Officer i/c Records.

Report		Record of promotions, reductions, transfers, casualties, etc., starting active service, as reported on Army Form B. 218, Army Form A. 26, or in other official documents. The authority to be quoted in each case.	Place of Casualty	Date of Casualty	Remarks Taken from Army Form B. 218, Army Form A. 26, or other official documents.
Date	From whom received				
		Embarked ...		13.9.16	
		Disembarked ...			
			Joined Battalion	29.9.16	
13.4.17	O.S.R.	Missing	Field	9.11.17	R.210
1.2.18	W.O.	Exempted for official purposes		9.4.17	R.20900
		Authority - W.O. Ref No - 8/512/291	C.2 Casualties		
			Officer i/c		
			Identity Section		
			1 Section		

(a) In the case of a man who has re-engaged for, or called into Section D, Army Reserve, particulars of such re-engagement or calliment will be entered.
 (b) Signaller, Steering-Smith, &c.

9381. W/L 15012/5188. 1,093,000. 1/18. P.P. 1.1.2. Form B. 103.

[P.T.O.]

0476

MEMORANDUM FOR

The Officer in charge of Infantry Records, no 2
Hornsea

Any further communication on
this subject should be addressed
to:—
The Secretary,
WAR OFFICE,
Imperial Institute,
South Kensington,
LONDON, S.W. 7,
and the following number quoted

WAK OFFICE,
IMPERIAL INSTITUTE,
SOUTH KENSINGTON,
LONDON, S.W. 7.

4th May 1918

R.151276911 (Accounts 4)

Will you please note that any articles of personal
property now in your possession or subsequently
received by you belonging to the late

should be despatched to:—

Private Albert Herbert Wright
has Harold Wright
Bayham

Indexed

Any medals granted to the deceased that are
now in your possession or that may hereafter reach
you should be disposed of to:—

W/O Effects

The same person

Charris
Assistant Financial Secretary.

048

R.F. 3658/38

Ac. 3 Infantry Record Office,
Staines Road,
Hounslow.

20 MAY 1920

To:-
Mrs. H. Wighton
81, Wyke
Barnes, London



Sir or Madam,

The Memorial Scroll in respect of the late
G/14575. Pte Wighton A.P. Royal West Kent
Regiment, is forwarded herewith.

Kindly acknowledge receipt hereon.

Yours faithfully,

M. Wighton



for Lieut. Colonel,
i/c Ac. 3 Infantry Records.

RECEIVED
SIGNATURE

Mrs. Wighton

0482

BWK 3658/08 ✓

Regiment ROY WEST KENT REGIMENT

Army Form W. 5020.

To be filled in by
Officer in Charge of
Records.

STATEMENT of the Names and Addresses of all the Relatives of the above-named deceased Soldier in each of the degrees specified below that are now living.

Note.—Against those degrees of relationship in which there is no relative now living the word "none" is to be inserted. If the answers are not filled in, such correspondence and delay may be occasioned by the officers.

Degree of relationship	NAME IN FULL of every relative now living in each degree enquired for (see note above).	ADDRESS IN FULL of each surviving relative opposite his or her name.
Widow of the Soldier	<i>Hannah Wrighton</i>	<i>Aynho, Banbury.</i>
Children of the Soldier and dates of their births... ..		
Father of the Soldier		
Mother of the Soldier	<i>Hannah Wrighton</i>	<i>Aynho, Banbury.</i>
Brothers of the Soldier	Full Blood	<i>Deceased</i>
	Half blood	
Sisters of the Soldier	Full blood	<i>Fanny Beattie Clark 42</i>
	Half blood	<i>Wootton, near Leamington</i>

If no Relatives in the degrees above are now living the following particulars should be given:—

	Names of those now living.	Addresses in full.
Grandparents of the Soldier		
Nephews and Nieces of the Soldier		
Uncles and Aunts by blood of the Soldier (not Uncles and Aunts by marriage)		

DECLARATION.

I hereby declare that the above is a true and complete Statement of all the Relatives of the late Soldier now living in the degrees enquired for.

Relationship to the Soldier: *Widow*
Address in full: *91 Aynho, Banbury.*

I hereby certify that the above Statement and Declaration made by *Hannah Wrighton* and signed in my presence is complete and correct, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dated at *Aynho* this *14* day of *September* 19*19*.
Signature of Minister or Magistrate: *[Signature]* Qualification: *Clark, ex-Army Officer*
Aynho, Banbury.

4227. W. 5020 (P. 11) 10050005. 2. 19. S.O.P. 11.

0483

From _____



O.H.M.S.

To The Officer in Charge of Records
No. 2 Infantry Record Office,
Staines Road, Hounslow.

To *W. W. ...*

RECEIVED

April

Staines

In order that I may be enabled to dispose of the plaque and scroll in commemoration of the soldier named overleaf in accordance with the wishes of His Majesty the King, I have to request that the requisite information regarding the soldier's relatives now living may be furnished on the form overleaf in strict accordance with the instructions printed thereon.

The declaration thereon should be signed in your own handwriting and the form should be returned to me when certified by a Minister or Magistrate.

R. B. ...
for
Officer in Charge of Records.

INSTRUCTIONS

(2) To return, fold so that flap marked (3) is on top, and then place flap marked (1) inside it.



O.H.M.S.

(1)

To *...*

RWK

0484

Reginald Victor WRIGHTON

Private, 2nd Battalion, Coldstream Guards, 1 Guards Brigade, Guards Division. Army number 17537

He was killed in action during the fighting at Poelcappelle on 9 October 1917. He was 29

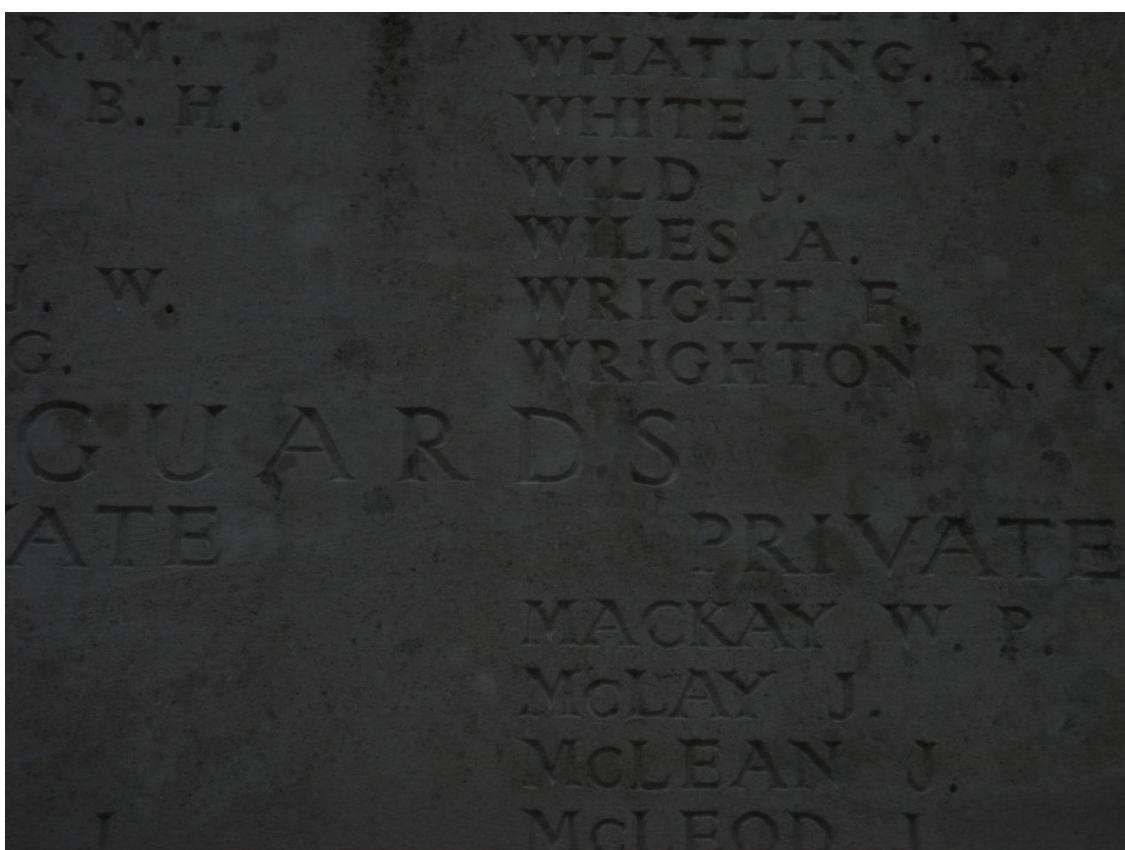
The battle of Poelcappelle was the fourth of a series of “bite and hold” battles launched by General Herbert Plumer during the battle of Passchendaele. The first three such battles had each achieved their objectives, biting chunks out of the German line and then defending those gains against any counterattacks.

On 7 October the rains returned. 25mm of rain fell over two days, onto already saturated ground, and in an area where constant fighting had destroyed the field drains. The resulting mud affected every aspect of the battle. Movement became difficult. The artillery bombardment, crucial for the success of the battle, was affected in two main ways. First off all the guns themselves required stable gun platforms, or their accuracy would be lost. The wet ground around Ypres no longer provided the required stability. Second, many shells simply disappeared into the mud, and either failed to explode or had much of the force of their explosion absorbed by the mud. Much of the German wire survived the British bombardment.

The attack at Poelcappelle failed to achieve its objectives. Some units did manage to advance a short distance, although in several cases were then forced to pull back later in the day. The Guards Division, attacking west of Poelcappelle, advanced furthest. Coldstream casualties totalled 420 men from all four battalions.

He was the brother of Albert and the son of the late George and of Hannah Wrighton of Aynho

He has no known grave but his name appears on Panel 9 to 10 of the Tyne Cot Memorial



Name	Class	Book	Page No.
WRIGHTON,	C. C. No.	16	17537
Reginald V.			
Book	Page	Page	Page
V. 1	C. C. No.	481	
V. 2			
V. 3			
V. 4			
V. 5			
V. 6			
V. 7			
V. 8			
V. 9			
V. 10			
Books of War not covered by			
Books of entry blank			

K 1008

Correspondence.

Address.

1918-19 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

Alfred WRIGHTON

Private, 7th Battalion, The Northamptonshire Regiment, 73 Brigade, 24th Division.

Army number 17146.

He was killed in action in the Battle for Delville Wood during the Somme Campaign on 17 August 1916; he was 37

He was the brother of Clement and the son of Frederick and Mary Wrighton of Aynho and the husband of Minnie Wrighton, Fringford near Bicester. Alfred had before the War, moved to Walsall, working as a railway bricklayer's labourer. Minnie was the daughter of the family he lodged with. Alfred was one of five children. Albert and Victor were cousins.

He has no known grave but his name appears on Pier and Face 11A and 11D of the Thiepval Memorial.



And two days later brother Clement, serving the same battalion was killed. This sadly is a typical story of Kitchener's early volunteer Army. Albert Stewart also perished in Delville Wood one week after Alfred.

Clement WRIGHTON

Private, 7th Battalion, The Northamptonshire Regiment, 73 Brigade, 24th Division.

Army number 15241

He too was killed in action in the Battle for Delville Wood during the Somme Campaign on 19 August 1916

He was the brother of Alfred and the son of Frederick and Mary Wrighton of Aynho

He has no known grave but his name appears on Pier and Face 11A and 11D of the Thiepval Memorial.

Name	Corps	Rank	Regt. No.
WRIGHTON Clement	North'm. B.	Private	15241
Serial	Regt.	Page	Remarks
First	K/1/101 B6	404	K in A. 19. 8. 16.
Second	6.	4.	
15 th War	K/1/204	450	
Theatre of War in which served	France		
Date of entry Theatre	1-8-15.		

Correspondence.

Address.

Approved by: W. W. 200-217 1915. 10/16. 10/17. 11/10. 12/10/1915

James Alvin BYGRAVE

Private 3rd/4th Battalion, The Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment, 62 Brigade, 21st Division. Army number G25344

A native of Aynho, he died from his wounds on 22 January 1918 age 19

During the Great War the Queen's raised 31 battalions and 29 Young Soldiers and Labour units. 23 battalions saw active service. The Queen's lost 7399 officers, NCOs and men killed.

James probably was one of the men wounded during the sporadic shelling of the front line at Vaucelette Farm near Heudecourt about 2 miles from St Quentin. The Regimental diary is detailed below:

3/4th Bn "The Queen's" (RWS) Regt. Appendix 5.
Lieut.
Operation Order No 38. For-Adjut-Copy-No.

OXEN.

SECRET

Jan 15th.1918.

Map Ref 57. c. S.E.

1. The 3/4th "Queen's" will be relieved by the 1st Lincolnshire Regt on Jany 16th.
2. On relief the Batta will proceed to HEUDICOURT & become Bde Reserve.
3. All Trench Stores, Maps, Defense Schemes, Swoops, & Bde Dump Guard will be handed over on relief.
4. O. C. Coys will render a report of work done during tour in the trenches & also proposed programme of work to these H.Q's by 2 p.m. 16.1.18.
5. On Jany 16th, Dinners will be served at 12.30 p.m. and Teas at 3.30 p.m.
6. Officers' Mess Canteen, accompanied by 1 Cook & 1 Servant, will be at H. Q's at 3.15 p.m.
7. An advance party of 1 Officer, 1 N. C. O. and 1 Runner will report to Capt V. F. Samuelson, M. C at 10 a.m. Jany 16th at RAILWAY CAMP.
8. Completion of relief will be reported to these H. Q's by code word "ERNEST".
9. Acknowledge.

Issued by Runner at 4.30 p.m. 15/1/18.

Copy No 1 Filed.
2-6 Coys.
7 62nd Inf Bde.
8.1st Lincoln Regt
9 & 10 War Diary

A.H. JOHN Lieut.
For Adjutant,
OXEN.

1918

Appendix

January

HAUDICOURT

- 17th Day spent in resting & cleaning up.
- 18th Day spent in bathing & cleaning up. Draft of 13 O.R. joined the Batta.
- 19th Training commenced.
- 20th Work commenced on Anti-Aircraft Defences of the Camp. The Batta. relieved the 1st Lincolnshire Regt. in trenches around VAUCELETTE FARM, the 10th Yorkshire Regiment being on the left & 6th Leicestershire Regt. & 44th 110th Brigade on the right. "A" & "D" Coys. were in the front line on each right & left respectively, "C" Coy. was in support at railway, "D" Coy. was in reserve in sunken road hitherto the position of the Batta. H.Q. whilst Batta H.Q. were accommodated in a new deep dug-out in sunken road formerly the position of the Reserve Coy. Relief complete 7.25 p.m. Quiet night Casualties NIL.

Appendix 6
2

TRENCHES AROUND VAUCELETTE FARM
E. OF HAUDICOURT.

- 21st Quiet day. Vicinity of VAUCELETTE FARM shelled during the afternoon whilst "No Man's" Land was actively patrolled during the night, none of the enemy were encountered. Casualties 1 O.R. wounded.
- 22nd Hostile artillery active at intervals on VAUCELETTE FARM. Casualties 2 O.R. wounded. Inter Coy relief, "B" & "C" Coys. relieving "D" & "A" Coys in front line respectively, "A" Coy. went into support whilst "D" Coy. went in reserve.

Appendix 2.

" 2.

He is buried in Grave IV G 31 Tincourth New British Cemetery near Peronne, The Somme

Additional information

His parents Henry and Kate were from Middlesex and Bucks, Henry was a farm labourer.

ROLL OF SERVICE

1914-1918



Charles ARISS

Not recorded in the Parish censuses

Hubert ARISS

Not recorded in the Parish censuses

Rev. Vivian Greaves BANHAM, M.C and Bar., R.A.C,D attd. 291st Bde., Royal Field Artillery, Territorial Force. He was awarded a Bar to his Military Cross, this was gazetted 15th February, 1919.

In 1917 the brigade was deployed to France and Flanders in support of the 58th (2/1st London) Division.

He became Rector of Aynho for over forty years. He kept a German helmet in a cupboard in the Rectory hall. He was always much troubled by what he had experienced in the war. His son, David died in WW2 see below.

291st Bde. R.F.A. Brigade. 55th Division. Australian Corps. 1st October 1918. Date of Recommendation.

Schedule No. <small>(to be left blank)</small>	Unit	Regt. No.	Rank and Name	Action for which commended	Recommended by	Honour or Reward	(To be left blank)
	291st Bde. R.F.A.	-	Captain Vivian Greaves BANHAM, C.B. (C. of E.)	For extraordinary good work and devotion to duty in assisting wounded from the Battery position to the Dressing Station, thereby, undoubtedly, being instrumental in saving life. On 29th September 1918, he was at the Battery position of A/291st Bty. R. of ROBINSON, R.F.A. of 3rd Cavalry Brigade when this battery for a considerable period was under very heavy shell fire and direct machine gun fire, and casualties occurred in the Battery. He made several forays from the Battery position to the Dressing Station under most heavy shell fire, showing utter disregard of personal safety. On one occasion he observed a Tank mechanic coming towards the Battery position suffering from severe shell shock, and without a steel helmet. This Officer went forward and took charge of the man, placing his own steel helmet on him, and assisting the man to the Dressing Station, about a mile away. This deed was performed under direct machine gun fire of the enemy. When not assisting wounded men he moved from one gun to another, cheering and encouraging detachments all the time. His conduct throughout was magnificent and by his utter disregard of danger and cheerful disposition he stimulated and maintained a fine fighting spirit throughout this very trying period.	Lt. Col. R. LONGSTAFF, D.S.O. Command. 291st Bde. R.F.A. (Sgd) W. L. B. DUNNIES Brig. Genl. C. A. A. 4th Aust. Division.	M.C.	
			Received. Passed. Division 8.10.18. Corps.	(Sgd) H. G. SIMON LAIR MACLAGAN. Major-General. Commanding 4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.			

Recommendation for the Military Cross

"The Rev. Vivian Greaves Banham, R. Army Chapl. ept., attd. 290th Bde., R.F.A., T.F. On September 18th, 1918, near Epehy, the "battery he was living with was being severely shelled in enfilade and considerable casualties, inflicted. He organised a party of stretcher bearers and with the greatest coolness dressed the wounded and took them to the nearest - dressing station. He then returned to 'the battery and remained at the' guns, cheering one by his example and word."

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE, 30 JULY, 1919

Below is Rev Banham's medal card, MC awarded



William BENNETT Not recorded in the Parish censuses but possibly connected to the Landlords of the Cartwright Arms.

Charles BRAITHWAITE Born in Kings Sutton. His parents were Thomas born Sedburgh, Yorkshire and Margaret born Troutbeck, Westmoreland. The family moved to farm at Nell Bridge Farm. The family also lived at Lower and Upper Aynho Ground farms. Younger brother Frederick also served and survived.

Frederick BRAITHWAITE Born in Kings Sutton. His parents were Thomas born Sedburgh, Yorkshire and Margaret born Troutbeck, Westmoreland. The family moved to farm at Nell Bridge Farm. Older brother Charles also served and survived.

James BRAITHWAITE Probably a third member of the Nell Bridge farming family. Not recorded in the Parish censuses. Interesting that the men left the farm to fight as food production was vital to the War effort in WW1. They will certainly have seen farm horses be purchased by the War Office, a million were required by the British Army alone.

James BROWN Not recorded in the Parish censuses but presumably a brother of Reginald below.

Reginald BROWN In the 1901 census Reginald, aged 9 is the son of William Brown (50) born Brereton, Staffs and Mary born Sandon Staffs, also Gwendolyn. William's profession is Gardener, presumably at Aynhoe Park as there was a Mr Brown at Aynhoe Park during WW1.

Arthur BUTLER 1901 census shows William Steyton (53) widower, gardener's labourer, living in Little Lane with stepdaughter Mary A Butler (45), stepson Harry B Butler (47) and grandson – Arthur R Butler (4). He lost both legs at the knees in WW1. He fathered 6 children and was remembered as a hardworking caretaker of the village hall.

Harold CARTWRIGHT Mildred de Crespigny, the elder daughter of the family married Capt Harold Cartwright of Aynho in Burton Latimer church on 2 October 1912. The reception was held in the Hall.



Commissioned Dec 1897 as 2/Lt 4th Bn West Yorkshire Reg.
He was promoted to Lieutenant in March 1900.
He Served from February 1898 to November 1902 in India with the 1st Bn and again from November 1904 to December 1908.
Made Captain July 1905.

Went to France with 1st Bn 13th August 1914 in command of D Company. On August 24th 1914 he was ordered to hold a position near Givry then marched to Maubeuge.
On Saturday October 31st in the Battle of Ypres where he was seriously wounded.
Promoted to Major in September 1915 and in Oct joined the General Staff.

Frank COLLEY 1901 census shows Elias Colley (52) stud groom, born Halse, Caroline (47) born Helmdon, Ellen (25) draper's assistant, Ethel (16), May (14), Margaret (12), Edward (10), Frank (8) all born Brackley, and Leonard (6) born Aynho. In the 1911 census the family has 3 males and 3 females. The family lived in the cottages between the Cartwright Arms and the Grammar House. The men were short in stature for the day so may have fought in Bantam Regiments

Thomas COLLEY Not recorded in the Parish censuses (unless he is one of the three males above).

Stanley CROOK Not recorded in the Parish censuses

Amos FORD Age 3 in the 1881 census – his father George Ford (45) born Aynho, a road controller, wife Mary (45) born Newnham, a lacemaker. There is also a son Arthur (11). In 1891 George is a road labourer, Arthur (21) is a general labourer and Amos (12) is an agricultural labourer, both were born in Aynho. In 1901 Arthur (31) has moved out of the family home and is a domestic gardener at Aynhoe Park gardens. Amos (22) is still living with his parents, in Brackley Road, but is now working as an ironstone miner.

The 1911 census just shows A Ford, with one male and four females. This could be either brother, but I'm sure it is Amos, since there are two males living at Aynhoe Park gardens, but the A Ford is number 84 on the census schedule, the same number as in 1901. So it looks as though Amos has married, and has his wife and three daughters, or his mother and two daughters there. Amos did live in Skittle Alley in the cottage behind the forge.

Herbert FORD No trace in the censuses but probably linked to Amos (above)

Herbert John GARRETT Age 7 in the 1901 census – his mother is shown as a widow age 45. No trace in any other census. He may been one and the same as Jack Garrett see later .

Thomas HAWKES Age 5 in 1901 census, so born Aynho around 1896 – parents were(43) farmer & employed at Lower Grounds Farm, born in Hook Norton and Ada (35) born in Chacombe. They are also in the 1911 census

Benjamin HAWKINS No trace in the censuses but lived at Lower Aynho Grounds after the war. Also lived on the Brackley Road. His son-in-law was Bertram Cross see below.

By 1917 only two men of military service age remained to look after the gardens of Aynhoe Park, one for the main house and one in the vegetable garden. This out of necessity gave opportunity to young men like **Ted HUMPHRIS** to take responsibility far sooner than might have happened otherwise. An invalid soldier joined the gardening staff in 1918, the extra man power and his knowledge as a plantsman was an invaluable to Mr Brown (above) and young Ted. Ted was enrolled in the "Volunteers" or LDV, a pre cursor to the Home Guard of WW2. Initially he with follow lads from the village were formed into a bugle band. This group led the local platoon when on parade. By his 17th birthday weapons training had been introduced; his papers arrived just before the Armistice so he was not called up.

Christopher HORLEY The Horley family first appear in the 1911 census with 1 male and 2 females. In 1891 census William (39) garden labourer and Hannah (37) born Adderbury- children are Sarah Ellen (11), John (9), Alice Victoria (3) and William George (1). The family lived in the square, the cottage set back behind the now large Yew tree.

John HOWES Age 19 in 1901 census, a baker, & William G age 11, both born in Aynho – parents William (49), baker, butcher & farmer, born Aynho & Mary (49) born Adderbury. The family appears in the 1911 census. The family lived in the Ushers house and The Bakery.

William HOWES As above

John HUMPHRIS (the WW1 Roll of Service has the surname spent HUMPHRIES)

The 1901 census shows Joseph Humphris (27) born Kings Sutton, a wood sawyer living in Brackley Road, Eliza (30) born Wardington, John (7) b. Wardington, Joseph (4) b. Kings Sutton and Frank (1) . The family worked in the Aynho timber mill. Later in 1901 Ted was born, the famed estate gardener. Joseph and the other sawyers left in the village cut down many larch and spruce trees from the estate woods. These were prepared , sent down to the station and sent to France and Belgium as pit props and duck boards. Such was the demand that by the end of the war a large part of the kitchen garden was set aside to grow saplings to refurbish the decimated estate woodlands.

Joseph William HUMPHRIS (the WW1 Roll of Service has the surname spent HUMPHRIES) As above. Later became Parish constable with Tom Oakey. Joe had started work as a house boy before becoming an estate carpenter. Eight days before his 18th birthday in 1915 he volunteered to join Kitchener's Army. Being under 19 he was prevented from being posted to France straight away. He fought on the Somme, was unscathed and marched into Germany covering 274 miles in 22 days carrying a 90 pound pack. It is believed he was the first to volunteer and the last man to be demobilised, he arrived home Easter Sunday 1919.

Frank HUMPHRIS (the WW1 Roll of Service has the surname spent HUMPHRIES) As above. He joined the army at 18, was wounded the first time he went into action. He died aged 51, a war widows pension confirms that his death was directly attributable to his war wounds.

George JENNINGS 1901 census shows George Cudd (39) born Great Milton, farm carter, living at 3 Station Cottages, wife Mary (38) b. Tetsworth, Oxon. William Jennings (17) stepson & George Jennings (14) stepson, both born in Brill.

William (Billy) LAMBERT The Lambert family, Joseph (29) in 1881 and his wife Mary (30) appear in 1891, 1901 & 1911, but with no children. They lived at "The Corner" and they are related to Earn Nichols and Len Mouat

Oliver MATTHEWS Not traced

Arthur MEADOWS Lived in No.23 Aynho, brother of Richard.

Richard MEADOWS Lived in No. 23 Aynho, brother of Arthur.

Teddy Mobbs Not on the service record as he did not serve but as village blacksmith he would have been crucial in maintaining agricultural production. He was the drummer of the Aynho Bugle Band of the Local Volunteer Force. There is a story that a parading troop were marched straight over the ha-ha, their disappearance amazed their inattentive visiting officer!

John MOLD Not traced

Norman MOLD

Not traced

Earn NICHOLS

Was gassed in WW1 and was not able to work again. His nephew Len Mouat is mentioned below. Earn lived on the Brackley Road by the pump.

Frederick, Robert and Thomas OAKEY

Thomas age 13 in 1911 census, born Aynho – parents were Robert Oakey (62) born Alvescot, Oxon, butcher & baker and Rachel (52) born Bucknell, Oxon. The family appears in both 1891 and 1901. All three fought in and survived the Great War, Robert became a Sergeant in the Royal Artillery. At one point he saw service in Constantinople, possibly in 1919-22 as part of the British army holding the Turkish nationalist movement at bay. Tom held the rank of Second Lieutenant probably with the Northamptonshire Regiment. Frederick was also in the infantry probably with the Northants Regiment.

In the Second World War, the brothers stayed farming as they could make a greater contribution to the war effort that way. Particularly as German attacks on the supply conveyors from the USA and Canada caused massive losses in materials, food men and shipping. Home produced food stopped Britain being starved into submission.

George PAGE

Age 3 in 1881 census, born Aynho – parents Henry (33) born Aynho, a garden labourer & Caroline (32) born Cropredy. Also son Thomas (5). 1891 census shows Henry (43) working gardener, Thomas (15) agricultural labourer and George (13). He lived in the cottage top right of Little Lane.

George PARRISH

George fought in the Boer War as well as WW1, he was a soldier like his father had been. The Parrish family first appear in the 1911



George a Private in the Ox and Bucks served in the Boer War with four other local men. On his return in 1901, the inhabitants of Banbury and its neighbourhoods presented him with a silver pocket watch.

HWY 50,000 2-4-1
F. 01
212

75-192
Volunteer Service Company, Oxfordshire Light Infantry Regiment or Corps.

ROLL of Individuals entitled to the South Africa Medal and Clasp, under the Army Order granting the Medal, issued on 1st April, 1901.

To be left blank	Regimental Number	Rank	NAME	WHETHER ENTITLED TO CLASP																		Remarks					
				Brevet	Medal Ribbon	Goodwill	Defence	Weapons	Admission	Resonant Hill	Buller	Winterberg	Defence of Kimberley	Relief of Kimberley	Defence of Mafeking	Relief of Mafeking	Cape Colony	Orange Free State	Transvaal	Modak	Tobruk		Blackbidge	English Heights	Defence of Ladysmith	Relief of Ladysmith	Lang's Nek
7239	Private	Jenkins	1-2 R	✓											✓										2	✓	Indicates some discharge
7284	"	Kearney	1-3 H.M.												✓										3	✓	
7200	"	Little	1-3 B												✓										3	✓	
7287	"	Mailor	1-3 C.A.L.												✓										3	✓	Medal & Commemorative Clasp
7312	"	Marshall	1-2 J												✓										2	✓	
7310	"	Marsh	1-3 C.W.												✓										2	✓	
7240	"	Mayne	1-3 W.I.												✓										3	✓	
7241	"	Miles	1-2 R.I.												✓										2	✓	Indicates some discharge
7242	"	Nash	1-2 R												✓										2	✓	
7285	"	O'Sullivan	1-3 A.M.												✓										3	✓	Discharged in S. Africa
7306	"	Owen	1-3 J.K.												✓										3	✓	
7275	"	Parmer	1-3 G.J.												✓										2	✓	Indicates some discharge
7244	"	Parson	1-3 G.C.												✓										3	✓	
7245	"	Parsons	1-3 C.A.L.												✓										3	✓	
7246	"	Pearce	1-2 J.R.												✓										2	✓	
7256	"	Percival	1-3 M												✓										3	✓	
7271	"	Pollard	1-2 R.B.												✓										2	✓	
7247	"	Powell	1-2 F.H.												✓										3	✓	
7248	"	Roberts	1-3 F.H.												✓										3	✓	
7250	"	Roe	1-2 G.J.												✓										3	✓	See 205 Consac see 737

I certify that the Individuals named in this Roll were actually present at the operations for which the Medal and Clasp are claimed as above detailed.

Place *Oxford*
Date *31 May 1901*

Ravine F. Lathy **Captain**
Signature and Rank of Officer personally cognizant of the Statements annexed.
Commanding Officer, Oxfordshire Light Infantry

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Reference: **WO** 100 / 101



STATEMENT of the SERVICES of No. 35280 Name *George Edward Brown*

Corps	Battn. or Depot	Promotions, Relinquishs, Casualties, &c.	Army Rank	Dates	Service not allowed to reckon for rating the rate of Pension		Signature of Officers certifying correctness of Entries
					years	days	
General Service		Attested	<i>PL</i>	<i>1st August 1914</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>1</i>	
General Service		To Army Reserve		<i>1st August 1914</i>			
		Mobilized		<i>14. 6. 16</i>			
		Posted		<i>20. 6. 16</i>			
		POSTED		<i>28. 9. 16</i>			
		Posted		<i>10. 10. 16</i>			
		Posted		<i>17. 6. 18</i>			
		Recommenced		<i>8. 10. 18</i>			
<p>REMARKS: <i>General Relinquish agreement by name during period of absence in accordance with Service's provisions.</i></p> <p><i>Availability not determined by law to count towards the service of the individual 50% for post commencing 1902 for Service to count towards the service.</i></p> <p><i>Service in Oxford 1902-1903. 1902-1903.</i></p> <p><i>1902-1903 joined with the service.</i></p> <p><i>1902-1903.</i></p> <p><i>1902-1903.</i></p>							
<p>From <i>18. 6. 18</i> to <i>18. 6. 18</i> Years <i>0</i> Days <i>0</i></p> <p>From <i>14. 6. 16</i> to <i>14. 6. 16</i> Years <i>0</i> Days <i>199</i></p> <p>From <i>28. 9. 16</i> to <i>28. 9. 16</i> Years <i>0</i> Days <i>101</i></p> <p>From <i>10. 10. 16</i> to <i>10. 10. 16</i> Years <i>0</i> Days <i>263</i></p> <p>From <i>17. 6. 18</i> to <i>17. 6. 18</i> Years <i>0</i> Days <i>113</i></p> <p>From <i>8. 10. 18</i> to <i>8. 10. 18</i> Years <i>0</i> Days <i>504</i></p>					<p>Total Service Entitled as above <i>1974</i></p>		
<p>Total Service towards Engagement to (date of discharge) <i>8</i> years <i>113</i> days</p> <p>Prison <i>2</i> years <i>113</i> days</p>							

1023

David PATTULLO The Pattullos owned Warren Farm there is still a family connection through the McLarens, there is no trace of David in the censuses.

Sydney PREDITH The Predith family first appear in the 1911 census with 2 males and 2 females

Albert SECCULL Twin brother of Joseph (above) his full name was Prince Albert Seccull (usually known simply as Albert). Albert saw service as a (Private, Royal field Artillery) in the Somme, and survived the war. His family recall, as was typical of Great War veterans, he rarely spoke of his wartime experiences, and indeed was a very taciturn man throughout his life. There is one anecdote. For being found asleep on duty, Albert was given "Number One Field Punishment" and bound spread-eagled to the wheel of his gun for a set period each day for several days, on display as an example to his comrades. As intended, this punishment was mildly humiliating, but mostly his pals were sympathetic. Albert's crime was a minor one, and not uncommon. But one day whilst bound to the wheel Albert was alarmed to see a troop of French soldiers approaching. As they reached the point on the road nearest to Albert they saw him and stopped, and came up to him. He could understand very little of what the Frenchmen said, and when he felt them tugging at his uniform he was afraid of what they might do. He need not have worried, they only filled his pockets with cigarettes and chocolate, and then went on their way.

At the end of the war, Albert returned to Warwickshire and married his sweetheart, Annie Edwards, a land army girl. Albert worked for several years in agriculture, but as the demands of his family grew he went to work as a coalminer. First at Baddesley Colliery near Atherstone, Warwickshire. Later he moved to Bedworth where he worked at Exhall Colliery, and finally at the Griff Clara pit on the border of Bedworth and Nuneaton. He died at the age of 60 in 1955 of pneumoconiosis (miner's lung).

Albert second from right, pre WW1, with an Ordnance BL 15-pounder of Boer-war vintage.



Annie Edwards, in Land Army uniform and (below) on their wedding Day with "guard of honour" of other Land Army women. 1919. Note the leather leggings and stout boots.



Albert wears four Overseas Service strips on his right sleeve, the chap to the right of the picture (possibly a brother?) has a two year good conduct stripe.

MARRIED 27 MARCH 1919

NILWORTH LAND GIRL'S

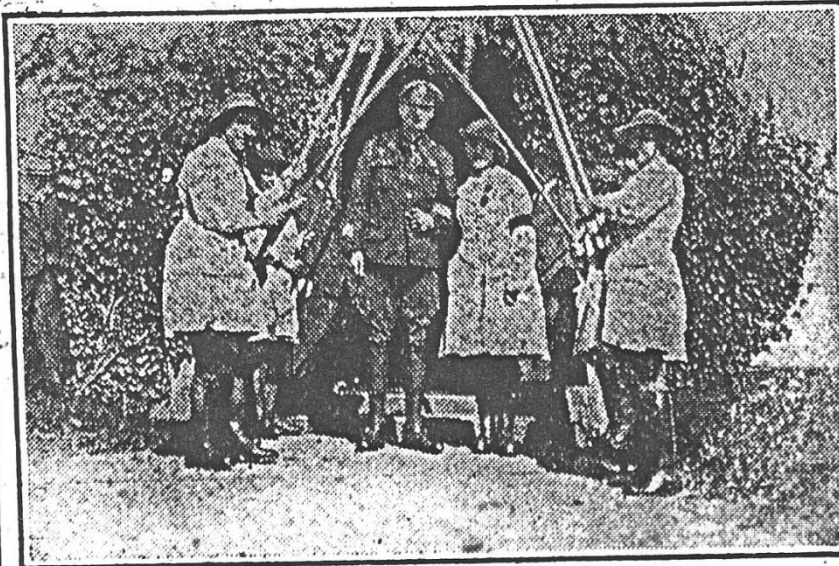
TOPICS.

"time" by Act of God Nature, for is worthy of the such of the lion- e passing of the put forward in pal public ones ship utilised the vices on Sunday me. Never mind ward this (Sat- ursday was really t, there was too ate that the hour l been advanced, have been sparse As it happened, under fine ideal but when they return to their heavy snowstorm, ickly covered, the by a violent hail- r revenge on those, with her arrange- torm came hard- ing the thorough- sheets of ice.

are still some in favour "Summer are principally to arming classes in the rural district. and certainly have normal way they the changed hours rk an hour before use, why cannot to start an hour Generally, the al- cation, which shows adapted themselves ne the war it took et anyone to scri-

ge, where one does if the common run, d the villagers will out for some time ttle church one of ht his bonnie bride, d though the subse- ace at Kenilworth, w's own. It is said wedding of a Land correct or not, evi- ly to its being the ckshire where the

A LAND GIRL'S WEDDING.



[Photo: The Gem Studio, Kenilworth.]

BRIDE AND BRIDEGROOM LEAVING THE CHURCH AFTER THE CEREMONY.

Considerable interest was taken on Satur- day, at Ashow and Kenilworth, in a wedding which was attended with proceedings which were quite unique. The bride being one of those who had done useful service as a Land Girl, it had been decided to signify this in picturesque manner, and certainly the young couple will never forget the occasion. It was the first wedding of a member of the Women's Land Army to take place in Warwickshire, and was solemnised at the ancient village church of St. Mary, Ashow. The bride was Miss Nancy Edwards, of Nunceaton, who for some months past has been doing land work locally, and during that time has resided with Mrs. Nordon, of 109, Warwick Road, Kenil- worth, from whose house the wedding took place. The bridegroom was Pte. Prince Albert Secull, R.F.A., of Ashow, who has seen ser- vice in France.

The journey to and from Ashow was made in a gaily flag-decorated waggon drawn by a white horse. The bride wore the uniform of the Women's Land Army, and was attended by six girls similarly attired, and she was given away by her father. The Rev. T. Reid- Cuddon, Rector of Ashow, who officiated, gave a short and suitable address. On leaving the church a guard of honour was formed by the land workers holding rakes to form an arch, and amid the congratulations and good wishes of many friends the bride and bridegroom left for Kenilworth, where a reception was afterwards held in the St. John's Parish Room. Among those present were Miss Howard (Technical Inspector), Miss Surr (County Organising Secretary), Mrs. Key (District Representative), and Miss Roper (chauffeuse, who has been on active service in France). There were a number of beautiful presents. The future home of the happy pair will be at Ashow.

A KENIL

REV. W. S

As we have Hill Congrega now in the l pastor who h both in qualiti as entertaini strictly pasto Gospel or vis the popular j himself woul activities is altogether th the young pa he has the w service of his larly, and it large congre evening to his chief figure without disp- was an effici J. H. Clark the organ, or

In place of was arranged being, with entirely from poetry and essay, main vocalist, elec- works, but voice; he is of popular a with some lit the opening on our King elocutionary the National moment, and In his pul Rhythms, but these w occasion, an- cious, for th shorter poem the popular evening, the real poetic and general but none ar able of the own vocal thrown into clear flowing duced by the example, t "Common l Chum," "B War themos tette given- out a tear, throughout "At the De and "Some from the h were the Brotherhood on Tolstoy's "Common with a sur

KENILWORTH AND DISTRICT ITEMS.

ARLIDGE'S CHARITY.—The doles in connection with this Charity were distributed in the Kenilworth Congregational Schoolroom on Wednesday morning.

NEW CURATE.—The Rev. A. S. Webster, M.A., B.D., who has been in Kenilworth some few weeks, taking temporary duty, has ac-

NEXT MONDAY'S ELECTION.

TWENTY-ONE CANDIDATES FOR TWELVE SEATS.

No less than 21 candidates are in the run- ning for Council honours, there being twelve seats. The elections will be held on Monday next, in St. Nicholas' National Schoolroom, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and it is expected the result will be declared by Mr. E. F. Hadow,

Albert SMITH

No trace in the census but lived on the Charlton Lane.

Alfred STAYTON

The 1881 census shows William (34) garden labourer born Aynho and Elizabeth (44) born Kings Sutton, lace maker, with William (17), George (8), Alfred (5), Walter (1) and Edward (2 months) all born Aynho. In 1891 William (44) working gardener living at Aynhoe Park Lodge, Elizabeth (54), Alfred (15), Walter (11) and Edward (10). In 1901 William (53) a widower and gardener's labourer, is living in Little Lane, with stepdaughter Mary Butler (45), stepson Harry Butler (47) groom and grandson Arthur Butler (4). There is no mention of either Alfred or Edward. Alf returned to live on "The Hill".

Edward (Ted) STAYTON

See family above. He came back from the War with a wooden leg, he married into the Colley family and lived in the Square.

Lawrence Hugh STEVENS

Joined the Ox & Bucks LI although the paperwork was originally prepared for the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars, signed up in October 1915. Then transferred to 3rd Scottish Rifles 05/12/1917

Wounded in action 15th June 1918, a gun-shot wound (GSW) to his right Hand

Lawrence was born early 1885, he married Rose Elizabeth Thomkins on 21st Aug 1909 at Souldern and they lived at Aynho Grounds they had two children Winifred Mary born May 1910 and William Laurence possibly 1913

He died in 1958.

ROYAL TERRITORIAL FORCE.

years Service in the United Kingdom.

ATTESTATION OF

Name Lawrence H. Stevens Corps QUEEN'S OWN OXFORDSHIRE

Questions to be put to the Recruit before Enlistment.

- 1. What is your Name and Address? Lawrence Hugh Stevens
Asyha
Northants
- 2. Are you willing to be attested for service in the Territorial Force for the term of 4 years (provided His Majesty should so long require your services) for the County of * to serve in the QUEEN'S OWN OXFORDSHIRE Yes
- 3. Have you received a notice stating the liabilities you are incurring by enlisting, and do you understand them? Yes
- 4. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in the Royal Navy, the Army, the Royal Marines, the Militia, the Special Reserve, the Territorial Force, the Imperial Yeomanry, the Volunteers, the Army Reserve, the Militia Reserve, or any Naval Reserve Force? If so, state which unit, and, if discharged, cause of discharge No
- 5. Are you a British Subject? Yes

Under the provisions of Sections 13 and 99 of the Army Act, if a person knowingly makes a false answer to any question contained in the attestation paper, he renders himself liable to punishment.

I, Lawrence Hugh Stevens do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements made.

L.H. Stevens SIGNATURE OF RECRUIT.
Charles King Signature of Witness.

OATH TO BE TAKEN BY RECRUIT ON ATTESTATION.

I, Lawrence Hugh Stevens swear by Almighty God, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs, and Successors, and that I will, as in duty bound, honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs, and Successors, in Person, Crown, and Dignity against all enemies, according to the conditions of my service.

CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE OR ATTESTING OFFICER.

I, A. N. Hall do hereby certify, that, in my presence, all the foregoing Questions were put to the Recruit above named, that the Answers written opposite to them are those which he gave to me, and that he has made and signed the Declaration, and taken the oath at Deford on this 24 day of October 1915.
A. N. Hall (Signature of Justice of the Peace, Officer, or other person authorized to attest Recruits.)

If any alteration is required on this page of the Attestation, a Justice of the Peace should be requested to make it and initial the alteration under Section 80 (6), Army Act.
The Recruit should, if he require it, receive a copy of the Declaration on Army Form E. 501A.
* Here insert County. † Here insert Corps.

0394

Tubal TAYLOR No trace in the census

Arthur THURSBY No trace in the census

Piers THURSBY No trace in the census

George TRUSS Photo below, age 7 in 1901 census, so born around 1894 in Croughton – parents were William (44) born Croughton, engine driver of a hay making machine and Hannah (42) born Evenley. The family moved to Aynho between 1894 and 1900. The family's address in both 1901 and 1911 was Warren Lodge. He served with the Queens Own Oxfordshire Yeomanry, he enlisted in August 1915, number 2906 and was renumbered 285800.



Anthony, George and Joseph WATTS These 3 brothers appear in the 1901 census – Anthony (17) agricultural worker, Joseph (6) and George (2) – parents James (52) farm worker & Sarah (42), all born in Aynho except Sarah in Barford, Oxon. The family appears in the 1891 census, but it is not clear whether they are in the 1911 one. Jo farmed Bourtons Farm, then built and retired to the house on the north corner of Charlton Road and the Portway. Jo suffered from bouts of malaria, presumably he caught the disease from fighting overseas. George lived at Souldern Wharf.

Edward and Herbert WEST In the 1901 census Edward was 20, born Deddington and Herbert 15, born Clifton, both were agricultural labourers. Their parents were Jason (53) a cattle man on a farm, born Hempton and Emma (44) born Little Tew. They probably all worked at Lower Grounds Farm. There is no trace of any of them in 1891 or 1911. Herbert returned to work on the railway and live at "The Corner".

Martin and John WESTBURY The 1901 census shows William J Westbury (30) born Fritwell, gamekeeper Caroline (27) born Notting Hill, Martin (3) and John W (1) both born Souldern. All living at Park Corner Lodge having moved from Aynho Mill. In 1911 the family has increased to 8 males and 4 females.



Albert WILLIAMS These names do not appear in any censuses, but the 1911 census has a W Williams with 4 males and 1 female, an E Williams with 2 males and 2 females, and an F Williams with 5 males and 4 females, so as no name details are shown these men *could* be in any of these families.

Alexander WILLIAMS No trace in the census

Edmund WILLIAMS Age 3 in 1901 census – parents were George (41) ironstone miner born Aynho & Fanny (37) born Kings Sutton. They appear in the 1891 census.

Ernest WILLIAMS Age 9 in the 1901 census – parents were Edwin R (37) agricultural labourer & Sarah (47), all born Aynho. The family appears in both 1891 and 1911 censuses.

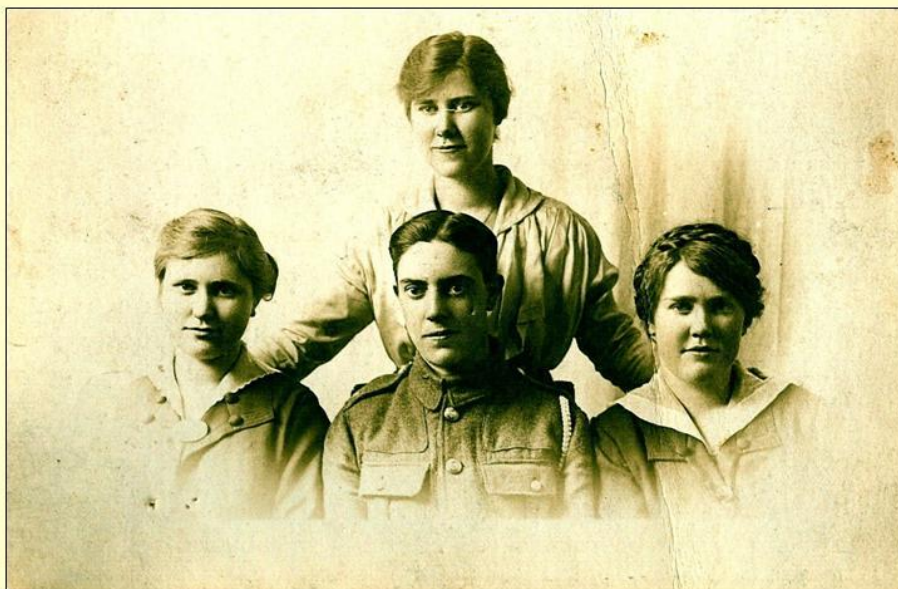
Sydney WILLIAMS In the 1891 census there is a Joseph Williams (37) and Alice (44) who have 5 children, one of whom is Sidney age 10.

James WOOLNOUGH Age 18 in the 1911 census, born Aynho. His parents were Matthew (62) Estate steward, born Sherstone, Wilts and Kate (54) born Redhill, Surrey. The family is shown in both 1911 and 1891 censuses, and in the latter is an older brother of James, Arthur Stanley, who was then age 10 months (see above)

George, Horace, Walter and William WRIGHTON

We are not certain how these Wrightons are related to those who died, it is probable that they are all part of the sizeable local "clan".

CHARLIE WITH KIDS



Charlie WRIGHTON and his son **Frank Leslie (Les) WRIGHTON** saw service. The above picture is incorrectly described. Les is in the centre, On the right is, **Florence Edith (Flo) WRIGHTON**. She joined the Women's Land Army in WW1 but succumbed to the Spanish Flu aged 18 in 1918. The WW2 version was based on the experience gained in WW1. It was not so much the Germans terrorising merchant shipping in the Atlantic but the lack of domestic labour due to the war time losses that required women to work in the fields. This additional food production literally saved Britain from starving.

The volume of extra trains full of men and equipment cannot be overestimated both in WW1 and in WW2. On 5th August 1914, the 4th Ox and Bucks Light infantry mobilised, 200 men of C and G company left Banbury. The train stopped at Aynho to collect a further 37 members of the Deddington detachment. It is not know if any Aynho men joined them.

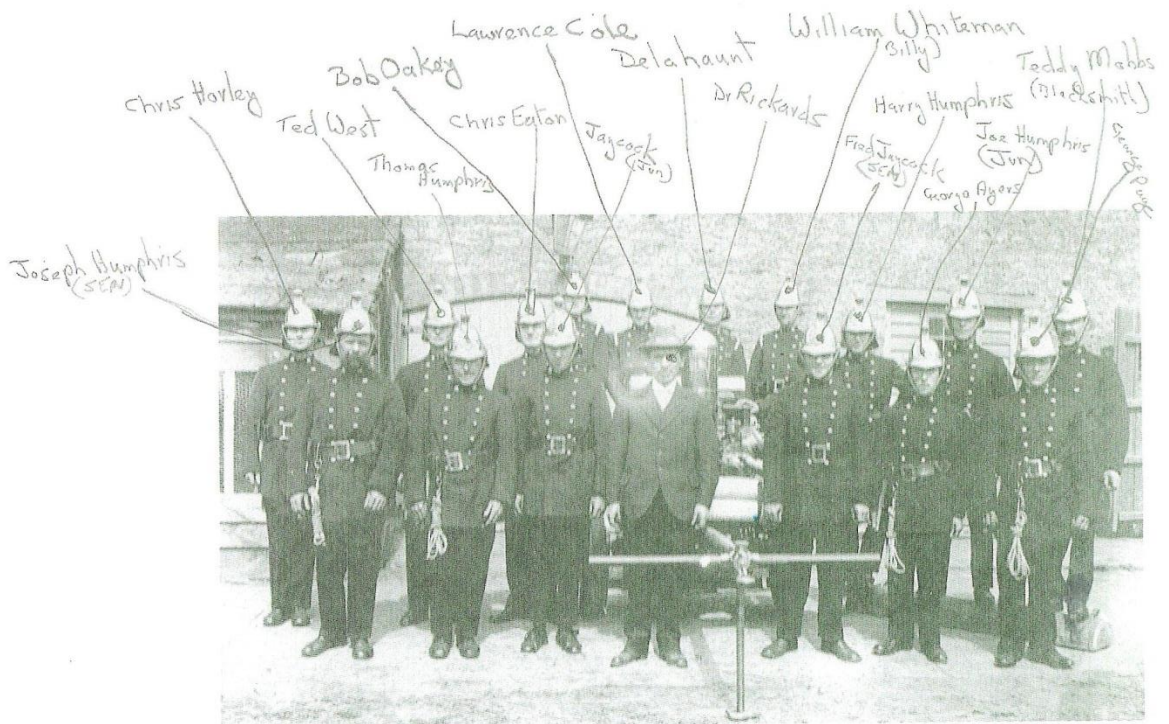
1,200 trains passed along the Cherwell valley railway lines in April 1944 alone. This created a huge responsibility for the village's railway staff. Significant efforts were made to keep "domestic" passengers off the railways to allow for military use.

RED CROSS FETE



During the Great War the troop trains running south ran through Banbury were often met by hospital trains heading north, going as far as Aberdeen! Men were seen drinking from the fire buckets such was the lack of organised catering facilities. This shocked some witnesses into action. From the 10th September the local Red Cross formed the Banbury Station Troop's Refreshment Fund. Fetes were organised to raise funds for the Red Cross tea shop at Banbury Station. Drinks and simple food was made available for the men day and night. It is said 35,000 were helped in the first fortnight alone. Often large crowds gathered to see the specially redesigned hospital trains. One of the first travelled from Southampton to Glasgow, it brought men back who had been wounded at the Battle of Aïnse. French and Belgian troops were also brought back along the Cherwell valley to the safety of British hospitals. Any local boys who train spotted must have had a field day! The GWR ran more than 88,000 troop and munition trains during the war, thousands will have come through the village, including those carrying the American Expeditionary Force.

Below, the Souldern nursing team look prepared to show off their skills. Second left is Miss Ginger who lived on Blacksmiths Hill.



Some of the Aynho WW1 veterans replaced khaki for the black of the village fire brigade.

This photograph was taken in 1924, the car is a Bentley with modified floor so that “items” could be brought back from Italian expeditions, contrary to Italian export policy. Presumably the artillery piece was used in the Great War. Was it an additional memorial to the fallen? It would certainly be a reminder of the incessant shelling on the Somme.

AYNHOE PARK



CHAPTER IV

The second tablet memorial on the external wall of the Church records those who died in the Second World War 1939-1945



David de Bower BANHAM

Flight Lieutenant (Pilot), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve RAF no. 100066

He died on 10 September 1943 age 34

He was the son of the Revd. Vivian Greaves Banham MC & Bar, MA , and Adela Mary Middlecote Banham. Revd. Banham fought in World War 1 before becoming Aynho's Rector for over 40 years. He was forever troubled by his experiences but nonetheless kept a German steel helmet in a cupboard in the Rectory hall.

David Banham was the husband of Phyllis Margaret Banham of Wheathampstead

He is buried in Grave Row A Grave 3 Upavon Cemetery

Additional information

His aeroplane, Oxford EB981 of 7 Fighter Instructors School collided with Lancaster JA894 of the Aeroplane & Armament Experimental Establishment whilst the Oxford was landing at High Post, near Salisbury , Wiltshire. The Lancaster was turning for its fourth positioning error run over the airfield.

In addition to David Banham and HJ Burkhard, naval cadet JN Bates was killed in the Oxford. In the Lancaster : pilot FJ Robinson, Flight Engineer JW Bamber and test observer R Stevenson were also killed. It is worthy of comment that the Naval Cadet was only 14. His is the only name of this group which is not included in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website.



William George Victor BUTLER

Private, 4th Battalion, The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, Army no. 5387027

He died between 10 May 1940 and 4 June 1940 age 21. This was the period of the evacuation through Dunkirk. Members of his Battalion failed to escape via Dunkirk and were captured then sent to Stalag XXB at Marienburg.

He was the son of Edward George and Lydia Mary Butler

He has no known grave but his name appears on Column 92 of the Dunkirk Memorial.



Bertram CROSS

Leading Stoker, HMS Atherstone, Royal Navy RN no. P/KX 85946



He died on 12 September 1940 age 24. His wife Beattie was widowed after only a year's marriage, she has continued to live in Aynho. Their home was on the Causeway.

He is buried in grave 1507 Naval Reservation Woodlands Cemetery , Gillingham

Additional information

HMS Atherstone was deployed in the English Channel on duties which embraced anti-invasion patrol and convoy defence.

8 September saw her searching for German invasion craft along the coast between Le Touquet and Cap d'Antifer.

HMS Atherstone came under air attack on 11 September and was seriously damaged by two bomb strikes and a near miss whilst escorting Channel Convoy CW11 to the Thames Estuary. This was serious enough for her to need immediate repair by HM Dockyard, Chatham.



SURNAME (IN BLOCK LETTERS)	CHRISTIAN NAME OR NAMES
CROSS	Bertram

in the Royal Navy.

NOTE.—The corner of this Certificate is to be cut off where indicated if the man is discharged with a "Bad" character or with disgrace, or if specially directed by the Admiralty. If the corner is cut off, the fact is to be noted in the Ledger.

Port Division	Potomouth	Man's Signature on discharge to Pension
Official No.	N. 85946	
Date of Birth	18 th October 1916	Nearest Relative or Friend (To be noted in pencil)
Where born	Parish	Relationship: Wife
	Town or County	Name: Mrs B. Cross
	Oxfordshire	Address: 65 Ruckliss Road Aylesbury, Bucks.
Trade brought up to	Gardener	
Religious Denomination	Church of England	

All Engagements, including Non-C.S., to be noted in these Columns.			Swimming Qualifications		
Date of actual volunteering	Commencement of time	Period volunteered for	Date	Qualification	Signature
1.	23 April 1935	12 Years	1.9 Sep 35	P.T. (Min)	R. Cross
2.			2.28 July 36	P.T. (Max)	R. Cross
3.			3.		
4.			4.		
5.			5.		
6.			6.		

Medals, Clasps, &c., L.S. and G.C. Gratuity.

Date received or forfeited	Nature of Decoration	Date received or forfeited	Nature of Decoration



Description of Person	Stature		Colour of			Marks, Wounds, and Scars
	Feet	In.	Hair	Eyes	Complexion	
On Entry as a Boy						
On advancement to man's rating, or on entry under 25 years	5	6 1/2	Blk	Blue	Fair	Nil
On re-engagement or re-entry for C.S. or for Non-C.S. after attaining 25 years						
Further description if necessary						

CAUTION: This is an Official document. Any alteration made to it without proper authority is liable to be treated as a forgery.

2.
Name Benham Cross

Name of Ship (Tenders to be inserted in brackets)	List and No.	Rating	From	To	Cause of Loss and other authorized by SOS, Clause and A
Victory	^{R4} No 1556	Sto 2d	20 Apr '35	31 Oct '35	
Shropshire	5 th 156	Sto 2	1 Nov '35	9 Feb '36	
---	---	Sto 1	10 Feb '36	21 July '37	
Victory		---	22 July '37	14 Oct '37	
Winchester	5 th 1026	---	19 Sep '37	26 Dec '38	
Corunna		---	26 Aug '38	6 Jan '39	
"VICTORY"		---	7 Jan '39	22 Aug '39	
Victory		---	23 Aug '39	13 Sept '39	
St. Vincent		---	14 Sept '39	18 Feb '40	
Dunbar Castle (Albatross)		---	17 Feb '40	11 Feb '40	
--- (- - -)		Offdy. Sto (L-H)	1 Apr '40	20 May '40	
--- (- - -)		Offdy. Sto	21 May '40	30 June '40	
Victory (- - -)		---	1 July '40	12 Feb '40	P.D.



This scroll commemorates

Leading Stoker B. Cross
Royal Navy

held in honour as one who
served King and Country in
the world war of 1939-1945
and gave his life to save
mankind from tyranny. May
his sacrifice help to bring
the peace and freedom for
which he died.

Arthur George James DELEHAUNT

Flight Sergeant, 69 Squadron, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. RAF no. 770799

He died age 26 on 18 March 1942

He was the son of Egbert Cecil and Eleanor Lydia Delehaunt of Banbury. Arthur lived opposite the Church drive and worked for G.A. Insurance. He was a colleague of Geoff Stevens.

He has no known grave but his name appears on panel 3 column 1 of the Malta

Memorial

Additional information

He had enlisted in the RAF Ground Section prior to the outbreak of war. 69 Squadron, who were based at Luqa, Malta, was a photo Reconnaissance unit.

The pilots included Harry Coldbeck, a New Zealander and Adrian Warburton. Sir Alec Guinness' role in the film Malta Story was based on Warburton.

On 18 March 1942 at 14.25 hours a Martin Maryland AH294 took off piloted by Sergeant Graham B Parker and on its return leg it was intercepted 6 miles off Benghaisa Point. It was shot down by Uffz. Michael Beikiefer of 6/JG 3. There were no survivors.

Arthur Delahaunt's aircraft was the only loss for 69 Squadron.



Uffz. Michael Beikiefer of 6/JG 3 was lost on 20 March 1942 whilst on a practice JaBo sortie over the Mediterranean, he was flying 109F-4 Yellow 3.

George HAWKINS DFM

Sergeant, 18 Squadron, Royal Air Force. RAF no. 510166

He died age 30 on 21 May 1940 whilst the squadron was based in France

He was the son of George and Nelly Hawkins of Aynho and

the husband of Antonia Hawkins of Sliema, Malta

He has no known grave but his name appears on panel 15 of the Runnymede

Memorial

Additional information

He had enlisted as an Aircraft Hand before March 1938.

On 19 May 1940, Blenheim L9191 crashed on landing at Crecy and Flight Lieutenant R G Wheldon, Sergeant A E Craig and Sergeant G Hawkins were unhurt although the aircraft was abandoned. The squadron's seven other Blenheims were withdrawn to Lympe later in the day and on 21 May 1940, they moved to Watton. As he died in France on 21 May 1940, it is possible that he was in a Blenheim of 18 Squadron supporting the withdrawal to Dunkirk.

It is recorded 21 May 1940: "18 Squadron, Watton - two Blenheims lost this day.

Blenheim IV, L9325 took off from Watton, failed to return from recce sortie over Douai - Arras - Amiens - Abbeville 15:00 hrs.

P/O C Light, Sergeant A E Craig and Sergeant G Hawkins missing, aircraft lost.

And from a DFM listing:

HAWKINS George Leading Aircraftsman of 18 Squadron, Service No 510166; date of award 8 March 1940.



John Noel Ronald LOVEDAY

Lieutenant Colonel, 16th/5th Lancers, Royal Armoured Corps Army no. 45364

He was the son of Arthur Frederic Loveday OBE and Mary Cornelia Loveday, Pall Mall , London and Banbury. Also the husband of Nancy Loveday of Ware, Hertfordshire. During his years in Aynho he lived in Catton House

He died in the third Battle of Monte Cassino on 15 May 1944 age 33



He is buried in grave XI E 4 Cassino War Cemetery

Action on the Gustav Line May 14th to May 16th 1944.



From near to Casa Sinagoga looking east.

On the morning of 14th May 1944, 2/LIR was called to assemble on the eastern side of Monte Trocchio in advance of their crossing of the Gari River by using Congo bridge, which had been newly built about a mile north of San Angelo in Theodice. They crossed the river, and then assembled close to the Piopetto river in the vicinity of Massa Vertecchi. The attack could not have had a more disastrous start. Shortly before Zero Hour, 1500 on the 15 May, the carrier of the Commanding Officer was destroyed by a direct hit from a mortar shell. Both Lt Col Goff and the CO of the 16th/ 5th Lancers, Lt Col Loveday were mortally wounded.



The line of advance to Sinagoga on 16th May 1944.

Edmund O'Sullivan recalls the events of 14th and 15th May 1944:

"It was about 5pm on 14 May when we moved towards the river and crossed a partly-submerged Bailey bridge, which was heavily smoked, and passed into the bridgehead. The company went into reserve positions (immediately behind the front-line units) and I left them there in the middle of the night. The next day, I busied myself preparing for my evening task. I was close to the Advanced Dressing Station (ADS – the first point where wounded men were treated in battle) and a troop carrier used as an ambulance trundled in. I went over and found the battalion's commander, Colonel Goff, seriously wounded and in agony. I helped unload him. With him was what looked like a midget who was obviously dead. It took me some time to recognise the body as Goff's driver who was more than 6ft tall. He had lost both legs. Goff had been on reconnaissance and a shell caught him and his O Group. Father Dan Kelleher called me over and asked if I would help him with some burials. The first was the badly mutilated driver. I held back the blanket while Father Dan anointed the stumps. That evening, I went up to the company in a 15cwt truck driven by Benny Goodman. I found that the attack due for the morning had been postponed while the new battalion commander John Horsfall, who was second in command, took over. Goodman crashed the vehicle and I had to walk the rest of the way. On the evening of 15 May, I rejoined E Company and stayed until dawn in a slit trench with my mate Eddie Mayo.

Philip George UPTON

Gunner, 85 Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery, Army no. 1458646

He died on 21 September 1944 age 27

He was the son of Sidney and Georgina Upton and the husband of Daisy Evelyn Mary Upton of Grimsbury. Philip fathered twin boys but never lived to see them. Brother of Reginald.

He has no known grave but his name appears on Column 32 of the Singapore Memorial



Philip George Upton was being held as a PoW by the Japanese. He was one of 1,289 PoWs being transported on the freighter Hofuku Maru from Singapore to Japan. The Japanese would not protect PoWs by marking their transports which were freighters and therefore an acceptable target.

The Hofuku Maru was 80 miles north of Corregidor when it was attacked and sunk by planes from an American Aircraft Carrier. The majority of the prisoners drowned as they were locked in the holds where they had been for some months.

This vessel and many other similar ones are known as Hellships.

It is probable that these PoWs would have been used as slave labour in Japan

The Second World War – further combatants

John ABBOTTS, served in the RAF and was billeted in Aynhoe Park house. The officers used the dining room as the mess. Their occupation continued for a few year after the war awaiting demob.

Frederick BUTLER served in the Army.

Aubrey CROSS possibly a brother of Bertram also served in the Navy.

Jack GARRETT served in the Army. His early years were spent on the Brackley Road, his later in the Almshouses.

Brigadier HANCOCKS fought in the Far East, he and his wife ran the Apricot Tea Room next to Yew Tree cottage.

Arthur HUMPHRIS served in the RAF, flying in the Sunderlands. These flying boats had three roles, spotting/reconnaissance, downed crew rescue and attacking the German U boats. They had great range but were slow and therefore vulnerable. Arthur was a rear gunner.



Leslie JEACOCK may have served

Len **MOUAT** of the Charlton Road fought with the Army.



Denis PARRISH, served in the RAF.



John RICHARDSON, farm worker with the Abernethy family in Souldern, was stationed in Palestine as a member of the police force. This was not easy work, repatriating Jewish settlers and confronting Arab “terrorists”. He returned to Britain, farming and Aynho, in 1948.

Major Dickie RICHARDSON, lived in Aynho Court with wife Jean. He served in the RASC or as other regiments affectionately (?) knew them as the “Jan stealers”. Their son David, holds the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Dickie was administrator at Aynhoe Park prior to Nick Allen. He was an ex “red cap” (the much loved Military Police).

Charles SHERGOLD, fought with the Army in India with the Yorks and Lancs, 1945 to 1946. He married Nancy in 1939 and lived in Aynho all their married life. While on service he developed Anebic hepatitis, the War Office writing to Nancy saying he was dangerously ill, thankfully he survived.

Sven SVENSON came to Aynho while stationed at RAF Barford, he married Lynn and stayed. At Barford he may have worked with Wellingtons, Mosquitos or Whittle’s jet engine experiments. He was a navigator and must have suffered a dramatic accident as both his legs were tin.

Geoff STEVENS, was Mentioned in Despatches, he was a despatcher in a bomber squadron. He also undertook the role of “family liaison”, meeting many of the families of lost air crew. For those who remember Geoff, as I do, he was a true and warm gentleman. He would have been the perfect comforter for the bereaved. He modestly always talked of their strength rather than his own.



R.A.F. Form 2520/11

CERTIFICATE

FORCE AND RELEASE

SERVICE PARTICULARS

Service Number } 1172745 Rank F/SGT.
 Air Crew Category and/or R.A.F. trade CLERK/RO
 Air Crew Badges awarded (if any) -
 Overseas Service None.
 R.A.F. Character Yes (see notes of certificate opposite page)
 Proficiency A Yes
 " B Yes
 Decorations, Medals, Claps, Mention in Despatches, Commendations, etc. M.I.O. Defence & War Medals
 Educational and Vocational Training Courses and Results None

DESCRIPTION

Date of Birth 22.11.19 Height 5'9"
 Marks and Scars None
 Signature of Supervisor G. A. Stevens

F/SGT. G. W. STEVENS.
 (Block Letters)
 The above-named airman served in the R.A.F.U.R.
 on full-time service from 13.7.40 to 6.2.47
 Last day of service to which he was entitled for release and return home.

Particulars of his Service are shown in the margin of this Certificate.
 and statement of any special aptitudes or qualities or any special type of employment for which recommended is—

This man has been engaged on important clerical duties and has shown exceptional ability. He is above the average in intelligence and is recommended for employment in any clerical capacity.

[Signature]
 Director of Staff Administration



By the KING'S Order the name of
Corporal G.A. Stevens,
Royal Air Force,
was published in the London Gazette on
1 January, 1943,
as mentioned in a Despatch for distinguished service.
I am charged to record
His Majesty's high appreciation.

Archibald Innes

Secretary of State for Air

Peter SMITH of Cartwright Gardens, RSM, tank engineer for No.3 Troop A Squadron, 1st Northampton Yeomanry.



On 7/8th August 1944 he was part of Operation Totalise. This was an attempt to breakout from the Normandy bridgehead, they headed south of Caen, therefore cutting off the German retreat through the Falaise Gap. Their rapid advance ensured that they were under fire from the Germans in front, as they broke through, either side and then in the rear. The British artillery were at the same time was firing on the German positions, the very same positions the Northants had just overrun, there were no doubt self- inflicted casualties as the artillery did not stop for the advance. Such was the fog of war that the American Airforce were also bombing the German positions and the area of their line of retreat, in essence the same territory the Northants were trying to move through. Having fought through to their objective, St. Aignan, by 0400, an all- round defensive position was established. At 1230hrs, three "invincible" German Tiger tanks approached their position from the South, parallel to

the Caen/Falaise road. These were knocked out by the Troop's Sherman "Firefly" with its 17 pounder gun. Trooper Ekins had not previously fired the gun in action and was subsequently re-deployed so would never again. His three Tiger hits made him one of the greats in British gunnery. This action is famous for two reasons, firstly it proved the value of the "Firefly", the armoured plating of the Tiger had previously made it almost impregnable to Allied fire power. Secondly, it was the final action for SS-Hauptsturmbahnführer Michael Wittmann, one of Germany's most decorated tank aces with over 200 kills to his name.

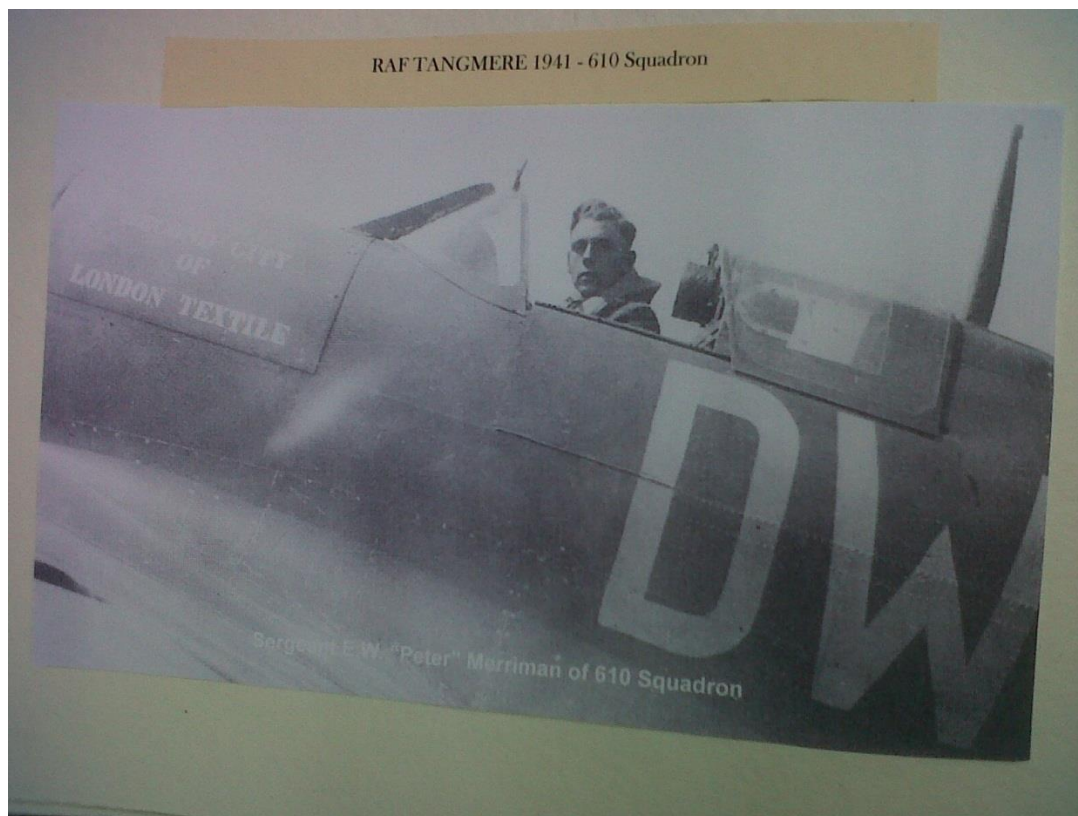
Peter also saw action in the Battle of the Bulge, made famous for the freezing conditions and last ditch attempt by the Germans to counter attack the advancing Allies.

The Sherman tank used by Peter had the main gun removed so that tools and equipment could be carried. His role was to repair any of the Troops' tanks that broke down. To do this he was required to advance alongside them in the front line. The others tanks could return fire if they were attacked; Peter could not, a truly frightening position to be in. On another occasion, his M4 half-track suffered a direct hit from a tank round. The vehicle was severely damaged, his kit and tools destroyed but at least he survived having dived headlong into a ditch as the shells rained in on them.

Conflict being the Mother of invention led to a many innovations particularly in the development of aircraft and tanks. Peter was used to test one such idea, a tank with a flame thrower; "the wasp", a fearsome weapon both physically and psychologically, particularly if you were an infantryman facing it.

He later became one of Bovington Tank Museum's experts, a vintage Rolls Royce restorer, custodian of a turreted Ferret scout car and instigator of the restoration of Aynhoe Park's ice house.

Edward (Peter), "Happy" MERRIMAN of Cartwright Gardens, a Spitfire pilot with Sir Douglas Bader, Doug Page and Johnnie Johnson. Sgt 1164046 Merriman, EW, 610 (County of Chester) squadron was awarded the DFM in September 1941, OBE, MBE and CBE all followed. He rose through the ranks to become an Air Commodore in the RAF having flown initially as a Volunteer Reservist. Peter was just too young to have been involved in the Battle of Britain but flew many action filled sorties across the channel into Northern France, Holland and Germany to harass the German troops in "Rhubarbs" and "Circuses". He claimed 10 "victories" and such was his skill that he was transferred to training duties. Perhaps his most unusual mission was to escort a "delivery" to his commander, Douglas Bader. A replacement pair of prosthetic legs was parachuted into the POW camp in which Bader was incarcerated.



After the war Peter was seconded to the French Air Force to help them retrain, this entailed being billeted with the Hennessey family in Cognac, he is therefore entitled to wear the wings of France. He was one of the first British pilots to fly the USAF's Hercules and amassed over a 1,000 flying hours in them. He flew Prime Ministers Wilson and Smith to the HMS Tiger summit. Under took record breaking long distance flights around the world and over the Arctic. Other highlights included being in charge of our Singapore air base, trialling specialist flying techniques for "delivering" the SAS and advising Formula 1 racing teams on aero-dynamics.

The skies over Aynho were full of aircraft during WW2. In the pre Battle of Britain days, Oxfordshire was regularly bombed by the Luftwaffe. The Hinton air field was strafed by a lone German fighter.

On 14th November 1940, the villagers looked North to see the horizon glowing red; Coventry burned. Les Ayres recalled being on Home Guard duty and watching waves of German planes heading towards the medieval city.

Our area was surrounded by RAF stations. Bicester and Heyford were originally established in WW1. Our distance from the sea has always contributed to clear skies, essential for training junior pilots. Wellington bombers flew in large numbers from Turweston, Hinton, Upper Heyford also Barford St John. Western on the Green, Finmere and Bicester were centres for Blenheim training. Hopcroft Holt, Croughton and Mixbury were also training airfields. Croughton specialised in training glider pilots. Between January and September 1941 the Luftwaffe attacked the air field, the RAF deliberately kept night time lights on so to attract the bombers. The sacrifice was made to protect other more high profile airfields. Very few offensive sorties flew from these sites, for example, in 50 years of service, Bicester never saw a plane leave in anger.

Unsurprisingly, a number of Aynho's young women married local RAF personnel.

There is a report that a Wellington bomber crashing at Rainsborough camp. It may have hit the tall Beech trees growing at the site or may have been already in trouble before clipping the tree tops.

On 1st August 1940, a Hereford, L6067 of 16 OTU (Operational Training Unit) crashed within view of Aynho just south of Souldern by the Portway. The crew of four perished, Pilot Sergeant O.G. Day, 2nd pilot Flying Officer G H Thevenard, wireless operator Sergeant S N Barker and passenger Aircraftman second class G W Rhodes. The unit was based at Upper Heyford, had been operational for less than five months, its purpose to train night bomber crews. The Hereford was no match for the German fighters they encountered during daylight raids, they were relegated to night missions then to training units like Heyford.



RAF crew were billeted in Aynho, as were a number of Army Officers in Aynhoe Park.

MISS CZEPPÉ & CLASS



Miss Charlotte Govier married **Stanislav CZEPE**, a Polish RAF servicemen, he did not survive. Her contribution to the village as an exceptional teacher should not be forgotten.

Sydney Melbourne ALSFORD saw action in North Africa and Italy with the Army, he was injured on several occasions, he lived in 32 the Lane. After the war he worked at Tusmore Park training the wounded in the trade of cabinet making. After the house was returned to private use, he continued to help rehabilitate the injured in Oxford at Headington Hill Hall. His contribution went far beyond the local area. He designed the "Oxford Lift", these mobile hoists enabled the disabled to be moved from bed to chair to bath, in hospital and more importantly at home. This enhanced mobility led to improved independence in the home environment.



Home on leave from the Royal Engineers

Peggy Harmer nee Philips



The former spy, who passed away on April 2 2011, was part of a top secret unit which turned scores of captured Nazi spies into double agents.

She was one of the youngest spies in Britain when she joined aged just 19 when a family friend asked her to work at the War Department.

Three days later she was invited to meet a man in Wormwood Scrubs prison and she was asked to join the ultra-secret counter espionage unit- codenamed 'Double Cross'.

Speaking in 2007 she recounted her bizarre job interview, when she said: 'I took the number 15 bus to the prison. I walked in and these great big iron gates clanged behind me. It was quite daunting. Then I was taken up an iron staircase to a cell. It was just like being in Porridge. It was bizarre; he [her contact] kept referring to

“Snow”, “Tate” and “Summer”. I had no idea what was going on. I thought I was in a madhouse.’



The Double Cross team’s greatest achievement came after they convinced Hitler's forces the D-Day Landing would take place in Calais and not Normandy.

Mrs Harmer, described as a ‘a stunner’ in her youth was hand-picked for the role on account of her striking looks and superb intelligence.

She eventually found out 'Tate' 'Summer' and 'Snow', were the codenames for other spies she would be working alongside. Mrs Harmer passed sensitive information between the different agents, took notes, and transcribed interrogations during her time with the unit.

Speaking in 2007 she said: ‘I hate to say it but I found the war really exciting. There was a wonderful atmosphere; such camaraderie. We all had a common enemy. That made a huge difference. We didn't talk about it at all, not to friends, not to anyone. I didn't tell a soul. We were so secretive. If I ever met boyfriends for lunch afterwards I would walk in the opposite direction [from headquarters] in case I was being followed.’

In 1940 Peggy began a secret love affair with fellow agent Christopher Harmer and in 1943 they married.

It certainly was a surprise to discover that German POWs were invited to play football against the village teenagers up on the Butts. They may well have been better turned out than the locals!

Elspath CARTWRIGHT was in regular correspondence with the authorities regarding the provision of casualty services in the early 1940's.

Richard Aubrey CARTWRIGHT had served as a midshipman, part of his legacy was a cockatoo, purchased in Singapore and housed in the conservatory.

Captain Will ASHBY retired to Aynhoe Park; he had fought with the Northamptonshire Yeomanry in WW2. It is believed that he was also a member of the S.A.S. He is remembered as a fine rider and keen huntsman and was also connected to the Northampton theatre and opera house for many years.

Another member of that community was **Clare MANSEL**. Her story is fascinating, using her secretarial and language skills she worked at the Nuremberg trials as a translator. Time and again she must have heard harrowing testimonial. There were also frustrations as many "deals" were done so that key intelligence and scientific figures could be acquired by each of the Allies so depriving the other. Nuclear power, vaccines and political knowledge became vital as the Cold War beckoned. Many perpetrators of horrific deeds therefore escaped justice.

Other residents included, **Colonel WINTER** and **Major General Roger Gillies EKIN**, C.I.E.

Major General EKIN was an officer in the British Indian Army who saw service in the Great War. During the Second World War, he was a brigade commander during the Japanese invasion of Burma in 1942 and a brigade commander on the North West Frontier. His last appointment was as an Area commander in India. Roger Gillies EKIN was born on the 18th November 1895. He was educated at Westminster School and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. After his two years at Sandhurst, he was commissioned on the 1st October 1914 on the Unattached List for the Indian Army. EKIN then joined the 55th Coke's Rifles (Frontier Force) and served with them during the Great War. He served in Palestine, being promoted to Lieutenant in 1916. Between the 1st September and 16th December 1916, EKIN served as the Brigade Machine Gun Officer, being granted the rank of Temporary Captain. Just prior to the end of the war, EKIN was promoted to the rank of Captain on the 1st October 1918. Between the 20th March 1919 and the 20th March 1923, he served as an Adjutant on operations in Waziristan. In 1922, with the reorganisation of the Indian Army, EKIN's regiment became the 5th (Coke's) Bn. 13th Frontier Force Rifles and his service number IA/486. He held the appointment of a General Staff Officer 3rd Grade in the Rawalpindi District between the 16th January 1925 and the 30th April 1928, and the General Staff Officer 2nd Grade in the same district between the 1st May 1928 and the 15th January 1929.

On the 1st October 1932, EKIN was promoted to the rank of Major, and on the 1st July 1936, he was promoted to the rank of Brevet Lieutenant Colonel. He attended the Senior Officer School at Belgaum in 1935, but did not attend the staff course. He was second-in-command of his battalion between the 16th May 1933 and the 15th May 1937, and rose to the command of his battalion on the 16th May 1937 with promotion to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. EKIN then held a series of short term appointments, reflecting the massive expansion and change the Indian Army was then subject to. On the 8th February 1940, EKIN was made the officiating commanding officer of the Kohat Brigade, in the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. This was one of the brigades under command of the Kohat District

within Northern Command, covering the North West Frontier between India and Afghanistan. He was not there long, leaving the Kohat Brigade on the 28th May 1940, next being appointed the officer commanding the Senior Officer School at Belgaum on the 28th June 1940. This school had been closed down at the outbreak of the war in 1939, but, appears to have been resurrected in 1940. He left the school on the 28th February 1941, and the next day (1st March), was appointed the Commandant of the Tactical School, India. He was promoted Acting Brigadier on the 1st April 1941. EKIN's promotion to the rank of Colonel was published in the London Gazette on the 7th October 1941, to have effect from the 1st April 1941, but with seniority dating from the 1st July 1939. He received the new service number of 9021. On the 15th June 1941, EKIN was chosen to raise and command the 46th Indian Infantry Brigade at Ahmednagar. This was designated to form part of the 17th Indian Division, and to prepare for deployment to the Middle East. The three battalions in the brigade, the 7th Bn. 10th Baluch Regiment, 5th Bn. 17th Dogra Regiment and 3rd Bn. 7th Gurkha Rifles were all war raised units, all part of the rapidly expanding Indian Army. As well as raising the brigade, EKIN was also the officiating General Officer Commanding (GOC) 17th Indian Infantry Division with the rank of Acting Major General. The new GOC, Major General H. V. LEWIS arrived on the 8th August 1941 to assume command of the division, and EKIN reverted to brigade commander. EKIN was promoted Temporary Brigadier on the 1st October 1941. On the 8th December 1941, the United Kingdom found itself at war with Japan, the Japanese Army invading Malaya, Burma and Hong Kong in early December. The 17th Indian Division sent two brigades to Singapore, but EKIN's brigade was sent instead to Burma. It arrived in January 1942, and was deployed in Southern Burma. The Japanese advanced up through Tenasserim, driving back the 2nd Burma Brigade towards Moulmein. EKIN was ordered to go to Moulmein on the 30th January to assume command of the Moulmein area from Brigadier John BOURKE, the commanding officer of the 2nd Burma Brigade. This situation was untenable, and the two brigadiers decided to work together instead. Moulmein was evacuated at 08.00 on the 31st January, so EKIN returned to command his brigade. On the 9th February 1942, the Japanese 55th Division attacked the line held by the 46th Indian Brigade on the Salween River, and succeeded in forcing the inexperienced Indian units to withdraw. The brigade was withdrawn on the 14th and 15th February to the Bilin River, and then again as it acted as a rearguard for the 17th Indian Division. On the 22nd February, the brigade was heavily attacked, with EKIN and only about three-hundred of his men escaping. The remains of the brigade were trapped the wrong side of the Sittang River when the only bridge was blown by the retreating British forces. Only a few survivors managed to cross the river, EKIN included. The 46th Indian Infantry Brigade was officially broken up and disbanded on the 24th February. This left EKIN without a command, but he remained in Burma. As the British forces withdrew through Burma, on the 2nd March 1942 EKIN was designated to become the Sub-Area Commander of the Shwegyin Lines of Communication responsible for the evacuation of the remaining men of Burma Corps across the Chindwin River. This was achieved safely with the tired men of Burma Corps crossing back into India. He relinquished this post as the command was disbanded on the 7th June 1942. On the 28th October 1942, EKIN was Mentioned in Dispatches for his services in Burma whilst a Temporary Brigadier. EKIN returned to India, and was given command of the Nowshera Brigade on the 15th June 1942. This was another brigade stationed on the North West Frontier. He remained in command of the Nowshera Brigade until the 31st May 1945, when he was switched to command the Kohat (Independent) Brigade with effect from the 1st June 1945. EKIN left the Kohat Brigade on the 11th February 1946. Promotion to the rank of Acting Major General took effect from the 15th March 1946, and EKIN assumed command of the Bihar and Orissa Area³. This Area was located in Eastern Command, with its headquarters at Dinapore, having formerly been

101 Lines of Communication Area between 1942 and late 1945. On the 13th June 1946, EKIN was made a Companion in the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire (C.I.E.) for his period in command of the Nowshera Brigade. He was promoted to the rank of Temporary Major General on the 20th January 1947. EKIN relinquished the appointment as GOC Bihar and Orissa Area on the 18th February 1947 to travel to the United Kingdom on leave. He was informed in writing that he was to be compulsorily retired as there was no further employment available to him. Roger EKIN was granted fifty-six days leave pending retirement, so retired from the Indian Army on the same day as India partitioned, namely the 15th August 1947, with the substantive rank of Colonel. He was fifty-one years of age when he retired. He was granted the rank of Honorary Major General on the 2nd September 1947.

Major R N J (Nick) ALLEN started his military life with the Royal Green Jacket but transferred to the Royal Artillery Regiment as a second-lieutenant. Although lined up as a casualty replacement in Korea, in 1951, he was posted to Malaya to counter Chinese communist terrorists who were attacking the vital rubber and tin supplies. Besides various training roles, Nick also spent a miserable time in Aden fighting the Arab terrorists. This was very much a political war and not a soldiers war. For three years, Nick was Administrator at Aynhoe Park while it was owned by the County House Association.

Major Ian GRAHAM lived on Blacksmiths Hill. It is thought he was in the Indian Army in Singapore and was captured when it fell to the Japanese. That being the case, for most of the Second World War he would have been a POW. So the story goes, his house was haunted. The ghost of a Cavalier (from the English Civil War) stands on the step of the front door. There are two known sightings.

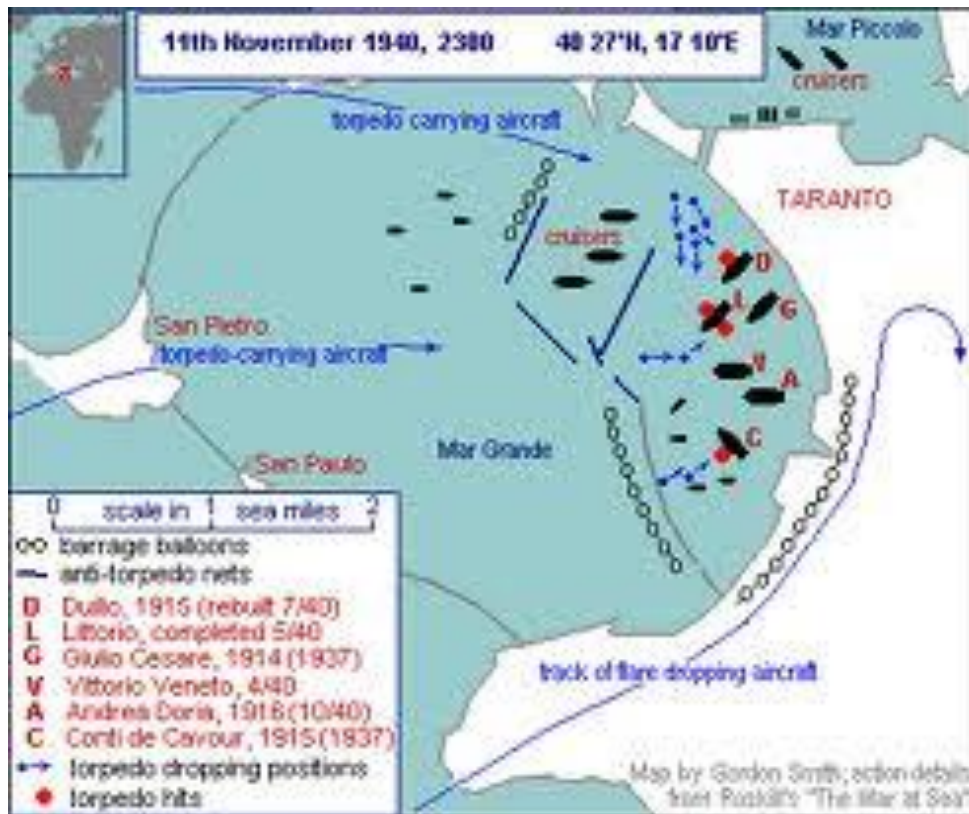
Colonel THOMPSON is remembered as a leading light in the post Second World War, "Aynho Good Companion Club". Sadly his service record is unknown.

Reginald UPTON ,brother of Philip served in the RAF.



Frederick HORLEY born in the 1920's was the son of Christopher and Sophia of the Square saw service in World War 2.

Reverend Ted WILLIAMS joined the Navy, after training, he joined the aircraft carrier HMS Illustrious. He was part of the first major Navy success of World War 2, the attack on the Italian Navy in the Med at Taranto.



Swordfish by-planes left *Illustrious*' flight deck to attack the Italian fleet with torpedoes. They could fly under the shore batteries' guns. Many of the capital ships were sunk or damaged. The Luftwaffe retaliated by bombing the British fleet. *Illustrious* took 8 hits, 120 of the crew were killed, 90 wounded. Ted survived although his pay office suffered damage; he had to reconstruct the pay ledgers. The ship's steering was damaged so she limped to Malta for repair. Further repairs were needed so the ship was towed to New York. They could not sail through the Straits of Gibraltar-too dangerous. The journey took them through the Suez Canal, round the Cape, past Ascension Island, the West Indies to New York. The journey took 6 months. Some of the crew were kept for maintenance purposes, Ted was sent to Belfast for two years, he suffered delayed shock and spent time in hospital. Recovered he set sail again, this time to Durban South Africa. In January 1945 he returned to Britain.

William GREENAWAY and **Les AYRES** also **Arthur PAGE** and **John EATON** are believed to have served but no details are known.

A Home guard was established in Aynho, the most noticeable remaining evidence of them being the brick look-out post. Facing north across the valley towards Banbury from the Charlton Road. There were others, one of unknown design was half way down the Charlton Road by the entrance to the (new) College Farm barns, a second, also of unknown design, was further north on the opposite side of the barns on the ridge. This would have had an all round view, a radio mast was also located there.



In WW2, **Ted HUMPHRIS** (see above) joined the Home Guard and led the Company's Picket Mortar team. During WW2 the labour force was again reduced to one man in the vegetable garden, Ted. He was allowed to convert the walled garden into a market garden, all surplus produce was sold to visitors from local villages and Banbury, tomatoes being particularly sought after. As the Park was transformed into the Camp, the Army became a new marketing opportunity. Fruits including grapes and nectarines were popular purchases by the troops. The outer kitchen garden was commandeered by the army so that military gardeners could grow food for the camp. They also took over the lower line of greenhouses for growing tomatoes. These had previously been repeatedly broken into when the fruits were ripe. Learning the lesson, a military guard was posted to protect the ripening tomatoes from foragers!

Post war, many of the kitchen garden fruit trees were removed as there was not the labour to maintain them. The lower greenhouses were demolished as they were not economic to rebuild. Hundreds of two foot square concrete slabs which had formed the bases of the fuel pyramids were cleared and reused to rebuild the paths and low walls of the formal gardens.

Harry HUMPHRIS and **William MILLER** also played their part in the Home Guard. Sergeant Humphris never wore his strips as he could not give orders to his friends and neighbours.



Aynho suffered rationing and the black out just like the rest of the country. There were regular requests to billet passing military units and also evacuated children. Billeted soldiers were a useful source of rations and blankets. Many a meals found its way out of the RAF run kitchen of Aynhoe Park.]



GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME

A YEAR AGO I appealed to householders in the safer areas to help in time of war by receiving school children from the big cities. Since then our evacuation scheme has been carried out and we are preparing further plans to be put in force if air attacks develop.

THE TASK AHEAD

As the measure we are faced with is double work to prepare for the future and to keep in the safer areas all the children who are already there. The first piece of work must be done by the Government and the public authorities. The second can only be done by the children's parents and the householders in the receiving areas.

SHARING THE BURDEN

There are over 400,000 evacuated children now in the receiving areas, and this is an important contribution to our national defence. But the burden of this most valuable work has fallen almost entirely on the half-million or so householders who have had children in their houses for an appreciable time.

In response to the Government's appeal last year offers were made to receive 2,300,000 children. Only about a quarter of these offers have been taken up. Is it fair that the whole burden should fall continuously on one man—or rather one woman—in four?

I do not want to suggest that billets should be disturbed unnecessarily. It is far better for the child to have a settled home. But many householders

Arnold (Bill) Pyatt was one such evacuee from London. His story is recorded on the Aynho website. He recalls how busy Aynho was due to the constant troop and fuel movement. The day Banbury gas works was attacked by fighter bombers was remembered by many, particularly as the planes flew low over the market. On another occasion a single bomber dropped a bomb in the water meadows by the Aynho canal. The bomb was not found but did explode after a delay, little harm was done.

John FULCHER and the men of the Royal Army Service Corp who ran no.5 Petrol Depot.

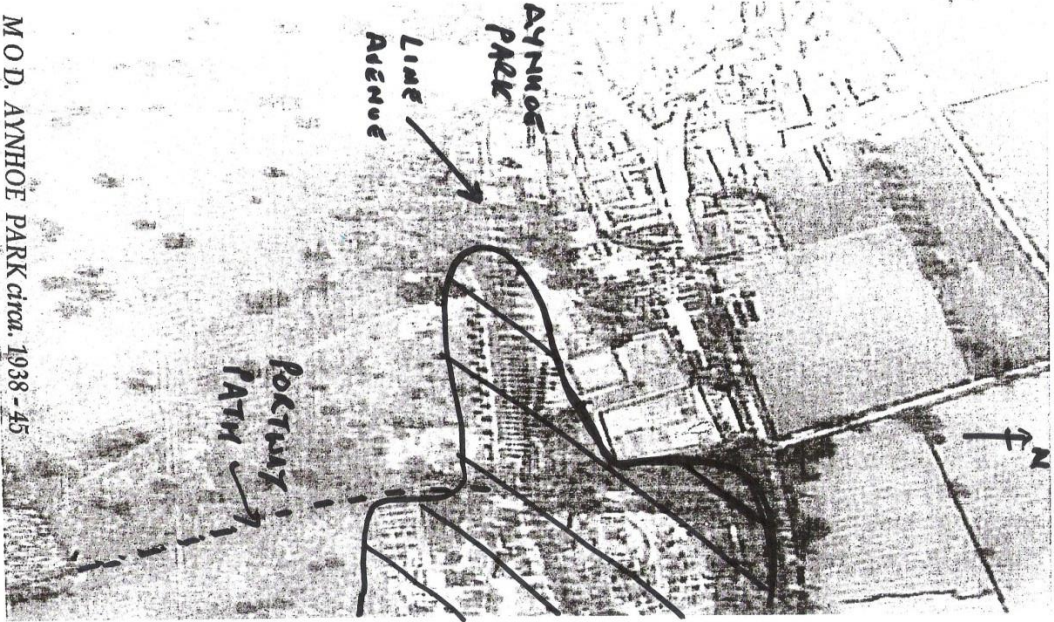


This extended throughout Ryelands wood, Aynhoe Park gardens and into the deer park. A camp of Nissan huts and concrete roads was built for the men by REME and Pioneer Corp soldiers. The entrance was through the Lodge on the Croughton corner. Living in the Lodge was the village game keeper and his family the **Reeves**. Mr Reeve was turned down by the Army because although a crack shot, his deformed hand was thought to be a hindrance. He helped the war effort by working in a Banbury munitions factory.

Led by **Major Reid**, the Pioneer Corp was also involved in bringing fuel by the drum and jerry can from the railhead at Aynho junction to the dump. Scammel trucks and horse and wagon were used to transport the fuel to Aynho from January 1942 to June 1944 whence the fuel was reloaded and sent south. The drums and jerry cans were destined for the D-Day invasion. Huge pyramids were formed. These were quite visible from the air. If the RAF and radar defences had let one German plane through, Aynho could have been famous for being a large hole in the ground!

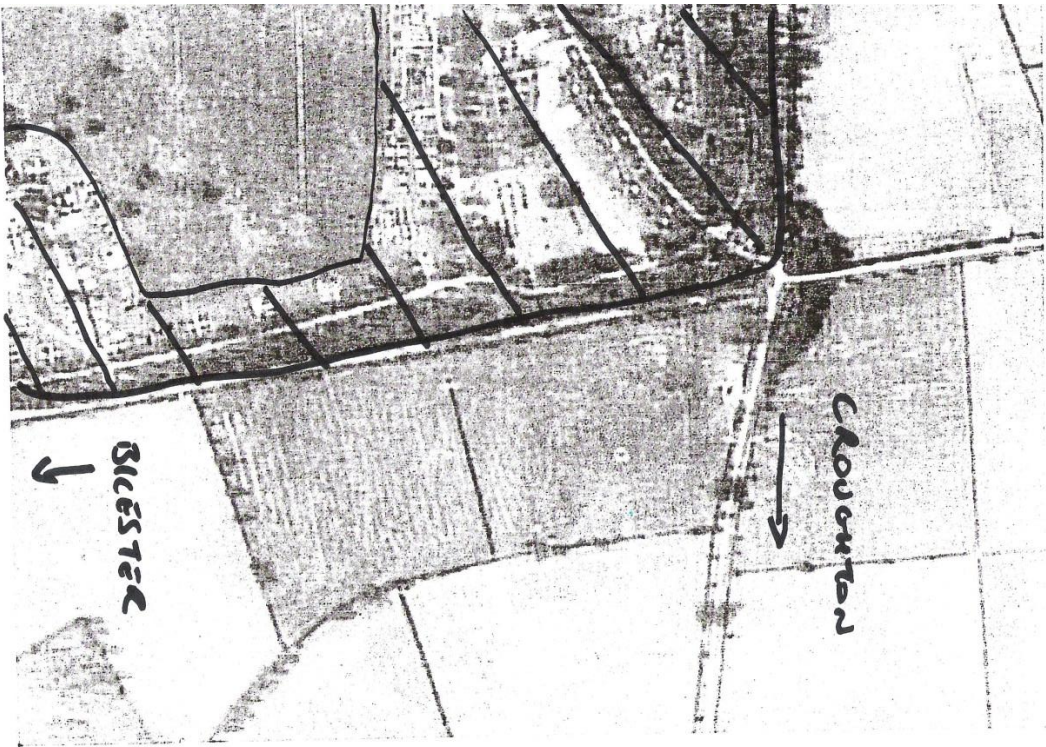
The ranks lived in Nissan huts, the officers at Aynhoe Park. Food was cooked at Aynhoe Park and driven down to the huts. The Village hall became the centre of entertainment for the men, many a dance was organised with troops and villagers invited. Contrary to some sources there were no American troops in Aynho, just RAF and Army, passing through or working locally.

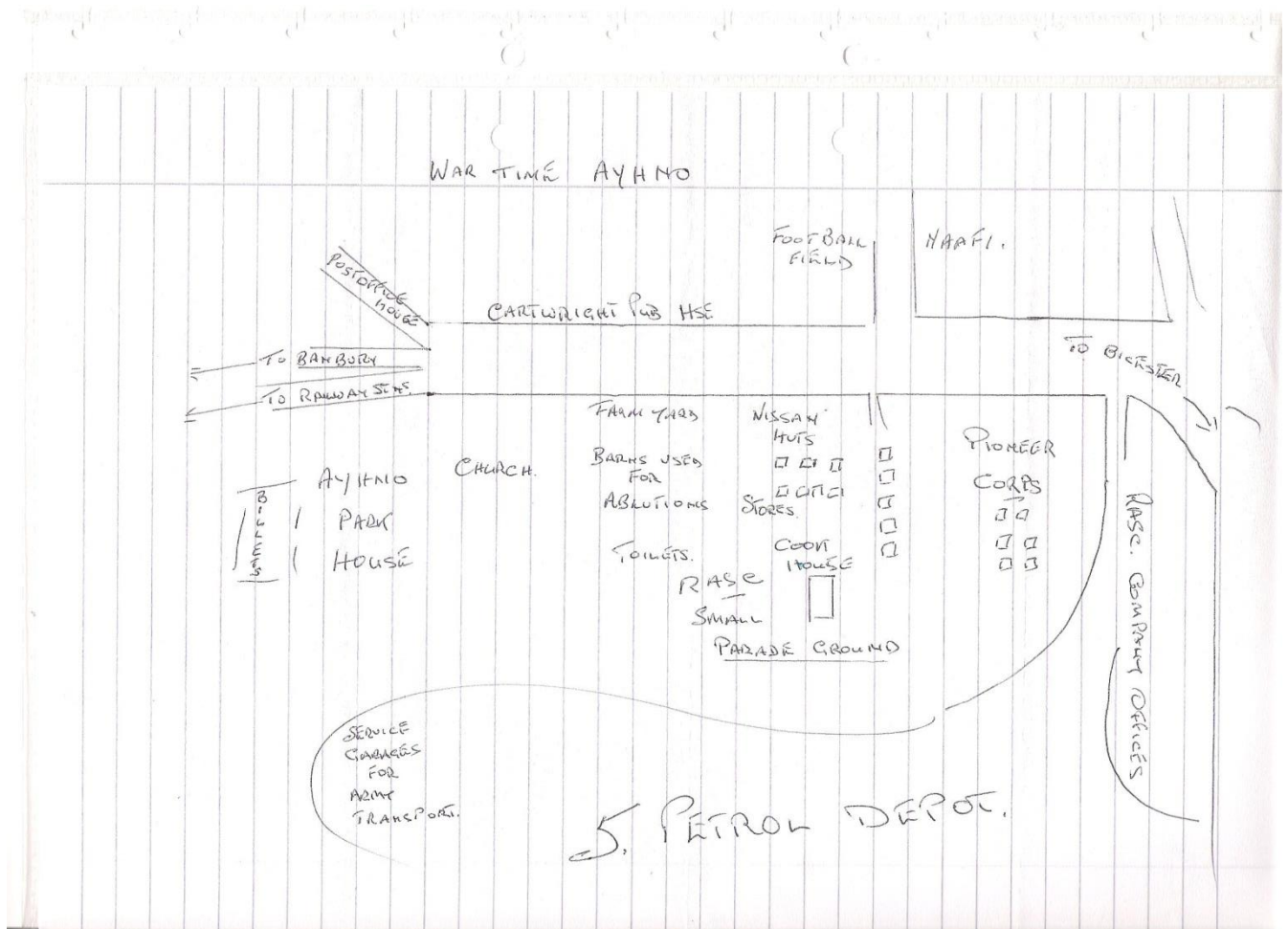
John was transferred with the fuel to a dump at Bayeaux France in the aftermath of the invasion. As the Germans fell back, John was moved again, on to the Antwerp docks. The Germans unleashed their V1 and V2 rockets on the dock in an ever more desperate defence. John was demobbed in 1946 having been posted to India. He had such happy memories of his time in Aynho that he donated to the purchase of the Village hall piano. His story was published in the Banbury Guardian and he was made an Honorary member of the Aynho History Society in recognition for his contribution in our understanding of this little known but vital part on Britain's war effort.



M.O.D. AYNHOE PARK circa. 1938 - 45

 EXTENT OF
CAMP





As drawn by John Fulcher

The camp extended down the London Road and provides the roads on Grove Ash Farm.

Tom "Jock" WRIGHT came to Aynho with the Army to work at the dump, originally from Scotland he met his wife and stayed in Aynho. Like John Fulcher he followed the fuel through France and was then sent east to Burma then Japan. His family have photographs of the devastation of the aftermath of the nuclear bomb at either Hiroshima or Nagasaki. He never spoke of the war. When back in Aynho he worked nights at the Morris, Cowley plant. To get to work, he cycled the twenty odd miles each way, a tough man and well respected.

One of Jock's sons joined the RAF and serve for many years.

Record Office Stamp

RECORD OF SERVICE

ARMY FORM W5258

A.S.C. RECORDS
ONE PLACE
HASTINGS

No. S/2731485 Rank PTE.
 Name WRIGHT. T.
 (in block letters)
 Served in Regts/Corps as follows:

	Regt./Corps	From	To	Assn. joined with date	Remarks by Assn. (if any)
a	<u>P.A.S.C.</u>	<u>26/4/41</u>	<u>24/7/41</u>		
b					
c					
d					

Date 27 AUG 1941

[Signature]
Record Officer

- This card should be presented or sent by the person named above to the Regt./Corps Association he wishes to join or from which he requires assistance.
- The Secretary of the Association should stamp and date the card in the relative column when the soldier joins the Association.
- If you send this card by post, do not fail to enclose your address.

(200) W.L. 4004 2000 (15) 1545 6p. 1941 C.A.S.L.M.

PARTICULARS OF TRAINING.

Courses and Schools, Specialist Qualifications, Training results.	Date	Initials of Officer
<u>2nd W. TRAINING</u>	<u>FROM 26-6-41</u>	<i>[Signature]</i>
	<u>TO 18-8-41</u>	
<u>FIXED RECEIPTS COURSE</u>		
<u>attended Sanitary Duties course Serial No 35 for the period 10-20 Aug 43 obtained result "Satisfactory"</u>	<u>25-8-43</u>	<i>[Signature]</i>
<u>Passed 1st of the Puffin Cooper's Battalion Exam III of Puffin on 24 Feb 44.</u>	<u>22-2-44</u>	<i>[Signature]</i>

RECORDS OF EMPLOYMENT AS AN ARMY TRADESMAN.
 (For use in support of tradesman's rates of pay only.)

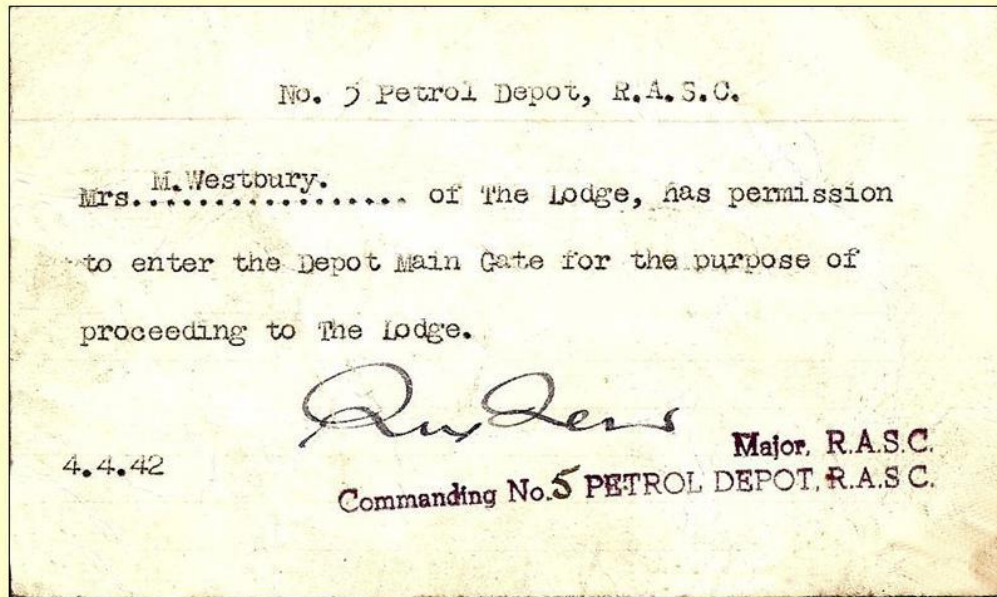
Trade	Group	Class	Remarks, 44a (On employment, 1. Re-classified, 2. By agreement, 3. etc.)	Date	Initials of Officer
<u>Plumber</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>III</u>	<u>Passed Job 20.11.41 - 20.11.41</u>	<u>20.11.41</u>	<i>[Signature]</i>
<u>Plumber</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>III</u>	<u>Reclassified by 20.11.41</u>		<i>[Signature]</i>
<u>Plumber</u>			<u>20.11.41</u>		

As modern military historians focus more on the importance of logistics in fighting a successful war, it is now recognised that the Allies' advance through Normandy was slowed

by a lack of fuel. The German defence became hamstrung due to their ever dwindling supplies of petrol. Mechanised warfare relied upon fuel dumps such as Aynho.

A film was made of their activity and the men went to a special showing in Banbury. Another member of the Corp was and remained a well-known jazz musician from the mid 1940's to the end of the Millennium, his name, Nat Gonella.

JEAN WESTBURY



Army and RAF officers were barracked in Aynhoe Park, the house not in the woods. The old rectory became a place of entertainment and relaxation.



This button was found by metal detector, did it belong to one of these officers?



Elizabeth and brother Edward Cartwright as young children were evacuated to the USA for the duration of the war. They lived in New Jersey with the Moseley family. The two returned in 1945 to find the house in need of some redecoration thanks to the addition of Mr Chad and other cartoons and graffiti left by the war time military occupants.

The Cartwright collection includes accounts of payments to the 1941-5 “War Damage Fund”

V E Day was celebrated on the Butts, which was 8th May 1945. In the court yard of the Cartwright Arms, military aircraft and their pilots were on parade for all to see. Many communities had donated money to pay for the building of these planes.

The Nissan huts were emptied of soldiers but were not wasted, families moved into them. The NAAFI huts, opposite The Bothy was also used for family accommodation post 1945. For some they made spacious homes when compared to the small village cottages. These families later moved to the Council house in Butts Close.

The camp was cleared and much was buried, including according to “legend” some military motor bikes.

Peter LATHAM of Portway Gardens, Air Vice Marshall CB AFC. He joined the RAF in 1944. He progressed to lead 111 Squadron, therefore directed the Black Arrows Hunter display team 1959-60. The Hunters were Britain’s first fighter which could fly faster than the speed of sound. The display team was a perfect way to show Soviet Russia just what they would come up against. Air Tattoos became the showcase for the aeronautical industry and the most talented military pilots from around the globe. Many postings followed across the RAF and MOD.

As an ex President of the British Horological Institute, Peter has been the perfect “keeper” of the carillon in St Michael’s.



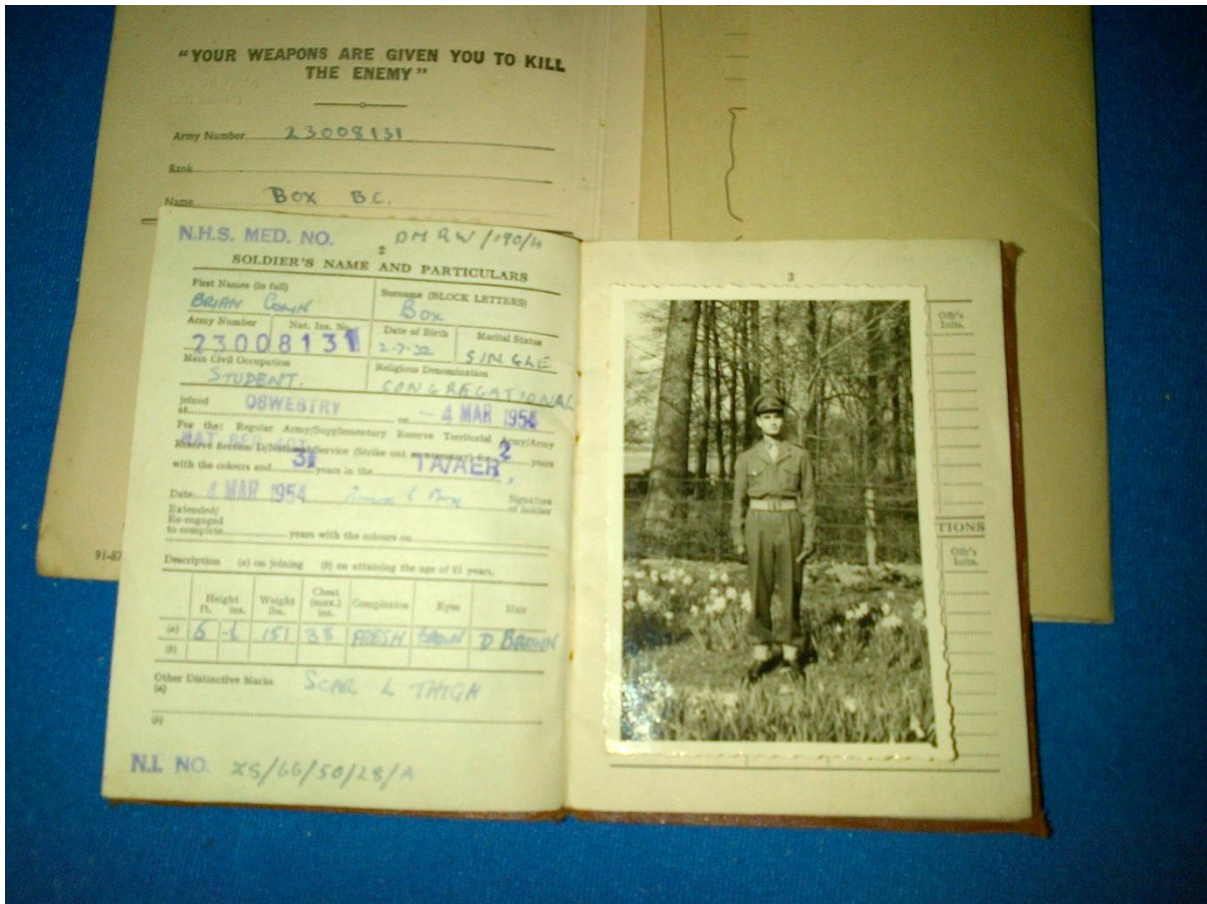


CHAPTER V

Conscription continued after the War in the form of National Service.

Keith MORGAN of Cartwright Gardens was “trained to kill” by the RAF on Cannock Chase.

Brian BOX thoroughly enjoyed the chance to travel; the Army took him to Germany as part of the army of occupation.



William Patrick ALBOROUGH spent 1955-1957 in the Royal Navy on National Service. He was an “Engineering Mechanic” on board the Destroyer HMS Chieftain. Having patrolled in the Med’, Chieftain was sent to partake in the assault on the Suez Canal in November 1955. He thought watching from the safety of HMS Chieftain’s deck, off shore and out of range of Egyptian shore batteries, was the most sensible decision the ship’s Captain ever made!



Pat on left

Peter PHILIPS served in Egypt during his National service.

Barry PUSEY, saw service with the RAF in “Occupied Germany” in 1946. Barry is another who signed the Official Secrets Act so we could not discuss his role.

His abiding memory is of the absolute devastation of the major German cities. Very little was left standing. We are all aware of food rationing in Britain, in Germany the situation was far worse. It is also worth remembering that the standard of living for the average pre War German was noticeably higher than in Britain. The impact of rationing was therefore exacerbated. Post war, the lack of food and shelter was made worse by the collapse of state administrative and vast numbers of displaced people leaving Eastern Europe to avoid the Red Army and Communism.

Edward RAINSBERRY was an RAF chaplain before retiring to Aynho.

Ron SAWBRIDGE spent his National Service in the Royal Air force as a navigator. He was in the last National Service training quad. Part of that training included navigation by the stars.

Aubrey Frederick Harold PLASTED has a long association with Aynho having been a porter at both Aynho stations before his National service 1947-49. On his return from the Suez Canal Zone in Egypt, he manned Aynho Junction signal box from 1954 to the early 1980s. He had served with the Sappers, Royal Engineers and was trained to build, repair and destroy railway lines and bridges.



Ron Parrish

RON PARRISH IN ADEN

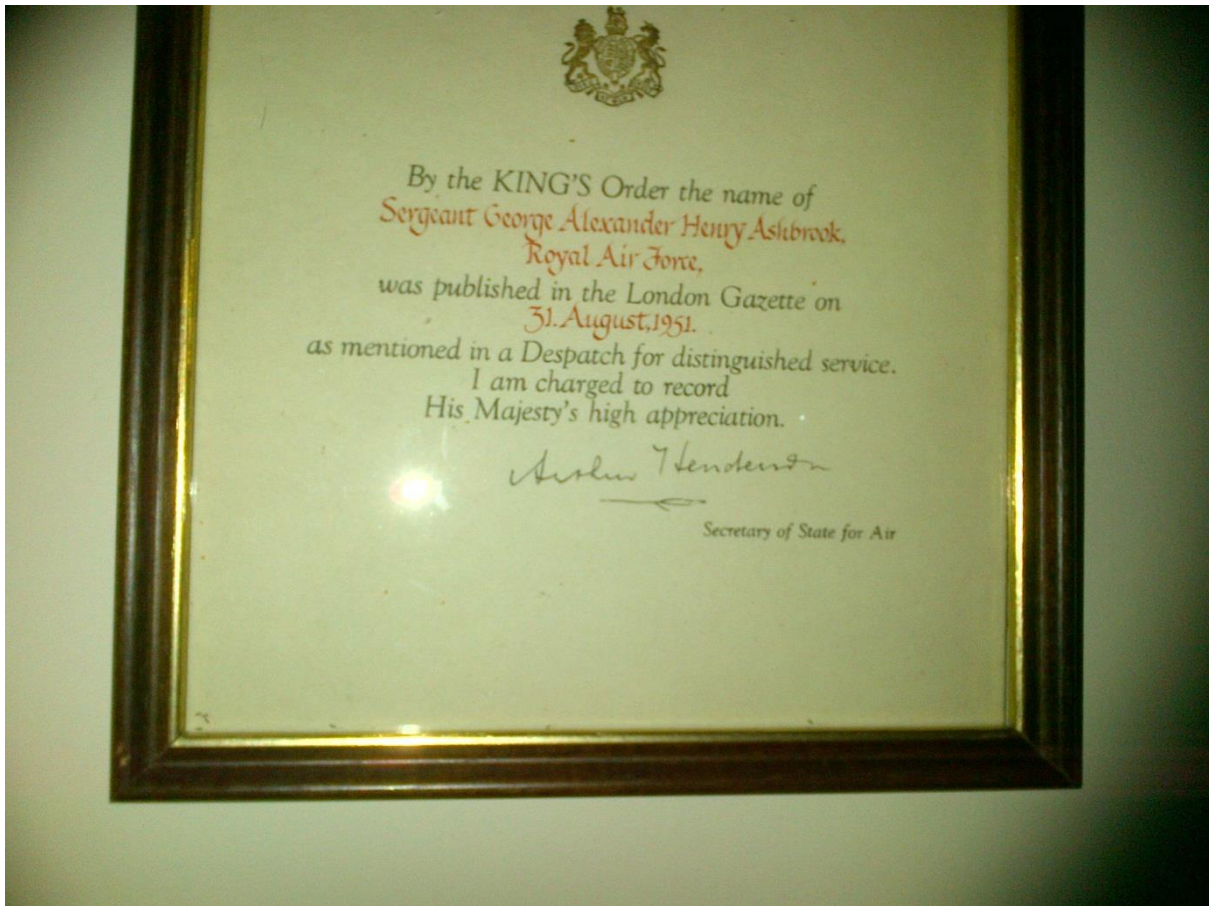


Ron was a son of George Parrish (detailed earlier) and brother of Denis (detailed earlier)

Britain's involvement in Korea is often forgotten. Fighting the Communist backed North Korean's was no easy operation. **George ASHBROOK** flew with the Sunderland flying boats

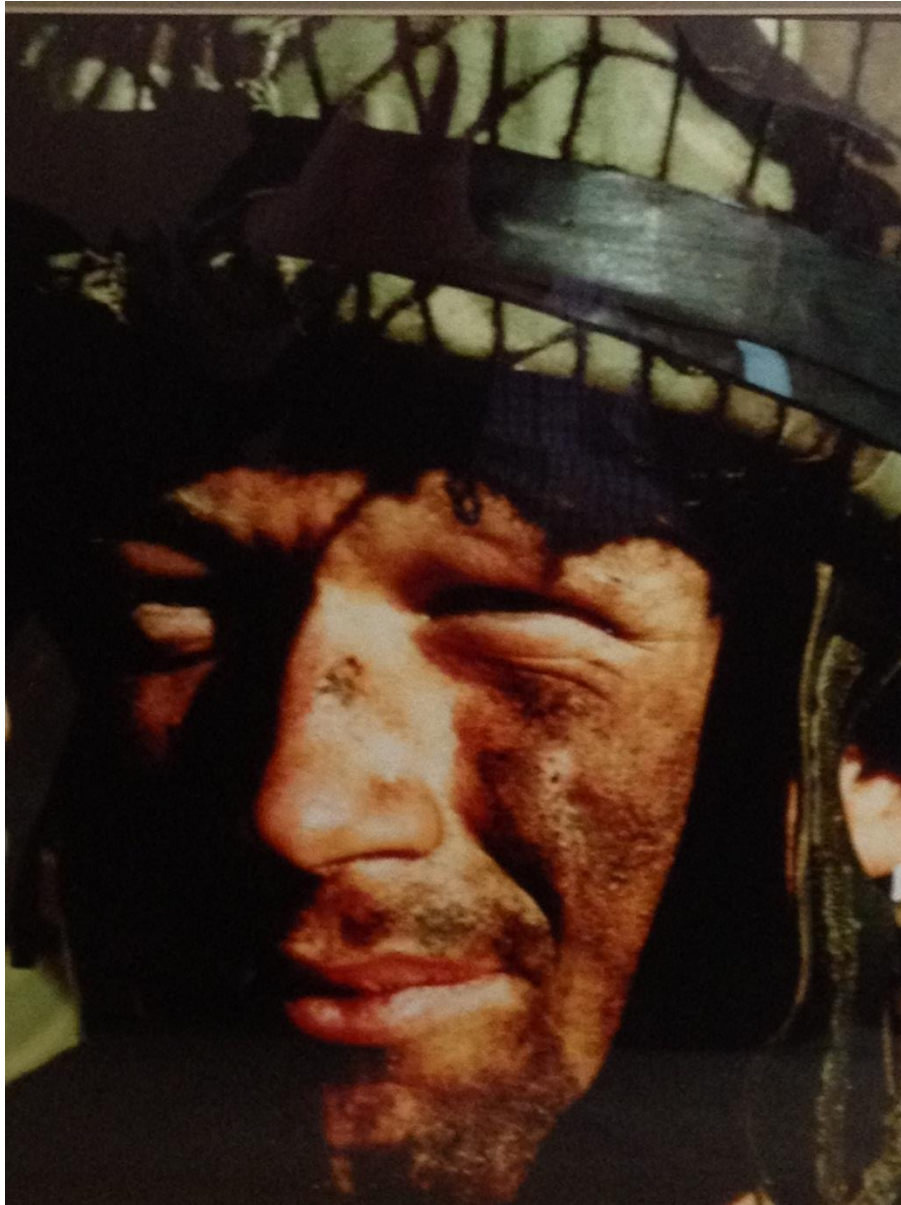
as a navigator 1951-53. His qualities soon led him to be a navigator instructor. In total 1,647 Sunderland sorties were flown covering over 500,000 miles, only two planes were lost. George is first on the left





Douglas WARD was posted to Kenya as a National Serviceman. during the uprising

Andrew MILLS of St Michael's House, 3rd Parachute Regiment



Lt Andrew Mills - San Carlos, East Falkland, c 23 May 1982



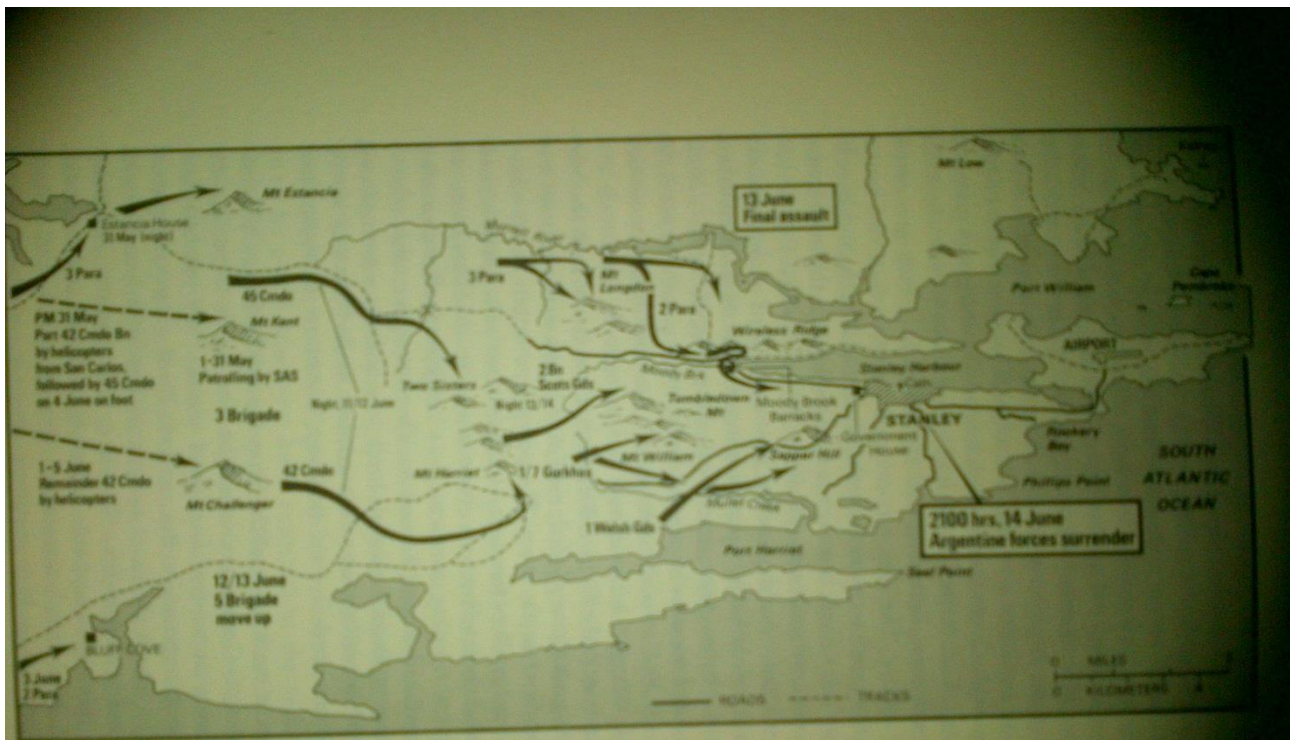
Lt Andrew Mills (509984) The Parachute Regiment - Bluff Cove Peak, East Falkland, 11 June 1982

Captain A R Mills The Parachute Regiment 509984

Andrew Mills held a Short Service Commission in the Parachute Regiment between 1980 and 1983. He served in the Falklands War of 1982 as the Liaison Officer of 3 PARA attached to the Brigade HQ of 3 Commando Brigade. He landed in San Carlos on D Day and subsequently moved East: first to Teal Inlet, then Bluff Cove Peak , Two Sisters ending up in Port Stanley the day the Argentines surrendered. He survived both airstrikes on British ground positions carried out by the Argentine Air Force's Grupo 5 de Caza.

Foot note; 3 Para "yomped" approximately 100km with at least 40kg of equipment on their backs. As they crossed the island, the weather was particularly changeable due to the different wind directions, typical of the area. Snow, sleet or rain with temperatures hovering about zero (discounting wind chill), meant that crossing the island and sleeping out was physically exhausting; let alone the distance covered or the exertion of combat.

Full details of these events have been published by Andrew.



The Battle for Stanley



Jeffrey GLOVER



Jeffrey married Dee from Aynho. He flew with the RAF in the Falklands War.

On the morning of 21 May 1982, Flt Lt Jeffrey Glover was flying a Harrier GR.3 of 1(F) Squadron, RAF, (XZ972 -tail code 33) operating from HMS Hermes on a reconnaissance mission.

He was shot down at around 9.35am by a Shorts Blowpipe man-portable surface to air missile over Port Howard, West Falklands and ejected after most of a wing had been shot off.

“The plane must have rolled very rapidly to the right, almost through 360 degrees. I looked down, saw my right hand and pulled the ejection seat handle,” he says.

“At that point, I blacked out and was unconscious. I had effectively jumped out in a 600mph wind up in the free air stream with my left arm still out.

“It flailed backwards and pretty well broke my arm, my left shoulder-blade in two places and my collarbone. My face was badly bruised through wind-blast and possibly the speed at which I had hit the water.”

He found himself close to drowning in the icy South Atlantic, but managed to swim to the surface.

Argentinian soldiers took him aboard a boat at rifle point and he was later treated for injuries before meeting and shaking the hand of the operator who claimed to have shot him down.

He was later taken to the mainland where the nearest he came to interrogation was when an air force major “tried to chat me up”. He said: “He brought the conversation around to war and military matters, at which point I said: ‘I don’t wish to continue this conversation’.

“But I was amazed there wasn’t a tactical interrogation, an immediate interrogation of me.

“Someone who has just ejected and is in stress, maybe injured, is probably an ideal candidate to interrogate, but fortunately that didn’t happen. Medically, they did a reasonable job on me. There was certainly no aggression.

“When I was in the officers’ mess, I was visited by 10 or 12 Argentine pilots who came in to say hello and ask me how I was feeling. One chap gave me a bottle of wine. Another said

he would shake me by the hand because I was a pilot but he didn't agree with what I was doing. I said: 'Fair enough' and that was it.

"At the time, I didn't realise I was their only PoW.

"They claimed they had several hundred dotted around the base, which I didn't somehow believe but it could have been true.

"It wasn't until I got to Uruguay that I realised I was the only one."

He was in "virtual solitary confinement" for five weeks before being flown to Buenos Aires, where he spent another four or five days in hospital and had his plaster cast removed from his arm.

Then he was flown to Montevideo where he was met by the military attaché and driven to the British ambassador's residence.

Sqdn Ldr Glover joined the Red Arrows in 1988.

Andrew BELLAMY of College Farm House



In the summer of 1973 495475 Cornet Andrew Bellamy joined The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars straight from Sandhurst at the age of 20 and was pitched into the Cold War as a troop leader of 3 Chieftain tanks constantly exercising on the north German plain, rehearsing holding back 3 Shock Army from the Soviet Union. This was the military life in Germany at that time – constantly prepared, short notice, quick deployments, border patrols...and lots of skiing!

There were interludes.

In 1974 the Regiment was sent to Cyprus after the Turkish invasion to stabilise things with the Greeks, protect and return displaced civilians. Andrew was there for 6 months to establish patrol routes for the United Nations forces and to find the edges of minefields between the two sides across what became known, and still is, as the Green Line.

In 1979 he flew to Rhodesia on Christmas Day and deployed in to the hinterland to collect in the ZIPRA and ZANLA forces belonging to Robert Mugabe and Joshua Nkomo. It was a

fascinating 6 months working for Lord Soames in Government House and seeing through the elections.

In 1980, on his return from Africa, he became Adjutant of his Regiment in Tidworth and took them back to Germany 2 years later – for more NBC warfare training against the Soviets. Then he moved to the Ministry of Defence as one of the handful of captains in the place and was responsible for moving the Army about from place to place. One of his jobs was to move all the people to and from the Falklands on 4 months tours – flying them to the Ascension Island in the Pacific before moving them on by ship to the South Atlantic whilst the new airfield was being built – all this nearly exactly 30 years ago!

It was in 1984 that Andrew began to move up the ranks, first Staff College, then command of a squadron of Challenger tanks, back in Germany, followed by a 2 year tour in Canada at the armoured warfare training centre east of Calgary – and lots more skiing in the Rockies. He married Annabel in 1982 and from there began their trek around the world and moving between 19 houses before they finally settled in Aynho in 2005.

At the end of the 80s Andrew was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and had a short stint again in the MOD before teaching at the Staff College. In the early 90s he commanded his Regiment in Germany – and again in Cyprus for 6 months (he notes not much had changed in the 20 years he had been away). He amalgamated his regiment with another in a round of Defence Cuts, just like now, and became their commanding officer for a year. The Berlin Wall came down – and the Balkans kicked off unfettered by the Cold War.

Andrew served in Supreme Headquarters and planned the NATO participation (with lots of others!). He then was promoted Colonel, commanded the training organisation out in Canada, came back to Germany as a Brigadier and participated with General Jackson in the Kosovo War as part of KFOR. At this stage he was considered an expert in all things air land and managed the airspace over the Balkans - to keep the holiday makers flying from Northern Europe to Southern Europe whilst a serious air war was going on. Interesting and sad times – displaced people again, great involvement with the NGOs and the Aid agencies.

After it was all over he spent a year in London at the Royal College of Defence Studies specialising in the travails of Africa and having the opportunity to travel there and see things at first hand in South Africa after Mandela, Namibia after the floods, Botswana coping with Aids/HIV, Kenya struggling with its borders to the North with Sudan, and lastly Senegal, for the difference between a British and a French legacy. Fascinating times again. In 2001 he moved to Brussels and was Secretary to NATO's Military Committee for 2 years at the time when the attacks happened on the Twin Towers, Iraq was invaded, and the involvement in Afghanistan began – an international experience, involving lots of diplomacyand fine food and wine in the pretty streets of Brussels. His last job was back in England sorting out the lessons from the experience in Iraq – in the air/land domain. Then he retired - just 34 years after he started..... and is no longer young!

He maintains his association with the Regiment he commanded by being its Honorary Colonel and acting for his Colonel in Chief, The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh – who has been Colonel in Chief precisely one year longer than Andrew has been alive!! Now that tells you something – how young Andrew is.....relatively!

Stephen BROOKE of the Logistics Corp.



An Army marches on its stomach and the modern military requires a mountain of kit. During the Great War five men working behind the lines would be needed to keep one at the front. At its biggest, the Logistics Corp was the largest single body of men and women, 30,000, in the British Army. Getting huge quantities of food, fuel and ammunition to the right place at the right time is never easy, made that bit harder during a battle or war torn environment.

Paul SAWBRIDGE is almost certainly the youngest Aynho bred soldier to have seen service in recent times. Joining up at aged 16 years 9 months his tours included Northern Ireland and Afghanistan. He continues to fulfil a security role in Afghanistan. The family donated the plack and picnic bench to the village, below.



CHAPTER VI

There are other members of the village who have served but wish to keep their anonymity, suffice to say, I recognise their contribution via the Rifle Brigade, Territorial Army, Ox and Bucks light infantry, T A Signals, RAF and other units. Two more members of the community signed the Official Secrets Act so presumably; they worked in intelligence or signals.

Not forgetting the many men, and women who were fire wardens, munitions workers, ambulance drivers, doctors and nurses in the wars.

We record, collectively, the members of the US State Department and US Military who have stayed in Aynho while posted to RAF Croughton and Upper Heyford air bases. US Colonel Gill Williams and his family lived in Cartwright Gardens in the late 1970's. Craig and Diane Miller, dentist and teacher with the USAF at our local bases lived in the Butler's cottage at Friars Well 1983-85. Perry Smallwood , USAF pilot rented the cottage before them.

And Messrs Sir John Mills of Souldern Mill (down Mill Lane) and Richard Harris of the Grammar House who starred in such wartime movies as "Ice cold in Alex", "Dunkirk" and "Guns of Navarone", it wasn't real but their portrayal of fear and resilience is as close as many of us would want to be.



Sir John rehearsing for "that "scene in Ice cold in Alex.



Richard Harris famed for his enjoyment of a glass, without one!



Aynho school children circa the early 1970's on a school trip to HMS Belfast, London.

Historical research can lead up some unexpected paths.

This fine uniform was not as thought, that belonging to William Cartwright as a young soldier in 1814. It is in fact that of a far more senior member of the establishment. During the Victorian era, a Deputy Lord Lieutenant of the county would have worn this as their ceremonial dress. **Sir Fairfax Leighton CARTWRIGHT** held this post . It is possible, but unproven, that the blacken buttons and black crepe armband relate to the death of Prince Albert. Do admire the craftsmanship involved, this would have been expensive bespoke tailoring of the highest order.







The late John Savings was a war child but he was not in the Royal Artillery as might be indicated by the cannon on the bottom left of his head stone. He was a Gunners fan or more correctly an Arsenal F.C. supporter!



CHAPTER VII

Finally, this piece of research is free for anyone to read.

If you would like to make a donation then please do support a regimental charity, the Poppy Appeal, "Help for Heroes" or "Hounds for Heroes". This last charity is new and involves man's best friend.

Not everyone will agree with the reasons for each or any conflict but the British Forces are renowned for their bravery and professionalism.

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Thank you to members of the Aynho History Society, families connected to Aynho, Nigel and Elizabeth Cartwright, Sybil Stevens, Peter Cole, Michael Allbrook, Rob Forsyth, Simon Donoghue, Keith Langridge, Dawn Griffis, Nick Allen, Dick Ferguson, Northants Records Office, Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum and the many who wrote a book, their memoirs or who posted information on the internet for me to scavenge! You all contributed to researching and recalling Aynho's heroes.

Please submit any additional material or corrections to me through the Aynho History Society via the Aynho village website.

Rupert D.S.Clark

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