

THE GREAT WAR MEMORIAL OF CHRIST CHURCH, SURBITON HILL, KT5 8JJ. BEHIND THE NAMES.

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ABSTRACT

The Great War memorial of Christ Church, Surbiton [KT5 8JJ] commemorates 76 men and best matches were found for 60 of them. Most of these were soldiers killed in action or who died of wounds on the Western Front in France and Flanders. Three men were killed by enemy action at sea; two were sailors and the other was a soldier travelling on *HMS Hampshire*, the ship on which Lord Kitchener also perished in 1916. Two men died of disease, in England. One man was killed in action in Palestine; one died of disease in Mesopotamia; one died of wounds in East Africa, one died of an undiscovered cause in India, one died of disease in Salonika, and one was killed in action on the Gallipoli Peninsular. The names of all 76 men could be identified on the Surbiton UDC memorial [KT6 6AG]. For most of the men there was good evidence of connection with the area within walking distance of Christ Church. The biographical details suggested that many of the men had not travelled far from the Christ Church area in their civilian lives. At the start of the Great War, six men already were in the service of the Crown. All officers were volunteers, two had been university students, one was a civil engineer, and one was employed by a railway company in a senior position. The volunteers or conscripts of other ranks had a wide variety of occupations including, bricklayer, carpet planner, apprentice compositor, newspaper seller, milkman, baker's roundsman, greengrocer, shop assistant, shoeing smith, coachman, farm worker, tobacco dryer, tiler's labour, butcher, porter, salesman, visiting domestic servant, fishmonger, errand boy, school caretaker, solicitor's clerk, railway carriage cleaner, and under-gardener. The mean age at death was 27 years with a range of 16 – 49 years.

INTRODUCTION

The war memorial at Christ Church, Surbiton Hill [KT5 8JJ] is a stone, three panel wall mounted tablet with a gilded wreath at the top centre. It is believed that it was unveiled on 11 November 1920. It commemorates 76 men. Before each entry is an abbreviation for a military rank, initial letters that are abbreviations for forenames follow and lastly a surname, is spelled out in full [**Figure 1**]. Most of the surnames are in alphabetical

order. The memorial is dedicated "*In honoured memory of the brave men from this parish who died for you in the Great War*". The dedication concludes with a quotation from St John's Gospel, XV.13, "*Greater love hath no man than this, that man lay down his life for his friends*". The dates, 1914-1919, reflect the time between 4 August 1914, when Britain entered the Great War and the signing of the Treaty of Versailles on 28 June 1919.

At the time of writing, the church's records for the Great War period were not discovered and they may have been lost. The exact criteria for inclusion on the final list of names before the memorial was commissioned are unknown. There were no central Government records which enabled the fallen to be linked to a particular area and the only source of information would have been reports from next of kin, friends or local newspapers. When the memorial was being planned, members of the congregation must have been consulted. Moreover, the inclusion of names which are not in alphabetical order - "*Shoeg. Smith J. C. Jupp*" at the end of the first column and "*Pte. R. N. Parrott*" at the end of the last column indicates a cumulative process.

The Surbiton Urban District Council war memorial [KT6 6AG], also known as "*Surbiton War Memorial Cross*", is dedicated "*In Honoured memory of the men of this district who died for their country in the Great War, 1914-1918*". It has the names of 382 men and each one has an initial letter, or letters, which are abbreviations for forenames, followed by a surname spelled out in full [Figures 2 & 3].

Surbiton was once part of the County of Surrey and research on most of the names on the UDC memorial was undertaken in the *Surrey in the Great War: A County Remembers* project.¹ The dates reflect the time between 4 August 1914 and the Armistice on 11 November 1918. The compilation of the list of names on the memorial must have resulted from local consultation and there is good evidence of a cumulative process. On 28 February 1921, the Surrey Advertiser reported that there were 380 names of Surbiton men on memorial the memorial list and called for additional names before the final list for inscription on the memorial was drawn up. By the time that the memorial was unveiled, in July 1921, two more names had been added.

Each name on these memorials is indisputable evidence, for all to see, and literally is carved in stone. Behind each name is a biography that possibly can be discovered if supporting evidence can be found to supplement the scanty information on the memorial. The objective was to look behind the name to find a *best match* for each one on the Christ Church memorial, with reference to supporting evidence from the

databases in the **Appendix**. A *best match* was defined as someone who, on a balance of probabilities in the light of the accumulated evidence, was most likely to be a person behind a name on the memorial. Moreover, where a best match could not be found, for a name on the Christ Church memorial and the Surbiton UDC memorial, it was probably safe to conclude that the man behind the name, at some time, had been a parishioner of Christ Church and a resident of the Surbiton district or was known to a parishioner or local resident.



Figure 1. War memorial, Christ Church, Surbiton Hill.
Computer-edited photograph by David A Kennedy, 7/4/2025.



Figure 2. The Surbiton UDC war memorial,
Memorial Gardens, Ewell Road, Surbiton.
Computer-edited photograph by David A Kennedy, 7/4/2025.



Figure 3. Close-up of a panel from the Surbiton UDC memorial.
Computer-edited photograph by David A. Kennedy, 24/6/2025

THE NAMES ON THE CHRIST CHURCH MEMORIAL

1. PTE. E.E. ALLWORK

Biographical notes of best match: *Private Emmanuel Ernest Allwork*, 9th [Service] Battalion, Devonshire Regiment, no. 12828. He was baptised on 6 December 1891, at Christ Church, Surbiton Hill. He was the son of Emmanuel Ernest, a bricklayer, and Lucy Allwork of King Charles Crescent, Surbiton. In the 1911 Census, a bricklayer, he was living in the household of this father, also a bricklayer, at 73 Beaconsfield Road, Tolworth, Surrey. He enlisted at Kingston upon Thames.

Death, burial or commemoration: He was killed in action on the Western Front on 30 September 1915, aged 24, is commemorated on the Loos Memorial [panel 35-37] and on the Surbiton UDC memorial.

2. PTE. W. ARCHER

Biographical notes of best match: *Private William Joseph Archer*, 1st/8th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment. Born in 1883, he was baptised, along with four of his siblings, on 14 October 1885, at Christ Church, Surbiton Hill. He was the son of Henry, a labourer, and Louisa Archer, of 3 James Street, Surbiton. In the 1911 Census, a carpet planner, he was living in the household of his father, a labourer, at 3 James Street, Surbiton.

Death, burial or commemoration: He died of wounds on the Western Front on 16 August 1916, aged 33 is buried in Dernancourt Communal Cemetery Extension, France, I. C. 22., and is commemorated on Surbiton UDC memorial.

3. PTE. E. ASHBY

No best match was found. *E. Ashby* can be found on the Surbiton UDC memorial.

4. PTE. C. ASKEW

No best match was found. *A C. Askew* can be found on the Surbiton UDC memorial.

5. PTE. E. BACON

Biographical notes of best match: Probably, this is the Edward George Bacon, whose name is on the external memorial of St Andrew's Church, Surbiton.² The CWGC records that he was a sergeant in the 1/8th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, no. 3346, and was the son of Edward George and Elizabeth Josephine Bacon. In the 1901 Census he was living in the household of his father, a butcher and slaughterman, in Prospect Place, Long Ditton, Surrey. In the 1911 Census, an apprentice compositor, he was living in the household of his father, a butcher, at 28 Arlington Road, Surbiton. He enlisted in September 1914 and served in Gibraltar and Egypt before going to France.

Death, burial or commemoration: He died of wounds, on the Western Front, on 16 September 1916, aged 23, is buried in La Neuville British Cemetery, Corbie, France [II. E.16] and commemorated on the Surbiton UDC memorial as E G. Bacon.

6. PTE. H. BURSTOW

Biographical notes: Corporal Henry William Charles Burstow, 66th Trench Mortar Battery, Royal Field Artillery, no. 38828, son of Henry and Sarah Burstow. He was baptised at St Bartholomew's Church, Brighton, Sussex, on 17 January, 1897. His father was a hairdresser, and the family lived at 44 Francis Street, Brighton. In the 1901 Census, he was living in the household of his father, a hairdresser, at 44 Francis Street, Brighton. When he was living in Clapham, S. W. London, he enlisted at Chelsea, London.

Death, burial or commemoration: He was killed in action on the Western Front, on 21 March 1918, aged 21, and is commemorated on the Pozieres memorial, France [panel 7 to 10]. He is also commemorated on the Surbiton UDC memorial as H. Burstow. This, and his name on the Christ Church, Surbiton, memorial provide the only evidence of a connection with the Surbiton area.

7. PTE. E.C. BUTCHERS

Biographical notes of best match: Private Ernest Charles Butcher, 4th Battalion, Gordon Highlanders, no. S/40795, son of Charles and Caroline Ada Butcher of 10 Eversley Road, Surbiton Hill, Surrey. He was baptised at St Mary's Church, Long Ditton, Surrey, on 13 June 1897. In the 1911 Census, a "*newsboy all day*", he was living in the household of his father, a coachman at a livery yard, at 68 Alpha Road, Surbiton. While there are various records of his surname and that of his father being "*Butcher*", it is recorded as "*Butchers*" on the Christ Church Memorial and on the Surbiton UDC memorial.

Death, burial or commemoration: He was killed in action, on the Western Front, on 23 April 1917, aged 20, is commemorated on the Arras Memorial, France, Bay 8 & 9, and on the Surbiton UDC memorial as E. C. Butchers.

8. PTE. A.D. CHAMPION, MM

Biographical notes of best match: Private Alfred Dudderidge Champion, MM, 2nd Battalion, Royal Suffolk Regiment, no. 22410, son of G. W. Champion, 98 King's Road, Ditton Hill, Surbiton, Surrey. In the 1911 Census he was a milk boy living in the household of his father, a coach trimmer, at 24 Warwick Road, Twickenham, Middlesex. He enlisted at Aldershot in March 1915, served on the Western Front and was awarded the MM for great gallantry and devotion to duty in the field. His posthumous award was reported in the 4th Supplement to the London Gazette on 18 October 1917.

Death, burial or commemoration: He was killed in action, on the Western Front, on 28 March 1917, aged 21, is commemorated on the Arras Memorial, France, Bay 4, and on the Surbiton UDC Memorial as A. D. Champion.

9. PTE. W.G. CHAMPION

Biographical notes of best match: Private Wilfred George Champion, 8th Veterinary Evacuation Station, Royal Army Veterinary Corps, no. 28947. According to his entry on the Surrey in the Great War website, he was the brother of Alfred Dudderidge Champion, above. In the 1901 Census Wilfred George Champion was a visitor in the household of Charles Champion, a clerk, at 96 Bridge Road, Battersea. In the 1911 Census, Wilfred Champion, a milk carrier, was a boarder in the household of Richard Barnes, a stone mason, at 96 Church Road, Willesden, Middlesex. On 30 September 1915, Wilfred George Champion, of 84 Brownlow Road, Willesden, married Dorothy

Rose Johnson at St Matthew's Church, Willesden. Their son, Leslie Wilfred Champion, was baptised at this church on 26 July 1916.

Death, burial or commemoration: He died of disease [pneumonia, probably following influenza], on the Western Front, on 11 February 1919, aged 30, is buried at St Andre Communal Cemetery, France, I. B.16., and commemorated on Surbiton UDC memorial as W. G. Champion.

10. PTE. H. COCKSEGE

Biographical notes of best match: Private Henry Walter Cocksedge, 22nd Battalion, Queen's West Surrey Regiment, no. 77509, transferred to the Labour Corps, no. 52530, son of Walter Thomas, a whitesmith, and Rose Cocksedge, of 1 Maybury Place, Surbiton. He was baptised at Christ Church, Surbiton, on 7 August 1887. In the 1911 Census, he was a fishmonger's assistant, living in the household of his father, a whitesmith at 28 Alpha Road, Surbiton. He was conscripted on 2 March 1917 at Kingston. He was then a baker's roundsman and gave his next of kin as his father Walter Cocksedge of 28 Alpha Road, Surbiton.

Death, burial or commemoration: He was killed in action, on the Western Front, on 15 June 1918, aged 31, is buried in Thiennes British Cemetery, France, Row C, Grave 4, and is commemorated on the Surbiton UDC memorial as H. Cocksedge.

11. PTE. F. W. EASTHILL

Biographical notes of best match: Although on the Christ Church memorial as Private E. W. Easthill, the best match is Able Seaman Frederick William Easthill, Royal Navy, no. J5852. He was the son of William Joseph and Mary Easthill, née Harbour. They were married at St Mark's Church, Surbiton, on 2 August 1891. Frederick William Easthill was baptised on 25 September 1892 at St John the Baptist's Church, Hampton Wick, Middlesex. In the 1901 Census he was living in the household of his father, a grocer's assistant, at 3 Beaumont Cottages, Hampton Wick, Middlesex. William Joseph Easthill died in December 1902. His son's Royal Navy service record shows that on he was a boy rating on *HMS Ganges* on 15 October 1909 and in August 1910 he was engaged for 12 year's service. In the Census of 1911, he was an ordinary seaman on *HMS Euryalus* at Devonport. Later, he was promoted to the rank of able seaman and, when on *HMS Vivid*, on 20 August 1913 he was sentenced to 10 days in the cells for a breach of regulations. His service record states that he had "run" from *HMS Blake*, a destroyer depot ship, at Clydebank on 20 December 1914. This signifies that he was recorded as a deserter on that date.

Death, burial, or commemoration: His name is not on the CWGC database and no record of his death or burial was discovered. However, he is commemorated on the Surbiton UDC memorial as F. W. Easthill. He is not commemorated on the Hampton Wick war memorial. This is discussed below.

12. BOMBR. E.C. EGGINTON

Biographical notes of best match: Bombardier Edward George Egginton, Royal Field Artillery, no. 66975. In the 1901 Census, born in Thames Ditton, Surrey, he was living in the household of his father, Edward Egginton, an iron moulder, at 27 Linkfield Road, Isleworth, Middlesex. His younger brother, Charles Egginton, was born in Kingston. In the 1911 Census, the household of Edward Egginton was living at 1 Etwell Place, Surbiton, but Edward George Egginton was not recorded at the time. In this Census, a Private Edward George Egginton, aged 17, was recorded at the barracks of the 6th Btn., King's Royal Rifle Corps, at Woolwich. Although recorded as having been born in Chelsea, London, he could be the man who served later in the RFA.

Death, burial or commemoration: He was killed in action, on the Western Front, on 12 October 1914, aged 21, is commemorated on Le Touret Memorial, France and on the Surbiton UDC memorial as E. G. Egginton.

13. LCE. CPL. P.J. ELDRIDGE

Biographical notes of best match: Lance Corporal Percy John Eldridge, 90th Company, Machine Gun Corps [Infantry], no. 7277, formerly Public Schools Battalion, Royal Fusiliers. He was the son of Arthur Edward and Mary Ann Eldridge, of *Trehayne*, 62 Cotterill Road, Surbiton, Surrey. He was baptised at Christ Church, Surbiton, on 3 July 1892 and his father's address was recorded as "*Christ Church School House, Surbiton*" where he was the school master. In the 1911 Census Percy John Eldridge, a schoolboy, was living at 50 Alpha Road, Surbiton, in the household of his father, the head teacher in a county council school. University of London records show that later he gained a B.Sc. degree from King's College.

Death, burial or commemoration: He was killed in action on the Western Front, on 2 July 1916, aged 24, is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, France [pier and face S C and 12 C] and on the Surbiton UDC memorial.

14. PTE. F.L. FINK

Biographical notes of best match: Private Frederick Leonard Fink [who was registered as Leonard Frederick Fink], 17th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers, no. 51369, was the son of George and Annie Fink. In the 1911 Census he was living in the household

of this father, a general dealer, at 13 Alpha Road, Surbiton. The Surrey Recruitment Registers, 1908-1933, show that he was conscripted at Kingston on 28 July 1916; he was a greengrocer, and he lived at 5 James Street, Surbiton. On 18 October 1916 the Surrey Advertiser reported that, having been arrested in Surbiton, Frederick Leonard Fink, aged 21, was charged at Kingston with overstaying his leave from an army training reserve battalion stationed at Portobello, Edinburgh, Scotland. Lewis Roberts [below] was also charged under the same circumstances.

Death, burial or commemoration: He was killed in action , on the Western Front, on 5 February 1917, aged 22, is buried at Adanac Military Cemetery, France [Il. J. 28] and is commemorated on the Surbiton UDC memorial as F. L. Fink.

15. SERGT. C.J. FOSTER

Biographical notes of best match: Sergeant Charles James Foster, 1st/6th East Surrey Regiment, attached to Supply and Transport Corps, no. 1844, son of the late Charles and Jane Foster and husband of Eliza Emma Foster, née Swell. Charles James Foster and Eliza Emma Swell were married in Christ Church, Surbiton, on 24 April 1910. In the 1911 Census, a shop assistant, he was living in the household of his brother-in-law, Richard Swell, a labourer, at 25 Alpha Road, Surbiton.

Death, burial or commemoration: He died on 30 July 1916, on the Northwest Frontier, from an undiscovered cause, aged 31, is buried in Nowshera Military Cemetery, in what was once India, and is now Pakistan, N.24, is commemorated on Delhi Memorial [India Gate], India, Face I, and on the Surbiton UDC memorial as C. J. Foster.

16. PTE. E.C. FRISTON

Biographical notes of best match: Private Edward Cyril Friston, 8th Battalion, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, no. 43780 [previously Royal Fusiliers, no. 6700], son of Janet Friston of 18 King Charles Crescent, Surbiton and the late Thomas Friston. In the 1911 Census, when a schoolboy, he was a visitor in the household of Vincent George Wheeler, a schoolmaster, at School House, Assington, Colchester, Essex. In that Census, his parents, Thomas, a grocer's assistant, and Janet Friston were living at 18 King Charles Crescent, Surbiton. Edward Cyril Friston enlisted at Kingston upon Thames.

Death, burial or commemoration: He was killed in action on 16 August 1917, on the Western Front, aged 19, is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium, panel 70-72 and on the Surbiton UDC memorial as E. C. Friston.

17. PTE. P. GREEN

No best match was found. *P. Green* can be found on Surbiton UDC memorial.

18. PTE. C.W. DEAN

Biographical notes: Rifleman Charles William Dean, 1st Battalion, Rifle Brigade, no. 5/216, the son of Henry Joseph and Emily Dean, née Catton. Henry Joseph Dean was baptised at St Mark's Church, Surbiton, on 5 April 1863. His marriage to Emily Catton was registered at Kingston upon Thames in October, November or December 1885. Their son, Henry Joseph Dean, was baptised at St Andrew's Church, Surbiton, on 23 September 1888. The family then lived in Cleaveland Road, Surbiton and his father was a cab driver. Charles William Dean's birth was registered at Kingston upon Thames in April, May or June 1895. In the 1901 Census he was living in the household of his father, a fly driver, at 26 Stanley Gardens Road, Teddington, Middlesex. Also present in the household was his sibling, Henry Joseph Dean among others. He enlisted in London when he was living in Tolworth.

Death, burial or commemoration: He was killed in action on 13 May 1915, on the Western Front, aged 20, is commemorated on the Ypres, Menin Gate, memorial, Belgium [panel 48], and on the Surbiton UDC memorial as C. W. Dean.

19. SHOEG. SMITH J.C. JUPP

Biographical notes of best match: Shoeing Smith James George Jupp, C Battery, 187th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, no. 43424. In the 1911 Census he was a blacksmith, the head of his household at 20 Richmond Grove, Surbiton, Surrey. The Surrey Advertiser, on 28 October 1916, reported that he had a wife and six children living at 13 Alpha Road, Surbiton Hill, had been self-employed as a shoeing smith and farrier in the area for 25 years, with two of his sons serving their country.

Death, burial or commemoration: He was killed in action, on the Western Front, on 23 September 1916, aged 49, and is buried in Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, Longueval, France [VIII, D.17]. He is commemorated on Surbiton UDC memorial as J. G. Jupp.

20. CPL. E.W. HALL

No best match was found. *E. W. Hall* can be found on Surbiton UDC memorial.

21. PTE. S.W. HALL

Biographical notes: Private Sidney William Hall, 13th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment, son of Louisa Amy Hall and husband of Mary Louise Hall, née Farmer. He was baptised at Christ Church, Surbiton, on 11 December 1889. His mother was living

in Smith Street, Surbiton, at the time. His father's name was not recorded. The marriage of Louisa Amy Hall and Alexander Dean was registered in Kingston in July, August or September of 1896. In the 1901 Census, Sidney William Hall was living in the household of his stepfather, Alexander Dean, a housepainter, at 7 Alpha Place, Surbiton. In the 1911 Census, a milk carrier, he was living in the household of Alexander Dean, a housepainter, at 11 Minnie Dale, Surbiton. On 12 May 1913, at Christ Church, Sidney William Hall, of 7 Paragon Place, Surbiton, a milkman, married Mary Louise Farmer of 13 Smith Street, Surbiton. Their son, George Frederick Hall, was baptised at Christ Church, Surbiton, on 4 April 1915 and their son, Sidney James Hall, was baptised at Christ Church, on 16 July 1916. On both occasions, the family was living at 2 Lamb's Cottages, Surbiton and he was a milkman. On 10 December 1915, he had enlisted in the 10th Battalion of the East Surrey Regiment under the Lord Derby's Scheme, which made him an army reservist. Later he was assigned to the Royal Sussex Regiment.

Death, burial or commemoration: He was killed in action on 2 August 1917, on the Western Front, aged 27, is commemorated on the Ypres, Menin Gate, memorial, Belgium [Panel 20], and on the Surbiton UDC memorial as S. W. Hall.

22. PTE. A. HAMILTON

No best match was found. *A. Hamilton* can be found on Surbiton UDC memorial.

23. PTE. G. HAMILTON

No best match was found. *G. Hamilton* can be found on Surbiton UDC memorial.

24. BOATSWAIN J.R. HAYES

Biographical notes of best match: Boatswain James Robert Hayes, Merchantile Marine Reserve, Merchantile Fleet Auxillary vessel *Purdy*, no. 912465. The Royal Naval Memorial, Plymouth, records that he was a native of Gloucestershire and the husband of F. Hayes, 24 Rochdale Road, West Vale, Halifax, Yorkshire.

Death, burial or commemoration: He was killed by enemy action at sea, aged 44, on 2 June 1917 when *SS Hollington*, which it is assumed was being assisted by *MFA Purdy*, was torpedoed and sunk by a U-boat when 25 km south of the Faroe Islands, with a loss of 32 lives. The exact circumstances of Boatswain Hayes' death are unknown. He is commemorated on the RN Memorial, Plymouth and on Surbiton UDC Memorial as J. R. Hayes.

25. LCE. CPL. W.E. HAYWARD

Biographical notes of best match: *Lance Corporal Walter Ernest Haywood*, 16th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, no. G/26312, son of Walter & Lily H. Haywood, 163 Ewell Road, Surbiton. He was baptised on 3 March 1897 at Christ Church, Surbiton. In the 1911 Census he was living in the household of his father at 163 Ewell Road and was a pupil, probably at a local school. He was a Scout in the 1st Surbiton [St Mark's] Troop.

Death, burial or commemoration. He was killed in action on 14 April 1917, on the Western Front, aged 19, and is commemorated on Arras Memorial, France [bay 7]. He is commemorated on the Surbiton UDC memorial, on St Mark's Roll of Honour and on the Polyapes Scout Campsite Memorial, Surrey. He left an estate of £196.

26. PTE. R. HEARN

Biographical notes of best match: Private Roland Timothy Godfrey Hearn, No. 2, Aldershot Company, Non-Combatant Corps, No. 471, son of Henry and Elizabeth Hearn of 25 King Charles Crescent, Surbiton. In 1911 Census, a schoolboy, he was living in the household of his father, Henry Hearn, a coachman, at 25 King Charles Crescent, Surbiton. A conscript and a conscientious objector who was a coachman, he enlisted in the Non-Combatant Corps at Kingston, on 8 April 1916.

Death, burial or commemoration: According to the Surrey in the Great War database, he died of disease [pneumonia], on the Home Front, in the Connaught Military Hospital, Aldershot, on 25 March 1917, aged 21, after his admission there on 9 February 1917. He is buried in Teddington Cemetery, Middlesex, C3. 400, and is commemorated on the Surbiton UDC memorial as R. Hearn.

27. GUNNER A.R. HENNINGS

Biographical notes of best match: Gunner Albert Robert Hennings, B Battery, 91st Bigade, Royal Field Artillery, no 42752, whose rank is given as "*Driver*" in the CWGC database, was the son of Frank and Elizabeth Annie Hennings. Albert Robert Hennings was baptised on 12 May 1897 at St Luke's Church, Kingston. In the 1901 Census he was living in the household of his father, a painter, at 24 Cowleaze Road, Kingston. In the 1911 Census, a farm worker, he was living in the household of "*Mr Henning*" whose occupation was not stated, but was probably his father, at 43 Lenelby Road, Tolworth. Albert Robert Hennings enlisted in London.

Death, burial or commemoration: He was killed in action on 5 August 1917, on the Western Front, aged 20, is commemorated on the Ypres [Menin Gate] memorial, Belgium, panel 9, and on the Surbiton UDC memorial as A. R. Hennings.

28. LIEUT. H.W. HITCHCOCK

Biographical notes of best match: Lieutenant Herbert William Hitchcock, A Company, Machine Gun Corps [Heavy Branch], son of Herbert Parnell Hitchcock and Agnes Maud Hitchcock of *Marlborough*, Sandown, Isle of Wight. In the 1901 Census, he was living in the household of his father, a clerk in the War Office, in Teddington, Middlesex. He was the brother of Reginald Francis Hitchcock [below] of the same domicile. In the 1911 Census, his father, a 1st class clerk & accountant in the civil service, and his mother were living in Frensham Road, Farnham, Surrey. Herbert William Hitchcock and his brother, Reginald Francis Hitchcock, were not recorded at this domicile. Herbert William Hitchcock entered Balliol College, Oxford, as a student in 1913. His commission as temporary 2nd Lieutenant was announced in the London Gazette, 2 April 1915. His probate record of 1916 gave his address as 55 The Avenue, Surbiton and this was the address of his parents in the 1921 Census.

Death, burial or commemoration: He was killed in action on 13 November 1916, on the Western Front, aged 22 and is buried in Mill Road Cemetery, Thiepval, France, II. B. 10. He is commemorated on the Balliol College war memorial and on the Surbiton UDC memorial as H. W. Hitchcock. He left an estate of £149.

29. LIEUT. R.F. HITCHCOCK

Biographical notes of best match: 2nd Lieutenant Reginald Francis Hitchcock, 25th Battalion Machine Gun Corps [Infantry] was the son of Herbert Parnell Hitchcock and Agnes Maud Hitchcock of Marlborough House, Sandown, Isle of Wight. In the 1901 Census, he and his brother, Herbert Parnell Hitchcock were living in the household of their father in Teddington, Middlesex. The Western Daily Press, on 30 July 1910, reported that Richard Francis Hitchcock had been awarded a one-year scholarship, worth £15, at Bristol Grammar School. In the 1911 Census, he was a schoolboy, living in the household of his grandmother, Bertha Miller, at 117 Ashley Down Road, Bristol. In the same Census, his parents were living in Farnham, Surrey but he and his brother was not recorded there. On 16 December 1915, The London Standard reported that Reginald Francis Hitchcock had been awarded a classical scholarship at Corpus Christi College, Oxford. His commission, as a temporary 2nd Lieutenant, was

announced in the London Gazette, 16 February 1917. His probate record of 1918 gave his address as 55, The Avenue, Surbiton.

Death, burial or commemoration: He was killed in action on 14 April 1918, on the Western Front, aged 20. He is commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium, panel 11, and on the Surbiton UDC memorial as R. F. Hitchcock. He left an estate of £295.

30. PETTY OFFR. B. HOOK

Biographical notes of best match: Stoker, 1st Class, Benjamin William Hook, *HMS Ghurka*. Son of George and Sarah Hook of Alpha Road, Surbiton, Surrey, husband of Fanny Hook, Holly Cottage, Barnhurst Lane, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton. His Royal Naval record shows that he was born in Surbiton on 4 August 1886 and in August 1901, aged 16, he signed for 12 year's service. He served on various RN ships and underwent three periods of detention in cells for breaches of discipline. He reached the rank of Stoker, 1st Class. In the Census of 1911, a Stoker, 1st Class, he was on board *HMS Revenge*, a first-class battleship, in Portsmouth Harbour.

Death, burial or commemoration: Benjamin William Hook was one of the 74 members of the crew of *HMS Ghurka* who were killed by enemy action at sea, on 8 February 1917, when it hit a German mine off Dungeness. He was aged 31 and is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial and on Surbiton UDC memorial as B. Hook.

31. PTE. F. H. HOOK

Biographical notes of best match: Lance Corporal Frederick Herbert Hook, 2 Battalion, South Wales Borderers, no, 8679, son of George and Sarah Hook. His birth was registered in Kingston in January, February or March 1884. In the 1891 Census he was living in the household of his father, a labourer, at 4 Ivy Cottages, Surbiton. His brother Benjamin Hook [above] was also in the household. In the 1901 Census, a milk boy, he was living in the household of Emma Budd, his widowed grandmother, a laundress, at 4 German Place, Alpha Road, Surbiton. Also in the household was his widowed mother, Sarah Hook, a laundress. In the 1911 Census, he was a private in the 2nd Battalion, South Wales Borderers, stationed at the Artillery Barracks, Pretoria, South Africa.

Death, burial or commemoration: He was killed in action, aged 31, on the Gallipoli Peninsula, is commemorated on the Helles memorial, Turkey [panel 80 to 84 or 219 and 220] and on the Surbiton UDC memorial as F. H. Hook.

32. PTE. H. HOLLOWAY

No best match was found. *H. Holloway* can be found on Surbiton UDC memorial.

33. PTE. W.G. HUTCHINGS

Biographical notes of best match: Private William George Hutchings, 2nd/4th Battalion, Leicestershire Regiment, no. 40131, the son of Charles and Rebecca Hutchings, a blacksmith, of 27 Britannia Road, Surbiton. In the 1911 Census, William George Hutchins, a tobacco dryer, born in Colyford, Devon, was living in the household of his brother-in-law, Frederick Smith, a carpenter, at 6 Britannia Road, Surbiton.

Death, burial or commemoration: He was killed in action on 24 March 1918, on the Western Front, aged 41, is commemorated on the Arras Memorial, France, bay 5, and on the Surbiton UDC Memorial as W. G. Hutchings.

34. PTE. W.E. JOHNSON

No best match was found. *W. E. Johnson* can be found on Surbiton UDC memorial.

35. PTE. J. JORDAN

No best match was found. *J. Jordan* can be found on Surbiton UDC memorial.

36. LCE. CPL. J.W. LEE

Biographical notes of best match: Lance Corporal John William Lee, 1st/8th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, no.3416, son of Sydney Charles and Alice Maria Lee. He was baptised on 1 September 1897 at Christ Church, Surbiton. His parents lived at The Retreat, Surbiton and his father was a painter. In the 1911 Census, unemployed he was living in the household of his father, a painter, at 91 Alpha Road, Surbiton.

Death, burial or commemoration: He was killed in action on 1 July 1916, on the Western Front, aged 19, is buried in Merville Communal Cemetery Extension, France [1A, 36.], and is commemorated on Surbiton UDC memorial as J. W. Lee.

37. PTE. W. LEE

Biographical notes of best match: Private William Lee, 8th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment, no. 18301, son of the late George Lee and Hannah Lee and husband of Florence Lee. Daisy Alice Lee, daughter of William, a tiler, and Florence Lee of 13 James Street, Alpha Road, was baptised at Christ Church, Surbiton, on 2 October 1910. In the 1911 Census, a tiler's labourer, William Lee was living in the household of his mother, a cleaner, at 41 Richmond Grove, Surbiton. Ada Lee, daughter of William Lee, a soldier, was baptised at Christ Church, Surbiton, on 17 October 1915. William Lee had enlisted in Kingston upon Thames earlier.

Death, burial or commemoration: He was killed in action on the Western Front, on 1 July 1916, aged 32. He is commemorated on the Thiepval memorial, France [pier & face 6B & 6C], and on the Surbiton UDC memorial as W. Lee.

38. CAPT. F.H.M. LEWES

Biographical notes of best match: Captain Frederick Henry Meredith Lewes, 8th Battalion, Sherwood Foresters [Notts. & Derbys] Regiment, son of Colonel H. A. Lewes and Mrs L. J. P. Lewes, of *Rothsey*, Camelsdale, Haslemere, Surrey. In the 1911 Census, a civil engineer working for a railway company, he was living at 25 Potter Street, Spondon, Derbyshire. He was elected as an Associate Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers on 4 February 1913. On 9 July 1914, The Birmingham Daily Post reported that he was a Lieutenant in the 6th Bn. Sherwood Foresters, which was a part of the Territorial Force. His probate record of 1916 gave his address as 3 Oak Hill Road, Surbiton. He became the Adjutant of his Battalion.

Death, burial or commemoration: He died of wounds as a prisoner of war on the Western Front, aged 29, in the German Field Hospital at Gommecourt, France, on 1 or 2 July 1916. He was first buried by the Germans, but the grave was lost. He is commemorated on the Thiepval memorial, France [pier & face 10C, 10D & 11A] and on the Surbiton UDC memorial as F. H. M. Lewes. He left an estate of £8,441.

39. PTE. R. LOCKE

No best match was found. On Surbiton UDC memorial as R. Locke.

40. PTE. E. MCINERNEY

Biographical notes of best match: Private Edward James McInerney, A Company. 1st/4th Battalion Norfolk Regiment, no. 201353, son of Mrs A. McInerney of 16 Smith Street, Surbiton. Born on 30 March 1898, he was baptised on 9 December 1905 at Christ Church, Surbiton, the son of Edward James, a labourer, and Anne McInerney of 15 Alpha Place, Surbiton. In the 1911 Census, a schoolboy, he was living in the household of his widowed mother, a laundress, at 17 Alpha Road, Surbiton.

Death, burial or commemoration: He was killed in action on 19 April 1917, in Palestine, aged 19, is buried in Gaza War Cemetery, Israel [XXIII. B.2] and is commemorated on the Surbiton UDC memorial as E. McInerney.

41. PTE. A.V. MARTIN

Biographical notes of best match: Private Albert Victor Martin, 8th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment, no. G/36686, son of George William and Annie Elizabeth Martin of 8 Guilford Villas, Surbiton. He was baptised on 26 March 1899 at St Nicholas' Church,

Thames Ditton, Surrey. His parents' address was 3 Douglas Terrace, Thames Ditton and his father was a coachman. In the 1911 Census, a schoolboy, he was living in the household of his father, then an unemployed coachman, at 32 Station Road, Thames Ditton.

Death, burial or commemoration: He died of wounds while a prisoner of war, on the Western Front, on 29 April 1918, aged 19, and is buried in St Souplet British Cemetery, France [I. G. 23.]. He is commemorated on the Surbiton UDC memorial as A. V. Martin.

42. LCE. CPL. E.T. MILLARD

Biographical notes of best match: Lance Corporal Edward Thomas Millard, 5th Battalion, Oxfordshire & Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, no. 33400, son of Mr Albert Millard of 53 Hope Terrace, Alpha Road, Surbiton. He was baptised at St Mark's Church, Surbiton, on 16 September 1896. His parents lived at 2 Hurley Villas, Worthington Road, Surbiton and his father was a painter. In the 1911 Census, an assistant in a greengrocery business, he was living in his father's household at 53 Hope Terrace, Alpha Road, Surbiton and his father was then a gardener.

Death, burial or commemoration: He died of wounds on 6 April 1918, on the Western Front, aged 22, is buried in Namps-Au-Val British Cemetery, France [I. J. 4.] and commemorated on the Surbiton UDC memorial as E. T. Millard.

43. LIEUT. P. MYTTON

Biographical notes of best match: *Lieutenant Percy Mytton*, 8th Battalion, Duke of Cambridge's Own, Middlesex Regiment, son of Thomas and Mary Patience Mytton, 11 Shalston Villas, Ewell Road, Surbiton. In the 1911 Census, he was a chief rating clerk for the South Eastern Railway, living at 11 Shalston Villas, Ewell Road, Surbiton.

Death, burial or commemoration. He was killed in action on 2 May 1915, on the Western Front, aged 38, is commemorated on Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Belgium, [panel 49 & 51] and is listed on the St. Mark's Church Roll of Honour.

44. PTE. A.G. NEWMAN

Biographical notes of best match: Private Alfred George Newman, 7th Battalion, The Buffs [East Kent Regiment], no. 17750, son of Frederick and Mary Anne Newman and husband of Edith Newman, née Kirkham. The CWGC record gives his name as George Alfred Newman, of the same regiment and number. In the 1911 Census, a butcher, he was living in the household of his father, a retired police sergeant, at 17 Egmont Road, Tolworth, Surrey. On 17 April 1911, he married Edith Newman at St

Matthew's Church, Surbiton. In April 1917, she was living at 11 King Charles Crescent, Tolworth.

Death, burial or commemoration: He was killed in action on 1 April 1917, on the Western Front, aged 27, and is buried at Puchevillers British Cemetery, France [VI. D. 25.]. He is commemorated on the Surbiton UDC memorial as A. G. Newman and on the memorial at St Matthew's Church, Surbiton, as A. G. Newman.

45. SERGT. A. NIXON

Biographical notes of best match: Sergeant Archibald George Richard Nixon, 6th Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders, no. S/22566, son of John and Ada Nixon and husband of Emma Elizabeth Nixon, née Clarke. His rank was recorded as private by the CWGC while a War Office medal record says he was a corporal. He was baptised on 27 November 1891 at St Paul's Church, East Molesey, Surrey. At the time, his family lived at Spring Gardens, East Molesey and his father was a potman. In the 1911 Census, a labourer, he was living in the household of his father, a labourer, at 2 Smith Street, Surbiton. He enlisted as a volunteer at Kingston upon Thames on 13 November 1914 and joined the Army Cyclist Corps [no. 2861]. Later, he was posted to the Seaforth Highlanders [no. S/22566]. On 11 July 1915 he married Emma Elizabeth Clarke at St Luke's Church, Kingston, and his address was recorded as 8 Florence Street, Kingston. He embarked for France on 9 November 1914 and was wounded on 23 February 1916 and 7 September 1917.

Death, burial or commemoration: He was killed in action on 20 November 1917, on the Western Front, aged 26, is buried in Orival Wood Cemetery, Flesquieres, France [I. D. 34.], and commemorated on the Surbiton UDC memorial as A. Nixon.

46. PTE. G.V. PRAGNELL

Biographical notes of best match: Private Gordon Victor Pragnell, Royal Marine Light Infantry, no. PO/15691, *HMS Hampshire*, son of James and Emily Pragnell of 48 Alpha Road, Surbiton. Gordon Victor Pragnell was baptised at St Mary's Church, Long Ditton, Surrey, on 2 May 1897. His father was a coachman, living at nearby Hook, Surrey. In the 1901 Census, Gordon Victor Pragnell was living in the household of his father, a coachman, at 2 Rose Cottages, Tolworth, Surrey. Gordon Victor Pragnell enlisted in the RMLI at Chatham or Portsmouth on 28 August 1907. In the 1911 he was serving on *HMS Melpomene* at Port Royal, Jamaica, West Indies.

Death, burial or commemoration: He was killed by enemy action at sea, aged 25, while serving on *HMS Hampshire* which hit a mine off the Orkney Islands on 5 June

1916. Of a total of 749 on board, he was one of the 737 killed. The Secretary of State for War, Field Marshal, Lord Horatio Herbert Kitchener, who was on a mission to Russia, was also killed. Gordon Victor Pragnell is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial [22] and on the Surbiton UDC memorial as G. V. Pragnell.

47. PTE. H.J. PUDDICK

Biographical notes of best match: Private Henry James Puddick, D Company, 17th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers, no. 920, son of Henry and Alice Puddick and husband of Dorothy Frances Puddick, née Byfield. He was a chorister at Christ Church since his boyhood and was a member of the Christ Church Company of the Church Lads' Brigade [Surrey Advertiser, 21 October 1916]. In the 1911 Census he was a porter living in the household of Henry Puddick, a coachman, at 6 James Street, Surbiton. On 1 August 1915, at Christ Church, Surbiton, he married Dorothy Frances Byfield of 87 Alpha Road, Surbiton. He was then a soldier in the Royal Fusiliers living at 6 James Street, Surbiton. Their son, James Albury Kenneth Puddick, was baptised at Christ Church, New Malden, Surrey, on 24 May 1916. The parents' address was recorded as 7 Kingscote Road, New Malden.

Death, burial or commemoration: He died of accidental injuries, aged 24, on the Western Front, on 13 October 1916, and is buried in Forceville Communal Cemetery & Extension, France [plot 3, row C, grave 8]. He is commemorated on the Surbiton UDC memorial as H. J. Puddick and on the New Malden Cenotaph.

48. PTE. E. A. RALPH

Biographical notes of best match: Private Ernest Alfred Ralph, 16th Battalion, Royal Sussex Regiment, no. 315128, son of William and Mary Ralph and husband of Ada Caroline Ralph, née Sermon. He was baptised at St Paul's Church, Hook, Surrey on 2 August 1885, the son of William, a labourer, and Mary Ralph, of Southborough, Hook. In the 1901 Census he was a greengrocer's assistant living in the household of his widowed mother at 1 The Retreat, Alpha Road, Surbiton. Also in the household, were his sister Alice Ralph and his brothers Herbert, Frederick and Albert. In the 1911 Census, Ernest Alfred Ralph, then a baker's roundsman, was living in the household of his sister, Alice Mary Ralph, a housekeeper, at 5 Guilford Villas, Surbiton. Also in the household was his brother, Frederick John Ralph, a butcher's roundsman. On 18 June 1913, Ernest Alfred Ralph, then a baker, married Ada Caroline Sermon, a domestic servant at SS. Peter & Paul Church, Teddington, Middlesex.

Death, burial or commemoration: He was killed in action on 2 September 1918, on the Western Front, aged 33, is buried in Peronne Communal Cemetery Extension, France [III. C. 20.]. He is commemorated on the Surbiton UDC memorial as E. A. Ralph. Two of his brothers who died in the Great War are also commemorated there as A. H. Ralph and F. J. Ralph.

49. PTE. R.C. RAMSDEN

Biographical notes of best match: Private Richard Charles Ramsden, 9th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment, no. 21898, son of Walter and Mary Ann Ramsden and husband of Alice Ramsden née Risbridger. He was baptised at St Luke's Church, Peckham, on 20 June 1886. His father was recorded as a decorator from Surbiton. In the 1911 Census, a milk carrier, he was living in the household of his father, a decorator, at 9 King Charles Crescent, Surbiton. On 4 September 1915, a storeman of King Charles Crescent, Surbiton, he married Alice Risbridger of 38 Middle Lane, Epsom, Surrey. At Kingston upon Thames, on 8 December, a milkman, he enlisted under the Lord Derby's Scheme in the 3rd Battalion, East Surrey Regiment. At the time of his death his wife was living at 25 King Charles Road, Surbiton.

Death, burial or commemoration: He died of wounds on 14 April 1917, on the Western Front, aged 30, is buried in Bethune Town Cemetery, France, [VI. D. 16.] and is commemorated on the Surbiton UDC memorial as R. C. Ramsden.

50. PTE. R. ROBERTS

Biographical notes of best match: Private Lewis John Roberts, 24th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers, no. G/51882, husband of Nellie Eleanor Roberts, née Ede. He was born at Ashton Keynes, near Cirencester, Gloucestershire around 1880. His marriage to Nellie Eleanor Ede was registered in Kingston upon Thames in October 1905. Their son, George Walter Roberts, was baptised at St Matthew's Church, Surbiton, on 5 December 1909 when they were living at 13 Beaconsfield Road, Tolworth. In the 1911 Census, he was a labourer living at 13 Beaconsfield Road, with his wife and four children, Maud, William, Walther and Ethel. On 19 January 1913, when they were living at 17 The Retreat, and he was a labourer, their son James was baptised at Christ Church, Surbiton. On 18 October 1916, The Surrey Advertiser reported that Lewis Roberts, whose age was given as 39, having been arrested in Surbiton, was charged at Kingston with overstaying his leave from an army training reserve battalion stationed at Portobello, Edinburgh, Scotland. Also charged under the same circumstances was

Leonard Frederick Fink [above]. At the time of his death, Lewis John Roberts and his family were living at 178 Thornhill Road, Tolworth.

Death, burial or commemoration: He was killed in action on 29 April 1917, on the Western Front, aged 37, and is commemorated on the Arras memorial [Bay 3] and on the Surbiton UDC memorial as L. Roberts.

51. PTE. W. SANDELL

No best match was found. *W. Sandell* can be found on Surbiton UDC memorial.

52. PTE. W. SAWYER

No best match was found. *W. Sawyer* can be found on Surbiton UDC memorial.

53. PTE. R.C. SMALLPIECE

Biographical notes of best match: Private Robert Charles Smallpiece, 18th Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers, no. 25455, son of Robert John and Louisa Amy Smallpiece and husband of Rosina Emily Smallpiece, née Field. He was baptised at St John's Church, Kingston, on 16 December 1877 and his father was a labourer. On 3 August 1902, Robert Charles Smallpiece of 8 Vincent Road, Norbiton, a salesman, married Rosina Emily Field, of 83 Cambridge Grove Road, Kingston, at St Peter's Church, Norbiton, Surrey. On 15 July 1903, their daughter, Rose Louise Smallpiece, was baptised at St Peter's Church, Norbiton. The family was living at 4 German Place, Alpha Road, Surbiton, at the time and Robert Charles Smallpiece's occupation was recorded as "*van salesman*". On 18 April 1909, his son, George Robert Smallpiece, was baptised at Christ Church, Surbiton. The family was living at 4 German Place, Surbiton, at the time and Robert Charles Smallpiece was a salesman. In the 1911 Census, the family was living at 31 Pine Road, Red Lion Road, Tolworth and the occupation of Robert Charles Smallpiece was recorded as "*van man, oil man*". He enlisted at Kingston upon Thames. According to the Surrey Advertiser of 16 June 1917, his wife and four children were living at 76 Alpha Road, Surbiton. The newspaper also reported that one of his brothers previously had been killed while serving with the colours [below].

Death, burial or commemoration: After being listed as "*missing*", he was officially reported as having been killed in action on 30 July 1916, on the Western Front, aged 39. He is commemorated on the Thiepval memorial, France [pier & face 3C & 3D] and on the Surbiton UDC memorial as R. C. Smallpiece. He is commemorated on the memorial of St Peter's Church, Norbiton, as "*Smallpiece, R. C.*" His brother "*Smallpiece, C. T.*", i.e., Charles Thomas Smallpiece, is also commemorated there.

He was killed in action on 23 October 1914, on the Western Front, aged 34, and is commemorated on the Le Touret memorial, France [panel 8 & 9].

54. PTE. A.E. SOUTH

No best match was found. *A. E. South* can be found on Surbiton UDC.

55. PTE. H. SOUTH

Biographical notes of best match: Private Harvey Henry South, 1st Battalion, Gordon Highlanders, no. S/9785, son of Alfred Henry and Melvina South. His birth was registered in Kingston upon Thames in April, May or June 1897. In the 1901 Census he was living in the household of his father, a labourer, at 7, The Retreat, Surbiton. In the 1911 Census, a “*morning boy*” he was living in the household of his father, a handyman and jobbing gardener, at 4 Smith Street, Surbiton.³ When he was a baker’s assistant, he volunteered for the army at Kingston upon Thames on 14 April 1915 and was posted to the Gordon Highlanders in Aberdeen, Scotland.

Death, burial or commemoration: He was killed in action on 25 September 1915, on the Western Front, aged 19, is commemorated on the Menin Gate memorial, Ypres, Belgium, [Panel 38] and on the Surbiton UDC memorial as H. South.

56. PTE. J. SPRAY

Biographical notes of best match: Private Jack Spray, 13th Battalion, The Kings, Liverpool, Regiment, no. 95089, son of Arthur Spencer Spray and Fannie Emily Spray. In the 1901 Census, he was living in the household of his father, a general labourer, at 2 Alpha Road, Surbiton. His brother, William Spray [below], also lived there. Their father died in 1902, and his widowed mother married Henry Smith Dodson in 1903. In the 1911 Census, Jack Spray and William Spray were living in the household of their stepfather, a general labourer, at 2 Vale Road North, Hook Road, Surbiton. When a fishmonger, he enlisted at Kingston upon Thames and was initially assigned to the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers [no. 41187].

Death, burial or commemoration: He died of wounds, on the Western Front, on 21 August 1918, aged 20, after previously being reported as missing, is buried in Railway Cutting Cemetery, Courcelles-Le-Comte, France [A.17] and is commemorated on the Surbiton UDC memorial as J. Spray.

57. PTE. W. SPRAY

Biographical notes of best match: Lance Corporal William Spray, 9th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment, no. 1843, son of Arthur Spencer Spray and Fannie Emily Spray. In the 1901 Census, he was living in the household of his father, a general labourer, at 2

Alpha Road, Surbiton. His brother, Jack Spray [above], also lived there. Their father died in 1902, and his widowed mother married Henry Smith Dodson in 1903. In the 1911 Census, William, an errand boy, and Jack Spray was living in the household of their stepfather, a general labourer, at 2 Vale Road North, Hook Road, Surbiton. William Spray enlisted at Kingston and arrived in France on 6 October 1915.

Death, burial or commemoration: He was killed in action, aged 22, on the Western Front, on 16 September 1916, is commemorated on the Thiepval memorial, France [pier & face 6B & 6C] and on the Surbiton UDC memorial as W. Spray.

58. COL. SGT. F.W. STACEY

Biographical notes of best match: Company Sergeant Major, Frank Walter Stacey, 3rd Battalion, East Surrey Regiment, no. 6401, son of John and Jemima Stacey, née Devereaux and husband of Marian Ellen Stacey, née Smith. He was born in Surbiton on 16 March 1881 and in the Census of 1891 was a schoolboy living in the household of his father, a carpenter, at 56 Alpha Road, Surbiton. He joined the army sometime before the start of the Boer War, 1899-1902, and served in the 2 Battalion, East Surrey Regiment as a Corporal. On 2 November 1910, At Christ Church, Surbiton, when a soldier living at 70 Alpha Road, he married Marian Ellen Smith, of 10 Britannia Road, Surbiton. In the Census of 1911, when a soldier, they were living at 17 King Charles Crescent, Surbiton, and their son, Reginald Ernest Stacey, was born on 19 August 1911. Their daughter, Daisy Elizabeth Devereaux Stacey, was born on 4 April 1913 and she was baptised at St Barnabas' Church, Clapham Common, North Side, on 9 September 1913. At the time, he was a soldier, and the family lived at 99 Lavender Sweep, Clapham. At the time of his death, his wife was living at 9 King Charles Crescent, Surbiton.

Death, burial or commemoration: On 10 January 1918, aged 37, on the Home Front, he died of disease [tuberculosis when on active service] in the Brook War Hospital, Woolwich. He is buried in Surbiton Cemetery [section IV, class C, grave 1206] and is commemorated on the Surbiton UDC memorial as F. W. Stacey.

59. LCE. CPL. E.C. STRIDE

Biographical notes of best match: Lance Corporal Ernest Sidney Stride, 1st Battalion, East Surrey Regiment, no. 5584, son of Sidney and Caroline Stride, née Walters. He was baptised on 1 February 1880 at St Paul's Church, Hook, Surrey. On 10 June 1895, one of his brothers, Arthur Gordon Stride, was baptised at Christ Church, Surbiton, when the family was living at 10 Etwell Place, Surbiton. In the 1911

Census, Ernest Sidney Stride, a general labourer, he was living in the household of his widowed mother at 10 Etwell Place, Surbiton with his brothers, Arthur Gordon Stride and William Owen Stride [below]. Arthur Gordon Stride served in the Royal Field Artillery and survived the Great War.

Death, burial or commemoration: Ernest Sidney Stride was killed in action on the Western Front, on 18 November 1914, aged 34, is commemorated on the Menin Gate memorial, Ypres, Belgium [Panel 34] and on the Surbiton UDC memorial as E. C. Stride.

60. PTE. W. O. STRIDE

Biographical note of best match: Private William Owen Stride, 22nd Battalion, Royal Fusiliers, no. 46716, son of son of Sidney and Caroline Stride, née Walters and brother of Ernest Sidney Stride [above]. William Owen Stride's birth was registered in Kingston upon Thames in April, May or June 1887. In the 1911 Census, a milk porter, he was living in the household of his widowed mother at 10 Etwell Place, Surbiton. He was conscripted at Kingston upon Thames on 24 June 1916.

Death, burial or commemoration: He was killed in action on the Western Front, on 3 May 1917, aged 30, is commemorated on the Arras memorial, France [bay 3] and on the Surbiton UDC memorial as W. O. Stride.

61. SERGT. J. STURT

Biographical notes of best match: Sergeant James Sturt, 7th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment, no. 715, born in Horsham, Sussex, in 1880, he was the son of Edward and Emily Sturt and the husband of Elizabeth Sturt, née Hill. In the 1911 Census, aged 31, a school caretaker, he and his wife were living at 13 The Retreat, Surbiton. A volunteer, in 1914, he enlisted in the East Surrey Regiment, probably at Kingston upon Thames. Later, his wife was living at 9 Britannia Road, Surbiton.

Death, burial or commemoration: He was killed in action on the Western Front, on 4 October 1915, aged 35, is commemorated on the Loos memorial, Belgium, [panel 65 to 67], and on the Surbiton UDC memorial as J. Sturt.

62. PTE. A.W. TAYLOR

No best match was found. *A. W. Taylor* can be found on Surbiton UDC memorial.

63. PTE. F. TAYLOR

No best match was found. *F. Taylor* can be found on Surbiton UDC memorial.

64. PTE. A. M. TAYLOR

Biographical notes of best match: Private Arthur Merchant Taylor, 13th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers, no. 14206, son of Henry and Emily Louise Taylor and brother of Henry William Taylor [below]. Arthur Merchant Taylor was baptised at Christ Church, Surbiton, on 5 September 1897 and the family was living at The Retreat, Surbiton, at the time. In the 1901 Census, he was living in the household of his father, a gardener, at 36 King Charles Crescent, Surbiton. His brother, William Henry Taylor, was also in the household. In the 1911 Census, Arthur Merchant Taylor, a schoolboy who was also a baker's errand boy, was living in the household of his widowed mother, who worked as a cleaner and waitress, at 36 King Charles Crescent, Surbiton. His brother, Henry William Taylor was also in the household. In 1919, their mother was living at 3 Brown's Road, Surbiton.

Death, burial or commemoration: He died of wounds, on the Western Front, on 25 December 1916, aged 19, is buried in Merville Communal Cemetery Extension, France [II. A. 13] and is commemorated on the Surbiton UDC memorial as A. M. Taylor.

65. PTE. H.W. TAYLOR

Biographical notes of best match: Private Henry William Taylor, 2nd/3rd Home Counties Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps, son of Henry and Emily Louise Taylor. He was born in Caterham, Surrey. In the 1901 Census, he was living in the household of his father, a gardener, at 36 King Charles Crescent, Surbiton. His brother, Arthur, Merchant Taylor, was also in the household. In the 1911 Census, Henry William Taylor was a shop assistant, living at 36 King Charles Crescent, Surbiton, in the household of his widowed mother, who worked as a cleaner and waitress. In the household was his brother Arthur Merchant Taylor. On 12 March 1915, a volunteer, Henry William Taylor was enlisted in the Home Counties Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps, at its dépôt in Surbiton.

Death, burial or commemoration: He died of disease on active service [asphyxia resulting from acute congestion and oedema], on the Western Front, on 30 June 1896, aged 22. He is buried in Fillievres British Cemetery, France, [B.10] and is commemorated on the Surbiton UDC memorial as H. W. Taylor.

66. PTE. F.J. TESTER

Biographical notes of best match: Private Francis Joseph Tester, D Company, 9th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment, no. 9210, son of Joseph Edward and Florence Jane Tester and husband of Ellen Mary Tester née Drake. His birth was registered in

Kingston upon Thames on July, August or September 1892. In the 1911 Census, a solicitor's clerk, he was living in the household of his father, a railway ticket collector, at 15 Maybury Place, Surbiton. His marriage to Ellen Mary Tester was registered at Kingston on 5 May 1915. A volunteer, living with his wife at 10 Paragon Place, Surbiton, he enlisted at Kingston on 10 May 1915.

Death, burial or commemoration: He was killed in action, on the Western Front, between 25 and 26 September 1915, aged 23, is commemorated on the Loos memorial, Belgium [panel 65 to 67] and on the Surbiton UDC memorial as F. J. Tester.

67. PTE. G.F. VEALE

Biographical notes of best match: Private George Frederick Veale, 7th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment, no. 9886, son of Frederick and Charlotte Matilda Veale. He was born on 18 June 1900 and baptised on 12 August 1900 at Holy Trinity Church, Richmond, Surrey. His family then lived at 13 Alton Road, Richmond, and his father was a paper hanger. In the 1901 Census, aged nine months, he was living in the household of Frederick Veale, a paper hanger and painter, at 13 Alton Road, Richmond. In the 1911 Census, a schoolboy, he was living in the household of his father, at 12 Salisbury Road, Richmond. According to the Richmond Herald of 29 January 1921, George Frederick Veale was a member of the congregation of Duke Street Baptist Church, Richmond. He enlisted at Kingston.

Death, burial or commemoration: He was killed in action, on the Western Front, aged 16, on 10 October 1916, is commemorated on the Thiepval memorial, France [pier & face 6B & 6C]. He is commemorated on the Surbiton UDC memorial as G. F. Veale and, together with his name on the Christ Church memorial, these entries provide the only evidence of a connection with the Surbiton area. His name is also on the memorial of Duke Street Baptist Church, Richmond.

68. PTE. H.V. VINCENT

Biographical notes of best match: Private Henry Victor Vincent, C Company, 9th Battalion, East Surrey Regiment, no. 794, son of Henry Vincent and Eleanor Lucy Vincent and husband of Sarah Ann Vincent, née Inwood. He was baptised on 16 June 1889 at St Mark's Church, Surbiton, the son of Henry Vincent, a railway signalman, of 9 Minnie Dale, Surbiton. In the 1901 Census, a book binder, he was living in the household of his father at 66 Cleaveland Road, Surbiton. Henry Victor Vincent started work as a porter for the London and South Western Railway Company on 23 February 1905. In the 1911 Census, a railway carriage cleaner, he was living in his father's

household at 42 Fourth Cross Road, Twickenham, Middlesex. His marriage to Sarah Ann Woolger was registered at Kingston upon Thames on April, May or June 1912. She was the mother of Charles Thomas Richard Woolger, his stepson, who in the 1911 Census was living in the household of his grandfather, Charles William Inwood, a labourer, at 14 James Street, Surbiton.

Death, burial or commemoration: Henry Victor Vincent, was killed in action on the Western Front, on 28 June 1916, aged 29, is buried in Dranoutre Military Cemetery, Belgium [I. F. 24.] and is commemorated on the Surbiton UDC memorial as H. V. Vincent.

69. PTE. W. WEBB

Biographical notes of best match: Private William George Webb, 1st Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, no. G/42753, son of Alexander John and Leah Webb. He was born on 8 September 1896 and baptised at Christ Church, Surbiton, on 21 March 1909, when the family was living at 42 Richmond Grove, Surbiton, and his father was bricklayer. In the 1911 Census, he was living in the household of his father, a bricklayer at 42 Richmond Grove, Surbiton. He enlisted at Kingston upon Thames.

Death, burial or commemoration: He was killed in action on the Western Front, on 8 March 1918, aged 21, is commemorated on the Tyne Cot memorial, Belgium, [panel 113 to 115] and on the Surbiton UDC memorial as W. Webb.

70. PTE. A. A. WEST

Biographical notes of best match: Private Albert Arthur West, 83rd Field Ambulance, Royal Army Medical Corps, no.497292, son of Albert Andrew and Caroline Emily West. He was born on 23 August 1898 and baptised at St Barnabas' Church, Addison Road, Kensington, on 9 October 1898. His family's address was recorded as 27 King Charles Crescent, Surbiton and his father was a milk carrier. In the 1911 Census, Albert Arthur West was living in the household of his father, a milk carrier, at 35 Browns Road, Surbiton. Albert Arthur West, a volunteer, enlisted in the Royal Army Medical Corps, part of the Territorial Force, at Surbiton, on 18 January 1915. He was sent to France on 6 March 1915 and was posted to Salonika, Greece, on 26 November 1915. His service record shows that he was admitted to hospital on 26 January 1916 and discharged to duty the next day. He was admitted to hospital with indigestion on 23 June 1916 and was discharged to duty on 26 June 1916. On 13 November 1916, he was admitted to hospital with inflammation of the stomach and discharged to duty the next day.

Death, burial and commemoration: He died of disease on active service [acute colitis], at Salonika, on 7 July 1916, aged 18. He is buried in Struma Military Cemetery, Greece [III. H. II.] and is commemorated on Surbiton UDC memorial as A. A. West. A medical report stated that he had suffered from indigestion for most of his life and the cause of death was not due to his war service.

71. PTE. H. WILSON

No best match was found. *H. Wilson* can be found on Surbiton UDC memorial.

72. 2ND LIEUT. C.F. WINDELER

Biographical notes of best match: *Lieutenant Charles Francis Windeler*, 4th Bn., Royal Warwickshire Regiment, son of the late Charles Bernhard Windeler and Mrs Amy Burnard Windeler of 81 Ewell Road, Surbiton. In the 1911 Census he was an assistant in the firm of Shaw & Co., Indian Merchants. In August 1914 he enlisted in the Prince of Wales Civil Service Rifles and in November 1914 he received a commission in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment. He was sent to France in March 1915, attached to the King's Own Royal Lancashire Regiment, and was slightly wounded on 27 April 1915.

Death, burial or commemoration. He was reported wounded and missing, presumed killed in action, on the Western Front, on 9 May 1915 at Ypres, aged 23. He is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, on Surbiton UDC memorial and on a personal memorial tablet at St Mary's Church, Long Ditton, Surrey. He left an estate of £795.

73. GUNNER T.E. WOOLGER

Biographical notes of best match: Private Thomas Edward Woolger, 24th Heavy Battery, Royal Field Artillery, no. 28998, son of Thomas and Eliza Woolgar. He was born on 25 December 1888 and baptised at St Stephen's Church, Rochester Row, Westminster, on 25 January 1889. In the 1891 Census, he was living in the household of his father, a carman, at 2 Rochester Street, Westminster. Also present in the household was his mother, Eliza, his sister, Sarah Ann Woolger and other siblings. He was admitted to the Northwestern Workhouse on 20 July 1896 and discharged on 24 August 1896.⁴ His father died in 1898, and his widowed mother married Charles Inwood, who in the 1911 Census was living at 14 James Street, Surbiton. Thomas Edward Woolgar, a kitchen porter, enlisted in the Royal Garrison Artillery on 17 June 1908. In the 1911 Census, he was a private soldier in the 84th Company, Royal

Garrison Artillery, based at Palace Barracks, Simonstown, South Africa. On 22 June 1915 he was severely wounded in action and taken to a field ambulance unit.

Death, burial or commemoration: He died of wounds on the Western Front, in a field ambulance unit, on 26 June 1915, aged 27. After his death, his next of kin was recorded as his mother, Elizabeth Inwood, of 2 Lamb's Cottages, Alpha Road, Surbiton. He is buried in Bedford House Cemetery, Belgium [enclosure no.2. IV. B.41] and is commemorated on the Surbiton UDC memorial as T. E. Woolger.

74. GUNNER E.J. WORKMAN

Biographical notes of best match: Gunner Edward John Workman, C Battery, 69th Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, son of Edward and Alice Workman. He was born on 16 March 1895 and baptised on 23 June 1895 at St Mark's Church, Surbiton. His father was a confectioner's porter, and the family lived at 14 King Charles Crescent at the time. In the 1911 Census, a grocer's assistant, he was living in the household of his father, a confectioner's porter, at 14 King Charles Crescent, Surbiton.

Death, burial or commemoration: He died of disease [pneumonia] in Mesopotamia, on 4 October 1918, aged 23, is buried in Tehran War Cemetery, Iran [III. B. 2.] and is commemorated on the Surbiton UDC memorial as E. J. Workman.

75. PTE. H. WRIGHT

Biographical notes of best match: Private Harry Wright, 13th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers, no.65686, son of Henry John and Sarah Annie Wright. In the 1901 Census, he was living in the household of his father, a horse keeper on a farm, at High Street, West Molesey, Surrey. In the 1911 Census, an under-gardener, he was living in the household of his unemployed father at 22 King's Road, Long Ditton, Surrey. At the time of his death, his family was living at 2 Habill Place, Surbiton.

Death, burial or commemoration: He was killed in action on the Western Front, on 4 October 1917, aged 19, is commemorated on the Tyne Cot memorial, Belgium [addenda panel 165] and on the Surbiton UDC memorial as H. Wright.

76. PTE. R.N. PARROTT

Biographical notes of best match: Trooper Reginald Napier Parrott, B Company, British South Africa Police, no. A/179, son of Septimus Oakley and Julia Ann Parrott. He was born on 28 August 1890 and baptised on 23 November 1890 at St John the Evangelist's Church, Clapham Road, Wandsworth. His father was a registrar's clerk, and the family lived at 123 Manor Street, Wandsworth. In the 1901 Census, Reginald Napier Parrott was living in the household of his father, a law clerk, at Horsford Road,

Norwood. According to Surrey electoral registers, in 1915, 1917 and 1921, his parents were living at *Halse*, Glenbuck Road, Surbiton.

Death, burial or commemoration: He died of wounds, in the African Campaign, on 29 January 1917, aged 26, is buried in Iringa Cemetery, Tanzania [III. A. I.] and is commemorated on the Surbiton UDC memorial as R. N. Parrott.

DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

Best matches were found for 60 of the 76 names on the memorial. At the time of writing, best matches were not found for Private E. Ashby, Private C. Askew, Private *P. Green*, Corporal E. W. Hall, Private A. Hamilton, Private. G. Hamilton, Private H. Holloway, Private W. E. Johnson, Private J. Jordan, Private R. Locke, Private W. Sandell, Private W. Sawyer, Private A. E. South, Private A.W. Taylor, Private F. Taylor, Private H. Wilson. However, the names of all these men can be identified on the Surbiton UDC memorial and more research is needed.

Of the 60 men for whom best matches were found, five were officers and 57 were other ranks. 59 were soldiers, one was a sailor in the merchant navy and two were sailors in the Royal Navy, including Frederick William Easthill, who is listed as a soldier on the memorial [below]. At the start of the Great War, six men already were in the service of the Crown and at least six men volunteered for service before conscription was introduced in 1916. Sidney William Hall enlisted under Lord Derby's Scheme which entitled a recruit to continue his civilian occupation until he was called-up. Rowland Timothy Hearn registered as a conscientious objector and chose to serve in a non-combatant unit.

Most of the men died on the Western Front in France or Flanders. Of these, most were killed in action, some died of wounds, two died of disease [one of pneumonia, the other of asphyxia] and one died of accidental injuries. Three men were killed by enemy action at sea; two were sailors and the other was a soldier travelling on *HMS Hampshire*. Two men died of disease, on the Home Front in England: one of pneumonia, the other of tuberculosis. One man was killed in action in Palestine; one died of pneumonia in Mesopotamia; one died of wounds in East Africa, one died of an undiscovered cause on the Northwest Frontier in India, one died of acute colitis in Salonika, and one was killed in action on the Gallipoli Peninsular.

For most of the men there was good evidence of connection with the area within walking distance of Christ Church, Surbiton. The nearby streets in which they lived included Alpha Road, Arlington Road, Beaconsfield Road, Britannia Road, Browns

Road, Cleaveland Road, Etwell Place, Ewell Road, Glenbuck Road, Guilford Villas, Habill Place, Ivy Cottages, James Street, King Charles Crescent, King Charles Road, King's Road, Lenelby Road, Minnie Dale, Oak Hill Road, Richmond Grove, Paragon Place, Shalston Villas, Smith Street, The Avenue, The Retreat and Vale Road North. Many of the men had lived in Alpha Road or one of the adjacent streets. An example of strong connection with Christ Church was Private Sidney William Hall who was baptised there, was married there [his wife lived in Smith Street] and had two sons baptised there before his death. Another example was Private Henry James Puddick, who had been a chorister at Christ Church, had been a member of the Christ Church Company of the Church Lads' Brigade, was married there [his wife lived in Smith Street] and had a son baptised there before his death. The biographical details, such as they were, suggested that many of the men had not travelled far from the Christ Church area in their civilian lives.

However, for three men no local connection with the Christ Church area was discovered, apart from their names being on the church memorial and the Surbiton UDC memorial. These were Corporal Henry William Burstow, who had connections with Brighton, Sussex, and Clapham, London; Boatswain James Robert Haynes, who had connections with Gloucestershire and Halifax in Yorkshire; and Private George Frederick Veale, who had connections with Richmond, Surrey.

The occupations of civilians who volunteered for service or who were conscripted as other ranks included, bricklayer, carpet planner, apprentice compositor, newspaper seller, milk boy, milkman, baker's groundsman, greengrocer, shop assistant, schoolboy, shoeing smith, coachman, farm worker, tobacco dryer, unemployed, tiler's labour, butcher, labourer, porter, baker's roundsman, salesman, visiting domestic servant, fishmonger, errand boy, school caretaker, solicitor's clerk, railway carriage cleaner, and under-gardener. Two of the men who were commissioned as officers had been students at Oxford University, another was a civil engineer, another was a Chief Rating Clerk for the South Eastern Railway and another was an assistant in a firm of Indian merchants.

The mean age at death was 27 years with a range of 16 – 49 years. The youngest, George Frederick Veale, may have lied about this age when he attested and the oldest, James George Jupp, had been a self-employed shoeing smith and farrier who had a wife and six children, including two sons who were serving on the Western Front at the time of his death. The Christ Church memorial commemorates three sets of

brothers: Herbert William and Reginald Francis Hitchcock; Benjamin William and Frederick Herbert Hook; and Jack and William Spray.

The entry "*Pte. F. W. Easthill*" on the memorial requires analysis. A search of the CWGC database yielded only one record for the surname *Easthill*. This was for Sergeant Henry Percival Easthill, 122nd Horse Transport Company, Army Service Corps, no. T4/072594, who died on 1 October 1918 in Greece. He was the son of Henry and Florence Easthill, née Gee, of 8 Epirus Road, Fulham, London, and appeared to have no connection with the Surbiton area. Accordingly, it was concluded that the man behind the name "*Pte. F. W. Easthill*" on the Christ Church memorial – the best match - was in fact Able Seaman Frederick William Easthill who deserted from *HMS Blake*, at Clydebank in Scotland, on 20 December 1914. Furthermore, because the CWGC database held no record of a grave, or of a memorial that could be linked to Private F. W. Easthill or Able Seaman Frederick William Easthill, it had to be concluded that they did not die in the period for which the CWGC had responsibility, i.e., 4 August 1914 – 31 August 1921. How "*Pte. F. W. Easthill*" came to be entered on the Christ Church memorial remains a mystery that only further research can possibly resolve.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to thank the Rev. John Shepherd, Vicar of Christ Church, for access to the memorial.

APPENDIX: SOME SOURCES

1. Commonwealth War Graves Commission

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/>

In the case of the Great War, The Commonwealth War Graves Commission is responsible for commemoration of persons who died between 4 August 1914 and 31 August 1921:

- whilst serving in a Commonwealth military force or specified organisation, or
- after they were discharged from a Commonwealth military force, if their death was caused by wartime service.

2. Soldiers Died In The Great War

<https://uk.forceswarrecords.com/publication/1278/uk-soldiers-died-in-the-great-war-1914-1919>

3. Ancestry

<http://www.ancestry.co.uk/>

census records, births, deaths & marriages, military records, probate records, electoral registers

4. Find My Past

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/>

census records, births, deaths & marriages, military records

6. Surrey In The Great War

https://www.surreyinthegreatwar.org.uk/collections/getrecord/SHMEM_W_M_2760

7. Digitised newspapers

<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>

[Surrey Comet, 1854-1910](#)

[Surrey Advertiser, 1864-1973](#)

¹ https://www.surreyinthegreatwar.org.uk/collections/getrecord/SHMEM_W_M_2760

² www.kingstonhistoryresearch.co.uk The war memorial, St Andrew's Church, Surbiton: Behind the names.

³ A visiting domestic servant who assisted with morning duties such as cleaning fire grates.

⁴ See his entry in the Surrey In The Great War database.

https://www.surreyinthegreatwar.org.uk/collections/getrecord/SHMEM_W_M_2760