

MEMORIALS OF THE GREAT WAR IN SURBITON. BEHIND THE NAMES.



DAVID A. KENNEDY, PhD

The talk is based on research on the following war memorials of the Great War in Surbiton: St Raphael's Church [KT1 2NA], St Mark's Church [KT6 4LS], St Andrew's Church [KT6 4DS], Surbiton Hill Methodist Church [KT6 6AF], Christ Church [KT6 8JJ] and Shrewsbury House Preparatory School [KT6 6RL]. It also considers the memorial that existed in Surbiton Park Congregational Church which was demolished in the late 1960s, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission burials in Surbiton Cemetery [KT6 6AG], other Great War graves in this Cemetery and the Surbiton UDC Memorial, also known as "Surbiton Cross" [KT6 6AG]. Surbiton General Hospital, which opened in 1936, built as a memorial to local servicemen who died in the Great War, is not considered. The talk originally was given to the Surbiton & District Historical Society on 7 October 2025. These notes incorporate comments made during the discussion thereafter.

Looking behind the names on war memorials provided a glimpse of the lives and deaths of a lost generation of some residents of the Surbiton area and prevailing social conditions.

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, 53 NAMES

CHRIST CHURCH, 76 NAMES

ST MARK'S CHURCH, ROLL OF HONOUR, 94 NAMES

SURBITON HILL METHODIST CHURCH, 6 NAMES

SURBITON PARK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, 8 NAMES

ST RAPHAEL'S CHURCH, 50 NAMES

ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH, 137 NAMES

SURBITON UDC MEMORIAL, "SURBITON CROSS", 382 NAMES

SURBITON CEMETERY, 15 GREAT WAR GRAVES

SHREWSBURY HOUSE PREPARATORY SCHOOL, 41 NAMES

SURBITON MEMORIALS OF THE GREAT WAR RESEARCH – THE ORIGINAL SOURCES

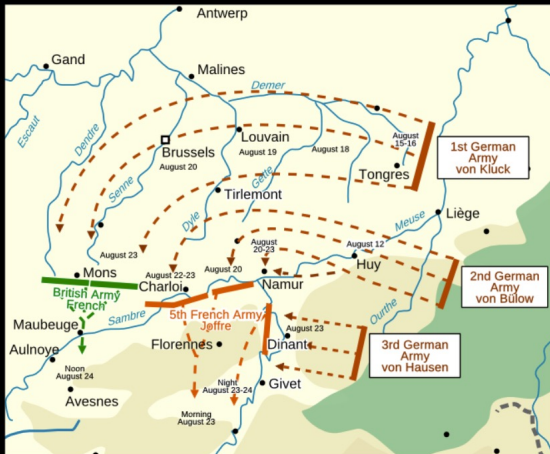


This slide lists the Surbiton war memorials that were the original sources for the research:

- ✚ St Andrew's Church memorial has 53 names.
- ✚ Christ Church's memorial has 76 names.
- ✚ St Mark's Roll of Honour has 94 names.
- ✚ Surbiton Hill Methodist Church's memorial has 8 names.
- ✚ Surbiton Park Congregational Church's memorial had 6 names.
- ✚ St Raphael's Church memorial has 50 names.
- ✚ St Matthew's Church memorial has 137 names.
- ✚ "Surbiton Cross" has 382 names.
- ✚ Surbiton Cemetery has 15 Great War graves.
- ✚ Shrewsbury House Preparatory School's memorial has 41 names.

What lies behind the names?

KEY EVENTS RELEVANT TO TALK



4 AUGUST 1914, WAR DECLARED,
GERMANY INVADES BELGIUM, REFUGEES TO
ENGLAND

GREAT WAR CARNAGE, LAND, SEA, AIR

SPANISH 'FLU, PANDEMIC, 1918

ARMISTICE, 11 NOVEMBER 1918

TREATY OF VERSAILLES, 28 JUNE 1919

FIGHTING BOLSHEVIKS IN RUSSIA, 1919

SPANISH 'FLU PANDEMIC, 1920

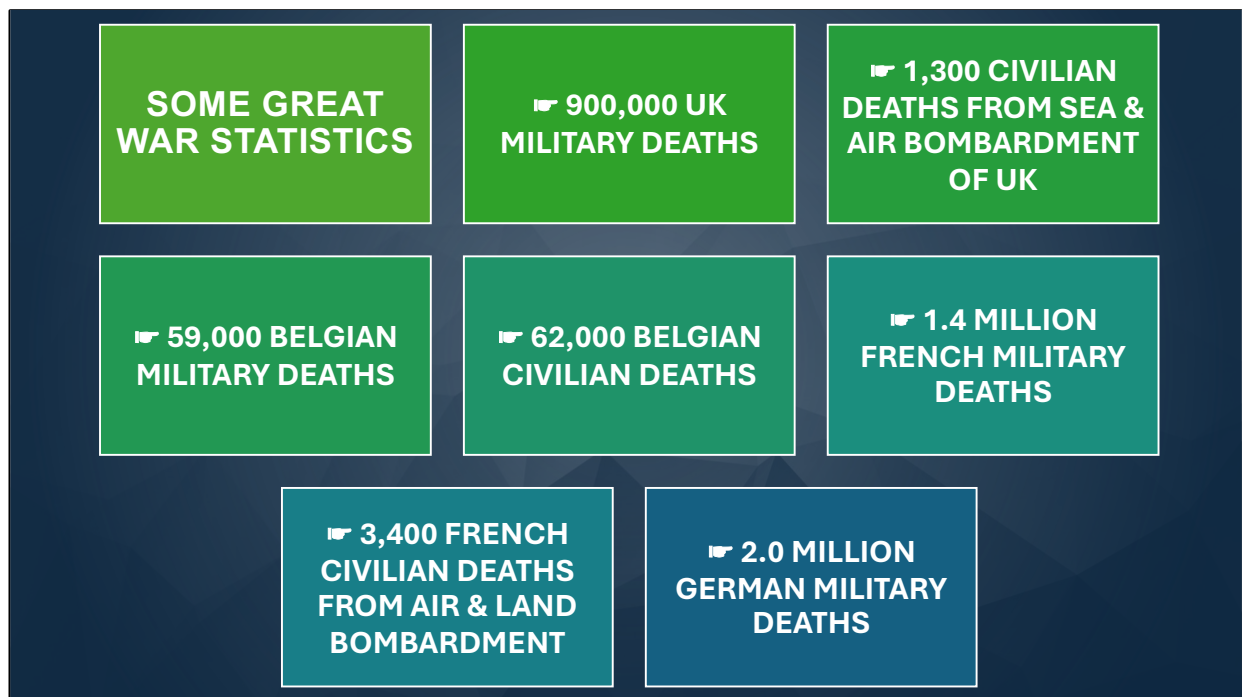
These key events set the scene for the talk:

- On 4 August 1914, Britain and its allies, France and Russia, declared war after the German Army invaded neutral Belgium and refugees fled to Britain.
- Volunteers come forward in large numbers at first.
- Carnage on land, sea and, for the first time, in the air.
- Conscription in 1916.
- Spanish influenza pandemic started sometime in 1918.
- The Armistice was declared on 11 November 1918.
- The Treaty of Versailles was signed on 28 June 1919.
- August 1919, fighting the Bolsheviks in Russia.
- Spanish influenza pandemic continued in 1920.
- Commonwealth War Grave Commission's cut-off point for recognition of deaths attributable to the Great War was 31 August 1921.



WAR ON LAND, ON THE SEA & IN THE AIR

The Great War was fought on land, at sea and, for the first time in history, in the air. Carnage on an unprecedented scale resulted. Some rough statistics follow to illustrate this.



Some Great War statistics to illustrate the carnage:

- ✚ 900,000 UK military deaths.
- ✚ 1,300 civilian deaths from sea & air bombardment of UK.
- ✚ 59,000 Belgian military deaths.
- ✚ 62,000 Belgian civilian deaths.
- ✚ 1.4 million French military deaths.
- ✚ 3,400 French civilian deaths from air & land bombardment.
- ✚ 2.0 million German military deaths.



Some more statistics to illustrate the carnage:

- ✚ The Tyne Cot Cemetery, Belgium, has 35,000 graves
- ✚ The Thiepval memorial, France, commemorates 72,000 who died on the Somme and who have no known graves.
- ✚ The Menin Gate memorial, Belgium, commemorates 56,000 who died in the Ypres Salient and who have no known graves.
- ✚ The Cape Helles memorial, Turkey, commemorates 21,000 who died in the Gallipoli campaign.

Again, the question is, what lies behind the names?

BEHIND THE NAMES?

**MERCHANT MARINE,
TOWER HILL, LONDON, 12,000**



FLYING SERVICES, ARRAS, 1,000



**RN, PORTSMOUTH,
10,000**

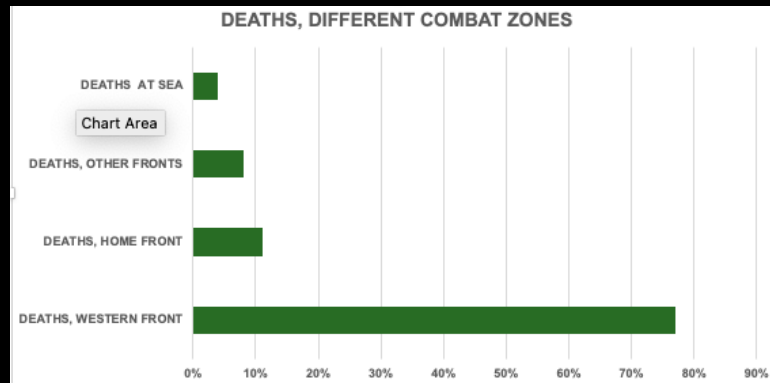


RN, PLYMOUTH, 23,000

Some more statistics to illustrate the carnage:

- ✚ **The Merchant Marine memorial, London, commemorates 12,000 who have no grave but the sea.**
- ✚ **The Royal Navy memorial, Portsmouth, commemorates, 10,000 who have no grave but the sea.**
- ✚ **The Royal Navy memorial, Plymouth, commemorates 23,000 who have no grave but the sea.**
- ✚ **The Flying Services memorial, Arras, commemorates 1,000 Royal Flying Corps and Royal Navy Air Service dead of the Western Front.**

Again, the question is, what lies behind the names?



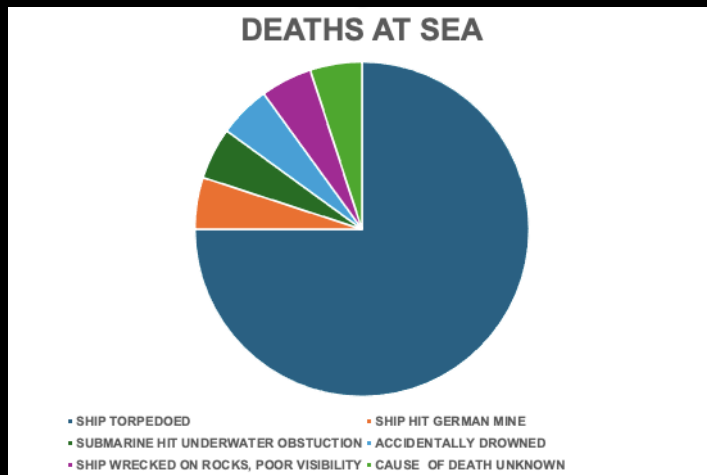
- ✦ WESTERN FRONT = 77%
- ✦ HOME FRONT = 11%
- ✦ OTHER FRONTS = 8%
[Gallipoli, Balkans, Palestine, East Africa, Malta, India, Italy, Egypt & POWs]
- ✦ AT SEA = 4%

DATA FROM SURBITON GREAT WAR MEMORIALS

Some statistics from Surbiton area Great War memorials:

- ✦ Killed or died of wounds on the Western Front = 77%
- ✦ Died on the Home Front in England, various causes = 11%
- ✦ Died on other Fronts or as POWs = 8%
- ✦ Died from enemy action at sea = 4%

While the Western Front was the main killing ground, the disaster of Gallipoli should not be forgotten. It is estimated that there were over 100,000 British, Australian, New Zealand, French and Turkish combatants were killed in action or died of disease.



- ✦ SHIP TORPEDED = 75%
- ✦ SHIP HIT GERMAN MINE = 5%
- ✦ SUBMARINE HIT UNDERWATER OBSTRUCTION = 5%
- ✦ SHIP WRECKED ON ROCKS, POOR VISIBILITY = 5%
- ✦ ACCIDENTALLY DROWNED = 5%
- ✦ CAUSE UNKNOWN = 5%

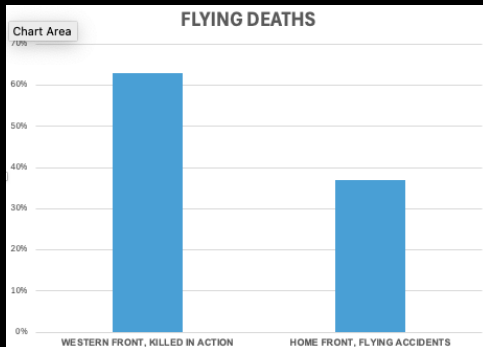
DATA FROM SURBITON GREAT WAR MEMORIALS

Deaths at sea, data from the Surbiton memorials:

- ✦ **Ship torpedoed = 75%**
- ✦ **Ship hit German mine = 5%**
- ✦ **Submarine hit underwater obstruction = 5%**
- ✦ **Ship wrecked on rocks, poor visibility = 5%**
- ✦ **Accidentally drowned = 5%**
- ✦ **Cause unknown = 5%**

Clearly the sea was a hazardous place to be in the Great War.

DEATHS IN THE AIR



✚ WESTERN FRONT, KILLED IN ACTION = 63%

✚ KILLED, OBSERVATION BALLOON WAS SHOT DOWN BY A GERMAN AIRCRAFT, 2nd LT. THOMAS NOPS [ST MARK'S]

✚ SHOT DOWN BY BARON VON RICHTHOFEN, "THE RED BARON", LT. RALPH ELLEY ELLIS [ST MARK'S]

✚ HOME FRONT, FLYING ACCIDENTS = 37%

✚ KILLED WHILE TRAINING AT RAF CRANWELL, Lincs. TEMPORARY FLIGHT OFFICER CYRIL BATES [ST RAPHAEL'S]

DATA FROM SURBITON GREAT WAR MEMORIALS

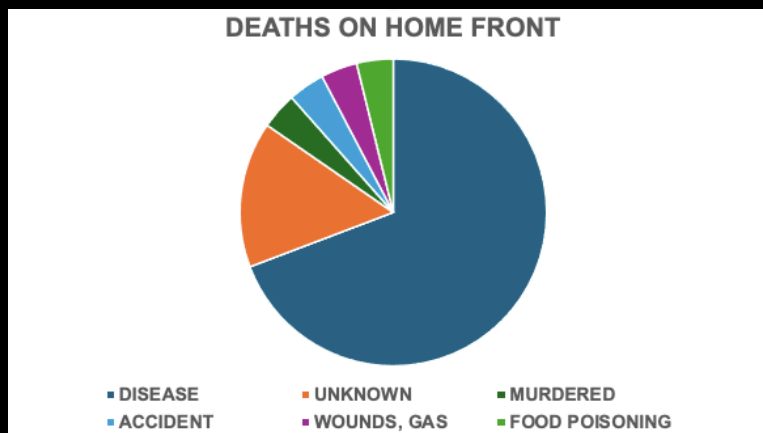
Deaths in the air, data from the Surbiton memorials:

- ✚ WESTERN FRONT, KILLED IN ACTION = 63%, e.g.,
 - ✚ 2nd Lt. Thomas Nops' observation balloon shot down by a German aircraft. [St Mark's]
 - ✚ Lt. Ralph Elley Ellis' aircraft shot down by Baron Von Richthofen, "The Red Baron". [St Andrew's]
- ✚ HOME FRONT, ENGLAND, FLYING ACCIDENTS = 37%, e.g.,
 - ✚ Probationary Flight Officer Cyril Bates was killed while training at RAF Cranwell, Lincs. [St Raphael's]

Flying was in its infancy in the Great War and had its hazards. Even ground crew were at risk, with some being killed by rotating propeller blades.*

* List of fatal air accidents in Britain, 1918

<http://www.rcawsey.co.uk/Acc1918.htm>



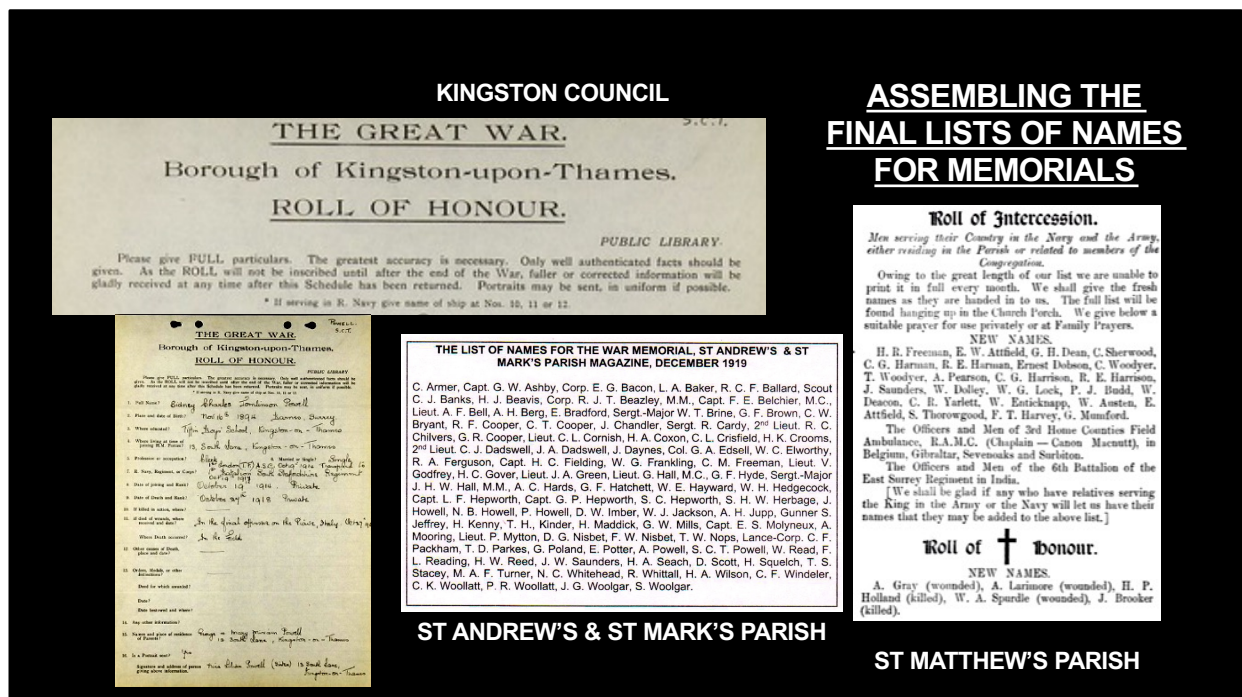
- ☛ DISEASE = 18
- ☛ UNKNOWN = 4
- ☛ MURDERED = 1
- ☛ ACCIDENT = 1
- ☛ WOUNDS, GAS = 1
- ☛ FOOD POISONING = 1

DATA FROM SURBITON WAR MEMORIALS

Deaths on the Home Front in England, Surbiton memorials:

- ☛ 18 men died of disease, including malaria, tuberculosis, poliomyelitis, heatstroke, measles & influenza.
- ☛ 4 men died of unknown causes.
- ☛ Sergeant Francis Evennett was murdered by a comrade of unsound mind [St Raphael's].
- ☛ Lance Corporal Sydney Hepworth accidentally fell in front of a train at Waterloo Station & died shortly afterwards [St Andrew's].
- ☛ Lance Corporal Charles Ellis, died after being gassed on active service [Surbiton Cemetery].
- ☛ Lieutenant Charles Rought [Surbiton Hill Methodist Church] died of food poisoning and more will be said about this later.

Names on Great War memorials generally commemorate those who died while in the service of the Crown, not just those who were killed in action or died of wounds or disease in combat zones.



How were the lists of names assembled in at a time when there were no centralized records of the war dead and there was often uncertainty about details? It is not known exactly how the “Surbiton Cross” list originated, but a committee of Surbiton Urban District Council were involved. And, clearly the relatives and friends of the deceased were consulted. They were dependent on information, sometimes scanty, provided by official sources or letters from commanding officers. In the case of the Kingston upon Thames memorial, a Roll of Honour was compiled from a form provided by the Public Library.* St Andrew’s and St Mark’s Parish published lists of names in its magazine and asked for updates from the congregation. St Matthew’s Parish published a Roll of Intercession and Roll of Honour in its magazine. It was a cumulative process and inevitably there were errors and omissions.

* <https://www.flickr.com/photos/kingstonmuseum/albums/>

THE GREAT WAR
Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames.
ROLL OF HONOUR.

POWELL
S.C.E.

Please give FULL particulars. The greatest accuracy is necessary. Only well substantiated facts should be given. As the ROLL will be in constant use, and as the time value of personal statements will be greatly reduced as they grow older, the Roll should be kept correct. Parents may be asked to endorse if possible. If wrong or too long, give only the facts, as far as possible.

1. Full Name? **Sidney Charles Tomlinson Powell**

2. Date and date of Birth? **Nov 16 1894** **Staines, Surrey**

3. Where educated? **Tiffin Boys' School, Kingston-on-Thames**

4. Where living at time of joining R.O.H.? **13 South Lane, Kingston-on-Thames**

5. Profession or occupation? **Clerk**

6. Service or Regt? **South Staffordshire Regiment**

7. R. No., Regiment, or Corps? **10th Battalion, South Staffordshire Regiment**

8. Date of joining and Rank? **October 19 1914** **Private**

9. Date of Death and Rank? **October 27 1918** **Private**

10. If killed in action, where? **In the final offensive on the Piave, Italy**

11. If died of wounds, where and date? **In the field**

12. Other causes of Death, given and date?

13. Orders, medals, or other distinctions?

14. Date for which awarded?

15. Date?

16. Date returned and where?

17. Any other information?

18. Name and place of residence of Parent? **George & Mary Tomlinson Powell**
13 South Lane, Kingston-on-Thames

19. Is a Postcard sent? **Yes**

Signature and address of person giving above information. **Sidney Charles Tomlinson Powell (father) 13 South Lane, Kingston-on-Thames**

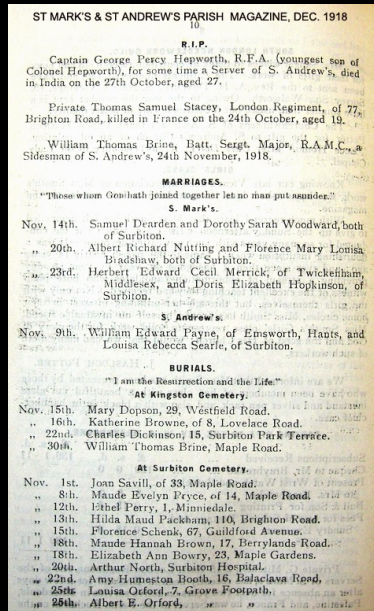
POWELL, S. & TOMLINSON.



KT126-2-P. Powell, Sidney Charles Tomlinson

PTE. SIDNEY CHARLES TOMLINSON POWELL, TIFFIN BOYS' SCHOOL, KINGSTON, CLERK, KILLED IN "THE FINAL OFFENSIVE ON THE PIAVE, ITALY" 27 OCTOBER 1918, AGED 24

Here is the Kingston Roll of Honour form for Private Sidney Charles Tomlinson Powell of the South Staffordshire Regiment. He is commemorated on the memorial at St Andrew's Church, Surbiton. He lived at 13 South Lane, Kingston and attended Tiffin Boys' School. He was a clerk before he volunteered in October 1914. He was killed in action on 27 October 1918, age 23, in "the final offensive on the Piave" in Italy. This was a battle in a campaign in which Italian armies, supported by British and French forces, finally defeated the Austrian invaders.



ST MARK'S & ST ANDREW'S PARISH MAGAZINE, DECEMBER 1918

R.I.P.

☛ CAPT. GEORGE PERCY HEPWORTH,
INDIA, 27 OCTOBER
[INFLUENZA]

☛ PTE. THOMAS SAMUEL STACEY,
FRANCE, 24 OCTOBER
[KILLED IN ACTION]

☛ SEGT. MAJOR WILLIAM THOMAS BRINE
[BLACKPOOL] 24 NOVEMBER
[INFLUENZA]

Here is a page from St Mark's & St Andrew's Parish Magazine for December 1918. It records the deaths of parishioners Captain George Percy Hepworth who died in India on 27 October 1918, Private Thomas Samuel Stacey who was killed in action on the Western Front in France on 24 October 1918 and Sergeant Major William Thomas Brine on 24 November 1918. It not say where he died but it is known that it was in Blackpool and that he died following influenza. It notes that George Hepworth was once a Server at St Andrew's Church and that William Brine was a Sidesman at that church. William Brine's burial at Kingston Cemetery on 30 November 1918 is recorded.



BEHIND THE NAMES?

A. H. ADAMS	W. J. BELCHAMBER
D. B. ADGERLEY	E. E. BELCHER
S. E. ALLWORK	A. F. BELL
W. ARCHER	J. BENDALL
C. ARMER	J. P. BENNETT
E. ASHBY	A. H. BERO
G. W. ASHBY	W. H. BICKELL
J. F. ASHBY	E. C. BIRCH
C. ASKEW	E. J. BIRD
A. S. ASTIN	R. P. BIRTLES
H. E. ATTFIELD	J. A. BLACK
H. ATWILL	F. W. BOOKER
W. AUSTIN	H. C. BOONE
E. BACON	A. BOOTH
E. B. BACON	J. E. M. BOWRING
R. H. BAILEY	E. BRADFORD
R. G. BAKER	R. E. BRADSHAW
L. A. BAKER	F. C. BRAZIER
R. F. C. BALLARD	A. BRIDGER
C. J. BANKS	W. BRIDGER
V. N. BARRIE	W. T. BRINE
G. W. G. BATMAN	W. BRITT
J. BATEMAN	T. W. BRIDGMAN
G. N. BATES	F. B. BROOKS
F. W. BATTLE	J. T. BROOMFIELD
H. J. BEAVIS	C. F. BROWN
J. T. BEAZLEY	G. BROWNING

**SURBITON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL'S MEMORIAL,
"SURBITON CROSS", 382 NAMES, UNVEILED IN 1921**

The penultimate list of names for the "Surbiton Cross" memorial probably was the result of a public meeting which considered proposals from sub-committees comprising two Councilors from each ward and twelve citizens from their ward. Names at the bottom of lists in non-alphabetical order indicate late additions.

ST RAPHAEL'S MEMORIAL

**BELGIANS – SONS OF WAR
REFUGEES & DISPLACED PERSONS**

„ ENGLEBERT CAPPUYNS.	JEAN GUEDRAS.
„ RENE CARABIN.	EDMUND HUYST.
„ CARLOS ROOZE.	ALEXANDRE LOCKEM.
JOSEPH BERTHELET.	LEO RENDAL.
ADOLPHE CRIQUILLON.	FERDINALD SPANOGUE.
GUSTAVE DELANNOIS.	CHARLES DE SOUBEYRAN.
	JOHN STOOP.

There are about 100,000 Great War memorials in the UK and they are comparatively rare in Roman Catholic churches. Three women are listed on St Raphael's memorial, which is also unusual. Thirteen Belgian citizens are named on the memorial: *Lieutenant Englebert Cappuyns*, *Lieutenant Rene Carabin*, *Lieutenant Carlos Rooze*, *Joseph Berthelet*, *Adolphe Criquillon*, *Gustave Delannois*, *Jean Guedras*, *Edmund Huyst*, *Alexandre Lockem*, *Leo Rendal*, *Ferdinand Spanogue*, *Charles de Soubeyran* and *John Stoop*. All are assumed to be the sons or friends of refugees or displaced persons who were parishioners of St Raphael's Church during the Great War period. Some may have lived in the hostel for Belgian refugees at *Westcroft* on Kingston Hill. *Lieutenant Cappuyns*, who died in a Belgium military hospital in April 1916, aged 21, was the son of Englebert Cappuyns, a lawyer and member of the Provincial Council of Brabant. He and his family escaped to England, were first accommodated in Alexandra Palace, then in the Southampton Hotel next to Surbiton Station, then in *Westcroft* and finally settled at 3 Lingfield Avenue, Kingston.

MISS FLORENCE M. SMALPAGE.

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF DEATH

GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number 9096769-1

REGISTRATION DISTRICT EDMONTON

1917 DEATH in the Sub-district of Enfield in the County of Middlesex

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
No.	When and where died	Name and surname	Sex	Age	Occupation	Cause of death	Signature, description and residence of informant	Where registered	Signature of Registrar
1	7 July 1917	Florence M. Smalpage	Female	44	Voluntary canteen worker	Hit in the chest by a fragment of anti-aircraft shell	John Smalpage, 31 Beaufort Road, Kingston, Surrey	Enfield	[Signature]

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Deaths in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 8th day of April 2018

DYE 287195

CAUTION: THERE ARE OFFENCES RELATING TO FALSIFYING OR ALTERING A CERTIFICATE AND USING OR POSSESSING A FALSE CERTIFICATE PERSONS COPYRIGHTED

WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY.

**KILLED BY
FRAGMENT OF
ANTI-AIRCRAFT
SHELL DURING
AIR RAID ON
LONDON,
7 JULY 1917,
REQUIEM MASS AT
ST RAPHAEL'S**

Florence Mary Smalpage, aged 44 when she was killed, lived at 31 Beaufort Road, Kingston. For many years her family were closely associated with St Raphael's. She and her sisters worked for various church organizations and she was a voluntary canteen worker in the district. On 7 July 1917 she was visiting a sister who was the wife of the Commanding Officer of an army post at Enfield Lock, Middlesex. Along with many others, they went out to see a dogfight in the sky between British fighter-planes and German Gotha bombers. After a Coroner's inquest, her death certificate recorded that she was hit in the chest by a fragment of anti-aircraft shell and died very soon thereafter. A Requiem Mass, for this civilian victim of war, later was held at St Raphael's Church and she is buried in Cheshunt Cemetery, Hertfordshire. A number of civilians in the London area who were killed during air raids. Indeed, Coroners warned of the dangers of watching air-raids and of the need to take cover when they occurred.

MISS IVONNE CUNNINGHAM.
MISS MARGARET CUNNINGHAM

CHURCH OF ST GERVAIS, PARIS



GOOD FRIDAY, 1918
91 KILLED, 68
INJURED



"THE PARIS GUN",
LOCATED 75 MILES N.E.
OF PARIS

Ivonne and Margaret Cunningham were French civilian victims of war who were killed in Paris on Good Friday, 29 March 1918. Their father was probably of Irish or Scottish extraction and their mother came from Normandy. On the afternoon of 29 March 1918, the sisters and their mother attended a Good Friday service in the church of St Gervais in the 4th arrondissement of Paris. The church is now dedicated to St Gervais and St Protais. The service was attended by many prominent citizens who were mostly civilians. During the service, German forces, situated about 75 miles away to the north-east, bombarded Paris using a specially-developed, long-barrelled gun known as "the Paris gun". A shell hit the church and the roof collapsed. 91 of the congregation were killed and 68 were injured. The sisters were killed but their mother survived. So far, no direct connection between the Cunningham Family and St Raphael's Church has been found.



ST MARK'S CHURCH, SURBITON, 4 JULY 2025

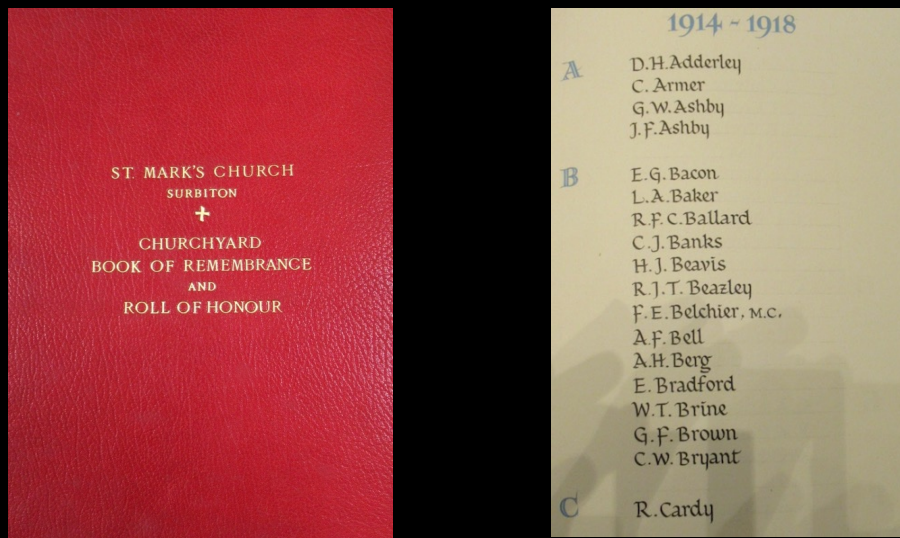
This is a photograph of St Mark's Anglican Church, Surbiton, taken on 4 July 2025.* The original church was bombed by the Luftwaffe during WW2 on 2 October 1940. Internal memorials installed during the Great War were destroyed. They commemorated Lt. Colonel George Edsell [died in 1915], Captains Herbert and Harold Large and Major Philip Large [brothers, all who died in 1915] and Captain Eric Molyneux [died in 1917]. The internal memorial,, unveiled in 1920, commemorating about 90 men of the parish was badly damaged and its remains were lost. After rebuilding, on 2 October 1960, Holy Communion was celebrated for the first time in what was effectively a new church after its restoration.

*** <https://surbitonchurch.org.uk>**



**ST MARK'S CHURCH, SURBITON, BOMBED ON 2 OCTOBER 1940
ORIGINAL MEMORIAL, UNVEILED IN 1920, LOST AFTER BOMBING**

Here are pictures of St Mark's after it was bombed in 1940 and the damaged memorial that was unveiled in 1920. Some names are decipherable. The bombing scattered most of the graves in the churchyard. Later, after exhumation, the remains of 202 persons were reburied in a mass grave in Surbiton Cemetery in August 2009.



ST MARK'S CHURCH, ROLL OF HONOUR, 1960, 111 NAMES

The Roll of Honour commemorates St Mark's and St Andrew's parishioners who died in the Great War and in WW2. It is to be found in a red leather bound book entitled "St Mark's Church, Surbiton, Churchyard Book of Remembrance and Roll of Honour" which is kept in a glass-fronted case in the church. It was written by Mildred M. Ratcliffe in 1960. The first page of the 1914-1918 list is shown in the slide. The Roll of Honour has the dedication:

***TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN MEMORY OF THOSE OF THIS
PARISH AND CONGREGATION WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN
THE GREAT WAR,
1914-1918 & 1939-1945***

ST MARK'S CHURCHYARD

H.E.R. Jerram

ST MARK'S ROLL OF HONOUR, 1960



HARRY ESCOMBE RAVENHILL JERRAM

AGED 17 YEARS, MIDSHIPMAN RN, H.M.S. HAWKE

TORPEDOED IN THE NORTH SEA, OCT. 15, 1914

SECOND SON OF THE REV. ARNOLD E. JERRAM

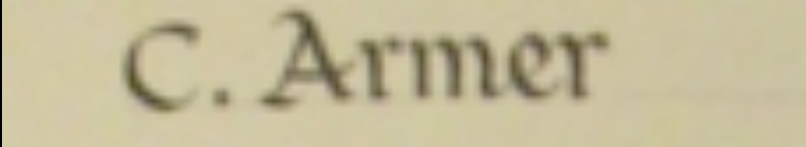


H. E. R. JERRAM



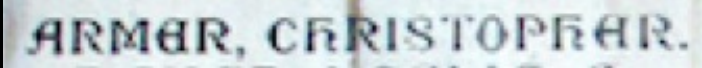
HMS HAWKE

In St Mark's churchyard is the Jerram family vault. It commemorates Midshipman Harry Escombe Jerram who died when *HMS Hawke* was torpedoed in the North Sea on 15 October 1914. He was aged 17 years and has no grave but the sea.



C. Armer

ST MARK'S ROLL OF HONOUR, 1960



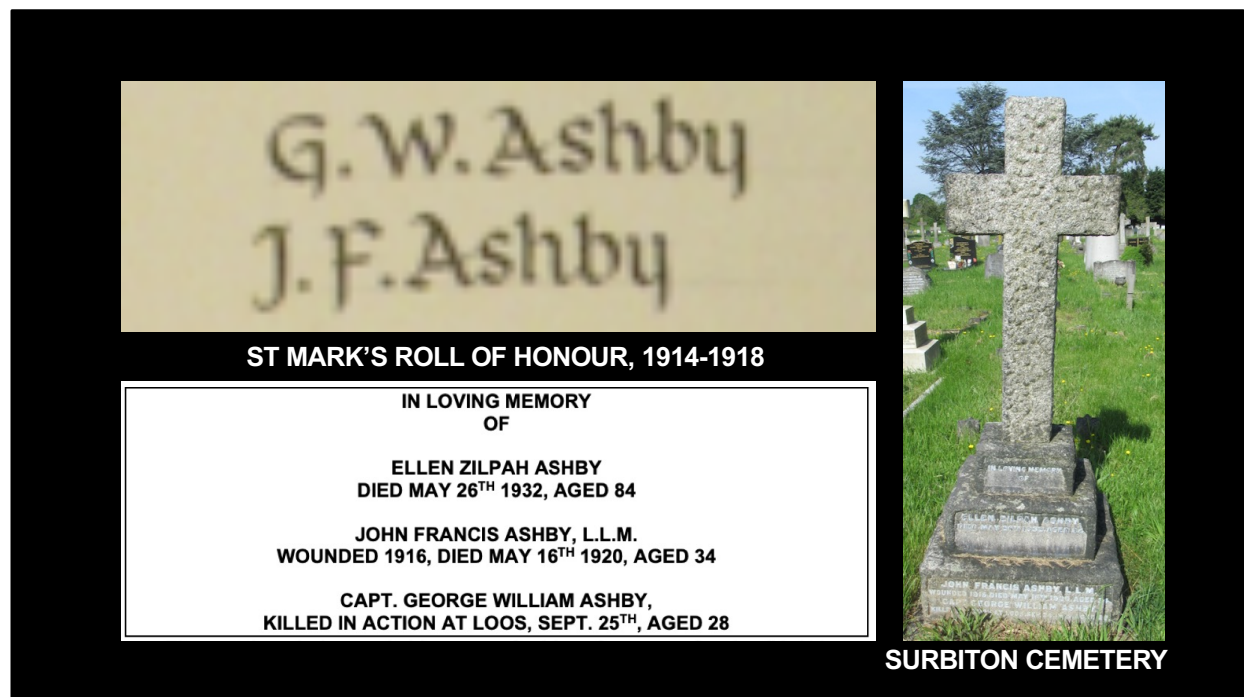
ARMER, CHRISTOPHER.

ST ANDREW'S MEMORIAL

➤ PTE. CHRISTOPHER ARMER,
1911 CENSUS, GREENGROCER'S ERRAND BOY, 3 COTTAGE GROVE, SURBITON.

DIED IN KASSEL POW CAMP, GERMANY, 18 DECEMBER 1917.

The first name on St Mark's Great War Roll of Honour is that of Private Christopher Armer of the Royal Fusiliers. He is also commemorated on St Andrew's memorial. In the 1911 Census, he was a greengrocer's errand boy living at 3 Cottage Grove, Surbiton. He was captured on the Western Front and died in Kassel POW Camp in Germany, aged 22, on 18 December 1917. Possibly he died of disease. Other ranks held in German POW camps often reported ill-treatment.



St Mark's Roll of Honour lists Lieutenant John Francis Ashby and his brother Captain George William Ashby. John Ashby, a distinguished graduate of Liverpool University, who was a solicitor in Hoylake, Cheshire, was a well-known local politician and sportsman. He was wounded in France in 1915 and, after his health broke down, he was invalided home. The inference is that he suffered shell-shock. He never recovered his health and had to resign from public life. He died of encephalitis in London in 1920, aged 34. George Ashby was killed in the Battle of Loos in 1915, aged 28. They were the sons of Ellen Zilpah Ashby of 9 Shalston Villas, Surbiton. She and John Ashby are buried in Surbiton Cemetery and the gravestone commemorates George Ashby.



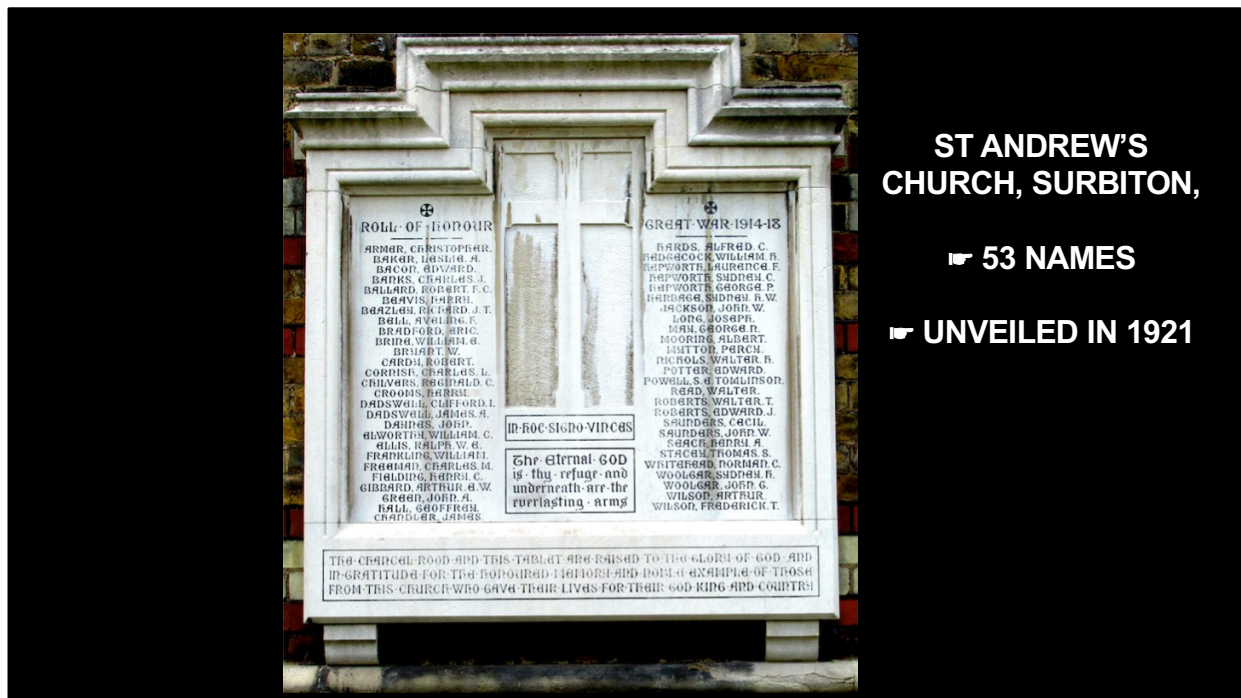
**ST ANDREW'S CHURCH,
SURBITON**



ROOD CROSS, DEDICATED IN 1921

St Andrew's, the sister church of St Mark's, has two Great War memorials.* Inside the church is a Rood Cross and outside is a memorial tablet with 53 names. This can be seen from St Andrew's Road. Both were dedicated on 12 October 1921.

- <https://surbitonchurch.org.uk>

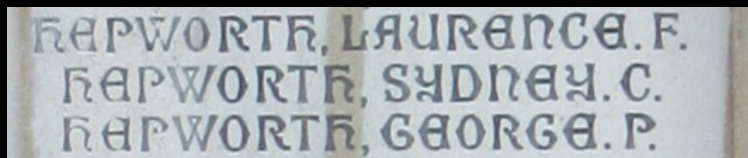


The external memorial of St Andrew's has 53 names and carries the dedication:

**THE CHANCEL ROOD AND THIS TABLET ARE RAISED TO
THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN GRATITUDE FOR THE
HONOURED MEMORY AND NOBLE EXAMPLE OF THOSE
FROM THIS CHURCH WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR THEIR
GOD, KING AND COUNTRY**



ST ANDREWS' CHURCH, SURBITON



- CAPT. LAURENCE FREDERICK HEPWORTH, DIED A POW IN GERMANY, 9 MARCH 1917.
- LCE. CORP. SYDNEY CRADOCK HEPWORTH, DIED AFTER FALLING IN FRONT OF TRAIN, WATERLOO STATION, LONDON, 13 SEPTEMBER 1917.
- CAPT. GEORGE PERCY HEPWORTH, DIED OF INFLUENZA, BENGAL, INDIA, 7 OCTOBER 1918.

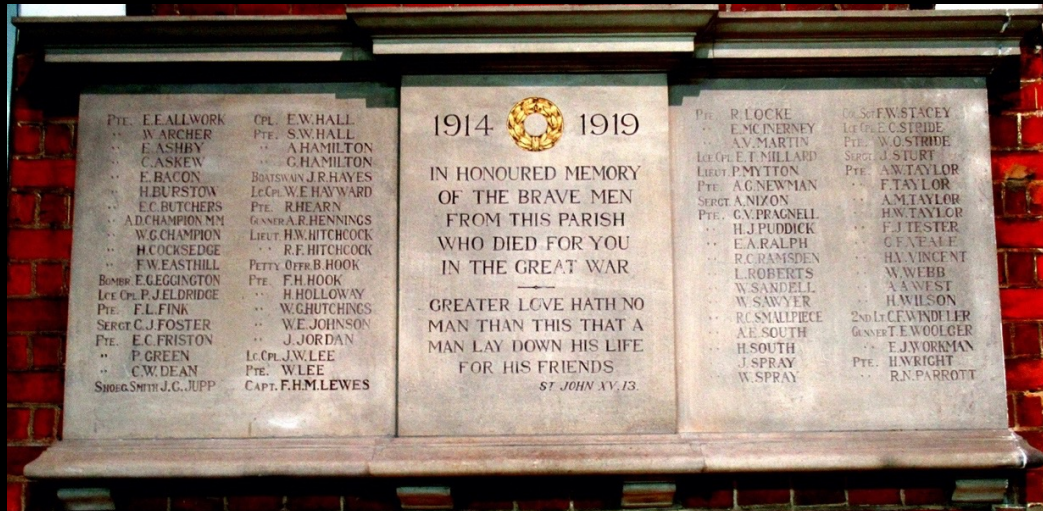
St Andrew's external memorial lists Captain Laurence Hepworth who died a POW in Germany in 1917, Lance Corporal Sydney Hepworth, a member of the Canadian Forces, who died after falling in front of a train at Waterloo Station in 1917 and Captain George Hepworth who died of influenza in India in 1918. They were the sons of Lt. Colonel John Hepworth who held a commission in the Territorial Forces. A local solicitor and Justice of the Peace, he lived in Buccleuch House, Portsmouth Road, Surbiton, and was one of the fundraisers for the memorials.



CHRIST CHURCH, SURBITON HILL

The original Christ Church, Surbiton Hill, was consecrated in August 1863.* An Anglican church, it was designed by the distinguished Surbiton architect, Charles Lock Luck [1833-1890] who lived in Adelaide Road, Surbiton and who was buried in St Mark's churchyard.

- <https://www.ccsurbiton.org>



CHRIST CHURCH, SURBITON HILL, 76 NAMES, DEDICATED IN 1920

It is believed that the memorial was dedicated on 11 November 1920. It commemorates 76 men, most of whom had lived within walking distance of the church. It has the dedication:

1914-1919

**IN HONOURED MEMORY OF THE BRAVE MEN FROM THIS
PARISH WHO DIED FOR YOU IN THE GREAT WAR.**

**GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS, THAT A MAN LAY
DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS.**

ST. JOHN XV.13



➤ **SHOEING SMITH JAMES GEORGE JUPP, ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY, SELF-EMPLOYED SHOEING SMITH & FARRIER, 13 ALPHA ROAD, SURBITON, KILLED IN ACTION, 23 SEPTEMBER 1916, WESTERN FRONT, AGED 49, 6 CHILDREN, 2 SONS IN ARMY**

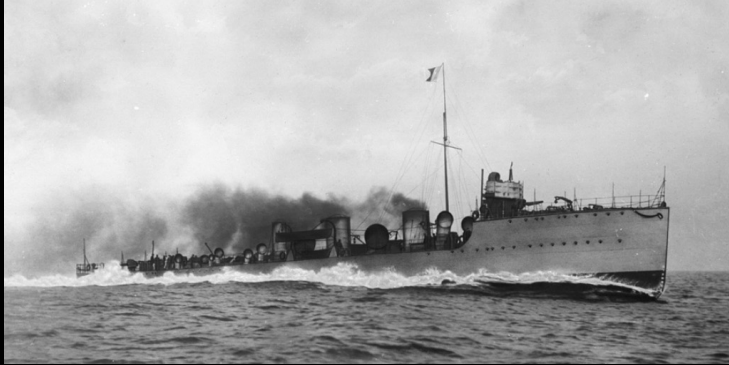
➤ **PTE. ROWLAND TIMOTHY GODFREY HEARN, CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR, NON-COMBATANT CORPS, PARENTS LIVED IN KING CHARLES CRESCENT, SURBITON, DIED OF PNEUMONIA, ALDERSHOT, 25 MARCH 1917, AGED 21**

➤ **TROOPER REGINALD NAPIER PARROTT, SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE, PARENTS LIVED IN GLENBUCK ROAD, SURBITON, DIED OF WOUNDS, 29 JANUARY 1917, EAST AFRICA, AGED 26**

☛ **Shoeing Smith, James Jupp of the Royal Field Artillery, in civilian life was a self-employed shoeing smith and farrier who lived at 12 Alpha Road, Surbiton. He was killed on the Western Front in 1916 aged 49. He left a wife and six children, including 2 sons who were in the army.**

☛ **Private Rowland Hearn was a conscientious objector in the Non-Combatant Corps. He died of pneumonia in Aldershot in 1917, aged 21. His parent lived in King Charles Crescent, Surbiton.**

☛ **Trooper Reginald Parrott of the South African Police died of wounds in East Africa in 1917, aged 28. His parents lived in Glenbuck Road, Surbiton.**



HMS GHURKA

➤ HIT GERMAN MINE OFF
DUNGENESS, ENGLISH
CHANNEL, 8 FEBRUARY, 1917
& SANK

➤ OF 74 CREW, ONLY 5
SURVIVED

➤ PETTY OFFICER BENJAMIN HOOK, CHRIST CHURCH MEMORIAL

➤ AB. OWEN HUGHES, ST RAPHAEL'S CHURCH MEMORIAL



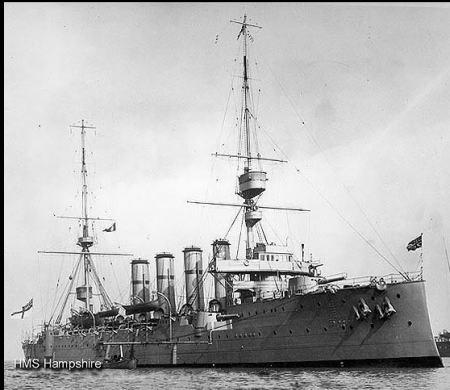
DID THESE MEN EVER MEET?

Did these men ever meet? Petty Officer Benjamin Hook [St Matthew's memorial] and Able Seaman Owen Hughes [St Raphael's memorial] were on board *HMS Ghurka* when it hit a German mine. Both perished and of the crew of 74, only 5 survived.

HMS HAMPSHIRE

➤ **HIT MINE, OFF THE ORKNEY ISLANDS, 5 JUNE 1916 & SANK**

➤ **749 ON BOARD, 737 PERISHED**



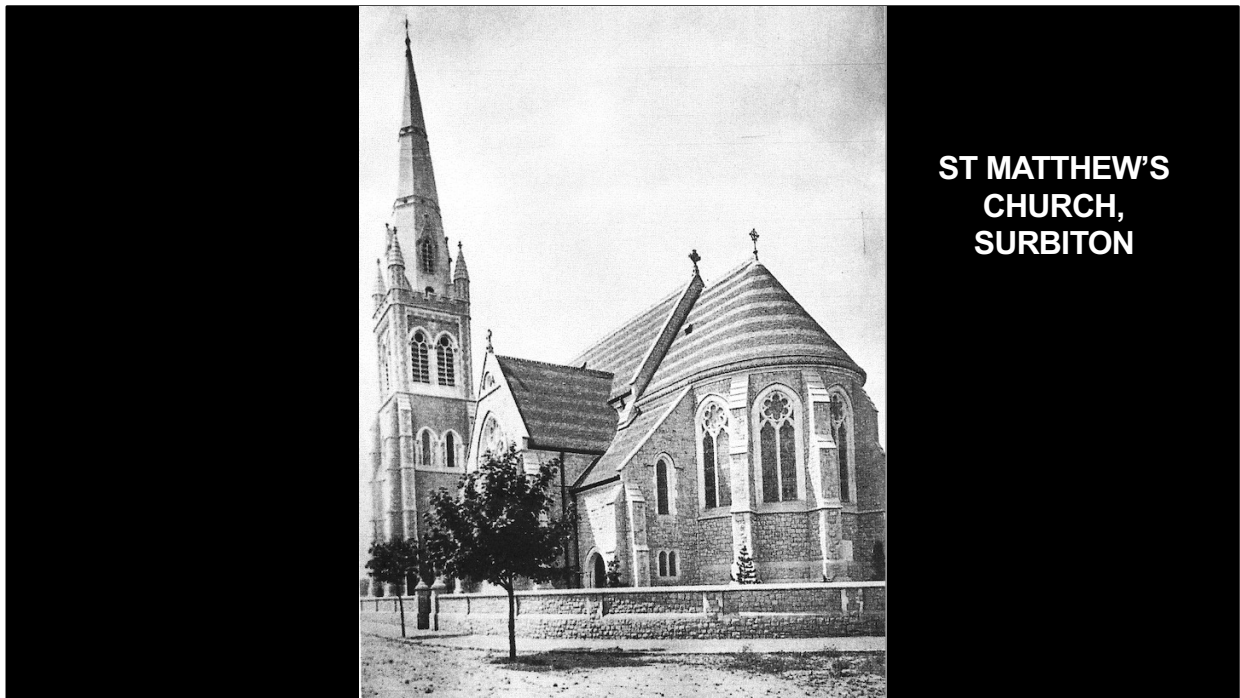
➤ **SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR, FIELD MARSHAL, LORD KITCHENER**

➤ **MARINE GORDON PRAGNELL, ON CHRIST CHURCH MEMORIAL**



DID THESE MEN EVER MEET?

Did these men ever meet? HMS Hampshire was sailing to Russia on a diplomatic mission. On board was the Secretary of State for War, Field Marshal Lord Kitchener. Private Gordon Pragnell of the Royal Marines was also on board. On 5 June 1916, the ship hit a mine off the Orkney Islands and sank. Of the 749 on board, 737 perished including Lord Kitchener and Gordon Pragnell, who is commemorated on the Christ Church memorial.



**ST MATTHEW'S
CHURCH,
SURBITON**

St Matthew's Anglican Church, Surbiton and the adjacent vicarage was funded by William Matthew Coulthurst, a senior partner in the bankers, Coutts & Co., in memory of his sister Hannah Mabella Coulthurst. The architect was Charles Lock Luck, who was referred to earlier. The church was consecrated by the Bishop of Winchester in 1875.



The war memorial was unveiled in 1920. It has been thoroughly researched and details can be found on the church's website.* The sculptor was Thomas Tarran of Surbiton [1851-1933]. 137 names are listed and it has the dedication:

***TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN PROUD AND GRATEFUL
REMEMBRANCE OF THE MEN OF THIS PARISH AND
CONGREGATION WHO SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES IN THE
GREAT WAR, 1914-1918***

Two other memorials are in the church. A stained glass window commemorates Sergeant Walter John Clayton, who was killed on the Western Front on 19 April 1915, and Captain Geoffrey Robert Baker, DSO, who was killed in Mesopotamia on 24 February 1917.

- <https://www.stmatthewskt6.org>



ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH, SURBITON, LOST AT SEA

ENEMY ACTION -TORPEDO OR GUNFIRE

- LEAD. STOKER ALEXANDER SPOONER, *HMS PATHFINDER*, NORTH SEA, 5 SEPTEMBER 1914
- MARINE JOHN WOODING, *HMS THE RAMSEY*, NORTH SEA, 8 AUGUST 1915
- MARINE FRANK BOOKER, *HMS INVINCIBLE*, JUTLAND, 31 MAY 1916
- STEWARD JAMES FERRIS, *HMS BLACK PRINCE*, JUTLAND, 31 MAY 1916
- SIGNALMAN ARTHUR GOODWIN, *HMS JASON*, NORTH SEA, 3 APRIL 1917
- PTE. WILLIAM BICKELL, *SS ARCADIAN*, MEDITERRANEAN SEA, 15 APRIL 1917

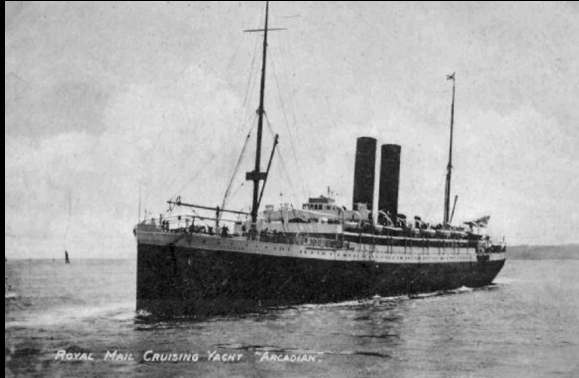
HIT UNDERWATER OBSTRUCTION – POSSIBLY A MINE

- AB. THOMAS COWLARD, *HMS SUBMARINE E37*, NORTH SEA, 3 DECEMBER 1916

WRECKED, POOR VISIBILITY, HIT ROCKS

- SUB-LIEUT. ERIC SOAMES, *HMS RACON*, IRISH SEA, 9 JANUARY 1918

Looking behind eight names on St Matthew's memorial reminds us of the hazards facing sailors in the Great War. Six men died after their ships were torpedoed or sunk by enemy gunfire. One submariner died after his vessel hit an underwater obstruction that was possibly a mine. One sailor died when his ship was wrecked after it hit some rocks in poor visibility.



DID THESE MEN EVER MEET?

TROOPSHIP, SS *ARCADIAN*



➤ **CAPT. JOHN FOREMAN & PTE. WILLIAM BICKELL, SALONIKA TO ALEXANDRIA.**

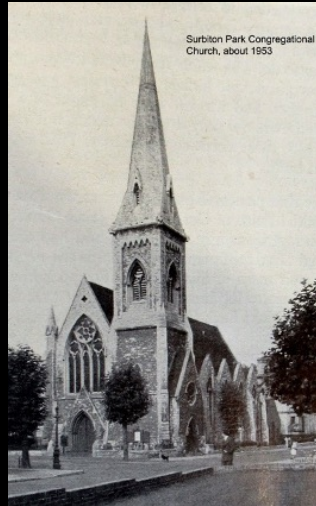
➤ **15 APRIL 1917, TORPEDOED BY & SANK WITHIN 6 MINUTES, LOSS OF 279 LIVES.**

➤ **CAPT. FOREMAN RESCUED, DIED OF DISEASE IN ALEXANDRIA.**

➤ **PTE. BICKELL PERISHED.**



Did these men ever meet? Captain John Foreman a RAMC medical officer [St Raphael's memorial] and Private William Bickell [St Matthew's memorial] were on a troopship, SS *Arcadian*, taking men who had been in the Salonika campaign to Alexandria in Egypt. The ship was torpedoed on 11 April 1917. Captain Foreman was rescued but he died later of enteric fever in Alexandria. Private Bickell perished.

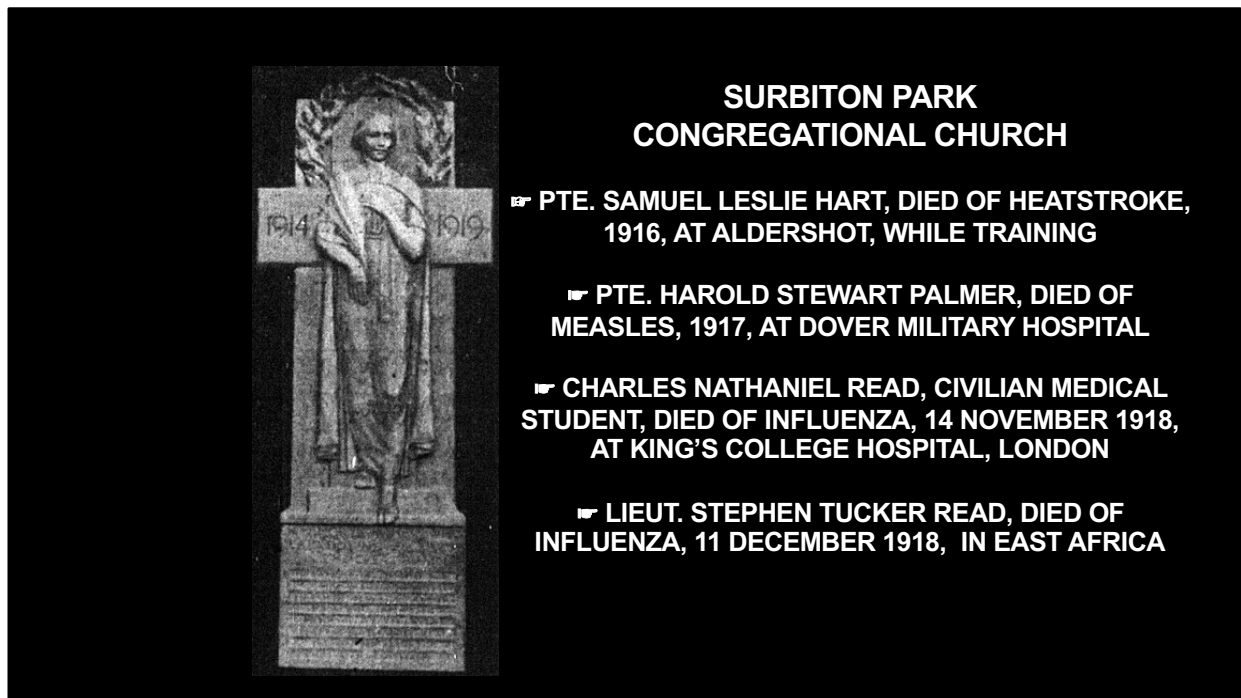


Surbiton Park Congregational Church, about 1953



**SURBITON PARK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,
MEMORIAL UNVEILED IN 1922, 8 NAMES**

The Surbiton Park estate was once owned by Alexander Raphael, the builder of St Raphael's Church. Surbiton Park Congregational Church had its origins in 1853 when a group of people met in a private house for worship. In 1854 a church was built on the corner of St Leonard's Road and Maple Road in an area, which became known as "*Surbiton Park*". This proved to be too small for an expanding congregation and in 1865 work started on a bigger church on the corner of Grove Road and Maple Road. It was dedicated at a service on 27 June 1866 and was demolished sometime in the 1960s. The fate of the war memorial, as pictured in the Surrey Comet local newspaper of 19 November 1922, is unknown.



The sculptor of the war memorial was Richard Reginald Goulden [1877-1932]. It was finely cast in bronze at the Thames Ditton Bronze Foundry and mounted on green Irish marble. It was presented to the church by Arthur Brian Burton, the owner of the Foundry, who was a prominent member of the Congregational Church. It commemorated eight men. Of these:

- ☛ Private Samuel Hart died of heatstroke in 1916 at Aldershot, while training.
- ☛ Private Harold Palmer died of measles, in 1917, at Dover.
- ☛ Charles Read, a civilian medical student, died of influenza, in London, in 1918, after the Armistice.
- ☛ Lieutenant Stephen Read died of influenza, in East Africa, in 1918, after the Armistice.



**SURBITON HILL
METHODIST
CHURCH,
4 JULY 2025**

The present Surbiton Hill Methodist Church, once called the Surbiton Hill Wesleyan Chapel, had its origins in the “*Old Chapel*”, a building which still stands at 95 Ewell Road, Surbiton.* The foundation stone of the present Church was laid on 5 September 1881 and it was open for worship on 11 May 1882. The brief history of this Church makes no mention of its war memorial. It is a brass plaque, mounted on an oak frame, with incised lettering, inscription and names surrounded by a foliate border. It has been highly polished over the years and its reflection makes it a challenge for an amateur photographer. It commemorates six men and has the dedication:

***IN LOVING & GRATEFUL MEMORY OF THE MEN ASSOCIATED
WITH THIS CHURCH WHO FOUGHT FOR THEIR COUNTRY IN
THE GREAT WAR,, 1914-1918.***

THE FOLLOWING WHO WERE FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH.

* <https://www.surbitonhillmethodist.co.uk/welcome.htm>



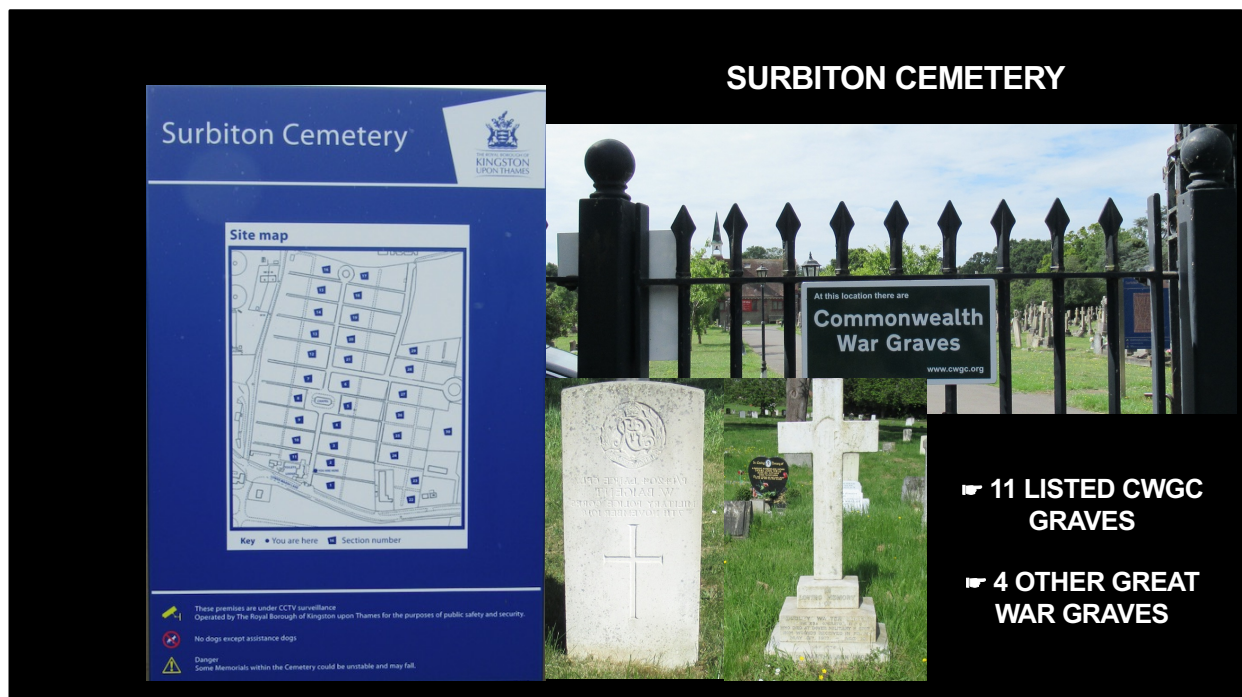
SURBITON HILL METHODIST CHURCH



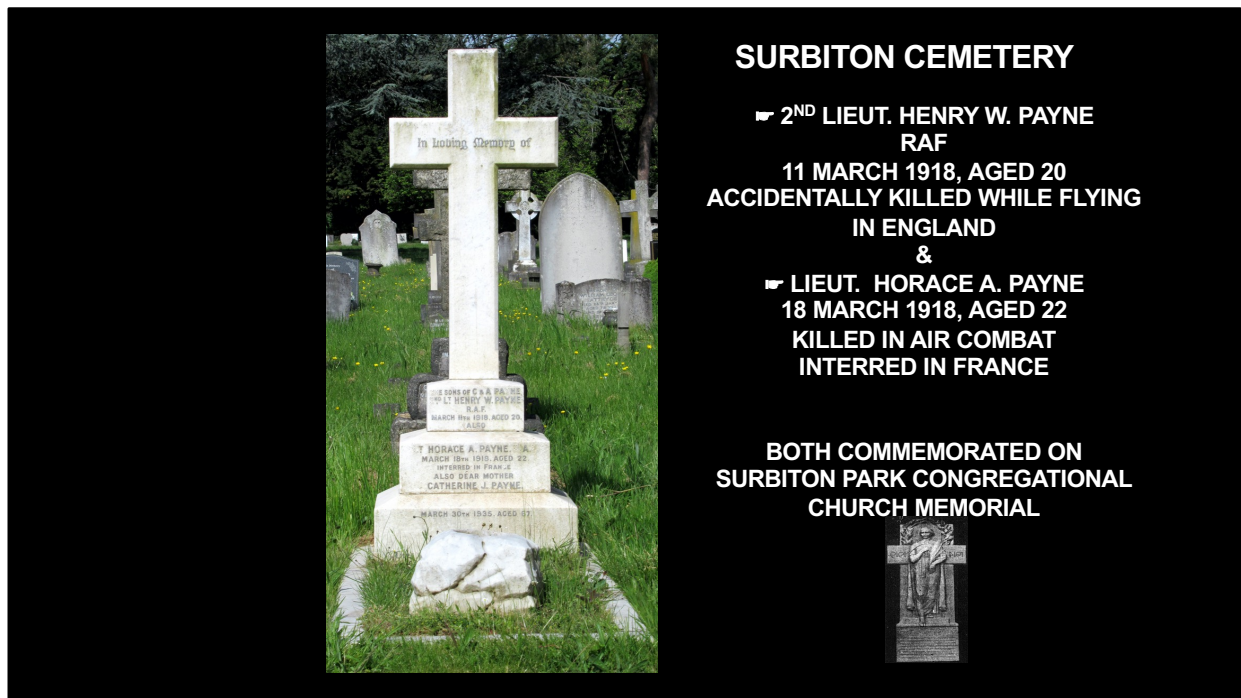
- ✚ **LT. CHARLES GARDNER ROUGHT, BORN SURBITON, EDUCATED AT CLIFTON COLLEGE.**
- ✚ **CHAMPION ROWER, 1912 OLYMPICS IN SWEDEN.**
- ✚ **CAPTURED IN FRANCE, 29 DECEMBER 1914, VARIOUS GERMAN POW CAMPS.**
- ✚ **DIED OF FOOD POISONING AFTER A DINNER PARTY, LONDON, 31 JANUARY 1919.**

**The memorial commemorates S. G. Chivers, MC, H. Clark, H. Hall, MM, C. G. Rought, A.J. Shaw and H. J. White.
Lieutenant Charles Gardner Rought was:**

- ✚ **Born in Surbiton and educated at Clifton College, Bristol, & France.**
- ✚ **A champion rower who was in the 1912 Olympics, Sweden.**
- ✚ **Captured on the Western Front on 29 December 1914.**
- ✚ **Held in various German POW camps until repatriation after the Armistice.**
- ✚ **He died of food poisoning after a dinner party in a London restaurant on 31 January 1919, before demobilization.**
- ✚ **His funeral was at the Methodist Church. His body was cremated at Woking and his ashes were buried in St Nicholas' churchyard, Thames Ditton.**



Surbiton Cemetery opened in 1915. It has eleven listed Commonwealth War Graves Commission Great War burials and four other Great War period burials.



Among others, Surbiton Cemetery has the graves of:

- ✦ **2nd Lieutenant Henry Payne, RAF, who was accidentally killed when flying in England on 11 March 1918, aged 20.**
- ✦ **His brother, Lieutenant Horace Payne, who was killed in air combat on the Western Front, on 18 March 1918, aged 22, is buried in France and is commemorated on the gravestone.**
- ✦ **Both were commemorated on the Surbiton Park Congregational Church's memorial & the Surbiton UDC memorial.**



Surbiton Cemetery has the grave of Dudley Imber, Wireless Operator, Royal Flying Corps:

- ✦ **He died in Dover Military Hospital, on 5 May 1917, aged 19, from wounds received on the Western Front, in France.**
- ✦ **He is commemorated on St Mark's Church Roll of Honour & on the Surbiton UDC memorial.**



SURBITON CEMETERY

➤ **CSM FRANK WALTER
STACEY**

EAST SURREY REGIMENT

10 JANUARY 1918

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

Surbiton Cemetery has the grave of Company Sergeant Major Frank Stacey of the East Surrey Regiment:

- **He died of pulmonary tuberculosis on 10 January 1918, aged 35, at the Brook War Hospital. Woolwich.**
- **In the 1911 Census, he was married and living at 17 King Charles Crescent, Surbiton.**
- **He is commemorated on the Christ Church and Surbiton UDC memorials.**



SURBITON CEMETERY



Mildred Eleanor Feeney

✦ MILDRED ELEANOR FEENEY, VAD ,
FROM KILKENNY, IRELAND

RN HOSPITAL, CHATHAM

INFLUENZA, 8 NOVEMBER 1918

Surbiton Cemetery has the grave of Mildred Eleanor Feeney, a Voluntary Aid Detachment [VAD] nurse, from Kilkenny, Ireland. She was posted to the Royal Naval Hospital, Chatham, where, after a short period of service, she contracted influenza and sadly she died on 8 November 1918. After he died in Ireland, her father's body was brought to England and buried in the same grave. It is likely that the burial arrangements were made by Ethel Mary Maile, Mildred's sister. She was the wife of Dr William Maile, a Kingston GP, and was a parishioner of St Agatha's Church, Kingston.

“SPANISH INFLUENZA” PANDEMIC, 1918-1920

- 500 MILLION INFECTED, GLOBALLY
- 17-50 MILLION DEATHS, GLOBALLY
- 250,000 DEATHS IN UK



1918, MADRID, 80,000 AFFECTED
BY “THREE DAY FEVER”,
INCLUDING THE KING OF SPAIN

Nurse Mildred Feeney was a victim of the “Spanish Influenza” Pandemic of 1918-1920. It was so-called because it was first reported in Spain, a neutral country in the Great War, when other outbreaks went unreported because of the prevailing censorship of newspapers. The headline in *El Sol* of 28 May 1918 talks of 80,000 people in Madrid being afflicted by “the three day fever” and that the King of Spain was sick.

It is estimated that 500 million people were infected globally and of these there were 17-50 million deaths. In the UK there were an estimated 250,000 deaths.

“SPANISH INFLUENZA” PANDEMIC DEATHS

- George Brown, GREECE, 24 SEPTEMBER 1918
- ↓
- Edward Workman, MESOPOTAMIA, 4 OCTOBER 1918
- ↓
- George Hepworth, INDIA, 7 OCTOBER 1918
- ↓
- John Wagner, ENGLAND, 26 OCTOBER 1918
- ↓
- Walter Baigent, ENGLAND, 7 NOVEMBER 1918
- ↓
- Mildred Feeney, ENGLAND, 8 NOVEMBER 1918
- ↓
- Charles Read, ENGLAND, 14 NOVEMBER 1918
- ↓
- Arthur Gibbard, FRANCE, 18 NOVEMBER 1918
- ↓
- John Green, FRANCE, 18 NOVEMBER 1918
- ↓
- William Brine, ENGLAND, 24 NOVEMBER 1918
- ↓
- Stephen Read, EAST AFRICA, 11 DECEMBER 1918
- ↓
- Lionel Moultrie, ENGLAND, 23 APRIL 1919



**DATA FROM
SURBITON GREAT
WAR MEMORIALS &
CEMETERY**

Great War memorials and graves in Surbiton identify twelve victims of the “Spanish Influenza” Pandemic that occurred from 24 September 1918 to 23 April 1919. The deaths occurred in Greece, Mesopotamia, France, East Africa and England.

These findings are echoed by reports of twelve deaths attributable to influenza in the Kingston Roll of Honour. The deaths occurred from 4 November 1918–12 April 1919, in Britain, Italy, East Africa, Bulgaria, France and in men serving in the British Army of Occupation in Germany.

The truly global nature of the Pandemic is illustrated by this information.



Shrewsbury House Preparatory School in Ditton Road, Surbiton, was established in 1865.* It remains a fee-paying establishment. In 1919 it installed a memorial to former staff and pupils who had served in the Great War, 1914-1919. It has 41 names of those who served, including those who survived the conflict. It has the dedication:

ALTISSIMA ADEPTI

With reference to the school motto, *Alta Peto*, which is translated as “Aim High”, the dedication can be translated as:

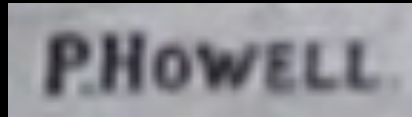
***“THE HIGHEST OF THOSE WHO AIMED HIGH” OR,
“THE HIGHEST ACHIEVERS”***

This indicates a view that the highest aim is to serve your country, even if that puts your life at risk.

- <https://www.shrewsburyhouse.net>



SHREWSBURY HOUSE SCHOOL



BRIGADIER-GENERAL PHILIP HOWELL, CMG

➤ **BAPTISED, ST MARK'S SURBITON, 7 JANUARY 1878**

➤ **SHREWSBURY HOUSE SCHOOL → LANCING COLLEGE → RMA, SANDHURST**

➤ **KILLED IN ACTION BY A STRAY SHELL, FRANCE, 7 OCTOBER 1916, AGED 38**

➤ **NOT ON ST MARK'S ROLL OF HONOUR OR SURBITON UDC MEMORIAL**

The School's memorial commemorates Brigadier-General Philip Howell CMG, the highest ranking officer found on any Surbiton Great War Memorial. He was baptised at St Mark's Surbiton and, after Shrewsbury House School, attended Lancing College and the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. He was a most distinguished soldier who obtained rapid promotion and was a lifelong friend of Field Marshal Douglas Haig. Brigadier-General Howell was killed, aged 38, by a stray shell on the Western Front in France on 7 October 1916. He had gone to see the combat zone for himself, unlike other high-ranking staff officers who tended to remain behind the front lines. He is not commemorated on St Mark's Roll of Honour or on the Surbiton UDC memorial.



SHREWSBURY HOUSE SCHOOL

G. DE MATTOS



MAJOR GERALD CAMBER DE MATTOS, MC

SHREWSBURY HOUSE SCHOOL → KING'S
SCHOOL, CANTERBURY → COMMISSIONED,
EAST LANCASHIRE REGIMENT

DIED OF WOUNDS, 11 AUGUST 1919, RUSSIA

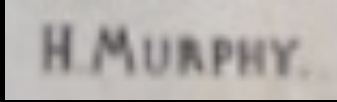
BURIED IN ARCHANGEL ALLIED CEMETERY,
RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Major Gerald De Mattos, MC, of the East Lancashire Regiment, went to King's School, Canterbury after Shrewsbury House School. He died in northern Russia, aged 28, on 11 August 1919. He was fighting against Bolshevik forces. He is buried in Archangel Allied Cemetery, Russian Federation. His name is not on the Surbiton UDC memorial.

Sub-Lieutenant Osman Giddy, DSC, is named on the Shrewsbury House memorial. He went to the RN College at Osborne before he entered the RN College at Dartmouth. He took part in the raid on the Bolshevik fleet at Kronstadt. On 18 August 1919, he was wounded and captured, but survived the Great War.



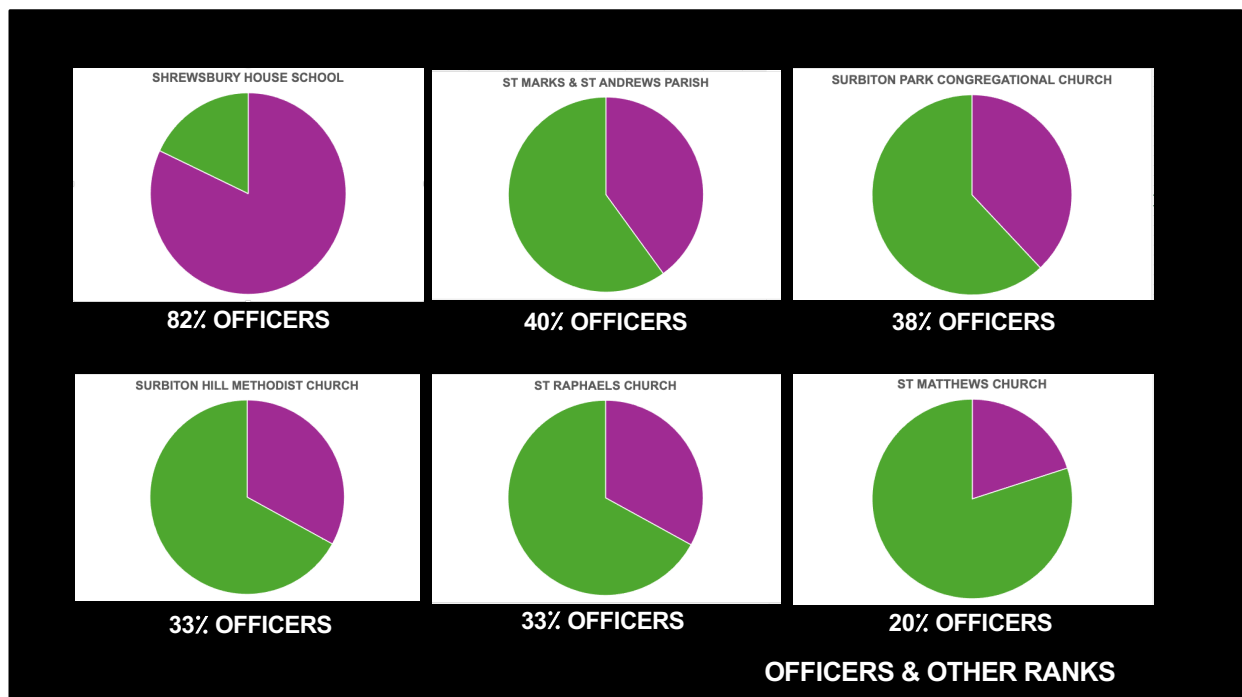

SHREWSBURY HOUSE SCHOOL



RSM. HENRY MICHAEL MURPHY, DCM, ROYAL DUBLIN FUSILIERS

- BOER WAR VETERAN
- DRILL SERGEANT & RIFLE SHOOTING INSTRUCTOR
- KILLED IN ACTION, WESTERN FRONT, 17 MAY 1918

Born in Dublin, Regimental Sergeant Major Henry Michael Murphy, DCM, of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers is listed on the Shrewsbury House memorial. He was a veteran of the Boer War who was the school's drill sergeant and rifle shooting instructor. After war was declared he returned to his old regiment. The 1911 Census recorded him living with his wife and young child at Shrewsbury House Lodge, Ditton Hill, Surbiton. He was killed in action on the Western Front on 17 May 1918. He is commemorated on the Surbiton UDC memorial. The fact that Shrewsbury House Preparatory School had a drill sergeant and rifle shooting instructor on its staff suggests that there was an objective to prepare boys with an option of a military career as an officer. This is evidenced by the aforementioned cases of Brigadier-General Howell [RMA, Sandhurst] and Sub-Lieutenant Giddy [RN Colleges Osborne & Dartmouth].



When comparing the numbers of officers and other ranks listed on the Surbiton memorials, it becomes clear that the Shrewsbury House School had the highest percentage of officers. It had roughly 82% of officers, while the other memorials listed 20-40% of officers. It begs the question, what were the criteria for selection of recruits for officer-training in the Great War period?

SELECTION OF OFFICERS IN 1914

- IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM WEBSITE: *"in a country defined by class only, gentlemen from the upper and middle classes were expected to become new officers in 1914"*
- CONCISE OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY: *gentleman is a man of good breeding, or man with good social position, or man of wealth and leisure*
- 1911 CENSUS: *sought information from the population as an indicator of social position*
- PROBATE RECORDS: *evidence of wealth accumulated in a lifetime*



SELECTION OF OFFICERS IN 1914

- According to an Imperial War Museum website: *"in a country defined by class, only gentlemen from the upper & middle classes were expected to become new officers in 1914."* see:
<https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/from-civilian-to-first-world-war-soldier-in-8-steps>
- According to the Concise Oxford English Dictionary, *"a gentleman is a man of good breeding, or a man with good social position, or a man of wealth and leisure."*
- The 1911 Census: sought information on social position.
- Probate records: provide evidence of wealth accumulated in a lifetime.

SUGGESTED INDICATORS OF CLASS – AVAILABLE EVIDENCE

LOWER & MIDDLE CLASS

- MAP SHOWS COMPARATIVELY LARGE HOUSE
- 1911 CENSUS, HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD PROFESSIONAL OR LIVES ON OWN MEANS
 - 1911 CENSUS, HOUSE HAS MORE ROOMS THAN OCCUPANTS
 - 1911 CENSUS, EMPLOYMENT OF RESIDENT SERVANTS
 - PROBATE RECORDS – ACCUMULATED WEALTH
 - MILITARY & OTHER RECORDS
- PARENTS COULD AFFORD PRIVATE SCHOOL & HIGHER EDUCATION COSTS

WORKING CLASS

- NONE OF THE ABOVE

If social class is a factor in officer-selection, what evidence is available to indicate social class?

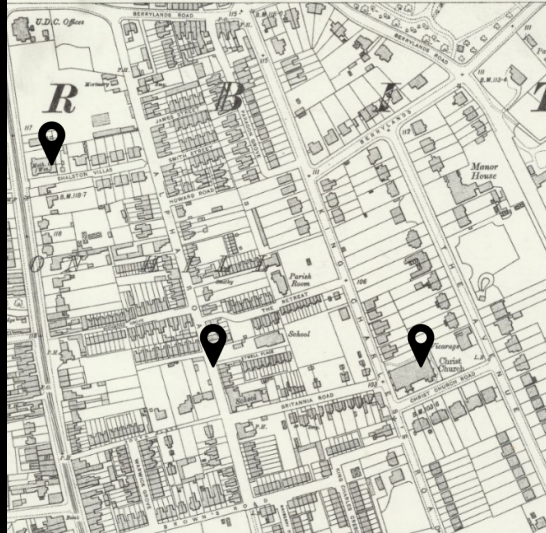
LOWER & MIDDLE CLASSES

- Old maps indicate comparatively large houses.
- 1911 Census - head of household has a profession or lives on private means.
 - 1911 Census - more rooms than occupants.
 - 1911 Census - resident servants.
 - Probate records – accumulated wealth.
- Military & other records – evidence that parents could afford private school & higher education costs.

WORKING CLASS

- None of the above.

The validity of this approach will now be explored.



OS, 1912, 25 INCH/MILE

ALPHA ROAD, SURBITON

- ✦ 8 MEN DIED IN GREAT WAR
- ✦ MOSTLY RELATIVELY LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS
- ✦ SMALL HOUSES, 4-7 ROOMS
- ✦ SOME OVER-CROWDING
- ✦ ACCUMULATED WEALTH = 1
- ✦ NO RESIDENT SERVANTS
- ✦ NO OFFICERS
- ✦ OVERALL, "WORKING CLASS ROAD"

ALPHA ROAD, SURBITON, CHRIST CHURCH PARISH

Christ Church, Surbiton Hill Methodist Church and Alpha Road are identified by marker pins.

- ✦ 8 Men from Alpha Road died in Great War.
- ✦ Mostly, relatively low-income households, with reference to occupation of head of household.*
 - ✦ Small houses, 4-7 rooms.
 - ✦ Some over-crowding, more occupants than rooms.
- ✦ Probate - accumulated wealth in only one case – the graduate son of the local schoolmaster.
 - ✦ No resident servants.
 - ✦ No officers
- ✦ Conclusion: Overall, a "working class road".

***See, Guy Routh, 1965, Occupation and pay in Great Britain, 1906-60, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.**



SURBITON, 1915, ST MARK'S & ST ANDREW'S PARISH AREA, OS, 25 INCH/MILE

ST MARKS & ST ANDREW'S PARISH AREA

St Mark's Church, St Andrew's Church, Surbiton Park Congregational Church, Cleaveland Road, Claremont Road, Adelaide Road and Avenue Elmers are identified with marker pins. Houses of different sizes can be seen.



CLEAVELAND ROAD, SURBITON

- 9 MEN DIED IN GREAT WAR
- RELATIVELY LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLDS
- SMALL HOUSES, 4 & 5 ROOMS
- SOME OVER-CROWDING
- LODGERS & BOARDERS
- NO RESIDENT SERVANTS
- NO ACCUMULATED WEALTH
- NO OFFICERS
- “WORKING CLASS ROAD”

1915, OS, 25 INCH/MILE

CLEAVELAND ROAD

**St Andrew’s Church, Surbiton Park Congregational Church
and Cleaveland Road are identified with marker pins.**

- ✚ 9 men from Cleaveland Road died in Great War.
- ✚ Relatively low income households with reference to occupation of head of household.
- ✚ Small, mainly terraced houses – 4 & 5 rooms.
- ✚ Some overcrowding, more occupants than rooms.
 - ✚ Lodgers & boarders evident.
 - ✚ No resident servants.
- ✚ Probate - no accumulated wealth.
 - ✚ No officers.
- ✚ Conclusion: a “working class” road.



CLAREMONT ROAD AREA, SURBITON

- ✦ 3 MEN DIED IN GREAT WAR
- ✦ HIGH INCOME HOUSEHOLDS
- ✦ LARGE HOUSES, 12-15 ROOMS
- ✦ NO OVER-CROWDING
- ✦ ACCUMULATED WEALTH
- ✦ RESIDENT SERVANTS
- ✦ ALL OFFICERS
- ✦ “UPPER & MIDDLE CLASS AREA”

1915, OS, 25 INCH/MILE

CLAREMONT ROAD, ADELAIDE ROAD & AVENUE ELMERS

These roads and St Mark’s Church are identified with marker pins.

- ✦ 3 men from the roads died in Great War.
- ✦ Relatively high income households with reference to occupation of head of household [general medical practitioner, motor manufacturer & private means].
- ✦ Large houses – 12-15 rooms.
- ✦ No over-crowding, more rooms than occupants.
- ✦ Probate – accumulated wealth.
- ✦ Resident servants.
- ✦ All 3 deceased men were officers.
- ✦ Conclusion: an “upper & middle class area”.



GENTLEMAN FROM THE UPPER OR MIDDLE CLASS?

HENRY CROSSLEY FIELDING, CAPTAIN IN INDIAN ARMY, COMMISSIONED IN 1904

- **SHREWSBURY HOUSE PREP. SCHOOL → LANCING COLLEGE → RMA, SANDHURST**
- **FATHER, OWN MEANS, FORMERLY A SOLICITOR, WELL-KNOWN SURREY CRICKETER**
- **1911 CENSUS, HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD, MOTHER, 10 ROOMS, 3 OCCUPANTS, 2 SERVANTS**
- **PROBATE. CAPT. FIELDING, £971 IN 1915 – MOTHER, £109,069 IN 1936**

A GENTLEMAN FROM THE “UPPER OR MIDDLE CLASS”?

**Henry Crossley Fielding, Captain in Indian Army
First commissioned in 1904.**

- **Shrewsbury House Prep. School → Lancing College Public School → Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.**
- **Father, living on own means, former solicitor, well-known & well-connected Surrey cricketer.**
- **1911 Census, head of household, widowed mother, 10 rooms, 3 occupants, including 2 resident servants.**
- **Probate – Captain Fielding, £971 in 1915 [£ 57,280 in 2017, worth roughly 8 year’s wages of a skilled tradesman in 1915]. Mother, £109,070 in 1936 [£5.5 million in 2017, worth roughly 210 years wages of a skilled tradesman in 1936.**
- **Conclusion: Captain Henry Crossley Fielding was a “gentleman from the upper or middle class”.**



WORKING CLASS BACKGROUND?

SAPPER SIDNEY HARMSWORTH, ROYAL ENGINEERS

▮ **ST PAUL'S PAROCHIAL SCHOOL, KINGSTON
→ LABOURER, RAILWAY COMPANY**

▮ **FATHER, NIGHT WATCHMAN**

▮ **1911 CENSUS, 5 ROOMS, 7 OCCUPANTS,
INCLUDING 1 BOARDER, NO SERVANTS**

▮ **NO PROBATE, NO EVIDENCE OF ACCUMULATED
WEALTH**

A “WORKING CLASS” MAN?

**Sapper Sidney Harmsworth, Royal Engineers,
volunteered May, 1915**

▮ **St Paul's Parochial School, Kingston → labourer, railway.**

▮ **Father, night watchman.**

▮ **1911 Census, head of household, father, 5 rooms, 7
occupants including 1 boarder, no resident servants.**

▮ **No probate record, no evidence of accumulated wealth.**

▮ **Conclusion: Sapper Sidney Harmsworth was a
“working class” man.**

COMISSIONED FROM THE RANKS, VIA OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS

2nd LIEUT. DOUGLAS GUILLE NISBIT, SOUTH WALES BORDERERS

- SHREWSBURY HOUSE SCHOOL → MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE → INNS OF COURT OTC →
ENLISTED → COMMISSIONED
- FATHER, MANTLE MANUFACTURER
- 1911 CENSUS, HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD, FATHER, 15 ROOMS, 7 OCCUPANTS, 3 SERVANTS
- PROBATE. £157 IN 1916

CAPT. CLAUD HUMPSTON WOOLLATT, ROYAL WEST SURREY REGIMENT

- SHREWSBURY HOUSE SCHOOL → MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE → INNS OF COURT OTC
ENLISTED → COMMISSIONED
- MOTHER, PRIVATE MEANS
- 1911 CENSUS, HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD, MOTHER, 8 ROOMS, 6 OCCUPANTS, 2 SERVANTS
- PROBATE. £1,971 IN 1916

COMMISSIONS FROM THE RANKS, VIA OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS [OTCs]

OTCs were established to enable suitable men to become officers.* The Inns of Court OTC was the destination of some of the men listed on the Surbiton memorials. The examples given, 2nd Lieut. Douglas Nisbit and Capt. Claud Woollatt, indicate upper or lower middle class backgrounds and an educational progression from preparatory school, to public school followed by an OTC before enlistment, followed by rapid commission.

* <https://www.longlongtrail.co.uk/soldiers/a-soldiers-life-1914-1918/training-to-be-a-soldier/officer-training-in-the-british-army-of-19141918/#:~:text=Officer%20Cadet%20Units,have%20been%20with%20an%20OTC>

**2ND LIEUTENANT ARTHUR JAMES SHAW, ROYAL FLYING CORPS ON
SURBITON HILL METHODIST CHURCH MEMORIAL**

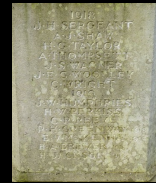
➤ **PROMOTED THROUGH THE RANKS TO A COMMISSION**

➤ **AIR MECHANIC → SERGEANT → MENTION IN DISPATCHES → COMMISSION**



➤ **FLYING TRAINING**

➤ **1911 CENSUS, FATHER "JOINER IN MOTOR WORKS",
ARTHUR SHAW, "WORKS IN MOTOR WORKS"
5 ROOMS, 5 OCCUPANTS, NO RESIDENT SERVANTS**



➤ **NO PROBATE RECORD, NO EVIDENCE OF ACCUMULATED WEALTH**

PROMOTED FROM THE RANKS TO A COMMISSION

2nd Lieutenant Arthur James Shaw, Royal Flying Corps.

➤ **Air Mechanic → Sergeant → Mention in Dispatches →
Commission → flying training.**

➤ **1911 Census, father, "joiner in motor works", Arthur "works
in motor works", 5 rooms, 5 occupants, no resident servants.**

➤ **No probate record, no evidence of accumulated wealth.**

This is the only example of a commission from the ranks of a man on a Surbiton memorial who apparently had a working class background. The evidence suggests that a commission from the ranks was more common in the Royal Flying Corps.



CONCLUSIONS

The Great War period casualties were on an unprecedented scale, including civilian non-combatant deaths, and caused an influx of Belgian refugees to the UK, some of which were accommodated in the Surbiton area. The global conflict introduced new methods of warfare, including air combat, long distance bombardment, and poison gas. All of these added to the old risks of warfare: being killed by the enemy and disease. A newly emergent disease, “Spanish Influenza”, raged during 1918-1920 and it is estimated that it caused up to 50 million deaths, globally. I have looked behind the names on the Surbiton memorials, considered how they got there, how some of the men lived and how they died, some in foreign parts. Setting aside those in the service of the Crown on 4 August 1914, In my opinion, the motivation of volunteers was “King & Country” – simply patriotism – often coupled with a desire for what promised to be an adventure away from their humdrum, static civilian lives. The research highlighted the different social classes in Surbiton during the period of study. If you would like to know more about all of this, I invite you to visit my website:

www.kingstonhistoryresearch.co.uk

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MORE INFORMATION

www.kingstonhistoryresearch.co.uk

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More information is available on:

www.kingstonhistoryresearch.co.uk