

THE VILLAGE WAR MEMORIAL

Situate King's Walden Road opposite the Church Lych gate. The memorial consists of a slender Crucifix on three octagonal bases. It is constructed of Portland Stone and is approximately four metres high. The figure of Christ was taken from a carving in Worcester Cathedral.

It was unveiled on 7th March 1920 by Viscount Hampden the Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire and dedicated by the Rev. E.P. Gatty, the Vicar of the Parish. The cost of the memorial was £215 and it was designed and built by Messrs Farmer & Brindley of London.

Details of the Church War Memorials are contained in the Section dealing with other memorials within the church.

Upper Octagon 1914/19

6 o'clock.

IN MEMORY OF THE MEN OF OFFLEY WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE GREAT WAR 1914-1919 SUCH A DEATH IS IMMORTALITY

7.30 o'clock

- 1915 FREDERICK DYER FREDERICK HARPER EDWARD REGINALD GRAHAM-HUGHES JOE WALKER
- 1916 SIDNEY THOMAS FLECKNEY BERTIE GEORGE MARLOW WILLIAM HARRY MOODY
- 1917 HAROLD WALTER CAIN CHARLES DAVIS

4.30 o'clock

- 1917 CHARLES GOSLING JOHN MONK HENRY ERNEST PEARCE CECIL BERNARD WILMOT
- 1918 GEORGE FREDERICK FLECKNEY ALBERT CHARLES MARLOW GEORGE HERBERT NEGUS ALBERT JOSEPH TOMPKINS
- 1919 ROBERT STANLEY BIRD

Middle Octagon 1939/46

6 o'clock

AND IN THE WORLD WAR 1939-1946

7.30 o'clock

DERRICK O'FLAHERTY LEWIS HILL FREDERICK ROSE WILLIAM CLARK CHARLES PILKINGTON MARK PILKINGTON WILLIAM HUMPHREY

4.30 o'clock

EDWARD GEORGE EWINGTON ERNEST SAVILLE HAROLD WINCH KENDRICK SALUSBURY HUGHES LEWIS WILLIAM WEBB HUBERT SAMUEL BUNKER RONALD WATTS

First World War

Supplementary Information (S.5, S.27, S.39 & other Sources as noted)

- BIRD ROBERT STANLEY. Pte in the Labour Corps No.160850. Died 22.1.1919 aged 20 at Grayling War Hospital, Chichester. He was buried at Offley, see Churchyard Memorial 081.
- CAIN HAROLD WALTER Pte 1st Herts. Volunteered Sep 1914. Western Front 1915. Killed in action at Ypres 16 November 1917. Buried British Cemetery South of Ypres known as Bedford House Cemetery, Belgium. His actual grave location is Enclosure No.4, Plot I, Row F, Grave 8 (S.141). Entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War and Victory Medals. Address Angel Cottage, Offley. According to the Parish Magazine he was accidentally killed. He may also have been in the Buffs. According to "Soldiers Died" he was born Offley, Enlisted Hatfield. Resided Offley. Service No. 265748.
- DAVIS CHARLES. Born Offley. Enlisted Luton. 48231. Pte. Killed in action 31.7.1917. Royal Fusiliers, 12th Battalion, 17th Brigade, 24th Division, II Corps, 5th Army. The Battalion was in the vicinity of Shrewsbury Wood north of Hollebeke which is south west of Ypres in Belgium. Their attack was partly successful but strong German opposition from snipers and from a strongpoint at Tower Hamlets made them withdraw to 500 yds east of the Bassevillebeck. The Battalion lost 9 officers and 170 other ranks that day. He is buried at Ypres Reservoir Cemetery, Belgium at Plot X, Row F, Grave 17 (S.141, 162 & 163).
- DYER FREDERICK. L/Cpl 1st Northamptons No. 7356. Born Offley Enlisted Hitchin. Already serving at commencement of war he had served in India for three years. In Retreat from Mons and presumed killed in action on 9.5.1915. He had been missing for some time. Entitled to Mons Star, British War and Victory Medals. Address Garden Fields, Offley. He left a wife, Mrs S. Dyer, and three children. This is the same person as DYER EDWARD recorded on the Church War Memorial C15 (S.8v). See Churchyard Memorial 192 for his brother and his parents. He was 32 years of age and the first soldier from Offley to be killed. He had been in several engagements and on one occasion had part of his cap badge shot away (S.54). Remembered at Le Touret Memorial, France on Panels 28/9/30 (S.141).
- FLECKNEY GEORGE FREDERICK. Pte. He was in the 9th Battalion Royal Sussex Regimental No. G.14538. He was born at Mangrove. Enlisted at Bedford. Killed in action 21.3.1918. He is remembered on the Pozieres Memorial in France on Panels 46 & 47. He was aged 22 years and was the son of George and Hannah Fleckney (S.141). The 9th Battalion was part of the 73rd Brigade, 24th Division, XIX Corps of the 5th Army on the first day of the great and last German Offensive. He was probably killed near Jeancourt north west of St Quentin in the 24th Division Battle Zone when men of the 9th Royal Sussex came up from reserve (S.164).
- FLECKNEY SIDNEY THOMAS. Born Kings Walden. Enlisted Luton. 13164. Pte. Killed in action France or Flanders 4.6.1916. 1st Bedfords. He was reported missing after an engagement on the 4th June 1916. The Parish Magazine states 2nd Bedfords whereas elsewhere he is shown as 1st Bedfords. Unlikely to be the 2nd Bedfords as they were "resting" out of the line at the time (S.131). The 1st Battalion of the Bedfords were in and out of the front line at Roclingcourt near Arras and he was most probably killed during a trench raid. He was aged 23 years and the son of George and Hannah Fleckney. He is remembered on the Arras Memorial, France on Bay 5 (S.141).
- GOSLING CHARLES. Brigadier General C.M.G. Born Offley June 1868 and educated at Eton. He was commissioned into the Royal Irish Rifles on the 22nd August 1888 and transferred to the King's Royal Rifle Corps the following November as a 2nd Lieut (S.39-1917 & S.53). He served nearly the whole of his service abroad. He was aboard the Royal Indian Navy Marine Troopship Warren Hastings when it was wrecked off the island of Reunion on the 14th January 1896. He was awarded the Silver Medal of the Royal Humane Society for twice attempting to save a man who had been washed overboard. Promoted to Lieutenant on 25th February 1891 and to Captain on 5th February 1897 (S.53). In Mounted Infantry during South

African War. In Natal 1899 and action at Rietfontein and the defence of Ladysmith. Served also in Cape Colony and Orange River Colony. On the 23rd April 1900 he was invalided home to Offley suffering from dysentry (see S.39, S.54 & S.56). He was a Captain when he was appointed Adjutant of the 5th Battalion on the 26th June 1901 (S.53). D.A.G. until May 1904. See Churchyard Memorial 004 for his commendations during the Boer War. In 1912 he took command of the 3rd K.R.R.C. in India and in 1914 took the Battalion to France and served with it until he was wounded in February 1915 in an attack on St Eloi. He returned to France in the following May and was given command of the 7th Infantry Brigade which he commanded for twelve months until he was severely wounded in May 1916. In this year he was made a C.M.G. Once again he returned to France, in December 1916 this time to command the 10th Infantry Brigade (S.156). In rank he was a Brigade Commander in 1915 with the temporary rank of Brig. General and the substantive rank of a Colonel.

At 6.00pm on the 10th April 1917 Charles was in command of the 10th Brigade of the 4th Division (Major General the Hon. W. Lambton) of the Third Army (General Sir Edmund Allenby). He received an order from Lambton to attack the Chemical Works and Greenland Hill the following morning. This was from a position to the east of Arras, immediately north east of Fampoux moving just south of east. The Brigade Major, Capt Hedworth Fellowes M.C. included in the orders "At 10.00am Seaforths will advance in fours down road to crossroad, then up sunken road to Hyderabad Redoubt". Unfortunately no one had told him that the road was not sunken for 50 yards. Also no one told the Seaforths or the 1st Royal Irish Fusiliers that the Chemical Works was strongly defended. No one had seen it and no one had surveyed it or was aware of the open plain over which they had to advance or that the artillery support was to be minimal. The two old regular army Battalions were mown down by 30 machine-guns. German accounts said the attack was "characterised by an exhibition of true British tenacity".

The failure of the attack resulted in the collapse of the whole 4th Division attack, as the flanking Brigades could not make headway against the machine-guns. Lambton was furious and in spite of 10th Brigade having lost 1,000 out of its 1,600 men, ordered them to attack again immediately. Gosling now sent for artillery support to bombard the Chemical Works and ordered the Seaforths and the 1st Royal Irish Fusiliers to attack again, not realising that he longer had a Brigade. By the time the order arrived therewere no Seaforths left and very few Fusiliers. It was a classic example of the bull- headedness which prevailed among the Staff and was used afterwards to illustrate the profligate use of men's lives. This attack was on the 11th April 1917. Without crushing artillery support and proper reconnaisance the infantry were doomed. The following day the South Africans were given orders to make an almost identical attack that had exactly the same result and almost annihilated the South African unit. On the 12th April 1917 Fellowes was killed by a sniper and Charles Gosling by a shell. They are buried side by side (S.39-1917, S.59 & S.134). He is buried at Mindel Trench British Cemetery, St Lawrent-Blagy, France (S.59) Row C, Grave 6 (S.141). This is just west of Arras towards Athies and south of Vimy Ridge and is the time of the first battle of the Scarpe. His wife was Mrs V.R. Gosling of Marlingford Hall, Norwich (S.141) and his father was Francis Gosling. See Churchyard Memorial 004.

HARPER FRED. Born Kings Walden. Enlisted Hitchin. He resided at Offley. 13942. Pte. Killed in action, France & Flanders on the 4.9.1916. He was in "C" Company, 1st Bedfords of the 15th Brigade 5th Division. He was the first Offley recruit according to the Parish Magazine. He was killed during the attack on Falfemont Farm which is approximately one mile south east of Guillemont. The weather was showery and an inch of rain fell during the day and the temperature was 66°F. The attack commenced on the 3rd September 1916 and included an attack on Wedge Wood. The farm had not been bombarded due to a mistake and machine-gun fire broke up the attack made by 13th Brigade, but was finally taken by the 1st Bedfords and 1st Cheshires of the 15th Brigade (S.128). He is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial, France Pier 2 Face C. He was the son of Anne Harper of Lilley and the late John Harper. His wife was Elizabeth Mary Harper who was buried at Offley on the 9th November 1918 aged 29 years (S10 & S.141).

HUGHES EDWARD REGINALD GRAHAM. See Church Memorial C08.

MARLOW ALBERT CHARLES. 1st Bn Hampshires. Pte No. 19738. He was born at Offley on the 25.12.1891 and educated at Offley. He enlisted at Offley on the 2.9.1914. He died on the

30th or 31st August 1918 two days after being wounded in France. He went to Salonika on the 22.9.1915 and was invalided to the United Kingdom in June 1918. He had previously been No. 13893 in the Bedfords (S.5). He died at 46 Casualty Clearing Station from wounds received on the 28.8.1918 and is buried in the Bac-du-Sud British Cemetery, France Plot I, Row F, Grave 9. His wife was Hilda Marlow (née Webb), Chestnut Row, Lilley and they were married at St Peter's, Lilley. They had a daughter Ellen Maud born on the 24.3.1913. His parents were George and Julia Marlow of Offley. He was aged 26 years (S.141 & S.165).

- MARLOW BERTIE GEORGE. 1st Herts, Pte, Regtl No. 3845, born and enlisted at Offley. He was killed instantly in 1916 when a shell landed in a trench (S.39-1916). S.5 states that he died of wounds on the 17th June 1916 in France or Flanders. He is buried at Plot V, Row E, Grave 45, Bethune Town Cemetery. He was the son of Mary Marlow of Offley. He was aged 25 years (S.141).
- MONK JOHN. Born Offley. Enlisted Hitchin. Resided at Offley. 14127 or 14177. Pte. Died of wounds, France & Flanders, 15.10.1917. 2nd Bedfords. He volunteered in Sep 1914 and was sent to the Western Front in 1915. Fought at Arras, Ypres and was killed in the Ypres Sector. The battle known as the Battle of Pilckem Ridge took place on the 31st July 1917 over rainsodden ground that had been shelled for days making movement in the clay mud very difficult. The 30th Division of which the 2nd Bedfords were in its 89th Brigade, had failed to keep up with the artillery barrage going through Sanctuary Wood and failed to take a strongpoint immediately north east of Clapham Junction on the Menin Road two miles east of Ypres. This was their only major engagement prior to John's death and if he was not wounded in it he almost certainly took part (S.129). Entitled to 1914/15 Star, British War and Victory Medals. Address Garden Fields, Offley. He is buried at Boulogne Eastern Cemetery, France at Plot VIII, Row I, Grave 58. He was aged 41 years and was the son of Joseph and Ann Monk (S.141).
- MOODY WILLIAM HARRY. Born Peckham Surrey. Enlisted Hitchin. Resided at Buntingford. 14167, Pte. Killed in action, France & Flanders, 27.7.1916. He was in the 1st Bedfords in the 15th Brigade of the 5th Division. It was a very hot day and hazy in the morning. The Brigade was to advance on the left of the 99th Brigade with the 1st Norfolks in front and the 1st Bedfords in support against Delville Wood. The Germans held the north of the village of Longueval. Fierce fighting took place all day and in particular in the area of a German redoubt called by the British, the Machine Gun House (S.128). He is remembered on Pier 2, Face C of the Thiepval Memorial, France (S.141).
- NEGUS GEORGE HERBERT. He was born either at Offley or at Northall near Royston on the 8.7.1888 and was educated at St Ippollitts School. He was a farm labourer at the time he enlisted at Hitchin on the 19.10.194. He resided at Offley. His Regimental Number was 4/7349 and he was a Corporal. He died of wounds in France & Flanders on the 27.1.1918. He served in the 8th Bedfords and went to France on the 18.8.1915. He was the son of farm labourer James and Mary Negus (née West) and married Constance Mary Read on the 8th December 1907 at Offley. Their home was at Mill Cottage, Offley. He died in the 1st South African General Hospital at Abbeville in France after being severely wounded four times according to the Parish Magazine. He is buried at Plot III, Row G, Grave 13 at Abbeville Communal Cemetery, France (S.141). He had four children, Maurice Charles born 12.9.1908, Tyrell James born 4.4.1911, Herbert Allan born 25.12.1917 and Laura Isobel born 21.6.1913 (S.165).
- PEARCE HENRY ERNEST. Enlisted at Hitchin. Resided at Angel Cottages, Offley. 60187, Pte. Killed in action on 14.4.1917. 32 Btn Royal Fusiliers formerly 6453 in the Bedfords according to "Soldiers Died" and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. According to the "National Register Luton" he volunteered in April 1915 and was sent to the Western Front 1915 and that he was in an engagement at Ypres and killed on the Somme on the 14.4.1916. At the time of his death the 32nd Battalion of the Royal Fusiliers was in the 124th Brigade of the 41st Division of X Corps in the 2nd Army. The Division was in the vicinity of St Eloi approximately 3 miles east of where he is buried. No major engagements were in progress in this sector at the time. His death on the Somme is therefore unlikely though he may well have been involved in this Sector in 1916. He was entitled to the 1914/15 Star,

British War and Victory Medals. It is probable that his family kept the "Red Lion" Public House (S.12). He is buried at the Dickebusch New Military Cemetery, Belgium at Row G, Grave 21. He was the son of Charles and Mary Ann Pearce of Angel Cottages, Offley and he was aged 35 years (S.141).

SMITH ALFRED JAMES. Not mentioned on the Village War Memorial as he died after the memorial had been erected in 1920. He died at the Military Hospital Colchester and was buried at Offley on 8th August 1922 aged 20 years.

TOMPKINS ALBERT JOSEPH. Probably from a farming family at Wandon End (S.12). He was born at Offley and enlisted at New Court Middlesex though he resided at Luton. His Regimental Number was 203540 and he was a Pte in the 2/4th Battalion Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry, a Territorial Force unit and had previously been No. 2779 in the Royal Bucks Huzzars. At the time of his death the Battalion was part of the 184th Brigade, 61st Division, XVIII Corps in the 5th Army. The Battalion was in the Forward Zone at Enghien Redoubt, 2 miles north west of St Quentin, facing the onslaught of the German Offensive that commenced that day. By 4.00pm the Battalion had been completely overwhelmed and very few of those killed have known graves. Long missing he was reported killed on the 21st March 1918 according to the Parish Magazine. He is remembered on the Pozieres Memorial, France on Panels 50 & 51. He was the son of Albert Edward and A. Tompkins, Crutchmore Green, Luton (S.141).

WALKER JOSEPH. Born Pirton, Enlisted Hitchin (Offley), 16092, Pte, Died at sea on 17.11.1915, 8th Bedfords. He had been wounded and he drowned when the hospital ship "Anglia" was mined in the Channel and 85 people were lost. He is buried at Flushing (Vlissingen) Northern Cemetery, Holland at Row 1, Grave 9. He was the son of Stephen and Emma Walker, Claypit Cottages, Offley and he was aged 22 years (S.141).

WILMOT CYRIL BERNARD. Born Hitchin, Enlisted Hitchin, 31770, Pte, Killed in action, France & Flanders, 2.1.1917, 11th Bn Northumberland Fusiliers. He is also mentioned on his parents gravestone in Offley Churchyard Memorial 140. He is buried at Railway Dugouts Burial Ground (Transport Farm) Zillebeke, Belgium at Plot VI, Row R, Grave 20 He was the son of Edwin and Elizabeth Wilmot of Offley and was aged 19 years (S.141).

Those who survived the Great War 1914-1918 (S.39-1919).

Royal Engineers

Wm. Stoten, Cpl

Geo. Harley, Cpl (See Churchyard Memorial 123).

Walter Claridge, Cpl Ed. King, Lce Cpl Ed. Taylor, Dvr Hugh Marlow, Dvr Chas. Claridge, Dvr Ernest Simkins, Sapper Albert Gutteridge, Driver

Leon Lake, Pte

A.V.C.

Frank Marlow, Pte A.H. Leary, Lce Cpl

A.S.C.

Guy Hughes, Lieut (See Churchyard Memorial 012) Art. Monk, Pte (See Churchyard Memorial 113).

Chas. Dyer, Pte Frank Monk, Pte Art. Whittenbury, Pte Reg. Simkins, Pte

King's Royal Rifles

Herbert Gosling, Major Fred Morley, Pte Oxford & Bucks L.I.

R. Hughes, Colonel Geo. Claridge, Sergt

Bedfords

Frank Drewitt, Lce Cpl Cushi Brown, 2nd Lieut Alfred Woodfield, Cpl

Albert Walker, Pte (See Churchyard Memorial 190).

John Day, Pte Frank Woodfield, Pte Alfred Martin, Pte Claud Cannon, Pte Charles Robinson, Pte Sidney Eddy, Pte Frank Folds, Trooper Jack Fleckney, Pte

Hy. Brown, Pte Nov 1914 - Dec 1918 Pte. Later Carpenter living

at Mount Pleasant The Mill, Offley (S.132).

Harry Simkins, Pte Geo. Simkins, Cpl Percy Claridge, Pte Ellis Willmott, Pte Geo. Gutteridge, Pte Wm. Cushing, Pte

R.A.M.C.

Geo. Hawkes, Pte Geo. Cannon, Pte John McDonald, Pte Wm. Craw, Pte Walter Hall, Pte

Machine Gun Corps

Reg. Davis, Pte 15 Jul 1915 - 29 May 1919 22916, 4th Bedfords & M.G.C.

Later a roadman. In 1946 living Chapeleside, Offley (S.132).

Walter Taylor, Lee Cpl Alfred McDonald, Pte Geo. Coles, Pte H.J. King, Pte Walter Flecknoe, Pte

Inns of Court O.T.C.

Geo. Hall, Lce Cpl

John Hall, Pte (See Churchyard Memorial 167).

Queen's

Frank Harper, Pte Fred Harper, Pte

Royal Sussex

Wm. Harper, Pte Harry Fleckney, Pte

Royal West Surreys

Jas. Dyke, Pte Harry Winch, Pte

Grenadier Guards

J. Hughes, Major

London Rifle Brigade

C.E. Johnston, Colonel

Northamptons

Herbert Woodfield, Pte (See Churchyard Memorial 227).

71st Leinsters

Geo. Davis, Lce Cpl (See Churchyard Memorial 163).

Hertfords

Fredk. Taylor, Pte

London Regt

Percy Cooke, Pte

Shropshire Yeomanry

F.Perkins, Lieut

Cheshires

John Marriott, Pte

Wiltshires

Hubert Horwood, Pte

Royal Fusiliers

Art. Hill, Pte

59th Divn Band

S. Bunker, Lce Cpl

R.M.L.I.

John Wilcox, Pte

George Waller, Engineer

Royal Navy

Eric White, Cadet

Middlesex

Chas. Dyke, Cpl

R.A.F.

J. White, Lieut

Walter Lake, 2nd Lieut Harold Monk, Cpl Alan Calder, Pte Horace Ayres, Engr. Maurice Lake, Cadet

R.G.A.

Geo. Monk, Gunner Geo. Dyer, R.S.S., Pte Fred Ayres, Gunner Chas. Harper, Gunner Walter Harper, Gunner

Ed. Burgess.

R.F.A.

Art. Marriott, Driver Ernest Marriott, Gunner Murray Woodfield, Driver

Essex

Chas. Hawkes, Sgt. Full name was Horace Charles Hawkes, 101486, 1/4th

Essex Regt from 1 Sep 1914 to Jan 1919 (S.132).

Frank Ayres, Pte

Princess Patricia's L.I.

Wm. Lake, Sergt

Royal Defence Corps

Chas. Dyke

Coldstream Guards

Fred. W. Cole, Pte

Labour Company

Alfred Monk, Pte Horace MacDonald, Pte

Lewis Ayres, Pte Geo. Day, Pte Art. Hares, Pte Geo. Clark, Pte Charles Chapman, Pte Jack Bird, Pte

Fred Davis, Pte Chas. Marlow, Pte Victor Horwood, Pte Henry Smith, Pte

Robert Bird, Pte (See Churchyard Memorial 081) Wm. Groom, Pte Bert Holton, Pte

Second World War

Supplementary Information (S.39, S.48 & other Sources as noted)

BUNKER HUBERT SAMUEL. Private in the Queen's Royal Regiment 2/5th Bn (West Surreys) Service No. 5959607. He died of wounds on the 14th October 1944 aged 38 years. Hubert had been brought up at Cockernhoe and attended Cockernhoe school. He was a keen footballer for Cockernhoe Club before the war. He was called up in December 1940 and served through the North African actions from Alamein to Tunisia until the German Afrika Corps and the Italians surrendered. He later took part in the landings at Salerno in Italy and advanced to the north east coast of Italy. Whilst at Ancona operating mortar bombs, an explosion killed a partner and gave Hubert fatal wounds. He was buried in the Ancona Military Cemetery. He left a widow, Mrs Lettie M. Bunker, and one child. His daughter visited his grave, which is at Plot II, Row M, Grave 20, in 1992 in company with her husband and Hubert's brother Stan aged 85 years. He was the son of Samuel and Eliza Bunker of Cockernhoe. Information from his daughter Tricia and the C.W.G.C.

CLARK WILLIAM. Leading Seaman in the Royal Navy Chatham Division Service No. C/JX 160256. He was killed on the 27th March 1943 aged 20 years. His home was at Elmtree Avenue, Cockernhoe and he volunteered for the Navy when he was 17. He saw service on the battleship H.M.S "Warspite" and made a visit to Pearl Harbour. In 1942 he was included in a crew sent from Britain to America to man the American aircraft carrier U.S.S. "Rio de Janeiro", a banana boat converted to an escort aircraft carrier by the Americans in 3 months of The vessel was being loaned to the Royal Navy for the protection of the Arctic convoys to Russia. The ship, renamed H.M.S. "Dasher", was later to return from Arctic waters due to damage in heavy seas, to Dundee and the refit port of Greenock in Scotland. Whilst off the Isle of Arran and refuelling its aircraft, a high octane explosion erupted and sank the ship in four minutes, watched by eyewitnesses on the Arran shore. Of the ship's complement of 500 only 120 survived and William was one of those reported missing and later presumed dead. Relatives of the dead and missing were refused information from the War Office at the time. His parents were Henry H. & Agnes J. Clark. On the 50th Anniversary of the disaster, 27th March 1993, survivors attended a memorial service at the location of the incident. William's brother John was able to attend. He is remembered on the Chatham Memorial to the Missing Panel 68, Col 1. Information from his sister Mary and brother John and the C.W.G.C.

EWINGTON EDWARD GEORGE. Sergeant Rear Gunner in the R.A.F, Service No. 1883514. He was killed on the 4th April 1944 aged 19 years. Ted, one of three brothers, was born at Tea Green and attended Cockernhoe and Offley schools. He worked for Commer Cars Luton at the time of his call-up in 1941 and this was followed by training in Lancashire. Later he was drafted to a Lancaster bomber base at Doncaster. He took part in many operations over Germany, France and the Netherlands. On the 4th April 1944 whilst on operations over Belgium during a heavy storm, the Lancaster was struck by lightning and crashed. The crew of seven all perished, though initially Ted was posted as missing. He was buried at Plot I, Row B, Grave 2 in the military cemetery at Leopoldsburg, Belgium. He was husband of Jean Ewington. His parents were Arthur James and Lucy Ewington of Luton. Information from his brother William and the C.W.G.C.

HANDLEY ELSIE. Private in the A.T.S. She was killed on the 18th July 1944 aged 24 years. Elsie's home was at West End Farm, Offley where she lived with her family. After call- up into the A.T.S. as No. 830083, she was stationed at Colchester and assisted with aircraft location plotting. About 5.30am on the morning of the 18th July 1944 Offley was shrouded in mist. Elsie was at home on leave and Mr Handley and two of his sons had just arrived at the farm with the cows prior to milking. An R.A.F. aircraft in difficulties and coming in low, hit nearby trees, then a field and ricocheted on to the farmhouse. Elsie, her mother and her sister

were all killed as were the seven crew of the aircraft. Elsie, her mother and her sister were buried in the churchyard at Offley. Information from her brother George. See Churchyard Memorial 165. Her name appears on the Offley Church War Memorial but not on the Village War Memorial. The aircraft was a Lancaster III of 115 Squadron which had taken off from Witchford at 0420hrs on the 18th July 1944 and attacked a strong point in the battle area at Emieville. The seven crew were all killed and one of them, Sgt D.C. Clark, was later buried at Hitchin Cemetery ("Bomber Command Losses" by W.R. Chorley).

- HILL LEWIS ALBERT. Sergeant Pilot in the R.A.F.V.R. He was killed on the 18th October 1941 aged 22 years. He was born at Cockernhoe in 1919 and attended both Cockernhoe and Offley schools. After leaving school he was employed at Farr's Engineering and at Vauxhall Motors, Luton. He was a great cycling enthusiast prior to the war and covered hundreds of miles in the Southern Counties and North Wales with his two special mates Percy Ensbury and Doug Hodgson. In March 1939, in company with his cousin Derrick O'Flaherty, he volunteered for the R.A.F.V.R. at the Luton Flying Club. He was involved in the large scale bombing of Hitler's huge fleet of invasion barges moored at French ports in 1940, also the pinpoint bombing of the submarine bases at Brest. There were also several missions to Berlin and the cities of the Ruhr. He specialised in flying Wellington bombers and was at several air bases including R.A.F. Harwell in Berkshire and No.15 Squadron at Feltwell in Norfolk. At the time of his death he was in a rest period having completed 34 bombing operations. He was training a new pilot at the Lichfield Operational Training unit and the accident occurred when the trainee attempted to land in gusty weather conditions. He is buried at St Thomas's Church, Stopsley. His operational log is held by his sister Vera. He left a widow and one child, Derrick. Information from his sister Vera and brother Norman.
- HUGHES KENDRICK SALUSBURY. The son of Guy Salusbury Hughes (See Churchyard Memorial 012) and much of his childhood was spent at Offley Place. Educated at Eton, he gained a reputation for wild pranks and practical jokes. He served in the R.A.F.V.R. (S.8h) as No.705597 and was awarded the D.F.C. in December 1942. Air Ministry Bulletin 8823 dated 27th December 1942 makes the following citation "This officer has completed many sorties involving attacks on factories, marshalling yards and enemy airfields. He has always displayed great keenness and has destroyed three enemy aircraft". He was a Squadron Leader with 23 Squadron flying Boston IIIs and later Mosquitoes. He was engaged in numerous sorties when based in the U.K. including to Antwerp and Caen and was transferred to Malta on the 8th June 1943. After several sorties over Sicily and Italy, he and his navigator, Sgt Clark, failed to return from intruder duty in the Rome area, having left Luga in Malta at 2355 hrs on the 20th July 1943 in Mosquito X.HJ727. A week earlier he had flown to Tripoli and obtained German radio and signalling equipment which he later had fitted to his plane with the intention of confusing the enemy. It is possible that this may have contributed to his death, He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Malta Memorial at Malta on Panel 6, Column 1. The Memorial is at Floriana, King's Gate, the main entrance to Valletta (S.76). He was the husband of Mrs Audrey G.L. Salusbury Hughes of Warsash, Hants and their children were David and Pauline. He was aged 33 at the time of his death.
- HUMPHRIES WILLIAM DAVID. Sapper in the 540 Electrical and Mechanical Company, Royal Engineers, Service No. 6095280. He was killed on the 23rd August 1943 aged 22 years. He had volunteered for the Queen's Royal Regiment before transferring to the Royal Engineers. He had been stationed at Tea Green and was billeted with Mr & Mrs Brangwyn at the Blacksmith's house and before embarkation had married Cockernhoe girl Dorothy Ann Brown. He served in North Africa until the surrender of the German Afrika Corps and the Italians in Tunisia in 1943. He then took part in the invasion of Sicily and was engaged in bomb disposal operations when a booby trap explosion wounded him and he died the same day. His partner escaped with wounds. The Padre wrote to his widow saying that he had been buried on the side of Mount Etna but later his body was moved to the War Cemetery at Catania, Plot II, Row A, Grave 33. He was the son of Albert William and Winifred Humphries. Information from his sister-in-law Barbara and the C.W.G.C.
- O'FLAHERTY DERRICK EDWARD. Sergeant Pilot in the R.A.F.V.R. He was killed on the 25th October 1940 aged 21 years. His home was at Luton Road, Cockernhoe and he attended both Cockernhoe and Offley schools. He later joined the Luton Boys Club for whom he played

football and was an ardent fan of Luton Town Football Club. He also took up boxing with the Luton Boys Club and was quite a good club boxer for his weight. He was employed at Farr's Engineering of Luton. He had volunteered at the Luton Flying Club in March 1939 at the same time as his cousin Lewis Hill. His training took place at Padgate and other bases in the North West of England but included a stay at the old Metropole Hotel at Bexhill. He was given the Serial No. 745075. At one time he was with "C" Flight of 3 Squadron. He was attached to Fighter Command and specialised as a day fighter bomber pilot. At the end of the "Battle of Britain" in September 1940 when the Germans switched from mass day raids to night raids, R.A.F. fighter Squadrons were quickly converted to night fighters and the Blenheim proved the best available aircraft for the new role. It was during this conversion that Derrick lost his life. Whilst landing a Blenheim fighter bomber during night flying training exercises at the Stroud Gloucestershire R.A.F. Operational Training Unit, the undercarriage of his aircraft clipped the dry stone wall which surrounded the air base and he was killed. He was buried at St Hugh's Church, Cockernhoe. Information from his brother Kenneth and S.136.

PILKINGTON CHARLES LESLIE AND MARK LESLIE. See Churchyard Memorial 239.

ROSE FREDERICK CHARLES. Trooper in "A" Squadron of the 5th Royal Tank Regiment. He was killed on the 26th November 1941 aged 21 years. He attended Offley school and was keen on football. After leaving school he worked at a garage in Hitchin. His army number was 7932235 and he was posted to North Africa. On the 18th November 1941 General Auchinleck launched an attack codenamed "Crusader" against General Rommel for the relief of Tobruk. The battle was confused and ranged over hundreds of miles of desert and it was during this battle that Fred was killed. He has no known grave but his name appears on Column 24 of the Alamein Memorial. Information from:- Several Offley Villagers, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and S.136.

SAVILLE ERNEST. Gunner in the Bedfordshire Yeomanry, Service No. 913740. He died of disease on the 7th July 1943 aged 24 years. He was born at Tea Green and attended both Cockernhoe and Offley schools. Prior to the war he worked as a gardener at Putteridge Bury. He volunteered for the Territorial Army early in 1939 together with Dick Guy another Tea Green man and with Jim Fraser. Ernie was a popular cheerful character with his Territorial mates who called him "Colonel". Their Regiment was the Bedfordshire Yeomanry No 512 Battery (T.A.) of the 148th Field Regiment Royal Artillery equipped with 25 pounders. He married shortly before sailing with the 18th Division. This Division was intended for the build up in North Africa but was diverted to Singapore when the Japanese entered the war on the 9th December 1941. They landed at Singapore on the 29th January 1942 and the surrender to the Japanese took place a fortnight later on the 15th February 1942. The whole of the 18th Division became prisoners of war and were later put to work on building the notorious Thailand-Burma railway, often known as the Railway of Death. The prisoners suffered all manner of deprivation, malnutrition, lack of medicines and medical equipment, hard labour in steaming jungles and savage treatment by their captors. He died of disease and was buried at the Tamarkan prisoner of war camp in Thailand. The C.W.G.C. state that he died on the 12th July 1943 aged 25 years and that he is now buried at Kanchanaburi War Cemetery, Thailand at Plot 2, Row H. Information from his brother Horace, his service mate Jim Fraser and the C.W.G.C.

WATTS RONALD. Leading Aircraftsman in the R.A.F.V.R. He died of disease on the 29th July 1945 aged 27 years. He was brought up at Offley where his father was the village blacksmith and he attended the village school. After leaving school he worked for Gibbs & Dandy of Luton who made tile surrounds for fireplaces. He was especially interested in motor cycles and cars. He volunteered for the R.A.F.V.R. shortly after the war commenced and became Leading Aircraftsman No. 1251128 and was engaged in aircraft maintenance at several bases, including one near Blackpool. On the 2nd December 1940 he was in a Motor Transport Section at Horsham. He was sent to Kuala Lumpur in Malaya, via Durban where he was well entertained. A letter dated 28th July 1941 from him at Kuala Lumpur is in S.136. He then moved to Java and, on the 19th January 1942, became a prisoner of the Japanese in Borneo. From time to time Japanese P.O.W. postcards were received from him stating that he was well and had received letters from home, although at least one card was not in his hand-writing.

The record of the Japanese as captors is an indescribable catalogue of starvation, overwork in steaming jungles and ill-treatment towards their prisoners. His Certificate of Death states that he died of malaria on the 29th July 1945 at Sandakan in Borneo. This was just a fortnight before the Japanese surrendered as a result of the atomic bombs being dropped. Australian amphibious forces had been attacking Borneo from May to July 1945 and had been gradually forcing the Japanese out, but the area in which Ron was a prisoner was one of the last to be freed. He has no known grave but his name is remembered at Column 454 of the War Memorial at Singapore. He was unmarried. Information from his sister Joyce and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

WEBB LEWIS WILLIAM. Private in the 1/5th Bn, Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surreys), Service No. 5961395. He was killed on the 26th September 1944 aged 22 years. He lived at Cockernhoe and before the war had worked for Halfords Cycles, Dunstable Road, Luton and later at Bailey's Cycles, Luton. He had been called up in 1942 to the Hertfordshire Regiment but transferred to the Queen's Royal Regiment later. In the army, he was a weapons specialist as an Assistant Armourer and was well-liked in his unit. His unit landed in Normandy on "D-Day" (6th June 1944) and fought through France, Belgium and Holland. During the Arnhem offensive, when ground troops of the 50th Division in 30 Corps were attempting to relieve the stranded Airborne units near Arnhem, he and his cousin Ronald Fleckney were bivouaced for the night in adjoining areas. A German mortar blast killed several men including Lewis. His cousin was not hurt. Lewis is buried at the Uden Military Cemetery, Plot I, Row D, Grave 1. Ronald took Lewis's brother Fred to Uden in 1946 and the family made a visit there in 1993. He was the son of Lewis and Sarah A. Webb of Cockernhoe. Information from his sisters Rita and Edna, from his cousin Ronald Fleckney and the C.W.G.C.

WINCH GEORGE HAROLD. Private in the 5th Bn, Royal Berkshire Regiment, Service No. 14577123. He was killed on the 7th June 1944 aged 19 years. Harold was born at Cockernhoe, lived at Luton Road and attended both Cockernhoe and Offley schools. Before joining up he had worked for the builders, Whites of Round Green. Harold had been a member of the Cockernhoe Home Guard until he was called up, at which time he joined the Royal Berkshires. During the "D-Day" attack known as "Overlord" on the Normandy beaches on the 7th June 1944 Harold was in a landing craft when, only yards from the beach, it struck a mine causing serious casualties among the packed troops. Harold and another man were later found dead on the deck of the landing craft. His special mate, Ken Ayres, had landed earlier on a craft which was undamaged and had waited hoping that Harold would join him. After his death, his body was brought to Portsmouth and rests in the Copner Bridge Cemetery, Plot 38a, Row 2, Grave 6. His family make regular visits to his grave. He was the son of Henry and Hilda Winch of Cockernhoe. Information from his brother Brian, service mate Ken Ayres and the C.W.G.C.

Those who survived the Second World War 1939-1945 (S.132)

These details were taken from the Offley Branch British Legion Application Forms and include names of servicemen who were not villagers before the war and lack the names of village servicemen who did not join the Legion after the war. Another source of information has been the two books of photographs and letters compiled by the Offley schoolchildren during the war (S.136).

Beds & Herts

Brown, Norman, 5950806, 6th Bn, "D" Coy, 17 Pln. In Northumberland 26.6.40.

Day, Stan, CSM, 5958874, 2nd Bn, 17.10.40-19.3.46. Labourer, 2, The Flints in 1946. He was in North Africa on 30.12.43 in "A" Coy. See Church Memorial 103.

Ensbury, Percy, Sgt, 5950123, 6th Bn.

Haggar, Dennis Arthur, Pte, 14829322, 29.8.44-20.2.48. Postman/Dvr, Claypits Cotts in 1950.

Halliwell, John Phil, Capt, 330901, 2.9.43-17.10.46 Architect School House in 1946.

Henman, Albert Stanley, Pte, 5953222, 3.1940-1946.1st Bn. 6, Twiggsway, Cockernhoe in 1984. He was in MELF 29.12.40.

Marriott E., Pte, 5961416, 2nd Bn.

O'Flaherty, Kenneth, 2nd Bn, 5th Coy A. Tank Pln.

Read, Archie Owen, RSM, 5946819, 27.12.26-14.9.45. Storekeeper, 6, Claypits Cotts in 1961.

Walton, C. See Northumberland Fusiliers.

Wright, Geo, Pte, 5832874, 20.6.40-24.12.45. Butler, Clouds Hill in 1952.

Black Watch

Mumby, Jas Barrington, Pte, 142193, 6th Bn R.H.R. 12.5.40-19.3.45. Representative 12, Meadow Way after the war.

Coldstream Guards

Jeffrey, Stanley. Attended Offley School.

Gordon Highlanders

Deller, Edwd Jack, Pte, 5952489, 16.10.39-28.6.46.Roadman, 22, Council Cotts Offley Hill 1946. Churchyard Memorial 246.

London Irish Rifles

Jeromson L.T. See Royal Horse Guards.

Marriott, Edwd, Rfn, 5961416, 15.1.42-25.1.47.Bricklayer living at Offley after the war.

Merchant Navy

Vout, A. Leslie J. of 13, Nightingale Rd, Hitchin. Had attended Offley School for a time. Worked for Chater-Lea Letchworth then went into the Navy circa 1935. Joined Royal Navy 1940.

North Staffs

Cannon, Edwd Vic, Pte, 14618899, 3.6.43-21.11.45. Joiner, 4, Council Cotts in 1946.

Northamptons

Fleckney, Edward, Pte, 14392166, "D" Coy 18 Pln.

Northumberland Fuslrs

Walton, Charles, Cpl, 3rd Bn, 1.3.16-Oct 29 and 1939-1941. Also Beds & Herts. Labourer, Lodge, Little Offley in 1956.

Pioneer Corps

Marlow, G, Pte, 13033576, 36 Pioneer Coy. In Northern Ireland at 5.11.40. He was married.

Robinson, John F., Cpl, 13088713, 1.5.41-19.11.45. 224 Coy, Pioneer Corps. Bus Conductor 15, School Lane after the war. Walsh, Lawrence, L/Cpl, 18.11.43-20.11.46. Farm Labourer.

Reconnaissance Corps

Wallis, Geoffrey, Tpr, 14208939, 13th Troop, B Squadron, 4th Regt Home forces at 17.11.42.

Rifle Brigade

Dyer, Ed James, L/Cpl, 14679622, 18.11.43-15.10.46. Machine Operator, The Flints, Offley in 1946.

R.A.F.

Catchlove, Laurie. Old boy of Offley School.

Clark, George. In 1940 ill with pneumonia at Christchurch.

Cox, Ronald Geo, Cpl, 1218214, 13.8.42-18.8.46. Police, High St, Offley in 1947

Coxall R.E., Sgt, 750497, 22.8.39-1.4.46. RAFVR. Previously with G. Farr of Luton. Turner, Grange Cotts, Offley in 1946.

Culling, Allan, Cpl, 1185836, 9.9.40-14.4.49. Was in Fire Section at West Drayton at 14.11.40. Labourer, 3, New Rd, Offley in 1949.

Cutts, Wm Cecil, Ft/Sgt, 2223671, Mar 43-31.10.46. Air Gunner. "Caravan" School Lane after war.

Day, Lewis B., AC2, 1190855. At Middlesbrough at 20.4.41.

Hall, John, Sqdrn Leader, 18.2.40-3.8.45. Also served in Inns of Court Regt from 8.5.18 and transferred to R.A.O.C. in 1919 and discharged from army in June 1919. See Churchyard Memorial 167.

Harper, Donald C., 1319942. Training in Bulawayo Southern Rhodesia on 29.4.42.

Harper, Edward C., 1225183. Attended Offley School.

Herbert, Alan Negus, LAC, 1212505, 31.3.41-9.7.46. Painter/Decorator

living Offley after war.

Herbert, Don Arthur, Ft/Sgt, 1880080, 43-17.1.46. Operator, 4, Angel Cotts in 1958.

Mears, Ronald. Probably the son of the former Headmaster of Offley School.

Metson, Wm Geo, WO, 655979, 13.6.40-7.6.46. Police Constable, Police House after war.

Mitchell, Arthur Norman, F.Engr, 578607, 99 Sqdrn. 15.8.40-6.10.65. Master Engineer. Joined Offley Brit Legion in 1969.

Stevens, E. John, 1455538, 724 Defence Squadron.

Ward, Bernard, AC2, 1881100, 28.2.44-24.11.44. M/C Operator, 1, Council Cotts in 1950.

R.A.C.

Butterfield, Kenneth, Sgt, 7932258, 16.1.41-6.7.46. Dvr/Mech, 1, Claypit Cotts in 1961.

Clark, A. Joe M., 7908180.

Darby, Roy A, I/Cpl, 7934113. 53rd R.A.C.

R.A.M.C.

Dyer, Ken, 4381436. Attended Offley School.

R.A.O.C.

Monk, Herbert, Pte, 14787726, 29.6.44-10.2.46. Builders Labourer, 3, Old School Cotts in 46.

R.A.S.C.

Arnold, Isaac John, Dvr, 288907, 11.9.41-7.11.45. Gardener, Clouds Hill Cott in 1947.

Clark, Richard, S/10062170. 9, Elm Tree Ave, Cockernhoe. On 12.3.40 was in France at Dieppe. With the 19th Field Bakery on 4.10.41. Later seems to have been transferred to the R.A.

Dyer, Ralph, Pte, 5959056, 14.11.40-31.12.45. Roadman living at Offley in 1947.

Henman, Edward B., Driver, T/170237. At Brighton on 3.8.40.

Hodgson, Douglas Ramsey, M S.S., T/77412, 21, Elmtree Ave, Cockernhoe in 1959.

Marlow, Harry D., Driver, T.122532.

R.A.

Clare S.F., Gnr, 1652754. Attended Offley School.

Crockford, Alfred, 923501. He was captured by the Japanese in 1942 and reported missing.

Davies, David Lloyd, Pte, 1729374, 12.12.40-16.1.46 Also in A.S.H. 2, Bean Close in 1947.

French, Geo, Gnr, 11406338, 5.2.42-25.9.45. Bricklayer, Hilltop Cotts in 1947.

Ganderton, James, Capt, 253339, 14.8.41-4.6.46, 178 Field, Schoolmaster, School house in 1969.

Henman, Leslie, Gnr, 350 Heavy A.A. Bty R.A. at St John's Wood 15.10.41.

Kendall, Dennis, 1504704, HQ Troop, 94th Field Regt at Buntingford 18.7.40.

Prutton, Ron Chas, Bdr, 5 Maritime R.A. 21.1.43 - 6.8.46. Bricklayer, 17, Meadow Way in 1946.

Walker, A.G. Called up in March 1940 previously employed by Felix Cassel of Putteridge as a gardener. Home 19 Meadow Way, Offley.

Wallis, Ronald W. Dvr/Mec, 915463, 214/54 Anti-Tank Regt at Alloa Scotland 28.12.41

Ward, Leonard Albert, Gnr, 5957692, 52nd Heavy Regt 26.7.40-6.1.46. Welder, 79, Cockernhoe after the war.

R.C.S.

Bird, Arthur Edwd, Sglmn, 2592661, 46 Div, 29.4.40. 13.12.45. Steel Worker, School Lane in 1946. He was in Gibraltar in 1940. Milton, Doug Phil, Sglmn, 2333559, Jan 40-1945. Butcher, High St Offley in 1949.

Plummer, Ronald, Cpl, 14869007, Wireless Operator. Nov 44-Jan 48. 8, Gosling Ave in 1968.

Stevens, W.G. 14328616, 14th Army Burma.

R.E.M.E.

Cowley, C.J., Cfn, 17.8.44-7.12.47. Dvr/Mech II.

Royal Engineers

Adams, Fred. Chas, Spr, 1907589, 15.1.40-23.4.46. Farm Hand, 1, Grange Cotts in 1949.

Baker, Stan. Albt, Spr, 2151602, 16.10.41-4.10.46. Excavator Operator, 12, School Lane in 1946.

Bean, Stanley, Spr, 2156596, 26.2.42-14.12.46. Pioneer Painter, Keepers Lodge in 1946.

Brown, Leonard John, Spr, 201453A, 1940-1946. 4, Luton Rd, Cockernhoe in 1984.

Deller, Albert, W/Cpl, 5962411, 14.5.42-15.7.46. Bricklayer, Claypits Cott in 1948.

French, Leonard Henry, Spr, 14703281, 20.1.44-18.1.46. Winch Driver, 22, Offley Hill in 1946.

Smith A. Jack, 218186. 158 Railway Construction Coy at 3.3.40 in France and wounded there.

Watson, Alan Edward, Spr. 2073158, 289 Field ParkCompany. June 39-Jan 46. Licenced Victualler Green Man, Offley in 1967.

Royal Horse Guards (Blues)

Jeromson, Leslie Thos, Tpr, 7013886, Mar 38-Aug 48. Motor Tpt. Also London Irish Rifles. 9, School Lane after the war.

Royal Navy

Boddy, Keith. HMS Vindictive. Ex Offley School.

Clark, Ronald. 3 Mess HMS Hasty on 6.6.41.

Clark, Victor D.S.M. Mentioned in Despatches. Petty Officer, P/SX 142029. On Motor Torpedo Boat 637 in Mediterranean Command per "Times of Malta" dated 1.10.43.

Craix, John Norman, Comd Gnr (T), HMS Vernon. 10.8.1910-2.10.45. Electrical Engineer. The Cottage, Little Offley in 1946.

Craix, Joseph Ian, 3rd Officer, R314976, Mariner. MV Diplodon. 3-5-45-? Little Offley in 1947.

Dingley, Reg Percy, Telegraphist, LT/JX 427058. Jan 43 - Jul 46. Offley Stores in 1969.

Harley, William. Old boy of Offley School.

Hatton, Thos, Lt Comdr, HMS Tay, 1905 - 9.1.47. The Camp, Offley in 1948.

Hipgrave, Robert Henry, L/Seaman, C/JX378708, 30.11.42-5.7.46. Assembly Engineer, 2, Council Cotts in 1947.

Pay, M.E. Previously with Shell-Mex.

Pay, E.M. Previously with LNER. Both joined July 1939. Probably twins. Scott, George, CPO, 207262, 5.12.1899-14.11.44. Retired, 10, Lawns Close in 1970.

Royal Norfolks

Collins, Bas Ernie, Cpl, 14250508, 6.8.42-9.10.45. Police Const, Police House, Offley after war.

Royal Warwicks

Clark, Albert 3968822.

Suffolk Regt

Henman, Edward. Left Offley School 1933. His home was at Cockernhoe.

W.A.A.F.

Hodgson, Joyce E. Hodgson, Kathleen M.