

NORFOLK WAR MEMORIALS PROJECT : PART II

By Mary Ferroussat

The previous issue of this Journal contained an article on the Norfolk War Memorials project organized by the Royal Norfolk Regimental Museum to complement the National Inventory of War Memorials being compiled by the Imperial War Museum. The project aimed not only to record all 1914-1918 memorials but also to obtain biographical information about the people they commemorate. The article also listed all those named on the various memorials in Blakeney. This second article summarizes the information which has been obtained not just for these Blakeney men but also for all those from Cley, Letheringsett and Wiveton who died in the Great War. Some of the additional material which the Society holds has been copied to the Royal Norfolk Regimental Museum in Norwich.

Introduction

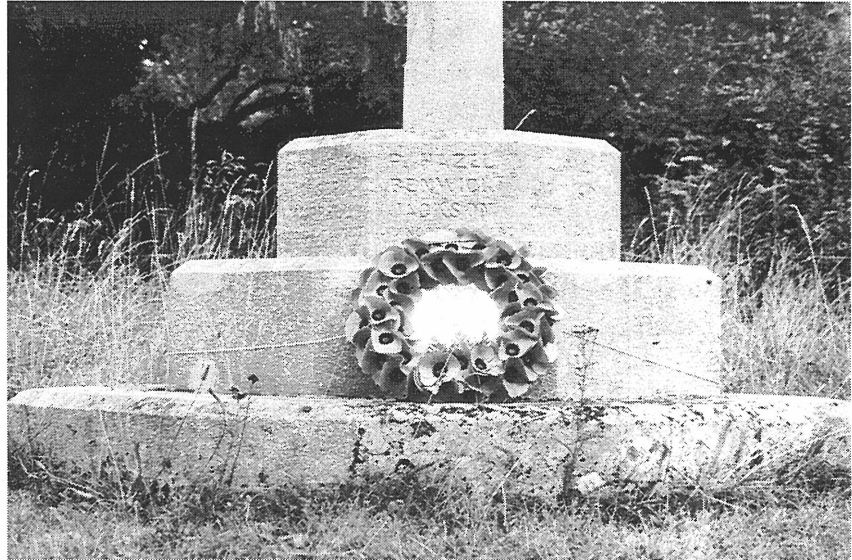
The Norfolk War Memorials project established by Kate Thaxton, the Assistant Keeper of Social History at the Royal Norfolk Regimental Museum, aimed to collect as much information as possible by 11th November 1998, exactly 80 years on from the armistice signed in 1918. There has been an excellent response from local historians, photographers and the public, and the information map at the Regimental Museum and a current exhibition at the Castle Museum show that all Norfolk villages have been covered. Throughout 1998, the Eastern Daily Press ensured that its readers were aware of the information that can be obtained from the various collections of books, papers and photographic records that are available through libraries, museums and web sites.

In November 1998, the editor of the Glaven Valley News was kind enough to print lists of the servicemen from Blakeney, Cley, Letheringsett and Wiveton who appear on the memorials in each village. This brought in extra information to supplement that already obtained from descendants and from written records. The author is most grateful for all the help received from members of the Society, particularly Jim Bolton, Tom Worboys and Peter Wordingham, and from many others who have made available their time and knowledge, especially Kate Thaxton and Dick Rayner.

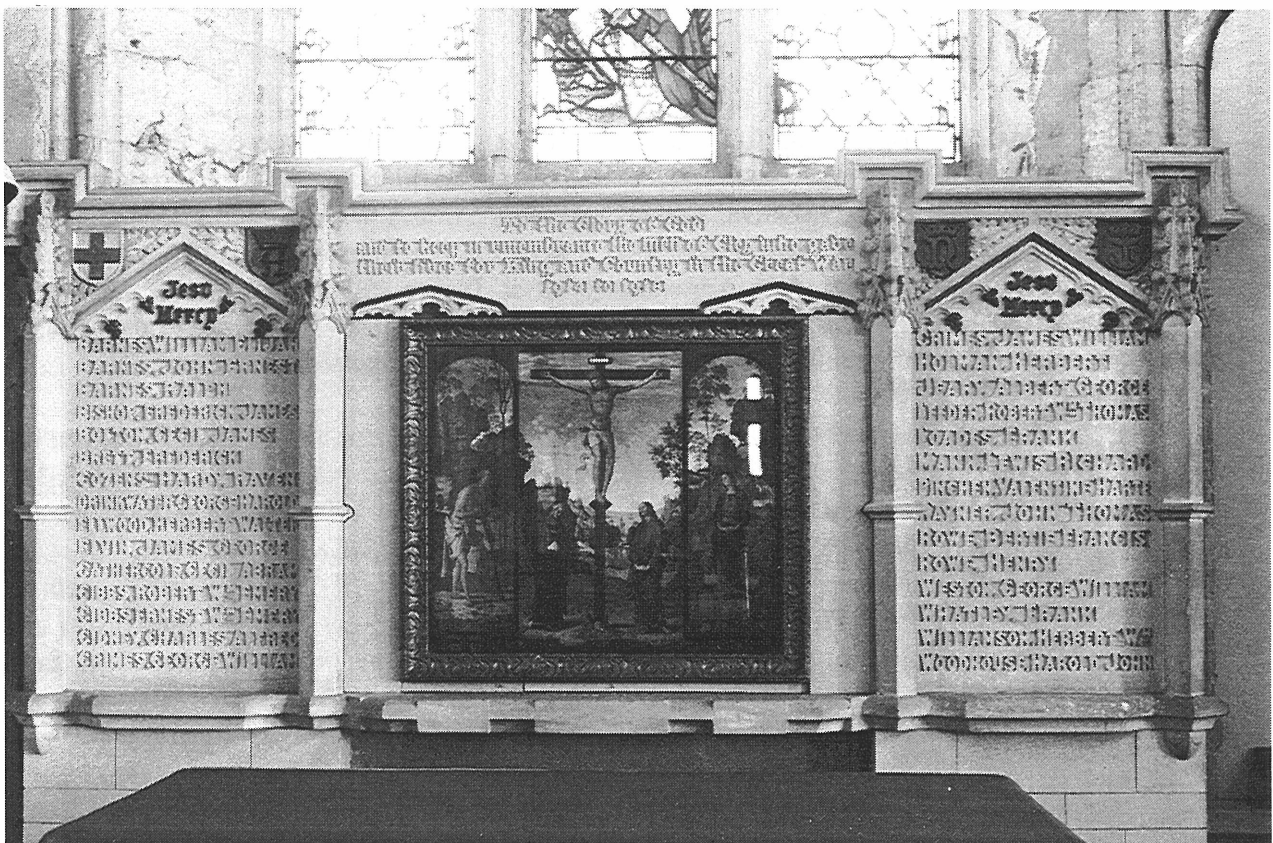
The Memorials

The war memorials in Blakeney were described in the previous article. On New Road there stands a flint and brick memorial designed by John Page, a local architect. The names thereon are repeated on a board in St Nicholas' Church, where some separate plaques give information about individual servicemen. There is no built memorial at Cley; instead the names are incised on a stone panel inside St Margaret's Church which also has some separate plaques and a stained glass window. Glandford is a very unusual and fortunate village – one of only three in Norfolk to have no names to record, even though some 45 people enlisted. A thanksgiving cross was erected but was subsequently blown down in a gale, whereupon the pieces were deposited in the chancel of the ruined church at Bayfield. The Letheringsett memorial can be found on a small plaque in St Andrew's church, while at Wiveton the weathered cross erected to the fallen stands in the churchyard of St Mary's Church.

WIVETON



CLEY



The Summary Table

These memorials form the starting point for preparing lists of those who died but they are not necessarily accurate nor are they complete, even though the names were compiled soon after the War had ended. Moreover, they normally carry no information about the person concerned other than the name. To obtain some biographical information for each one it is necessary to search the relevant documentary sources, especially the local newspapers and the records of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, and to appeal to local residents for any information they might have.

The dispersal of families from the villages since the War and the loss of surnames in the female line of descent add considerably to the difficulties of tracing service personnel. The records can also be frustrating to use: battle units constantly merged as the tide of war swung this way and that, so that men often had different service numbers before their final one in their last unit.

The table in this article has been compiled from the information obtained or received. It lists the 84 men from the Glaven villages known to have died as a result of war service, even if they are not mentioned on the local memorials. In fact, three new names have been added to the Blakeney list, eight to that for Cley and two each for Letheringsett and Wiveton. Most of those listed were born in the village where they are commemorated, and the table shows where confirmation has been obtained. In other cases they might well have been born elsewhere but will have been included on the memorials because the village was their parents' home. The service number is the last one recorded, others are given if known. The final column records information relating to the death of each person: their last unit or ship, the place or general area where they died, and the name of the cemetery in which they lie or the location of the official memorial which carries their name. As a result of collating information from many sources only three men remain unknown.

Deaths at Sea

Although the majority of the fighting men from the Glaven villages served in France and Flanders there were also many who served at sea in the Royal Navy or the Merchant Navy. The table records that 11 died on naval vessels and one, William Wisker, died after the War as a result of injuries suffered on HMS *Pembroke*. Two men, Frederick Moy and John Brett, are commemorated on the Mercantile Marine memorial at Tower Hill. Lewis Mann was lost in the sinking of the liner *Falaba*, and Reginald Mussett and Ralph Barnes were both drowned when their troopships were sunk just before landing at Gallipoli in 1915.

Local newspaper reports covered many of the incidents in which these men died. The first big shock of the War came with the sinking of the *Aboukir*, the *Hogue* and the *Cressy*. HMS *Aboukir* was an armoured cruiser, 12,000 tons and completed in 1902, which formed part of the 7th Cruiser Squadron, and with her sister ships *Hogue* and *Cressy* was patrolling the southern North Sea (with a full term of Dartmouth cadets on board). On the 22nd September 1914, 70 miles west of the Hook of Holland, she was attacked by a submarine (U-9) and struck amidships by a torpedo. *Hogue* and *Cressy* were standing off picking up survivors from the *Aboukir* when they were also attacked by the U-Boat. All three ships sank within an hour, with a loss of 1,459 men; 837 were rescued by Lowestoft trawlers and ships from the Harwich Force.

Among those who lost their lives on the *Aboukir* were Robert Balding of Blakeney and Frank Whatley of Cley. Christopher Cooke was rescued and went on to weather the Battle of Jutland, but later died aboard HMS *Vanguard* with Vincent Bullen. Both came from Blakeney. The *Vanguard* was a battleship (23,050 tons) completed in 1904. On the 9th July 1917 she was blown up by a sudden accidental explosion at Scapa Flow: 804 men were lost, only three survived.

From the Norfolk Chronicle of 4th December 1914 comes this extract:

BLAKENEY

Loss of H.M.S. Bulwark

The terrible explosion of H.M.S. Bulwark claims a local victim in the person of Gunner William E. King, son of Mr and Mrs W.King, of the King's Arms. The deceased officer was one of four brothers who joined the Navy and have all done well in their father's profession. Mr King was for many years connected with the coastguard service at Cley and Morston, and is much respected. The sympathy of the district goes out to the stricken parents. The pathos is rendered acute by the fact that Mr King had that morning received a letter from his son asking him in the event of disaster befalling him to look after his wife and small family.

HMS *Bulwark* was a battleship displacing 15,000 tons, laid down in October 1899 and completed in March 1902. On 26th November 1914 she was destroyed by an internal explosion while loading ammunition off Sheerness. A total of 793 men were killed and there were only twelve survivors. An enquiry ruled out sabotage. William King's brother George was to die aboard the destroyer HMS *Crusader* in January 1917.

Just four months later, on 2nd April 1915, the Norfolk Chronicle reported that the Elder Dempster liner *Falaba* had been torpedoed with the loss of over 100 lives. A week later the paper carried the following item:

CLEY

A Falaba victim

Amongst the passengers of the torpedoed Elder Dempster liner *Falaba* who are officially returned as "missing" is Captain Lewis Robert Mann, of Cley-next-the-sea, who was returning to Lagos, West Africa, to take up his position of marine superintendent for Messrs Elder Dempster. Captain Mann, who had nearly completed his 42nd year, was the youngest son of the late Mr William Mann. A few years ago he entered the Elder Dempster line, and after giving proof of his ability, he was offered the important appointment of marine superintendent at Lagos. He had held this post for four years. The news came as a great shock to his many friends in the neighbourhood. Captain Mann was married to the only daughter of Mr and Mrs R.J. Leeder, and had one little boy

The *Falaba*, 4,807 tons, sailed from Liverpool for Sierra Leone on the 27th March 1915. The following day, 36 miles SW of the Smalls lighthouse in St George's Channel, she was approached on the surface by the submarine U-28. The *Falaba* had lowered only four of her lifeboats when a torpedo struck amidships. She sank eight minutes later. Of 151 passengers, 104 drowned, together with 96 of her crew.

Other Comments

The Eastern Counties were subject to an intensive recruiting campaign by the Secretary of State for War, General Kitchener, and one of the first to enlist on Blakeney Quay (on 29th August 1914) was Clement Mitchell. He was drafted into the 8th Norfolk Battalion and trained with the Essex regiment in Kent before embarkation. He died in France in 1917. Many of the local lads joined Norfolk Regiments, especially the 1/4th and 1/5th Norfolks, part of the 163rd Brigade of the 54th East Anglian Division. Their training was in the Watford area and they left Liverpool on the *Aquitania* on 29th July 1915 en route for Gallipoli. They finished duties in the war zone of Turkey in December and were then engaged in the Middle East and at the capture of Gaza.

As the local men left their home villages so others arrived. Many of the Yeomanry Regiments of the Territorial Force sent to Gallipoli were based in the Norfolk coastal villages and towns before embarking for Egypt and thence to Suvla Bay. Salthouse, Cley and Blakeney were hosts to the South Notts Hussars and there are snapshots of them on file. Herbert Pye challenged Cpl Paulson to a tug-of-war before they left and the Blakeney team were beaten twice. A sad little incident occurred when Willie Bean ran out of a yard into the path of dispatch rider Private Connelly and had his leg broken. The Hussars departed with their horses to Avonmouth and the *Saturnia* by train from Melton Constable on the 7th of April 1915 leaving behind many special memories and heavy hearts. Also in the Glaven Valley villages, and around Holt, were the Sherwood Foresters, the 1st Derbyshire, and the 1st Norfolks, 'the King's Own Royal Regiment'. They were part of the Eastern Mounted Brigade and eventually joined the 1/4th Norfolks and the 54th East Anglian Division at Anzac Cove in October, and were evacuated to Mudros in December 1915 at the end of that sorry campaign.

The daily casualty lists in the papers must have made a dreadful impact on village families, who were concerned not only for their own members, but for other local men and also for those friendly soldiers who had been stationed in the vicinity before being sent abroad. It takes only a news cutting and the Blakeney School register to deduce the anguish of the Jarvis family when E. Jarvis (No. 43347) of the Northants Regiment was reported missing on 18th August 1917. The children Cecil, Lilian and Edith were admitted to Blakeney school from Hoxon, London, on the 10th September 1917. It was subsequently rumoured that their father had been taken as a prisoner of war – and his name does not appear on any local war memorials. Does anyone know what happened to him?

Throughout the War the Norwich Public Library asked for pictures of service personnel, as well as letters and other personal and printed records, to form a local collection supplementing that of the National War Museum. Local papers would be able to use the archive in the preparation of articles. On 25th June 1915 the Cromer and North Norfolk Post published a short article about one 'patriotic Blakeney family', illustrated with photographs of the six Long brothers who had enlisted (though in fact one more brother and two sisters were also engaged in war service). The paper wished them a safe return, but the Blakeney memorial carries the names of the two who did not survive, James and Jack MM.

In view of the difficulties encountered in bringing to life the stark record of the Great War memorials, it is surely not too soon to do the same for those who fell in the World War that started only 21 years later.

Mary Ferroussat is a former schoolteacher who lives opposite the Blakeney war memorial.

LOCAL SERVICEMEN KILLED 1914 - 1918

NAME	AGE	BORN	No.	RANK	DIED	OTHER DETAILS
BLAKENEY						
Adcock, Edward Albert Allen, P	27	Blakeney	235978	Private	21.03.18	F & F. 2/8th Batt. Lancs Fus. (ex Batman to Lord Buxton, Nfk Yeom. 1524)
Ash, Basil Claudius				Lieut.		
Balding, Robert	34		190103	AB RN	20.09.14	2nd Batt. Sherwood Foresters (Chauny Cem. Aisne France)
Bullen, Vincent Keeble	44		277882	Ch Stoker	22.09.14	HMS <i>Aboukir</i> (Chatham Mem.)
Claxton, Charles	40	Blakeney	2090 D	L/Seaman	09.07.17	HMS <i>Vanguard</i> Scapa Flow (Chatham Naval Mem.)
Cooke, Christopher Arthur G.	18			Midshpnn	17.08.16	RNR HM Yacht <i>Zaida</i> (Portsmouth Naval Mem.)
Cooper, Reginald Charles	20	Cromer	14156	Private	09.07.17	HMS <i>Vanguard</i> Scapa Flow (Chatham Naval Mem.)
Daniel, Reginald Maurice	32	Well'boro	270013	Sgt	05.07.16	1st Batt. Nfk Regt Died in England
Haines, Clarence Amerson		Blakeney	13251	Private	23.03.18	Northumberland Hussars (Chauny Cem. France) [or No. 271103]
Haines, George Henry		Blakeney	200874	Sgt	27.07.16	1st Batt. Nfk Regt (Thiepval Mem. Somme France) [or No. 12351]
Hudson, George Peter	33	Blakeney	116211	Gunner	19.04.17	1/4th Batt. Nfk Regt T.F. Palestine
King, George Alfred	32	Blakeney		WO RN	17.09.18	Royal Garrison Artillery Ypres
King, William Edward	39	Blakeney		WO RN	21.01.17	Gunner HM destroyer <i>Crusader</i> Dover Patrol (Portsmouth N. Mem.)
Lane, Thomas Robert D	31	Blakeney	49852	Private	26.11.14	Gunner HMS <i>Bulwark</i> (Portsmouth Naval Mem.)
Long, James Henry	26	Blakeney		Private	20.09.17	F & F. 7th Batt. Liverpool Regt (Tyne Cot Cem. Zonnebeke Belgium)
Long, Jack MM		Blakeney	9377	Private	20.09.17	1st Batt. Nfk Regt K.Lynn factory explosion (released on poor eyesight)
Long, Herbert James		Blakeney	1688	Private	30.11.17	F & F. 2nd Coldstream Guards (Gouzeaucourt Mem. Nord France)
Mitchell, Clement Barber		Blakeney	14000	Corporal	06.09.15	1/5th Batt. Nfk Regt T.F. Gallipoli (Helles Mem.)
Moore, John Edward (Jack)		Holt	68729	Gunner	11.08.17	F & F. 8th Batt. Nfk Regt Westboek (Menin Gate Mem. Ypres)
Moore, James	18	Blakeney	20771	Private	29.10.14	F & F. Royal Field Artillery
Newland, John	19	Blakeney	28162	Private	02.01.16	Essex Regt (ex Nfk Regt 14021) Gallipoli (Lancs Cem. Turkey)
Nicholls, Charles	24	Blakeney	18198	Private	03.05.17	F & F. 8th Batt. E.Yorks Regt (ex Nfk Regt 5373)
Palmer, Thomas Herbert	25	Blakeney	50387	Private	30.09.16	6th Batt. Lincs Regt (Thiepval Cem. Somme France)
Pyke, Frederick Walter	25	Blakeney	574924	Rifleman	10.08.17	F & F. 11th Batt. Royal Fusiliers (Menin Gate Mem. Ypres Belgium)
Pyke, William Samuel	19	Blakeney	42161	Private	23.12.17	17th London Regt (Poplar & Stepney Rifles) EEF (Ramleh Cem. Israel)
Roe, Cyril Charles Gordon	22			2nd Lt. RND	19.09.18	9th Batt. Essex Regt (ex Herts Yeom. 106257) (Doingt Cem. Somme Fr.)
Seales, William Edward	19	Blakeney	6/5566	Private	28.04.17	1st Batt. Royal Marine Light Infantry Oppy Wood (Arras Mem. France)
Simpson, Job		Blakeney	43990	Sapper	23.11.16	1/6th Batt. Durham Lt Inf. (ex Nfk Regt 5381) (St Sever Cem. Rouen Fr.)
Smith, J		Blakeney			28.05.18	F & F. 98th Field Company R.E [or No. 439090]
Starling, Ernest Hubert		London	392092	Corporal	27.09.17	9th Batt. London Regt (formerly 9th London Regt 5379)

NAME	AGE	BORN	No. RANK	DIED	OTHER DETAILS
BLAKENEY (Contd)					
Turner, Alfred Edward		Blakeney	16837 A/Sgt	13.10.15	7th Batt. Nfk Regt (Loos Mem. Nord France)
Wright, Herbert			8129 Private	23.05.16	2nd Batt. Nfk Regt Mesopotamia
CLEY					
Barnes, William Elijah	23	Cley	136275 Private	29.09.16	2nd Canadian Mounted Rifles Brit. Columbia Regt (Vimy Mem. France)
Barnes, John Ernest	21	Cley	233105 Private	15.09.16	18th Batt. Canadian Inf. W.Ontario Regt (Vimy Mem. France)
Barnes, Ralph	29	N.Walshm	20588 Private	13.08.15	1st Batt. Essex Regt (ex Nfk Regt 18436) Dardenelles (Helles Mem. Turkey)
Bishop, Frederick James		Cley	14911 Private	17.10.16	F & F. 10th Batt. Essex Regt
Bolton, Cecil James	19	Cley	240638 Private	19.04.17	1/5th Batt. Nfk Regt T.F. Palestine
Brett, Frederick					
Brett, John Creamer	41	Cley		09.11.17	Master mariner <i>Umgeni</i> (Tower Hill Mercantile Marine Mem.)
Cozens-Hardy, Raven	31	Cley	2nd Lt	09.10.17	1st (4th) Batt. Nfk Regt Polderhock (Tyne Cot Mem. Belgium)
Drinkwater, George Harold	20	Cley	28368 Private	03.08.17	F & F. 13th Batt. E.Yorks Regt (ex Nfk Regt 5310) [or 30.07.17]
Ellwood, Herbert Walter	39		182002 Stoker	24.01.18	HM Tug <i>Desire</i> (Chatham Naval Mem.)
Elvin, James George	18		K53421 Stoker	13.09.18	HMS <i>Vivid</i> (Devonport Barracks)
Gathercole, Cecil Abram	20		40062 Private	20.11.17	F & F. 9th Batt. Nfk Regt
Gibbs, Robert W Emery (Bertie)		Cley	36556 Private	04.05.17	F & F. 11th Batt. E.Yorks Regt (ex City of London Cyclist Corps 11316)
Gibbs, Ernest W Emery		Cley	31537 Sgt	05.06.16	2nd Batt. Nfk Regt India
Gidney, Charles Alfred	20	Ipswich	67611 Gunner	08.09.14	'L' Bty Royal Horse Artillery (Baron Cem. Oise France)
Grimes, George William	22	Cley	8276DA Deckhand	21.12.16	RNR HM Trawler <i>St Ives</i> (Chatham Naval Base)
Grimes, James (John) William			203140 Private	14.08.17	F & F. 1st Batt. London Regt (Menin Gate Mem. Belgium)
Holman, Brandon Francis	21	Cley	14593 Private	10.03.17	'B' Coy 9th Batt. Nfk Regt (CWGC grave at Salthouse)
Holman, Herbert		Cley	40272 Private	14.01.18	F & F. 4th Batt. Beds Regt (ex Nfk Regt 5307)
Howes, Wilfred G			AB RND	10.05.15	Nelson Bty Royal Naval Volunteers Gallipoli
Jeary, Albert George		Cley	20578 Private	12.10.16	F & F. 1st Batt. Warwicks Regt (ex Cyclist Corps 10718A)
Leeder, Robert W Thomas		Cley	202774 Private	05.10.17	F & F. 3/4th Batt. Royal West Surrey Regt
Loades, Frank			24129 Private	10.07.16	F & F. 8th Batt. Nfk Regt
Mann, Lewis Richard	41			28.03.15	Capt. Elder Dempster line Liner <i>Falaba</i> St George's Channel
Moy, Frederick Bertie	27		Cook	29.12.17	SS <i>Ennismore</i> of Leith (Tower Hill Mercantile Marine Mem.)
Mussett, Reginald		Cley	1544 L/Cpl	20.11.15	1/5th Batt. Nfk Regt At sea Dardenelles
Pinchen, Valentine Harte		Cley	46579 Gunner	29.08.18	F & F. Royal Garrison Artillery
Rayner, John Thomas		Cley	14910 A/Cpl	04.03.18	10th Essex Regt 53rd Brig 18th Div (Gd Seraucourt Cem. Aisne Fr.)

NAME	AGE	BORN	No. RANK	DIED	OTHER DETAILS
CLEY (Contd)					
Rowe, Bertie Francis	21	Cley	23433 Private	04.07.16	Mesopotamia (Basra War Cem.)
Rowe, Henry	40	Cley	164548 Petty Off.	31.05.16	HMS <i>Invincible</i> Battle of Jutland (Portsmouth Naval Mem.)
Turner, William Ernest	38	Cley	2nd Lt	27.08.17	7th Batt. Worcs Regt (Tyne Cot Mem. Belgium)
Wall, Herbert	41	Cley	325707 Private	21.07.18	F & F. 1/9th Durham Light Infantry (Soissons Mem. France)
Wells, George		Cley	314900 Gunner	10.05.15	Royal Garrison Artillery Died in England
Weston, George William		Cley	37574 Private	27.03.18	F & F.
Whatley, Frank	50		142041 Petty Off.	22.09.14	Stoker HMS <i>Aboukir</i> (Portsmouth Naval Mem.)
Williamson, Herbert William		Cley	16677 Private	20.11.15	F & F. 7th Batt. Nfk Regt
Woodhouse, Harold John		Cley	3786 Private	17.05.15	1/4th Batt. Nfk Regt Died at Lowestoft
LEATHERINGSETT					
Leveridge, Bertie		Leth'sett	204976 Private	21.08.18	F & F. 1st Batt. Nfk Regt
Neale, Hubert		Leth'sett	14610 Private	19.07.16	F & F. 8th Batt. Nfk Regt
Neale, Sidney Arthur		Leth'sett	70693 Private	09.10.17	F & F. Machine Gun Corps (ex Nfk Regt 23083)
Packard, Walter Herbert	28	Suffolk	2nd Lt	15.07.16	Engineer 4th Batt. (T) Suffolk Regt (Thiepval Mem. France)
Rayner, Robert George	26	Leth'sett	19555 L/Cpl	08.08.18	9th Nfk 71st Brig 6th Div (Nine Elms Cem. Poppinge Belgium)
Wordingham, Charles Douglas	21	Stiffkey	8833 Private	04.06.16	1st Batt. Nfk Regt (Flambourg d'Amiens Cem. Pas de Cal. France)
Wordingham, James Reginald	24	Stiffkey	14922 Private	23.03.16	9th Batt. Essex Regt (Mermille Cem. Nord France)
WIVETON					
Armes, Joseph		Lowestoft	C/1481 Private	20.09.17	F & F. 17th Batt. King's Royal Rifle Corps
Bone, Frederick		Wiveton	43084 L/Cpl	04.09.16	F & F. 1st Batt. Nfk Regt
Cooper, George Henry	19	Wiveton	G/39272 Private	01.08.17	F & F. 8th Batt. Queen's Royal West Surrey Regt (Menin Gate Mem.)
Jackson, Alma	23	Wiveton		20.05.22	Nfk Regt Died of wounds and buried at Wiveton (Plaque in church)
Jackson, Hazel Benwick		Wiveton	241108 Private	19.04.17	1/5th Batt. Nfk Regt Palestine
Murrell, Charles Joseph	27	Wiveton	14908 Private	20.07.16	F & F. 10th Batt. Essex Regt
Wisker, William	39	Wiveton	204376 RN	21.01.21	Sailmaker's mate HMS <i>Pembroke</i> (CWGC grave at Wiveton)

Abbreviations

F & F : France & Flanders TF : Territorial Force
 EEF : Egyptian Expeditionary Force Batt : Battalion