

THE BEDHAMPTON WAR MEMORIAL

St Thomas Church



Ralph Cousins
October 2011



Havant
BOROUGH COUNCIL



Memorial Tablet

On 23rd November 1919, at 3 p.m. the Memorial Tablet was unveiled at a most impressive ceremony by the South Hants M.P. Major-General Sir John Davidson, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O., M.P. The service was organised by the Rector, Revd H. Pelham Stokes, and attended by the neighbouring clergy and a vast congregation, Lady Davidson being present. Special seats were allocated to the mourners.

A notable feature was the opportune arrival of the Hants Regimental Band after an absence from home of 20 years. The band joined the organ in the accompaniments to the stirring hymns, ending with the sounding of the Last Post.

TO THE GLORY OF GOD
AND IN GRATEFUL MEMORY OF THOSE FROM THIS PARISH
WHO LAID DOWN THEIR LIVES IN THE GREAT WAR 1914 - 1918

S. R. Balchim .*	Driver, Royal Field Artillery.
John Charles Battell . 29.	Corporal, Hampshire Regiment.
A. J. Clarke .	Private, Kings Shropshire Light Infantry.
Llewellyn George Edward Cole .	Colour Sergeant, Royal Marine Light Infantry.
Walter Henry Edmonds . 22.	Private, Wiltshire Regiment.
J. Fitzsimmons .	Gunner, Royal Artillery.
C. Hoar .	Private, Hampshire Regiment.
C. G. Holcomb .	Private, Hampshire Regiment.
Alfred Oliver Inglett .	Lance Corporal, Lincolnshire Regiment.
Wilfred Jacks .	Private, Royal Inniskillen Fusiliers.
R. James .	Private, Hampshire Regiment.
C. E. Leach .	Corporal. RCA.
A. Lewis .	Lance Corporal, Hampshire Regiment.
J. M. Lewis .	Lance Corporal, Hampshire Regiment.
Robert Lloyd-Davies . 29.	Lieutenant, Royal Engineers.
C. Main .*	Engineer Commander, HMS <i>Shakespeare</i> .
Edward Charles Matthews . 40.	Chief Stoker, HMS <i>Bulwark</i> .
E. M. Matthews .	Petty Officer, Royal Navy.
F. Mengham .	Lance Corporal, Royal Engineers.
Winter Parham . 29.**	Corporal, Royal Berkshire Regiment.
Harry Joseph Poate . 43.	Corporal, Royal Army Service Corps.
C. G. Privett .	Private, Devonshire Regiment.
William Thomas Smith . M.M.	Company Sergeant Major, Royal Warwickshire Regiment.
Frank Edward Stapley .	Lance Corporal, Hampshire Regiment.
F. Trickett ,	Stoker, Royal Navy.
William Whitbread .	Private, Grenadier Guards.
E. Wilder .	Lieutenant, HM Yacht <i>Oriana</i> .
L. E. Wilder .*	2nd Lieutenant, Royal Horse Artillery.

AND OF THOSE WHO LAID DOWN THEIR LIVES
IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR 1939 -1945

Maurice Cecil Asher . 23.	Leading Writer, HMS <i>Jersey</i> .
Henry Richard Beach .	Leading Seaman, HM Submarine <i>Thames</i> .
William David Gordon Bond . 33.*	Sergeant (Pilot), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.
Ronald Thomas Bradshaw . 34.	Flight Lieutenant, Royal Air Force.
John Antony Carey . 22.*	2nd Lieutenant, Royal Artillery.
Derek John Chase . 31	Pilot Officer (Navigator), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.
Dennis Ford . 27.	Flying Officer, Royal Air Force.
George Edwin Alfred Freeland .37.	Lieutenant, HMS <i>Neptune</i> .
Thomas Ian Gay . 23.	Lieutenant, HMS <i>Ark Royal</i> .
Rex George . 20.	Marine, Royal Marine Commandos.
Leonard George Rowland Harris . 24.	Able Seaman, HM Submarine <i>Thames</i> .
Harry Frank Huggett . 22.	Private, Essex Regiment.
Kenneth Walter Ierston . 18.	Ordinary Seaman, HMS <i>Hood</i> .
William Ernest Irwin . 22.	Electrical Artificer, HMS <i>Janus</i> .
Frederick Lawrance Kidd . 24.	Pilot Officer (Pilot), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.
Mrs Florence May Luff .**	Civilian Air Raid Casualty.
John Edward Cook Merrifield . 40.*	Sergeant, Royal Artillery.
Leslie Pearce . 22.	Gunner, Royal Artillery.
David Charles Peters .**	Gunner, Royal Artillery.
John Robinson .	Ordnance Artificer, HMS <i>Express</i> .
Colin Rowland Shepherd . 20.	Trooper, 1st Lothians and Border Horse.
Harold George Turner . 24.	Seaman, HMS <i>Kingston Ceylonite</i> .

GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN THAN THIS. JOHN XV. 13.

* St Thomas Churchyard ** Havant Cemetery

Remember all those who have laid down their lives in the cause of
Justice, Freedom and Peace in the world.

For the Fallen

By Laurence Binyon

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill; Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up to immortal spheres,
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted;
They fell with their faces to the foe.

**They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.**

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables at home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,
Felt as a well spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known
As the stars are known to the Night;

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain;
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.

Why the Poppy?

Poppy seeds can lay dormant for many years and they will only germinate and grow when the ground is disturbed. Therefore for them, at least, the conditions in 1914 were ideal with the ground constantly being turned over as the result of all the shelling, bombing and trench digging and when the warm weather came they grew and flowered in abundance.

On May 3, 1915, an exhausted Canadian doctor, Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, was doing all he could for the wounded and dying on the battlefields of Flanders. The unimaginable carnage he witnessed at the front is captured in the moving words of a poem he wrote that day.



John McCrae



Poppies on the Somme

In Flanders Fields (We Shall not Sleep)

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place: and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

On November 9, 1918 two days before the Armistice was declared an American lady, Miss Moina Belle Michael, while working at a conference in New York, read John McCrae's poem and was inspired to write her poem, 'We Shall Keep the Faith' as a reply.



Moina Michael

© Dorrance Publishing Company Inc



Artificial poppies

We Shall Keep the Faith

Oh! You who sleep in Flanders Fields
Sleep sweet – to rise anew!
We caught the torch you threw
And holding high, we keep the Faith
With All who died.

We cherish too, the poppy red
That grows in fields where valour led,
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies,
But lends a lustre to the red
Of the flower that blooms above the dead
In Flanders Fields.

And now the Torch and Poppy Red
We wear with honour of our dead
Fear not that you have died for naught
We'll teach the lesson that ye have wrought
In Flanders Fields.

After writing this she went out and bought 24 silk poppies, put one on her lapel, and gave the rest to delegates at the conference. At the same time she made a personal pledge to 'Keep the Faith' and vowed always to wear a red poppy of Flanders fields as a sign of remembrance. This started her long campaign to get the red poppy recognised nationally and eventually on September 29, 1920 the National American Legion agreed to accept it as the United States national emblem of remembrance.

France also adopted the poppy and in 1921 Madame Anna Guérin visited and persuaded Field Marshal Earl Douglas Haig, the founder and president of the British Legion, to adopt the red poppy also as the emblem of remembrance for the legion.

The red poppy was launched during the run up to November 11, 1921 and since that time it has been sold by the Royal British Legion to raise funds in support of their charitable works. All poppies are made by disabled ex-service personnel at the Poppy Factories in Richmond and Edinburgh.

The Story of the Unknown Warrior

The Reverend David Railton, a chaplain at The Front, is believed to have had the idea of honouring the unidentified dead of the Great War. In 1916 he noticed a grave in the garden in Armentieres which had a rough cross bearing the words "An Unknown British Soldier." After the war, in 1920, he suggested that Britain honour its unknown war dead officially.

Between four and six bodies were exhumed from the main British battle area in France. The remains were covered with a Union Jack and left overnight in a chapel at St. Pol. Brigadier-General L J Wyatt, who was the commander of British troops in France and Flanders, then selected one. Placed in a coffin made of oak from Hampton Court, the body was transported to Dover on the destroyer HMS Verdun.

On the morning of November 11, 1920, the second anniversary of Armistice Day, the Unknown Warrior was drawn on a gun carriage in procession to the Cenotaph where King George V placed a wreath on the coffin. At 11am the nation observed the Two Minute Silence and then the body was taken to Westminster Abbey and buried at the west end of the nave.

The tomb contains soil from France and is covered by a slab of Belgian marble on which is inscribed these words from 2 Chronicles 24:16:

'They buried him among the kings because he had done good toward God and toward his house'.

Within the first week 1,250,000 people filed past the 'Unknown Warrior' to pay their respects to all of the unidentified war dead. It is now one of the most visited war graves in the world and is the only part of the Abbey floor that is not walked on.

The Royal British Legion

The Tomb of the Unknown Warrior



Beneath this stone rests the body of a British Warrior unknown by name or rank brought from France to lie among the most illustrious of the land and buried here on Armistice Day 11 Nov: 1920, in the presence of His Majesty King George V his Ministers of State and Chiefs of his Forces and a vast concourse of the nation.

Thus are commemorated the many multitudes who during the Great War of 1914 - 1918 gave the most that man can give life itself for God for King and Country for loved ones at home and Empire for the sacred cause of Justice and the Freedom of the World.

They buried him among the Kings because he had done good toward God and toward his house.

Around the main inscription are four texts:

The Lord knoweth them that are his.

Greater love hath no man than this.

Unknown a known, dying and behold we live.

In Christ shall all be made alive.

The Cenotaph in Whitehall, London



The Cenotaph, which literally means Empty Tomb in Greek, was initially a wood and plaster construction intended as a small part of the Peace Day events of July 1919. At its unveiling the base of the monument was spontaneously covered in wreaths to the dead and missing from the Great War.

Such was the extent of public enthusiasm for the construction it was decided that the Cenotaph should become a permanent and lasting memorial. At the request of the then Prime Minister, Lloyd George, the present day Cenotaph was designed by Edwin Lutyens and built in Portland stone.

It carries the simple inscription 'The Glorious Dead' and was unveiled by King George V on November 11, 1920.

When You Go Home,
Tell Them of Us and Say,
For Their Tomorrow,
We Gave Our Today.

c WWI John Maxwell Edmonds



Leonard George Rowland Harris, 24.
Lost on HM Submarine *Thames*, August 3, 1940.

One of a series of booklets considering aspects of local history in the
Borough of Havant

See the full set at:
www.havant.gov.uk/havant-10979