

We will remember them

To commemorate the centenary of the start of the First World War on the 4th of August, 2014 we remember those men from Pamber Heath who gave their lives in the service of their country



The memorial tablet in St. Luke's Church, Pamber Heath

Frank Benham

FAMILY ORIGIN

Frank Benham was born Francis William Benham on the 6th of October, 1897, the son of Thomas and Annie Benham of Tadley, Hampshire. He was baptised on the 17th of May, 1900 at St. Peter's Church, Tadley at the age of 2. At the 1911 Census, the family were living in Pamber, believed to be in the Sandy Lane area. Frank's father was employed as a woodman at the time.

MILITARY CAREER

Frank enlisted and was given the regimental number 22200. He served with the 7th Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment with the rank of Private. His date of entry to the theatre of war was stated as the 16th of August, 1915. He died on the 15th of December, 1915 in Gallipoli at the age of 18. He was buried at the Pieta Military Cemetery in Malta. His grave reference is C.I. 6.

He was awarded 3 medals and these would have been sent to his mother.

Charles Hunt

FAMILY ORIGIN

Charles Hunt was born Charlie Hunt about 1892 in Tadley, Hampshire, the son of Charles and Olive Hunt of Tadley. At the 1911 Census the family were living in Pamber Heath, Charlie's father having died and Olive becoming a widow with a family to bring up on her own. Charlie was 19 at the time and working as a general labourer.

MILITARY CAREER

He enlisted and was given the regimental number 23229. He served with the 2nd Battalion of the Hampshire Regiment with the rank of Private and died on the 20th of August, 1916 in France/Flanders and buried at the Cambrin Churchyard Extension in France. Charlie's grave reference is Q. 11.

He was awarded 2 medals and these would have been sent to his mother.

William Hunt

FAMILY ORIGIN

He was born William Ducal J Hunt in 1899, the son of Charles Hunt, a labourer, and Olive Hunt of Tadley, Hampshire. He was an older brother of Charlie Hunt, listed above. At the 1891 Census, he was listed as living with his family at Tadley, Hampshire, aged 1. At the 1901 Census, he was not listed as living with his family at Tadley, Hampshire and I am unable to locate him. At the 1911 Census of his family at Tadley he was not listed and I am unable to locate him but he may have been overseas in army service.

MILITARY CAREER

He enlisted in the army on the 12th of October, 1904 at Basingstoke and joined the 3rd Battalion of the Hampshire Regiment. He gave his age as 17 years and 1 month, which does not agree with his birth registration. His next of kin was given as Mrs. Olive Hunt of Pamber and brother Charlie Hunt so this is obviously the correct William Hunt. He stated that his residence in the last 12 months had been at Tadley, Hampshire. William said his master was Mr. F. Evans of Aldermaston, Berkshire but he stated he was not or had not been an apprentice but was a labourer. He was medically examined at Winchester, Hampshire on the 13th of October, 1904 and found fit for service. His rank was Private. He only served 49 days with the Hampshire Regiment and was transferred to the Royal Field Artillery on the 1st of September, 1905. His regimental number was 790.

He served in the First World War in Iraq with the 82nd Battalion of the Royal Field Artillery as a gunner. He died on the 31st of December, 1916. His regimental number was 38623. His body was recovered and he was buried at the Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery, Iraq. William's grave reference number is XXI.O.50.

He was awarded 3 medals and these would have been sent to his mother Olive Hunt.

Everard Digges La Touche

FAMILY ORIGIN AND EDUCATION

Everard, was born on March 14th, 1883, at Burrendale, Newcastle, County Down, Ireland, the son of Major Everard Noel Digges La Touche and Clementine Digges La Touche. His parents had married at the Kilkeel Register Office on the 15th of January, 1878. Clementine's maiden name was Eager.

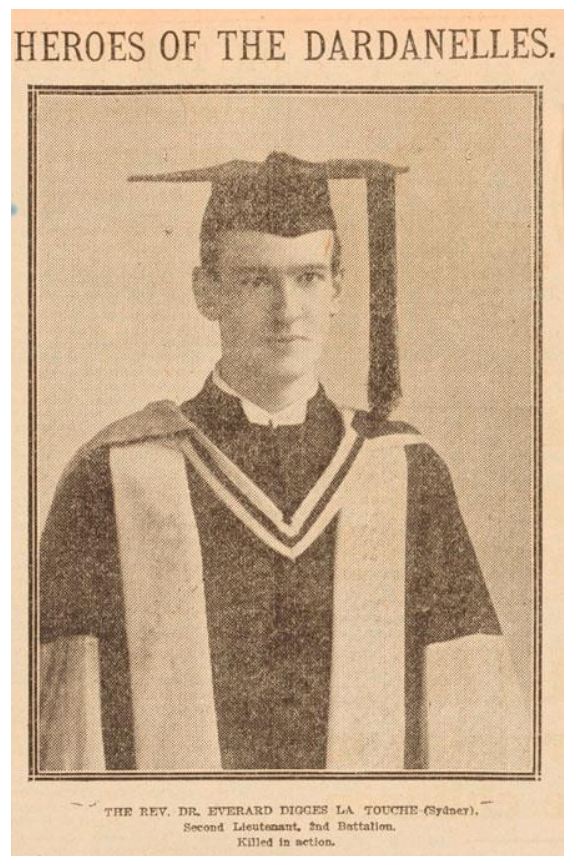
The family moved to England and at the time of the 1891 Census, they were living at 10 Goldington Avenue, Bedford where Everard's father's occupation was stated as being a retired half pay Major Bengal Infantry. Everard was 8 years old and a scholar. His brother Averell was 6 years old. There was a general domestic servant . Martha Wilson. Everard's father was 47 and his wife 34, both stated as being born in Ireland.

Everard was educated at Bedford Grammar School. 454 old boys of Bedford Grammar School were killed in the Great War and a Memorial Hall was erected there in 1926 to honour them. The names of the fallen are engraved on panels and no doubt Everard's also. There is a central panel which states: In memory of old Bedfordians who gave their lives in the War, 1914-1918.

Everard junior (pictured) became a brilliant scholar, and was educated first at Mountjoy School and later at Trinity College Dublin, where he was a gold medallist. In the 1901 census of Ireland, Everard was aged 18, and stated as being an undergraduate student at Trinity College Dublin.

On the 9th of November, 1903 Everard's father Everard senior died and was buried at the Mount Jerome cemetery in Dublin, Ireland. The Probate Index in England for 1904 states: La Touche, Everard Neal Digges of 25 Belgrave Road, Rathmines County, Dublin, died 9 November 1903. Probate Dublin to Clementine Digges La Touche, widow. Sealed London 10 February. Effects £22 12s 4d. in England.

Everard obtained his BA qualification in 1904. He went on a voyage in 1906 and arrived in Sydney, Australia on the 29th of April, 1906 at the age of 23 on the ship *Persic*. While there he gave many lectures on theological matters and some more political . home rule in Ireland, for example. He returned to England in 1907 and was ordained as an Anglican clergyman (deacon) at Durham in 1907 on the 22nd of September. He was subsequently curate at St Mary's, Dublin, Ireland, a church with strong evangelical associations. He became the assistant curate of St. Thomas's Parish, Dublin and it seems that while in Ireland he met his future wife.



Photograph of Everard in his university days, courtesy of the Sydney Mail and published on the 1st of September, 1915. The copyright of this picture is believed to have expired.

MARRIAGE

He married Eva King, daughter of Rev. William King, of The Rectory, Milltown, Co. Kerry, on the 30th of June, 1909, at Kilcolman Parish Church, Killarney, Co. Kerry. She was born on 29th October 1881, in Co. Kerry. On the 3rd of July, 1909 Reverend E D La Touche departed with his wife at the port of London, England on a round voyage trip aboard the steam ship *Arzila*, visiting Morocco, the Canary Islands and Madeira on a voyage lasting 23 days. They arrived back at the port of London on the 25th of July, 1909. This was probably their honeymoon trip.

MINISTRY

In 1909 Everard was a chaplain in Seville. He held several livings in the north of England for a time, the last being in Bradford, Yorkshire. In 1910, Trinity College, Dublin awarded him an honorary D. Litt. for his book, "Christian certitude: its intellectual basis", which was published that year. He was also appointed Donnellan Lecturer at the university, the youngest man ever to be appointed to the post. Whilst in Bradford that year, his first child was born - Everard William James Handley Digges La Touche.

On leaving his Bradford ministry, he took up the post of curate at St. Luke's Church in the village of Pamber Heath, Hampshire and this is the newspaper report of the start of his ministry:

'At St. Luke's Church on Sunday last the Rev. E. Digges Latouche M.A., Dr. of Trinity College, Dublin, commenced his ministry at Pamber Heath. He came into residence the previous week. There were good congregations both morning and evening. Dr. D. Latouche, whose degree of doctor of letters was obtained by his recently published book Christian Certitude, has been elected to deliver the Donnellan Lectures at Trinity College, Dublin for the current year. He is both a student and practiced debater who has been doing important evangelistic evidential work in the north of England. For reason's connected with Mr. Latouche's health, he has been led to work in the south. Up to recently, he had been curate of St. John's, Bradford'. SOURCE: Hants & Berks Gazette, 25th of February, 1911.

In the 1911 census of England, Everard was recorded at The Parsonage, Pamber Heath, Hampshire. He was stated as being aged 28, a clerk in holy orders, born at Newcastle, Co. Down. His wife Eva was stated as being aged 28, and born in Selerna, Galway, Ireland. Their son Everard William James Handley Digges La Touche, was stated as being 5 months old, and born at Bradford, Yorkshire.

Everard did not stay for long in Pamber Heath . less than a year - but was popular in the village. He helped to start a Boy Scout troop in the village and preached many sermons. He took charge of choir outings and was involved with events to raise funds for the Bendingo Mission, Australia.

This newspaper report tells of his departure from Pamber Heath: *'The Rev. E. Digges La Touche, Litt.D., who has had charge of St. Luke's Church for some little while past, is now leaving to take up mission work in the Bishop of Bendingo's Diocese, Australia. On Sunday last he preached his farewell sermons to crowded congregations.'* He was presented with a cheque for £6, with a list of subscribers, at a gathering on 'Monday evening' and it was said that it was Dr. La Touche's wish that the money be devoted to the Bendingo Mission Fund. *'On Tuesday morning Dr. La Touche left Pamber Heath carrying with him the good wishes of all classes in the neighbourhood for his future welfare.'* SOURCE: Hants & Berks Gazette, Saturday the 20th of January, 1912.

Before departing for Australia, he and his wife moved back to Ireland and she gave birth to their second child . Paul Digges La Touche - on the 20th of March, 1912 in County Kerry. It is possible that the marriage was not successful as Everard was about to leave his wife and children behind and embark on a voyage to a distant land alone and it seems he had no intention of returning.

EMIGRATION TO MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

Everard was in poor health, and a move to the warmer climate of New South Wales, Australia would have been beneficial for him. He embarked on the ship *Miltiades*, which was due to depart from the port of London on the 7th of May, 1912 bound for Melbourne, Australia. His last country of permanent residence was stated as Ireland. He arrived in Melbourne in June of 1912. He was Vicar of Emmaville, Diocesan lecturer and missionary for Sydney and a commissioner for the Bishop of Bendigo between 1912 and 1915, living in Hornsby, New South Wales, where he was remembered as a committed defender of the Church against the Rationalists who challenged it.

The author Nigel Hubbard, church historian at St Alban's Anglican Church, Epping, Sydney, wrote a book which was published in 1984. Hubbard made some interesting comments. After mentioning Everard's distinguished academic record in Ireland and England, Hubbard asked, why did he come to Australia in 1912, leaving his wife and children behind? It was probably for his health. His subsequent short clerical career in New South Wales seems fraught with theological and other disputes. Hubbard writes: 'The circumstances of a man leaving his wife and family and coming so far to such a remote rural parish (Emmaville in the Diocese of Grafton and Armidale) and then relinquishing it so quickly are quite mystifying'. The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW) published an article on Wednesday the 26th of June, 1912 about Everard's arrival in Australia:

'Rev. E. Digges La Touche, M.A., Litt.D., of Trinity College, Dublin, who a few years ago was well known in the Melbourne diocese, has returned to Australia. Mr. Digges La Touche, who was a lecturer at Trinity, will engage in parochial work at Emmaville, in the Grafton and Armidale diocese. He arrived from London by the steamer Miltiades.'



MILITARY CAREER

Photograph courtesy of the Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales, Australia. The copyright of this photograph has expired.

When the war started in 1914, he first tried to join as a chaplain but was unsuccessful. Then he tried to join the ranks of the 2nd. Battalion, Australian Infantry. In November 1914, he was rejected because of his severe varicose veins, so he immediately went away and had an operation. However, this meant that he was too late to join the 2nd Battalion, but as soon as he was well enough he joined the 13th Battalion and rose to Sergeant.

Many wondered why this clergyman, who was not in the best of health, and with the responsibility of his wife, Eve, and their two young sons, was prepared to go off and fight, but one of his men summed him up, saying "he convinced us of the righteousness of our cause and likened this present struggle for liberty to a Holy Crusade, so when we finally sang "Onward Christian Soldiers", we meant it".

He was commissioned as a 2nd. Lt. in the 2nd. Battalion when an officer was needed to take reinforcements from Alexandria, Egypt to Gallipoli for the August attack.

MIITARY ENLISTMENT PAPERS

On his enlistment papers, Everard stated that he was:

- " B.A., 1904, M.A., 1908, Litt.D., 1910.
- " Ryan Prizeman, 1905
- " Senior Moderator & Gold Medallist in History & Political Science, 1905.
- " Hon. Sec. University of Dublin Philosophical Society, 1907-8.

27th August 1914 - 22 November 1914: Private and Acting Sergeant, when he was discharged from the 13th Battalion as being medically unfit.

8 December 1914: Started attending the OfficersqSchool of Instruction, No. 17, Merrickville.

28th December 1914: He re-enlisted at Liverpool, NSW, Australia, naming his wife as Mrs. E. Digges La Touche, c/o Kilcolman Rectory, Milltown, Co. Kerry. His address was given as University Club, Castlereagh St., Sydney, and his age was recorded as 31 years and 10 months.

6 March 1915: Finished the OfficersqSchool of Instruction, No. 17, Merrickville.

8 May 1915: He finished as Acting Sergeant at the Liverpool depot.

10 May 1915: 2nd Lieut. 6th Rifles, 2nd Battalion.

16 May 1915: Embarked for Egypt.

DEATH AND BURIAL

He was with the 2nd Battalion on the 6th of August, 1915 at Gallipoli. On that morning he landed his men at Anzac Cove. As a Reinforcement Officer he could have chosen to go back to Alexandria, Egypt but the official historian says that he begged leave to join the attack at Lone Pine. At 5.30 pm, he went over the parapet with the first rush, only to fall, mortally wounded within a few seconds. He managed to roll down the slope of the spur and crawl back into the Australian lines, dying "among his own people"



as Charles Bean the Australian war historian described it. He had been shot in the intestines, and died 12 hours later. He was buried that day in Victoria Gully. His remains appear to have been exhumed twice, before final placement in the Lone Pine Cemetery (pictured above).

The Lone Pine Cemetery is in Anzac, Gallipoli, Canakkale . his grave is Plot: I.E.3.

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His brother Lieut. Averill Digges La Touche also died in WW1, at Ypres, Belgium.

PHYSICAL MEMORIALS

Everard's name is recorded on the War Memorial at Hornsby, New South Wales, Australia.

He is named on a memorial in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, Ireland.

He is named on a memorial tablet in St. Luke's Church, Pamber Heath, Hampshire, England.

His name is on the Roll of Honour, which is hung in the Memorial Hall in Pamber Heath Road, Pamber Heath, Hampshire, England, even though he had left the area years before in 1912, such was the esteem in which he was held and his past association with the village.

Everard's name is included on the Mount Jerome Cemetery family Memorial, Dublin, Ireland.

WRITTEN MEMORIALS

On Wednesday, the 15th of September, 1915, a newspaper article was published in the *Burra Record*, Sydney, Australia giving a memorial to Everard:

In Memoriam.

Rev. Everard Digges La Touche, Litt D., Lieut A.I.F.

'When the Rev. E. D. La Touche lectured in Burra last year he made numerous friends. Not long ago he was killed in the trenches, and the Bishop-elect of Goulburn, N.S.W. writes as follows in the Church Standard: — So, dear old 'Digges' has gone the way of many another good man who never dreamt of rifle and trench till this brutal war called the sons of peace to fight for the life of the world. We did not all approve of a priest taking the sword, but nobody could discuss the question with Digges in his tent without realising that whether he was right or wrong in his reading of the Bible, he had settled this question for himself with his Bible open before God. Further, he was convinced that God had answered his prayer. "My new physical fitness is the seal of divine sanction upon my service as a soldier in this holy war." About one question there can be no doubt or difference. Priest and officer in one, he carried his Lord's presence and power right into the heart of camp life and work. He made and kept friends from private to brigadier; and the wit which played at mess round "Digges and his Ironsides" and "Digges and his soldier-saints" played kindly on the surface of a deep respect and a genuine affection. Looking back on his work in the diocese, we can never forget that while we were sometimes amused and sometimes angered by the hair-trigger convictions which went off furiously, in public or in private, we knew him always for an absolutely straight and honest soul, out for truth in word and deed, and always happiest after all when he was busy on constructive work in co-operation with men whom he was fighting at other points and times. For myself, his death has put a sacred intensity into the memory of our last long talk up and down the lines at Liverpool on Sunday night, May 23. It was a happy medley of conflicts and confidences, of frankest despair about each other's churchmanship, and firmest conviction that we were both one at heart and mind on deepest needs of the spiritual life of the

Church and Commonwealth. Then it came to the last hand-shake, and it was a long grip. He said, "Remember, I'll be praying for you in the trenches on the morning of your consecration," and then, after a pause, "and if I should fall, I'll just be praying for you somewhere else." I believe he will; and I am sure he will not resent my saying, God rest his soul and reward his service.'

On the 7th of October, 1915 a newspaper article in the Sydney Morning Herald of New South Wales gave an insight into the nature of Everard's death and burial by a clergyman and friend of his who was in the trenches there at Gallipoli:

SYDNEY CLERGYMAN'S DEATH.

KILLED BY TURKISH BULLET.

Dr. Talbot, Dean of Sydney, writing to the Rev. Yeates from the trenches at Gallipoli, tells how Dr. Digges La Touche met his death. Dr Talbot says:— "On Sunday morning last, August 8, it was my sad duty to bury the mortal remains of the brave boys who had fallen in the great charge of the Irish Infantry Brigade of the previous Friday. That charge will always stand out as one of the great achievements of the operations here. After crossing a fire-swept zone our troops captured three lines of Turkish trenches, strongly held in a position of great strategic importance. Our losses were necessarily heavy, as by this time you will know. On the Sunday morning I was standing at the side of a trench in which 17 of our fallen officers and men lay side by side. Before the service, which was much shortened, as we were under heavy shell-fire at the time, I was going through the list of the dead when I was surprised and shocked to come across the name of Dr. Digges La Touche. The shock was all the greater, as, although I had heard that he was on his way here, I had no idea until then that he had landed on the Peninsula. Going down into the grave, and reverently uncovering his face, I saw the features of our friend. He had landed, I believe, early on the morning of the charge, and that same night he had scarce scaled the parapet of our trenches when he went down to a Turkish bullet. He saw but little of the war, but his example is a great asset. You probably know that he desired at first to come away as chaplain, and that when no opening offered in that capacity he joined the ranks. You will remember, too, how he overcame every obstacle of ill-health, and first as private, then as sergeant, then as colour-sergeant, and lastly as second-lieutenant, he fought his way here. I remember his once saying to me in my office at the Deanery what a grand thing it would be to get his commission from the ranks, and before he fell he had gained his desire. He was a born fighter. When the war broke out his patriotism simply possessed him. He laid aside the pen for the sword. He has often been heard to say that he was coming here to die for his country. It turned out to be a true presentiment, but his death was the death of a hero, and we thank our God for that."

PLEA FOR THE RETURN OF HIS BELONGINGS TO HIS MOTHER

On the 16th of August, 1916, a letter was written from Everard's cousin Katharine Digges La Touche who was living in New South Wales in Australia to the appropriate official depot who dealt with such matters saying:

Dear Sir,

Will you kindly let me know if you have received any of the baggage of my cousin the late Lieut. Everard Digges La Touche, who was attached to the 5th or 6th Reinforcements of the 2nd Batt. A. I. F. & who fell in the big charge at Lone Pine on the 6th of August, 1915. Last mail I had a letter from his mother who is greatly distressed at not having received any of his things with the exception of a little book & wristlet watch which were found upon his body & kindly posted to her by their friend

Dean Talbot of Sydney. I shall be most grateful if you will let me hear if you have any of his baggage at your depot & if so could you kindly have (parcelled) & forwarded to his mother, whose address is: Mrs. E. N. Digges La Touche, The Gable House, Monasterevin, Co. Kildare, Ireland – at the same time advising me of whatever you have been able to do for us & thus oblige.

Yours faithfully

Katharine Digges La Touche

Drumcairn, Epping, N.S.W.

The fact that his mother was expecting his belongings and not his wife as would be usual for a married man raises the question: Was there a rift in the marriage?

MOTHER'S DEATH AND HEADSTONE MEMORIALS OF THE FAMILY

His mother Clementine died on the 11th of February, 1930 in Dublin at the age of 73 and was buried with her late husband at the Mount Jerome Cemetery, Dublin (pictured on the right here).



A transcript of the Digges La Touche family headstone (pictured below) is as follows:

In Ever Loving Memory

of my husband

**MAJOR E.N. DIGGES LA
TOUCHE**

*Bengal Infy. & Assam
Comr. Obijt Novr. 1903*

*He went about helping
others*

*and of baby EVERARD
died in India*

*Also of our precious sons
who gave*

*their lives in "The Great
War"*



EVERARD (clerk in holy orders)

2nd Lieut. A.I. Force

Lone Pine Gallipoli Augst. 5th-7th 1915

"Faithful unto death"

AVERELL Lieut. R.I. Rifles

Hooze, France Sept. 25th-27th 1915

"Greater love hath no man than this – that

a man lay down his life for his friends"

QUIS SEPERABIT

also CLEMENTINE wife of

MAJOR E.N. DIGGES LA TOUCHE

obit February 1930.

Well done, good and faithful servant

enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.

Pictures copyright and courtesy of John O'Grady - used here with his kind permission.

EVERARD'S WIFE EVA

His widow Eva was awarded a pension of £91pa for herself and her son.

Everard's wife Eva had returned to England and lived later at White Cottage, Green Lane, Godalming, Surrey at one period and at the time of her death was living at Flat 5, 18 Hills Road, Cambridge. She died at Laugharne Lodge, Warren Road, Guildford, Surrey, on the 15th of November, 1948. Probate was granted to her son Paul Digges La Touche, police superintendent. Effects were £184 8s. 5d.

Text contributions are courtesy of John O'Grady, WFA branch members, Australian Government – Department of Veterans' Affairs, Rosaleen Dark, National Library of Australia.

Herbert Newman

FAMILY ORIGIN AND EDUCATION

Herbert Newman was born James Herbert Newman in 1871, the son of Dr Henry Newman, general practitioner and Anne Susan Newman of Hadleigh, Suffolk. He was baptised on the 1st of September, 1871 at Hadleigh, Suffolk.

At the time of the 1881 Census, he was a pupil at the Albert House School in Great Yarmouth, aged 9.

MILITARY CAREER

He enlisted as a medical student with the Medical Staff Corps at Aldershot, Hampshire on the 23rd of January, 1892 at the age of 20 years and 5 months. He attended the training school at Aldershot but his career was cut short as he bought himself out on the 13th of January, 1893 for the sum of £18. His regimental number was 9461. His whereabouts then remain a mystery.

His father Henry died in 1908 and at the 1911 Census Herbert's mother Anne was alone at Hadleigh, Suffolk, a widow with two domestic servants. Anne moved to Pamber Heath, Hampshire and the family home became Forest View. There were 3 cottages named Forest View in Pamber Heath and all close to each other in Burney Bit. They were all owned and rented out by Drusilla James of the Forge in Pamber Heath Road.

Herbert served in the 1914-1918 war with the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment as a Company Sergeant Major. He enlisted at Warwick in 1916 and his regimental number was 4556. He died on the 13th of February, 1916 in France, aged 45. His body was recovered and he was buried at the Point 110 New Military Cemetery in Fricourt, France. His grave reference is B.21.

His brother Reginald Travis Newman also served in the First World War and his name as well as Herbert's is on the Roll of Honour which is hung at the Memorial Hall in Pamber Heath Road.

Herbert's mother died in 1928 and the Probate Index states: Newman, Anne Susan of Forest View, Pamber Heath, Hampshire, widow, died 9 February, 1928. Probate Ipswich 3 April to Harry John Newman, gentleman and Alfred Newman, solicitor. Effects £6521 4s 3d.

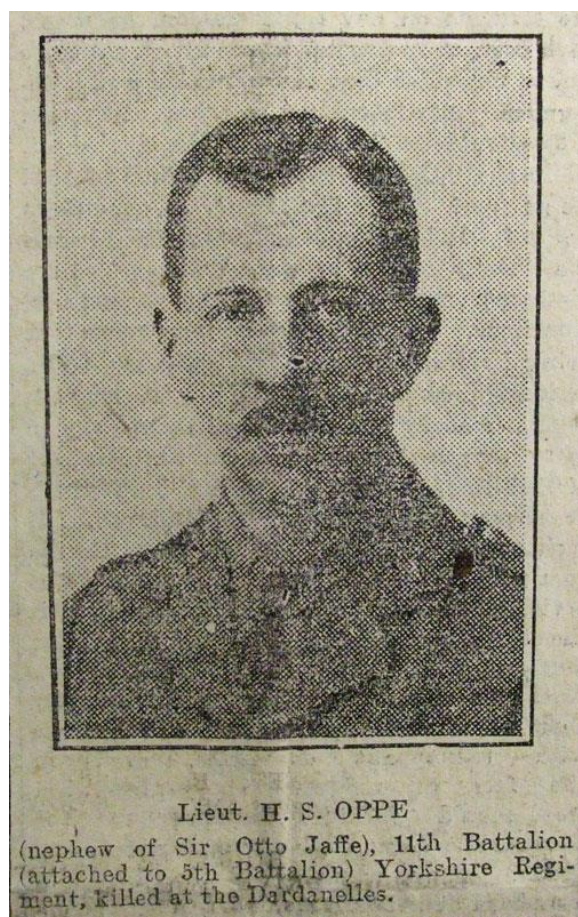
Harry Oppé

FAMILY ORIGIN AND EDUCATION

Harry was born Henry Sigismund Oppé on the 30th of July, 1880, the son of Sigmund Oppé, merchant and Pauline Oppé of Camberwell, London. The family were living in a house named The Grove at Camberwell in London at the time of the 1881 Census. He attended Charterhouse, an independent school in Godalming, Surrey and went to Oxford University on a scholarship. Sir Ronald Storrs wrote a book named *Zionism and Palestine* and mentioned the twins, Harry and Thomas Oppé, who were with him at Charterhouse: "What does the average English boy know of Jews as Jews, nothing. At Charterhouse were two pleasant brothers Oppé (very much cleverer than myself), who appeared in chapel at half-past seven every morning with the rest of us."

OCCUPATION

He qualified as a lawyer and went to work in Shanghai, China. He left for New York for onward travel to China in 1906 and arrived in New York on the 31st of December, 1906 aboard the ship *Caronia*.



Lieut. H. S. OPPE
(nephew of Sir Otto Jaffe), 11th Battalion
(attached to 5th Battalion) Yorkshire Regiment,
killed at the Dardanelles.

His age was given as 26 and occupation lawyer. The firm was called, White, Cooper, Oppé and Martin (address: 1A Peking Road, Shanghai). He was a reserve in the Shanghai army and in his application for a temporary commission in the British army contains a letter from the British intelligence in Shanghai thanking him for ~~rendering~~ ^{valuable} assistance+. was he a spy too?!

He left Hong Kong, China and arrived in Vancouver, Canada on the 15th of April, 1910, aboard the ship *Empress of Japan*. His age was given as 29 and occupation lawyer. His intended destination was London. He arrived in Liverpool, England from St. John, New Brunswick, Canada, on the 7th of May, 1910 on the ship *Victorian*.

He seems to have returned to Shanghai again between 1910 and 1915 but I was unable to trace him on any further passenger lists.

MILITARY CAREER

He enlisted for service in the First World War and joined the 6th Battalion of The Yorkshire Regiment on the 10th of October, 1915 as part of a draft of reinforcements (the 6th Battalion had been reduced to the strength of only 285 men by the 22nd of August, 1915). Very sadly, Lieutenant Oppé was killed by a sniper's bullet on the 6th of November, 1915 at the battle of Gallipoli. He was 35 years old. His body was recovered and was buried at the Hill 10 Cemetery with the grave reference number 11. G.12. The newspaper cutting with a photograph above is from an item published in the Belfast Evening Telegraph. *Cutting is courtesy of Nigel Henderson.*

The Probate Registry Index states the following for 1915: Oppé Henry Sigismund, formerly of Shanghai, China, lieutenant 11th (2nd reserve) battalion, Yorkshire regiment, was killed 6 November, 1915 in the Gallipoli Peninsula on active service. Probate London, 2 March to Adolf Paul Oppé, civil servant. Effects £1620 19s.4

His medals were awarded and sent to his mother Pauline Oppé at Pamber Heath.

His name appears on the Roll of Honour, which is hung in the Pamber Heath Memorial Hall.



The memorial tablet in St. Luke's Church, Pamber Heath

Thomas Armin Oppé

FAMILY ORIGIN AND EDUCATION

Thomas was born on the 30th of July, 1880 at 157 Camberwell Grove, London, the son of Sigmund Armin Oppé, merchant and Pauline Oppé. He was one of twins . his brother Henry being his twin. "Two little dear boys who will try to walk in the path of those whose names they carry. Their grand papa's and their papa's."

At the 1881 Census he was stated as being 8 months old and living at 157 The Grove, Camberwell, London. He attended Charterhouse, an independent school in Godalming, Surrey and entered in 1894, He left in 1897.

At the 1901 Census, he was living at the Red House, Pamber Heath, Hampshire with his mother and brother Adolf. Thomas's occupation was stated as bank clerk. He was 20 years old.

MILITARY CAREER

He was a member of the Inns of Court Volunteers but left them as he went abroad. He joined the 16th Middlesex Regiment on the 11th of September 1914, as a Private in the Public Schools Battalion. His application form, dated the 11th of September, 1914 gives the following information:

Permanent address - Pamber Heath. Height: 5 foot 9.5 inches. Weight: 142 lbs. Complexion: Dark. Eyes: Blue. Hair: Dark brown. Religion: Church of England (other options included Jewish). Trade or calling: Literary Work.

His officer application form, dated 10th May 1915 is seconded by Major G. Roller of Tadley, Basingstoke and T.E. Page (former master at Charterhouse).

His medical record stated: Hearing: Good. Teeth: Very fair. Colour vision: Good.

His Commanding Officer (Middlesex Regiment) recommends him BUT then adds "Personally I do not think he is quite suitable for the Special Reserve. He would require some special training first."

Thomas was discharged from the Middlesex Regiment on the 9th of July, 1915 on receiving Temporary Commission. His address is: A Company, Middlesex Regiment, Woldingham, Surrey.

He was commissioned into the 4th Battalion Scottish Rifles as 2nd Lieutenant (attached to 1st Battalion, The Cameronians).

He was ordered to join the School of Instruction on 16th July 1915.

Casualty Form:

- 21/5/16: Posted to 1st Battalion
- 24/5/16: Arrived Boulogne
- 2/6/16: In the field
- 19/7/16: Wounded in action, taken to La Touquet (shell wound in thigh)
- 24/7/16: Discharged to base details
- 29/7/16: Joined base details
- 18/8/16: Re-joined battalion

There was an application for sick leave due to ~~feeling~~ weakishq It stated he had influenza in November, 1916 and in bed for 1 week. On leave from 8/12/16 to 19/12/16.

Field Service:

- Date of death: 20th May 1917
- Cause of death: Killed in Action
- Next of Kin: A.P. Oppé

Report of the Affairs of Deceased Officers stated:
%We have no report of this officer's body having been recovered+.

Effects received from army: £70 15s. 2d.

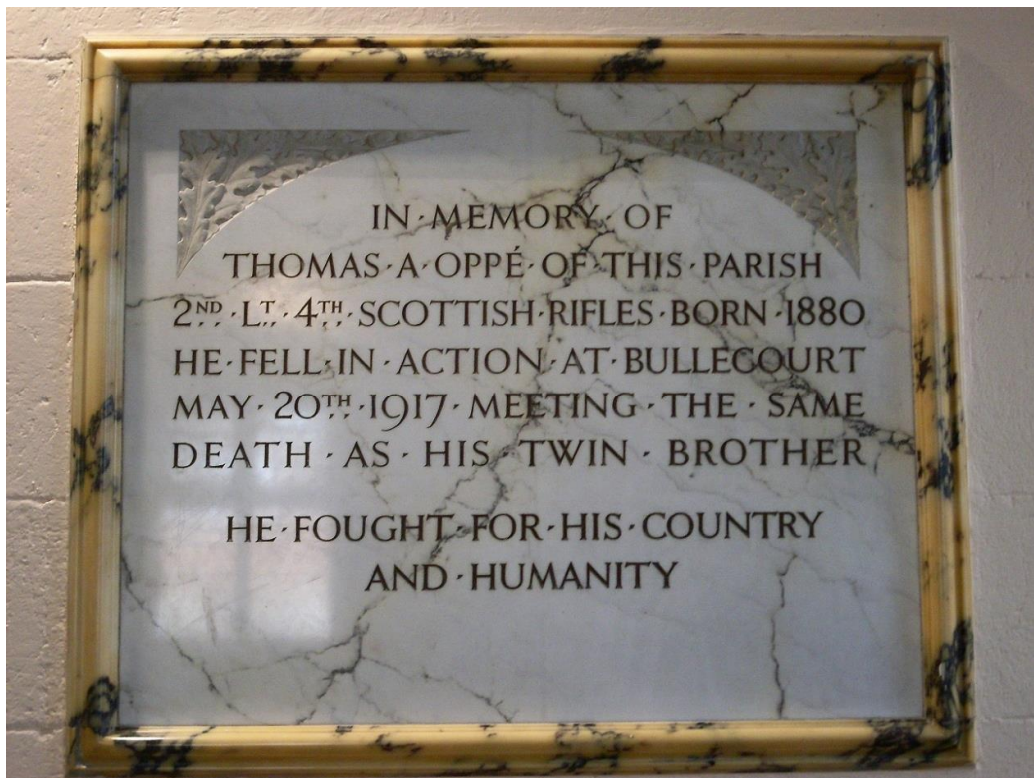
Estate value: £1,915 6s. 10d.

Medals to Pauline Oppé (mother . pictured right).

His body was not recovered but he is named at the Arras Memorial in the Faubourg-d'Amiens Cemetery, France.

Text contributions courtesy of David Blank.

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The memorial tablet in St. Luke's Church, Pamber Heath

SYLVANUS PIKE

FAMILY ORIGIN

Sylvanus was born into a gypsy family at Hook, Hampshire in 1897, the son of Neptune Pike, hawker and Patience Pike. He was baptised in Bentley, Hampshire on the 19th of September, 1897. At the time of the 1911 Census, the family were living at Farleigh, Wallop, Ellisfield, Hampshire and Sylvanus was aged 14, a general labourer. His father Neptune was working as an umbrella maker at the time. Neptune and Patience had a large family . in 1911 they stated that there had been 16 children born but 2 had since died. There were 6 boys and 5 girls still living with them at the time. The family lived at Forest Lane, Pamber.

MILITARY CAREER

Sylvanus enlisted to serve in the First World War and joined the 1st Battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment. He was killed in action on the 2nd of November, 1918 but his body was not recovered. His is named on a panel at the Vis-En-Artois Memorial cemetery in France

Sylvanus was awarded 2 medals and these would have been sent to his mother Patience. His regimental numbers were 5621 and 267130. Sylvanus's father died on the 30th of May, 1931. The Probate Registry Index states: Pike, Neptune, of Forest Lane, Pamber, Hampshire, died 30 May 1931. Probate London, 4 December, to Patience Pike, widow. Effects £158. He was buried at the Tadley United Reformed Church burial ground and the register stated his occupation as a hawker. His mother died in 1942.

FRED SMITH

FAMILY ORIGIN

Fred Smith was born Frederick John Smith in 1890, the son of Edward Charles Smith, general labourer and Margaret Smith of Pamber Heath, Hampshire. At the time of the 1891 Census Fred was stated as being 1 year old, living at Pamber Heath with his family. At the time of the 1911 Census, Fred was named as Fred John and stated as being 12 years old and at school, living with his family at Pamber Heath.

MILITARY CAREER

He enlisted to serve in the First World War with the 2nd Battalion of the Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire Regiment). His rank was Lance Corporal when he was killed in action in France on the 19th of September, 1918 at the age of 19. His body was not recovered and has no known grave but his name is honoured at the Loos Memorial, France.

Picture courtesy of Lynne Wall.



GILBERT WEST

FAMILY ORIGIN

He was born in 1897, the son of Walter West, general labourer and Fanny West of Pamber Heath. At the 1901 Census, he was living at Pamber Heath with his family, aged 4. At the 1911 Census, he was living in Sandy Lane, Pamber Heath, aged 14 and a general labourer working in agriculture.

MILITARY CAREER

He enlisted to serve in the First World War and joined the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Berkshire Regiment. His regimental number was 9225. He was killed in action on the 9th of May, 1915 in France. His body was not recovered and has no known grave but is honoured at the Ploegsteert Memorial, Belgium.

He was awarded 3 medals and these would have been sent to his mother.

Researched, written and published by Raymond West, July, 2014