



St Alban's Church, Nether Street, Finchley

We Will Remember Them





A compilation by Peter Hammond, October 2012

Contents

	Page
Roll of Honour	3
Introduction and Key Findings	4
Dates of Death	5
Lt. E C McLaughlin 6th LR	6
Rifleman J Walsh 6th London	8
Lt John Tobin-Willis RFC	9
Lt E A Byrne Dublin Fusiliers	12
Captain C L Awbury MC Essex Regiment	13
Corporal J F Daly Essex Regiment	15
Sgt Mjr T F Daly West Yorkshire	16
Joseph de Paiva CH	17
L/C Joseph McGrath LRB	18
R Kempston HMS Vanguard	20
Private R E Kiely Artists Rifles	22
Private P Kiely Royal Irish Rifles	23
Lt. N C (Billie) Shepard RFA	24
2nd Lt. Bernard Shepard RFA	26
Lt Edward Shine RWR (DCM)	28
Private H Cawley 12th Regiment	30
ABSTJ Kavanagh RN	31
L/C Paul S Byrne Artists Rifles	32
Lt. CE McLaughlin RN DSO	33
Private Peter Paul Harty	34
W Couldery Canadian Infantry	35
A R Harris RAMC (Longuvale)	36
LT PMB Collcutt East Yorks	37
Lt. RD French 6th London Rifles	39
Pte J F Hawes DCLI	41

ROLL OF HONOUR

1. Lt. E C McLaughlin 6th LR
2. Rifleman J Walsh 6th London
3. Lt John Tobin-Willis RFC
4. Lt E A Byrne Dublin Fusiliers
5. Captain C L Awbury MC Essex Regiment
6. Corporal J F Daly Essex Regiment
7. Sgt Mjr T F Daly West Yorkshire
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24. Lt. RD French 6th London Rifles
25. Pte J F Hawes DCLI

Introduction

When this piece of research started (October 2012), we knew little, if anything, about the history of the 25 young men commemorated here.

On Remembrance Sunday we say: "We will remember them," and our aim was to try to do that a little better, in relation to this small group.

Even after the small amount of online research done to date, a picture begins to emerge of real people, with families, jobs, hopes and fears - most of whom lived in and around North Finchley.

We can also feel something of the horror of World War One, when the total number of military and civilian casualties was over 37 million - 17 million dead and 20 million wounded. The British share of this carnage was nearly a million military deaths and 1.7 million military wounded. This was from a population of 45 million, so there was hardly a family left unaffected.

Key Findings


We have been able to find something on almost all of the 25, but there is more on some than on others. We continue to search.

- We may have 5 sets of brothers. Certainly the Byrnes, Kielys and Shepards are. The McLaughlins almost certainly are, and the Dalys may be.
- The Byrne and Kiely families both lived in North Finchley, and are likely to have been connected. Robert Kiely and Paul Byrne were both bank officials and both joined the Artists Rifles. Paul Kiely and Edward Byrne joined Irish regiment and were killed in February and April 1917 respectively. Their brothers, Robert Kiely and Paul Byrne died together in Ypres on 30th and 31st October 1917.
- The average age is 27. The youngest is R. Douglas French, who was from Nether Street, who was killed at 18, and the oldest was Charles Awbery, who was aged 38.
- Most are soldiers who died on the Western Front, but one (H Cawley) died in Palestine and another (Cyril McLaughlin) in Russia.
- We also have one airman (John Tobin-Willis), killed in action in Passchendale, and three members of the Royal Navy.
- There are at least 2 or 3 professional soldiers: Charles Awbery, Philip Collcutt and Edward Shine. The rest were office clerks, shop assistants, bank officials and a gardener.
- Three were decorated: Charles Awbery with the Military Cross, Cyril McLaughlin with the Distinguished Service Order and Edward Shine with the Distinguished Conduct Medal.
- We have one Captain, 5 Lieutenants, 4 Second Lieutenants, one Regimental Sergeant Major, one Corporal, 2 Lance Corporals and 5 Privates.

Dates of Death


1.	Joseph de Paiva CH	24-04-1915
2.	Lt. E C McLaughlin 6 th LR	18-05-1915
3.	Rifleman J Walsh 6 th London	30-04-1916
4.	L/C Joseph McGrath LRB	01-07-1916
5.	Corporal J F Daly Essex Regiment	20-07-1916
6.	Private Peter Paul Harty	29-07-1916
7.	Lt. N C (Billie) Shepard RFA	02-08-1916
8.	W Couldery Canadian Infantry	26-08-1916
9.	Lt. RD French 6 th London Rifles	15-09-1916
10.	Pte J F Hawes DCLI	16-09-1916
11.	Private P Kiely Royal Irish Rifles	15-02-1917
12.	Sgt Mjr T F Daly West Yorkshire	13-04-1917
13.	Lt E A Byrne Dublin Fusiliers	24-04-1917
14.	2 nd Lt. Bernard Shepard RFA	26-04-1917
15.	LT PMB Collcutt East Yorks	12-05-1917
16.	R Kempston HMS Vanguard	09-07-1917
17.	Captain C L Awbury MC Essex Rgt	31-07-1917
18.	Lt John Tobin-Willis RFC	17-08-1917
19.	Private R E Kiely Artists Rifles	30-10-1917
20.	L/C Paul S Byrne Artists Rifles	31-10-1917
21.	Private H Cawley 12 th Regiment	24-01-1918
22.	Lt Edward Shine RWR (DCM)	20-10-1918
23.	Lt. CE McLaughlin RN DSO	11-08-1919
24.	ABSTJ Kavanagh RN	?
25.	A R Harris RAMC (Longuval)	?

Lt. E.C. McLaughlin 6th L.R.


Name	Lt. Edmund Coldicoate McLaughlin	Unit	D Coy., 6 th Bn., London Regiment (City of London Rifles)		
Birth	1890	Died	18 May 1915	Age	25
Location	Festubert, France	Buried	Brown's Road Military Cemetery, Festubert, Pas de Calais		
					
Job	Post Office Civil Servant (see below)				
Family	<p>Son of Mr JC McLaughlin I.C.S. and Mrs L McLaughlin of 3 Pinecliffe Ave., West Southbourne, Hants. Husband of Louie Maude McLaughlin of 'Maisonette', Seaview, Isle of Wight.</p> <p>Note: Cyril McLaughlin is listed as being of the following family: Son of Mr Frederick James McLaughlin I.C.S. and Mrs Mary Louise McLaughlin 1911 Census: at 5 Linden Gardens, Hornsey Lane, Highgate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Frederick James (60) b. India, civil engineer, Public Works Dept. India (retired); secretary Highgate Golf Club 2. Mary Louise (51) 3. Edmund (21) b. India, Post Office Civil Servant 4. Francis (19) b. India, Clerk, Metropolitan Asylums Board 5. Gerald (16) b. Norfolk 6. Cyril (13) b. Clapham <p>Mary Stokes (27) and Winnifred Freeman (20), servants</p>				
Story	<p>The 6th Battalion landed in France in March 1915 and saw its first major action at Loos in September. Known as "The Cast Iron" Sixth, also known as the printers pals. The Battalion fought on the Somme, and at Messines, in the Third Battle of Ypres and at Cambrai. Edmund was killed early on, in May 1915.</p> <p>http://www.1914-1918.net/bat11A.html The Battle of Festubert -15 -25 May 1915</p> <p>18 May 1915: Steady rainfall, clearing around 11.00am. 3.00am: The 2/Bedfordshire and 1/4/Cameron Highlanders repeat their earlier attack, but it is repulsed. The small party of Camerons in the enemy trench are forced to withdraw due to lack of bombs. Further bombardments and infantry attacks are postponed as visibility is so poor in the mist and rain. Enemy shelling on the newly-won positions along La Quinque Rue continues. First Army gives orders to renew the attack in the afternoon - but ominously the bombardment will have no 4.5-inch howitzer component - ammunition stocks are running dangerously low. The orders reach the infantry with little time for thorough preparation. Afternoon: First Army gives orders for relief of 2nd and 7th Divisions; the Canadian and 51st (Highland) would take over with a view to continuing the advance towards Violaines and Chapelle</p>				

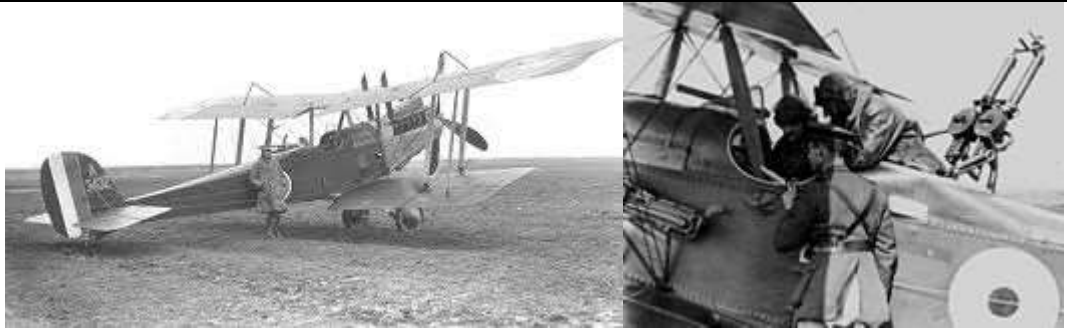
	<p>St Roch.</p> <p><i>3.00pm</i>: The bombardment begins again, to prepare for an attack to be carried out by the 3rd Canadian Brigade (attached to 7th Division) and the 4th (Guards) Brigade of 2nd Division, on a front between the School House and Ferme Cour d'Avoué. To the North, the Sirhind Brigade were planned to make a subsidiary attack near Ferme du Bois (but in the event it did not take place, the enemy shelling on rear positions and front line being so severe). The British shells do not touch the new German line, for it has not yet been noticed.</p> <p><i>4.20pm</i>: The bombardment intensifies prior to the infantry attack - the enemy artillery responds. The infantry move out at 4.30pm but within minutes are cut down by machine-gun fire, with the Guards (attacking near Ferme Cour d'Avoué) badly hit from enemy positions in Adalbert Alley.</p> <p><i>5.20pm</i>: The 3rd Canadian Brigade finally arrives in the front lines, through a combination of late arrival of orders, and slow movement up to position. They are ordered to relieve 21st Brigade. The remainder of the Canadian Division will relieve the rest of the 7th Division this night.</p> <p><i>7.30pm</i>: 2nd Division orders 4th (Guards) Brigade to break off the attack. 51st Division are by now moving up towards the area with a view to relieving the 2nd Division during the evening of 19th May.</p> <p>British casualties in the Battle of Festubert:</p> <p>2nd Division: 5,284 of which 178 officers (engaged for 6 days)</p> <p>7th Division: 4,123 of which 167 officers (3)</p> <p>7th (Meerut) Division: 2,521 of which 102 officers (5)</p> <p>47th (2nd London) Division: 2,355 of which 166 officers (10)</p> <p>Canadian Division: 2,204 of which 97 officers (8)</p>
Comment	Probably the brother of Lt. Cyril Edward McLaughlin RN DSO. Joined up pre-conscription, so was a volunteer.

Rflmn. J. Walsh 6th London

Name	Rifleman John Walsh	3264	Unit	1 st /6 th Battalion (City of London Rifles)		
Birth			Died	30 April 1916	Age	
Location			Commemorated at	Arras Memorial		
						
Job						
Family						
Story						
Comment	<p>The 6th Battalion landed in France in March 1915 and saw its first major action at Loos in September. The Battalion fought on the Somme, and at Messines, in the Third Battle of Ypres and at Cambrai.</p> <p>In the same outfit were Lt. EC McLaughlin (5/15) and Lt. RD French (9/16).</p>					

Lt. John Tobin-Willis R.F.C.

Name	2 nd Lt. John Galbraith Tobin-Willis	Unit	7 th Sqdn., Royal Flying Corps		
Birth	1896 in Ilkeston, Derbyshire	Died	17 August 1917	Age	21
Location	Landemarck, Belgium	Buried	Mendinghem Military Cemetery, Belgium		
					
Family	Parents were Dr JG Willis and Mrs AE Willis of 8 Park View Road, Church End, Finchley				
Story	<p>In 1901, the family lived at 139 Manor Road, Ilkeston, Derbyshire. The family consisted of:</p> <p>James G, who was a medical practitioner, b. Ireland (29); his wife, Annie E, b. Ireland (34); John G (5); Annie MM (2), and two female servants.</p> <p>In April 1911, aged 15, John was boarding at the Douai Abbey School (Benedictines) in Woolhampton, Berkshire.</p> <p>He is listed in the London Gazette dated 10th November 1914 (aged 18) as being commissioned as a second lieutenant.</p> <p>He was attached to 7th Squadron, Royal Flying Corps which was flying RE8's on reconnaissance and bombing missions from the Proven East aerodrome, over Ypres in July / August 1917. This was "Third Ypres", or the Battle of Passchendale, which was June – November 1917. Flying with second lieutenant H.L. Sayers, he is recorded as having one of the Squadron's five 'victories' in August - on 12th August. (Assume this means shooting down an enemy aircraft).</p> <p>The Battle of Langemarck 16–18 August 1917, was the second Allied general attack of the Third Battle of Ypres. The weather was exceptionally wet, with the heaviest rain recorded for 30 years.</p> <p>He was killed in aerial combat in Belgium on 17th August 1917 (aged 21). The records show that H.L. Sayers was killed in action, and J.G. Tobin-Willis was injured in action, and then died of his wounds.</p>				



Above are library pictures of RE8's. The Royal Aircraft Factory R.E.8 was a British two-seat biplane reconnaissance and bomber aircraft of the First World War designed by John Kenworthy. Intended as a replacement for the vulnerable B.E.2, the R.E.8 was more difficult to fly, and was regarded with great suspicion at first in the Royal Flying Corps. Although eventually it gave reasonably satisfactory service, it was never an outstanding combat aircraft. In spite of this, the R.E.8 served as the standard British reconnaissance and artillery spotting aircraft from mid-1917 to the end of the war, serving alongside the rather more popular Armstrong Whitworth F.K.8. Over 4,000 R.E.8s were eventually produced and they served in most theatres including Italy, Russia, Palestine and Mesopotamia, as well as the Western Front.

Comment

He was a volunteer, as he signed up before Conscription began in January 1916. Was he attracted by the war or by flying? Why RFC otherwise? The RFC was founded in May 1912, and was based on Salisbury Plain, not far from where he was at school. In July 1912 the RFC suffered its first fatal crash, on Salisbury Plain. The pilot and the observer were both killed, but an order was promptly issued: 'Flying will continue this evening as usual.'


The Germans invaded Belgium on August 3rd, 1914 and Britain declared war the following day. Around mid-August the RFC flew its aeroplanes across the Channel to join the British Expeditionary Force (BEF). Early in September the BEF commander Sir John French commented approvingly in an official dispatch on the vital help RFC reconnaissance had given his operations in Belgium. In that month the RFC began taking aerial photographs and in 1915 J.T.C. Moore-Brabazon of the RFC designed the first efficient aerial camera. The first RFC planes had Union Jack badges, but in 1915 the roundel of three circles, red at the centre surrounded by white then blue, was adopted from the French air force badge, with the colours in reverse order.

The RFC became increasingly aggressive, especially under Hugh Trenchard, a former infantry officer who was its commander in France from August 1915. The casualty toll mounted accordingly. RFC planes had no parachutes. Dogfights between Allied and enemy pilots swooping about the sky in flimsy-looking biplanes became more common and Allied pilots took to strafing German troops and installations with machine guns or bombs. The German air force was better equipped and better trained. The ratio of British losses to German were around 4:1.

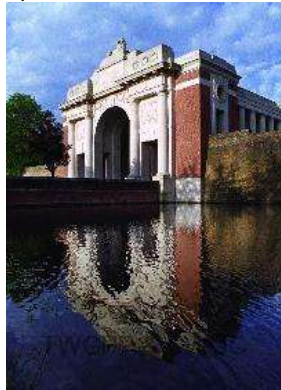
RFC personnel won shoals of decorations and some fighter aces became national heroes, including Captain Albert Ball VC, who crashed and died in 1917; Captain Lanoe Hawker VC, who was killed in 1916 in a dogfight with the German ace Baron von Richthofen; and Major Edward 'Mick' Mannock VC, killed in action in his Sopwith Camel in 1918. Those who survived to play leading roles in the Second World War included Hugh Dowding, Arthur 'Bomber' Harris, Charles Portal and the Canadian ace Billy Bishop VC. Other RFC figures included the cricketer Jack Hobbs, who joined up

	as an air mechanic in 1916; <i>Biggles</i> author W.E. Johns; and the ballroom dancer Vernon Castle, who was killed in a crash in 1918.
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Lt. E.A. Byrne Dublin Fslrs.

Name	2 nd Lt. Edward Aloysius Byrne	Unit	11 th Battalion, attached 1 st Battalion, Royal Dublin Fusiliers		
Birth	c. 1885	Died	24 April 1917	Age	32
Location	France	Commemorated at	Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais 		
Job					
Family	<p>Son of Joseph and Marcella Byrne of 'Beechwood', Torrington Park, N. Finchley. Brother of Paul S Byrne who was killed in October 1917, aged 26. Family in April 1911 living at 153 Osbaldeston Road, Stamford Hill was: Joseph (father) b. Wicklow, a school master (68); Marcella (mother) b. Rathangan, Co Kildare (59); Henry F, an insurance clerk (29); Teresa Mary, single; Patrick Aphonsus, a bank clerk (21) and Paul Stanislaus (19). Edward Aloysius was 26 at this stage, and is living elsewhere. Maybe he went to Ireland? The 11th Battalion was formed in Dublin.</p>				
Story					
Comment	<p>11th (Reserve) Battalion: Formed in Dublin in July 1916. Moved to Aldershot by January 1918 but absorbed by 3rd Bn in May 1918. 1st Battalion: August 1914 : in Madras. Returned to UK and landed at Plymouth on 21 December 1914. Moved to billets in Torquay but in January 1915 went on to Nuneaton. Came under orders of 86th Brigade in 29th Division. 16 March 1915 : sailed from Avonmouth for Gallipoli, going via Alexandria and Mudros, where it halted on 9 April. Landed at Cape Helles on 25 April 1915. Between 30 April and 19 May 1915, following heavy casualties, the battalion and 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers formed one composite unit, called the 'Dubsters'. 1 January 1916 : evacuated from Gallipoli to Egypt, arriving 8 January. 13 March 1916 : sailed from Port Said to Marseilles for service in France.</p>				

Cap. C.L. Awbery M.C. Essex R.

Name	Captain Charles Luker Awbery MC	Unit	4 th Essex Regiment attached to 1 st Cambridgeshire Regiment		
Birth	c. 1879 Tooting (or Henley?)	Died	31 July 1917	Age	38
Location	St Julien, near Ypres, Belgium, 3 rd Ypres (Passchendale)	Commemorated at	Ypres, Menin Gate Memorial – Panel 39 		
Job	Chartered Accountant, member of ICAEW				
Family	<p>Son of Albert Richard Awbery of 60 Huron Road, Tooting Common, and the late Sarah E Awbery. He was single.</p> <p>In April 1911 (aged 31) he was at 3 Nicholl Road, Epping in a household with: Hannah Haslam, a widow (62), her son Arthur, a clerk (32), Gertrude Snaith, a nursing sister and visitor (34) and two servants.</p>				
Story	<p>Born in Tooting Common, Charles Luker Awbery was a Chartered Accountant in civilian life. He took an interest in soldiering, and served in the Boer War with the London Scottish Regiment. He remained with them for a number of years, and qualified as an instructor at the Army School of Musketry. In 1911 he moved to Epping and took a commission in the Essex Regiment. He was attached to 'G' Company of the 4th Battalion, which was based in Ongar with a detachment in Epping. On October 11th 1914 he was promoted to temporary Captain. He landed in Gallipoli with his Battalion on 21st July 1915, and remained there until the Allied evacuation five months later. His rank of Captain was made permanent in December 1915. He spent some time on sick leave and when fit again he was attached to the Cambridgeshire Regiment and sent to France. In the autumn of 1916 he was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry in action. The following citation was published in the London Gazette on 12th October 1917: "Charles Luker Awbery, Capt. Essex R. attached Cambridge R. For conspicuous gallantry in action. He led his company direct to the final objective and got into touch with the battalions on the right and the left, sending his report to Battalion HQ. He carried out a difficult operation with great courage and skill." Captain Awbery was reported missing in August 1917, but it was later discovered that he had in fact been killed in action at St Julien, near Ypres, on 31st July. The West Essex Gazette said at the time "His honourable sportsmanlike conduct made him many friends in Epping, by whom he will be sadly missed". A special Mass was said for him at Coopersale House on Sunday 9th September 1917.</p> <p>THE THIRD BATTLE OF YPRES (PASSCHENDAELE) 31 JULY - 10 NOVEMBER 1917. Charles Awbery was killed on the first day. N.B. John Tobin-Willis was killed here two weeks later on 17th August. Haig had long wanted a British offensive in Flanders and, following a warning that the German blockade would soon cripple the British war effort, wanted to reach the Belgian coast to destroy the German submarine bases there. On top of this, the possibility of a Russian withdrawal from the war threatened German redeployment from the Eastern front to increase their reserve strength dramatically.</p> <p>The British were further encouraged by the success of the attack on Messines Ridge on 7 June 1917. Nineteen huge mines were exploded simultaneously after they had been placed at the end of long tunnels under the German front lines. The capture of the ridge inflated Haig's confidence</p>				

and preparations began. Yet the flatness of the plain made stealth impossible: as with the Somme, the Germans knew an attack was imminent and the initial bombardment served as final warning. It lasted two weeks, with 4.5 million shells fired from 3,000 guns, but again failed to destroy the heavily fortified German positions.

The infantry attack began on 31 July. Constant shelling had churned the clay soil and smashed the drainage systems. The left wing of the attack achieved its objectives but the right wing failed completely. Within a few days, the heaviest rain for 30 years had turned the soil into a quagmire, producing thick mud that clogged up rifles and immobilised tanks. It eventually became so deep that men and horses drowned in it.

See http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/northern_ireland/8177264.stm which is an animated official diary of that day.

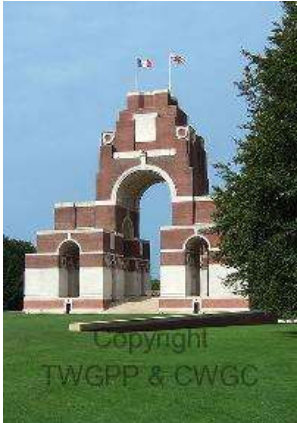


This photograph was taken on 1st August 1917 in Passchendaele.


Comment

He was a member of Haberdasher Aske's Lodge Old Boys No. 3362. A freemason.

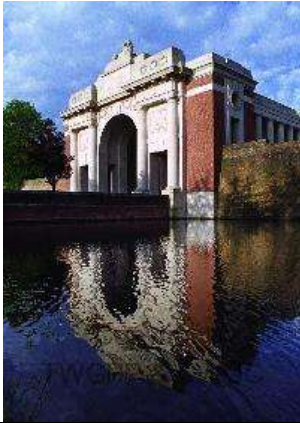
Cpl. J.F. Daly Essex R.

Name	Cpl John Francis Daly 14894	Unit	10 th Bn., Essex Regiment		
Birth		Died	20 July 1916	Age	
Location	Somme	Commemorated at	Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France Pier and Face 10 D		
			 <p>Copyright TWGPP & CWGC</p>		
Job					
Family					
Story					
Comment	<p>1911 Census lists at 21 Lichfield Grove, Church End, Finchley: John Daly, b. 1861 Kilarney, widowed, a coachman, living with his son John b. 1893, single, a shop assistant (18).</p> <p>Could this be the same widowed father 'John Daly' as the father of RSM ST/TF Daly?</p> <p>If so, in 1911, ST was 21 and John was 18.</p> <p>Then John would have been 23 when he was killed.</p>				

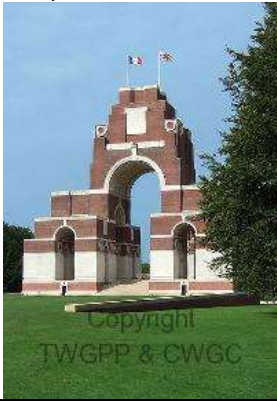
Sgt. Major T.F. Daly West Yorks

Name	RSM S T Daly	8283	Unit	12 th Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales Own)		
Birth			Died	13 April 1917	Age	27
Location	Arras, France		Buried	Wancourt British Cemetery		
						
Job						
Family	Son of John Daly of 10 Lambert Road, N Finchley. Husband of Louisa Daly of 1 Palace View, Fulford, York.					
Story	"Wancourt was captured on 12 April 1917 after very heavy fighting and the advance was continued on the following days".					
Comment	<p>Listed on memorial as 'Sgt Major T F Daly W Yorks'</p> <p>1911 Census lists at 21 Lichfield Grove, Church End, Finchley: John Daly, b. 1861 Kilarney, widowed, a coachman, living with his son John b. 1893, single, a shop assistant (18).</p> <p>Could this be the same widowed father 'John Daly'?</p> <p>If so, in 1911, ST was 21 and John was 18. Could this be the John Francis Daly also commemorated?</p>					

Joseph dePaiva C.H.

Name	Private Joseph H de Paiva [CH?] 29036	Unit	16 th Bn., Canadian Infantry (Manitoba Regiment)		
Birth		Died	24 April 1915	Age	
Location	Belgium	Buried	Menin Gate, Ypres, Panel 24 - 26 - 28 - 30		
					
Job					
Family					
Story					
Comment	What is CH?				


L/Cpl. Joseph McGrath L.R.B.

Name	L/Cpl. Joseph Martin McGrath 2692	Unit	"C" Coy, 1 st /5 th Battalion London Regiment (London Rifle Brigade)		
Birth	c. 1892	Died	1 July 1916	Age	24
Location	Somme, France	Buried	Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France		
					
Job					
Family	Son of Maria Norman McGrath of Alwyn House, Finchley Lane, Middx. And the late Joseph Michael McGrath.				
Story					
Comment	<p>The first day on the Somme, 1 July 1916: The middle day of the middle year of the First World War, is remembered as the bloodiest day in the history of the British Army when 57,470 men became casualties, of whom 19,240 were killed or died of wounds. For many people, the first day has come to represent the futility and sacrifice of the war, with lines of infantry being mowed down by German machine guns. While the first day marked the beginning of four and a half months of attrition, it has always overshadowed the days that followed.</p> <p>The Somme was to be the first major offensive mounted by the British Expeditionary Force and the first battle to involve substantial numbers of battalions from Lord Kitchener's New Army. Included were many of the famous Pals battalions that had formed in response to Kitchener's call for volunteers in August 1914. Heavy losses amongst these battalions led to a concentration of casualty notices in the communities from which they were formed.</p> <p>British commanders were so confident they ordered their troops to walk slowly towards the German lines. Once they had been seized, cavalry units would pour through to pursue the fleeing Germans.</p> <p>However, unconcealed preparations for the assault and the week-long bombardment gave the Germans clear warning. German trenches were heavily fortified and, furthermore, many of the British shells failed to explode. When the bombardment began, the Germans simply moved underground and waited. Around 7.30am on 1 July, whistles blew to signal the start of the attack. With the shelling over, the Germans left their bunkers and set up their positions.</p> <p>As the 11 British divisions walked towards the German lines, the machine guns started and the slaughter began. Men carried kit weighing 66lbs. Although a few units managed to reach German trenches, they could not exploit their gains and were driven back. By the end of the day, the British had suffered 60,000 casualties, of whom 20,000 were dead. Sixty per cent of all officers involved on the first day were killed.</p>				




R. Kempson H.M.S. Vanguard




Name	R Kempson	Unit	HMS Vanguard		
Birth		Died	9 July 1917	Age	
Location	At Scapa Flow	Buried	At sea, at the site of the accident		
Job					
Family					
Story	<p>The eighth HMS Vanguard of the British Royal Navy was a St Vincent-class battleship, an enhancement of the "Dreadnought" design built by Vickers at Barrow-in-Furness. She was designed and built during the Anglo-German naval race and spent her life in the British Home Fleet. At the outbreak of World War I, Vanguard joined the First Battle Squadron at Scapa Flow, and fought in the Battle of Jutland as part of the Fourth Battle Squadron. She was a part of the action from beginning to end, but did not suffer any damage or casualties.</p> <p>On the afternoon of 9 July 1917 the ship's crew had been exercising, practicing the routine for abandoning ship. She anchored in the northern part of Scapa Flow at about 18.30. There is no record of anyone detecting anything amiss until the moment of the explosion at 23.20.</p> <p>Just before midnight (at 23.20) on Monday, 9 July 1917 at Scapa Flow, Vanguard suffered an explosion, probably caused by an unnoticed stokehold fire heating cordite stored against an adjacent bulkhead in one of the two magazines which served the amidships gun turrets 'P' and 'Q'. She sank almost instantly, killing an estimated 804 men; there were only two survivors.</p> <p>A court of inquiry heard accounts from many witnesses on nearby ships. They accepted the consensus that there had been a small explosion with a white glare between the foremast and "A" turret, followed after a brief interval by two much larger explosions.[13] The Court decided, on the balance of the available evidence, that the main detonations were in either "P" magazine, or "Q" magazine, or both. A great deal of debris thrown out by the explosion landed on nearby ships; a section of plating measuring some five feet by six feet landed on board Bellerophon. It was found possible to match it with a sister ship, and it was found to be from the central dynamo room, which reinforced the evidence suggesting that the explosion took place in the central part of the ship.</p> <p>Although the explosion was obviously an explosion of the cordite charges in a main magazine, the reason for it was much less obvious. There were a number of theories. The inquiry found that some of the cordite on board, which had been temporarily offloaded in December 1916 and catalogued at that time, was past its stated safe life. The possibility of spontaneous detonation was raised, but could not be proved.[14] It was also noted that a number of ship's boilers were still in use, and a number of the watertight doors which should have been closed in war-time, were open as the ship was in port. It was suggested that this might contribute to there being a dangerously high temperature in the magazines. The final conclusion of the board was that a fire started in a 4-inch magazine, perhaps when a raised temperature caused spontaneous ignition of cordite, spreading to one or the other main magazines which then exploded.[15]</p> <p>The site is now designated as a controlled site under the Protection of Military Remains Act. One of the casualties of the disaster was Captain Kyōsuke Eto, a military observer from the Imperial Japanese Navy, which was allied with the Royal Navy at the time through the Anglo-Japanese Alliance.</p> <p>In terms of loss of life, the destruction of the Vanguard remains the most catastrophic accidental explosion in the history of the UK, and one of the worst accidental losses of the Royal Navy.</p>				

		
Comment		



Pvt. R.E. Kiely Artists Rfs.

Name	Pvt Robert Edward Kiely 763988	Unit	1 st /28 th London Regiment (Territorial) Artists Rifles		
Birth	c. 1881 Barnsbury, London	Died	30 Oct. 1917	Age	36
Location	Belgium	Buried	St Julien Dressing Station Cemetery, Langemarck – Poelkapellewest-V 		
Job	Bank Cashier - 1911				
Family	<p>The brother of Paul Kiely who was killed 15 Feb. 1917 on the Somme. In 1901 (aged 20) he lived with his family at 11 Lancaster Road, Hornsey: Robert E (father), b. Limerick, Ireland, (60); Julia M (mother) b. Islington (45); Julia M, b. Barnsbury (21); Robert E (20); Edward M b Stoke Newington (18); Agnes M, b. Walthamstow (16); Paul b. Highgate (10); Philip b. Highgate (5).</p> <p>The 1911 Census shows the family living at 73 Tollington Park, Finsbury Park. The father, Robert E (70) is listed as a pensioner GPO; the mother Julia M is not listed; sister Julia M (31) is a milliner; there is another daughter Mary (22) listed as housekeeper, Agnes (26), and Philip (now a commercial clerk) (15).</p> <p>In 1911 (age 30) he was alone (but shown as 'married') at 21 Newnham Road, Wood Green. In 1915 when he enlisted, he lived at 6 Friern Park, N. Finchley.</p>				
Story	<p>Robert enlisted on 7th December 1915 (aged 34), just before conscription. Robert died the day before Paul Byrne of the same outfit. Paul was a bank clerk, also living in Finchley. Did they work together? Were they friends?</p>				
Comment	<p>The Artists Rifles traces its origins to a meeting to discuss the threat of invasion by Napoleon III in 1859, of students at Careys School of Art which led to the formation of the Corps of Artists. This unit was composed of painters, sculptors, engravers, architects, musicians, poets and actors. Many of the most famous names in British art (Millais, Rossetti, Frederick Leighton etc) have proudly to served in The Artists. It provided the largest contingent for the City Imperial Volunteers in the Boer War. When the Territorial Force was created in 1908 it became the 28th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment. Shortly after the outbreak of the Great War second line and third line battalions were formed - numbered 2/28th and 3/28th, the original battalion being 1/28th. The latter arrived in France at the end of October 1914 and became an Officers Training Corps (OTC), first at Bailleul and in April 1915 at St Omer. In November 1915 it absorbed the 2/28th; the 3/28th (which remained in the UK) then became 2/28th. In the summer of 1917 cadet schools in France were closed and potential officers were sent to the UK for training, and 1/28th Battalion, freed at last from its OTC role, was sent to the front at the end of June 1917, allocated to 190th Brigade, 63rd (RN) Division where it remained to the end of the war. 10,256 received commissions, eight VCs were awarded, and the casualties suffered throughout the war numbered 6,071 of whom 2,003 were killed.</p> <p>When it was decided in 1947 to resurrect the Special Air Service as a territorial unit, 21 SAS was formed out of the Artists Rifles. They in turn gave birth to the Regular 22 SAS.</p>				

Pvt. P. Kiely Ryl. Irish Rfs.

Name	Pvt Paul Kiely	43901	Unit	1st Battalion, Royal Irish Rifles		
Birth	c. 1891 Highgate, London		Died	15 Feb. 1917	Age	26
Location	Somme, France		Buried	Bray Military Cemetery, Somme, France		
						
Job	Commercial Clerk - 1911					
Family	<p>The brother of Robert E Kiely who was killed in Langemarck, Belgium on 31 Oct. 1917. The husband of Lizzie Kiely of "Colyton", Churchfield Avenue, N. Finchley. In 1901 (aged 10) he lived with his family at 11 Lancaster Road, Hornsey: Robert E (father), b. Limerick, Ireland, (60); Julia M (mother) b. Islington (45); Julia M, b. Barnsbury (21); Robert E (20); Edward M b. Stoke Newington (18); Agnes M, b. Walthamstow (16); Paul b. Highgate (10); Philip b. Highgate (5).</p> <p>The 1911 Census shows the family living at 73 Tollington Park, Finsbury Park. The father, Robert E (70) is listed as a pensioner GPO; the mother Julia M is not listed; sister Julia M (31) is a milliner; there is another daughter Mary (22) listed as housekeeper, Agnes (26), Paul a commercial clerk (20); and Philip (now a commercial clerk) (15).</p>					
Story	<p>1st Battalion August 1914 : in Aden. Returned to UK and landed at Liverpool on 22 October 1914. Moved to Hursley Park and came under command of to 25th Brigade in 8th Division. 6 November 1914 : landed at Le Havre. 3 February 1918 : transferred to 107th Brigade in 36th (Ulster) Division.</p>					
Comment	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div> <p>Infantry of the Royal Irish Rifles during the Battle of the Somme The Royal Irish Rifles mostly recruited in Ireland.</p>					

Lt. N. G. (Billie) Shepard R.F.A

Name	Lt Norbert Gerald (Bill) Shepard	Unit	"D" Howitzer Battery, 103 rd Brigade, Royal Field Artillery		
Birth	18 th April 1893, Thorpe, Northampton	Died	2 August 1916	Age	23
Location	Somme	Buried	Warloy-Baillon Communal Cemetery		
					
Job	City Office Clerk in 1911 (aged 17)				
Family	<p>Brother of Bernard Anthony Shepard, also of RFA, who died of his wounds in England in April 1917.</p> <p>From a large family of 6 boys and 3 girls. Father = Thomas; Mother = Maria Leonor, b. Portugal; The parents (Thomas – 1860-1937 and Maria Leonor Marel-Ferreira 1861-1946) were married in Hendon in 1889.</p> <p>Thomas (Toby) 1890-1970; Charlie (Rock) 1892-1976; Norbert (Bill) 1893-1916; Robert (Bob) 1894-1945; Bernard 1895-1917; Leonor (Sycie) 1896-1992; Alban Francis (Beau) 1898-1990; Catherine Mary (Molly) 1899-1981 and Mildred Mary (Puss) 1900-1981.</p> <p>Parents' address at his death given as Marine Square, Brighton.</p> <p>Otherwise, the family lived in Northants, which is where the children were born.</p>				
Story	<p>In April 1911 (aged 17), Bill was living with his grandfather Joseph Marel-Ferreira (aged 75), at 30 Leamington Park Villa, Bayswater, London. The household consisted of 13 people, with 7 surnames and none servants. Occupations are organist / music teacher, dyer, secretary, diamond merchant, milliner, bank clerk, governess. Maybe a boarding house?</p> <p>Below are pictures of the Shepard family: Bill at 16; the 6 boys; the 6 boys and 3 girls; the children with their parents; Leonor (Bill's mother); the 6 boys with their father.</p>				
					



Comment

Royal Field Artillery Batteries:

Usually lettered A to D, each of the Batteries numbered 198 heads at full establishment. Each was commanded by a Major or Captain, with a Captain as Second-in-Command, and 3 **Lieutenants or Second-Lieutenants in charge of 2-gun sections**. Battery establishment also included a Battery Sergeant-Major, a Battery Quartermaster Sergeant, a Farrier-Sergeant, 4 Shoeing Smiths (of which 1 would be a Corporal), 2 Saddlers, 2 Wheelers, 2 Trumpeters, 7 Sergeants, 7 Corporals, 11 Bombardiers, 75 Gunners, 70 Drivers and 10 Gunners acting as Batmen.

21 Brigade (regular, XXI)

Comprising 101, 102 and 103 Batteries, this brigade was at Hyderabad and under command of 4th (Quetta) Division of the Indian Army, which remained in India throughout the war.

- **103 Battery left in December 1914**

- 21 Brigade was placed under orders of the Karachi Brigade (of the same Division) from June 1917

- 1107 (Howitzer) Battery joined in April 1917 (it was formerly C (Howitzer) Battery of 228 Brigade)

- 101 Battery was detached for duty at Quetta in December 1917



- 1107 (Howitzer) Battery moved to Quetta between June and December 1918

- 101 Battery returned to the brigade in November 1918, in exchange for 102 Battery.



An unidentified British soldier standing with a 9.2 inch howitzer Mk I, named Berdameda, which was supporting the Australians on the Somme. The camouflaged box in front of the gun is known as a dirt box, which was filled with soil and attached to the gun to act as a counterweight to the force of the blast and keep the gun in position. Hanging on the side of the box is a horseshoe. Note in the background (left) a timber structure, probably an observation tower and rows of shells in front of the structure.

2nd Lt. Bernard Shepard R.F.A.

Name	2 nd Lt Bernard Anthony Shepard	Unit	Royal Field Artillery		
Birth	2 nd June 1895 in Mansfield	Died	26 April 1917	Age	22
Location	Near Lievin, France	Buried	Churchyard, St Botolph's, Church Brampton, Northants.  <p>This is the memorial to Bernard Anthony who was buried here and Norbert Gerald (Bill) whose grave is in France. The inscription for Bernard reads - "PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF BERNARD ANTHONY SHEPARD ROYAL FIELD ARTILLERY (24th DIV) BORN IN THIS PARISH 2 JUNE 1895 DIED OF WOUNDS RECEIVED IN ACTION NEAR LIEVIN , FRANCE 26 APRIL 1917 WHO LIES BURIED HERE R I P"</p>		
Job	?				
Family	<p>Brother of Norbert G (Bill) Shepard, also of RFA, who was killed on the Somme in August 1916. From a large family of 6 boys and 3 girls. Father = Thomas; Mother = Maria Leonor, b. Portugal; The parents (Thomas – 1860-1937 and Maria Leonar Marel-Ferreira 1861-1946) were married in Hendon in 1889.</p> <p>Thomas (Toby) 1890-1970; Charlie (Rock) 1892-1976; Norbert (Bill) 1893-1916; Robert (Bob) 1894-1945; Bernard 1895-1917; Leonar (Sycie) 1896-1992; Alban Francis (Beau) 1898-1990; Catherine Mary (Molly) 1899-1981 and Mildred Mary (Puss) 1900-1981.</p> <p>Parents' address at his death given as Marine Square, Brighton.</p> <p>Otherwise, the family lived in Northants, which is where the children were born.</p>				
Story	<p>In April 1911 (aged 16), Bernard was at Barton Gate, Barton under Needwood, near Burton on Trent, with his uncle Raymond Tillings an estate labourer (49), his wife Elizabeth, a laundry worker (50), and Raymond's sister Lucy (40), a house keeper.</p> <p>Below are pictures of the Shepard family: Bernard at 15; the 6 boys; the 6 boys and 3 girls; the children with their parents; Leonar (Bill's mother); the 6 boys with their father.</p> 				



German attacks on Gavrelle (Arras) were repulsed on 26th April 1917. Gavrelle is 10 miles from Lievin.

Comment Royal Field Artillery Batteries:


Usually lettered A to D, each of the Batteries numbered 198 heads at full establishment. Each was commanded by a Major or Captain, with a Captain as Second-in-Command, and 3 **Lieutenants or Second-Lieutenants in charge of 2-gun sections**. Battery establishment also included a Battery Sergeant-Major, a Battery Quartermaster Sergeant, a Farrier-Sergeant, 4 Shoeing Smiths (of which 1 would be a Corporal), 2 Saddlers, 2 Wheelers, 2 Trumpeters, 7 Sergeants, 7 Corporals, 11 Bombardiers, 75 Gunners, 70 Drivers and 10 Gunners acting as Batmen.

The 24th Division was formed in September 1914, and became an Army Brigade on 25th January 1917.




An unidentified British soldier standing with a 9.2 inch howitzer Mk I, named Berdamedia, which was supporting the Australians on the Somme. The camouflaged box in front of the gun is known as a dirt box, which was filled with soil and attached to the gun to act as a counterweight to the force of the blast and keep the gun in position. Hanging on the side of the box is a horseshoe. Note in the background (left) a timber structure, probably an observation tower and rows of shells in front of the structure.

Lt. Edward Shine R.W.R. (D.C.M.)

Name	2 nd Lt. Edward Shine DCM	Unit	15 th Battalion, Royal Warwickshire Regiment		
Birth	1888	Died	20 Oct. 1918	Age	30
Location	France	Buried	Viesly Community Cemetery, Nord, France		
					
Job					
Family	<p>Son of Cornelius (an Iron Works Puddler) and Elizabeth (Lizzie) Shine (nee Robinson) of Middlesbrough, Yorks, who married in Middlesbrough in 1882.</p> <p>Husband of Charlotte Agnes Shine (ne Purcell) of Sutton Coldfield (who appears to have died in 1925, aged 41).</p> <p>The couple married in Holy Trinity Sutton Coldfield on 25th March 1913, having two children during their marriage Norah born 1913 and Edward Born 1915.</p>				
Story	<p>In April 1891, aged 4, living at 1 Hanley Place, Richmond, Middlesbrough, with his father b. Cork (44), mother b/ Bradford (36), brother Cornelius b. Middlesbrough (8), George b. Middlesbrough (6), Edward b. Middlesbrough (4) and John b. Middlesbrough (1).</p> <p>His father died in 1897 when Edward was 8/9.</p> <p>His Destitute mother handed her children over to the St Pauls Childrens Home (a Catholic Church Orphanage that rescued destitute catholic Children) in Coleshill Warwickshire. Edward aged 14 and his brother John aged 10 can be found on the 1901 census in St Pauls Children's Homes at Coleshill Warwickshire.</p> <p>On the 1901 census his widowed mother Elizabeth can be found residing at 41 Wellington Street Middlesbrough ,</p> <p>He left the orphanage aged around 16 and joined the South Staffordshire Regiment</p> <p>In April 1911, his address is 6 Regimental District, Whittington Barracks, Whittington, Lichfield. He is unmarried, a corporal of 2nd Battalion, South Staffordshire Regiment.</p> <p>He is recorded as 6841 South Staffordshire Regiment and 23519 North Staffordshire.</p> <p>His citation for his DCM reads: "6848 Sjt E Shine 2nd Battn For gallant conduct on 10th September 1914, at Villiers-Cotterets, in assisting a wounded man across open ground for a distance of 800 yards, under a heavy fire. (1.4.15)"</p> <p>He is mentioned in a supplement to the London Gazette of 9 March 1918, (probably being commissioned, but copy is illegible). However, he is listed as Serjt Edward Shine DCM.</p> <p>Near the end of the War the 15th were disbanded at Ytres (not Ypres). Many went to 14th and 16th - c200 men to each. The 14th took no part in fighting in the last 6 weeks of the war. The 16th took part in a major 5th Division attack on the eastern side of the River Selle on 20.10.18 and did no more fighting after that.</p> <p>So it is likely that he had transferred to 16th and was killed in their attack. [Ref. Hussey and Inman's 5th Division history].</p> <p>His widow C A Shine of Dhera Dhon Jockey Road Sutton Coldfield applied for his 14 star in 1919 according to his MIC.</p> <p>http://1914-1918.invisionzone.com/forums/index.php?showtopic=172129</p> <p>On the day he died: British cross the Selle river in face of heavy resistance.</p>				

	<p>British two miles from Tournai. Flanders armies continue advance; British across whole of Lys river on their front. Entire Belgian coast in hands of Allies.</p>
Comment	<p>15th (Service) Battalion (2nd Birmingham): Formed at Birmingham in September 1914 by the Lord Mayor and a local committee. 26 June 1915 : came under command of 95th Brigade, 32nd Division. Landed at Boulogne 21 November 1915. 28 December 1915 : transferred to 14th Brigade, 5th Division. Transferred to 13th Brigade in same Division 14 January 1916. Moved to Italy with the Division in November 1917 but returned to France April 1918.</p> <p>The Regiment gained 80 Battle Honours. The Somme, Amas, Lys and the Hindenburg Line were among numerous actions which involved the 6th in 1918. In addition to the Western Front, battalions of the 6th also saw action in Italy 1917-1918, at Gallipoli 1915-1916, Mesopotamia 1916-1917 and Persia 1916-1919. The Royal Warwickshire Regiment won six Victoria Crosses during the First World War.</p>


Pvt. H. Cawley 12th Regiment

Name	H Cawley	320681	Unit	12 th (Yeo.) Bn., Norfolk Regiment		
Birth			Died	24 Jan 1918	Age	
Location	Israel		Buried	Ramleh War Cemetery		
						
Job						
Family						
Story						
Comment						


A.B.S.T.J. Kavanagh R.N.

Name	ABSTJ Kavanagh	Unit	Royal Navy		
Birth		Died		Age	
Location		Buried			
Job					
Family					
Story	Is ABS = Able Seaman? Could he be one of the men below – no obvious Finchley connection.				
Comment	<p>Kavanagh, Thomas Joseph Cuthbert</p> <p>Cemetery: Chatham Naval Memorial Country: England Area: Kent Rank: Able Seaman Official Number: 177201 Unit: H.M.S. Aboukir. Force: Royal Navy Nationality: British Details: Killed in action with submarine in North Sea 22nd September 1914. Age 37. Son of Mary J. Kavanagh of 125 Chirton West View North Shields Northumberland and the late Mr. Kavanagh. 2.</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Kavanagh, Thomas Joseph</p> <p>Cemetery: Beaumont-Hamel (Newfoundland) Memorial Country: France Area: Somme Rank: Seaman Official Number: 2171X Unit: H.M.S. "Clan McNaughton". Force: Royal Navy Nationality: Canadian Details: 3rd February 1915. Age 18. Son of James and Katherine Kavanagh of Logy Bay St. John's East.</p>				


L/C Paul S. Byrne Art. Rfls.

Name	L/C Paul Stanislaus Byrne 760942	Unit	London Regiment (Territorial) Artists Rifles		
Birth	c. 1891	Died	31 Oct. 1917	Age	26
Location	Belgium	Commemorated at	Tyne Cot, Belgium 		
Job	Bank Clerk in 1911				
Family	<p>Son of Joseph and Marcella Byrne of 'Beechwood', Torrington Park, N. Finchley. Brother of Edward Aloysius Byrne who was killed in April 1917, aged 32.</p> <p>Family in April 1911 living at 153 Osbaldeston Road, Stamford Hill was: Joseph (father) b. Wicklow, a school master (68); Marcella (mother) b. Rathangan, Co Kildare (59); Henry F, an insurance clerk (29); Teresa Mary, single; Patrick Aphonsus, a bank clerk (21) and Paul Stanislaus (19). Edward Aloysius was 26 at this stage, and is living elsewhere. Maybe he went to Ireland?</p>				
Story	Paul died the day after Robert Kiely of the same outfit. Robert was a bank cashier in 1911, also living in Finchley. Did they work together? Robert was 10 years older than Paul.				
Comment	<p>The Artists Rifles traces its origins to a meeting to discuss the threat of invasion by Napoleon III in 1859, of students at Careys School of Art which led to the formation of the Corps of Artists. This unit was composed of painters, sculptors, engravers, architects, musicians, poets and actors. Many of the most famous names in British art (Millais, Rossetti, Frederick Leighton etc) have proudly to served in The Artists. It provided the largest contingent for the City Imperial Volunteers in the Boer War. When the Territorial Force was created in 1908 it became the 28th (County of London) Battalion, London Regiment. Shortly after the outbreak of the Great War second line and third line battalions were formed - numbered 2/28th and 3/28th, the original battalion being 1/28th. The latter arrived in France at the end of October 1914 and became an Officers Training Corps (OTC), first at Bailleul and in April 1915 at St Omer. In November 1915 it absorbed the 2/28th; the 3/28th (which remained in the UK) then became 2/28th. In the summer of 1917 cadet schools in France were closed and potential officers were sent to the UK for training, and 1/28th Battalion, freed at last from its OTC role, was sent to the front at the end of June 1917, allocated to 190th Brigade, 63rd (RN) Division where it remained to the end of the war. 10,256 received commissions, eight VCs were awarded, and the casualties suffered throughout the war numbered 6,071 of whom 2,003 were killed.</p> <p>When it was decided in 1947 to resurrect the Special Air Service as a territorial unit, 21 SAS was formed out of the Artists Rifles. They in turn gave birth to the Regular 22 SAS.</p>				


Lt. C.E. McLaughlin R.N. D.S.O.

Name	Acting Lt. Cyril Edward McLaughlin D.S.O.	Unit	HMS Humber, Royal Navy		
Birth	1898 in Clapham, London	Died	11 August 1919	Age	21
Location	Archangel, Russia	Buried	Archangel Allied Cemetery, Troitza Churchyard – 		
Family	<p>Son of Mr Frederick James McLaughlin I.C.S. and Mrs Mary Louise McLaughlin 1911 Census: at 5 Linden Gardens, Hornsey Lane, Highgate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Frederick James (60) b. India, civil engineer, Public Works Dept. India (retired); secretary Highgate Golf Club 8. Mary Louise (51) 9. Edmund (21) b. India, Post Office Civil Servant 10. Francis (19) b. India, Clerk, Metropolitan Asylums Board 11. Gerald (16) b. Norfolk 12. Cyril (13) b. Clapham 13. Mary Stokes (27) and Winnifred Freeman (20), servants 				
Story	<p>The London Gazette 14/10/1919 (12780) says that he was awarded the DSO “in recognition of the gallantry and devotion to duty displayed in sweeping and destroying mines, often under heavy enemy fire”. Sadly the citation includes the terse statement “since killed”. The Admiralty casualty list records the event as “accidental explosion in the river monitor HMS Humber. The supplement to the London Gazette 19/05/1920: “The successful operations on 10th August and during the next few days secured the banks of the river up to the Borok on the right and Puchega on the left bank. In addition to the large number of prisoners taken, the enemy’s flotilla sustained severe damage, including one gunboat sunk. Further minesweeping operations – An extensive enemy minefield was discovered off Seltso and a passage cleared for the transport of Army supplies up to Nijii Seltso. While sweeping this passage one of the steamboats was mined and Lt (Acting) CE McLaughlin was killed. This officer had been employed in the advanced minesweeping steamboats on every occasion, and had rendered very gallant service. In view that no further advance was intended, minesweeping was stopped, as the risk outweighed the convenience of water transport”.</p>				
Comment	Probably the brother of Lt. Edmund Coldicoate McLaughlin, who was killed in France in 1915.				


Pte. Peter Paul Harty

Name	Private Peter Paul Harty 877	Unit	25 th Bn., Australian Infantry, A.I.F.		
Birth		Died	29 July 1916	Age	
Location	Somme	Commemorated at	Villers-Bretonneux Memorial		
					
Job					
Family					
Story					
Comment					



W. Couldery Canadian Inf.

Name	Private William Watkins Couldery	Unit	54 th Bn., Canadian Infantry (Central Ontario Regiment)		
Birth		Died	26 August 1916	Age	27
Location	Belgium	Buried	Reninghelst New Military Cemetery, Poperinge, West-Vlaanderen		
					
Job					
Family	Son of Joseph and Rebecca Couldery of Rye, Sussex. Husband of Mary B D Power (formerly Couldery) of The Presbytery, Battle, Hastings.				
Story					
Comment					

A.R. Harris R.A.M.C. (Longuval)

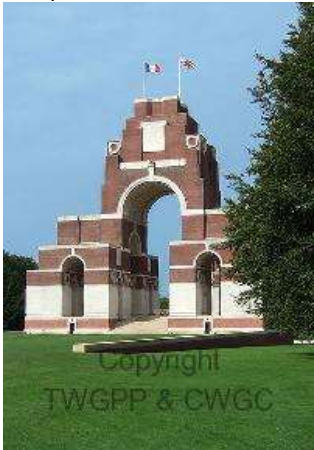
Name	A. R. Harris (Longuval)		Unit	Royal Army Medical Corps	
Birth		Died		Age	
Location		Buried			
Job					
Family					
Story					
Comment	<p>There is a Longueval Road cemetery, on the Somme battlefield which was used as a British dressing station from September 1916 onwards (once cleared of German troops by 5th Division in the July 1916 Somme Offensive).</p> <p>There was a major battle at Longueval and Delville Wood from 17 July 1916 until the end of August.</p> <p>There is an Albert Harris buried at Longueval, but he is not RAMC:</p> <p>Harris, Albert</p>  <p>Cemetery: London Cemetery And Extension Longueval Country: France Area: Somme Rank: Gunner Official Number: 59230 Unit: 'A' Bty. 88th Bde. Royal Field Artillery. Force: Army Nationality: British Details: 30th October 1918. 9.J.34.</p>				

Lt. P.M.B. Collcutt East Yorks

Name	Lt Philip Martin Blake Collcutt	Unit	7 th (Service) Battalion, East Yorkshire Regiment		
Birth	13 January 1881	Died	12 May 1917	Age	36
Location	Armentieres, France	Buried	Arras Memorial, France 		
Job	Architect, Rubber Planter, Soldier				
Family	<p>The family lived at 36 Bloomsbury Square and at West Lodge, Totteridge. He was baptised at St John the Evangelist, Red Lion Square (which was consecrated in 1878 but was bombed during the Blitz in 1941 and was later demolished). His father, Thomas E b. 1840, was a prominent architect, president of RIBA 1906-08, and architect of the Imperial Institute, the Savoy Hotel and the Palace Theatre. In April 1881, the family consisted of Thomas (41), Emily (37), Arthur (12), Mary (10), Margaret (9), Elanor (7), Grace (5) and Philip (3 months). They had 5 servants. He went to school at Charterhouse. In April 1901, living at "The Croft", Totteridge, Elanor is listed as a musician, Grace as an artist and Philip (aged 20) as an architect's pupil.</p>				
Story	<p>On 20th December 1902 (aged 21), he was commissioned into the Warwickshire Militia, and later a commission with the 2nd Battalion, East Yorkshire Regiment, with whom he served in Burmah 1905-9. He was rubber planting in the Malay States 1909-14. He was unmarried. On the outbreak of war he returned to his regiment, and rejoined it in September 1914. He served with the Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders, and was killed near Armentieres on 12 May 1917. His Commanding Officer wrote: "He was killed in action leading his men to the attack on 12th inst. He had done awfully well all through the heavy fighting. I am quite sure that he died as he himself would have chosen, at the head of his men, like a true British officer and a gentleman". He probably died in a major Allied offensive (Battle of Arras 9 April to 17 May). This was fought in heavy drifting snow. By the end of the offensive, the British had suffered more than 150,000 casualties and gained little ground since the first day.</p>  <p>British troops returning for a rest following the Battle of Arras</p> <p>In his probate his effects were valued at £128-13s-4d</p>				
Comment	7th (Service) Battalion:				



	Formed at Beverley on 16 September 1914 and came under orders of 50th Brigade, 17th (Northern) Division. 14 July 1915: landed at Boulogne.
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Lt. R.D. French 6th London Rifles

Name	2 nd Lt Robert Douglas French	Unit	6 th Bn. London Regiment (City of London Rifles)		
Birth	December 1897	Died	15 Sep. 1916	Age	18
Location	Somme	Buried	Thiepval Memorial, Somme 		
Job	Medical student??				
Family	Son of Dr Robert Houle French and Mrs Dolina French of 'Moss Bank', 51 Nether St., N. Finchley. In April 1901, the family are: the parents (aged 34 and 24), and two children: Robert (aged 3 and Edna Mildred (aged 8 months), and what appear to be 6 servants.				
Story	<p>In April 1911, Robert Douglas (he seemed to be known as 'Douglas') is a boarder at Epsom College (aged 13). This was founded in 1855 to provide preliminary education for young men destined for the medical professions.</p> <p>In April 1911, at the family home in Finchley there are the parents (aged 44 and 33), and two children: Edna Mildred (10) and Alistair Reginald (6). Also present are Margaret Headington (35), a visitor b. Berkshire (where Dolina was born), who may have been Dolina's friend (?). Also there are two servants and a nurse (Elizabeth Lordon (23)). Could the nurse be to care for the children, or is she employed in Dr French's business?</p> <p>[Note: 1911 Census mis-types the parents as 'Albert Helen (female) and Selina'] Dolina was only 38 when Robert was killed in 1916.</p> <p>The family address is still 'Moss Bank', Nether Street in 1911, and when Robert was killed. [Might the family have moved from '51' to 13 Nether Street, when St Alban's Church was built c. 1903, and carried the name 'Moss Bank' to No. 13?]</p> <p>In 1947 the Dr French Memorial Home AT 13 Nether Street, Finchley was opened by Dolina in memory of their son Robert. There is a brass plaque which reads: "THE FRENCH MEMORIAL HOME – OPENED JULY 3RD 1948 BY ITS PATRON MRS D. HOULE FRENCH, IN MEMORY OF HER HUSBAND, DR. ROBERT HOULE FRENCH, AND HER SON, LT. R. DOUGLAS FRENCH, WHO GAVE HIS LIFE IN THE 1914-1918 WAR".</p> <p>On the wall inside there is a beautifully illuminated text which reads: "I am going into action tomorrow and in the event of not returning I would like all my family to know that I go as a soldier and with no sentiments except for breaking the bosche. Therefore if they want to see me look at the beauties of England and weep not for me while she is free. I have no enemies and forgive and ask the same from any I do not know of. May Edna and Alistair carry on and help Father and Mother. God bless you all. R. Douglas French. Lieut. 6th City of London. Sept 12th 1916.</p> <p>He was killed 3 days later.</p>				
Comment	The 6th Battalion landed in France in March 1915 and saw its first major action at Loos in				

	<p>September. The Battalion fought on the Somme, and at Messines, in the Third Battle of Ypres and at Cambrai.</p> <p>In the same outfit were Lt. EC McLaughlin (5/15) and Rifleman John Walsh (4/16)</p> <p>Robert will have been a volunteer, as conscription came in only in January 1916.</p> <p>The Government introduced the Military Service Act on 27 January 1916. All voluntary enlistment was stopped. All British males were now deemed to have enlisted - that is, they were conscripted - if they were aged between 18 and 41 and resided in Great Britain (excluding Ireland) and were unmarried or a widower on 2 November 1915. Conscripted men were no longer given a choice of which service, regiment or unit they joined, although if a man preferred the navy it got priority to take him. This act was extended to married men on 25 May 1916.</p> <p>A system of appeals tribunals was established, to hear cases of men who believed they were disqualified on the grounds of ill-health, occupation or conscientious objection. Some trades were deemed to be vital to the war economy: they were called starred occupations</p> <p>The Act initially failed to deliver: only 43,000 of the men called up qualified for general service in the army. Another 93,000 failed to appear when called up, filling the courts. 748,587 men claimed some form of exemption, filling the tribunals. In addition were the 1,433,827 already starred as being in a war occupation, or those who were ill or who had already been discharged on these grounds. The manpower of the army never caught up with its planned establishment.</p>
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Pte. J.F. Hawes D.C.L.I.

Name	Private J F Hawes	11073	Unit	7 th Battalion, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry		
Birth	East Barnet c. 1889		Died	16 Sept. 1916	Age	27
Location	Somme		Buried	Guards' Cemetery, Lesboeufs, Somme		
						
Job	Domestic Gardener					
Family	Parents were James and Maria, of 16 Lichfield Grove, Church End, Finchley.					
Story	In April 1911, family are at 8 Lichfield Grove, Finchley: Father James, a Domestic Gardener (48), mother Maria (48), JF (22), Sister Ethel (14) and JF's grand uncle Philip Eborn, a widower (78).					
Comment	<p>On the day he died: Somme near Courcellette the British front advanced 1,000 yards; "Danube" trench taken, and Mouquet farm (Thiepval) captured.</p> <p>N.B. Harry Patch (17 June 1898 – 25 July 2009), dubbed in his latter years "the Last Fighting Tommy") was in DCLI, although not until 1917.</p>					
						
	British soldiers on the western front, September 21, 1916					