

100 Years of the Memorial Hall

AT BEDFORD SCHOOL



Front Cover: *The Bedford School War Memorial Hall and Library*, watercolour painting by J. D. M. Harvey.

FOREWORD

Welcome to this very special occasion marking the unveiling of a new board in the Memorial Hall at Bedford School to honour those Old Bedfordians who lost their lives in the First World War and whose names, until now, had not been formally recorded. We are delighted that so many of their living relatives have been able to join us today to commemorate their family member's ultimate sacrifice.

This event is particularly poignant, given that the Memorial Hall was opened in July 1926 by Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester, the third son of King George V and Queen Mary. A hundred years on, we are honoured to welcome Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal to unveil the new memorial board and to meet the families represented here and those responsible for bringing the project to fruition.

In this booklet, we have gathered detailed information about each Old Bedfordian commemorated on the new board, including details of their time at the school and their subsequent military careers. We have also included a brief account of the history of the Memorial Hall, which to this day serves as a reminder to our whole school community of the sacrifice made by these Old Bedfordians.

One hundred and eight years after the guns fell silent, we still remember their sacrifice.

THE HISTORY OF THE MEMORIAL HALL

Following the cessation of hostilities, the Old Bedfordians Club committee resolved in the spring of 1918 to raise £10,000 for the construction of a Memorial Hall to commemorate those Old Bedfordians who had lost their lives in service to their country. By the summer of 1926, the building was completed, and on 25 July of that year it was formally opened by His Royal Highness Prince Henry.

Standing proudly to the west of the main school building, the Memorial Hall forms one of the most harmonious and meaningful corners of the school grounds. Its location was chosen with great care: the architects sought not only a practical connection to the existing school, but a design that would complement its character while establishing a distinct identity of remembrance.

Built from the same brick and Weldon stone that define the main school building, the structure was intended to create a graceful quadrangle with the old building and the cloister. This forecourt, the school's main entrance, frames a view southward to the Inky pitch through the cloister's arches - a serene transition between everyday life and solemn memory.



At the heart of the Memorial Building lies its purpose: to honour the Old Bedfordians who fell in the First World War. Their names were inscribed in gold on oak panels within the Memorial Hall on the first floor, immediately visible to anyone ascending the grand oak staircase. The Hall itself is bathed in natural light, and its north wall has a statue of St George - a quiet visual focus for reflection.

Outside, the building displays thoughtful craftsmanship. The north gable features an ornate niche framed by Doric columns and engraved with '1914-1918'. Leaded windows, a red-tiled roof, carved stone School Arms and a continuous stone band course all reinforce the building's dignified architectural language.

The cloister that links the Hall to the main school rests on eight piers of Weldon stone, topped with red tiles and paved in stone. In keeping with its refined style, the former half timbered porch was replaced with a new stone-and-lead entrance more fitting to its surroundings. Inside the west corridor, deep blue walls and dark wood create an atmosphere of quiet formality.

Throughout the Memorial Building, every piece of woodwork - from doors to panelling, staircase to floors - is crafted in oak by local company JP White, who also carved the woodwork in the school Chapel.

The ground floor housed the school's Library and on the first floor the Memorial Hall mirrors the Library's footprint but rises to a greater height beneath a coved ceiling. Blue and gold light fittings illuminate the space, but nothing commands attention like the memorial itself. Ten oak panels - five on each side - frame a central inscription that honours the 454 Old Bedfordians who lost their lives in the Great War. Panelled in deep blue with gold lettering, flanked by the names of battlefields and topped by the richly carved School Arms, the memorial forms a powerful tribute.

It is a room designed not merely to impress, but to evoke reflection. Even the word 'REMEMBER', placed in gold above the entrance doors, reminds each visitor of the building's purpose.

The Opening Ceremony

On Monday, 26 July 1926, the school and OB Club held a significant ceremony to open its new Memorial Hall, built by the Club to honour the 454 Old Bedfordians who died in the Great War. The event was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Henry, whose presence gave the occasion considerable national prominence.

The Prince began the day with a civic reception in Bedford before travelling to the school, where he was received at the gates by the Mayor of Bedford, Alderman G. H. Barford, the Head Master, and General Sir Walter P. Braithwaite, an Old Bedfordian. The School's Officers' Training Corps (OTC) formed a Guard of Honour along Burnaby Road, and the Band of the 5th Bedfords played the National Anthem as the Prince arrived in service uniform.

Decorations had been arranged throughout the grounds: four flagstaves bearing the Eagle of Bedford marked the Burnaby Road entrance, bunting in the school colours hung in festoons, and house colours were displayed beneath them. A specially prepared platform near the new Memorial Hall was adorned with flowers, ferns and additional bunting.

After inspecting the O.T.C., the Prince met several distinguished OBs and guests, including Sir Maurice Craig (President of the Old Bedfordians' Club), the Archbishop of Dublin (Dr J. A. F. Gregg), Mr Sydney Wells M.P., the High Sheriff of Bedfordshire, and several senior figures from the Harpur Trust and the school.

A luncheon followed in the Gymnasium, attended by 62 Old Bedfordians and decorated with school rowing oars and colours. Grace was said by the Archbishop of Dublin, and the Head Master proposed a toast to the King. Music was provided by a small quintet.

The formal opening ceremony began when the Prince took his place on the central platform. Sir Maurice Craig welcomed him and explained the purpose of the Memorial Hall: a combined Library and Hall built as a lasting tribute to the Old Bedfordians who had served - 2,350 in total, of whom 454 had fallen.

Prayers were read by the School Chaplain, and the Archbishop of Dublin performed the dedication in place of the Bishop of St Albans, who was unavoidably absent. The hymn *For All the Saints* was sung to Vaughan Williams's setting, led by the school choir and band.

The architect, Oswald Milne OB, then presented the golden key to the Prince, who formally opened the building by unlocking its door. The builder, Mr G. E. Foster, was introduced to him at this point.

Prince Henry addressed the audience, emphasising the traditions of service associated with Bedford School and with English public schools more broadly. He spoke of loyalty - to God, to country, and to the values embodied by the school - and acknowledged the sacrifice of the Old Bedfordians commemorated in the new Hall.

General Sir Walter Braithwaite then officially handed over the building to the Governors of the Harpur Trust, describing it as a memorial containing treasures of great significance - chiefly the names of those who had died in the war. The Mayor accepted the building on behalf of the Governors, noting its intended use and its value as a reminder of duty.

The Head Master concluded by expressing the school's gratitude to the Prince, recalling the 1918 visit of Their Majesties the King and Queen and highlighting the importance of this new memorial for Old Bedfordians across the Empire.

The Prince then inspected the interior of the Memorial Hall, accompanied by Lady Braithwaite and Mrs Reginald Carter, before departing amid three enthusiastic cheers led by the Head of the School. The building was opened to visitors later that same afternoon during Speech Day.



The Unveiling of the Second World War Panels

Text taken from *The Ousel*, 25 July 1949

At precisely 3pm, a large staff car approached the field by way of Burnaby Road and stopped just inside the gates. From it emerged General Sir Sidney Kirkman (OB), accompanied by the Head Master. They were met by the Secretary of the O.B. Club, who conducted them towards the Saluting Base. There the General was received by the Guard of Honour, who presented arms while the Royal Artillery trumpeters sounded the General Salute.

In the Great Hall, each chair had an Order of Service placed upon it, and the seating was arranged in blocks. Block A was for relatives who had applied too late to be seated in the Memorial Hall. Block B was for guests such as Lady Kirkman, Mrs Grose Hodge, the Mayor of Bedford, the Vice Master and Mrs Boys-Stones, along with senior officials of the O.B. Club, Old Bedfordians, Masters, and their respective ladies. Behind Block B sat present members of the school who wished to attend, together with their parents. There was hardly an empty seat in the entire Hall.

Turning now to the Memorial Hall: on the ledge halfway up the staircase were two large and beautiful vases of flowers, arranged - like those in the Great Hall - by Miss Rowland. Here, on the landing outside the Memorial Hall, the choir took their position for the Service. Inside the Hall stood row upon row of closely packed chairs, each with an Order of Service placed upon it. We had hoped to seat 184 relatives of the Fallen, but in fact we found room for 204.

To the left and right of the doors of the Memorial Hall hung four flags: the White Ensign, the Red Ensign, the Royal Air Force Ensign, and the Union Jack. These covered the panels bearing the names of our dead. Three of the flags symbolise our fighting Services, while the fourth represents our Merchant Navy.

By 3.20pm both halls were rapidly filling. The large north doors of the Great Hall were opened, and at 3.28 p.m. the procession left the Master's Common Room, entering the Great Hall by the north doors. It proceeded up the central aisle and passed through the west doors on its way to the Memorial Hall. Headed by the Cross-bearer, it consisted of the choir and clergy, followed by J.G. Cook and Brigadier H. R. B. Foote, V.C., D.S.O. (both OBs), General Kirkman, and the Head Master.

Upon reaching the top of the stairs outside the Memorial Hall, the choir and clergy remained on the landing, while General Kirkman, the Head Master, J.G. Cook, and Brigadier Foote took their allotted seats in the front row.

The Service began with the choir singing the hymn *Christ, who knows all His sheep, will all in safety keep*. The Head Master then spoke as follows:

“You know that the Memorial Panels, which are to be presently unveiled, are the gift of the Old Bedfordians Club - so, in fact, is this whole Memorial Building - and I daresay you are a little surprised, as I was, that the honour of saying the first word to you this afternoon should have been given to me. I think it is that I might represent Bedford School in making you welcome; in telling you that there is no place where you could be more warmly welcomed.

“I say this to you who are with us in this Memorial Hall, and to you who are with us no less in the Great Hall; and I would say it equally to those relatives who could not get here today, but who are with us in spirit.

“The link that binds us together is surely a strong one. The home and the school: upon these two foundation stones were built, by those of whom we are thinking, that character and that courage which stood like a rock when the supreme test came. We shared with you in their upbringing; and we take your coming here as an act of courtesy and understanding - for by accepting our invitation, you are inviting us to share in your sorrow and your pride.

“Perhaps there is another reason for the honour done to me. I am one of the few people to whom the majority of those names are personally known. To me, every other name - and more, oh, far more - is that of some boy whose life I was privileged to watch over for a time, and whose death touches me very closely. Most of you know only one of these many names; but when the Panels are unveiled, that one name will stand out for you among all the others - the name of one who meant everything to you, and you to him.

“Here his name and memory are enshrined. More than that, they are incorporated - built into the very life and fabric of the school.

“Let me tell you what I mean by that. Year after year, successive generations of boys will come to the school to take the place of their predecessors, to whom they owe their School, their future, and, as I personally believe, their actual existence. You would not wish - I am sure that those whom we commemorate would hate it - that those young lives should grow up with any sense of being under a cloud; rather, that they should have the sense only of a cloud that has been lifted.

“And so, in this Memorial Hall in the days to come, boys will sit and read, or talk and laugh, or hold their debates, or play chess, exactly as their predecessors did before them. But about them will be a great cloud of witnesses; and when they turn to go, they will see inscribed over the door - they cannot help seeing - the word ‘REMEMBER.’ ”

The Service continued with the President’s address, the unveiling and dedication of the Panels, and the laying of wreaths by J.G. Cook and the Head of the School. After the hymn *O valiant hearts, who to your glory came*, Brigadier H. R. B. Foote, V.C., D.S.O., spoke the familiar words:

“They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old... ”

The congregation replied, *“We will remember them.”*

Last Post was sounded by trumpeters of the Royal Regiment of Artillery, stationed on the grass north of the Head Master’s Study. After two minutes’ silence, *Reveille* was sounded from a distant point on the School Field, and the school flags - until then flying at half-mast - were raised to full height.

The Service ended with the hymn *God of our fathers, unto Thee*, followed by prayers, the Benediction, and finally the National Anthem. It was a beautiful yet deeply moving Service for the relatives of the Fallen, whose quiet courage we all admired greatly.

Many then visited the Book of Remembrance, which stood with a vase of white carnations before the Chapel altar. Afterwards, the O.B. Club was “At Home” in the Gymnasium to relatives of the Fallen, Old Bedfordians, Masters, and their ladies. More than 480 teas were served to ticket holders alone. Catering, entrusted to Mr Thompson, was exceptional - such a tea is seldom seen today.

For one who played a part in the arrangements, it is not easy to give even half the praise due to each helper, regardless of how “showy” or humble his allotted task. That everything ran like clockwork from start to finish is testament to their efforts. Those thousands of Old Bedfordians who could not be present should know that the day will long be remembered, and for that we must thank every single helper who showed what can be achieved when such an occasion demands.

The Unveiling of a New First World War Board, 2002

The culmination of years of hard work by Mr and Mrs Stuart Blythe in researching the names listed on the 1914–18 Memorial Board was reached on 15 May 2002, when the Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Michael Walker, GCB, CMG, CBE, unveiled a further board listing 25 names of OBs previously undiscovered.

The board was skilfully made by Howell and Bellion of Saffron Walden to match the originals. The unveiling was attended by a large number of guests, including 25 serving and former serving OBs who were members of the Armed Services, many accompanied by their families.



The Unveiling of a New First World War Board, 2026

Today marks the addition of a further 20 names of Old Bedfordians who lost their lives in the First World War. Over the past 15 years, Assistant OB Club Director Gina Worboys has carried out painstaking research that has uncovered OBs not previously commemorated on the boards in the Memorial Hall. Some of those who died left the school before reaching the Sixth Form, while others had been missed for various reasons. We are delighted to have been able to trace as many living relatives as possible, who will join us for the unveiling by Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal. The booklet also includes the story of each OB we are commemorating today.





J F ALLEN

Date of birth: 12 September 1885

Attended Bedford School: 1895-1896

Died: 1917, Aged 31



Private Jeffrey Somerset Allen, 1st Bn, The Cambridgeshire Regiment, was killed in action at St Julian, Ypres, on 31 July 1917 (Passchendaele), and is commemorated on the Menin Gate.

He was born in Brighton, the youngest son of Dr Marcus Allen and Florence Alma - daughter of the late Captain William Charles Massy-Byrnes, of New Gardens, Limerick - and lived at 14 Riding House Street, London. After Bedford, Allen attended Heidelberg College in Germany and later studied under Colonel Kensington's Army Tutor in Hove.

He trained for the musical profession in Germany, Paris and England, and appeared at His Majesty's Theatre, London.

He enlisted on 1 March 1916 and served with the Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders. He was killed in action at St Julian, on 31 July 1917, the first day of the 3rd Battle of Ypres, having been shot by a sniper. The attack on the ground around St Julian on that first day amounted to the loss of 145 officers and 3,716 other ranks killed, wounded and missing. The dogged determination of the Cambridgeshires at St Julian became legendary in the annals of the Battalion.

An officer wrote:

"We had just finished advancing and had dug ourselves in. Jeffreys was in a piece of trench with two other men; his platoon sergeant was about eight yards away when he was hit. A bullet from a sniper struck him in the throat, killing him instantly. He could not have felt any pain. He had been showing great pluck all day and was thoroughly enjoying the fight. All the men speak very highly of him. He was always cheerful and willing to help anyone. You may rest assured Jeffreys died instantly, fighting as an Englishman can only fight - a brave and gallant fellow to the last. Please accept my most heartfelt sympathy in your great loss."

The captain added:

"I may say that your son was splendid in the fight and went into action in the real old Cambridgeshires' way."

Second Lieutenant Jack Gordon Barrymore Baines, The Royal Warwickshire Regiment, attached to No. 19 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps, was killed in an aerial accident at Beauval on 25 February 1917. He is buried in Beauval Communal Cemetery.

He was the eldest son of Captain Louis Campbell Baines, of The Croft, Bacton, Norfolk, 1st Bn, Nottingham and Derbyshire Regiment, and Lilian Charlotte Maris (née Spinks). He was born in Brighton.

Educated at Hill House, St Leonards-on-Sea, Bedford School, and Framlingham College, he was a member of the Officers' Training Corps. He enlisted as a Private in the 6th (Cyclist) Bn, The Royal Norfolk Regiment in August 1914, on the outbreak of war. He entered the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, in November 1915, passed out in July 1916, and was gazetted Second Lieutenant in The Royal Warwickshire Regiment, being attached subsequently to the Royal Flying Corps.

He served with the Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders from 23 September 1916 and was killed in an accident on 25 February 1917 while flying a fast scout machine.

His Colonel wrote that he had done very good work at the front and had acted as Flight Commander for a short time during the absence of senior officers, adding: "Owing to your son's abilities, he was recommended for these fast scout machines."

J G B BAINES

Date of birth: 14 January 1898

Attended Bedford School: 1911-1913

Died: 1917, Aged 19

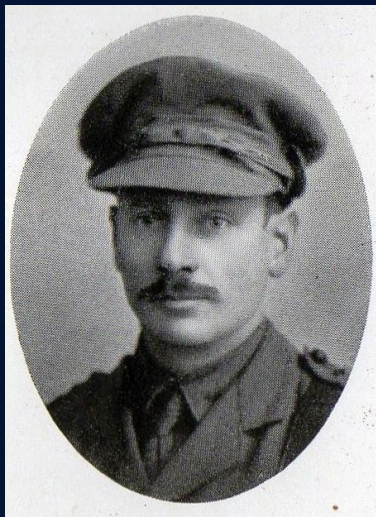


G H J BARRETT

Date of birth: 16 October 1882

Attended Bedford School: 1897

Died: 1916, Aged 33



Captain Gerald Herbert Johnson Barrett of the 93rd Burma Infantry, Indian Army, died on 24 April 1916 at Kia, Basrah, in Mesopotamia, aged 34. He is commemorated on the Basra Memorial to the Missing.

Born on 16 October 1882 in Hazaribagh, Bengal, India, he was the son of Edwin Clifford Barrett and Ellen Anne (née Johnson).

Barrett served with the 93rd Burma Infantry, Indian Army. He was commissioned on 8 May 1901 into the Royal Berkshire Regiment before transferring to the 91st Punjabis in 1908.

At the outbreak of the First World War, the regiment sailed for Egypt in November 1914, where it was deployed to defend the Suez Canal against Turkish forces. In September 1915, it left for France and, over the next three months, served in the trenches of the Western Front.

Early in 1916, the regiment arrived in Mesopotamia, where it saw fierce fighting on the Tigris Front during British attempts to relieve the besieged garrison at Kut al-Amara. This included the Battle of Hanna and the Battle of Dujaila, in which the regiment suffered more than 400 casualties, as well as several further attacks in April. The regiment fought with great gallantry but endured heavy losses throughout the long and brutal campaign. Despite repeated attempts, British relief operations in March and April failed, resulting in some 23,000 casualties among the relieving forces.

On 24 April, an effort to resupply Kut via the paddle steamer Julnar failed, leaving no remaining means of sustaining the garrison. After multiple failed attempts to break through Ottoman lines, and with no reinforcements available, General Townshend surrendered on 29 April 1916. The remaining force of 13,164 soldiers in Kut-al-Amara was taken prisoner by the Ottomans.

Conditions in Mesopotamia were extreme: intense heat, poor medical facilities, unclean water, and widespread flies, mosquitoes and vermin led to appalling levels of sickness and death from disease. Despite the best efforts of medical staff, thousands of soldiers died, particularly during the early part of the campaign.

For example, medical arrangements for the Kut relief force were dangerously inadequate, made worse by rain and mud. Provision had been made for only 250 casualties, yet by 9 January 1916 the Tigris Corps held around 4,000 wounded. Many men waited up to ten days before being assessed at field ambulances and transported to hospitals in Basra.

W A BEAUMONT WALKER

Date of birth: 3 March 1892

Attended Bedford School: 1906-1911

Died: 1914, Aged 22

2nd Lieutenant Walter Arthur Beaumont- Britain School & University rolls 1914-1918 Walker, Army Service Corps, Attd. 2nd Battn. The Bedfordshire Regiment, died 30 October 1914 from wounds received 25 October 1914 at la Basset and died at Le Havre.

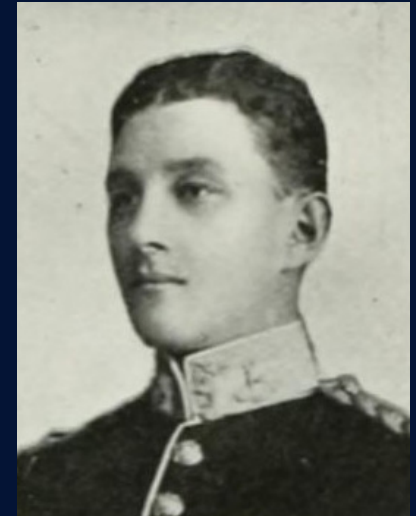
The son of Richard Beaumont Walker, Ranchi, Chota Nagpur, India, was born at Dilrugahm, Upper Assam, on 24 March 1892. His mother was Margaret Julia.

He was educated at Bedford School, where he got his colours for the 2nd Rugby XV, and also played in many matches for the First XV. He was keen on all outdoor sports, and latterly belonged to the Rosslyn Park Football Club.

He joined the 3rd Bn Bedfordshire Regiment as 2nd Lieutenant in 1912, obtaining his step in May 1914, and on the outbreak of war was attached for active service to the 2nd Bn, taking part with it in the retirement from Mons and the subsequent battles of the Marne, the Aisne and La Basset. While defending a trench at the latter place on 25 October 1914, he was struck in the abdomen by a rifle bullet, and died from his wound on 30 October at Havre.

2nd Lieutenant Walker used to say his motto was 'Blood and Iron', which he appeared to live up to. He was never known to grumble at hardships or pain. When he was lying wounded on a stretcher in a communication trench for several hours during the fighting, he constantly spoke cheerfully to the supports and reserves who had to pass him on their way to the fire trench.

In the London Gazette of 13 October 1914, Lieutenant Walker was appointed 2nd Lieutenant in the A.S.C. to date from 14 August 1914, but continued to serve with his original regiment until his death. Prior to coming to Bedford, Walter was at Bedford Modern School (1900-06) and is included in their list of fallen in WW1.



E K BIRD

Date of birth: 26 March 1893

Attended Bedford School: 1904-1911

Died: 1919, Aged 26



Captain Edward Kenelm Bird, 29th attached 20th Punjabis, Indian Army, died 27 September 1919 and is buried in Cairo War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt.

He was born in Maritzburg, third son of Colonel Christopher John Bird CMG, JP (Secretary to the Minister of the Interior African Union) and Mrs Edith Armstrong Bird. He left at an early age for England with his mother, brothers and sisters. He went directly from Bedford School to the Royal Military College Sandhurst with a Prize Indian Army Cadetship and was commissioned as second lieutenant on 22 January 1913. He was attached to the King's Liverpool Regiment in India, and after a year was gazetted to the 29th Punjabis. This regiment was the first to leave India on active service for the late war, and arrived in Mombassa on 1 September 1914.

He was about two years in German East Africa and saw much active service there. He was promoted to lieutenant on 22 April 1915. He unfortunately contracted malaria, which affected his heart, and then came on sick leave to the Cape and visited Natal. On his return to India to re-join his regiment, he was promoted to the rank of captain on 22 January 1917. He married Edith Benison Pilgram (1885-1976) on 6 Aug 1917 in Karachi, Bombay, India, whose family resided at Kenilworth, Capetown.

Captain Bird volunteered for further active service, and was attached to the 20th Punjabis, and served with them in Mesopotamia and Palestine. It was probably on his way from Beirut to re-join his wife and child in India that he was taken ill, and after nearly three weeks in hospital at Cairo died there of pneumonia on 27 September.

Captain Godfrey Hugh St Pierre Bunbury, 15th attached to the 36th Sikhs, Indian Army, was killed in action near Kut on 1 February 1917 and is buried in the Amara War Cemetery, Mesopotamia.

He was the youngest son of Lt-Col William St Pierre Bunbury, RFA, and his wife Lilian, daughter of the late General the Hon. Sir Henry Ramsay, KCSI, CB. He was also the grandson of Colonel Henry William St Pierre Bunbury, CB (son of the 7th Baronet and brother of the 8th and 9th baronets of the Bunbury Baronetcy). Godfrey was born in Woolwich on 6 January 1895.

After attending Bedford School, he went on to Eastbourne College, where he won the highest open scholarship. He passed first into Sandhurst, in November 1912, and was gazetted 2nd Lieutenant on the Unattached List on 1 October 1914, being awarded the Gold Medal and the Anson Memorial Sword.

He joined the 15th Ludhiana Sikhs, Indian Army. The regiment was stationed at Loralai (Balochistan, Pakistan) when the First World War began. They were mobilised on 8 August 1914 and arrived in Marseille on 26 September 1914. Serving as part of the 8th Jullunder Brigade, 3rd (Lahore) Division, they fought on the Western Front. In August 1915 the regiment was withdrawn to Egypt, and in February 1916 they returned to India to serve on the North-West Frontier.

Captain Bunbury was later sent to Mesopotamia and served with the 36th Sikhs. He was appointed Acting Captain in command of a double company and was killed in action near Kut on 1 February 1917 while leading his men into battle. He was buried in the British Cemetery on the west bank of the Hai. The heavy casualties suffered in this failed attack left the 36th Sikhs all but destroyed as a fighting unit.

His Colonel wrote:

"I, in addition to all the regiment, deplore his loss most terribly. He was such an unusually promising officer, and his death is a great loss to his regiment and to the Service. He died a very gallant soldier's death, leading his company into action, and his bearing was beyond all praise."

A few weeks before his death, he received a special commendation from the G.O.C. of his division, as well as from the Army Commander, for a reconnaissance he carried out with another officer.

G H St.P BUNBURY

Date of birth: 6 June 1895

Attended Bedford School: 1905-1908

Died: 1917, Aged 21



HE CARRINGTON

Date of birth: 10 November 1886

Attended Bedford School: 1896-1899

Died: 1916, Aged 29



Captain Harold Edward Carrington was killed in action during the attack on Flers on the Somme front at dawn on 15 September 1916, and was buried where he fell, north of Delville Wood. He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial.

Born on 10 November 1886 at Ankerbold, Derbyshire, the only son of Arthur Carrington, JP, VD, of Langdale House, Bedford, and Florence Carrington (née Binns), of Northam House, Northam, North Devon.

After Bedford, he attended Sherborne School. He became a Professional Associate of the Surveyors' Institute and, in 1905, was employed in the Government Land Survey Valuation.

During the First World War he was gazetted as a Lieutenant in the 11th (Service) Bn, The Devonshire Regiment, in March 1915. He transferred to the 15th (Service) Bn, The Hampshire Regiment, in August 1915 and was promoted to Captain in November that year. He went to France in May 1916 and was appointed Adjutant.

Portsmouth suffered heavily during the Battle of the Somme, with almost 1,100 local men killed and many more wounded. Most of these losses came from the 14th and 15th Bns of the Hampshire Regiment - officially the 1st and 2nd Portsmouth Pals but known locally as the 1st and 2nd Pompey Pals. Of the 587 men from the 1st Pompey Pals who went "over the top" on 3 September north of Hamel, on the River Ancre, 457 became casualties. Less than two weeks later, on 15 September, the 2nd Pompey Pals went into battle. They achieved their objective of capturing the town of Flers but suffered 302 casualties.

Captain Carrington's commanding officer wrote to his father:

"Your son was killed just before the battalion attacked on 15 September. It was due to him almost entirely that the battalion obtained their assembly formation with little trouble and practically no loss. I believe he was standing behind his men when he was shot by a machine gun through the head and died instantaneously. I cannot tell you how sorry we all were. He was without doubt the most popular officer of the battalion. He was a first-rate officer, keen and knowledgeable, and with brother officers I mourn the loss of one of England's most gallant sons."

Major McVeagh Crichton of the 103rd Mahratta Light Infantry, Indian Army, was killed on the North-West Frontier on 19 November 1919. He is buried at Jhangola, India Gate, New Delhi.

He was the son of Henry McVeagh Crichton (1839-1884) and Marion Susannah Sparks (1843-1928). He was born on 3 October 1876 in Simla, Bengal, India.

After his father's death in 1884, he lived with his mother at 36 Tavistock Street while attending school. Before coming to Bedford, he had been living in St Helier, Jersey.

He was promoted to Major in 1914. He was wounded in the Persian Gulf and was Mentioned in Despatches on 28 September 1915, April 1916 and 24 August 1916. He was also involved in the operations at Kut-el-Amara (28 September 1915).

He later served in the Waziristan operations of 1919-1920, part of the Waziristan Revolt. The Mahsuds in Waziristan - one of the mountainous tribal regions on the North-West Frontier of British India - rose in rebellion in 1919, requiring a major campaign to restore 'normality'.

The revolt was sparked by the Afghan invasion of British India in 1919. Over 10,000 Indian Army troops took part in the campaign to re-establish British control, and more than 1,300 men were killed in action. The tribesmen were heavily armed, benefiting from weapons supplied by the Afghans as well as those left behind after the ceasefire. Their numbers were strengthened by militia deserters.

Highly mobile and excellent shots, the tribesmen were well suited to the mountainous terrain. Only the most experienced British and Indian units could match the Waziris and Mahsuds in frontier warfare.

Although there was extensive fighting on the ground, the British bombing of Waziri and Mahsud villages eventually brought the conflict to an end in 1922. While peace was made with Afghanistan, the Waziri and Mahsud tribesmen continued to offer fierce resistance. Many tribesmen were former members of British-organised local militias and used modern Lee-Enfield rifles against the forces sent into Waziristan. Air power played a significant role, similar to Royal Air Force tactics used to suppress the Arab Revolt in Iraq in 1920-1921.

Major Crichton married Marian Elizabeth Barham of Langley Road, Surbiton, Surrey, in Bombay in 1909. They had one son, Charles McVeagh Crichton.

M CRICHTON

Date of birth: 3 October 1876

Attended Bedford School: 1886-1891

Died: 1919, Aged 43



F H DEIGHTON

Date of birth: 10 September 1892

Attended Bedford School: 1900-1905

Died: 1915, Aged 22



Frederick H. Deighton.

Lieutenant Frederick Hamilton ("Jackie") Deighton, 1st Battalion, King's Own Scottish Borderers (KOSB), died on 18 June 1915. He was wounded on 4 June 1915 during the Gallipoli campaign and died in hospital in Malta. He is buried at Pietà Military Cemetery, Malta.

He was the eldest son of Hamilton Deighton of The Highlands, Elmenteita, Kenya. Born in Burma, his father served as Superintendent of the Imperial Police. His mother was Janet, daughter of the late Colonel John Robertson of Liddington Hall, Guildford.

After Bedford, Frederick went to Berkhamsted School, then RMC, Sandhurst. He was gazetted as a Second Lieutenant on 4 September 1912, joining the 1st Battalion at Lucknow, India. He was promoted to Lieutenant on 15 November 1914.

At the outbreak of war, the Battalion was sent to Egypt and then to Rugby, where he qualified on the one-man rangefinder, the Vickers machine gun (new to the Army at the time), and the explosives and bomb-throwing course.

The KOSB later formed part of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force and took part in the landings at "Y" Beach, Gallipoli, on 25–26 April 1915. The 1st Battalion went "over the top" at noon during the Third Battle of Krithia on 4 June 1915. Two earlier attacks on Krithia had failed, the Turkish positions commanding the surrounding ground.

The day was brilliantly fine, but as so often happened in the early phases of trench warfare, the British bombardment failed to cut the Turkish wire. At 11.55am the first wave moved into the fire trench prepared two nights earlier. Turkish fire was already heavy. A Company mounted the ladders, and at noon the whistle sounded. As they went over the top, Turkish machine-guns opened fire along the parapet. Many were killed or wounded immediately.

Deighton was shot through the lung and was evacuated to Malta, where he died in the Blue Sisters' Hospital on 18 June 1915.

Captain Francis John Newton Dunne, Royal Field Artillery, died of pneumonia in Kensington on 9 December 1918 and is buried in the churchyard of St Mary the Virgin, Goldington, Bedford.

He was born at West Thorney, Chichester, the son of the Rev. Francis W. B. Dunne and Mrs Henrietta Dunne. In 1891, at the age of three, he was living with his mother and older sisters in a lodging house in Portsmouth. The family later moved to Bedford, where the Rev. Dunne served as vicar of St Mary's from 1896 to 1922, and the young Francis would have moved to Goldington at that time.

Francis joined the army at a young age, continuing something of a family tradition. The London Gazette records that "Francis John Newton Dunne, Gentleman," was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Durham Militia / Durham Light Infantry on 28 January 1905. By 1911 he was an officer in the Special Reserve. He later travelled to Malaya, where he worked as a planter at the Bukit Cheraka Estate in Selangor, but returned to Britain to enlist when war broke out. He landed in France on 2 October 1915.

In 1915 Francis married Constance Eda Stroud, whose own life had been marked by tragedy. Born Constance Eda Simpson, she had previously married an American, Edward Stroud, in 1907 and made frequent transatlantic crossings before the couple divorced in 1914. On 7 May 1915 she was a passenger on the Lusitania when it was torpedoed by a German U-boat. Constance survived after spending 36 hours in the water, but her three-year-old daughter Helen was lost, leaving Constance deeply traumatised.

When Francis became ill in late 1918, Constance cared for him devotedly. He died at 11.00pm on Monday, 9 December 1918, aged 31, at his Kensington home, from influenza and pneumonia—almost certainly a result of the Spanish flu pandemic. Constance, already in a fragile mental state, appears to have taken some form of narcotic, lost consciousness, and died by 9.00am the following morning. The inquest noted that she had not eaten for six days. She is buried beside Francis in St Mary's churchyard. Their deaths left behind a one-year-old son, Terence Follitt Dunne (1917-1992).

At the time of his final illness, Francis had been discharged from the army due to a weak heart and was working for the Ministry of Food.

F J N DUNNE

Date of birth: 28 December 1887

Attended Bedford School: 1900-1904

Died: 1918, Aged 30



E B GARRARD

Date of birth: 17 November 1875

Attended Bedford School: 1884-1885

Died: 1917, Aged 41



Private Edward Burdett Garrard, 72nd Battalion (Observers) Canadian Seaforth Highlanders, Canadian Expeditionary Force, died at No 10 Casualty Clearing Station, 31 October 1917, of wounds received in action. Buried in the Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, Popperinghe (Ypres).

Born in Colerne, Wilts on 17 November 1875, 4th son of the late Major Francis Thomas Garrard, 27th Madras Native infantry and Eliza Mary of 21 Elers Road, Ealing, London, daughter of Captain Charles Burdett, 41st Madras Native Infantry.

Educated at Bedford and Wantage School. He went to British Colombia in 1896 and settled at Port Alberui, Vancouver Island. He worked as a Postmaster and Telephonist. Edward joined the Canadian Seaforth Highlanders and served with the Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders.

The 72nd Bn took part in the successful assault and capture of Crest Farm in the Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele) on the morning of 30 October. This was a key, heavily fortified German position that commanded the sector. The advance was made through a flooded quagmire (water-filled shell-holes) under intense fire. After taking Crest Farm, the 72nd held the position for 18 hours against intense German artillery, including a counter-attack on 31 October. The fighting was intense, with the 72nd Battalion alone suffering 274 casualties between 30 October and 2 November. Despite this, the Canadians successfully captured the position, with nine soldiers receiving the Victoria Cross for their actions during the battle.

His Commanding Officer wrote:

“I cannot speak too highly of his work in every action in which he has been engaged since his coming to France. His work as Battalion Observer in the initial stages of the action in which he received his wounds from which he died was of the greatest importance to the success of the same, and he and his NCO’s died splendidly.”

He married at Vancouver Island BC in 1900, Eleanor, daughter of Dr Watson and had three children.

W R B GILLESPIE

Date of birth: 6 April 1875

Attended Bedford School: 1885-1888

Died: 1917, Aged 42

Major William Robert Beauchamp Gillespie, 7th (Service) Bn, Princess Charlotte of Wales's (Royal Berkshire Regiment), was reported missing, believed killed, at La Petite Couronne, Macedonia and was officially assumed to have died on 9 May 1917. He is commemorated on the Doiran Memorial, Greece.

He was the second son of Major-General W. J. Gillespie of Twickenham and his wife Anne Mary Barbara. Born in Dublin, he was educated at Bedford School and Dover College. Before the war he worked in business with a Stock Exchange firm.

He served in the South African War from 1899–1902. He was promoted to Sergeant and later obtained a commission in the Imperial Yeomanry. After the war, he joined the 3rd London Rifles as a Lieutenant and subsequently the Honourable Artillery Company.

At the outbreak of the First World War he was serving as a Colour-Sergeant in a British Columbia regiment. He returned to England in October 1914 and obtained a commission in the Royal Berkshire Regiment. He served with the Expeditionary Force in France and Macedonia from September 1915 when they moved to Salonika to combat the Bulgarian Army. The campaign was characterised by extreme malaria, harsh winters and mountainous terrain, with significant time spent in the 'Birdcage' defensive area around Salonika.

La Petite Couronne was a fortified hill position in the Lake Doiran sector, frequently defended by the Bulgarians and targeted by British forces. The battalion participated in the difficult, high-casualty battles to capture or hold the position. On 8 May, a major attack began and the British preliminary barrage fell between Lake Doiran and Pip Ridge. In the night attack, the Berkshires and Scottish Rifles broke into the enemy trenches. But once again, Bulgarian defensive fire and counterattacks forced the attackers out of their newly won positions, often at the point of the bayonet. As the sun rose, a gruesome sight presented itself in the hills: rows of of horribly mangled bodies and decomposing corpses told of the night's carnage. Once more, the head-on assault against the Doiran positions was a dreadful failure.

His Brigadier-General wrote:

"He behaved with the greatest gallantry, leading his men with great courage and judgement in the face of very hot fire. He is a great loss to the Service and was immensely liked."

He was mentioned in Despatches by General Milne for gallant and distinguished service in the field.



R L HALL

Date of birth: 22 August 1879

Attended Bedford School: 1891-1893

Died: 1918, Aged 38



Second Lieutenant Robert Lane Hall, 2nd Bn, Northamptonshire Regiment, was killed in action on 27 May 1918 in France and is commemorated on the Soissons Memorial.

He was the adopted son of William Hall and Frances Ann Hall of Flitwick, Bedfordshire. Robert married Sybil Eleanore Lewis in July 1913, and they had four children. After leaving Bedford, Robert continued his interest in chemistry and founded a homeopathic pharmacy business based near the Tower of London. The business flourished, dealing mainly with continental Europe, importing and exporting manufactured chemicals. He was a Freeman of the City of London and also an active Freemason

He joined the Northamptonshire Regiment and went out to France in June 1917. In May 1918, the Germans launched a major assault in the Soissons–Rheims sector. Five British divisions of IX Corps had been sent to this supposedly ‘quiet’ front to rest and refit after earlier fighting on the Somme and the Lys. Many units were tired, understrength and bolstered by young and barely trained recruits. Their purpose there was to recover and properly integrate these new soldiers before returning to the main front.

On the morning of 27 May 1918, the Germans began a devastating rolling barrage with more than 4,000 artillery pieces. This was followed by the release of poison gas, and once it cleared, 17 divisions of German Sturmtruppen advanced and the British found themselves directly in the path. Taken by surprise and with overstretched defences, the Allies were unable to halt the breakthrough. Within hours, the Germans had advanced through a 25-mile gap, reaching the Aisne in under six hours, shattering eight Allied divisions from Reims to Soissons, and pushing forward an additional 9 miles by nightfall. British casualties were made worse by the orders of General Duchêne, who refused to withdraw from the Chemin des Dames ridge and directed troops to remain massed in the front trenches. This contradicted the instructions of the French Commander-in-Chief, Henri-Philippe Pétain, and left British soldiers densely concentrated and highly vulnerable.

The Soissons Memorial commemorates almost 4,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom forces who died in the Battles of the Aisne and the Marne and who have no known grave.

On Robert’s death, his widow was left with four children under five years old. In an act of amazing and unexpected charity, the London Freemasons, through the Guild of Freemen Lodge, educated all of Robert’s children at the Masonic boys and girls boarding schools in south London.

Lieutenant Andrew John Hay Hobson, 8th (Territorial) Bn, The Prince of Wales's Own (West Yorkshire Regiment), was killed in action on 9 October 1917 during the Third Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele), has no known grave and is listed on the Tyne Cot Memorial.

He was the eldest son of the Rev. John Philip Hobson, M.A., of Legbourne Vicarage, Louth and Annie (née Miller). Born in Upper Holloway, he was educated at Bedford School and Leeds Grammar School. He went to Canada in March 1912 and joined the staff of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

He enlisted in the 27th Bn, The Winnipeg Regiment, in 1914 and came to England in June 1915 with the 2nd Canadian Contingent. He was gazetted Second Lieutenant in the West Yorks Regiment in August 1915, promoted to Lieutenant in June 1916, and served with the Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders.

He was gassed and wounded on 1 July 1916 at Thiepval, and returned to France in November 1916.

The Third Battle of Ypres began on 31 July 1917. On the first day, British and French forces made significant gains in some sectors. As the day wore on, heavy rain made it difficult for the artillery to support the advance. The German defensive system was designed to wear attacking forces down before pushing them back with powerful counterattacks. Having advanced deep into this system, and lacking effective artillery support, the Allies were vulnerable to these counterattacks and lost much of the territory they had gained. The rain continued for three weeks. Soldiers struggled through heavy, sticky mud that reached up to their waists. Men, horses, tanks and other vehicles literally drowned in the mud. It was almost impossible to manoeuvre artillery into new positions, and aerial reconnaissance was grounded by the poor visibility.

The 9th West Yorks took part in a major attack on Poelcapelle on 9 October 1917. Rain had fallen for the greater part of the day and the ground was churned up into one endless mass of shell-holes, mud and water and was almost impassable. Andrew was killed by an enemy sniper.

His commanding officer wrote:

"He will be a great loss to the Battalion, and I fear we shall not find anyone as good to take his place. Always quiet and unassuming, he did his work in the most thorough manner possible. He was killed by an enemy sniper while endeavouring to find the best route to get his men forward. He was Captain of his School Football XV; he won several races in the school sports and was a qualified wireless operator."

A J H HOBSON

Date of birth: 26 November 1891

Attended Bedford School: 1903-1904

Died: 1917, Aged 25



G ILIFF

Date of birth: 15 August 1899

Attended Bedford School: 1906-1907

Died: 1918, Aged 19



Second Lieutenant George Iliff, No. 213 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps and Royal Air Force, was killed in action over France on 25 September 1918. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Arras Flying Services Memorial, Arras, France.

George Iliff was born in 1899 and was the son of a Missionary, the late Reverend Alfred Iliff and Eleanor Gertrude Iliff of The Croft, Park Road, Barnet. George returned to England for his education, possibly due to childhood health issues, as he had previously suffered from typhoid fever. The 1911 Census records him enrolled at St Michael's School for the Children of Christian Missionaries in Limsfield, Surrey.

George attended Bedford School, before entering Trent College, Derbyshire. After leaving Trent, he was employed as an engineering apprentice in a munitions plant machine shop.

He joined the Royal Flying Corps aged 18 as Aircraftman 3rd Class. Keen to fly, he completed approximately two months of basic military training followed by six months of *ab initio* flying training. On 11 May 1918, he graduated as a Flight Cadet, with further operational training on Sopwith Camels. He was commissioned as a Temporary Second Lieutenant on 23 August 1918.

Shortly afterward, he was posted to the newly formed 213 Squadron in France, where he flew Sopwith Camel fighters in combat for what proved to be a tragically short period of just four weeks, before being killed in action.

On the day of his death, Iliff and several fellow pilots were patrolling in the Thourout area of France near the Belgian border, north-east of Ypres, when they encountered and engaged an enemy formation of seven Fokker D.VIIs at around 10,000 feet. Iliff was last seen during this engagement. Leutnant Paul Achilles of Marine Feld Jasta V claimed a Camel shot down near Hooglede at 5.50pm, recorded as his fourth victory, and this is accepted as the Camel in which Iliffe was lost. 25 September 1918 was a disastrous day for 213 Squadron. Within an hour of Achilles' combat with Iliff, he shot down two more Camels from the squadron, while other members of his flight claimed a further three aircraft in actions between Hooglede and Ostend.

Iliff was initially posted Missing in Action but was soon confirmed as Killed in Action on 25 September 1918.

Private Claud Ambrose Proctor, 102nd Bn, Canadian Infantry, died of shrapnel wounds to the legs received in action at Bruay. He passed away on 10 August 1917, at Ypres.

He is buried in Bruay Communal Cemetery Extension, Pas-de-Calais, France.

He was the son of Mrs. Florence Cecilia Proctor (née Annesley, daughter of the Hon. W. Beresford Annesley, sister of the 7th Earl Annesley) of 7 Leighton Mansions, Queen's Club Garden, Kensington, London. His father, Frank Proctor (1849–1898), was deceased.

Claud attended Bedford Modern School from 1898 to 1900, and Worksop College, Nottinghamshire, before returning to Bedford School in 1903.

He emigrated to Canada in April 1910, settling on Pender Island, British Columbia. He joined the 67th Western Scots in September 1915, later transferring to the 102nd Infantry Battalion, and served with the Canadian Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders from 17 August 1916.

He attested on 16 October 1915 at Victoria, British Columbia, aged 24. A carpenter by trade, he was 5 feet 9 inches tall, with a 37½-inch chest, medium complexion, blue eyes, and dark brown hair.

The Canadian Corps took part in the Battle of Hill 70 on the outskirts of Lens in the Nord-Pas-de-Calais region of France between 15 and 25 August 1917 against five divisions of the German Army. The plan was to inflict casualties, to draw German troops away from the 3rd Battle of Ypres and to make the German hold on Lens untenable. The Canadian Corps captured Hill 70 to establish defensive positions from which combined small-arms and artillery fire would inflict mass casualties on German counter-attacks. The Germans were prevented from transferring divisions to the Ypres Salient but did not bring in reinforcements from other areas.

The Canadian Corps failed to enter Lens but German and Canadian assessments concluded that it succeeded in its attrition objective. The battle was costly for both sides and many casualties were suffered from extensive use of poison gas, including the new German Yellow Cross shell (mustard gas).

His Commanding Officer wrote:

“Your son was one of our bravest and best soldiers, and a boy that any mother could well be very proud of for his many good qualities and virtues, and we all mourn his loss.”

C A PROCTOR

Date of birth: 1 June 1890

Attended Bedford School: 1903–1905

Died: 1917, Aged 27



R A REILLY

Date of birth: 7 January 1899

Attended Bedford School: 1897-1900

Died: 1914, Aged 25



Lieutenant Ralph Alec Reilly, 31st Punjabis, attached to the 58th Vaughan's Rifles (Frontier Force), was killed in action near La Bassée on 23 November 1914 and is buried in Béthune Cemetery.

He was the youngest son of Colonel Bradshaw Lewis Phillips Reilly of Oak Grange, Pangbourne, Indian Army, and Eleanor, daughter of Thomas White of Eastry, Kent.

Born at Jubbulpore, India, he attended Bedford, then Cheltenham College, and later the RMC Sandhurst. He was gazetted 2nd Lieutenant, unattached list, Indian Army, on 9 September 1908. He served his first year with the Sherwood Foresters before being posted to the 31st Punjabis in December 1909.

Reilly served at Fort Sandeman, where he received high commendation from the General Officer Commanding the Quetta District for his work in that post.

He went to France with the Indian Expeditionary Force, landing at Marseilles on 12 October 1914, and was attached to the 58th Vaughan's Rifles.

Early on 23 November, there were rumours of the line away to the left being very hard pressed, so Reilly was sent up to the trenches with extra ammunition and to bring back any reports he could from the officers of the exact situation. He arrived there safely, but unfortunately the crisis developed very rapidly, and as he was returning along the covered way, a mass of Germans swept over the regiment on the left and reached the covered way. Reilly was last seen alive leading the half-dozen sepoy he had with him against an overwhelming number of Germans.

Major C. E. D. Davidson-Houston, commanding the 58th Rifles, wrote:

"I write on behalf of the officers of the Regiment and myself to express our very great sympathy with you in the death of your son about noon on the 23rd inst. His loss will be very keenly felt by us all, for I have seldom seen a young officer so thoroughly keen and efficient and so dependable. I have had many opportunities of seeing his work, as he was in my double company until I succeeded to the command on Col. Venour's death, and I should have been only too glad to have had him with us permanently."

Lt. Reginald Charles Proby Ripley, BW Indies Regiment, 110th Squadron RFC & Royal Air Force died on 5 October 1918 and is buried at Niederzwehren Cemetery, Hessen, Germany.

He was the eldest son of Canon Reginald John Ripley of Jamaica and Ella Maud Stevenson of 131 Hurst Grove, Bedford, and later of the Parish Church Rectory, Kingston, Jamaica, and St Barnabas Rectory, Upper Marlboro, Maryland, USA. He was previously educated at Malvern House School, Hailsham, Surrey, under H.M. M. Kellow-Webb, Esq.

He left Jamaica with the 1st BWIR (British West Indies Regiment) and served in Egypt for nearly two years. He later joined the RFC and obtained his pilot's licence. After further training, he left for France to take part in the major air offensive in early 1918.

On 26 June 1918 when flying a B.E.2e with the 48 Training Squadron at Waddington, he struck a telegraph pole which removed part of the left wing, causing a crash. His passenger, Private Ernest Adams (28), USAS, was killed whilst Ripley was injured.

On 5 October 1918 he was reported missing while on a bombing raid together with 2nd Lt. F. S. Towler. He was shot down and buried within the German lines.

R C P RIPLEY

Date of birth: 31 October 1894

Attended Bedford School: 1906-1907

Died: 1918, Aged 23



A H S ROBERTS

Date of birth: 17 April 1883

Attended Bedford School: 1894-1898

Died: 1918, Aged 35



Lieutenant Arthur Horbury Starkey Roberts, 15th Bn Welch Regiment, died of wounds in Landrecies, France on 4 November 1918 and is buried in Forest Communal Cemetery, France.

Arthur was born on 17 April 1883, in Sydney, Australia. He married Ellen Frances Musto in the South African National Tuberculosis Settlement, Eastern Cape, South Africa in 1916. They had one son, Arthur Gordon Roberts who was born on 30 January 1918. Sadly, Arthur never met his father. Arthur attended Bedford School from 1927-1930 and then went to Wellington College.

From 25 August 1918 until the signing of the Armistice on 11 November 1918, the 15th Bn took part in every engagement in which the 38th (Welch) Division was involved, the most important of these being the capture of the Ancre, the capture of Morval, crossing of the Canal du Nord, Gouzeacourt, Villers Outreaux, Selle Rivers crossing and Mormal Forest. During this period its casualties amounted to 40 Officers and 900 other ranks killed and wounded.

The Battle of Mormal Forest was part of the final Allied breakthrough on the Western Front, taking place in November 1918 as part of the wider Battle of the Sambre. Allied forces faced intense fighting against entrenched German positions within the dense, challenging terrain of the forest.

At 6.15am on 4 November, over a 2,000-yard front, the 115th Brigade pushed forward subjected to a heavy German artillery bombardment. The brigade cleared fenced-off orchards before pushing 500 yards into the dense forest against stiff resistance. They were followed by the 113th Brigade, who then leapfrogged ahead to achieve the division's second objective inside the forest. A lull in the fighting followed as the artillery was moved forward. Afterwards, the 114th Brigade attacked reaching the division's final objective, a road running through the forest, before nightfall. In heavy rain and complete darkness, the 13th Welch carried on the advance. They surrounded the hamlets of Sarbaras and Tete Noir, capturing a garrison of 65 men, before pushing on towards Berliamont and taking 60 more prisoners. The division had breached the forest, allowing the 33rd Division to continue again advancing eastwards – this time to cross the Sambre. During this 24-hour period, the division had advanced 11.5 miles, 4 miles further than the flanking divisions, taken 522 prisoners, captured 23 artillery pieces and suffered at least 411 casualties.

2nd Lieutenant George Bradley Roberts, Indian Army, attached to the 1st Battalion, Manchester Regiment. He died on 7 May 1915 of wounds received in action near St Julien during the Second Battle of Ypres on 26 April 1915. He passed away at No. 7 Stationary Hospital, Boulogne, and is buried in Boulogne Eastern Cemetery.

He was the younger son of Major Henry Bradley Roberts (R.E.) and Alice Roberts (née Banner, daughter of the Rev. G. J. Banner, M.A.), of Hotel Moy, Oberhofen, Lake of Thun, Switzerland. He was born at Chatham.

After leaving Bedford, he went on to Liverpool College and then the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. He was gazetted as a Second Lieutenant on the Unattached List of the Indian Army on 15 August 1914.

Roberts was attached to the 1st Battalion, the Manchester Regiment, which formed part of the 8th (Jullundur) Brigade of the 3rd (Lahore) Indian Division. The division deployed to France, landing at Marseille in September 1914.

After a brief attachment to French cavalry, the 1st Battalion moved to the front line on 26 October 1914 near Festubert. The battalion and its brigade suffered severe casualties during the Battle of Neuve Chapelle (10-13 March 1915).

In April, the battalion was ordered up to the Ypres area where the situation had become critical due to the German gas attack.

On the morning of 26 April 1915, the Lahore Division assembled between the Ypres-Langemark road on the left and Wieltje on the right, some 600 yards north of la Brique. The Ferozepore Brigade moved to its position through Vlamertinge, but the Jullundur Brigade went to Wieltje by the road winding along the Ypres ramparts. There they were caught in a heavy bombardment.

As soon as the division was deployed in the fields near Wieltje, they were shelled with tear gas. After the first gentle slope, they arrived in an inferno of gunfire, machine gun fire and shells, among which also tear gas shells. The men fell by the dozen.

Second Lieutenant Roberts is also commemorated on the Liverpool College First World War memorial.

G B ROBERTS

Date of birth: 23 August 1893

Attended Bedford School: 1905-1906

Died: 1915, Aged 21



I H WEBB-CARTER

Date of birth: 31 December 1893

Attended Bedford School: 1903-1908

Died: 1917, Aged 23



Corporal in the 5th Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, killed in action on the 3 May 1917. Awarded the Military Medal and is listed on the Arras Memorial.

Ion Valentine, alias Sgt. Christopher Arthur Valentine, was actually, Ion Hastings Webb-Carter, the son, brother, and uncle of members of a distinguished family.

Ion was born on 31 December 1893 in Hong Kong. His father was Sir John T Carter and mother, Ellie Louisa (Crossley) Webb. He was one of four brothers at Bedford, and entered the school in 1903 but was there only until 1904. He returned in 1906 but in 1908 he "left by request". It is clear that he caused his father concern at an early stage. He was first sent to sea, but he was imprisoned in a port on the Adriatic. This venture having failed, his father sent him to the Colonies, to Canada. After six months in Vancouver, he returned to England having got himself married, but no wife ever appeared. He was a very artistic boy and rebelled against the discipline of his father. By now, it was 1912 and his father, having rather given up, finally relented and sent him to the London School of Dramatic Art.

In 1914, John Carter secured for Ion a commission in the Essex Regiment but "it was not a success". Ion's military career started in the 8th Bn Norfolk Regiment, probably for basic training. He served in the 10th Bn (S) Essex Regiment but before they went to France he was cashiered for indebtedness.

He subsequently enlisted in another Regiment as a Private Soldier but using his real name. However, having discovered that this Regiment was not going to the Front, he deserted. The Police called at his parents' home in Mornington Avenue and actually asked his father to come down to the Police Station. Ion had promptly re-enlisted into the Cameron Highlanders under an assumed name, Christopher Arthur Valentine. This time he did go to the front. He served with the 5th Bn Cameron Highlanders and clearly served with distinction, reaching the rank of Sergeant and being awarded the Military Medal.

Seven days after he was gazetted M.M., his father was gazetted KCMG to become Sir John Thomas Carter.

On 3 May 1917, at 3.45am behind the Chemical Works to the East of Arras, the 5th Camerons, with the 8th Black Watch on left and 4th Division on right, advanced to attack the German position but, because it was still pitch dark and that there was very heavy machine gun fire from the chemical works, the advance did not succeed. A second attempt was made later with no better results. The shelling of our own front line by our own artillery made the confusion worse. Ion was killed by machine gun fire.

