

# SHROTON

## (Iwerne Courtney)

### WAR MEMORIAL

1914 – 1918  
1939 – 1945



#### ST MARY'S CHURCH

CLEMENT BURR  
ENEST HENRY BUSH  
GEORGE BUTLER  
ALBERT GEORGE JENKINS  
WILLIAM EDWARD JENKINS  
ARTHUR THOMAS PERCY  
REGINALD FREDERICK PIKE  
WILLIAM GEORGE ROBERTS  
GRANTLEY HENRY TUFFIN  
REGINALD CHARLES WAREHAM  
ALFRED JOSEPH WAREHAM  
WILLIAM ARTHUR FRANCIS (FRANKIE) FRYER (WW2)



## In Flanders Fields

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

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

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

Punch  
Dec 8-1915

John McRae

Lieutenant Colonel John McRae 1872 – 1918 Canadian Army

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## WORLD WAR 1

### Clement BURR

**Born:** Epsom 1898

**Rank:** Private

**Service No:** 132268

**Date of Death:** 6.10.18 Aged 20 years

**Cemetery or memorial:** I D 2 Glageon Community War Memorial

**Regiment:** 19 Battalion Machine Gun Corps

**Enlisted:** Sturminster Newton

**Family:**

**Parents:**

**Father:** William James Burr Died 1899

**Mother:** Ellen Burr Date of death unknown possibly 1899  
Married 1897 Croydon Surey

**Relatives:** Clement Bur resides with Uncle and Aunt, George and Henrietta Dennis of Shroton (As shown in the 1902 Census)  
Cousin Louisa Dennis and her children, George and Irene of Shroton

## Glageon Community War Cemetery France



### **Country**

France

### **Locality:**

Nord

### **Identified Casualties:**

287

### **Location Information**

The village of Glageon is about 3 kilometres west of Trelon, 11 kilometres south-east of Avesnes and 56 kilometres east of Cambrai. The Communal Cemetery and Extension lie west of the village.

### **Historical Information**

Glageon village was in German occupation during practically the whole of the War. The Communal Cemetery was used for the burial of German soldiers and Allied prisoners from September, 1914, to August, 1918; the Extension was then begun, and was used until the following October. The German, American and Italian and a number of French graves have now been removed from both burial grounds; but the British and Russian graves remain. There are now over 300, 1914-18 war casualties commemorated in this site. Of these, over 10 are unidentified.

The Extension covers an area of 2,202 square metres.

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## Ernest Henry BUSH

**Born:** 1885 Shroton Dorset

**Rank:** Private

**Service Number:** 31290

**Date of death:** 20.04.18. Aged 23 years

**Cemetery or memorial:** Panel 91/93 Loos Memorial

**Regiment:** 1st Battalion Northamptonshire Regiment

**Enlisted:** Oundle Northamptonshire

### **Family:**

**Father:** George Bush Born 1840 Sixpenny Handley Dorset – Woodman

Died 1916 Blandford Forum Dorset

**Mother:** Martha Arnold Born 1843 Tarrant Gunville Dorset

Married 1869 Blandford Forum Dorset

Died 1918 Blandford Forum Dorset

**Siblings:** James Richard Bush Born 1870 Tollard Royal Wiltshire

Elizabeth Bush Born 1872 Tollard Royal Wiltshire

John Robert Bush Born 1874 Iwerne Minster Dorset

William George Bush Born 1876 Iwerne Minster Dorset

Martha Jane Bush Born 1878 Iwerne Minster Dorset

Amy Louise Bush Born 1882 Iwerne Minster Dorset

## Loos Cemetery and Memorial



### **Identified Casualties:**

20620

### **Location Information**

The Loos Memorial forms the sides and back of Dud Corner Cemetery.

Loos-en-Gohelle is a village 5 kilometres north-west of Lens, and Dud Corner Cemetery is located about 1 kilometre west of the village, to the north-east of the N943, the main Lens to Bethune road.

### **Historical Information**

The Loos Memorial commemorates over 20,000 officers and men who have no known grave, who fell in the area from the River Lys to the old southern boundary of the First Army, east and west of Grenay. On either side of the cemetery is a wall 15 feet high, to which are fixed tablets on which are carved the names of those commemorated. At the back are four small circular courts, open to the sky, in which the lines of tablets are continued, and between these courts are three semicircular walls or apses, two of which carry tablets, while on the centre apse is erected the Cross of Sacrifice.

The memorial was designed by Sir Herbert Baker with sculpture by Charles Wheeler. It was unveiled by Sir Nevil Macready on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1930.

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## George BUTLER

**Born:** 1897 Shroton Dorset

**Rank:** Private

**Service Number:** 10517

**Date of death:** 26.9.16 Aged 19 years

**Regiment:** 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Dorsetshire Regiment

**Memorial or grave:** 7b Thiepval memorial

### **Family:**

**Father:** Arthur Butler

**Mother:** Elizabeth Butler

**Sibling:** Mabel Violet Born 1900 Shroton Dorset

**Address:** Near Shroton School, moved to Iwerne Steepleton in 1911

George Butler was born in Shroton in 1896. He was the son of Arthur & Elizabeth Butler of Shroton.

Unfortunately his service records have not survived; therefore it is unknown when he enlisted in the Army. However, given the proximity of his age to that of Alfred Wareham (also from Shroton) and that they were both listed as 'Gardeners' it is entirely plausible that both men were friends and joined the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Dorset Regiment together on 17 August 1914 in Blandford. It is even more poignant that they both died on the same day as each other 2 years later.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion was sent to Belton Park in Grantham for 6 months training prior to being deployed on active service. The Battalion starts redeployment to Witley Camp near Hindhead following the relocation of the "First New Army" to be concentrated in the Aldershot Command. At sometime prior to this move the Battalion had been.

On 30<sup>th</sup> June 1915, the 5<sup>th</sup> Dorset's receive orders to mobilise as part of three "K1" divisions to reinforce the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force under General Sir Ian Hamilton in Gallipoli. allotted to the 34<sup>th</sup> Brigade.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1915 the Battalion embarked on the Cunard ship Aquitania in Liverpool as one of six battalions on the ship. The ship sailed on the following day at 1400 hours so as to pass through the danger areas off the Scilly Isles and Cornish coast in the hours of darkness.

Private George Butler survived the ill-fated Gallipoli campaign unscathed although he would have probably suffered from sickness that afflicted almost every soldier. The 5<sup>th</sup> Dorset's suffered extremely heavy casualties and had to be re-enforced

The Battalion left for Egypt where they spent approximately six months before redeployment to the Western Front in July 1916.



Details of the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion's activity around the time of Private George Butler's death on 26<sup>th</sup> September 1916 are taken from the Regimental History for the Battalions and reproduced below in a précised form –

### 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion

**11<sup>th</sup> July 1916:** Following 2 days in a rest camp the Battalion entrain at 10pm.

**14<sup>th</sup> July 1916:** The Battalion arrives in St Pol, one of the last units to arrive at the Division's concentration area.

**16<sup>th</sup> July 1916:** 11<sup>th</sup> Division moves towards the front having allotted to 6<sup>th</sup> Corps in the Third army taking over the South Sector in Arras.

**20<sup>th</sup> July 1916:** 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion begin their first turn in the trenches in a "quiet" quarter (Wailly-Bretencourt) given that the Somme offensive had already commenced and the enemy's resources were deployed in other areas on the front despite the positional advantage held.

**July-August 1916:** The Battalion spend nearly 3 weeks in the front line followed by a further 10 days in support prior to moving back to a training area at Avesnes Le Comte. During this time suffering 20 casualties including Capt Kitcher who was killed by a rifle grenade. On 27<sup>th</sup> July Lt-Col ~~Hannay~~ had returned to command the Battalion after he had regained his health.

**August 1916:** During their time out of the line, the Battalion was strengthened by the arrival of 40 men from the 9<sup>th</sup> Hampshire's (Cyclists) and 15 Officers including Lieut Richards who had been wounded in Gallipoli in October 1915. The strength of the Battalion was 43 Officers and 861 men.

**7<sup>th</sup> September 1916:** The Battalion reaches Bouzincourt where the Division was to relieve the 25 who had made enough progress to enable an assault to be made upon the enemy's Wunderwerk.

**15<sup>th</sup> September 1916:** 32<sup>nd</sup> Brigade storm the Wunderwerk, the 34<sup>th</sup> Brigade stood by to reinforce the attack but were not required.

**16<sup>th</sup> September 1916:** 34<sup>th</sup> Brigade relieved the Canadians opposite Mouquet Farm. During the three days spent at the location the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion were involved in heavy fighting with the enemy, although there were numerous German casualties, the 5<sup>th</sup> had 13 killed and missing as well as 4 officers and 37 men injured, including Lieut Drysdale who died shortly afterwards from his wounds.

**19<sup>th</sup> September 1916:** The 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion was “out” of the line resting in preparation for the next attack, initially at Albert and then Englebelmer.

**26<sup>th</sup> September 1916:** The 34<sup>th</sup> Brigade attack was led by the Fusilier regiments with the 5<sup>th</sup> in support being used to consolidate positions captured by the Fusiliers. During their advance on No-Mans land they were caught by a German artillery barrage, Capt Vincent and Lieut Gandon were killed and Capt Gregory was injured. The attack caused the advance to become fragmented and uncohesive. However, despite this 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut Franklin assumed command of D Company when Lieut King was hit led his company forward with great courage until severely wounded himself.

**26<sup>th</sup> September 1916 (cont):** 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut Vale took command of A company when Capt Gregory was injured established a party close to Zollern Redoubt. Despite heavy fighting Zollern Redoubt and the trench were not taken. At 8pm Lt-Col Hannay was ordered to consolidate the second objective and send two companies forward to secure the third. Despite the heaviest shelling seen by the 5 to date nobody was hit. Despite heavy shelling the gains were consolidated before being relieved by the 32<sup>nd</sup> Brigade. After a weary trudge the remnants of the Dorset's reached Pozieres at about 18.00 only 120 men answered a roll call.

**27<sup>th</sup> September 1916:** The 34<sup>th</sup> Brigade now in Divisional reserve went back to Varennes. As a result of their first major battle in France the Battalion had suffered heavily, albeit most of the Division's objectives had been met. Of roughly 600 men in action about two thirds were casualties. 8 officers and 114 men either killed in action or were missing, a further 5 officers and 225 men were wounded. The 11<sup>th</sup> Division was given 6 weeks out of the line, resting, reorganising and training. Most of this time was spent at Domqueur. The 5<sup>th</sup> was reinforced by drafts in excess of 600 men.

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Private George Butler's 14/15 star would have been sent to his next of kin. He was awarded the 14/15 star, British & victory medals (shown below).



## Thiepval Memorial



### **Location Information**

The Thiepval Memorial will be found on the D73, next to the village of Thiepval, off the main Bapaume to Albert road (D929).

Each year a major ceremony is held at the memorial on 1 July

### **Historical Information**

On 1 July 1916, supported by a French attack to the south, thirteen divisions of Allied forces launched an offensive on a line from north of Gommecourt to Maricourt.

Despite a preliminary bombardment lasting seven days, the German defences were barely touched and the attack met unexpectedly fierce resistance. Losses were catastrophic and with only minimal advances on the southern flank, the initial attack was a failure. In the following weeks, huge resources of manpower and equipment were deployed in an attempt to exploit the modest successes of the first day. However, the German Army resisted tenaciously and repeated attacks and counter attacks meant a major battle for every village, copse and farmhouse gained. At the end of September, Thiepval was finally captured. The village had been an original objective of 1<sup>st</sup> July. Attacks north and east continued throughout October and into November in increasingly difficult weather conditions. The Battle of the Somme finally ended on 18 November with the onset of winter.

In the spring of 1917, the German forces fell back to their newly prepared defences, the Hindenburg Line, and there were no further significant engagements in the Somme sector until the Germans mounted their major offensive in March 1918.

The Thiepval Memorial, the Memorial to the Missing of the Somme, bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20<sup>th</sup> March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916. The memorial also serves as an Anglo-French Battle Memorial in recognition of the joint nature of the 1916 offensive and a small cemetery containing equal numbers of Allied and French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

The memorial, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, was built between 1928 and 1932 and unveiled by the Prince of Wales, in the presence of the President of France, on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1932

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## Albert George JENKINS

**Born:** 1891 Bletchingly Surrey

**Rank:** Lance Corporal

**Service No:** 10352

**Date of death:** 19.9.15 Aged 24 years

**Regiment:** 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Dorsetshire Regiment

**Grave or memorial:** Panel 136/139 Cape Helles, Gallipoli

**Family:** Lived in Bessels Shroton Dorset

**Father:** George Jenkins Born 1865 Shroton Dorset Stockman

**Mother:** Louisa Watts Born 1866 Ireland  
Married 1888 Blandford Forum Dorset

**Siblings:** Alice Jenkins Born 1888 Iwerne Minster Dorset  
Frederick Jenkins Born 1892 Iwerne Minster Dorset  
Henry Jenkins Born 1894 Iwerne Minster Dorset  
Edith Jenkins Born 1897 Iwene Minster Dorset  
William Jenkins Born 1900 Shroton Dorset - Killed in Action 5.9.18.  
Daisy Jenkins Born 1904 Shroton Dorset  
Evelyn Jenkins Born 1910 Shroton Dorset

Albert George Jenkins was born in Shroton, Dorset in 1891 to George & Louisa Jenkins of 'Shroton, Blandford, Dorset'.

Fortunately his Service Records have survived and it is recorded that he enlisted in Blandford on 29<sup>th</sup> March 1915 at the age of 24 years 8 months. He was a single man and provided his occupation as a 'Carter'.

As the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion was finishing their training in Grantham Private Jenkins was posted for training with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion on the 10<sup>th</sup> April 1915 in Wyke Regis. On 9<sup>th</sup> July he was promoted to Lance Corporal (unpaid).

On 29<sup>th</sup> August 1915 he was posted to 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion who by this time were part of Sir Ian Hamilton's 'Mediterranean Expeditionary Force' in Gallipoli. He was killed in Action on 19<sup>th</sup> September 1915 in Karakol Dagh, Suvia.

His personal effects were returned to his mother in December of 1915.

Details of the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion's activity around the time of Lance Corporal's Albert Jenkins death on 19<sup>th</sup> September 1915 are taken from the Regimental History for the Battalions and reproduced below in a précised form –

### 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion

**22<sup>nd</sup> August 1915:** Dorset's and other Battalions' of the 34<sup>th</sup> Brigade made their way back to Lala Baba to reorganize. The 3<sup>rd</sup> surviving officer, their Quartermaster was found. Of the warrant officers, C.Q.M.S Orchard had been killed and C.S.M Creech & C.Q.M.S Hart wounded.

**22<sup>nd</sup> August 1915:** The 5<sup>th</sup> could muster in the region of 250 men. With no Battalion able to muster more than 2 'weak companies' the Dorset's were amalgamated with the 11<sup>th</sup> Manchester's as "No 2 Battalion under Major Day amount to 10 Officers and six hundred and twenty men.

**25<sup>th</sup> August 1915:** "No 2" Battalion sent back to the trenches to occupy and support the line at Kazlar Chair.

**28<sup>th</sup> August 1915:** "No 2" Battalion relieved by a Battalion of the 13<sup>th</sup> Division, and set off on a long night march to Karakol Dagh where the 11<sup>th</sup> division was to relieve the 54<sup>th</sup>.

**9<sup>th</sup> September 1915:** 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion reinforced with 150 men.

**14<sup>th</sup> September 1915:** Further 100 men attached to 5<sup>th</sup> (*This is likely the time that Lance Corporal Jenkins joined the Battalion*) along with 2 officers from the 13<sup>th</sup> Hampshire's, Lieuts Turner & Stockwell who had command of 2 companies each as there was a shortage of officers. Lieut Richards was the commanding officer of the Dorset's 'wing' of No 2 and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut Smith was the acting Adjutant.

**20<sup>th</sup> September 1915:** The Brigade was relieved after 16 days on the front. During this time a total of 24 men had been killed and 35 wounded by Turkish snipers, although a communication trench leading back to Nullah providing covered access back to the beach helped reduce the casualty rate.

Lance Corporal Jenkins is commemorated on the Helles Memorial. Albeit there is no trace of his Medal Index Card, he was awarded the 14/15 star, British & victory medals (shown below) The 14/15 star was signed by his mother in 1920 and the British & Victory Medals were received by his father in August 1921.



**Helles Memorial Gallipoli**





**Country:**

Turkey (including Gallipoli)

**Identified Casualties:**

20886

**Location Information**

The Helles Memorial stands on the tip of the Gallipoli Peninsula. It takes the form of an obelisk over 30 metres high that can be seen by ships passing through the Dardanelles.

**Historical Information**

The eight month campaign in Gallipoli was fought by Allied and French forces in an attempt to force Turkey out of the war, to relieve the deadlock of the Western Front in France and Belgium, and to open a supply route to Russia through the Dardanelles and the Black Sea.

The Allies landed on the peninsula on 25-26<sup>th</sup> April 1915; the 29<sup>th</sup> Division at Cape Helles in the south and the Australian and New Zealand Corps north of Gaba Tepe on the west coast, an area soon known as Anzac. On 6<sup>th</sup> August, further landings were made at Suvla, just north of Anzac, and the climax of the campaign came in early August when simultaneous assaults were launched on all three fronts. However, the difficult terrain and stiff Turkish resistance soon led to the stalemate of trench warfare. From the end of August, no further serious action was fought and the lines remained unchanged. The peninsula was successfully evacuated in December and early January 1916.

The Helles Memorial serves the dual function of Allied battle memorial for the whole Gallipoli campaign and place of commemoration for many of those Allied servicemen who died there and have no known grave.

The United Kingdom and Indian forces named on the memorial died in operations throughout the peninsula, the Australians at Helles. There are also panels for those who died or were buried at sea in Gallipoli waters. The memorial bears more than 21,000 names.

There are four other Memorials to the Missing at Gallipoli. The Lone Pine, Hill 60, and Chunuk Bair Memorials commemorate Australian and New Zealanders at Anzac. The Twelve Tree Copse Memorial commemorates the New Zealanders at Helles. Naval casualties of the United Kingdom lost or buried at sea are recorded on their respective Memorials at Portsmouth, Plymouth and Chatham, in the United Kingdom.

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[William Edward JENKINS](#)

**Born:** 1900 Shroton Dorset

**Rank:** Private

**Service No:** 45917 Formerly 8/37386 Devonshire Regiment

**Date of Death:** 5.9.18 Aged 18 years

**Regiment:** 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment (Princess Charlotte of Wales)

**Cemetery and Grave Reference:** 111 H 6, Mericourt- L'abbe Communal Cemetery Extension

**Family:**

**Father:** George Jenkins Born 1865 Shroton Dorset Stockman

**Mother:** Louisa Watts Born 1866 Ireland

Married 1888 Blandford Forum Dorset

**Siblings:** Alice Jenkins Born 1888 Iwerne Minster Dorset

Frederick Jenkins Born 1892 Iwerne Minster Dorset

Henry Jenkins Born 1894 Iwerne Minster Dorset

Edith Jenkins Born 1897 Iwene Minster Dorset

Albert Jenkins Born 1890 Shroton Dorset - Killed in Action 19.9.15.

Daisy Jenkins Born 1904 Shroton Dorset

Evelyn Jenkins Born 1910 Shroton Dorset

## Mericourt- L'abe Comunal Cemetery Extension



### **Country:**

France

### **Locality:**

Somme

### **Identified Casualties:**

338

### **Location Information**

Mericourt-l'Abbe is about 6 kilometres south-east of Albert on the road to Amiens. The Communal Cemetery is a little east of the village and the Extension is to the south of the Communal Cemetery..

### **Historical Information**

In the early summer of 1915, Allied forces relieved French troops on this part of the front and Mericourt-Ribemont Station became a railhead. The extension to the communal cemetery at Mericourt was begun in August 1915 and was used chiefly by field ambulances until July 1916, when it was closed until the German advance of March 1918. From March 1918 to August 1918 it was used by units engaged in the defence of Amiens. After the Armistice, Rows G and K of Plot III were added when isolated graves (only one of which could be identified) were brought in from the battlefields north-east of Mericourt.

There are now 411 Allied burials and commemorations of the First World War in the extension. 73 of the burials are unidentified and there are special memorials to two casualties buried in the German cemetery at Clery-sur-Somme whose graves could not be found. The

extension also contains 11 German burials.

The extension was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens.

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## Arthur Thomas PERCY

**Born:** 1896 Shroton Dorset

**Rank:** Gunner

**Service No:** 57134

**Date of death:** 6.3.16. Aged 20 years

**Regiment:** 6<sup>th</sup> TM Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery

**Grave or memorial:** Bay 1 Arras memorial

### **Family:**

**Father :** Samuel Edward Percy Born 1857 Shillingstone Game Keeper

**Mother:** Harriet Percy Born 1856 Iwerne Minster Dorset

Married 1875 Shaftesbury Dorset

**Siblings:** Albert George Percy Born 1878 Iwerne Minster Dorset

Clara Percy Born 1885 South Molton Devon

Edwin John Percy Born 1888 Wool Dorset

Alfred Harry Percy Born 1890 Muckleford Dorset

William James Percy Born 1892 Shroton Dorset

## Arras War Memorial



### **Identified Casualties:**

34775

### **Location Information**

The Arras Memorial is in the Faubourg-d'Amiens Cemetery, which is in the Boulevard du General de Gaulle in the western part of the town of Arras. The cemetery is near the Citadel, approximately 2 kms due west of the railway station.

### **Historical Information**

The French handed over Arras to Allied forces in the spring of 1916 and the system of tunnels upon which the town is built were used and developed in preparation for the major offensive planned for April 1917.

The ARRAS MEMORIAL commemorates almost 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom, South Africa and New Zealand who died in the Arras sector between the spring of 1916 and 7<sup>th</sup> August 1918, the eve of the Advance to Victory, and have no known grave. The most conspicuous events of this period were the Arras offensive of April-May 1917, and the German attack in the spring of 1918. Canadian and Australian servicemen killed in these operations are commemorated by memorials at Vimy and Villers-Bretonneux. A separate memorial remembers those killed in the Battle of Cambrai in 1917.

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## Reginald Frederick PIKE

**Born:** 1<sup>st</sup> November 1888 Tarrant Rushton

**Rank:** Driver

**Service Number:** T4/084728

**Regiment:** 798<sup>th</sup> Horse Transport Company, Royal Army Service Corps

**Date of Death:** 17<sup>th</sup> December 1918 River Danube, Routschek, Salonika

**Memorial:** Sofia War memorial, Bulgaria and the Chapel at Steepleton House, Shroton

### Family

**Father:** Charles Pike Born About 1859 Netherbury Dorset Farm Waggoner

**Mother:** Annie Pike Born about 1861 Sutton Waldron Dorset

**Residence:** Everleigh Shroton Dorset

It will be noted that Reginald Frederick Pike died one month after the armistice. Many of the dead from the 1<sup>st</sup> World War commemorated on this memorial died post November 1918 with records showing the cause of death being pneumonia contracted as prisoners of war.

### 1918

- The Capture of the Roche Noir Salient (1- 2 September)
- The Second Battle of Doiran (18-19 September)
- The Passage of the Vardar and the Pursuit to the Strumica Valley (20-30 September)
- Armistice (30 September 1918)

At the beginning of 1918 the Allied troops in Salonika were prepared for a major offensive intended to end the war in the Balkans. The Greek Army had been reorganised and joined the Allied force. The offensive began in July 1918 but the British contingent did not play a significant part until early September. Then the British attacked a series of fortified hills. The final assault began along the whole front on 15<sup>th</sup> September 1918; the British being engaged in the Lake Doiran area. This battle was really on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> September 1918 and was a disaster for the British Divisions. They had to frontally assault 'Pip Ridge' which was a 2000 foot high heavily defended mountain ridge with fortresses built on some of the higher mountains, notably Grand Couronne. (This was what the Bulgarians had been working on in the first months of 1916 and early 1917.) They sustained very heavy casualties with many taken as prisoners of war.

## Sofia War Cemetery



### **Country:**

Bulgaria

### **Identified Casualties:**

185

### **Location Information**

Sofia War Cemetery is situated in the Central Sofia Cemetery which is the main city cemetery.

### **Historical Information**

Sofia War Cemetery contains the graves of Commonwealth servicemen who died as prisoners of war (the majority shown as having died from pneumonia) or with the occupying forces following the Bulgarian capitulation in September 1918. The original cemetery contained 62 war burials, most of which were brought in from Dubnitsa Cemetery, Radomir Cemetery and Military Cemetery, and Sofia Town Cemetery. Further graves were brought in from Varna Protestant Cemetery in 1955 and from Ruschuk British and Jewish Cemeteries in 1960. Sofia War Cemetery now contains 160 First World War burials and 28 from the Second World War. There are also 12 non war civilian and service graves.

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**William George ROBERTS**

**Born:** 1892 Shroton Dorset

**Rank:** Private

**Service No:** 16700

**Date of Death:** 6.7.16. Aged 24 years

**Regiment:** 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Dorsetshire Regiment

**Grave or memorial:** 7b Thiepval memorial

**Family:**

**Father:** Henry George Roberts Born 1860 Iwerne Minster Dorset  
Occupation Carter

**Mother:** Mary Jane Fudge Born 1863 Shroton Dorset  
Married 1882 Blandford Dorset

**Siblings:** Annie Louise Roberts Born 1886 Shroton Dorset  
Charles Henry Roberts Born 1895 Shroton Dorset<sup>1</sup>

**Residence:** Ranston Hill, Shroton, Dorset

<sup>1</sup> Charles Henry Roberts Private 1820 Dorset Yeomanry later 19561 Dorsetshire Regiment (no fixed Battalion) awarded the Military Medal 21.10.18

## Thiepval Memorial



### **Location Information**

The Thiepval Memorial will be found on the D73, next to the village of Thiepval, off the main Bapaume to Albert road (D929).

Each year a major ceremony is held at the memorial on 1 July

### **Historical Information**

On 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916, supported by a French attack to the south, thirteen divisions of Allied forces launched an offensive on a line from north of Gommecourt to Maricourt. Despite a preliminary bombardment lasting seven days, the German defences were barely touched and the attack met unexpectedly fierce resistance. Losses were catastrophic and with only minimal advances on the southern flank, the initial attack was a failure. In the following weeks, huge resources of manpower and equipment were deployed in an attempt to exploit the modest successes of the first day. However, the German Army resisted tenaciously and repeated attacks and counter attacks meant a major battle for every village, copse and farmhouse gained. At the end of September, Thiepval was finally captured. The village had been an original objective of 1<sup>st</sup> July. Attacks north and east continued throughout October and into November in increasingly difficult weather conditions. The Battle of the Somme finally ended on 18<sup>th</sup> November with the onset of winter. In the spring of 1917, the German forces fell back to their newly prepared defences, the Hindenburg Line, and there were no further significant engagements in the Somme sector until the Germans mounted their major offensive in March 1918.

The Thiepval Memorial, the Memorial to the Missing of the Somme, bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20<sup>th</sup> March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916. The memorial also serves as an Anglo-French Battle Memorial in recognition of the joint nature of the 1916 offensive and a small cemetery containing equal numbers of Allied and French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

The memorial, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, was built between 1928 and 1932 and unveiled by the Prince of Wales, in the presence of the President of France, on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1932 (originally scheduled for 16 May but due to the death of French President Doumer the ceremony was postponed until August).

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## Grantley Henry TUFFIN

**Born:** 1896 Shroton Dorset

**Rank:** Private

**Service No:** 13663

**Date of Death:** 25.9.16 Aged 20 years

**Regiment:** G Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Scots Guards

**Memorial or grave:** 7d Thiepval memorial

### **Family:**

**Father :** Grantley Charles Tuffin Born 1861 Manston Dorset Estate Carpenter

**Mother:** Anna Elizabeth Fanner Born 1864 Llawrenny Pembrokeshire

Married 1892 Shaftesbury Dorset

**Siblings:** Edward Charles Tuffin Born 1897 Shroton Dorset

Hensley Richard Tuffin Born 1900 Shroton Dorset

**Residence:** Lived in Rose Cottage, Bessels Shroton (latterly the home of Maurice and Jo Case former Chair Shroton Parish Council)

## Thiepval Memorial



### **Information**

The Thiepval Memorial will be found on the D73, next to the village of Thiepval, off the main Bapaume to Albert road (D929).

Each year a major ceremony is held at the memorial on 1<sup>st</sup> July

### **Historical Information**

On 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916, supported by a French attack to the south, thirteen divisions of Allied forces launched an offensive on a line from north of Gommecourt to Maricourt. Despite a preliminary bombardment lasting seven days, the German defences were barely touched and the attack met unexpectedly fierce resistance. Losses were catastrophic and with only minimal advances on the southern flank, the initial attack was a failure. In the following weeks, huge resources of manpower and equipment were deployed in an attempt to exploit the modest successes of the first day. However, the German Army resisted tenaciously and repeated attacks and counter attacks meant a major battle for every village, copse and farmhouse gained. At the end of September, Thiepval was finally captured. The village had been an original objective of 1<sup>st</sup> July. Attacks north and east continued throughout October and into November in increasingly difficult weather conditions. The Battle of the Somme finally ended on 18<sup>th</sup> November with the onset of winter. In the spring of 1917, the German forces fell back to their newly prepared defences, the Hindenburg Line, and there were no further significant engagements in the Somme sector until the Germans mounted their major offensive in March 1918. The Thiepval Memorial, the Memorial to the Missing of the Somme, bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20 March 1918 and have no known

grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916. The memorial also serves as an Anglo-French Battle Memorial in recognition of the joint nature of the 1916 offensive and a small cemetery containing equal numbers of Allied and French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

The memorial, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, was built between 1928 and 1932 and unveiled by the Prince of Wales, in the presence of the President of France, on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1932 (originally scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> May but due to the death of French President Doumer the ceremony was postponed until August).

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Reginald Charles WAREHAM



**Born:** 1897 Shroton Dorset

**Rank:** Private

**Service Number:**17618

**Date of Death:** 25.3.17 Aged 20 years Mesoptamia

**Regiment:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Dorsetshire Regiment

**Grave or memorial:** Panel 2 and 63 Basra, Iraq

**Family:**

**Father :** Joseph Wareham Born 1865 Shroton Dorset Carter

**Mother :** Alice Mary Hunt Born 1858 North Cadbury Somerset

**Siblings:** Henry George Wareham Born 1895 Shroton Dorset

Barbara Caroline Wareham Born 1898 Shroton Dorset

## Basra Memorial



### **Country:**

Iraq

### **Identified Casualties:**

40682

### **Location Information**

Until 1997 the Basra Memorial was located on the main quay of the naval dockyard at Maqil, on the west bank of the Shatt-al-Arab, about 8 kilometres north of Basra. Because of the sensitivity of the site, the Memorial was moved by presidential decree. The move, carried out by the authorities in Iraq, involved a considerable amount of manpower, transport costs and sheer engineering on their part, and the Memorial has been re-erected in its entirety.

The Basra Memorial is now located 32 kilometres along the road to Nasiriyah, in the middle of what was a major battleground during the first Gulf War.



The Commission continues to monitor the situation in Iraq and once the political climate has improved to an acceptable level the Commission will commence a major rehabilitation project for its cemeteries and commemorations.

### **Historical Information**

The Basra Memorial commemorates more than 40,500 members of the Allied forces who died in the operations in Mesopotamia from the Autumn of 1914 to the end of August 1921 and whose graves are not known. The memorial was designed by Edward Warren and unveiled by Sir Gilbert Clayton on the 27<sup>th</sup> March 1929.

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## Alfred George WAREHAM

**Born:** 1895 Shroton Dorset

**Rank:** Private

**Service No:** 9971

**Date of death:** 26.9.16. Aged 21 years

**Regiment:** 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Dorsetshire Regiment

**Grave or memorial:** 7b Thiepval memorial

### **Family:**

**Father**            George Wareham            Born 1860 Iwerne Minster Dorset  
Occupation Coachman

**Mother**            Eliza Jane Hopkins        Born 1863 Iwerne Minster Dorset  
Married 1881 Shaftesbury Dorset

**Siblings**        Tom Wareham Born 1881 Iwerne MinsterShroton Dorst  
Sidney Herbert Wareham Born 1884 Iwerne Minster Dorset  
Edith Rose Wareham Born 1886 Shroton Dorset  
Charles William Wareham Born 1888 Shroton Dorset  
William George Wareham Born 1890 Shroton Dorset  
Louis Richard Wareham Born 1893 Shroton Dorset  
Isabel Victoria Wareham Born 1897 Shroton Dorset  
Florence Annie Wareham Born 1902 Shroton Wareham

In 1901 Alfred, Edith, William, Louis and Isabella were all patients in the isolation wing at Blandford Hospital.

Alfred Joseph Wareham was born in Shroton on 16<sup>th</sup> August 1895. He was the son of George & Jane Wareham, together with his brothers, Sidney, Charles, William, Louis and his sisters Edith, Isabel and Florence. They resided at '16 Shroton' (presumably Main Street)

From his service records that have survived, it is known that he enlisted in the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Dorset Regiment on 17<sup>th</sup> August 1914, in Blandford. At this time he is recorded as being 19 years and one day old and listed his profession as a 'Gardener'. He is 5'5" tall and weighs 110lbs. From these records it can be speculated that he was a friend of George Butler who he probably enlisted with.

The Battalion was sent to Belton Park in Grantham for 6 months training prior to being deployed on active service. The Battalion starts redeployment to Witley Camp near Hindhead following the relocation of the "First New Army" to be concentrated in the Aldershot Command. At sometime prior to this move the Battalion had been allotted to the 34<sup>th</sup> Brigade.

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On 30<sup>th</sup> June 1915, the 5<sup>th</sup> Dorset's receive orders to mobilise as part of three "K1" divisions to reinforce the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force under General Sir Ian Hamilton in Gallipoli.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1915 the Battalion embarked on the Cunard ship Aquitania in Liverpool as one of six battalions on the ship. The ship sailed on the following day at 1400 hours so as to pass through the danger areas off the Scilly Isles and Cornish coast in the hours of darkness.

Private Alfred Wareham survived the ill-fated Gallipoli campaign unscathed although he would have probably suffered from sickness that afflicted almost every soldier. The 5<sup>th</sup> Dorset's suffered extremely heavy casualties and had to be re-enforced more than once.

The Battalion left for Egypt where they spent approximately six months before redeployment to the Western Front in July 1916.

Details of the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion's activities around the time of Private Alfred Wareham's death on 26 September 1916 are taken from the Regimental History for the Battalions and reproduced below in a précised form –

### 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion

**11<sup>th</sup> July 1916:** Following 2 days at a rest camp the Battalion entrains at 10pm.

**14<sup>th</sup> July 1916:** The Battalion arrives in St Pol, one of the last units to arrive at the Division's concentration area.

**16<sup>th</sup> July 1916:** 11<sup>th</sup> Division moves towards the front having allotted to 6<sup>th</sup> Corps in the Third army taking over the South Sector in Arras.

**20<sup>th</sup> July 1916:** 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion begin their first turn in the trenches in a "quiet" quarter (Wailly-Bretencourt) given that the Somme offensive had already commenced and the enemy's resources were deployed in other areas on the front despite the positional advantage held.

**July-August 1916:** The Battalion spend nearly 3 weeks in the front line followed by a further 10 days in support prior to moving back to a training area at Avesnes Le Comte. During this time suffering 20 casualties including Capt Kitcher who was killed by a rifle grenade. On 27<sup>th</sup> July Lt-Col Hannay had returned to command the Battalion after he had regained his health.

**August 1916:** During their time out of the line, the Battalion was strengthened by the arrival of 40 men from the 9<sup>th</sup> Hampshire's (Cyclists) and 15 Officers including Lieut Richards who had been wounded in Gallipoli in October 1915. The strength of the Battalion was 43 Officers and 861 men.

**7<sup>th</sup> September 1916:** The Battalion reaches Bouzincourt where the Division ~~was to relieve the 25<sup>th</sup>~~ who had made enough progress to enable an assault to be made upon the enemy's Wunderwerk.

**8<sup>th</sup> September 1916:** The Division take over the position.

**15<sup>th</sup> September 1916:** 32<sup>nd</sup> Brigade storm the Wunderwerk, the 34<sup>th</sup> Brigade stood by to reinforce the attack but were not required.

**16<sup>th</sup> September 1916:** 34<sup>th</sup> Brigade relieved the Canadians opposite Mouquet Farm. During the three days spent at the location the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion were involved in heavy fighting with the enemy, although there were numerous German casualties, the 5<sup>th</sup> had 13 killed and missing as well as 4 officers and 37 men injured, including Lieut Drysdale who died shortly afterwards from his wounds.

**19<sup>th</sup> September 1916:** The 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion was “out” of the line resting in preparation for the next attack, initially at Albert and then Englebelmer.

**26<sup>th</sup> September 1916:** The 34<sup>th</sup> Brigade attack was led by the Fusilier regiments with the 5<sup>th</sup> in support being used to consolidate positions captured by the Fusiliers. During their advance on No-Mans land they were caught by a German artillery barrage, Capt Vincent and Lieut Gandon were killed and Capt Gregory was injured. The attack caused the advance to become fragmented and uncohesive. However, despite this 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut Franklin assumed command of D Company when Lieut King was hit led his company forward with great courage until severely wounded himself.

**26<sup>th</sup> September 1916 (cont):** 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut Vale took command of A company when Capt Gregory was injured established a party close to Zollern Redoubt. Despite heavy fighting Zollern Redoubt and the trench were not taken. At 8pm Lt-Col Hannay was ordered to consolidate the second objective and send two companies forward to secure the third. Despite the heaviest shelling seen by the 5<sup>th</sup> to date nobody was hit. The gains were consolidated before being relieved by 32<sup>nd</sup> Brigade. After a weary trudge the remnants of the Dorset's reached Pozieres at about 18.00 only 120 men answered a roll call.

**27<sup>th</sup> September 1916:** The 34<sup>th</sup> Brigade now in Divisional reserve went back to Varennes. As a result of their first major battle in France the Battalion had suffered heavily, albeit most of the Division's objectives had been met. Of roughly 600 men in action about two thirds were casualties. 8 officers and 114 men either killed in action or were missing, a further 5 officers and 225 men were wounded. The 11<sup>th</sup> Division was given 6 weeks out of the line, resting, reorganising and training. Most of this time was spent at Domqueur. The 5<sup>th</sup> was reinforced by drafts in excess of 600 men.

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He is commemorated at panel 7b in the Thiepval cemetery. It is poignant that both he and Private George Butler given that they had joined together were both killed in the same action.

Private Alfred Wareham's 14/15 star was sent to his mother, Jane in July 1920. medal entitlement was sent to his mother, Jane Wareham on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1922. He was awarded the 14/15 star, British & victory medals (shown below).



## Thiepval Memorial



### **Location Information**

The Thiepval Memorial will be found on the D73, next to the village of Thiepval, off the main Bapaume to Albert road (D929).

Each year a major ceremony is held at the memorial on 1<sup>st</sup> July

### **Historical Information**

On 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916, supported by a French attack to the south, thirteen divisions of Allied forces launched an offensive on a line from north of Gommecourt to Maricourt. Despite a preliminary bombardment lasting seven days, the German defences were barely touched and the attack met unexpectedly fierce resistance. Losses were catastrophic and with only minimal advances on the southern flank, the initial attack was a failure. In the following weeks, huge resources of manpower and equipment were deployed in an attempt to exploit the modest successes of the first day. However, the German Army resisted tenaciously and repeated attacks and counter attacks meant a major battle for every village, copse and farmhouse gained. At the end of September, Thiepval was finally captured. The village had been an original objective of 1<sup>st</sup> July. Attacks north and east continued throughout October and into November in increasingly difficult weather conditions. The Battle of the Somme finally ended on 18<sup>th</sup> November with the onset of winter.

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The Thiepval Memorial, the Memorial to the Missing of the Somme, bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South African forces who died in the Somme sector before 20<sup>th</sup> March 1918 and have no known grave. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916. The memorial also serves as an Anglo-French Battle Memorial in recognition of the joint nature of the 1916 offensive and a small cemetery containing equal numbers of Allied and French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

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## WORLD WAR 2

### William Arthur Francis (Frankie) FRYER

**Born:** 1916 Shroton

**Rank:** Lieutenant Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm

**Date of Death:** 11.8.1940 Aged 24 years

**Service:** Royal Navy Pilot (Fairey Swordfish) Fleet Air Arm HMS Ark Royal

**Memorial:** Bay 1 Panel 2 Lee on Solent Memorial, Hampshire

#### **Family:**

#### **Parents**

**Father:** Brigadier Frederick Arthur Bashford Fryer CMG JP DL  
Born 13 August 1881  
Died 23 September 1943

**Mother:** Frances Esme Fryer (nee Balfe)

**Siblings:**

Frederic Walter Balfe Fryer	Born 1909	Died 9 March 1978
Kathleen Frederica May Fryer	Died 16 November 1957	
Esme Frances Eleanor Fryer		Died 16 February 1981
Frances Evelyn Fryer	Born 1912	Died 23 April 2008



## Lee on Solent Memorial



### **Identified Casualties:**

1926

### **Location Information**

This Memorial will be found on the main sea front, sited on Marine Parade West, approximately half a mile west of the town centre.

### **Historical Information**

During the Second World War the Fleet Air Arm served in almost every theatre. In a reconnaissance role they supported land operations in France, the Netherlands, North Africa, Italy, and the Far East. Operating from aircraft carriers (seven of which were lost during the war), they were one of the chief weapons against the U-boats in the Atlantic and in support of the Russian convoys.

In November 1940, Fleet Air Arm Swordfish biplanes carrying torpedoes undertook a night raid on the harbour at Taranto, resulting in disaster for the Italian navy. Aircraft from HMS Victorious and Ark Royal took part in the sinking of the German battleship Bismark in May 1941 and in February 1942, when the Scharnhorst, Gneisenau and Prinz Eugen attempted a daring dash along the English Channel from the Atlantic to the relative safety of the North Sea, they were attacked by Swordfish of the Fleet Air Arm.

The principal base of the Fleet Air Arm, Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire, was chosen as the site for the memorial to almost 2,000 men of that service who died during the Second World War and who have no known grave.

### Francis William Arthur Fryer as a Midshipman



William Arthur Francis Fryer, known to his family and friends as Frankie, was a Lieutenant, Royal Navy, who was a Fleet Air Arm pilot. He was the youngest child and second son of Bigadier-General Arthur Fryer, CMG, DL and Mrs Frances Fryer of Shroton House, Blandford, Dorset. He was born in 1916 and entered Dartmouth as a naval cadet in 1929. From January 1934, he served as a Midshipman in HMS Queen Elizabeth, Flagship of the Mediterranean Fleet. He was promoted to Sub-Lieutenant in 1937 and to Lieutenant in 1939. He qualified as a Fleet Air Arm pilot in September 1937 and served as such in HMS Furious and then HMS Ark Royal.

In August 1940, he was carrying out patrols from Ark Royal over the North Sea in the area of the north of Scotland, flying Fairey Swordfish aircraft. This was probably, in the main, anti-submarine work. The Swordfish was a two-seater aircraft carrying, as well as the pilot, a navigator Sub-Lieutenant A J Mourilyan RNVR. During a patrol on 14<sup>th</sup> August 1940, all contact with the aircraft was lost and a search failed to find any trace of the aircraft.

Frankie's family, having failed to obtain from the Admiralty any information about the loss of these two officers, other than as shown above, asked their cousin, Admiral Sir Cyril Fuller, to make enquiries on their behalf. He discovered that Frankie had reported that, for an unknown reason, his fuel gauge showed that he was extremely low in fuel. It seems that this report was received, but no action was taken upon it.

Frankie was a lively young officer, who loved flying. In peace time, he had often flown over Shroton and 'saluted' his family there. He was most popular with his family and friends, both in the Royal Navy and at home in Dorset. His loss in the above tragic circumstances was heavy upon his family, perhaps mostly upon his father, whose brother, another Frank Fryer, had been killed in action in South Africa in 1899 whilst serving as Adjutant of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Grenadier Guards<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> This information was provided by Admiral Sir Cyril Fuller KCMG CMG DSO (1874 – 1942) and John Fryer- Spedding both relatives of William Arthur Francis Fryer

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

Poem by Robert Laurence Binyon (1869-1943), published in The Times newspaper on 21<sup>st</sup> September 1914.

This document is a live document and it is highly likely that over time additional information will come to light. A non pdf document is held by the Parish Council and Nick Bate who will insert additional information as and when it arises. Also pdf copies are retained on the Shroton Parish Council and St Mary's Church, Shroton websites

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## SOURCES

1. [www.ancestors.com](http://www.ancestors.com)
2. 1901 Census
3. 1911 Census
4. Voting Registers including Absent Voters List 1914
5. Common Wealth War Graves Commission
6. History of The Dorsetshire Regiment 1914 – 1918 Volumes 1-3
7. The Dorsetshire Museum, The Keep, Dorchester, Dorset
8. Blandford Forum Town Museum, Blandford Form Dorset
9. National Army Museum, London SW3
10. Imperial War Museum, London SE1
11. John Simmons, St Mary's Church - Register of Birth, Deaths and Marriages,
12. The Somme Battlefield – Martin Middlebrook
13. The Somme Battlefield Guide – Major and Mrs Holt
14. Personal Guide on the Somme - Peter Smith, Flers, France
15. Personal Guide on the Somme, Arras – Ian Swarbrick, Iwerne Minster, Dorset
16. Personal Guide on the Somme, Arras and Mons – Colonel Simon Bate OBE, Adjutant, Royal Hospital Chelsea, London SW3
17. Western Front Association, Dorset Branch
18. Information on Reginald Frederick Pike was provided by Jennifer Coombes and her son Jack Coombes of Steepleton House where a memorial plaque can be found in the chapel
19. John Fryer- Spedding provided personal information on his relative William Arthur Francis (Frankie Fryer WW2) with information from his Great Uncle Admiral Sir Cyril Fuller KCMG CMG DSO (1874 – 1942)
19. This document was researched and compiled by Nick Bate, Shroton.  
[NBATE8@aol.com](mailto:NBATE8@aol.com)

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