

CHARLTON MARSHALL'S FIRST WORLD WAR MEMORIAL



CHARLTON MARSHALL'S FIRST WORLD WAR MEMORIAL

CONTENTS

		PAGE
Introduction	The Village	3
	The Outbreak of War, August 1914	3
	The Memorial	4
The Men Who Fell	L.Cpl B Martin	5
	Pte A Ball	6
	Pte H Bell	7
	Pte J Butt	8
	Pte F Caines	9
	Pte G Courage	10
	Pte H Courage	11
	Pte E Dennett	12
	Pte F W Foot	15
	Pte W Kerley	16
	Pte W Legg	17
Pte W Mabey	18	
Pte J Riggs	19	
First World War Medals	1914 Star	20
	1914-15 Star	20
	British War Medal	20
	Victory Medal	20
Commonwealth War Graves Commission	History of the Commission	21
	The Cemeteries and Memorials	21
	- Abbeville Communal Cemetery Extension	21
	- Arras Memorial	22
	- Daours Communal Cemetery Extension	22
	- Larch Wood (Railway Cutting) Cemetery	22
	- Malbork Memorial	23
	- St Sever Cemetery Extension	23
	- St Vaast Post Military Cemetery	23
	- Serre Road Cemetery No. 2	23
- Thiepval Memorial	24	
- Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial	24	
Addendum A	E Dennett – additional photographs	25
Addendum B	H Bell, F H Caines, H Courage and B F Martin – photographs of gravestones and memorials	27
Bibliography		29

INTRODUCTION

The Village

The village of Charlton Marshall is situated 2 miles SE of Blandford Forum, along the A350 Bournemouth Road.

In the early 20th century, the village was very much a farming community and for the majority of villagers their working lives revolved around agriculture and livestock. There were a number of farms dotted around the village, the local estates of Charlton House and Charlton Manor, as well as various other large houses such as Newlands, which would all have employed local people to work both in the houses and in the grounds. There were also market gardens and nurseries in and around the village and for most of the village's history there have been at least a couple of shops providing basic groceries and freshly baked bread, as well as a Post Office.

It was not an easy life for the common villagers who lived their lives without the amenities we take for granted today such as water, gas and electricity. Whilst there were wells in many of the cottage gardens in the village, there was no mains water until 1930. However, Thomas Horlock Bastard had presented the village with a communal pump in October 1887 following the drought of that summer and this would have been in use at the time of the First World War to provide water for cooking and general use. The pump can still be seen today, although not in use.

During leisure hours, villagers could partake of liquid refreshments at either of the village's public houses: The Bricklayers Arms in Gravel Lane (now a house called The Old Inn) and The Charlton Inn, which was first mentioned in Kelly's Directory in 1855 and is still going strong today.

Charlton Marshall was one of the first villages in the county to have its own working men's club, which was erected in 1854 by Thomas Horlock Bastard and admitted both men and women – in the early years it was used as a social club although no alcohol or tobacco was allowed. It provided books and periodicals as well as entertainments and although its role had changed by the early 20th century, it was still an integral part of village life and was used as a men's recreational club between the wars. It was sold in 1954 and is now two private houses, The Old Club House and Easton House, on the corner of The Close and Bournemouth Road.

There was also the School Room (or Church Room) opposite the Club House which had originally been the village school until the children moved to Spetisbury School in the 1890s but was then used as a reading and games room and somewhere for villagers to gather for meetings or entertainments. The building is now the Church Room and Village Centre.

Activities also revolved around the churches in Charlton Marshall: there were meetings of the Primitive Methodists in the chapel in Gravel Lane (today a private house), the Temperance Society and the children's Band of Hope met in the village and there were outings for members of the parish church choir, as well as meetings of the Girls' Friendly Society. And of course villagers would have attended church for all the major festivals through the year.

In common with many towns and villages of the time, there was also the Spetisbury and Charlton Marshall Slate and Loan Club which would have collected subscriptions from members as well as donations from local gentry and the monies would then be used by members at times of sickness, Christmas or when work was unavailable.

The railway from Wimborne to Blandford St Mary had been built along the southern edge of the village in 1860 and was extended into Blandford and beyond in 1863. It was originally single track but was subsequently upgraded to double track between 1899 and 1901. However, Charlton Marshall did not have a station or halt until July 1928 when it had an unmanned halt, although Spetisbury had a manned station from the outset.

The Outbreak of War, August 1914

Charlton Marshall had a population of about 500 in 1914 and at least 62 men enlisted from the village during the war years. Within the first two months over 25 men from Charlton Marshall had enlisted, which would have represented a good percentage of the working men of the village.

Right from the onset of hostilities various collections were made for both local and national funds and donations were being requested for items for wounded soldiers, such as magazines, shirts, knitted socks, etc, as well as appeals for householders to open their homes to soldiers, sailors and officers as places of convalescence.

The Memorial

Charlton Marshall's War Memorial is located just to the right of the footpath leading to the main door of the church of St Mary the Virgin, which is situated mid-way through the village. The current church cemetery is situated 800 yards along Church Lane, which is on the opposite side of the road to the church.



TO THE GLORY OF GOD
AND
IN GRATITUDE TO THOSE
WHO DIED THAT WE MIGHT LIVE.
THIS MEMORIAL IS DEDICATED TO
THE BRAVE MEN OF THIS PARISH
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES
FOR KING AND COUNTRY IN
THE GREAT WAR
1914-1919

L. CPL. B. MARTIN
PTE A. BALL
PTE H. BELL
PTE J. BUTT
PTE F. CAINES
PTE G. COURAGE
PTE H. COURAGE
PTE E. DENNETT
PTE F. W. FOOT
PTE W. KERLEY
PTE W. LEGG
PTE W. MABEY
PTE J. RIGGS

The church has a framed 'Roll of Honour' listing the men of the village who served during the war.

In 1919, a lectern Bible was presented to the church 'as a thanksgiving to Almighty God and in commemoration of the proclamation of peace.'

L. CPL. B. MARTIN

Bertie Frank Martin

Born: Sept 1887 in Blandford Forum, Dorset

Parents: Joseph Martin, (born Charlton Marshall) and Annie E Martin, (born Blandford Forum)

Married: Gladys Lucy Legg on 5 November 1914 in Blandford - child, Kathleen Margaret Martin, born 1 January 1915

Died: 1 July 1916, aged 28 years

--oOo--

Early Life: 1901 Census for Charlton Marshall lists Bertie as being aged 12 and working as a Shepherd Boy – at the time of the 1911 Census he was serving with the 2nd Dorsetshire Regiment in Ceylon/India and shown as 25 years.

The 1911 Census for The Hill, Charlton Marshall lists Joseph Martin as a Road Labourer, aged 60 and Mrs Martin as aged 59 plus that there are five surviving children, two at the address: Walter 26 years and Charles 17 years. Charles (or Charlie) is also listed on the village's 'Roll of Honour' as being among the first men to enlist – he survived and went on to serve in the Home Guard during WWII.

Military Service: Bertie enlisted in Blandford into the Dorsetshire Regiment (Regtl. no 7171) on 7 March 1904 at the shown age of 18 years 6 months* for 12 years service, ie 3 years with the Colours and 9 years in the Reserves. On 8 March his medical examination in Dorchester shows him as being 5' 3½" and 118lbs (8st 6lbs).

After spending the next two and a half years at various camps around England, Bertie embarked for India on board the SS Plassy on 3 October 1906. During his time in the Far East, he gained his Certificate of Education 3rd Class and Certificate of Education 2nd Class and was appointed Lance Corporal unpaid with the 2nd Battalion, Dorsetshire Regiment on 11 January 1909, paid on 8 July 1910.

After more than five years in India, Bertie was home again in January 1912 and spent the next 18 months at various camps in the south of England before being mobilized at Dorchester on 5 August 1914 at the outbreak of war when he was posted to the 3rd Battalion before embarking for France at the end of the month – he returned to the UK just six weeks later in October when he was admitted to hospital with gunshot wounds. Whilst home in England he married Gladys Legg and returned to France with the 1st Battalion on 5 January 1915. He was deprived of his Lance Corporal stripe on 30 December 1915 whilst serving in France (unfortunately no mention on record sheet of misdemeanour) and demoted back to Private.

Killed in action in France on 1 July 1916. **

Bertie had served a total of 12 years 117 days with the British Army - his personal effects were signed for by his wife, Mrs G L Martin (of St Martins Hill, Christchurch) on 6 September 1916 – Gladys also signed for his war medals (1914 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal) in 1919 but she had by this time remarried and signed as Gladys L Jackson. His personal effects and medals were signed for by Gladys in the name of L. Cpl B F Martin. Bertie is also commemorated on the WWI memorial in Christchurch, Dorset.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission: records show Bertie is buried in Serre Road Cemetery No 2, Somme, France, Plot XXVII, Row B, Grave 5.

* This shown age I believe to be wrong, as Bertie would at this time have been only 16 years 6 months.

** 1 July was the first day of the notorious Battle of the Somme which raged throughout the summer of 1916 and saw thousands die, many of whom have no known grave. The battle finally ended on 1 November with the onset of winter. Bertie was in the same battalion and died on the same day as fellow villager Harry Courage.

Military Files (Ancestry.co.uk) with information:

- British Army WWI Service Records 1914-1920
- British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards 1914-1920
- UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919

PTE. A. BALL

Albert John Ball

Born: c1889/1887 in Weymouth or Blandford, Dorset

Parents: John Ball (born Charlton Marshall) and Grace H Ball (born Newbridge, Isle of Wight)

Married: Edith Gertrude ? between 1913 and 1918 in Western Australia

Died: 4 September 1918, aged 32 years

--oOo--

Early Life: 1901 Census for Charlton Marshall gives Albert as aged 12 years (born Weymouth) and the eldest son of John and Grace Ball – his father is listed as innkeeper and wheelwright at The Charlton Inn – and he had two younger brothers: Wilfred aged 3 and Edmund aged 4 months. John Ball made his living from being a wheelwright (he was also a carpenter, smith and undertaker) and holding the licence for the pub would have supplemented his income.

By the 1911 Census, Albert was already serving with the British Army in India/Singapore, aged 24 years (born Blandford) - back in Lower Road, Charlton Marshall, his mother had been widowed and was working as a shopkeeper from her home with the two younger boys attending school.

Military Career: Albert enlisted into the Royal Garrison Artillery at Poole on the 1 May 1905. His enlistment papers show him as being 18 yrs 5 months and his occupation as being 'waiter'. His medical examination in Dorchester on 2 May shows his height as 5' 7" and weight 135lbs (9st 9lbs).

Service History

05.05.1905	Fort Rowner, Gosport – Gunner
29.06.1905	Pembroke Dock, Western Coastal Defences – 44 Company
20.12.1906	Kingston, Jamaica – 66 Company
03.12.1909	Home Establishment
28.12.1909	Queenstown Harbour, South Irish Coastal Defences – 10 Company
10.09.1910	Straits Settlements, Singapore – 80 Company (shortly after arriving in Singapore he was diagnosed with malaria and admitted to hospital for treatment)
22.09.1913	Deserted at Singapore

A court of enquiry held on 20 October 1913 reported that Rgtl. no 22296, Gr A J Ball, no 80 Company, Royal Garrison was "illegally absented from RA Barracks Blakan Mati that he is still so absent deficient of the following articles of clothing and equipment one sunhat and 2 covers valued 2/9½ and one pull through* valued 2¼" .

There is no further record in his service documents as to what happened to him in Singapore but a check of Australian records showed that he must have made his way there at some point, married and in 1916, when living in North Fremantle, Western Australia, applied to enlist in the Australian Imperial Force. He was sent to Europe with the 2nd Bn, Australian Machine Gun Corps, Regtl. no 6537.

Died 4 September 1918 in France.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission: records show Albert is buried in Daours Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France, Plot VIII, Row B, Grave 72.

* A pull through is a length of cord with a weight at one end and a loop at the other. The weighted end is dropped down the barrel of a gun, a piece of cotton is folded through the loop and pulled through the barrel, thereby cleaning out any debris. The piece of cotton is refolded and then pulled back through the barrel.

Military Files (Ancestry.co.uk) with information:

- British Army WWI Service Records 1914-1920

PTE. H. BELL

Harry Bell

Born: c1874 in Salisbury, Wiltshire

Parents: Stephen Bell (born Nunton, nr Salisbury, Wilts.) and Emma Bell (born East Harnham, nr Salisbury)

Died: 5 July 1915, aged 41 years

--oOo--

With so little information to go on, it has been difficult to trace Harry's early life but a mention in Mark Churchill's book '*Charlton Marshall. Aspects of our Story*' that Harry was brother to Constance Dennett (wife of Edward Dennett who died on Christmas Day 1914) has helped me find their family.

Early Life: The 1881 Census records Emma Bell and six children living in the parish of Fisherton Anger, Salisbury. Emma is shown as being a Labourer's Wife and Shopkeeper of Provisions (probably operating from the family home) – husband Stephen is obviously working away. Harry is the fourth eldest at 7 years and daughter Carry (aka Kathleen Constance who marries Edward Dennett) is aged 3 years and both are shown as being scholars.

In 1891 Stephen and Emma are still in Fisherton Anger with the three youngest children, Harry, Carry and Emmie: Stephen is working as a Labourer/Timber Merchant and his son Harry (aged 17 years) is in the same type of employment.

In 1901, Stephen and Emma Bell are living in the parish of St Edmunds, Salisbury and their children have by now all left home. Carrie (sic) is boarding with a Mrs Broughton in Wardour, Tisbury, Wiltshire and working as a Laundress but of Harry there is no trace. Perhaps he had enlisted in the army as had many young men since it meant better money and regular food?

I have unfortunately been unable to find Harry in the 1911 Census so have been unable to ascertain where he was living and working at that time.

Military Career: Regretfully Harry's army service records have been lost. However, the records for UK Soldiers who died in WWI show Harry as having enlisted at Blandford into the Dorsetshire Regiment - his residence is shown as Charlton Marshall. There is no record as to what Harry was doing in Charlton Marshall, but presumably he was living/staying with his sister and brother-in-law at the time.

Killed in action in Flanders (Belgium) on 5 July 1915.

What a shock for Constance Dennett, Harry's sister. Both her husband and brother had enlisted into the army at the outbreak of war and having buried her husband in Charlton Marshall Cemetery at the start of the year, that summer she will have received the news that her brother had been killed.

The Medal Rolls 1914-20 lists Harry from 23 October 1914 as having served with the Dorsetshire Regiment (#3/7387), then the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry (#20000) and lastly with the Dorsetshire Regiment (#14758). He was awarded the Victory Medal, British War Medal and 1914-15 Star.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission: records show Harry is buried at the Larch Wood (Railway Cutting) Cemetery in West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, Plot II, Row J, Grave 16.

Military Files (Ancestry.co.uk) with information:

- British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards 1914-1920
- UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919

PTE. J. BUTT

James Butt

Born: 1885 in Corfe Mullen, Dorset

Parents: William Butt (born Tollard Royal/Farnham) and Sarah Butt (née Alle born Corfe Mullen)

Married: Priscilla Benham on 12 November 1911 at Charlton Marshall parish church.

Died: 23 February 1915 aged 30 years

--oOo--

Early Life: 1901 Census for Corfe Mullen lists the family as being William 69 years (Estate Bricklayer), Sarah 52 years (Laundress [own account at home]), James 16 years (Bricklayer Labourer), Augustine 9 years and Harriet Alle (Sarah's sister) aged 56 (Laundress).

1911 Census for High Street, Charlton Marshall lists Mrs Sarah Butt as widow aged 62 and head of the household, living with two sons, James aged 24* (Steerman, Traction Engine) and Augustine** aged 19 (Farm Labourer).

When they marry in November 1911, James and Priscilla are described as being 22 years* and 20 years respectively and both living in Charlton Marshall. Priscilla's father, George Benham, is listed as a Sweep.

Military Career: James' service records show that he had previously served with the 3rd Dorsetshire Regiment, having been discharged on termination of engagement, but when this was is not shown. Following the outbreak of war in August 1914, James re-enlisted at Blandford into the Dorsetshire Regiment (Regtl. no 7688) on 1 September 1914 at the age of 26 years 211 days for one year's service (form is for Army Reserve [Special Reservists] for One Years Service).

On 2nd September, James's medical examination in Dorchester shows him as being 5' 2½" and weighing 135llbs (9st 9lbs). He has a tattoo on both his left and right arms. Subsequent to his medical examination he is admitted into Dorchester Hospital on 8 September for treatment to a 'wound (self-inflicted)' – he is discharged from hospital on 2 October and posted on active service on 23 October 1914.

Killed in action in Flanders (Belgium) on 23 February 1915.

James's personal effects were signed for by his wife, Mrs P Butt (c/o Mrs Benham, Charlton Marshall) on 1 October 1915 and his war medals (1914 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal) in July 1919.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission: records show James aged 38* at time of death and commemorated on Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial in Belgium, panel 37. There is no known grave.

* Some discrepancy in ages shown: Free BMD Birth Index shows registration of birth as being 2nd quarter of 1885.

** Augustine survived the war and in 1926, in Blandford, married Miss Emily Maidment.

Military Files (Ancestry.co.uk) with information:

- British Army WWI Service Records 1914-1920
- British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards 1914-1920
- UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919

PTE. F. CAINES

Frederick Henry Caines

Born: 28 August 1886 in Sturminster Marshall, Dorset

Parents: Christopher Caines (born Chesilbourne, Dorset) and Louisa Caines (born Sherborne)

Died: 19 May 1917, aged 30 years.

--oOo--

Early Life: Frederick was baptised in the parish church of Sturminster Marshall on 30 January 1887 (his birth date is shown in the margin of the baptismal record). By 1901 the family is living in Newtown, Charlton Marshall, and Frederick's father, Christopher, is shown as 51 years and working as a Groom/Gardener – there are two sons at home: Edward and Frederick (aged 17 and 14 respectively) are both working as Labourers.

In 1911 Christopher and Louisa are still living in Newtown, Charlton Marshall but their six children have by now all left home. I have been unable to find any record in the 1911 Census of Frederick's whereabouts.

Military Career: There is unfortunately no trace of his military service records, but the information on soldiers who died during WWI shows Frederic Henry Caines, born Sturminster. He enlisted at Shepherds Bush, London into the South Wales Borderers, 2nd Battalion (Regtl. no 44712), formerly #51392 Welch Regiment.

Without Frederick's service records there are plenty of questions to be asked: Could he have possibly served previously in the British Army, hence his non-appearance in the 1911 Census when he would have been approximately 24 years old? What was he doing in London at the time he enlisted at the time of the Great War, which must have been after 1914/15 since he didn't qualify for the 1914 or 1915 Star?

Killed in action in France on 19 May 1917.

The Medal Rolls Index shows Frederick H Caines as being granted both the Victory Medal and British War Medal.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission: records show Frederick is commemorated on Bay 6 of the Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France. No known grave.

Military Files (Ancestry.co.uk) with information:

- British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards 1914-1920
- UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919

PTE. G. COURAGE

George Courage

Born: 1890 in Blandford Forum, Dorset.

Parents: Tom Courage (born in Hammoon, Dorset) and Amelia Courage (born Spetisbury).

Died: 15 September 1918, aged 28 years.

--oOo--

Early Life: In 1891, when George was 1 year old, he was living with his father, mother, older brother Thomas and younger brother William in Albert Street, Blandford. His father, Tom, was working as a 'Gauger of Platelayers'. This would have been work on the railway, where he helped maintain the permanent way. The family moved to Newtown, Charlton Marshall at some point in the next few years and in 1901 the Census shows the family has grown to six children and father Tom is still working on the railway as a Platelayer.

The 1911 Census shows the Courage family are now living in The Close, Charlton Marshall, but young George is working as a Gardener (domestic) at The Gardens, Paddockhurst Gardens, Crawley, Sussex, aged 21 years, born in Blandford Dorset – he is sharing a house with six other young, single men, all of whom were employed as gardeners. The estate and house of Paddockhurst was at this time owned by Lord Cowdray and had extensive gardens for the enjoyment of weekend visitors and enormous glasshouses growing tropical fruits.

Military Career: There is unfortunately no trace of George's service records, but the information on soldiers who died in WWI shows that he enlisted at Blandford where he was resident, and at the time of his death was a Lance Corporal in the Duke of Edinburgh's (Wiltshire Regiment) 2nd Battalion, Rgtl. no 27832, formerly #15076 of the Dorsetshire Regiment.

Killed in action in France on 15 September 1918.

The Medal Rolls Index shows that George was awarded both the Victory Medal and British War Medal.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission: the records show Private George Courage and that he is buried in St. Vaast Post Military Cemetery, Richebourg-L'Avoué, Pas de Calais, France, Plot V, Row C, Grave 1.

The records of the CWGC show that in September and October 1918, 18 British soldiers killed during the final Allied advance were laid to rest in Plot V – this would have presumably included Pte G Courage.

Military Files (Ancestry.co.uk) with information:

- British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards 1914-1920
- UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919

PTE. H. COURAGE

Harry Courage

Born: 1892 in Blandford

Parents: Tom Courage (born in Hammoon, Dorset) and Amelia Courage (born in Spetisbury)

Died: 1 July 1916 aged 23 years.

--oOo--

Early Life: By 1901 when Harry is recorded in the Census as being aged 8 years, the family are living in Newtown, Charlton Marshall having moved from Blandford, and his father Tom is working as a Platelayer, engaged in the maintenance of the permanent way of the railway. Harry was the fourth youngest of six children.

In the 1911 Census for The Close, Charlton Marshall Harry (aged 18) is still living at home with his parents, two brothers and his sister, Amelia, and is working as a Railway Porter - I wonder if this was in Blandford or at one of the local stations? His father, Tom, is now shown as being a Railway Foreman.

Military Service: Harry enlisted in Dorchester on 4 March 1914, at the age of 21 years 149 days, but did not join the Dorsetshire Regiment until a week later on 10 March, with the rank of Private, Rgtl. no 9693. His medical sheet shows him as being 5' 8" and weighing 140lbs (10st).

It would appear he was originally at the Depot in Dorchester, may then have been posted to Belfast, NI, with the 1st Battalion, but returned to Dorchester in late August.

However, he is recorded as being posted on active service from 28 April 1915 when he disembarked in Rouen, Northern France and joined the 1st Battalion in the field on 30 April.

Casualty Form – Active Service

Admitted to rest station with scald left arm	04.07.15	Rejoined Battalion	10.07.15
Admitted to rest station with fever	23.06.16	Rejoined Battalion	26.06.16

Harry was reported missing, presumed dead, in France on 1 July 1916. **

On the Casualty Form there is the following note: "In accordance with the decision of the Army Council this soldier is to be regarded for official purposes as having died on or since 1 July 1916 – dated 13.07.16" At this point he would have been struck off the official figures for the battalion.

His medals (British War Medal, 1915 Star and Victory Medal) were later forwarded to his father, Tom Courage, The Close, Charlton Marshall.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission: records show Harry is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France. Pier & Face 7 B. There is no known grave.

** 1 July was the first day of the notorious Battle of the Somme which raged throughout the summer of 1916 and saw thousands die, many of whom have no known grave. The battle finally ended on 1 November with the onset of winter. Harry was with the same battalion and died on the same day as fellow villager Bertie Martin

Military Files (Ancestry.co.uk) with information:

- British Army WWI Service Records 1914-1920
- British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards 1914-1920
- UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919

PTE. E. DENNETT

Edward Dennett

Born: circa 1872 in Charlton Marshall

Parents: Henry Dennett (born Charlton Marshall) and Cornelia Dennett (born Winterborne Clenston, Dorset)

Married: Kathleen Constance Bell on 9 March 1904 at Charlton Marshall parish church.

Died: 25 December 1914, aged 43 years

--oOo--

Early Life: Edward was part of a large family: in 1881 the Census for Lower Drove, Charlton Marshall lists Edward's father, Henry, as a Railway Labourer and his mother Cornelia as a Laundress – there are seven children ranging in age from 12 years to three months – Edward is aged 10 years and listed as a scholar.

By the time of the 1891 Census Edward has left home and I have not been able to find him in the Census records for either 1891 when he could have already been serving in the army, or 1901 when he would have been in South Africa with the army.

In March 1904, Edward, aged 35 years, married Kathleen Constance Bell, aged 26 years, daughter of Stephen Bell (Carter) in the parish church of Charlton Marshall. At this time, Edward was serving in the Army as his profession is listed as being 'In His Majesty's Service'.

The 1911 Census for Lower Road, Charlton Marshall shows Edward 39 years (Gardener), Constance aged 33 years (born in Salisbury, Wiltshire), their daughter Kathleen aged 6 years and son Albert aged 2 years, both born in Charlton Marshall. Edward's parents, Henry and Cornelia (by now in their early 60s and married for 42 years), are still living in Charlton Marshall with four sons, one daughter and a grandson. Their son Harry (aged 38 years) is noted as being an Army Pensioner and General Labourer. Cornelia has had 11 children, 10 still living!

Military Career: Records show that Edward's military career began during the 1890s – he served during the Boer War as a Private (Regtl. no 2657) with the 2nd Battalion Dorsetshire Regiment and received medals for service at Transvaal, Tugela Heights (14-27 February 1900) and Relief of Ladysmith (1 March 1900). The Roll is dated 1 September 1901, Kroonstad, S. Africa and a note in the Remarks column says: "Sent home for discharge. Time expired." Unfortunately, the records do not show when he returned home or how long he served with the Army on this occasion.

With the outbreak of WW1, Edward enlisted in Blandford on 22 August 1914 into the Dorsetshire Regiment (Regtl. no 3/7704) at the age of 41 years 118 days for one year's service when it is noted that he had previously served in the National Reserve, Dorsetshire Regiment. He attended a medical examination the next day in Dorchester, which shows him as being 5' 6" and weighing 130lbs (9st 4lbs). There is no indication of where Edward was posted.

Died on 25 December 1914 in West Bay, Dorset.

Edward is recorded as having accidentally drowned whilst on sentry duty on the pier at West Bay, having completed just 126 days service. His death was subsequently registered in Bridport and his body taken home to Charlton Marshall where he was buried in the church cemetery on 2 January 1915. In his service records is a letter signed by the Commanding Officer of the 3rd Battalion at Wyke Regis, dated 7 January 1915 recommending that the matter be referred to the War Office with a view to his widow being granted a pension, saying that "she is a respectable woman in very poor circumstances."

/.....

The following are transcripts of the two reports of Edward's death, (the first in full, the second in part) which appeared in The Western Gazette.

Friday 1 January 1915

DROWNING FATALITY – BLANDFORD SOLDIER'S TRAGIC END – SAD CHRISTMAS NIGHT INCIDENT

A sad drowning fatality occurred at West Bay on Christmas night. In common with other seaside towns, West Bay is guarded by a detachment of soldiers, two of whom watch the approaches to the pier and prevent people from going on the pier after sunset. On Christmas night two were on guard at the Black House, and a very heavy sea was running and the wind blowing a hurricane.

One of the men, Private Dennett, of the 3rd Dorset Regiment, a native of Blandford, thinking he heard something coming between the piers, left his comrade in the shelter of the hut and went to investigate. It is thought he was blown into the water by the force of the wind, and as the sea was running high, and it was nine o'clock at night, he was soon lost sight of, and, encumbered as he was with his full complement of ammunition and two heavy overcoats, he had no chance of getting out.

Close to where he disappeared is a large groin built to intercept the force of the incoming breakers, and he was probably dashed against this and instantaneously killed, as the force with which the sea strikes the jetty is tremendous.

The alarm was at once given, and PC Winter, with the assistance of others, tried to find the body, but no trace of the unfortunate fellow could be found.

Men have since been dragging the sea-bed but up to the time of writing their efforts have been fruitless.

It is understood that the unfortunate soldier leaves a widow and two children, for whom the greatest sympathy is felt.

Friday 8 January 1915

BLOWN INTO THE SEA – CHRISTMAS NIGHT FATALITY AT WEST BAY – BLANDFORD SOLDIER'S TRAGIC DEATH

On Thursday the body was recovered of the late Private Dennett, a native of Blandford, who, as reported in our last issue, was drowned at West Bay on Christmas night. After the deceased was missed the sea-bed between the piers at West Bay was dragged, and a constant look-out was kept, but there was no sign of the body until Thursday morning, when it was seen to the east of the east pier, and washed up on to the beach. The overcoat and boots were gone and other parts of the clothing were in shreds. Deceased, who was a steady man, leaves a wife and two children.

The body was taken to the watch-house at the Coastguard Station to await the enquiry. Mr F B L Maunsell (deputy coroner) conducted the inquest at the Bridport Arms Hotel, West Bay, on Thursday afternoon and the jury returned a verdict that deceased "accidentally fell from the east pier at West Bay and was drowned."

Charles Solway, private in the 3rd Dorsets, said he was on duty with the deceased on Christmas night as sentry on the east pier. They went on duty at eight o'clock Witness thought the wind must have blown him over. He had his greatcoat on, and was quite sober. They had nothing to drink with them. Mr Hitchcock thought, from the position it was pointed out to him that deceased fell, that he must have hit the beam. It was quite likely that Dennett was blown over by the heavy gale that night. The pier, too, would be as slippery as glass. The jury then returned their verdict as given above.

The Foreman (Mr Eves) said the jury had decided to give their fees to the widow, and they desired to express their sincere sympathy with the family in their great sorrow. The fees were accordingly handed to Lieut. Graham, who is collecting a fund for the widow and family. Lieut. Graham expressed his thanks to the jurymen for their generosity, and said he would forward the money to the widow.

There is no record in the Medal Rolls Index of Edward being awarded medals for his short service, but the Forces War Records show him as being granted the 1914 Star, Victory and British War Medals .

/....

Commonwealth War Graves Commission: Edward's wife, Constance, had a stone cross engraved to mark his grave in Charlton Marshall Church Cemetery. A CWGC gravestone was later erected. Grave ref: left of entrance path.



In July 1917, Constance Dennett married Frederick William Domony in Charlton Marshall parish church. It must have been a difficult time for Constance after Edward's death and in the church register she gave her occupation as Laundress. Mr Domony was described as being a Railway Carman.

Addendum A: photograph of Victory Medal, copy of telegram to Constance reporting the recovery of Edward's body and photos of Edward and Constance, Edward and his son Albert and their home, Rose Cottage.

Military Files (Ancestry.co.uk) with information:

- British Army WWI Service Records 1914-1920
- British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards 1914-1920
- UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919
- UK, Military Campaign Medal and Award Rolls, 1793-1949

PTE. F. W. FOOT

Frederick William Foot

Born: 1 October 1886 in Dewlish, Dorset

Parents: Walter George Foot (born Dewlish, Dorset) and Louisa E Foot (born Studland, Dorset)

Married: Mary Mabel Ellery on 8 April 1912 at Lillington parish church, Dorset

Died: 1 August 1918 aged 31 years

--oOo--

Early Life: The 1901 Census for the village of Dewlish shows Walter Foot aged 49, his wife Louisa aged 49 and two children, Bessie aged 24 and Frederick aged 14. Walter is listed as being a Woodman and Frederick as a Woodman's Assistant. Perhaps he was helping his father?

By 1911 Frederick's family have moved to Winterbourne Zelston, his father has died in the intervening years and the household now consists of his mother, Louisa, together with Frederick aged 24 (Farmer), his sister Bessie, a visitor Mrs Goulton and a boarder, Robert Bowditch, a farm carter.

At the same time, Frederick's future wife, Mary Ellery, is listed as working as a housemaid at The Down House, Blandford St Mary, is aged 23, single and born in Knighton, Dorset – her sister, Hilda Ellery, is also working there as a housemaid. The Down House was owned by Sir William Henry Smith-Marriott, 5th Baronet.

Frederick and Mary marry at the parish church of Lillington on 8 April 1912. Frederick is shown as being aged 25, a Labourer and resident in Winterbourne Zelston. Mary is shown as being aged 24, Spinster and resident of Lillington – her father is Frederick John Ellery, Labourer.

Military Career: It would appear that Frederick enlisted in the Royal Marine Light Infantry, 2nd Royal Marines Battalion Royal Naval Division (Regtl. no PO/1711/S) which was based at Blandford Camp. He embarked with the British Expeditionary Force in February 1917 but was taken a Prisoner of War on 28 April 1917.

Died of disease 1 August 1918 whilst being held as a POW in East Prussia.

The Naval Medal & Award Rolls shows that Frederick was awarded the Victory Medal and British War Medal. The Royal Navy & Royal Marine War Graves Roll shows that Frederick was buried in the Heilsberg POW Cemetery, East Prussia, Germany and that his wife, Mary Foot, Newtown, Charlton Marshall, Nr Blandford, was notified of his death.

Following Frederick's death, his wife Mary Mabel Foot was granted probate in December 1918 – his effects are shown as totalling £248 13s 11d.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission: record shows Frederick is buried at Heilsberg Prisoner of War Cemetery (changed in 1953 to Lidzbark Warminski War Cemetery), East Prussia (now Poland). Grave ref: CWGC 11.

Frederick is also commemorated on the Malbork Memorial which forms the entrance to the Malbork War Cemetery in northern Poland and commemorates 39 First World War casualties buried in Heilsberg POW Cemetery where their graves could no longer be maintained.

Military Files (Ancestry.co.uk) with information:

- UK, Naval Medal & Award Rolls 1793-1972
- UK, Royal Navy & Royal Marine War Graves Roll 1914-1919
- GB, Royal Naval Division Casualties of the Great War 1914-1924

PTE. W. KERLEY

William James Kerley

Born: circa 1883 in Winfrith Newburg, Dorset

Parents: William Kerley (born Winfrith Newburg) and Bessie Kerley (born Whiteway, Dorset)

Married: Amelia Fanny Brown in April 1905 in Blandford Forum parish church

Died: 8 September 1917 aged 33/34 years.

--oOo--

Early Life: In the 1891 Census the family is living in Wyke Regis, Dorset at Lynch Farm Cottages. Father William is listed as a Labourer Agricultural and in recent years the family has obviously moved around a lot as Bessie has had children in Winfrith, Wareham, Weymouth and Wyke Regis. Son William is aged 8 years and a scholar.

By 1901 William is listed in the Census as being a visitor at the house of Mr and Mrs Charles Carbin in Branksome, Dorset, occupation General Labourer and aged 18 years. His father and mother are by now living in Tolpuddle where they appear to have settled for a few years and father William is working as a Cowman in Dairy. Mother Bessie is now aged 37 years and has had 10 children.

The marriage of William to Amelia Fanny Brown is confirmed in the records for Blandford Forum parish church, which shows that their Banns of Marriage were called on 23 March, 2 April and 9 April 1905.

The 1911 Census for Gravel Lane, Charlton Marshall lists William as head of his own household and aged 26 years (General Labourer) and living with his wife Amelia, aged 25 years – whilst they have been married by now for six years there have been no children. William's father (now aged 48 years and shown as widower) is listed in the Census for Hammoon and is working as Cowman.

Military Career: Unfortunately the papers relating to William's military service no longer exist, but the record of those soldiers who died in the WWI indicates that he enlisted in Blandford and was serving as a Private in the 1st Battalion Dorsetshire Regiment (Regtl. no 14762) at the time of his death in France.

Killed in action in France on 8 September 1917.

William's Medal Rolls Index Card shows his apparent service to have been (i) Dorsetshire Regiment, Private no. 3/7803, (ii) Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, Private no. 20004, (iii) Dorsetshire Regiment, Private no. 14762. The form is dated 23 October 1914 which is presumably the date he joined the service. His medals as listed (Victory, British War and 1914 Star) would have been forwarded to his wife Amelia in due course.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission: records show William is buried in St Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen, France, Section P, Plot III, Row E, Grave 10B.

Amelia stayed in the Blandford area and in 1921 married a Mr William Arthur Simms.

Military Files (Ancestry.co.uk) with information:

- British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards 1914-1920
- UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919

PTE. W. LEGG

Wilfred John Legg

Born: 5 February 1893 in Pulham, Dorset

Parents: John Legg (born Loder, Dorset) and Emma Legg (born Puddletown, Dorset)

Died: 9 November 1918, aged 26 years

--oOo--

Early Life: Wilfred was baptised in the parish church of Pulham, Dorset on 5 February 1893 when his father, John, was described as 'Labourer'. However, come the 1901 Census for Beerhacket, nr Sherborne, the family is living at Trill Dairy in the village and John and Emma are working as Dairyman and Dairywoman, aged 39 and 38 respectively. Wilfred is by now aged 8 years and has two older brothers and a younger sister.

By 1911 John and his family have moved to Burts Close (aka Birch Close), Charlton Marshall where John is again working in a dairy – John's wife Emma has unfortunately died by this time. Wilfred aged 18 years is described as doing Dairy Work – the family's youngest, Fred, is at school. However, Wilfred didn't stay home - when he enlisted into the army six years later his residential address is shown as Mere, Wiltshire.

Military Service: Wilfred enlisted into the Army in Warminster in March 1917 when his occupation is shown as Carter on Road and his preference is marked as Royal Horse Artillery. He is described as being 5' 1½" and weighing 124lbs (8st 12lbs). His next of kin is shown as his brother, Charles George Legg, Birch Close, Charlton Marshall. He was posted to Woolwich, London on 11 April 1917 and embarked from Southampton on 24 October, disembarking in Havre four days later.

There are three reports of his death the following year:

- Field Service: Report of death of soldier to be forwarded to the War Office Regiment: RASC (Royal Army Service Corps), Squadron: 1st Cavalry Reserve Park, Regtl no T/325872, Rank: Driver. Died: 09.11.18, Place: 1st South African General Hospital, France. Cause: Tonsillitis and Pleurisy contracted on active service.
- Admitted to hospital with Appendicitis 20.10.18 – Died: Influenza and Pleurisy 09.11.18
- Service Sheet: Died at 1st General Hospital Abbeville France of Broncho Pneumonia and Influenza 09.11.18

Died on active service in France on 9 November 1918

The Medal Roll Index shows he was awarded both the Victory Medal and British War Medal.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission: records show Wilfred is buried at Abbeville Communal Cemetery Extension, Somme, France. Grave ref: Plot V, Row B, Grave 34.

Military Files (Ancestry.co.uk) with information:

- British Army WWI Service Records 1914-1920
- British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards 1914-1920
- UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919

PTE. W. MABEY

William George Mabey

Born: 1877 in Charlton Marshall, Dorset

Parents: Henry Mabey (born Powerstock, Dorset) and Hannah Mabey (born Upwey, Dorset)

Died: 15 February 1919, aged 41 (or 42) years

--oOo--

Early Life: William was born and brought up in Charlton Marshall and it would appear that his family lived on the High Street (maybe in the same house) for many years. The Census for 1891 shows William and his parents: father Henry is aged 48 years (General Labourer), mother Hannah is 51 years and William at age 13 is already working as a Carter Boy. It would have been a hard life for such a young boy.

The 1901 Census for High Street, Charlton Marshall lists the family as being Henry 58 years (General Labourer), Hannah 61 years, their daughter Bessie 29 years, William 23 years (General Labourer) and Fred, grandson, aged 1 year.

The 1911 Census for High Street, Charlton Marshall shows William aged 32 years (Farm Shepherd) living as a boarder with the family of Augustus and Bessie Milford – Bessie is William's sister. Living close by on High Street are William's father, Henry, and Henry's grandson, Freddy.

Military Career: Unfortunately the papers relating to William's military service no longer exist. However, it would appear that he served with the Dorsetshire Regiment (Regtl. no 17215), The Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry (Regtl. no 31742) and at the time of his death (as shown on the Medal Rolls Index) he was serving with the 410th Agricultural Company, Labour Corp (Regtl. no. 465344).

Died in Military Hospital, Studley Roger, Ripon, Yorkshire on 15 February 1919, aged 43 years.

According to Mark Churchill (*Charlton Marshall, Aspects of our Story*), William was a victim of the great influenza epidemic of 1919 and unfortunately died before he was demobbed - he was buried in Charlton Marshall church cemetery on 20 February 1919. His grave is marked with a CWGC gravestone showing the regimental coat of arms of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.

His war medals (British War Medal and Victory Medal) were sent to his brother, Charles Mabey, at Station Cottages, Grately, Andover, Hampshire on 13 October 1920.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission: the record shows William is buried in Charlton Marshall Church Cemetery. Grave ref: right of entrance path.

Military Files (Ancestry.co.uk) with information:

- British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards 1914-1920

PTE. J. RIGGS

John Riggs (Arthur John Riggs)

Born: c1895 in Charlton Marshall

Parents: Charles Riggs (born Blandford, Dorset) and Clara Riggs (née Scovell, born Witchampton, Dorset)

Died: 23 March 1918 aged 22 years

--oOo--

Early Life: John was born in Charlton Marshall, registered in Blandford during the first quarter of 1895 and baptised Arthur John Scovell in the village's parish church on 7 May 1896 – there is unfortunately no mention of his birth date. However, in the baptismal records it is only his mother who is mentioned: Clara Scovell, resident of Charlton Marshall. It is not until April 1900 that Charles Riggs (aged 25 years, Painter) and Clara (aged 27 years, Laundress) are married in the parish church at Langton Long.

The family appear in the 1901 Census for Charlton Marshall living in Middle Drove: Charles' employment is listed as Journeyman House Painter, John is now aged 6 years (and has the surname Riggs) and there is a new addition to the family, baby Mabel 7 months.

Ten years later in 1911, Charles and Clara are still living in Charlton Marshall with now four children: John aged 16 years, Mable (sic) aged 10 years, Elsie aged 7 years and Dorothy aged 5 years. Both Charles and John are listed as being a Painter (House) – maybe they are working together? Living with them is Clara's mother, Mary Scovell.

Military Career: Unfortunately the papers relating to John's military service no longer exist, but the record of those soldiers who died in WWI indicates that Arthur John Riggs enlisted in Blandford (residence Charlton Marshall) and served as a Private in the 6th Battalion Dorsetshire Regiment (Regtl. no 16060).

Killed in action in France on 23 March 1918.

The Medal Rolls Index Card shows Arthur John's service with the Dorsetshire Regiment and that he was awarded the Victory Medal and British War Medal.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission: records show Arthur John is commemorated on the Arras Memorial, Bay 6 in the Faubourg-d'Amiens Cemetery, Arras, France. There is no known grave.

Military Files (Ancestry.co.uk) with information:

- British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards 1914-1920
- UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919

MEDALS of WWI as applicable to those named on the Charlton Marshall memorial

1914 Star, also known colloquially as the Mons Star



The 1914 Star was a British Empire campaign medal for service in WWI. It was approved in 1917 for officers and men of the British forces who served in France or Belgium between 5 August and midnight on 22 November 1914 (start date is day after Britain's declaration of war against the Central Powers and closing date is the end of the First Battle of Mons).

Majority of the recipients were officers and men of the pre-War British Army, specifically the British Expeditionary Force, who landed in France soon after the outbreak of war and took part in the Retreat from Mons. The reverse of the medal shows the recipient's name, number, rank and unit.

Recipients of this medal also received the British War Medal and Victory Medal – these three were sometimes irreverently known as Pip, Squeak and Wilfred.

1914-15 Star



Similar to the 1914 Star, it was approved in 1918 for officers and men of the British forces who served in France or Belgium between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915 (other than those who already qualified for the 1914 Star – no man could receive both).

NB: recipients of the 1914 Star and 1914-15 Star automatically received the British War Medal and Victory Medal.

British War Medal



The British War Medal was a British Empire campaign medal for service in WWI. It was approved in 1919 for issue to officers and men of British and Imperial forces who had rendered service between 5 August 1914 and 11 November 1918.

Officers and men of the Army were required to have either entered an active theatre of war or left the United Kingdom for service overseas between 5 August 1914 and 11 November 1918 and completed 28 days mobilised service. It was automatically awarded in the event of death on active service before completion of this period.

Eligibility was later extended to cover the period 1919-1920.

Victory Medal 1914-1919, also known as the Inter-Allied Victory Medal



The Victory Medal is a campaign medal in accordance with decisions taken at the Inter-Allied Conference at Versailles. It was issued to all those who received the 1914 Star or 1914-15 Star and to those awarded the British War Medal – it was never awarded singly.

It was established on 1 September 1919 and to qualify one had to be mobilised in any service and have entered a theatre of war between 5 August 1914 and 11 November 1918.



COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

History of the Commission

The commission was not started by the Government or the War Office, but by an ordinary man who felt compelled by what he saw on the battle front to ensure that those who had given their lives were not forgotten and their families would know where they had been laid to rest. That man was Fabian Ware.

Fabian Ware was born in Clifton, Bristol in 1869 and after attending university in both London and Paris he worked as an assistant master in a number of secondary schools and became an Inspector of Schools to the Board of Education. He began writing articles for the *Morning Post* in 1899 and in the early 1900s took a job in South Africa as Assistant Director of Education in the Transvaal. He subsequently became Director of Education on the Transvaal Legislative Council before returning to Britain in 1905 when he was appointed editor of the *Morning Post*, a position he held until 1911 when he became a director of Rio Tinto Limited.

At the start of the First World War, Ware was too old to serve in the regular armed services but became the commander of a British Red Cross mobile unit. He was moved by the number of casualties he encountered and wanted to do something to ensure their graves would not be lost in the annals of time. His unit started to record and care for all the graves they could find and by 1915 their work was officially recognised by the War Office, when Ware's highly organised unit was transferred from the Red Cross to the Army and given the title of Graves Registration Commission. By October 1915 they had recorded over 31,000 graves and by May 1916, 50,000.

Ware became increasingly concerned as to what would happen after the war to the graves that had been registered by the commission and, with the support of the Prince of Wales, submitted a memorandum to the Imperial War Conference. In 1917 the Imperial War Graves Commission was created by Royal Charter with the Prince of Wales as President and Ware as Vice-Chairman. The work of the commission began in earnest after the Armistice: land had to be obtained and guaranteed for memorials and cemeteries and the details of the dead had to be recorded. By 1918, some 587,000 graves had been identified and a further 559,000 casualties registered as having no known grave.

In 1918 the core ideology of the commission was set out as being equality and this principle is still held today. Three eminent architects, Sir Edwin Lutyens, Sir Herbert Baker and Sir Reginald Blomfield, were commissioned to design the cemeteries and memorials with Rudyard Kipling tasked with the job of advising on inscriptions.

Fabian Ware was made a Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (KBE) in 1920 and in 1937 published an account of the work of the commission entitled *The Immortal Heritage*.

During the Second World War, Sir Fabian Ware was appointed Director of Grave Registration and Enquiries at the War Office as well as continuing in his position as Vice-Chairman of the commission, a post he held until his retirement in 1948. He died in April 1949 aged 79 years.

The Cemeteries and Memorials

The following are the cemeteries and memorials maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in Europe where the men of Charlton Marshall (other than Pte Dennett and Pte Mabey) are either buried or commemorated. The information is taken from the CWGC website.

Abbeville Communal Cemetery Extension, France (Pte W Legg)

The town of Abbeville is on the main road from Paris to Boulogne and is 80 kilometres south of Boulogne.

For much of the First World War, Abbeville was headquarters of the Commonwealth lines of communication and No 3 BRCS, No 5 and No 2 Stationary Hospitals were stationed there variously from October 1914 to January 1920. The communal cemetery was used for burials from November 1914 to September 1916, the earliest being made among the French military graves. The extension was begun in September 1916.

During the early part of the Second World War, Abbeville was a major operational aerodrome, but the town fell to the Germans at the end of May 1940 before being retaken in September 1944 by Canadian and Polish units.

Abbeville Communal Cemetery contains 774 Commonwealth burials of First World War and 30 from the Second. The Extensions contains 1,754 First World War burials and 348 from the Second.

The Commonwealth sections of both cemetery and extensions were designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield.

Arras Memorial, France (Pte F Caines and Pte A J Riggs)

The Arras Memorial is in the Faubourg-d'Amiens Cemetery in the western part of the town of Arras.

The French handed over Arras to Commonwealth 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 Commonwealth section of the Faubourg-d'Amiens Cemetery was begun in March 1916 behind the French military cemetery established earlier. It continued to be used by field ambulances and fighting units until November 1918. The cemetery was enlarged after the Armistice when graves were brought in from the battlefields and from two smaller cemeteries in the vicinity. The cemetery contains over 2,650 Commonwealth burials of the First World War, 10 of which are unidentified.

The adjacent Arras Memorial commemorates almost 35,000 servicemen from the UK, South Africa and New Zealand who died in the Arras sector between the spring of 1916 and 7 August 1918 and have no known grave. The main events of this period were the Arras offensive of April-May 1917 and the German attack in the spring of 1918.

Both cemetery and memorials (Arras Memorial and Arras Flying Services Memorial) were designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, with sculpture by Sir William Reid Dick. The memorials were unveiled by Lord Trenchard, Marshal of the RAF on 31 July 1932.

Daours Communal Cemetery Extension, France (Pte A Ball)

Daours is a village in the Department of the Somme, about 10 kilometres east of Amiens.

The preparations for the Somme Offensive of July 1916 brought a group of casualty clearing stations to Daours. The extension to the cemetery was opened and the first burials made between June and November 1916. The Allied advance in the spring of 1917 took the hospitals with it and no further burials were made until April 1918 when the Germans recovered the ground they had lost. From April to the middle of August 1918 the extension was almost a front line cemetery. In August and September 1918 the casualty clearing stations came forward again and in the September the cemetery was closed.

There are now 1,231 Commonwealth servicemen of the First World War buried or commemorated in Daours Communal Cemetery Extension.

The extension was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens.

Larch Wood (Railway Cutting) Cemetery, Belgium (Pte H Bell)

Larch Wood Cemetery is located 4 kilometers south-east of Ieper (formerly Ypres) town centre between the town and Komen. An ungated railway crossing is immediately adjacent to the site.

The cemetery was begun in April 1915 at the north end of a small plantation of larches. It was used by troops holding this sector, particularly the 46th (North Midland) Division and the 1st Dorsetshires, until April 1918. It was enlarged after the Armistice when graves were brought in from a number of other cemeteries.

The cemetery contains 856 burials and commemorations of the First World War. 321 of the burials are unidentified and there are special memorials to 82 casualties known or believed to be buried in the cemetery.

The cemetery was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens.

Malbork Memorial, Poland (Pte F W Foot)

The town of Malbork (formerly known as Marienburg) lies in the north of Poland approx. 60 kilometres south east of Gdansk.

The Malbork Memorial forms the entrance to Malbork War Cemetery and commemorates 39 First World War casualties buried in Heilsberg Prisoners of War Cemetery (changed in 1953 to Lidsbark War Cemetery) where their graves could no longer be maintained. The cemetery also contains 13 First World War burials which were moved from Gdansk (Danzig) Garrison Cemetery in 1960.

The Second World War burials (232) at Malbork are mostly of men who died while POWs in the nearby camps.

St Sever Cemetery Extension, France (Pte W Kerley)

St Sever Cemetery and St Sever Cemetery Extension are located within a large communal cemetery situated on the eastern edge of the southern Rouen suburbs of Le Gran Quevilly and Le Petit Quevilly.

During the First World War, Commonwealth camps and hospitals were stationed on the southern outskirts of Rouen. A base supply depot and the 3rd Echelon of General headquarters were also established in the city.

Almost all of the hospitals at Rouen remained there for practically the whole of the war. They included eight general, five stationary, one British Red Cross and one labour hospital, and No 2 Convalescent Depot. A number of the dead from these hospitals were buried in other cemeteries, but the great majority were taken to the city cemeteries of St Sever. In September 1916, it was found necessary to begin an extension, where the last burial took place in April 1920.

During the Second World War, Rouen was again a hospital centre and the extension was used once more for the burial of Commonwealth servicemen, many of whom died as POWs during the German occupation.

The cemetery extension contains 8,348 Commonwealth burials of the First World War (10 of them unidentified) and in Block "S" there are 328 from the Second World War (18 of them unidentified). There are also eight Foreign National burials here.

The extension was designed for Sir Reginald Blomfield.

St Vaast Post Military Cemetery, France (Pte G Courage)

The cemetery lies near the village of Richebourg-L'Avoué which is 9 kilometres north-east of Bethune.

The village of Richebourg-L'Avoué was held by British Forces from the autumn of 1914 until it was overrun by German units advancing west during the great Spring Offensive of April 1918. It was recaptured by Commonwealth soldiers in September 1918 and remained in Allied hands until the end of the war. The village was less than two kilometres from the front-line trenches and was routinely shelled by German artillery.

During the Battle of Festubert in May 1915, British soldiers began burying their fallen comrades in an old orchard near a forward dressing station close to the hamlet of Richebourg St Vaast – the cemetery was used by fighting units serving in the front-line and field ambulances until 1917. In September and October 1918, 18 British soldiers killed during the final Allied advance were laid to rest in Plot V, including Pte G Courage. There are now almost 800 soldiers of the First World War buried or commemorated at St Vaast Post, including over 90 German burials.

Serre Road Cemetery No 2, France (L Cpl B Martin)

The village of Serre is 11 kilometres north-north-east of Albert in the area known as the Somme.

In June 1916 the road out of Maily-Maillet to Serre and Puisieux entered No Man's Land about 1,300 metres south-west of Serre. On 1 July 1916 the 31st and 4th Divisions attacked north and south of this road but the attack failed. A further attack was made in the November, which again failed. The village changed hands a couple of times during the next couple of years until the Germans withdrew in August 1918.

The battlefields of the Somme and Ancre had been cleared by V Corps in the spring of 1917 and a number of new cemeteries were made, three of which were named for the Serre Road. Serre Road Cemetery No 2 was begun in May 1917 and by the end of the war it contained approximately 475 graves. It was greatly enlarged after the Armistice by the addition of further graves from smaller cemeteries in the surrounding area.

There are now 7,127 Commonwealth burials of the First World War in the cemetery, mostly dating from 1916. Of these 4,944 are unidentified. The cemetery (completed in 1934) was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens.

Thiepval Memorial, France (Pte H Courage)

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.

On 1 July 1916, supported by a French attack to the south, 13 divisions of Commonwealth 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. Huge resources of manpower and equipment were deployed over the coming weeks but the German Army resisted and major battles were fought for every village, copse and farmhouse gained. Thiepval was finally captured at the end of September, but attacks continued north and east 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.

The German forces fell back to the Hindenburg Line in the spring of 1917 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 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 Commonwealth and French graves lies at the foot of the memorial.

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

Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium (Pte J Butt)

Ypres (now Ieper) is a town in the Province of West Flanders, Belgium. Each night at 8pm the traffic is stopped at the Menin Gate while members of the local Fire Brigade sound the Last Post under the Memorial's arches.

The Menin Gate is one of four memorials to the missing in Belgian Flanders which cover the area known as the Ypres Salient, which stretched from Langemarck in the north to the northern edge of Ploegsteert Wood in the south. However, it varied in shape and size throughout the war.

The Salient was formed during the First Battle of Ypres in October and November 1914 when a small British Expeditionary Force succeeded in securing the town. The Second Battle of Ypres began in April 1915 when the Germans released poison gas into the Allied lines for the first time. There was little further activity until the Third Battle of Ypres in 1917 and a further German offensive in March 1918. These battles, which were often fought against determined opposition and in appalling weather, claimed many lives on both sides and it quickly became clear that the commemoration of members of the Commonwealth forces with no known grave would have to be divided between several different sites.

The site of the Menin Gate was chosen because of the hundreds of thousands of men who passed through it on their way to the battlefields. It commemorates casualties from the forces of Australia, Canada, India, South Africa and the United Kingdom who died in the Salient. The Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial now bears the names of more than 54,000 officers and men whose graves are not known.

The memorial was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield with sculpture by Sir William Reid-Dick and was unveiled by Lord Plumer on 24 July 1927.

ADDENDUM A

Pte Edward Dennett



EDWARD & CONSTANCE
EDWARD & ALBERT (HIS SON, DIED YOUNG)
ROSE COTTAGE, THE CLOSE,
CHARLTON MARSHALL, WHERE
THEY WED TO LIVE.
A PHOTO OF FRANK Wm DONNIBY
CONSTANCE'S SECOND WIFE IS
IN THE MUSEUM (RAILWAY CLUB).



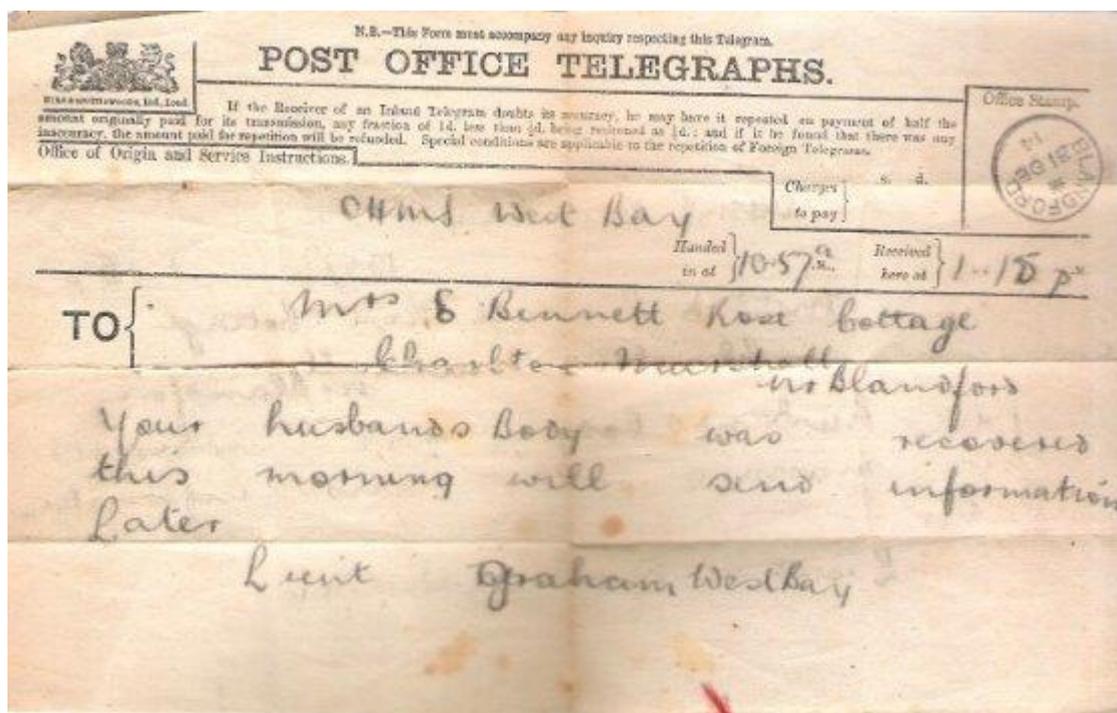
Photographs:

Top Left: Edward and Constance

Top Right: Edward and his son, Albert (died young)

Bottom Right: Rose Cottage, The Close, Charlton Marshall – the home of the Dennetts (now Myrtle Cottage)

Pte Edward Dennett



Photographs:

Top: Telegram to Constance Dennett announcing the discovery of Edward's body

Bottom: Edward's Victory Medal

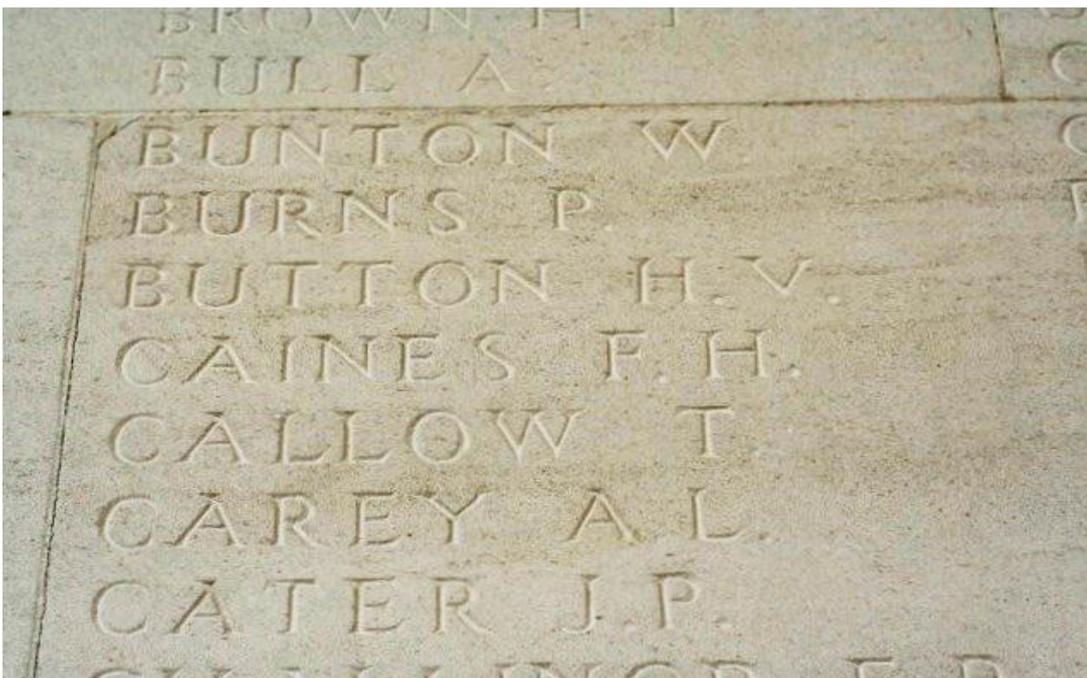
ADDENDUM B

Photographs courtesy of Tim Hill from a visit to various CWGC cemeteries in 2015

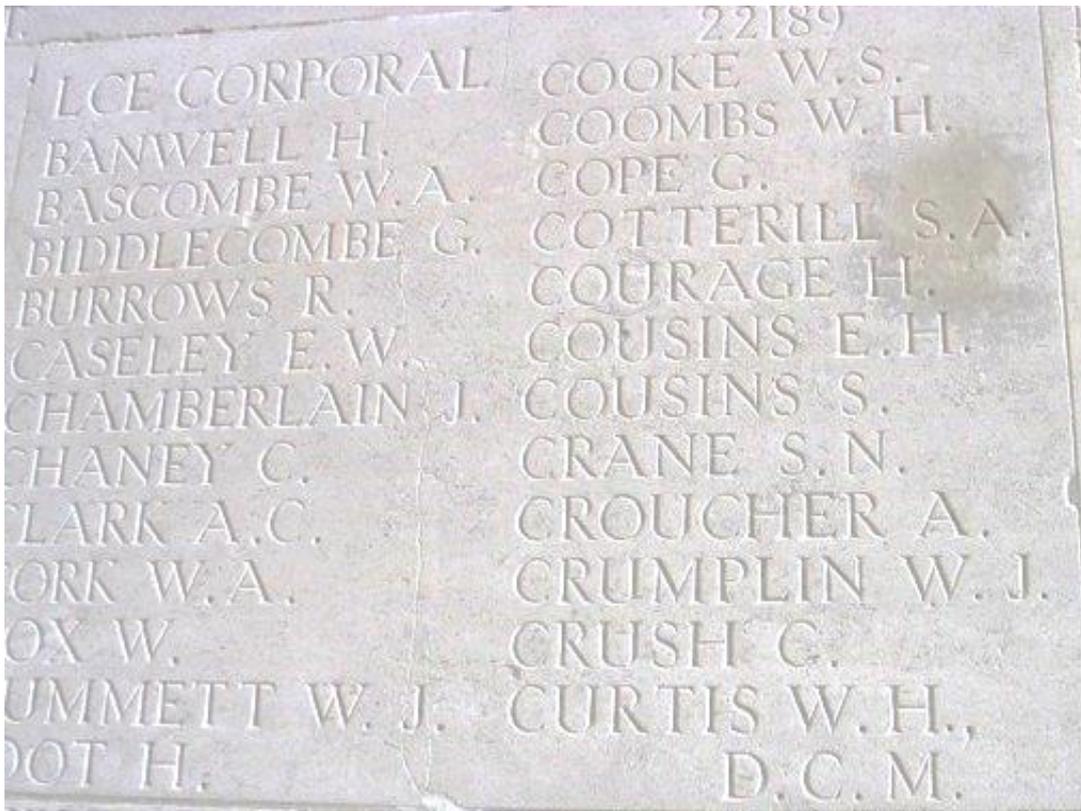
HARRY BELL (page 7) – Larch Wood (Railway Cutting) Cemetery, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium



FREDERICK HENRY CAINES – Arras Memorial, Pas de Calais, France



HARRY COURAGE – Thiepval Memorial, Somme, France



BERTIE FRANK MARTIN – Serre Road, Cemetery No. 2, Somme, France



BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR CHARLTON MARSHALL INFORMATION:

www.ancestry.co.uk

- 1911 Census of England and Wales, including Return of all Commissioned Officers, Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, Trumpeters, Drummers and Rank and File
- 1901 Census of England and Wales
- 1891 Census of England and Wales
- 1881 Census of England and Wales
- England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index 1837-1915
- England & Wales, Death Index, 1916-2007
- Dorset England, Deaths and Burials, 1813-2001
- Dorset England, Marriage and Banns 1813-1921
- Dorset England, Births and Baptisms 1813-1906
- England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations) 1858-1966

- British Army WWI Service Records 1914-1920 **
- British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards 1914-1920
- UK, Soldiers Died in the Great War, 1914-1919
- UK, Military Campaign Medal and Award Rolls, 1793-1949
- UK, Naval Medal and Award Rolls, 1793-1972
- GB, Royal Naval Division Casualties of the Great War, 1914-1924
- UK, Royal Navy and Royal Marine War Graves Roll 1914-1919

Commonwealth War Graves Commission website: www.cwgc.org

Forces War Records website: www.forces-war-records.co.uk

Find My Past website: www.findmypast.co.uk

Charlton Marshall village website: www.charltonmarshall.org.uk

Charlton Marshall. Aspects of our Story – written by Mark Churchill, published by The Charlton Marshall History Project, 2011.

Mark Churchill: with thanks for providing additional information and photographs on E Dennett and W Mabey sourced via Blandford Town Museum

Tim Hill: with thanks for providing photographs of CWGC memorials and cemeteries

Wikipedia website: www.en.wikipedia.org

** Army Service Records – only about 30% of the original records now exist as the result of a fire at the Army Records Office on Arnside Street in Walworth, London caused by a German air raid in 1940 during WWII. The remaining records have been committed to microfilm by the National Archives and are sometimes known as the “Burnt Records”.