

KNOWN UNTO GOD



A community remembers men who died
in the First World War of the parish of
St Peter and St Thomas Bethnal Green

Acknowledgements

The documenting of those men who fell in the parishes of St Thomas and St Peters' in Bethnal Green in WWI was begun in 2014 by Phillipa Atkinson. Her amazing work of discovery has been added to by Carol Budd, Linda Wilkinson and Mike Tyrell.

Although we have been able to tell at least part of a story about the majority of these men, it is sad that we still have only the names of some.

This is a living project however, and we sincerely hope that relatives may come forward with more information.

To discuss this project, or add any information please contact:

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Preface

When I started compiling these brief biographies, I thought the task of adding any flesh to the bones of a single forename and surname would be impossible. I have found that, with the aid of Ancestry, Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Forces at War website, Street Map, sites relating to old Bethnal Green and those concerning Regiments and Battalions in the First World War, it has been possible to arrive at a fair degree of probability rather than just possibility. With the aid of old maps, I have got to know the streets around St Peter's as they existed in 1914 as well as the trades most prevalent in the area.

As far as the war service is concerned, by establishing where a particular battalion was on the day of a death I have made an assumption as to the engagement in which an individual most likely lost his life. I realise that in the trenches life may have been forfeit at any time through a sniper's bullet, a stray shell or even a mine explosion.

It does not appear that any groups of friends or work colleagues joined so called Pals Brigades. Although many served in the London Regiment, they were in a variety of Battalions within it.

A visit to the local archives and trawling through local newspapers proved unsuccessful; the conclusion drawn was that at the beginning of the war casualties were played down as bad for morale and having a negative effect on recruiting. Then later on the numbers were so vast that they were only reported as lists of names and not deaths of individuals. This would have been different in country areas where numbers were far fewer.

There are a number of names for which I have been unable to find a link with St Peter's or the area around; others where there are too many of the same name to make a definite identification and yet other cases where I seem to have the right man but have been unable find him in the service records.

I fully acknowledge any error and omissions. It has been a leap in the dark and sometimes intuition works but sometimes it can deceive but I hope very much that further information will be forthcoming from those with closer connection with the families and the area than I have so together we can continue to honour the memory of the men to whom we owe so much.

Philippa Atkinson
August 2014

ST PETER'S WAR MEMORIAL NAMES

Name	Forename	D of death	Regiment	Cemetery	Lived
Aldrige	Bertrand Harold	11/8/1917	Royal Field Artillery	Mendinghem Military Cemetery	Nelson St 16
Bates	Frederick	29/12/1917	London Regiment 2 nd /20 th Btn (Blackheath & Woolwich)	Jerusalem War Cemetery	Arline St, Hassard St 8
Beavon	Charles James	31/3/1918	London Regiment 4 th Btn (Royal Fusiliers)	Orchard Dump Cemetery, Arleux- en-Gohelle	Guinness Bldgs 58 Columbia Rd
Bennett	George Robert	01/09/1918	Rifle Brigade of the 1 st 17 th London Regiment	Not found	Guinness Bldgs 199
Board	Alfred George	31/5/1916	R.N. HMS Queen Mary	Portsmouth Naval Memorial	Guinness Bldgs 24
Borrington	Thomas George	28/3/1918	London Regiment 17 th Btn (Poplar & Stepney Rifles)	Arras Memorial	Kite Place 9, St Peter's St 11
Bramley	Thomas	04/03/1917	Royal Berks Regiment 2 nd Btn (Princess Charlotte of Wales)	Thiepval Memorial	Hackney Rd 378
Bready	Percy Herbert	31/7/1917	Suffolk Regiment 8 th Btn	Menin Gate	Ion Square 29
Brewerton	Edward James	2/12/1918	RAF (East Fortune)	Woodgrange Park Cemetery, E Ham	St Peter's St 64
Buckingham	James	25/5/1918	Labour Corps	Querrieu British Cemetery	St Peter's St 78
Buckle	Robert	26/9/1915	London Regiment 10 th Btn (Hackney)	Pieta Military Cemetery	Durant St 29
Chantrey	Arthur Frederick	16/9/1916	London Regiment 1st/23 rd Btn	Thiepval Memorial	Durant St 17
Coles	George Francis	29/9/1918	London Regiment 9 th Btn (Queen Victoria's Rifles)	Doingt Communal Cemetery Extension	St Peter's St 30
Dorow	Charles William	20/9/1917	Northumberland Fusiliers 11 th Btn,	Tyne Cot memorial	Hackney Rd 392
Duffield	Robert James	29/5/1917	Royal Defence Corps	Kensal Green	Charlotte St 6

Dullage	Ernest R	7/2/1917	Kings Royal Rifle Corps, 16 th Btn.	Bray Military Cemetery	Guinness Bldgs 235
Dunk	Alfred Augustus	22/9/1914	R.N. HMS Cressy	Chatham Naval Memorial	St Peter's Square 17
Durham	Charles William	11/4/1916	Duke of Cornwall's Light Inf 7 th Btn.	Menin Gate	Mansford St, 15
Eagle	Henry Frederick	13/8/1916	London Regiment 22 nd Btn (The Queens)	Warlincourt Halte British Cemetery, Saulty	Baxendale St 20
Elledge	Henry John	31/5/1916	R.N. HMS Black Prince	Portsmouth Naval Memorial	Elwin St 22
Embleton	Albert	18/8/1916	Royal Garrison Artillery 1 st London Heavy battery.	Dive Copse Cemetery, Sailly-le-Sec	St Peter's Square 10
Fisher	Frederick John Rippon	28/11/1918	London Regiment 1/10 th Btn (Hackney)	Alexandria War Memorial Cemetery	St Peter's St 31a
Gammon	Thomas	8/12/1915	Dorset Regiment 5 th Btn	Helles Memorial (Gallipoli)	St Peter's St 13
Godier	William Henry	30/7/1916	Suffolk Regiment 12 th Btn	Bethune Town Cemetery	Treadway St 83
Groves	Richard	25/9/1915	King's Royal Rifle Corps 9 th Btn	Menin Gate	Mansford St 4
Guest	John	31/7/1917	Lincolnshire Regiment 8 th Btn	Menin Gate	Mansford St 71
Hall	George Alfred	7/4/1917	London Regiment 1 st /18 th Btn (London Irish Rifles)	Menin Gate	Columbia Rd 142
Hickman	Frederick James	14/7/1916	Royal Garrison Artillery	Albert Communal Cemetery Extn	Durant St 11
Hoare	Benjamin Thomas	21/2/1918	Kings Royal Rifle Corps 9 th Btn	Grand-Seraucourt British Cemetery	Baxendale St 33
Hoare	Henry	29/10/1917	Edfordshire Regiment 6 th Battalion	Western European Theatre. Grave not noted.	Baxendale St 39
Howe	James	16/6/1918	Rifle Brigade 1 st Btn	Le Vertannoy British Cemetery, Hinges	Mansford St, 37 Meadows Bldgs
King	Charles	30/8/1915	London Regiment 10 th Btn (Hackney)	7 th Field Ambulance Cemetery, Turkey	Ion Square 27

Longley	Henry Valentine	18/10/1918	Rifle Brigade 53 rd Btn Young Soldiers.	Chingford Mount Cemetery	Ion Square 21
Marshall	Frederick Thomas	7/10/1917	Rifle Brigade 9 th Btn (The Prince Consorts Own)	Tyne Cot Memorial	Wellington Row 113
May	James	5/11/1917	London Regiment 2 nd /11 th Btn (Finsbury Rifles)	Tyne Cot Memorial	Guinness Bldgs 39 & 41
McCarthy	Thomas	13/6/1917	King's Royal Rifle Corps 18 th Btn	Voormezeele Enclosure no 3	Mansford Rd 18
Medway	Donald Hawes	13/4/1918	East Surrey Regiment 13 th Btn	Ebblingheim Military Cemetery	Bethnal Green Rd 354
Millie	John Edward	3/9/1916	King's Royal Rifle Corps, 17 th Btn	Thiepval Memorial	Durant St 16
Mortimer	Albert Victor	25/9/1918	London Regt 4 th Btn (Royal Fusiliers)	Manor Park Cemetery	Teesdale St 83
Nevison	Thomas	2/11/1917	London Regiment 1/10 th Btn (Hackney)	Gaza War Cemetery	St Peter's Square 7
Norris	Bertram	20/10/1917	Kings Royal Rifle Corps 'B' Coy, 9 th Btn	Tyne Cot Memorial	Quilter St 61
Overett	James Augustus	9/8/1918	London Regiment 2 nd /10 th Btn (Hackney)	Vis-en-Artois Memorial	St Peter's St 50
Pendlebury	Frederick	25/3/1918	Royal Field Artillery	Pozieres Memorial	Wellington Row 78
Polston	James	8/12/1916	London Regiment 18 th Btn (London Irish Rifles)	Railways dugouts burial ground	Warner Place 32
Pope	Ernest Richard	22/9/1914	R.N. HMS Cressy	Chatham Naval Memorial	Wellington Row 55
Pyne	John	11/12/1915	Royal Engineers 1/2 nd (London) Field Coy	Pink Farm Cemetery, Helles	Ion Square 18
Remon	Henry William	14/9/1914	Kings Royal Rifle Corps 2 nd Btn	La ferte-sous-Jouarre Memorial	Temple St 46
Richardson	Joseph John	8/5/1915	Kings's Own (Royal Lancaster) Regt 2 nd Btn	Menin Gate	Treadway St 40

Ross	William John Albert	28/3/1918	Cheshire Regiment 1 st /5 th Btn	Arras Memorial	St Peter's St 65
Smith	Frederick William John	5/9/1916	London Regiment 17 th Btn (Poplar & Stepney Rifles)	Caterpillar Valley Cemetery	Pollard Row 17
Spurgeon	Albert Victor	11/5/1918	Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex) Regiment 13 th Btn	Maroc British Cemetery, Grenay	Barnet Grove 75
Steadman	George Thomas	13/10/1918	R.N. HMS Ruby	Bari War Cemetery	St Peter's St 75
Sunshine	Frederick	23/4/1918	Royal Marine Light Infantry 4 th Btn RN division	Abney Park Cemetery, Stoke Newington	Barnet Grove 67
Tappin	Ernest Harold	13/9/1918	Kings Royal Rifle Corps 13 th Btn	Ribecourt Rd Cemetery, Trescault	Warner Place 43
Tyler	George	30/10/1914	Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 2 nd Btn	Le Touret Memorial	Punderson Gdns 64
Westall	James Alfred	30/10/1918	Royal West Surrey Regiment 7 th labour company	Bermerain Communal Cemetery	Barnet Grove 78
Wigmore	Arthur	20/10/1914	Royal Fusiliers 1 st Btn	Chapelle- d'Armentieres Old Military Cemetery	Treadway St 21
Wilkinson	William Thomas	01/08/1917	10 th Essex Regiment	Bradhoek New Military Cemetery No 3 at Vlamertinge	Baxendale Street 34

ST PETER'S

Bertrand Harold ALDRIDGE was born on March 11th, 1892 and baptised at St John's, Bethnal Green in April, the only son of George and Alice of 16 Nelson Street. He had two older sisters and father, George was a cabinet maker, Bertrand became a railway clerk. As a Serjeant in the Royal Field Artillery he died from wounds received in the Ypres salient during 1917. In his will he left £199.17.1d to his mother.

Died 11/8/1917 aged 25

Corporal W/47921

Frederick BATES born in 1896, was one of the nine surviving children of William and Frances. They lived in Arline St off Hassard St, the house had three rooms for the eleven of them, not three bedrooms but three rooms. Father William was a furniture packer and in 1911 the fifteen-year-old Fred was working as an errand boy for a French polisher. Fred joined the Rifle Brigade but was transferred to the London Regiment, the Blackheath and Woolwich battalion. In 1917 they were in the Middle East fighting to free Jerusalem from the Turks, this was achieved when General Allenby entered the city on December 11th. However subsequently there was more fighting to the north and east of the city involving the battalion again. In this course of this defence of Jerusalem Fred was killed in action.

Died 29/12/1917 aged 21

Private 635721

Charles James BEAVON was born on March 10th 1896, son of Charles and Kate. Charles, senior was a commercial traveller and ten years after Charles, his sister, Lilian was born. They were living at 37 Vernon Rd, Bow when Charles was born and he was baptised by Rev Maynard (of St Peter's) at St Stephen's, Tredegar Rd. In 1911 father Charles was dead and Kate and the children were living in one room at 20 Edith St, Haggerston. Kate was a bow maker and fifteen-year-old Charles was a 'lather boy in a hairdressers'. Charles enlisted in the Royal Fusiliers which was originally a TA unit with its HQ at Shaftesbury St in City Road. He was killed in action during 1918 when a new front was held by his unit among others following the Battle of Arras.

Died 31/3/1918 aged 22

Serjeant 280205

George BENNETT



Thomas George BORRINGTON was born in 1898 to parents William and Leah. William was a wood turner, Leah a dressmaker who made mantles (cloaks). Thomas had an older brother and sister and in 1901 the family lived at 11 St Peter's Street but by 1911 William had died and Leah had married the widower who lived next door, Joseph Godfrey, a cabinet maker, and the family now lived at 9 Kite Place. Tom enlisted at Whitehall into the London Regiment, the Poplar and Stepney Rifles battalion. He was killed in action in the Arras section of the Western Front, one of 35,000 British and Commonwealth forces killed between spring 1916 and August 1918.

Died 28/3/1918 aged 20

Rifleman 574662

Thomas BRAMLEY born in 1896 and baptised at St Andrew, Bethnal Green on 25th November, was the only child of Thomas and Elizabeth. Thomas Senior was a wheelwright and by 1911 the family had moved from 24 Old Ford Road to Hackney Road. He enlisted in the Royal Berks Regiment at Shoreditch. He was killed in action and is one of 72,000 men who died in the Somme sector before March 1918 for whom there is no known grave and who are commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial.

Died 4/3/1917 aged 21

Private 11526

Percy Herbert BREADY born on Oct 3rd 1890 was baptised at St James the Less on 16th November. His parents were Richard and Mary Ann, Richard was a bookbinder and stationer. When Percy was born they lived at 357 Sawbridge Road. He began at Mowlem Street School in 1898. On Christmas Day 1915 Percy married Margaret Last at St Peter's, one of twelve couples on that day. When Percy was killed in 1917, Margaret was living with her parents at 29 Ion Square. Percy died in action with the Suffolk Regiment (having been transferred from the London Regiment) during the Third Battle of Ypres. The initial attempt to dislodge the Germans from the Messines Ridge was successful but the main assault north eastwards which began at the end of July became a dogged struggle against determined opposition and rapidly deteriorating weather. Percy is one of 54,000 men commemorated on the Menin Gate.

Died 31/7/1917 aged 27

Private 235023

Edward James BREWERTON was born on May 26th 1889 and baptised on June 16th at St Jude's Bethnal Green. His parents Edward William and Eliza Ann lived at 8 Durant St. Father Edward was a cabinet maker and son Edward followed his father in the same trade. The family moved to 64 St Peter's St before Edward was two. He had an elder sister, two younger sisters and a younger brother. On Dec 2nd 1916 at St Peter's, he married a local girl, Elizabeth Hayden, who lived just down the road at no 53. His citation on the Commonwealth War Graves site shows he served in the RAF at East Fortune. This airfield in East Lothian was originally commissioned as a Royal Naval Air Station in 1916. It was used for coastal patrols over the Forth area by fighter planes and airships. The Royal Naval Air Service merged with the Royal Flying Corps in April 1918 forming the RAF hence Edward is recorded as serving in the RAF. As he died after the armistice and is buried locally, perhaps he died of wounds.

Died 2/12/1918 aged 29

Corporal 211666

James William BUCKINGHAM born in Whitechapel in 1884 was baptised at St Jude's on December 28th. His parents, Joseph, a shoemaker and Annie, lived at 79 Wentworth St. James married Emily Welsh in March 1904 when he was only nineteen and in 1911 he was working as a general merchant's clerk. The family grew to consist of two sets of twins and two more girls and they all lived at 78 St Peter's St. James enlisted in the Labour Corps at Bethnal Green. This was often manned by men rated less than ready for front line service but in the crises of March and April 1918 some units were used as emergency infantry. James certainly died in action whereas most Labour Corps men would have been involved in the colossal job of building and maintaining the infrastructure for the fighting force and moving all the stores required.

Died 25/5/1918 aged 34

Private 523919

Robert Owen BUCKLE was born in 1878 the son of a stationer. One of six children of William and Sarah of the parish of St Luke's on City Road. Robert, a French polisher married Caroline Tibbles in December 1900 and they had five children. In 1911 they lived at 297 Corfield St but when Robert died at Gallipoli they were living at 29 Durant St. Robert must have been among the sick and wounded shipped from the campaigns at Gallipoli and Salonika to hospitals and convalescent units established on Malta and Gozo as he is buried on Malta.

Died 26/9/1915 aged 37

Private 2493

Alfred George BOARD was baptised in June 1897 at St Paul's, Bethnal Green. His father, Alfred was a labourer and lived with wife, Sarah, at 21 Lindon Buildings, Brick Lane. By 1901 Alfred Senior was away fighting in the Boer War and Sarah was looking after the two boys, young Alfred and his brother George with her mother and sister living with her. A daughter arrived in 1907 the same year as father Alfred died. Son Alfred joined the Navy and was serving on the battle cruiser, Queen Mary during the Battle of Jutland when on 31st May 1916 a shell from the German battle cruiser, Derfflinger struck the ship detonating one or both of its forward magazines. The resulting explosion broke the cruiser in half near her foremast. She subsequently sank and of her crew of 1,266 only 20 were rescued. Alfred's body was not recovered for burial.

Died 31/5/1916 aged 19

Able Seaman J20374

Arthur Frederick CHANTREY was born on January 27th 1896 into a family of French polishers. In 1911 aged fifteen he was following his father and elder brother in the profession. When he was baptised in February 1896 at St Stephen's, Haggerston, the family lived at 51 Marlborough Road but by 1911 they had moved to 17 Durant St. His father, William died before his son was killed and his mother had remarried and moved to Lambeth. Arthur joined the London Regiment but died, probably in the Battle of Flers-Courcelette which was part of the third main phase of the battles of the Somme. It is best known as the first tank battle in history. He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial.

Died 16/9/1916 aged 20

Private 5039

John CLIFFORD



George Francis COLES has been very elusive. He seems to have been born in November 1877 and baptised with his sister Mary, at St Leonard's, Shoreditch in October 1883 so six years later and seven years after her birth in the case of Mary. Their parents were Charles and Annie who lived at John's Terrace and Charles was an engineer. The next trace of George is in 1911 when he is boarding in Hendon and working as a warehouseman for a blouse manufacturer. He is recorded then as a widower but no trace of his marriage can be found.

Later in 1913 he appears under the name of Francis George in the Electoral Roll at 30 St Peter's Street, which is the address where his mother was living when her son was killed. He appears again in the 1915 Electoral Roll but as he was thirty-seven by this time he would not have been called up early. At some stage of the war he joined Queen Victoria's Rifles, a battalion of the London Regiment and died of wounds near the end of the war. He is buried near a village which was the site of three Casualty Clearing Stations in September 1918.

Died 29/9/1918 aged 41

Rifleman 394085

Charles DAVIES



Frank DEAN

Charles William DOROW was born in Mile End in 1884 the eldest of seven children of Charles and Amelia. Father Charles was a journeyman tailor and in 1901 he and his wife were both working at home at 340 Hackney Rd. Charles junior started work as a cabinet maker but in 1911 he was an assistant in a tailor's shop. Perhaps the family had been able to expand their business and open a shop of their own. He was married at St Peter's in June 1910 to Florence Flood and was the father of baby Herbert. Charles was among the many to die in the Third Battle of Ypres while serving with the Northumberland Fusiliers.

Died 20/9/1917 aged 33

Private 266796

Robert DUFFIELD born June 1886 was the son of cork cutter Robert and his wife Mary Ann of Charlotte Court and he was baptised at St James the Great. He then disappears from records but may be the R Duffield who joined the London Regiment but was transferred to the Royal Defence Corps and who is commemorated in the Kensal Green Cemetery.

Died 29/5/1917 aged 31

Private 2825

Charles William DURHAM born in 1896 was one of seven surviving children of Henry and Mary Ann (the youngest child was born when his mother was 45). Henry was a cabinet maker and in 1911 two older children were 'polishers'. Aged fifteen Charles was an errand boy. Five years later he was killed in action in fighting with

the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry on the Ypres salient and his name is recorded on the Menin Gate

Died 11/4/1916 aged 20

Private 13761

Ernest DULLAGE was born in 1891 to Isaac and Mary Ann who were living in Queens Buildings, Princes Place in 1901 but moved to 235 Guinness Buildings by 1911. Isaac was a cabinet maker and Ernest, the youngest of four boys was a brush maker. Curiously Ernest enlisted at Stroud in the Gloucester Regiment but transferred to the Kings Royal Rifle Corps, the 16th battalion known as the Church Lads Brigade. He died of wounds sustained on the Somme.

Died 7/2/1917 aged 26

Rifleman 33960

Alfred Augustus DUNK born in 1882 was one of eight children of Elizabeth and John Dunk, a carpenter. Alfred appears to have joined the Navy at a young age as in 1901 he was in the crew of HMS Furious off Sheerness. In 1911 he was serving on the HMS London in the China seas. He was involved in a dramatic rescue of a passenger ship, the Delhi, which ran aground in heavy fog off Morocco. Three war ships responded to the Delhi's distress calls and ships' boats from the warships ferried survivors to shore or to the warship, taking five days to complete the rescue made difficult by the bad weather and at least one British boat capsized. Alfred was subsequently presented with the Board of Trade Medal by King George V for saving lives at sea. Three years later the ship he was on, HMS Cressy, an armoured cruiser, was torpedoed and sunk by a German U-boat in the North Sea along with two sister ships. Alfred was one of the 560 crew lost that day.

Died 22/9/1914 aged 32

Able Seaman 201243

Henry Frederick EAGLE was born in Bethnal Green in 1892; his father Walter was a general porter who married Henry's mother, Sarah at St Peter's in 1901 (a few years after Henry's birth). By 1911 the couple had nine children of whom five had died leaving Henry and three younger brothers. Henry was working on the railway before he enlisted. They lived at 20 Baxendale Street. Henry enlisted in the London Regiment but died of wounds and is buried near the clearing station to which he must have been taken during the Battle of the Somme

Died 13/8/1916 aged 24

Private 4561

Henry John ELLEDGE born on May 7th 1891 was one of eight children of coffee house keeper George and his wife Caroline of 110 Columbia Road. Henry must have joined the Navy quite young as in 1911 he was a stoker on HMS Prince of Wales somewhere in the China seas. He married Agnes Cassell at St Peter's on May 30th 1915 and their married home was in Elwin Street but a year later he was on HMS Black Prince at the Battle of Jutland where his armoured cruiser was part of a screening force ahead of the Grand Fleet. His ship lost contact with the other British ships leaving it at the mercy of the German battle cruiser it was sunk and went down with all hands lost.

Died 31/5/1916 aged 25

Leading Stoker K6788

Albert EMBLETON born 9th September 1886 was the youngest of five children of Henry and Sarah. Henry was a bootmaker employing staff and in 1901 when the family lived at 41 Wellington Row they had one servant. The fourteen-year-old Albert was already working as a cycle maker. On March 30th 1912 he married Matilda Fielder at St Peter's when he was a warehouseman and they lived at 10 St Peter's Square with their son, also Albert who was born in 1913. Albert senior enlisted in the Royal Garrison Artillery and in March 1916 his brigade was sent to France where he died on the Somme 5 months later.

Died 18/8/1916 aged 30

Bombardier 470



Daniel FIELDER

Frederick John Rippon FISHER was baptised at St Mary, Haggerston on 12th July 1891, the eldest son of Charles and Sarah. The family moved around the area, father Charles having various occupations from newsagent's assistant to clerk in a shipping agent. In 1901 they were in Guinness Buildings, in 1911 at 28 Pollard Row and in 1918 the family were at 31a St Peter's Street. Fred joined the London Regiment and served in Egypt where he died of pneumonia at the end of the war

Died 28/11/1918 aged 27

Private 420529

Thomas GAMMON was born in Haggerston in 1896. His father Robert was a builder's labourer; in 1911 the family were living in Scawfell Street, Shoreditch. Thomas had two older sisters and two younger brothers and when he was fifteen was working as a printer's errand boy. After his father's death the family moved to 13 St Peter's Street. Enlisting in London on the 29th August 1914 he was by then working on building sites like his father. Apparently, he had grey eyes and brown hair and stood at five feet five. Initially he served in the Royal Irish Dragoon Guards but was transferred to the 5th battalion The Dorset Regiment and in August 1915 was among the men to land at Gallipoli. After the initial push was thwarted, the men were reduced to trench warfare during which time disease claimed as many lives as fighting. Thomas was wounded on December 7th and died the following day just before the regiment was evacuated. It then went on to France to fight in the battle of the Somme the following year.

Died 8/12/1915 aged 19

Private 13723

William Henry GODIER born in 1879, lived around Haggerston, Shoreditch and Bethnal Green. His father George was a cellar man in a pub or in another census a wine porter. William was in the middle of a family of seven children but when his mother died and his father remarried he moved in with an older brother and lived there until his own marriage at St Jude's in February 1916, just five months before his death. He and his wife, Elizabeth set up home at Treadway Street. William died of wounds and is buried near Bethune which was an important railway and hospital centre and the site of the 33rd Casualty Clearing Centre

Died 30/7/1916 aged 37

Lance Corporal 22057

William GORE



Richard GROVES born on February 28th 1893, was the eldest son of Richard and Elizabeth of 4 Mansford Street. Richard was baptised at St Jude's on 26th March but at least two of his five siblings were baptised at St Peter's. His father was a carman and Richard worked as a boot packer. Joining the King's Royal Rifle Corps, he appears to have been killed on the first day of the Battle of Bellewaarde which was the sixth engagement of the Second Battle of Ypres

Died 26/9/1915 aged 22

Rifleman A/3074

John Leonard GUEST born in 1897 was baptised at St Andrew's, Bethnal Green on July 20th 1898 when his family were living at 366 Corfield St. His father, Charles was a foreman for a timber merchant. In 1911 his mother, Esther had died and the family had moved to 71 Mansford Street. John enlisted at Bethnal Green and initially was in the Cambridgeshire Regiment but was transferred to the Lincolnshire Regiment with whom he was serving when he died on the first day of the Third Battle of Ypres, more commonly known as Passchendaele. His battalion were attacking Rifle Farm which unknown to them concealed a German pillbox. That day 7 officers and 170 men were killed.

Died 31/7/1917 aged 20

Private 235186

George Alfred HALL was born at 8 Wimbolt Street in February 1893, the third son of Robert and Eliza. He was baptised at St Peter's on March 12th. Father Robert was a cabinet maker. The family moved to Columbia Road and George became an upholsterer. He enlisted at Bethnal Green into The London Irish Rifles, part of the London Regiment, and was killed in action on the Ypres Salient.

Died 7/4/1917 aged 24

Rifleman 594023

Frederick James HICKMAN born in July 1887 and baptised at St Jude's in August of that year was the eldest child of James and Mary. James was a tobacco warehouseman and the family moved from Garner Street to Wimbolt Street and then to 11 Durant Street. Fred joined the Royal Garrison Artillery and was killed in action in the Battle of Albert, part of the offensive on the Somme.

Died 14/7/1916 aged 29

Gunner 73696

Benjamin Thomas HOARE born in 1897 was one of six surviving children of John and Emily Hoare. They were married at St Jude's when they were eighteen and seventeen respectively and Emily could not sign her name nor could her father. John was a 'hamper liner' and Emily made boxes. They lived in Baxendale Street. 'Benny' as he was known, enlisted at Bethnal Green into the King's Royal Rifle Corps. He died of wounds sustained on the Somme in the early part of 1918. The cemetery where he lies contains the graves of over 2,000 men.

Died 21/2/1918 aged 23

Rifleman A/201495

Henry HOARE born in 1894 he was the brother of Benjamin Hoare. He lived at 39 Baxendale Street and was a drapery porter by profession. He enlisted at St Paul's Churchyard joining the 6th Battalion of the Bedfordshire Regiment. Many of the records were lost during the Blitz but we do know that Henry died in action on the Western Front.

Died 29/10/1917

Private 12331

James HOWE born in 1885 was in the middle of a family of nine children of whom five were surviving in 1911. His father, John was a meat porter but his mother Elizabeth was widowed in 1896 and the family moved around ending up in Mansford Street. James had started off as an apprentice glass beveller but when he enlisted he gave his profession as a leather dresser. James was killed in action with the Rifle Brigade in the Battle of the Lys near Bethune in northern France having enlisted in 1916.

Died 16/6/1918 aged 33

Rifleman S/27615

James HUMPHREYS



Arthur JAGGS

Arthur JORDAN was born in May 1891 and baptised in Walthamstow, although his parents, Edward and Elizabeth, came from Shoreditch (the April 1891 census records them in Maria St, Haggerston) and they returned there at some time in the 1890s. He was the ninth of ten children, seven of whom survived childhood. His paternal grandfather had run a stable yard for cabs, and his father, who died in 1904, also owned a cab and employed others. The 1911 census lists Arthur as a 'watch and clock cleaner', living with his mother and two sisters in 3 rooms in Old St, a few doors down from the entire house the family had grown up in.

At some stage he joined St Peter's as a Sunday School teacher and became a core member of the congregation, despite living a distance from the parish. Perhaps it was also the lure of Miss Violet Scott, who is mentioned alongside his name in the parish magazine of 1916, which encouraged him. St Peter's was a vibrant church at this time and Arthur had an active faith, as well as a heart for children and education, which is expressed in a letter he wrote to the 'Vicar and Mrs Maynard' in 1915.

Arthur joined the 1st/18th Battalion of the London Regiment (Irish Rifles), was stationed in Chelsea for training in the Spring of 1915 and then sent to France. It is likely that he took part in the victory to take the village of Loos in September 1915, possibly even in the notorious dribbling of a football across no-man's land, in which the ball was hoofed into the German trenches with a victorious cry of 'goal!'

Arthur was one of 68 soldiers killed at the Battle of High Wood on the Somme in September 1916. The capacity of the new tanks was wildly overestimated and a disastrous attack launched into unhindered machine gun fire. The letter he wrote to his vicar the year before tells of the mud, his fear for those at whom suffering the threat of zeppelin raids and his concern for the local children deprived of schooling. He picks up some French and describes a confirmation service in the hospital and his yearning to return to worship at St Peter's. He wrote 'God is with me to help me on my way... as I pray each day for His help and comfort [He] gives me grace to bear up bravely in the time of trial and danger.' Clearly very moved by this loss, Revd Maynard published the letter and a short tribute to him in the parish magazine of 1916. His elder brother, Edward, survived the war and named his own son, born in 1920, after Arthur.

Charles KING, this seems to be the Charles William, son of another Charles William a bacon drier, who married Phoebe Filce on March 27th 1910 at St Peter's when they both lived in Ion Square and were 22 and 20 respectively. They were in Ion Square in 1911 with a baby also called Phoebe. He is likely - but there is no definite proof - to have been the Charles King who joined the London Regiment, 10th battalion which landed at Suvla Bay on August 11th as part of the Gallipoli campaign in a desperate attempt to break the stalemate. Charles is buried in a cemetery near Suvla.

Died 30/8/1915 aged 27

Private 2448



John LEWIS

Henry Valentine LONGLEY was born in August 1900 and baptised at St James the Great on the 9th September. His parents Arthur and Ellen lived at 21 Ion Square and Henry was the baby of four. Arthur was a stationers' porter. Henry's death is rather mysterious. He died at home while serving with the Young Soldiers Battalion (53rd) of the Rifle Brigade and is buried at Chingford in Essex.

Died 18/10/1918 aged 18

Rifleman TR13/84747

Thomas Bartholomew MCCARTHY was the son of an upholsterer, Bartholomew and his wife, Jane. Born in 1885 he was baptised on March 21st at St James, Shoreditch, one of five children. When he married Florence at St Peter's in August 1908 he was living at Mansford St and working as a furniture packer. They started married life in Old Ford Road but by the time Tom was killed they were living at 358 Hackney Road. He enlisted into the King's Royal Rifle Corps at Bethnal Green but was killed in action at the Battle of Messines which was a preliminary to the much larger Third Battle of Ypres.

Died 13/6/1917 aged 32

Rifleman R/33379

Frederick Thomas MARSHALL was born in July 1895 and baptised in August at St Jude's, his father Christopher worked in a tea warehouse. With wife, Emeline and seven children, they lived at Wellington Row and in 1911, Fred aged fifteen was working in the tin and brass trade. Fred's battalion, the 9th of the Rifle Brigade fought on the Somme, the German retreat to the Hindenburg Line, the 1st and 3rd Battle of the Scarpe at Arras, the Battle of Langemark and the 1st and 2nd Battles of Passchendaele. At one of these engagements, Fred was killed.

Died 7/10/1917 aged 22

Lance Corporal S/16129

James MAY was a member of one of a number of May families living around Bethnal Green. He was born in June 1897 and baptised at St Peter's on the 20th of that month. His father, another James was a carman and with wife Elizabeth they lived at 29 Guinness Buildings. James was followed by five more children. He joined up and joined the London Regiment - The Finsbury Rifles - but was killed in action before he reached his 21st birthday.

Died 5/11/1917 aged 20

Rifleman 450501

Donald Hawes MEDWAY was born in 1899 so was just eighteen when he died of wounds in 1918. Born in Little Ilford, West Ham his family moved to 354 Bethnal Green Road when his father, Horace, took on his own butcher's shop. In 1911 Donald had a younger sister and a younger brother. Donald joined the East Surrey Regiment. He is buried near the casualty clearing station to which he must have been taken when he was wounded in the German offensive leading to the end of the war.

Died 13/4/1918 aged 18

Private 26933

Charles MERCER



John Edward MILLIE was born in October 1898 and baptised at St Stephen's, Haggerston a month later. His father, Alfred was a cabinet maker and mother, Alice's rather unusual job was as a curler of ostrich feathers. John was in the middle of the family of five children. In 1911 the family were living at 8 Durant Street with Alfred's mother. John enlisted in the King's Royal Rifle Corps at Hackney Baths but died in action on The Somme and is one of the many commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial who has no known grave.

Died 3/9/1916 aged 18

Rifleman C/3676

Albert Victor MORTIMER was born in Bethnal Green in 1892. His family seemed to have been among the poorest people. In 1901 they were one of three families living in Gales Gardens, a street of tenements just across the Bethnal Green Road. Father, James was then a glass packer, brother Edward was a lamp filler and fifteen-year-old sister, Emma made cardboard boxes. 10 years later, Albert's mother had died and father James had remarried Elizabeth who was 23 years younger than him and there is a baby of nine months in the house in Felix Street together with a nine-year-old stepson and a grandchild. Albert enlisted at Whitehall and served with 3 battalions of the London Regiment, gaining three service numbers, but died of wounds and is buried in this country.

Died 25/9/1918 aged 26

Private 298053

George MORRIS



Thomas NEVISON one of the older men on the War Memorial, Thomas was forty-four when he died during the Third Battle for Gaza just five days before the deserted and ruined city was finally captured from the Turks. Thomas was born in Gateshead, Co Durham, his father John came to Bethnal Green before 1881 and found work as a leather dresser. Thomas was one of six children and the family lived in White Street then Mape Street. He married Amy Allen at All Saints, Haggerston in December 1895 and by 1911 the family with four children were living in St Peter's Square having moved from Hassard Street, to Walthamstow then back to Bethnal Green by 1906. Thomas enlisted in the London Regiment at Hackney and was killed in action.

Died 2/11/1917 aged 44

Private 421522

Bertram NORRIS baptised at St Peter's in May 1889, was the younger son of Henry and Jessie Norris of 74 Quilter Street. Henry was a cabinet maker but Bertram became a picture frame maker. Bertram joined the King's Royal Rifle Corps at Woolwich but appears to have been killed in action sometime during the First Battle of Passchendaele. He has no known grave but appears on the Tyne Cot Memorial.

Died 20/10/1917 aged 28

Rifleman A/201518

James Augustus OVERETT the son of a marble mason, William, was born in January 1893, and baptised at St Thomas in February. The family then lived at Angela Gardens but in 1911 were living at St Peter's Street. William died aged only thirty-three leaving Emily his widow to support the five children. She worked as a boot machinist and her two daughters aged sixteen and fourteen were also working in the boot trade. James married Isabel Aldridge at St Mary's, Islington when home on leave in 1917 but was killed in the final advance in Picardy in August 1918 with the London Regiment. He has no known grave.

Died 9/8/1918 aged 25

Private 423645

Frederick PENDLEBURY was born in June 1895 and was baptised at St Thomas in January 1896. His parents, James and Elizabeth lived at 78 Columbia Square but moved to Wellington Row ten years later. Father James was a blacksmith's mate when Fred was born but had obviously decided to move to a more modern job and was a gasfitter's mate by 1911. Fred was the eldest boy in the family of six and aged fifteen was working as an errand boy. Joining up at Bloomsbury he joined the Royal Field Artillery and was killed in action during the period of crisis in March and April 1918 when the Allied army was driven back by overwhelming numbers across the former Somme battle fields before the Advance to Victory which began on August 8th 1918.

Died 25/3/1918 aged 33

Gunner 925388

James POLSTON was born in September 1884 and baptised at St Jude's in October, he was one of eight children, two daughters and six sons of James and Elizabeth. James was a book vellum binder who worked at home. In 1911 when they lived in Warner Place they had six rooms which was generous by the

standards of the time. James' brother, William, died too in 1917 but James joined the London Irish Rifles and was killed in action. He is buried in an area with many Commonwealth cemeteries as the trenches ran through it for the greater part of the war. Three men of his Battalion, killed within a week of each other are in the same cemetery.

Died 8/12/1916 aged 32

Rifleman 5059

Ernest Richard George POPE was baptised at St Peter's in May 1890. He was the son of a glass beveller also named Ernest Richard and wife Ada who were then living in Wellington Row. Ten years later the family were up north near Manchester with another boy, Harry, six years younger than Ernest. Another ten years later and father Ernest has died and the family have returned to Bethnal Green and Wellington Row. I wonder if Ernest knew Alfred Dunk, perhaps through church, another of the names on the war memorial? Certainly, they died together on the HMS Cressy which was attacked by a German U-boat and was one of three ships sunk that day. It would be good to feel that they may have swapped stories of life in Bethnal Green during their time on board.

Died 22/9/1914 aged 24

Able Seaman SS/2589

John PYNE was one of ten children of John and Rebecca, six of whom survived in 1911. Father John was a bookbinder and the family lived at Ion Square. John born 1893 was the 3rd son. There were other families of Pynes in the area. John became a driver with the Royal Engineers but died of wounds during the long running struggle at Gallipoli.

Died 11/12/1915 aged 22

Driver 837

Henry William REMON one of nine children of Charles and Jane, Henry was born in 1885 and baptised at St Matthias on May 25th and led a pretty peripatetic life as his address in each census is a different street in Bethnal Green. His father's occupation also varies from census to census but he seems to have been mainly a labourer on or near the docks. He ended his life in the workhouse being admitted from Mansford Street. Son Henry was a porter in summer 1913 when he married Rachel at St Jude's, his son Henry, born in spring 1914, may never have seen his father who died in September of that year. Henry was part of the British Expeditionary Force which fought at Mons and the Marne. He probably died of wounds received in the latter battle.

Died 14/9/1914 aged 19

Gunner 925388

Albert ROBINSON



Harry ROGERS

William John Albert ROSS was born in Bethnal Green and baptised at St Peter's on 18th September 1892. He was the eldest of three sons of William, a bootmaker and his wife Lydia. In 1911 William, the son was an apprentice compositor. William served with the East Kent regiment but was transferred to the Cheshire Regiment and in March 1918 was killed in action during the battles resulting from a German offensive to break the deadlock at the Somme.

Died 28/3/1918 aged 26

Private 267699

Samuel RICHARDS



William RICHARDS

Joseph John RICHARDSON born in May 1890, was baptised at St John's later that month. His father, Thomas was a painter's labourer but died when Joseph was twelve. His mother Charlotte was left with six children and they came to the attention of the Poor Law in the area whether for relief or admission to the workhouse is not known. Charlotte married again and in 1911 Joseph and three of his sisters were living in Squirries Street with their mother and stepfather. Joseph was a soldier but when he married Esther at St Jude's in April that year he gave his occupation as tin box maker. Enlisting in 1914 the service record shows that he had been with the Kings Royal Rifles but obtained his discharge by purchase in June 1912. Just two years later with two young children at home, he was back in uniform in the King's Own and was killed in action at Ypres in May 1915. He is one of the names on the Menin Gate.

Died 8/5/1915 aged 25

Private 36747

William SAYER



George SEWELL

Frederick William John SMITH was born in 1883 and baptised at St Peter's in January 1884. He was the son of another Frederick, a cabinet maker and his wife Anne of Pollard Row. In 1901 they lived in George Gardens and Fred had a younger brother and two sisters. He joined the London Regiment, the Poplar and Stepney Rifles but was killed on The Somme in autumn 1916.

Died 5/9/1916 aged 33

Rifleman 5607

Albert Victor SPURGEON the son of James, a French polisher, and his wife Ellen. Albert was the youngest of four children and was baptised at St Jude's in 1898. He followed his father into the French polishing business but joined up in 1916 when he was almost eighteen years old. He died less than two years later, killed in action when the Allies fought round the Somme once again.

Died 11/5/1918 aged 20

Private G/57660

George Thomas STEADMAN was born in February 1887 and baptised at St Thomas. Father George was a cabinet maker and lived with wife Elizabeth at 36 Wellington Row. A sister was born three years later who got married at St Peter's in 1906. George joined the Royal Navy and in 1911 was a stoker aboard HMS Mosquito which was a Beagle class destroyer. George married Florence in the spring of 1916 and a baby, another George was born a year later. He may never have seen his father who died of disease when serving on HMS Ruby, a destroyer in 1918 and he is buried in Bari in Italy.

Died 13/10/1918 aged 31

Stoker 310234

Arthur STEEL



Frederick SUNSHINE, born in 1897 was one of eight surviving children of the eleven born to Henry and Elizabeth. Henry was a boot maker working at home and in 1911 three of his daughters were working with him. Two of Fred's sisters married at St Peter's in 1916 and 17. In June 1901, when only three, Fred was admitted to Turin Street School. Fred was part of the Royal Marine Light Infantry who took part in and lost his life in the Zeebrugge Raid in 1918. Zeebrugge was an outlet for German U-boats and destroyers based up the canal at Bruges, and the British planned to sink three old cruisers in the channel to block it.

These would have to pass a long harbour mole (a causeway or pier), with a battery at the end, before they were scuttled. It was decided therefore to storm the mole using another old cruiser, HMS Vindictive, and two Mersey ferries, Daffodil and Iris II, modified as assault vessels. Fred was on the Iris.

The attack went in on the night of 22-23 April; Vindictive was heavily hit on the approach, and came alongside in the wrong place. Despite much bravery by the landing party, the battery remained in action. In the end only two block ships were sunk. The Germans made a new channel round the two ships, and within two days their submarines were able to transit Zeebrugge. British casualties were 583, the Germans sustained 24, but the raid was hailed as a great victory and 11 Victoria Crosses were handed out.

Died 23/4/1918 aged 21

Private CH/19072

Ernest Harold TAPPIN. Ernest's mother died when giving birth to him in February 1891 and 6 years later his father, Charles, a boot repairer married again. 2 older girls seem to have stayed with their father but Ernest went to live with his grandparents in Warner Place. In 1911 Ernest was working as a porter in a warehouse. He joined the Kings Royal Rifle Corps and did well enough to be promoted to Lance Corporal before being killed in action in the same engagements which killed so many as the Allies advanced to victory across Picardy in the wake of heavy defensive action from the Germans.

Died 13/9/1918 aged 27

Lance Corporal R/33774

Harry THURGOOD



James THURGOOD

Edward TURNER



Henry TURNER

George TYLER was born in September 1885 and baptised the following month at St Peter's. His father Thomas was a wire worker and the family moved around the area but in 1911 were in Pundersons Gardens by which time mother Eliza was a widow. George was the second oldest in a family of six.

George may have been in the army before war broke out as he may be the George Tyler in barracks with the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry in 1911. Certainly, he was in that regiment when he was killed in action, probably at one of the battles of La Bassee which raged from October 10th to November 2nd 1914. This was one of the series of battles in the first year of the war, known as the Race to the Sea, which established the line of the western front from the Aisne to the North Sea.

Died 30/10/1914 aged 29

Private 8195



Albert WALKER

James Alfred WASTELL was one of the eight children of James and Elizabeth of Barnet Grove. James, father was a cabinet maker and James, the son was a saw mill hand in 1911. There seem to have been a number of Wastell families in the area. This James was born in August 1889 and baptised at St Jude's later that month. He family were then at Quilter St and in 1911 he was living at 78 Barnet Grove. He seems to have served with the Royal West Surrey Regiment, also in the 7th Labour Corps and subsequently the 115th Company of the Labour Corps.

Died 30/10/1918 aged 29

Private 36675

Harold WEDDON



Richard WHITE

Arthur WIGMORE, although born in Croydon in 1886, Arthur was in Bethnal Green in 1901. His father, Henry, a cabinet maker, died a year after Arthur was born and his mother remarried. Aged fourteen, Arthur was already following his father's trade and the family were living on Old Bethnal Green Road. In 1913 Arthur married Elizabeth Jane Taylor at St Jude's and the married couple lived on Treadway Street. A son, another Arthur, was born in the summer of 1914 a baby who may never have seen his father who had already joined the Royal Fusiliers. In September of that year his battalion landed in France to head for the Aisne and reinforce the hard-pressed British Expeditionary Force, only a month later Arthur suffered the wounds that killed him.

Died 20/10/1914 aged 28

Private 101614

William Thomas WILKINSON. William was a Private in the 10th Essex Regiment. He was born on August 10th 1883 in Bethnal Green. His father William Kidd Wilkinson was a wood carver and William was the oldest boy in a family of six. In 1901 they lived in Heath Street but on Christmas Day 1904 at St Peter's William married Alice Hoare and both were living in Baxendale Street. They had three children, Lillie, Harry and Florence. As of 2017 his granddaughter still lives in the area.

Died 01/08/1917 aged 34

Private 13326

ST THOMAS

Name	Forename	D of death	Regiment	Cemetery	Lived
Alabaster	William	26/8/1918	London Regiment (City of London) 7 th Btn	Daours Communal Cemetery Extension	Granby Row 10
Ashby	Alfred Samuel	11/8/1917	Royal Irish Rifles 12 th Btn	Brandhoek New Military Cemetery	Hackney Rd 215
Bacon	William John	14/10/1917	Queens Own (Royal West Kent Regt) 6 th Btn	Arras Memorial	Ravenscroft Bldgs 124
Billett	Albert	29/9/1918	Northants Regiment 6 th Btn	Peronne Communal Cemetery	Horatio St 4
Breeze	Henry John	15/5/1916	Queens Own (Royal West Kent) Regiment 3 rd /5 th Btn	Manor Park Cemetery	Pollard Row 27
Britten	Thomas Roth	23/3/1918	Rifle Brigade, 2 nd Btn	Ham British Cemetery, Muille- Villette	Ravenscroft Bldgs 50
Brock	Leonard Clifton	11/11/1918	Wiltshire Regiment 1 st Btn	Cologne Southern Cemetery	Hassard St 41
Brock	William John	12/3/1917	London Regiment (City of London Rifles) 1/6 Btn	Lussenthoek Military Cemetery	Hassard St 41
Brock	Francis Edward	16/11/1916	Wiltshire Regiment 6 th Btn	Contay British Cemetery	Horatio St 13
Broderick	Alfred William	17/7/1916	Devonshire Regiment 2 nd Btn	Cambrin	Brick Lane 271
Campbell	James	26/5/1915	20 th Hussars	Leytonstone RC Cemetery	Ezra St 19
Capes	Alfred	24/7/1918	RAF 55 th training depot	Minster (Thanet) Cemetery	Ezra St 17
Chapman	Charles	16/10/1918	London Regiment (Poplar & Stepney Rifles) 17 th Btn	Aubers Ridge British Cemetery	Goldsmiths Row 21
Clow	Alfred Thomas	15/10/1917	King's Royal Rifle Corps 8 th Btn	Tyne Cot Memorial	Columbia Square 67
Cope	Joseph	26/10/1914	Border Regiment 2 nd Btn	Menin Gate	Baroness Rd 33
Cordwell	Charles Frederick	28/2/1918	Grenadier Guards 3 rd Btn	Brown's Copse Cemetery, Roeux	Baroness Rd 28
Cordwell	Horace Albert	27/5/1918	Northumberland Fusiliers 12 th /13 th Btn	Jonchery sur Vesle	Crescent Place 13

Cott	Henry John	9/9/1916	London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers) 1 st /4 th Btn	Thiepval Memorial	New Tyssen St 18
Crease	Alfred	3/7/1916	Royal Berkshire Regiment (Princess Charlotte of Wales) 2 nd Btn	Puchevillers British Cemetery	Tagg St 29
Darke	Joshua Henry	21/12/1915	Wiltshire Regiment 6 th Btn	Merville Communal Cemetery	Gorsuch St 10
Frankis	Alexander	21/4/1918	Royal Fusiliers 2 nd Btn	Merville Communal Cemetery Extension	Shipton St 22
Fremaux	Walter	6/1/1917	Durham Light Infantry	Arras Memorial	Hassard St 49
Gentleman	John James	17/5/1915	Bedfordshire Regiment 22 nd Btn	Le Touret Memorial	Squirries St 20
Green	Charles William	26/8/1917	London Regiment 1 st /24 th Btn	Menin Gate	
Grint	Albert Samuel	19/8/1917	Middlesex Regiment 16 th Btn	Mendingheim Military Cemetery	Tuileries St 17
Grisley	Frederick James	1/11/1918	Royal Engineers 74 th div. Signal Coy.	Tournai Communal Cemetery Ext.	Ravenscroft Rd 39
Harper	Albert Edward	10/4/1918	London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers) 3 rd Btn	Namps-au-Val British Cemetery	Cadell St 5
Heath	Herbert	19/10/1916	Rifle Brigade 1 st Btn	Thiepval Anglo- French Cemetery	Ezra St 11
Hilburn	William John	9/7/1917	London Regiment (City of London) 1 st /7 th Btn	Menin Gate	Hackney Road
Holland	Martin Henry	10/8/1917	Gloucestershire Regiment	Menin Gate	
Jones	Ernest George	26/8/1916	Rifle Brigade 7 th Btn	Thiepval Memorial	Hassard St 67
Knightley	Percy Edward	14/2/1917	Royal Flying Corps	Poperinghe New Military Cemetery	
Lamb	George	23/4/1917	Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, 1 st Btn	Arras Memorial	Wellington Row 42
Langford	Albert James	22/10/1916	Royal Horse Artillery Y Battery	Bernafay Wood, Montauban	Appleby St 54
Levey	Albert Frederick	25/3/1918	Tank Corps 10 th Btn	Arras Memorial	Columbia Rd 83
Lloyd	Richard	3/7/1916	Royal Berkshire Regiment 5 th Btn	Thiepval Memorial	Gascoigne Pl 18
Lugg	Joseph Henry	29/5/1918	Army Service Corps 2 nd co 41 st Division Train	Dozingheim Military Cemetery	Hassard St 30

Maser	Charles Dunnett	25/9/1915	Middlesex Regiment 1 st Btn	Cambrin Churchyd Extension	Columbia Sq S.Lodge
Matterface	Henry Thomas	18/8/1917	South Wales Borderers 4 th Btn	Basra Memorial	Ashford St 29
McGuinness	Henry James	23/4/1917	London Regiment 2 nd /17 th Btn	Karasouli Military Cemetery	Columbia Rd 91
Millier	Albert Edward	3/7/1916	Royal Fusiliers 2 nd Btn	Ovillers Military Cemetery	Commercial Rd 140
Moon	Albert Edwin	3/2/1915	R.N. HMS Clan McNaughton	Chatham Naval Memorial	Arline St 18
Morgan	Frederick Charles	1/7/1916	London Regiment (London Scottish) 1 st /4 th Btn	Thiepval Memorial	Crescent Pl 12
Offwood	William	21/3/1918	King's Royal Rifle Corps 7 th Btn	Pozières Memorial	
Overton	Henry	2/11/1917	Royal Field Artillery 128 th Battery	Bard Cottage Cemetery	Arline St 27
Parr	Edward Albert	7/6/1915	Royal Marines Light Infantry Deal Btn, R.N. Division	Skew Bridge Cemetery, Cape Helles, Gallipoli	Shipston St 36
Peckham	Lancelot Albert	9/7/1917	R.N. HMS Vanguard	Plymouth Naval Memorial	Columbia Sq 150
Perryment	Augustus Henry	20/6/1916	Middlesex Regiment 2 nd Btn	Aveluy Communal Cemetery Ext.	Guinness Bldgs 195
Potts	Frederick John	21/11/1917	Rifle Brigade 11 th Btn	Rocquigny-Equancourt Rd, Manancourt	Ravenscroft Bldgs 7
Potts	William Joseph	7/8/1915	Hampshire Regiment 2 nd Btn	Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery, (Gallipoli)	Ravenscroft Bldgs 7
Purdon	Edward Albert	14/2/1916	London Regiment (City of London) 1 st /7 th Btn	Arras Memorial	Columbia Square Bldgs 180
Robertson	Charles William Anthony	24/3/1917	London Regiment (City of London) 7 th Btn	Chester Farm Cemetery	Durant St 2
Sams	James	14/9/1918	London Regiment (Blackheath & Woolwich) 2 nd /20 th Btn	Vis-en-Artois Memorial	Columbia Rd 129
Smith	William James	26/3/1918	London Regiment (Queen Victoria's Rifles)	Pozières Memorial	Baroness Rd 34
Smith	Leonard Stanley	28/5/1915	The Buffs (East Kent Regiment) 1 st Btn	Desplanque Farm Cemetery, La Chapelle-d'Armentieres	Columbia Square 116

Smith	Charles William George	25/10/1918	East Surrey Regiment 8 th Btn	Preux-au-Bois Communal Cemetery	Henrietta St 18
Smith	Henry James	4/10/1917	Rifle Brigade 1 st Btn	Tyne Cot Memorial	Henrietta St 18
Talbot	Thomas	28/10/1917	London Regiment (City of London Rifles) 2 nd /6 th Btn	Tyne Cot Memorial	Ravenscroft St 59
Trahar	Edward John	17/1/1918	King's Royal Rifle Corps 11 th Btn	Lussenthoek Military Cemetery	Chapel St 15
Trenter	Robert Harold	7/8/1915	Royal Fusiliers 2 nd Btn	Helles Memorial	Crescent Place 39
Tripp	Albert	16/12/1914	Rifle Brigade 3 rd Btn	Ploegsteert Memorial	Columbia Bldgs 139
Tweed	Henry William	21/5/1916	London Regiment (City of London) 7 th Btn	Ecoivres Military Cemetery, Mont-St Eloi	Hassard St 8
Wild	Alfred Thomas	23/7/1916	Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, 1 st Btn	Thiepval Memorial	Horatio St 26
Willis	George	15/8/1915	London Regiment 1 st /10 th Btn	Helles Memorial	Chapel St 8
Wylie	Leonard	25/4/1918	Queens Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) 7 th Btn	Hangard Communal Cemetery Ext	Ravenscroft Bldgs 33

ST THOMAS

William ALABASTER. It has proved difficult to pin this William down to a particular regiment and date of death. He may have been a Lance Corporal in the 7th battalion (known as the Shiny Seventh) of the London Regiment who died of wounds on 26th August 1918 following the Battle of Amiens, whose parents were John and Susan living at Columbia Square. Alternatively, he may have been a private in the 1st battalion the Essex Regiment and killed in action on 24th April 1917. There were many families of Alabasters living round St Thomas' at the time including two where the mother was called Agnes.

Arthur ANSELL



Alfred Samuel ASHBY. It seems likely that this is the son of James, a chimney sweep and his wife Sarah. Alfred was the third of their six children. He was born in November 1890 and baptised at St Leonard's, Shoreditch where in 1911 he married Annie Cook. The family moved from Diss Street to Hackney Road and Alfred was variously a porter in an ironmonger and a furrier. He and Annie had three children, two of them born in Bethnal Green. He enlisted in the Royal Irish Rifles and died of wounds received in August 1917 in Belgium in the area of Ypres. The village where the cemetery is situated had field ambulances posted there continuously. The cemetery itself contains 530 burials of men killed between July and August 1917 including the War's only double VC.

Died 11/8/1917 aged 27

Rifleman 42776

William John BACON was the son of a French polisher of the same name and his wife Matilda. Born in 1875 he was the middle of five children. In 1901 he married Mary Jones at St Philips; at the time they were both living in Mount Street. William was a cabinet maker although later he is recorded as an over mantle maker and Mary was a box maker. Later they moved Ravenscroft Buildings with their four children. William enlisted in the Royal West Kent Regiment and is one of the 35,000 men commemorated on the Arras Memorial who died between spring 1916 and August 1918 for whom there is no known grave.

Died 14/10/1917 aged 42

Private 241691

William BAITRUM



Sydney BATCHELOR

Thomas Roth BRITTEN. Born in September 1898 Thomas was baptised at St Leonards, Shoreditch. His father was a carpenter and unusually for the period he and his wife, Bobbett had not lost any of their nine children in 1911. Thomas was their third son. In 1901 the family were living in Ravenscroft Buildings on the Columbia Road. Ten years later they were in Crescent Place off the Hackney Road. Thomas enlisted in the Rifle Brigade at Bethnal Green and was killed in action possibly in the Battle of St Quentin.

Died 23/3/1918 aged 20

Rifleman S/35682

Albert BILLETT was born in 1899 and baptised at St Thomas on the 25th August. His parents, Thomas and Elizabeth lived in Horatio Street. Albert was the youngest of six. His father was described as a hawker at his baptism but a general dealer in the census. He died in 1908 and Elizabeth continued her work as a boot machinist to keep the family going. Albert joined the Northamptonshire Regiment and was killed in action possibly on the first day of the battle of St Quentin Canal which achieved the first full breach of the Hindenburg Line and showed the German High Command that they had little hope of eventual victory.

Died 29/9/1918 aged 19

Private 41247

Henry John BREEZE the only son of Henry and Emma, was born in December 1895 and baptised at St James the Great when the family were living at Pollard Row and father Henry was a rope maker. In censuses he was variously a ships labourer and a dock worker. Henry had six sisters and was admitted to Turin Street school in June 1899 at the age of four. At some point the family moved to Kent and Henry enlisted in the Royal West Kent regiment – The Buffs. His Battalion was a territorial force and he died at home so whether he served overseas is a mystery.

Died 15/5/1916 aged 21

Private 3824

Francis Edward BROCK, older brother of Leonard and William below, was born in 1893. In 1911 aged eighteen he was working as a chair maker. In 1915 he married Elizabeth Billett and they set up home in Horatio Street. They had a baby daughter in March 1916 just six months before her father died of wounds probably received in the Second Battle of Passchendaele.

Died 16/11/1916 aged 23

Lance Corporal 11805

William John BROCK, born in 1897 he was one of eight children of Francis Brock, a chairmaker and his wife Hannah who lived in Shipton Street before moving to Hassard Street. William joined the London Regiment – City of London Rifles. He died of wounds received probably at Ypres and is buried near one of the casualty clearing stations.

Died 12/3/1917 aged 20

Rifleman 322033

Leonard Clifton BROCK, brother of Francis and William above, was baptised at St Peter's in November 1894 when the family were living in the Guinness Buildings before moving to Shipton Street. Leonard's parents, Francis and Hannah were married at St Thomas' in 1889. Leonard joined the Wiltshire Regiment but died on the day of the Armistice. Thus, Francis and Hanna lost their three older sons, one in 1916, one in 1917 and one in 1918.

Died 11/11/1918 aged 22

Private 18007

Alfred William BRODERICK, was born in March 1895 and baptised at St Peter's in April. His father, also Alfred was a publican with premises on Brick Lane. Young Alfred was the eldest child with three younger sisters. In 1911 Alfred was an apprentice. He was killed in action on The Somme serving with the Devonshire Regiment and is buried in a cemetery which was only 800 metres from the Front during the whole of the war.

Died 17/7/1916 aged 21

Private 18328

Percy BUSH



Leonard BUTLER

James CAMPBELL. Baptised at St Augustine's, Haggerston in 1893, James was the son of Henry and Mary Ann. Henry was a book finisher. Sadly, when James was only a year-old Henry died and Mary had to keep the family including two older daughters going. She worked as a charwoman and daughter, Mary Ann aged only 13 was already earning money as a French polisher. This hard life took its toll as mother, Mary Ann died aged 45 in 1906 so the three children were on their own. In 1911 they were living together in Ezra Street, the two girls were French polishers and James was a book binder, following his father's profession. James died at home following possible involvement with his unit, the Hussars at one of the battles of Ypres.

Died 26/5/1915 aged 22

Private 18952

Alfred CAPES. Alfred, the middle of five children with two older brothers and two younger sisters was baptised at St James the Great on the 4th April 1886. His father, William was a cabinet maker and the family lived at Ducal Street just off Brick Lane. In 1901 Alfred was a 'stick mounter' but by the next census had joined his father in cabinet making. His father at that time was specifically a 'folding chair maker', his mother a 'cigar box paperer'. In May 1912 Alfred married Rebecca, the daughter of another cabinet maker from Gossett Street, the pair set up home at Ezra Street and had two daughters. At some stage Alfred joined the RAF as a mechanic but died in July 1918. One wonders just what the circumstances of his death were.

Died 24/7/1918 aged 32

Air Mechanic 213323

Charles CHAPMAN. This is probably the Charles Chapman who in 1901 was a three-year-old living with his family in Baxendale Street. His father, Alf was a warehouseman for a printer. Charles was one of nine children and in 1911 the family were living in Goldsmiths Row. In 1915 Charles enlisted at Bow into the London Regiment and was killed in action in the final push for victory.

Died 16/10/1918 aged 21

Corporal 370187

Alfred Thomas CLOW. Born in 1897 Alfred was baptised at St Thomas in May of that year. His parents George and Emily lived at Columbia Square. George was a sawyer. However, in 1901 and 1911 censuses there is no sign of George although Emily is recorded as married and not widowed.

However, there is a George Clow in a lunatic asylum, could this be Alfred's father? Emily worked as a charwoman to help support her three children. Alfred enlisted in the Kings Royal Rifle Corps but was killed in action. He joins three other boys from Bethnal Green, all in the same regiment who died in October and November 1917 who are all commemorated on the memorial at Tyne Cot.

Died 11/10/1917 aged 20

Rifleman 12980

William COLE



George COLLIER

Joseph COPE. It has proven difficult to find exact information about Joseph's early life. He seems to have been born in Shoreditch in 1884 and in 1910 he married Martha Maud Kappes who was already in the 'family way' as their son, another Joseph, was born seven months later. In 1911 the family were in Whiston Street, Haggerston and Joseph was labouring but when he died three years later the certificate shows his wife as having remarried and living at Baroness Road just near St Thomas'. Joseph had joined the second battalion Border Regiment which landed at Zeebrugge on the 6th October 1914 ready for action on the Western Front. Less than a month later he was dead in the mud of Passchendaele. He is commemorated on the Menin Gate.

Died 26/10/1914 aged 30

Private 7620

Charles Frederick CORDWELL was born in 1884 one of thirteen children of James and Harriet. James had come from Wolverhampton to London and was a bedroom furniture decorator and, not surprisingly considering the number of mouths to feed, in 1891 their thirteen-year-old son Albert was already working in the tin plate business. The family lived at Harwar Street, now Cremer Street, having moved from Edmonton where Charles, the fourth boy was born. Charles went to Shap Street School in 1891 and in 1915 he married Lily Tann and they had a daughter, another Lily in 1917. When Charles was killed in action one wonders whether his widow and Joseph Cope's widow then living only a few doors from each other in Baroness Road would have consoled each other. Charles enlisted in the Grenadier Guards but was killed in action in 1918.

Died 28/2/1918 aged 34

Private 29126

Horace Albert CORDWELL youngest brother of Charles above. Horace was baptised at St Chad's in Haggerston on October 3rd 1899. He joined the Territorial Reserve and then the Northumberland Fusiliers with whom he was serving on the first day of the Third Battle of the Aisne, an offensive launched by the Germans in the spring and summer of 1918. Horace was one of many killed by the massive German bombardment of the Allied Lines.

Died 27/5/1918 aged 19

Private 69256

Henry John COTT. The eldest son of Henry, a timber porter and his wife Sarah, he was born in 1890 and baptised at St Thomas in April 1901 when he was eleven and the family were living in Guinness Buildings. Henry was followed by two boys and five girls. In 1911 the family were living in four rooms in New Tyssen Street and a widowed sister in law was with them who did cleaning and took in washing. It must have been a crowded, hardworking family, struggling to make enough to feed everyone. In November 1915, Henry married Nellie at St Bartholomew's, Dalston but less than a year later he was killed in action on the Somme and is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial.

Died 9/9/1916 aged 26

Serjeant 2105

Alfred CREASE was born in October 1892 to James and Mary Ann who lived on Tagg Street. James was a firewood cutter but he died when Alfred was four and mother Mary took over the 'business' of cutting firewood. Alfred was baptised at St Thomas but his siblings were baptised at other local churches. Alfred went to Teesdale Street School in January 1897. By 1911 Mary had remarried and only Alfred and younger sister, Matilda were living with her in Russia Lane where Alfred worked in a nearby shop. However, he enlisted in the Royal Berkshire Regiment at Shoreditch and died of wounds received on the Somme.

Died 3/7/1916 aged 24

Private 13693

Herbert CREEK



Joshua Henry DARKE was baptised in March 1896 at St Andrew's. His father also Joshua was a boot finisher, his mother, Agnes died when he was six and his father remarried two years later. In 1911 young Joshua living in Gorsuch Street with his father and stepmother, a stepbrother and a baby half-sister and he was working as a labourer in a printing works. Joining up at Shoreditch, he was serving with the Wiltshire Regiment when he died on wounds early in 1915 and is buried near Bethune and Armentieres.

Died 21/12/1915 aged 19

Private 17886

Harry EDWARDS



Alec EVERETT

Alexander FRANKIS was baptised at St James the Great in October 1891. His father was a porter at that time. In 1911 he was registered as a coppersmith and Alexander was learning the trade. Alexander was the eldest of five children, four of them boys. In 1901 the family were living with Alexander's maternal grandmother, who had two other grandchildren living with her. When the grandmother died the family remained in Shipton Street. Alexander enlisted at Hackney into the London Regiment and was killed in action at one of the battles occurring during the great German offensive in Flanders that year. He is buried in the same cemetery as Joshua Darke.

Died 21/4/1918 aged 27

Private 63508

Walter FREMAUX. Born in 1898, Walter was the son of another Walter, a cab driver and his wife Emma who made trousers. They lived in Hassard Street and the children, a younger brother and three younger sisters were baptised at St Thomas. Walter lost his life in the Somme sector while fighting with the Durham Light Infantry. He is remembered on the Arras Memorial.

Died 6/1/1917 aged 19

Private 43315

John James GENTLEMAN. John's father, also John was in the Army and it is hard to trace the family before 1911. However, John James was born in Bethnal Green in 1885 and was a glass silverer. He married Jane at St Paul's, Bethnal Green in

1908 and they set up home in Squirries Street. They had three children but John was killed in action during the Battle of Ypres.

Died 17/5/1915 aged 30

Private 3/7906

John GILBERT



Frederick GIRLING

Charles GREEN could be the one the Commonwealth War Graves certificate recorded as being killed in action in August 1917 as it states his residence as Bethnal Green. If so he was a private with the London Regiment 1st/24th battalion and is commemorated on the Menin Gate but it is impossible to isolate his family from the many Charles Greens in Bethnal Green.

Albert Samuel GRINT was born in March 1891, Albert was baptised at St Thomas in April of that year when the family lived at Cadell Street. His father, also Albert, was a boot clicker but later just a boot maker. He and his wife, Mary Ann, had 8 children and this Albert was the second. In 1911 they all lived at Tuilerie Street and 2 of the daughters were milliners, another a juvenile costume machinist and Albert was a clerk for a dealer in musical instruments where his brother was a warehouse boy. On July 26th 1915 he joined the Middlesex Regiment and in October 1915 he married Mary Edith Grossmith at St John's, Hoxton. There is much information about Albert on his service record and we know he was 5'7" tall, sent to France in January 1916, promoted to Corporal in February 1917, to Lance Sergeant in July 1917 but wounded on the 14th August, dying of the wounds he sustained. Mary was then living at Bush Street, off Hackney Road. She received 15/- per week from February 1918. Mary married again in 1920.

Died 19/8/1917 aged 26

Lance Serjeant 2588

Frederick James GRISLEY was baptised in May 1897 at St Leonard's, Shoreditch. His father, William was a carpenter and with wife Ellen and six children they lived in Ravenscroft Road. Fred was killed in action in the last days of the war.

Died 1/11/1918 aged 21

Lance Corporal 528484

Albert Edward HARPER was born in October 1889. He was in the middle of the seven children of railway policeman, William who died when Albert was ten leaving his mother, Sarah to keep the family by cleaning the offices of the Great Eastern railway. Albert was a goods porter on the railway and brother, Ernest was a traveller's coachman. They all lived at Cadell Street. Albert enlisted in the London Regiment but died of wounds received in April 1918.

Died 10/4/1918 aged 29

Private 252211

Ernest HARPER may be an older brother of Albert Edward above but no record can be found of his service record or death.

Herbert HEATH. Herbert, the son of William and Laura was born at Acle in Norfolk in 1886, his father a horseman on a farm in He was one of at least eight children but by 1909 he had moved to London and was living in Ezra Street where he met Alice, the daughter of a cabinet maker who lived next door. They married in October 1909 at St Thomas', Herbert being a packer at that time and Alice a tailoress. They had a daughter then 3 sons. Herbert enlisted at Shoreditch and was killed in action on the Somme.

Died 19/10/1916 aged 30

Rifleman S/21013

Henry HEWITT



William John HILBURN. Although William was born in Mile End he was baptised at St Peter's in May 1894. He was the son of another William, a painter and his wife, Fanny. They also had two younger daughters. In 1911 the family lived at Cyprus Street and William junior was a 'ticket writer'. He enlisted into the London Regiment at Sun Street but was killed in action during the build up to the Third Battle of Ypres.

Died 9/7/1917 aged 23

Corporal 352556

Martin Henry HOLLAND. Very little can be found about him and he may have been known as Henry but he did marry Jessie Fell in Bethnal Green in 1915 and he was killed in action during the battle of Passchendaele in August 1917.

Died 10/8/1917

James HUGHES



Davis HUTTON



James JOHNSTON

Ernest George JONES was born in 1885, youngest of the family of Henry and Elizabeth. Henry had various jobs. He was a soldier when he and Elizabeth were married in 1866. He then was a labourer and on his son's marriage certificate he is a 'chemist'. As the 1911 census attests Ernest was a bottle filler at a chemical works, so it is possible that he worked at the same place his father had. Ernest married Alice at St Thomas' in April 1906 and they had 2 boys and 2 girls. He enlisted in the Rifle Brigade and was killed in action on the Somme

Died 26/8/1916 aged 31

Rifleman S/7341

Percy Edward KNIGHTLEY cannot be traced to the area around St Thomas', but this is the only P. Knightley who was a casualty in the War. He was born at Haggerston in 1890 to George and Alice who lived at Ballance Road, north of Victoria Park. In 1911 he was an apprentice chair maker with four younger siblings. He died in 1917 as a mechanic in the Royal Flying Corps.

Died 14/2/1917 aged 27

Air mechanic 45071

George LAMB is probably the one who was living with his wife, Elizabeth and son, George at 42 Wellington Row in 1911 and he was a cabinet maker. He may be the son of George and Emma and baptised at St Jude's later in the month he was born, September 1878. If so he and Elizabeth married at St Matthew's in 1906 fathers of both being cabinet makers too. He was killed in action in 1917 and is commemorated on the memorial at Arras.

Died 23/4/1917 aged 39

Private 3/5860

Albert James LANGFORD. Albert was one of 8 children born to Albert, a painter and labourer and Sarah. He was born in Shoreditch in 1892 and in 1911 the family lived at Appleby Street, just near enough possibly to be part of the congregation of St Thomas. Albert Sr died aged only 45 and Sarah became a night attendant in the workhouse. Albert Jr joined the Royal Horse Artillery but was killed in action in 1916 on the Somme.

Died 22/10/1916 aged 24

Gunner 60513

(Albert had a younger brother, William and that is another name on the war memorial however there is no clear link with any **William Langford** who died in the war)

Albert Frederick LEVEY (or Levy) was born in 1887, one of seven children of James, a wood carver and his wife Catherine. James died aged 52 but the two boys in the family continued in the wood trade, becoming cabinet carvers. The family lived at Hassard Street before moving to Columbia Road. Albert married Ada in 1912 and they had two daughters. He was in the Tank Corps when in March 1918 the collapse of the Russian army enabled Germany to reinforce its Western front. As a consequence, the Allies had to abandon any offensive action in favour of defence. The German offensive was launched on 21 March. By 24 March the Brigade was down to a handful of tanks. One of the casualties was Albert's tank.

Died 25/3/1918 aged 21

Private 94845

Richard LLOYD was born in 1884 the youngest of eight children born to Joseph and Charlotte of Gascoigne Place. Joseph was a carpenter and his children followed him into the wood trade, one son made folding chairs, one polished them and another packed them while Richard became a maker of packing cases. In 1906 he married May at St Paul's, Bethnal Green. May's father was a dock labourer and almost illiterate judging by his signature on the marriage certificate. In 1911 he and May lived in Union Street, Shoreditch with May's parents and three young sons, they were later joined by another son and a daughter.

Richard was in the Royal Berkshire Regiment and his battalion arrived in France on 31st May 1915. They had been at the front for about a year when they were moved to Baizieux on 30th June and on 1st July relieved the 8th division at Ovillers-la-Boisselle attacking at dawn the following morning. After a second attack and despite suffering heavy casualties, they succeeded in capturing and holding the first and second lines close to Ovillers. Sadly, in this action Richard was killed.

Died 3/7/1916 aged 32

Private 10922

Joseph Henry LUGG was one of eight children born to Joseph and Anna of Emma Street. He was born in May 1886 and baptised at St Jude's a month later (on the same day as a Lavinia Gertrude Grace Lugg also of Emma Street who was probably a cousin). His father, was a Boot Laster and his mother and older sister were Boot Machinists. On Christmas day 1910 Joseph married Annie Wilsdon at St Thomas'. He was then working as a suit case maker and he and his wife-to-be both lived on Hassard Street. They do not appear to have had any children. Joseph enlisted at Chelsea into the Army Service Corps and as he is listed as driver/saddler in his death entry. Perhaps he was involved with the horses who were used everywhere on the Front to move the artillery pieces around.

Died 29/5/1918 aged 32

Driver/Saddler T4/185437



Thomas LYONS

Charles Dunnett MASER was the third son of Robert and Emmeline, born in December 1889, baptised at St Philip's in January the following year. Robert was a cabinet maker whose grandfather had come to Bethnal Green from Russia by 1841. In 1891 the family lived in New Nichol St, one of the poorest areas, in 1901 they are in Virginia Place and in 1911 at Columbia Buildings where Charles' widow lived after he was killed. Charles became a French polisher but followed his older brother, Henry into the Army joining the Middlesex Regiment in 1907 when he was 18. At that time, he was described in documents as being 5'7" tall, chest measurement 34 and with blue eyes and dark brown hair. By 1912 when he transferred to the Army Reserve he had grown an inch and a half and put on 4 inches round the chest. He made good progress in the Army becoming a lance corporal in 1911 and Sergeant in September 1914. Six months later he married Jessica Lovelock at St Thomas' but just two months after their marriage he was killed on the 1st day of the Battle of Loos, having already fought at Mons and the Battles of the Marne and the Aisne.

Died 25/9/1915 aged 26

Sergeant 11643

Henry Thomas MATTERFACE was born in Bow in 1885 the third son of Alfred, a bookbinder and his wife Emily. Alfred died, aged only 34, leaving Emily to look after her 4 sons. In 1891 the family lived in Nottingham Street and Emily's brother George was living with them – a useful male presence.

Henry married Lucy in August 1909 at St Andrew's Hoxton when he was working as a Porter and the couple both lived at Watsons Place. They then set up home in Ashford Street and both worked in a restaurant where Henry was a porter and liftman and Lucy worked in the still room. Henry Junior arrived a year later in 1912. Henry enlisted in the South Wales Borders which was among the forces sent to Gallipoli in 1915. In 1916 they were moved to Mesopotamia and were involved in the unsuccessful action to relieve the besieged garrison at Kut al Amara. They were among the troops to enter Baghdad when it fell in March 1917. They then pushed north across Iraq and at some stage in this fighting, Henry was killed. He is commemorated on the Basra Memorial.

Died 18/8/1917 aged 32

Private 22926



William MATTHEWS

Henry James MCGUINNESS. Born in November 1889, Henry was the son of wood carver, John George and his wife Jane who had been married at St Thomas's in 1882. They lived at Ducal Street and have five other children as well as Henry. In 1911 Henry was still at living at home and working as a French polisher but later that year he married Maud Ethel Homes. Henry enlisted in the London Regiment but was killed in action on the Macedonian Front probably during the Battle of Doiran against the Bulgarians.

Died 23/4/1917 aged 28

Rifleman 573315

Albert Edward MILLIER was born in March 1898 the youngest of five children of William and Elizabeth. William was variously a confectioner and a publican. Albert joined the Royal Fusiliers but was killed on the third day of the Battle of the Somme.

Died 3/7/1916 aged 18

Private G/11787

Albert Edwin MOON. The son of another Albert who had come down from Scotland to work on the London docks and met and married Mary. Albert junior was born in February 1898 when his parents lived in Katherine Buildings in Whitechapel. By 1911 they had moved to Drysdale Street and father, Albert was a carman and Mary was a charwoman with a six-year-old daughter as well.

Albert Junior joined the Royal Navy, and found himself on a passenger cargo vessel, the Clan Macnaughton, which was built in 1911 but requisitioned in November 1914 from the Clan Line Steamers of Glasgow becoming an armed merchant vessel. It is thought to have foundered in a severe gale off the north coast of Ireland. It was last heard of on 3rd February and wreckage was later found in the area. It is presumed sunk with all 281 crew. Albert's body was never recovered and he is commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial. His parents were then living in Arline Street.

Died 3/2/1915 aged 27

Boy 1st class J/27283

Frederick Charles MORGAN the son of cabinet maker also Fred and his wife Alice, he was born in March 1897 and baptised at St Phillips in April. In 1911 the family including younger brother, Arthur lived at Baroness Road. By 1911 they had moved to Crescent Place and fourteen-year-old Fred was a telegraph messenger. When war came Fred joined the London Regiment and was among the 58,000 casualties on the first day of the Battle of the Somme.

Died 1/7/1916 aged 19

Private 5195

William OFFWOOD was born in 1881, the son of Alfred, a cooper or barrel maker and his wife, Matilda. He went to Napier Street School in Hackney in June 1890 and then followed his father's trade. His older brother went into the Army, one of his sisters was an umbrella finisher and the other made artificial flowers, this sister got married at St Thomas. William enlisted in the King's Royal Rifle Corps but fell in action when his Battalion and Division had joined the 43rd Brigade and were fighting yet once more on the Somme in March 1918 when over 6,000 men of the Division were killed or injured.

Died 21/3/1918 aged 37

Rifleman A/203035

Henry OVERTON lived in Arline Street where his father, Elmer worked in a tripe shop. His mother was Amelia and he had one younger brother, Bertie who became a confectioner. At some stage he got married to Ellen but no trace can be found of this marriage. He joined the Royal Field Artillery at Woolwich but was killed in action in November 1917 probably at the Third Battle of Ypres. He is buried in a cemetery which is near a village which was directly opposite the German line across the Yser canal.

Died 2/11/1917 aged 24

Gunner 209280

Edward Albert PARR was the middle child of eight born in 1892 to Henry and Anna Margaret. Both his parents came from Germany. Henry was a baker and when he died Margaret took on the business and in 1911 Edward and his older brother, Henry were taking the bread round to the customers presumably on bicycles. They were based in Shipton Street for at least thirty years. Edward joined the Royal Marines and was among the troops sent to Gallipoli in 1915 where he died in the third battle of Krithia, trying to dislodge the Turks from their lines on the peninsula.

Died 7/6/1915 aged 23

Private CH/18643

Lancelot Albert PECKHAM, known as Albert, was the son of Miles and Hannah or Annie of Columbia Buildings. Albert was born in July 1899 and baptised at St Thomas' in May 1900. Later one of his elder sisters married at St Thomas. His father was an engineer but died young leaving Annie to take up office cleaning and all the older children worked to put food on the table. Albert joined the Royal Navy but was killed when the battleship he was serving on, HMS Vanguard, was destroyed by an internal explosion which happened just before midnight on July 9th 1917 when at anchor in Scapa Flow. 800 crew lost their lives and no definite cause was discovered. At the time sabotage was suspected but Vanguard was not a modern boat and there were more attractive targets nearby. Albert is commemorated on the Plymouth Naval Memorial.

Died 9/7/1917 aged 18

Ordinary signalman J.34193

Augustus Henry PERRYMENT was one of nine children of wood carver, Thomas and his wife Louisa who lived at Wadeson Street near the canal and the edge of Victoria Park. Augustus was born in 1878 and on St Valentine's Day 1909 he married Sarah, a lady's maid at St Jude's. In 1911 they lived in the Guinness Buildings with their two boys who were joined by two other boys and a girl, the youngest boy, Walter being born three months after his father's death. Poor Sarah then had five children under six to care for on her own with a pension of 22/6 per week from the Army. Augustus enlisted in August 1914 and in December that year was sent out to join the British Expeditionary Force on the Western Front with the Middlesex Regiment.

On enlistment he was recorded as being just over five foot nine tall with hazel eyes and brown hair and was working as a timber porter. He was killed in action just before the Battle of the Somme broke out.

Died 20/6/1916 aged 38

Private G/860

Frederick John POTTS and **William Joseph POTTS** were two of the four surviving children of the ten born to Joseph and Harriet. Joseph Senior worked as a Meat Porter and his wife made umbrellas. Fred was baptised at St Philip's in November 1898 when the family were living at Austen Street. By 1911 Harriet and the children had moved to Ravenscroft Street but Joseph, strangely, was in the Bethnal Green workhouse on Waterloo Road possibly receiving free medical care which would have been unavailable to a poor family elsewhere.

William the elder brother was born in 1894 and was initially with the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry but transferred to the Hampshire Regiment. In April 1915 he travelled with them to Gallipoli for the ill-fated attempt to drive the Turks from that strategic peninsula. He died of wounds probably received in the attempt to capture the Achi Baba Heights.

Died 7/8/1915 aged 21

Private 15989

Fred joined the Rifle Brigade. He died of wounds, 2 years after his brother, in the mud of Passchendaele.

Died 21/11/1917 aged 19

Rifleman S/33152

Edward Albert PURDON was born in 1896, the son of a porter in an iron warehouse, Albert and his wife Alice. They lived in Columbia Square model buildings, one of the philanthropic ventures in the area by Angela Burdett Coutts, of the banking family. Albert died in 1909 and in 1911 the two girls were in service in Belgrave Square and Edward, aged fourteen was a Warehouse Boy while his mother cleaned offices. Edward enlisted in the London Regiment but lost his life on St Valentine's Day on the Somme.

Died 14/2/1916 aged 20

Private 1412

Charles William Anthony ROBERTSON was born in 1895 and baptised at St Jude's in July. His parents Henry and Ann lived at Durant Street raising 6 surviving children. Henry was a mineral water bottler. By 1911 Charles was a machinist at a leather bag maker, two of his brothers worked for brush makers, a sister was a milliner. Charles joined the London Regiment but was killed in action on the Ypres Salient in March 1917.

Died 24/3/1917 aged 22

Serjeant 350485



Alexander ROBINSON

James SAMS was the third son of a family of nine children of cabinet maker William and his wife Eleanor known as Ellen. William had a business in Columbia Road with his uncle who was also a cabinet maker. In 1911 they were specialising in making hall stands. James was baptised at St Thomas in 1905 at the same time as his younger brother Alfred. Elder brother, another William, had been baptised at St Peter's in 1893. James seems to have joined the Rifle Brigade originally but was transferred to the Blackheath and Woolwich battalion of the London Regiment. He was killed in action during the Advance to Victory in 1918. The memorial at Vis-en-Artois, where his name is commemorated, records the names of 9,000 troops who fell between August 8th 1918 and Armistice Day around the Somme and the Loos who have no known grave.

Died 14/9/1918 aged 23

Private 635575

Leonard Stanley SMITH, born in 1891, the youngest of seven children of Abraham and Mary Ann who were both born in Suffolk but who married in Stepney in 1874. Abraham was a police constable but by 1901 he turned to working for the Customs Service. He and Mary Ann brought up their family in Columbia Square but by 1911 Mary Ann had died and just the two youngest boys were living at home with Abraham. Leonard was by this time working as a cutter for a furrier. He joined The Buffs but was killed in action in the trenches near Armentieres.

Died 28/5/1915 aged 24

Private G/2009

Charles William and **Henry James SMITH** were nephew and uncle. Charles' father, Walter was Henry's older brother. Henry was born in 1887 and the youngest child of Samuel and his wife, Harriet who lived in Henrietta Street with their other five children. Samuel had a wood business probably with his own brother, George (who was living with them in 1891) and they were chair carvers. Twenty years later their eldest son, Walter was married with five children of his own and they too were living at 18 Henrietta Street carrying on the family business. By this time Samuel had gone blind so Henry had taken up the family trade. The two families lived in three rooms each.

Henry joined the Rifle Brigade but was killed in action in the Battle of Broodseinde which ironically was the most successful Allied attack in the Passchendaele campaign.

Died 4/10/1917 aged 30

Rifleman S/19781

Charles was born ten years after his uncle and baptised at St Peter's in August 1897 when his family lived in Elwin Street before moving to Henrietta Street. He was the second of four sons born to Walter and Martha. He joined the East Surrey Regiment but was killed in action a year after Henry probably in the Battle of the Selle, the great push to break the line of the river Selle, a crucial battle in the last 100 days of the War.

Died 25/10/1918 aged 21

Private 29266

William James SMITH was born in 1881 and baptised at St Thomas in September. His father, another William, had come up from Devon and become one of the many cabinet makers in the area. He and wife Elizabeth had seven children and adopted another daughter as well. In 1891 they lived in Quilter Street but by 1911 had moved to Baroness Road. William Junior met Emily who lived down the road and in 1906 they married at St Thomas. At that time William was working as a coachman and Emily was a machinist but five years later with two children named, rather unimaginatively William and Emily, William was driving a cart and the family were still in Baroness Road. William joined the London Regiment before being transferred to the Queen Victoria's Rifles but was killed in action in the costly spring of 1918 when the fields of the Somme were fought over yet again. He left four children as another girl and boy were born in 1911 and 1917.

Died 26/3/1918 aged 27

Rifleman 394082

Thomas TALBOT, the son of a cabinet maker, was born in 1881, one of seven children of Thomas and Elizabeth. In 1899 Elizabeth died and Thomas Senior quickly remarried as he needed someone to look after his young family. In 1901 two of the boys, including Thomas junior were following their father's trade. On Christmas Day 1902 he married Emma at St John's, Bethnal Green and they subsequently had four boys and set up home in Ravenscroft Street. Thomas enlisted in the City of London Rifles and was killed in action in the muddy battlefield of Passchendaele in 1917.

Died 29/10/1917 aged 26

Rifleman 324261

Edward John TRAHAR, born in April 1883, he was baptised at St Andrew's, Hoxton on May 2nd. His father Henry was a walking stick moulder, that is he put the silver flourish on the top of the stick as he had been a silver polisher previously. He and his wife Annie had three boys with Edward being the middle son. In November 1907 Edward married Caroline Askew at St Thomas' but they do not appear to have had any children. Edward carried on his father's profession and in 1911 the couple lived at Chapel Street. Edward joined the King's Royal Rifles, wounded in action early in 1918 and buried at the second largest Commonwealth cemetery in Belgium, near several casualty clearing stations.

Died 17/1/1918 aged 25

Rifleman R/29653

Alfred TREEDON



Robert Harold TREENTER was born in August 1898 and baptised at St Leonard's, Shoreditch in September. His parents, Harold and Eliza were then living in Mount Street. Harold was a print compositor and had a daughter from a previous marriage. In 1901 they had moved to Harley Buildings and Robert had a younger brother. By 1911 they were living in Crescent Place and yet another brother had been born. Robert, who was actually baptised Harold Robert but presumably known as Robert to avoid confusion, joined up at Shoreditch but was killed in action during the ill-fated Gallipoli campaign probably in the attempt to capture the Achi Baba Heights. He died on the same day and place as another member of the St Thomas' congregation, William Potts.

Died 7/8/1915 aged 17

Lance Corporal N12405

Albert TRIPP was born in April 1882 in Bethnal Green according to his Army record but his parents cannot be definitely identified. He joined the Rifle Brigade in 1903 aged 21 when he was five feet five inches tall with brown eyes and hair, and weighed less than eight and a half stone which probably testifies to a tough childhood. Following his short service, he was in the Army Reserve and so immediately called up when War was declared. He married Elizabeth Barker at Bethnal Green Register Office in May 1914 but they were already parents to three children with another on the way. Albert was killed in action early in the war and is commemorated on the Ploegstraat Memorial along with the other 11,000 men for whom there is no known grave. Most of those on this memorial did not die in major offensives but were killed in the course of the day to day trench warfare or in small scale set engagements usually carried out in support of the major attacks taking place elsewhere. His battalion was one of those involved in the Christmas Truce of 1914 but Albert was already dead by then.

Died 16/12/1914 aged 32

Rifleman 9908

Henry William TWEED was the son of Henry George, a carman and his wife, Agnes, who lived in Brick Lane when Henry junior was baptised on October 20th 1895 at St Mathias. The family then moved to Orange Street before finishing up at Hassard Street by 1900. Strangely there is no sign of them in census records but Henry Senior appears in the Electoral Rolls. Son Henry enlisted in the London Regiment, the 7th Battalion which became known as the Shiny Seventh. During the winter of 1915/16 his battalion carried out regular tours of duty in the Loos sector losing a steady stream of casualties to artillery and mine attacks. In March 1916 the Division they were part of took over part of the Vimy sector on the west side of the Vimy Ridge. On 21st May they were subject to a heavy bombardment followed by a German attack in the evening. The weight of the attack fell on the 1/7th London's who were forced back from their front and support lines half-way down the slope. They made a local counter-attack but it was too weak to succeed. They managed to push forward 250 yards to reoccupy an old French trench which they consolidated and thereby prevented any further enemy advance. They were relieved in the evening of 22nd May but it was too late for Henry.

Died 21/5/1916 aged 21

Private 4484

James WALKER. The only information on James suggests that he was the son of William and Caroline Walker who lived in Ravenscroft Street in 1911. William was a French polisher and James was in the middle of their six children. However, it has proved impossible to tie down his military details.

Ges WEEKS



George WHITE

Alfred Thomas WILD was probably known as Thomas as his father was also Alfred Thomas. He was born in October 1879 and baptised at St Thomas' in March 1889 together with his sister Ellen and brother John, who had been born in 1880 and 1881 respectively. In 1881 father Alfred who was a boot maker and his wife Jane were living in Horatio Street together with Alfred - called Thomas henceforth - and his baby sister, at the house of Alfred's father, yet another Alfred and his mother who was also named Jane and two of their children, so there were three generations living together. The senior family were involved in chair making.

This confusing situation is exacerbated by the family tradition of using a minimum of names. Thomas married Louisa Clifford in 1901 at St John's, Hackney when they were both living in Orchard Place, Hackney and Thomas was working as a carman. They had a daughter, Elsie in 1913. When war came he joined the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry but was killed in action during the attempt to capture High Wood on the Somme. He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial.

Died 23/7/1916 aged 37

Private 15996

George WILLIS was a twin born in December 1897 with brother Robert to Robert and Frances of Chapel Street (off Hassard St). They were baptised at St Thomas' in January 1898. In 1901 the family included an older brother and sister and younger brother, James. Father Robert worked as a coal porter but in 1906 he died by which time there were another two children born. Frances must have struggled to cope because in 1911 three of the boys including George and his twin, Robert and James were all in the care of the Bethnal Green Workhouse Schools which were established in Leystonstone.

Apparently in 1899 Poor Law legislation changed, allowing Guardians to take young children into care to allow their mothers to work and support other siblings. In 1868 the Board had bought Leytonstone House and its nine acres of grounds for £9,500. The main house was used for administration and the children were accommodated in temporary iron buildings. Just months after the opening, the matron was prosecuted for drunkenness and cruelty and dismissed. However, by the time the Willis brothers arrived the temporary buildings had been replaced by purpose built accommodation blocks as well as a dining hall and chapel, infirmaries, laundry, swimming bath and an outdoor gym and open fronted covered play shed; the whole school accommodating 664 children. From 1904 children over eight were sent out to local schools. The Leytonstone school continued until 1937 operating as a Children's Home.

An Army regime would then have been very familiar to George when he enlisted into the London Regiment. However, his Battalion were involved in a final attempt to break out of the deadlock of the Battle of Gallipoli. They landed at Suvla Bay on August 11th 1915 five days after the landings started, intending to support a breakout from the Anzac sector five miles south. This was mismanaged and stalemate was quickly reached with great losses among the Allies including George.

Died 15/8/1915 aged 18

Private 1446

George WOODLEIGH



Leonard WYLIE. Born on August 1st 1899, he was one of six children of Charles and Rebecca who lived in Ravenscroft Street in 1911. His father worked for a printing firm and two of the older children were also working there. Leonard went to school at Virginia Road when he was only three years old. When war came he joined the Royal West Kent Regiment and was killed in action in April 1918. He is buried in a cemetery near a village called Hangard which was at the junction of the French and Commonwealth forces defending Amiens in March 1918. From April 4-25th the village and nearby wood were the scene of incessant fighting resulting in Leonard's death.

Died 25/4/1918 aged 19

Private G/30845

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
We will remember them