

# We will remember them: village's forgotten

By Sam Marsden

ST 15/6/13

FOR decades the war memorial in the small Cotswold village of Deddington has honoured 58 local men who gave their lives serving their country.

However, when two amateur historians started looking into the stories of those from the Oxfordshire parish killed in the

world wars, they discovered 27 names were missing from the roll.

After five years of research, a new memorial for all the villagers who made the ultimate sacrifice during their military service will tomorrow be dedicated by the Bishop of Dorchester, the Right Reverend Colin Fletcher, in a ceremony attended by many of their descendants.

Some of the families have finally discovered where their loved ones are buried and even made contact with long-lost relatives thanks to the efforts of local historians Robert Forsyth and Michael Allbrook.

The previously missing names on the new memorial, which takes the form of a plaque inside the Church of St Peter and

## 27 finally added to war memorial

St Paul in the village, include two men killed in the Boer War and 21 who died in the First World War.

Two of those who died in the Second World War were remembered in inscriptions in Deddington, but not on the original war memorial.

However, the village had no record at all of Major Tom Van Oss, who was killed

inspecting coastal defences off Lincolnshire in November 1941, and Sgt Ken Harris, a decorated RAF wireless operator and gunner who died in June 1940 when his aircraft was attacked and crash-landed in France.

Mr Forsyth, 73, a retired Royal Navy submarine commander who has lived in Deddington for more than 35 years,

believes that the names were simply missed off the original monument because of administrative oversight.

"The war memorial didn't go up until four or five years after the First World War," he said. "By that time some families had moved and it was probably a case of 'out of sight, out of mind'. There was nothing suspicious about it."