

The First World War (1914-18)

Those who died

Thomas FORD (1895-1915) Private.

He joined the Royal Marine Light Infantry then transferred to Portsmouth Battalion, Royal Naval Division, which he joined by ship at Cape Helles, Gallipoli, Turkey on 30 May 1915.

He was reported missing, assumed killed in action, on 24 June 1915.

His name is inscribed on panel MR4 of the Helles Memorial at Gallipoli.

He was born in Deddington. His mother was Mrs Sarah Ford.

William GARDINER (1886-1915) Leading Seaman.

He had enlisted in the Royal Navy in 1907 and then transferred to Hood Battalion, Royal Naval Division, in 1912.

He was missing, later reported killed in action, on 6 May 1915.

His name is inscribed on panel MR4 of the Helles Memorial at Gallipoli in Turkey.

He was born in Deddington. His mother was Mrs Polly Gray.

Those who served and returned

Royal Navy (RN)

Jacob COWLEY (1888-1967) Rank unknown.

He joined as a Boy Seaman aged 12 and served throughout the war and until 1919.

George T SMITH (1900-61) Able Seaman.

He joined as a boy seaman under age in 1917 and remained in service until 1929. This included fighting Bolsheviks in the Naval Brigade in Russia. He rejoined in WWII. See also page 45.

Army

John Henry COWLEY (1893-1930) Private.

1st Battalion, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. He served 1915-22.

Humphrey Willis Chetwode LLOYD (1892-1965) DSO MC and Bar. Major.

Duke of Edinburgh's, Wiltshire Regiment. His exploits during WWI included escaping from a PoW camp and later fighting the Bolsheviks in post revolutionary Russia. He also served in WWII. The full story of his action filled life can be read on page 34.

Henry (Harry) HARRIS No rank or further details are known. He was the son-in-law of 'Cokey' Smith. See also page 45.

Walter HUMPHRIES Rank unknown.

The Oxfordshire Yeomanry. He was another son-in-law of 'Cokey' Smith (p.46)

Names but no further details are held for the following men

| | | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Alfred Austin | Albert (Nelson?) Cowley | John Jones | Albert E Pritchard |
| Thomas Austin | Harold C Hawkins | Henry Nicholls | Alfred Skuce |
| George Baynes | David Hiorns | Thomas F Tustain | Arthur Sykes |
| | Edwin Sykes | | |

Prisoners of War

James W Cowley
Leonard A Long
F Valentine

The Army Dog Corps



Transcription

Airedale

JACK

Dog Corps

B.E.F.¹

1914 -1919

Died 1927

This small gravestone is in the garden of The Holly Tree Club under a fir tree between the club house and cottages. The garden once belonged to The Hermitage on the corner opposite the then King's Arms and now Deddington Arms. The 1911 census records that 'George Coggins, aged 64, born Deddington, widower, solicitor' was living at The Hermitage, Market Place, described as 'a ten roomed house plus scullery and outhouses, with two domestic servants'. He died in 1920 and the house passed to three relatives of the same name; so it is entirely possible that Jack was George's dog and lived to the great age of 15 plus - assuming he was at least two when he 'joined up' - with the same family in the same house and no doubt as a much respected war veteran.

Official sanction for the use of dogs in war was given with the opening of the War Dog Training School in Shoeburyness. After a trial and error period in France Major Waley MC Royal Engineers (RE), was appointed supervisor of all dog operations in France. The main Kennels were at Etaples under the command of the RE's Signal Corps.

The handlers all came from the Signal Corps. The dogs originally came from the Battersea Dogs Home in London; then, as demand grew, from the Bristol, Liverpool, Birmingham and Manchester Dogs Homes. When demand outstripped even these suppliers an official order went out to all police forces in the UK to send all strays to the War Dog School and the general public was asked to send in any dogs they were unable to keep properly with the ration system in force. This last idea was very successful.

¹ British Expeditionary Force

German Prisoner of War (PoW) Camps in Oxfordshire

Reports on visits to PoW Camps by a Dr A de Sturler in March 1919 included mention of camps at Deddington, Charlbury, Hook Norton and Enstone. His foreign sounding name implies he may have been a Swiss Red Cross representative.

The Rifle Club in the Castle Grounds

We have no names for the men and boys in these two photographs but almost certainly they will include some from Deddington who served and possibly died.



Boy Scouts 1911