

Endnote



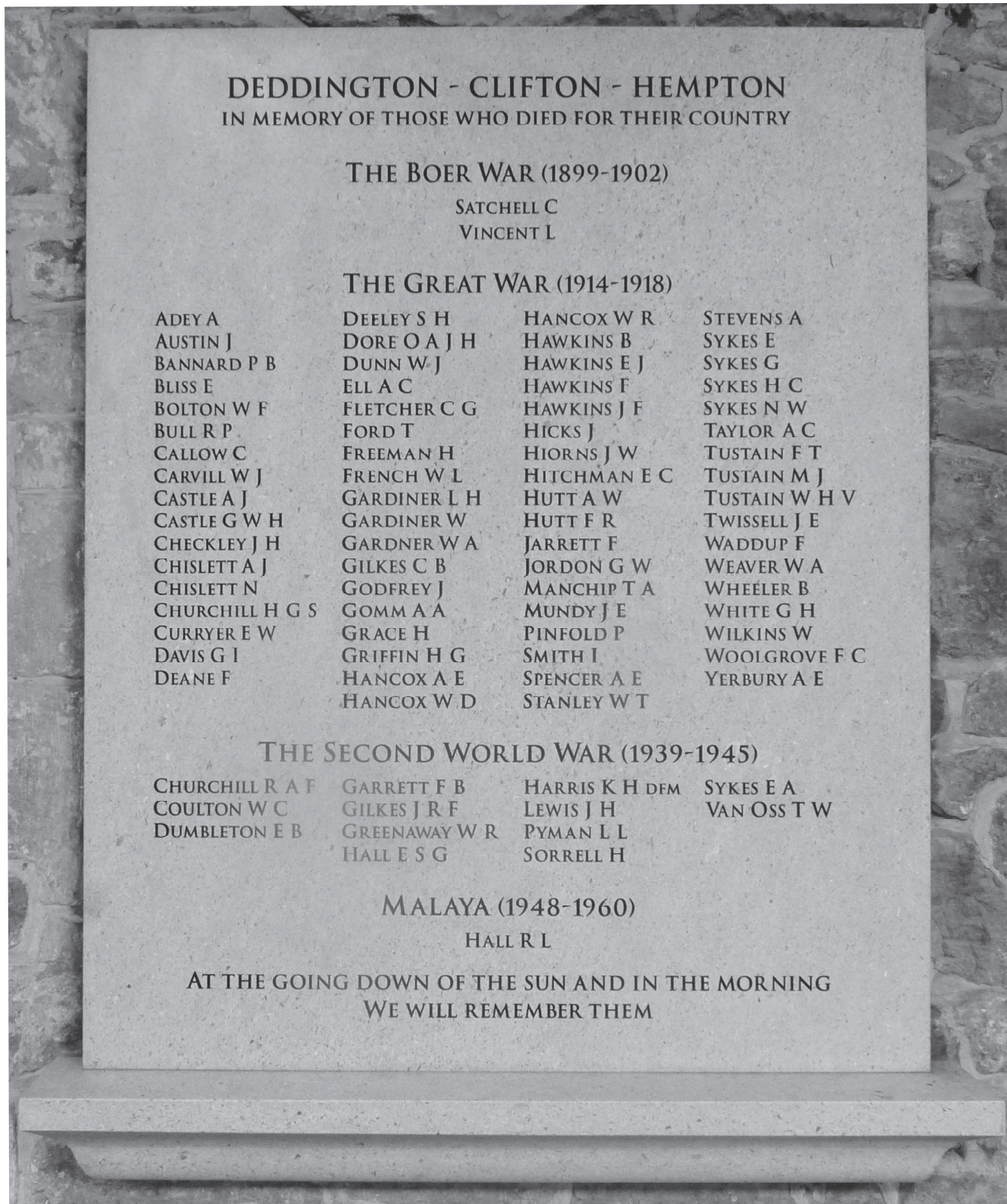
Ordinary Seaman Jacob Cowley - 1912

This fresh-faced and eager-looking young Deddington lad posed for his photograph in a Portsmouth studio exactly one hundred years before the publication of this supplement. Little did he know that he, and millions of other similarly eager young men, would shortly be involved in the first of two major world conflicts that led to the deaths of sixty-four men from his home parish. He was fortunate and survived.

Jacob's dates of service (p.5) and his photograph only came to light at the very last minute. However, others may have been missed and further stories may emerge that are equally deserving of being recorded; whilst no further books will be published, a special section of Deddington OnLine, the parish website, will be created specifically to record any such further material - It will be accessible via:

www.deddington.org.uk/history/militarybooksandarticles/postpublication

Memorial Plaque



The Memorial was re-erected in 2014 with 2 corrections:
The spelling of Thatchell in the Boer war corrected to Satchell - an error made in the Diocesan Diary at the time.
Jarret F was added to The Great War after discovery of his Dog Tag on a former military campsite.

About the authors

Michael Allbrook

Michael moved to Deddington in 2007 from Surrey where he had run his own recruitment business specialising in staff for Human Resources. His earlier career was in personnel management with several companies including EMI. He was appointed a Companion of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development in 1989. He married Sally in 1969 and their two daughters and their families live locally.

His grandfather, Arthur, served in WWI and volunteered to train in gas warfare, a silly decision some thought, but his knowledge was soon considered too great to risk his serving on the Front. Three uncles also served; Walter was so traumatised by his experiences that he returned a changed man. Ted was shot and died whilst on patrol in No Man's Land and Jack died from his wounds in 1917.

In WWII both his parents volunteered for, and were, Officers in the Royal Artillery and the Women's Royal Air Force. Two uncles also served and all survived. Uncle Edward, who was in Tanks in the Desert Rats, took part in the North African Campaign, the invasion and fighting in Italy and was posted home to join the Normandy invasions. At this point he was severely wounded near Falaise which resulted in his spending the next year in hospital.

Michael's birth coincided with D-Day and the arrival of the first flying bombs. For this reason his Mother and he moved from Essex almost immediately and then to London where one memory is walking to school and passing so many bombsites awash with rose bay willow herb and buddleia.

Rob Forsyth

Rob's grandfather served in the Royal Artillery in WWI, as did his uncle and father-in-law in WWII. His father was an RNVR officer in WWII, serving in Coastal Command and Air Sea Rescue. His nephew served in the Fleet Air Arm in the 1980s.

He grew up in Priors Marston, Warwickshire, and Tring, Hertfordshire. During his time in the navy (p.128) Rob and his wife, Maureen, lived in many places and when they moved to Deddington in 1977 with their children Nicola, Justin and Jonathan, their plan was to be here for a couple of years but, like lots of other people, have found many reasons for remaining in the Parish ever since.

He left the RN in 1981 to seek wider horizons than a periscope offered and worked for a number of high technology companies, the last of which was Westland Group plc as its Marketing Director.

On retirement from this second career (1999), he continued in the aerospace business as a consultant for a few years and was a founding director of The Oxford Channel, one of the first local TV stations in the country.

He is now fully retired but still fully occupied with parish history, golf, tennis and four grandchildren.

DEDICATED TO THOSE WHO DIED FOR OUR COUNTRY

A Soldier

I too was a soldier many years ago
Fully trained and ready to go
It was early 1951
The Korean War had begun
Stationed in Hong Kong, not far away
We were ordered to sail to join the affray
From Headquarters came a last minute communication
We were to be diverted to a different location
A soldier must go where he is sent
My schoolmate Robin was in a different Regiment
Serving in Malaya to fight the insurgents there
The jungle thick and so unfair
A burst of gunfire from a river bed
Robin and his patrol lay dead
As I live my life I often wonder why
Who decided that I should live,
Whilst Robin and so many others had to die?

George Harris, Royal Engineers 1949 - 1951

