

Intentionally Not Printed



The Great War

Coddington Remembers

Introduction

The Village War Memorial and Roll of Honour lists are held in trust for the local community by All Saints Church, Coddington. In 2006, Coddington History Group (CHG) member Fred Reed started a project to learn about the men who served in the Great War. Fred created displays for our open days and we placed information on the group's website. In August 2013 Coddington Parish Council asked CHG to help produce a book to mark the centenary of the start of the war.

The two sources and our research gave a list of 86 men. The amount of extra detail found for each man varies widely; inevitably more has survived about those in positions of authority. We still know nothing more about two men and for thirty have only family data found in Census records. For some men's service we have only regiment names or numbers and perhaps a medals list. Many WWI service records were destroyed by fire during WWII. However we hope that more information may come to light in the next few years, allowing update of our website (where you will also find a pdf file of this booklet available for download).

We have striven to make the biographies as accurate as possible but some service sources are cryptic or inconsistent. You can contact Coddington History Group with corrections, additions or comments, and find extra content on the website: www.coddington.org.uk

Lest We Forget

We hope that this book will make the men more real to us today, and serve as a small tribute to all those connected with Coddington who served, suffered or died in 'the war to end all wars'. Their true memorial must be the way we live our lives today and the future we leave to those yet to come.

The majority of this book is devoted to biographies of the individual men. These are preceded by some observations about the men's previous military experience and where they served. The biographies of the men are followed by some information about a few related local topics, and a brief overview of the war (mainly covering the Western Front).

This book is the result of collaboration between the Parish Council, the History Group, the Church, and residents (past and present) of Coddington.

Great War Book Team:

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Cover design concept by Michael Bache



Coddington Men Who Served In World War I (1914-18)

Hung on the West wall of Coddington All Saints Church, are two framed hand-written lists with the printed heading above. The Roll of Honour sheets have three columns - Name, Service and Remarks - and each sheet has been completely filled with a total of 72 names. The names are not in alphabetical order and were evidently not written all at once. Only 14 entries carry remarks. We do not know if a third incomplete sheet has been lost.

We have not been able to discover when or the process by which the names were collected and transcribed onto the sheets. All Saints Church, the Wesleyan (Methodist) Chapel, and all the other village organisations would surely have kept prayer and remembrance lists during the conflict.

Coddington war memorial, a marble tablet erected in 1921, is on the West wall of the church, next to the tower opening. A memorial to Captain John S Thorpe was placed on the other side of the tower arch in 1918 (see page 49).

The village population in 1911 was 477, with 330 over the age of 13 years. 35 of the 86 men on the list lived in Coddington in 1911. 13 of the men listed lost their lives (drowned, killed, or died from wounds or disease) and we know that at least 4 disability pensions were granted in addition to any pensions to widows. Gallantry medals were awarded to 12 men - 6 Military Medals, 1 Distinguished Service Medal, 1 Military Cross and 4 Distinguished Service Orders.

Those Who Died in Service

We have included a more complete list here because only nine of the thirteen men known to have died in service appear on the war memorial. Although it may make uncomfortable reading, a list in date order with brief details helps us to appreciate the repeated impact of horror and grief on village people.

1 Nov 1914 - George Henry Claricoates - drowned with HMS Good Hope, Battle of Coronel, off the coast of Chile.

17 Nov 1914 - Septimus George Backhouse - killed by sniper whilst observing through a trench loophole in France, buried Le Touret Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.

3 Oct 1915 - Thomas Marsden - died of wounds, buried Chocques Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.

9 Dec 1915 - Matthew Henry Hart - died in UK of wounds received at Gallipoli, buried Market Rasen.

1 Jul 1916 - Charles W Cant - Company Sergeant Major, killed (first day of Battle of Somme), buried Dantzig Alley Cemetery, Mametz, Somme.

16 Sep 1916 - Captain John S Thorpe MC - sniper bullet in battle, buried Carnoy Cemetery, Albert, Somme.

26 Sep 1917 - George Richard Young - killed in action in Flanders, remembered Tyne Cot Memorial, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

31 Oct 1917 - Charles Young - captured/killed in raid, NCO guarding a road on the outskirts of Avion, Lens, buried Cabaret Rouge Cemetery, Souchez, Pas de Calais, France.


28 Nov 1917 - Charles William Young - killed in action Palestine (possibly Mosque Hill, Suffa), buried Jerusalem, (Yerushalayim District), Israel.

21 Mar 1918 - Sergeant Alfred Bryan MM - killed in battle on the Somme, commemorated Pozieres Cemetery, Somme.

11 Apr 1918 - Alfred Henton - killed, buried Cabaret Rouge Cemetery, Souchez, Pas de Calais, France.

22 Apr 1918 - Walter Leonard Bryan - killed "in Field, France", buried Brandhoek New Military Cemetery No 3, Belgium.

14 Nov 1918 - Harry Booth - at Park Royal Depot, died Spanish influenza Fulham Hospital, buried Coddington.

TO THE GLORY  OF GOD AND
IN GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE
OF THE MEN FROM THIS
PARISH WHO WERE KILLED
IN THE GREAT WAR
1914 - 1918.

ALFRED BRYAN, M.M. JOHN S. THORPE, M.C.

LEONARD BRYAN RICHARD YOUNG

WILLIAM CANT CHARLES YOUNG

HENRY CLARICOATES CHARLES J. YOUNG

ALFRED HENTON.

AND IN THE 1939-1945 WAR

ALBERT THOMPSON.

Village War Memorial in Coddington Parish Church

An Overview of the List of 86 Men

Coddington Career Soldiers & Volunteers

Four of the older men on our Roll of Honour had served in the Boer War, some 12-16 years earlier - John S Thorpe, Harold Thorpe, Gervase Thorpe and Harry Booth. Eleven men were or had been in the Territorials or Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry - Samuel Alvey, Harry Booth, Cyril Bryan, Charles Gomer, Charles Richard Lee, Hugh Tallents, Harold Thorpe, John S Thorpe, Arthur W Walster, Billy Walster, and Charles William Young.

About fifteen men on the list had already entered the navy or regular army regiments as a career between 1900 and 1912:

Royal Navy: Frank Booth, George Henry Claricoates, Benjamin Crampton, George Moore Lee.

Army: Alfred Bryan, Joshua Bryan, Charles William Cant, Horace Grocock, Albert Henton, Godfrey Edward Tallents, Gervase Thorpe, John S Thorpe, Robert Ward, George Richard Young.

We know that at least eight men were 'Old Contemptibles' (gaining the 1914 Star) with a further 15-18 men qualifying for the 1914-15 Star - campaign medals which recognised early entry into the war. The five Thorpe and Tallents men were commissioned officers. Rev Francis Herbert Smith was on the Bengal Ecclesiastical Staff (Indian Army).

Which Regiments Did the Men Serve In?

Early volunteers could choose which regiment to enter. As fighting units were reduced in strength the survivors would be reassigned or used as a core for building a new unit. Whole units or functions were also transferred to other regiments or armies. So men often moved between regiments over their war career. Half the men on our list served in local regiments:

Notts 25: Notts Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry, Sherwood Foresters (Notts & Derby Regt) 1st, 8th, 2/7th, 2/8th Battalions;

Lincs 6; Staffs 2; Leics 1; Yorks/Lancs 8; Cheshire 2

Other Regiments: North England 5; Scottish & Others 11

Engineers, Artillery, Service Corps (incl Transport): 21

Other Services: 6 (Royal Navy 5, Royal Flying Corps 1)

Chaplains: 2

Where did the Men Serve Overseas?

We can't follow where each man served or fought exactly from the records we have found. The Roll of Honour regiment listings are not precise enough, many service records are cryptic or sparse, and sadly we have little detailed information from the men's descendants. Strangely we know least about where our men served in France and Belgium. At least thirty men are recorded as entering France or serving on the Western Front (the majority who served

overseas probably also served there). Nine of the eleven of our men who died overseas perished on the Western Front - the first in Nov 1914, the last in April 1918. Two of these, Septimus Backhouse and Thomas Marsden, died within three weeks of arriving there.

At least three men are recorded as serving in Ireland. Alfred Bryan was wounded there in 1915; Godfrey Tallents during the 1916 Easter Uprising and Thomas William Catton from Jan 18 until he was demobbed. The Easter Uprising was a traumatic experience for local regiment the Sherwood Foresters.

Local men also served further afield in the Eastern Mediterranean campaigns. Major Hugh Tallents' book gives a fascinating account of the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry - who fought in Gallipoli, Egypt and Macedonia, Salonika, Palestine and the Jordan Valley. Harold Thorpe, and Hugh Tallents received DSOs for their service in these campaigns. Godfrey Tallents took part in the Gallipoli landing on W Beach in which six VCs were awarded to the Lancashire Fusiliers.

Matthew Henry Hart served in Gallipoli with the Lincolnshires, and died in the UK of wounds received there. Ernest Godfrey Burgess was severely wounded in the Balkans, also with the Lincolnshires. Fred and Arthur Walster were at Gallipoli with the Sherwood Rangers; William Walster and Charles William Young joined them in Egypt in 1915. Charles was killed in action in Palestine on the 28 Nov 1917 - Arthur Walster was wounded at Mosque Hill near Suffa the same day and again on 30 April 1918 in an action in the Jordan Valley.



Sherwood
Rangers
Yeomanry

Frontline
Trenches near
Suvla Bay

Gallipoli 1915

One man, Ernest James Bryan, served in Kenya in the East Africa Campaign, and later on served in France. The war was truly global and our four career sailors, must have seen a great deal of it. George Henry Claricoates, was drowned on 1 Nov 1914 at the Battle of Coronel, off the coast of Chile.

The Combined List of Men

The list of names that follows is taken from Coddington War Memorial and Roll of Honour, with additions based on the research of Coddington History Group. The list is alphabetical and is given with the ages of the men in 1914.

ALVEY, Samuel

Aged 21, Yorkshire Light Infantry

In 1901 Samuel, aged 8, was living with his parents in Queen Street, Balderton. His father Samuel, aged 46 was a blacksmith, his mother Emily was 41. By 1911 he was a grocery worker, lodging at 22 Victoria Gardens, Newark with his widowed mother. Samuel first served in France on 16 Jan 1915.

Military Service record: Yorkshire Light Infantry Regt No 9381, R.E. Regt No 479917, Yorkshire Light Infantry Regt No 242709. Medals: 1914-15 Star, British, Victory.

BACKHOUSE, Septimus George

Aged 31, 1st Battalion Sherwood Foresters

Killed in action Flanders - 17 Nov 1914

George Backhouse, the son of Joseph and Mary Ann Backhouse was christened in Coddington Church on 19 Mar 1883. In 1891 the family lived on Newark Rd. By 1901, when Septimus was 17, the family lived at 16 Balderton Gate, Newark. George enlisted early in the 1st Battalion Sherwood Foresters and was either a career soldier, reservist or Territorial. He was in the first group to enter the trenches but sadly died in action within two weeks.



The Newark Advertiser published an account of how Corporal George Backhouse was killed, from a witness who had been escorting rations to the front trenches:

“A comrade was on the look-out for a tea canteen and having procured it, went to Backhouse, his pal and said “Now then, old chap, have a drink”. But there was no response, although the young Corporal was still standing in the trenches, with his hands

resting on the earthwork and a cigarette between his lips. The comrade repeated the call to “have a drink” and tapped Backhouse upon the shoulder, the impact of which caused the latter to reel and he fell dead, as he evidently had been, though only for a little time. It was evident that the poor fellow had

taken a glance through the loophole, not because he was imbued with a spirit of mere curiosity, but because it was his duty to do so when a “Germhun” bullet, either by management or good luck, on their part, had struck him immediately just beneath the nose and had passed through his head and clean away from near the base of his skull! They reverently laid him down in the trenches, calm and tranquil in the peace of death. At night a number of his comrades were told to bury him and this they did in a grave to himself, just at the back of the trenches where his remains lay a silent memorial of another gallant sacrifice of one more of Newark’s sons in the fight for freedom and for the destruction of accursed militarism”.

The account was published ‘some few weeks’ after news of George’s death. It also reported that at least two of his brothers were still in the town, including Mr F. Backhouse, a butcher on Barnby Gate.

Military Service record: He enlisted in Newark Regt No 10393, disembarked in France on 4 Nov 1914 and was killed in action on 17 Nov 1914. He is remembered at Le Touret Memorial Panel 26 & 27. Medals: 1914 Star, British, Victory.

BECKETT, Charles Henry **Aged 18, Royal Garrison Artillery**

Two sons of Samuel and Elizabeth Beckett served in the war - Charles Henry and John Thomas. Charles was christened at Coddington Church in November 1896. In 1901 the family lived at the east end of Well Green. His father Samuel, a farm carter, wife Betsey and five children all lived in a 2-bedroom cottage. It had a living room, two bedrooms, scullery and pantry with shared wash-house, coal-house, pigsties and outbuildings. In 1911 Charles was 14 and employed as an agricultural labourer, still living with his parents. The image is from a village football team photo.



A1242

BECKETT, John Thomas **Aged 20, Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry**

Samuel and Elizabeth Beckett christened their son John Thomas at Coddington Church in June 1894. John’s family information is given above under his brother Charles.

BOOTH, Frank **Aged 33, Royal Navy**

Three sons of William and Annie Booth, of Balderton Lane, served in the war - Frank, George and Harry. William Booth was a bricklayer and his wife Annie

came from Barnby. Frank was born on 23 Feb 1881 and was baptised at Coddington Wesleyan Chapel in April 1881.

By 1891 his father William had become a farmer and builder, and the family, including seven children, was living at The Homestead, a smallholding on Balderton Lane. The house contained two sitting rooms, four bedrooms, kitchen, scullery and cellar, plus outbuildings. The children attended the National School and brother Harry appears in surviving examination lists.

Frank learnt the trade of blacksmithing and joined the Royal Navy. By 1911 he was aged 31, married, and serving on HMS Bacchante in the Mediterranean.

BOOTH, George

Aged 28, Army Service Corps (Transport Service)

George was born on 13 Jun 1886 and was baptised at Coddington Chapel in January 1887. George's family information is given above under his brother Frank. By 1911 George was aged 24 and employed as a groom. He lived at 39 Charles Street, Newark with his wife Grace aged 28.

BOOTH, Harry

Aged 38, Army Service Corps, 666 HT Coy

Died 14 Nov 1918

Harry was born in Coddington in 1876. Harry's family information is given above under his brother Frank.

Harry joined the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry (SRY) and served in South Africa during the Boer War. He married Sarah Ann Hempsall and around 1914 took over the Spring House pub in Newark.

Harry enlisted in 1918 aged 42, but died of Spanish influenza on 14 Nov 1918 and is buried in Coddington churchyard. The War Commission awarded Sarah a pension starting on 19 May 1919.

The Newark Advertiser reported:

"Much sympathy will be extended to Mrs. Booth and family, of the "Spring House", Newark, in the death of her husband Private Harry Booth, of the A.S.C. He was the eldest son of Mr and Mrs W. Booth of Coddington, and came to Newark five years ago when he took over the Spring House, and also carried



A2447



on an extensive business as carting contractor. He was called up on August 25 and stationed at Park Royal.

On Tuesday Mrs Booth had a letter from her husband, stating he was suffering from influenza, but not seriously; on Thursday, however, a telegram arrived at one o'clock, stating that he was seriously ill at Fulham Hospital. Mrs Booth was preparing to travel to London when a further telegram arrived at ten to five, informing her of her husband's death at two o'clock."

Military Service record: He enlisted in 1918 aged 42 & 5 months, Regt No T/438905, occupation Contractor. He had previously served for 1 yr 225 days in South Africa in the SRY. Medals: British, Victory.

BROWNLOW, Thomas Henry **Aged 15, 7th Battalion Durham Light Infantry**

Henry, the first child of Edward (blacksmith) and Kate Francis Brownlow (former school teacher), was christened on 22 Oct 1899. In 1901 the blacksmith's young family lived on Newark Rd, probably in the row of cottages which once stood almost opposite Brownlow's House and forge. In 1918 Edward's cottage, which contained 3 upper, 2 lower rooms, a scullery and pantry, was amongst many sold by the Thorpe family.

Henry joined the Durham Light Infantry, but was taken prisoner. The Newark Advertiser gave an account of his experiences in January 1919: "Aged only 19 he arrives home in Coddington, from nine months in captivity. After being taken prisoner while fighting with the 7th Durham Light Infantry on 27 May 1918, he was stripped of all his clothes and belongings, made to work on making roads, starved of food and had no wash for five weeks. He spent several weeks in hospital and was then set to work on a farm near Gotha, ploughing with oxen and threshing with flails. The parcels he received from England made up for the scarcity of food at the farm".

BRIGGS, Edwin **Aged 31, 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters (Notts & Derby Regiment)**

Edwin, who was born in 1883 at Balderton, married Louisa Noble at Coddington Chapel. In 1911 he was a milkman (farm labourer), aged 28, living at 55 Well Green with his wife Louisa 30 and baby daughter. The end cottage, on the north side of the Green, contained 2 upper, 2 lower rooms and a dairy with outbuildings and gardens.

Military Service record: He enlisted with the Sherwood Foresters 15 May 1915 Regt No 3779; Medical: height 5ft 5in, weight 114 lbs, teeth only moderate. He embarked at Folkestone 20 Jun 1917 for Boulogne, arriving at Calais 31 Jun 1917. He became a casualty in the field. He was posted between different regiments (10 Jul 1917) then Notts & Derby, Regt No 306160. He was posted home 17 Jan 1919 with no disabilities. Medals: British, Victory.

Bryan Families

There were a number of Bryan families in Coddington. The “enlisted” Bryans have been recorded here in family groups.

BRYAN, Albert

Aged 18, Northumberland Fusiliers

Wounded in France 15 Sep 1916

Two sons of Arthur and Elizabeth served in the war - Albert and Cyril. Arthur was an iron foundry labourer and the family lived on Beckingham Road. Albert was christened in Coddington Church in November 1896 and by 1901 Arthur and Lizzie's family had grown to five. By 1911 Albert, aged 14 and employed as a groom, was still living at home on Main Street with his parents and siblings. In 1918 Arthur Bryan was listed as a tenant of one of the six cottages by the Old Globe Tavern (opposite Hall Farm, Main St).

We don't know the impact of Albert's wounds in September 1916 - if they meant he was returned home, invalided out, or awarded a disability pension.

BRYAN, Cyril

Aged 23, Nottinghamshire Yeomanry (Sherwood Rangers)

Cyril, son of Arthur and Elizabeth Bryan (see above) was christened at Coddington Church in March 1891. In 1911 Cyril, aged 20, was still living with his parents, brother Albert 14 and three other siblings on Main Street.

BRYAN, Alfred MM

Aged 22, 1st Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment

Killed in France 21 Mar 1918

Alfred was one of three sons of Joshua and Matilda Bryan of Church Lane who served in the war - Joshua F, Alfred and Walter Leonard - two of whom were awarded a Military Medal. Sadly, Alfred and Walter were both killed and Joshua F was wounded. Joshua, an agricultural labourer, and Matilda Bryan had at least thirteen children - Alfred was the tenth and was christened at Coddington Church in November 1892. The family lived at 28 Chapel Lane (then called Church Lane).

Alfred chose an army career in 1910 and fought in the British Expeditionary Force in France and in Ireland. Alfred was 26 when he was killed on the Somme

on 21 Mar 1918. He is commemorated in Pozieres cemetery Panel 23/4. Alfred was awarded the MM (London Gazette 23.8.16, Pg 8360), Silver Medal for Military Valour (Montenegro), British War and Victory medals.

Military Service record: - At his medical 2 Jul 1910 he was 5ft 4 in, weight 134 lbs; posted to 2nd Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment. He was posted to Victoria Barracks Portsmouth (28.12.1911 - 3.1.1912); then to Gibraltar (12.1.1912 - 6.1.1914); then to Bermuda (18.1.1914 - 13.9.1914). Alfred was posted to France with the 1st Bn Lincolnshire Regiment (no 8950), disembarking 5 Nov 1914 as part of the BEF campaign. On 8 Feb 1915 he saw action in the field. On 15 Feb 1915 he returned to England to be posted to Ireland. 18.2.15 - 11.5.1915 he was treated in Belfast Hospital for a bullet wound to his ear. On 6 Jul 1915 he was posted to 1st Battalion. On 26 Sep 1916 he was promoted to acting Sergeant, with the promotion confirmed on 1 Oct 1916.



Both sons who were killed are also remembered on their father's gravestone in Coddington churchyard: "IN LOVING MEMORY OF JOSHUA BRYAN WHO DIED DEC 27 1917 AGED 69 YEARS. ALSO OF WALTER LEONARD, YOUNGEST SON OF THE ABOVE WHO WAS KILLED IN ACTION IN FRANCE APRIL 22, 1918 AGED 19 YEARS. AND OF SGT. ALFRED BRYAN, 1ST LINCOLNS KILLED IN FRANCE MAR 21, 1918 AGED 26. THY WILL BE DONE"

BRYAN, Joshua F, MM **Aged 28, 1st Battalion Yorkshire Regiment** **Wounded in France**

Joshua and Matilda Bryan christened their seventh child, Joshua, at Coddington Church in October 1886. He was brother of Alfred above and Walter below. In 1901 Joshua was a farm boy aged 14, living with his parents and siblings.

He enlisted in the Reserve in 1904, and on Census night 1911 was recorded as a Private in the 1st Yorkshire Regiment. Joshua was called up immediately at the start of the war, sailing to France in October 1914. In 1914 he was promoted to Lance Corporal and, later, to Sergeant. Military Service record: Pte in Regt, No 8006. He was awarded the Military Medal, London Gazette 5.5.1917. Medals: MM, 1914 Star (Clasp/Rose), British, Victory.

The Newark Advertiser reported the achievements of the two brothers - **"Military Medal for Coddington Soldier** - Mr and Mrs Joshua Bryan, of Coddington, have the satisfaction of having two sons, each of whom now

possess the Military Medal. The more recent award was made to Sergeant J.F. Bryan; the previous award was made to Sergeant Alfred Bryan. The gallant sergeant was born at Coddington, and at the age of 18 joined the Yorkshire Regiment and was for some time in India.

Being on the Reserve when war broke out, he was recalled, and on October 4 1914, sailed for France. He had only been out for a few weeks when he was wounded. He came back to England and was in hospital at Colchester, but not for long, for he was out at the front again in March, and was again wounded in July. This time he remained in France, and after a short spell was once more on the front line trenches. In February of last year he was granted a well-earned week's leave to come home. Sergeant J.F. Bryan was sent home and gives no details as to the gallant deed he must have performed to obtain the coveted award of the Military Medal, except for stating that he captured a German machine gun.

Mr and Mrs Bryan are to be congratulated on the splendid records of their sons, and it may be mentioned that in addition to his Military Medal, Sergeant A. Bryan has received a silver medal, the 5th order of Merit of Montenegro”.

BRYAN, Walter Leonard
Aged 15, 52nd Battalion Durham Light Infantry
Killed in France - 22 Apr 1918



Joshua and Matilda Bryan christened their youngest son (known as Leonard) at Coddington Church in March 1899. He was a brother of Alfred and Joshua above. WL Bryan's name does not appear on the Roll of Honour - presumably a transcription error or even evidence for a third missing sheet.

Military Service record: Leonard had his army medical examination to join the forces at Derby, 6 Feb 1917. He was aged 17 & 274 days, height 5ft 6in, Weight 130 lbs. On 17 Feb 1917 he was transferred to the 52nd Bn Durham Light Infantry, Regt No 77838 (5/66187).

On 16 Jan 1918 Leonard wrote his will, leaving all his property and effects to his mother. He was killed "In Field, France", in Flanders, on 22 Apr 1918, aged just 19. His memorial plaque or "Dead Man's Penny" was sent to his family after the war. He is buried at Brandhoek New Mill Cemetery No 3, Belgium. His possessions were sent to his mother Matilda Bryan: "Disc & strap, letter, photos, pocket book and religious book". Medals: British, Victory.

BRYAN, Ernest MM
Aged 15, 8th Battalion Royal
Lancaster Regiment

Ernest was born 24 Aug 1899, the youngest of nine children of Coddington couple Robert and Annie Bryan (nee Marshall).

In 1901 Robert and Annie, aged 42 and 40, lived with their five youngest children at home on Newark Rd. Robert was a farm labourer.

In 1915 Ernest lied about his age and managed to enlist aged only 16 to become Pte Ernest Bryan of 8th Bn Royal Lancaster Regiment (Regt No 41078).

We believe that he won the Military Medal for 'going into no mans' land' to bring a wounded officer back to the lines. He was wounded and sent to hospital. Medals: MM (London Gazette 24.1.19, Pg 1215), British, Victory.



A1972

BRYAN, Ernest James
Aged 29, Army Service Corps (Motor Transport)

Henry & Louisa Bryan baptised their son Ernest James at Coddington Church in March 1885. By 1901 the family had moved to Rickett Lane, Blidworth and Ernest James was a groom aged 16. In 1911 the family had moved again to the 'Horse & Jockey', 105 Balderton Gate, Newark and Ernest had become a mail contractor. During the war he served in the East Africa campaign (a mobile war) and in France, then at Woolwich until December 1919.

Military Service record: On 10 Nov 1915 he joined (Regt No 148662) as a driver in 632 MT Company, Army Service Corps, Motor Transport. He embarked from Devonport 7 Mar 1916 and disembarked at Kilindini Harbour, Mombasa Kenya. He was transferred to Nairobi suffering dysentery. He was at Korogive 28 Jun 1916. He was suffering Malaria 10 May 1917.

He was posted back to Britain - to Norwood, 28 Nov 1917, Holland Park 28 Mar 1918. On 4 Nov 1918 he embarked at Folkestone for France, disembarking at Boulogne 4 Nov 1918 to No 2 L of C area reception camp. To BMT.D (N) 16 Dec 1918, on to 335 Coy 29 Dec 1918. Invalided to UK 17 Oct 1919 and served at Woolwich until 22 Dec 1919. Medals: British, Victory.

BURGESS, Ernest Godfrey

Aged 22, 6th Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment

Ernest Godfrey, the son of John and Mary Ann Burgess of 116 Beacon Hill Newark, was born 8 Apr 1892 at Battersea in Surrey. In 1906 he started work at Ransome & Marles as an apprentice iron moulder, where his wages rose from 5s/week (25p) to 16s/week in 1913. Ernest lived at home on Beacon Hill but his brother Albert Edward Burgess lived in Main Street, Coddington.

Military Service record: Ernest enlisted 28 Aug 1914 (Service no.10530, Lincolnshire Regt) when he was described as 5ft 7in, 156 lbs, chest 36in, light brown hair, blue eyes and fresh complexion. He was posted 9 Sep 1914 and appointed lance corporal 5 Oct 1914. Ernest entered the Balkans 18 Jul 1915, was made acting corporal 8 Aug 1915 but was later seriously wounded. His leg was amputated because a GSW to his right thigh became gangrenous. Discharged 14 Jun 1916 as permanently and totally disabled for military service, he received a military pension for the rest of his life. Medals: 1914-15 Star, British, Victory.

In Aug 1923 Ernest married Lily Henton (the daughter of John and Eliza Henton, whose five brothers also served in WWI). Ernest was eventually fitted with an artificial leg and used to ride to work on an adapted one-pedal bicycle to Ransome & Marles, where he was a ball bearing inspector. Ernest and Lily together raised three daughters - Edna, Sylvia Ann and Gillian. He died in 1972, aged 80, and was reunited with Lily in Coddington graveyard in 1997.

CAMPION, John (Jack)

Aged 17, Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry

Two sons of Thomas and Eliza Campion served in the war - John and Charles. Thomas (a wheelwright) and Eliza Campion (née Crashley) christened John at Coddington Church on 26 Dec 1897. The family lived at 39 Main St next to The Plough (now Jasmine Cottage). Jack was called up, but only arrived at the front in France on Armistice Day, 11 Nov 1918. The photo is from a Coddington FC Team photo.



A1243

CAMPION, Charles

Aged 15, ASC, Sherwood Foresters

Thomas was born 1899 and baptised at Coddington Church. He was the son of Thomas and Eliza Campion and brother of John (Jack) see above. Charles also played for Coddington FC.

Military Service record: Regt No 12592, ASC M/412447. On 1 Jul 1914 he was assessed by the Army Service Corps (for Boy's Service probably) at the military

workshop at Grove Park, and classified as “Grade 2 Turner”. He enlisted on 25 Nov 1917, joining 4th Bn Sherwood Foresters, transferred to 3rd Bn 1919 and posted to Liverpool. Discharged 6 Dec 1919, with no disabilities.

After the war Charles was unable to get his job back at WN Nicholson’s Ironworks - he did farm labouring until he could rebuild his career in Ransome & Marles’ tool shop.

CANT, Charles William
Aged 28, 2nd Battalion Yorkshire Regiment
Killed in France - 1 Jul 1916

Two of John and Sarah Elizabeth Cant’s sons served in the War - Charles William and Walter. Charles was born in 1886. The boys attended Coddington National School and appear in exam or attendance award lists from 1893. In 1901 the boys, and their sister, lived in Chapel Lane with their grandmother Sarah Reynolds. By 1911 Charles was aged 24, single, and a career soldier (Corporal) in the 1st Bn Yorkshire Regiment. He was an ‘Old Contemptible’, entering the war in France at its outbreak.



A2949

Military Service record: Charles William was a Company Sergeant Major with the 2nd Bn Yorkshire Regiment (Regt No 7897) He disembarked 5 Oct 1914. Charles was 30 when he was killed in France on 1 Jul 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme. He is buried at Dantzig Alley British Cemetery, Mametz, (Memorial 43). Medals: 1914 Star (Clasp/Rose), British, Victory.

CANT, Walter
Aged 25, 2nd Battalion Leicestershire Regiment

Walter, the second son of John W and Sarah E Cant, and brother of Charles, above, was born in 1889. He went to Coddington National School. By 1911 Walter, aged 22 still lived on Church Lane, with Sarah Reynolds aged 75. He was a labourer and also played for Coddington FC.

Military Service record: Regt No12394 Leics Regt, 65402 Corps of Hussars, Pte. Enlisted 1 Sep 1914 at Newark. Medical: 14 Sep 1914, 5ft 7in, 157 lbs, fitness A. England: 1 Sep 1914 - Jun 1915 training as a Machine Gunner. France: July 1915 - August 1916. England: Sep 1916 - 11 Jul 1917. France: 12 Jul 1917 -

30 Sep 1917. England: 10 Oct 1917. Demobilization Class Z Reserve. 0% disability, no pension. Medals: 1914-15 Star, British, Victory.

Hospital: 6 Jul 1916 Beaufort Hospital, Bristol "Boils"; Calais 25 Jun 1917 & 31 Aug 1917 Bad eyesight, Blood Poisoning; 9 Oct 1917 Old Park Canterbury, inflammation of eyelids (Blepharites), Eye & Ear Hospital, Tunbridge Wells 23 Nov 1917.

Posted to 3rd Bn Leics Regt 4 Dec 1917, Posted to 1st Leics Yeomanry at Canterbury 7 May 1918. Unfit as a driver 30 Oct 1919. Eye report 6 Mar 1918 defective vision, blood poisoning.

CARBY, William **Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders**

There are no Carby names in the Coddington Census lists 1861 - 1911. A Thomas Carby lived in Post Office Row in 1918

CATTON, Lieutenant Thomas William **Aged 30, 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters**



Military Record: Thomas Catton, Coddington Police Constable, joined 8th Sherwood Foresters on 17 May 1915 Regt No 71267. He was promoted to Sergeant on 1 Jun 1915, then to Warrant Officer Class 2, as Company Sergeant Major, on 1 Oct 1915. He was commissioned second lieutenant into the 3rd Bn Lincolnshire Regt on 30 May 1917, but was graded as disabled after he was shot in the back and stomach at Ypres on 4 Oct 1917. He fought on, serving in Ireland from January 1918 and was promoted to lieutenant on 30 Nov 1918.

He was demobbed 13 Mar 1919 and awarded the Silver War (Wound) Badge. It was introduced in Sep 1916, worn on the right breast with civilian clothing, to indicate an honourable discharge due to wounds or sickness. Medals: British, Victory.

CLARICOATES, George Henry **Aged 29, Petty Officer Stoker** **Drowned with his ship HMS Good Hope 1 Nov 1914**

A Claricoates family lived in Balderton Lane, and we presume that they were responsible for George Henry Claricoates' name appearing on our Roll of Honour. In 1911 he was aged 26, a stoker 1st Class based at Portsmouth.

He drowned, aged 29, when HMS Good Hope was sunk on Sunday 1 Nov 1914. Petty Officer Stoker George Henry Claricoates' death is recorded on Panel 3 of the Portsmouth Naval Memorial. The Portsmouth Evening News, 24 Nov, carried an obituary: "beloved husband of Ethel Clarricoates (sic), 11 Haslemere Road, Portsmouth. Not lost, but gone before."

Military record: - Service No 306293. Medals: 1914-15 Star, British, Victory.



HMS Good Hope, flagship of Rear Admiral Sir Christopher Craddock, was a Drake class armoured cruiser crewed mainly by reservists. She was sunk with all hands in the first large naval engagement of WWI, at the Battle of Coronel off the coast of Chile. The German ships including the Scharnhorst and the Gneisenau were under the command of Count Maximilian von Spee.

The German ships sailed to the Falkland Islands into the path of two British dreadnought battleships Inflexible and Invincible, waiting at Port Stanley - Scharnhorst and Gneisenau were destroyed on 8 Dec 1914.

CRAMPTON, Benjamin **Aged 19, Royal Marines**

Benjamin Crampton was born in 1895 in Dunholme, Lincolnshire. By 1901 his parents, maltings labourer David and Martha, and their four young children lived on Well Green. In 1911, Benjamin was aged 16 and a horseman living at Greenman Farm, Navenby, Lincoln.

Military Service record: He joined the Royal Marine Light Infantry 22 Jul 1912 Regt No PLY 15744. He then joined the Voluntary Boat Service and in 1918 was still a Private in the RMLI, serving until 1920. Medals: 1914 Star, British, Victory.

CULLEN, George Edward **Aged 21, 2nd Light Horse Brigade (Australian)**

The son of Richard and Sarah Ann Cullen was born on 2nd Dec 1893, and was baptised at Coddington Chapel in December 1893. The family lived on Balderton Lane. By 1911 George was an agricultural labourer aged 17, still living with his parents. His parents are buried at Coddington.

CURTIS, John Fletcher
Aged 33, Royal Garrison Artillery

John Fletcher Curtis was born in Lincoln c1881, the son of Edmund Curtis and his wife Ann (née Fletcher). In 1907 he married Bertha Frances Morley and by 1911 the couple and their two sons lived at 24 Bowbridge Road, Newark. Sadly, Bertha died early in 1915.

John enlisted in the RGA, 10 Dec 1915, giving his address as 49 Lime Grove, and his next of kin as his son Cyril Norman Curtis of 6 Bowbridge Road, Newark. He served on 293 Siege Battery RGA No. 142618.

In 1923 John married Beatrice May Watson and by 1924 he was employed as a tailor in Seely & Curtis, in the Arcade in Newark. John lived to be 92, and is buried with Beatrice in Coddington churchyard.

DERRY, Arthur
Aged 27, 6th Battalion Black Watch

Two sons of William and Harriett Derry served in the war - Arthur and Frank. Arthur was christened at Coddington Church on 14 Mar 1887. His father was a wagoner (carter) living on Main St. In 1901 Arthur was a farm boy, aged 14, but by 1911 his career had changed markedly, for he was a footman at 19, Princes Gardens, London SW.

DERRY, Frank
Aged 24, Yorkshire Regiment

William and Harriett Derry christened their youngest son Frank at Coddington Church on the 31 Aug 1890. He was brother of Arthur, above. In 1911 he was aged 24, a gardener at 105 Bell House Road, Shireen, Sheffield - however, he returned to marry Annie Crampton at Coddington Church on 22 Dec 1915.

Military Service record: He joined the Sherwood Foresters on 3 Nov 1915 Regt No 29774. He was transferred to the Yorkshire Regiment and posted "at home" until 5 Jun 1916, then on to France, where he served 5 Jun 1916 - 20 Feb 1919. He was returned "home" 21 Feb 1919 - 23 Mar 1919, and was demobbed 24 Mar 1919. Medals: British, Victory.

FRYER, John William
Aged 30, 6th Battalion Sherwood Foresters, Machine Gun Corps

John William was born at Chadwell, Leicestershire in 1884, the son of Edwin and Henrietta Fryer. He became a horseman, working at Stapleford Grange, Newark. At South Muskham Church in August 1905 he married Sarah Eliza Parker. By 1911 he lived at Farnsfield, an agricultural labourer aged 27. In the period 1938-1942 he lived at 'Newlands' in Coddington.

Military Service record: When he enlisted he was in 6th Bn Sherwood Foresters, Machine Gun Corps, Regt No 81773. Medical: 5 ft. 7 in tall, in good health. He was posted to Woolwich 28 Oct 1915 and transferred on 11 Sep 1916 to the 11th Training Reserve Bn. He was posted to France 12 Feb 1917. On 22 Feb 1918 he was judged "No longer physically fit for war service". He was discharged and sent home to Coddington, with a weekly pension of 27s. 6d, payable from that date. Medals: British, Victory.

GASH, Bertie

Aged 23, 3/6th Battalion Cheshire Regiment

James and Martha Gash's son Bertie was born on 25 Aug 1891 and he was baptised at Coddington Chapel in September 1891. His father was an agricultural labourer and by 1901 the family lived in Branston, Lincolnshire. By 1911 he had become a grocer's assistant aged 19.

The Cheshires' Territorial and New Army regiments fought in France and the Middle East (Gallipoli, Sinai, Palestine, Salonika and Mesopotamia).

GLANVILLE, Thomas

Royal Garrison Artillery

We assume that Thomas is Mr T E Glanville, who in 1918 lived in a cottage on the west side of Well Green. It was part of a row of three, containing 2 upper, 2 lower rooms and a pantry.

GOODBAND, George

Aged 26, Canadian Rifles

William and Lavina Goodband had two sons who served in the war - George and William.

George was christened at Coddington Church on 22 Mar 1888. In 1901 the family were living in Hough's Yard (cottages and workshops at the T-junction of Main St and Beckingham Rd, opposite the Plough). The couple had five children. Their father William, an agricultural labourer, died in August 1904 and was buried in the churchyard. By 1911 George was no longer living at home, and we don't know how he came to serve in the Canadian Rifles.

GOODBAND, William

Aged 29, 5th Battalion North Staffordshire Regiment

William's family, the household of William Snr and Lavina Goodband, lived in Hough's Yard (see George above). By 1911 William was an agricultural labourer aged 16, living at home with his young widowed mother. Lavina lived almost forty years longer than her husband but they were reunited in Coddington churchyard.

GOMER, Charles

Aged 30, Army Service Corps (Formerly Sherwood Rangers)

Two sons of Charles and Elizabeth Gomer served in the war - Charles and Thomas. Young Charles was christened at Coddington Church on 4 Feb 1884. Charles Snr was James Thorpe's butler at Coddington Hall, and his family lived at Almond Cottage, Newark Rd. The children attended the National school and appear in exam lists. His sister Elizabeth went on to become a teacher at the village school and is still remembered by her former pupils.

In 1901 Charles Jnr was at home in Coddington and employed as a gardener. Charles remained a gardener under John S Thorpe and joined the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry - a regiment much supported by the Thorpe family. He was still listed as head gardener at Coddington Hall in 1916, when the Hall had become an army training centre. He may have moved from the Yeomanry to the Army Service Corps as the army was reorganised with mass conscription, or when the return of the Thorpe family became doubtful after John S Thorpe's death.

GOMER, Thomas

Aged 24, Army Cyclist Corps

We know little about Thomas after 1901, when he was aged 11 living with his parents at Almond Cottage. He joined the Army Cyclist Corps, Regt No 11395. Medals: British, Victory.

GROCOCK, Horace

Aged 20, 20th Hussars Wounded in France

Horace, the son of J T and Theodosia Grocock, was born around 1894. His father, a farmer and beer house keeper, was born in Barnby - as were all his seven children, of whom Horace was fifth.

Horace's military record is rather difficult to understand, but we know he went early to war, in an 'Old Contemptibles' cavalry regiment which played a part in the mobile war checking the initial German advance. He was wounded in France, at some stage. Military Service record: 20th Hussars, attached Royal Horse Gds; Machine Gun Corps; 13RCR, 14th Hussars, Regt No 6470, 41969, 6470, 7815988, Medals: 1914 Star, British, Victory.

HART, Matthew Henry

Aged 18, 6th Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment

Died 9 Dec 1915 of wounds received at Gallipoli

Matthew Henry Hart was the third of four children of maltings worker William Henry and his wife Selina, who lived near the corner of Well Green and Drove Lane.

Matthew enlisted at Market Rasen. Military Service record: Private Matthew Henry Hart (no. 9837). He disembarked with the Lincolnshire Regt at Gallipoli on 18 Jul 1915. He died in England on 9 Dec 1915 of his wounds, received at Gallipoli, and is buried in Market Rasen Cemetery, Grave 452. Medals: 1914-15 Star, British, Victory.

The 6th (Service) Lincolns, a new regiment, moved to Belton Park, Grantham. The Division assembled 4 April 1915 at Witley & Frensham for final training and sailed for Gallipoli from Liverpool, via Mudros, end June 1915. They landed near Lala Baba, Suvla Bay on 7 Aug and the Lincolnshire and Border Regiments took Chocolate Hill the same day. The regiment were also at the Battle of Scimitar Hill and attack on Hill 60. On 24 Sep Maj Tallents (Sherwood Rangers) found the Black and White House towards Scimitar Hill full of unburied dead from the Dorset and 6th Lincolns.

In 1918 Matthew's father William Hart was renting Lot 58, a 3-bedroom cottage previously part of the stockyard of the farm-maltings complex on Well Green (now part of Manor Dairy Farmhouse).

HENDERY, Harold Monarch **Aged 30, Army Service Corps (Transport Service)**

Harold was born in the Emigrants hospital, Ellis Island, New York on 21 Mar 1884. His parents George and Elizabeth Jackson Hendery had gone to America in 1882. Elizabeth brought her family back to England and Harold was christened by the Captain of the ship Lydia Monarch.

In 1886 Elizabeth died of TB (tuberculosis), the family were split up and Harold was taken in by John (blacksmith) & Christiania Brownlow of Brownlow's House, Coddington. Harold went to the village school. By 1901 he was the blacksmith's adopted son aged 17. (The photo shows Harold as a boy).



T1006

On 21 Mar 1908, aged 24, Harold was recorded on the passenger list of the RMS Mauretania, travelling with friend Mr Brownlow of Coddington to New Haven, Connecticut. In 1914 he returned to England to fight in the war, returning afterwards to the USA.



A1952

Coddington FC 1913

Cup Winners (Champions) District League. Top L-R: Mr Brownlow (President), J Kelham (Trainer), Cresswell, Reynolds, F Henton, Ward, C Campion, Thornhill, H Bombroffe (Secretary). Centre: (unknown), Jack Judson, Burgess. Bottom: 'Gunner' Bryan, Chas Beckett, Dick Tindall (Captain), Harry Walster, Pickering.



A1242

Coddington FC Post 1914-18 War

Top L-R: C Beckett, R Tindall, (unknown), E Reynolds, H Henton, J Kelham (Trainer). Centre: J Judson.

Bottom L-R: J Walster, J Fixter, H Burgess, F Fixter, E Ward.

Henton Families

There were a number of Henton families in Coddington - Five households in the 1901 Census - so unravelling them is hard. The men on the Roll of Honour are from two households:

Arthur/Ellen Henton, Balderton Lane - son Alfred

John/Eliza Henton, Well Green (and Langford Moor) - sons Arthur, Albert, David, Harry and John Thomas

HENTON, Alfred

Aged 21, 22nd Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers

Killed in France 11 Apr 1918

Alfred was born on 29 Jan 1893, the son of Arthur and Ellen Henton and was baptised at Coddington Chapel in March 1893. His father was a maltings worker and the family, with three children, lived on Balderton Lane. Alfred attended the National School. By 1911, aged 17, Alfred was living with Coddington farmer Fred Wallhead and working as an agricultural labourer.



A2946

Military Service record: He joined the Sherwood Foresters (Notts & Derby Regt) Regt No 47734, but like many soldiers, Alfred was moved between fighting units. By 1918 he was a Private with 22nd (Tyneside Scottish) Bn Northumberland Fusiliers (No. 60418).

He was killed on 11 Apr 1918, aged 25. Like Charles Young, he was laid to rest in the Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery in the village of Souchez, France Grave ref. XX.C.5.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Alfred as “Son of Arthur Henton of Kneeton, East Bridgford, Nottingham, late of Coddington, Newark”. Medals: British, Victory.

HENTON, Albert

Aged 26, 1st Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment

Severely Wounded in France

Albert Henton, the son of John and Eliza Henton, was born in 1888 at Langford Moor. By 1901 his parents lived in a cottage on Well Green; they had seven children in all, with five still at home. John Snr was a Coddington-born maltings

worker. Albert chose an army career and so was one of the first to serve in WWI, with the 'Old Contemptibles'.

Military Service record: 1911 Albert (24) Private - 1st Bn Lincolnshire Regiment, Regt No 7532; His postings were: Home: 5 Feb 1908 - 20 Feb 1911; Aden: 21 Feb 1911 - Jan 1912; Gibraltar: 13 Jan 1912 - 3 Mar 1913. Home: 4 Mar 1913 - 25 Aug 1913; Expeditionary Force France: 26 Aug 1914 - 19 Nov 1914. Wounded and discharged 20 Sep 1915. Statement: No. 7532 of 2nd Bn Lincolnshire Regiment having served 9 yrs with the colours agrees to be transferred to Army Service Reserve. Medals: 1914 Star, British, Victory.

His family have preserved an undated cutting from Newark Advertiser describing Albert's wounds:

"Coddington Man's Injury - Bullet wound brings on Paralysis

Lance Corporal A Henton of the 1st Lincolns, who lies in the Nottingham General Hospital suffering from the dire effects of a wound in the "neck", which has unfortunately brought on paralysis of the limbs, is a native of Coddington near Newark. He had served 10 years with the Lincolns and was on reserve when war broke out.

Since then his time has been passed mainly in the thick of battle, and he had been many weeks of tense fighting before he sustained, on Easter Monday, the injury which has incapacitated him, and all events for the time being. It was at half-past seven in the morning when he was wounded, and not until ten o'clock at night when it was possible for his comrades to move him to the dressing tent.

Corporal Henton formed one of the band of Lincolns who shared in the brilliant recovery of six guns, a feat for which they received the special praise of the Commander-in-Chief. But it was at a heavy cost that the deed was done, for over 400 of the regiment were killed or wounded. "We had a pretty rough time on the Marne too", he adds "but escaped till this bullet came through my neck and tore many of the muscles." The wound itself has healed well, and Corporal Henton has quite recovered the use of his voice, but his legs and arms are more or less paralysed, and his recovery must necessarily be slow".

HENTON, Arthur Aged 29, Notts & Derby Regiment

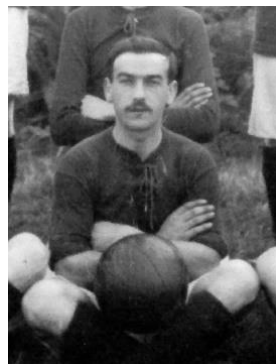
Arthur Henton, the son of John and Eliza Henton, was born in 1885 at Langford Moor. See Albert above. By 1901 Arthur, aged 16, had become a wagoner for Robert Priestley living at Highfield House, Stapleford. In 1911 Census he was 26 living at 24 Elgin Place, Appleton Gate, Newark with his wife Clara.

He died in 1945 and is buried in Coddington churchyard.

HENTON, David
Aged 23, Notts & Derby Regiment

John and Eliza christened David at Coddington Church on 26 Mar 1891. See Albert above. He was born at Langford, before the family moved to Well Green.

We have no record of David's war career - the picture is from a Coddington FC team photo.



HENTON, Harry
Aged 16, Notts. & Derby Regiment

Harry Henton, the son of John and Eliza Henton, was born in 1898 at Langford Moor, but later the family lived on Well Green. See Albert above. Harry also played for Coddington FC. Military Service record: Regt No 305704; Medals: British, Victory.

HENTON John Thomas
Aged 30, Royal Scots Fusiliers

The eldest son of John and Eliza Henton was born in 1884. See Albert above. In 1911 aged 26, he lived on Well Green with his family.

Military Record: Regt No 201366, Medals: British, Victory (photo of his original medals).



JUDSON, John
Aged 20, Royal Field Artillery



In 1891, John's parents, William and Sarah Rebeckah Judson (nee Henton) lived on Well Green, later moving to Main Street between two Henton households. William was an agricultural labourer, John was the sixth of seven children.

In 1911 John, aged 17, was working as a moulder in an iron factory and living at home with his father, now a widower. The photo of John is taken from a 1912/13 Coddington FC team photo.

He died on 10 Nov 1962; his wife Annie died on 18 Mar 1982; both are buried in Coddington churchyard. The inscription on his slate gravestone states 'Served in France R.F.A 1914 - 18'.

LEE, Charles Richard **Aged 34, Army Service Corps**

Two sons of Reuben and Sophia Lee served in the war - Charles Richard and George Moore. Charles was baptised at Coddington Church on 1 Oct 1880. In 1881 his parents, then with three children, lived on Newark Road and were farming 200 acres. By 1891 Census Reuben was a brewer's traveller with four children and the family lived at Kimberley, Notts.

By 1901 Charles had joined the Territorial Army as a butcher, aged 20, and was at Aldershot. He died aged 77 at Armounderness, Lancashire.

Military Service record: His Medical Card showed he served in the Territorial Force pre-WWI. He served in Army Cyclist Corps (TF), Army Service Corps & Royal Army Service Corps (Transport Force) (Regt Nos T/567, T4/249814, S/28115). He went to France in April 1915 after being promoted to Sergeant.

After 5 years he was 'dis-embodied' (returning to part-time service) for which he received a Territorial Efficiency Medal. In 1928 12 years further voluntary service gained him a clasp for his TEF. Medals: 1914-15 Star, British, Victory.

LEE, George Moore DSM **Aged 32, Royal Navy**

George was born in Coddington on 10 Aug 1881. See Charles above. His parents, Reuben and Sophia Lee farmed on Newark Rd. By 1901 George, aged 19, was an Able Seaman based at Penzance Dock, Cornwall. In 1911 he was a Petty Officer 2nd Class (Seaman) No 190273 based at Southampton. We know little about his naval career, but his bravery and resourcefulness were recognised with a Distinguished Service Medal (comparable to the Military Medal).

LEE, William **Aged 17, Notts & Derby Regiment**

William Lee was born 1897 into the Coddington milling dynasty based on Balderton Lane. His father Edward (corn miller) married Hannah Elizabeth Daybell in 1890 at Coddington Church. In 1901 they had seven children. By 1911 William, aged 14, was working in the family business.

Military Service record: Regt No 47347 Notts & Derby Regiment - Medical at Derby, 23 May 1916: 19yrs 2 months, 5ft 8in, chest 33in, weight 140lb. He was posted to Lancashire Fusiliers Regt No 2260, and released from service 31 Oct 1919. Medals: British, Victory.

A William Lee lived at Stone Cottage, Balderton Lane 1957 - 1961.

MABBOT, Harold
Aged 22, Army Service Corps

Harold was christened in Coddington Church on 28 Jul 1892 - the youngest of seven children of Fanny and Richard Mabbot (a farm horseman from Hough on the Hill). They moved to Coddington 1885 to live on Main St, near the Plough. By 1911 Harold was a gas stoker aged 19, living at home with his parents. No other records of his service in the Army Service Corps or later life.

MARSDEN, Thomas
2nd Battalion Cheshire Regiment
Died of wounds Flanders 3 Oct 1915

Thomas Marsden Bryan, the son of Fanny Bryan, was born in Coddington in 1892. In 1901, aged 9 he lived in Well Green, with his uncle James Bryan, mother Fanny 'a domestic' aged 36, and three siblings.



By 1911 he was a labourer aged 19, living on Well Green with his mother and two siblings.

Military Service record: Private Thomas Marsden (Regt No 28423) enlisted in Newark in 2nd Battalion Cheshire Regiment (he was formerly 5045, Notts & Derby Regiment). He disembarked on 14 Sep 1915 and died of his wounds on 3 Oct 1915 in Flanders. He is buried at Chocques Military Cemetery.

Medals: 1914-15 Star, British, Victory.

MOSS, Charles
Aged 27, Royal Engineers

Charles's father, Mathew Moss was born in Newark in 1853, dying there in 1888. In 1891 his widowed mother, a laundress aged 39, was living in Newark Road, Coddington with three children including Charles aged 4. Charles attended the National School, Coddington.

By 1901 Charles was a surveyor's clerk aged 14 and still lived on Newark Road. No other records of Charles's service in the Royal Engineers, or his later life.

NOBLE, George
Aged 28, Durham Light Infantry

In 1891 George lived at Sutton on Trent with his parents Eliza and John Noble (a farmer) and four siblings. By 1901 his parents were farming on Drove Lane, Coddington. George, a farm servant aged 15 was living on Beckingham Road with farmers William and Mary Else. By 1911 he was a wagoner, aged 24, living at Park Farm, Pleasley, Mansfield. No record of service in the Durham Light Infantry, or later life.

PARKES, Fred
Aged 21, Army Service Corps

Fred was christened on 17 Mar 1893 at Coddington Church. He was one of eight children of Samuel Parkes and his wife Emily (nee Henton), who kept 'The Red Lion', on Main St (opposite the lower end of Chapel Lane) and also farmed. By 1911 Fred, aged 18, was working in the family business and living at home. No record of his war service. He was a small scale post-war farmer, living on Beckingham Rd.

PICKSLEY, Fountain
Aged 38, Grenadier Guards

Fountain, born 1876, was the son of John and Sarah Picksley who from 1874 farmed at Rose Vale Farm, Balderton Lane. He stayed on at Coddington National School until he reached standard VII in 1891. Fountain moved into the family business and by 1912 was a senior committee member of the NFU Newark branch, probably running Rose Vale.

Military Service record: - Regt No Pte 26079. Medals: British, Victory.

He died aged 90 on 2 Nov 1966 and is buried in Coddington churchyard.



RAGSDALE, Arthur
Aged 22, Coldstream Guards

Three of George and Sarah Ragsdale's sons served in the war - George T, Joseph and Arthur. Arthur was christened at Coddington Church on 20 Nov 1892. The family lived on Well Green; in all there were five siblings. By 1911 Arthur aged 18 has become a groom at Langford Moor Farm, Coddington.

Military Service record: Regt No 20463, Pte. Medals: British, Victory.

BRITISH SERVICE & GALLANTRY MEDALS 1914 -1918



Distinguished Service Order

Awarded to officers of the armed forces during war, typically in actual combat. Less than 9,000 orders and 786 bars were awarded for “distinguished services during active operations against the enemy.” (A level 2 award.)

Maj Godfrey Edward Tallents
Maj Hugh Tallents
Maj Gervase Thorpe
Maj Harold Thorpe



Military Medal

Created on 25.3.1916 for personnel of the British Army and other services, below commissioned rank, for bravery in battle on land. Over 115,000 medals were awarded for “acts of gallantry and devotion to duty under fire.” (A level 3 award.)

Sgt Alfred Bryan; Pte Ernest Bryan; Sgt Joshua F Bryan; Sgt George Ragsdale; Sgt John Thomas Walster; Sgt Arthur William Walster

Distinguished Service Medal (Royal Navy equivalent of MM)

PO George Moore Lee



Military Cross

Created on 28.12.1914 for commissioned officers of the rank of Captain or below and for Warrant Officers. Over 37,000 were awarded for “gallantry during active operations against the enemy.” (A level 3 award.)

Capt John Somerled Thorpe

Bar(s) could be awarded to all these medals to recognise further acts of merit.

BRITISH CAMPAIGN MEDALS



The 1914 & 1914-15 Stars (Pip)

British Empire campaign medals, for all ranks, recognising early entry into the war.

The 1914 (Mons) Star was for British forces in France or Belgium between 5.8.14 - 22.11.14 (with 'Clasp and Rose' if within range of enemy mobile artillery). The 1914-15 Star was for British and Imperial forces (other than 1914 Star recipients) who served in any theatre of War between 5.8.1914 - 31.12.15. Star holders also always received the British War Medal and Victory Medal - the trio was referred to as 'Pip, Squeak, and Wilfred'.



The British War Medal (Squeak)

British Empire campaign medal.

Approved in 1919, for all ranks of British and Imperial forces for service between 5.8.1914 - 11.11.1918.

To qualify men needed to have at least 28 days mobilised service in the period and have entered an active theatre of war (or have left the United Kingdom for service overseas).

The medal was automatically awarded to those who died on active service without completing 28 days service.



The Victory Medal (Wilfred)

United Kingdom campaign medal awarded to all ranks. (Also called the Inter-Allied Victory Medal.) Issued to all those who received the 1914 Star or 1914 - 1915 Star, and to most of those who were awarded the British War Medal.

Those entering the war after 31.12.15 received The British War Medal and the Victory Medal, which together were known as 'Mutt and Jeff'

RAGSDALE, George MM
Aged 30, Royal Garrison Artillery

George Snr and Sarah Ann Ragsdale's son George was christened at Coddington Church on 19 Oct 1884. See Arthur above. In 1901 he was an agricultural labourer at Hill Farm, Balderton Lane, working for Charles R Daybell. By 1911, aged 26, he was a Police Constable based at Grays Inn Road, Holborn, London.

Military Service record: Royal Garrison Artillery, Regt No. 12662. Cpl Ragsdale rose to Sgt, and was awarded the Military Medal. Medals: MM (London Gazette 14.11.16, Pg 11142), 1914-15 Star, British, Victory.

RAGSDALE, Joseph
Aged 26, Royal Garrison Artillery

Joseph, son of George Snr and Sarah Ragsdale was christened at Coddington Church on 3 Jun 1888. See Arthur above. He went into service as a houseboy and in 1901 he was aged 13, living at 53 Lyall Mews, St George Hanover Square, Knightsbridge. No record of army service.

REYNARD, Charles Robert
Aged 21, Army Service Corps (Transport Service)

Two sons of Henry L and Maria Reynard served in the war - Charles Robert (1893) and Henry William (1891).

Henry Reynard, who had been born in Eckington in Yorkshire, lived at Hillside House, Beacon Hill with his Parisian wife, Maria. The couple 'lived on their own means'. No other record of Charles Robert's wartime service.

REYNARD, Henry William
Aged 23

The elder son of Henry L and Maria Reynard of Hillside, born 1891 (see Charles Robert above). No further record of his wartime service.

REYNOLDS, George Lancelot
Aged 16, Notts & Derby Regiment

Three sons of Walter Erasmus and Phoebe Reynolds (nee Hutchinson) served in the war - Walter E, Raymond and George Lancelot. Walter, born and schooled in Coddington, was a maltings labourer, who eventually settled his family on Chapel Lane. George Lancelot was christened in Coddington Church on 15 May 1898. By 1901 his parents, aged 27, had a young family of four.

Military Service record: Pte Regt No 11996. Medals: British, Victory.

REYNOLDS, Raymond

Aged 17, 5th Battalion North Staffordshire Regiment

Raymond was born at Staythorpe, Notts in 1897, shortly before the family moved to Chapel Lane, Coddington (see George Lancelot above). In 1911 Raymond was a malster's labourer aged 14.

Military Service record: Regt Nos 203300 N Staffs; Pte, No 235168 (King's) Liverpool Regt; T459554 Army Service Corps - Horse Transport). Medals: British, Victory.

REYNOLDS, Walter Ernest

Aged 20, Notts. & Derby Regiment

Walter Ernest was born at Averham, Notts in 1894 (see George Lancelot above). In 1911 Walter was a malster's labourer aged 17, still living at home. No other record of his wartime service.

RICHARDS, William Arthur

Aged 15, Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry

William Arthur Richards was born on 17 Apr 1899 and baptised at Coddington Church in June 1899. In 1901 Census his parents, cowman Harry Richards and Susannah (nee Daniel), were one of three households listed as living at Beaconfield Farm (or within the grounds/at the entrance to Coddington Hall.) In 1911 the family lived on Main Street.

Arthur joined the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry in 1918. The war ended whilst he was completing his training on the Lincolnshire coast.



A577

SMALLEY, Thomas

Aged 23, Royal Flying Corps

Thomas, the son of William and Eliza Smalley, was born in Coddington and christened at Coddington Church 8 Oct 1891. William was a carpenter/ woodsman aged 40, and the father of a family of nine children. The family lived on Newark Rd near to Brownlow's House.

By 1911 Thomas was a gardener aged 17 or 19, living at home. No record of his wartime service.

SMITH, Charles Whadcoat **Aged 27, Chaplain to the Forces**

Two sons of Rev Charles and Mary Smith served in the war - Charles Whadcoat and Francis Herbert.

Charles was born at Great Woolstone, Buckinghamshire, the youngest son of Coddington's future vicar, Rev Charles Penswick Smith (and brother to Constance, the campaigner for the revival of Mothering Sunday). In 1890 the family moved to Newark Road, Coddington into the new vicarage completed in 1874.

By 1901 Charles Whadcoat was aged 14, still living at the house now called 'The Old Parsonage' with his parents, aged 56 and 53. Charles Whadcoat was one of four brothers who all went to University on scholarships (three to Cambridge and one to Oxford) then took Holy Orders.

When war broke out Charles became a military chaplain (Padre), but we have no record of his wartime service. Padres carried no weapons even at the front; their duty was to provide spiritual guidance to men of any Christian denomination who sought it. Their work was often dangerous - administering the last rites to men wounded in no man's land; comforting men injured in battle in field hospitals; conducting burial services; addressing troops and other more mundane tasks such as helping soldiers read or write letters.

SMITH, Francis Herbert **Aged 37, Staff, Bengal Ecclesiastical, India and Mesopotamia** **Expeditionary Force**

The son of Rev Charles Penswick & Mary Caroline, born at Dagnall, Buckinghamshire 31 Jul 1877 (see Charles Whadcoat above). Francis was educated at Queens' College (Cambridge), and by 1901 he was in Holy Orders at Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon. At some point he married and emigrated to Mussoorie, a hill-station town 2000m up in the Himalayan foothills of Uttarakhand, India. Mussoorie was the HQ of 7th Meerut Division, Indian Army and Francis was on the staff of the Bengal Ecclesiastical Service.

In 1914 7th (Meerut) Division was part of the Indian Expeditionary Force A, sent to reinforce the BEF fighting in France. Their arrival was delayed by the activities of the German raiders Emden and Königsberg operating in the Indian Ocean. Once in France, after further delays in equipping and transporting them, the division finally got into action at La Bassée, Messines and Armentières in October-November 1914.

Francis was also recorded as a member of the Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force, but we have no details of his army service. He died on 10 Oct 1948 and is buried in Coddington churchyard. No medal information.

TALLENTS, Godfrey Edward DSO Aged 31, 1st Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers

Two sons of Godfrey and Eliza Caroline Tallents served in the war - Godfrey Edward and Hugh. Godfrey was christened at Coddington Church on 30 Aug 1883. His parents, Godfrey & Eliza Caroline Tallents lived at Coddington House, and had three children. Godfrey chose a military career and was educated at Sandhurst, where he was recorded aged 17 as a Gentleman Cadet on Census night 1901. He was commissioned in the 3rd Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers (LF) and was with the regiment in the West Indies, South Africa, St Helena, Gibraltar & Malta. By 1911 he was a lieutenant in the army, at home in Coddington on Census night.



A2796

At the outbreak of war he was with 1st Bn LF in Karachi - they returned to England, landing 2 Jan 1915. They were attached to 86th Brigade, 29th Division and assigned to the Gallipoli campaign. At dawn on 25 Apr 1st Bn LF landed on W Beach, to the west of Cape Helles the southernmost tip of the Gallipoli Peninsula.



The concealed Turks opened fire when the troops were 100 yds from the shore. Despite heavy losses, the Fusiliers kept a toehold on the beach and eventually advanced up both sides of the cliff, driving the Turks out of their trenches. That day saw the battalion reduced from 1029 to 410 men - six VCs were awarded for gallantry - and the beach was renamed 'Lancashire Landing' (see photo opposite). Major HO Bishops's operational orders survive: "The 2nd landing party under Capt Tallents will be responsible for carrying all tools to the firing line as required." Godfrey, who was shot in the jaw during the action, was awarded the DSO. Godfrey was sent to hospital in Malta, before returning to England, and later saw fighting in the 1916 Irish Easter Rebellion. Then, in France, he became Staff Captain, Brigade Major and General Staff Officer, and also served at General HQ. He was twice Mentioned in Despatches.

Post-war he continued his army career, finally retiring to Coddington. Medals: DSO (Gazette 2.5.1916 Pg 4428), 1914-15 Star, British, Victory.

His gravestone in Coddington churchyard (1967) states he was a 'Colonel XX Lancs Fusiliers DSO'.

TALLENTS, Hugh DSO

Aged 29, Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry

Hugh, the younger son of Godfrey and Eliza Caroline Tallents, was christened at Coddington Church on 6 Aug 1885. He was educated at Eton & New College Oxford and joined the family firm on Cartergate, as a solicitor.

He joined the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry (SRY) and was commissioned in 1905 and promoted to lieutenant in January 1910, when he qualified as a musketry instructor. In August 1914 he was second in command (to John S Thorpe) in A Squadron, SRY, and was promoted from lieutenant to captain. Before they embarked for Gallipoli in April 1915, the regiment took part in training and East Coastal defence duties.

Commanded by Major H Thorpe, they were heading for Suvla Bay in Gallipoli, where the mounted SRY was to serve as infantry. Hugh was initially left in reserve at Lemnos, but rejoined as commander of A Squadron on 24 Aug 1915. The regiment was in the plain between Chocolate Hill and Anzac Cove. On 27 Aug Major Tallents headed a party to choose the best site for new trenches, which were dug and occupied. There was no communications trench and the Division's General Officer Commanding (GOC) was mortally wounded



A2413

inspecting the trenches on 29 Aug. Conditions in the shallow, uncovered trenches were terrible because the water table was high and there was no wood, sandbag material or wire to make them serviceable.

Equipment and ammunition was incredibly scarce (they made jam tin bombs) and the only gun support was from ships. The water supply was by boat and had to be guarded. Dysentery was rife because of the heat, flies and unburied bodies. The regiment became enfeebled with many men unable to stand for half-hour sentry duty. Doctors were ordered that no men should be sent away from the units unless it was a matter of death. On 1 Nov 1915 the division was allowed to march to Lala Baba for embarking to Lemnos, then on to Alexandria to recover. Major H Tallents went on to serve with the regiment in Egypt (1915-16), Macedonia (1916-17) and Palestine (1917-18).

On the way to Palestine the troop ship Cestrian was torpedoed. During the four hours it took to sink all the men were saved but they lost all their equipment and animals, apart from two dogs. In 1917 he was second-in-command of the regiment, was mentioned in despatches and awarded the DSO on 4 Jun 1917. Hugh was present with the regiment at most of their engagements except the final advance to Aleppo in autumn 1918.

Major Tallents took over the regiment briefly after Major H Thorpe was invalided out, but in February 1918 he was also released from the army. He was asked to write the regimental history. "The Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry In The Great War 1914 - 1918" by Major H Tallents DSO TD was published in 1926 (and is still in print) and makes fascinating, if sobering, reading. Medals: DSO (Gazette 1.6.1917, Pg 5468), 1914-15 Star, British, Victory.

In 1918 he was elected Town Clerk of Newark on the retirement of his Uncle, WE Tallents, which office he held until c1950. He died at Farndon Lodge, aged 95, in 1978.

THORPE, Gervase DSO

Aged 37, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders

Served through Boer war & severely wounded

Three sons of James and Annie Thorpe of Coddington Hall served in the war - John Somerled, Harold and Gervase. Gervase, the fifth son of James & Annie Thorpe was born on 10 August 1877 in Argyll. The 1881 Census lists all the family at home at Coddington Hall.

Gervase was educated at Eton and joined the army, as a second lieutenant in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. In 1897 He was promoted to lieutenant in 1899, serving throughout the Boer War, in South Africa (1899 -1902). He took part in 5 major battles and was shot in the chest at the Battle of Paardeberg. Post-war he remained in his regiment, and was promoted to captain in 1904.

In August 1914, Captain Gervase Thorpe was a Military Landing Officer for the British Expeditionary Force (5 Aug - 6 Sep 1914). He was then Aide de Camp to the GOC 3rd Division, BEF (7 Sep - 14 Oct 1914). He next returned to the front, as Adjutant of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (1 Nov 1914 - 10 Feb 1915). In Feb 1915 he was awarded the DSO "for services in connection with operations in the field". He was Brigade Major, 5th Infantry Brigade, BEF (11 Feb - 8 Sep 1915).

Afterwards, rising progressively to the rank of Colonel, Gervase served in various BEF headquarters from September 1915 to June 1918. He was then promoted to temporary brigadier-general, as Commander, 17th Infantry Brigade, British Armies In France (7 Jun 1918 - 16 Jan 1919). During the war he was eight times Mentioned in Despatches, was appointed a CMG in 1918, and received a Bar to his DSO in 1919. Medals: DSO with bar (Gazette 23.3.1915 Pg 2939), 1914 Star, British, Victory.

Gervase continued his army career after the war, retiring as a major general. He lastly commanded 53 (Welsh) Division, TA, 1935 - 1939. In 1937 he was appointed the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment, in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. He died in 1962. Major Gervase Thorpe DSO Publication date:



MAJOR-GENERAL GERVASE THORPE, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.
appointed Colonel The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders
8th July 1937

A2795

THORPE, Harold DSO

Aged 39, Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry

Harold, the third son of James and Anne Thorpe, was born on 17 Apr 1875 in London and baptised at Coddington Church in June 1875 (see Gervase above). Harold, was destined for the family malting business. Before the Boer War Harold was a lieutenant in the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry.

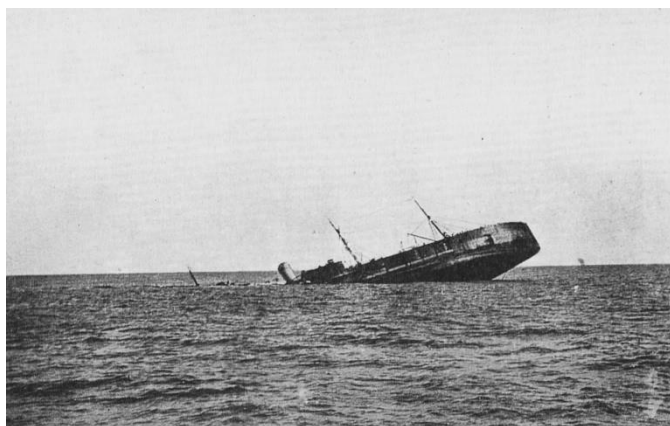
In 1901 Harold, a maltster (businessman) aged 25, was still living at home at Coddington Hall.

Harold was promoted within the SRY in 1905 and 1910. On 12 July 1909 at Coddington Church, Captain Harold Thorpe married Dorothy Marion Tallents of Coddington House. They built a family home 'Coddington Moor' farm. In World War I Harold saw service in Gallipoli, Palestine and Salonika. He also contributed to the official Regimental history (written by his former second-in-

command and brother-in-law Hugh Tallents - see above) the source of our information about his war career. In August 1914 Harold commanded A Squadron, SRY, based at Newark. The troops were mobilised and moved to Retford in 4 days, then underwent a period of equipping, training and home defence duties.

In 1915 they sailed for the Dardenelles, arriving in Alexandria by 27 Apr. The mounted regiment consisted of 29 officers, 454 other ranks and 531 horses and mules. The regiment, divided into two squadrons one of which, under Major H Thorpe's control, was bound for operations in Suvla Bay, which they reached on 18 Aug. The regiment came under heavy fire for the first time on 21 Aug 1915. They spent the campaign in makeshift trenches and on fruitless manoeuvres trying to gain and then hold hills against the Turks. During these the Regiment's CO and Division's GOC were killed. Harold suffered a severe attack of dysentery, spending a week in hospital at Imbros at the end of September 1915. By 1 Nov all the men were so weakened by dysentery that the regiment had to be evacuated to Egypt. Harold had become temporary Lt Col and Commanding Officer of the SRY.

In Egypt the Regiment tried to recover and re-equip. The Regiment was ordered to Serbia, disembarking at Salonika on 9 Feb 1916, and then on to Lembet where they faced bitter cold and snow. Spring brought better conditions but an incident with jamming machine-guns showed equipment inadequacies; these were replaced with new Vickers weapons. Into summer dysentery and malaria took its toll. The Regiment moved towards the Struma Valley. At Kopacii on 22 Aug 1916 Col Thorpe took command of the Brigade - on 30 Sep he was given leave in England. On returning in November he was given command of the Brigade until January 1917. In November also, he was Mentioned in Despatches and in January 1917 was awarded the DSO



In June 1917 the regiment was transferred to Egypt, en route for Palestine. Col H Thorpe arrived to find that the regiment (travelling on the ship Cestrian) had

lost all its money, clothing, equipment and over 1000 animals when the ship was torpedoed and sank, although the men had been saved.

July was spent re-equipping - but the men were not compensated for their losses. The Brigade was then attached to the Australian Mounted Division. They travelled by rail from Kantara then trekked across the desert to Palestine on a road made from pegged down netting. At times Harold was ill and was forced to travel in the field ambulance.

On 22 Dec 1917 Lt Col H Thorpe was invalided home. He had not really recovered from the severe attack of dysentery on Gallipoli. Medals: DSO (Gazette 29.12.1916, Pg 27), 1914-15 Star, British, Victory.

After the war Harold stayed on in Coddington. He died 1 Dec 1953 and is buried in the family plot in the churchyard.

THORPE, John Somerled MC
Aged 41, 2nd Battalion Scots Guards
Killed in action France 16 Sep 1916

John Somerled, the second son and heir of James and Annie Thorpe, was born on 15 Feb 1873. He was educated at Eton and Sandhurst, and commissioned in the 1st Bn Scots Guards in 1892. He served in the Boer War; although he was not wounded his health suffered.

On his father's death he had to shoulder estate and family duties, so he left the army with the rank of captain in 1903. He continued as a captain in the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry, and second-in-command of B Squadron, stationed at Mansfield. On 9 May 1904 he was married at Salisbury Cathedral to Elizabeth Cecilia Meade. In November 1908 he was appointed a Sheriff for Nottinghamshire.

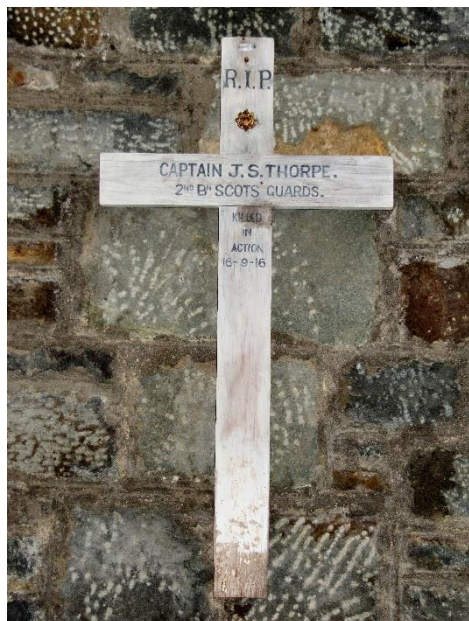
By 1914 he commanded C Squadron (Worksop). After the SRY mobilised, John remained at the regiment's Retford HQ to command the base and Reserves. In December 1914 he rejoined the Scots Guards, seeking a more active role in the war.

In January 1916 he was Mentioned in Despatches, and awarded the MC for conspicuous bravery at Loos, having gathered isolated troops and held a position for three days until relieved. Invalided home with wounds, he spent some time at Wellington Barracks, London, before returning to France in July. On 15 Sep 1916, aged 43, he was instantaneously killed by a bullet at close range. Medals: MC (Gazette 11.1.1916, Pg 581), 1914-15 Star, British, Victory.

The Newark Advertiser, on whose Board he sat, carried five articles/editorial comments in the period 27 Sep - 18 Oct. This included a description of the service at Coddington on 12 Oct 1916 and the Scots Guards Memorial Service at

Holy Trinity, Sloane St London. The Prime Minister was present among the dignitaries.

In April 1918 a marble memorial tablet was placed in Coddington Church. The text of this monument also appears on one side of the war memorial outside the family chapel, St James, Ardbrecknish - inside they still have the wooden cross from his initial battlefield burial. John S Thorpe was reburied in grave ref. Q39 at Carnoy Military Cemetery, about 10 kilometres from Albert, Somme.



Celia Thorpe decided to break up and sell the Coddington Thorpe Estate - the hall was at that time requisitioned and in use as a training centre for the Royal Engineers

This extract is from the Newark Advertiser, 27 September 1916:

“Major John Somerled Thorpe - Killed after most gallantly leading his company - Buried to the Dirge of the Pipes

A wave of sadness and sorrow passed over the town and district on Wednesday evening, when the official news was received that Major J. S. Thorpe, of Coddington Hall had been killed in France. Unlike his father, the deceased officer was not widely known in the town, as he had chosen the

career of a soldier, and had not taken an active part in local affairs. But those who knew him best honoured and loved him most. He bore a name of note in this town, a name closely associated with its progress and prosperity. When he succeeded to the family estates Captain J. S. Thorpe resigned his Commission in the Scots Guards and came to Coddington. Shortly afterwards he married Elizabeth Cecilia, daughter of Canon the Hon. Sidney Meade of Frankleigh, son of the third Earl of Clanwilliam, sometime British Ambassador at Berlin. There was great rejoicing at Coddington over the event, and the bride and bridegroom were welcomed with much pleasure and festivity.

Mr John Thorpe was always a favourite with tenants and villagers. They recognised and appreciated his genuinely modest and genial nature, and looked forward to his settling down to the life of the country squire amongst them. For a short while he represented the Balderton Division on the Notts County Council. He also joined his father's old Regiment, the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry, in which he attained the rank of Major.



At this period the annual encampment was several times by his kindness held in the Coddington Park or at the Moor, and on these occasions Newark was gay with the green and gold of the popular Regiment, which owes much of its strength and efficiency to the Thorpe family. When the Great War broke out, Major J. S. Thorpe was for a time stationed at Retford in charge of the Sherwood Rangers Reserve Regiment. But actuated, as always, by a high sense of duty, he soon felt called upon to take a more active part in the struggle in which his country was engaged, and in December 1914, he rejoined his old Regiment, the Scots Guards, as captain, soon afterwards taking his place in their ranks at the Front.

It was with the Guards he went through the Boer War, and received the Kings Medal with two bars, and the Queens Medal with six clasps for Belfast, Diamond Hill, Johannesburg Driefontein, Modder River, and Belmont. He came through that campaign unscathed, so far as wounds were concerned, but his health suffered and for a time he went to recuperate.

For conspicuous services in France in the present war, Major Thorpe was mentioned by Sir John French in despatches. He saw much fighting in France and was twice wounded. Recovering from his wounds the gallant officer returned to the Front.

The next his friends heard of him was that he had in January been awarded the Military Cross for "gallantry and coolness in collecting scattered groups of men at Loos, and holding a defence position for three days and nights, until relieved". Now alas the news comes through that the sneaking missile of a hidden sniper has closed a career of brave endeavour.

His soldierly character, bright and courageous spirit reflected all the best traits of an English officer and gentleman. A man of quiet and unassuming manner, he did not come prominently before the public eye, but his fine character and lovable disposition endeared him to all who had the privilege of his friendship.

... Concerning the manner of Major Thorpe's death, and the moving scene of his burial, hard by the field of battle, the following letter in simple terms informs us. It was written by one of the deceased's fellow officers:-

Scots Guards:

Saturday (Finished Sunday, 17/9/16)

Dear Mrs Thorpe, - John was killed instantaneously by a bullet at short range in the middle of the fight yesterday. Officers near him say he was walking about looking after the men just as unconcernedly (with a rifle over his shoulder) as if he was out for a stroll - not in the thick of battle. No wonder the men of right flank company loved him and carried his body back from the line to bury it in the Military cemetery behind. He is buried - with pipers and his company all out in ----

The pipers played the "Flowers of the Forest" marching in, and after the service the "Land of the Leal". I've known John since joining as a very young Ensign in 1900 - it's a long time ago - but since he has been with the --- Battalion I have seen much more of him, and shall miss him so badly. Yours very truly,

(Signed) J. A. Stirling



An officer of the Scots Guards said Capt Thorpe was one of their best officers, and such an influence for good among the young officers."

The death of John S Thorpe in 1916 had profound consequences for the development of Coddington in the break up and sale of the estate in 1918. The Coddington Estate comprised 1450 acres in the Parishes of Coddington, Newark, Winthorpe and Holme,

six farms, numerous small holdings, blocks of land, cottages and Coddington Hall. The Estate owned 50% of the properties and an estimated 50%+ of the agricultural land. This created business and development opportunities for his tenants (and others) and for some the opportunity to buy their own homes.

John S Thorpe's memorial in Coddington Church includes a copy of his MC and Boer War medals. It includes the well-known quotation from the gospel of St John 15:14: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."



Coddington Church Memorial to JS Thorpe MC

TOOGOOD, Martin

Aged 27, 26th Battalion Manchester Regiment

Martin was born at Winthorpe around 1885, the son of gardener Henry and Diana Toogood. By 1891 the family were at North Killingholme, Lincolnshire. By 1901 Martin was in service, a "Hall Boy" living in the Cedars, Castor, Peterborough.

Military Service record: Reg No 17510, address 69, Coddington. He transferred to 1st Battalion Manchester Regiment, and was posted to France. He was promoted to Cpl 13 Nov 1920 and later promoted to Sgt Discharged with a 20% disablement pension of 9s - 4d to 194, Daisford, Sandway, Cheshire. Medals: British, Victory.

The Walster Family

George Henry and Mary Walster raised thirteen children. Four of them served in the war - John Thomas, Fred, Arthur W ("Joe"), and William ("Billy").



A1309

Back: John Thomas b. 1878, James Robert b.1879, George Rowland b. 1880.

Middle: Louisa b. 1899, Sarah b. 1888, Margaret b. 1886, Edith b. 1884, Fred b. 1882.

Front: William b. 1892, Helena b. 1896, George Henry b. 1856 , Mary Walster [nee Roberts] b. 1854, Harry b. 1899, Annie b. 1894, Arthur b.1890.

WALSTER, Fred **Aged 32, Notts & Derby Regiment**

George Henry Walster married Mary Wood Roberts in Coddington Church on 17 Nov 1877. George Henry was a carpenter and Mary had been Sewing Mistress (when her father John Roberts was headmaster). The family lived initially with John Roberts on Chapel Lane, but later moved to Charity Farm.

Frederick, the fourth child, was christened at Coddington Church on 12 Nov 1882. The children attended the National School. By 1901 Fred was a baker, living in Newark with his employer. In 1911 he was a grocery salesman aged 28, lodging at Southwell.

Military Service record: Regt no 15418, 616162 Sgt.

Fred served in the Gallipoli campaign. Medals: 1914-15 Star, British, Victory

The 9th Bn Notts & Derby Regt sailed from Liverpool in early July 1915 for Gallipoli, landing at Suvla Bay 7 Aug 1915. It took part on the assault on Scimitar Hill. They were evacuated in December 1915, and moved to Egypt via Imbros. Later they moved to France in July 1916.

WALSTER, John Thomas MM **Aged 36, Royal Field Artillery**

John Thomas, the eldest child of George and Mary Walster was christened at Coddington Church on the 8 Sep 1878 (see Fred above). In 1901, he was a professional cricketer, aged 22, still living with his parents. Later he was a groom. By 1911 with wife and four children he was living at Barnby in the Willows. John was now a gardener aged 33.

Military Service record: John enlisted on 19 Jan 1915 Regt No L23207, trained in England until 12 Jan 1916. He disembarked at Havre, Army B213 France, was promoted to Corporal 2 May 1915 and transferred to the Royal Field Artillery.

On 29 Jun 1918 admitted to hospital Boulogne with an RI Hernia injury. He returned to England 31 Mar 1919.

Medals, MM (London Gazette 29.8.1918: L/23207 Cpl, but A/Sgt Royal Field Artillery), British, Victory.



A1292

WALSTER, Arthur W. ("Joe") MM
Aged 23, Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry



Arthur W ("Joe"), the sixth child of George Henry and Mary Walster, was christened at Coddington Church on 22 Mar 1891 (see Fred above) Arthur married Nellie and they had two children. The photo shows Billy and "Joe" (Arthur W) Walster.

Military Service record: Sergeant Arthur W Walster served with Major Hugh Tallents in the Gallipoli Campaign, and was mentioned in the regimental memoirs Hugh wrote. They arrived Suvla Bay 18 Aug 1915. 27 Aug, on patrol with Maj Tallents to select the position of a new line, Sgt Walster climbed a willow tree to get a better view of the Turkish positions 300 yds away. Unfortunately he left his rifle in the tree, and trying to recover it 'afforded good sport' to the enemy riflemen, watched by his compatriots in Poplar House.

The Regiment were evacuated on 2 Nov 1915 to Alexandria, and served in Egypt (1915-16), Macedonia (1916-17) and Palestine (1917-18). On the way to Palestine the troop ship Cestrian was torpedoed and sank. Arthur was wounded at Mosque Hill near Suffa on 28 Nov 1917, in an action to retake the crest against machine guns. Heavy losses meant the force had then to be withdrawn into regimental reserves. Arthur was wounded again on 30 Apr 1918 in an action at Shunet Nimrim on the east side of the Jordan Valley.

Sgt. 275025 William A Walster was awarded the MM: London Gazette 10.4.1918, Pg 4392.

WALSTER, William (Billy)
Aged 22, Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry

William, the ninth child of George and Mary Walster, was christened at Coddington Church on 31 Jul 1892 (See Fred above). By 1911 Billy was a groom aged 19, living at The Stables, Stanford Hall, Loughborough. He married Daisy Crampton and they had two children.

Military Service record: Regt No. 1744 Pte;
Corps of Hussars Regt no 275182 Pte, Egypt.
Medals: 1914-15 Star, British, Victory.



The Ward Family

John Ellis Ward and wife Annie/Lizzie (Ann Elizabeth nee Thurlby) had four sons on The Roll Of Honour - Robert and William b. 1890; John Ellis b. 1892; George b. 1896.

WARD, John Ellis

Aged 22, York & Lancaster Regiment

John Ellis was born 13 Nov 1892 and was baptised at Coddington Chapel in January 1893. His parents, shepherd John Ellis and Lizzie Ward, lived in Hough's Yard. By 1911, John Ellis was a moulder at the iron foundry aged 18, living at home with his parents and siblings. He appears in a Coddington FC team photo (as E Ward).

Military Service record: Pte in York & Lancaster Reg No 57586. Medals: British, Victory.

WARD, George

Aged 19, Royal Navy

George was born on the 23 Dec 1895, and baptised at Coddington Chapel in January 1896 (see John Ellis above.) No record of wartime service career or later life.

WARD, Robert

Aged 24, 2nd Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment

Dangerously wounded, both Legs Amputated.



Robert & William were twins, born 1890 to John Ellis and Annie Ward (see John Ellis above). Robert is shown here with his wife after the war - he died aged 95.

At 18 Robert chose a career in the army. By 1911 he was 21, a soldier living at Victoria Barracks, Portsmouth.

Military Service record: Regt No 8360, enlisted on 14 Jan 1908, aged 18 & 3 months - medical 134lb, 5ft 7 in, very good health. Posted to Bermuda 5 Aug - 19 Oct 1914. Returned to England 4 Nov 1914, posted to France 5 Nov 14 until 27 Sep 1917.

He was severely wounded 3 Sep 1917: Amputated right thigh and "G.S.W. Lt Leg" (gunshot i.e. artillery wound to the left leg). Discharged 20 Nov 1919 with 100% disability and awarded a pension 40s (£2) per week from 20 Nov 1919. Medals: British, Victory.

WARD, William **Aged 24, 4th Battalion Grenadier Guards**

William was born in 1890, one of twin sons of John and Annie Ward (see John Ellis above). William chose a very different career. Aged 21 he lived at home at Hough's Yard, working as a maltings labourer. Military Record: (rather cryptic) Regt no. 10212, 14371, 33521. Medals: 1914 Star (Clasp/Roses), British, Victory

WESTON, James **Sherwood Foresters**

We know nothing about James's origins, his war career or his connection to Coddington.

WILES, Charles **Aged 33, Army Service Corps, Remount Squadron**

Charles was born Newark in 1881. By 1891 his parents, gardener Charles and Alice Ward, lived in Newark Road Stapleford, with five children. By 1901 Charles was employed as a woodsman and lodged in Newark Road, Coddington. By 1911 he had married Laura and was still a woodsman.

Military Service record: Regt No 57519, RX/4/215492 & 73119. In 1915 he had a medical: 5ft 8", chest 33, 35yrs 17days old, small mole on abdomen, dental treatment needed, hammer toe R/t, Passed Grade C, suitable for home & abroad. He was attested 9 Dec 1915, joined the Army Reserve 10 Dec 1915.

He was mobilized 31 Jul 1916 and posted 2 Aug 1916 to the Remount Depot, Romsey. On 2 Feb 1918 he was re-classed as Grade A ie fit for overseas duties. Transferred to Class Z 11 Nov 1919, with the Medical class B1. On 7 Mar 1919 he signed to say he had no disability.

Romsey Remount Camp was set up to train horses and mules for war. It received its first horses in March 1915, and trained c120,000 animals (about 10% of the ASC's total) during the war. The Romsey camp consisted of 10 squadrons of 210

men; a headquarters unit, veterinary hospital plus local civilian workers. The camp had a canteen, a YMCA, reading rooms, a library, a hospital and its own Post Office.

WORTHINGTON, Robert Henry **Aged 24, 3rd Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment**

Robert Henry, the son of agricultural labourer William and his wife Mary Worthington was born in Newark in 1890. By 1911 he was a drayman, still living at home (2 Petter Hill, Portland Street, Newark). No record of wartime service career in 3rd Bn Lincolnshire Regt. He married Mable and they christened their daughter, on 11 Jan 1918 at Coddington Church, when Robert listed his occupation as soldier.

The Young Family

The Young family were numerous in Coddington. In the 1901 Census there were five families headed by a Young, with two more Youngs living in other households!

YOUNG, Charles William **Aged 23, Sherwood Rangers** **Died in Palestine 28 Nov 1917**

Charles William, son of Charles Young, a maltings worker from Coddington, was born at Nettleham in Lincolnshire. His grandmother Frances (widow of George Young), had remarried Samuel Beckett in 1898. In 1901 both Charles W and his father were at the Beckett's home on Balderton Lane.

By 1911, Charles W was an agricultural labourer, still living in Coddington with his grandparents Fanny and Samuel.

Military Service record: He enlisted in Newark. L/Cpl Charles William Young (275042) arrived in Egypt on 27 Apr 1915. He was in the Household Cavalry & Cavalry of the Line (incl. Yeomanry & Imperial Camel Corps).

Charles was killed in action in Palestine on 28 Nov 1917. (This may have been in the action at Mosque Hill, Suffa described in Hugh Tallents' Regimental history, and in which Arthur Walster was also wounded).



A2931

Buried in Jerusalem, Yerushalayim (a Jerusalem District), Israel. Medals: 1914-15 Star, British, Victory.

Trooper C W Young is listed on the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry Roll of Honour at East Retford Church, below the Memorial Window erected in May 1921.

YOUNG, Charles

Age 16, 2/8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters

Killed in France 31 Oct 1917

Charles Young, the son of Frederick and Ellen Young was born in Devonport, Cornwall. By 1901 the family were living in Stapleford Lane Coddington. His father (George) Frederick, a gamekeeper was born in Coddington, his mother was from Cornwall. The couple had six children.

Service Record: Cpl, No. 305875 with 2nd/8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters (Notts & Derby Regiment). He made a will on 26 Feb 1917 leaving everything to his mother Mrs F Young of 10, Newark Road, Coddington. He was killed 31 Oct 1917 at Lens, France aged 19. Medals: British, Victory



There is an account of his death in the Regimental Book of the 2/8 Sherwood Foresters in the Great War by Lt Col W Coape Oates:

The Battalion had moved into trenches at the outskirts of Avion, a suburb of Lens. At the Church Yard Post, guarding the road into Lens “on the night of the 31 Oct/1 Nov 1917, the N.C.O. and 5 men was successfully raided by the Boche ... a salvo of “Pineapples” fell into the post followed by volleys of “Potato-mashers”. There were several direct hits on the post ... when support moved forward they had great difficulty in discovering the raid post, as it had been

completely blown in.” Four bodies were found in a terrible mutilated state - the NCO Corporal Charles Young was missing (believed captured) “though actually he was never heard of again”.

He is buried in the Cabaret-Rouge British Cemetery grave ref. XV.N.39, in the village of Souchez, 3.5 kilometres north of Arras on the main road to Bethune.

YOUNG, George Richard

Aged 28, 2/7th Battalion Sherwood Foresters

Killed in action in Flanders 26 Sep 1917

George Richard, the son of George and Frances Young was christened at Coddington Church on 29 Apr 1886. By 1911 he lived in George Street, off Lovers Lane, Newark, a maltings labourer aged 25, with his wife and two children, with two born subsequently.

Military Service record: On 30 Sep 1913 he was a private (Regt No 202532) in the 2/7th Battalion Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment) TF. Medical 8 Aug 1916 for 5th Bn Sherwood Foresters: 29 years 10 months, height 5ft 7in, 124lbs, 35in chest, horseman. He was in hospital with bronchitis: Feb 1917 & 25 Mar 1917 - 31 Mar 1917. He was posted to France 2 May 1917 - 26 Sep 1919. He was killed in action 26 Sep 1917 in Flanders. He is remembered at Tyne Cot Memorial, Belgium (Panels 99 to 102 and 162 to 162A.).

His medals (British War Medal & Victory Medal) were sent to his widow.



A2955

The Sherwood Foresters & the 1916 Easter Rising

At the outbreak of the War the 8th Battalion Sherwood Foresters (a Territorial unit, HQ at Newark) were in camp - they had to march to Derby for mobilisation and were sent to Harpendon for training.

On 5 September 1914, 4 Officers, 140 NCOs and men returned to Newark to form the 2/8th Battalion. In November recruitment was booming and the minimum height was raised to 5ft 7in. Training was carried out on ground running along Danethorpe Hill, between Balderton and Langford. 2/8th Battalion spent the early part of the Great War on garrison duty in Newark, Luton, Dunstable, Billericay and Watford.



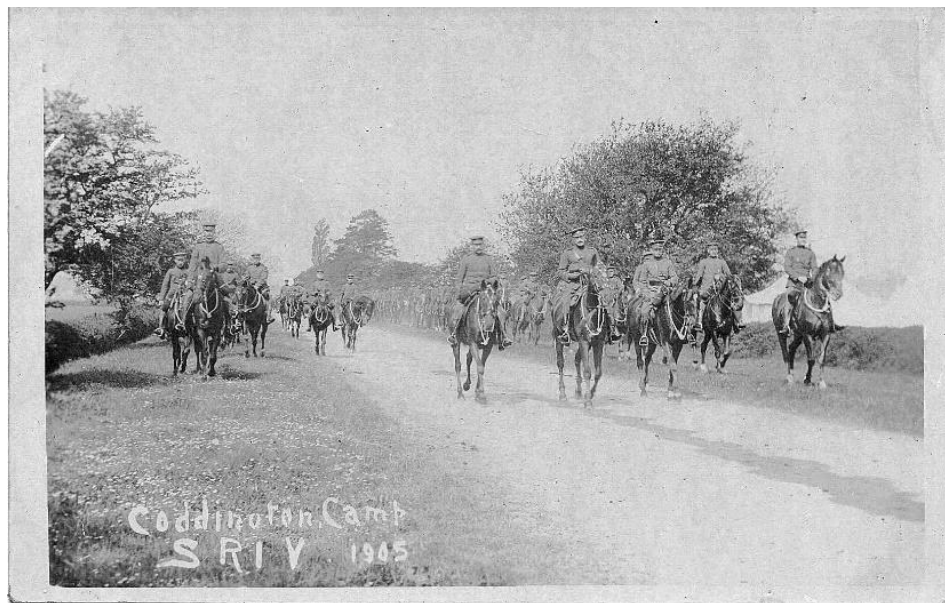
On 24 April the 2/7th & 2/8th Battalions received orders to go to Dublin to help quell the Easter Rising. Early in the morning 26 April 1916, the British troops assembled on the quayside in Kingstown. Many were inexperienced soldiers, with only six weeks of basic training. Carrying full kit with only rifles and limited ammunition, the soldiers were marched towards specific locations in Dublin.

They were opened fire on by rebels at the junction of Northumberland Road and Haddington Road, where they had to storm the rebel-held building. In one of the bloodiest incidents of the Rising, they sustained concealed fire at close

range from three successive rebel-held buildings when passing along Northumberland Road. Many had to lie in the road and pretend to be dead. A little later a desperate battle ensued as they had to repeatedly storm Mount St Bridge to reach the forces firing from Clanwilliam House. Four officers and 216 other ranks were killed or wounded during the engagement. The battle was to leave a strong mark on the regiment.

Coddington Hall and the Army

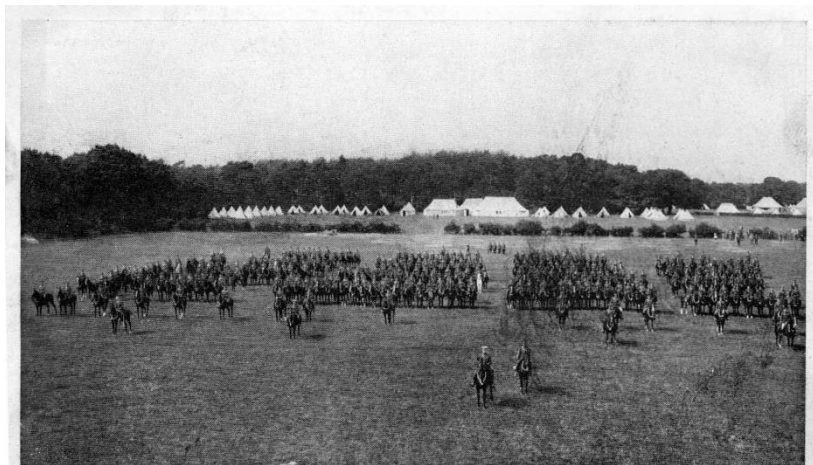
Col. James Thorpe, who died in 1902 had been a lifelong member and supporter of the Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry. Coddington Hall hosted annual dinners for the men and his lands were used for camps and training. All of his grown-up sons took up army careers or entered the Sherwood Rangers, and served in South Africa. Under John Somerled the Thorpe Estate continued to be a focus of military activity which must have encouraged employees, tenants and villagers to join militia or enter the army. Many of the men shown in postcards of 'Coddington Camp' (dated 1905-13) probably also served in WWI.



As squadron leaders, Harold and John S Thorpe mobilised the Sherwood Rangers A and C Squadrons in record time at the outbreak of war in August 1914, for immediate entry into the war effort.

Large public buildings and houses were soon taken over and by June 1915 Coddington Hall had become 'Reserve Training Centre, Newark' for The Royal Engineers. There were at least 11 companies of troops based at the Hall and at its height it housed 3,000 men.

They taught recruits field engineering work and basic skills (drill, musketry etc). Pontoon bridges were made and trenches were dug on fields between Coddington & Balderton (the future site of the A1). The tents were pitched on what is now called Thorpe Oaks playing field. There was also a unit for training Special Reserve Officers and an Officer Training Corps.



Photographed and Published by Howard Barrett, Southwell. Thrice Patronised by His late Majesty King Edward VII.
THE SHERWOOD RANGERS YEOMANRY, CODDINGTON CAMP, 1913.

AZ926

After John S Thorpe's death in 1916 his family decided to leave the village. Coddington Hall was still in military use by Oct 2 1918, when the Thorpe Estate



was broken up and sold (although the Hall lot was not bought that day). At the end of the war the officers and men of F Company, 3rd Reserve Battalion, Royal Engineers presented an altar book to Rev Charles Penswick Smith and All Saints Church to thank them for their support.

Local Regimental Histories Book List

Many books were written after the war about the involvement of various units or regiments. Hugh Tallents of Coddington House was asked to write one.

Sherwood Rangers Yeomanry in the Great War 1914 - 1918 by Major H Tallents
DSO TD 1926

The Sherwood Foresters in the Great War 1914 - 1919 (1/8th Battalion) by W. C. C. Weetman 1920

Sherwood Foresters in the Great War 1914 -1918 (2/8th Battalion) by Lieu Col W Cope Oates 1920.

The History of The 6th (Service) Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment 1914 - 1919 by Col FG Spring

The History of the Lincolnshire Regiment 1914-1918 Edited by Major-General C. R. Simpson

The Great War 1914 - 1918, In Brief

By 1914 the new nation of Germany had achieved outstanding industrial development, had established colonies in Africa and the Pacific and was looking for territorial expansion in Europe. France was still smarting from its defeat by Prussia in 1871 and its ally Russia felt morally obliged to champion the Slav peoples. Germany's rapidly expanding navy threatened both Britain's global economic supply chain and its security from invasion. Tension was mounting across Europe, whilst existing treaties and behind-the-scenes diplomacy shackled the powers into two opposing camps.

The trigger for the war was the assassination, in June 1914, of the heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, Archduke Franz Ferdinand. Encouraged by Germany (who sought a small Balkan War), Austria, issued impossible demands to Serbia, which led 'the Russian Giant' to start mobilising. Germany's plan for a war on two fronts required a quick defeat of France via neutral Belgium. Britain, obligated by an old treaty to uphold Belgian neutrality, in reality could not tolerate a European mainland dominated by Germany. Diplomacy failed to avert the crisis - within weeks the major European powers were at war, with conflict wherever their global interests clashed. Turkey sided with Germany and Austria-Hungary; Britain plus its empire and colonies sided with France and Russia. Other nations including Italy, Japan and eventually the USA, also sided against Germany and the Central Powers.

Britain was ill-prepared for a war on land, but its small professional army was important in helping to check the rapid advance of the German forces on Paris. After initial intense but mobile fighting (Mons to First Battle of Ypres Nov 14) in the West a stalemate soon developed with both sides dug in along a meandering line of fortified trenches, stretching from the North Sea to the Swiss frontier.

The onus was on the allies to regain lost territory, but the British Expeditionary Force was much smaller than the conscripted French and German armies. Military commanders on both sides struggled to develop strategies to cope with the new weapons and static front. Britain had to come to terms with the need to create and supply a massively larger army. It also needed to secure its shipping routes, rapidly develop and reorganise its industrial base, and keep its populace fed - entailing significant changes to society introduced via the Defence of the Realm Act 1914 and subsidiary legislation.

After a period of voluntary recruitment, conscription began in Britain with the Military Service Act in 1916. At first only single men aged 18 to 41 years old were targeted. The exemption for married men ended in June 1916, and the age limit was raised eventually to 51 years old.



The second phase of warfare on the Western front (from 1915 Neuve Chapelle, through 2nd Ypres and Loos, to the Somme 1916 battles July-Nov 1916) saw the mobilisation of the British nation, with the first major engagement of the New Armies on the Somme. Britain also had to face the 1916 Easter Rising in Ireland, and local regiments were also deployed there. In Britain food prices rose steeply and by October 1916 coal was rationed. During 1917, despite efforts to increase agricultural production, by 1918 the German U-boat campaign made food shortages a serious problem. Rationing of items was progressively introduced by 1918, to avoid malnutrition in poor communities.

On the Western front, from Spring 1917 the Germans withdrew to the well prepared Hindenberg-Line for another phase of static warfare. After Arras, the near-collapse of the will of the French Army forced the British Army to take the lead. This phase included Passchaendale (3rd Ypres) and the Cambrai operations (end Dec 1917). Along the western front the most costly battles were at Verdun -

700,000 dead, the Somme - more than a million casualties and Passchendaele with roughly 600,000 casualties.

Significant conflicts took place on the Eastern Front, until the fall of the Tsar and the slackening/withdrawal by the Russian Revolutionary Government from the war during November 1917 - March 1918. Other significant fronts, where local men found themselves serving, were the Balkan front (including Macedonia), Middle Eastern front (including Sinai, Palestine, Gallipoli, Mesopotamia) and at sea around the globe. The failed Gallipoli campaign (April 1915 - 9 January 1916) was an early attempt to break the stalemate of the Western front, resulting in much controversy and bitter lessons for Britain. Some of the other campaigns were more mobile than the Western front. There were also conflicts in German (and Turkish) colonies in Africa and the Far East. German West Africa (Kamerun, Tobagoland) and South West Africa (Namibia) all fell by the close of 1916. German East Africa (including Tanganyika and Ruanda-Urundi) was a more significant and longer-lived theatre of war, extending to 1918.

At the outbreak of the war, the United States pursued a policy of non-intervention, hoping to continue its global trading unhindered. Attempts to dominate the seas by both sides caused tension with the USA, with its diverse ethnic populace. Once Germany's blitzkrieg strategy failed and the British navy managed to pen the German fleet in harbour, unrestricted submarine warfare was Germany's only chance to break the British supply chain. The American outcry on the sinking of the British Liner Lusitania in May 1915 (with 128 Americans killed) had shown the risks involved. By returning to the unrestricted policy in January 1917, Germany did bring the United States into the war on the Allied side in April 1917.

The last phase on the Western front was the breaking of the stalemate. Germany threw all its resources into the 1918 Spring offensive on the Western front, breaking through the British Lines and pushing towards the Channel; they were only halted by the bitterest fighting (Somme & the Marne 1918). By the summer of 1918, the United States was sending 10,000 fresh soldiers to France every day. A counter-attack by the British at Amiens broke through in August 1918, with an almost continuous advance (Somme, Arras, through Flanders, Artois, Picardy) by Haig's British armies until the Germans attempted to sue for peace. Finally on 11 November, at 5 am, an armistice was signed in a railway carriage at Compiegne and at 11 am, "the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month" a cease-fire came into effect. The terms of peace with Germany were finally agreed at the signing of the Treaty of Versailles in 1919. Other treaties dealt with Bulgaria, and the former Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman Empires (Neuilly, Saint Germain, Trianon and Sèvres).

The experiences of the war led to a collective trauma shared by many from all participating countries. This was the first large-scale conflict fought using the 20th Century technology and weapons of 'industrialised' warfare.



The European map prior to the war showing political alliances



The European map post war showing the formation of new countries

These included modern artillery and machine guns, poisonous gas, tanks, submarines and aircraft. The British coast had been bombarded from the sea and the country had endured attacks from the air. For the first time the whole populace had suffered disruptions in their lives and working practices. For years afterwards, people mourned the numerous dead, missing and disabled. Many soldiers returned with severe injuries and suffering from 'shell shock' to a world of new economic realities.

The maps of Europe and the Middle East were redrawn, with many independent nations being created or restored. German Colonies in Africa and the Far East were divided between the Allies (Britain and her colonies, France, Belgium, Portugal and Japan). The League of Nations was formed to prevent future friction leading to large scale conflict, but sadly failed in its task. Extreme nationalism and the rise of authoritarian regimes and dictatorships were major factors leading to the outbreak of the Second World War.

Sources & Acknowledgements

Coddington Parish Council funded the printing costs of this book; we also thank Willson's printers for their support and the generous terms they offered us. We are extremely grateful to all the individuals, families and organisations that helped us with information and photos.

Information has been added from many sources:

Military records: London Gazette Announcements; The Commonwealth War Graves Commission; Ancestry.com; The National Archives; Trent to Trenches Project (Richard Clay); The Newark Advertiser archive at Notts Public Libraries.

Oral History from relatives: especially Liz Thornton (Thorpe), John Tallents, Sue Kitchen (Walster), Booth, Bryan, Burgess, Campion and Henton families, Colin Smith.

Coddington History Group Records, including: Census Returns; Parish Records; Wesleyan Chapel Baptismal Register; National School Logbook and Rolf Vernon's book based on it; Thorpe Estate Sale Catalogue 1918; Trade Directories.

Internet sources include: Regimental websites, 'The Long Trail', The Western Front Association, BBC History - World War One, firstworldwar.com, Wikipedia

Photographs: (Unfortunately old photographs may be of poor quality.)

Cemeteries: Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Post cards - Mick Lord. Coddington Hall Engineers photo - Richard Walton

Lancashire Landing photo - www.lancs-fusiliers.co.uk

Sherwood Foresters in Dublin - image courtesy and copyright Paul O'Brien

www.paulobrienauthor.ie and The Western Front Association

www.westernfrontassociation.com.

Silver War Medal - Hearts and Daggers Militaria.

Gallipoli trenches and Cestrian - Major H Tallents

Europe 1914 and 1923 maps - Wikimedia Commons: [historicaire](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:HistoricalMapOfEurope1914.jpg), [FluteFlute](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:FluteFlute.jpg).

*They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe.*

*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.*

From 'The Fallen' by Robert Laurence Binyon



