

We Will Remember Them



A memorial to those from
Repton, Milton, Foremarke and Ingleby
who fell in World War I



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In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

John McCrae

We shall Keep The Faith

Oh! you who sleep in Flanders Fields,
Sleep sweet - to rise anew!
We caught the torch you threw
And holding high, we keep the Faith
With All who died.

We cherish, too, the poppy red
That grows on fields where valour led;
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies,
But lends a lustre to the red
Of the flower that blooms above the dead
In Flanders Fields.

And now the Torch and Poppy Red
We wear in honour of our dead.
Fear not that ye have died for naught;
We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought
In Flanders Fields.

Moina Michael

(After reading John McCrae's 'In Flanders Fields').

Foreword:

The obvious place for me to start my research was with the 36 men named on the war memorial at Repton. Then I realised that it included men listed on the memorials in the villages of Foremarke and Ingleby, but not all of them. In addition I found men mentioned in the Village Parish Magazines of the time and in other sources who are not on any of the memorials. Although it turned out that some of these men did not die as a result of the war, and some were not from Repton or the neighbouring villages, in all I have now identified 49 local soldiers who did die in WWI.

For some men, it has proved very hard to work out their local connection and for one or two it has been difficult to be absolutely sure we have tracked down the right man. For them, research continues.

In addition, the Vicar, Rev. Martin Flowerdew, noted a number of graves in the churchyard bearing the names of other servicemen who died in the war and he also identified a number of men of appropriate age who had died during the war years. In fact, they either did not die as a result of the fighting or had no real local connection. It was not uncommon for soldiers to be remembered on their Grandparents graves.

Copyright issues and space do not allow inclusion of photographs, copies of medal certificates, military records, census returns or newspaper cuttings, but a full collection of these is to be deposited in the Repton Village History Group Archive and will be accessible to anyone who wants to see it.

We are very grateful to those members of soldier's families and others who were able to help by loaning documents or providing information.

There is no way that this booklet can portray the horrors of the warfare that these men and their surviving comrades endured. Most of them will have known each other and many will have been classmates at school. They were mostly very young but from a range of backgrounds. Some were real lads, in a bit of trouble from time to time and not always in school. Some were living with step parents, grandparents or other relatives. A few were married with young children and some had gone on to start professional careers. One or two had emigrated to Canada or Australia. What was it that enabled them to endure the conditions of the battles such as those at Arras, the Somme or the Ypres Salient?

This booklet attempts to remember them as people with promising lives cut short by their sacrifice for our freedom.

The second edition made a few minor corrections and this 3rd edition lists a further 6 soldiers who had a Repton connection but are not on any of our memorials.

Margaret Austen – May 2019

Repton at War:

Repton was a long way from the fighting of WWI but was certainly affected by it. The villages of Repton, Milton, Foremarke and Ingleby lost at least 43 villagers to the war. These villages had a population, based on the 1911 census, of just some 300 men of eligible age. So 43 is a significant proportion. Of these, 36 men are listed on the memorial at Repton and include most of those also recorded on the memorials at Foremark and Ingleby. In addition there are 4 men recorded on these who are not on the memorial at Repton i.e. Leonard Driscoll, J L Malpass, Samuel Forman and William Bailey. The memorial at Milton is lost. The top section remains, but sadly, not the names. However, from a contemporary news report, we know that the names were the same as those on the Ingleby memorial, except that J L Malpass was later added to the latter.

There are a further 9 men with a local connection who are not on any local memorials..

In his monthly Letter in the Parish Magazine, the Rev. Stephen John Selwyn M.A. (the Vicar) gave a “running commentary” about the progress of the war and anticipated what would happen next (he was often wrong). He exhorted the men of the village to “sign up”. In the September 1914 Parish Magazine he wrote “There are thousands of young unmarried men who could volunteer, and ought to volunteer as one, for the new army. It is all very well to say we will defend our hearths and homes; our fate does not depend on our security as an island, but upon whether we can destroy the enemy on land as well as on sea.”

The Vicar seems to have kept a list of those men who signed up; adding promotions and medals awarded, recording those wounded or missing and the deaths. Parishioners were encouraged to leave a note of news beside it, but he himself updated it. The list was kept in the Parish Church, but has not been found.

Repton inhabitants were very busy during the war. The ladies volunteered to do nursing courses and once qualified, would go en masse to the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary for a week at a time to nurse the wounded soldiers and sailors, leaving their families to cope as best they could. Some members of this Voluntary Aid Detachment also went to Spondon and Buxton Hospitals. Contributions of eggs and fruit were sent to the wounded in the infirmary. They knitted and made garments to be sent to the British Red Cross Society and in June 1916 the Vicar was asking the women to work on the land. The village hosted Belgian refugees from as early as November 1914, with the Vicar remarking that they are “accustomed to only very light beer in their own country, and our ale generally is much too strong”. It is clear that the village gave money or

contributions in kind and welcomed them into their homes. They were mostly Catholics, and the Vicar asked Parishioners to give them a lift to Melbourne, as they were “unable to worship in our Parish Church”.

In 1915, Lady Burdett converted the Ballroom at Foremark Hall into a hospital for wounded soldiers from the trenches. Seven of the original 15 privates and NCOs had been discharged by June, but eight remained with more due to arrive.

During the war there were many flag days and Trafalgar Flag Day on 21st October 1916 raised £3 13s. 6d for the sailors. Dramatic entertainment was performed, a Sale of Work held in the Rink (later the first village hall), collections for Royal Derbyshire Infirmary and an annual December collection in Church for the Derbyshire Gift to Soldiers and Sailors. Gell Examinations (they might later have become Scripture Union) took place as usual and the W.I. carried on, as did Mothers’ Union and Sunday School.

Repton hosted the Home Guard with Mr. Surtees as the temporary commander and Mr. Staple-Betty as the instructor. The Territorials also recruited from our villages under Captains Kerr and Wragg and Company Sergeant-Major Maddock.

As each Parishioner fell, a separate paragraph appeared in the Parish Magazine giving the names of their parents, wives and children. The Vicar managed to find a different way of saying this each time.

“Our Men at the front” as the Vicar referred to them, often sent him letters, and he always greeted soldiers home on leave.

The Zeppelin attack on nearby Burton upon Trent on 31st January 1916, made the village think about the lighting regulations and the fact that the Church could not be lit in the evenings, the windows being too large to cover. The Church also took out insurance against aircraft damage. This was “a considerable expense” and “there will be special collections on Sunday April 9th 1916” to “make up the deficit”. Evensong was moved to the afternoons. This did not suit the Vicar and he wrote to the Bishop about it.

February 1917, the Vicars letter, third paragraph, stated “There is one thing which this parish lacks, and that is a special memorial of those fallen in the war, which have become so marked a feature in many town and country parishes. The best place for this will be, I think, the Lych Gate of the Churchyard, and in order that it should be carried out in really good style I shall be very glad to receive contributions.” So began the quest to raise enough money for the memorial and this was dedicated on 1st November 1917 by the Lord Bishop of Derby. Mrs. G. F. Fisher unveiled it.

In the Parish Magazine of December 1918 in the Vicar’s Letter, he wrote “Victory and Peace! To be able at length to write those words is a task of inexpressible joy. Our inmost hearts burn with thankfulness to God and with deep gratitude to all those who, in their various ways, have won for us so great a deliverance - Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen, Statesmen, and Workers of all kinds

Their efforts have not been in vain. Before us there lies the prospects of a better and sweeter world, and it is for us to try to prove ourselves worthy of all that has been so wonderfully brought about, and to help by work and goodwill to build up again, and in more enduring fashion, our Jerusalem, both in Church and State”.

Speaking in his Letter in the December 1923 Repton Parish Magazine, Rev. Selwyn stated that of the 220 Territorials that were recruited in 1912, about 40 lost their lives.

Most soldiers received two medals after the war, some posthumously. The 1914 Star was awarded for service in France or Flanders between 5th August 1914 and 23rd November 1914. The 1914 - 15 Star was awarded to those who served in any theatre between 5th August 1914 and 31st December 1915. The British War Medal was awarded to both servicemen and civilians that either served in a theatre of war, or rendered service overseas between 5th August 1914 and 11th November 1918. There were of course, other medals: the Allied Subjects Medal, Allied Victory Medal, the Distinguished Conduct Medal, Distinguished Service Order, Military Cross, Military Medal, Silver War Badge, Territorial Force War Medal and the Victoria Cross Medal.

Those on the War Memorial at Repton:-

Arthur Adams

Arthur was born in Milton on 1st May 1872 and baptised in June. His parents were Richard and Mary Adams. He went to the Repton village schools, moving up to the Elementary School in September 1879. On leaving school Arthur became a footman and then on 23rd July 1889 joined the Royal Marine Light Infantry. He was discharged in May 1902 having served on many ships. During 1898 he had gained 2 Good Conduct Badges. Arthur married Mary Jane Salt on 31st August 1906 at Winshill Parish Church. At the time he was a butler, possibly in one of the Repton School houses. They went on to have five children. He had re-enrolled as a reservist in November 1902 and, as such, Arthur was called up to Chatham on 2nd August 1914 at the outbreak of war (No. CH/5285). On 12th September Lance Corporal Arthur Adams joined the Ship Victory and sailed to France, being deployed with the Marine Brigade. After moving on to Antwerp on 3rd October, he fell on the 8th October 1914 aged 42 very near the beginning of the war. His Star and Clasp were issued to his widow on 11th August 1921. He is buried in Berchemles-Anvers Communal Cemetery in Antwerp with two other Marines killed in the same action. Arthur was the first Repton soldier to die.

Arthur Adams and Williams Adams, who is in the section for those not on any of our local memorials, were 1st cousins.

Guy Hartley Arnold

Guy was born in September 1887 at Seckington in Leicestershire. His parents Ralph and Emma Arnold came to live in Milton during the First World War. He was the older brother of Rupert John Arnold, who also died in the war. A third brother, Kenneth Arnold, survived the war and gained the Military Medal. Guy was educated at Mount Bosworth School, Leicestershire and worked as a bank clerk at Lloyds Bank, Lichfield. He emigrated to Queensland in January 1911 travelling out on the ship Orsova. In the first instance, he was farming at Coolamon in New South Wales. He then became a sugar-cane farmer at Owen's Creek, Mackay. He enlisted on 28th November 1914 at Liverpool Camp, New South Wales in 2nd Reinforcements, 2nd Battalion (No. 1311), and on 11th February 1915 embarked on the ship HMAT A48 "Seang Bee" from Sydney. Guy was killed in action in France on 26th April 1916 while serving with the 2nd Battalion at Ypres, Belgium. He died from a bullet wound to the head when observing in the trenches. He was 28. Guy is commemorated on a panel on the Australian War Memorial at Rue-Du-Bois Military Cemetery, Fleurbaix, France.

Rupert John Arnold

Rupert was born in Seckington, Warwickshire, in 1893 and is remembered on our war memorial because his parents came to Milton during the war. The younger brother of Guy Hartley Arnold, he had sailed for Australia onboard the Orsova in November 1912, with his brother Kenneth. Rupert was a farm labourer and enlisted on 11th October 1915 into the 16th Reinforcement, 3rd Field Artillery Brigade at Queensland, Australia (No. 15724). He was stationed in Belgium and became part of 3rd Battery, 1st Brigade, Australian Field Artillery. He was wounded in action at Poperinghe, Belgium, on 28th July 1917, from a gunshot in the head perforating the cranium. Rupert died of his wounds the next day, 29th July 1917, at the 46th Casualty Clearing Station in Belgium. Aged 24, he had only been in the services for 1 year and 4 months. He is buried in the Mendinham Military Cemetery. The Vicar wrote in the Parish Magazine in September 1917, "It is with very great regret that I have to record the death in action of Rupert John Arnold, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold, of Milton. Although they have been but a comparatively short time in the parish, yet in that time they have lost two sons bravely fighting for their country. The sympathy of all the parish is assured to them." His older brother, Guy Hartley Arnold, had earlier emigrated to Australia and it is possible that Rupert and Kenneth joined him on his sugar cane farm. All three signed up and only Kenneth survived. He gained the Military Medal.

Reginald Wytan Astle

Born in Repton on 3rd March 1890, he lived in Long Street (later to become High Street), possibly in Tudor Lodge with his parents Joseph and Harriette and his older brothers John and Joseph. He was christened in St Wytan's Church on 29th April 1890. Joseph senior was a retired teacher and had been headmaster at the village school. In 1901 they still lived in High St, but his father, now 72, was an assessor and collector of local taxes. It seems Reginald did not attend the village schools as there is no entry in the admissions registers. In the 1911 census his occupation was given as a bank clerk and he was living at home with his mother and brother John. His father died and was buried on 14th July 1910. Reginald joined the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry 2/5th Battalion (No. 242769), fought in Flanders and died of wounds on 24th August 1917. He is buried in Favreuil British Cemetery in France. The Vicar, in the Parish Magazine for October 1917, wrote "Meanwhile I have, alas! To record ... more names of the fallen - Reginald Astle... the son of our late churchwarden. All who knew Reginald Astle had the keenest regard for his many kindly and noble characteristics".

Frank Bamford

Frank was born in July 1888 in Repton and lived with his parents William and Jane and 3 brothers and 2 sisters in Monsom Lane; although in his Army papers he gave it as Meadow Lane. He went to the Village Infants' school in April 1893 and moved up to the Elementary School in April 1895. He left to go to work in September 1902. According to the 1911 census Frank was a joiner in a building business and his father was a timber merchant. On 3rd August 1915 he joined up for four years service in the Territorial Force in the North Staffordshire Regiment 1st/6th Bn. He was killed on 4th August 1916 in the Battle of the Somme.

Derby Daily Telegraph reported on 30th August 1916, under the title of Captain's Tribute to Repton Soldier:

"Reference was recently made in these columns to Private Frank Bamford, a Repton soldier, who was killed whilst serving his country. Since then his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Bamford, of Monson-lane, Repton, have received the following letter from Capt. J. Chyor, the officer commanding the deceased soldier's company:- "It is with the deepest regret that I have to break the sad news to you of the death of your son, No. 4076 Private F. Bamford, who was shot through the head last night, whilst acting as one of a covering party in front of some men digging a new trench. He died immediately, so one of my officers says who was lying close behind him at the time, so suffered no pain. I have not seen very much of your son, as I have only been back with the company about three weeks, but what I have seen of him proved to me that he was a good soldier, and a very steady and quiet lad. He was acting servant to one of my officers in this company, but last night was sent out on special duty, and although they had it rather warm from machine-guns he did his duty well and died a noble death. He was brought in by one of his comrades, and will be buried properly in a soldier's grave. Please accept my deepest sympathy for the great loss you and your family have sustained through the death of your son, and may his soul rest in peace".

He is buried in the De Cusine Ravine British Cemetery Basseux.

Frederick George Bamford

Frederick was born in Milton in November 1894 to Henry and Ann Elizabeth Bamford, the sixth of seven children, and was actually named George Frederick Bamford (the initials are reversed on the Repton Memorial). He went to the village Infants' School, moving up to the Elementary School in December 1901. On leaving school he worked for Mr. Exham at Repton School as a domestic servant and lived in. It is noted in some of the Derby newspapers that Fred took part in the Repton New Year Tea and Entertainment in the Congregational Church and along with singing with the other children, recited "Why Cats wash after eating". In 1905 as an 11 year old, he took part in Milton's New Year's Tea and Entertainment, which was an annual event provided by the children connected

with the Sunday School. Fred gave a recitation of “A boy’s pocket”. He joined the Prince of Wales’s North Staffordshire Regiment (No. 14858) and was killed on 23rd July 1915 in Gallipoli. In the Parish Magazine dated October 1915, the Vicar wrote “Frederick Bamford, Aged 21. A bright, cheerful, and pleasant lad, for some years in service at Mr. Exham’s - in every respect faithful, honest, and efficient - he joined the Army shortly after the outbreak of war and ultimately was sent to Gallipoli, there he laid down his life fighting bravely for his country - R.I.P.” His name is recorded on the panels at the Helles Memorial in Turkey.

Henry James Bamford

Henry was born in Milton on 5th December 1883 and was the son of Henry and Annie Bamford. The family had moved to Repton by the time of the 1891 census and were living in High street. He seems to have dropped his first name in favour of being known as James and this is how he appears in all the census records. He started in the Infants school in Dec 1887 (known as James), moving to the Elementary School in Dec 1889. James left school to go to work in July 1895. By the 1901 census he was 17, a servant of Alfred Osborne and living at Short Hazel Farm, Hartshorne. Ten years later on the 1911 census he was a boarder, single and a carter with the Urban District Council. He was living in Darklands Road, Swadlincote.

James enlisted at Church Gresley into the Alexandra, Princess of Wales’s Own (Yorkshire Regiment) 9th Battalion (No. 33651), and was killed in action on 20th September 1917. He is buried in the Tyne Cot Cemetery in Belgium. The Vicar wrote in November 1917 “While I greatly fear that Henry James Bamford, of Milton, whose younger brother, Fred, fell in 1915, has also been killed. To the relatives of all these brave men I tender my own, and I am sure your, most sincere sympathy.”

George Frederick Beard

George was born in Repton on 12th October 1889 to Samuel and Bertha who lived at Field Houses. By 1891 they lived at Park End, just across the ‘jitty’ from the New Inn. This was the home of his widower father-in-law William Yeomans, a sawyer, and also living there was Bertha’s sister Emily. He attended the Repton Infants’ School (where known as Fred) from May 1894 and the Elementary School from October 1895 until September 1903. The entry on the record says “left District”. By 1901 he has two younger brothers and by 1911 there are 6 sons but George (now 21) had moved out. He moved to Hythe in Kent as a market gardener, boarding with Edward Upton also a market gardener. George joined the Lancers, enlisting at Woolwich Kent, and then the Royal Irish Rifles 2nd Battalion as a rifleman (No. G/13073). He was killed in action in Flanders on 25th September 1915, on the first day of the Battle of Loos. However, in an entry in the Parish Magazine for October 1916 we learn that “Nearly a year ago news came from the War Office to his parents that Frederick Beard was

missing. Now, alas! That has been changed to a message that he was killed. Although hoping against hope, his mother has borne her loss very bravely, and our sympathy goes out to her in very special measure.” His death is noted on a panel at the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial.

George Charles Dent

Born in Repton on 4th May 1898, his parents were Charles and Emma Dent. In 1901 he, his parents and younger brother Calbert, were living in Pinfold Lane with his widower grandfather George Dolman (a pattern maker). He attended Repton Infant School (using his second name of Charles) from May 1901, moving up to the Elementary school in December 1905. He joined the Sherwood Foresters, Notts and Derby Regiment (1st/5th Battalion) (No. 20035). Lance Corporal Dent was killed in action on the 29th March 1918. At the time of his death, his parents were living in Wetmore Road, Burton upon Trent, but very little else is known of this gentleman. We have found his medal card, but no enlistment papers as yet. George is buried in the Aix-Noulette Communal Cemetery Extension in France. In his letter in the Parish Magazine of May 1918 the Vicar wrote: “Meanwhile our village has to bear more sad casualties:.... and Charles Dent, both killed. Three others, at least, are reported missing. It is well-nigh impossible to use the conventional expressions of regret, though they are very real. The mutual bond of sorrow and loss is in itself the greatest expression of our sympathy.”

Lewis John Dolman

Lewis was born on 14th May 1885 in Repton. In 1891 the family were living on Long St (now High St), next door but one to Melen’s Bakery situated at the Stone House. In the family were father Joseph, Mother Martha and older brother William. Lewis enrolled at the Repton Infants’ School in March 1889 and went on to the Elementary school - which he left in August 1898. He became an Architect’s Assistant and in the 1911 census was lodging in Cumbria. Lewis emigrated to Australia on 24th October 1913, travelling on the Orsova and joined the 4th Field Ambulance brigade in the Expeditionary Force on 30th September 1914 (No. 426). He was admitted to the Kew Asylum for the Insane on the 7th December 1914. It appears that he was diagnosed on the 18th December as having sunstroke and died that day of pneumonia. Lewis was buried in the Coburg Pine Ridge Cemetery, six miles north of Melbourne, on 19th December.

The Burton Observer on Thursday, 31st December 1914, contained an article which read “The death has occurred of Mr. Lewis John Dolman, son of Mr. J. Dolman, builder, Repton. Deceased who was 29th years of age, was well-known in Burton, having been articled to Councillor T. Jenkins, architect. Having obtained considerable experience in several parts of the country, he moved to

Australia where he was employed in the Government Offices at Brisbane. At the outbreak of the war in August, he joined the Expeditionary Force in the R.A.M.C., and was in training for some time at Brisbane. He was afterwards transferred to the Light Horse R.A.M.C., and moved to Melbourne where it is supposed he succumbed to sunstroke. His death was notified to his parents by the War Office as having occurred on December 18th. It is recorded that “Deceased was a member, and for some years organist, of the Repton Congregational Church, with which his parents are closely connected, and on Sunday the Pastor (Rev. E. Dukesall) made special reference to their loss. The Death March was played by Miss Sanders, organist.”

Harold James Doyle

Harold was born in Grimsby in 21st January 1893 and came to live in Repton with his stepfather Joseph Collier and his mother Martha sometime before 1899. Harold first went to school in Derby (St Chad’s) but attended Repton Infants’ school from October 1899, transferring to the Elementary School in May 1900. He left there in February 1907. He took part in the annual New Year Teas and Concerts at the Congregational Church and in 1905 was recorded in the Derby Daily Telegraph as singing and reciting. In 1911 Harold was aged 18 and a house painter living in Brook End with his step father, mother Martha, his brother Robert and step brother Percival. He married Dorothy M. M. Phillips of Rose Cottage, Old Wolverton, Buckinghamshire, in the first quarter of 1915. He signed up in 1914 in London with the Royal Army Service Corps “the unsung heroes of the British Army”. He was attached to the Royal Engineers 25th division Signal Company, probably as a driver (No. M2/077042). Harold died on 21st October 1918 in France and is buried in St Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen.

The Vicar wrote in the Repton Parish Magazine of December 1918: “But in the midst of our joy I have, alas! To record the names of three more Repton men who have given their lives for their country - Harold Doyle, who volunteered in the first year of the war, and was married in our Church about 18 months ago..... The relatives of all the above will receive the village’s most sincere sympathy.

Charles Dyer

This is the only person on the Repton memorials to have been in the Royal Navy. He was born on 14th December 1890 in Newtown Cottages Foremark to Elizabeth Caroline Dyer. By the 1891 census he is shown living there with his grandmother Ann Houlgate, her granddaughter, his mother and 3 other children - who might have been cousins. He started at Repton Infants’ School in January 1894 when he was just three, but left after two years and didn’t go to the Elementary School until he was seven (1898). He left on 18th December 1903. The parent’s name is given as “Elizabeth lower end of village”. At this time the family

were living in High St (The Square) near Well Lane. It is possible that he joined the Navy before the war. He was certainly a Stoker (1st Class) (No. SS/112284) on the battle cruiser Invincible and went down with it aged 26 in the Battle of Jutland on 31st May 1916. By now his mother was living on Twyford Road, Willington. His name is recorded on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial.

The Vicar, writing in the August 1916 Parish Magazine says "...while in the great naval victory another lad born and bred in our village, Charles Dyer, has gone from us."

The Eaton Family

Mr. Frederick and Mrs. Elizabeth Eaton had four boys, all of whom perished in this war in a period of just 13 months. This was the greatest loss to one family in Repton.

Harold Eaton

Harold was born on 6th December 1896 in Repton and in May 1901, when he started in the Village Infants' School, was living with the family in Mill Hill. In 1905 there was an outbreak of scarlet fever and Harold succumbed after attending school on 23rd February. It brought the number of pupils diagnosed with the disease to about 30. He moved up to the Elementary School, leaving on 20th July 1912 and became a market gardener. On 22nd January 1916, when Harold was 19, he enlisted into the local Notts and Derbyshire Regiment - the Sherwood Foresters (No. 201878). He was declared missing and later presumed to have died from wounds received in action on 3rd May 1917. The family received a letter from the War Office dated 25th July 1917 saying he is missing. They later received a letter from the British Red Cross dated 27th October 1917 giving details of his death. He is commemorated on a panel on the Thiepval Memorial in the Somme Pier. He is mentioned in the Parish Magazine for June 1917 in a list of three people who had died in the war when the Vicar wrote: "Meanwhile, the toll of war is being levied very heavily. In the last fortnight Repton has heard of the death in action of three of its sons: William Parker, Harold Eaton, son of Mr. and Mrs. F. Eaton, of the Cross; and Thomas Webster, To each and all of their families our heartfelt sympathy goes out".

Albert Vere Eaton

Albert was born on 27th September 1893 and brought up in Repton. He attended the Repton Infants School from May 1897 to December 1900 and went on to the Elementary School until 23rd November 1906. The family attended the Congregational Chapel and Albert sang and performed recitations at the annual New Year entertainment. They lived in Mill Hill, Repton, but when he enlisted on 11th December 1915 he was a Cowman living with the Taylors at Brook Dale Farm, Milton, aged 22 years. His parents were living at The Cross. Albert joined

the local Regiment, the Notts and Derby as a Private (No. 85131), and was posted to the Army Reserve on 12th December 1915. The Regiment was mobilised on 30th April 1917. He was posted abroad on 27th July 1917 to the 15 battalion and moved again to the 2/7 battalion on 17th August 1917. Albert died in the battle for Polygon Wood near Ypres on 28th September 1917, along with very many of his comrades. He posthumously received the Victory Medal and British War Medal. Albert Eaton is buried in Grave Reference C. S. in the Bridge House Cemetery, Langemark-Poelkappelle, West-V, in Belgium. The Cemetery is named after a farmhouse and was constructed by the 59th (North Midland) Division at the end of September 1917. All but five of the graves are those of soldiers of that division, and all, except one, date from 26-28th September and the Battle of Polygon Wood. The Vicar of St. Wystan's Church recorded Mr. Eaton's death in the November 1917 Parish Magazine and wrote "I have again to record the death in action of two more Repton men. It is only a few months ago that news came of the death of Harold Eaton; now alas! His brother Albert has also fallen.... To the relatives of all these brave men I tender my own, and I am sure your, most sincere sympathy".

George Frederick Eaton

George was born on 28th August 1888 in Repton with the family living in Mill Hill. He attended both the Repton Infants and Repton Elementary Schools from January 1895 until August 1901. It seems that he moved to Birmingham, lodging in the Kings Arms Hotel in 1911 and working as a barman. He enlisted in the South Staffordshire Regiment (No. 242543) and was killed on 21st May 1918. He is buried in Pernes British Cemetery. The Vicar writing in the Repton Parish Magazine in July 1918 said, "But again with profound regret I have to record losses among the men of our village. First, there is the extremely sad blow which has come to Mr. and Mrs. Eaton, of Church End. Already two of their sons have fallen, and now the news has come to them that their eldest son, George, has died of wounds.... For such an overwhelming blow as this mere human sympathy and comfort is unavailing, though it will be shown, I feel sure, in every possible way. It is for such poor souls as these that our prayers go up day by day to the Father of Mercies and God of all comfort."

John Eaton

John, known as Jack, was born on 28th August 1890 and baptised at St. Wystan's Church, Repton on 24th May 1891 when he lived with the family in Mill Hill. He started at the Village Infants' school in March 1894 and the Elementary school in December 1896. He originally enlisted into the Lancers of the Line with a serial number of 85751, but transferred to the 6th Battalion, Kings Shropshire Light Infantry with a number 21555. There is a report in the Derby Daily Telegraph dated 17th May 1918 that he was missing. In his letter in the

Parish Magazine for July 1918, the Vicar wrote: “But again with profound regret I have to record losses among the men of our village. First, there is the extremely sad blow which has come to Mr. and Mrs. Eaton, of Church End. Already two of their sons have fallen...., while their fourth and sole remaining son is missing. For such an overwhelming blow as this mere human sympathy and comfort is unavailing, though it will be shown, I feel sure, in every possible way. It is for such poor souls as these that our prayers go up day by day to the Father of Mercies and God of all comfort”.

His niece Bunty Marshall subsequently discovered that he had been taken prisoner at Happencourt on 22nd March 1918 and that he died of cholera on 28th June 1918. He is buried in the Neuf-Briasach Communal Cemetery Extension some 60 kilometres south of Strasbourg.

Cyril Claude Leonard Gaskin

Invariably known as Claude, he was born in Repton in September 1894. He was educated at the village school – Infants’ from February 1900 and the Elementary School from December 1901. In the 1901 census he was living in Brook End with his father Walter, Mother Lena, and younger brother Kenneth. In the 1911 census Claude was aged 16 and still in the family home in Brook End with a new younger brother Vyvian. He was working as a Bricklayer’s Apprentice. He joined up in 1914 with the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards (No. 16233) and was wounded, possibly at Mons. He was the first Repton soldier to be wounded. Claude died in France on 30th March 1918, probably in the battle of Arras, and was posthumously awarded the Military Medal. It was presented to his mother at a ceremony in 1919 at Normanton Barracks. By this time she was living on High Street. He is buried in the Bucquoy Road cemetery, Ficheux.

The Vicar wrote a postscript to his letter in the October 1914 Parish Magazine: P.S. Our first wounded soldier Claude Gaskin is, I’m glad to hear, doing well”. In the May 1918 letter he wrote: “Meanwhile our village has to bear more sad casualties: Claude Gaskin, of the Grenadier Guards, who fought at Mons in 1914 and throughout the war both killed. Three others, at least, are reported missing. It is well-nigh impossible to use the conventional expressions of regret, though they are very real. The mutual bond of sorrow and loss is in itself the greatest expression of our sympathy”.

Alfred Edward Hawksworth

Alfred was born in Derby on 30th October 1888, to Mary and George Hawksworth. He started his schooling at All Saints School, Derby, but moved to Repton Infants in August 1897. His widowed mother was living at Hollybush Cottage in Broomhills Lane. In January 1898, Alfred went up to the Elementary School and left on 13th January 1899 to go to work. According to the 1901 census he was living in Priory Hill, Repton (just above Springfield on Milton Rd) with

his Mother and 3 sisters. In November 1910 she remarried to Robert Gaskin and in 1911 Alfred was living with them in Boot Hill. He joined the local Regiment the Sherwood Foresters (Notts. and Derby Regiment) in November 1915 (No. 36231), giving his address as Boot Hill and his occupation as Van Man. On 7th August 1917 the Derby Daily Telegraph recorded that Lance Corporal Hawksworth had been wounded. It's not clear what happened to him next, but he died on 17th June 1918 and is buried in Longuenesse (St Omer) Souvenir Cemetery. In May 1919 his mother was sent his private property, letters, and photographs. In his letter in the Parish Magazine of July 1918, the Vicar states, "We have also lost Alfred Hawksworth, who for years was a most faithful and diligent helper in the Church; his mother in her sorrow is assured of the deep sympathy of all who knew him."

Frederick Wystan Hipkins

Frederick Hipkins was the son of a schoolmaster at Repton School. He was born on 2nd November 1885 and lived at The Priory. However by 1901 he was boarding at the Kingsland School in Shropshire, later attending Shrewsbury School. By 1911 he was living in Bamford, Derbyshire, where his father Rev. F. C. Hipkins now had a living. He became an architect's assistant working in Sheffield. He volunteered for service at the outbreak of war, enlisting in September 1914 in the 12th Battalion, The York and Lancaster Regiment. In July 1915 he was granted a commission as Second Lieutenant in the 6th Battalion, The Sherwood Foresters. In August 1917 he was promoted to Acting Captain - later confirmed. Frederick married Marion on the 17th July 1918. He served with the Expeditionary Force in France, gained the Military Cross and was killed in action north of St. Quentin on 3rd October 1918. In charge of some of the Battalion's bombers trying to move forwards, a German shell killed them after a few yards. He is buried in Bellinglise Cemetery.

Francis Reginald Hooker

Francis was born in Pelsall in Staffordshire on 21st April 1890 to John and Fanny Sophia Hooker (nee Dolman) and baptised on 18th May. He lived in Station Road with his parents, an older brother and two older sisters. His father was a grocer. By 1901 the family had moved to Alrewas where his father had retired (at 44). His mother was a school mistress and he had another younger sister and brother. In 1911, aged 21, he was living in the Shakespeare Inn, Repton, working as an Assistant Butcher for Thomas Brown who was the licensee as well as a butcher. On 11th December 1915, Francis joined up in Derby with the 8th Battalion, Prince of Wales' North Staffordshire Regiment (No. 40673) stating his occupation as Farmer. By now his widowed mother and some of the family were living in the School House, Fradley.

Lance Corporal Hooker fought in 4 battles and was promoted in the battle of Messines. He was killed in action on 20th September 1917. His remains were not identified but he is listed on the Tyne Cot Memorial in Belgium.

In the Parish Magazine for November 1917, the Vicar's letter, second paragraph says: "I have again to record the death in action of two more Repton men..... Reginald Hooker, of High Street, although not born or brought up in Repton, resided here for several years. He has also given his life for his country..... To the relatives of all these brave men I tender my own, and I am sure your, most sincere sympathy." The Derby Daily Telegraph records his death thus: "Private Francis Reginald Hooker of the North Staffords, was killed in action in Flanders on September 20th. He and his brother Ralph (also serving) were engaged in cattle dealing before the war."

Reginald Arthur Kerry

Reginald was born, raised, and schooled in Repton. He was born on 2nd May 1892 to Jacob, a gymnastics instructor, and Elizabeth who worked in the Steam Laundry. He lived at Brook End with his parents, two sisters and a brother. Reginald went to the Infants school in May 1895 when he was just 3 years old and the records then say he then left until he was 4 years old. He joined the Elementary School in December 1898 and, like so many, left to become a general labourer. He signed up with the Territorials B Coy in Repton on 4th December 1912, and went on to join the Sherwood Foresters on 28th August 1914 at Harpenden (No. 1745). It appears from reading his Army record that he was at home from 5th August 1914 to 28th February 1915, and was sent on 1st March 1915 to the Expeditionary Force in France. His mother, by this time, was living in Boot Hill, Repton. His father's name is crossed out on his record, which suggests he predeceased him. Reginald was admitted to hospital twice, once for influenza and another time for indigestion. He was wounded in action on 29th June 1916 and admitted to hospital the next day. He died of wounds in 2. Gen. Hospital Harve on 1st July 1916. The date is significant as it is the first day of the Battle of the Somme. It seems that Reginald had gun shot wounds in the back, hand and abdomen. He was granted the British War Medal.

The Derby Daily Telegraph reported his death on Wednesday, 6th July 1916, by saying, "News reached Mr. and Mrs. Kerry, of Repton, on Tuesday, that No. 1745 Private Reginald Kerry, of the 5th Notts. and Derby Regiment (who went up with the Repton Territorials in August, 1914), died on July 1st in the 2nd General Hospital at Havre from a gunshot wound in the back. The young fellow was a native of Repton and 24 years of age." He is buried in the Ste. Marie Cemetery, Le Havre. There is a receipt, signed by his mother, for his British War Medal, Victory Medal and Star. His mother also signed for his effects: an upper set of false teeth, a bundle of letters, a canvas belt and a photograph.

In the Parish magazine, the Vicar wrote “But yet day by day also the price is being paid in that long list of officers and men who have freely surrendered their lives for their country; here in Repton we have news of two more of our lads who have fallen, George Pegg and Reginald Kerry... While our truest sympathy goes out to their relatives, yet their names go down to posterity among the heroes of what will be the proudest and greatest times of England’s history. Their lives have not been given in vain”.

John William Marriott

John was born in Repton on 18th March 1894 and lived in Simney Lane (later to become Burton Road), with his parents William and Bertha, two sisters and his brother-in-law and nephew (Thomas and Ernest Hawksworth). He went to both the Repton Infants and Elementary Schools starting in June 1897 and leaving on 18th May 1907. On the 1911 census he was living on Newton Road as a boarder and was a laundry carman at the steam laundry. However when he joined up, he was a gardener for Mr. Bull.

John enlisted at Repton on the 8th October 1912 joined the local regiment Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment) (No. 200182), and was killed on 3rd October 1918 having attained the rank of L/Sergeant. It was reported in the Derby Daily Telegraph on Wednesday, 23rd October 1918, that “Sergeant John William Marriott, of the Sherwoods, eldest son of Mr. W. Marriott, who has been on active service for four years, was recently killed by a shell explosion, which came shortly after a successful attack, in which his company had taken part. His time expired a year ago, and after signing on he had leave for home in November last. He leaves a widow, and an infant whom he had never seen.” His widow was awarded an army pension. John is buried in the Ramicourt British Cemetery in France.

The Vicar of Repton writing in his Parish Magazine in November 1918 said, “In this last month our village has heard news of another casualty, which is of singular poignancy. Jack Marriott was one of the little band of Territorials who marched out of Repton on August 5th 1914. For four years he fought with great gallantry, and gained the affection as well as the regard of his comrades in all that time, and now, as it were at the end of the war he has fallen. Our special sympathy goes out to his young wife and child, and his parents.”

Howard Edwin Massey

Born in Repton on 8th December 1894, his father James died just 4 years later. Howard attended Repton Infants School from May 1898 but left on 23rd February 1900, a note in the register saying “Gone to Rugby”. Indeed he was in Rugby by the 1901 census, but was readmitted into the Repton Infants School on 27th January 1902. At the end of the year he went on to the Elementary School. By the time of the 1911 census Howard was living with his siblings in the household, in

High Street, of two assistant school masters, where his mother was a servant. He was a painter's apprentice.

The Burton Observer of Thursday October 4th 1917 reported that "Another Repton soldier has been killed in the person of Private Howard Massey, who was officially reported killed in action on September 9th. A son of Mrs. Massey, he was one of the first to join the Territorials and was called up at the outbreak of war, when only 19. He had joined the local regiment, the Sherwood Foresters (No. 71686). He had three years service in France and rose to the rank of Lance Corporal. Captain Marshall Shaw, writing to his mother said he was a splendid youth and that when they were holding some newly captured ground a German bomb exploded in the trench, killing both him and another soldier. Mrs. Massey has one other son who is training in Essex." At that time Mrs Massey was living in the Square. The Vicar reporting the death in his Parish Magazine of October 1917 said he was "one of the little band of Territorials who marched forth from Repton on that great day, August 5th 1914. R.I.P." He is buried in St Patrick's Cemetery, Loos.

Charles Stephen Meyer

Charles was born on Nov 28th 1884 in Viguna, Austria to Dr. Henry F. Meyer and Leopoldine Meyer. On the 1891 census, his father is shown as an assistant master at the school and they were living in Church End. Charles attended Repton School from 1895-1904 (Brook House). By this time he was a British Subject. Whilst he was at Repton School his mother and sisters, Ella and Hilda, lived at Desford Terrace. His father disappeared in September 1898 and this caused a sensation in Repton. While a pupil, Charles spent some time in 1903-04 in Canada. He sailed for New York on 25th April 1915 on the Transylvania and signed up with the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force in July 1915 (No. 463128). On the War Graves Register it is reported that while on duty at an observation point during an attack on enemy positions east of the Hendecourt-lez-Cagnicort to Dury Road, he was so severely wounded by the explosion of a shell that he died shortly afterwards. He is buried in Wancourt British Cemetery in Pas de Calais, France.

The Vicar wrote in his letter for October "After leaving the Public School Charles enlisted in the Canadian Army at the beginning of the war and fought in France for many months, and was frequently recommended for a commission. He was just on the point of coming back to a Cadet unit when he fell in the great victory of the Canadians at the Hindenburg line on 1st September 1918. The greatest sympathy will be felt for his mother and sisters". NB. The war memorial at Repton has October as the date of his death.

William Parker

William has been very difficult to tie down and so apologies are offered if we have any of the following wrong. William was born and bred in Repton, and named William George Parker but sometimes reversed his names and those of his wife. He lived in Dale Cottages on Long Street (Main Street in bottom Repton). He lived with father George, a bricklayer's labourer, his mother Mary, and two older sisters. William does not appear in the Infants or Elementary school admissions register but his father was fined on more than one occasion for not sending his son to school. There were suggestions of problems there due to rough handling by staff. By 1901 William was 14 and a baker's delivery lad. He married local lass Annie Elizabeth Dolman in St Wystan's Church on 4th June 1910. By 1911 they are living on Milton Road and he was a coal carter. It is likely that before signing up, he was a carter with Messrs. Salisbury and Wood of Derby Street, Burton upon Trent. They had 4 children who they named George, Harry, Violet and Gertrude.

William joined the 8th Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment in 1915 (No. 16797) and was killed in action on 12th April 1917 at Arras. His remains were not identified but his name is recorded on a panel on the Arras Memorial.

The Burton Observer stated on Thursday, 10th May 1917 that "An official intimation has come to hand announcing the death in action of Private William Parker, 8th Lincolnshire Regiment, whose address was 96 Victoria Street (Burton). Deceased enlisted two years ago, and has gone through the Western Campaign from the commencement of the battle of Loos. Before enlisting he was employed as a carter at Messrs. Salisbury and Wood's, Derby Street, Burton. He leaves a widow and four children".

The Parish Magazine of June 1917 states, "Meanwhile, the toll of war is being levied very heavily. In the last fortnight Repton has heard of the death in action of three of its sons: William Parker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Parker, of Dale Cottages, who leaves a wife and family..... To each and all of their families our heartfelt sympathy goes out".

Haydn Pattinson

Born on 5th March 1897 in Repton, and christened in December 1899, he lived by the Cross where his parents John and Stella Pattinson ran the Post Office, store and telephone exchange. He attended the Repton Infants school from May 1901 and moved up to the Elementary School in November 1903. He left school in August 1911. Prior to enlisting, Private Haydn Pattinson worked in Parr's Bank at Melbourne. In 1916 he enlisted in the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders as a private (No. 200897).

On Thursday 19th October 1916, the Burton Observer carried the following account: "Mrs. Pattison and family, at the Post Office, Repton, are anxiously awaiting news of Private Hayden Pattinson. He was Mrs. Pattinson's fifth son,

and was only 18 years of age. He enlisted in the Camerons in the spring of this year, and after a very short training in England proceeded to France and into the trenches. Mrs. Pattinson has now received news that her son was wounded on September 3rd. She has two more sons in France, Lieutenant John Pattison of the Royal Munster Fusilliers, and Private Arthur Pattinson, of the King's Royal Rifles."

The Derby Daily Telegraph of the preceding day had carried the same news:

"friends had received a field postcard on 2nd September, and at the commencement of the present month they received a circular letter from the authorities at Perth stating that he had been wounded in action on September 3rd, but giving no particulars. Since then his relatives have had several letters returned, one of them endorsed "Missing". Naturally, under the circumstances, a good deal of anxiety is felt as to his fate, and every effort is being made to trace him. He is the fifth son of the late Mr. John Pattinson, postmaster of Repton and has two brothers serving at the front, one in the King's Royal Rifles and the other in the Royal Munster Fusiliers. Thus his mother has sons in typical English, Scotch, and Irish regiments - three of the most famous in the British Army."

He died at Longueval on the Somme on 3rd September 1916 and his grave is in Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, Longueval.

In October 1917 the Vicar wrote: "Also news has now definitely arrived that Haydn Pattinson, reported missing a year ago, has been killed. Another Repton lad of singularly bright promise and charming disposition. To the relatives of these I tender my own and I know also the sympathy of all the parish."

George William Pegg

George was born on 24th May 1895 to Albert and Mary Elizabeth Pegg and was baptised in St Wystan's in June 1895. In June 1899 he started at the Infants' school - the address given is Monsom Head but the 1901 census says Monsom Lane. He moved up to the Elementary School in December 1901 and probably left in July 1908. His father was a Frauite Pavior (stone worker). By 1911 the family had moved to Brook End and George was a Newsboy. Before joining the Army early in 1915 (No. 22170), young Pegg was a railway porter. He died aged 21 whilst serving with the Grenadier Guards on 11th July 1916 at the Battle of the Somme. George is buried in the Essex Farm Cemetery in Belgium. In an extract from the Derby Daily Telegraph on 19th July 1916 it reports, "Another Repton Soldier Killed. Mr. and Mrs. Albert Pegg, of Repton, received the sad news of the death of their only son on Tuesday morning. He was a private in the Grenadier Guards, and was killed (in action it is supposed) on July 11th. The news was conveyed in a letter from the chaplain, and also from a comrade of the deceased, who was a native of Repton. He had been in France about ten months, and had not been home since". Mr. Pegg is mentioned in the Midland Railway

book listing the men who gave their lives in the great War and it says he was a porter in the traffic coaching section at Castle Donington. His name is also on the main Midland Railway War Memorial in Midland Road, Derby, which lists those employees who fell in the war. The Vicar wrote in the Parish Magazine in August 1916 "But yet day by day also the price is being paid in that long list of officers and men who have freely surrendered their lives for their country; here in Repton we have news of more of our lads who have fallen, George Pegg,.....Their lives have not been given in vain."

Francis Hugo Pinkerton

Francis was born in Repton on 13th August 1897, son of Charles and Elizabeth. He enrolled at Repton Infants' School in September 1901 and went up to the Elementary School in December 1904. He became a Clerk in the St. Mary's Goods Yard at Derby Railway Station and joined the Seaforth Highlanders on his 18th birthday in 1915 (No. 3549). Francis died on 19th November 1916 aged 19 and is buried in Wimereux Communal Cemetery in the Pas de Calais. The Derby Daily Telegraph reported on the 23rd November "Another Repton Soldier Killed. Mr. and Mrs. C. Pinkerton, of Repton, on Wednesday received word from the matron of a base hospital of the death of their son, Private Francis Hugo Pinkerton, of the Seaforth Highlanders. The deceased soldier enlisted about a year ago, and has seen active service in France since he came home in June last. He had received a wound in the head, and did not recover consciousness whilst in hospital. Much sympathy is expressed with the young fellow's parents on the death of their only child, his elder brother having died some years ago, after a short painful illness, away from his home". Francis is commemorated on two War Memorials in Derby. One is The Midland Railway War Memorial on Midland Road which records the 2,833 employees were killed in the Great War. Inside the Station itself, on platform 1, is another small memorial which says "In Memoriam, Members of St. Mary's Staff who gave their lives in the Great War". Francis is one of those listed on that Memorial. Poppies and wreaths are laid there on Remembrance Sunday. His name is recorded in the book of men from the railway who gave their lives in the Great War although this book records his rank as that of Lance Corporal. The Vicar wrote the following: "The war has claimed another of our Repton lads, again from stricken Brook End. A bright, pleasant lad, Hugo Pinkerton joined the Highlanders on his 18th birthday. His short life was ended on the glorious field of Right, but our sympathies will go forth to his parents who have lost now their sole surviving son".

William Ratcliffe

William was born in Repton on 18th December 1895 to James and Selina Ratcliffe. Known as Willie, he attended the Repton Infants' School from April 1899 and was a pupil at the Elementary School from December 1902 till June

1906. The family lived in Boot Hill. By 1911, the family had moved to Newton Road (Burton Road) and he had three sisters and two brothers. William was an errand boy. He joined the Prince of Wales' (North Staffordshire Regiment) (No. 241657) in January 1916, aged 20 and rose to the rank of Corporal. He was killed in action on 8th May 1917 and his death is recorded on a panel in the Thiepval Memorial in France. The Derby Daily Telegraph on Monday 25th June 1917 recorded his death by stating "Mr. and Mrs. James Ratcliff, of Repton, have had official information that their son, Corporal William Ratcliff, aged 21, was missing. Since then Major Porter, of the North Staffords, has written to say that the young fellow (who had been in the employ of Messrs. Fellows, butchers, of Lichfield) was killed during a night attack on the German front on May 8. Corporal Ratcliff enlisted on Jan. 31, 1916, and had been in France since the end of February."

In the July 1917 Parish Magazine, the Vicar wrote: "Meanwhile, I greatly regret to say that more names will have to be added, those of William Ratcliffe, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ratcliffe, of Burton Road..... I am sure the heartfelt sympathy of all the parish is felt for their relatives."

Alexander Gordon Sale

Was born on 14th November 1894 in Barrow-on-Trent in Derbyshire, the son of Richard Sale J.P. and his wife Mary Alexina Sale (née Gordon). In 1901 he was age 7 and living at Bower Hill in Well Lane with his parents and his sister Dorothy. The family moved to The Pastures by 1911, when he was boarding at Repton School. He was educated at Horris Hill and then Repton School, where he was head of his house, a school prefect and a Sergeant in the O.T.C. Alexander obtained his colours for both cricket and football. He left Britain for British East Africa in February 1914 to work for Pauling & Co., Contractors for the Railway to the Magadi Soda Lake. On the outbreak of war in August 1914 joined a Pioneer Corps and was engaged in laying telegraph wires and making transport roads until, in January 1915, he was given a commission as a Lieutenant in the 3rd Battalion of the King's African Rifles. He was killed in action during his first engagement at Utegi, Nyanza Province, British East Africa on 9th March 1915 aged 20. Alexander was buried in the Dar Es Salaam War Cemetery, on the border of German East Africa in what is now Tanzania. He was awarded the 1914-1915 Star and, posthumously, the Victory and British War Medals. According to the May 1915 edition of The Reptonian "Sale's half company moved forward at the start of the fight to reinforce a party which was engaged in trying to keep the enemy from occupying a ridge which would have commanded the advance of the column. The ridge was somewhat broken and the men got rather scattered....Sale had been seen at the far western edge of the ridge or beyond, but shortly after (was) found lying dead....He had been shot through the top of the head and must have been killed instantaneously, probably at about 400 yards range..."

The April 1915 Parish Magazine carried a mention: "In Memoriam Gordon Sale. Tidings have reached Repton of the death in action in East Africa of Gordon, the younger son of Mr. and Mrs. R. Sale, late of Repton. Our sympathies will go out to his family, so closely connected for many years with our Church and Parish."

Percy Stevenson

Percy was born at Ingleby on 26th March 1884 to Thomas and Selina Stevenson and christened at Foremark Church on 22nd June 1884. He lived a few doors away from the Mill House on Main St, Milton with his parents, 5 brothers, a sister, a cousin and 4 farm hands. Living next door was John E Crewe (who had been evicted from Repton Park by his cousin Sir Vauncy). Percy went to Repton Infants' School on 3rd June 1889 and then on to the Elementary School, leaving on 2nd November 1896 for work. He joined the Lincolnshire Regiment. In the Derby Daily Telegraph on Tuesday, 16th July 1918 it was reported, "Pte. Percy Stevenson, No. 203847, of the Lincolns, youngest son of Mrs. and the late Mr. Thos. Stevenson, of Milton, was reported missing on April 16th. His relatives received one postcard from him early in June, bearing date of April 22nd, and stating he was a prisoner of war in Germany, but with no address for reply. Early in July information from the Lincolns' depot stated he was interned at Limburg, and on Sunday morning Mrs. Stevenson also received a postcard from the British Red Cross Enquiry Department stating that her son is well. Which camp is unknown at present." The Derby Daily Telegraph carried the following report on Tuesday 17th December 1918.

"Official information has been received of the death of Private Percy Stevenson, of Milton, on November 17th in a hospital at Crossin under the auspices of the British Help Society. A year ago he was at home on sick leave, after which his regiment, the 1st Lincolns, went to the front, and he was missing in April. In July his friends heard from him that he was a prisoner of war in Germany, and communication was established by means of the Red Cross. His last letter was received on Nov. 2nd, saying he had been moved from his camp into the hospital named. A letter was received at Milton, from a hospital chum last week stating that Private Stevenson hoped soon to be in "Blighty".

Crossin is in Sachsen, Germany. Percy was the last local man to die because of the war and he was buried in the Berlin South West cemetery. The final piece of information is contained in the Repton Parish Magazine of January 1919 when the Vicar wrote, "I much regret to have to record the death of a late prisoner of war in Germany of Percy Stevenson, son of the late Mr. T. Stevenson, of Milton. He had just been liberated under the Armistice, and I am glad to think his last hours were spent under the old Union Jack, as he died in a British Red Cross Hospital".

John Reginald Taylor

John (known as Jack) was born on 12th July 1897 in Normanton, Derby. His father was Mr. John Thomas Taylor, who had two shops in Repton - Top Taylor's on High Street and Bottom Taylor's in the Square. Early in 1901 he was living in the Grocer's shop on High St with his widower father and other family members including Selina Spencer, his Father's daughter in Law. John first attended Repton Infant School on 7th October 1901 and moved up to the Elementary School on 30th November 1904. He left the school on 7th April 1905 and he became an apprentice at Messrs. G. Fletcher & Co.'s Masson Works in Derby. John was a worshipper at St. Augustine's Church and a popular member of the church football team. He enlisted in the 2nd Sherwood Foresters in September 1915 (No. 17716), when 17 years old and went to France the following January. A Lance Sergeant, John was killed in action in France between the 13th and 15th September 1916.

The Derby Mercury described him as "of a most cheerful disposition, loving his work as a soldier, and never once complaining of the hardships of the campaign". He wrote home regularly. The Burton Observer, 'October 16th 1916, reports: "Much sympathy is felt with Mr John T Taylor, grocer, Repton, who has received news that his youngest son was killed in action in France between September 13th and 15th. Private J Taylor before enlisting, was a pupil in engineering works at Derby. He enlisted in September 1915, at the age of 17 years, in the 2nd Sherwood Foresters and went to France in the following January. Mr Taylor has another son serving in Egypt."

He is mentioned on a panel on the Thiepval Memorial in the Somme.

In the Parish Magazine of December 1916 the Vicar wrote, "Much sympathy will be felt with the family of Mr. J. T. Taylor at the loss they have sustained in the death in action against the enemy of John R. Taylor. Another name is added to that list of men of Repton whose names will go down as those who in their youth and strength, freely gave themselves for England."

Walter Thorp

Walter was born on 10th February 1884 to John and Emma Thorp who lived in Long Street (now Main Street), Repton, near Dale Cottages. He attended the Repton Infants' School from the age of 6, starting in December 1890, but it says in the records that he left on 10th December 1894 because the family "left district". Certainly by the time he was 17 (1901) he was working as a cattle man on Towns End Farm, Findern. It would seem he kept his Repton connection and married Bertha Ellen Dolman on 23rd June 1906 in the Burton Register Office when they were both living in Mill St - he, a bricklayer's labourer living in Dale Cottages. They went on to have six children. On the 1911 Census they are living in Mill Street with 3 young children (one being a step daughter), and Walter was a general labourer. He joined the 13th battalion of the Durham Light Infantry

(No. 44600) which is the Army Veterinary Corps. He was killed, aged 34, on 4th October 1918 and his death was recorded in the Derby Daily Telegraph on Tuesday, 12th November 1918: "Private Walter Thorpe, of the Durham Light Infantry, has been killed in action, and leaves a widow and six children at Repton. He enlisted 3½ years ago, and has been on active service three years, partly on the Italian front and partly, in France". He is buried in the Prospect Hill Cemetery, Gouy, France.

His wife Bertha was still living in Dale Cottages in Mill St, Repton at the time of his death and her in-laws had died so she would have had all 6 children to bring up on her own. The youngest, Bertha Rosetta, died in 2013. It is quite likely that Walter never saw her. In his December 1918 letter the Vicar rejoiced at the armistice, but went on "But in the midst of our joy I have, alas! To record the names of three more Repton men who have given their lives for their country..... Walter Thorpe, of Wood End, who leaves a widow and six children; The relatives of all the above will receive the village's most sincere sympathy".

Richard Christopher Warner

Richard was born on 19th June 1899 in Repton to John Flinders Warner and Sarah Elizabeth Warner. He lived in Desford Terrace, Milton Road, Repton with his parents and two brothers and two sisters. John was a bricklayer. Richard attended both the Repton Infant's School and the Elementary School starting in December 1904. He left school on 2nd August 1912, by which time his older sister had left home, but the family had a 7th child - a younger brother. He enlisted into the 1st battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment (No. 49848), fought in Belgian Flanders on the Ypres Salient. Richard died on 26th April 1918 just after the unsuccessful German offensive of March. He was aged 18. Richard's remains were not identified, but he is remembered on the Tyne Cot Memorial in Belgium. The diary of the 1st Lincolnshire's, records:

The 26th was comparatively quiet until 3 p.m., when the enemy's shell-fire, which had been intermittent, suddenly developed into a hurricane bombardment of Ridge Wood and neighbourhood. The 1st Lincolnshire was made up of new drafts, most of whom were lads of about twenty. They remained under heavy shell-fire in very inadequate shelter for several hours, and gave a striking example of endurance. The battalion had seventy-four casualties.

Thomas Francis Webster

Thomas was born on 12th May 1893 and lived at Park End, Repton. His parents were James (a farm labourer) and Emma Webster who eventually had 5 children. He attended the local infants' school from May 1898 and left to go up to the Elementary school in May 1900. Thomas left school 6 years later in June 1906,

when he was 14. On the 1911 census he was a farm labourer living at home with his infirm father, mother and a brother. He joined the Prince of Wales' Own (West Yorkshire Regiment) (No. 203526), and was killed in action on 3rd May 1917. His remains were not found but he is remembered on a panel on the Arras Memorial in France.

Thomas was remembered by the Vicar in his letter in the Repton Parish Magazine of June 1917 when he said "Meanwhile, the toll of war is being levied very heavily. In the last fortnight Repton has heard of the death in action of three of its sons: Thomas Webster, son of Mrs. Webster, herself a widow, of Wood End. To each and all of their families our heartfelt sympathy goes out"

Thomas Henry Wood

Thomas was born on 19th April 1898, in Milton, and appears on the 1901 census living in Main St with his grandparents Thomas and Catherine Wood. He attended both the local schools entering the Elementary School in December 1905. In 1911 aged 12 and still at school, he was the eldest of 4 sons living with Arthur Ralph Palmer (a joiner) and his wife Sarah Ann of Pinfold Lane, Repton. Thomas was Sarah Ann's son from before her marriage to Arthur. He joined the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) on 2nd June 1916 (No. 25192), at which time he was an under-gardener. He signed up to the Army Reserve, and was not mobilised until 2nd March 1917. During the rest of that year he was transferred from Brigade to Brigade. It would appear from his Army record that he was in hospital twice that year, once in April/May for Scabies and he had influenza in August 1917. Thomas was reported missing on 20th September 1917 and was "Presumed to have died on or since". The Vicar in his letter in Repton Parish Magazine of August 1918 said, "We have no new casualties to record this month, but I greatly regret that Tom Wood, who has been missing since last September, is now officially reported killed. He was a nice, bright lad, most popular with all who knew him". He is remembered on the Tyne Cot Memorial.

Those on the Ingleby Memorial:-

Some men on this memorial are also listed on the Repton memorial and remembered in that section. They are:

Guy Hartley Arnold, Rupert Arnold, Frederick Bamford,
James Bamford and Percy Stevenson.

The following men are not on the Repton Memorial:

William Edward Bailey

The son of Frank and Mary Helen Bailey, William was born on 30th May 1900 and lived at Oak Farm, Littleover, Derby, which is where the Littleover Secondary School now stands. There is still a magnificent oak tree in the grounds. He lived at 112 Porter Road, Derby, with his Father Francis who was a building contractor, his mother and three brothers and two sisters. His parents came to live at Home Farm, Foremark, during the war - renting it from the Burdett estate. William was a cowman who joined the 2nd Battalion Sherwood Foresters on 25th May 1918 (No. 117636) when he was 17 years and 360 days old. He was first listed as missing during the period 8th to 10th October 1918 and then as killed in action. He was buried on the 10th October in Busigny Communal Cemetery Extension in France.

Leonard Driscoll

Leonard Driscoll is on both the Foremark and Ingleby War Memorials but his local connection has not been established. He was born in 1888/9 in Meerut, India, his father, John, being a soldier there. Meerut was a British Army base from before the Indian mutiny. On the Scottish 1891 census there is a John and Mary Driscoll living in Eyemouth with Leonard who was 2 years old and born in the East Indies. He had three sisters. His father was a Sergeant in the Royal Artillery, born in England, and his mother was Irish. On the 1911 census he was living as a lodger in Battersea, where his occupation was given as a footman. His future wife, Edith, was working in Barnstaple, Devon, as a cook. Leonard married Edith Mary Antell of Parracombe, Devon in St. Andrew's Church, Earlsfield, Wandsworth, London, on 28th June 1913 when both he and his wife were 28. By this time Leonard was a Butler and living at 53 Hans Road, Chelsea. They had at least one daughter Margery. When he signed up, she went back to Barnstaple and was there when he died. She died there in 1923. In the Army records his name is given as Leonard De Vine Driscoll, and in the Royal Artillery Regiment (No. L/43659). Sadly we do not know any more about Leonard, until his death on 13th November 1918, two days after the Armistice. His death was registered in Chelsea, which suggests that he had been wounded or

was ill. Leonard is buried in the huge Brookwood Military Cemetery in Surrey. He is the only one of the soldiers recorded on our local War Memorials who is buried in this country. All the headstones in the cemetery are the same, but somebody had paid for a small cross to be carved into the surrounding kerb. One possibility is that he was convalescing at Foremark Hall where Lady Burdett had turned her ballroom into a 17 bed ward and she and her daughter, supported by the doctor from Repton, nursed the soldiers. We shall probably never know.

Samuel Forman

Samuel was born in 1898 in Grange Street, Burton upon Trent and one of 11 children. His father Henry, was a brewer's labourer at that time but rose eventually to be foreman of the Union Room. His mother Sarah died in 1907 and his father remarried to Mary Ann Buxton in 1908 when Samuel was 10. She was the sub post mistress in Ingleby and Samuel later became a farm hand in the village. On the 1911 census, Samuel was living with his father in Burton but his step-mother is listed separately in Ingleby which was, presumably, her official address as sub-postmistress. He was the youngest of seven brothers - all of whom enlisted - and 4 sisters. There is a suggestion that there were 13 children in all in the family. He became a Lance-Corporal in the King's Royal Rifles, 1st Rifles brigade (No. B/203475). Samuel was killed at Ypres on 19th October 1916. In April 1917, the Burton Mail said "Official news has been received by Mrs. Lamb, 163, Thornley Street, that the body of her brother, Lance-Corporal S. Forman, of Grange Street, who has been missing since October 19th last, has been found. An expression of the King's sympathy, accompanies the intimation. Deceased was the youngest of seven brothers serving in the Army, and all the others up to the present have been exceedingly fortunate. He was a farm hand at Ingleby, Derby, prior to enlisting two years ago, and had been in France since last June. Deceased was 19 years of age." In spite of this article, it has not been possible to trace his grave and he is remembered on a panel on the Thiepval Memorial, so it is unlikely that his body was found. In addition to the Foremark and Ingleby memorials he is also on the Burton memorials. His brother James (who was the eldest) was killed on 29th April 1917, the other five survived.

John Louis Malpass

The local connection with John has not been established although it is a local surname and there was a William Malpass and family in Newtown Cottages, Milton in 1911. John was born in Derby in 1891 and lived in St Giles Road with his father John, his mother Sarah Ann and an older brother and two younger sisters. In 1911 he was a Railway clerk living at 23 Cromwell Road Derby with his father and mother. He married a Miss Walker in 1914 in Newcastle Under Lyme. John's paternal family came from Congleton.

John signed up with the South Staffs Regiment and died on 28th July 1916 but his body was not identified. He is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial.

The Derby Daily Telegraph on 4th August 1916 reported:

Lieut. J. L. Malpass, of the South Staffs, Regt., who has been killed in action, was a native of Derby, and his parents have received a wire from the War Office that he was killed on July 28th. He was the son of Mr. John Malpass, house furnisher, of Normanton-road and Cromwell-road, Derby, and aged 25 years. He joined the Grenadier Guards as a private on the outbreak of war. He was granted a commission in the 2nd Battalion, South Staffs. in May, 1915, and has been at the front since October.”

His medals were sent to his father at 23 Cromwell Road, Derby

Those On The Foremarke Memorial

Those named on the Foremarke Memorial are:

Guy Arnold, Rupert Arnold, William Bailey,
Frederick Bamford, James Bamford,
Leonard Driscoll, Samuel Forman and
Percy Stevenson,

all of whom are on the Memorial in Repton and have been recorded previously.

Milton Memorial

At the time of the first and second editions, the head piece for the Milton Memorial was still in the Milton Village Hall, but the board containing the names was missing. We subsequently found a newspaper article saying the stone was identical with the Ingleby stone and the Vicar had dedicated both on the same day. John Louis Malpass was added later to the Ingleby memorial. A new stone was cut in 2017 for the Milton memorial and John Malpass's name was included. There was a Malpass family at Newtown Cottages.

Those Not Remembered on Any of Our Memorials

William Adams

Was born on 4th February 1883 eldest son of William and Rosa Adams of Newtown Cottages, Milton. In 1891 he was living in Main Street, Milton with his parents and two sisters. His father was a gardener on the Bretby Wood Estate. William started schooling in Tickenhall (Ticknall) and then in October 1890 started at Repton Elementary School. He left on 8th February 1896 to go to work (the word Exempt is added to the register). He was a bricklayer when he signed up. William married Annie Pritchard early in 1908 and by 1911 they are living at the Bugley Hole Hartshorne (part way between Hartshorne and Repton) with a son and daughter. He joined The King's Own (Yorkshire Light Infantry) (No. 41638) and served with the Expeditionary Force from February 1917. William died on 4th April 1917 at No. 1 Dressing Station from wounds received in action. He is buried in the Foreste Communal Cemetery in France. The Vicar wrote in the July 1917 parish magazine: "Meanwhile, I greatly regret to say that more names will have to be added, those of and William Adams of Bretby Park. I am sure the heartfelt sympathy of all the parish is felt for their relatives.

William Adams and the aforementioned Arthur Adams were 1st cousins.

George Edward Pegg Dennis

Was born in November 1894 in the Parish of Repton but was not christened here and has not been traced on census returns so we know little about him. He was a miner and married Lily Ann Greenfield of Newhall in Burton Registry Office on 27th November 1915. Lily had a son Levi Albert born in January 1914 and they had a daughter Elizabeth Ann in March 1917. He enlisted 24th June 1916 with the Notts and Derby (Sherwood Foresters) Regiment and was called up on 3rd June 1918 with a regimental number of 118072. His address at the time was 42 East Street, Winshill. He embarked for France on 3rd October 1918, joined the unit in the field on the 9th and was killed in action two weeks later on 17th October 1918. He is buried in Busigny Communal Cemetery Extension and grave: 1V.D .21. Sadly he never saw their third child Frances May who was born in June 1919. His wife received his possessions - a notebook, cap badge and disc, song papers and a letter. He was posthumously awarded the Victory and British War medals.

Edward Wilfrid Estridge

Although born in Repton, Edward enlisted with the Canadian Expeditionary Force in Victoria British Columbia. He was born in Repton on 15th May 1886 to Edward and Elizabeth Estridge and baptised there. His father was a teacher at Repton School. He was the middle one of 11 children.

He attended Repton School and was a member of the Officer Training Corps for 4 years before leaving Repton in 1904 and going on to Trinity College, Oxford. By 1911 he was in Frome in Somerset as a brewer. In June of that year, aged 25, he sailed on the Empress of Britain for Quebec in Canada where he went into farming. He joined the 50th G.H. Active Militia and on 30th November 1914 signed up with the 50th Regiment (Highlanders) - number 77857 - but transferred to the 30th Battalion Canadian Expeditionary Force. The unit sailed for England on 23rd February 1915. In June, in Shorncliffe in Kent, he was hospitalised for a week with tonsillitis, and took a temporary commission in the new Imperial Army. His military character was assessed as Very Good. He was appointed 2nd Lieutenant in the 3rd Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment. He died on 13th November 1916 on the Somme and is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial and on the war memorial in Abingdon, Berkshire where his father had retired.

John Jackson

John was the eldest of 4 brothers and a sister, Ann. The other brothers: Albert, Harold and Reginald survived the war although Harold and Reginald were injured. He was born in Repton on 23rd February 1885 to parents Peter and Mary and baptised in the May at St Wystans Church. The family lived on High Street next to Peach's garden and their father Peter was a brewer's labourer. John attended the village Infant's School from February 1890, moving onto the Elementary School in December 1891. He achieved the 4th grade and left school in July 1896 aged 11 to start work. By the time he was 16, John was also working in the brewery. He married Annie Brandrick in 1909 (registered in Belper) and they had a daughter Kathleen who was born in Marchington (where her mother Annie was born). By 1911, he was aged 26 and they were living in Paradise Row, Rawson Green, Kilburn and he had become a railway porter. Sadly, Kathleen died that year. They had a son Reginald in October 1912, and daughter Elsie in April 1915. He signed up with the 5th Battalion Sherwood Foresters on 10th December 1915 but as a Railway Shunter was held in the reserve. Daughter Dorothy was born in November 1916. He was mobilised in August 1918 but was one of 7 men from the 5th Battalion who went down in the flu epidemic and was admitted to Grimsby Military Hospital on 9th November 1918 and died on the 14th. He is buried in St Clements Churchyard at Horsley, Derbyshire.

Arthur Nettle

Baptised as Arthur Nettell by the Vicar, Arthur was born in Repton on 31st October 1884 to Levi and Mary Ann and baptised in the following March. He was one of 12 children and their 7th child. His oldest brother William had died when just 3 years old. They lived in Repton and Arthur went to the Infant's School aged 5 in March 1890 and onto the Elementary school in that December. They moved to Bugley Cottage on Hoofies Farm half way to Hartshorne and his father was a farm worker. Arthur left the Repton Village School that year – probably to attend at Hartshorne. By 1901 they were in Midway in the parish of

Hartshorne and Arthur, aged 16, had become a gardener's labourer. His mother died in 1909 and by the 1911 census, aged 27, he had become a coal mines loader in the Nadin & Co's Stanton Colliery and later in Shirebrook but living in the family home at 103 Upper Midway in Newhall. He signed up in Derby early in the war, and was in France and Flanders as a Sapper from 6th October 1915 with the 177th Field Tunnelling Company of the Royal Engineers (No. 121983). He was awarded the Military Medal in July 1916 but sadly, the news of this award reached his father Levi on the same day that he heard that Arthur's next youngest brother William had been killed. Arthur was severely wounded in action on 8th January 1917 and died the next day in the 10th Casualty Clearing Hospital. He is buried in the Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery in Belgium in grave X.D.13. In addition to the Military Medal, he was awarded the British and Victory medals and the 1915 Star.

William Nettle

Born in Repton on Christmas Day 1885 to parents Levi and Mary Ann, William was the next younger brother to Arthur and one of 12 children – though eldest brother (also William) had died when just 3 years old. William did not attend the Repton Village schools but probably started in Hartshorne when the family lived at the Bugley Cottages on Hoofies Farm half way between the two villages. By 1901, they had moved to Midway and William, aged 15, was a labourer at the pipe works His mother died in 1909 and by 1911, William was working with his brother Arthur in the Nadin & Co's Colliery at Stanton. He joined the North Staffs (Prince of Wales's Regiment) 7th Battalion in 1915 (No. 16573) and first served in the Balkans but died in Mesopotamia on 19th April 1916. Although his body was not recovered, he is commemorated on the Basra Memorial. He was awarded the British and Victory medals and the 1915 Star.

Herbert William Rowland

Herbert was born on 16th April 1892 in Repton and was the son of Thomas Rowland and Eliza Rowland, both of whom were Repton born and bred. The family lived in Tanyard Cottage, Tanner's Lane and Thomas was a plumber's labourer. Herbert attended the Repton Elementary school from October 1899 and was called Bertie on the register. He left in July 1900 and there is a note "Gone to Horninglow". This is explained by the fact that by the time of the 1901 census the family were in Horninglow, Burton On Trent where his father had become licensee at the Royal Oak Inn. Herbert then aged 8 had two brothers - one six years older and one four years younger. By 1911, his mother had died and he had become an assistant butcher. He joined the 1st Battalion of the Connaught Rangers (No. 64705) and died of wounds in Mesopotamia (now Israel) on 19th September 1918. He is buried in the Ramleh War Cemetery in Israel which covers Israel and Palestine (including Gaza).

Henry Sales

There is little information about Henry save that the Vicar wrote in the Parish Magazine in December 1918: “But in the midst of our joy I have, alas! To record the names of three more Repton men who have given their lives for their country Henry Sales, of Burton Road whose family has only recently settled in our midst. The relatives of all the above will receive the village’s most sincere sympathy.

Frederick (Frank) Waldron

Born in 1889, his parents were William (a Midland Railway Labourer) and Emma. Frederick gave his parish of birth as Repton on his army papers, and this is confirmed by the 1891 census. However, by then the family were living on Weston Road, Aston On Trent and was not baptised in Repton. He was a farmworker at Moor Farm, Aston by the age of 12 but on 5th February 1907, aged 18, he enlisted with the 17th Notts and Derby Regiment of the Sherwood Foresters (No. 10267). We know little of his service career until 1914 although there are vaccination records for 1909, 1912, 1913 and records of minor ailments in 1909 and an operation for appendicitis in 1912 which hospitalised him for 14 days. He was in France by 4th November 1914 but suffering from frostbite in No.2 Stationary Hospital by the 30th. It seems he was transferred home on SS Carisbrooke Castle in December 1914 and in February 1915, while in Plymouth, was appointed Lance Corporal. He was back in action on 18th March 1915 but on 9th May, he was shot in the arm and admitted to hospital on the 10th and transferred back to England on the 11th May 1915. By October 1915 Frank was in Gallipoli and promoted to Acting Sergeant. By November 1915 he was again wounded and sent to the Military Hospital at Imtarfa on Malta by Hospital Ship Kildonan Castle and invalided home in January 1916. In June he was stationed in Sunderland and appointed Acting Corporal and then in November, Acting Sergeant. He married Agnes May Radford on 17th December 1916 – her banns being called in Elvaston near Aston but his in Sunderland. He was still in Sunderland in September 1917 when confirmed in his rank of Sergeant but sadly, back in Flanders and killed in action on the 27th September 1917. He is remembered on the Tyne Cot Memorial in Belgium and on the memorial in Elvaston, Derbyshire. He was awarded the British and Victory medals.

The Soldier

If I should die, think only this of me:
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is for ever England. There shall be
In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;
A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,
Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam,
A body of England's, breathing English air,
Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.
And think, this heart, all evil shed away,
A pulse in the eternal mind, no less
Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given;
Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;
And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,
In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.

Rupert Brook

The Mother

If you should die, think only this of me
In that still quietness where is space for thought,
Where parting, loss and bloodshed shall not be,
And men may rest themselves and dream of nought:
That in some place a mystic mile away
One whom you loved has drained the bitter cup
Till there is nought to drink; has faced the day
Once more, and now, has raised the standard up.
And think, my son, with eyes grown clear and dry
She lives as though for ever in your sight,
Loving the things *you* loved, with heart aglow
For country, honour, truth, traditions high,
--Proud that you paid their price. And if some night
Her heart should break--well, lad, you will not know.

May Herschel-Clarke

Written after reading Rupert Brooke's sonnet, "The Soldier":

Acknowledgments

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