



Ellingham War Memorials

*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.*

Dedication

This booklet is dedicated to the men from Ellingham Parish who died in two World Wars and are remembered by their fellow parishioners on the War Memorials in Ellingham Church.

Thanks to Ellingham Community Trust who provided the funding to allow this booklet to be produced.

Acknowledgements: Much of the information in this booklet has been obtained from the War Graves Commission, the Northumberland Gazette, the Berwick Advertiser and the 1901 and 1911 Census reports from Ancestry. Thanks to the staff at Woodhorn Archives, Alnwick Library and Berwick Archives for their help.

Thanks also to Olive Johnson, John Mark and Gilly Baker-Cresswell for sharing photos and memories about family members on the memorials. To Tom Braidford for his local knowledge. To Jane Bowen, Janet Ward, Mabon Kinghorn, Jan Gerrard, and Cathy Dingle for help with research. To Leo Graham, Isla Morton and Maddie Underwood for the artwork and the children of Years 3 and 4 at Ellingham School for their research into cemeteries.

And to Reverend Brian Hurst for his sermon which started this whole thing off.

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this booklet, if you spot any errors or have more information please contact me so that amendments can be made if it is reprinted.

Eileen Duncan



Foreword



by

The Reverend Canon Brian Hurst

Every year the names inscribed upon the parish's war memorials are read out at our Remembrance Sunday Service. At last year's service I hinted in the sermon that it would be good if we could remember not just the names but something of the stories behind those commemorated on our memorials.

I suppose my thought was that as we approached the anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War we should try to remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice as individuals – each one precious in the sight of God and loved by their family, rather than as an anonymous name.

As we read this booklet the characters behind the names begin to shine as we hear of familiar family names, well known place names – both local settlements and townships as well as foreign fields – along with recognisable and strange sounding occupations.

We realise that each one of these characters left behind them mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, wives, girlfriends and partners who, this side of the grave, never recovered from their loss. We hear also of a community mourning the loss of its young (mostly) men.

The parish is immensely grateful that Eileen Duncan rose to the challenge and has spent time researching the lives and stories behind the names. In gathering these fragments together into one place she has created for us and future generations a fitting tribute and memorial of those who for our tomorrow gave their today.

WWI Memorials

Unlike Commonwealth war graves and monuments which are tended by the War Graves Commission, war memorials were erected by local people in memory of their friends and neighbours who died. Again, unlike the war graves and monuments a person could be commemorated on more than one memorial. For example many schools and universities (including the Duke's School at Alnwick) have their own war memorials and someone who was working in one area when he joined the army could be commemorated on a local memorial and also on one where his family still lived.

I have found it fascinating tracing the men from Ellingham through census records, newspaper cuttings and through family memories. It has also brought home to me the immense suffering, not just of the men in terrible conditions in the trenches but also of those left behind waiting for news and both looking forward to, but also dreading the postman's call.

Many families had several sons serving in the forces and also daughters serving as nurses.

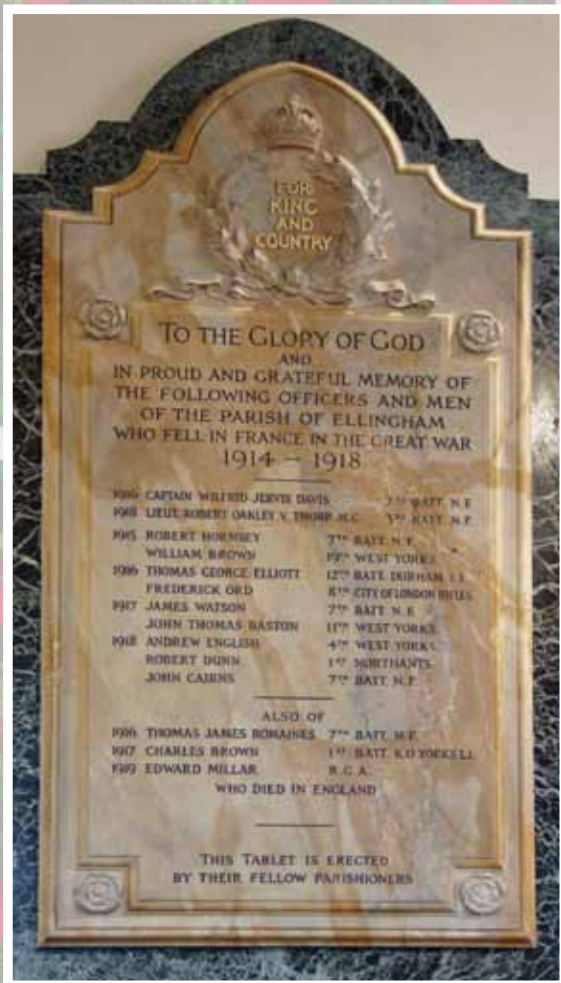
The Millar family who lived at Wood Cottage had all four of their sons serving whilst the Watsons, Ords, Weddells, and Browns all had three and the Davis's had three sons in the army and three daughters who were serving as nurses.

I have tried not only to find out something about these men but also about the lives they would have led before they joined the army and how different life was then from now. With no electric, let alone computers, television, even radio in most homes news travelled by word of mouth or letter.

Transport was very different and with very few cars many people still used horses and carts or travelled by bus or train.

Eileen Duncan

World War I Memorials



In Memory of
Lieutenant
Wilfrid Jervis Davis

7th Bn., Northumberland Fusiliers who died on 30 June 1916 Age 25

Son of the late Robert Davis and of Ellen Davis, of Frinningham Lodge, Maidstone, Kent; late of Darrickwood, Orpington, Kent. His brother Guy Clifton Davis also fell.

Remembered with Honour
La Laiterie Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Captain Wilfred Jervis Davis



Wilfred Jervis Davis was born in Epsom, Surrey in 1891, the son of Dr Robert Davis and his wife Ellen. He had two brothers, Robert and Guy and three sisters Phyllis, Gwen and Ruth. All three brothers served in the army whilst the three girls were nurses. In 1911 Wilfred was living at Preston and was a medical student. He joined the Northumberland Fusiliers and served in France and Flanders as a lieutenant. He was acting Captain when he was killed on 30th June 1916 in Belgium and is commemorated at the La Laiterie Military Cemetery.

His brother Guy was also killed.



In Memory of
Second Lieutenant
R O V Thorp
M C

1st Bn., Northumberland Fusiliers who died on 22 March 1918 Age 39

Son of the Rev. William Tudor Thorp and Mary Louisa Thorp, of Charlton Hall, Northumberland.

Remembered with Honour
Saulcourt Churchyard Extension, Guyencourt-Saulcourt



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Lieutenant Robert Oakley V. Thorp MC



Robert Oakley Vavasour Thorp was born in Llangarron, Herefordshire the fourth son of William and Mary Thorp in 1879.

By 1881 he was living with his family at Charlton Hall. He was educated privately at King's College, Cambridge. He became a schoolteacher and taught in Scarborough before moving to Manchester where he taught French and German. At the outbreak of the war he joined the Public Schools and University Corps, went out to the front and served in the trenches in the winter of 1915. He later obtained a commission in the Northumberland Fusiliers. He was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry in action. He led a successful raid against the enemy with great courage and determination, himself killing two of the enemy and capturing a prisoner. He was later invalided home with trench fever. However he recovered and returned to his regiment in 1917. When he returned to the front he was attached to a trench-mortar battery. He was killed on 22nd March 1918 during the battle of the Somme.

He is buried at Saulcourt in France.

There is a memorial to him in Ellingham Church near the altar. His brother Collingwood also served in the Army.



In Memory of
Private
Robert Hornsby

2359, 1st/7th Bn., Northumberland Fusiliers who died on 01 June 1915 Age 22

Only son of Robert and Elizabeth Ann Hornsby, of Low Newton, Lesbury, Northumberland.

Remembered with Honour
Etaples Military Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Robert Hornsby



Robert Hornsby was born at Hepple in Northumberland in 1893 the son of Robert and Elizabeth Hornsby.

He had a younger sister Mary.

In 1911 he was living with his mother and sister at High House, Alnwick and is listed as an assistant shepherd.

As an assistant shepherd Robert would have had at least three collie dogs, one old, one fully trained and a puppy which was being trained.

When he joined the Northumberland Fusiliers in 1914 Robert was living and working at Doxford Farm.

He died of wounds received in battle near Etaples France on 1st June 1915 aged 22 and is buried there in the Military Cemetery.



In Memory of
Private
William Brown

14878, 10th Bn., Yorkshire Regiment who died on 27 September 1915

Remembered with Honour
Loos Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

William Brown



William and his twin brother John were born near Whittingham, the youngest of eight children of James and Margaret Brown.

By 1901 the family were living at number 13 Ellingham Village which was somewhere between the Pack Horse and Harelaw, so William would go to school at Ellingham until he was 14.

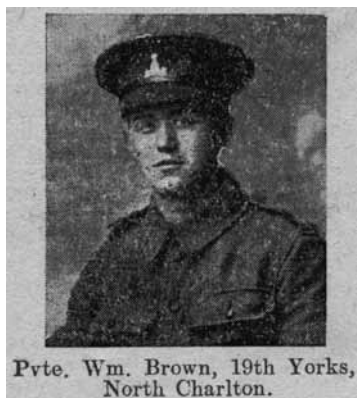
Sadly his father died in 1904 (when William was 9) and his mother in 1906. His eldest sister Mary came home to look after the boys. On leaving school William became an apprentice gardener while his twin became a telegraph boy. Both of the twins, and their elder brother Charles enlisted in the army.

William was killed in action at Loos, near Ypres in Belgium on 27th September 1915.

Report from The Northumberland Gazette along with the photo:

A North Charlton Hero

We regret to report that Private William Brown, of North Charlton was killed in action at Loos on 27th September. He was in the 19th Yorkshire Regiment.



In Memory of
Private
Thomas G. Elliott

45898, 12th Bn., Durham Light Infantry who died on 22 September 1916 Age 26

Son of Henry and Isabella Elliott; husband of Sarah Isabella Elliott, of East Bolton, Alnwick,
Northumberland.

Remembered with Honour
Thiepval Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Thomas George Elliott



Thomas George Elliott was born in Lucker in 1890 the son of Henry and Isabella Elliott. The family moved to Ellingham Lodge when Thomas was small and he would have attended Ellingham school before starting work as a drainer in his father's business.

From The Northumberland Gazette:

Private T G Elliott, who was killed on September 24th was the youngest son of Mr and Mrs Elliott of Ellingham Lodge. He enlisted into the NF in August 1915 here at Alnwick. He commenced training after which he was removed to Warminster and from thence to France, at the end of January 1916. During the advance on July 1st, Private Elliott was wounded. He lay for a few weeks in hospital in France, after which, on recovery from his wounds, he was transferred to the D.L.I. (Durham Light Infantry).



In a letter to the deceased's widow, after expressing heartfelt sympathy on behalf of himself and other officers of the battalion, Second Lieutenant Borrell writes:- Your husband was a very fine and brave soldier, and always did his duty well and bravely . . . He died a soldier's death in the thick of the fighting. Unfortunately a shell burst right on the piece of trench which your husband and a few of his comrades were occupying with the result that they were instantly killed.

Private Elliott leaves a widow and one little son.
His brother John also served in the Army.

In Memory of
Rifleman
F Ord

3682, 8th Bn., London Regiment (Post Office Rifles) who died on 15 September 1916 Age 34

Son of Mrs. Elizabeth Ord, of Chathill, Northumberland; husband of Elizabeth Ord, of Spindleston, Belford,
Northumberland.

Remembered with Honour
Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, Longueval



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Frederick Ord



Frederick Ord was born at Beadnell, son of Elizabeth Ord and in 1891 was living with his mother, five brothers and two sisters at Swinhoe. By 1911 he was married to Elizabeth, living at Preston, working as a postman and had a three year old daughter called Violet.

As a postman he would start his day by collecting the mail from the train and sorting it before delivering it either on foot or a bicycle. He was a rifleman in the City of London Rifles Post Office Division and was killed in action during the Battle of the Somme on 15th September 1916, aged 34.

He is buried in the Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, Longueval, France.



In Memory of
Private
James Nicholas Watson

34683, 27th (Tyneside Irish) Bn., Northumberland Fusiliers who died on 09 April 1917 Age 27

Son of the late John and Hannah Watson, of Ellingham, Chathill, Northumberland.

Remembered with Honour
Arras Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

James Nicholas Watson



James Watson was born in 1890 in Gateshead the second son of John and Hannah Watson (he had three brothers). By 1901 the family was living at Ellingham where his father was Sexton for twenty two years and the family lived in Vicarage Cottage at Ellingham.

James joined the Northumberland Fusiliers in August 1915 and went to France in January 1917. During his embarkation leave James carved a face on the wall at the Glebe Farmhouse. This can still be seen today on the roadside near the gate.

He was killed in action near Arras on 9th April 1917 aged 27.

He is commemorated on the Arras Memorial.

His brothers Frank and John also served in the Army during the conflict.



Carving at the Glebe

In Memory of

Private

John Thomas Baston

42749, 11th Bn., West Yorkshire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Own) who died on 20 September 1917

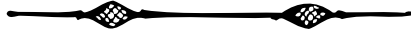
Remembered with Honour

Tyne Cot Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

John Thomas Baston



John Thomas Baston was born in 1896 at Gloster Hill near Warkworth, the son of David and Mary Baston. He had two brothers and five sisters. By 1911 the family was living at Brockdam and he was a horseman on the farm. As a horseman he would be responsible for his two horses, getting up to feed and groom them at five so that they were ready to work at seven.

He was killed near Ypres in Belgium in September 1917 and is commemorated on the Tyne Cot memorial.

From The Northumberland Gazette:

Mr and Mrs Baston, Stewards Cottage, Ellingham have been informed by the War Office that their youngest son Thomas was killed in France on 20th September. He was 22 years of age and only joined last April, leaving for France in June. For over 10 years he was a member of the Parish Church Choir. His platoon officer, writing to his mother, says: It is with great regret I write to tell you of the death of your son. I can assure you that he was a man of priceless worth to my platoon, and as brave a soldier as ever stood on a battlefield. He died doing his duty for King and Country. I miss him on every parade and feel his loss greatly. He was always cheery, and whatever work he had to do he did it well and with a good will. Much sympathy is felt with the family in their bereavement as all of them are much respected in the locality where they have lived so long. Another son is serving in France with a Canadian Battalion. He joined up in Vancouver City.

In Memory of
Private
John Cairns

242662, 2nd/5th Bn., Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) who died on 04 November 1918 Age 37

Territorial Efficiency Medal. Son of John Edward and Amy English Cairns, of Hobberlaw Kiln, Alnwick;
husband of Annie Cairns, of Denwick, Alnwick, Northumberland.

Remembered with Honour
Vis-En-Artois Memorial



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

John Cairns



John Cairns was born in Alnwick in 1881 the eldest son of Edward and Ann Cairns (although listed on the memorial opposite as Amy, she is listed as Anne E on Census records) who were farmers. He had five brothers and a sister.

By 1914 he was married and living at Preston Lodge. He enlisted at the start of the war and served over four years in France and Flanders. He was killed on 4th November 1918 whilst carrying a stretcher containing a wounded officer.



A letter from his Commanding Officer says that his devotion to duty as a soldier throughout his long service and willingness to volunteer as a stretcher bearer were a fine example of all that is best in the Army. He was serving in the Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) at the time of his death.

He is commemorated on the Vis-En-Artois memorial in France.

In Memory of
Private
Robert Dunn

40653, 1st Bn., Northamptonshire Regiment who died on 24 September 1918 Age 21

Son of Elizabeth Dunn, of Greensfield, Alnwick, Northumberland, and the late William Dunn.

Remembered with Honour
Brie British Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Robert Dunn



Robert Dunn was born at Castle Eden, Co. Durham the second son of William and Elizabeth Dunn. When his father was killed in a pit accident at Hordon in 1902 his mother moved to North Charlton where she took over the running of the post office to be nearer her family who farmed at East Link Hall. Robert, his two brothers and one sister went to Ellingham School. On leaving school Robert started work on his grandfather's farm and later joined the Northamptonshire Regiment.

He was killed on 24th September 1918 aged 21.

From The Northumberland Gazette:

Mrs Dunn of East Link Hall has received a telegram stating that her son Private Robert Dunn of the Northamptons has died in hospital in France. He was wounded nearly a fortnight ago in the arms and legs. He was home on leave for the March hirings. He left for France on 15th and was gassed on 19th. He was back in the fighting again and sprained his ankle on 13th July, was wounded in hospital during an air raid and rejoined his battalion on 9th September, was wounded on 23rd September and died on 24th.



In Memory of
Private
A English

47335, 15th Bn., Lancashire Fusiliers who died on 30 September 1918

Remembered with Honour
Uplands Cemetery, Magny-La-Fosse



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Andrew English



From The Berwick Advertiser:

BELFORD PLANTATION FARM LAD MAKES SUPREME SACRIFICE

We are sorry indeed to state that Mr and Mrs English, Plantation Farm, Belford, have been informed that their youngest son, Private Andrew English, Lancashire Fusiliers, has fallen in action in France. Private English enlisted early in the war, and after undergoing a course of training was drafted overseas and put in the firing line and stayed there a long time before anything eventful occurred to him. Bad luck eventually came his way and he was sent over to England and after a few months stay here, he returned to France, and the dear lad has remained there manfully fulfilling his duty in the Great War until the hour he gave his life for country, home and loved ones. Practically the whole of our gallant young friend's life was spent at North Sunderland, where he was greatly beloved by all who knew him. We mourn the loss of such a fine young fellow and sympathise most deeply with the bereaved family.

He died on 30th September 1918 and is commemorated at Uplands Cemetery, Magney-La-Fosse.

Although I have not been able to find where he was working, Andrew English must have been working on one of the farms at Ellingham when he enlisted. ED



In Memory of

Private

Thomas James Romaines

Northumberland Fusiliers who died 27th October 1916 aged 22
Son of Thomas and Jane Romaines of Wandylaw

Remembered with Honour
Ellingham Churchyard



**Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission**

Thomas James Romaines



Thomas James Romaines was born at Bowsden Moor in 1894 the eldest son of Thomas and Jane Romaines. He had two younger brothers and a sister. By 1915 when he enlisted the family were living at Wandylaw and he was working on the farm.

This is a copy of the report of his death from The Gazette:

Funeral of Private T Romaines of Wandylaw

On Sunday afternoon last, the remains of ex-Private Thomas Romaines, Wandylaw, were interred in Ellingham Churchyard. His sudden death at the early age of 22 gave rise to much sympathy, and the large numbers present at the funeral testified to the respect in which the deceased and his parents are held in the neighbourhood.

The services, both in the church and at the graveside were unusually impressive. In a brief address, the Vicar alluded to the pathetic circumstances of the young soldier's death, of his keenness to serve, and of his patience. Young Romaines volunteered in June 1915, and joined 5th NF. A severe chill in spring placed him in hospital, and a subsequent attack of pneumonia, from the effect of which he never recovered, precipitated his discharge from the army a few weeks ago and he died at his father's house at Wandylaw early on Friday morning from heart failure.

In Memory of

Private

Charles Brown

King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who died

31st December 1917 aged 31

Son of the late James and Margaret Brown of Ellingham

Remembered with Honour

Ellingham Churchyard



**Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission**

Charles Brown



Charles Brown was born in Ford, the son of James and Margaret Brown. He had four brothers and two sisters (one of whom was his twin). His father was a stone mason and by 1901 the family was living at Ellingham. Sadly his father died in 1904 and his mother in 1906 so that, by 1911 he is listed on the census as head of the household and a road man with his eldest sister acting as housekeeper for him and his two younger brothers who were by then 16 and working, one as a telegraph boy and the other as an apprentice gardener. Both of these brothers John and William also joined the forces.

As a roadman in those days he would be responsible for his stretch of road (typically about 5 miles). He would have to mend potholes by breaking up stones to fill them, keep the ditches clear and keep the grass and hedges cut on the side of the roads. It was a source of pride for most of these roadmen that 'their' stretch was better than the next stretch. When he enlisted he joined the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and saw service in the trenches in France and Flanders.

Whilst serving he contracted an illness from which he died on 31st December 1917 aged just 31.

(As well as bullets, shells and shrapnel (often resulting in gangrene) trench hand, mouth and foot, trench fever, dysentery, typhus and cholera were common in the soldiers in the trenches)

In Memory of

Private

Edward Millar

West Yorkshire Regiment who died 28th June 1919 aged 21
Son of William and Mary Millar of Wood Cottage, Ellingham

Remembered with Honour
Ellingham Churchyard



**Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission**

Edward Millar



Edward Millar was born at Wood Cottage, Ellingham in 1898, the youngest son of William and Mary Millar.

He had four older brothers, three of whom also served in the armed forces.

He went to school at Ellingham and on leaving at 14, instead of following his father and brothers by becoming a gamekeeper Edward became an assistant shepherd at East Brizlee in Alnwick Parks. He joined the Royal Garrison Artillery and fought in France and Flanders during the war.

He was gassed in March 1918 and on April 5th 1918 was discharged from the army as no longer physically fit for war service.

He returned home to Ellingham and died 28th June 1919 aged just 21 having never recovered.

As a trainee shepherd in Alnwick Parks, Edward would have had a hard life but would have spent most of his time in the open air and would have had at least three collies to help him in his work. Edward Millar is also commemorated on the Duke of Northumberland's Roll of Honour at Alnwick Castle as he was working for him when he enlisted.

World War I Cemeteries and Memorials

La Laiterie Military Cemetery

This cemetery is in Heuveland, West Vlaanderen near to Kemmel in Belgium which is between Ypres and the Belgium France border. The cemetery, which was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, holds the graves of 571 identified casualties including that of Captain W J Davis.

Saulcourt Churchyard Extension

This graveyard is in France near the Somme and contains the graves of 70 British Officers and men who died near here. Lieutenant R O V Thorp is buried here.

Etaples Military Cemetery

This cemetery is situated at Etaples near Boulogne on the north west coast of France. It holds the graves of over 11,500 from both WW1 and WW2. The number of military buildings in ETAPLES gave the town a capacity of around 100,000 troops in World War I and made the area a serious target for German aerial bombing raids from which the town suffered heavily.

Robert Hornsby is buried here.

Loos Memorial

The Loos Memorial is a World War I memorial located near Commune of Loos-en-Gohelle in the pas-de-Calais department of France. 20,610 army men are in this memorial. Built 4th August 1930. William Brown is commemorated here.

Thiepval Memorial

Is in the Somme in France and contains the names of 72,195 soldiers who died in the battle of the Somme and who have no known grave. Thomas G Elliott is on this memorial.

Caterpillar Valley Cemetery, Longueval

Is in the Somme in France and contains the graves of 1,774 British servicemen including F Ord.

Arras Memorial

Is situated in the Faubourg-d'Amiens Cemetery in France and contains the names of 34,774 men who have no known grave including James Watson.

Tyne Cot Memorial

Is in France and is one of four memorials to the missing in Belgium Flanders which cover the area known as the Ypres Salient. It contains the names of almost 35,000 officers and men including John Thomas Baston.

It is the largest memorial to those from the UK who died during WW1.

Uplands Cemetery Magny-La-Fosse

Is in France and contains the graves of 43 Officers and men who were killed at the battle of St. Quentin Canal which was fought between 29th September and 2nd October 1918 including Andrew English.

Brie British Cemetery

Is in France at the village of Brie which is on the Amiens-St. Quentin Road. It contains the graves of 409 Commonwealth soldiers including Robert Dunn.

Vis-En-Artois Memorial

Is situated to the west of the village of Haucourt and about 10 kilometres south east of Arras. It contains the names of 9,833 servicemen killed in the area who have no known grave including John Cairns.

Ellingham Churchyard

Contains the graves of three servicemen from the area who died as a result of injuries or illnesses sustained during WW1. Thomas J Romaines, Charles Brown and Edward Millar.



WWII Memorials

Unlike Commonwealth War Graves and Monuments which are tended by the War Graves Commission, War Memorials were erected by local people in memory of their friends and neighbours who died in two World Wars. For them this was a way of bringing their loved ones home.

Again, unlike the War Graves and monuments, a person could be commemorated on more than one memorial, for example many schools and universities (including the Duke's School at Alnwick) have their own war memorials and someone who was working in one area when he joined the army could be commemorated on a local memorial and also on one where his family still lived.

Major Gilfrid Edward Baker-Cresswell is on the War Memorial at Trinity College, Cambridge where he studied engineering.

Unfortunately I have been unable to find a Roll of Honour for the men and women from Ellingham who served during the Second World War.

I feel that I have been very lucky to have traced some family members of these men who have filled in some of the backgrounds (census records for that period are not available).

If anyone has any information about any of these men perhaps they could get in touch with me and this could be included in any future versions of this booklet.

Eileen Duncan

World War II Memorials

TO THE MEMORY OF
THE MEN OF ELLINGHAM PARISH
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE WAR
1939 - 1945

MAJOR G. E. BAKER CRESSWELL,	R.E.
CORPORAL A. MARK,	R.A.O.C.
DRIVER G. BASTON,	R.A.S.C.
FUSILIER A. CROZIER,	R.N.F.
FUSILIER J. STEWART,	R.N.F.
PRIVATE C. LOWTHER,	R.P.C.

In Memory of
Major
Gilfrid Edward Baker Cresswell

63534, Royal Engineers who died on 27 October 1942 Age 27

Son of Henry Gilfrid Baker Cresswell and Vera Baker Cresswell; husband of Anne Sylvia Baker Cresswell,
of Chathill, Northumberland. B.A. (Cantab.).

Remembered with Honour
El Alamein War Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Major Gilfrid Edward Baker-Cresswell



Gilfrid Edward Baker-Cresswell was born in Edinburgh where his father was working as an engineer with post office telephones. Gilfrid moved with his parents, Henry Gilfrid (who fought in WWI) and Vera to London as a small boy and attended Westminster School where he won cups for running, one of which has now been given to the Pack Horse Leek Club



and is awarded annually for the most points in the baking section. On leaving school he was commissioned into the Royal Engineers and was sent by the army to university to study engineering. He read engineering at Trinity College, Cambridge and completed the course in two years rather than the usual three.

Gilfrid and Sylvia became engaged in 1938 and plans for the wedding were accelerated on account of the Munich crisis. Shortly after the wedding he was posted on garrison duty to Mauritius (incidentally the island named after the Patron Saint of Ellingham Church). He was later posted to the Western Desert and was mentioned in dispatches for bravery before sadly being killed at El Alamein on 27th October 1942.

He is buried in the cemetery there.

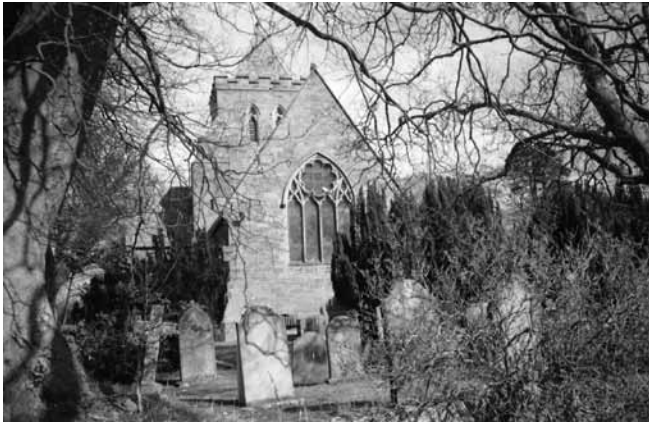
He left a widow Sylvia and two small children, Sally and Gilfrid.

In Memory of
Corporal
Alfred Mark

Royal Ordnance Corps

Died at Foresters' Cottages, Doxford
Buried at Ancroft

Remembered with Honour



**Commemorated in perpetuity on
Ellingham War Memorial**

Alfred Mark



Alfred Mark was born at Linden Hall (near Longhorsley) on 28th August 1917 and attended South Charlton School until 1927 when the family moved to Doxford. He then moved to Ellingham School. On leaving school at 14 he started work for Grieves of Embleton later becoming a taxi driver for them.

He and his younger brother Robert moved to the Yair Estate near



Galashiels where they both became chauffeurs. When he joined the Army in 1939 he became a dispatch rider with the Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

His younger brother Robert joined the Royal Navy a little later and then went on to work on cruise liners and is still alive and living in New Zealand at the time of writing.

Alfie developed TB and spent time in a hospital on the Mount of Olives, Jerusalem. When he came back to England he spent some time in a hospital near Hexham. He died in December 1948 at his parents home at Foresters' Cottages, Doxford and is buried at Ancroft.

In Memory of
Driver
George William Baston

T/194638, Royal Army Service Corps who died on 16 July 1943 Age 28

Son of Joseph George and Jane Baston, of Wooler, Northumberland.

Remembered with Honour
Kanchanaburi War Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

George William Baston



George William Baston lived with his parents, Joseph (a woodman) and Jane at Preston. When he joined the Army he joined the Royal Army Service Corps as a driver. He was captured and worked on the notorious death railway until his death on 16th July 1943.

This was the railway the Japanese were constructing between Burma and Siam which was 424 kilometres long and was started in October 1942 and completed in December 1943.

He is buried in the Kanchanaburi War Cemetery in Thailand.

His father gave the cross and two candlesticks pictured below to Ellingham Church in his memory.



In Memory of
Fusilier
Alfred Crozier

4273872, 7th Bn., Royal Northumberland Fusiliers who died on 12 June 1940 Age 30

Son of James A. and Elizabeth Crozier, of Warenford, Northumberland.

Remembered with Honour
Claville-Motteville Churchyard



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Alfred Crozier



From The Gazette August 30th 1940:

Official notification has been received by Mr and Mrs James Crozier, Cottage Inn, Warenford that their son, Alfred Crozier, is reported as missing. He joined the Territorials in 1938, and was attached to the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers. He was expected home on leave this month.

In civilian life Alfred was a postman at Chathill for many years, later being transferred to Alnwick. He was very popular in the district. He died 12th June 1940 aged 30, and is buried in Claville-Motteville Churchyard in France.



In Memory of
Fusilier
John Stewart

4275572, 9th Bn., Royal Northumberland Fusiliers who died on 29 June 1943 Age 25

Son of John and Eleanor Ann Stewart, of Thropton, Northumberland.

Remembered with Honour
Kanchanaburi War Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Fusilier John Stewart



John Stewart was born at Thropton, Rothbury in 1918 and the family was living at Preston Tower when he joined the Northumberland Fusiliers. He was a prisoner of war in Thailand and would have worked on the infamous death railway. He died on 29th June 1943 aged just 25 and is buried in the Kanchanaburi War Cemetery in Thailand. Sadly an entry in the Northumberland Gazette dated 3rd September 1943 says that Mr and Mrs Stewart of Preston Tower, formerly of Caistron, Rothbury have received a postcard from their son John saying that he is a prisoner of war in Japanese hands. Mr and Mrs Stewart have four sons in the army and a daughter in law in the WAAFs.



Fus. Stewart

In Memory of
Lance Corporal
Charles Lowther

13005051, Aux. Mil., Pioneer Corps who died on 17 June 1940 Age 42

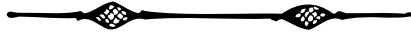
Son of Thomas and Madeline Lowther; husband of Mary Jane Lowther, of Chathill, Northumberland.

Remembered with Honour
La Bernerie-En-Retz Communal Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Lance Corporal Charles Lowther



From the Northumberland Gazette:

After having been previously reported as missing, official notification has been received from the War Office by Mrs C Lowther that her husband Lance Corporal Charles Lowther, of the Auxilliary Military Pioneer Corps was killed on active service during fighting in France. Lance Corporal Lowther, who hailed from Chevington Drift, saw service in the last war and on the outbreak of the present conflict offered his services, which were accepted. His body was discovered on the shore at St. Nazaire and he was buried in La Bernier Cemetery with full military honours. He leaves a widow, two sons and four daughters. It is likely that Lance Corporal Lowther died when the troopship SS Lancastria was sunk by enemy bombers off St. Nazaire on 17th June 1940.

(Why Lance Corporal Lowther is listed as Private Lowther on the War Memorial is something of a mystery)



Lce.-Cpl. C. Lowther

World War II Cemeteries

El Alamein War Cemetery

Is situated 130 kilometres west of Alexandria in Egypt on the road to Mesa Matruh. It contains 6,425 identified casualties.

This is where Major Baker-Cresswell is buried

Kanchanaburi War Cemetery

Is situated 129 kilometres north of Bangkok in Thailand. This cemetery is along the notorious Burma-Siam railway. During its construction approximately 13,000 prisoners of war died and were buried alongside the railway. An estimated 80,000 to 100,000 civilians also died. The railway was started in October 1942, is 424 kilometres long, and was completed in December 1943. Kanchanaburi War Cemetery is near the site of the Neike Camp and contains the names and graves or cremated remains of 5,084 Commonwealth casualties. In May/June 1943 some 300 men died following a cholera outbreak at the camp, were cremated, and their ashes buried in two graves in the cemetery. This cemetery also contains 1,894 Dutch War Graves.

This is where both George Baston and John Stewart are buried.

Claville-Motteville Churchyard

Is situated 19 kilometres north of Rouen in Normandy, France.

There are three war graves in this cemetery including that of Alfred Crozier.

La Bernirie-En-Retz Communal Cemetery

La Bernirie-En-Retz is a village and seaside resort 48 kilometres west south west of Nantes in France. The cemetery contains 94 war graves most of whom died when the troop ship SS Lancastria was sunk off St Nazaire on 17th June 1940.

Lance Corporal Charles Lowther is buried here.

World War I Roll of Honour

The following is a list of officers and men of the Parish of Ellingham who served in the Navy and Army in the Great European War 1914-1918

*Wilfred J Davis
John W Lough
Charles McDowell
George O.M. M'Gonigle
Collingwood F Thorp
*Robert O V Thorp
Henry G Baker-Cresswell
Thomas S Air
George Athey
David Baston
*John Thomas Baston
Dudley Bell
John J Bowden
*Charles Brown
John Brown
*William Brown
John Bruce
*John Cairns
James Carse
James A Chisholm
Charles W Crozier
Robert Davidson
John Dick
Robert J Dick
William Dick
John Dixon
Thomas Donohoe
Christopher Douglas
*Robert Dunn
John Elliott
*Thomas G Elliott
*Andrew English
James Greshon
Mark Grey
William Hately
*Robert Hornsby
James Keen
Robert Lillico

Alexander Manderson
Ebenezer Manderson
Andrew S Millar
*Edward Millar
John Millar
William A Millar
George Milliken
William Milliken
Thomas Nesbit
Edward W Ord
*Frederick Ord
Thomas Ord
William Ord
John Renner
George E Rickleton
Foster Robson
George Rochester
*Thomas Romaines
James Scott
Richard R Scott
William Scott
Frank Simm
James Tait
R Frank Thompson
G Edward Tiffin
William L Tiffin
James Tinlin
John W Tinlin
Frank Watson
*James Watson
John Watson
Edwin Weddell
Hubert Weddell
Matthew Weddell
Henry G Welsh
William Welsh
John Wilkin
George Woodcock



£5.00

*All profits from the sale of this booklet will go towards
the upkeep of the War Memorials in Ellingham Church.*

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