

## JOHN ARCHER

1885 - 4.11.1914 aged 29 years  
Pte 8195 2<sup>nd</sup> Bttn Yorks and Lancs Rgt



John is not recorded on the Gotham Roll. He is recorded by the CWGC as 'Son of Samuel Archer of East St, Gotham, and the late Sarah Archer. Native of Kegworth, Leicestershire.' He is included in the roll as his father lived in Gotham, which seems to be the qualifying factor for many on the roll.

John was a professional soldier of the York and Lancaster Regiment and went to France at the outbreak of WW1 with the BEF. His battalion landed at St Nazaire on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1914 and was transported by rail and route march to assist the French. They took over a section of the front line at Maison Rouge at Vailly on 20<sup>th</sup> September. On the 21<sup>st</sup> they came under fire and the battalion war diary records '3 killed, 11 wounded'. They were relieved on 12<sup>th</sup> October without further loss. On 18<sup>th</sup> October they were again in the front line on the Radinghen to Frammelles road where they immediately came under fire and lost 13 killed, 93 wounded and 27 missing. On 20<sup>th</sup> October the enemy broke through at Bas Champ and the battalion was forced to withdraw. On 23<sup>rd</sup> October the enemy attacked again and were counter attacked by repeated bayonet charges. The total loss for the battalion for October 1914 was 40 killed, 198 wounded, 34 missing, 8 died of wounds. John would have been one of those 'died of wounds' as he is recorded by Soldiers Died as died of wounds, 4<sup>th</sup> November 1914. War diaries rarely refer to "other ranks" by name, merely as OR's. John would have been one of the ORs listed during this fluid opening phase of WW1 before things became trench bound.

John is buried in the Boulogne Easter cemetery Pas de Calais. This is consistent with him having been evacuated from the front and transferred to a base hospital at Boulogne where he died of his wounds. He is buried in row III B 26. The cemetery is a CWGC part of the municipal cemetery and is unusual in that the head stones are laid flat, which is usually a sign of unstable ground. John is also recorded on the Kegworth Memorial.

## **CHARLES BOWLEY**

**1881 – 6.5.1917 aged 36 years**

**Pte 24079 3<sup>rd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Bttn Lancashire Fusiliers**

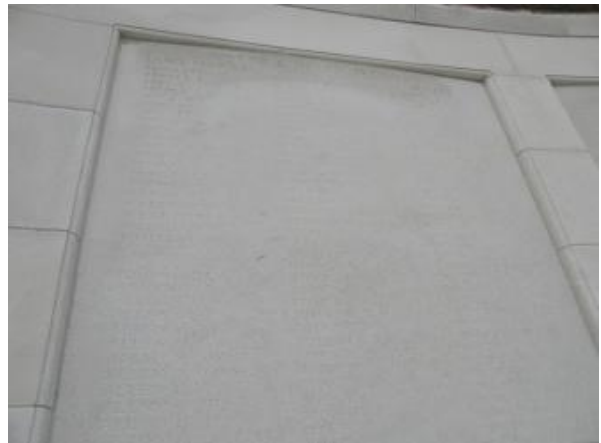


Charles was born in Gotham, the son of Arthur and Emily Bowley and husband of Jane Price Bowley and they lived on Meadow End with their children Agnes and Gertrude. Charles was a Gypsum Miner before enlistment. He died of wounds at St Omer and is buried in the Longuenesse (St Omer) CWGC cemetery row IV B 72. The CWGC record his number as 24079, but Soldiers Died as 204445 formerly 22914 Sherwood Foresters. His army record has not survived the blitz. See also details of Raymond Price buried in the same cemetery opposite Charles.

## **GEORGE WILLIAM BOWLEY**

**1885 – 26.9.1917 aged 32 years**

**Pte 266954 2<sup>nd</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Bttn (Robin Hood Rifles) Sherwood Foresters.**



George was the son of Thomas and Elizabeth Bowley of Malt St. He was an agricultural labourer before enlistment. He was killed in action in the attack on Wieltje during the Passchendaele campaign. The battalion war diary is quite detailed and has the operational order for the attack which states 'The brigade will attack the system of enemy trenches, strong points and shell holes between D14 and D90 (map references) 177 infantry brigade will attack right and 175 attack left in two waves. On the left the 2/7<sup>th</sup> will capture S area. The battalion will form up under cover of darkness the night before 'O' day'. The battalion diary records; 26<sup>th</sup> Sept 1917. Battalion attacked on a two Company frontage as per orders. All objectives gained and maintained in spite of heavy enemy counter attacks. 28<sup>th</sup> Sept 1917 Battalion relieved by 2/6<sup>th</sup> South Staffs Rgt and moved back to support at Schuller Galleries. 29<sup>th</sup> Sept 1917 back to billets at Vermertinghe. Casualties 1 officer killed, 7 wounded, 36 ORs killed, 238 wounded, 48 missing.

As with thousands of men killed in the Passchendaele campaign he has no known grave, having been blown to pieces or buried in the deep glutinous mud for which the campaign is infamous. He is recorded at the Tyne Cott CWGC cemetery on panel 99-102. See also Charles Edward Hale; same regiment, same battalion, killed in the same attack, same day. And also Herbert Hallam also killed at Wieltje, 17<sup>th</sup> November 1917 also recorded at Tyne Cott.

## **HARRY BRAILSFORD**

**1888 – 20.9.14 aged 26 years  
L/Cpl 10108 2<sup>nd</sup> Bttn Sherwood Foresters**



Harry was born at Cropwell Bishop and was the son of Thomas and Ellen Brailsford of The Rushes, Gotham. Harry enlisted at the age of 18 in August 1906 and then was called back to the colours at the outbreak of war. The battalion war diary is very detailed; at odds with diaries compiled later in the war. The battalion mustered and kitted at Cambridge in August 1914 and then travelled by train and route march to Newmarket where they entrained for Southampton and thence to St Nazaire on 8<sup>th</sup> September. There then followed train journeys and route marches to the front via Coulommiers, Dove, Chateaux Thierry, Parcy Tigny, Charise and Druzel on the 19<sup>th</sup> they stood to at 3.00 am at the sound of heavy gunfire to their front. They crossed the Aisne by pontoon at Bourg and then to Vendresse where they took over the line from the Black Watch. They were then relieved that night by the Gloucesters and they took over lines from the KRR just north of Troyon on the extreme right of the BEF and in touch with the French on their right. On the 20<sup>th</sup> enemy were seen to have taken trenches on their right on the ridge at the head of Troyon valley, the most vital point in the line of defence. The battalion moved to re take the trenches. A German column was seen to be marching prisoners away and A and C Companies, who were in bivouac nearest the trench moved up under captains Popham and Parkinson to the head of the valley. Their advance was met by heavy machine gun fire from the front and left causing many casualties, the ground being devoid of cover and very cramped. The advance was checked. The other two companies of the battalion reinforced the line then a general advance was made with great dash. In spite of heavy losses the trenches were retaken. Casualties were 4 officers killed and 8 wounded (all named) OR casualties 180 of which some 40 were killed.

Harry has no known grave and is recorded on the La Ferte Sous Jouarre memorial. Harry's service record survives.

## **GEORGE WILLIAM BROWN**

**1882 – 27.8.1918 aged 36 years**

**Pte 87900 1<sup>st</sup> Bttn Sherwood Foresters**



George was a 35 year old butcher living and working at Keyworth before enlistment in 1917. He was the son of William and Jane Brown of Town St (Leake Rd) Gotham where he grew up. He is buried in the La Targette CWGC cemetery at Neuville St Vaast row IV B 8. His service record survives.

## **CHARLES H CHADBURN**

**1897 - 4.10.1918. aged 21 years**

**L/Cpl 12535 1<sup>st</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Bttn Sherwood Foresters**



**Charles was born at Sutton Bonnington though by 1911 he was living with his parents' John and Elizabeth on Kegworth Road, Gotham with his siblings, Maud, Arthur and Phylis. He worked at the agricultural college as a 'house boy'. Charles is recorded on the Gotham roll as Chadborn, by the CWGC as Chadburn, by Soldiers Died as Chadbourne and by the Sherwood Foresters Museum as Chadburn. He was killed in action in the last 100 days campaign and is buried in the Tincourt CWGC cemetery on the Somme row V J 22.**



## **FREDERICK WILLIAM COOKE**

**1889 – 11.5.1917 aged 28 years**

**Pte 14963 9<sup>th</sup> Bttn Northumberland Fusiliers**



Frederick was the son of Frederick and Mary Cooke of Nottingham Road, Gotham, though his place of birth is listed as Kegworth. The 1891 census shows him living on Nottingham Road, Gotham aged 2 years. He was the husband of Carrie Cooke of Pleasant Place Kegworth and was killed in action by random shell fire on the trenches his battalion had only taken over that night. He is buried in the Fauberg D'Amiens CWGC cemetery Arras row VI G 26. See also Charles Jessop and Daniel Smith also recorded at this cemetery.

**GEORGE CRADDOCK**  
**1884 – 25.7.1917 aged 33 years**  
**Gnr 262 Siege Btty Royal Garrison Artillery**



George does not appear on the Gotham roll. He was the son of William and Rebecca Craddock who lived on Church St and later Bag Lane (Curzon St) before moving to Radford, Nottingham. On enlistment he was living at 3 Forster St, Radford and is described as a 31 year old 'plug maker'. He died of wounds received in the Ypres salient and is buried at Dozinghem CWGC cemetery Ypres row 1 A 12. Dozinghem, along with Mendenghem and Bandagehem, were large casualty clearing stations in the salient. Wounded men would be treated at forward aid posts before transfer to a clearing station. Unfortunately not all survived and large cemeteries alongside the posts result.



## **JOHN WILLIAM DAKIN**

**1885 – 10.10.1916 aged 31 years**

**Pte 32565 16<sup>th</sup> Bttn (Welbeck Rangers) Sherwood Foresters**



John was the son of the late Samuel and Elizabeth Dakin of Town Street (Leake Road) Gotham. The 1891 census has John living with his grandparents, John and Ann Dakin on Town Street, which fits with the “late” parents. He was killed in action on the Schwaben redoubt on the Somme aged 31, though the Methodist roll records that he died of wounds. The Schwaben redoubt was a fortified German stronghold and was a first day objective for the Ulstermen of the 36<sup>th</sup> Division on the first day of the battle of the Somme. The Ulstermen took the redoubt but were not supported and it fell back into German hands where it continued to inflict casualties until re taken. There is a theory that the Ulstermen were deliberately left unsupported on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July to ‘eliminate’ them and remove them from the political ‘game’ in Ireland (the Ulstermen were protestant and loyalist to a man) John has no known grave and is recorded on the Thiepval memorial pier and face 10C,10D and 11A.

## **ARTHUR DRING**

**1895 – 14.3.1916 aged 21 years**

**Pte 15930 10<sup>th</sup> Bttn Northumberland Fusiliers**



**Arthur was the son of Frederick and Eliza Dring and was born in Gotham, though in 1912 the family moved to Costock Road, East Leake. He was a wounded in the leg by shrapnel and bullets during a trench raid on German trenches on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1916 whilst serving in D company and evacuated to England, where he had his leg amputated at a hospital in Sheffield. He died as a result of the operation. Arthur's death certificate states as cause of death: Gunshot wound right thigh. Septicaemia certified by Ernest Finch MB. His mother, Eliza, was present at his bedside at his death. He is buried under a CWGC headstone in East Leake churchyard. See also his brother Joseph. Both brothers are also recorded on the East Leake roll.**

## **JOSEPH WILLIAM DRING**

**1890 to 13.10.1918 aged 28 years**

**Pte 49514 19<sup>th</sup> Bttn Lancashire Fusiliers**



Joseph was the son of Frederick and Eliza Dring and was born in Gotham, though in 1912 the family moved to Costock Road, East Leake. Joseph was killed in action during the last 100 days campaign in an attack on the Selle to Cambrai rail line. He was killed by machine gun fire along with fifty of his comrades by the same gun. They are all buried in the Haspres Coppice CWCG cemetery. Joseph is in row A 51. See also his brother Arthur. Both brothers are also recorded on the East Leake roll.

## **CHRISTOPHER LEONARD FREEMAN**

**14.6.1877 – 21.3.1918 aged 41 years**

**Pte G/19500 7<sup>th</sup> Bttn Queen's Own Royal West Kent Rgt**



Christopher was the husband of Sarah and father of four children. Shortly after marriage in East Leake the family moved to Monks Lane Gotham and Christopher was an engine driver at the gypsum works. He enlisted in 1917 at the age of 39 into the Sherwood Foresters, but was later rebadged to the Royal West Kents. He was killed in action on the first day of operation Michael, the German last attempt at breakthrough following the collapse of Russia and before the Americans arrived in force. The initial attack took place at the junction of the BEF and French forces on the Somme in dense fog. The battalion war diary reads 20<sup>th</sup> Bttn holding line near Moy. At stand to information received enemy massing in large numbers. 21<sup>st</sup>. Under cover of dense mist enemy advanced, surrounded Bttn HQ at about 11.0am A,B,C Coys also surrounded. Capt A V McDonald was sent to Brigade HQ at about 9.0am from there he gathered the remnants of the battalion and all available reinforcements which he had been sent from details at Friars Camp, and took command. Battalion gradually withdrew to Faillovel, just west of the canal. Casualties 20 officers 577 ORs. As late as 1.0 pm a breathless runner brought a final message from Col Crossthwaite with cut off West Kents to the 10<sup>th</sup> Essex. It read 'Holding out at 12.30pm. Boches all around within 50 yards except rear. Can only see 40 yards, so is difficult to kill the blighters.' They fought to the last man. Like many men lost that day, Christopher has no known grave. He is recorded on the Poziers memorial panel 58 and 59. See also Charles Jessop and Daniel Smith killed on the same day.



## **JOHN GAMBLE**

**1883 – 15.4.1916 aged 33 years**

**Pte 16369 2<sup>nd</sup> Btn Leicestershire Rgt**

**John does not appear on the Gotham roll. He was born in Gotham but by 1901 he was living and working in Sileby as a brickyard labourer. At the time of his death he is listed as living at Hobswich. He died of wounds in Mesopotamia and is buried in the Amara CWGC cemetery Iraq row VI H 6.**

## **JOHN MARSHALL GILL**

**1897 – 29.9.1916 aged 19 years**

**Pte 16129 6<sup>th</sup> Bttn Leicestershire Rgt**



John, known as Marshall, and listed on the roll as M Gill, was the son of William and Annie Gill of Wallace Street, Gotham, the eldest of eight children. Marshall's service record survives and shows that he was wounded in a training accident on 31<sup>st</sup> August 1915 at Mondicourt when being instructed to throw grenades. Grenade technology was in its infancy at this time and a misfire of a "pitcher bomb" set off a whole case and killed six men and wounded eight others including Marshall. His record lists his injuries and treatment of shrapnel wounds to his chest. He recovered however only to be killed a year later. He was killed in action on the Somme. He has no known grave and is recorded on the Thiepval memorial pier and face 2C and 3A. The Methodist roll states that he died of wounds France, which is at odds with no known grave.



## **CHARLES EDWARD HALE**

**19.11.1895 – 26.9.17 aged 22 years**

**L/Cpl 266936 2<sup>nd</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> (Robin Hood Rifles) Sherwood Foresters**



Charles was born in Gotham one of twins, born to Alice and Cornelius Hale of Nottingham Road, but in 1906 the family moved to Birkin Avenue, Hyson Green. Charles' eldest brother remained in Gotham.

Charles and his twin, Ernest, both volunteered, but served in different regiments. Charles was killed in action in the attack on Wieltje in the Passchendaele offensive. The battalion war diary is quite detailed and has the operational order for the attack which states 'The brigade will attack the system of enemy trenches, strong points and shell holes between D14 and D90 (map references) 177 infantry brigade will attack right and 175 attack left in two waves. On the left the 2/7<sup>th</sup> will capture S area. The battalion will form up under cover of darkness the night before 'O' day'. The battalion diary records; 26<sup>th</sup> Sept 1917. Battalion attacked on a two Company frontage as per orders. All objectives gained and maintained in spite of heavy enemy counter attacks. 28<sup>th</sup> Sept 1917 Battalion relieved by 2/6<sup>th</sup> South Staffs Rgt and moved back to support at Schuller Galleries. 29<sup>th</sup> Sept 1917 back to billets at Vermertinghe. Casualties 1 officer killed, 7 wounded, 36 ORs killed, 238 wounded, 48 missing.

Charles was fortunate to have received a burial. Thousands of men killed in the Passchendaele campaign have no known grave, having been blown to pieces or buried in the deep glutinous mud for which the campaign is infamous. George is buried in Tyne Cott CWGC cemetery row VI D 13. See also George Bowley; same Regiment, same Bttn, killed same day in the same attack and Herbert Hallam also killed at Wieltje and recorded at Tyne Cott.

Although serving in a different part of France, Ernest had an overwhelming sense of loss on 26<sup>th</sup> September and knew that his brother had been killed.

# ALBERT HALLAM

1889-9.8.15 aged 26 years  
Pte 4036 2<sup>nd</sup> Btn Sherwood Foresters



BURROWS G.	GREGORY J. J.	NAYLOR J. A.
BURROWS H.	GRETTON E.	NEAL J.
BURTON S.	GRETTON J. H.	NEEF H.
CALDWELL F.	GRIFFITHS J. W.	NEWBOLD A.
CALLADINE A.	GIMSLEY T. E.	NEWBOLD T.
CARLISLE J. H.	HACKETT A. E.	NEWTON H.
CARTER C. S.	HADFIELD S.	NOBLE A.
CASTLES W.	HALL H.	NOBLE M.
CAUNT B. D. C. M. M.	HALL R.	NOBLE W.
CAWTHORNE H.	HALLAM A.	NUTTALL G. T.
CHADWICK W.	HALLORAN J.	ODAM J. T.
CHAMBERLAIN F. A.	HALLSWORTH B.	OHARA M.
CHANDLER W. J.	HAMLETT J. J.	OLIVER S.
CHAPMAN A.	HANCOCK A.	ORCHARD E.
CHAPMAN C.	HARDY A.	ORTON H. H.
CHAPMAN H.	HARDY E.	OSWIN J.
CHAPMAN W.	HARE C. H.	PALMER G.
CHARLESWORTH F.	HARPER A. F. H.	PARKER F.
CHARLTON R.	HARRIS A.	PARKIN J. T.
CHENNELI V. A.	HARRIS J. T.	PARK H. T.
CHILDS T. H.	HARRISON H.	PAUL A. J.
CHISHOLM J.	HARRISON W.	PENCH J. W.
CHOLESTON H.	HARTSHORN H.	PEARSON J.
	HARVEY E.	PEARSON R.
	HARVEY H.	PENDLETON J.
		PEERY A.
		PERRY J.

Albert was born in Gotham, the son of Henry and Mary Hallam and husband of Clara, nee Hudson. They had one child, Harry born in 1913. Albert was a TA reservist and at the outbreak of war was living in Parr's Yard, St Peter's St Nottingham and his parents had moved to Bosworth Rd the Meadows. Albert was killed in action in an attack on Sanctuary Wood Ypres. The Methodist Roll states that he died of wounds received at Hooge, which is at odds with no known grave and in conflict with the Sanctuary wood location given by the Sherwood Foresters museum. He has no known grave and is recorded on the Menin Gate memorial panel 39/41.

## HERBERT HALLAM

1888 – 17.11.1917 aged 29 years

Pte38071 2<sup>nd</sup> Bttn Lincolnshire Rgt



Herbert was the son of Joseph and Elizabeth Hallam of Monks Lane, the eldest of three children he worked as a 'milk lad' at the plaster mine before enlistment. He was killed defending the line at Wiltje where the Bttn war diary records just another day eye deep in hell. The adjutant is clearly weary and cynical at this stage in the war. Compared to other battalion diaries the entry for the 17<sup>th</sup> is very brief and simply reads; 'Passchaendael. 2 officers (named) killed, 4 ORs killed, 13 wounded, 28 gassed. Relieved Royal Canadian Rgt in front line'. Herbert, like thousands of men lost in the Passchaendael campaign, has no known grave and is recorded on the Tyne Cott memorial panel 162-162A. See also George Bowley and Charles Hale also killed near Wiltje.

## **WILLIAM HICKLING**

**1896 – 5.7.1916 aged 20 years**

**Pte 21160 1<sup>st</sup> Bttn Sherwood Foresters**



**William is recorded as R W Hickling on the Gotham Roll, he was the son of Arthur and Eliza Hickling of Monks Lane. The Sherwood Foresters roll states he joined the battalion on the 18<sup>th</sup> February 1916 and was posted to B Coy'. He is recorded as wounded and missing on 5<sup>th</sup> July 1916, then late killed in action by enemy shell fire in the attack on La Boisselle France. He was killed in the opening phase of the battle of the Somme and has no known grave. He is recorded on the Thiepval memorial pier and face 10C, 10D and 11A.**

## **H HOWARD**

**H Howard's exact identity is as yet uncertain. There is a Harold Benjamin Howard who was the son of George and Alice Howard of Monks lane on the 1901 census as being 10 years old and born in Gotham. There are 71 H Howards on Soldiers died, none born in Gotham though the nearest is Harry Howard of the 12<sup>th</sup> Royal Sussex who was born at Loughborough.**

## **FREDERICK PETER HUDSON**

**1877 – 14.7.1916 aged 39 years**

**Pte 21150 7<sup>th</sup> Bttn Leicestershire Rgt**



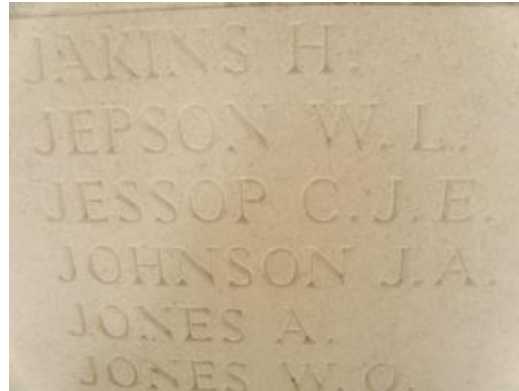
**Frederick was born at Kegworth, the son of John and Annie Hudson of Charnwood Cottages, Kegworth and the husband of Kate Alice of Babbington Place, North Sherwood Street, Nottingham. In 1911 he and his wife and two children were living on Monks Lane Gotham. He was killed in action on the Somme and has no known grave. He is recorded on the Thiepval memorial pier and face 2C and 3A.**



## **CHARLES JAMES ERNEST JESSOP**

**1888 – 21.3.1918 aged 30 years**

**Pte 41976 12<sup>th</sup> Btn Suffolk Rgt**



Charles is recorded on the Gotham roll as E Jessop. Along with G Jessop also on the roll their connection to Gotham is at present a mystery. Both men were born at Woodford Green Essex where their parent's both lived at the end of the war. George is recorded as having been baptised in Gotham in 1897 and a Moira Queenie Jessop, also born Woodford Green, is living with William and Elizabeth Smith of Bag lane Gotham (Curzon St) along with son in law Richard Hale , Grandson William Hale in the 1911 census. Charles was killed on the first day of operation Michael and has no known grave. He is recorded on the Arras memorial Bay 4.

**1897 – 11.10.1915. aged 18 years**  
**Rifleman 5055 2<sup>nd</sup> Bttn Royal Irish Rifles**



## **GEORGE WILLIAM LAKIN**

**1897 – 28.4.1917 aged 20 years**

**Pte 32701 11<sup>th</sup> Bttn Sherwood Foresters**



**George does not appear on the Gotham roll. He was born at Gotham, but his family moved to Ratcliffe on Soar before the war. He was the son of John and Caroline Lakin of Red Hill who lived in the cottages next to Mason's Barn and was one of four children. He died of wounds incurred on the western front and is buried in Hazebrouk CWGC cemetery row I E 17.**

**GEORGE HINDS MALTBY**

**1896 – 21.7.17 aged 21 years**

**Pte M2/269181 Mechanical Transport Coy RASC**

**George was the son of William and Emma Maltby of The Rushes, Gotham, the youngest of three children. He died of wounds in Basra, Mesopotania (present day Iraq) and is buried in the Basra CWGC cemetery row IV C 7.**

## **GILES MORGAN**

**1884 – 20.2.1915 aged 31 years**

**Pte 6629 1<sup>st</sup> Bttn Sherwood Foresters**



**Giles does not appear on the Gotham roll. He was born in Gotham and was married to Lillian of Meeting Yard Kegworth. He died of wounds in the Arminteres sector and is buried in the Merville CWGC cemetery row I E 9.**

## **HAROLD NEWELL**

**1887 – 26.9.1915 aged 27 years**

**Pte 14967 13<sup>th</sup> Bttn Northumberland Fusiliers**



Harold was the son of Henry and Mary Newell, nee Pepper, and lived with them at 13 Meadow End. He had three sisters and two brothers. He was single and worked as a gypsum 'boiler' before volunteering for enlistment. The 13<sup>th</sup> Bttn landed in France on the 13<sup>th</sup> September 1915 where they marched from the coast to the Loos area marching over 20 miles on three successive nights. They arrived in the battle area on 24<sup>th</sup> September as a reserve to the main attack starting on the 25<sup>th</sup>. On that same night they marched a further 10 miles through rain to within 5 miles of the front line.

On the morning of the 25<sup>th</sup> the Bttn were moved up through communication trenches full of wounded men, runners and stretcher bearers. They were under shell fire and hampered by flooding due to the heavy rain. During the afternoon reserves were pushed piecemeal into various areas to reinforce the line. The 13<sup>th</sup> were ordered to relieve 46th brigade at Chalet Wood and Hill 70 redoubt. Three of the fusilier companies dug in on the lower slopes of the hill, the remaining company was ordered to strengthen the line south of Chalet wood. The attack was renewed on the 26<sup>th</sup>, but the enemy on the summit of hill 70 could enfilade approaching troops. An artillery bombardment to remove this threat commenced at 8.0am but was hampered by a thick mist obscuring the top of the hill, the shells fell short, much of the German wire remained uncut. With the Germans holding a continuous line from Chalet Wood to Loos Crassier such an attack was doomed, but it went ahead anyway at 11am. Harold was killed in this area. He had been in France just two weeks. The attack was characterised by confusion, inexperience and shortage of suitable artillery and reliable shells, hence the name of the CWCG cemetery at Loos. He has no known grave. He is recorded on the Loos memorial panel 20-22 at Dud Corner cemetery.

When the telegram arrived at Meadow End Mary's screams and wailing could be heard on Nottingham Road.





## **WILLIAM OLIVER ORRIDGE**

**1896 – 17.6.1917 aged 21 years  
Pte 23778 9<sup>th</sup> Bttn Leicestershire Rgt**



**William is recorded as O Orridge on the Gotham roll. He was born at Wysall, the son of John Orridge, though lived in Gotham for a while and is recorded on the 1901 census as living at Smiths Barn, The Moors and the 1911 census as a pony driver living on Monks Lane. He then moved to Little Dalby, near Melton Mowbray where he worked as a bottle washer before enlistment in 1915. He is recorded as killed in action and is buried in the H.A.C. CWGC cemetery Ecoust St Mein. His inclusion in the Gotham roll is at odds with the qualification for the Wysall roll which claims to be a 'blest village'.**

## JOSEPH SAMUEL POWDRILL

1900 – 23.4.1918 aged 18 years

Able Seaman (stoker) K/46120 HM Trawler Plethos RN



Joseph was born in Gotham the son of Rueben and Elizabeth Powdrill of Wallace St and he worked as a Gypsum Miner before enlistment. After training he volunteered for minesweeping duties and joined a 210 ton converted trawler, Plethos. Two days after joining the ship she hit a mine and was sunk off Montrose Scotland with all hands. Joseph is recorded on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial.



Gotham St Lawrence football team 1916.  
Joseph is standing next to Dick Hogg in uniform

## **RAYMOND PRICE**

**1889 – 14.4.1917 aged 28 years  
L/Cpl 21947 5<sup>th</sup> Bttn Grenadier Guards.**



**Raymond was the first son of Arnold and Evelyn Price and lived on Nottingham Road. He was a regular soldier at the outbreak of war. He is recorded as having died of wounds and is buried in the Longuenesse Souvenir CWGC cemetery St Omer row V A 29. See also Charles Bowley also buried there opposite Raymond.**

## **THOMAS SCHOFIELD**

**1895 – 5.3.1917 aged 22 years**

**Driver 95018 Y/6<sup>th</sup> Trench Mortar Btty RFA**



**Thomas does not appear on the Gotham roll, though he was born at Gotham the son of William and Sarah Schoffield, who at the end of the war were living in Danethorpe, Notts. He was killed in action on the Somme and is buried in the Sailly-Sailliel CWGC cemetery row III J 1.**

## **BEECHAM SHARP**

**1886 – 9.10.1917 aged 31 years**

**Pte 202514 8<sup>th</sup> Bttn North Staffordshire Rgt**



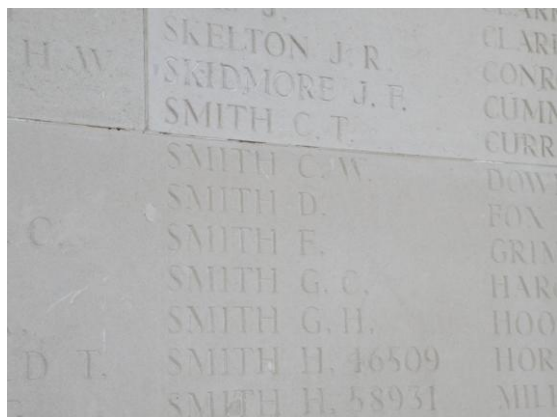
**Beecham was the son of William and Maria Sharp of Gotham and husband of Hannah. At the time of his enlistment they lived at Tavernhill Common Burton on Trent. He died of wounds in hospital in Rouen. He is buried in the St Server CWGC cemetery Rouen row P III F 8A.**

## **DANIEL SMITH**

**1891 – 23.3.1918 aged 27 years**  
**Pte 23000 2<sup>nd</sup> Bttn Sherwood Foresters**



Daniel was the husband of Elsie May and worked on a farm on Moor Lane before volunteering and lived on 'Main St' Gotham. He was killed in action on the first day of operation Michael and has no known grave. He is recorded on the Arras memorial bay 7. See also Fred Cooke and Charles Jessop also recorded there.





## **TOM SMITH**

**1891 – 17.4.1924 aged 33 years  
Pte West Yorkshire Rgt**



**Tom appears on the Gotham roll as a survivor. In fact he died after its inauguration. He lived with his parents on The Rushes before enlistment. He served on the western front where he was gassed. He never recovered from the damage to his lungs and nervous system and spent his days after the war to his death at Ellerslie House convalescent home, Gregory Boulevard, Nottingham. His death certificate lists his cause of death as 'Disseminated Sclerosis (7 years)'. He is buried in Gotham cemetery where his headstone shows that his family still thought of him as a victim of the war six years after it ended, which indeed he was. It reads ; "In loving memory of Pte Tom Smith West Yorkshire regiment. Dearly loved son of Samuel and the late Emma Smith. He suffered patiently and long his hope was bright, his faith was strong".**

## **AUSTIN STEVENSON**

**? – 10.4.1917**

**Pte 201870 2<sup>nd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Bttn Sherwood Foresters**



**Austin does not appear on the Gotham roll. He appears on both the CWGC roll and Soldiers Died as having been born in Gotham, but as yet his birth and residence have not been confirmed. He died of wounds received in the Somme area and is buried at Bray CWGC cemetery row II E 28.**

## **HENRY STRUTT**

**1894 – 25.5.1915 aged 21 years  
Able Seaman KX/229 Howe Bttn RNVR**



**Henry was a reservist, who like many sailors, was called upon to form infantry battalions as there were more sailors than ships in WW1. He was the son of Henry and Elizabeth Strutt of Gladstone Ave, one of five children. He is buried in the Alexandria (Chatby) CWGC cemetery Egypt row M 124. The location and date suggest he may have been wounded in the Gallipoli campaign.**



## **SAMUEL TOWERS**

**1898 – 19.8.1918 aged 20 years**

**Gunner L/23225 RFA**



**Samuel was the son of John and Alice Towers of East Street, though at the time of his death he was living at Ruddington. He is buried in the Chauny CWGC cemetery on the Aisne row 5 D 4.**

## **ARTHUR POWYS WODEHOUSE**

**2.6.1881 – 22.11.1915 aged 34 years**

**Capt Indian Political Dept attached 110<sup>th</sup> Maharatta Light Infantry**



Arthur was the son of Rev F A Wodehouse, rector of Gotham from 1882 to 1913. Arthur was born at Gotham rectory and a memorial plaque to him in church reads "Entered the army 1902, Deputy Commander Police Calcutta 1909, Capt' 1911". He was killed in action at Ctesiphon Mesopotamia (present day Iraq) whilst serving with the 110<sup>th</sup> Maharatta Light Infantry. The ill fated Anglo Indian expedition, to what is now Iraq, to secure oil fields, was turned into an attempt to take Bhagdad, held by the Turks, by Maj General Sir Charles Townsend. Townsend took Kut under orders from his senior, General Sir John Nixon, but he went on an extra 190 miles on his own vainglorious initiative to Ctesphion. Townsend forced his lightly equipped force of 14,000 troops through hostile terrain, marauding tribesmen and rampant disease, to face a Turkish force which outnumbered his three to one, and who had time to prepare defences. Townsend's attack was summarily repulsed with a loss of 4,500 casualties. He withdrew to Kut and decided to remain there rather than carry on to the safety of Amara. Townsend's inept and selfish leadership finally came to an end on 29<sup>th</sup> March 1916 when the garrison surrendered. Townsend was 'entertained' royally in Constantinople. His men were forced marched 1200 miles by their captors. They died in their thousands of cholera, typhus, freezing cold, heat exhaustion and thee whips of their captors. Those who fell out were left to tribesmen who filled their mouths with sand to be left to die. 70% of the British troops and 50% of the Indians died in captivity. Arthur has no known grave and is recorded on the Basra memorial panel 59.

## **LOUIE CHAPLIN**

**1899 – 1.7.1918 aged 19 years**

**Munitions worker Chilwell Ordnance Depot**



Louie was the daughter of Ernest and Margaret Chaplin and lived with her parents on Monks Lane. Together with her friend Fanny Taylor she worked at the Chilwell depot filling shells. The Chilwell Ordnance Depot was a major supplier of shells for the artillery of WW1. By 1918 it employed 10,000 people, 4000 of them women. Production reached a peak in June 1918 when 46,725 shells were produced in 24 hours. The depot exploded at 7.12pm on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1918 killing 134 workers and wounding 250 others. The Gotham school diary records "The explosion at Chilwell National Shell Filling Works shook houses and rattled windows. Emily and Betsy Bowley escaped. Fannie Taylor and Louie Chaplin died." Kate Abdy, at home in Attenborough, records; "I raced towards the works after hearing the huge bang and saw the awful sight of debris hanging in the golden sky, so clear that the bodies of those unfortunate people seemed to be suspended for some time, spread eagled, before slowly coming earthwards." Only 32 of those killed could be identified. Though the cause of the explosion is unknown theories exist as to sabotage by people described by the owner, Lord Chetwynd, as 'rabid socialists'. One of these suspects was unexpectedly on duty at the time of the explosion and two others were found in the safest part of the factory, when they should have been attending to their duties near the seat of the explosion. The explosion was investigated by detectives from Scotland Yard, but no charges were ever brought. The remains of those killed were buried in a communal plot at Attenborough church. See also Fanny Taylor.

## **FANNY TAYLOR**

**1897 – 1.7.1918 aged 21 years**

**Munitions worker Chilwell Ordnance Depot**



Fanny was the daughter of Joseph and Sarah Taylor of Bag Lane (Curzon Street) where she lived with her three siblings. Together with her friend Louie Chaplin she worked at the Chilwell depot filling shells. The Chilwell Ordnance Depot was a major supplier of shells for the artillery of WW1. By 1918 it employed 10,000 people, 4000 of them women. Production reached a peak in June 1918 when 46,725 shells were produced in 24 hours. The depot exploded at 7.12pm on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1918 killing 134 workers and wounding 250 others. The Gotham school diary records "The explosion at Chilwell National Shell Filling Works shook houses and rattled windows. Emily and Betsy Bowley escaped. Fannie Taylor and Louie Chaplin died." Kate Abdy, at home in Attenborough, records; "I raced towards the works after hearing the huge bang and saw the awful sight of debris hanging in the golden sky, so clear that the bodies of those unfortunate people seemed to be suspended for some time, spread eagled, before slowly coming earthwards." Only 32 of those killed could be identified. Though the cause of the explosion is unknown, theories exist as to sabotage by people described by the owner, Lord Chetwynd, as 'rabid socialists'. One of these suspects was unexpectedly on duty at the time of the explosion and two others were found in the safest part of the factory, when they should have been attending to their duties near the seat of the explosion. The explosion was investigated by detectives from Scotland Yard, but no charges were ever brought. The remains of those unidentified were buried in a communal grave at Attenborough church.

## **ERNEST RICHARD BOWLEY**

**1919 – 11.9.1943 aged 24 years**

**L/Sgt 4978411 2<sup>nd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Sherwood Foresters**



**Ernest was the husband of Margaret Bowley, nee Goddard, of Sutton Bonnington. Ernest was killed by enemy mortar fire whilst defending the Taborra feature south of Salerno Italy. He is buried in the Salerno CWGC cemetery row I B 22.**



## **WILLIAM JOHN CALLON**

**9.9.1924 – 24.5.1941 aged 16 years**

**Boy First Class P/JX 5 X 181939 Royal Navy**



William was born in London the eldest of four brothers and three sisters and joined the Navy at 14 as a trainee under a scholarship, but on the outbreak of war was dismissed as too young. He was evacuated to Gotham where he lived with Mrs Powdrill at 92 Leake Road. On attaining his 16<sup>th</sup> birthday he rejoined the navy and after training on HMS Ganges, Impregnable, St George and Victory, he was posted to HMS Hood. HMS Hood was the largest ship in the Royal Navy, a newly upgraded battle cruiser. William's parents were pleased their son was on the largest, and therefore, safest ship in the fleet. On 18<sup>th</sup> May 1941 Admiral Lutjens, on the German battleship Bismark, with the heavy cruiser, Prince Eugen, left Bergen in an attempt to get into the Atlantic shipping lanes and join with the Sharnhorst and Gneisnau, which were in Brest, in an plan to sink allied supply convoys. The two ships were sighted in the Denmark straight and Vice admiral Holland on the Hood with the battleship Prince of Wales made to intercept them. The four ships engaged at 0552 on the 24<sup>th</sup>. The modern German ships out gunned the British ship despite some hits to the Bismark. One of Bismark's shells penetrated Hood's magazine igniting a vast explosion which destroyed the ship instantly. Of the 1419 men on board there were three survivors from random parts of the ship. William was possibly the youngest on board at 16 years old. He is recorded on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial panel 51 column 3.



## **CHARLES BOWLEY**

**? 1917 to 15.7.1942 aged 25 years**

**Able Seaman P/JX 334735 HMS President III attached SS Empire Attendant**



**Charles was the son of George and Charlotte Bowley and before the Second World War was a Gypsum worker. He was married to Ethel from Ruddington.**

**After training on HMS President III, he was attached to SS Empire Attendant, a 7,524 ton Liberty ship, an armed cargo ship engaged in bringing goods from the US and Canada and which travelled the Atlantic convoys. The German submarine fleet was a potent threat to shipping at this time and Empire Attendant was torpedoed 23 degrees 48 minutes north, 21 degrees 51 minutes west on 15<sup>th</sup> July 1942.**

**Charles is recorded on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial, panel 63 column 1. He is also recorded on the Ruddington memorial.**



## **ROBERT ELLIOTT**

**1916 – 1.1.1943 aged 27 years**

**Leading Seaman (Captain's Writer) D/JX 136704 Royal Navy**



**Robert was a serving member of the Royal Navy at the outbreak of WWII and saw action in HMS Centurion and HMS Newcastle. He died not in action, but as a result of TB caught on board HMS Newcastle. He was treated in hospital at Rainworth and died on New Year's day 1943. He is recorded on the Plymouth Naval Memorial panel 100A. He is buried in Gotham cemetery.**

## **STEPHEN RICHARD FOX**

**1912 – 26.4.1940 aged 28 years**

**Captain 58170 1<sup>st</sup> Bttn King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry**



Stephen was the son of Leslie Crofton and Violet Helen Mary Fox, of 317 Leake Road, Ridgeway, Gotham. He was killed in action in the defence of Norway at Kvam. Kvam was the scene of bitter fighting by troops of the 15th Infantry Brigade during the withdrawal of Allied forces in central Norway in April 1940. The 1st Battalion, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry and the 1st Battalion, York and Lancaster Regiment held positions in this area from 24-28 April against fierce enemy land and air attacks and those who were killed in action during the last week of April are buried in a collective grave in Kvam Churchyard. Kvam Churchyard contains 54 Commonwealth burials. An investigation undertaken by Commission staff in 1999 resulted in the identification of the 15 servicemen originally buried here as unidentified.

## **SIDNEY FREDERICK HARDY**

**17.2.21 – 20.4.45 aged 24 years**

**Driver 10689919 11 L of Sigs Royal Corps of Signals**



Sidney lived with his parents, Frederick William and Nellie Hardy, at 98 Nottingham Road and worked at the Derbyshire's gypsum mine before the war. He served in Italy. He was killed not in action, but in a fall from a balcony in Rome. Rome was liberated on 4<sup>th</sup> June 1944. He is buried in Rome CWGC cemetery Row II D 14.



## **FREDERICK ALBERT HUTCHINSON**

**15.11.1911 – 15.6.1944 aged 33 years  
Pte 4982596 2<sup>nd</sup> Bttn West Yorkshire Rgt**



**Frederick worked in the building industry prior to the outbreak of WWII. He lived at 33 Nottingham Road with his wife, Doris nee Davis and had one daughter, Audrey. He served in the far east fighting the Japanese and was killed in action near Rangoon. He was wounded and incapacitated and whilst in the process of being evacuated on a stretcher by medics he was run through with bayonets by attacking Japanese infantry. He has no known grave and is recorded on the Rangoon Memorial face 8.**





**JOHN WILFRED JAMES**  
1918 – 9.5.1943 aged 25 years  
Gunner 963195 155 Field Rgt Royal Artillery



John lived at 92 Leake Road, Gotham and served in the far east fighting the Japanese. He was taken prisoner and was put to work on the Burma railway. He was worked to death on the section between Bangkok to Nieke and is buried in the Kanchanaburi CWGC cemetery row 9. J. 18.



## **GEORGE ERNEST MALTBY**

**1921 – 7.1.1942 aged 21 years**

**Aircraftman 2<sup>nd</sup> class 947113 RAFVR**



**George was the son of Richard and Blanch Maltby and was a member of the Volunteer Reserve. He was killed in action in the defence of Malta and was listed as a casualty in a German air attack at 15.45 along with 4 others killed and 3 wounded. The Germans launched a ferocious air assault on Malta, first on airfields, then dockyards and harbours, then at stores barracks and communications centres. He is buried in the Malta Capuccini Naval cemetery Plot F joint grave 76.**



## **LUTHER PEPPER**

**15.10.11 – 27.5.1940 aged 29 years**  
**Pte 5045895 2<sup>nd</sup> Bttn North Staffordshire Rgt**



**Luther was the son of Theophilus Peper and was married to Ada. He was a regular soldier before the outbreak of WWII, but was called back to the colours from his job at the Royal Ordnance Factory Nottingham. He was killed in action in the BEF's retreat to Dunkirk in 1940. He is buried in the Kommien communal cemetery plot 24.**



**Gotham school 1922. Luther is on the extreme right of the back row.**

## **DENNIS ALAN SMITH**

**1922 – 7.1.1945 aged 23 years**

**Sapper 14442660 241 Field Coy Royal Engineers**



**Dennis lived at 74 Nottingham Road with his mother and sisters. He was killed in action in Holland close to the German border. He is buried in the Brunssum CWGC cemetery N.E. of Maastricht row V 203.**

## **NORMAN ATHERTON WODEHOUSE**

**18.5.1887 – 4.7.1941 aged 54 years**

**Vice Admiral, Commodore 2<sup>nd</sup> class Royal Navy**



Norman is not listed on the WWII roll, though he is recorded on the WWI roll as a survivor. He was born at the Gotham rectory, the son of the Rev Armine Wodehouse (see Arthur Pwis Wodehouse). At the age of 15 he became a naval cadet at RNS Britannia at Lee on Solent. A year later as midshipman he served on HMS Majestic followed by HMS Caesar and Bulwark. At age 20 he passed his Lieutenant exams and served on HMS King Edward V11 and HMS Invincible. He was a keen sportsman and played rugby for England. In 1913 he was appointed captain of the English team.

At the outbreak of WW1 he was a gunnery officer on HMS Warrior and just after his promotion to Lt Commander in 1915, he was awarded the Royal Humane Society silver medal for saving a drowning sailor. In 1916 he took part in the battle of Jutland. After the war until 1920 he served in China with the rank of Commander and gained the Order of the Stripped Tiger of China medal. On his return to the UK he became assistant to the director of ordnance until 1923. The next three years were spent in the Mediterranean on HMS Frobisher rising to Captain prior to attending the Imperial Defence Course. In 1928 he returned to the Med on HMS Ceres, then HMS Calypso, before becoming Captain of the Royal Naval College Dartmouth in 1931. In 1935 he was put in command of HMS Barham and was flag captain to the first battle squadron Mediterranean. From 1937 he led the British Military Mission to Portugal and in 1939 was awarded the CB by King George V1 and promoted to Rear Admiral in charge of Gibraltar. One year later as Vice Admiral Gibraltar he retired from the Royal Navy.

He was recalled to serve in Atlantic convoys and was commodore of convoy OB337 of 42 ships from Liverpool to S. Africa when his ship, the cargo ship Robert I Holt On 28<sup>th</sup> June 1941 off the West coast of Africa the convoy dispersed and ships proceeded independently. The Robert I Holt was attacked on the night of the 4<sup>th</sup> July by the German submarine U69 using its gun as it had used all its torpedoes. There were no survivors. Norman left a widow and two sons. He is recorded on the merchant navy memorial Liverpool and also has a memorial tablet in Gotham Church.